



Sir Elton John and husband, David Furnish, are now parents. **PAGE 5**

Courtesy, Washington Examiner

FLORIDA AGENDA



Local Derby Grrls league is more than chicks on skates. **PAGE 12**

Courtesy, Gold Coast Derby Grrls

THE STATEWIDE VOICE OF THE LGBT COMMUNITY

NewsWire

Fort Lauderdale ■ Miami
Bay Area ■ Central Florida



Courtesy, Bob Kecskemeti

■ **To the Rescue:** AHF will pick up the cost of meds for some Florida HIV/AIDS patients. **PAGE 2**



Courtesy, Pete Moroz

■ **Oy Vey!** New gay film starring Jai Rodriguez opens this week. **PAGE 16**



Courtesy, liziguori.com

■ **Ready to Party:** Ybor City gears up for its first-ever El Gancho with DJ Abel. **PAGE 17**



Courtesy, dallasvoice.com

■ **Beyonce & Burger King:** Rapper/singer Cazwell performs his hits at Parliament House. **PAGE 17**

Despite recent double homicide, Broward murder rate lowest in 20 years

Police: Murder suspect knew Wilton Manors victims

By DMITRY RASHNITSOV

While the Wilton Manors LGBT community was shocked by the double murder of Kevin Mark Powell and Stephen Duane Adams on Dec. 26, the entire Broward County community can take solace that the area experienced a sharp decline in the number of homicides in 2010, as compared to previous years.

According to the Broward County Sheriff's Office, 63 people had been killed in the county in 2010. The numbers in the county have declined the past three years, with 118 murders in 2007.

Of all the murders, 12 remain unsolved, including Powell and Adams. In the Powell and Adams murder, suspect Peter Serge Avsenew of Hollywood, Fla., has been arrested but not officially charged with the murders. He is currently being held on a probation violation while Wilton Manors police and Broward Sheriff's officers continue to

gather evidence and build a case against him. The victims were found dead by police in their home located in the 2500 block of NE Eighth Avenue in Wilton Manors. Powell and Adams were a couple and had been together for 29 years.

Avsenew, 26, was found driving Powell's black 2003 Saturn Vue near Dundee, Fla., in Polk County. He was later arrested at a home in the area without incident. Police believe that Powell and Adams knew Avsenew, which causes doubt that the murders were the result of some random break in. Avsenew has an extensive police record in Florida, which includes a conviction for grand theft, engaging in fraudulent checks, vehicle theft and robbery. He has been taken into custody more than a dozen times since 2003 and uses at least eight different aliases.

As it pertains to the county's other murders, Broward County Sheriff Al Lamberti said that most people think that crime goes up when the economy is bad, but that is not always the case.

"The economy relates more to property crime," Lamberti said. "Murder is a personal crime, so I don't think [the econ-



Courtesy, On Top Magazine

Peter Avsenew (above), the suspect in the Wilton Manors Couple murder.

omy] is a factor in the homicide rate."

Murder rates have continued to drop all over the state of Florida for the last couple of years, especially the large metropolitan areas.

"The significant decline in Florida's crime rate represents the lowest rate in 39 years and is an encouraging indicator that our crime prevention efforts are working," said Florida Gov. Charlie Crist.

According to the Sun Sentinel, the fol-

See **MURDER RATES** on **Page 4**

FORTITUDE fundraiser to bring stars and big entertainment to Fort Lauderdale

By BOB KECSKEMETI

This President's Day Weekend (Feb. 17-21) unveils a new fundraising effort, FORTITUDE, which will benefit The Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR), Pride Center at Equality Park and the Fort Lauderdale-Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. The weekend will include a film festival, comedy night, live concert, women's and men's pool parties, sunset cocktails, brunch and night-club/bar events.

The two main events are the comedy night and the live concert.

Comedy Night will be on Saturday, Feb. 19 at Parker Playhouse. The evening will feature Judy Gold, Alec Mapa and Julie Goldman. Gold is a two-time Emmy winner for her work on "The Rosie O'Donnell Show" and a GLAAD award-winner. Mapa's hilarious one-man show, "I Remember Mapa," won the L.A. Weekly-award for Best Solo Show, but he is best known as the catty series regular Suzuki St. Pierre in TV's "Ugly Betty." Goldman is an award-winning comedian, now in her third season in Logo's

See **FORTITUDE** on **Page 4**



Courtesy, jwmgmtinc.com

Martha Wash (above), the vocalist behind the classic, "Gonna Make You Sweat (Everybody Dance Now)" will be a featured performer.



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AFH to cover cost of drugs for Florida AIDS patients

FORT LAUDERDALE – As state budget shortfalls continue, AIDS Healthcare Foundation announced that it will pick up some of the cost of providing Florida patients with life-saving HIV drugs. Florida recently put AIDS patients on a waiting list for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, a federal/state program that pays for AIDS drugs for low-income Americans, due to the budget crisis.

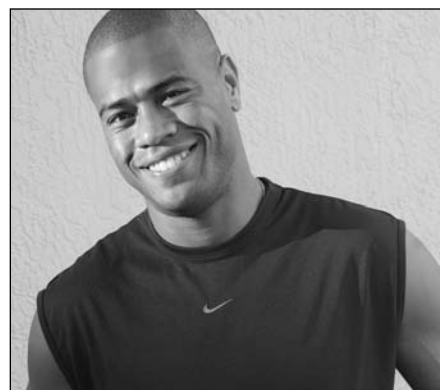
According to AHF, it will, through its pharmacy, supply up to \$1 million in free AIDS drugs to those who were taken out of the state ADAP program and those on the waiting list for drugs. As of Dec. 10, there were 2,396 Floridians on the state's ADAP waiting list.

"Through AHF's offer to fill prescriptions for medications to bridge supply gaps for any displaced Florida ADAP patients, we hope to help ease the state's AIDS drug crisis and get vulnerable Florida AIDS patients off waiting lists and back on to lifesaving antiretroviral treatment," said Michael Weinstein, president of AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

The drugs will be dispensed at AHF's pharmacy locations or shipped for free to those who need it.

AHF serves more than 15,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in Florida alone, including free HIV testing and prevention programs; HIV/AIDS health care centers in Fort Lauderdale, Miami and Jacksonville; eight pharmacies throughout the state; a disease management program; and its Positive Healthcare Managed Care program.★

Register for free fitness boot camp



Courtesy, Dennis Dean

FORT LAUDERDALE – Brian Neal Fitness is now accepting registrations for the next Brian Neal Fitness 12-Week Boot Camp. The Camp begins Jan. 10 and is free to the public. For the past seven years, Neal has been helping people of all fitness levels through his 12-week boot camps.

The Camp is limited to 50 participants and there will be three, one-hour workout sessions a week: Monday and Wednesday from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Neal will be joined by Ed Cook, a life fitness coach.

For further information or to register, visit www.BrianNealFitness.com or call (954) 816-0237.★

Memorial Service set for Neil Rogers

WILTON MANORS – There will be a memorial service to celebrate the life of radio talk show host Neil Rogers on Friday, Jan. 7 at the Center for Spiritual Living, 1550 NE 26th Street, Wilton Manors. Afterwards, guests are invited to gather for cocktails at the Manor Entertainment Complex, 2345 Wilton Drive, also in Wilton Manors. In lieu of flowers, you are requested to make a donation, in Neil's honor, to Abandoned Pet Rescue. Rogers, who was 68, passed away Dec. 24 after suffering a recent heart attack and stroke.★

"Naked" at Dennis Dean Galleries



Courtesy, Henning von Berg

WILTON MANORS – The work of famed photographer Henning von Berg will be on display at the Dennis Dean Galleries in an exhibit titled, "Naked," beginning Saturday, Jan. 15.

"The exhibition will showcase well-known eye-catchers from 1997-2010," said von Berg. "Some very typical photos for my style."

Von Berg's specialty is "character portraits" and "fine art nudes" photographed in unique locations with natural light. The former architect-turned-photographer likes to photograph his models in beautiful architectural settings, many of which are castles in old-world Europe. He also works with both male and female amateurs of all ages. His oldest model is a 108-year-old woman.

One of his very first photographs was chosen to be featured in the 1999 reference book, "Exposed – A Celebration of the Male Nude From 90 of the World's Greatest Photographers." He appeared with iconic names Eadweard Muybridge, Robert Mapplethorpe, Andy Warhol and Man Ray. Von Berg quickly gained attention by his social political statements with unusual group shoots. In 1999, he organized "Naked Berlin - The Liberal Capital," the world's first and only male nude photo shoot inside a German Parliament building. His favorite subjects are aristocrats and prostitutes, disabled people and athletes, common folks and celebrities.

There will be a "Meet the Artist" reception on Saturday, Jan. 15 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Dennis Dean Gallery is located at 2440-B Wilton Drive (second floor above New Moon Bar) in Wilton Manors.★

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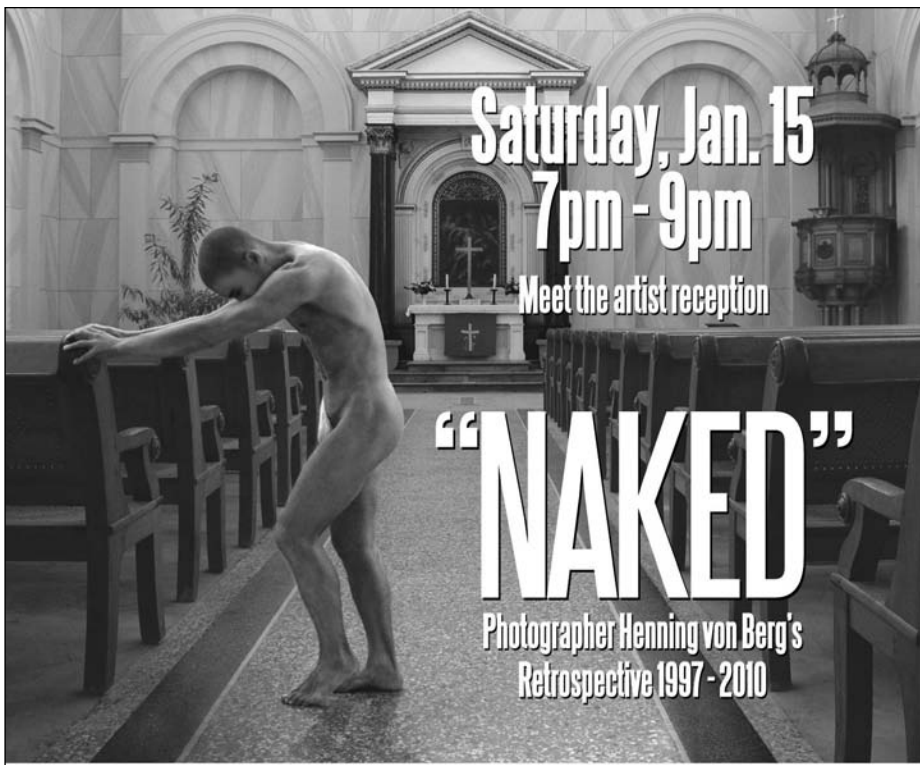
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Dennis Dean galleries

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Broward murder rate lowest in 20 years

MURDER RATES continued from Page 1

following Broward County murders still remain unsolved:

Kevin Manning, age unknown

He was shot during an argument outside his apartment in the 5900 block of NW 19th Street in Lauderdale on April 26. Police are looking for Shawn Edwards, 32, of Tamarac, who is a suspect.

Willie Charles Henry, 28

He was shot at Fort Lauderdale's Middle River Terrace Park, 1350 NE Fifth Terrace, on May 8.

Trevor Gordon, 42

The first murder case in Margate in more than eight years, his body was found inside his girlfriend's townhome in the 8000 block of NW 10th Court on June 5.

Rene Dujarric, 23

His body was found in a Miramar lake in the 2700 block of SW 128th Avenue on July 6. Miramar police are looking for Pedro "Peter" Isreal Ferrada as a person of interest in the killing.

Deanroy Miller, 26

He was shot in an alley behind Soba Tasty Restaurant, 2542 N. State Road 7, in Lauderdale Lakes on Aug. 7. A red or maroon Dodge Charger was seen in the area around the time of the shooting,

Broward Sheriff's detectives said.

Alfred McMurray, 31

He was killed in his home in the 1300 block of NE 34th Street in Oakland Park on Aug. 30.

Dave Montney

The Christ Church Fort Lauderdale member who often tried to help the homeless was killed in his apartment in the 2400 block of NE 10th Court in Pompano Beach on Aug. 13.

Rhoan Pryce, 33

He was shot at a house party in the 6200 block of NW 16th Street in Sunrise on Aug. 14. Police have identified Antwan Robert Mais, 18, of North Lauderdale, as a suspect.

Kevin Walden, 21

Relatives found him dead in his car parked at the Crystal Lake apartment complex in the 4100 block of NW 21st Avenue on Oct. 27.

Gary McKenzie, 44

The flea market barber was slain in his home in the 2800 block of Huron Way on Nov. 5.

Raymond Adderly Jr., 33

The aspiring rapper who performed as "Nutzo" was shot in his Miramar home in the 2400 block of SW 83rd Avenue during a home invasion robbery Dec. 14. ★

Great talent featured

FORTITUDE continued from Page 1

"Big Gay Sketch Show" and appears on Comedy Central with her featured stand-up, "Live at Gotham."

"I am so excited to be involved in Fortitude," says Julie Goldman. "Not just for the balmy Ft. Lauderdale weather and gayness, but to be a part of a great organization working so hard to do good within our community."

The Sunday, Feb. 20 live music concert at the War Memorial Auditorium in Holiday Park will feature Taylor Dayne, Martha Wash and special guest appearances for a full night of musical performances.

Martha Wash is the powerhouse vocalist behind the classic, "Gonna Make You Sweat (Everybody Dance Now)," and has had many additional No. 1 hits. Three-time Grammy Award nominee Taylor Dayne has had 17 top 10 hits and has sold more than 75 million albums and singles.

"I have always been a huge advocate for equality and gay rights," says Dayne. "It is really important to take things from a bigger perspective. We have to reach out past our own internal fears and find the tools and strengths to get through the difficult situations. We just have to work through them."

The creator of FORTITUDE Weekend is Nick De Biase of Centaur Entertainment, the largest LGBT record label. "The con-

cept arose when both of my parents were dying from cancer at the end of 2009," De Biase said. "My mother, Lydia, was a very giving person. Before she passed away, I told her that I would establish a foundation in her name as my last 'gift' to her — to carry on her legacy of giving and to honor her memory."

De Biase said that his original concept would be a fundraising concert, however, after talking with Fort Lauderdale officials, he figured the concept should be expanded into an entire weekend of events. He says that the name FORTITUDE was chosen for this weekend of events because the word connotes strength, heart, determination, will power, courage, spirit and toughness — all words that also define the LGBT community in terms of what they have to face and overcome in life — and the "fort" doubles back on the city Fort Lauderdale.

All the funds from FORTITUDE Weekend are being directed back to the charities.

"We are expecting several thousand people from all over the country to attend the many different events for FORTITUDE Weekend," said Cindy Shaw, who is part of the production team for FORTITUDE Weekend. "FORTITUDE is about raising money for worthy charities, but is also about coming out as a community to laugh, to play and to be entertained. The vision has always been one of being a weekend of entertainment for women and men, and we're working to ensure that everyone has a great time." ★

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Navy to investigate officer's anti-gay videos



Capt. Owen Honors Courtesy: <http://4.bp.blogspot.com>

NORFOLK, Va. – Naval Capt. Owen Honors, commander of the USS Enterprise, is under investigation by the Navy for videos he made in 2006 and 2007 that contained anti-gay slurs, mimicked masturbation and suggested shower scenes by same-sex couples.

The videos, which the Navy is calling “clearly inappropriate,” were shown on the ship’s closed-circuit television system as part of an onboard movie night. During one of the videos, Honors, who is the star of the skits, begins by saying, “This evening, all of you bleeding hearts ... why don’t you just go ahead and hug yourselves for the next 20 minutes or so, because there’s a really good chance you’re gonna be offended.”

Navy Cmdr. Chris Sims said the videos “were not acceptable then and are not acceptable in today’s Navy,” and that executive officers and other leaders “are charged to lead by example and are held accountable for setting the proper tone and upholding the standards of honor, courage and commitment that we expect sailors to exemplify.”★

80-year-old arrested for using glory hole in Florida National Park

PENSACOLA, Fla. – While on a trip Naval Live Oaks National Park in Pensacola, Fla., one elderly gentlemen went a little too far trying to explore the trail off the beaten path.

Richard Laiko, 80, of Lillian, Ala., was arrested for indecent exposure, bribery and resisting arrest without violence when he inserted his penis through a glory hole restroom and the person on the other side happened to be a park ranger.

Laiko was immediately arrested and not allowed to pull his pants up. The arresting officer said that Laiko would not cooperate with him, so he had to take him down to the ground.

According to the officer, Laiko kept repeatedly apologizing and asking if he could trade landscaping services for the right to get out of the arrest.

According to the Naval Live Oaks National Park Service, the bathrooms in this particular area are a well-known spot for “deviant acts.” They had had to repair several glory holes created in the bathrooms in the past.★

Elton John & husband adopt a baby



Courtesy: Washington Examiner

LOS ANGELES, Calif. – Since Ricky Martin made it fashionable to be gay and having kids, another iconic singer has decided to be a father. Sir Elton John and his husband, David Furnish, are now the parents of 7-pound, 15-ounce Zachary Jackson Levon Furnish-John, born on Christmas Day. The couple had the child via a surrogate in California.

In 2009, John tried to adopt a 14-month old, HIV-positive boy from the Ukraine but the request was denied, with the former USSR country citing that John was too old and unmarried to adopt per its rules. John is 62 years old and Furnish is 48. The couple has been together since 2005. This is the first child for both of them.

“For many years we have talked about fulfilling one of our greatest wishes by becoming parents,” said John. “And now this wish has been granted to us, we feel so blessed and lucky.”

John is British and one of the most well-known and well respected singers of all time with hits such as “I Guess That’s Why They Call It the Blues,” “Candle In the Wind,” and “Don’t Let the Sun Go Down On Me.”

Furnish is a Canadian filmmaker and producer most known for his documentary, “Elton John: Tantrums & Tiaras.” Furnish had been the one who wanted to have children, but John had reservations at first.

“David always wanted to adopt a child and I always said ‘no’ because I am 62 and I think because of the traveling I do and the life I have, maybe it wouldn’t be fair for the child,” John said.

The couple were god parents for six different children including: John Lennon’s son, Sean; Elizabeth Hurley’s son, Damien; and David and Victoria Beckham’s sons Brooklyn and Romeo.★

Uganda court: Media cannot ‘out’ gay Ugandans

KAMPALA, Uganda – Gays and lesbians in Uganda have received a reprieve from Uganda’s High Court in a ruling that states that the media should not publish the names and photos of gay Ugandans. following a vitriolic campaign which urged citizens to hang those featured.

Justice Kibuuka Musoke ordered

See NATIONAL NEWS on Page 6



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NATIONAL NEWS continued from Page 5

Uganda's Rolling Stone magazine to pay \$650 in damages and court costs for each of the three men who sued the magazine after their names were listed in the magazine last October. In all, 100 Ugandan's were listed, and some claim they were attacked after being listed. Some of the men's names appeared beneath a banner that read, "Hang them."

It is illegal to be homosexual in Uganda, and the ill treatment of gays in the country has led to an outcry from gay and equal rights groups. ★

Thailand bans film about transgender father

THAILAND – Although many tourists go to Thailand to see the "Lady Boys," a film about a transgender father has been rejected for public viewing by the country's national film board.

The National Film Board said that the movie, "Insects in the Backyard," cannot be shown because it contains scenes that are immoral and pornographic.

"Insects in the Backyard" is a drama about a transvestite and single father, played by Tanwarin, whose teenage son and daughter are torn by feelings of love and shame and eventually run away from home and turn to the sex trade.

One of the scenes that has come under scrutiny shows an explicit depiction of two men having sex. Director Tanwarin Sukkhapisit said the scenes were crucial to the story line and could not be cut. She plans to appeal the ban.

"The problem with my film wasn't that it was a gay-themed movie, because there are many gay comedies allowed in Thailand," Tanwarin said. "My movie was banned because it was a serious movie. It showed there can be real problems when society cannot accept sexual differences."

While the government is very conservative in its Buddhist beliefs, transgendered individuals are allowed to live freer in the country than almost anywhere else in the world. They appear on TV soap operas and can be seen working at department store cosmetics counters, popular restaurants and walking the runways in numerous transgender beauty pageants.

"Our society tries to show it accepts differences, but actually it doesn't," Tanwarin said. "Thailand is still a conservative society. This is a case of the government using its power to suppress people with different opinions." ★

Australian gay strip bar can no longer ban straight people from entering



The Peel Hotel's strip bar

Courtesy, QGuide



The Peel Hotel

Courtesy, QGuide

VICTORIA, Australia – Since 2007, The Peel Hotel in Victoria, Australia was allowed to ask patrons if they are gay or straight and refuse to let the "breeders" enter the premises. But in a new ruling by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, they are taking away The Peel's exception to the state's Charter of Human Rights. The hotel must now let all patrons in.

The original point of only allowing gay males in was to protect the guests inside from straight guys who want to cause trouble, but the tribunal ruled that The Peel, "must explain the nature of the venue to prospective patrons ... and to permit them to choose whether or not to enter."

The pub can still bar those it believes may threaten the safety or comfort of patrons or the pub's nature as a gay bar.

The owners of The Peel did not oppose the changes. No incidents at the bar were reported over the New Year's Eve holiday. ★



Courtesy, The Film Journal



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Obama surpasses Bush in accomplishments for LGBT rights

Has done more in two years than Bush administration did in eight

By **DMITRY RASHNITSOV**

It's no secret that LGBT rights advocates had been pushing President Barack Obama to move forward on equality legislation during the first two years of his presidency. Before the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" last month, many felt the president was dragging his feet on helping the LGBT cause, but according to Equality Giving, Obama's administration has accomplished more in 24 months than his predecessors, President George W. Bush, had done in eight years. Here is their list of President Obama's accomplishments:

FEDERAL LEGISLATION SIGNED INTO LAW

- Signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which expanded existing United States federal hate crime law to include crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability – the first positive federal LGBT legislation in the nation's history.
- Signed repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."
- Signed the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act.

POLICIES CHANGED

- Reversed an inexcusable U.S. position by signing the United Nations Declaration on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.
- Extended benefits to same-sex partners of federal employees in 2009 and, further, in 2010.
- Lifted the HIV Entry Ban effective January 2010.
- Issued diplomatic passports, and provided other benefits, to the partners of same-sex foreign-service employees.
- Committed to ensuring that HUD's core housing programs are open to all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Conceived a National Resource Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Elders – the nation's first ever – funded by a three-year HHS grant to SAG.
- Banned job discrimination based on gender identity throughout the Federal government (the nation's largest employer).
- Eliminated the discriminatory Census Bureau policy that kept our relationships from being counted, encouraging couples who consider themselves married to file that way, even if their state of residence does not yet permit legal marriage.
- Instructed HHS to require any hospital receiving Medicare or Medicaid funds (virtually all hospitals) to allow LGBT visitation rights.
- Required all grant applicants seeking HUD funding to comply with state and local anti-discrimination laws that protect LGBT individuals.

- Adopted transgender recommendations on the issuance of gender-appropriate passports that will ease barriers to safe travel and that will provide government-issued ID that avoids involuntary "outing" in situations requiring ID, like hiring, where a gender-appropriate driver's license or birth certificate is not available.
- Extended domestic violence protections to LGBT victims.
- Extended the Family and Medical Leave Act to cover employees taking unpaid leave to care for the children of same-sex partners.
- Issued guidance specifically to assist LGBT tenants denied housing on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Issued a National HIV/AIDS Strategy praised as "long-overdue" by the Task Force, Lambda and others.
- Issued guidance to 15,000 local departments of education and 5,000 colleges to support educators in combating bullying.
- Cut back authority to discharge under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" from hundreds of generals to just six civilian appointees, effectively ending discharges while working toward a permanent end to the policy.
- Led the fight that reversed a 2010 United Nations vote removing sexual orientation from the list of things people should not be killed for.

RESPECT & INCLUSION

- Endorsed the Baldwin-Lieberman bill, The Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act of 2009, to provide full partnership benefits to federal employees.
- Released the first Presidential PRIDE proclamations since 2000.
- Hosted the first LGBT Pride Month Celebration in White House history.
- Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harvey Milk and Billie Jean King, joining past recipients such as Rosa Parks.
- Appointed the first-ever transgender DNC member.
- Testified in favor of ENDA, the first time any official of any administration has testified in the Senate on ENDA.
- Hired more openly LGBT officials in its first two years – more than 150, including more than 20 "Senate-confirmables" – than any previous administration hired in four years or eight.
- Swore in Ambassador David Huebner.
- Changed the culture of government everywhere from – among others – HUD and HHS to the Export-Import Bank, the State Department and the Department of Education.
- Appointed Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, instead of conservatives who would have tilted the Supreme Court even further to the right and virtually doomed our rights for a generation.
- Named open transgender appointees (the first president ever to do so).
- Emphasized LGBT inclusion in everything from the president's historic NAACP address to the first paragraph of his

- Family Day proclamation; created the chance for an adorable 10-year-old at the White House Easter Egg roll to tell ABC World News how cool it is to have two mommies; included the chair of the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce along with the secretary of the U.S. Treasury Department and the president of Goldman Sachs in the small audience for the President's economic address at the New York Stock Exchange; and welcomed four gay couples to its first State Dinner.
- Recommitted, in a televised address, to passing ENDA . . . repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" . . . repealing the so-called Defense of Marriage Act.
- Spoke out against discrimination at the National Prayer Breakfast.
- Dispatched the secretary of the U.S. Department of Defense and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to call on the Senate to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."
- Launched a website to gather public comment on first-ever federal LGBT housing discrimination study.
- Appointed long-time equality champion Chai Feldblum one of the four commissioners of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.
- Produced U.S. Census Bureau PSAs featuring gay, lesbian, and transgender spokespersons.
- Appointed Retired Col. Margarette Cammermeyer, an early public champion of open service in the military, to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services.
- Publicly invited the shunned Mississippi high school prom student to the White House.
- Successfully fought for U.N. accreditation of IGLHRC (the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission) – against Republican attempts to block it.
- Convened the first-ever anti-bullying summit to craft a national strategy to reduce bullying in schools.
- Launched a new website, www.bullyinginfo.org, to bring all the federal resources on bullying together in one place for the first time.
- Awarded \$13.3 million to the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center to create a model program for LGBTQ youth in the foster care system.
- Tweeted to 5.7 million BarackObama followers and nearly 2 million White House followers the president's "It Gets Better" video.
- Embraced that campaign with heartfelt messages from, as well, the vice president, the secretary of state, secretary of agriculture (aimed particularly at rural youth), secretaries of education and health & human services, secretary of labor (in English and Spanish), director of OPM and LGBT members of the White House staff.
- Issued a Department of Justice video urging kids to call a Justice Department toll-free number if their school is aware of bullying but taking no action.★



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Mid-Life Crisis

By ARLEN KEITH LEIGHT, PH.D.

Everyone gets a chuckle out of saying, "He's going through a mid-life crisis," as if it is some childish phase creating an excuse for extra-marital affairs, buying a Harley and bungee jumping. The fact is midlife course-correction is an integral part of adult individuation, the process of becoming a complete and wholly unique individual.

Behavioral scientists understand that, while individuation is a lifelong process, there are three major phases of individuation. The first occurs at 18 to 24 months of life when the infant-toddler begins to move away from the mother and understands that mother is still available even when not visible.

The second phase occurs in adolescence characterized by a movement away from home and the family of origin. This phase paves the way for the young adult to establish his/her own home, partner and family, and career. The final phase is the so-called mid-life crisis. This period is not so much a crisis as an opportunity, but it can be catastrophic for those who are close to the middle-aged person going through "the change."

The midlife experience in our social structure today usually takes place between 40 and 50 but can be as early as 35 or as late as 55. The period is characterized by a re-evaluation of the life decisions made as a teenager or in the 20's during the adolescent individuation phase. By mid-life there is often a realization through life experience that those early decisions were made for external reasons rather than internal drive.

The decisions regarding career, home and even life partner are often made to satisfy parental, church and/or societal expectation or those of other persons of influence. For example, a gay person may choose to marry someone of the opposite sex because that is the expectation of parents and the society-at-large.

The realization that one is entrenched in a life that does not allow for full individual expression of self can be very frightening and confusing. There comes a tipping point at which time the individual realizes that to grow into him/her-self, change will be necessary. This is the "crisis" as we have come to understand it.

Discovery that a relationship is not working after 15 years despite its comfort, realiz-

ing that the lucrative career brings no passionate joy, and/or looking around at one's environment to see that it does not reflect the person one has become (or wishes to be) can be devastating.

Many folks choose to go into therapy at this time as a tool for sorting out the feelings of confusion, loss and fear. Driven by a will to thrive not merely survive, many will risk everything and choose to change all aspects of life in an effort to come to terms with the self. Others will choose to stay at the job or in the marriage and attempt to bring more of themselves into their current situation.

Still, others will simply accept stagnation often living in despair and depression frequently accompanied by substance and/or alcohol abuse. The argument is made that leaving a relationship or job or other situation is unfair and selfish, adversely affecting other people's lives. There is no question the result can be traumatic to friends, partners, family, co-workers and others of significance, hence the term "crisis."

An important question to ask is how fair is it to these same people for the unfulfilled individual to stay with the status quo and live with regret and resentment? I often ask

clients struggling with coming out in mid-life and struggling with the prospect of

leaving their families, what advice they would give their own children should they be facing this same dilemma? And what example would they like to set for their children? Would they like to see their children follow their hearts, be fully themselves, live their passions and go after their dreams or would it be better for them to stay in relationships or careers or some other life situations that are not working and not allowing them to be all they can be?

The question arises: do all mid-lifers go through a crisis? It appears most adults who have met the basic needs of life (i.e., food, clothing, shelter, health care) find themselves asking if life is all it can be. Often precipitated by seeing others live out a dream, surviving the death of a loved one or losing a job or relationship, mid-lifers may ask the questions: Is this all there is for me? Have I made my life all it can be? Do I live my life honestly and completely in alignment with an authentic sense of self?

Many, if not most of us, push aside any thoughts of change, realizing the risks, fearing the response of others, putting the needs of others first or simply feeling comfort is more important than entering the unknown world of possible self-actualization.

Whatever the life choice, it must be respected and honored as the path of unique choosing for each individual.

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The Dating Diet: You and your hand

By ANTHONY PAULL

I really need sex. Yes, I've been trying this celibacy bit for the last nine months, but I'm going to be the first to admit – it sucks, and not in a good way. It sucks to the point where I can't get the word "sex" out of my head – literally. I turn everything into a sexual innuendo, to the point where last week, when a friend said his Christmas tree was dying and "sucks," I suggested he drill a hole in the bark and take full advantage of it.

Yes, I'm that guy. I don't feel cleansed. In fact, I feel dirtier than ever. And that's not a good place to be when you have to go to work and be professional. So daily, I sit in front of a computer, typing this and that while thinking about love in the key of getting on my knees.

To add insult to injury, I'm dating my ex-partner, and it's going really well, except I told him I don't want to have sex, because I don't want to rush and complicate things. I want him to put up a fight. Yes, I really want him to tease me, because I'm pursuing him this time. Therefore, when he pulls away, I have to pretend I'm ok with it. I have to smile pretty for the camera, even though I'm suffering from hot flashes of anger, resulting in two bar fights in the last month. Yes, two weeks ago, I was literally carried out of a nightclub by the neck for telling off some Jersey Shore asshole. And before that, I made a drag queen cry, telling him I was going to rip his face off for calling my friend a whore. But honestly, I'm usually a sweet guy. What's wrong with me?

"Your body is detoxing. You just need to breathe," my friend Jon tells me.

"But I'm horny!" I cry. "What am I going to do?"

"Are you masturbating?"

"Um, yeah, readily."

"But are you doing it right?"

"Is there a wrong way?"

Apparently so. It seems I had been misled. Jon tells me that masturbating should be more like a cleansing of the soul and that I have to make it more of an "experience." I mean, burying my face in my boyfriend's dirty briefs and jacking off – that's so primitive. According to Rob, I'm supposed to light tea candles, gather herbs, set the night to music, touch my dick (just a smidge), and then turn myself down.

"Huh?"

"You know, tease yourself. Don't give in. That's your problem. You're making it too easy."

"Wait. Let me get this right. I'm supposed to cock-block myself?"

"Exactly," Jon says, becoming my confidante regarding the fine art of abstinence. And I find his stance a nice change, when most of my other friends feel I need to shut up and "fuck my way to happy." And oh,

how they love to rub the wound, texting me about their awesome sex lives on a daily basis. "Oh, I got nailed." "Oh, he was so big." "Oh, my butt hurts." "Oh, I got it several times today."

Thank God Jon is able to ground me, helping me understand there's more to life than sex, that we're spiritual beings having a human experience. Well, until the holidays hit.

"You'd be so proud of me. I haven't spanked all week," I inform him.

"God, I wish I had your willpower," he replies.

"What? You gave in?"

"Yeah, I had a moment of weakness."

It appears, while home for New Year's Eve, he found an intriguing Bear-4-Bear porn site and got naked at the stroke of midnight on his mom's computer. Initially, he thought the entire affair would remain a secret, except his mom had spyware installed on the computer, which transmits all of the Internet data to her pastor who, serving as her marriage counselor, oversees all web activity because her boyfriend has a cyber porn problem. Hence now, the pastor thinks her boyfriend is gay, which might be the root of their problem altogether.

"My mom's livid!" Jon exclaims.

"Why? Because her pastor has an issue with her boyfriend being queer? Big deal. Aren't most pastors gay anyway?"

"NO. That's priests!" he snaps.

And now, he's back to college, and I'm back to the drawing board, getting a hard-on every time my boyfriend comes within five feet of me. It's pathetic, really. I can't touch myself. I can't touch him. Who am I supposed to touch?

"What's the matter? You're acting crazy," my boyfriend exclaims later that night when I freak out over the fact he's not reciprocating my advances.

"I need passion," I say, gathering my keys and heading out the door. "I can't wait anymore. I don't want us to become one of those sexless couples who beat off on the Internet."

"Huh? Why would we become that?" he asks. Meanwhile, I'm jogging down the driveway, rattling my keys. "Hold on," he calls. "I don't get it. One minute you want sex. The next minute you don't. What do you WANT?"

And breathless, I turn and stare at him silently, unsure of what to say. There are so many things I want, really. To feel safe, to feel beautiful, to feel loved, and I'm placing all that on him, because as my boyfriend, he's the one who's supposed to provide me that. I don't look for it from outside forces, and it's hard to find it inside myself when I'm consumed with making him happy. So to answer his question, plain and simple, I tell him, honestly, that I want to stop thinking about having sex with him so I can focus on loving myself. ★

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Local Derby Grrls league is more than chicks on skates

By RYAN DIXON

Some of you may remember watching roller derby on TV, which, as you know, was all scripted for sports entertainment. The women of the Gold Coast Derby Grrls (GCDG) skate under the sanctions of the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA). They skate under a governing body and are a legitimate sport much like the NFL or NBA. The GCDG are in their apprentice stage with WFTDA, meaning that they have to show that they can meet the WFTDA national standards when having a bout, have sanctioned bouts, provide all paperwork required and show the sports womanship that is desired by the Association. By doing so they will be allowed to officially join WFTDA and be eligible to become nationally ranked. The biggest thing they have to prove is that they can put on bouts the same way other teams in the Association can. Their last bout on Dec.11 saw the GCDG take on the Garden State Rollergirls.

Joining them for practice last Thursday, the GCDG gave the Agenda and insider's look at what it takes and what it means to be a Derby Grrl. The new Grrls to the team have to go through several phases. First is Fresh Meat, where they learn the basics of skating and falling on the hardwood. Second is Rotten Meat, where the Grrls learn how to hit and the more strategic

side and the game play of flat track derby. When the ladies are in those two stages they are called by their given names. Grrls who've earned their stripes get to choose their derby name and number. Two of the founding members have the two most interesting names: Carnivorous Licks and Freek-A-Rella. When asked what made them want to bring derby to South Florida, Licks said, "Freek and I have been here since 2007, almost four years now, and when a former member had a 'Rally the Rollers,' I was behind it 100 per-

cent." And as Licks said, four years later and the GCDG is going strong.

As said before, the GCDG are in the probationary phase with WFTDA. Their last bout before they become full members is on Jan. 8 versus the Tampa Tantrums. Unfortunately, due to a scheduling conflict, the bout will be closed to the public. But not to worry, the GCDG will be in action Feb. 12 facing Charlotte at the Fort Lauderdale War Memorial Auditorium in Holiday Park. North Carolina seems a long way to travel for a derby bout, but

"they can come as far as they want for an ass-whooping, we don't care," says Freek. "If they want, we'll go there too". To warm up for the February bout, the GCDG will be hosting a Jell-O wrestling event at Churchills Pub, located at 5501 NE Second Ave., in Miami.

Not only do the Grrls want to promote their sport and grow their league, but they strive to promote giving back to their community as well. Their last bout in December was a fundraiser for Toys for Tots. The morning before the bout they also had a motorcycle run to benefit Toys for Tots and the week before there was another Jell-O wrestling event at Boston Johnny's in Hollywood. The ladies also supported HIV awareness and other notable causes by skating in last year's AIDS Walk, animal welfare and women's empowerment projects.

The 2011 schedule for the GCDG is packed with bouts with in state and out of state opponents. Tickets for the upcoming bout in February can be purchased through Ticketmaster and by visiting www.goldcoastderbygrrls.com. For anyone interested in joining, there is an orientation on Feb. 6 at Gold Coast Roller Rink, located at 2604 S. Federal Highway, in Fort Lauderdale. Be sure to check out the CGDG's website for a complete bout schedule and information on sponsoring the Grrls.★



Courtesy, Gold Coast Derby Grrls



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Iced Cream of Spring Pea Soup

By JEAN DOHERTY/LE PATIO

In early times, peas were grown mostly for their dry seeds. In modern times, however, peas are usually boiled or steamed, which breaks down the cell walls and makes the taste sweeter and the nutrients more bio-available. Along with broad beans and lentils, these formed an important part of the diet of most people in the Middle East, North Africa and Europe during the Middle Ages.

By the 17th and 18th centuries it had become popular to eat peas "green," that is, while they are immature and right after they are picked. This was especially true in France and England, where the eating of green peas was said to be "both a fashion and a madness." The popularity of green peas spread to North America. Thomas Jefferson grew more than 30 cultivars of peas on his estate. With the invention of canning and freezing of foods, green peas became available year-round, and not just in the spring as before.

INGREDIENTS -

- 2 lbs fresh or frozen garden peas
- A good dash of olive oil

- 1 pint chicken stock
- 1 cup heavy cream
- Smoked bacon
- 6 mint leaves

Heat up the olive oil in a pot. Add the peas and sweat them off, covered, for six minutes (save a good cup full for the garnish). Then, add the chicken stock and the cream, season and simmer for about 10 minutes. Blend and allow to cool a little before putting it into the refrigerator. Pan fry or microwave the smoked bacon until it's crispy. Set that aside on some kitchen paper. "Blanch" the rest of the peas (put them in a pot of boiling water for 15 seconds and then put them in a bowl of ice and cold water.) Finally, strain them when they are cold.

Just before serving, whiz your iced cold cream of pea for a minute or so in your food processor and pour in into six martini glasses. Then, garnish with the blanched peas, crispy bacon and the finely chopped mint leaves.

This recipe offers a nice mixture of texture and taste. The velvety texture of the cream of pea soup, the crispy smoked bacon and the crunch of the whole peas give this soup a strong personality. It also looks so sexy in that martini glass!★



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THE DEPOT BENEFIT


The Depot Cabana Bar & Grill is hosting a poolside benefit for one of its patrons on Saturday, Jan. 8 from 1 p.m. to 5p.m. The Benefit is to assist in sending John Marieh to Mr. State of Florida Continental 2011. There will be entertainers, live music and performances as well as an underwear auction. Come out and show your support for one of South Florida's premier entertainers. The Depot is located at 2935 N. Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale. For more information, call (954) 537-7076. ★

TERI WILSON TO PERFORMS AT THE TORCH CLUB IN WILTON MANORS

Jazz & Blues Singer Teri Wilson takes the stage at 9 p.m. every Wednesday and Thursday beginning Jan. 12 at The Torch Club, 2155 N. Dixie Highway, Wilton Manors. 9:00pm starting January 12th. Wilson has been a South Florida favorite for many years and is best known for her dynamic vocals and electric performances. Admission is \$10. For more information, call (954) 588-5001. ★

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ArtsUnited is hosting a reception for artist Cheryl Turner on Monday, Jan. 10 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the George Hester Gallery of the Stonewall Library & Archives, 1300 E. Sunrise Blvd., Fort Lauderdale. A new exhibit of her work will be on display in the gallery from Jan. 10 - Feb. 5. Turner received the Best in Show award at the 2010 Art Explosion show. For more information, please visit www.artsunitedonline.org or call (305) 281-0556. ★



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Miami

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It's time for the Miami International Art Fair (MIA) in Miami Beach, Jan. 13-17, 2011 at the Miami Beach Convention Center, Hall D, 1901 Convention Center Drive. Come experience America's most exciting mid-winter contemporary art fair: MIA will be an inaugurating, intriguing and unique new model this year, combining a highly selective art fair with a strong, central curatorial vision, in addition to independently curated projects. The fair will host prestigious international dealers featuring contemporary, emerging, conceptual, and modern art including photography, installations, performance, and video. Highlighting MIA in 2011 is the special installation Museum of Modern Ice, bringing Canadian artist Gordon Halloran's dazzling paintings in ice to sunny South Florida for the first time. MIA features contemporary art of all media, including photography, installations and video. An array of vibrant social activities attract collectors from throughout the US, Latin America and Europe. Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$75 at the door. For more information, call (239) 949 5411. ★

'OY VEY! MY SON IS GAY!' OPENS JAN. 7

Lainie Kazan, Bruce Vilanch, Jai Rodriguez and Carmen Electra star in this hilarious romantic comedy with a message of love, acceptance and laughter. "Oy Vey! My Son Is Gay!" is the story of the Hirsch's, a Jewish family living in the North Shore of Long Island, where every Friday night Shirley Hirsch invites another "perfect" girl for Shabbat dinner in hopes that her son, Nelson, will marry a nice Jewish girl. When Shirley and Martin once again set him up on a date, Nelson reveals that he is already seeing someone. Shirley and Martin are thrilled and can't wait to meet the lucky lady. Opening Jan. 7 in South Beach, North Miami, Aventura, Boca Raton and Delray. For more information, visit www.oyveymovie.com. ★

MDGLCC NETWORKING EVENT

Sandpipers Networking Event-Beach Location - Jan. 12. The Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce presents its monthly networking program held on the middle Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m. at Angler's Resort Hotel, 660 Washington Ave., Miami Beach. There will be a cocktail networking event and business card exchange with drawing for prizes. Cash bar and free hors d'oeuvres; limited to 50 people. Free admission. RSVP by calling (305) 673-4440 or e-mail mdglcc@bellsouth.net. ★

Bay Area

KATE SHINDLE LIVE

Broadway/TV/film actress and AIDS activist **Kate Shindle** will perform for a **Francis House** benefit. Shindle is currently starring as the **Mad Hatter** in **"Wonderland"** coming to the **David A. Straz Theater**. Friday, Jan. 7 from 11 pm. to 2 a.m. at **Steam Fridays** and **Tease Saturdays** at **The Honey Pot**, 1507 E. Seventh Ave., Ybor City.★

CIRQUE TUESDAYS

Once again, the **Flamingo Resort** is bringing a whole new event to St. Petersburg as they proudly present **Cirque**. Starting Jan. 11 (10 p.m. to 4 a.m.) and continuing every Tuesday to follow, experience a whole new Flamingo for 18 and over. **DJ Elix** will be spinning the best music. They are putting on a whole new experience that will make the club kids of **New York** scream with envy. There will be special events and **Conun Drum** hosting the show. Be ready to experience a night that will leave you craving for more. The **Flamingo Resort** is located at 4601 34th St. S., St. Pete.★

OF MONTREAL WITH KID SISTER

Of Montreal with **Kid Sister** will be at **The Ritz Ybor**, Saturday, Jan. 15 from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. It has been said that an original artist is not a person who emulates no one, but rather is somebody that no one can emulate. Over the last 15 years, **Of Montreal** has imitated everyone (86 covers and counting) while developing its own inimitable sound — a unique mixture of indie-pop, glam-rock, funk and R&B. The performance will be at **The Ritz Ybor**, 1503 E. Seventh Ave., Ybor City.★

EL GANCHO

The main event of **Gancho Tampa Gasparilla Weekend** featuring **DJ Abel**, is the **El Gancho Party** on Saturday, Jan. 29 from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. at the historic **Ritz Ybor Theater**. An amalgam of heavy tribal beats and diva anthems, spectacular lighting and eccentric performances will make this circuit event unlike anything Tampa has ever seen. For tickets and more info about other **Gancho Weekend** events, visit www.ganchotampa.com. A portion of proceeds will benefit **Metro Wellness & Community Centers**. First 100 tickets sold are only \$35, after that prices go up to \$45; \$55 at the door. Purchase tickets directly from the **Ritz Ybor** box office by (813) 247-2555 to avoid Ticketmaster fees. VIP floor is \$125 and VIP balcony is \$150, both include bottle service and private seating area.★

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Central Florida

KEEP THE PARTY GOING

Revolution nightclub's resolution for the new year is to keep the party going, at least until Thursday, Jan. 6 from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. **Blaze Adonis** along with **Revolution** presents **"Celebrity Rehab: F*ck New Year's Recover, Keep the Party Going."** No cover 'til 11 p.m. for those 21+, no cover 'til midnight with college or theme park employee I.D. Free drinks from 11 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. **DJ Joanie** on the decks in the main room dropping the hottest beats. **Revolution** is located at 375 S. Bumby Ave., downtown Orlando.★

CAZWELL LIVE AT THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE

See **Cazwell** live in concert on Saturday, Jan. 15 at 1 a.m. His hits include **"Seen Beyonce at Burger King," "Tonight," "Watch My Mouth"** and **"Ice Cream Truck."** A great night, don't miss it. **Parliament House** is located at 410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando.★

K.I.S.S.

Saturday, Jan. 15 from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. **Revolution's** own **DJ Infinite** in the **Hydrate Video Bar** spinning hip-hop and R&B. **DJ Pat Pat** from South Beach taking over the dance floor with Top 40, house and dance. Special guest **DJ Joey Paranoia** from **Raxxy's Takeover** bringing the hottest House, Electro on the patio. 21+ free before 11 p.m., \$5 after. Shuttle from **UCF Arena** – \$10 includes admission. **Revolution** is located at 375 S. Bumby Ave., downtown Orlando.★

CHAMPAGNE & CHOCOLATE PARTY

On Sunday, Jan. 9 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the **Jewish Community Center, Jack & Lee Rosen Southwest Orlando Campus**, 11184 S. Apopka-Vineland Road, Orlando. Join them for complimentary chocolates and champagne as they celebrate the JCC's new schedule of adult education classes, free with JCC membership or just \$10/class for non-members. Meet the instructors, make new friends and indulge in decadence. Free babysitting is available when you call for a reservation. For more information, contact **Bonnie Rayman** at (407) 387-5330 or bonnier@orlandojcc.org.★

BOXERS VS. BRIEFS

Third annual **Boxers vs. Briefs** at **Revolution**, 375 S. Bumby Ave., downtown Orlando, on Thursday, Jan. 20 from 10 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. No cover 'til 11 p.m. for those 21+, no cover 'til midnight with college or theme park employee I.D. Free drinks from 11 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Showtime at midnight.★



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