

north  
& south  
CAROLINA



# Notes

noted . notable . noteworthy GLBT issues

REMEMBER SEPTEMBER 11



NO VOTE IS A VOTE: ONE LESS FOR OUR FAMILIES & PARTNERS

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OUTTA HERE!



**JESSE IS FINALLY OUT!**

Helm's Retirement Party 15

Nov 2 . 8-10 pm

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## Q-POLL

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Why is HIV/AIDS again on the rise?

- . People believe meds will keep them alive
- . They do not believe the old safe-sex messages
- . They need to be educated
- . They do not care

## Women of RAIN winners of Ford Foundation's "Leadership for a Changing World" awards

RAIN, Regional AIDS Interfaith Network in Charlotte, was one of twenty nationwide recipients of the 2002 *Leadership for a Changing World* awards.

RAIN received the one-time \$100,000 (over two years) award for their incredible community contributions. Its core leaders received an additional \$30,000 — split between them — for personal projects or continuing education.

Rev. Deborah Warren, RAIN Executive Director, Rev. Amy Brooks, Regional Program Director, Rev. Stephanie Speller-Henderson, Minority Program Director and Rev. Debra K. Kidd, Program Director are a team of four ministers motivated by a strong, passionate vision of the worth and dignity of every person, and a sense of overwhelming need for this vision to be made real, particularly among people living with HIV/AIDS.

Their individual calling reflects the "shared equity leadership"

model they present. Each woman spoke to the need to go beyond their schooled understanding of ministry and reach out to become a vital community link between those who need care and those who could be taught how to give it.

One of the highest rates of new HIV/AIDS infections is in the Southeast — rich in religious heritage.

Southern faith-based groups have great cultural influence and can be especially important in shaping public response to HIV/AIDS. However, there is often a code of silence regarding

homosexuality and many faith community," the churches have not pastors wrote in their award



Foreground, Rev. Deborah C. Warren, Founder and Executive Director of RAIN; R-L: Rev. Amy E. Brooks, Regional Program Director; Rev. Stephanie Speller-Henderson, Minority Program Director; Rev. Debra K. Kidd, Program Director

acknowledged some of their members are struggling with this infection. "The stigma and fear associated with HIV/AIDS ... undermines the potential for healing — particularly in the

application essay. "As ministers, we are grounded by our various faith traditions calling us to create a more just, loving and hopeful world.

see RAIN on 24

## Alan Rosenberg: a legacy of community caring

by Lainey Millen

"The mark of a person is shown in the number of friends one has." This statement was written for Alan Rosenberg, 74, Charlotte community leader, who died on October 14 from cardiac complications. He was surrounded by his devoted partner and by his adoring, loving children.

On October 18, at a memorial service to celebrate his life, there was an assembly of such incredible diversity — marking the depth of Alan's reach into every community he touched.

They came to pay homage to a man who gave selflessly and enthusiastically wherever the need. Gays, lesbians, straights, clergy, community leaders — all his friends joined together without judgement, to console one another in their shared loss. This was testament to Alan's good works.

Temple Beth El was Alan's spiritual home and site of the memorial service which was led by Rabbi James Bennett and Cantor Andrew Bernard.

Alan was remembered through prayers and psalms honoring his life.

Fighting back against his own sense of grief, Cantor Bernard offered the eulogy. He told of meeting this incredible man who



Alan Rosenberg

always had a smile to share. He recounted Alan's life — from his beginnings in Chicago, IL, where he was born, married, and where his three children were born, to his life in Charlotte.

He shared Alan's long-time struggle with his sexuality and his ultimate return to his faith, looking for peace and tolerance. The Temple Beth El family of friends were there for him, embracing and accepting Alan as he was.

He served on the Social Action Committee. Alan was one of the Temple's early RAIN Care Team members, tending to those whose lives were ravaged by AIDS. And through the committee, he began the process of championing GLBT acceptance within the Temple and religious context in general.

Rabbi Bennett and the Temple Beth El congregation made the courageous decision to embrace disenfranchised Jews who had stepped away from Judaism due to non-acceptance. The Temple invited them to become part of the congregation. This became the first initiative of the Task Force on Inclusion — and Alan was at the forefront. He was there to ensure a warm and energetic welcome for all newcomers.

Alan persevered, challenging the group to increase its visibility. When the Task Force completed its work to foster a gay and lesbian havurah (community of friends), it bowed out from regular guidance. That was four years ago. Things have changed.

From the tiny group of 10 - 20 regular participants, supported by Temple Beth El, the group has grown to over 60 members on an e-list. It was Alan who opened his home for Jewish holiday celebrations.

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