



The CENTER



VOLUME III

NUMBER I

JANUARY 1989

A Farewell Message

Twelve years ago I moved to Orlando and eleven years ago I became active in the gay community. In the late 70's the women of Orlando had a monthly "Moon Party," which was the Saturday closest to the full moon. Shortly after I started attending these I started hosting the parties (from time to time) and I helped out with the newsletter, "Changes". Then when 1983 rolled around I got involved with LCN. And since July of 1987, I've been involved with The Center, GCS, LCN, etc! For those of you who know me, you know that The Center has become my life, my love, my everything.

But my love affair with The Center must come to an end. My beautiful Jeep is dying a very rapid death, my house payments are behind and for the first time in a long, long, time I'd love to be able to afford an occasional dinner somewhere other than McDonalds.

Although finances (or the lack thereof) have served as the catalyst, I'm tendering my resignation as The Center's President because I feel as though I've done all that I can for the community. I've worked long hours to be able to ensure that The Center's direction was good and healthy. I've just come to a point in my life where I've got to make some positive changes for *me*.

From having been at The Center, I've acquired some very wonderful friends. And I can't begin to thank all of you for putting up with me when I carried on and on about The Center. I know I've taxed you all an awful lot with my love affair. But thanks for being there. My heart will always be with you - the people of The Center. I will miss you.

Thank you all for the opportunity to be a part of Florida's premier Gay Community Center.

Editor's Note: Due to Shannon's resignation as President, be aware that The Center's hours may change.

Shannon Addison

Volunteer Training

The Center will be conducting volunteer training on Monday, January 9, beginning promptly at 7:00. Anybody interested in devoting a few hours a month to help out The Center is cordially invited to attend. We have a constant need for people to assist with special events held at both The Center and alternate locations. If you can spare the time, we need your talents and expertise.

THANKS!

This month thanks go out to the following people for their contributions to The Center: Rob for the Christmas ham; Lejune for a turkey and Bob for an additional turkey; Stephanie, Patty and Penny for facilitating Women's Group; Chris for Men's Group and Randy, Cherie, Patty, Joel, Michael, Steve and Davis for facilitating Coming Out Group; Ty for our Christmas tree; Joel for our vacuum cleaner; and, of course, a major thanks to our monthly pledgers and our advertisers.

I wish to thank Shannon and Jimmy for taking over the Newsletter's December issue while I was in Oklahoma for my grandmother's funeral. Sincerely, Lynn Vining

Please Note:

Beginning with the February issue of The Center Newsletter, if you want to continue (or start) receiving The Newsletter at home, you must complete the following and send it back to The Center no later than January 19th.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Our logic is simple; we spend approximately \$150 each month on postage and we know some of you have moved. Yet we have no way of knowing where. Bulk rate mail is not forwardable. Also, if you are at The Center on a regular basis, please save us the 16.7¢ and pick up your copy when you visit.

Please help us reduce our mailing costs. Our distribution at the bars will increase and we'll have an ample supply available at The Center for your reading pleasure.

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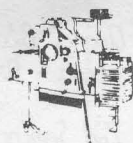


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Life Planning Seminar

Tuesday, January 17th, there will be a Life Planning Seminar conducted by Joanne Sommer of Woodlawn Memorial Park. The seminar will be at 7:30 and it will be held at The Center. This seminar will include information on wills, estates and basic life planning. Refreshments will be provided.

The Center Newsletter is published monthly by The Center of Central Florida for the Lesbians and Gay men of Orlando.

We invite our public to send us news and personal views of Gay life, short stories, poems, political and social commentary. Political and social organizations are welcome to use The Center Newsletter as a public forum for information about events and activities.

Some of the views expressed in The Center Newsletter are not necessarily those of The Center, the newsletter or its editor. The Newsletter reserves the right to edit all contributions for the purpose of meeting length constraints and for ensuring clarity and conciseness.

Editor Lynn Vining
Art Director James Anthony

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P.O. BOX 533446
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32802
PHONE: (407) 894-7097

It's time for my New Year resolutions. You are probably saying to yourself: nobody makes resolutions anymore! Well, I do; I just don't keep them.

This year I vow:

1. To go through all my papers and throw out what I don't need. I have kept every piece of correspondence since 1966, starting with my first love letter. THIS I will keep; the Reader's Digests contests can go.

2. To finish painting the inside of this house. The rooms that ARE done will have to be done again if I don't make some attempt at uniformity in my work. Anyone who has ever been at a party at my house will have noticed that dim lighting will mask anything.

3. To stop smoking. This is my only vice. I am so wholesome that I manage to sicken people. But wait...if I DO stop smoking, I will have achieved perfection and will probably be assumed directly into heaven well before my time. I'm not ready yet! Better to continue smoking and take up another vice; I will become a pathological liar.

4. To become better friends with people who have built-in pools. I haven't been to a pool party in years! This will lead to my becoming involved in a Triple Whammy Vice: swimming in a pool, nude, while smoking and telling lies -- I'll have one foot on the road to hell but at least I won't make people sick.

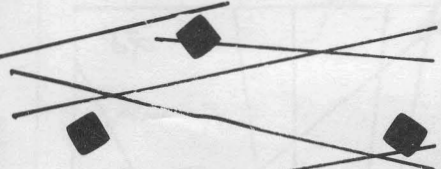
5. To remember everybody's birthdays. Have any of you experienced the trauma of being the guest of honor at a gift-strewn fest -- surrounded by people who have NOT received a gift from you during the year? It is not pretty.

6. To buy new clothes. I once wore elephant bell-bottoms to a Park Avenue restaurant -- in 1983. I thought people were noticing my highly-polished platform shoes.

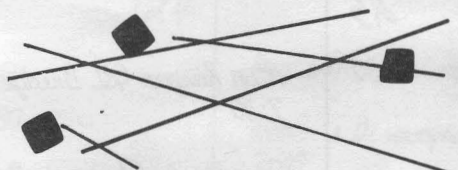
7. To send in my Center pledge on time. It's gotten bad, ladies and gentlemen. Shannon has managed to track me down in the most unlikely places to hand me my pledge sheet: the fitting room at Ivey's; the men's room at the airport; the doctor's office while I lay there covered by a paper robe. Things will be different in 1989!

8. To save money. This year I will try to be like the rest of my relatives: cheap, tight and penny-pinching. I will make deals with the utility companies, promising them word-of-mouth advertising in exchange for free kilowatts and unlimited long-distance calling. Why should I have to pay for something that you can't actually TOUCH? Has anyone ever actually SEEN a kilowatt?

9. To stop making lists of things. I write everything down and then I lose the list. A gay person's life should be organized but maybe I am taking things too far. Maybe I should work on my memory. God! If I depend on THAT, I'll surely turn into an amnesiac, immediately forgetting everything that ever happened to me, not to mention the things I still have to do. They'll find me wandering along an abandoned rail bed, in my elephant bell-bottoms and platform shoes. I'll be carrying a shopping bag stuffed with old love letters. Still, some semblance of normalcy will turn up: there will be Shannon, popping out from behind a bush around the next bend, wondering where the hell my monthly pledge is.



A Very Special THANKS to Kat for helping for so many hours on last month's newsletter.



Charlie Murphy!

Join us Friday, January 27, at The Friends Meeting House (8:00 p.m.) for Charlie Murphy in Concert!

Charlie Murphy is a nationally acclaimed recording artist from Seattle, Washington, whose music reflects his activism in various movements, including feminist, ecological, gay/lesbian, anti-nuclear and Native American. The concert is a joint effort of We The People Gay and Lesbian Coalition for the Human Rights of All People, and the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice as part of its state-wide Peace Pilgrimage being held from January 20 through 29.

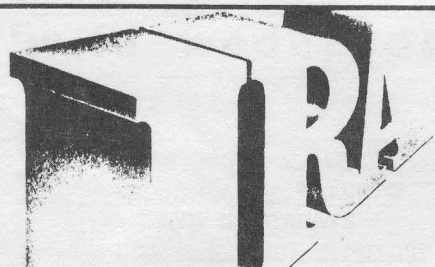
The Friends Meeting House is located at 316 East Marks Street, Orlando. For more information call The Powerhouse at 645-3616.

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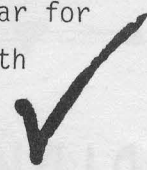
Joy Metropolitan Community Church holds two services each Wednesday at the church office, 1611 E. Page St., off Ferncreek. Prayer Breakfast is at 7:15 and features a continental breakfast, fellowship and prayer. Evening Discussion/Prayer Group is held at 7:30.

Sunday services are at 11:00 a.m. at the church office and 7:15 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 1815 E. Robinson St.



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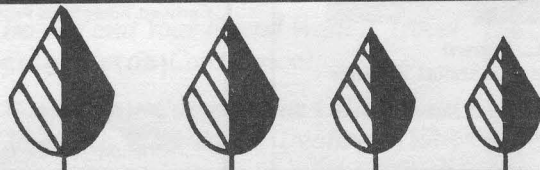
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About our Advertisers...

We would like to point out that while the people and businesses who advertise in The Center Newsletter are open-minded and gracious in their support of The Center through their advertising, they are not necessarily gay, nor their businesses necessarily strictly gay oriented.

We ask of our community to use the same discretion and consideration in patronizing any of our advertisers as would be afforded in any other social or business situation. Thank you.



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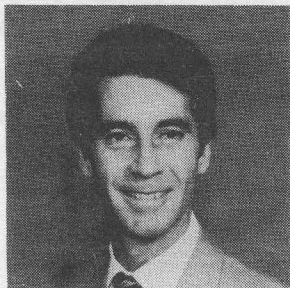
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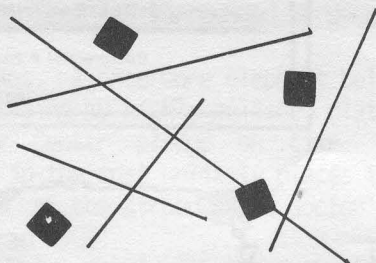
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Your membership in The Center helps ensure our continued service and availability within the Central Florida Gay and Lesbian community. An annual membership of \$12 not only helps keep your Center functioning and gives you the satisfaction of being a contributing and vital part of the cause - it also makes you a voting member of The Center.

Complete the form below and send it, along with your check for \$12, to The Center, P.O. Box 533446, Orlando, Florida, 32802.

Yes, I want to be a Center member. Enclosed is my \$12 annual membership fee.

Name _____

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The Newsletter needs help (no comments, please). We need someone, or a variety of someones, who will do some reporting for The Newsletter. If you are interested in conducting interviews or checking out new businesses and writing up reviews about them, please contact The Center. Thanks

P FLAG of Central Florida

Beginning in January, on the last Wednesday of the month, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P FLAG) of Central Florida will begin holding meetings at their new, permanent meeting place; The Friends Meeting House, 316 Marks Street, Orlando. The time will be 8:00 pm and there is plenty of parking available.

Parents FLAG is a support group for parents, siblings and friends of Lesbian and Gay persons and works to educate the public about our children's orientation. If you or anyone you know has a Gay or Lesbian child, and could benefit from the experiences of other parents, we urge you and them to attend this or subsequent meetings.

Membership is \$10.00 a year. If anyone would prefer to be on the mailing list, an Associate Membership is also \$10.00 a year. Donations will be most gratefully accepted.

If you would like to receive further information about the organization and understanding our children, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request, addressed to Parents FLAG, P.O. Box 141312, Orlando, FL 32814-1312. All requests are kept confidential, as is the mailing list. Judy, our facilitator, is available to speak with you. Her telephone number is (407) 839-1856. Please leave a message on her answering machine and she will return your call if she is not in.

Also of interest: P FLAG has available a booklet entitled "Read This Before Coming Out to Your Parents," available free of charge; just send stamped, self addressed envelope (25¢). P FLAG will also mail information to parents for a child. Send stamped, self-addressed envelope (65¢ postage).

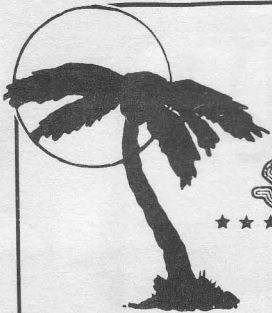
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