

# The FRONT PAGE

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Serving the Carolinas' Gay & Lesbian Communities Since 1979

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## Triangle Guild Honors Gay, Straight Leaders And No 'Rotten Raspberry'

RALEIGH — The Triangle Business and Professional Guild, a social, career and business networking group serving the Triangle's gay and lesbian community, has honored *The Independent*, Cheryl Ann Welsh, Scott Harmon and Nancy Daniel with its annual community awards.

"These individuals and businesses that have made significant contributions to the Triangle's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community," said Deepak Kapoor, coordinator of the 2002 awards program. "We want to publicly show our appreciation to all of the nominees and award winners."

The winners were chosen by a vote of Guild members. They included:

*The Independent* newspaper, in the category of Business of the Year, for its consistent support and news coverage of the Triangle's gay community activities and special events;

Cheryl Ann Welsh of Durham, in the category of Community Leader of the Year, for her involvement with North Carolina's Race for the Cure, Human Rights Campaign and the N.C. Gay and Lesbian Film Festival;

Scott Harmon, a Durham architect and Smart Growth advocate, as Professional of the Year for his development and design projects, and involvement with the Historic Preservation Society of Durham, The Duke Chapel Choir, the Human Rights Campaign and the Durham Area Designers.

Nancy Daniel of Chapel Hill, as Straight Ally of the Year, for helping people with AIDS and HIV, including serving as director of volunteer services and special events for the Alliance of AIDS Services Carolina;

Past honorees of the Triangle Community Awards include Joellen Mason, Francesca's, Steve Martin, Sam Isley, Sharon Thompson, White Rabbit Books, and the Rev. Jimmy Creech. The Rotten Raspberry "winners" include the Boy Scouts of America, and outgoing U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms.

"In the past we have given a 'Rotten Raspberry' award to an individual or organization that exhibits overt prejudice or discriminatory views, but for this past year, we didn't feel anyone nominated truly deserved that special recognition," said Art Stone, Guild president.

"That's great news for all gay and lesbian citizens of the Research Triangle, and helps explain why so many gay and lesbian people have cho-

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## NGLTF Joins Coalition Opposing War Plan

WASHINGTON, DC — The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has announced its opposition to the possibly impending war against Iraq by joining the new coalition called: "Keep America Safe: Win Without War."

On December 11th, a broad coalition of major progressive civil rights, business, religious, and environmental leaders announced the launching of this group whose founding members include: the NAACP; the National Organization for Women; Move On; the Sierra Club; the National Council of Churches; Business Leaders for Sensible Priorities; Working Assets; the Leadership Conference of Women Religious; Physicians for Social

Responsibility; the Rainbow Push Coalition; and Women's Action for New Directions.

The "Keep America Safe: Win Without War" statement is as follows:

"We are patriotic Americans who share the belief that Saddam Hussein cannot be allowed to possess weapons of mass destruction. We support rigorous UN weapons inspections to assure Iraq's effective disarmament.



Lori Jean

"We believe that a preemptive military invasion of Iraq will harm American national interests. Unprovoked war will increase human suffering, arouse animosity toward our country, increase the likelihood of terrorist attacks, damage the economy and undermine our moral standing in the world. It will make us less, not more, secure.

"We reject the doctrine — a reversal of long-held American tradition — that our country, alone, has the right to launch first-strike attacks. America is not that kind of country. We can achieve the valid U.S.

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## Al-Fatiha Joins Diverse LGBT Anti-War Coalition

### Urges Local And National LGBT Organizations To Stand United Against War

Al-Fatiha Foundation, a US-based organization dedicated to Muslims who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT), joined a diverse coalition of LGBT groups that oppose a pending war against Iraq, the Bush administration's current "war on terrorism," and its continued infringement of domestic civil rights and liberties.

At a meeting held in Portland, OR, on November 8th, at the Creating Change conference, a coalition of LGBT local and national organizations came together to strategize around a united response to the Bush administra-



Faisal Alam

tion's domestic and international "war."

Al-Fatiha also announced its formal position against any potential war against Iraq, or any other country in the world, under the guise of a "war on terrorism."

Al-Fatiha urged other local and national LGBT organizations to stand united and to join local and national coalitions opposed to war. "We must stand together in the face of great aggression," said

Faisal Alam, in reference to the Bush administrations continued infringement of domestic civil liberties, and the unilateral push for international war.

"The LGBT movement must ally itself with the larger progressive and peace-loving movement, if we are to ultimately win our freedom and liberation," he continued.

Al-Fatiha endorsed the October 26th anti-war and peace march on Washington, DC sponsored by International ANSWER, and also plans on endorsing and participate in the upcoming peace march and Grassroots Peace Congress, to be held in Washington, DC and San Francisco during the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend holiday (January 18-19, 2003).

For more information visit their web site at <http://www.al-fatiha.net>