Shaken but proud
A WORD FROM THE PUBLISHER, NORM KENT

We continue again this week with solemn and sober tributes to those lives lost and injured in Orlando.

They are our brothers and sisters, slain because of hatred; murdered because of madness and myopia.

We celebrated pride this past week, but on these pages in your community newspaper, we will commemorate their lives, lost so suddenly, taken all soon, forevermore.
Mayor’s Ball Kicked Off Pride With Increased Security

Broward mayor calls Orlando victims “martyrs”

Michael d’Oliveira

The kickoff event to this year’s Stonewall, the Mayor’s Ball, included increased security just in case. To gain entrance, attendees had to pass through a metal detector — a first at a Wilton Manors event.

“I think that it’s unfortunate that this is what we’ve evolved to. But that’s what’s necessary,” said Central Area Neighborhood Association President Paul Rolli. “It’s sad to see, but it’s nice to have. It’s disappointing that’s what it’s come to but I’m glad to see it’s there,” said Karl Lentzer, president of the Wilton Manors Business Association.

“It’s there to make everyone feel safe. It’s as simple as that,” said Wilton Manors Police Chief Paul O’Connell.

There were no metal detectors during the event on Saturday though. O’Connell said it wasn’t feasible because there would be too many people and too many access points. But there was an “overwhelming police presence.”

City staff and police personal worked with BSO, the FBI and Homeland Security on “intensified, significant adjustments” to the security measures put in place before Orlando.

“We’re the first in Florida [to host a LGBT festival] since Orlando. We’re on heightened alert. There’s no other way of putting it,” O’Connell said. Undercover officers were also at the event.

In addition to security, the event itself has also been reshaped — starting with the Mayor’s Ball.

At the formal start of the evening, Resnick held a 49-second moment of silence — one second for each of the individuals murdered inside Pulse. “I think that they deserve that . . . we need to stop the distribution of these types of weapons.”

Resnick was joined by his fellow city commissioners as well as officials from the county and other cities, including Broward Mayor Tim Ryan and Fort Lauderdale Vice Mayor Dean Trantalis.

Ryan called the Orlando victims “martyrs” and said the country is “stronger” after Orlando.

Resnick responded that people just want to live their lives and not be targeted for who they are.

“I don’t think anyone wants to be a martyr, no offense.” The mayor blamed the shooter’s actions on the atmosphere of bigotry and intolerance that has been perpetuated against the LGBT community over the last few decades. “I don’t know how somebody learns that.”

Jeff Sterling, executive director of the Wilton Manors Entertainment Group, the nonprofit organization that organizes the festival with the city, said the tragedy gave them a renewed meaning to the event and “why it’s important to do this.”
The public face of sex trafficking is often a woman or a girl, but one group aims to let the public know that men and boys are also victims. Beginning on Father’s Day, June 19, Ark of Freedom will begin a four-week campaign to recruit LGBT foster parents to care for LGBT victims of sex trafficking and those in danger of becoming victims. The U.S. Department of Justice defines sex trafficking as a situation where “a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.”

Founded by Nathan Earl, Ark of Freedom is a non-profit organization that seeks to “end the marginalization of boys and young men, including transgender youth, who are either at risk or have been victimized by human trafficking and/or exploitation.”

“We target runaway homeless youth,” Earl said non-LGBT individuals are eligible but the preference is for LGBT parents because they understand what it means to be LGBT. “That sense of belonging is sort of the first step in their healing. LGBT adults are used to overcoming obstacles and barriers. It’s a shared experience . . . a good match.”

Earl said many LGBT youth first become at risk when they are kicked out of their homes for being LGBT. That makes them more vulnerable to predators. “That’s how many of these kids find themselves in trouble. Thousands of adults are looking for vulnerable youth to exploit.”

Matthew White, 32, was one of those vulnerable teens. At the age of 16 in Boston, White attended a private Catholic school and was part of a strict Roman Catholic family. He was already struggling with how to reveal his sexuality to his friends and family when his father died. “I was curious but I wasn’t out.”

By the age of 17, White was talking to a man he had met on AOL. “He said he was 27 at the time. We ended up having sex. It was my first sexual encounter. I liked it and I liked the attention I was getting at the time. I was very impressionable.” Not long after, White’s “boyfriend” started arranging “dates” for him with other men who were paying for White to have sex with them. “$500, sometimes more for just an hour. I called him my boyfriend, but in actuality I was being trafficked.”

Eventually White, who had only tried marijuana up until that point, was introduced to crystal meth by his “boyfriend” and he’s struggled with the drug ever since. After that, everything was about feeding his habit — sex for money to buy drugs or drugs exchanged directly for sex. White, who had previously always used condoms, stopped in order to ensure his johns, who wanted bareback sex, would pay him. “They gave you the drugs and they wanted to have bareback sex. Your ideas and values about having safe sex go out the window. I would say, ‘you’re negative, right?’ and that would be okay with me.”

At 19, he was diagnosed as HIV positive. “That just spurred my addiction way worse.” That contributed to a deteriorating home life. His mother tried helping but White fled to live with a client he hoped would pay for his drugs. “In my mind, I thought he would take care of me.”

But after he left home things got worse, including White’s addiction. “He was very controlling.”

Eventually, the man also got addicted to crystal meth. “That brought out a rage in him. He pointed a gun at my head. At that point, I realized I really needed help.”

With the help of his mother, White got clean and eventually earned his associates, bachelors and is working on his masters in social work at Barry University. But White still struggles with his addiction. He’s relapsed a couple times but says his current goals have kept him from letting the drugs get him off track. “There is a strong recovery community here if you’re willing to do the work.”

Earl said White’s journey is a common one. “These adults don’t talk about sex at first. They offer false promises of jobs and money.”

Unfortunately, he speaks from experience.

A victim of physical and sexual abuse at the hands of family members, as a child, Earl turned to sniffing gasoline and later drugs to deal with the pain. “I was, from a very early age, wired to think I wasn’t worth very much. While the abuse was going on, we were going to church every Sunday.”

He had hoped college would be an escape from the abuse but, after dropping out of college, he found he had only traded one abuser for another. “You carry that trauma with you. I failed out of the first year of college.”

After living on the street in Tampa, Earl met a drug dealer. His “knight in armor,” or so he thought. But after four months he became abusive and Earl was forced to sell drugs. “I was a skeleton . . . he got what he wanted out of me.”

But at age 30, Earl, 40 now, found himself at the Department of Corrections and on the road to where he is today — the founder of Ark of Freedom. “I was able to find my way again.”

Visit ArkOfFreedom.org to find out more information on how to become a foster parent.
Hey Florida, the bus is coming.

Explore XQ: The Super School Bus and find out how we can better prepare students for college, career and life. To learn more, visit XQsuperschool.org.
Actual ATRIPLA patients.

ATRIPILA has been chosen by more than 500,000 people with HIV and their doctors. In the US, ATRIPLA is the #1 prescribed single-pill, once-daily HIV treatment.

TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR OR VISIT ATRIPILA.COM TO FIND OUT MORE.

What is ATRIPLA?
ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) is a prescription medication used alone as a complete regimen, or with other anti-HIV-1 medicines, to treat HIV-1 infection in adults and children at least 12 years old who weigh at least 40 kg (88 lbs).

ATRIPLA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS and you may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections.

See your healthcare provider regularly while taking ATRIPLA.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA can cause serious side effects:

- Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA (which contains nucleoside analogs) have developed lactic acidosis (build up of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a serious medical emergency that can lead to death.

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis:

- feel very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

- Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death.

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:

- skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- urine turns dark
- bowel movements (stools) turn light in color
- don’t feel like eating food for several days or longer
- feel sick to your stomach (nausea)
- have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog-containing medicines, like ATRIPLA (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), for a long time.

If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA, you may get a “flare-up” of your hepatitis. A “flare-up” is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before. Patients with HBV who stop taking ATRIPLA need closer medical follow-up for several months to check for hepatitis that could get worse. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you need to discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

Who should not take ATRIPLA?

You and your healthcare provider should decide if ATRIPLA is right for you. Do not take ATRIPLA if you are allergic to ATRIPLA or any of its ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ATRIPLA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.
For adults with HIV-1,

Undetectable viral load is a goal, and ATRIPLA has the power to help get you there.

In a clinical trial:

• ATRIPLA has been proven to LOWER VIRAL LOAD to undetectable* in approximately 8 out of 10 adult patients new to therapy through 48 weeks compared with approximately 7 out of 10 adult patients in the comparator group.

• ATRIPLA has been proven to LOWER VIRAL LOAD to undetectable* through 3 years in approximately 7 out of 10 adult patients new to therapy compared with approximately 6 out of 10 adult patients in the comparator group.

SELECTED IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed build up of lactic acid in the blood, which can be a serious medical emergency that can lead to death.

Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed serious liver problems, with liver enlargement and fat in the liver, which can lead to death.

If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (continued)

Women should not become pregnant while taking ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping ATRIPLA. Serious birth defects have been seen in children of women treated during pregnancy with efavirenz, one of the medicines in ATRIPLA. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control, while on ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping ATRIPLA. Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because ATRIPLA may make these contraceptives ineffective.

Are breastfeeding: Women with HIV should not breastfeed because they can pass HIV and some of the medicines in ATRIPLA through their milk to the baby. It is not known if ATRIPLA could harm your baby.

Have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.

Have bone problems.

Have liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection. Your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your liver while you take ATRIPLA or may switch you to another medicine.

Have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol

Have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures. Seizures have occurred in patients taking efavirenz, a component of ATRIPLA, generally in those with a history of seizures. If you have ever had seizures, or take medicine for seizures, your healthcare provider may want to switch you to another medicine or monitor you.

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may change the effect of other medicines, including the ones for HIV-1, and may cause serious side effects. Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA

• ATRIPLA should not be taken with: Combivir® (lamivudine/zidovudine),
  COMPLERA® (emtricitabine/rilpivirine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate),
  EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine),
  Epivir® or Epivir-HBV® (lamivudine),
  Epictab® (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine),
  STRIBILD® (elvitegravir/cobicistat/emtricitabine/tenofovir DF),
  Truvada® (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine/zidovudine),
  TRUVADA® (emtricitabine/tenofovir DF), or VIREAD® (tenofovir DF), because they contain the same or similar active ingredients as ATRIPLA. ATRIPLA should not be used with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) unless recommended by your healthcare provider.

• Vfенд® (voriconazole) should not be taken with ATRIPLA since it may lose its effect or may increase the chance of having side effects from ATRIPLA.

• ATRIPLA should not be used with HEPSERA® (adefovir dipivoxil).

Please see Important Safety Information continued on the following pages.

ATRIPLA

(efavirenz 600 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) Tablets

6.22.2016 • 7
Patient Information

ATRIPLA® (uh TRIP luh) Tablets

If you have any questions about ATRIPLA®

Some people who have taken medicine like ATRIPLA® (which contains nucleoside analogs) have developed a serious condition called lactic acidosis (build up of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis:

- You feel very weak or tired.
- You have unusual (not normal) muscle pain.
- You have trouble breathing.
- You have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting.
- You feel cold, especially in your arms and legs.
- You feel dizzy or lightheaded.
- You have a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- You are more tired than usual.

Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA® have developed serious liver problems called hepatotoxicity, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:

- Your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
- Your urine turns dark.
- Your bowel movements (stools) turn light in color.
- You don't feel like eating food for several days or longer.
- You feel sick to your stomach (nausea).
- You have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain.
- You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog-containing medicines, like ATRIPLA®, for a long time.

If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA®, you may get a “flare-up” of your hepatitis. A “flare-up” is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before. Patients with HBV who stop taking ATRIPLA® need close medical follow-up for several months, including medical exams and blood tests to check for hepatitis that could be getting worse. ATRIPLA® is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

What is ATRIPLA®?

ATRIPLA® contains 3 medicines, SUSTIVA® (efavirenz), EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine) and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate also called tenofovir DF) combined in one pill. EMTRIVA® and VIREAD® are HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) and SUSTIVA® is an HIV-1 non-nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI). EMTRIVA® and VIREAD® are the components of TRUVADA®. ATRIPLA® can be used alone as a complete regimen, or in combination with other anti-HIV-1 medicines to treat people with HIV-1 infection. ATRIPLA® is for adults and children 12 years of age and older who weigh at least 40 kg (at least 88 lbs). ATRIPLA® is not recommended for children younger than 12 years of age. ATRIPLA® has not been studied in adults over 65 years of age.

HIV infection destroys CD4+ T cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.
ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

ATRIPLA helps block HIV-1 reverse transcriptase, a viral chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV-1 to multiply. ATRIPLA lowers the amount of HIV-1 in the blood (viral load). ATRIPLA may also help to increase the number of T cells (CD4+ cells), allowing your immune system to improve. Lowering the amount of HIV-1 in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

**Does ATRIPLA cure HIV-1 or AIDS?**

ATRIPLA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS and you may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections. You should remain under the care of a doctor when using ATRIPLA.

**Who should not take ATRIPLA?**

Together with your healthcare provider, you need to decide whether ATRIPLA is right for you.

Do not take ATRIPLA if you are allergic to ATRIPLA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredients of ATRIPLA are efavirenz, emtricitabine, and tenofovir DF. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients.

**What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ATRIPLA?**

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant (see "What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?").
- Are breastfeeding (see "What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?").
- Have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.
- Have bone problems.
- Have liver problems, including hepatitis B virus infection. Your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your liver while you take ATRIPLA or may switch you to another medicine.
- Have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.
- Have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures.

**What important information should I know about taking other medicines with ATRIPLA?**

ATRIPLA may change the effect of other medicines, including the ones for HIV-1, and may cause serious side effects. Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect ATRIPLA. For this reason, it is very important to let all your healthcare providers and pharmacists know what medications, herbal supplements, or vitamins you are taking.

**MEDICATIONS YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA**

- ATRIPLA also should not be used with Combivir (lamivudine/zidovudine), COMPLERA®, EMTRIVA, Epivir, Epivir-HBV (lamivudine), Epzicom (abacavir sulfates/lamivudine), STRIVIBIL®, Trizivir (abacavir sulfates/lamivudine/zidovudine), TRUVADA, or VIREAD. ATRIPLA also should not be used with SUSTIVA unless recommended by your healthcare provider.
- Viänd (voriconazole) should not be taken with ATRIPLA since it may lose its effect or may increase the risk of having side effects from ATRIPLA.
- ATRIPLA should not be used with HEPSERA® (adefovir dipivoxil).

It is also important to tell your healthcare provider if you are taking any of the following:

- Fortovase, Invisa (saquinavir); Biaxin (clarithromycin); Novafil (poseaconazole); Saprolox (itraconazole); Victrelis (boceprevir); or Olyio (simeprevir); these medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with ATRIPLA.
- Calcium channel blockers such as Cardizem or Tlazac (diltiazem); Caverza HS or Isopin (verapamil) and others; Crixivan (indinavir); Selentary (maraviroc); the immunosuppressant medicines cyclosporine (Gengraf, Norcal, Sandimmune, and others); Protargol (lactomino); or Rapamune (sirolimus); Methadone; Mycojubin (rifabutin); Rifampin; cholesterol-lowering medicines such as Lipitor (atorvastatin); Pravachol (pravastatin sodium); and Zocor (simvastatin); or the anti-depressant medications buproprion (Wellbutrin, Wellbutrin XR, Wellbutrin XL, and Zyban) or Zoloft (sertraline); dose changes may be needed when these drugs are taken with ATRIPLA.
- Videx, Videx EC (didanosine), tenofovir DF (a component of ATRIPLA) may increase the amount of didanosine in your blood, which could result in more side effects. You may need to be monitored more carefully if you are taking ATRIPLA and didanosine together. Also, the dose of didanosine may need to be changed.

ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

- Rayatriz (atazanavir sulfate), Pregiiva (darunavir), Kaletra (lopinavir/ritonavir), or Narvho (ledipasvir/sofosbuvir); these medicines may increase the amount of tenofovir DF (a component of ATRIPLA) in your blood, which could result in more side effects. Rayatriz is not recommended with ATRIPLA. You may need to be monitored more carefully if you are taking ATRIPLA, Pregiiva, and Narvho together, or if you are taking ATRIPLA and Kaletra together. The dose of Kaletra should be increased when taken with efavirenz.
- Medicine for seizures [for example, Dilantin (phenytoin), Neurontin (carbamazepine), or phenobarbital]; your healthcare provider may want to switch you to another medicine or check drug levels in your blood from time to time.

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take ATRIPLA. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider about all medicines that you take.

Keep a complete list of all the prescription and nonprescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking, how much you take, and how often you take them. Make a new list when medicines or herbal remedies are added or stopped, or if the dose changes. Give copies of this list to all your healthcare providers and pharmacists every time you visit your healthcare provider or fill a prescription. This will give your healthcare provider a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

**How should I take ATRIPLA?**

- Take the exact amount of ATRIPLA your healthcare provider prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your healthcare provider tells you to stop.
- You should take ATRIPLA on an empty stomach.
- Swallow ATRIPLA with water.
- Taking ATRIPLA at bedtime may affect some side effects less bothersome.
- Do not miss a dose of ATRIPLA. If you forget to take ATRIPLA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of ATRIPLA, contact your local poison control center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your healthcare provider if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your ATRIPLA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to ATRIPLA and become harder to treat.
- Your healthcare provider may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take ATRIPLA.

**What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?**

- Women should not become pregnant while taking ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping it. Serious birth defects have been seen in the babies of women and women treated with efavirenz (a component of ATRIPLA) during pregnancy. It is not known whether efavirenz caused these defects. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you are pregnant. Also talk with your healthcare provider if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because ATRIPLA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control. Efavirenz, a component of ATRIPLA, may remain in your blood for a time after therapy is stopped. Therefore, you should continue to use contraceptive measures for 12 weeks after you stop taking ATRIPLA.
- Do not breastfeed if you are taking ATRIPLA. Some of the medicines in ATRIPLA can be passed to your baby in your breast milk. We do not know whether it could harm your baby. Also, mothers with HIV-1 should not breastfeed because HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in the breast milk. Talk with your healthcare provider if you are breastfeeding. You should stop breastfeeding or may need to use a different medicine.
- Taking ATRIPLA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as ATRIPLA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines, including prescription and nonprescription medicines and herbal products, without checking with your healthcare provider.
**ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)**

- Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 to others.
- Do not share needles or other injection equipment.
- Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.
- Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

**What are the possible side effects of ATRIPLA?**

**ATRIPLA may cause the following serious side effects:**

- **Lactic acidosis** (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get signs of lactic acidosis.** (See “What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?”)

- **Serious liver problems** (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any signs of liver problems. (See “What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?”)

- **“Flare-ups” of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection,** in which the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before, can occur if you have HBV and you stop taking ATRIPLA. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition for several months after stopping ATRIPLA if you have both HIV-1 and HBV infection and may recommend treatment for your HBV. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of hepatitis B virus infection. If you have advanced liver disease and stop treatment with ATRIPLA, the flare-up of hepatitis B may cause your liver function to decline.

- **Serious psychiatric problems.** A small number of patients may experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking ATRIPLA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems may occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your healthcare provider right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your healthcare provider can decide if you should continue to take ATRIPLA.

- **Kidney problems** (including decline or failure of kidney function). If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys. Symptoms that may be related to kidney problems include a high volume of urine, thirst, muscle pain, and muscle weakness.

- **Other serious liver problems.** Some patients have experienced serious liver problems including liver failure resulting in transplantation or death. Most of these serious side effects occurred in patients with a chronic liver disease such as hepatitis infection, but there have also been a few reports in patients without any existing liver disease.

- **Changes in bone mineral density** (thinning bones). Laboratory tests show changes in the bones of patients treated with tenofovir DF, a component of ATRIPLA. Some HIV patients treated with tenofovir DF developed thinning of the bones (osteopenia) which could lead to fractures. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bone mineral density or may prescribe medicines to help your bone mineral density. Additionally, bone pain and softening of the bone (which may contribute to fractures) may occur as a consequence of kidney problems.

**Common side effects:**

Patients may have dizziness, headache, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with ATRIPLA. These side effects may be reduced if you take ATRIPLA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your healthcare provider right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if ATRIPLA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash may be common. Rash usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your healthcare provider right away.

**Rash may be a serious problem in some children.** Tell your child’s healthcare provider right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking ATRIPLA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, gas, and diarrhea.

**Other possible side effects with ATRIPLA:**

- Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

- Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen with ATRIPLA.

- In some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS), signs and symptoms of inflammation from previous infections may occur soon after anti-HIV treatment is started. It is believed that these symptoms are due to an improvement in the body’s immune response, enabling the body to fight infections that may have been present with no obvious symptoms. If you notice any symptoms of infection, please inform your doctor immediately.

- Additional side effects are inflammation of the pancreas, allergic reaction (including swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat), shortness of breath, pain, stomach pain, weakness and indigestion.

Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you notice any side effects while taking ATRIPLA.

Contact your healthcare provider before stopping ATRIPLA because of side effects or for any other reason. This is not a complete list of side effects possible with ATRIPLA. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of ATRIPLA and all the medicines you will take.

**How do I store ATRIPLA?**

- Keep ATRIPLA and all other medicines out of reach of children.
- Store ATRIPLA at room temperature 77°F (25°C).
- Keep ATRIPLA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw any medicines away make sure that children will not find them.

**General information about ATRIPLA:**

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use ATRIPLA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give ATRIPLA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about ATRIPLA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about ATRIPLA that is written for health professionals.

Do not use ATRIPLA if the seal over bottle opening is broken or missing.

**What are the ingredients of ATRIPLA?**

- **Active Ingredients:** efavirenz, emtricitabine, and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate
- **Inactive Ingredients:** croscarmellose sodium, hydroxypropyl cellulose, microcrystalline cellulose, magnesium stearate, sodium lauryl sulfate. The film coating contains black iron oxide, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl alcohol, red iron oxide, talc, and titanium dioxide.

Revised: February 2016

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**News Briefs**

**Philly Schools Adopt Transgender Policy**

(PGN) Following a trend this spring that saw five suburban schools adopt transgender-affirming student policies, the School District of Philadelphia adopted its own policy at a June 16 meeting.

“We have worked closely with students and members of the LGBTQ community to develop these guidelines,” Superintendent Dr. William R. Hite said in a prepared remark. “Every student deserves to know their rights will be recognized and upheld at school. This policy provides clear guidance and will help to ensure that our schools remain welcoming to all of our students.”

Philadelphia schools’ policy, called the Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students Policy, addresses names and pronouns, privacy rights, dress code, physical education and sports teams, and restroom and locker room access that correspond to gender identity.

It also stipulates that the school should use gender-neutral language in communication with all students and families, regardless of a student’s gender identity.

Jason Landau Goodman, founding executive director of the Pennsylvania Youth Congress, said his organization, along with The Attic Youth Center, first approached Philadelphia schools in 2014 about instituting a trans policy. Since then, the policy has developed with input from students and parents.

“Yes this is a good start to center the needs of transgender students,” Landau Goodman said. “But the work is not done in terms of the training and implementation of the policy. We urge further development in articulating the policy’s scope.”

**Prince William Appears on Cover of Gay Magazine, Talks About Bullying**

The gay U.K. magazine, “Attitude,” featured Prince William on its cover as he spoke out against bullying people based on sexuality, according to LGBTQ Nation.

William is the first of the royal family to appear on the cover of any gay publication. The prince used the space to encourage young people being bullied for their sexuality to seek out help.

“No one should be bullied for their sexuality or any other reason and no one should have to put up with the kind of hate that these young people have endured in their lives,” the prince told the magazine.

**GOP Blocks Another LGBT-Protections Bill**

(OFO) Even after the world stepped up in support of LGBT citizens in the wake of the Orlando nightclub shooting, here in America, LGBT denizens are still fighting for protection.

Democratic Congressman Sean Maloney has, for the third time, reintroduced a bill that would prohibit federal contractors from working with agencies that still discriminate against employees based on gender identity or sexual orientation.

And, for the third time, the House Republicans have blocked it. It was first introduced on May 19 of this year. When it was voted down, House Democrats chanted “Shame! Shame! Shame!” to the committee that stonewalled it. The following day, it was introduced again on the floor, but Paul Ryan’s band of merry men once again ruined its hopes of passing.

On June 15, we saw the same gavel come down on the bill, thwarting it yet again.

“We need to write discrimination out of our law right away,” Maloney said. “There can be no better tribute to these innocent victims in Florida than to say we as a country are going to make ourselves more perfect as a union by ending LGBT discrimination.”

Maloney said. “There can be no better tribute to these innocent victims in Florida than to say we as a country are going to make ourselves more perfect as a union by ending LGBT discrimination.”

More as the story develops.

**Rep. Honda Introduces Bill to Loosen Gay Blood Ban**

According to the Washington Blade, Democratic Rep. Mike Honda of California has introduced a two-page bill in Congress that would require the Department of Health & Human Services to “provide increased flexibility” in the blood donor supply at times of national or local need.

“It was a horrific irony that gay and bisexual men could not donate in a time of local need,” Honda said. “This is not a problem of science; it is a problem of morality.”

LGBT advocates have called to replace the one-year deferral with a policy that evaluates potential blood donors on an individual risk basis that does not take sexual orientation into account.

Honda’s proposal falls short of this ideal, instead loosening regulations such as the required year of celibacy from gay sex during times of “local and national need” that result in blood shortage.

**For Pride Month, Social Media Film Site Publishes Pronoun Guidelines**

(EDGE) In honor of Pride Month, officials from the social media website Letterboxd, where people rate, review and discuss films, recently published guidelines that aim to help its users “improve readability” when it comes to using correct pronouns.

In a message pinned to the top of the platform’s website, Letterboxd writes, “...to embrace the diversity of our community we’ve added the ability for you to select a preferred pronoun. Read our news post then go to Settings and personalize your Letterboxd a little more.”

By going to profile settings, users can select from a number of pronouns, including he/his, she/her, they/their, xe/xyr, ze/hir, ze/zir, it/its. In a blog post, Letterboxd officials discussed the update.

“After consulting with some beloved Letterboxd members well-versed in the landscape of non-binary pronouns, we have introduced these additional options: she/her, he/his, xe/xyr, ze/hir and ze/zir,” the blog reads “And we’ve included it/its for accounts that represent an organization, e.g. a podcast, film society or film festival.”
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**PRIDE AND DEFIANCE**

Orlando Doesn’t Scare Away Festivalgoers

Photos by Char Pratt

In a mix of solemn remembrances, countless proclamations of “love always wins,” confetti, bikini bottoms, military and police uniforms, showboating motorcyclists, female impersonators in sky-high heels and Jell-O shot fundraisers, the LGBT community used the Stonewall Parade and Festival on Saturday to respond to the tragedy in Orlando.

They did it in the same way they always do: by being themselves.

“We’re having a crazy gay time. It’s love, laughter, life,” Willie Montoya said. “Life’s too short to be afraid.”

That same defiance was on full display throughout the event.

Commissioner Justin Flippen did so from atop the pickup truck he was riding as part of the parade that made its way down Wilton Drive. “I am so proud to be here today with you. In one loud voice . . . we celebrate our community. We stand united.” Ahead of Flippen were 49 individuals dressed in white. Each held a sign with the name and age of one of the victims of the Orlando attack.

For many, those 49 represented the new meaning the event had – a sobering reminder that the LGBT struggle hasn’t ended with the acquisition of many legal rights. “There’s more of a community presence and support than I’ve ever seen, and I’ve been coming here 11 years,” Kimber White said. “There’s more of a solidarity. More of a coming together,” Tom Conklin said.

Even the day’s entertainers paused multiple times to pay homage to Orlando.

“Hold someone’s hand. We can be as corny as we want to be. This is our damn pride,” said blues artist Kat Riggins as she sang “A Change Is Gonna Come” by Sam Cooke. “We stand together in love. We stand together proud. We stand together tall. But most importantly, we stand. Change [gay marriage] has already come. I’m so grateful to god I lived to see it.”

The new meaning was also apparent to many of the straight allies who were also in attendance. Broward Sheriff Scott Israel spoke to the crowd gathered in front of the stage at Wilton Drive and Northeast 6 Avenue and called the individuals murdered in Orlando heroes. “You know what Orlando did to Stonewall? Nothing. Absolutely nothing.”

Chief Paul O’Connell praised organizers and gave a rough attendance estimate of between 15,000 and 20,000. But other than the increased police presence, O’Connell said Stonewall went the way it normally goes: without major incidents. “We thought it went very well. The feedback that we got was that everyone felt safe because the extra police presence.”
For more photos, visit SFGN on Facebook.
A court in Beijing has accepted a lesbian woman’s case against the ministry of education over textbooks that describe homosexuality as a “psychological disorder,” according to the BBC.

Qiu Bai, 21 from Guangdong, has been an advocate for change for a long time, and in pursuing research on homosexuality, she found textbooks at Sun Yat-Sen University that called homosexuality a “disorder.” “I don’t want discrimination permeating the school I live in and the materials I use every day,” Bai said. Bai sued the Ministry of Education in 2015 but was persuaded to drop the charges and instead engage in a complaints process.

After her complaints were ignored, she filed another lawsuit, this one being accepted by the First Intermediate People’s Court of Beijing. SFGN

(EDGE) A bisexual man convicted of murder as a hate crime for shooting a gay man he taunted on a New York City street will spend 40 years to life in prison. Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. says Elliot Morales was sentenced Tuesday for the 2013 murder of Mark Carson. Prosecutors say Morales had issues with his own sexuality and was jealous that Carson and his roommate were openly gay. Vance says the defendant yelled anti-gay slurs at the men before shooting Carson in the face.

Morales had argued at trial that he couldn’t be a bigot because of his own sexual orientation.

The shooting happened a few blocks from the Stonewall Inn, the site of 1969 riots that helped give rise to the gay rights movement. SFGN

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The Kansas State Board of Education came to a unanimous vote on Tuesday to ignore President Obama's directive instructing that public schools allow transgender students to use restrooms matching their gender identity, leaving the decision to the school districts, according to LGBTQ Nation.

Scott Gordon, general counsel for the education department of Kansas, noted that only one transgender student had filed a complaint for alleged discrimination with the Office of Civil Rights in 2015, which was cited as proof that the districts already have adequate regulations in place.

“Neither our girls or boys should be forced to undress in the presence of individuals who are of the opposite biological sex,” Republican U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp said in a letter to Kansas school leaders. “Our children should also not be subjected to a greater risk of threats from predators who seek to do them harm.”

SFGN
Another day, another massacre, another speech about gun control.

One of the stand outs was this Council woman who said she would talk to Florida Gov. Rick Scott about gun control. I could only laugh. “Ladyyyyyyyyyyyyyyy(using Jerry Lewis’s voice), don’t you know, Ricky’s an alien from Outer Space and I don’t think you speak Plutonian.”(Florida inside joke)

Talking to senators, congressmen, Rick Scott, et al., will do nothing. The NRA holds the power. And I hate to say it, BUT, the only way the NRA might come around is if some wacko with an assault rifle opens fire at a NRA convention or party.

And I’m not saying “that should happen” and I’m not saying “I want that to happen”... “I’m just say’n.”

I’ve watched the vigils and speeches on TV, “Love each other,” “Love one another,” “Love the Muslims,” Love, Love, Love, Love. Well, I say... “Put a little hate in your heart”... for the NRA.

I mean an AR-15 can do as much killing as a bomb. Do they sell bombs at “Guns R’ Us?”

I don’t get why the NRA has such a hard time understanding.

The only reason I can think of is that they think, “Oh, if they take the AR-15 off the market, then the MK-15 is sure to follow, oh, and then the M6.(I had to Google to find assault rifles for sale to make my point).”

Don’t fret NRA, even if they take 10 kinds of assault rifles off the market, which still leaves another 100 types of guns or more still on the market! That should be enough to satisfy your need for gun power.

Actually, who knows, is there an NRA Gun Tax that gets collected every time a gun is purchased? So less guns sold means less money for the NRA? We all know money is power.

Why does a person need an assault rifle anyway? Who are these people? Lazy hunters who can’t take the time to shoot one bird or duck out of the sky at a time? Those preparing for an alien invasion? People who need to shoot up all their empty beer cans at one time? Paranoid, delusional people who think everyone is out to get them?

Any person who needs and wants an assault rifle is exactly the type of person who shouldn’t have one!

And this second amendment bullshit, to that I say to the NRA... “You want the right to bear arms? — wear a tank top!”

Come on Gays, we love a good fight...Gays in the Military, Gay Adoption, Gay Rights, Gay Marriage. We don’t give in and we don’t give up, so let’s give the NRA hell.

Maybe we can be the ones to change the gun laws. Picket their headquarters, do not leave the NRA out of the conversation. They seem to disappear into the back round after every assault weapon massacre. Keep mentioning them in every speech, every vigil.

The NRA is just not rational. They are like little boys who want to keep ALL their toys. Well, here’s a new logo for the NRA.

Not RAtional

Feel free to use it, write it, shout it, hell, tattoo it on your forehead, if you think it will help!

Well, I’ve said my “peace.” Now it’s up to all of you to do something besides weep and hug and sing “Kum-baya”!

So if you agree, pass this along, if not, delete it and have a good day!

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Letter to the Editor

BAN ASSAULt RIFLES NOW

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD
Submit your own letter to Jason.Parsley@sfgn.com
Any day now, the Supreme Court will issue a decision on same-sex marriage that will directly affect millions of Americans. It comes at a time of growing public acceptance and support for equal rights. But no matter what the Court does, issues of equality are hardly settled across the country. Today it remains legal in most parts of Indiana (though not South Bend) to fire someone simply for being gay, and bullying still contributes to tragically high suicide rates among LGBT teens.

Still, our country is headed in a clear overall direction, and swiftly. Today 57 percent of Americans support same-sex marriage; just 15 years ago, the reverse was true.

Experiences with friends or family members coming out have helped millions of Americans to see past stereotypes and better understand what being gay is — and is not. Being gay isn’t something you choose, but you do face choices about whether and how to discuss it. For most of our history, most Americans had no idea how many people they knew and cared about were gay.

My high school in South Bend had nearly a thousand students. Statistically, that means that several dozen were gay or lesbian. Yet when I graduated in 2000, I had yet to encounter a single openly LGBT student there. That’s far less likely to be the case now, as more students come to feel that their families and community will support and care for them no matter what. This is a tremendously positive development: young people who feel support and acceptance will be less likely to harm themselves, and more likely to step into adulthood with mature self-knowledge.

I was well into adulthood before I was prepared to acknowledge the simple fact that I am gay. It took years of struggle and growth for me to recognize that it’s just a fact of life, like having brown hair, and part of who I am.

Putting something personal on the pages of a newspaper does not come easy. We Midwesterners are instinctively private to begin with, and I’m not used to viewing this as anyone else’s business.

But it’s clear to me that at a moment like this, being more open about it could do some good. For a local student struggling with her sexuality, it might be helpful for an openly gay mayor to send the message that her community will always have a place for her. And for a conservative resident from a different generation, whose unease with social change is partly rooted in the impression that he doesn’t know anyone gay, perhaps a familiar face can be a reminder that we’re all in this together as a community.

Whenever I’ve come out to friends and family, they’ve made clear that they view this as just a part of who I am. Their response makes it possible to feel judged not by sexual orientation but by the things that we ought to care about most, like the content of our character and the value of our contributions.

Being gay has had no bearing on my job performance in business, in the military, or in my current role as mayor. It makes me no better or worse at handling a spreadsheet, a rifle, a committee meeting, or a hiring decision. It doesn’t change how residents can best judge my effectiveness in serving our city: by the progress of our neighborhoods, our economy, and our city services.

We’re moving closer to a world in which acceptance is the norm. This kind of social change, considered old news in some parts of the country, is still often divisive around here. But it doesn’t have to be. We’re all finding our way forward, and things will go better if we can manage to do it together. In the wake of the disastrous “Religious Freedom Restoration Act” episode here in Indiana earlier this year, we have an opportunity to demonstrate how a traditional, religious state like ours can move forward. If different sides steer clear of name-calling and fear-mongering, we can navigate these issues based on what is best about Indiana: values like respect, decency, and support for families — all families.

Like most people, I would like to get married one day and eventually raise a family. I hope that when my children are old enough to understand politics, they will be puzzled that someone like me revealing he is gay was ever considered to be newsworthy. By then, all the relevant laws and court decisions will be seen as steps along the path to equality. But the true compass that will have guided us there will be the basic regard and concern that we have for one another as fellow human beings — based not on categories of politics, orientation, background, status or creed, but on our shared knowledge that the greatest thing any of us has to offer is love.
Here, on the streets of Orlando, the mood is somber. But there is also a new intersection of hope, because the city is holding hands, regardless of sex or status, color or creed.

A week ago, the LGBT community was celebrating Gay Days; thousands of men and women playing and partying under the sun. A week later at the Pulse nightclub, the pulse of our nation was interrupted, stunned and shattered by bullets and blood.

Gay men and women have emerged from the shadows in America. We no longer worry so much about the ‘closet.’ There is just a small curtain. You can push it aside and step into the sunlight. We are welcome in all walks of life and we lead the way in ever so many ways. But like so many other minorities in America, we have always been, and are still, targets.

Hate has never been far away. Unfortunately, you don’t have to look to the Middle East or the Islamic State group to find vitriol. It has always been around the corner, too often reverberated in Sunday sermons and then echoed weekly by politicians never affording us dignity or respect.

We have always been second-class citizens to many. Our acts have been perverted, our sex queer and our lifestyles aberrant. Our rights have been denied, our liberties questioned and our love not sanctioned. When we got sick, we were ostracized rather than healed, and when we have been tortured and hurt, we have been told it’s God’s will.

You think this is all a relic of the past? No, not when there are world religions still teaching that gays deserve to die. No, not when there are 70 countries who can imprison us simply because of who we are. No, not when we can’t give blood, but our blood still flows on the streets of our cities.

We are a community still fighting for equality, from bathrooms to our workplaces. We have battled to serve in the military, marry in our chapels and derive the same legal and tax benefits straight couples have. We don’t mind rising to courtroom challenges and advocating in public forums for equality, but we should not have to fight for our lives in nightclubs.

Gay bars are our private palaces, secret sanctuaries, homes away from home; our rights of passage into our own ecosystem. They are where we first came out, met our partners, discovered our identities. Whether with leather, lipstick or lace, we found a world of love that was all our own.

In Orlando, the bullets of another false revenge sought to take us down. This only brought us all together. We celebrated Stonewall with a parade this past weekend. But know this about our community — Stonewall was no parade. Stonewall was a riot against the police, launched by drag queens and gay bar patrons who simply had enough. No more abuse, they said; no more beatings. They fought back.

Today, it falls upon us to fight back again. We need advocacy, not apathy. First and foremost, we have to be intolerant of intolerance. We can’t look the other way when we are degraded or demeaned. We have to be accepted unconditionally, not tolerated pleasantly.

We lived for years as victims of violence, abused and bullied, ridiculed and wronged. Unfortunately, the massacre in Orlando is an indelible reminder that the path is not yet so clear for us. The road still needs to be paved, the street widened to provide equality for all.

Like Harvey Milk, like Matthew Shepard, we will not go silently into the night. We will memorialize the victims with our spirit and strength. Where there is hate, we will preach love. Where there is chaos, we will create community.

Mark it down that Orlando will not doom us. It will unite us. Justice and righteousness is on our side.

Hope will prevail, and we hope you will be by our side. This week, so many of you have, so on behalf of the LGBTQ community of South Florida, we thank you.
FORT LAUDERDALE CHURCH REMEMBERS PULSE VICTIMS

John McDonald

Members of the United Church of Christ Fort Lauderdale hung ribbons on palm trees Sunday in remembrance of the terrorist attack on a Orlando gay nightclub.

Inside the sanctuary, Reverend Patrick Rogers, the church’s senior pastor, dedicated his sermon to those lost in the tragedy and attempted to comfort his flock.

“I was in shock,” Rogers said. “Why would God allow this to happen?”

Investigators are still trying to piece together the events that led to last week’s horrible killing of 49 mostly Latino LGBT people at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando. Inside a Christian church in northeast Fort Lauderdale, faithful gathered to pay tribute to the departed.

“We felt like the world is out of control,” said Rogers, who announced he had traveled to Orlando to pray for the victims. During the drive home, Rogers said, he and UCC Congregational Care administrator Jim Sargent hardly spoke a word to one another.

Sunday’s service included a blessing of the children by Reverend Barbara Alley along with a booming baritone sound from Ed Turner, who opened the service with a solo singing of “Bridge Over Troubled Water.” Alley encouraged the children to drink water, the life blood of all the world, she said.

Rogers, a gay man, concluded his sermon with a call to the heavens.

“Hope in God, that’s the answer,” Rogers said. “We will not be terrified into submission.”

Around 100 people attended the Sunday morning service where many wrote the names of the victims on ribbons tied to trees outside.

TAMPA BAY RAYS DONATES MONEY, GIVES VIDEO TRIBUTE TO ORLANDO VICTIMS

Brittany Ferrendi

In addition to donating $300,000 to the victims of the mass shooting in Orlando, The Tampa Bay Rays launched a video memorial in their stadium last Saturday.

“While we didn’t get the W on the field, we sure did off of it thanks to your generous donations,” the Facebook post by the sports team reads. “Here is the moving tribute played last night to memorialize the victims. #WeAreOrlando”

The video, which is just over two minutes long, features still images of the aftermath of the massacre in addition to photos from around the world of vigils held in memory of the victims.

The video played to the song “Pulse” by Britney Spears.

POLITICIANS DEMAND GUN LAW REFORM

John McDonald

Fort Lauderdale Commissioner Dean Trantalis posed a serious question to a theater full of concerned citizens on Friday afternoon.

“Is this what we’re all about in America?,” Trantalis asked. “Why do we lay down and take it?”

The assault style rifle used to kill 49 people on a Latin themed night at a LGBT nightclub in Orlando was the subject of anger during a two and half hour program presented by civic and spiritual leaders. Trantalis, an openly gay man, hosted the program at Fort Lauderdale’s Parker Playhouse and called for a ban on the AR-15.

“No self-respecting hunter or marksman would use an AR-15,” Trantalis said. “They would be embarrassed. It’s simply used for killing.”

U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Pembroke Pines) said Orlando “would not be tarred” by hatred. Wasserman Schultz opened her speech saying her heart was cold for many reasons, but vowed to endure it.

“Is this what we’re all about in America?,” Trantalis asked. “Why do we lay down and take it?”

Wasserman Schultz asked a serious question to the audience.

Investigators are still trying to piece together the events that led to last week’s horrible killing of 49 mostly Latino LGBT people at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando. Inside a Christian church in northeast Fort Lauderdale, faithful gathered to pay tribute to the departed.

“Hope in God, that’s the answer,” Rogers said. “We will not be terrified into submission.”

Around 100 people attended the Sunday morning service where many wrote the names of the victims on ribbons tied to trees outside.

To donate to the victims of the Pulse shooting, visit https://www.gofundme.com/pulsevictimsfund.
KEY WEST CELEBRATES PRIDE; MOURNS ORLANDO

Photos by Andrew Printer
#OrlandoUnited

For more photos, visit SFGN on Facebook.
It has been over a week since a gunman went on a shooting spree that killed 49 men and women, mostly LGBT Latin people, and tragically made the Pulse nightclub in Orlando the most famous LGBT bar since the Stonewall Inn.

In the days after June 12, millions of words were written and published which described or explained or condemned this event; grief-stricken families and friends buried or cremated their loved ones; survivors recovered at home or in hospitals; communities held memorials; and politicians acted like, well, politicians.

As with previous mass shootings, politicos from all sides discussed ways and means of preventing future killings without accomplishing anything. Conservatives screamed about “radical Islam” and progressives pleaded for gun control while, in the real world, in Orlando or elsewhere, there are spouses, partners, children, parents, siblings and friends left behind who will now have to learn to live without their loved ones, because they are no longer with them.

Conservatives like Donald Trump condemned the Pulse massacre as the work of radical Muslims. Though the shooter pledged allegiance to ISIS between murders, there is no proof that he had any connection to that or any other terrorist group. ISIS or not, the Pulse massacre was basically one big hate crime, the mass murder of innocent people at an LGBT club on a Latin themed night, who were brutally killed just because they were LGBT or allies.

There was an online discussion of whether or not the gunman was himself a closeted gay, in turmoil over his sexuality. Closet or not, the fact remains that he hated us and killed as many of us as he could, before he himself was taken down by law enforcement.

Those politicians who describe the Orlando killing as a terrorist attack on an “Orlando club,” without mentioning the fact that Pulse is an LGBT club and the victims were LGBT or LGBT-friendly, do themselves and us a great disservice.

Texas Congressman Pete Sessions (Rep.) described Pulse as a “Latin club,” ignoring the fact that many of us are both Latin and LGBT. Politicians who deny the LGBT component of the Pulse massacre do so because of their own anti-LGBT records and opinions. Rick Scott and Pam Bondi and Marco Rubio are not our friends, no matter what they say.

Before the Pulse massacre, the largest killing of gay people took place on June 24, 1973, at the Up Stairs Lounge in New Orleans. There an arsonist started a fire that killed 32 people, mostly gay men and many of them members of the local chapter of the Metropolitan Community Church.

Though MCC founder Rev. Troy Perry and other gay activists gave the victims their due, the largely homophobic world outside ignored term, except for a few jerks who made tasteless comments like “let the faggots burn.”

This type of behavior would not be tolerated 43 years later, when more LGBT people have come out of their closets and more non-LGBT people have learned to know and love at least one LGBT family member, friend or loved one. Of course there will always be assholes among us, like the members of the Westboro Baptist Church who, as expected, showed up to protest the funerals of the massacre victims.

Radical Christians like Pastor Roger Jimenez of Verity Baptist Church in Sacramento went so far as to praise the Orlando massacre which reminds us, as if we need a reminder, that homophobic bigotry and hatred is not exclusive to any one religion.

The Pulse massacre happened at the beginning of LGBT Pride Month, and in the wake of a wave of Pride celebrations across the globe. Some of our people are now reluctant to attend Pride events, fearing that they and their communities might also be targeted by another mad murderer.

Though the possibility of a copycat killer is always a sad possibility, we must not let fear keep us from doing what we do so well: living and loving one another in a community with other LGBT people and our allies.

We must not let fear keep us from doing what we do so well: living and loving one another in a community with other LGBT people and our allies.

Jesse Monteagudo is a freelance writer and journalist. He has been an active member of South Florida’s LGBT community for more than four decades and has served in various community organizations.
SATURDAY’S STONEWALL BALL TO CELEBRATE GENDER NON-CONFORMITY

Alexander Adams

In the wake of the Orlando massacre, Compass Community Center has heightened security for the 15th annual Stonewall Ball Black & White Party on June 25th. More than 1,000 elected officials and community leaders are expected to fill the historic Harriet Himmel Theater in West Palm Beach as the event honors nearly 50 years of accomplishments of the LGBT rights movement.

The party with a purpose will open its doors for VIP ticket holders at 7:30 p.m. with general admission entrance at 9 p.m. Attendees will experience a night of political engagement, an award ceremony and a moment of silence for the victims of the Pulse Nightclub shooting.

“[This is] an opportunity for our elected appointed officials and organization leaders to interact directly with the communities that they are serving,” Compass Community Center CEO, Tony Plakas said.

One of the biggest issues the LGBT community has faced this last year is the issue of gender neutral bathrooms. This will be a focal point throughout the night.

According to Plakas, the theme of this year’s event is a “Pop of Purple” that will focus on gender non-conformity throughout the night.

“Each year we’ve had some sort of issue to bring awareness to,” Plakas said. “This year we are highlighting gender neutral bathrooms.”

The event will also pay homage to Purple Rain artist Prince who recently passed away.

“[He was] a pioneer for the gender nonconformist movement,” Plakas said. “There will be a 30 minute set of just his music sometime in the night.”

Compass will also be honoring two individuals during the night for their continued support and commitment to the LGBT community.

This year’s Michael Brown Face of the Community Award will be going to Heather Light for her work in Compass’ Gender Society Program.

According to Plakas, Light is someone who is a passionate and driven individual who everyone knows and respects. Plakas said that there isn’t anyone better for this award than Light.

This year’s Compass Leadership Award will go to Commissioner Melissa McKinlay who recently passed a proclamation declaring June as LGBT Pride Month for Palm Beach County.

Additionally, the event will pay respect to the victims of the Orlando massacre where 49 people were fatally shot and 53 others were injured by a gunman who opened fire on hundreds of people on June 12 at Pulse, a popular gay nightclub in Orlando.

Tickets can be purchased online at CompassGLCC.com. Tickets for general admission start at $25 in advance or $35 at the door. Tickets for VIP early entrance are $75.

Because of the high demand for tickets, all guests who purchase tickets will be held in their name at will call.

According to Plakas, since the event’s start in 2002, the LGBT community has achieved so much.

“[The Stonewall Ball] shows the phenomenal power of our community when it comes to the political process,” Plakas said. “We want people to know we aren’t just a voting block. We are actual citizens of this country.”

#OrlandoUnited
LGBT Community leaders mixed music with words of encouragement Sunday evening at a Fort Lauderdale memorial for the victims of the Pulse Nightclub massacre in Orlando.

“We will not go back into the closet,” said Robert Boo, Chief Executive Officer of Pride Center at Equality Park. Boo was a last minute replacement on the dais for Terry DeCarlo, Executive Director of the LGBT Center of Central Florida who remained in Orlando assisting with the investigation into what is being called the worst mass shooting in U.S.

In a letter, read by Boo, DeCarlo writes, “The world has reached out in many, many ways. From emails and phone calls that arrived from Mayors and Ambassadors from around the world, to hundreds of thousands of personal emails and cards, the love from around the globe has been immense.”

Joining Boo as speakers were Our Fund Foundation President David Jobin, South Florida Gay News Publisher Norm Kent, Equality Florida Deputy Director Stratton Pollitzer, Harvey Milk Foundation Education Director Miriam Ritcher, Broward County Public Defender Howard Finkelstein, Reverend Leslie Tipton, entertainer Tiffany Arieagus, health care advocates Stephen Fallon, Will Portalatin and Jason King and former police officer Mike Verdugo.

Presented by Our Fund, SFGN and the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, the program ran for two hours and included a string quartet performance by members of the South Florida Symphony. Kent urged those inside the Nova Southeastern University’s Art Museum Auditorium to not back down from terror.

“Today, it falls upon us to fight back again,” Kent said. “We need advocacy, not apathy. First and foremost, we have to be intolerant of intolerance. We can’t look the other way when we are degraded or demeaned. We have to be accepted unconditionally, not tolerated pleasantly.”

Pollitzer said a fund created by Equality Florida in the wake of the attack has received more than 110,000 individual donations amounting to more than $5.5 million dollars.

Pollitzer also reminded supporters to speak out against bigotry.

“We must condemn the homophobia that lead to this,” Pollitzer said.

Each speaker read names of the victims before offering their personal views on the attack. Fallon, Founder of Latinos Salud, an HIV service organization for gay Latinos, blasted the shooter.

“He knew where he wanted to direct his orgy of hate,” said Fallon, noting the killings occurred on Latin night at an LGBT club. “It was a 2-for-1.”

The Latino community in Orlando, Fallon said, is a “very small community that will live with this shock for decades.” Portalatin, a native of Puerto Rico and Chairman of the Board of Directors for Latinos Salud, spoke in Spanish and English.

“It struck a nerve in me and my community,” he said. “Hate has no place in our heart and soul.”

King urged young people to not let fear win. The Governmental Affairs Manager for AHF’s Southern Bureau said he was pleased with the strong show of support at Saturday’s Stonewall Parade in Wilton Manors.

“We enjoyed a sense of unity that only common struggle can produce,” King said.

Finkelstein, who has a lesbian daughter, said that while investigators search for why the massacre happened “there is no answer” to an “act of hate and insanity.”

Elsewhere, Arieagus, dressed in drag, attempted to lighten a somber mood saying she wasn’t scared having lived through the “Underground Railroad” times of the AIDS epidemic. She also urged the attendees to take action especially in regards to gun control.
For more photos, visit SFGN on Facebook.
I was just about to head to Penn's Landing when I heard. The confirmed death toll from the terrorist hate crime attack at Pulse in Orlando was 20 at that point.

About an hour later, in the bright sun with a cooling breeze coming off the Delaware River at the Pride festival, amid streaming rainbows and thousands of happy festivalgoers, I checked my phone. 50 dead, 53 injured. The deadliest mass shooting in American history, an anti-LGBT hate crime so unbelievably horrific that all others pale in comparison, and there I was, celebrating Pride in my newly-adopted city, Philadelphia, celebrating my Queer identity in the bosom of the LGBT community in the city I now call home. The irony was not lost on me.

Looking up from my phone, the events of the previous night didn’t seem to have dimmed the celebration at all. There wasn’t any visible acknowledgement of the attack to be found anywhere I could see at the festival. Somehow, I found that comforting. I wasn’t there to grieve. I knew there would be time for that later.

At home hours later, I sorted through the bag full of multicolored swag I’d collected during my time at Philly Pride and turned on my computer. I watched live feeds from a spontaneous gathering at the Stonewall in New York, and found an announcement of a vigil to be held here in Philly. Eventually, I just couldn’t take anymore and watched some Star Trek. More than anything else at that moment, I just needed some hope.

These days, if you’re Queer and especially if you’re trans, it’s easy to get discouraged, to feel like for every step forward we’re still taking two steps back. For every Macy decision, there’s an HB2 and a Kiesha Jenkins, for every Obergefell ruling, a HERO and an Orlando.

For every right, two stunningly unjust and heinous wrongs.

Those of us who’ve been around a while know this isn’t a new thing. It’s older than all of us, older than Pride, older than what we now call the LGBT community. It’s as old as hate. Hate for those who differ from the norm, hate for those who don’t share the beliefs of others, hate for those seen as standing in the way of certain social and cultural outlooks and political ideologies.

Hate of Queer people, of you and me, of what we believe, and of the way we choose to live our lives.

Yes, it’s easy to become discouraged, and to feel as if the only answer is to give voice to our grief, to allow it to consume us and to give full reign to our desire for righteous retribution. Tragedies like this hurt and even damage the Queer heart and soul. They change us in ways, which are both significant and permanent. They teach us that in the eyes of our enemies, as well as in our own, in a very real way we are at war.

And we will grieve, because we must when family members are taken from us. What we can’t do, however, is respond in kind. What we must do is what we’re doing now and will continue to, take Pride in ourselves, both as individuals and as a community, to continue to stand up and refuse to be bent or bowed, to refuse to live in the kind of fear terrorists seek to inspire in us or see ourselves as the lesser beings our enemies wish us to.

It’s become almost a cliché to say that we must not give in to fear and let the terrorists win, but the familiarity of the sentiment doesn’t make it any less true. Our community’s history is one of fighting against the myriad of injustices inflicted upon us. In many ways, it’s what defines who we are. It’s why we still need Pride, why we need to celebrate who and what we are, to ourselves and to each other.

This is a time when we most need to draw upon our collective strength as a community and to reaffirm our commitment to leaving no one behind, not now, not ever.

We will mourn those lost in Orlando, and then we will dry our tears and fight on.

Rebecca Juro is a nationally-published freelance journalist and radio talk show host. Her work has appeared in the Huffington Post, the Washington Blade, Gay City News, the Albany Times Union, and The Advocate magazine, among others. Rebecca lives in central New Jersey and shares her life with a somewhat antisocial cat.

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The Walt Disney Company announced Tuesday it would give $1 million to the OneOrlando Fund. The monies would be used to assist those affected by the massacre in Orlando.

“We are heartbroken by this tragedy and hope our commitment will help those in the community affected by this senseless act,” said Bob Chapek, chairman, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts in a prepared statement. “With 74,000 Cast Members who call Orlando home, we mourn the loss of the victims and offer our condolences to their families, friends and loved ones.”

In addition Disney is providing complimentary accommodations for the families and friends of the victims.

The OneOrlando Fund was established by Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer in response to the Pulse shooting that claimed the lives of 49 people on Sunday, June 12.

As for Tuesday evening the fund has raised $2.5 million.

The funds will be given to the Central Florida Foundation, who will oversee the distribution.

Visit OneOrlando.org to donate to the fund or for more information. Donations to help the victims and their families are also being accepted through an Equality Florida GoFundMe page and an The Center GoFundMe page.

HOW TO SEND A MESSAGE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE ORLANDO VICTIMS

#WeAreOrlando, a website launched soon after the attack on a gay nightclub Sunday, launched a “Message of Hope” page to get messages to the families of the victims who were killed.

It’s simple: add your name, location and write a message.

The website also has a page dedicated to local events taking place all over the world. Currently there are events listed in Brazil, Guam, Japan, Norway, and all of the U.S. More than 500 memorials, vigils and tributes have taken place since the attack.

Visit WeAreOrlando.org for more info.
CATHOLIC CANDLES BURN THE CONDEMNED OF ORLANDO

Tony Adams

The expressions of sympathy over Orlando sent by the Roman Catholic pope, cardinals and bishops in the form of sweet words for the victims and their families need to be returned to sender because no heap of flowers nor blazing bank of candles can glove the blood on the hands of those who daily condemn us in the name of their god.

The pope refused to mention the LGBT community in his official expression of horror at the massacre. He said, “We all hope that ways may be found, as soon as possible, to effectively identify and contrast the causes of such terrible and absurd violence.” He will not have to look far beyond his own house to find those causes of hatred. But how will he uproot them when he cannot even bring himself to say that the specific target of the gunman was the LGBT community? I suspect his heart is filled with guilt.

Boston Cardinal Sean O’Malley says, “There is no place in the church and in society for hate and vilification of any person or group of persons. All people are created in the image and likeness of God, blessed with the gift of human dignity that calls for our respect and love.” What he avoids mentioning is his belief that LGBT Catholics who have gay sex forfeit that God-given dignity and choose a clear and speedy road to hell. I do not think the 49 Orlando victims were celibate. Does he? In his heart, does he see their unrepentant souls in hell?

Chicago Archbishop Cupich said, “You know, 30 years ago the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a letter describing as deplorable the fact that some homosexual persons, as they put it, have been and are the object of violent malice in speech or in action […] they said that such treatment deserves condemnation from the church’s pastors whenever it occurs, so I believe it was important to raise my voice in this moment because this is what the church is asking us to do and has asked us to do for over 30 years now.”

If the directive has been in place for thirty years, his words invite us to ask the obvious. Could this slaughter have been avoided if this church had practiced what it preaches rather than effectively exclude LGBT souls despite all its rhetoric?

Cupich also calls for greater “outreach” to the LGBT community. Greater outreach? How about calling up all those Dignity chapters that were booted out of Catholic Churches and told they would have to hold their meetings elsewhere? How about apologizing for that and inviting them back? Until that happens, these official statements are just sweetly worded veneer over something rotten.

These insensitive patriarchs of Roman Catholicism have no right to jump on the bandwagon of Orlando grief in order to feel reconciled with those they continue to ostracize and persecute. To honor the victims, we must rebuff the Catholic bishops looking to be photographed with us in mourning just as they have shunned and excluded us from full celebration at their table. We should not allow the Catholic Church to enjoy its deceitful and self-serving performance unchallenged.

Locally, many Catholic parish priests stand by the open doors of their churches to receive the coffins of the victims and to recite traditional words of mercy and to sprinkle the remains with holy water, but these gestures are false. In life, the men and women in those coffins were not allowed to enjoy the consolation of the Catholic Church if they were openly and actively gay. In death, they are being used to assuage the guilt of their arrogant shepherds.

Only one Catholic bishop, the soon-to-be-retired Robert Lynch of St. Petersburg, Florida, goes beyond hollow rhetoric and owns his church’s complicity in the massacre when he says, “Sadly it is religion, including our own, that targets, mostly verbally, and often breeds contempt for gays, lesbians and transgender people.

Attacks today on LGBT men and women often plant the seed of contempt, then hatred, which can ultimately lead to violence.” This is not the first time Lynch has spoken with authenticity about LGBT issues. He will be missed.

The Roman Catholic Church is not the only church to have nurtured a culture of homophobia and fear that coaxes a maniac to murder, but it is first among many. Real sympathy calls for action. Orlando is an opportunity that will be ignored by Catholic bishops whose false requiems are unacceptable.
More than 100,000 people have donated more than $6 million to two GoFundMe pages assisting the victims and their families of the terrorist attack on a gay nightclub in Orlando, which has claimed 49 lives so far and has left more than 50 others injured.

The main page, set up by Equality Florida, has raised more than $5.8 million as of 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday. “We are heartbroken and angry that senseless violence has once again destroyed lives in our state and in our country,” the page reads. “Gay clubs hold a significant place in LGBTQ history. They were often the only safe gathering place and this horrific act strikes directly at our sense of safety. June commemorates our community standing up to anti-LGBTQ violence at the Stonewall Inn, the nightclub that has become the first LGBTQ site recognized as a national monument.”

That total includes a $100,000 from GoFundMe.

Nadine Smith, CEO of Equality Florida, was overwhelmed with the support. “The outpouring of love and support has been overwhelming. Tens of thousands of people from all over have sent the message that they are standing with Orlando and are here for the survivors and the families of those taken from us. We are working with the city of Orlando, our local partners and national organizations to get our community the help that is desperately needed. I know the solidarity is helping the slow healing process.”

The GoFundMe campaign has raised the most money ever for a cause through the website, and hit $1 million less than 10 hours after going live.

A second page, set up by the LGBT center in Orlando, meanwhile has raised more than $447,000. “We are saddened and shocked at the tragedy that took place Saturday night at Pulse Nightclub,” the page reads. “The Center is partnering with MBA, Hope and Help, Two Spirit Health, Zebra Coalition, Rollins, and various other GLBT organizations throughout Central Florida to provide an emergency hotline and crisis counseling.”

The funds from both sites will be used to pay for medical expenses, funeral arrangements and other costs.

As for why there are two separate pages. “We are working together and will be pooling the money so it all gets to where it needs to be,” said Terry DeCarlo, Executive Director of The Center in Orlando. “Some people felt more comfortable donating directly to the GLBT Center than a political organization, but please let everyone know that we are working together and are going to look to start distributing the money today.”

In addition to those two GoFundMe campaigns Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer launched the OneOrlando Fund in response to the tragedy so far raising $2.5 million, which includes a $1 million donation from the Walt Disney Company.
The 49 victims of the Orlando massacre were on the hearts and minds of the large crowd gathered outside Pembroke Pines City Hall on Tuesday night. By 8 p.m., approximately 300 people showed up to pay their respects.

The crowd was representative of the South Florida community as a whole — there were gay, straight, old, young, black, white, and Latino people all there for one purpose — to show their support for those who were tragically gunned down.

The city added the rainbow flag in front of city hall, it flew at half-staff.

Still in shock, those gathered cried, sang and prayed for those lost.

“It could have been any of us,” said Pembroke Pines Mayor Frank Ortis. “They were just 49 poor souls and one coward who had no moral compass.”

Local activist Michael Rajner who is also on the Broward County Human Rights Board has spent the week working to get visas for the parents of victims who live in Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

“I haven’t cried yet,” he told the crowd. “There is too much work to do to reunite the families of the victims.”

One speaker urged people not to talk about the shooter. “Don’t mention his name. Don’t write about him.” But some of those in attendance say it is difficult not to think about the motivation behind Sunday’s shooting. “I thought the LGBT community was in a better place,” said Luis from Miami Lakes. He and his partner came to show their support and were impressed by the turnout. “I think it’s amazing how we’re all coming together,” he said.

Juan Guerrero, 22, is one of the victims of the massacre. His cousin attended the Pembroke Pines vigil, surrounded by her friends.

While those killed and injured were remembered, there was also talk about how to stop this kind of senseless tragedy from ever happening again.

“It’s up to us as citizens of this country to say enough,” said Pembroke Pines Vice Mayor Carl Shechter. “We need to stop the sale of automatic weapons!” he shouted to thunderous applause.

Pembroke Pines Chief of Police Dan Giustino reminded the crowd that the Orlando massacre was the worst mass shooting in the U.S. Still, he urged the crowd to remain strong.

“Creating fear is the terrorists’ motivation,” he explained. “We must not allow these actions to change our thinking. The key is to remain vigilant.”

After the speakers wrapped up, the names of the 49 victims were read as the crowd lit candles of hope, solidarity and love.

“There have been over 500 vigils since Sunday,” Rajner said. “It’s humbling to see how this violence has not divided us, but united us.”

Another speaker summed it up this way, “They can’t destroy us. We are strong. Whatever they do, we are going to be stronger."
#OrlandoUnited

For more photos, visit SFGN on Facebook.
Four days after the worst mass shooting in U.S. history, more than a hundred South Florida residents joined forces at a vigil and rally to honor the 49 victims of the tragedy at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando.

The gathering began at Hagen Park before the crowd walked down Wilton Drive to end at Java Boys. The crowd was made up of men, women, gay, straight, blacks, whites and Latinos of all ages. They sang, chanted and called for justice and unity.

“As part of the LGBT community and as a Latino, I feel it’s my responsibility to show solidarity,” said Michael Reyes of Coral Springs. “There are LGBT Muslims as well. I am here to support this intersectional gathering.”

Groups ranging from the Broward Greens to Al-Awda South Florida (Palestine Right to Return Coalition) to People’s Opposition to War, Imperialism and Racism (POWIR) were among the array of activists in attendance. Organizers planned the event to be equal parts vigil and rally. Attendees were adamant that the Orlando massacre not be used to justify further violence and hatred against LGBT people or used to propagate more anti-Muslim rhetoric.

“I don’t believe all Muslims are terrorists,” said Sir Diego of North Miami Beach. “Everyone, including Muslims need to stand up and speak out against this senseless violence.”

The shooting victims and their families were also remembered during a candlelight vigil. Most of the victims were LGBT and Latin. The shock and horror of the shooting and the heartbreaking loss were on everyone’s agenda.

“I’m here, first and foremost, to memorialize those whom we’ve lost to honor their memory,” said Father Rich Vitale of Holy Angels Catholic Community. “I’m also here to be a part of my community and show support for those who are mourning. If I’m in any way, capable of being part of that healing process, that’s a blessing. And I’m here for myself too, to experience the support of my community.”

While some people came for healing, others came to be heard. Politics were in the air as well.

“I represent an organization which has supported gay rights for more than 30 years,” said Jason Dilan of the Green Party of Broward County. “We’re completely devastated by this tragedy. I am a bisexual Latino. I’m here to speak from my personal experience. As an organization, we really feel that we needed to be here.”

Michael Chase Fox, of the White Rose Society of the Palm Beaches made his way through the crowd spreading the word of his organization.

“Our goal is to fight the ever-growing word of hate,” he said. “That includes the campaign of Donald Trump to the anti-immigrant groups attacking those fleeing tyranny. We plan to visit mosques in Broward and Palm Beach Counties this week. We understand the Orlando shooter does not represent Islam.”

For more photos, visit SFGN on Facebook.
Donald Trump told his supporters to “ask the gays” if he was an LGBT-friendly candidate during a speech at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta this Wednesday -- and Twitter blew up.

“Ask the gays what they think and what they do in not only Saudi Arabia, but many of these countries, and then you tell me who’s your friend: Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton?” he said during the speech.

Almost immediately, the hashtag #AskTheGays rose to the top of Twitter, with users all around the world mocking the presidential candidate.

Some users turned to mocking his appearance, such as one who wanted Trump to ask “how to blend your damn foundation.”

Other users brought to light the moments where Trump has not been LGBT-friendly. “#AskTheGays @realDonaldTrump You want to negate my marriage and send my wife back to England. Here’s my ‘support,’ one user wrote, including a GIF that reads “Quiet, you trash.”

But not everyone is in support of the hashtag.

“This #AskTheGays hashtag is filled with anti American liberals who wish to coddle #Islam and welcome their own destruction,” one Twitter user lashed out.

Trump has not responded to the hashtag on Twitter.

Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi -- long a thorn in the side of the gay and lesbian community -- was grilled by CNN journalist Anderson Cooper on Tuesday.

In a televised interview from Orlando, Cooper asked Bondi if she truly thought she was a champion of the gay community. Bondi dodged the question saying she put her hand on the Bible and swore to uphold the Florida Constitution.

In the five minute interview, Cooper noted Bondi’s office argued against same-sex marriage in court, going as far as claiming it would “impose significant public harm.” The CNN newsman twice asked Bondi if there was a “sick irony” in her attempt to cast herself as an ally of the LGBT community in the wake of the worst mass shooting in history. A massacre that took place at a gay nightclub.

“I’m not championing anything other than Floridians, that’s what this is about,” Bondi said. “We’re about human beings.”

Cooper brought up Bondi’s costly court fight against same-sex marriage and her failure to recognize gay pride month during her tenure as Florida’s attorney general.

Bondi’s office has agreed to pay the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida $243,000 in legal fees from the same-sex marriage case. Overall, the court battle cost Florida taxpayers more than $500,000 in legal fees.

On Wednesday, Bondi said CNN unfairly edited the interview and Cooper misled her into thinking she would be talking about donation scams related to the Pulse Nightclub shooting.

The interview, Bondi told New York’s WOR 710 radio, only served to “encourage anger and hate.”

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### TRUMP TRIED TO #ASKTHEGAYS AND GOT MOCKED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

**Brittany Ferrendi**

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### COOPER EXPOSES BONDI HYPOCRISY

**John McDonald**

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The interview, Bondi told New York’s WOR 710 radio, only served to “encourage anger and hate.”
People from the San Francisco LGBT and Latino communities joined forces on Saturday, June 18 to honor the memories of the lives lost inside Orlando’s Pulse nightclub on June 12.

Forty-nine LGBT people between the ages of 18-50 were killed in what is now the worst mass shooting in U.S. history – most of the victims were Latino.

The afternoon began with a march from the Castro District, the heart of the Bay Area LGBT community, to the city’s primarily Latino Mission District.

The march was coordinated by a number of Latino LGBT organizations, with assistance from long time gay activist Cleve Jones, who helped get the word out and who organized the march’s Castro District commencement. Jones, who founded the AIDS Memorial Quilt and was a personal friend to Harvey Milk, was among those who led the hundreds of marchers as they made their way through the adjoining neighborhoods.

“For decades we’ve asked people to meet at Castro to mourn our losses and celebrate our victories,” Jones told SFGN as the march was getting underway. “Today we’re marching to the Mission to show our solidarity with a community deep in grief. We’re here to support what the Latino LGBT community is organizing.”

Forty-nine of the marchers were asked to carry signs bearing the names of Pulse victims. David A. Diaz, a fifty-year-old gay man who lives near the Castro, carried a sign, which bore the name of 22 year old Peter Gonzales. Diaz drew a red heart underneath Gonzales’ name.

“As a gay man and as a Cuban American I strongly identify with the victims of this tragedy,” Diaz told SFGN as he marched. “When my family escaped Cuba they started their journey in the USA in Florida, so if they’d made a different decision I might have grown up in Florida, and I might have been one of those people. It’s important to me that their identity as Latinos isn’t erased.”

As the march continued, many passersby applauded. LGBT people stood in the windows of their homes, waving rainbow flags.

“I'm here because it's a tragedy,” said Edgar Littleton, an African American gay man. “They've been killing gays for hundreds of years, and no one cares. This must stop.”

Around midway through the march, participants began chanting "Viva, Orlando! Somos Orlando!" (Orlando lives – we are Orlando.)

"It all boils down to love," said Steve Ibarra, a gay man. "Love is at the core of our behavior and understanding. If we can just be the love we want to see in the world, the world would be peaceful and loving."

Those sentiments were echoed repeatedly as a memorial service took place in front of Galeria De La Raza, a Mission District art gallery and artist’s collective which serves the Latino community. The ceremony began with a prayer for peace, healing and remembrance by Estela Garcia and the Two Spirit Drummers.

Lito Sandoval, President San Francisco’s Latino Democratic Club noted that Latinos and other communities of color often face discrimination and exclusion, even within the LGBT sphere.

“We are devastated over the loss of forty-nine Queer, and trans Latinos and Afro Americans,” Sandoval said, speaking from the podium. “We are here today in solidarity. Our communities often have to make separate nightclubs – even in LGBT communities our spaces like Esta Noche are routinely shut down because of escalating gentrification.”

Esta Noche was a popular queer Latino club in the Mission District, which closed in 2014 – the space is now a trendy watering hole. Drag queen Persia, a regular performer at Esta Noche, performed a musical number during the program. She danced her way from the podium down into the crowd and hugged several attendees.

Several speakers decried the attempts by mainstream media to make the Orlando murders about the war on terrorism. They noted that Islam does not condone violence.

Alex. U. Inn, a popular African American drag king in San Francisco broke down into tears as he took to the podium. Inn noted that fellow drag king Kimberly KJ Manners was among the dead at Pulse.

“If we could all say I love you to each other when we see each other,” Inn said as his voice cracked. “We can change the world from hate to love just by our spirit.”

Openly gay San Francisco District 9 Supervisor David Campos, who represents the Mission District, is now working to erect a memorial to the Pulse shooting victims at Harvey Milk Plaza in the Castro.
City Wants Andrews Ave. To Be Next Wilton Drive

By Michael d'Oliveira

Hoping to repeat the success of Wilton Drive, city officials have put out a call for a consultant to help spur the redevelopment of Oakland Park Boulevard and Andrews Avenue.

To do that, the city has decided to convert and change the land use of Andrews Avenue and Oakland Park Boulevard to a transit oriented corridor, as it did with Dixie Highway. A consultant would help with the application process and work to get approvals from the county, state and South Florida Regional Planning Council. The city commission would also have to approve the change.

“This is the first step in that process. It makes the property desirable for redevelopment... economic revitalization,” said City Manager Leigh Ann Henderson. The goal is to get higher density mixed-use projects, similar to Wilton Station, which has retail and residential units, built on the two streets. “The people living there can also be the patrons of the businesses,” Henderson said.

In October, the city released its land-use study for Oakland Park and Wilton Drive. Pedestrian, landscaping, bike lane improvements and the addition of medians are some of the improvements Keith & Associates, the engineering firm that performed the land-use study, suggested.

Complete Streets, a system where pedestrians, bicyclists, cars and buses share the road, could also be implemented. When the commission discussed the study, some residents who live in the western portion of the city demanded more be done to improve their area.

Sal Torre, president of the Westside Association of Wilton Manors, was one of those who spoke out. Now, he said he’s glad to see the city moving forward. “I think we did do a little [to get them to take action]. Absolutely. We kept asking questions.

They’re doing the right things they need to do to one day have Oakland Park Boulevard and Andrews Avenue blossom and be the thriving commercial areas they should be.

City staff also tried to get a business improvement district established for Andrews Avenue, like the one for Wilton Drive. City staff said most property owners rejected the idea. If it had been approved by property owners, additional taxes would have been levied and the money would have been used to make improvements to the street and/or help market the area.

The deadline to submit proposals for the land use bids was June 21. An evaluation committee will review all the submitted proposals and city staff will present its choice to the city commission for approval on July 12 or a later meeting.

MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

As the city makes an effort to try and attract new businesses and development, a matching grant program is already in place to make immediate improvements.

Business owners on either Andrews Avenue or Oakland Park Boulevard can apply for matching funds — up to $300. The money can be used to improve the facades of their storefronts, including painting and lighting, as well as adding signage or undertaking projects that fall under the city's green building code — including items that improve energy efficiency.

To apply, visit WiltonManors.com or call 954-390-2180.

Commission Debates Attendance Rules for Boards

By Michael d’Oliveira

The rules regarding board attendance may get stricter soon. At their June 14 meeting, commissioners debated the possibility of allowing for the removal of a board member if he or she misses three consecutive meetings.

Commissioner Julie Carson said the boards need standardized rules and that some boards only meet quarterly, making consecutive absences all the more detrimental to the board performing its established function.

But not all commissioners are ready to enact new rules just yet and voting on the issue was delayed until a later meeting.

“Maybe someone is going to be in the hospital for the next three meetings,” said Commissioner Tom Green. “I don’t want to discourage people from serving.”

Vice Mayor Scott Newton said the three consecutive meetings rule doesn’t address the possibility that someone could miss more than three meetings, non-consecutively, and not get removed.

Commissioners also debated yearly mandatory Sunshine Law training for board members.

“Two hours of Sunshine training every year is overkill. The first year is enough,” Green said. Newton said board members should know the rules after the first year. “If you don’t, there’s something wrong.”
Accessory to Murder

By Sal Torre

I first wanted revenge not love after the attack

Once upon a time in a land of great promise and wise statesmen, the sale of military style assault weapons was banned from its eastern shores, through the great plains, over mountain ranges, and all the way to its western frontier.

The leaders of this great empire ruled that the manufacture of certain semi-automatic firearms known as “assault” weapons, along with ammunition magazines defined as large capacity, had no place or purpose amongst its cities, schools, churches, or anywhere throughout the civilian population.

If only we, as a nation, had such great leaders who stopped the sale of these deadly weapons, a weapon whose only purpose is to “assault,” rapidly firing a barrage of bullets and killing everyone and everything in its path. These weapons are not for hunting, sport or personal safety. They are for assaulting and killing. What if the gunman had been able to purchase only a rifle or a handgun? Perhaps 40 or so people would have made it out alive that tragic night. Instead, we allow weapons of such quick and deadly force to be legally sold to basically anyone, even a possible terrorist suspect or someone listed on the FBI’s No-Fly List. Does this make any logical sense at all? It is unbelievable that someone prevented from getting on a plane can walk into a gun shop and purchase a deadly military assault rifle.

Why can’t we be more like the fictional land mentioned above, a country where citizens are protected, where leaders keep deadly weapons out of the hands of lunatics and murderers. Well, we were that great, wise land once upon a time. Back in 1994 our government had the wisdom to pass the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, which banned assault weapons and the high-capacity ammunition magazines that the shooter so easily purchased and used to murder 48 people. Unfortunately for all those who lost their lives in Orlando and other shootings around the country, that ban was allowed to expire in 2004 by the United States Congress. Their negligence and failure to renew the 1994 legislation in 2004, and every time thereafter should have them all facing charges of accessory to murder. Their inaction has knowingly assisted the gunman whose only purpose is to “assault,” rapidly firing a barrage of bullets and killing everyone and everything in its path.

Thankfully I decided to watch the Tony Awards that Sunday evening, the night of the fatal shooting. The words of Lin-Manuel Miranda, the writer and creator of the hit Broadway play “Hamilton,” kept playing over in my mind and got me through a week of very raw emotions. His words came in the form of a sonnet, addressing the love of his wife as well as the shooting massacre in Orlando. Here are a few lines that say so much:

When senseless acts of tragedy remind us
That nothing here is promised, not one day.
This show is proof that history remembers.
We lived through times when hate and fear seemed stronger;
We rise and fall and light from dying embers, remembrances that hope and love last longer;
And love is love is love is love is love is love is love is love cannot be killed or swept aside.

From the tragedy in Orlando over a week ago, to the Stonewall Festival celebrated here in Wilton Manors this past weekend, I begin a new week leaving all my negative emotions behind as I, and hopefully all of Wilton Manors and beyond, embrace the last line of Miranda’s sonnet, “Now fill the world with music, love, and Pride!”

Life is, and always will be, just better here! WMG

City Signs Agreement With Private Parking Lot Owner

By Michael d’Oliveira

Lot expected to be open to public within two months

The last two public parking lots built by the city took time and money to build. But the commission has acquired another with a stroke of the pen.

At its June 14 meeting, commissioners approved a revenue-sharing agreement with the owner of the 21-space parking lot at 2009 N. Dixie Hwy. in the middle of the storefronts south of Five Points now collectively referred to as Dixie Village – formerly Antique Alley. The deal comes as the city is trying to find parking for Wilton Drive, especially the north end near Five Points.

Commissioner Julie Carson called the agreement “a great opportunity for us to think outside the box.”

Last year, the commission approved the purchase of an empty lot at Northeast 25 Drive and Northeast 11 Avenue, behind Bona Pizza. The purchase cost was $447,879. It’s estimated that 18 to 24 spaces can be built and it will take between $180,000 and $240,000 to pave the lot.

Under the new agreement, the public can use the lot from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. seven days a week and the owner will get 50 percent of the revenue generated. Money generated from citations is not included. It’s expected to be available for public use within two months.

“Staff sees this as a low-cost way to leverage the city’s enforcement capability to allow us to add 21 much-needed public parking spaces to serve Dixie Hwy and the north end of Wilton Drive. The location of this parking lot makes it a unique opportunity to provide additional parking not only for patrons of the Dixie Highway businesses, including the new theater, but also for patrons of Wilton Drive businesses. This will give easy access to Wilton Drive, just one block to the north,” wrote Bob Mays, city finance director.

Drivers who use the lot will have to pay but no meters will be installed. Payments must be made through the city’s ParkMobile app [us.parkmobile.com]. “A high (and increasing) percentage of city parking customers are using the ParkMobile app to pay for parking, making this a popular, as well as a cost-effective approach,” wrote Mays. The only costs expected for the city are for signage and Mays estimates that won’t be more than $1,000. The owner has agreed to construct an opening in the fence on the backside of the lot on Northeast 11 Avenue and the $110 building permit fee will be waived by the city.

Mays wrote that it’s hard to know how much revenue will be generated but he estimates, based on only a 10 percent occupancy rate, $5,032 in annual revenue after the lot owner gets his share. WMG
Not a column for supporters of a certain orange celebrity with bad hair. This column is about a five-syllable word: Fiduciary.

The dictionary definition, though I am sure a lawyer (lawyers are fiduciaries) can give a better one, is someone in a position of absolute trust, loyalty and confidence. In addition to lawyers, your accountant, investment adviser and other similar professionals are fiduciaries.

Now, except in certain circumstances, your Realtor is not a fiduciary. Although you may refer to someone as “your” Realtor (and likely not be corrected), or a Realtor may refer to you as their “client” (though except in certain circumstances they are not supposed to do so), this is technically not the case.

I bring this up because we have many out of state (and out of country) buyers and sellers here, real estate law varies state by state in this country, and Florida has its own rules. The old industry model was that the Realtor worked exclusively for the seller of the property. A Realtor who brought someone to view a property who ultimately made an offer on it, may have provided certain services to the buyer, but by law represented the seller. As such the Realtor was, generally, a fiduciary of the seller and information that the buyer disclosed to the Realtor could then be relayed to the seller (but not vice versa unless the seller gave express permission).

Over time this changed. Some states began to allow what is called “disclosed dual agency.” Under that standard the Realtor could be a fiduciary of both buyer and seller simultaneously. But in Florida, dual agency is expressly forbidden under the real estate law. Here’s the important thing to know, though. Under Florida law (and consumers don’t always know this), the default and assumed position of a Realtor is not as fiduciary but as “transaction broker.”

The difference between the two roles is spelled out in the statute. A transaction broker works to deliver a fair deal to all sides, such that will complete the transaction. While fiduciaries owe absolute loyalty and confidentiality to their clients, the rules are bit different with respect to transaction brokers (who have customers not clients). A lawyer could explain the difference to you better than I ever could, since I am not a lawyer and cannot provide legal advice.

Is this a distinction without a difference? Most people probably don’t care too much. They have a need, they want to buy or sell a property, and the Realtors work to facilitate that. I must say, though, I have had people who wanted to work with me on an exclusive basis – as my client not as my customer. I am happy to do this, but need to disclose to everybody involved that I am not a transaction broker and that I represent the interests of my client exclusively. Usually the other parties in the transaction are fine with this. But not always.

James Oaksun, Broward’s Real Estate GeekSM, is a Realtor with the Wilton Manors office of RE/MAX Preferred. In addition to having degrees from Dartmouth and Cornell, he is a graduate of the Realtors Institute (GRI).
Overall, Part One crimes were down in Wilton Manors in 2015. That’s according to a report by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement [FDLE]. Part One crimes consist of murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and vehicle theft.

The total number of Part One crimes, which is reported to FDLE by the Wilton Manors Police Department [WMPD], dropped from 353 in 2014 to 277 in 2015, but the rape and murder rate increased – from 0 to 1 murder and 2 to 4 rapes. The only murder in the city was Henry Vidal, a popular local bartender who was found dead in his home by a co-worker on May 29, 2015. Chief Paul O’Connell said no suspect has been charged yet in the murder.

O’Connell credits the drop in crime, in particular, larceny, to the community being more cautious and vigilant, including locking car doors to deter would-be criminals just looking for crimes of opportunity. “This is a partnership. The community’s doing a great job. We’ve been reminding them [to take precautions]. I think they’ve been doing that.”

As for the increase in rape and murder, O’Connell said, “We’re just like a lot of other cities. Our violent crimes went up. I don’t want to minimize them, but they’re so small they did not adversely impact our overall crime rate.”

Along with the new annual statistics, comes a new way of tracking Part One crimes on a more frequent basis.

At the June 14 commission meeting, the WMPD unveiled its new crime tracking program – RAIDS [Regional Analysis and Information Sharing], an online crime mapping system.

“RAIDS is a convenient way that empowers community members to better understand crime trends and bring awareness to crimes in the area. As always, remember to know your neighbor, know your neighborhood and if you see something, that doesn’t look quite right, say something,” wrote the WMPD in a press release.

O’Connell said that a SET [Special Enforcement Team] would be in place in two months. Once active, “Our SET team can respond to [certain crime trends highlighted by RAIDS] accordingly.”

A vehicle theft on Andrews Avenue. A home robbery on Northeast 21 Court. A pick pocketing on Wilton Drive – real crimes tracked by RAIDS – all of it can be viewed on a computer or smart phone. The program shows the location, date and type of reported crimes being committed. Users can also submit anonymous tips – directly to Crime Stoppers – and narrow or expand their search criteria to a certain date range, going all the way back to 2015, view one particular type of crime or view all different types of crime.

“We don’t report every single crime but we do report Part One,” said Alberto Carrillo, the police department’s criminal investigations analyst. Carrillo said he would be entering information on a weekly basis.

Visit WiltonManors.com/maps to view the RAIDS program online or download it for the iPhone or Android. Visit fdle.state.fl.us to view the entire FDLE report.

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**News Briefs From Around Wilton Manors**

**By Michael d’Oliveira**

**Call to Artists**

Rossetti Fine Art Gallery is calling for entries for the “Summer Heat 7” anniversary exhibit, July 14 to August 16. This is open media and open theme exhibit for all 2D and 3D works. All artists are invited to enter paintings, drawings, sculpture, ceramics, photography, video, and other mediums, and will compete for $750 in cash awards. Artists are encouraged to enter their best works. The artist reception will be held on Thursday, July 21 from 8 to 10 p.m. at Rossetti Fine Art Gallery, 2176 Wilton Drive. Entries must be emailed by July 5 to tom@rossettifineart.com. Visit tomrossetti.com or call 954-616-8653 for more information.

**Book Fair**

The Friends of the Wilton Manors Library Summer Book Fair will be held on Saturday, July 9 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hagen Park Community Center, 2030 Wilton Drive. The Friends will be selling books, audio books, CDs and other materials in exchange for donations. The money raised allows the group to support library programming, the purchase of audio and video materials for the library, and the acquisition of computers and other equipment. Call 954-390-2130 for more information.
Wilton Manors Commission Honors Orlando Victims

May rename Dixie Highway after Harvey Milk

By Michael d’Oliveira

With miniature Pride flags and a sign that read “Love Always Wins” adorning the dais, commissioners honored the victims of the Sunday morning massacre that took place at Pulse, an LGBT nightclub in Orlando. Commissioners each took turns reading the names of the 49 victims who were murdered by the anti-gay extremist who had pledged his allegiance to ISIS before himself being killed by police.

“We are all one family,” said Commissioner Julie Carson. “From Stonewall to Laramie to now Orlando, it’s not all tragedies,” said Commissioner Justin Flippen, referring to the recent court and legal battles the LGBT community has won.

“We are no longer a soft target. We are a hard target. This can happen anywhere,” said Mayor Gary Resnick. He added that he went to his first gay bar in his 20s, when he hadn’t revealed his sexual orientation to family and friends yet, and had a lot of fears about being outed and not fitting in. But being murdered with AR-15 wasn’t one of them. “That never dawned on me. I don’t know why anyone needs to buy an assault rifle.”

Commissioner Scott Newton said he couldn’t understand how someone could hate another group of people so much. “It’s so much easier to love than to hate.”

One audience member criticized the use of the word “love” and said fundamentalist Christians are a much bigger threat to the LGBT community than fundamentalist Muslims. “I want justice first. You can talk about love. Love takes character. It’s easier to hate.”

Commissioner Tom Green said he’s seen the progress the LGBT community has made in Broward County and all the wide amount of acceptance that has been gained. But, obviously, not everyone accepts LGBT individuals for who they are yet. He added that he’s not ready to talk about love. “I hope the love part will come later. We will recover from this but we will never forget.”

As part of never forgetting, Green wants the city to look into the possibility of renaming Dixie Highway, south of Five Points, after Harvey Milk, the first openly-gay elected official in California. Milk, a San Francisco city supervisor, and Mayor George Moscone were murdered in 1978 by Dan White, a former city supervisor.

Green said he wants Dixie chosen because of the Confederate-related name and so younger LGBT individuals see Milk’s name and ask about who he was. “I know this is going to upset a lot of people. Anything different always does,” Green said.

Flippen suggested that other history-making LGBT officials could be candidates.

Carson said the commission looked at renaming a street several years ago and found that it was very costly financially. Green responded that the city had named part of Northeast 5 Avenue “Diane Cline Way” after the late Diane Cline, a former city council member. Carson replied that it was only an honorary renaming.

But names are not enough, said Flippen. He suggested a policy statement from the commission to the state legislature regarding stricter gun laws. “It’s not enough to read names.”

But names are about the only thing the commission can offer.

Resnick pointed to the state statute that prevents local governments from regulating the manufacture, sale, or distribution of firearms. Elected officials who violate the statute can be fined up to $5,000 and be removed from office by the governor, and public funds cannot be used to defend them in court. Any local laws passed can also be nullified by the legislature.

“The gun lobby in Florida has really screwed us,” Resnick said.

With most religious institutions, “house of the lord” refers to the spiritual character of the building. At Divine Mercy, Sunday worship is in an actual house – a converted garage to be exact.

Divine Mercy is one of at least half a dozen religious groups in Wilton Manors that meet in small buildings and facilities not originally designed to serve as places of worship. It’s a circumstance that congregants say leads to more of a feeling of family and familiarity with their fellow believers.

“Scripture tells us it’s not the building,” said Rev. Leslie Rutland-Tipton, senior pastor at Church of the Holy Spirit Song. Her congregation meets at The Pride Center and shares space with Congregation Etz Chaim, a Jewish synagogue.

“It feels more like family here. This is where we belong,” said Mike Smith, leigh elder at Church of the Holy Spirit Song. “We get to know each other in deeper ways,” said Tipton.

Bri Hills, a member of Divine Mercy, said she’s worshipped in larger churches but prefers a smaller setting. “I feel there’s more of a closeness. The love here is like nowhere else. I’ve been to all the big churches and none of them felt welcoming.”

Bishop John Joseph Reid started Divine Mercy after leaving another small congregation. “I sometimes think god keeps me small so people don’t get lost,” said Reid.

One of the main reasons he started another independent congregation was to be accepting of others who had been kicked out of other Catholic churches – LGBT individuals, women who want to be priests, people who are pro-choice, and more.

That’s a common theme with many of the pro-LGBT religious groups here.

“The majority of our congregants [LGBT] have found themselves unwelcome at traditional churches. That’s what binds us together. We stress family and community,” said Bishop Terry Villaire of Holy Angels Catholic Community. That group meets in a storefront on Northeast 6 Avenue across from the former Kmart. He added that it’s much better for him as well. “You get to know and interact with people. It makes the clergy much more approachable.”

But while Wilton Manors’ religious organizations have bucked many of the traditions and behaviors of many of the larger institutions, some remain.

Just like coffee and donuts are served after mass in some traditional Catholic parish halls, Reid and Father Larry Turner invite congregants into their dining and living room for food and refreshments. “I find it a very relaxing and intimate experience. Just another aspect of this welcoming community, said Arthur Riordan, a member of Divine Mercy. “They take us into their house.”
WPB CLUB LAUNCHES LGBT NIGHT IN WAKE OF ORLANDO ATTACK

Sketch Lounge in West Palm Beach will debut its first permanent LGBT night on Wednesday, June 22 as the popular nightclub hosts a benefit aimed at raising money for the families of the victims of the Orlando massacre.

Located at 221 Clematis ST. (Just above PawnShop), the fundraiser will include a night of dancing, drag performers, a candlelight vigil, a photo booth and a raffle that includes gift cards from various local businesses.

Attendees will also be treated to a one-of-a-kind performance from American singer-songwriter Joi Cardwell. All of the proceeds and donations will be split between Equality Florida and Compass Community Center.

The mastermind behind this entire event is Sketch Lounge Event Planner and Lead Methodologist, David Alban.

According to Alban, the moment he learned about the Pulse Nightclub shooting he knew he had to do something to help the community heal.

“[Nightclubs] are the place we go to feel safe,” Alban said. “Here we get to be who we want, wear what we want, hold hands with who we want and kiss who we want. These places are our freedom. These places are our home.”

According to Alban, he couldn’t imagine a better place for a fundraiser than a nightclub where everyone and anyone can feel safe and free.

Alban hopes to have some kind of fundraiser involved each night to help continue support and awareness for the LGBT community.

“We want this night to be the start of us helping the LGBT community move past this tragedy,” Alban said. “We need to continue to fight, to love, to be strong and, of course, we must party on.”

For more information on the event visit Facebook.com/SketchWPB or dial 561-802-6140.
A gunman wielding an assault-type rifle and a handgun opened fire inside Pulse, a crowded gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, early Sunday, leaving at least 49 people dead in the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

Here are stories of the victims.

**Paul Terrell Henry**

Paul Terrell Henry, 41, was a caring father of two who loved to dance, play piano and sing, according to his friends and his boyfriend.

Francisco Hernandez, Henry’s boyfriend, told the Orlando Sentinel the Chicago native’s main priority was to make sure his kids were taken care of.

“Such a loving spirit. I’ll always have him in my heart,” said Hernandez, who added that he will most remember Henry for his smile.

Bettye Edwards, of Oviedo, told the newspaper that she and Henry started a church briefly and that Henry had a master’s degree in business from Florida State University and a theological degree. Henry never took a lesson, Edwards said, but he was a talented musician who sang and played the organ and piano.

Danielle Biggers, of Orlando, said she worked with Henry as a sales representative at a resort company.

“He always would make sure he would say hello,” she said. “He just was over the top and made everybody smile.”

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**Cory James Connell**

Cory James Connell, 21, was his family’s superhero, his brother Ryan said in a Facebook post.

According to the Orlando Sentinel, friends and even a former middle school teacher posted to Facebook remembering Connell.

“I’ve taught almost 1,700 kids at Lee. He was so special,” said Shelley Klein, a science teacher at Lee Middle School. “All of his teachers at Lee adored him. We describe him as our all-time favorite.”

Nancy Robinson, a member of the Orange County School Board, remembered the smiles and hugs Connell greeted her with when she saw him at Publix where he worked.

“Every time I saw him, he greeted me with a warm, inviting smile and a cheery, ‘Hey, Mrs. Robinson,’ and sometimes I was even blessed to get a hug,” she wrote. “I just saw him at Publix a week ago and got one of those great hugs.”

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**Martin Benitez Torres**

Martin Benitez Torres, 33, had recently moved to Orlando and was working to become a pharmacy technician.

Benitez was a student at a Tampa satellite campus of the Ana G. Mendez University System, based in Puerto Rico, where he was born. In a university statement, one of his professors called him a “diligent and extremely hardworking student.”

Benitez was “thankful for the opportunity to advance his career and hopeful to make his dreams a reality,” said Carla Zayas, a Spanish professor.

He posted several photos and videos on his Facebook page in the days before the shooting, including one in the kitchen cooking with family members.

The cover photo on his Facebook profile includes a quote in Spanish: “If God takes away my eyesight, it’s because I’ve been allowed to see everything that’s beautiful in the world.”
Juan Chavez Martinez

Juan Chavez Martinez, 25, was a beloved boss and friend, friends and co-workers told the Orlando Sentinel.

Friends said Martinez came to the U.S. from Huichapan, Mexico, and worked as a housekeeping supervisor for a hospitality service company.

“He was extremely friendly, very dedicated to his family, to his co-workers. It is very difficult. Everybody loved him,” said Alicia Amarro, chief financial officer for the company, APDC Services.

Jose Crisantos used to work with Martinez at Reunion Resorts and also remembered Martinez’s kindness.

“He was very well known among us as very kind and loving,” Crisantos said. “There was nobody else like him. It is a devastating loss.”

Jerald Arthur Wright

Jerald Arthur Wright, 31, was quiet but knew how to treat guests at Walt Disney World, where he worked as a seasonal employee, a former co-worker said.

“He was one of the kindest people you could meet,” co-worker Kenneth Berrios told the Orlando Sentinel.

“We had students from the London program and Jerry was always willing to give rides to them and show them around town.”

Wright “was a great guy to work with,” former co-worker Scott Dickison said. “He was quiet but really wonderful with all the guests. He always had a smile on his face.”

Dickison said Wright had worked most recently in merchandising on Main Street in the Magic Kingdom, but also had worked in Tomorrowland and at Universal Studios in Orlando.

Jason Josaphat

Jason Josaphat, 19, called his mother as a gunman opened fire to ask for help, his aunt and uncle said.

She stayed on the line with him and could hear gunshots in the background, but tried to calm him down as he hid in the bathroom, Jimmy and Myrleine Inelus told KPNX-TV in Arizona, where Josaphat went to high school.

“IT was dead silence on the phone … I think that’s when the gunman finally made his way into the bathroom,” Jimmy Inelus said.

Josaphat move to Orlando after graduating from high school in 2014. A childhood friend, Messiah McMillian, told KNXV-TV in Phoenix that he was one of the first people whom Josaphat told he was gay.

“When I found out, I never judged him,” McMillian said. “I never looked at him any differently. He was always my friend.”

Eric Ivan Ortiz-Rivera

Eric Ivan Ortiz-Rivera, 36, followed the crowd from a housewarming party to Pulse, according to former roommate Abismael Colon Gomez.

“I am really in shock that he was in the club, because he was not usually a club-scene person,” Colon Gomez told the Orlando Sentinel.

Ortiz-Rivera worked in merchandise management and had earned a degree in communications from a university in Puerto Rico.

He left behind his husband of a year, Ivan Dominguez; they were married June 26, the day the U.S. Supreme Court gave same-sex couples the right to marry in all 50 states.

“It was a big and happy coincidence,” Dominguez, 30, told The Associated Press. Dominguez is grieving, but said he still feels connected to his husband. He was not at the nightclub because he was supposed to work the next day.

Another friend posted on Ortiz-Rivera’s Facebook page after learning of his death: “God just gained one funny and caring angel today.”

Christopher Joseph Sanfeliz

Christopher Joseph Sanfeliz, 24, was always friendly and outgoing, “the most positive guy I’ve ever known,” friend Josh Palange said.

They became friends during middle school, and in high school, took honors classes and band together — Sanfeliz on trumpet. Though they didn’t see each other much after graduating in 2010, “we stayed friends on Facebook,” Palange told the Tampa Bay Times.

Sanfeliz’s family moved there from Cuba in the 1960s, family friend Mike Wallace said. Sanfeliz took business classes at a community college and was hired as a bank teller and worked his way up to become a personal banker, Wallace said.

“He (was) a wonderful person and this is such a tragedy,” said Wallace. “He was cut down in his prime.”
Brenda Lee Marquez McCool, 49, loved to dance, so much so that she’d go to nightclubs with her 21-year-old son. They were both at Pulse. She was killed, son Isaiah Henderson survived, her oldest daughter, Khalisha Pressley, told NBC News.

“She was always really cool, but really a mom at the end of the day ... the sweetest lovingest person in the world,” Pressley said of her mother, a two-time cancer survivor who had 11 children.

“She was a fighter,” lifelong friend Noreen Vaquer told the Orlando Sentinel. “She doesn’t take nothing from nobody.”

Vaquer, who met McCool when they were kindergartners in Brooklyn, New York, said her friend gave good advice, backed up by life experience.

“She’s smart,” Vaquer said. “She’ll put you right.”

Frank Hernandez, 27, loved fashion and lived to purchase the finest pieces of clothing at Calvin Klein or Armani.

“He had the best of everything, the most expensive,” said Jessica Leal, 19, one of his five siblings. “He liked the good stuff. And he worked hard for it.”

A manager at a Calvin Klein store in Orlando, Hernandez grew up in Texas’ Rio Grande Valley, near the U.S.-Mexico border, and had lived in Central Florida for three years.

Hernandez also loved Beyonce and going out to dance, and he frequented Pulse, Leal said. According to media reports, Hernandez’s boyfriend was able to escape, but lost track of Hernandez in the chaos.

His sister has planned a fitting tribute: She’ll wear Calvin Klein at his funeral.

“I’m pretty sure he’d love it if he saw it,” she said.

Luis Daniel Wilson-Leon, 37, barely spoke English when he moved from Puerto Rico to Florida in 2004, but he wasn’t deterred by the language barrier.

He quickly learned English, got a job and eventually met his partner, Jean Carlos Mendez Perez, 35, who also died.

“(Wilson-Leon) walked into the room and all eyes were on him because of his positive energy, just what he radiated ... I’m heartbroken,” said his cousin, Laly Santiago-Leon, adding that the couple frequented Pulse and loved Latin Night.

Longtime friend Daniel Gmys-Casiano described Wilson-Leon as a protector and confidante. The two grew up in the same small town, and when Gmys-Casiano moved to the U.S., Wilson-Leon gave him a job in a shoe store.

“He was my hero,” Gmys-Casiano told the Orlando Sentinel.

Even though Wilson-Leon had been bullied for his sexuality, Gmys-Casiano said, “he never retaliated with hate ... He would stand to protect his friends.”

Jean Carlos Mendez Perez, 35, had a humor and warmth that made him a great salesman — and helped him find love, a co-worker said.

“He laughed with the people and would make jokes,” said Claudia Aguadelo, who worked with Perez at a perfume store. “He was always happy.”

Mendez Perez met his longtime partner, Luis Daniel Wilson-Leon, about a decade ago when he sold him the fragrance Declaration by Cartier, Aguadelo told the Orlando Sentinel. Wilson-Leon also died in the nightclub shooting.

Mendez Perez moved to the U.S. from Puerto Rico when he was a teenager, and made friends quickly, father Angel Mendez said.

“He was a real dynamic kid,” he said.

Sister-in-law Katia Mendez said Mendez Perez also was a fun-loving and doting uncle who would buy her three children candy and ice cream.

“He was like a little kid when he was with them,” she said.

Capt. Antonio Davon Brown, 29, served in the Army Reserve and deployed to Kuwait for nearly a year.

Brown graduated in 2008 from Florida A&M, where he majored in criminal justice and participated in the ROTC program.

Lt. Col. Kelvin Scott, a ROTC instructor, remembered Brown’s positive attitude and sense of humor.

“He kept a smile on his face,” Scott told the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper. “He was willing to work very hard to earn his commission.”

Devonta White, a friend of Brown’s, said Brown was known in their dorm for waking up early for drills and becoming close friends with his fellow trainees, but also making friends outside of ROTC.

“He had a car so when he went to Wal-Mart, I would ride with him,” White said. “We just became good friends over time. He helped me more than he knows.”

An Army service record shows Brown deployed to Kuwait from April 2010 to March 2011.
Darryl Roman Burt II, 29, worked as a financial aid officer for Keiser University's Jacksonville, Florida, campus.

As a volunteer, he co-chaired a clothing drive for the homeless for the Jacksonville Jaycees, a nonprofit organization.

"Darryl was very passionate about working in the community and wasn’t afraid to take the lead," Jacksonville Jaycees President Shawn DeVries told the Indianapolis Star. "If someone needed anything, he’d usually just ask for the details: where, when and what are the deadlines."

Burt left behind family in central Indiana, and recently earned a degree in human resources management.

Keiser University’s chancellor, Arthur Keiser, called Burt “a highly respected member of the KU team” on the school’s website, and the school was providing grief counselors to help Burt’s colleagues.

Simon Adrian Carrillo-Fernandez, 31, loved to travel and "worked to be able to enjoy his life," co-worker Ivonne Irizarry said.

A manager at McDonald’s, Carrillo-Fernandez had traveled to the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Mexico and went on cruises, Irizarry said.

He and his partner, Oscar Aracena-Montero, who also was killed at the nightclub, had just returned from Niagara Falls, Irizarry told the Orlando Sentinel.

Carrillo-Fernandez never forgot a birthday, she said, and would bring in cakes for his McDonald’s co-workers.

Colleagues said Carrillo-Fernandez’s attention to detail was a trademark of his leadership style.

"He had to be the best, that was his thing. I cook the best, I clean the best, I work the best," she said of him.

Oscar A. Aracena-Montero, 26, lived with his partner, Simon Adrian Carillo-Fernandez, and three Chihuahuas in a home they bought last year, a friend, Andrea Herrera, told the Orlando Sentinel.

Yamila Pimentel, a cousin, said Araceno-Montero moved with his father from the Dominican Republic to Central Florida as a child.

"Oscar was a very sweet guy. Very sweet to everybody," Pimentel told the newspaper. "Every time he met somebody they would like him a lot. He was the type of guy who goes along with anybody."

Leroy Valentin Fernandez, 25, recently had found a job as a leasing agent for an Orlando apartment complex, said his friend, Jennifer Rodriguez.

"He had finally found something he liked. He was taking care of his mom," she said of Fernandez, who was also her hair stylist and one of her best friends.

"He was like a brother," she said. "He was just really very spirited and always happy, you know?"

Fernandez recently had been dating an older man, a dancer known by the stage name Eman Valentino, who also died in the shooting.

Xavier Emmanuel Serrano Rosado, 35, went by Eman Valentino on the stage. He dressed elegantly in a top hat, tie and gloves, collecting tips from the audience between high kicks and spins, according to a YouTube video.

Off the stage, Rosado had a young son who had graduated from pre-kindergarten.

"I have no words to express how proud and happy I am of my little boy," Rosado wrote on Facebook recently about his son.

Yemil Roque, a friend, described Rosado as hard-working, talkative and friendly: "He was a lovely friend, brother and father."
Mercedez Marisol Flores, 26, went to Pulse nightclub almost every weekend, often with her best friend, Amanda Alvear. "She was very outgoing," her sister-in-law, Nancy Flores, said. "She had lots of friends."

Mercedez Flores worked at Target, studied at a local community college and wanted to become a party planner so she could coordinate events with her two older brothers, who are both DJs.

Flores' family spent hours waiting at Orlando Regional Medical Center, then a staging area at a nearby hotel. Someone read the names of victims still hospitalized or being released, and her name wasn’t on the list. Her father got a call early the next day from the sheriff's office that his daughter had died, Nancy Flores said.

Amanda Alvear, 25, and Mercedez Flores posted on Snapchat from the nightclub before the shooting. Alvear's friend Sandy Marte said one of Alvear's Snapchats showed a packed club full of revelers. Another, a selfie video of Alvear with a series of gunshots in the background.

Marte and Alvear bonded over breakups and health problems. "She was loving, she was caring, she always had an open ear, she always wanted to help people," Marte said. "She had an amazing heart."

Marte said he understands what it’s like to be at a nightclub during a shooting. He was at the Glitz Ultra Lounge in Orlando in February when two people were killed, and said he froze in place from the shock of it.

Luis Omar Ocasio-Capo, 20, wanted to be a star. "He was one of the most amazing dancers," his sister, Belinette Ocasio-Capo, said. "He would always call me and say, 'I'm going to be the next Hollywood star.' He really did want to make it and be known.

"Now his name ended up being all around the world, like he wanted — just not this way," she said of her brother, a dancer who was working at a Starbucks while studying theater.

Omar, as he was known to family and friends, at first seemed brash to 70-year-old Claudia Mason, a co-worker, but after getting to know him, she said, "I realized he had a very outgoing personality.

"His sense of humor was definitely his defining personality trait," she said. "Omar got along with everyone. Young, old, male, female, gay, or straight, it didn’t matter to Omar."

Eddie Jamoldroy Justice, 30, tapped out a series of chilling text messages to his mother from a bathroom at Pulse, a 45-minute exchange that began with a message of love.

"Mommy I love you," the first message to Mina Justice said at 2:06 a.m. The messages became more frantic as he told her the shooter was in the bathroom where he was hiding.

"He's a terror," her son wrote.

Eddie Justice normally was a homebody who liked to eat, work out and make everyone laugh, his mother said. He worked as an accountant.

"Lives in a sky house, like the Jeffersons," his mother said she liked to say of his condominium.

Shane Tomlinson, 33, had a passion for singing, and had been the lead vocalist with "The Frequency Band" at a nightclub before going to Pulse, according to the Orlando Sentinel.

"He was destined for a grand stage and he was doing exactly what he wanted to do," said Dr. Lathan Turner, associate director of student transitions at East Carolina University, where Tomlinson graduated in 2003 with a degree in communication.

Tomlinson was a vibrant and charismatic lead vocalist, friends said.

"I've never met anyone like him," said Carey Sobel, an Orlando resident who hired Tomlinson's band to play for his upcoming wedding. "He was really special."

Tarrick Cox, an adviser for East Carolina’s gospel choir who worked with Tomlinson, remembers his contagious personality and the laughter that surrounded him.

"He was gifted and creative. He was a go-getter," Cox said in a statement from the university.

Miguel Honorato, 30, was a father of three who managed four restaurants in central Florida along with a side catering business. He was always the one to drop everything to help out his family, which included seven siblings.

His brother, Jose Honorato, wrote a simple, heartfelt message on his brother's Facebook page: "Come home bro, I'm waiting for you."

"He was my mentor and my supporter. He helped very much in my parents' house and work," Honorato said. Even though Miguel was younger, he gave sage advice about the family business, his brother said.

Jose Honorato changed his Facebook photo Monday to one of the two brothers smiling over a charcoal grill, one of many happy memories cooking together.
Jonathan Camuy, 25, moved to Central Florida from Puerto Rico to work for the Spanish-language television network Telemundo. He was on the production team for “La Voz Kids,” a talent show for young singers in its fourth season.

“Jonathan was an extremely hard-working individual, full of life, enthusiastic and with a great personality,” the network said in a statement. “He will be missed dearly.”

Camuy was also active in the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, which called him “one of our own” in a statement about his death.

Peter O. Gonzalez-Cruz, 22, known among family and friends as “Ommy,” was always the life of the party.

“Peter makes a difference everywhere he goes. He was a happy person. If Peter is not at the party, no one wants to go,” his aunt, Sonia Cruz, said.

Gonzalez-Cruz, who worked at UPS, went to Pulse with his best friend, 25-year-old Gilberto Ramon Silva Menendez.

After news of the mass shooting emerged, Sonia Cruz said she held out hope for hours that her nephew would turn up in a hospital bed. The family was later told he and Menendez were among those killed.

Edward Sotomayor, 34, was a caring, energetic man known for wearing a silly top hat on cruises, according to David Sotomayor, who said the two discovered they were cousins after meeting at Orlando’s annual Gay Days festival around a decade ago.

Edward worked for a company that held gay cruises and often traveled to promote the company’s events, said David Sotomayor.

“He was just always part of the fun,” David Sotomayor said.

David Sotomayor is a drag queen who appeared on a season of the reality show "RuPaul’s Drag Race" using the name "Jade."

The two texted regularly and kept in touch via Facebook messages, last seeing each other this year at a filming of the reality show. They last exchanged messages late last week.

“You never think that’s going to be the last time you speak to him,” Sotomayor said. "It’s just heartbreaking to know it just can happen anytime."

Gilberto Ramon Silva Menendez, 25, moved to Orlando a few years ago, his cousin, Irma Silva-Lauer, told the Orlando Sentinel.

He was an only child and “the light and the life of all the family gatherings,” Silva-Lauer said.

Juan Ramon Guerrero, 22, told his cousin, Robert Guerrero, that he was gay about two years ago. But he was worried about how the rest of his family would react, and did not tell them until just before the beginning of this year.

“They were very accepting,” said Robert Guerrero, 19.

“As long as he was happy, they were OK with it.”

He got concerned after hearing of the shooting at Pulse, where he knew his cousin would go to every once in a while.

Juan Guerrero was a telemarketer, in recent months he started attending college at the University of Central Florida and was in a relationship with someone his relatives regarded as part of the family, Robert Guerrero said.

“(H)e was like a big brother to me,” he said. "He was never the type to go out to parties, would rather stay home and care for his niece and nephew."

Tevin Eugene Crosby, 25, had a drive for success, which was reflected in his inspirational Facebook posts — "2016 will be the best year ever."

"Whatever goal he had in mind, he worked hard. Whether alone or on a team, he worked on that goal," Chavis Crosby told the Orlando Sentinel.

Tevin Crosby was director of operations for a Michigan marketing firm who’d recently visited family in Statesville, North Carolina, to watch several nieces and nephews graduate.

Then, he traveled to Orlando after passing along some brotherly advice about business and setting goals. He loved to travel for work and fun, Chavis Crosby said.

"He was definitely a good person and a good brother to me," he said.
Stanley Almodovar III, 23, had tomato-and-cheese dip prepared by his mother to eat when he came home from his night out. Instead, Rosalie Ramos was awakened by a call telling her something had happened.

Ramos told the Orlando Sentinel that her son, a pharmacy technician, posted a Snapchat video of himself singing and laughing on his way to Pulse nightclub.

"I wish I had that (video) to remember him forever," she told the newspaper.

A friend, Hazel Ramirez, told the Washington Post she also saw a video from Almodovar on Snapchat. She described Almodovar as "kind, but sassy," and someone who was comfortable with his sexual identity.

"He was so proud of who he was," she told the Post. "He would do his makeup better than anyone else. It was so easy to be myself with him."

Anthony Luis Laureano Disla, 25, started dancing at the age of 10 and was comfortable with any number of styles, from salsa to ballroom, his cousin Ana Figueroa said.

Figueroa told the Orlando Sentinel that Laureano Disla invited her out for a night of dancing at Pulse nightclub, but she told him she was too tired.

He was out with two roommates, both of whom were injured in the shooting, she said. The newspaper did not identify the roommates.

Born in Puerto Rico, Laureano Disla moved to Orlando about three years ago to become a dancer and choreographer, Figueroa said.

"I want people to remember Anthony as someone who was very happy and very kind," Figueroa said. "This is just devastating for our family and his friends."

Kimberly "KJ" Morris, 37, moved to Orlando months ago and worked at Pulse as a bouncer, the Orlando Sentinel reported.

"She was so excited," ex-girlfriend Starr Shelton told the newspaper. "She'd just started working there and told me how she was thrilled to get more involved in the LGBT community there."

Narvell Benning met Morris when they were in college at Post University, where they both played basketball.

"I can’t think of a time when I did not see a smile on her face," Benning told the Sentinel. "I’m so thankful of the good memories I have of her."

Liz Lamoureux told The Associated Press in a statement that Morris was one of her sister’s best friends and a true friend to her entire family: "What did KJ die for? Being gay and going to work? It just makes no sense — her life amounts to so much more than that."

Luis Vielma, 22, was well-loved and worked at Universal Studios, friends said.

High school friend Eddi Anderson told the Tampa Bay Times that Vielma loved his job at the Wizarding World of Harry Potter and was known for his pleasant attitude and warm demeanor.

J.K. Rowling, the author of the Harry Potter books that spawned the movies and section of the theme park, tweeted a picture of Vielma in a Hogwarts school tie, and said: "I can’t stop crying."

"He was always a friend you could call. He was always open and available," Josh Boesch, who worked with Vielma, told the Orlando Sentinel.

Vielma "just wanted to make people smile," said another co-worker, Olga Glomba.

Christopher Leinonen, 32, was a Pulse with his friend Brandon Wolf, who sent a text to Leinonen’s mother to say a shooting had occurred and her son was missing.

Christine Leinonen drove to Orlando at 4 a.m. from Polk County, southwest of the city. When she arrived, she began checking emergency rooms to find her son. She never did.

"These are nonsensical killings of our children," she said, sobbing. "They’re killing our babies!"

She said Wolf survived by hiding in a bathroom and running out as the bullets flew.

Enrique Rios, 25, had come from Brooklyn to Orlando to celebrate a friend’s birthday.

Even though his mother, Gertrude Merced, says that her heart is broken, she has already forgiven the gunman.

"I’m not angry at the gunman. I’m angry about the situation. I’m going to forever miss my son … but I still have the hope that I’m going to see him again one day," Merced told reporters as she packed her bags outside her New York apartment and headed to Florida.

Rios’ Facebook page says he worked with a home health care agency, and his mother said he had a heart for helping the elderly. He was studying social work.

Family and friends said he was determined, always helping others and had a heart of gold.
Angel Candelario-Padro, 28, moved to Orlando from Chicago in January to be closer to family. The nurse and National Guard member soon found a new job and a new love.

"He was a humble boy, a good student. He liked to work and wasn’t too much into partying," his aunt Leticia Padro told Univision.

Candelario-Padro’s boyfriend, who was shot several times, told her that after hearing several shots he turned to Candelario-Padro and asked if he was OK.

"He told him he was OK, but in that instant he fell to the floor," Padro said.

Candelario-Padro loved music and had played the clarinet in a band in his hometown of Guanica, Puerto Rico, according to uncle Efrain Padro.

"We’re waiting for his body to be brought home," he said, "We will welcome him with music."

Joel Rayon Paniagua, 32, moved to Florida from Mexico in the early 2000s in search of a better life. He went back to his home state of Veracruz for several years but returned to Tampa less than a year ago, relatives and friends said.

"We came because here in the United States there are many opportunities here and because we were fleeing because in our country there was a lot of crime, violence and death ... and we expect it should be more peaceful here," his cousin Jose Paniagua told Newsday.

The construction worker was looking forward to meeting friends at Pulse for another night of dancing — something he loved to do, friend Lorena Barragan told the Orlando Sentinel.

"He was the best," said Barragan, who met Rayon Paniagua at church. "He was loyal. He was always trying to do stuff to make you feel better."

Alejandro Barrios Martinez, 21, had recently moved to Florida from Cuba and was still trying to master English, according to a friend.

Sarai Torres told the Orlando Sentinel she met Martinez last year, and he "always had a smile on his face."

"Every interaction I had with him was totally positive," she said, adding that she remembers Martinez as an outgoing person who introduced her to his other friends. "He's the type of person (who would) see you in a parking lot and he'd have a whole conversation with you."

Torres, 30, said she saw Martinez several times at Pulse nightclub, which she described as a good place to meet new people. She was not at the club during the shooting.

Luis Daniel Conde, 39, ran a beauty salon in Kissimmee with another victim of the shooting at Pulse, Juan Pablo Rivera Velasquez, his longtime partner.

"Everyone knows about this beauty salon," Irene Rivera told the Orlando Sentinel. She spoke of the couple’s work on the Belleza Latina pageant.

Tania Mercador was in tears as she described how she was supposed to have joined Conde and Velasquez at Pulse the night they died.

"I used GPS and got lost," she said. "It kept sending me to the wrong address."

Rodolfo Ayala-Ayala, 33, was a biologics supervisor at the OneBlood donation center, according to the Orlando Sentinel.

"He’s alive in the people’s lives that he saved," said Mat Simons, who worked under Ayala-Ayala and said his supervisor was also a blood donor.

Ayala-Ayala had bought a car and a house within the past year. Wednesday would have been his one-year anniversary of home-ownership.

Juan Pablo Rivera Velasquez, 37, worked at Alta Peluqueria D’Magazine salon in Kissimmee with Conde.

Client Alexandra Ale told the Orlando Sentinel the salon would often be filled with clients who were there just to see the Velasquez and Conde.

Ale said the salon would often provide free services to women who had been victims of domestic abuse.

"They would take the shirt off their back to help others," said Jocelyn De Leon, another client.

Messages were left in chalk on the sidewalk outside their salon. "We will always thank you for making us feel beautiful," one message read.
Deonka Deidra Drayton, 32, was quick to tell someone off if she thought they were in the wrong, but it was her way of showing she cared, an ex-girlfriend said.

Drayton had been in legal trouble involving drugs, but Ashleigh Alleyne told the Orlando Sentinel Drayton was changing after they had been arrested together a couple years ago.

“She was actually putting in effort, because we both hit rock bottom at the same time,” Alleyne said. “She pushed me to get through her issues, and I always tried to do the same for her.”

Jean Carlos Nieves Rodriguez, 27, was remembered by family and friends as a kind man and a hard worker. Nieves Rodriguez, originally from Puerto Rico, had worked as manager of a McDonald’s and a check-cashing store and bought his first house a month and a half ago, the Orlando Sentinel reported.

“He wanted to be the best at what he did, and he would work very hard to achieve that. ... That’s why whatever job he went to, he became a manager,” friend Ivonne Irizarry told the newspaper.

His sister Valeria Monroig said he “cared more about others than about himself.”

Yilmary Rodriguez Solivan, 24, was out for a night of dancing with her brother-in-law and a friend, and posed for a photo before a gunman opened fire.

Known as “Mary” to family and friends, Rodriguez Solivan was married to race car driver Juan Borges and had two children, the Orlando Sentinel reported.

Her friend, Jonathan Antonio Camuy, also died. Her brother-in-law, William Sabad Borges, was shot twice, but the injuries were not serious, the newspaper reported.

“I swear, my heart has a ladder tall enough to reach you both,” Sabad Borges wrote on Facebook. “Mary, you leave me with a pain that I never thought I would feel.”

Geraldo Ortiz-Jimenez, 25, was known to friends and on Facebook as Drake. He was proud of his Dominican heritage, posing with a flag of the Dominican Republic in celebration of a Dominican model winning Nuestra Belleza Latina 2016. The photo, posted on Facebook, included Spanish-language hashtags that translate as #proud #Dominican.

Ortiz-Jimenez graduated from J.P. McCaskey High School in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 2010, school district spokeswoman Kelly Burkholder told The Associated Press. He was living in Puerto Rico, according to his social media accounts, and studying at Universidad del Este in Carolina, Puerto Rico.

Kevin Ortiz, a friend from college, described him as a humble man who was always concerned about staying fit and working toward fulfilling his dream of being a dancer.

Messages were left in chalk on the sidewalk outside their salon. “We will always thank you for making us feel beautiful,” one message read.
**MELISSA ETHERIDGE RELEASES “PULSE” IN AFTERMATH OF ORLANDO**

Lesbian singer songwriter Melissa Etheridge wrote and recorded a new song this week in response to the Orlando massacre that has left 49 people dead and more than 50 injured. “Pulse” is a soaring and moving tribute to the victims of the tragedy. The song has the same name as nightclub where the attack took place on Sunday, June 12.

“I’m dealing with it the way I deal, which is, I wrote a song,” Etheridge told the Rolling Stone. “I just sat here, and I just started writing a song... That’s how I first started to cope because, as a singer songwriter, I feel very... I’ve done this before. I feel called to speak; to do what musicians do. We’ve been the town criers for hundreds of years. We’re mirrors of society. We want to try to make sense. We want to try to heal. We want to bring some meaning, some purpose. We want to try to heal. We want to try to find the answer. We will find the answer/ Blowin’ in the wind/ I am human; I am love/ And my heart beats in my blood/ Love will always win/ Underneath the skin, everybody’s got a pulse.”

The song will soon be made available for purchase and the proceeds will benefit the victims through Equality Florida.

The Advocate called the song an “Anthem For Our Sorrow.”

“I get so moved by so many things, not just the sadness of tragedy,” the Grammy-winning singer told the Advocate. “I also get moved by how we react. Unfortunately, it takes a hideous event like this, but sometimes it brings people together and moves others who might have been like, ‘That gay thing is not anything I’m concerned about.’ It moves them and they think, I have to stand on the side of love and peace.”

**Here are some of the lyrics:**

“Everybody’s got a pain inside/ Imaginary wounds they fight to hide/ How can I hate them, when everybody’s got a pulse?/ Once again I hang my head to cry / I can’t find a reason why they died / We will find the answer / Blowin’ in the wind / I am human / I am love / And my heart beats in my blood / Love will always win / Underneath the skin, everybody’s got a pulse.”

**TWITTER USERS RESPOND TO ORLANDO ATTACK USING LOVE**

The shooter of the Orlando massacre reportedly reacted from seeing two men kissing in downtown Miami. To fight back against the bigotry, people turned to social media.

Hundreds of photos emerged from Twitter, Facebook and more, featuring same-sex partners locking lips. Being used as a direct response against the attack, people use the hashtags #TwoMenKissing and #TwoWomenKissing.

"The world needs more love today, not more hate #Orlando #TwoMenKissing," one Twitter user posted, including a photo of two leathermen making out.

The photos show more than just kissing in many cases -- they also show love.

"My husband & I at wedding reception, 2008. If you don’t like this, you’re like a terrorist. Congrats. #womenkissing," wrote another user, posting a photo of himself and his male partner.

The message behind the social media campaign is clear -- same-sex kissing should not be an excuse for violence. It should be an expression of happiness.

**GAMERS SHOW SUPPORT FOR ORLANDO AT CONFAB**

This week the Electronic Entertainment Expo, or E3, is taking place in Los Angeles, California. The Expo is a chance for video game companies and studios to announce upcoming projects, and attracts a wealth of media attention every year.

This weekend also brought us the worst mass shooting in U.S. history that resulted in 49 deaths and more than 50 injured.

The attack may not have much to do with E3. But it has everything to do with being a member of the LGBT community in 2016. A community that is also pining for more recognition in movies and video games.

The flags at E3 flew half-staff to honor the victims of the shooting, and most of the major companies took time to mourn for those who were killed or wounded, as well as for their families, whether onstage, at showcase booths or on social media, according to the Daily Beast.

According to gaming news site Zam, "The purpose of E3 is marketing. GiveCaptainAmericaABoyfriend. Video games are notorious for depictions of violence, and many developers at this year’s E3 featured at least one First Person Shooter title, not to mention the numerous violent titles that do not feature guns. However, all developers were ardent in their disgust of what happened in Orlando and coupled their presentations with messages of grieving and healing."
People of faith gathered Thursday evening at Sunshine Cathedral to remember the victims of the worst mass shooting in U.S. history that left 49, mostly LGBT Latino men dead.

In what was called a “liturgical response to the mass shooting in Orlando,” pastors and parishioners offered prayers for remembrance and healing. Names of the 49 victims of the Pulse Nightclub massacre were read, bells were sounded and candles lit.

“There is a lot of emotional turmoil in the minds and hearts of our people,” said Deacon Ed Huckemeyer, who participated in the hour long service which featured music from soloists and prayer readings from religious leaders.

Sunshine Cathedral, located in southwest Fort Lauderdale, offers a sanctuary for people to practice any faith. Rev. Durrell Watkins, Sunshine Senior Minister, explained his cathedral is welcoming of all.

During the service Watkins posed a difficult question to those in the pews.

“How do we pray for a murderer?,” Watkins asked. “How God, are we to pray for someone who hurt so many?”

Watkins, a gay man, acknowledged the need to seek a higher power.

“We simply feel the impulse to pray,” said Watkins, dressed in a white robe and speaking from the chancel where the Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida often performs.

“Somehow from this tortured mess, healing can occur. Let a miracle emerge because of this,” he said.

Following the reading of the victim's names, soloist Tara Sperry performed composer Stephen Sondheim’s “No One Is Alone.”

After the service, Sperry told SFGN she was “overwhelmed” with emotions.

“My heart goes out to those who lost loved ones,” said Sperry, the cathedral's soprano section leader.

Ceremonies like the one Sunshine Cathedral offered Thursday are “extremely important,” said Sperry, a lesbian.

“This is a safe space where people can feel accepted and there is absolutely no judgment,” Sperry said.

When approached after the ceremony by reporters about his offering of prayers for the gunman, Watkins said, “Jesus did it. We are instructed to pray for our enemies.”
I’ve watched with great interest the coverage regarding the interview with CNN’s Anderson Cooper. I greatly appreciate the fact you are in Orlando to lend a voice to the victims of the horrific and tragic event in Orlando.

However, I was dismayed by the response you offered to Mr. Cooper regarding your efforts in your relentless fight against the LGBT community. I am one of the plaintiffs who was part of the suit to demand my marriage to my loving husband be recognized by Florida. Instead of following the lead of other Attorneys General, you decided to fight the case. You had the opportunity as Governor Lawton Chiles once did in saying the state is on the wrong side of history and unable to defend the discriminatory measure in our constitution.

Worse, as the Attorney General of Florida, you declared that gay Floridians like my husband and me posed great harm. Those aren’t my words, those are yours because it was done under your control and supervision. You cannot deflect responsibility to one of your lawyers as you said in the interview.

More importantly though, you are right about one thing. These days should be about paying tribute to the victims who were targeted because they were gay. I cannot think of a better way to recognize their loving lives than by demanding action that the days of discrimination in our state are over.

You had the opportunity to tell Anderson Cooper on live television that the state was wrong for declaring gay Floridians were a harm, and to undo the pain, you would be a leading voice in the call for a statewide non-discrimination bill being adopted. You chose instead to say your website featured an image of clasped hands that in fact did not. You chose to deflect once again. Rather than saying times need to change, you attempted to make yourself a “victim.” That is truly unbelievable.

I can only believe that your heart is guided by love, but your acts and words show a different voice. Don’t fight CNN or Anderson Cooper, use your leadership to draw attention to the fact that surviving LGBT Floridians who are fighting for their lives from this senseless tragedy and whose names are being shared publicly could be legally fired because of who they are. My hope is that happens to no one, but the law unfortunately offers no protections.

Join our cause to make Florida a more fair and just state by putting action to the words you said yesterday on CNN.

A heart-broken, proud and hopeful Floridian, I am,

_____________________________________

Christian Ulvert

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD
Submit your own letter to Jason.Parsley@sfgn.com
Holy Angels Honors Orlando Victims in Special Mass

Michael d’Oliveira

Most Catholic masses include a prayer for two or three recently departed souls. But at a special mass Sunday for Holy Angels Catholic Community in Wilton Manors, the list of names was 49 — those murdered in the LGBT nightclub Pulse in Orlando on June 12. All 49 names were read aloud in the mixed Spanish and English mass amongst the hope that their families and loved ones would find comfort and consolation.

“We’ve come together to mourn those lost in Orlando. We all know too well the presence of evil and the destruction of hate,” said Bishop Terry Villaire. But despite the hideous acts committed, Villaire and his clergy urged their congregants to respond with love and forgiveness, as they are commanded to according to their beliefs. “Forgive others as we have been forgiven.”

But for congregant Kelly Graham, forgiveness is a “day by day” work in progress.

“I think of fear. People fear what they don’t understand. They only know what they’ve been taught all their life about other people,” Graham said. “It doesn’t mean we’re not angry. But I do have some anger . . . forgiveness will come.”

Father Richard Vitale said Christians would find a way to turn the tragedy into “unimaginable good.” He also called on the congregation to “resoundingly reject” the “invitations” to hate the Muslim community and to arm themselves “with the very same weapons” that were used to kill club patrons. “All they were doing was dancing. It’s our job to keep dancing for them.”

Vitale compared the temptation to hate now as the same temptation Jesus faced for 40 days and 40 nights in the desert.

“Nothing good comes out of hatred. The terrorist was not of Islam. He was of the terrorists.”

Villaire ended the special mass with a call relating to Father’s Day. He talked about how he was very lucky to have parents who knew and understood that he was gay, and whom supported him.

“The hope, Villaire said, is that all parents show love and kindness to their children, no matter who they are or who they love.

“...pray for your father today.”

Photos by J.R. Davis
#OrlandoUnited

For more photos, visit SFGN on Facebook.
STUDENTS, FACULTY GATHER AT CORAL SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL TO REMEMBER ORLANDO

It was, quite possibly, the longest 49 seconds the students of Coral Springs Charter School ever experienced.

Each second was for one of the 49 victims of the attack that took place at Pulse nightclub in Orlando on Sunday—a moment of silence held during a candlelight vigil at the school tonight. It was a vigil that began with a rainbow forming off in the distance.

“It’s a sign,” said Sara Parks, student government association advisor.

Joining the students were faculty, parents, members of the community and the Coral Springs Police Department.

Valedictorian Kasia Wiech recounted the story of her frantic efforts to make sure her friend, who was visiting Orlando during the attack, was unharmed. “But that’s not the case for 49 others,” said an emotional Wiech.

Wiech, and Student Government Association President Gabi Pineros read the names of the victims and talked about the origin and meaning behind the Pride Flag. Pineros said no one should be targeted because of their sexual orientation or any other reason.

“When is enough, enough?” she asked.

Earlier in the day, a blood drive was held. During the vigil, students sold food, water plants and pride wristbands to raise money for the victims.

Theresa Brier, a representative for Congressman Ted Deutch, read a statement on his behalf. Deutch called on Americans to unite against hate and renew efforts to make communities places of love and safety. “Let’s remember that they were taken from us in a place that served as a refuge to them . . . My hope and prayer is that this tragedy will not drive a wedge through our community. The loved ones of those lost remember them as being kind, passionate, and joyful about life. Let’s honor them by following their example.”

Despite lightning and threatening rain clouds, the crowd that gathered tonight stayed until the end. Some stayed longer, waiting until their candles had burned all the way down to the foil candle holders.

“I hope we send a message to everyone that love will conquer hate.”

- Sara Parks

“I hope we send a message to everyone that love will conquer hate,” Parks said.
#OrlandoUnited

For more photos, visit SFGN on Facebook.
The LGBT Community is financially stable, and concerned about the future. More financially stable and less concerned than the general U.S. population.

Lesbians are on par financially with gay men and enjoy higher individual median income than women in the general population. Straight women in similar employment to straight men earn on average about 90 percent of the men's wage, until their mid thirties when the difference grows to about 75 percent. Lesbians earn more than general population women and gay men on average earn less than general population men. Educated same sex couples do earn more on average than their straight peers, yet disproportionally higher levels of LGBT poverty dilute the average.

Though earning power and wealth of gay men is usually the focus of reporting, lesbians also have financial power. Even so, though the community has strong confidence in their financial futures, gay men are more confident than lesbians.

Individual median income for gay men is $49,000 vs. $44,000 for lesbians, the gap being smaller than that in the general population. Lesbian household median income is higher than gay men, $63,000 vs. $62,000, likely because more lesbian households are dual income. Median LGBT household income is $61,000 vs. $50,000 for the U.S. average. Median income in LGBT homes with children is $71,000.

Though this study is focused financially it also provides some interesting insights into the makeup of the LGBT community. Respondents to the survey were found to be 67 percent White, 12 percent Hispanic, 11 percent Black and the balance being Asian, Native American and others. Age wise, Boomers and Gen Xs equally make up 82 percent while Gen Ys comprise 18 percent.

Prudential found that overall the LGBT community is firmly in control of their financial lives. Our attitudes toward saving, debt reduction, investing and real estate are generally more moderate than the general population and as a group the LGBT community falls solidly in the middle class. We, like our straight brethren, are concerned about being able to retire with enough money to last til death do we part and we, unlike our straight brethren have more confidence in the future. Perhaps our increased level of future confidence is a benefit of our higher educations.

We are upbeat about our finances with 22 percent of respondents feel they are doing well, 47 percent are on time with bills and 31 percent feel they are doing poorly. Again, that annoying level of poverty particularly in younger LGBT dilutes.

Gays are generally thought to be better off financially than the general population and this report supports that belief. However, retirement remains a top challenge for the LGBT community. Over three quarters of us are already planning and saving for our golden rainbow years. Like the general population, Boomers are having the most difficult time as wages are stagnant and they face employment discrimination in what should be their prime earning years. Interestingly, large numbers of HIV positive gay men forced into early retirement reduce the LGBT group in net worth.

Large national issues weigh less and less on us as we prepare financially for retirement. Social Security Survivor Benefits, defined benefit plan survivor benefits and tax treatment of same sex couples are coming more in line for us. Many, however, have yet to take advantage of recent changes in law to protect their loved ones financially in the event of their own passing.
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www.angeloeliapizza.com
Just because there aren’t large ethnic neighborhoods in Fort Lauderdale doesn’t mean you can’t find ethnic markets. Name any international cuisine and you can find a store carrying just what you need to whip up some traditional dishes at home. Whether you are looking for comfort food from your childhood or trying out a new dish that may be exotic to you, you’re certain to find it in one of these places. Many of them also have small cafes, so even if the only thing you know how to make is reservations, you can still sample the delicacies of the world.

**Greek Pastries & Deli**
4701 N. Federal, Fort Lauderdale 954-776-0020
GreekPastriesFTL.com

Opa! This is a true mom and pop family joint and the food is authentic as can be. The storefront is located on the grounds of Holy Cross Hospital and caters to the employees there, so it’s only open weekdays until late afternoon. Not only can you pick up Greek pastries, cheeses, olives and cooking supplies, they also have a few tables where they serve up a surprisingly diverse menu for such a small place. Sure you can get the pastries, made fresh in house throughout the day and absolutely delish, but don’t miss out on the savory fare; lamb shank, real gyros, souvlaki and a whole lot more. It’s all about finding those savory delights to keep you satisfied.

**Old Heidelberg**
914 W. State Rd. 84, Fort Lauderdale 954-463-3880
OldHeidelbergDeli.com

Don’t expect an effusive greeting when you enter this Spartan storefront. You might not find the atmosphere particularly inviting or the service warm and pleasant, but you will find a nice selection of German and Austrian products, and the best wurst in town (sorry I couldn’t resist). While there is no dining option in the store, the unaffiliated Old Heidelberg Café next door, which has served the Fort Lauderdale community for decades, is known for great Teutonic fare, and a lively and cheery atmosphere!

**China Supermarket**
1332 N. State Rd. 7., Margate 954-865-9998

There are a number of markets in the area offering pan-Asian ingredients, but China Supermarket it is one of the cleanest and has a good selection of ingredients whether it be Chinese, Thai or Viet Namese. The produce and seafood are particularly good and reasonably priced.

**La Madame Supermarket**
1548 NE 4th Ave., Fort Lauderdale 954-615-7370

Just across the river from Wilton Manors, this place is small and not particularly clean, but the staff is friendly and they carry a range of Caribbean (mostly Haitian and Jamaican) products; fresh and frozen fish, goat meat, goat heads, fresh crab, chicken, unusual cuts of beef, vegetables, sugar cane, coconut water and other canned goods.

**Little Market Indian Grocery**
3062 N. Andrews, Wilton Manors 954-561-8606

Clean and well organized, the bright shop is loaded with all kinds of other exotic spices and ingredients essential in Southeast Asian cuisines. The staff is very helpful and more than willing to explain how to use ingredients. There’s a selection of frozen and fresh food as well as freshly made naan.

**Sasaya Japanese Market**
1956 E. Sunrise, Fort Lauderdale 954-761-8010
SasayaJapanese.com

This tiny shop manages to offer the largest selection of Sake in town (more than 50 brands) and still has space to carry a wide variety of canned and packaged Japanese products, as well as fresh produce and super-fresh, sushi-grade fish. There’s even a little sushi bar (four seats).

**Pond Hoppers Inc.**
2629 N. Federal Hwy. 954-566-9388

and

**Best of British**
954-525-0009
1425 SE 17th St. PondHoppers.net

You don’t usually think of English food when the term “ethnic dining” is mentioned, but why not? Pond Hoppers and Best of British are both located in Fort Lauderdale and run by real Brits who not only have favourites (sic) across the pond in their stores, but also have a huge on-line business as well. If nothing else, you have to buy some Fairy soap.

**Fernanda’s International Market & Vintage Winery**
3045 N. Federal, Fort Lauderdale 954-566-3104
Fernandasmkt.com

You can travel the world without ever leaving this store. It is truly an international market with everything from English lemon curd to Thai lemon grass. The shelves are stocked with caviar, foie gras, and imported Italian, Chinese, Japanese and Thai noodles. The variety of spices and packaged sauce mixes is mind boggling. It’s one of the few places you’ll find Swedish, French, Dutch and Indonesian favorites. In addition to groceries, the store also has a well stocked deli and sells breads and pastries from local bakeries such as Gran Forno and Croissan’Tine. The wine selection is enormous (more than 700 varietals), and they offer mix and match case discounts. There are a few tables, where you can enjoy a light meal; everything from a deli salad or sandwich to a full entrée. SFON

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Cellist Yo-Yo Ma is featured in a new documentary, “The Music of Strangers: Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road,” opening this weekend in theaters in Miami and Fort Lauderdale.

Photo Credit: Submitted photo.
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**Fans Want to #GiveCaptainAmericaABoyfriend**

Brittany Ferrendi

The internet wants Captain America to have a boyfriend — preferably his old bestie, Bucky.

Last month, Twitter exploded with the new hashtag #GiveCaptainAmericaABoyfriend, urging Disney and Marvel to give The Avenger's movie series a prominent LGBT role.

Steve Rogers, the face behind Captain America (and played by Chris Evans), has had 'SPOILERS' two female love interests since his first appearance in his first movie, "Captain America: The First Avenger." The first is the late Peggy Carter, who passed away in the more recent "Civil War" in her senior years. The second is Peggy's niece, Sharon Carter, who Rogers meets in the latest Avengers blockbuster.

However, fans are a bit off-put by Rogers sticking to the Carter family. "#GiveCaptainAmericaABoyfriend I see people thinking that this is a bad idea, but apparently him dating his dead girlfriend's niece is fine," one Twitter user said in a public tweet. (http://bit.ly/24MipyQ)

With the addition of the hashtag, fans seem to have a very specific boyfriend in mind — Bucky Barnes, Roger's long-time best friend since 1942. After all, they have been through a lot together, saving each other's lives and essentially having three movies about their relationship.

Noting the surge in demand for an LGBT relationship, GLAAD Entertainment Media Strategist Megan Townsend said.

"#GiveCaptainAmericaABoyfriend Not everyone is pleased with the idea."

"#GiveCaptainAmericaABoyfriend? How about we get the blue-haired, tattoo-bespeckled land mass that created this hashtag a boyfriend instead?" another Twitter user said, attacking the person that started the hashtag trend. (http://bit.ly/1YNEdRA)

Another Twitter user (http://bit.ly/1OHmzd) proposed a different hashtag: "Let's trend #StopGayingAllTheThings. Time for anyone NOT in LGBTQAAIP gaystapo to fight back. #GiveCaptainAmericaABoyfriend."

LGBT superhero characters have not yet touched the big screen, but they do span comics and television shows. In CW’s series "The Flash," starring openly gay actor Grant Gustin, characters Sara Lance (alias Black Canary) and Nyssa Raatko form a relationship when Lance joins Raatko in the league of assassins.

Lance is also bisexual in another DC Comics show on the air, "Legends of Tomorrow."

In the Netflix original series "Jessica Jones," the protagonist's lawyer Jeri Hogarth is an open lesbian who has a wife (but takes on her assistant as a lover). The show also features a married gay couple as minor characters leading up to the first season's finale.

Captain America isn’t the only character fans want to wave the pride flag. Twitter users have also launched a campaign to make Elsa a lesbian in the next "Frozen" sequel with the trending hashtag #GiveElsaAGirlfriend.

The social media campaign did not go unnoticed. Idina Menzel, the voice behind Elsa, spoke with "Entertainment Tonight" (http://bit.ly/1U9j2eq) to share her thoughts.

"I think it’s great," Menzel said in the interview. "Disney’s just gotta contend with that. I’ll let them figure that out." Disney has also blown up recently on social media as fans have pointed out a possible lesbian couple in the latest trailer for "Finding Dori."

"Why do people care if there is a lesbian couple in Finding Dori? Dori is voiced by a lesbian," said one Twitter user (http://bit.ly/1XSsewM), pointing out openly gay voice actress Ellen DeGeneres.

Even outside of Twitter, fans are stepping up to push more inclusion of LGBT characters in media.

Jordan Krueger, director of operations for CREDO Action, launched a petition (http://queerfrontier.com/esignnow) to put an LGBT captain on Star Trek.

"Star Trek has always been a leader in diverse casting." Krueger said in a statement. "It brought us Black characters in leadership roles, with rich characterization, a groundbreaking move in a world where many actors of color still struggle to find roles of substance. It showed us strong women who were uncompromising and compassionate and respected. But it has never shown us an LGBT character in a leading role. In fact, it has never portrayed LGBT people in a way that reflected our experiences or didn’t put us in sadistic villainous roles."

Krueger targets the petition to CBS, Paramount, and producer Bryan Fuller, who will be working on the new Star Trek series releasing next year.

"I consider myself a Star Trek fan through-and-through," he added. "But I would be devastated if another series ignores lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people the way past series have done. I want to see people like me on Star Trek!"

Even outside of Twitter, fans are stepping up to push more inclusion of LGBT characters in media.
South Florida music lovers can get a sophisticated taste of the Big Apple each month at Cabaret du Jour, a new cabaret series debuting this weekend at the Tennis Club in Fort Lauderdale.

Internationally-acclaimed cabaret artist David Meulemans and his husband, Ken Harrison, promise audiences an intimate experience similar to New York clubs like the famed Metropolitan Room, where Meulemans serves as artist-in-residence.

“Things are done with class and style and a little elegance,” Meulemans said, “rather than a loud evening in a bar.”

Guests will enjoy small plates and cocktails prepared by Stork’s Catering & Events and served by waiters in the condo complex’s club room.

For the first performance, Meulemans and Harrison assembled an all-star lineup of local talent, including Jennifer McClain, Meri Ziev and Kelly DiLorenzo. Musical direction will be provided by Phil Hinton.

McClain is well known to Wilton Manors audiences for her weekly performances at Georgie’s Alibi/Monkey Bar and Ziev and DiLorenzo are both from Boca Raton, members of the cast of the sold out Lake Worth Playhouse production of “Sisters of Swing.” They will be joined by Kelly O’Farrell, a Broadway veteran, who will be flying in from Boston for the performance.

Harrison said the concept for Cabaret du Jour was a play on the French soup du jour or soup of the day served at restaurants. Each month’s program will be different, featuring new performers and musical numbers. The producers hope to add a second performance each month and are also exploring the possibilities of happy hour entertainment on Fridays.

In August, the series will feature Carla Gordon, a performer from Chicago who performs as the great Jewish vaudeville, radio and film star Sophie Tucker. Next year, Meulemans will be touring with Gordon in an act called “Borscht Belt Buddies,” accompanied by a musical director who performed on the famed circuit as a young man.

Meulemans, who leaves on another tour of England next week, is particularly looking forward to the opportunity to perform in South Florida.

“It’s been a lesson to learn that my value as a performer goes up when I have credits from elsewhere,” he said. “That’s why for the last three years I focused on working in Europe and New York.”

Now he's bringing a little bit of New York back home.

Cabaret du Jour will be presented on Sunday, June 26 at 2 p.m. at the Tennis Club, 600 Tennis Club Dr. in Fort Lauderdale. Tickets are $20 with a two drink minimum. For more information, contact KenH7749@yahoo.com.
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**Top Picks**

**Living Out Loud**
June 25 at 8 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church, 33 Tarpon Drive in Fort Lauderdale. The Fort Lauderdale Gay Men's Chorus closes its 30th season with the commissioned work “Living Out Loud” as well as musical favorites. Tickets $25 to $40. Visit TheFTLGMC.org.

**Steely Dan & Steve Winwood**
June 29 at 7 p.m. at Perfect Vodka Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way in West Palm Beach. The legendary jazz fusion musicians perform in support of their “The Dan Who Knew Too Much” tour. Tickets $77 and up. Call 561-795-8883 or visit WestPalmBeachAmphitheatre.com.

**LAST CHANCE: the Royale**
Through June 26 at GableStage at the Biltmore, 1200 Anastasia Ave. in Coral Gables. Jack Johnson, a black boxer, rises to the top of the game despite the struggles the Jim Crow era throws at him. Tickets $45. Call 305-445-1119 or visit GableStage.org.

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**Miami-Dade County**

**Brookdale**
Through June 25 at the Miami Theater Center, 9806 NE Second Ave. in Miami Shores. A live theatrical and video performance of a man heading home and struggling through insanity. Tickets $25. Call or visit MTCMiami.org.

**Summer Shorts**
Through July 3 at the Adrienne Arsht Center, 1300 Biscayne Blvd. in Miami. The annual short play festival of the best in the country, including 10-minute musicals. Tickets $39. Call 305-949-6722 or visit ArshtCenter.org.

**PAMM Outdoor Music Series**
Third Thursdays at the Perez Art Museum Miami, 101 W. Flagler St. in Miami. Come out for live music from DJs and musicians by the bay. Drink specials available. Free with museum admission. Call 305-375-3000 or visit PAMM.org.

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**Palm Beach County**

**Stealth**
June 24 at 6:20 p.m. at Sunset Cove Amphitheater in Burt Aaronson South County Regional Park, 20405 Amphitheater Circle in Boca Raton. Enjoy a night of roots reggae music. Tickets $32.50 in advance, $35 day of. Parking $10. Visit axs.com.

**Hay Fever**
Through June 26 at the University Theatre and Studio One Theatre, 777 Glades Road in Boca Raton. A couple is looking forward to a quiet weekend in the country, when their children show up. Tickets $20. Call 800-564-9539 or visit FAUEvents.com.

**Free Friday Concerts**
Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at the Delray Beach Center for the Arts, 51 N. Swinton Ave. in Delray Beach. Enjoy live music from the comfort of your picnic blanket or lawn chair every week, for free! Call 561-243-7922 or visit DelrayArts.org.

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**Broward County**

**Brookdale**
Through June 25 at the Miami Theater Center, 9806 NE Second Ave. in Miami Shores. A live theatrical and video performance of a man heading home and struggling through insanity. Tickets $25. Call or visit MTCMiami.org.

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**Miam-Dade County**

**Summer Shorts**
Through July 3 at the Adrienne Arsht Center, 1300 Biscayne Blvd. in Miami. The annual short play festival of the best in the country, including 10-minute musicals. Tickets $39. Call 305-949-6722 or visit ArshtCenter.org.

**PAMM Outdoor Music Series**
Third Thursdays at the Perez Art Museum Miami, 101 W. Flagler St. in Miami. Come out for live music from DJs and musicians by the bay. Drink specials available. Free with museum admission. Call 305-375-3000 or visit PAMM.org.
To close its 30th season, the original Fort Lauderdale Gay Men’s Chorus celebrates Living Out Loud, the commissioned work that lends its name to the concert title. Also including some favorite pieces from the last 30 years, this show is not one to be missed!

Come enjoy the concert Saturday, June 25, 2016, at All Saint’s Episcopal Church (333 Tarpon Drive, Fort Lauderdale 33301) at 8pm. For tickets and additional information visit our website www.theftlgmc.org, email us at info@theftlgmc.org or call 954 832-0060.

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BROWARD COUNTY

* Broward County HIV Prevention Planning Council Meeting
June 23 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Florida Department of Health in Broward County’s Administrative Building – First Floor Auditorium, 780 SW 24th St. in Fort Lauderdale. Call 954-467-4700, ext. 4991 or visit browardgreaterThan.org/broward-county-hiv-prevention-planning-council-bchppc.

* Artists Salon

Movie Night
Last Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at the World AIDS Museum, 1201 NE 26th St. Suite 111 in Wilton Manors. Free movie nights once a month at the museum. Call 954-390-0550 or visit WorldAIDSMuseum.org.

PALM BEACH COUNTY

Queer Alternatives
Fridays from 5 to 7 p.m. at Compass GLCC, 201 N. Dixie Highway in Lake Worth. An all encompassing social group for those 18 to 27 who consider themselves to be lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual, questioning, or anything in between! Free. Call 561-533-9699 or visit CompassGLCC.com.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Rainbow Circle
Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m. at the University of Miami Flippe Building #302, 5665 Ponce de Leon Drive in Coral Gables. An open discussion about coming out, relationships, peer pressure, bullying, depression and more. Free. Visit Pridelines.org.

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