

THE SAGE

The Newsletter of SAGE of South Florida

"SENIOR ACTION in a GAY ENVIRONMENT"

DECEMBER 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: I BELIEVE IN SANTA

This is my favorite time of year! The pleasant smell of pine and cedar as trees are decorated with our favorite ornaments from all the many places we have traveled and collected Christmas souvenirs. So much inexhaustible energy! People are rushing to find that perfect gift for that very special person. The wonderful aroma of cookies baking in the kitchen and Christmas carols being sung. Beautiful lights of all colors twinkling in the night. As I sit on the dock in the quiet of the night I gaze into the stars and wonder just how it all happened so perfectly.

We have only had colored candy canes for a bit over a hundred years. For over a thousand years hard candy was used to reward children who were good but it was white, to stripe it took too much time as it was done by hand. Sending holiday greeting cards has only been around since 1843 because prior to this there was no reliable postal service.

Acceptance of the Christmas trees as a holiday essential occurred less than two centuries ago, but bringing in evergreens has been traced to more than a thousand years ago as the Vikings considered it a symbol of strength because its green color lasted through the harsh winters. "The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there," hanging stockings is actually one of the oldest traditions. The legend of the stockings was born out of a mundane but necessary nightly ritual. During the Great Depression, and dating back thousands of years before America existed, many families were forced to wash out

their clothes each night and hang them by the fire to dry so they could wear the items the next day. Poor children rarely had more than one pair of stockings. These stockings were therefore taken care of as if they were one of the most precious items on earth, as the winters were very cold. Hence, stocking hung on the mantel each night were not a Christmas tradition, but rather a daily ritual in both America and Europe.

I must stop to be so very thankful to our cherished members, their contributions, and loyalty to our wonderful Organization. I am so proud of each of you reaching out to help others. That is what our organization is all about. We help others because we enjoy it. I believe we each consider the other a part of our extended family, so I must share some wonderful news with my extended family.

Christmas came a little early for us (SAGE OF SOUTH FLORIDA). We were recently named as a beneficiary in the Trust of a member, and this gift has come at the perfect time. The major-

ity of this money will be put in Certificates of deposit, watched carefully and only used as needed for our organization's safety and improvement. ■

Have a wonderful, safe holiday. Enjoy your friends and family, cherish every moment of every day.

Jean Johnson
President

*"Every thing is subject to change,
and every thing is on schedule."*

— Author: Unknown

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Our monthly Newsletter is partially underwritten by advertising revenue. We have a written fee schedule for various sizes and number of months. An insert, instead of display advertising, is also available for businesses and organizations at a very reasonable rate. Contact the SAGE office at 954-720-0833 or E-Mail at sageoffice@bellsouth.net for more information about business cards to full-page ads, classifieds and flyers. We appreciate our business supporters. As members, let's support them as much as possible.

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to say a word about volunteering. We on the SAGE Board of Directors truly appreciate every one of you who volunteers to help us provide the very best support and service to our membership and community. We would like to acknowledge your support. At the December luncheon the Board of Directors will acknowledge your contributions.

In an effort to better serve our members we are simplifying our telephone answering system. When you call you will now hear a short message and after the beep you will be asked to leave your message. When an important message needs to be relayed to the membership, such as luncheon reservations being closed, it will be added to the message. Let us at the office know how you like the new setup.

If you have a concern or suggestion you may call, email, or just talk to us at any event. Feel free to visit the SAGE website at www.sagewebsite.org. ■

Ken Goodman, Vice President

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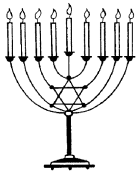
**SEE
YOU
AT
THE
MOVIES**

with John Gearth

The SAGE movie for Monday, December 11, is the Tim Burton film *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. This is a highly imaginative stop-action animation feature about Jack Skellington, the Pumpkin King, who tires of the old routine of Halloween Town and becomes enamored of Christmas instead. Constantly surprising visuals and character delineation coupled with a lively score make this film a delight.

Come by and enjoy free popcorn and this wonderful film. The movie begins at 4:00 PM in Room 2 at the GLCC, followed by the Monday night 10 for \$10 dinners at Tropics.

See you at the movies! *This is a SAGE sponsored activity.* ■



*Happy
Holidays!*



**GAY COMMUNITY
BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

The Gay Community Bereavement Support Group's mission is to provide a safe and supportive atmosphere for those individuals who are or have been experiencing grief and the loss of a loved one. Group discussion and exercises contribute to and provide an opportunity for individuals to build a foundation that will assist them in "collecting their thoughts" and focusing on how to cope with their feelings and emotions. Our primary goal is to have group members take a more proactive role in recognizing and accepting their way through the bereavement process and reclaiming their lives. The Group meets every Sunday from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM at the Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Facilitators are: Daniel C. Lamberti, Marc Kepner, and Marc Flanagan. *This is a SAGE sponsored activity.* ■

**SAGE FRIENDLY
VISITOR PROGRAM**



We are not just fair weather friends, but people who really care about our SAGE family. If you know of anyone that needs a friendly call, is sick, in the hospital, recently lost a loved one, or just needs cheering up or needs a ride to one of our SAGE sponsored functions or activities, please contact Sandy Darrall at (305) 895-9461 so that arrangements may be made. *This is a SAGE sponsored activity.* ■

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CURTAIN UP!

by Sandy Darrall

New Theatre – 4120 Laguna Street, Coral Gables, (305) 443-5909. Tickets \$30 for Thursday, Friday-Sunday \$40. Show times: Thursday-Saturday 8:00 PM, Sunday 1:00 PM. The play is set at a time when men found their girls becoming women, and these women are part of what used to be called Old New York Society and have such names as Anne Vanderbilt and Ann Morgan.

Mosaic Theatre – American Heritage Center for the Arts, 12200 West Broward Boulevard, Plantation, (954) 577-8243. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8:00 PM, also Saturday 3:00 PM and Sunday 2:00 PM. *MATCH* by Steven Belber from December 1-18. Steeple chase that leads straight from the outrageous bitchery to unadorned heartfelt emotion.

Actor's Playhouse – 280 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables, (305) 444-9293. Presenting Irving Berlin's *WHITE CHRISTMAS*. If you've been dreaming of a White Christmas, you'll be happy to know this version is just like the Broadway shows we used to know. Through December 31. Please call for show times which vary for this show.

Caldwell Theatre Company – 7873 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton, toll free (877) 245-7432. Presenting *HUNKA HUNKA BURNIN' LOVE*, by Jack Lewin, through December 17. This is a celebration of the work of over 80 of the songs that Elvis made famous, recorded and/or performed in concerts.

I just found a new theatre that offers something different.... Please see the **Cooper City Theatre** – 12233 S.W. 55th Street, Cooper City, (954) 437-4884. And what a great price! \$15 for seniors. *TRIUMPH OF LOVE* is a hilarious, tongue-in-cheek, anachronistic adaptation of the classic Marivaux comedy "Triumph of Love."

Hope this will make your holiday season an enjoyable one. Happy New Year. ■

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING & SATURDAY LUNCHEON / SOCIAL

12:30 PM, DECEMBER 2, 2006

HERB SKOLNICK COMMUNITY CENTER
800 S.W. 36th Avenue, Pompano Beach, FL

THE MENU IS:

Special House Salad

(Romaine hearts & more with vinaigrette on the side)

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Dessert: Flan

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Members with reservations, \$8.00

Guests and Members without Reservations, \$10.00

Call the Message Hotline, 954-720-0833 or
Reserve via e-mail: sageoffice@bellsouth.net

GUEST SPEAKER:

Our guest speaker will be Betty Rosse from Broward County Elderly and Veteran Services. Betty will discuss the programs and services available from the agency. She will also talk a bit about coping with the hectic "Holiday Season".

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Richard Bunyan
Frank W. Cavanaugh
K. Lynn Corning
Walter J. Gaugler, Jr.
William Magrum

THANKS FOR JOINING SAGE

*Have a
Happy and
Healthy
New Year!*

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK... by Mike Di Paola

We enter the month of December with many celebrations, a triumvirate of holidays, Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa! While all three have become commercial successes based on gift giving, two have their roots in religious observances and one is purely a cultural holiday.

CHRISTMAS of course is the religious holiday that celebrates the birth of **Jesus**, the central figure of Christianity. While no one can actually attest to the actual birth date, the Western world traditionally celebrates on December 25. The Eastern Orthodox world continues the tradition of celebrating on January 6, also known as the Epiphany or the visit of the Magi, also celebrated by the Hispanic community as the feast of the Three Kings.

HANUKKAH is the annual Jewish festival celebrated on eight consecutive days beginning on the 25th day of Kislev, the third month of the Jewish calendar, which corresponds approximately to December in our calendar. It is also known as the Festival of Lights, Feast of Dedication, and Feast of the Maccabees. Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem by Judas Maccabee in 165 BC after the Temple had been profaned by the king of Syria and overlord of Palestine. On each night of Hanukkah, the menorah is lit to commemorate a miracle which occurred after the Jews proclaimed victory over the Syrian armies. When Jews came to rededicate the temple, which had been defiled by the Syrians, they found only one small flask of oil with which to light the menorah. This flask contained only enough oil to burn for one day, yet the lamp burned for eight days!

KWANZAA is an African-American and Pan-African holiday which celebrates family, community and culture is purely non-religious in nature. Created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor, Department of Black Studies at California State University, it is celebrated from December 26 thru January 1. Its origins are in the first harvest celebrations of Africa from which it takes its name. The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" is Swahili, a Pan-African language which is the most widely spoken African language. Kwanzaa builds on the five fundamental activities of Continental African "first fruits" celebrations: in gathering; reverence; commemoration; recommitment; and celebration. Kwanzaa is:

- a time of special reverence for the creator and creation in thanks and respect for the blessings, bountifulness and beauty of creation;
- a time of commemoration of the past in pursuit of its lessons and in honor of its models of human excellence, our ancestors;
- a time of recommitment to our highest cultural ideals and our ongoing effort to always bring forth the best of African cultural thought and practice; and
- a time for celebration of the **Good, the good of life and of existence itself, the good of family, community and culture, the good of the awesome and the ordinary, in a word of the good of the divine, natural and social.**

While we all more or less know the fundamentals of Christmas and Hanukkah, being age old traditions that have passed down through generations, and ones we have grown up with, Kwanzaa is the new kid on the block and I wanted to zero in on its tenets, especially the last few items, as they closely align with our own goals and values today. Our membership, family and friends, and community at large, all take the best of these wonderful celebrations and put them into action every day.

I wish you all a very happy, healthy and safe holiday no matter which you celebrate! ■

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S THURSDAY DROP-IN

Current events, past events, future events – actually any kind of an event or topic is discussed with good hearted passion. It's a chance to express your feelings about what you feel concerned about – be it the President, Iraq, gasoline, sex or corporate mergers – good discussion awaits you. The group meets every Thursday from 1-3 PM at the GLCC. This is a good chance to meet other SAGE members and their friends. Out of town visitors are welcomed. **This is a SAGE sponsored activity.** ■

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SAGE BIRTHDAYS FOR DECEMBER

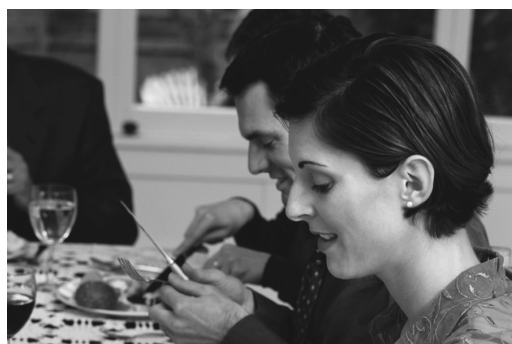
The SAGE Board would like to acknowledge the following members whose birthdays are in DECEMBER, as well as all the other members whose birthdays are this month that we don't have:

Gary Garberson . . . Dec. 01	Jo Scott. Dec. 22
Larry Kraft. Dec. 03	Harry Kahrs Dec. 23
Allen Sandler Dec. 03	Monroe Causley . . Dec. 28
James Gordon . . . Dec. 04	Richard Fortune . . Dec. 28
Stanley Hudes . . . Dec. 08	Didi Kelley. Dec. 28
Neil Murawski . . . Dec. 08	Mary Ann Knoke . . Dec. 28
Richard Berger . . . Dec. 12	Richard Plant Dec. 28
Rikki Caroll Dec. 17	Caroline Leto Dec. 31
John Schulz Dec. 18	Betty Ann Priscak . Dec. 31
Ronald Catena . . . Dec. 20	

If, when you renewed your membership or became a new member you did not give us your birthday, you may call the office and leave the information at: (954) 720-0833 or e-mail us at: sageoffice@bellsouth.net

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SOCIAL NOTES by Carl M. Galli

By the time you read this, the "Peter Burke Show" will be history. SAGE decided to make this a free event, to thank its members, and to honor Rick Carlone, who started "Showtime." Wasn't it a great way to lead into the holiday season? (Hope your friends, who weren't members, joined. This, and the magnificent "Primavera" catered luncheons, are alone worth the cost of membership.)

Speaking of the holiday season, what better time than the **Tenth of December** to **celebrate the holidays with your friends from SAGE**? Nestled between Thanksgiving and Christmas/Chanukah, it is the perfect time to relax just a bit before the rush of gifting and traveling gets too overwhelming.

Once again, **John Gearrity** has come up with a great menu, a fabulous location, and a lively program for our annual "Holiday Luncheon" – the beautiful "Sheraton Yankee Trader Resort" (also called "The Sea Trader"). This promises to be a wonderful afternoon of camaraderie. So please, check your calendars and make your reservations early so that you're not left out.

Which brings me to Calendars. Because of the exigencies of printing this beautiful Newsletter, and getting it to you *timely*, we sometimes have to print things that later need clarification or correction. The **flyers**, on the other hand, are printed at practically the last minute (before the Newsletter is mailed out), and contain updated information. So **please, read your flyers**. They will let you know who to contact, and how, if there has been a change, and where an event is held. Or you can always call the SAGE message line (954-720-0833) and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you to **Miss Vicky**. Also, thanks to **Leo, Ron, Dick and Gary** who volunteered at our November luncheon.

Looking forward to many more social events in the New Year... ■

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SAGE WOMEN IN ACTION

MOVIE, LUNCH, DISCUSSION GROUP

No movie this month because of the holidays.

SHIRLEY'S GIRLS LUNCHEON

The December 13th luncheon will be held at Jean and Betty's. The luncheon will begin at noon and will be a "POT LUCK". Please call Jean or Betty at 954-921-6898 to coordinate food. **This is a SAGE sponsored activity.** ■

MEN'S SINGLES GROUP

Please be advised, we will not have our monthly SAGE Men's Singles Dinner in December as it falls on Christmas day. See you in January, if you're still single.

Happy Holiday! **This is a SAGE sponsored activity.** ■

Wayne Morris

MEN'S WEDNESDAY DROP-IN

The discussions are always lively on many diverse topics. The social hour, following the discussions, serves as a way to really get to know your fellow members. The group meets every Wednesday at the GLCC from 1-3 PM. Try it. You'll like it. **This is a SAGE sponsored activity.** ■

BOOK BUNCH NEWS: DECEMBER

The Book Bunch will not meet in December but on behalf of Wayne Draper and myself I want to wish all SAGE members a happy and healthy Holiday!



On January 13, 2007, the group will reassemble for a lively discussion on a delightful comic memoir by Alison Bechdel, "Fun Home, A Family Tragicomic." Ms. Bechdel is well known for her long running comic strip, "Dykes to Watch Out For." In this memoir she chronicles her childhood and coming of age as a woman and lesbian. With a closeted gay father and troubled mother her life is anything but dull. Join us at 2:00 PM at Border's on Sunrise Blvd. in Ft. Lauderdale. All are welcome.

As a heads up and to give our readers time to read the February dual selection, we're announcing it now. All of us who love classic Hollywood and grew up watching movies in the 50's and 60's will enjoy this look behind the closet door of the period. The two selections are Tab Hunter's autobiography entitled "Tab Hunter, Confidential," and Robert Hofler's "The Man Who Invented Rock Hudson." This tale looks well beyond the Rock Hudson story and gives a behind the scenes look at the life of Henry Wilson, an agent who had a stable of gay actors of the era. You can read one or both of these delightful gossipy books and then join us for discussion on February 10, 2007. **This is a SAGE sponsored activity.** ■

Bob Tomasulo

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“SENIOR ACTION IN A GAY ENVIRONMENT”

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**SAGE NEEDS YOU!
PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW TODAY**

For additional information, please call the message line: 954-720-0833

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DEAN TRANTALIS

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not only be based on advertisements. Before you decide, ask the lawyer to send you free written information about their qualifications and experience.

SAGE COMPUTER CLUB by Ken Goodman

I would have liked to have started the club in January. Unfortunately, I have been unable to find a location that is suitable which contains the equipment necessary to make this an interactive experience. So if you are given lemons you make lemonade.

Here is my proposal. I will arrange for a meeting place that will be set up like a classroom. So far the best alternatives have been GLCC or the MCC Church. Any other suggestions would be appreciated. The main requirement would be that we can have a private room. The libraries have computers at their facilities but they will not allow the space to be private. Anyone who owns a portable computer should bring it to the meeting; this will enable you to work along with me. For those that don't have a portable computer I will prepare a sheet with some of the information present.

For this endeavor, I will need a projector to display what I'm teaching. This equipment runs anywhere from \$500 to \$1,000. To defray the cost I am proposing that there be a nominal fee per session of \$10.00. This will be used to reimburse the cost of the equipment.





Most people who responded to my initial queries said they would like the club to meet twice a month for about two hours. Therefore, I will try to arrange to have us meet on the first and third Mondays of the month from 4:00 pm 'til 6:00 pm. I am proposing a format with two distinct parts. The first part will be a presentation format with me presenting computer fundamentals while the second part will be an open discussion with questions and hopefully answers. This will allow those who would like to go for a cocktail and the 10 for \$10 dinner at Tropics the ability to do that afterward.

You can call the SAGE office with your suggestions at: 954-720-0833 or e-mail us at: sageoffice@bellsouth.net. **This is a SAGE sponsored activity.** ■



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

You are cordially invited to Al & Tom's Spectacular home with 25 Christmas trees and over 100,000 lights. A sight not to be missed!

	DATE:	Sunday, December 17th	
	TIME:	6 PM to 9 PM	
	TYPE:	Covered Dish	
	DONATION:	\$5.00	

Al & Tom will furnish the setups, soft drinks, plates, cups and utensils.

Please contact Al & Tom at: 954-570-5906 or Email: altom5450@aol.com. ■

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 1610 N. 28th Court
 Hollywood, Florida 33020

Rickey Pine
1st Vice President

Dear President *Jean* Johnson,

Carmen McGarry
2nd Vice President

I just read the November issue of The SAGE and was extremely impressed by the format, contents, and writing styles.

Mayor Jack Brady
3rd Vice President

Under your extremely capable leadership, SAGE, in our community, is well known, appreciated, and respected as an organization and as a positive force for recognition of the Gay Community.

Joseph F. Scott
Treasurer

Hopefully, the Noble A. McArtor Adult Day Care Center, housed on the beautiful Sunshine Cathedral Campus, soon will attract a greater number of frail participants from the Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Senior Population in Broward County. This pioneer facility is the first in the world, and the Aging and Disability Resource Center is proud of the Staff who welcome participants and their caregivers to a "Home Away From Home."

Manuel Synalovski, AIA
Secretary

This Executive Director looks forward to cooperating with you and SAGE now, as in the past, and for many future years.

Mary Todd
Parliamentarian

Very sincerely,

Leetta Williams
Immediate Past President

Edith Lederberg
 Executive Director

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 Arthur M. Birken
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EL:cm

cc: Bob Tomasulo, Board Member, Areawide Council on Aging

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November 08, 2006

Edith Lederberg, Executive Director
 Aging & Disability Resource Center of Broward County
 5345 N. W. 35 Avenue
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

Dearest Edith,

I thank you so much for the beautiful letter and your words of confidence in our SAGE Organization.

I assure you we appreciate all your hard work to get the World's first and only to my knowledge federally-funded Adult Day Care Center designed to serve the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community. It makes the fear of growing older much less knowing there is a safe place to go.

We will forever be grateful to you and may your name always be a legend.

Abundant love & blessings.

Jean Johnson
 Jean Johnson
 President
 SAGE of South Florida Inc.

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SAGE MISSION STATEMENT

SAGE of South Florida is a non-profit organization for **Senior Action** in a **Gay Environment** to enrich the lives of the GLBT senior community through membership inclusive of age, gender, race, nationality and religion. We believe this can be accomplished by sponsoring social alternatives to provide personal interaction, offering educational opportunities to deal with the special needs of aging, and promoting contact with the isolated and homebound persons of our community. **SAGE** is also an advocate for the concerns and needs of the senior GLBT community at large, providing referral information of community resources and promoting inter-generational communication in the GLBT community.

SAGE was founded in 1994 as a Florida "not for profit" Corporation. (Federal Tax-Exempt status of 501(c)3 allowing tax-deductible donations). ■

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DECEMBER 2006 • SAGE Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Board Mtg. 9:30 AM <hr/> Members' Lunch 12:30 PM - Herb Skolnick CC
3 Gay Community Bereavement Group 2-4 PM GLCC	4	5	6 SAGE Men's Drop-In 1:00 PM GLCC	7 SAGE Co-ed Drop-In 1:00 PM GLCC	8	9
10 Gay Community Bereavement Grp. 2-4 PM GLCC HOLIDAY LUNCHEON Sheraton Sea Trader	11 SAGE Movie 4:00 PM GLCC Followed by Dinner at Tropics	12	13 SAGE Men's Drop-In 1 PM - GLCC Shirley's Girls Luncheon - Noon "POT LUCK"	14 SAGE Co-ed Drop-In 1:00 PM GLCC	15	16 FIRST DAY OF HANUKKAH
17 Gay Community Bereavement Group 2-4 PM GLCC	18	19	20 SAGE Men's Drop-In 1:00 PM GLCC	21 SAGE Co-ed Drop-In 1:00 PM GLCC	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 31 New Years Eve	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27 SAGE Men's Drop-In 1:00 PM GLCC	28 SAGE Co-ed Drop-In 1:00 PM GLCC	29	30

HELPFUL INFORMATION

For you new comers to the area, here are some vital addresses for you to note. Now you will know where to attend all of our functions. No more excuses. We are sure that if you call any of these places for directions, they will be pleased to assist you.

BORDERS: 954-566-6335

Next to Galleria Mall, 2240 E. Sunrise Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL

SHERATON SEA TRADER: 467-1111

321 N. Ft. Lauderdale Blvd.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

TROPICS: 954-537-6000

2000 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors, FL

HERB SKOLNICK COMMUNITY CENTER: 954-786-4590

800 S.W. 36 Avenue, Pompano Beach, FL

GLCC: 954-463-9005

1717 N. Andrews Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, FL