

Arrington at robpray7@bellsouth.net or call him at Unity Fellowship Church at 704-567-5007.

MCC to hold vigil and viewing

WINSTON-SALEM — On Aug. 12 at 11 a.m., MCC of Winston-Salem, 4105 Patsey Dr., will host an all-day prayer vigil for those whose lives have been touched by HIV/AIDS. On display will be a Quilt panel from the Names Project that represents local residents.

That evening at 9 p.m., a candlelight prayer service of remembrance and hope for those who lost their fight with HIV/AIDS will be held.

During special services on Aug. 13, both at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., a commemoration of those affected with HIV/AIDS will take place. This will be the official start date for the formation of the HIV/AIDS Support Group of MCC-Winston-Salem.

For more information, call 336-784-8009.

Center to hold film festival

CHARLOTTE — On Aug. 5, The Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 1401-B Central Ave., will hold a mini-LGBT film festival as a prelude to the upcoming PRIDE Charlotte festivities. They will show a gay classic and a new release — a double feature of campy fun.

"Imagine Me & You" will be shown at 5 p.m. This is a 2006 comedy about a girl who falls in love with an unexpected guest (a woman) on her wedding day.

A camp classic, "Mommie Dearest," will be shown at 7 p.m. This version will feature

humorous commentary by John Waters as well as a featurette about making the film.

Snacks and beverages will be provided by The Center. A donation of \$2 per film is requested.

On another note, the Center is looking for some talented, dedicated and creative people to join its Board of Trustees. Board members provide leadership, set strategic direction, develop donor relationships and serve on committees. For those who share a passion to build a stronger, visible, and effective LGBT community in Charlotte, contact the Center for more information about how one can help turn that passion into a new reality at 704-333-0144 or email executivedirector@gaycharlotte.com.

AIDS drug program strengthened

RALEIGH — The recent passage of the state budget included a provision that will double the eligibility level for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), allowing this state program to provide more low-income North Carolinians with life-saving HIV/AIDS medicines.

North Carolina previously had the worst eligibility level of any U.S. state or territory. Only those citizens who earned less than \$12,250 per year could qualify for state assistance in purchasing treatments that can cost from \$12,000 to \$20,000 a year. This left low-income, HIV-positive North Carolinians in an untenable situation, forced to choose between food, rent and the medicine they need to stay healthy. A provision in the budget increases eligibility to \$24,500

brings the state closer to the national standard. North Carolina is one of the most highly affected states by the disease — with over 14,000 total cases, more than all but 12 states and Washington D.C. — yet it has lagged behind in the effort to fund research and medicine.

ENC worked closely with legislators and other advocates, including the North Carolina AIDS Action Network, to secure this important victory.

Legislators who fought for this change included Rep. Pricey Harrison (D-Guilford), Rep. Thomas Wright (D-New Hanover), Sen. Larry Shaw (D-Cumberland) and Sen. Bill Purcell (D-Scotland).

Chorus to hold auditions

DURHAM — The Triangle Gay Men's Chorus (TGMC), who will begin its 2006-2007 season in August, has issued an invitation to interested male singers of all vocal parts, to join them for open auditions each



Tuesday evening in August, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The last date for new members to join the fall season will be Aug. 29.

Auditions do not require prepared selec-

tions and are for vocal placement only. No prior choral experience is necessary.

Auditions and chorus rehearsals are held at the Durham Arts Council, 120 Morris St.

Now in its 11th year, TGMC has performed in venues from San Jose, Calif., to Montreal, Quebec, as well as all over North Carolina.

The first appearance for the upcoming season will be a concert during North Carolina Pride Weekend 2006.

Formed in January 1995, TGMC is a member of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA).

For more information, go to www.tgmchorus.org or email info@tgmchorus.org.

Southern forum held

DURHAM — The first Southern regional Social Forum for peace and justice activists was held in Durham June 16-18. The gathering brought together workers, immigrants, Katrina survivors, youth, women and LGBT people from throughout the Southeastern U.S., according to a June 20 report in *Workers World*.

The Forum, which took place at North Carolina Central University, brought together many leading grassroots organizations.

On June 18 a panel discussed the opportunities and tasks presented by the upcoming U.S. Social Forum to be held in Atlanta in 2007.

For more information, go to www.ussocialforum.org.

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



FEATURING
MONTE' ST. JAMES
MR. GAY USA 2005

MR. GAY USA 2006

August 2nd-August 6th

Club Cabaret



Gage Gatlyn Mr. Gay USA F.M.I.

Tariq Love DuPree Mr. Gay USA at Large

Nick Cole Mr. Gay USA Bear

Marlowe Rainbow Mr. Gay USA Classique

Ashely Adams Miss Gay USA Classique

101 North Center St.
Hickory, NC

828-322-8103

www.usaunlimited.org

More information, contact:
Jeff Reeves . 336-667-9690
or jeffreeves@webtv.net

Host Hotel: Ramada Inn . 828-465-1100

