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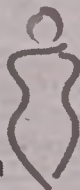
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North Carolina News Notes

by Lainey Millen & Matt Comer . Q-Notes staff

be sensitive to LGBT issues and foster understanding and respect of LGBT elders. Local resources and representatives will be available to answer questions about legal and financial issues, health-care, housing and long-term care, care giving end-of-life issues, aging and more for organizations and facilities.

CHARLOTTE

Aging in a rainbow world

CHARLOTTE — On April 28, join other seniors at the "Gay and Gray at the Crossroads: Navigating for Your Future" seminar to be held at the Levine Jewish Community Center, 5007 Providence Rd., from 6-8:30 p.m.

Registration and refreshments are from 6-6:30 p.m., with a speakers and an information resource fair following.

This event is targeted at LGBT seniors, partners and caregivers, friends and family. It is a confidential and non-judgmental environment where discussion on important topics can be addressed.

Hear from local speakers, as well as the Rainbow Center in Atlanta, on planning for aging in today's changing world. Other presentations and resource tables will be available to answer questions about what you can do as you stand at the crossroads of gay and gray. Local representatives from the Charlotte region will address legal issues, financial planning, housing and long-term care options, healthcare, end-of-life issues, caregiving and social and advocacy organizations.

Following a successful Gay and Gray event in 2005, the Charlotte region has seen little in the preparation for LGBT Baby Boomers. These seniors often face additional challenges as they age and plan for their future retirement and healthcare needs. Everyone wants to remain in their own community and be as independent and vital in their older years as possible.

RSVP is due by April 24. Admission is free.

On April 29, further your knowledge-base with "Gay and Gray: Creating a GLBT Friendly Environment" at the Center from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

This course awards four hours of ACH and Social Work CEUs. Morning refreshments, lunch and all handouts are included.

This workshop will help participants increase awareness and understanding of the unique needs of the LGBT senior. Participants will be able to identify concerns and barriers and outline strategies for creating an inclusive experience for LGBT elders in your facility or organization. Rebecca Stapel-Wax, director of The Rainbow Center in Atlanta and Linda Ellis, executive director with the Atlanta Lesbian Health Initiative, will discuss ways to

representatives will be available to answer questions about legal and financial issues, health-care, housing and long-term care, care giving end-of-life issues, aging and more for organizations and facilities.

According to the Council on Aging, aging Baby Boomers are the largest generation in our country's history; in the next 20 years, Mecklenburg County will experience a 260 percent growth in the adults over age 60 (That's around 250,000 people above the age of 60); and Mecklenburg County's older adult population is now increasing at a greater rate than that of the population of children.

The Council examined this demographic shift and identified emerging issues that are likely to impact the quality of life for aging adults in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community. The ultimate goal is to create a senior-friendly community which allows aging adults to maintain independence, dignity and quality of life. Listen to industry experts as they lay out information on how to cope with these concerns.

No onsite registration is available. Register online at www.centralina.org. Cost is \$10.

Sponsorship for both events is made possible by The Centralina Area Agency on Aging, Centralina Council of Governments and the American Association of Retired People (AARP), in cooperation with Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation and Crossroads Charlotte.

For more information, call Linda Miller at 800-508-5777 or email aginged@centralina.org.

COASTAL

Jones to join cruise

CAROLINA BEACH — Want to have a great time doing the "Y-M-C-A" while cruising on the Atlantic, USA? Well, jump on board as Out Impact brings in former original Village People Cowboy Randy Jones for an evening cruise on the Royal Winner Princes II on June 12 from 7-10 p.m.

Jones is a Multi-Platinum artist and American Music Award winner. Jones was a Pop icon from the days of disco. Not only was he successful in the recording industry, but he starred in the motion picture business in "Three Long

see next page >

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