Garden Thai Restaurant and, most recently, at Ben Thanh Vietnamese Restaurant.

Members of PrideSisters and their "gay guy and straight friends" are welcome.

Each month they will pick a different ethnic group (German, Japanese, Thai, Vietnamese, Ethiopian, Cuban, Chinese Dim Sum, Greek, Indian), and they will pick a restaurant that supports LGBT people. For those who love exploring new food/new culture, and want to try out new restaurants with your LGBT sisters and brothers, this group is the ticket.

For more information, email ethnicfoodjunkie@yahoo.com or visit groups.yahoo.com/group/PrideSisters.

Center partners with county

CHARLOTTE — On May 14, the Center partnered in a bridge-building expo with Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services (DSS). The "DSS Diversity Celebration 2010: One Team, Many Cultures" was an awareness celebration to give DSS an opportunity to better learn how agencies such as the Center serve its clients. Center Board Chair: Denise Palm Beck said, "Some did not know that Charlotte even has an LGBT Community Center, and many members of our LGBT community stopped by to say thank you."

"For the Center, which provides a host of 'service-oriented' programs for our LGBT community, this bridge building opportunity is huge," explained Center Programs Leader Pamela Jones. "It is so important that all LGBT members and straight allies in the Charlotte area know about the Center and all of the vital services and programs that we provide."

In other news, the Center is holding a garage sale on July 24. Start clearing our those closets to help support the work of the Center. Stop by an chew on a grilled hot dog and a sip of suds

It is also gearing up for its 2010 summer fundraising campaign. Monies are needed to help sustain it various programs and outreach opportunities. Details on its Battle of The Genders event is forthcoming.

To make contributions or for more information, call 704-333-0144 or visit gaycharlotte.

Triangle

Sing it out

DURHAM/RALEIGH — Triangle Gay Men's Chorus (TGMC) will join together with The Durham Chorale (TDC) to present "Chord of Many Strands," a season finale concert.

This is the first time that the two groups

have teamed up. On June 13 at 3 p.m., they will perform at First Presbyterian Church, 305 E. Main St., Durham and on June 19 at 8 p.m., they will be at Fellowship Hall, 3313 Wade Ave., Raleigh.

TGMC will open the concert with TDC members joining in the featured work of "Song of Wisdom."

Tickets are \$12 advance/\$15 door, adults; \$6 advance/\$10 door, children and students and may be obtained by visiting tymchorus.

For more information, visit tgmchorus.org and durhamchorale.org.

Center events slated

RALEIGH — The LGBT Center of Raleigh summer calendar has been announced.

On July 11, head down to The Salon Room at Umstead Hotel and Spa, 100 Woodland Pond Dr., Cary, for an afternoon tea from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Sample an old-world indulgence of a three-course high tea service, along with lip

licking warm buttermilk scones with house-made lemon cream and fruit preserves. Dress is summer semi-formal. Live music will be provided. Other items on the menu include, but are not limited to, cucumber and sherry cream cheese, smoked salmon with whipped creme fraiche tea sandwiches, fresh strawberries and Grand Marnier chantilly and chamomile citron. Proceeds from the \$50 admission go to support the Center.

Lights, camera, action! Enjoy a NC Gay and Lesbian Film Festival all-ages after-party extraordinaire from 10 p.m.-2 a.m., 618 Foster St., Durham. This event is co-sponsored by 307 Knox Records and is a short stroll from the Carolina Theatre. Local craft beer from Triangle Brewing Co. will be featured. Proceeds from the \$10 admission go to support the Center.

The Center recently held a Midnight Drag Show Benefit and an evening of fun and fitness at Rapid Fitness where participants met with a fitness consultant and freshened up the lockers.

Other activities of the Center include a First Friday gallery walk social complete with a featured LGBT artist, wine and camaraderie.

QNights monthly events serve as a vehicle to raise funds for the Center. Check the website for a current listing.

For more information, visit lgbtcenterof raleigh.com.

Western

Swinging along the open trail...

PINNACLE — The Better Than Ice Cream Meetup will hold, in conjunction with the Dual Attraction (bisexual women) and Triangle Gay Outdoors Meetup groups, a weekend camp out on starting on June 18 at 7 p.m. at the Pilot Mountain State-Park.

Cost for campsites is \$18 per night, with a maximum of six people per site.

To be part of this fun-filled adventure, visit meetup.com/Better-Than-Ice-Cream.

Spouses, significant others, partners and friends are welcome as guests. Adult only. Leashed dogs may accompany attendees.

This event will take place whether rain or shine. Severe weather forecast may result in cancellation.

Volunteers boost contributions

HICKORY — Thrivent Financial, through the organization's Care Abounds in Communities funds, contributed \$1,600 to AIDS Leadership Foothills-area Alliance's (ALFA) inaugural Hike for Hope. Hike for Hope benefits HIV/AIDS care and prevention efforts in the agency's nine-county service area.

Rev. Paul E. Christ, Thrivent director of congregational advocates for Thrivent Financial, presented a check for \$1,600 to Rodney Tucker, executive director of ALFA. Thrivent Members of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church of Hickory, volunteered to plan and work for ALFA's Hike for Hope on April 24. These volunteers applied for Thrivent's Care Abounds in Communities supplemental funds and with this check brought the total to over \$20,000 for ALFA.

Thrivent is a faith-based, not-for-profit membership organization with more than \$67 billion in assets under management, according to its website.

For more information, call 828-322-1447 ext. 224, email alfadirect@alfainfo.org or visit alfainfo.org or thrivent.com.::

info: Announce your community event in Carolinas News Notes.
email: editor@goqnotes.com.



