

WE DON'T HAVE TO "GIVE UP EVERYTHING" HOW PRIME TIMERS CAN HELP

BY ROB HOWARD, PRESIDENT, PRIME TIMERS WORLWIDE



In 1984, when I was on the verge of coming out, I was married, had a seven year old son, a good job, and many friends. But being truthful with myself, and with my family and friends, had become so important to me that I was willing to give up everything to be who I am – my family, my job, my friends.

Happily, it didn't turn out that way.

Although my marriage ended, we parted as friends. We shared custody of our son on a 50/50 basis. I kept my job, and in fact, relieved of the stress of living in the closet, my career took off. With few exceptions, my friends affirmed the new information about me, and our relationships continued.

All this came back to me when I listened to the featured speaker at the Central Oklahoma Prime Timers meeting. R. E. Davis, an Adjunct Instructor at Oklahoma University, talked to us about Queer Theory, and particularly the plight of gay youth in rural areas. He pointed out that gay youth may feel compelled to escape to the great gay cities like New York or San Francisco, but that they pay a heavy price. They often have to give up everything that they know

– the rural lifestyle, their high-school friends, their church, their family, and even the jobs they know how to do. There isn't a big market for farming and ranching skills in big cities.

Faced with the great unknown, how many of us take the plunge? But R. E. Davis' talk started me thinking about the need to 'give up everything.' Many of us faced turning our backs on everything we knew and held dear in order to be ourselves. And we face the risk of having to do it all over again in one of the most vulnerable times of our lives.

The next big hurdle may be when we get to the point where we need more intensive medical care, help staying in our homes, or long-term living arrangements such as retirement communities, assisted living centers, and nursing homes. As the film Gen Silent brilliantly points out, senior LGBT people are afraid of discrimination and abuse from care-givers. And after a lifetime of fighting to come out of the closet, because of their fears they are going back in the closet to survive.

Prime Timers has a significant role in helping our members – and older LGBT people everywhere – not have to make that life shattering decision. In its 25th year, PTWW and our 77 chapters help create a caring, friendly environment for our members. I treasure the words of Woody Baldwin in the "How To Manual for Chapter Presidents" that he authored early in the life of Prime Timers:

Don't make the natural mistake of judging success on quantity. If you plan a movie night, and only four men show up, don't think of this as an excuse for discontinuing the event. If four men have a good time, get to know each other, and find fel-

(Continued on page 2)



In the movie "Beginners," Hal Fields (played by Christopher Plummer) comes out at 75. One of the organizations he joins is Prime Timers, which helped fill a social void in his life. You can rent *Beginners* on NetFlix or buy it at most

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FOUNDER FILOSOFY

BY WOODY BALDWIN, PRIME TIMERS FOUNDER

Woody took this issue off. He celebrated his 92nd birthday on March 28.

Happy Birthday Woody!

WE DON'T HAVE TO "GIVE UP EVERYTHING"

(Continued from page 1)

lowship, then there are four men who did not sit at home bored and alone. And, as they talk about their good experience, the number will grow. Remember, we are trying to bring happiness to older gays. If it is done in a group of 30 or 4, the important thing is that we are realizing our goal of improving the social life of men who individually, for many good reasons, may not have been successful in finding happiness in their declining years.

The social nature of Prime Timers is critical to every member of our organization. It gives every member an anchor to feel like we belong, and that we don't have to be lonely. We must continue our social focus. But we can also do more.

It is your board's intent to move forward working with other senior LGBT organizations to make sure we don't have to turn our back on our lives and friends, in order to get continuing high quality health care, and safe and affirming living arrangements. At the Presidents' meeting in Palm Springs last November, the chapters voted to pursue a tax exempt status as a charitable organization (often known as a 501(c)3 organization). That will help us



A poster for Gen Silent, a documentary about the hard choices LGBT elders fear

get corporate and foundation grants to move this work forward.

Your board and I are dedicated to making sure that we don't need to 'give up everything' as mature gay men. I hope you and your chapter will take up that cause along with your social focus. If your board, this newsletter, or I as your president can help you in that endeavor, please let me know.

Best regards,

Rob Howard

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

The Las Vegas Prime Timers would like to invite you to our 5th Annual Western Regional Gathering being held in Las Vegas, Nevada May 6-10, at the Alexis Park Resort Hotel. We hope that your stay with us will be fun and entertaining. Las Vegas is known as the city that never sleeps and where the Sun always shines.

The Alexis Park All Suite Resort is a non-gaming resort that is perfectly suited for meetings, conferences and special events where the attendees are able to focus on the matters at hand.



The Alexis Park All Suite Resort is a full service resort on 16 lushly landscaped acres with 3 sparkling pools. The resort is conveniently located

across from the world famous Hard Rock Hotel, less than one mile from the Strip and McCarran International Airport.

Your spacious suite includes a wet bar with mini-fridge, microwave (available upon request), in-suite coffee and a 32 inch flat screen television. Your rate

includes complimentary parking, free newspaper, and access to our 24 hour fitness room. We have no resort fees.

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, 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.

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

MYRTLE BEACH PRIME TIMERS CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE LOCAL AREA SIGHTS, SOUNDS AND RESTAURANTS

By Rod E., VP Prime Timers Myrtle Beach

We enjoyed a very interesting gift exchange at our yearly Christmas dinner and had a fine meal with lots of food to enjoy!

Another highlight of the year was a trip to the "Night of a Thousand Candles" at Brookgreen Gardens. It is really a neat experience to see all the candles and electric lights that illuminate all of the trees, shrubs, fountains and ponds! It takes a lot of work and time to get all of these displays "on" every night. If you have not seen this annual event you should plan a trip and enjoy yourself! In addition to all the beautiful displays, there are many musical groups and soloists performing each night. Get there before dark and have dinner at the restaurant before taking in all the sights and music. Thanks to Bob and Don for arranging this trip and acting as tour guides!

Also, please mark your calendars for Sept 8th our annual beach picnic! It will be held at shelter #B-5.



Myrtle Beach Prime Timers at Night of a Thousand Candles

QUOTABLE QUOTES

SPRING IS HERE

BY EVERETT ROSNER, VP INDEPENDENTS

Harry Hartigan – President, Minneapolis-St. Paul Prime Timers. I have been president for four months and with each passing day I see more clearly the value that our organization brings to our members and the GLBT community. We are the ELDERS of the GLBT community. We are older and wiser by virtue of our life experiences. No one, including the ELDERS, is sure how to address the ELDERS in the GLBT community (seniors, older adults, mature men and women, etc...) but without question we bring value to the GLBT community. We are not invisible nor should we be. We need to hold our heads up high and be proud of who we are and what we bring to the GLBT community. We will set the bar for generations to come. We should stand shoulder to shoulder when any one hints at disrespecting us.

Seattle Prime Timers Steering Committee. What always impresses me is how we talk to each other as friends, whether we know each other very well or not. There is a comforting joy in knowing that we accept each other as we are, in a sympathetic caring way. I think this attitude is what attracts us to each other. It is our humanity that binds us together, and makes our events peaceful and fun.

Rev. Dr. Chris Ayers, Pastor of Wedgewood Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC. This is what we put on our bulletin and our website: "Distinctions of power, privilege and estate, which apply outside these doors, do not apply within our doors. Women, men and children; persons of any color, culture, age, ability, economic status, sexual or affectional orientation; skeptics and those who pursue common or unorthodox religious paths.....all are welcome here." **Charlotte Prime Timers holds their monthly meetings at Wedgewood Baptist – now we know why.**

Spring is here, time for renewal and new energies. Hope yours is not filled with high winds and rain storms.

Welcome to new members from Alaska, Montana, Georgia and Puerto Rico.

Members who renewed are from Oklahoma, Ohio, Illinois and Texas.

The first regional event is in Las Vegas in May, please see additional details in this issue. A great way to meet new people and have fun with fellow Prime Timers.

New rosters were sent out with the February issue to all Independent members, please let me know if you want to add or delete anything on your profile for the next issue.

For those of you who went to the Mid Winter Rendezvous, in Oklahoma City, please tell others. This was a great opportunity to enjoy a relaxing weekend. Hope to see you there next year. Some surprise announcements for next year's rendezvous coming.

I have had the pleasure chatting with some of you on the phone and via email. Some of you have recommended friends to join. That is great. We are up to 123 members, and continue to serve you in the future.

Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information. I am also on a committee of 3 exploring cities for new chapters and may ask some of you for advise on gay organizations in your area.

Play safe, have fun and hug a fellow Prime Timer.



PHOENIX PRIME TIMERS' NEWEST AUTHOR

Back in the Day, and Back in the Day 2, are books written by Prime Timers of Phoenix member Rob French. *Back in the Day* tells of the coming out and coming of age process of four teenagers back in the 1970's long before there was an LGBT community with many resources for teens to turn to for help and guidance and dealing with their new found sexual identities.

After many edits and re-writes and title changes, **Back in the Day** has finally come to life. Both books are available online on various sites. For information

about them or to read excerpts and find information on where to purchase the book go to www.rob frenchbooks.com where you will find links that will take you directly to the pages of the sites where the book is available. E-Book versions will be available soon.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL GATHERING JULY 19-22

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 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 tour, 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 voice-mail or by email at info@coloradoprime timers.com.

PARTY LIKE IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD PRIME TIMERS LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Central Oklahoma Prime Timers is pleased to invite you to the Prime Timers 2012 Labor Day Weekend. The five day event held at the Southwest's premier gay resort – the Habana Inn in Oklahoma City – begins Thursday evening August 30, and continues through noon Monday, September 3, 2012. This year's theme is adapted from the Mayan Calendar's end in December 2012, so we want to "party like it's the end of the world."

Every year nearly 250 Prime Timers and their friends converge on the Habana Inn for a weekend of fun in the sun. The Habana features two swimming pools, three bars, a restaurant and an adult gift shop, plus shows on Thursday and Sunday nights. It has free wireless internet. It is located in the heart of Oklahoma City's gay bar district.

The weekend begins with a welcome party on Thursday evening. The Labor Day gathering is an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. Scheduled events include a Happy Hour every day (Friday through Sunday), dinners with entertainment on Friday and Saturday, poolside continental breakfast three days (Friday through Sunday), a poolside box lunch on Saturday, a brunch on Sunday and a farewell coffee and earlier brunch on Monday.



Most attendees find their own diversions, but if you want to venture out, Oklahoma City is filled with things to do. We have plenty of museums, entertainment and dining districts, and the Oklahoma City National Memorial. If antiques are your thing, there are hundreds of stores available for your shopping pleasure. The Habana Inn is at the heart of the gay entertainment district, which features even more bars. As always, we will have local tours, and a Bridge Tournament.

The cost is the same bargain as last year!

The Labor Day Weekend is a great entertainment value. You can select the PACKAGE DEAL for \$170 which includes your registration and all the events, including the five paid meals. If you register for the package deal before July 15, you'll get a \$15 discount.

Or, you can still select your events **ala carte**. You pay the **registration fee of \$75** and then select and pay for the meals you want.

For more information and a registration form click [here](#) if you are reading online, or send an email to ptlabor-day@aol.com.

Labor Day 2011





The BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir
Picture by Jim Miskimen

BEAUTIFUL HINDU TEMPLE VISITED BY ATLANTA PRIME TIMERS

BY JIM MISKIMEN, MEMBER, ATLANTA PRIME TIMERS

On a beautiful Saturday morning in March, 28 Atlanta Prime Timers toured BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir. This magnificent Hindu temple, located north of Atlanta, serves the entire south-eastern United

States. The Mandir is open to all without charge, although donations are accepted.

This is a place Hindu worship – a haven for spirituality and a place of paramount and permanent piece, according to the brochure given to all. Inside the main worship hall, worshipers were seen praying to various shrines relevant to their religion. Unlike most religions, Hindus come to the Mandir once a day to share their prayers. The worship area is bathed in white lights which change colors, reflecting the mood of the moment. It goes without questions that those who attended were in “awe” at the beauty and greatness. Once the tour was over, several members were heard expressing the thought that the entire area was a bit overwhelming.

The entire structure is made of Turkish Limra limestone, Italian Carrara marble and Indian pink sandstone. and without any modern constructions since each piece is hand carved and in the underlay and top of each piece, there is a carved interlock. More than 34,000 individual pieces were carved and shipped to the United States and assembled at the site in Lilburn,

GA, like a giant 3-D jigsaw puzzle. The Mandir was dedicated in August, 2007, after 17 months of labor intensive construction utilizing 1.3 million volunteer hours.

As you enter the property, there is a sense of calmness throughout. The marvelous elephant head fountains provided a cool respite to the hot weather. Then as you move inside the structure, no shoes or cameras allowed, it becomes a form of peace and tranquility for each individual.

After the tour, the group went to the Mai Thai Restaurant and Sushi Bar, where they enjoyed the finest traditional Thai cuisine.

Special thanks to Terry Fuerst and George Stevens for coordinating this wonderful and exciting activity for Atlanta Prime Timers.



Atlanta Prime Timers visit to the Mandir

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 robhowar@aol.com. Prime Timer chapters are welcome to copy editorial content from Prime Times without further permission, unless the article is noted as “Used with 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.

Read Prime Times FREE at www.PrimeTimersWW.org



“Laissez les bons temps rouler ” *Let the good times roll!*

By Garrett Henry, Member, Rio Grande Valley Prime Timers

On March 17, 2012, the Rio Grande Valley Prime Timers hosted their yearly Mardi Gras party thrown annually for the local gay community, this year held at our newest gay bar in McAllen in deep south Texas, *Broadway Avenue*. You're probably thinking, "wasn't Mardi Gras in February?" You see, we are so relaxed down here in the southern tip of Texas that a lot of trends – and events – arrive well after they do in other parts of the country! We call it the “mañana philosophy,” which means, “why do today what you can put off until tomorrow!” So if you're ever in our area of the world, come hang out with the RGV Prime Timers and discover our casual pace of life and unique approach to celebrating the good times!

Owner of *Broadway Avenue*, Jose Luis Gomez, allowed our chapter to take over the large club from 6 – 10 pm that Saturday to put on our festive party. We greeted guests at the door with several strands of



Mardi Gras beads and celebrated the occasion with another fabulous buffet provided by our Chapter's Board members. Jose and his handsome crew of bartenders provided the usual bar service for all who attended. We decorated the club in purple, green and gold balloons, Mardi Gras wall plaques, streamers and beads, played fun games and kicked up our heels on the large dance floor. From 8 – 10 pm, the large crowd enjoyed fantastic entertainment from the female impersonators group, *Las Travecias*. Best and worst costume and mask winners are in the photo. This was a free event for the public but we still took donations at the door, which will go to providing other events for our local gay community.

As a popular destination for “Winter Texans” and

Spring Breakers alike, we in the Rio Grande Valley are always excited to host out-of-town Prime Timers when you're in our area. So, if you find yourself planning a trip to the Valley, please feel free to join us at our weekly Happy Hours held every Thursday at *Broadway Avenue* from 5 – 7 pm. We're always hosting parties and other fun events, too, so feel free to inquire about our calendar of activities by emailing our publicity chairman, Garrett, at rchenryjr@aol.com. We also produce a monthly chapter newsletter that can be emailed to you as it contains all the information you might need to help make your stay with us all the more enjoyable.

So, it was another great event held by the RGV Prime Timers

and we look forward to our next several events, our 3rd Annual Kite Festival on nearby beautiful South Padre Island on March 31st, *Splash* weekend on April 27 – 28 on South Padre Island, and another public party, Cinco de Mayo, (an annual Mexican holiday) to be held once again at *Broadway Avenue* on May 5th. If you're ever lucky enough to find yourself in our area of paradise, please join us for a fun time at any of our events and make some great new friends, too!

Pictures provided by RGV Prime Timers



HERE AND THERE

BY CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
ZACH MULLANEY, CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

PALM SPRINGS: The chapter is planning a four-day jaunt to Laughlin, Nevada. There is a possible side trip to ghost town Oatman in Arizona. Also in the making are a side trip to Lake Havasu and the London Bridge, having a "Best Hat" contest, and a BBQ at the Lariat. Reservations are a must. Don't just show up with Katherine Hepburn hat in hand. What a fun few days that will be! I'll bet most won't be keeping their hands in their pockets.

CHARLOTTE, N.C.: What an interesting idea. The chapter had a wine tasting party. Nineteen guys showed up with thirteen bottles of wine to taste -- seven reds and six whites. There was plenty of good munchies in between tastes to un-mingle the palates. Everyone had a great time.

TULSA, OKLAHOMA: A sad note: the chapter lost their current Vice-President, Owen Thomas. He had been a long time member. He passed away February 14 of this year. I understand he was a great story teller and will certainly be missed by the guys.

BOSTON, MASS: Boston is such an interesting tourist mecca as there is so much of the beginning US history to see. If you will be there either as a tourist or on business, their general meeting is at the United South End Settlements at 566 Columbus. Doors open at 1:30pm, and after food and a social time, the meeting is at 3:30. If you're in the city, stop by.

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA: Don't forget about the May Gathering. The Alexis Park Resort is the hotel being used and rooms are going for as low as 39 bucks. You need to make your reservations ASAP. Call by phone, so don't try making them on-line. The number to call is

702-796-3300. Use the "Las Vegas Prime Timers 2012" as the code for the lesser rates.

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA: 110 members. Some of the guys are going through the chapter's photo albums, trying to label some of the photos, relying on some of the long-time members for names of some of those of the past. A lot of questioning conversations, wondering whatever happened to "what's his face?" Nice to see a photo of a young Woody Baldwin attending the 1993 World Wide Convention in Vancouver. Hey, he was a hunk!

CROSS TIMBERS, TEXAS: The guys are planning a Garden Party for their March gathering. They will meet at the home of one of the members. The owner will furnish the main food courses, others will bring side stuff. Each attending needs to bring a plant to plant in the host's garden. How cool is that?!

WASHINGTON, D.C.: If you've thought about visiting the nation's capital, Gay Pride is June 9-10. The Vitruvian Gallery held a show of two photos each of all kinds of men from all walks of life. One photo was the model in a uniform, the second photo was the same man, but nude. Every style of uniform imaginable - police, military, cowboy, medical, fire, leather, athletic, etc. Several of the models were there, attending in the posed uniform, mixing and mingling. The P/T guys that went totally enjoyed the show.

WICHITA, KANSAS: Martin does such a good piece of writing to be able to get all of the activities into prose. Have totally enjoyed reading of his various National Day of Peanut butter, Bunsen Burner Day, Mom and Pop Business Day,

Something on a Stick Day, and so on.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS: Their general meeting takes place at the HEB Central Market at 1pm. HEB is a market chain in Texas and the market donates space, no charge, for the group to have their meetings. The market asks that the group buy their snacks at the market. The address is 4821 Broadway. SA is a fun city to visit, so try to time it for a general meeting, the second Sunday of the month.

PITTSBURGH, PA: This coming May 29th, a group of the guys will be taking the train across state to Philadelphia. The bunch will be there for two days to 'sample' some of what the City of Brotherly Love has to offer. They'll be staying at the Hampton Inn. Sounds like a good trip to me. Reservations are a must ASAP!

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON: For those that have visited the chapter's coffee reunion, they've changed the location. They've moved to Tully's at 19th and Aloha, Fridays at 7pm. They gossip, tell lies, brag, ogle cuties, so sounds like the same thing we OKC guys do at our Friday night cocktails. Note the new location when visiting Seattle.

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA: The Queer Film Festival has a film the guys are talking about. It's entitled "Cloudburst", and stars Olympia Dukakis and Brenda Fricker. Remember them? They play a lesbian couple who flee from a nursing home in the US and go to Canada to get married. With these two actors, it sounds like a must-see. Is it an old film? I can still picture Dukakis as Mrs. Madrigal in "Tales of the City".

AN OPENING EVENT LIKE NO OTHER!

THE BIRTH OF PALM BEACHES PRIME TIMERS

BY MICHAEL STONE

Think of the 4th of July and fireworks! Remember what the launching of a ship was like! Recall the feeling of winning at something you love! Get in touch with the feeling you get when you find success at the end of the work day! These are but a few of the feelings that happened in the room on March 11 at the launch of our new **Palm Beaches Prime Timers** chapter.

Bruce and Al are the two men who had contacted me and as a result I sent out a 'Chapter Start-Up Kit'. They followed all the suggestions and reached out far and wide. Early on Robert jumped in (living in the area of the new chapter) and contacted guys on Silver Daddies asking them to spread the word. I jumped in and wrote over 400 'hits' to guys on another website.

I drove the 180 miles to be at the startup on the 11th. One never knows how these things will go except, when I've attended others in the past I was usually surprised by the large turnout. About an hour before the appointed time who showed up: friend Tomcat from Celebration of Friends. As 2:00 PM approached flooding rains began.

So, as a few guys trickled in I said to Bruce, Al and Robert: "I expect between 6 and 55 guys today". What a safe number that was. Now go back to my superlatives in the first paragraph because we were overwhelmed as 34 guys poured in the door, all excited to be at this event. As I walked through the crowd I heard lots of positive comments, such as, "It's about time we had something in this area", "I told all my friends about this", "We finally have something we can call our own", etc. All the comments were full of enthusiasm and excitement.

Bruce opened the meeting a little after 2:00 and talked about his goals and expectations for the group, then Al talked a bit about what the chapter could provide. He then introduced me and I talked a lot! I told about our organization and the service and opportunity it provides in the world. I talked about our Worldwide board, and what being a member provides and about our conventions, regional events and travel opportunities. Then there were lots of questions and as things wound down we broke for a 20 minute beverage and snack break.

I moved through the crowd and was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and all the wonderful men I met. I talked with the guys about joining the board and being on the ground floor to help create this chapter.

When the meeting reconvened I asked one of the hardest questions to ask on a 'first date', "who is willing to serve on the first board"? This just keeps getting better. We had 11 men volunteer. When has that happened before? I heard, later on, that two more volunteers had to be turned away! Bruce brought things together in closing the meeting and when Robert and I left there was still a good-sized group of men meeting with Bruce and Al.

So, now you know why I love this job so much and why I continue doing it. The 'high' we all felt continues. The new board met this past Saturday to elect officers and they are busy planning events for the group. On Sunday members of the board will be publicizing the event at Lake Worth Pride, wearing chapter T-shirts and flyers. The last I heard was that they have 30 paid members. That's very, very good!

I whole heartedly commend each and every member for their continued work and participation. Excitement! Fun! Making memories! Being with old and new friends. Isn't this exactly what Prime Timers is meant to be?



Michael Stone, Director Emeritus, talks to the first meeting of Palm Beaches Prime Timers. At the end of the meeting, more than 30 men joined the new chapter. A board of 11 members was also elected.

C'MON ALONG ON OUR ROAD (OR FLIGHT) TO ADVENTURE!

MICHAEL STONE AND ROBERT ROSENTHAL

China Adventure! Can you imagine it's four weeks away after over a year in planning? In the next issue of Prime Times read our coverage with pictures of the escapade with 25 Prime Timers traveling for 3 weeks together in China!

UP UP AND AWAY IN MY BEAUTIFUL BALLOON

Albuquerque Balloon Festival, Las Vegas, and Grand Canyon and Petrified Forest National Parks
October 12 to 19, 2012



Visit Las Vegas, two national parks and the spectacular Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta on this once in a lifetime tour! Your journey begins with your flight to Las Vegas where you will enjoy a leisurely three night stay. Then travel to Grand Canyon National Park for a tour before continuing to Williams, AZ for one night. Next, enjoy a tour of the Petrified Forest National Park before traveling to Albuquerque where you enjoy a lei-

surely three night stay.

Highlights of your trip are sure to be the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta's early morning Mass Ascension/ Special Shapes Rodeo where hundreds of uniquely shaped balloons all lift off and the evening

Balloon Night Glow illumination/ Special Shape Glowdeo event complete with fireworks! Finally you fly home with wonderful memories of this Legendary Journey!



TOUR INCLUDES:

- FREE Air from Tampa, Orlando, Ft. Lauderdale, Jacksonville to Las Vegas & home from Albuquerque (or reverse). (Fly from your home city on request)
- AIR CREDIT: You may take a \$200 Air Credit and arrange your own air and transfers.
- 7 Nights First-Class Hotel Accommodations: 3 Nights Las Vegas; 1 Night Grand Canyon/ Williams, AZ; 3 Nights Albuquerque
- Sightseeing per itinerary including admission & tours at all National Parks on itinerary
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All Rates plus \$59 government taxes.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

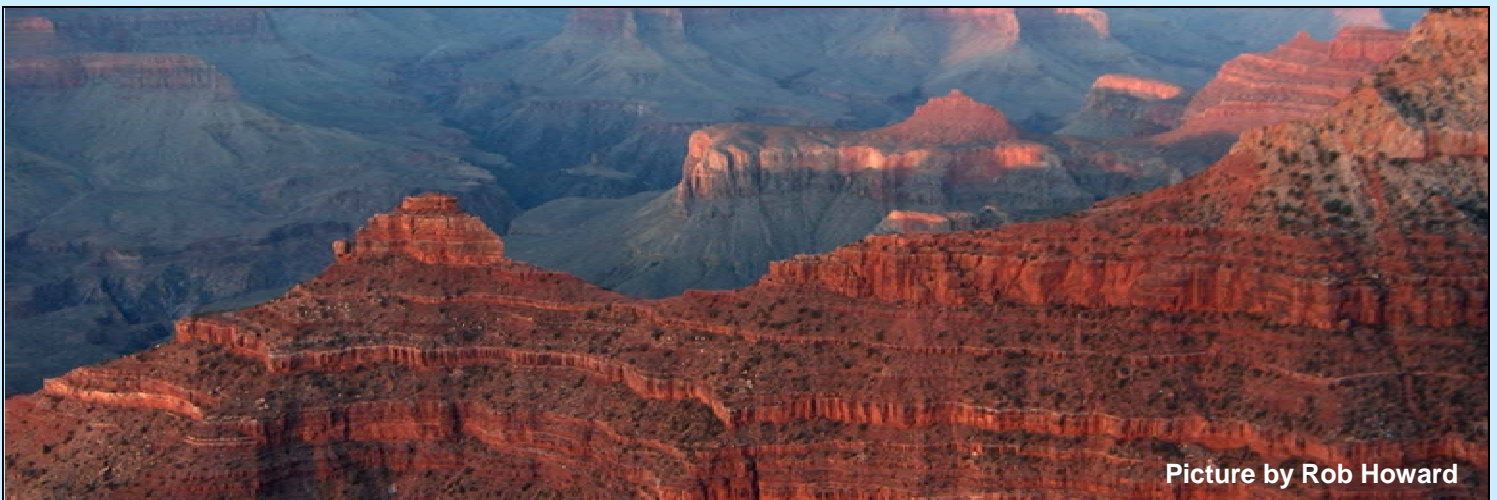
PRIME TIMERS PRESENTS

MICHAEL STONE: 941-359-8212

RESERVATIONS – Al and Chuck Travel

DAN MILKS

800-511-5411 EXT 108 OR 941-953-7988 EXT 108



Picture by Rob Howard

MORE TRAVEL — CRUISE ROME TO FT. LAUDERDALE AND OUR FIRST 2013 CRUISE

Courtyard Travel Proudly Presents
PRIME TIMER'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS ...
**ROME TO FT LAUDERDALE
REPOSITIONING CRUISE !!**

December 1 to December 16, 2012

Celebrity SILHOUETTE
Proceeds to benefit Prime Timers!

Inside Stateroom from \$729
Ocean View from \$869
Balcony from \$1019

Deposit \$450 PP. Port charges of \$240 plus taxes/ fees of \$137.77 and a \$10 pp group amenities marketing fee are additional. Final payment due Sept, 8, 2012. All fares based on double occupancy. Single fares 200% of above fares.

Our repositioning cruise aboard Celebrity's new ship SILHOUETTE has been booking quickly. What a great way to get away at year's end and still make it home for the holidays! With Courtyard Travel's generous policy you can cancel (if needed) up to 90 days in advance with no penalty. You've nothing to lose! Special Prime Timers events will be provided by your hosts Michael Stone and Robert Rosenthal and we'll enjoy each and every day!

This 15-night Repositioning Cruise departs from Rome and includes stops at the ports of Florence and Genoa in Italy, Provence, in France, Barcelona in Spain and Tenerife in the Canary Islands before re-

turning you refreshed and rested to Ft. Lauderdale.



See the amazing Basilica de la Sagrada Família in Barcelona. Designed by Antoni Gaudí, it has been under construction since 1882. The Basilica is built solely through contributions. In Barcelona, you can see many more examples of the astounding sculpture of Gaudí.

Picture by Rob Howard

STOP THE PRESSES! STOP THE PRESSES. THIS JUST IN!

We've just added our first Prime Timers cruise for 2013 and it's a great one. Prices start at the lowest we've ever seen so check it out and come join us!

Courtyard Travel Proudly Presents
PRIME TIMER'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS ...

WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE
7-Night R/T MIAMI on the NCL Pearl
FEBRUARY 17 to FEBRUARY 24, 2013

Proceeds to benefit Prime Timers!

Inside Stateroom from \$324
Ocean View from \$514
Balcony from \$734

Final payment due Nov, 26, 2012. Single fares 200% of above fares! All fares based on double occupancy. DEPOSIT \$250 PP. Port charges of \$175 plus taxes/fees of \$126.59

Itinerary
MIAMI, GR. STIRRUP CAY, OCHO RIOS,
GEORGE TOWN, COZUMEL, MIAMI

All Meals (excluding specialty restaurants) and Entertainment on board Included PLUS all the special fun GROUP activities provided by Courtyard Travel and your escorts, Michael and Robert!

THE NCL PEARL

From traditional fine dining to endless buffets with custom-order action stations, there is a host of delicious options included in your cruise fare. Second City® comedy troupe, Broadway-style shows, a state-of-the-art fitness center, Nintendo Wii™ on a 2-story screen, waterslides, a climbing wall, bars and lounges of all kinds, pools, hot tubs, kid's centers, teen discos and more are all on board and included in your cruise fare.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the Courtyard cruises

Michael Stone (941) 359-8212 or mstonefl@verizon.net or
www.courtyardtvl.com/
and ask for Bobette
Bobette at Courtyard Travel **1-800 437-9685**
Or Marc Solomon at **917-359-3888**

RECORD MEMBERSHIP ACHIEVEMENT FOR ATLANTA PRIME TIMERS

BY JIM MISKIMEN, MEMBER ATLANTA PRIME TIMERS

Atlanta Prime Timers reached a new all-time record number of members with over 134 members as of February 1st. This is a nice cap of the many activities centered on the 20th anniversary last November. What could be more fitting to be with an organization which is not stagnant as so many are, but with an organization which is vibrant, energizing and expanding? Atlanta Prime Timers certainly is the latter with the National President of Prime Timers Worldwide, Rob Howard, as our featured anniversary dinner speaker.

President Harry Godsey had this to say about our record membership achievement, "Congratulations and thanks goes to all members bringing their friends to events as well as our hard working board of directors. With this landmark achievement, we can only expect greater things for our chapter as more members participate in activities sharing their time and talents".

All members contribute in some form or another in making our chapter, the 5th one in the Prime Timers Worldwide organization, one of the best, if not the best, in the system. Just take a moment and read what we do as a body of volunteers. There are many activities for a specific entity such as the AMTRAK trips, the rare book collection at Kennesaw State University, to the Boone Western Museum, to the Georgia Aquarium, publishing a newsletter which is second to none and so forth. Here is a representative listing of topics which our speakers have spoke on at our monthly meetings -- finance, health, legal, relationships, living in the later years alone, political for Atlanta and the state -- this list continues to grow with each passing month. Of course there are fun activities including the monthly luncheons at The Varsity and Mary Mac's Room, bowling, the weekly Kaffee Klatch at Panera Bread Company in Ansley Mall, bunch at Roxx Tavern and Grill, movie nights, antique store visits and the very important potluck suppers hosted by you the members as well as members providing refreshments for our monthly meetings at the Rush Center. These are just "some of the ways new/renewed members can get involved with very rewarding benefits," commented President Godsey.

A membership achievement, you bet. An achievement all of us can be proud of, you bet. This is Atlanta Prime Timers.



Atlanta Prime Timers at a recent chapter event

THE WILLIAMS-NICHOLS LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BI-SEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER STUDIES

By David Williams, Member Louisville Prime Timers

This collection currently holds over 5300 books, 3900 issues of journals and periodicals, nearly 40 linear feet of manuscripts, hundreds of video and audio tapes, and nearly 1700 items of memorabilia and ephemera. Established in 1982 by the donor, Louisville activist David Williams, and identified as the Williams-Nichols Institute since 1994, the collection came to the University in June 2001. David Williams continues to add materials on a monthly basis, and contributions come from others as well, including a 2003 gift of periodicals from Cornell University.

The collection emphasizes regional movements and organizations based in Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, and Tennessee, including Community Health Trust, Fairness Campaign, Gays and Lesbians United for Equality, Dignity-Louisville, LAMBDA Louisville, and Louisville P-FLAG. It is particularly strong on topics such as AIDS, but also includes anti-gay diatribes and material issued under the guise of research data.

The book collection includes GLBT subjects and literature, along with books by gay and lesbian authors and activists. Ephemeral material includes protest banners and posters; fund raising materials; even matchbook covers, bumper stickers, and t-shirts. Rare items within the collection include sets of pioneering gay and lesbian publications *One Magazine*, *The Mattachine Review*, *The Ladder*, and *Vector*, as well as feminist publications such as *Sojourner*. Rare books range from a 19th century first edition of Oscar Wilde's *A Picture of Dorian Gray* to scarce examples of gay and lesbian pulp fiction from the 1950s and 1960s.

David Williams continues to make monthly contributions of books and other materials, including his personal papers, to the collection. Gifts of books, memorabilia, diaries or other personal papers, as well as funds to purchase additional materials, are always welcome.

As a special collection, the materials in the Williams-Nichols Library and Archive do not circulate. In a very few cases, some groups of personal papers are held with restrictions to access placed by the donors. All other materials are freely available to the public in the reading room of the Department of Special Collections, LL 17, on the ground floor of Ekstrom Library.

Hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information call Special Collections: (502) 852-6752.

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