

maybe you need a different idea of God.

This is a place for people who are ready to grow. We teach that God is present in each of us. We believe we are all able to use this Divine Power within us to create a life of health, wealth, love and success. We respect all people, and judge no one. Give us ONE SUNDAY, and you might change your life.

Meditation at 10:15 am Services at 10:30 am by Rev. Lisa Stewart 6101 Idlewild Suite 332 Charlotte, NC (704) 531-7993

CHARLOTTE Teaching
CENTER FOR the
POSITIVE LIVING Science
A Religious of
Science Church Mind

Commitment Ceremonies and other Blessings performed

Millennium March on Washington: the trip thus far



MILLENNIUM MARCH
ON WASHINGTON
for Equality
April 30
2000

The Millennium March on Washington for Equality — the fourth national March on Washington in the history of the GLBT movement — is quickly approaching. This overview of the first year of planning covers the his-

tory of the event as well as provides the latest developments in the undertaking.

• A meeting was held in Washington, DC in June of 1998 to which 45 state, regional and national GLBT organizations sent representatives. These participants represented hundreds of thousands of grassroots activists across America. Participants affirmed that a March on Washington would be held April 30, 2000.

• Participants at the June meeting created a Millennium March on Washington (MMOW) Board of Directors and established board goals of a minimum membership of 50 percent people of color as well as gender parity. These goals have been achieved and exceeded.

• There are 15 members of the MMOW Board of Directors. Nine are women (60 percent). And for the first time in the history of the Marches on Washington, 60 percent of the Board members are people of color, including 33 percent Latino/a, 20 percent African American and seven percent Asian American.

• At this writing, 75 state, regional and national GLBT organizations have endorsed the Millennium March on Washington, among them Rock The Vote, PFLAG, National Organization for Women, Gay & Lesbian Bands of America, Human Rights Campaign, InterPride, The Feminist Majority, National Center for Lesbian Rights, College Democrats, and the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches among a host of others.

• Four members of the MMOW Board of Directors were named co-chairs of the event: Duane Cramer (The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt), Ann DeGroot (OUTFront Minnesota), Nicole Murray-Ramirez (National Latino/a Lesbian and Gay Organization), and

Donna Red Wing (Human Rights Campaign).

• Robin Tyler Productions was retained to produce the March. Robin was intimately involved with the three previous Marches on Washington, producing the main stage rallies.

• The Board of Directors established an MMOW Leadership Council. The Leadership Council consists of one representative from each endorsing organization and two at-large members from every state and Puerto Rico.

• A work plan was designed and submitted to the Board of Directors, including a detailed budget. This plan was approved.

• The Board of Directors approved plans to conduct "GLBT Vote 2000" to register voters and mobilize GLBT voters to the polls for the presidential election in November of 2000. MMOW will coordinate efforts with Jesse Jackson's voter registration drive and with the election efforts of "Rock The Vote."

• The Board approved "town meetings" and public forums across the US to facilitate local input and organizing. Public meetings have been held in Dallas, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Pensacola, Philadelphia and San Diego. The Board will also conduct massive Internet polling, allowing every grassroots activist in the country to vote on the platform of the March. This level of grassroots participation will use the latest Internet technology and capabilities to make the March the most democratic, participatory March in GLBT history.

• In the first 13 months, (March 98-April 1, 99) \$13,152 was raised and \$13,004 was spent on expenses, including advertising, travel, postage, office supplies, printing, telephones and related expenses.

• PlanetOut signed on as a corporate sponsor of the March with a commitment to provide \$250,000 cash — and a total of more than \$1 million in cash and in-kind services.

• In an historic first, plans were announced to cybercast the March to the world via the Internet. It will be translated into Spanish, French, Chinese, Italian and other languages.

• March organizers held a national press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, DC on April 30, 1999 to announce GLBT Vote 2000, Planet Out's \$1 million sponsorship, the creation of the March's official website, and the launching of a series of town meetings across the US.

• The Board of Directors affirmed that all MMOW Board Meetings will be open to the public and the press and will include an open comment period for the public.

• Several polls show overwhelming grassroots support for the March. *The Advocate*'s Internet Poll shows 84 percent of respondents support the Millennium March. The DataLounge Poll shows more than 85 percent support. The UFMCC Poll consistently shows more than 90 percent support by grassroots UFMCC members. And the PlanetOut Survey shows that more than 60 percent of the GLBT community wants to attend the Millennium March.

• The Board of Directors retained veteran activist Ginny Foat to serve as the March's associate producer and Jim Birkitt to serve as communications director.

• A significant portion of the profits from the Millennium March will be distributed to people of color organizations and to state and local GLBT organizations, with the remainder to be determined at a later date.

• Emmy Award winning producer John Scagliotti was named Director of Video Productions. Scagliotti was executive producer of the documentary *Before Stonewall* which received two Emmy Awards following its national broadcast on PBS in 1986. His latest film, *After Stonewall: From The Riots To The Millennium*, premiered on national TV on June 23 and chronicled the struggles of the GLBT justice movement over the past three decades. Scagliotti is also the creator of *In The Life*, a TV series focusing on gay and lesbian news which airs bi-monthly on 120 PBS stations.

• The Advocate signed on as a Supporting Sponsor with a \$425,000 unprecedented inkind sponsorship which includes full-page, full-color ads in 20 issues of the magazine and the printing of 300,000 copies of the 48-page official march commemorative program.

More information on the March is available on the Internet at www.mmow.org. ▼

