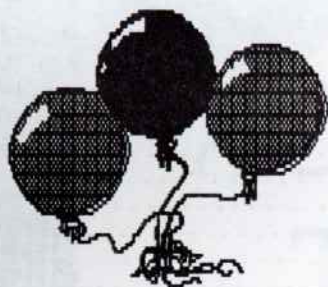


June 1992

# Alliance News

A Community Service of  
Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance



FORT WORTH

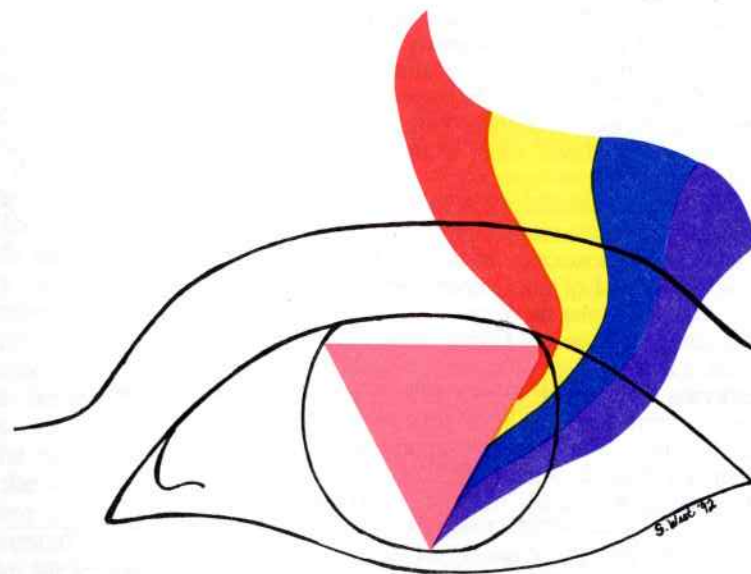
CONGRADULATIONS TO  
GAY PRIDE WEEK  
ASSOCIATION  
FOR ANOTHER YEAR!!!

PARADE STARTS AT 2 P.M.

CARNIVAL STARTS AFTER  
THE PARADE IS OVER

651 S. JENNINGS FT. WORTH, 76104

1 (817) 332-0745



LOOK INSIDE YOURSELF AND  
**SHINE WITH PRIDE**



Gay Pride Week  
June 7-14

# June Calendar

6-03	Dignity/Ft Worth monthly meeting, 7 pm
6-04	P-FLAG, 901 Lake St, 7 pm
6-05	Friday Forum, AOC, 11:30 am
6-05	First Friday Fort Worth, 7-10 pm
6-06	AIDS Walk, 8:45 am, info: 535-2327
6-06	Men's Potluck dinner, Agape MCC, 6:30 pm
6-07	Gay Pride Parade & Carnival, 2 pm
6-07	"Rights of Homosexuals in the Church", KTVT, Channel 11, 7 am
6-08	Barbara Bush's birthday (1925)
6-08	Tarrant County Parents Group meeting, 7 pm
6-09	Donald Ducks' Birth Anniversary (1934)
6-09	TCLGA meeting at Colonial Cafeteria, 6 pm
6-09	Legal Clinic, AOC, 7 pm by appointment
6-13	Gay Pride Picnic, Greenway Park
6-13	Leadership Luncheon, meet at archive booth at picnic, 12:30 pm
6-14	Flag Day
6-14	Spiritual AIDS Ministry(S.A.M.) mtg, AGAPE after 11 am service
6-14	Imperial Court Meeting, 3 pm
6-14	"Rights of Homosexuals in the Church", KTVT, Channel 11, 7 am
6-15-17	National Wizard of Oz Convention
6-18	P-FLAG, 901 Lake St, 7 pm
6-19	Midnight Sun Baseball Game, Alaska
6-21	Father's Day
6-21	Lutherans Concerned, Dignity/FW, Honest, Affirmation/Tarrant County, joint meeting, St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 3 pm
6-23	Legal Clinic, AOC, 7 pm by appointment
6-27	Womyn's Potluck, Agape MCC, 6:30 pm
6-29	HIV testing, Agape MCC, 5:30 - 7:30 pm
-----ONGOING ACTIVITIES-----	
Sunday	KYRO TV, Channel 44, 9 am Agape MCC, 9 am, 11 am, 6:45 pm Trinity MCC, 11 am
Monday	KNON radio, 89.3 FM, 2 pm - 4 pm HIV+ Healing, AOC, 5:30 pm HIV testing, The Source, 5:30 pm & 6:30 pm by appointment Care partner support group, St. Stephen Pres Church, 7 PM Ray of Hope support group, Agape MCC, 7:30 pm
Tuesday	HIV/AIDS group at Mission Arlington 210 W South Street
Wednesday	Positive Women, AOC 5:30 pm Care Contacts, AOC 6:30 pm Trinity MCC service, 7 pm Spiritual Support Group, JPS Hope Rm, 7 pm
Thursday	KYRO TV, channel 44, 10 pm KYRO TV Channel 44 1:30 pm HIV support group, 7 pm, College of Osteopathic Medicine
Daily	The Men's Hour, AOC, 8:30 pm Lamda AA, 8 pm

\*\*\* CALL 763-5544 TO ADD EVENTS TO THE CALENDAR \*\*\*

# Award to HRC and Strategy Presentation at May Meeting

On May 12, the Alliance met at the Botanic Gardens Arboretum for a belated Cinco de Mayo celebration. Between 40 and 50 people joined in the festivities which included a wide variety of Mexican appetizers, soft-drinks and sangria donated by Majestic Liquors. The socializing was interrupted briefly for the following presentations:

Vice-President Susan Steele made a short presentation on why people should become members of the Alliance. Steele has put together a membership package that will soon be mailed to all members.

The new strategy drawn up by the voter education committee of the Alliance was presented by board member Mike McKinney. This strategy is shown at the right.

Jack Tollett, chairman of Fort Worth's Human Relations Commission (HRC), was on hand to receive a plaque honoring the HRC for their efforts to ensure civil rights for all in Fort Worth, including gays and lesbians. The presentation to Mr. Tollett was made by Ron Rasmussen.

To wrap up the presentations, Alliance board member Beth Llewellyn made an impassioned plea for funds from the crowd, explaining that the expense of setting up the office had put the treasury at a dangerously low level.

TARGET	ACTIVITY	GOAL
Gay and Lesbian Voters	-Register voters (bars, organizations, gay pride picnic)	200 by 11/92 100 every 6 mo.
	-Increase mailing list and publish election information including results of candidate questionnaire	500 by 11/92 and 200 every 6 mo. Every election
	-Distribute push-cards	800 per election
	-Invite political speakers (non-partisan)	Biannually
	-Train members for precinct Conventions	Every 2 years
Sympathetic Voters	-Write letters to the editor	6 per year
	-Contact organizations which endorse candidates	3 per election
	-Distribute fliers at forums and in neighborhoods	Every election
	-Ask questions at candidate forums	Every election
	-Introduce resolutions at conventions	Every 2 years
Opinion Leaders	-Meet w/ Star-Telegram editorial board	Once yearly
	-Meet with prominent moderate clergy	Biannually
Party Leadership	-Meet with party chairs	Every 2 years
	-Distribute fliers at conventions	Every 2 years
	-Encourage gay/lesbian caucuses at conventions	Every 2 years
Politicians	-Invite office holders to speak at meetings	Quarterly
	-Meet w/ office holders	Biannually
	-Attend officials' speaking engagements with fliers and questions	Biannually
	-Meet privately with candidates to discuss issues	Every election
	-Mail candidate questionnaire	Every election

## June Alliance Meeting to Plan for New Year's Eve Party

The next regular meeting of the Alliance will be 6 pm Tuesday, June 9 at Colonial Cafeteria (2600 West

Berry just east of University). The topic of the meeting will be what we're going to do for our third annual New Year's Eve party.

We've already reserved the T&P building (where *fort worth formal* was held) for next year. If you have any suggestions about what you did or didn't like about last year's party bring them to the meeting (or forever hold your peace!!!) If you didn't attend (for shame) and have some ideas for a party bring them to the meeting too. Even if you don't have any ideas, join us for dinner and meet some new friends.

Last year's party raised funds to support the Alliance, the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, Agape MCC, Trinity MCC and the Fort Worth/Tarrant County NAMES Project. Next year's party will raise lots more money (we learned a lot of lessons) and will certainly be much bigger.

### Alliance News

Newsletter of Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance Inc. Viewpoints expressed herein are not official views of TCLGA unless explicitly stated. Inclusion of any name or photograph is not a representation of sexual orientation.

#### Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance, Inc.

##### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carlos Northam - President  
Susan Steele - Vice President  
Ron Streff - Treasurer  
Frank Provasek - Secretary  
Beverly Fletcher Beth Llewellyn  
Janet Davee Mike McKinney David Reed  
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 11044  
Fort Worth, TX 76110  
Phone: (817)763-5544

**YES! Count me in.** I want to be a part of the important work of Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance.

- Enclosed are my membership dues of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
I am also making a special contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact me about being a TCLGA volunteer
- \$18 Single  
 \$25 Household  
 \$9 Full-Time Student  
 \$9 Senior Citizen  
 \$150 Lifetime
- Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: TCLGA PO Box 11044 Ft Worth, Tx 76110

TCLGA is a non profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Membership list is confidential  
All donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law

## Dear Community: A Tarrant County public forum

Dear Community:

As we have all heard by now, the Alliance has a permanent office at long last! It is crucial during this first year that we show support and conviction to our group. This move represents the first of many paving stones on the path to education and activism in Tarrant County. As a current member, I am pledging a monthly check to help cover the office rent and utilities. I encourage you all to do the same. No matter how small the amount, each bit gives TCLGA fewer fundraising worries. If 15 members give \$10 per month, the rent is covered! And since the Alliance is non-profit, your donations are tax deductible.

I challenge you to show your support for the tremendous strides being made by the Alliance.

Jason Jones  
Fort Worth

Dear Community:

A correction to an article in the May Alliance News is important to me. I have not "left the Church." I continue to be a member of the Church.

I have legally separated myself from my religious congregation. The Sisters' Rules are still regulated by Rome and I do not find the church's hierarchical structure to be either creative or life-giving. I continue to love and associate with the Sisters of St. Mary.

Thank you for this clarification.

Rita Cotterly, Ph.D  
Fort Worth

Dear Community:

Kudos to the Alliance News. In the few months that I have been receiving it, I have come to rely on it heavily. As a guide to the activities of the service, social, and political organizations impacting the Tarrant County community, I consider it without peer.

I particularly appreciated the report on the 1992 candidate survey which appeared in the March issue. A careful analysis of the candidates' responses enabled me to make what I felt were wiser choices than I perhaps have made in the past when I went to cast my votes. Knowledge is indeed empowering.

Congratulations on a fine publication that truly serves your readership's best interests.

Michael Click  
Fort Worth

Dear Community:

Summer is here! Do you want some real perspiration-producing, heart-pounding, outdoor action in the sunshine? Well join the crowd at Agape MCC for high-fun, low-intimidation volleyball that's bound to produce lots of laughs and good times! Volleyball behind the church is planned for Sunday afternoons at 2:30 pm. Call me at (817)763-5414 for further info!

Ron Rasmussen  
Fort Worth

*Dear Community: is provided by TCLGA as a public forum for you to express your*

*opinions, vent your frustrations or present your suggestions.*

*Signed letters should be mailed to TCLGA, PO Box 11044, Fort Worth, TX, 76110. Your full name will be used unless you ask us not to. Please keep letters short and provide a phone number to verify authorship.*

### Debra Julian, MS, ATCH, CCDS

(Formerly with the AIDS Outreach Center)

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# ARLINGTON 651

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New Hours Starting June 1: 4 PM - 2 AM 7 Days a Week

-MONDAY-  
\$2 BEER BASH

50¢ refills

4 PM - 2 AM

Dart Tournament 9 PM

-TUESDAY-

\$1.75 Well/Longnecks  
Jukebox Karaoke 10:30 PM

-WEDNESDAY-

\$2 BEER BASH

REFILLS 50¢

SHOW AT 11 W/ CARESS

-THURSDAY-

\$2 BEER BASH

REFILLS 50¢

STELLA'S STARSEARCH  
11 PM - CASH PRIZES

-FRIDAY-

\$1.75 WELL/LONGNECKS

4 PM - 11 PM

SHOW AT 11

W/ LADY MARGO

-SATURDAY-

\$2 BEER BASH

REFILLS 50¢

4 PM - 11 PM

SHOW AT 11

W/ BASHA

-SUNDAY-

\$2 BEER BASH

REFILLS 50¢

SHOW AT 10 PM

W/QUEENIE

OPEN DAILY 4PM - 2AM  
1851 W. DIVISION

--COMING EVENTS--  
EVERY TUESDAY

JUKEBOX KARAOKE @ 10:30

Party with David & Buckley

\$1.75 Well & Longnecks

Arlington 651 CALENDAR

GIRL OF THE MONTH PAGEANT

Monday June 8

NO ENTRY FEE

CROWN & PLAQUES

WINNER FEATURED IN

'93 CALENDAR

Saturday June 13

Anonymous HIV testing

7 PM - 9 PM

by TCMERF

Thursday June 25

Danny;s Belated Birthday Bash

\$1 Well/Longnecks

8 PM - 9 PM & 10 PM - 11 PM

Saturday June 27

Trash Contest (Plastic Night)

Crown, Plaques for 1st, 2nd & 3rd

Call for Details

Showtime 11 PM

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HOTTEST DJ

7 GREAT DRINK SPECIALS

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## A Matter of Faith

### By Agape MCC's Rev Brenda Hunt



Episcopal Bishop John Spong introduces his last book, Rescuing The Bible From Fundamentalism (1991) with a preamble that proclaims, "sex drove me to the Bible!" He continues by noting that "...most Chris-

tians believe that they must either be biblical literalists or admit that the Bible contains nothing of value for them....There is another alternative, that intelligence does not have to be a casualty of church-life, that God can be worshiped with our minds, and even that Biblical ignorance is unworthy of a disciple of Jesus Christ. It is my desire to make that alternative universally available." (page X).

The "either/or" pattern of thinking and acting is older than our recorded story. At the very moment some long forgotten ancestor experienced doubt or fear of rejection, the "either/or" entered the human arena. It has haunted and plagued us ever since.

Sometimes I worry that I live too much of my life in a protected environment. In working for the church I generally spend time only with people who are either a part of our community or personally related and very interested in the health and well-being of our community.

But then our community and our churches stretch out into those unprotected places. Sitting with many of you in the City Council Chambers, listening to one false witness after another, feeling the verbal assaults of poor, if not actually diabolical perver-

sion of scripture...well, that only makes me more grateful for my protected places.

Sometimes I do forget that there are still thousands of people living their lives according to lies told to them and lies told about them; the children who already know they are different and have to hear from the adults in their lives that their difference is bad or evil or a sin...the gray-gays, men and women who have lived full and productive lives hidden behind closet doors because if people really knew... you know all the stories, all the situations.

And I would love to have reason to forget that there were ever people holding the Christian church in a stranglehold by repeating the harsh lies they had been taught...all because someone somewhere didn't or couldn't just go see for themselves...all because some suggested that education and intelligence should be checked at the door of a real church...or that patronizing tolerance could serve as the reasonable badge of honor...

Surely it could be said that intelligence or developing an intelligence might be a matter of faith. As I understand what Jesus taught, it had everything to do with people and relationship...that being a believer (which really means that we believe that God believes in us...) meant doing and being the very best of what is possible, all of the time.

As I sat in that crowded chamber downtown listening...I could not help but wonder how embarrassed the Teacher was at what was being claimed in the name of the Divine...it did seem to me that true agendas

## Matter of Faith (cont)

were clear anytime someone identified themselves as anything other than evangelical Christian. Did you hear the hissing at the name Unitarian?

Ignorance is an ugly, ugly thing. And do some people really believe they should remain ignorant in order to please God? Those are the very people who, after all, proclaim God as the instant Creator. Maybe they somehow miss the connection between a Creator who invented a thing called Brain and the use of that brain.

*"I have faith that*

*God believes in me..."*

Well, perhaps it just all comes down to a matter of faith. I have faith that God believes in me, and I believe that God intends for me to always and in all ways exercise my brain and my thinking and my feeling....

I've just finished taping two segments of the American Religious Town Hall. The odds in those sessions were no better than what we experienced in our own city hall. Instead of closing out my thoughts with a step-by-step rebuttal of the narrow and dogmatic arguments I'm sure "they" expected — I closed with my statement of faith. God created me, and you. God loves us. There is a place for us. It's a matter of finding your place, and that is a simple matter of your faith in you.

*Rev. Hunt is Senior Pastor at Agape Metropolitan Community Church in Fort Worth.*

## Anti-gay Policy

By a 710-238 vote, United Methodist delegates approved a study that retained the statement against homosexuality first placed in the church's Social Principles in 1972.

But the study, which affirms the civil rights of homosexuals and asks that they be protected from violence, calls for development of materials on homosexuality that will be studied throughout the 8.9 million member denomination.

"It's a tragedy that this church has once again refused to say a welcoming word to gay, lesbian and bisexual United Methodists," said Morris Floyd of Minneapolis, Minn., a spokesman for Affirmation.

"We've been around since the church began, and we'll be around as long as it exists," said Rod Sprott, 38, a gay Methodist and South Carolina native who lives in California.

"I'm discouraged, but I'm not going to leave the church," said Sprott. "Some may leave. I don't think a lot will. We've been around forever."

Sprott said he believes that the mainline churches haven't proclaimed full acceptance of homosexuals because of fear and ignorance.

"The real fear is that if they openly accept gays and lesbians, others are going to leave," he said. "It hasn't happened in the congregations who accept us."

The problem boils down to the fact that many church members have never been around openly homosexual people, he said.

"When you look at people different from yourself you often respond negatively," he said. "When people get to know me as me, then find out I'm gay, they say, 'No big deal.'"

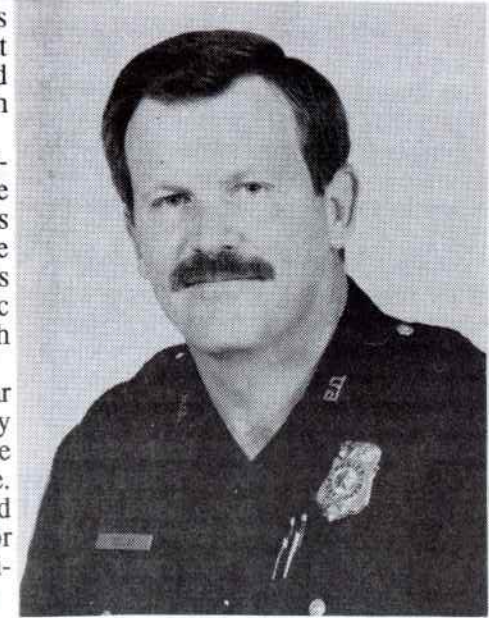
*This article is excerpted from articles by Jim Jones in the Ft Worth Star-Telegram, 5/12/92.*

## Police Chief Windham Appoints Liason Officer to Gay Community

Fort Worth Police Chief Thomas Windham has informed TCLGA that Lieutenant Joe Bellar has been selected as the liaison officer to the Fort Worth lesbian and gay community.

Lieutenant Bellar is a detective-lieutenant with the Fort Worth Police Department's South Division. In his position as liaison officer, he will be expected to coordinate special events as well as law enforcement and public safety efforts with the Fort Worth lesbian and gay community.

The first chance for Lieutenant Bellar to mingle with the lesbian and gay community will be at the Gay Pride Week activities scheduled for June. Hopefully, this relationship will lead to a much safer and attractive city for our lesbian and gay citizens and visitors.



## Bob Ray Sanders to speak at Agape MCC in Fort Worth

Bob Ray Sanders will be presenting and discussing the video-taped TV program he narrated in 1989 on the life accomplishments of the late Dallas gay activist, Mr. Bill Nelson at Agape MCC's Men's Potluck Dinner June 6, 1992. Dinner starts at the church that evening at 6:30 pm, with Mr. Sanders' presentation commencing at 7:30 pm. (Men and women are welcome at both). Agape MCC is located on Southeast Loop 820 in Fort Worth. (Take the Anglin Road offramp and get on the westbound service road).

Recently, Mr. Sanders read names at the Candlelight Memorial. He has also hosted Agape MCC's Rev. Brenda Hunt on his radio call-in talk show on



KLIF-AM. Mr. Sanders is a former columnist with the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, and continues to make numerous appearances on KERA-TV.

## Religious TV Show Features Minister of Lesbian/Gay Church

"I want to spread the message of God's love to the world," said Reverend Brenda Hunt, senior pastor of Agape MCC, after she finished videotaping two segments of the "American Religious Town Hall" television program in Dallas on Monday, May 11, 1992.

"American Religious Town Hall" is a TV talk show that examines a wide variety of social and theological issues in religion today. A panel of several ministers of different faiths is moderated by Pastor Robert Leiske, a Seventh-Day Adventist.

## Sodomy Law Appealed Again

Laurie Eiserloh, executive director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL), reports that Attorney General Dan Morales' office has made an unusual move in Morales et al v. State of Texas.

The decision of the 3rd District Court of Appeals, which upheld the decision of the 200th Judicial District Court of Travis County, has been appealed to the State Supreme Court and to the Court of Criminal Appeals at the same time. The appeal was hand-delivered to the State Supreme Court and mailed to the Court of Criminal Appeals. There is some question as to whether or not the appeal was mailed to the Court of Criminal Appeals before the deadline.

There are three possibilities at this point. 1) The Supreme Court hears the case. 2) The Court of Criminal Appeals hears the case. 3) Both courts refuse to hear the case and the decision of the lower court stands. The more liberal Court of Criminal Appeals would be the best forum for this case.

The first segment is entitled "Rights of Homosexuals in the Church." The second segment is entitled "Rights of Homosexuals in the Church: Ministers and the Congregation." These segments, featuring Rev. Hunt conversing with the other ministers, will be broadcast Texas-wide on Fort Worth-Dallas superstation KTVT-TV, Channel 11, on Sunday, June 7 and 14, 1992, at 7 am, and in Los Angeles on Sunday, July 19 and 26, 1992 at 8:30 am. "American Religious Town Hall" is broadcast on 140 TV stations around the country.

However, since the Supreme Court received the appeal first, it will decide where the case will be heard. If the Supreme Court refuses to hear it, then it will be sent over to the Court of Criminal Appeals. If the Criminal Court refuses to hear it then the decision of the lower court will stand.

Stay tuned for more updates on the status of 21.06.

Eiserloh also reports that she is sending a questionnaire to all candidates and legislators asking their opinions about gay/lesbian rights issues. The results of this survey will be very important particularly when 21.06 becomes an issue in the next session. All of this information will be compiled into a Texas legislative history for the gay and lesbian community. LGRL will only be able to mail this information to LGRL members. Information on joining can be obtained by writing:

LGRL  
PO Box 2579  
Austin, TX 78768

or by calling: (512)474-5475.

## Love Versus IN Love By Debra Julian

I love you, but I am not in love with you.

That is the most crushing statement in the world...or is it?

What is the difference between in love and love? We could become esoteric and describe the variance between the two terms in symbolic words. However, symbolism is interpreted in an assortment of ways depending upon the individual's perception.

Let us look at the facts **Love In Love** These two terms are differentiated by the simple word, **In**.

What is this word, **In**? It can be classified as an adverb, meaning **to or toward some destination**...a preposition, indicating **spacial inclusion**...an adjective denoting that which is located **inside or within**...or a noun, describing **one who has power or is on the inside**. (Whew! So much for facts!)

When we say, "I am in love with someone," we are saying, "I am **in**." We are part of the **in crowd**. We are part of a couple, not like our "poor" single friends, who are still searching for someone. We have someone, who shares and cares. This person's presence dramatizes our importance or **power**. (If you don't believe the word power, go to a club one night. Watch the couples walking arm and arm. Then turn to the singles holding up the wall, trying to act/look nonchalant!) We are strong, gentle and all the other descriptive words for we are full of wonder at being in love. We can do anything. **We are in**.

We are in love. The love is located **inside of us**. Love is in our eyes. It is surging through our veins. It is in every atom of our being. It is part of

each person in the relationship and within that invisible bond call "the relationship."

We are in love. **We are included in the space called love**. We are surrounded by the love. It is above us, below us and on all sides of us. We are wrapped in the glowing warmth of love. It is our covering...our protection against the harshness of the world. We experience life through love.

My goodness, in love is wonderful. But, what about the definition of **to or toward a destination**? Looking at the phrase "in love," what is the **destination**? What gives us the classification of being **in**? What is located **within** us? Into what are we **included**? **Love!**

Therefore to be **in love**, we are striving, moving **toward love**. Our **destination is love**. We want love in our relationship...our communication...our actions and...our reactions. We want **love inside of us**, to surround us and **to be a part of our classification**. Most of all we want to be **our completion...our destination**.

Love, then is the great, wonderful, warm, gentle, enduring, powerful experience.

It is exciting to be **in love**. It is thrilling to say, "I am **in love**."

But the ultimate, the **destination is love**. The love of completion, of wholeness. **The love of inclusion, of surrounding us**. The love of fullness, of satisfaction. The love of endurance, of energy. **Love within us, identifying us, lifting us**. Love.

So, the next time you hear someone or yourself say, "I love you, but I am not in love with you," ask the person or yourself, what is wrong with loving, since that was/is the original destination and what we really want anyway.

# -- The OFFICE LOUNGE --

## MONDAYS

Employees  
Day  
Off

## TUESDAYS

**\$1.75**  
Well/Longnecks 6-11PM  
Dart Tournament 9 PM

## WEDNESDAYS

Juke Box Karaoke 10:30  
**\$1** Draw 6-11  
**\$1.75** Well 6-11

## THURSDAYS

**\$1.75** Longneck 6-11  
Pool Tournament  
9 PM 3 places paid

**\$1.75**

Well  
6-11 PM

## FRIDAYS

Basha's  
"Girls Night Out"  
Showtime - 11 PM

**\$1.75**

Longnecks  
6-11 PM

June 6

Old Downtowner's Reunion  
"Cast" show 11 pm

June 9

Camp Drag Contest 10:30 PM

June 11

Halloween in June Contest  
11 pm

June 12

Anonymous HIV test 7-9 PM  
Turnabout Show 11 PM

June 13

Rhonda Mae's AOC Food  
Pantry Benefit - 11 PM

June 16

Chains & Things - 10:30 PM  
W/ Miss Leather

June 24

Danny's Birthday Bash  
Special \$1 Well/Longnecks  
8-9 & 10-11

June 27

Benefit Show  
For  
Tarrant County  
Lesbian/Gay  
Alliance  
Showtime 11 PM

## SATURDAYS

Rhonda Mae's  
**\$1.25** Draw

"Shower of Stars"

Showtime - 11 PM  
**\$1.25** Schnapps

## SUNDAYS

75¢ Draw

6 - 11 PM

Pool Tournament

8:30 PM

CASH Prizes

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Visit our SISTER The Arlington 651  
1851 W. Division (817)275-9\*651

## NAMES Project Deadline Approaches for DC Display

The entire NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed in Washington, DC from October 9-11, 1992. This display will be the fourth showing of the entire Quilt since the NAMES Project's inception in 1987, and the first national display since 1989, at which time many believed that the Quilt was growing too large to ever again be shown as a whole.

Attitudes and opinions have changed. Because the AIDS epidemic is far from over and because the crisis is global in scope, the display in 1992 will be an international event. For the first time, panels from all 17 of the NAMES Project international affiliates will be assembled in one place, to call attention to the need for an immediate and compassionate world-wide response to AIDS.

The Quilt is made up of thousands of individual three-by-six foot cloth

panels, each one commemorating the life of a man, woman, or child who has died of AIDS-related complications. New panels continue to be added to the Quilt on a daily basis, but must be received by July 1, 1992, to be guaranteed inclusion in the October display.

The Fort Worth/Tarrant County Chapter of the NAMES project is here to help. The workshop, located at 665 South Jennings, is open from 6-9 pm weekdays and 1-4 pm on weekends, and is staffed with volunteers who can assist in making a panel or provide you with panelmaking information and materials. If you are interested in attending the display in Washington, they can also supply information on discounted airline and hotel reservations.

The workshop phone number is (817) 33-NAMES.

## AIDS Candlelight Memorial At Kimbell Art Museum, May 17



Mayor Kay Granger  
reading names



Dr. John Forestner  
reading names



Dr. Patricia Wetzel  
reading names

### Jefferson Freedom Cafe

Welcomes members & friends  
of the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance  
to the June 13th performance  
featuring **JOSH ALLEN**

7:30 pm - 10:30 pm

suggested donation \$5

First Jefferson Unitarian Church

1959 Sandy Lane 451-1505



NAMES Project signature panel displayed at memorial

# A Love Story of Two Brides

## By Sheila Taylor

Last fall, Annie and Melanie were married atop an Appalachian mountain. Melanie's brother-in-law, an ordained minister, blessed the couple, after he, Annie, Melanie and Melanie's sister hiked to the summit.

The bride and bride created the service piecemeal-fashion, taking a few Bible verses, a Walt Whitman poem, a selection of promises from a wedding book and a few lines each had written for the other and mixing everything together to form an appropriate ritual of their devotion and design.

At the end of the service, they read aloud some letters their friends had penned for the occasion. I don't know what others wrote, but I'd written about how happy and serene Annie had been since Melanie came into her life, and since I'm crazy about Annie, I'm now crazy about Melanie for adding so much to Annie's life.

Then the four sat down, drank some wine, ate some cheese and hiked back down the mountain.

Annie and I met in 1979 after I first entered journalism. I'm about half-way between her mother's age and her own, as she is between me and my son. Barely out of college, she became the first of an endless line of copy editors to complain about my spelling; in spite of that, we became and remain close friends, and when I left that newspaper, she wrote a story about me, and we both cried.

During the first few months of our friendship, I tried several times to fix her up with Ben, the son of a friend. Finally, Annie told me I might as well cease and desist because she simply wasn't interested in going out with Ben.

"I've been trying to tell you. I'm gay," she said.

I think she expected me to call for smelling salts or weep into my petticoat, but I didn't.

"Well, then, how about Ben's sister?" I said immediately, "She's even cuter than Ben." I'm pretty sure she knew I was kidding.

Last night, I asked Annie why she and Melanie had wanted a ceremony, it was Melanie's idea, Annie said, but the more she thought about it, the more she realized she'd like to make some kind of official commitment.

"Did you feel any different after the ceremony?" I asked.

*"I like being part of her family and us being a family and being considered a family, not just by ourselves but by others, by society, really."*

Not in any substantial way at first," she said. "But more and more, I do. I like being part of her family and us being a family and being considered a family, not just by ourselves but by others, by society, really."

For instance, at office parties and professional functions, Annie appreciates having Melanie accepted, just as spouses and sweethearts in traditional partnerships are considered part of the parcel. When one of Melanie's siblings married, Annie was included in the festivities, along with the other in-laws. They own a house together,

they're creating a past together and looking toward a future together.

None of that would be as sure or as likely to be taken for granted without that quiet, understated ceremony on top of the mountain.

Annie wears a gold filigree band on her ring-finger. It looks almost like a wedding ring and almost not like one. Melanie, whose job is such that she can't make her marriage public, wears a thin gold necklace Annie bought her when they married.

Melanie's father is a high-ranking clergyman, and all his children have traditional marriages. At first, he had trouble accepting Melanie's life, but now, of course, he's happy she's happy.

# The Issue That Just Won't Go Away

## By Jim Jones

Homosexuality was a taboo subject in churches when I was growing up. Now it's one of the most explosive topics in American religion.

Churches, synagogues and mosques, whether they like it or not, are being forced to address the issue. And at some point they might be asked to bless same-sex relationships and to accept the ordination of gay clergy.

The conservative Southern Baptist Convention, which has issued statements saying homosexuality is a sin, got caught up in the fray in March when the Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC, conducted a ceremony blessing the union of two homosexual males.

Punishment was swift. The church was kicked out of its local association and its state convention this week. A sister church, the Binkley Memorial Baptist Church in Chapel Hill, NC, also was ousted for granting a ministry license to a gay Duke Divinity School

"Who got to wear the long white dress and the veil?" I asked.

The way I figure it, in today's fast society, lesbian brides are among the few entitled to wear white on their wedding day — according to tradition, I mean.

Now they're considering having another ceremony, one here, where all their friends can attend. Annie promised me I could be a bridesmaid, and I have high hopes of catching the bouquet. I just have no idea which bride will get to throw it. Maybe they'll draw straws.

*Sheila Taylor is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, where this column first appeared on May 17, 1992.*

student.

The topic will be debated at the June 9-11 Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis as it was at the May 5-15 United Methodist General Conference in Louisville, KY. The issue won't go away.

Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders in the Fort Worth area say they are open to minister to gays and lesbians, but I found no church, mosque or synagogue — other than predominantly gay congregations — that will sanctify a homosexual union.

"Basically, the reaction of the churches here is to tell gay and lesbian couples to go someplace else," said David Reed of Fort Worth, founder of Honesty, a support group for Southern Baptist homosexuals with about 30 members in Texas and Kentucky.

The Rev. Bill Smith, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Hurst, says the Bible teaches against homosexuality. Still, he said, he must deal with the

## Jones — cont.

reality of the existence of gays and lesbians in the pews. Some of his saddest experiences, he said, have been conducting funerals for homosexuals who have died of AIDS.

"I've worked with a lot of homosexuals," he said. "I don't turn them away. I tell them God can change them."

But other clergy, including Episcopal Bishop John Spong of Newark, NJ, argue that homosexuals don't choose their lifestyle, and that most can't change. Spong, who has ordained gays and lesbians, says that churches are debating homosexuality is a sign of hope that gays might find future acceptance. He notes that many churches once supported slavery.

"This is a very tricky, sensitive question," said the Rev. Paul Roach, pastor of the Unity Church of Fort Worth, who said his congregation, and other Unity churches in the area, have been requested to perform commitment services for gays.

Roach once agreed to perform a ceremony but the couple split up before the end of a six-month waiting period he had suggested.

"I've seen a lot of gays and lesbians who are all excited [about a commitment service] and it all goes flat," he said. "The same thing happens to heterosexual couples."

Roach said that in the future he plans to refer gay and lesbian couples who want the ceremony to predominantly gay churches in Tarrant County — Agape Metropolitan Community Church in Fort Worth and Trinity Metropolitan Community Church in Arlington.

One of the clearest stands against homosexuality was voiced by Imam Moujed Bakhach, leader of the Islamic Association of Tarrant County mosque

in west Fort Worth. "It is against the laws of God," he said, asserting that both the Koran and Bible teach against it.

*"My position would be that God loves the homosexual, but does not accept the lifestyle."*

*Rick Atchley*

Rick Atchley, pulpit minister of the Richland Hills Church of Christ, agreed, saying: "We see homosexuality as sin. My position would be that God loves the homosexual, but does not accept that lifestyle."

Rabbi Ralph Mecklenburger of Congregation Beth-El in Fort Worth said his congregation is open to all. But he hasn't yet been requested to conduct a marriage ceremony for a homosexual couple and declined to speculate just what his decision would be.

"If people were gay, I'd encourage them to live a committed, long-term relationship," the rabbi said. "But I don't call that marriage. Some rabbis around the country have conducted same-sex commitment services."

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations, which represents the reform Jewish movement, of which Congregation Beth-El is a part, considers monogamous heterosexual marriage as the norm. But it favors full civil rights for gays, who may be ordained as rabbis.

*Jim Jones is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram where this column first appeared on May 23, 1992.*

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# From Two Perspectives

## By Debra Julian and Rebekah Becher

**My parents found out I am gay and now they won't talk to me except in disrespect, labeling and anger. What do I do?**

*From Debra:*

You sit back and you wait AND you go out and do. Your parents are responding to two things. One, they may feel you have been lying for a while now and they don't know what else is a lie. Two, they feel rejected and filled with loss. Their dream may have been a fantasy to you, but it was their dream, as you have yours. So you send them nice, happy cards about once a month and you go out and enjoy living, while you are waiting.

*From Rebekah:*

Realize that their response may come out of hurt and fear of what they imagine this may bring to your, theirs, or others lives and from giving up dreams and perceptions they have had of you. Its important to tell your parents that their hurt and fear doesn't justify them treating you as a lesser person. If your lifestyle reflects positive results and respect of yourself and others, acceptance may come with time. Many parents blame themselves. It may be helpful to provide literature that includes experiences of other parents of gay and lesbian children. Now That You Know by Fairchild & Hayward and Beyond Acceptance by Griffen, Wirth & Wirth are excellent books for parents. GLAAD also has a plethora of materials available.

### **I have fallen in love. How can I make this work?**

*From Debra:*

Two problems I see. One is you have fallen. When you stand up, will you still be in love? When I fall, I usually skin my knees. If you hurt in this, your falling, are you sure this is love? The second is wanting to know how to make it work. Why do so many people feel, loving is work. Work is walking on eggshells, trying to keep someone else happy. None of this is appropriate in a loving relationship. Please rethink and clarify your question, so I'll have a bit more with which to assess.

*From Rebekah:*

Congratulations! Remember that special things require special attention. There is no substitute for time when we're paying special attention. Familiarity does not have to breed contempt, it can breed intimacy. However, this one love does not have to be the source of all love and all joy, nor should it be expected to. Here are some simple ABC's of staying in love:

- A is for Always listen in order to understand
- B is for Be genuine with your thoughts and feelings
- C is for Consideration and Compassion to keep open the gateway of love and joy.

*This new feature is provided to give you an opportunity to write in question of concern (anonymously if desired) and get feedback from two professionals for free. Send your questions to: From Two Perspectives, c/o TCLGA, PO Box 11044, Fort Worth, TX, 76110.*

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AIDS Interfaith Network	927-2437
AIDS Outreach Center (COC)	335-1994
The AIDS Project	335-1994
Agape Metropolitan Community Church	535-5002
Ashburn's, 3012 E. Rosedale	534-6630
Bare Facts Computer BBS	429-2667
Beef House Computer BBS	267-1039
Club Changes Computer BBS	469-9002
Corral Club, 621 Hemphill	335-0196
Crisis/Suicide Line	927-5544
Darwin & Hanus bookkeeping	589-1666
Dignity (Catholic)	283-8588
D.J.'s, 1308 St. Louis	927-7321
First Friday Ft Worth(Lesbian)	1-817-599-6008
Gay Matchmaker Computer BBS	861-4488
Gay/Lesbian Youth	338-4551
Harvest Metropolitan Community Church, Denton	497-4020
Hayes Pharmacy	1-800-258-9897
HIV Anonymous Group	292-9494
Honesty (Baptist)	923-8487
Debra Julian, Wholistic Therapy	589-0694
Imperial Court de Ft Worth/Arlington	261-3558
Lamda AA	921-2871
Lesbian Information Line/Lesbian Visionaries	1-214-526-2426
Lutherans Concerned	921-3966
The Names Project, Ft. Worth	33-NAMES
National Gay Database	277-5403
Office Lounge, 3937 Hwy 377 S.	737-0503
Other Side Computer BBS	280-0775
Parents & Friends of Lesbians/Gays	Fort Worth 338-4551 Dallas (817)498-4855
Pleiades Productions	923-4625
Ropers, 3031 S. Cooper	467-5628
651 Arlinton, 1851 W. Division	275-9651
651 Club, 651 S. Jennings	332-0745
The Source	924-1177
Spiritual AIDS Ministry (S.A.M)	535-5002
Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance	763-5544
Tarrant County Gay Parents	656-8056
Tawdry Lane's Playhouse Computer BBS	531-1848
Texas Doubles(bowling)	477-1832
Texas Gay Rodeo Association	1-214-520-0570
TGRA Hot Line	496-1333
TGRA AIDS/HIV Information Line	1-800-468-AIDS
Texas Gay Veterans	763-5544
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U.T. Arlington Gay/Lesbian Association	794-5140
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