

North Carolina News Notes

COASTAL

by Lainey Millen & Matt Comer . Q-Notes staff

Hate crimes protest held

CHARLOTTE

Liaisons closes

CHARLOTTE — Since August 1989, Liaisons, or "The Pink House," has operated as either a restaurant or a bar (or both) for Charlotte's LGBT community. On Aug. 15, a full 20 years after they opened, Liaisons said goodbye.

The bar's owner said she is looking to re-open the business in a new location.

Soirée slated

SALISBURY — The local PFLAG chapter of Salisbury and Rowan County will hold its annual Autumn Soirée and Fundraiser on Sept. 19, featuring entertainment by the Gay Men's Chorus of Charlotte and a keynote by activist Anne Stanback.

Proceeds from the evening will benefit the organization's youth scholarships, which enables deserving Rowan County youth to attend college. Food Lion is an event sponsor.

The Soirée will be held at Catawba College's Peeler Crystal Lounge, 2300 W. Innes St., from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is \$20. A silent auction will be held.

For more information, visit www.salisbury-pflag.org.

Bingo update

CHARLOTTE — Shelita Hamm and her Bingo Verifying Divas have unveiled their theme for the upcoming Gay BINGO on Nov. 21 at the Grady Cole Center, 310 N. Kings Dr. "Shelita Goes To Hollywood" will be chocked full of all the fun and flavor attendees have come to know and love.

At press time, a date has not been set for the start of ticket sales. Tickets are \$25. Reserved tables are available through the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network office by calling 704-372-7246, ext. 100. They will also be available at Paper Skyscraper, 330 East Blvd., and White Rabbit, 920 Central Ave.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., with the fundraising and festivities starting at 7:30 p.m.

Sponsorships and volunteer opportunities are available. Visit www.gaybingocharlotte.org to find out more.

¡Hable español!

CHARLOTTE — The Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 820 Hamilton St., Suite B11, will be offering Spanish classes beginning on Sept. 14.

"Yes, We Can Speak Spanish" will take place every Monday from 7-8 p.m. Admission is \$5 per class and is payable on an as-you-go basis.

Participants are welcome to bring snacks and drinks.

"Say It Right in Spanish" is the text that Betty Chapman and Cliff Davis are slated to use. It is published by McGraw-Hill and can be ordered online at Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, as well as other online retailers.

After every fourth lesson, the class will host a salsa/margarita party, inviting the Latino LGBT community to join in for recreation and conversation.

For more information, call 704-333-0144, email info@gaycharlotte.com or visit www.gaycharlotte.com.

WILMINGTON — Aiming to spark community discussion on hate crimes after an anti-gay attack in July, a dozen people gathered Aug. 24 outside the New Hanover County Courthouse for a morning rush hour rally.

The group organizing the event, Safer Communities Action Now! (SCAN), said the demonstration's intent was to raise awareness of hate crimes legislation that would protect victims on the basis of sexual orientation and gender-identity. Such legislation has stalled in the North Carolina legislature for years, but the July 17 attack on two gay men on a river-front street in downtown Wilmington has brought a renewed focus on the issue of hate crimes and community safety.

The two men, recent University of North Carolina-Wilmington graduates, were punched and kicked repeatedly. Both will need several surgeries and one is suffering from brain injuries causing impaired motor functions. The four accused of the crime face felony assault charges.

Updates on community meetings, protests and the on-going criminal case against the gay men's attackers can be found at www.noh8nc.com.

EASTERN

Game's on

GREENVILLE — The Pitt County AIDS Service Organization (PICASO) is looking for volunteers to staff the concession stand at Eastern Carolina University football games. PICASO makes a percentage of all the sales at the booth and it is a great way to connect to the big games and help a great cause.

Volunteers are needed from 1.5 hours before and throughout the entire game. PICASO provides entry to the stadium but cannot provide parking. If the booth is fully staffed participants generally will get a little time to watch the last quarter of the game.

Game schedule is: Sept. 5, Appalachian State, noon; Sept. 26, University of Central Florida, 3:30 p.m.; Rice, 3:30 p.m.; Virginia Tech, 7:30 p.m.; University of Alabama-Birmingham, 3:30 p.m.; and Southern Mississippi, 1 p.m.

To volunteer, make a contribution or for more information, email aaronluciernc@yahoo.com (football in the subject line) or visit www.picaso.org.

TRIANGLE

Writing gay

CHAPEL HILL — The North Carolina Literary Festival, hosted by the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Library, will host two gay authors who will speak about writing about gay and lesbian issues and characters.

The festival runs Sept. 10-13, on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus.

Dorothy Allison, author of "Bastard Out of Carolina," and Randall Kenan, a 1985 UNC-Chapel Hill graduate and author of a James Baldwin biography, will host the "Writing Gay" workshop on Friday, Sept. 11 at 3 p.m.

For more information, visit www.ncliteraryfestival.org.

see next page >

HOLD THE DATE

Saturday, September 19, 2009 6:00 – 9:00 PM
Catawba College's Peeler Crystal Lounge
2300 W. Innes Street Salisbury, NC

Salisbury/ Rowan (PFLAG) Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
Scholarships Foundation Autumn Soirée and Fundraiser

The evening will include: Silent Auction, Raffle, Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvres and Doorprizes.



Special Keynote Speaker
ANNE STANBACK

Salisbury native and Executive Director of
Love Makes A Family
Hartford, CT

Special Entertainment by The Gay Men's Chorus of Charlotte



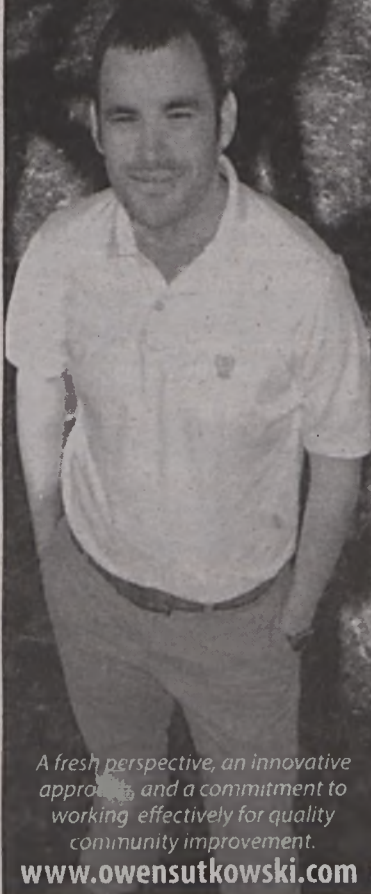
Cover charge \$20.00 Casual Dress

PRESENTING SPONSOR
FOOD LION

Proceeds from this event will benefit the Salisbury/ Rowan PFLAG Scholarship Foundation
Pick up your tickets at Critters, A Step In Time or Wooden Stone Gallery

Thank You for your Support!

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