

news notes: from the Carolinas, nation and world

compiled by Lainey Millen :: lainey@gonotes.com | David Stout :: david@gonotes.com

Charlotte

Bank recruits for wind ensemble

CHARLOTTE — Pick up that fife and flute. The Charlotte Pride Band is recruiting for the first LGBT wind ensemble in the Queen City.

Open to the community and its affirming ally musicians, regardless of background or experience, it welcomes all wind players and percussionists.

A Hot Chocolate Social will be held on Jan. 8, 2011, 5:30-7 p.m., at the Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 820 Hamilton St., Suite B11.

Meet the members of the band as they kick off the second half of their Starstruck 2010-11 season. Enjoy a warm beverage and baked goodies and mix and mingle.

There are two more concerts slated for 2011. On March 5, 2011, the band strikes up for its "Exit, Stage Left" to honor the music from Broadway's biggest hits. And, on May 14, "The Casting Couch" pays homage to music from the Silver Screen.

For more information, email Mark Taylor, artistic director, at marktaylor@musician.org or visit charlotteprideband.org.

— L.M.

Grant cycle announced

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Lesbian and Gay Fund (CLGF), a collective giving and endowment fund of Foundation For The Carolinas and has announced its 2011 grant cycle, as well as the addition of a new grant category. Applications will be available online beginning Jan. 18, 2011.

The CLGF will provide funding to the community in three categories of grants:

- **Community Connections Grants**

Awards of up to \$5,000 to support the creation of programs, projects and events that address the mission of CLGF of cultivating one community that supports lesbian and gay individuals and families.

- **Basic Operating Grants**

Provide unrestricted operating funds to build the capacity of non-profit organizations serving Charlotte's LGBT community.

- **ADAM Queer Youth Initiative Grants**

Awards up to \$4,000 to those that target or serve LGBTQ youth of color, young women, transgender and gender non-conforming

youth and low income youth.

To be considered for funding, organizations are required to attend a mandatory meeting on Feb. 2, 2010, from 4-6:00 p.m. at Foundation For The Carolinas, 217 S. Tryon St. Also, applications must be delivered to the Foundation by 12 p.m. on March 11, 2011. Those that are incomplete or late will not be considered.

For more information, call David Snider at 704-973-4528, email dsnider@fftc.org or visit fftc.org/clgf.

— L.M.

Triangle

Couple wins Scandinavian nuptials

CHAPEL HILL — Thomas Landreth and Brett Kessler were among one of three recipients of SAS's U.S. VisitSweden's "Love is in the air" competition. They said their "I dos" with a commitment ceremony at the IceHotel in northern Sweden and a honeymoon package in Stockholm's Hotel Skeppsholmen.

Winners of the prize had to beat out competition from over 300 couples across the globe in numbers of online votes received.

The win was made possible by grassroots support of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill's LGBT publication, *Lambda*, that helped support their efforts and which spread outside the Carolinas. Kessler, a senior, is a content editor for the publication. Landreth graduated in May.

To see photos of the commitment ceremony, visit loveliflysas.net.

— L.M.

Open audition dates set

DURHAM — The Triangle Gay Men's Chorus (TGMC) has announced open auditions for all voice parts on Jan. 11, 18 and 25, 2011, from 6:45-9:15 p.m. at the Durham Arts Council, 120 Morris St.

The selection process is relaxed, and no prepared pieces are required. Participants with no previous choral experience are welcome. Gay and gay-affirming are invited to join. Auditions are for voice section placement only. Participants must be 18-years-old and above.

Don't sing? Then become part of the

behind the scenes members who help to bring a "loud voice" to the success of the group.

Two "Over Jordan - A Sunday Afternoon Gospel Brunch" performances are set for March 27, 2011 and April 3, 2011. Additionally, a Proclamation of Hope "Sing for the Cure" performance with the Common Woman Chorus will be held on June 12, 2011, at Raleigh's Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, 2 E. South St., in June. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Komen for the Cure-NC Triangle.

For more information, email membership@tgmchorus.org or visit tgmchorus.org.

— L.M.

South Carolina

Local doc gets premiere

MYRTLE BEACH — Darrell Senter and Emory Helms are taking on the challenge of producing their documentary short film, "The Mirror," by asking one simple question, "My name is (blank), hear my story."

This is not the first time that small-town communities have been the basis of exploring LGBT lives. However, is one of the first for this coast area, the *The Sun News* said.

The filmmakers have interviewed Tim McGee, executive and artistic director at Conway's Theatre of the Republic; Horry County Police Officer J.R. Crawford who served under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in the military for two tours; and Micki Strickland, Rainbow House Bar & Grill owner.

Each subject was asked what they saw when they looked in the mirror. It is the filmmakers hope that everyone will take a moment to do the same exercise to see what each person is made from.

Senter is a Fuquay-Varina, N.C., native and in 1980 moved to the coastal town. He sees the town as a growing tourist area that is improving in its acceptance of the LGBT community instead of being the "Redneck Riviera."

The film had an initial invitation-only screening on Dec. 4 at Careteam with Q&A afterward. After final editing, "The Mirror" will be entered into lesbian and gay film festivals across the U.S. Amiracast Pictures' Bryan Stalvey and Jacob Larson are the producers.

— L.M.

Regional

ENC sets year-end goal

RALEIGH — Equality North Carolina (ENC) which had set a year-end goal of \$8,000, need help. They are only a quarter of the way there. In order to secure legislative and campaign initiatives, the monies are necessary.

To make a contribution, visit equalitync.org.

Tar Heel named finalist in play contest

CHICAGO — Thomas S. Watson was named this month as a finalist in the Great Gay Play Contest, sponsored by Pride Films and Plays.

He was one of five selected and his play, along with the others, will be staged at a festival on March 3-6, 2011, at Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theatre, 3656 N. Halsted St.

His play, "The Times," involved the reunion of Noah with Christian, his college sweetheart, after a 10-year hiatus. Unexpected twists and comedy follows. Final judging will determine the winner.

Watson, a N.C. native who received his bachelors degree from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in Dramatic Art and Speech Communication, has toured nationally as an actor, singer and dancer. This is his debut as a professional playwright. He now resides in Key West, Fla.

— L.M.

National

City settles Atlanta Eagle lawsuit

ATLANTA, Ga. — A settlement in the Atlanta Eagle raid lawsuit will force the Atlanta Police Department to rewrite unconstitutional policies regarding arrest, search and seizure, and make other changes to protect the public from police misconduct.

These reforms require Atlanta police officers to document certain types of warrantless detentions, frisks and searches; prohibit officers from interfering with the public's right to take photographs and make video and audio recordings of police activity; require uniformed police officers to wear clearly visible name-tags and identify themselves upon request; require the Atlanta Police Department to rule on citizen complaints of police misconduct within 180 days; and require the City of Atlanta to conduct mandatory in-person training of all police officers every two years regarding Fourth Amendment issues and the safe use of firearms.

The agreement also requires the Atlanta Police Department to conduct a thorough and meaningful investigation of police misconduct, failure to obey the law, and untruthfulness

see News Notes on 8

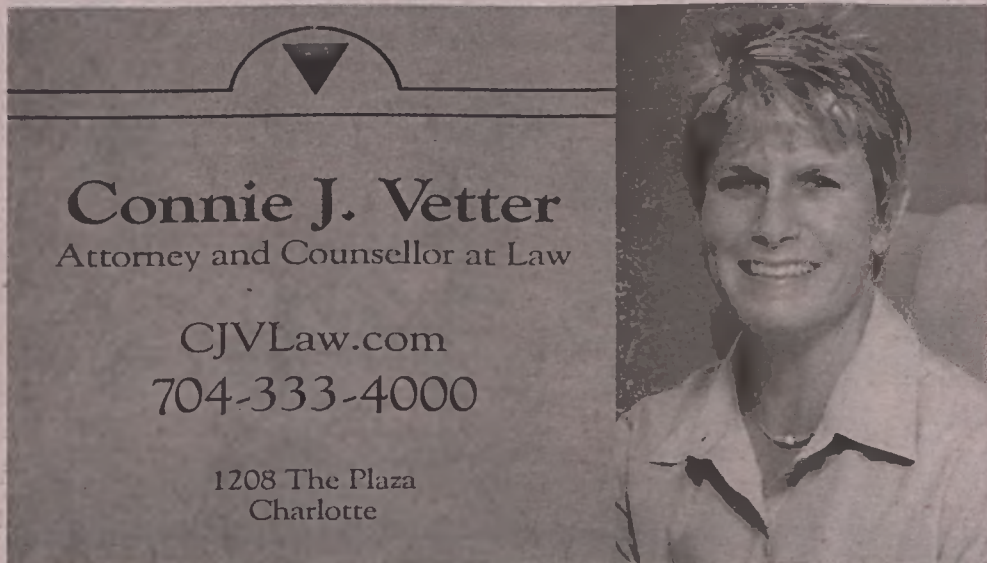


**If you have a pet . . .
we should be
your vet!**

Dr. Margurette Straley
Dr. Leland McLaughlin, Jr.

• complete vet services • nutritional needs • boarding
3055 Freedom Drive • Charlotte, NC 28208
Phone: 704-399-6534 • Fax: 704-391-0210

**Freedom
Animal Hospital**



Connie J. Vetter
Attorney and Counsellor at Law

CJVLaw.com
704-333-4000

1208 The Plaza
Charlotte