

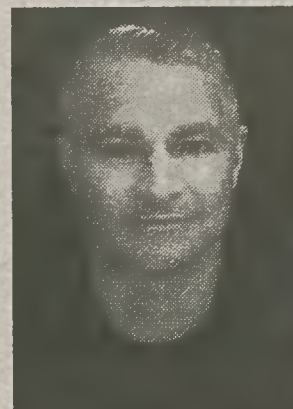
news notes: from the carolinas, nation and world

compiled by Lainey Millen :: lainey@goqnotes.com | David Stout :: david@goqnotes.com | Matt Comer :: matt@goqnotes.com

Charlotte

Foundation makes changes

CHARLOTTE — The Wesley Mancini Foundation has changed its grant application requirements. Beginning this year, the Foundation will pick an annual theme for which



the LGBT community has a current need to address. Only grant applications addressing the year's theme will be considered.

"With the resources that we have to give back to our community, we wanted to make sure

we target a specific issue each year," said Wesley Mancini. "The 'theme' will change from year to year based on the needs of the LGBT community. Our board is very excited about our new direction and what it can mean to not only the Charlotte LGBT community, but also the community at large."

Grant applications must develop a project that will raise the profile of the local LGBT community in front of a national audience during the Democratic National Convention Sept. 3-6, 2012 and partner with at least one non-LGBT organization to accomplish the grant's goals.

The Foundation is a non-political entity. Applications must not deal with politics, but focus on the awareness that the local community exists during this time when the world's eyes will be upon Charlotte.

Applications are being accepted until Nov. 15 for the grant cycle of Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2012.

Foundation grants are awarded to fund specific projects and are not awarded to cover general operating expenses.

Federally-tax exempt organizations or those with tax-qualified sponsors interested in receiving a grant application should contact Bob Scheer at 704-375-4275, ext. 11 or by email to bscheer@wesleymancini.com.

—L.M.

Coastal

Protest held at church

WILMINGTON — On Aug. 14, a protest was held outside Sea Gate Community Chapel to challenge that church's decision to place an anti-gay message in its church sign. The sign read "God loves gays, but He hates perverted life style, turn or burn" and had been erected the prior week.

Vandals removed the last portion of the wording and left it reading, "God loves gays, but He hates sin" and spray painted a heart over the "but He hates sin" portion. This "turn or burn" instruction had been omitted. Pastor David Heuring was not happy. Church members then added the "but He hates sin" back onto the sign.

Wilmington Pride organized the peaceful protest, saying that they wanted the people who attended the church to know that if they were struggling with their sexuality, there was hope. Afterward, a man driving a Ford Taurus took a hammer and smashed the sign,

according to witnesses.

According to the WWAY-TV 3 website, Wilmington Pride President T.R. Nunley posted a comment saying that when they left that morning from the protest, the sign was okay. When he returned at 6 p.m. for a station interview, it was destroyed. He shared his regret that this had been done and said that his organization did not "condone the actions."

Heuring and protestors dialogued during the protest and he shared drinks with them.

—L.M.

Gay-friendly list ruffles feathers

WILMINGTON — The University of North Carolina at Wilmington's LGBTQIA Resource Office issued a guide in July that listed gay-friendly businesses, health clinics, churches and other institutions. This publication was passed out by the resource office's Amy Schlag to staffers.

Now, Professor Mike Adams is taking the initiative to task saying it was silly and a "government waste," FoxNews.com reported. This atheist-turned-Christian teaches criminology.

Adams ridiculed this action in an article for TownHall.com entitled "Separation of Gay Church and State." He went on to say that "homosexuality... It is unequivocally sinful... God wants you to avoid homosexuality..."

He even has gone so far as to ask that LGBT groups be abolished on campus.

Time will tell if his wishes will be taken into serious consideration. The school felt validity in publishing its list.

—L.M.

Triad

New exec hired

GREENSBORO — Guilford Green Foundation has announced the appointment of Shane Burton as executive director. Burton replaces Ivan Canada, who has been serving as interim executive director and will remain in a transitional role working on special projects over the next year.

Burton most recently served as director of development with Triad Health Project. He brings a wealth of experience in both the public and private sectors, having worked in various administrative capacities with area non-profits and in senior sales positions with Belgian-owned Unilin Flooring and U.S.-based Mohawk Industries. His civic involvement includes serving on the Community Advisory Board of the University of North Carolina Center for AIDS Research; the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Community Advisory Board for the Office of Leadership and Service Learning; two-term president of the Guilford County Directors of Volunteers in Agencies; and a one year appointment on the Board of the North Carolina Association of Volunteer Administrators.

For more information, visit ggfnc.org.

—L.M.



Triangle

Kids program slated

DURHAM — iNSIDEoUT, a youth-led organization that serves lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, questioning, queer and allied youth in Wake, Durham, Orange, Vance, Person, Franklin, Granville and Warren counties, will be starting a program in the Triangle for children ages 7-12 years old this coming fall. The program is especially for children of diverse gender identities and expressions and children of same-sex parents or other alternative families.

The group will hold bi-monthly meetings every other Sunday afternoon from 3-5 p.m. beginning in the Fall of 2011. Meetings will include a variety of fun, social, educational, activist and support-related events and occasional outings to fun places around the Triangle. Children will also have the option to participate in an indoor overnight retreat. Cost is \$30-60 per child based on a sliding scale. Meeting location will be sent to registered participants. A parental release form which can be downloaded online must accompany payment via mail to iNSIDEoUT, 1303 Clarendon St., Apt. B, Durham, NC 27705.

To register or for more information, call 919-923-7884, email insideoutamy@gmail.com or visit insideout180.org.

—L.M.

Western

Philanthropists honored

BLOWING ROCK — Two gay philanthropists were honored on Aug. 17 for their long-time advocacy on behalf of North Carolina's LGBT community.

Bob Page, founder and CEO of Greensboro-based Replacements, Ltd., and life partner Dale Frederiksen were the guests of honor at a luncheon sponsored by Faith in America and the Human Rights Campaign and hosted by Bonnie and Jamie Schaefer at the Westglow Resort & Spa. Page and Frederiksen are vast supporters of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT civil rights group, and Faith in America, a Hickory-based non-profit organization working nationally to educate the public about the personal, social and religious pain and trauma that is inflicted upon LGBT individuals.

Dr. Jack McKinney, a national spokesperson for Faith in America and former Southern Baptist minister who today counsels LGBT youth and families, told luncheon attendees that the commitment shown by people like Page and Frederiksen is key to countering the emotional and psychological toll LGBT people and their families experience as a result of the moral and religious stamp of disapproval placed on them by anti-gay leaders.

Mitchell Gold, founder of Faith in America and longtime civil rights advocate, told guests that the couple's passion for improving the lives of LGBT Americans has been an inspiration to him and others who are working toward honoring human dignity and full equality for LGBT people. Chely Wright, country singer and songwriter and member

of Faith in America's board of directors, performed at the event.

—M.C.

Regional

Gala looking for champs

STATEWIDE — Equality North Carolina is seeking nominations for its Equality Champion Awards to be given out at the Equality NC Foundation's 2011 Equality Conference & Gala held at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro's Elliott University Center (conference) and at the Empire Room (gala).

Know someone who exemplifies what it means to be a champion? Nominees should embrace the ideals of working toward securing equality across North Carolina.

Along with the Legislative Leadership Award, these will be a surefire way to recognize those who are digging deep into the trenches to lead the cause for freedom.

Nominees may come from the Western, Charlotte, Triad, Triangle and Eastern regions.

Beat the Sept. 15 deadline and send in nominations via email to Kay Flaminio at kay@equalitync.org. In the subject header, write Equality Champion. Be sure to include your name, email address and phone number, as well as that of the nominee, along with the regional designation. Finally, tell the selection committee about the nominee in 250 words or less.

—L.M.

Campus Scene

Blue Devils welcome students

DURHAM — Duke University's Center for LGBT Life has announced a host of activities for returning and new students to campus.

"Our Lives: Up Close and Personal" discussion groups will take place at the center on Sept. 15, Oct. 13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at 2 West Union Building.

This is being held in conjunction with the Blue Devil United blog to augment LGBT and ally student life, which is a first for the community. Membership and topics are confidential.

Additionally, two presentations are planned for the first week in September.

On Sept. 6, 4-6 p.m., Justice Edwin Cameron will share "Constitutionalism and Diversity: Sexual Orientation in South Africa" in Smith Warehouse, Bay 4, C105. Cost is free.

South African Constitutional Court Justice Cameron will speak on efforts in South Africa to guarantee rights for LGTQ citizens post-apartheid. He will refer to "Somewhere Over the Rainbow Nation: Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Activism in South Africa" by Ryan Richard Thoreson. For more information, call Robin Kirk at 919-668-6511.

The next day, Sept. 7, Cameron will deliver a global health seminar, "Stigma and AIDS: The Personal and the Political" from 4-5 p.m. in the John Hope Franklin Center, Room 240.

Cameron is a sitting justice on South Africa's Constitutional Court. His legal work and personal experience as an HIV-positive public figure have been instrumental in improving access to antiretroviral therapy and de-stigmatizing the disease in his home