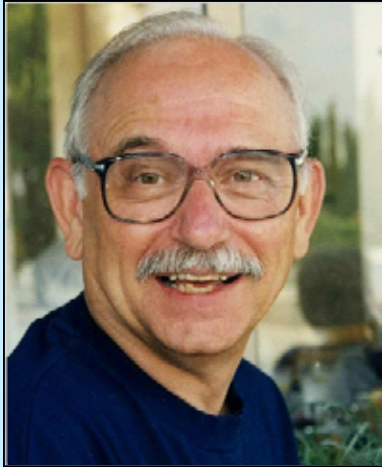


LIVE NOW!

BRYANT SHERRON, PRESIDENT
PRIME TIMERS CENTRAL VIRGINIA (RICHMOND)



Today's now is the time we saw as the future yesterday and will be the past we look back on tomorrow. Time is that elusive collection of moments that resides in our memories and oddly enough has a way of altering as it lingers. We color our memories with

our environments and exposures. Memory is subject to the vicissitudes of our experiences. Thus the foundation for the preamble: "In my opinion..."

Then "in my opinion" we stand on the threshold of an extraordinary time. I hear so much talk of a dismal future.

Well, it will be if we think that way, so let's change a little bit. Maybe we don't

We stand on the threshold of an extraordinary time

think our little bit counts. It is the grain of sand in the oyster shell that causes the pearl to form. Why can we just do that little bit? George Bernard Shaw says: "A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable but more useful than a life spent doing nothing."

Let's do something. Look around, aren't the people that are involved in life the most happy? Where are you? Don't let life pass you by. Get involved. Our Prime Timers chapter is the perfect place to get involved. Participate, or maybe start a new special interest group. Now is the time to take advantage of the time.

"Live now. Make now always the most precious time. Now will never come again," says Capt. Jean-Luc Picard, USS Enterprise.

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PRIME TIMERS AROUND THE WORLD ARE LIVING NOW!

Helping Others



Prime Timers of Central Florida Secretary Ron Bush and Treasurer Jerry Danese deliver boxes of personal toiletry items to Duane Hoyle, Volunteer Coordinator of Hope and Help Center of Central Florida which provides services to people affected by HIV/AIDS in metropolitan Orlando.

Having Fun



Twelve Fort Lauderdale Prime Timers showed up at George Brummer Park for a first – Bocce Ball. They hope this can become another regular "sports" activity for the

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FOUNDER FILOSOFY

BY WOODY BALDWIN, PRIME TIMERS FOUNDER

There are so many advantages to being 90+, I don't know why I didn't start sooner. I dreaded it and looked forward to it at the same time. Go ahead and plan for it; it's a piece of cake (or should I say candy?)

For Christmas I got so much candy, I put on some more girth (Just want I didn't need). I had a friend once who told all his family, "Don't give me anything for Christmas that I can't eat". I didn't tell anyone but it just happened, and it shouldn't to a chocolate addict like yours truly. But when you are 90, no one cares if you get fatter; they're not planning to sexually abuse you anyhow (Abuse? I am so naive I've always thought it was fun!). I was at a comedy club once when the comic asked an "elderly" man in the audience, "Are you gay or straight?" The guy said, "Listen, Son, at my age you take what you can get and don't ask questions."

In this fun time of your life, people help you across the street whether you wanted to go or not. They get in your way by helping you out of the car when you can do it better alone. They give you their seat making you feel guilty for their having to stand. Don't think for a minute that such courtesies are not appreciated; standing makes your "feel good" hurt so much more when you stand with arthritic knees.

Did you notice that once you reached 65 people started telling you how good you look? Makes you feel good. Then also they tell you how much younger you look than

your current age. Makes you feel good. Then you look in the mirror. Makes you feel bad. You realize and live with the fact that, yes, you look your age. But that fact is counterbalanced with the thought that you are older than you ever dreamed of being.

You think you are retired, but old age is a full time job taking 20 pills a day, exercising, applying pain killer, visiting doctors, relaxing, drinking liquids, etc, there is no time to live. But you're already accustomed to doing all these things since 65, you have a solution all worked out; it can be described in one word "procrastinate". Who's going to know? You start your day by prioritizing all the nothings you will do.

Now, aren't you glad you're 90+!!!

LIVE NOW!

Learning



Members of Vintage Men / Melbourne Prime Timers on a visit to Parliament House. Their tour-guide Daved is giving them an interesting and informative talk about the House.

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COMING SOON**PRIME TIMERS 5TH ANNUAL WESTERN REGIONAL GATHERING AT LAS VEGAS • MAY 6-10**

In 2011, the Western Regional Gathering featured an evening at the Auto Museum in Las Vegas

The Las Vegas Prime Timers will hold their 5th annual Western Regional Gathering May 6-10, 2012. This year's event at the Alexis Park Resort Hotel, 375 E. Harmon (across from the Hardrock Hotel) expects to attract 200 men from all over the country. The Western Regional Gathering includes both scheduled events and free time. Hotel rooms are available at the Alexis Park Resort at discount \$39 a night rates. Use code "Las Vegas Prime Timers – 2012". Attendees do NOT have to be a member of the Prime Timers. All adult male men are welcome to register.

A Registration/Hospitality room will be available for information and socializing throughout the event. Guests are invited to drop in, obtain information on activities, and network with other men. Special activities will also be available. Scheduled events begin on Sunday evening, May 6, 2012, with a continuous

shuttle bus from the Alexis Park Resort Hotel to the (gay) Buffalo Lounge so participants can attend the events there. This will be a chance for the attendees to meet men of Las Vegas as well as get to know each other.

The opening event will take place Monday Evening, May 7, with a Meet and Greet Poolside Appetizer Reception and "1st Drink FREE" Bar.

Tuesday, May 8, evening's entertainment, after the food and "1st Drink FREE" Bar Reception, will be a show at the famed Las Vegas Comedy Showroom right at the Alexis Park Resort.

The big event on Wednesday Evening, after the "1st Drink FREE" Bar Reception, will be an "All-You-Can-Eat Buffet" Finale Banquet on the Alexis Park Convention Rooftop overlooking the famous STRIP lights. Special entertainment will be provided to enhance the evening's experience. Following dinner will be the First Annual Charity Concert, in conjunction with the Nevada AIDS Project. The concert ticket is included in the event package price; remaining tickets will be sold separately to the public.

The Las Vegas Chapter reports that room reservations for the May Gathering at the \$39 a night rate are almost filled so they recommend that if you are planning to attend, you go ahead and make your reservations as soon as possible. To make hotel reservations call - DON'T ONLINE - to make your reservations, call - 702-796-3300. Use the code - "Las Vegas Prime Timers 2012" - for \$39 discounted room rates (+ taxes, of course).

Complete information is available on the Las Vegas Prime Timers website - <http://www.LasVegasPrimeTimers.com>. The registration form information is available on the site. For more information email them at LVprimeTimers@cox.net, or call 702-553-5713 and leave a message.



For Hotel Reservations

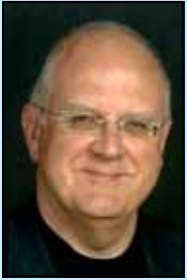
Call 1-702-796-3300. Use the code - "Las Vegas Prime Timers 2012" - for \$39 Rate

For the Regional Event

www.LasVegasPrimeTimers.com or call 702-553-5713

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

GETTING TO KNOW PTWW PRESIDENT ROB HOWARD



In the Central Oklahoma newsletter, we run a column called "Up Close and Personal" about a member from our chapter. It seemed a good idea to do one for Prime Times, so that you can get to know me better.

1. **Where were you born?** Oklahoma City in 1946, lived there until I was 14 when we moved to Honolulu.
2. **Where did you graduate high school?** Harding Jr. Sr. High in Oklahoma City, but consider Roosevelt High in Honolulu to be *my* high school.
3. **Any high school activities?** Ran for president of the Sr. Class at Roosevelt – guess it's in my blood. Debate Team and Senior Play at Harding.
4. **How many siblings?** One, a brother. I consider my closest friends more as my brothers (or in some cases, my sisters.)
5. **What is your favorite type of meal?** From looking at me, probably just about anything. But I am particularly fond of Cassoulet, a country French bean stew, and Fondue.
6. **What is your favorite junk food?** I'm not really fond of junk food, but I do like Tacos from Taco Bueno from time to time.
7. **Do you enjoy a cocktail?** I'm more of a beer and wine kind of guy.
8. **A favorite restaurant in the area?** Fung's Kitchen and Sushi Neko, both in Oklahoma City; Christo's Greek Restaurant in Minneapolis.
9. **What is on your car radio?** KGOU (Oklahoma Public Radio), but realistically, I'm just as likely to listen to Sirius/XM playing CNN or MSNBC, or my extensive folk music collection on my iPhone.
10. **A favorite cologne?** Can't wear fragrances – a light citrus scent on a good looking man is nice though.
11. **Is there a TV program you'll always try to watch?** I'm a crime show and news show kinda guy, so "Criminal Minds," "CSI," and "Person of Interest" are my favorite crime shows; my favorite news shows are "The Rachel Maddow Show," "The Last Word" with Lawrence O'Donnell and "Up With Chris Hayes," all on MSNBC.
12. **A hobby?** Several, reading, travel – particularly to Europe, developing Powerpoint shows with music from my collection of photos; I'm a real history buff, and enjoy visiting monuments, and Civil War, World War I, and World War II battle sites. I also like listening to music, particularly folk music – I caught that bug at a "Peter, Paul, and Mary" concert in 1962, and have been collecting and listening to folk music ever since.
13. **Do you attend a church?** I'm not religious, but consider myself a spiritual person. For years, I've subscribed to the "one big soul" theory put forth by Preacher Casey and Tom Joad in John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath," and perhaps even better summarized by Woody Guthrie in his ballad "Tom Joad"-

***Tom Joad:** Well, maybe it's like Casey says. A fellow ain't got a soul of his own, just little piece of a big soul, the one big soul that belongs to everybody, then...*

***Ma Joad:** Then what, Tom?*

***Tom Joad:** Then it don't matter. I'll be all around in the dark - I'll be everywhere. Wherever you can look - wherever there's a fight, so hungry people can eat, I'll be there. Wherever there's a cop beatin' up a guy, I'll be there. I'll be in the way guys yell when they're mad. I'll be in the way kids laugh when they're hungry and they know supper's ready, and when the people are eatin' the stuff they raise and livin' in the houses they build - I'll be there, too.*

***Ma Joad:** I don't understand it, Tom.*

***Tom Joad:** Me, neither, Ma, but - just somethin' I been thinkin' about.*

Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck
14. **Where did you live the most of your adult life?** Minneapolis and the Twin Cities, Minnesota, but I've lived several other places, and if you consider the accumulation of 57 visits to Paris France so far, about a year there. After three years in Honolulu, it was back to Oklahoma City for three years, then to Minneapolis to finish college, and other than my Air Force time, lived there 36 years, and back to OKC in 2002. In the Air Force I lived in Syracuse, NY; Kunsan AB, Korea; and Frankfurt am Main, Germany.
15. **Your type of love interest?** Usually younger men by which I mean 30s and 40s, but personal-

(Continued on page 5)

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL CONTINUED

ROB HOWARD

(Continued from page 4)

ity is the most important component. I have two partners, one older, one younger – we all three live together in Oklahoma City.

16. Someplace you've been in life with a special memory?

Paris, France 57 times so far, I'd live there if I could. But really, I have special memories from all the places I've visited. I've been to most countries in Western Europe, lived in Germany as mentioned above, and have traveled extensively in Asia as well. My job entailed a lot of travel in the last ten years – even to the point of two around-the-world business trips.

17. Something you've done in life that many may not know?

Well, first, I was married for nine years, and have a great 35 year old son, Nathan, who lives in St. Paul. I also at times have played banjo, developed my own photographs and slides, and have a long commitment to human rights advocacy that started in college.

That's something that drives my life, and has been much of my focus as a member of Prime Timers. It is critically important that we continue the great social events that chapters have. Every time a member attends an event, it is a time when he isn't feeling lonely or depressed at home. We also need to work on areas that are critical to our membership, like LGBT friendly senior housing, long-term care facilities, and healthcare.

18. Something on your bucket list to do?

Although I've spent a lot of in Asia, I have never visited China or India – both places that I would like to see. St. Petersburg to see the Hermitage museum. Another trip to Greece and Turkey – Istanbul is one of the most beautiful cities I have been too. And Israel.

Article conceived and crafted by Zach Mullaney, Central Oklahoma Chapter

GETTING OFF TO A GOOD START

MICHAEL STONE, DIRECTOR EMERITUS



There's nothing more exciting than moving forward; this is exactly what we, as an organization, are doing in 2012.

Working with men committed to organizing and starting a new chapter is rewarding for all.

At Labor Day in Oklahoma City I met Dick Angel and soon thereafter he started work in producing a Louisville, Kentucky chapter. Along with his artistically gifted friend Randy they put up a website. Take a look at what they've done:

<http://www.primetimerslouisville.org/index.php>

The Louisville chapter is off and running and slowly gathering momentum with activities and new members. If you know of anyone in or near the area have them contact the group at the above link!

Over two years ago I attended a Gay Pride Parade in the West Palm Beach area. I was amazed to see tens (or maybe hundreds) of Gay men all in the 'Prime Timers age group'.

Yet, nothing there existed for them. I've attempted to get something going but, until recent months, had little success.

About six weeks ago I received an email from two men in the area (Al and Bruce) and have been in touch with them. Once they received our 'start-up kit' they contacted me and made the commitment to work to start a chapter. This past Sunday we met at Al's home. At present they're preparing for a start-up meeting in early March.

I will be driving over for this event. It reminds me of the time in 2002 when I drove over to meet with Woody and Sean to help start our Ft. Lauderdale chapter. While reading this if you know of friends in the area have them contact Al : Phone: (561) 504-4175 Email: pbpt2012@att.net

Late last year two men in Savannah, Georgia contacted me and we have since worked together. Sometime early this year they will be launching a chapter in that beautiful city. They will also be in Sarasota in about 2 weeks and I'm looking forward to meeting with them and answering as many questions as I can. I will be in Savannah on March 26.

During the past few years I've made several attempts to get a chapter started in Great Britain The first was in person on a visit there! I met with little success. However, in the past weeks I've begun work with two men in London. They've now received our 'start-up kit' and seem to be the right combination to get the job done. Let us hope that our London chapter will be up and running during 2012!

Michael Stone is former Worldwide President, and currently fills the position of Director Emeritus on the PTWW board. His primary responsibility on the board is helping new chapters get up and running, and assisting chapters if they are having problems or need a boost. Michael has been on the Worldwide board since 2003.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL GATHERING

JULY 19-22, 2012

The Colorado Prime Timers are having their second Rocky Mountain Regional Gathering July 19 through 22, 2012. The three day event includes a performance of the Gray Stocking Review, a walking tour of Historic Downtown Denver, a banquet with entertainment, and an open bar two nights, as well as a mixer on Friday evening at Denver's Capitol Hill Mansion. There are two packages available, currently priced at \$90 and \$150, as well as ala carte selections.



The 2009 Rocky Mountain Regional featured several field trips with stunning views of the Rocky Mountains. The 2012 event features a number of planned field trips as well.



Gray Stocking Review will perform at the Gathering

The Gray Stocking Review, a troupe of men over 50, puts on a great show. They were featured at the last Rocky Mountain Regional in July 2009.

Some members of the Colorado Prime Timers

perform as part of the Review. It is a first class show, and you don't want to miss it. Also available are several interesting tours in the Rocky Mountains, including Pike's Peak via the Cog Railway including lunch and drinks for \$50; a Mount Evans/Echo Lake, with a stop for lunch on your own, for \$18; and a visit to the Colorado Railroad Museum for \$7.

The event headquarters is the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Denver where the room rate for the gathering is \$119 plus tax, single or double occupancy. Third and fourth person in the room is available for a supplement. The hotel is not included in the price of the gathering. **Reservations can be made at 303.573.1450, be sure you mention Colorado Prime Timers.** Parking at the hotel is a reasonable \$10 per day.

For additional information, a brochure, and a registration form, go to www.coloradoprime timers.com, or call them at 303-331-2458 and leave a voicemail or by email at info@coloradoprime timers.com.



MID-WINTER RENDEZVOUS IN OKLAHOMA CITY

Still Room At The Habana Inn

Reservations are coming in for the Mid-Winter Rendezvous over Presidents' Day Weekend at the Habana Inn in Oklahoma City. Central Oklahoma Prime Timers, the chapter that hosts the annual Labor Day Weekend, is hosting the event, February 17-20, 2012.

Winter? In Oklahoma City? Really? Yep, the weather this winter has been exceptionally warm – recent daytime temps are in the 50s, 60s, and even the 70s.

In the old days (the REALLY Old Days) hunters and trappers held a yearly Rendezvous to trade supplies, restock, sell their hides, and generally have a gay old time. So they picked Mid-Winter Rendezvous for the theme. The Ledo Bar in the Habana Inn, where much of the fun will be had, will be decorated in Hunting Lodge Chic; the bar tender, we have been promised, will be wearing flannel shirts.

The Rendezvous will include a welcome party on Friday, a Dinner on Saturday, and a Brunch on Sunday. If the weather is nice, the Habana Pool will be heated. There will be plenty of indoor events, with board games and local field trips. There will be a trip to the Chickasaw Cultural Center if enough folks are interested. Of course, there will be Happy Hours.

The Habana Inn is offering a special king or double room rate of \$49.95 (plus tax) per night for a three night minimum stay. That's the usual price for a single room. Additional nights after the minimum of three, before and after the weekend will be further discounted to \$44.95. There is still plenty of room for the event, although the best rooms are getting snatched up.

You can still attend. The price for the event is \$69, with an additional \$30 if you want the Chickasaw Cultural Center field trip. To register, send an email to PTLaborday@aol.com, including your name, address, phone number, email address, names you want on your name tag, and whether or not you want the Chickasaw field trip. The registrar will send a return email giving you a registration number, which you need to get the special rate for the weekend.

35 guys have already registered, and the Central Oklahoma guys are hoping for 50 to 100. It will be a great mid-winter break for all who attend.

FESTIVE ORLANDO AFFAIR SETS RECORD ATTENDANCE

BY RON BUSH, SECRETARY, PRIME TIMERS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

A record number of Prime Timers of Central Florida attended the chapter's annual Christmas dinner party on December 11 at the Sheraton Downtown Orlando hotel. Seventy-six members gathered in the



Orlando Members Stan Talbott, George Sepso, Don May, Ron Bush and Jerry Danese were among those attending the holiday dinner party. Talbott and May live in Canada.

Zinfandel Room for a social hour that was followed by a buffet loaded with traditional favorites.

For the third consecutive year, an anonymous donation of \$600 made it possible for every member to attend the dinner without any charge.

As they have done for five years, members attending the dinner brought small-sized personal toiletry items (toothpaste and toothbrushes, soaps, shampoos, razors and shaving cream, etc.) for donation to Hope and Help of Central Florida for distribution to people affected by HIV/AIDS. This year's donations valued at about \$500 filled four big boxes.

As members enjoyed their desserts and coffee, President Jim Moore thanked everyone for coming out for the dinner and recognized Board members for their work. Moore's remarks were followed by a gift exchange. Unlike two years ago, Santa Claus was not able to stop by to hand out the gifts this year but Board members Edwin Barnes, Ron Bush and Jerry Danese filled in.

Prime Timers of Central Florida meets the last Saturday of the month at the Parliament House Footlight Theater, and has weekly lunches or dinners, weekly bowling and a monthly evening at Stonewall Bar.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY 2012 PRESIDENT'S BALL "PASSING THE TORCH"

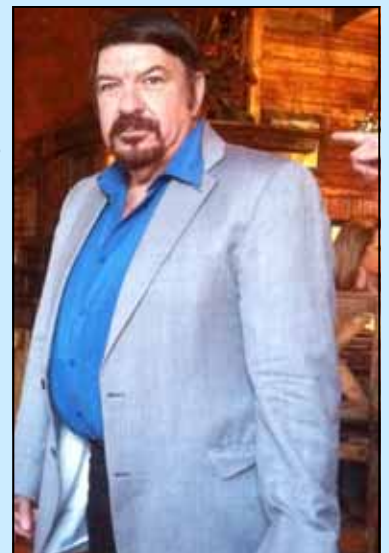
On January 14, 2012, the Rio Grande Valley Primetimers gathered together to honor 2011 outgoing President, Fred Hinojosa, for his outstanding dedication and leadership during the past year and for guiding the RGV Chapter to new heights in brotherhood.

The evening was also planned to welcome new president, Wayne Harley, and "Pass the Torch" from Fred to Wayne for the coming year. Wayne expressed a great deal of enthusiasm for the coming year and mentioned several goals he has for the Chapter. We all look forward to Wayne's direction and vision as we support him in guiding our ever-growing membership over the next year. In addition, new Board of Directors for 2012 were recognized: Vice-President, David Smith; Secretary, Ruben Zavala; and Treasurer, David Hilse. Also elected to this year's Board are: Bob Brixey, Pete Mendoza, Rolando Garza, Jimmy Fanning, and Lee Evans.

Wayne paused to recognize one member for consistently demonstrating the excellence and fellowship during 2011 that every member of this Chapter strives

to achieve. Pete Mendoza was awarded this inaugural honor and received a commemorative plaque citing him for his outstanding efforts to plan and execute events for the Chapter that generated fun and enhanced brotherhood for all members. Congratulations Pete!

The Chapter celebrated with a fabulous buffet and specialty drinks and danced the evening away to music provided by guest DJs, with a dash of Selena and "Y.M.C.A." provided by Lee Evans! It truly was a night to remember...



Outgoing RGV President
Fred Hinojosa

HERE AND THERE

BY CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
ZACH MULLANEY, CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

KANSAS CITY, KS/MO Treasurer Clay Miller had the gang over for a New Year's Eve Bash. It was a delicious sit-down dinner and a lot of good conversation. He says they turned the TV on at 11pm to watch Dick Clark's ball drop. Sounds like a good time.

ORLANDO, CENTRAL FLORIDA-107 members This chapter collected personal toiletry items at their annual Christmas Holiday dinner party. The collected items go to the Hope and Help Organization of Central Florida for people affected by HIV/AIDS. With 76 attending the dinner, a goodly amount of gifts were collected.

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA-108 members A busy group and a full newsletter! Enjoyed the 'Hunky Member of the Month'. At their January general meeting, they'll have an immigration attorney speaking on the regulations for same sex couples wanting to immigrate into Canada. That would be an interesting meeting, for sure.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA The speaker at their January meeting is Tom Spence, founder of Celebration of Friends in Ft. Lauderdale. Tom will be taking all proceeds from the Celebration and put towards affordable senior gay housing. He is driving around the country checking out retirements communities, and will be speaking at the chapter's general meeting. They are also talking about an affiliation between the chapter and the Flex Baths. Besides getting a \$5 discount by showing the P/T membership card, the outside pool area can be reserved for parties.

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA G'day! Congratulations and thanks to member Don Bay for his many years of service to the chapter. He has been a Vintage Men board member for 17 years, and the editor of the newsletter for 14 of them. He's now just going to kick back, relax, and enjoy. Good on ya, Don. You've served well.

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA This chapter is being recognized by St. Mark's Episcopal Church for all the chapter does in the senior gay community. The very first chapter meeting was held at St. Mark's ten years ago, and the church has been a supporter of the chapter since. Hopefully many members will be attending the 10:30am service on Sunday, January 22th.

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA This year their Christmas Social was held at a German restaurant in the area. For anyone that enjoys German food, the menu printed in the newsletter would make the mouth salivate. Roast beef with sour gravy,

spaetzle, wiener schnitzel, hot potato salad, sweet and sour cabbage....my, my! With full tummies from all the main dishes, homemade apple streudel followed. Sheesh! Memories of my omah!

CROSSTIMBERS, TEXAS This chapter west of Ft. Worth is having a chili feast. Two of their members, James and Joe, are hosting it at their place, and having an old family recipe of chili, rice, cornbread, and ice tea. Everyone else is bringing desserts, snacks, and their own drinks if not an ice tea drinker. This sounds like a fun afternoon with lots of good eats that will linger on into the evening.

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA The chapter has two on-going events to mention. Wednesday nights, from 5pm-9pm, several meet for Happy Hour at the ReHab Bar. Prime Timer Tom Bendle is the bartender and pizza is provided. Sunday, in the afternoon after church around 4-ish, the guys meet at the One-O-One for Happy Hour. Mixed drinks and beer are all half-price on Sundays.

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS-208 members The chapter has reserved seats again this year for the 164th annual presentation of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals just outside Harvard Square. If any of you visiting Boston would like to attend, you'll need to get your own tickets. Their guys will be front and center, rows 3-5. Try to get yours as close as possible for contact and saying "Hello!".

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS Worried about what a computer repair tech might find looking into your computer? This chapter has their own repair guru. Members that may have a photo or two that could tell what website they had visited may not want the repair gal at Best Buy checking it. With their guru, there will be no eyebrow-raising, though there may be some appreciation. We'll need to check on our own chapter and see if we have one.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON Former Prez Bob R. shared in their January newsletter he's been diagnosed with prostate cancer. It is reaching the stage in growth that something has to be done. He is contacting the proton beam therapy at Loma Linda University's Medical Center fairly close to his home in Palm Springs. One of our own Central Oklahoma members, Nathan, used them with enthusiastic success. Bob will certainly be in our thoughts as he begins to undergo treatment.

CLEVELAND, OHIO Jim W., the chapter President, is recovering from a successful operation for lung cancer. He states in the letter that his energy level is very low, but that is to be expected. We certainly wish for complete success to both Seattle's Bob and Cleveland's Jim, and that they will have a bright, healthy coming year.

CALGARY, ALBERTA The chapter has an on-going get-together every Saturday morning. The guys meet at the Midtown Co-Op for coffee and gossip at 10am. If you haven't attended, it is located at 1130 - 11 Ave SW. If you're visiting, or just passing through, and it's a Saturday, they'd be pleased of you'd stop by.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA This chapter is in one of the world's most interesting cities. They meet at 2pm on the first and third Sundays of the month at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, the corner of Franklin and Geary. The Castro District has created the 'Castro Ambassadors' to assist with tourism as it has become one of the most well known neighborhoods of the city. At the January P/T meeting, the Ambassadors will have their group's founder discuss the functioning of the organization. I'm sure some interesting side notes can be relayed.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS Some of the guys will meet around 11:30 Wednesday mornings at the Chicago Cultural Center. This is a free classical concert, and you can meet them and enjoy the concert also. They get together in the first floor lounge of the Center near the north entrance off Randolph Street. Lunch after.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA We always enjoy the musings of their Prez Gary's newsletter. He tells it like it is, and the telling of George leaving lunch early to get to his baton twirling class made us smile. It sounds like the group has a lot of fun together. On your next trip to N.O., check their WW newsletter, and see if they have an activity you can join while you're in the city.

WASHINGTON, DC One could spend weeks in the capital and not see it all. Many take several trips to take in new treasures. One thing you need to put on your "to do" list while in DC is to every Wednesday evening meet with the chapter for cocktails at Windows Bar - 6:30ish. So remember, WNW: Wednesday Night at Windows is a must!

2012 IS A GREAT TIME TO BE A PRIMETIMER

BY EVERETT ROSNER, VP INDEPENDENTS

WOW!! 2012 is a great time to be a Prime Timer. Thanks to all the Independent Members who have renewed their membership.

Over 68% have responded to the membership letter sent in December, thank you.

This is going to be a great year for regional gathering's, a chance to meet new friends, see old friends and explore new places and cities. Host cities and chapters include Oklahoma City in February and

Labor Day Weekend. Las Vegas in May, Denver in July and Provincetown in October. And Michael

has arranged many cruises for this year. Please see the newsletter for all the details on all events.

A lot of chapters have outings where several chapters get together for a outing. As I learn of these I will let Independent Members from those areas know so they can attend. I know some independent members belong to the local chapter also, I may send letters about local chapter happenings, sorry for the duplication.



WHAT A GREAT "OPENING THE CLOSET ON AGING" CONFERENCE

BY JEFF SCHMIDT, TORONTO PRIME TIMERS

I feel so fortunate to be a 70 year old, Gay Senior living in the Gay Village of Toronto, where events like this are just around the corner. The 519 Community Centre is such a great place to find support for the aging Gay population; the Conference on aging being just one example.

History and Activism, Health and Wellness and Human Rights were some of the main topics that were dealt with. Two of the workshops I attended had to do with Media. The first

"Rise of the Silver Surfer" told us that the 50-plussers are the fastest growing demographic on Facebook and other social media platforms.

By engaging and connecting we can empower our lives by using social media. The second "Aging with Pride" showed an amazing video created by CARP's Pink Chapter, which stressed that together we can make a difference by being involved and making sure that our voice is heard.

One of my favourite parts was the Conference Reception – an evening of entertainment and schmoozing, where the highlight for me was a delightful, graceful and romantic ballet-jazz type performance. This event was free for anyone to attend. Talking about free – by volunteering for a few hours one could attend the whole conference for free and even be fed with delicious foods from the Café downstairs. What better deal is there?

The 519 Drop-in Centre for Seniors and Prime Timers Toronto are two great social outlets for the 50+ folks, that I am glad to be part of. Where else can you find not just one but two Christmas parties, as we have with Prime Timer's this year.

The Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto is another support that I am extremely thankful for. Volunteering here is a wonderful way to be connected and to give-back from an institution that gives so much. Delivering Toronto Star Santa Claus boxes through the church is one of my favourite things to do at Christmas time and experience thankful children's angel-faces that can delight the heart.

Volunteering, in my opinion, is one of the best ways to keep active, socialize and have a sense-of purpose. It works for me.



Live Now!



Charlotte Chapter combined Thanksgiving Dinner with donations to the House of Mercy, which provides a home and specialized care for persons living with AIDS.

ACCEPTANCE - NOT TOLERANCE AND HATE-CRIMES

LUKE BRYANT, INDEPENDENT MEMBER, AUSTRALIA

In May 1972 Dr. George Duncan, a gay Law Lecturer at Adelaide University, South Australia was first attacked and thrown into the Torrens River to drown. In the United States in 1998, gay Wyoming student Matthew Shepard, was bludgeoned and left to die while tied to a fence. In 1999 Billy Gaither, a gay textile employee in Alabama, was bashed with an axe, burned and left to die on a pile of motor tires.

In 2011, religious fundamentalists in Iraq, other third world countries and some western nations continue to seek out gay citizens as targets for brutal assaults and murder. In Iran two 16-year-old boys accused of homosexual acts were each lashed 228 times before their public hanging on October 28, 2005, as many Iran's citizens watched and appeared to agree to their execution. In 2011 more men accused of being homosexual were hanged in Iran. The executioners feel their deep-seated hatred of gay/lesbian citizens "qualifies them as 'Honour Bashers and Killing Machines.'"

Sadly, not all enlightened societies have legislation against "Hate Crime" that holds the person responsible for their criminal actions. In Australia and elsewhere today, the increasing amount of school bullying, at times directed at children who are perceived to be gay, is increasing. This worrying bullying trend can be the beginning of future serious hate crimes.

In April 2011, the Australian Victorian Parliament passed new legislation, dubbed "Brodie's Law" against people who engage in bullying or cyber bullying; those persons now face criminal charges with heavy fines and up to 10 years in jail. I hope this new legislation will also apply to the increasing student torment problem.

Luke Bryant



Luke Bryant is an Independent member of Prime Timers Worldwide. He lives in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. He served for nearly 20 years as Head of the Monash University Department of Physics' Photographic Laboratory before retiring in 1982 to

continue his interests in other directions. He was active in the Gay and Lesbian Police Employees Network (GALPEN) in Victoria for a number of years.

In June 2009, Victoria State Police added an extra time slot to the Recruit Training Course; entitled "Introduction to Contemporary Policing" As a gay representative Luke joined the session entitled "Community Encounters" at the Victorian Police Academy. For the recruits, this helps to provide a solid background in modern day policing by examining the role of police in a democratic, diverse community.

In most of the western world, an injurious attack or killing of a person perceived to be gay is a hate crime; often the perpetrator is charged with manslaughter, resulting in lower penalties. This "lower penalty" outcome continues to allow greater potential for unprovoked attacks, bashings and serious crimes against any unwary gay citizen on the street or in Military Service - falsely believing they are accepted, or protected.

Years ago as an Administration Officer of the Gay and Lesbian Police Employees Network (Vic) Inc., (GALPEN) I was in discussion with our Secretary relative to methods of achieving better relations with Victoria's diverse five million population; I used the word "tolerance" meaning the open-mindedness G/L people expect from the straight community when she exclaimed, "No Luke! It's not **tolerance**;

that implies forgiveness or pity, what is required is **acceptance**. That implies equality, therefore equal opportunity."

Her thoughtful understanding encouraged me to seek new ways to overcome strained gay/straight interactions.

However, fifteen years later, acceptance remains rarely achieved in most western nations, while in several non-western countries, governments continue to carry extremist, religiously backed policies of "No tolerance accepted" where any public gathering, or private action involving gay sexuality can result in imprisonment, torture and/or execution.

Extensive legal, medical and social debates have resulted in the replacement of foolish arguments previously raised against serving gay or lesbian Police, Fire fighters, Emergency Service employees, the Military and civilians, but further action is required.

One of my American friends currently stationed in

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ACCEPTANCE - NOT TOLERANCE CONTINUED

(Continued from page 10)

New Zealand wrote, "Although gays are more and more accepted by some in the general population, there is still a great deal of homophobia even in 'developed' countries like the USA, Australia and New Zealand." We more mature gays remember the need for caution in public and selectively choosing who would know about our sexuality."

The homophobic collective against the eventual removal of the "Don't ask don't tell nonsense in the USA, are as weeds in the garden - only by continuous effort are they kept in check. G/L civilians and service members are unlikely to be as secure as they might imagine until tolerance matures to acceptance.

Gay issues in Australia, including gay marriage, remain unresolved as the long journey from "Tolerance" to "Acceptance" continues. In the USA, an increasing number of States now recognize gay marriage; in Canada, recognition is nationwide. But worldwide, religious and political-hard liners live out their hypocrisy proclaiming righteousness and virtue to gain support from radicals of both political and religious groups.

It should be remembered that, at times, a few uncompromising power-seeking individuals elected to government, or given authority over the faithful, have done little to prevent the verbalizing of hate toward gay and lesbian persons. Their behaviour leads to attacks against non-threatening G/L people. In Australia, Courts may regard a prejudice-motivated crime as a criminal act that has been motivated.

People of that criminal breed are abhorrent; politicians and the moderate believers of all faiths and G/L Groups need to expose their malevolence.

Human life on Earth is very dependent on diverse sexual activity. Many of our greatest scholars, philosophers, scientists, artists and military personal were/are gay. In 2011, accredited medical information relative to human sexual diversity still needs to be clearly articulated and accepted, not just tolerated if justice is to prevail in any civilized country.

The United States Constitution and Bill of Rights

proclaim a series of limitations on the power of the Federal Government, protecting the natural rights of liberty and property including freedom (or rejection) of religion, freedom of speech, a free press, free assembly, and free association. It was established in 1791. Australian Law incorporates much of the above, but is it enough?

I question, will free people in democratic societies ever find ways of electing/selecting their political and/or religious leaders, capable of producing laws more acceptable to a multi-cultural, secular society and therefore the majority of the people - laws not defined by the law formulators' particular moral view of right or wrong?

Perhaps only at that time can all democratically elected Governments take serious action against misguided actions perpetrated by some politicians and religious leaders that use their particular faith as an excuse to suppress those that gave them power!



GALPEN's efforts became media headlines when Chief of Police, Christine Nixon led uniformed police at the head of Melbourne's gay and lesbian 'Pride March.'

She stated: ***"What I'm doing is supporting decent and reasonable people who want to get on with their lives, and they have been treated appallingly previously by the Police, and I'm prepared to do something about it. And if it's a small symbol of marching with them, then that would be a reasonable thing to do."***

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER

To submit a story, tell other Prime Timers about your chapter events, write a letter to the editor, or to reprint a story from Prime Times, contact Rob Howard at the address above, or at robhowar@aol.com. Prime Timer chapters are welcome to copy editorial content from Prime Times without further permission. Please give credit to Prime Times, and to the original author and chapter if it is noted. Articles can be sent to you electronically to clip into your newsletter by emailing Rob Howard at robhowar@aol.com.



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