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News notes: sc

from the palmetto state

by Ed Madden and Kittredge McFadden

Rainbow radio features 'Freedom to Marry' and Valentine's Day stories

COLUMBIA — On Sunday, Feb. 12, Rainbow Radio commemorated Freedom to Marry Day with a special show focused on marriage equality. Freedom to Marry Day is recognized by gay and lesbian civil rights organizations across the nation on Feb. 12 as a day to raise awareness about gay and lesbian relationships and the national and local struggles for marriage rights. Special guest on the show was Samiya Bashir (pictured), the communications director for Freedom to Marry, the national coalition working on marriage rights. (For more information, see www.freedomtomarry.org.) Also on the show, South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement (SCGLPM) board member Blanchard "Radar" Williams, who told the story of his experiences on Freedom to Marry Day 2004. (see Opinions, opposite page.)



For Marriage Equality Week and Valentine's Day, Rainbow Radio featured hosts Bruce Converse and Candace Chellev-Hodge telling the stories of their romances with their partners, Michael Vandiver and Wanda Chellev-Hodge.

Rainbow Radio airs every Sunday at 10 a.m. on WOIC 1230 AM, Columbia's Air America affiliate. You can also check out the show on the website at www.scglpm.org/rainbowradio. Rainbow Radio shows are available online for download or podcast at www.scglpm.org/rainbowradio.

Clergy Action Network holds press conference

COLUMBIA and GREENVILLE — On Sunday, Feb. 12, press conferences were held in Columbia and in Greenville by members of the Clergy Action Network, a coalition of clergy organizing against the anti-gay family discrimination amendment. The press conferences were billed as part

of a "Putting All Families First" campaign. In a public statement, participants said, "We understand that God's justice and grace are unconditional, and that discrimination against any American citizen is wrong,"

adding, "we seek to show that all families must be valued if our society, and our state, is to thrive."

At the press conference at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Columbia, participants included the Rev. Tom Summers, retired Methodist clergy; Rev. Neal Jones of the UU Fellowship; Rev. Andy Sidden, senior pastor of Garden of Grace United Church; and Rev. Candace Chellev-Hodge, assistant pastor of Garden of Grace United Church. The Greenville press conference was held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Greenville, where participants spoke out against the discriminatory same-sex marriage amendment.

Town Hall meeting featured ACLU's Michael Mitchell

COLUMBIA — On Thursday, Feb. 16, 7-9 p.m., the S.C. Equality Coalition (SCEC) hosted a town hall meeting on marriage and relationship recognition in Gambrell Hall on the University of South Carolina (USC) campus. The event, co-sponsored by the USC Bisexual Gay Lesbian and Straight Alliance and SCGLPM, featured speaker Michael Mitchell, director of the ACLU Marriage Campaign and former executive director of Equality Utah. Mitchell helped to oversee the campaign to defeat Utah's anti-gay relationship amendment last year. To learn more about the ACLU's efforts toward greater fairness in marriage, visit www.aclu.org/getequal/ffm/index.html.

For more information about the town hall, contact SCEC at ed@scequality.org.

PFLAG Charleston holds meetings

CHARLESTON — Parents and Friends of Gays and Lesbians (PFLAG) of Charleston holds its monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are held at the We Are Family office in the Cross Creek Shopping Center on Folly Rd.

For directions or information, contact champsinschool@aol.com or call 843-559-2996.

info: Announce your community event in SC News Notes. email: editor@q-notes.com or fax 704-531-1361



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WEDNESDAYS

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THURSDAYS

Thirsty Thursday
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Disco Diva Show at 12 Midnight

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS

Fri. & Sat., February 23 & 24
Miss Continental Contest
Fri., February 25
Alexia Markova and Gigi Monroe

Fri., March 3
Maximum Pleasure - Male Entertainers

Sat., March 4
Scarlett Dailey

Fri., March 10
Coti Collins

Sat., March 11
C.L.A.W.S. Night with Coti Collins

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Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 pm / Choir Practice: 4:45 pm

