

## North Carolina News Notes

Out Youth (TOY) in 1991 as the city's first

by Lainey Millen . Q-Notes staff

### CHARLOTTE

#### ACLU organizing chapter

CHARLOTTE — The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is in the process of reinstating a Queen City chapter, says Samantha Geller who serves on the steering committee along with other individuals, to activate this long-dormant activist organization.

Currently, the committee is in the early stages of preparations so they can assist the state and national offices.

In order to gain new members, they are putting together a poster and publicity campaign. Eventually they will pick the issues they choose to work on and form task forces that will organize and execute the activism and follow-up.

The group has already drafted a working plan of action, although it will be re-worked by the group until it reflects the efforts they want to put forth. Two key demographics are mentioned specifically in the document, youth and professional/retired.

The ACLU fights to protect and restore civil rights and the organization has championed LGBT rights for a long time. Right now, it has a large campaign to get marriage extended to the gay community.

The local chapters act as support and watchdogs for the state organizations, which use banks of lawyers to champion constitutional rights in a court of law. As part of a local chapter, members play a vital role in the process of recognizing civil rights violations, educating the masses about them and assisting in the justice process.

At this time the chapter is looking for people who are interested in steering, hitting the streets, heading up focus groups, staffing phones or any other method of volunteerism.

For more information, email [aclucharlotte@hotmail.com](mailto:aclucharlotte@hotmail.com).

#### Tea and crumpets anyone?

CHARLOTTE — The Lesbian & Gay Community Center will host a tea dance on June 22 from 2:30-6 p.m. at 820 Hamilton St., Suites B6 and 11.

Admission is free until 3:30 p.m.. After that, \$5 pays for admission and a free drink ticket. Domestic and imported beer, wine, Mimosas and Mojitos as well as free snacks will be available.

A DJ from Hartigan's will play favorite dance songs spanning back to the '70s.

Disco trivia games will reap cool prizes for winners. The dance floor is non-smoking. Special tables will be provided for those who attend solo and want to hang out with others who do the same.

For more information, call 704-333-0144.

#### Taylor to receive award

CHARLOTTE — Tonda Taylor, long-time activist and resident, will be receiving a newly-instituted Human Rights award from the congregation of New Life Metropolitan Community Church of Charlotte. This award, which will come to bear her name, shall be presented at a special service on June 22 at 7 p.m. at The New Life Metropolitan Community Church, 1900 The Plaza, and will be given annually.

A Queen City native, Taylor founded Time

support group for lesbian, gay, and questioning youth. Over the following 13 years, she spearheaded efforts to provide counsel, support, emergency housing and a variety of educational and social events for some of the most at-risk individuals in the area. She also brought together the first Southeastern Youth Conference for LGBT youth and their allies. Additionally, she convened meetings on human rights with school principals and superintendents, civic and religious leaders and elected officials.

Following her work with TOY, Tonda Taylor began directing her efforts on behalf of human rights more broadly, resurrecting and reinvigorating the Charlotte chapter of Amnesty International, of which she is currently the coordinator. The mission of Amnesty International is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression and freedom from discrimination. Taylor has dedicated herself to acting locally and statewide, as well as internationally.

For more information, call 704-334-0350.

#### Pride sponsorship packet available

CHARLOTTE — Pride Charlotte, to be held on July 26, is seeking sponsors to assist in providing necessary funding to insure its success.

Three different programs are available. Corporate (over 25 employees and over \$1,000,000 in annual sales); Small Business (25 or less employees and under \$1,000,000 in annual sales); and Individual. Each one has varying contribution levels, each with a list of perks.

Corporate level sponsors incentives include a Pride Guide ad, vendor space at the festival, company's name and logo appearing on banners, T-shirts and more.

Small Businesses sponsors receive advertising, vendor space, etc. This option is available to non-profit organizations, as well.

Individual sponsors receive recognition as well, including having one's name listed on the website and Pride Guide.

For more information and downloadable forms, visit [www.pridecharlotte.com](http://www.pridecharlotte.com) or email queries to [sponsors@pridecharlotte.com](mailto:sponsors@pridecharlotte.com).

#### Target practice on!

CHARLOTTE — Diversity-friendly tavern, The Surf Inn, 3549 N. Sharon Amity Rd., is in the throws of its Summer In-House Dart League play on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m.

All skill levels are invited to participate.

For more information, call Tegan or Brandis at 704-536-7766 or visit [www.myspace.com/thefurfinn](http://www.myspace.com/thefurfinn).

#### Guild/King award nominations open

CHARLOTTE — Named in honor of local gay community leader Don King and sponsored by the Charlotte Business Guild, the Don King Award originated with the organizing committee of the 1993 Charlotte Pride Committee. The award is to acknowledge the service and commitment to community and individual visibility that King has consistently shown over the years. The award is to give public recognition to leaders in the Charlotte LGBT community and straight allies.

The 2008 Charlotte Business Guild/Don King Community Service Awards will be pre-

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