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# The Men's Center of Raleigh and Wake County

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*"A Safe Place for Men"*

January-February 1999

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## ◆ President's Message

### A New Year. . . A New Men's Center

The idea of rebirth infuses the mythology of almost every culture, whether the rebirth refers to the inexorable cycling of the seasons, the appearance of a savior, or the renewal of the individual soul. The year 1999 will be a rebirth year for our Men's Center as we reach out into our community and seek alliances with other human service organizations, and take our rightful place as the primary resource for men.

Our project to have a paid director on site during 1999 is in the capable hands of Daniel Lebold. Daniel is leading us through a process of establishing contacts throughout our community, getting the perspectives of other agencies on the unmet needs of men in our community, forming alliances, and formulating funding proposals to get the money to support the director's position.

When our director is on board, our telephone will be answered by a live person--which is especially important to men experiencing a crisis. He will maintain alliances with other human service organizations, represent our Men's Center at agency gatherings, and serve as a referral source for those needs that we don't yet serve. He will devote some of his energies to creating new programs that address men's needs, as well as gaining funding for them. He will oversee the growth and smooth functioning of support groups. He will, in addition, plan and execute special events that serve the needs of men.

Full as his schedule will be, the director will also maintain the primary focus of the Center, which is to serve as a safe

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Creative Movement

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place for men. This is especially important in light of the continued state of men's essential isolation in our society. Despite the all-embracing churches, the social inclusion of civic groups and exclusive clubs, there remain few places a man may speak his heart amidst safety and acceptance--the Men's Center being one. Let us never lose sight of this core. Let us protect and nurture it beyond the perils that assail it from every side--the expectations and restrictions and taboos that serve to isolate men at every turn in their lives.

Evidence of this simultaneous continuation and renewal lies in the fact that the Leadership Council now includes among its membership the two original founders of the Men's Center some ten years ago: Doug Lester and Doug Jennette. Doug Lester was elected last August, and Doug Jennette accepted our invitation to serve out the term of Ron Cyr, our Events Manager, whose other obligations moved him to resign from the board last month.

Does the prospect of extending ourselves to the greater community excite you? We need a lot of help in making this rebirth a reality. You can play as great a role as you wish. Just know that we need you--every one of you--to help us step up to a role as great as our dreams.

--Temple Porter

## ◆ Feature Article

### The Fog Rolls In

N. C. Supreme Court Confuses Matters for Custodial Parents

I am sure most divorced fathers in this state have heard about the North Carolina Supreme Court's decision, Pulliam v. Smith, which upheld a trial court's finding that a gay father, because he regularly engaged in sexual acts with his partner while his children stayed in the home, and because there was some evidence of "other improper conduct" by the two men while the children were present, provided a home environment that was less fit than that of the mother, and was therefore deprived of the primary custody of his two young sons. Unfortunately, it would be all too easy--and simply wrong--to dismiss the outcome as the simple result of homophobia. It would also miss the principal effect of the decision, which potentially undermines the stability of custody arrangements in North Carolina for all parents, regardless of their sexual orientation.

To summarize the facts briefly: Mom (Pulliam) and Dad (Smith) had married in California in November 1982 and had had two children by the time they were divorced in November 1991: Joey, 6, and Kenny, 3. The agreement incorporated by the divorce decree provided joint legal custody to both Mom and Dad. Physical custody was granted to Dad, who lived in North Carolina with his grandmother, while visitation rights were granted to Mom, who lived in Kansas with her boyfriend, Pulliam, whom she married in February 1993. In August 1994, Dad's boyfriend, Tim, moved in; in September Grandma moved out. Dad and Tim were and are a homosexual couple. Based upon these changes in the situations of the parents, Mom sued for custody, contending that the children

*(Continued on page 5)*

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# Calendar

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## January

**1/5/99, 7:30-9:00 PM Durham-Orange Men's Council.** "Violence, Aggression, and Masculinity." Is the violence and aggression we often see in men (and in ourselves when we dare to look) an example of the Warrior run amok, without a healthy interface with the Magician, Lover and King within us? Frederick Whitmeyer will lead us in an exploration of this important topic. Frederick is a member of the Raleigh Men's Center Leadership Council. Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 3011 Academy Road, Durham, NC. For more information, call 286-2357.

**1/7/99, 7:17-9:15 PM Leadership Council Meeting.** 723 W. Johnson Street, Raleigh.

**1/10/99, 5:00-7:00 PM Men and Women Drumming** meets at the Montessori School on Leadmine Rd. For more information call Bob Boyd at 845-8460 (home).

**1/21/99, 7:30-9:00 PM Raleigh Men's Center Monthly Meeting.** . "A New Year. . .A New Men's Center." Facilitated by Temple Porter. Pullen Memorial Baptist Church. *See announcement on page 9.*

## February

**2/2/99, 7:30-9:00 PM, Durham-Orange Men's Council.** "Male Friendship." What are the forces that attract and hold men in friendship, and what makes male friendship difficult, especially in the late 20th Century? The evening will consist of conversations among men about this vital territory, along with experiential opportunities to begin and deepen friendship. Facilitated by Doug Jennette. Doug is a founding member of the Men's Center of Raleigh. He continues to learn about and practice friendship and hopes one day to become good at it. Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 3011 Academy Road, Durham, NC. For more information, call 286-2357.

**2/4/99, 7:15-9:15 PM Leadership Council Meeting.** 723 W. Johnson Street, Raleigh.

**2/14/99, 5:00-7:00 PM Men and Women Drumming** meets at the Montessori School on Leadmine Rd. For more information call Bob Boyd at 845-8460 (home).

**2/18/99, 7:30-9:00 PM. Raleigh Men's Center Monthly Meeting.** "Community Outreach...Men Reaching Out to Men." Facilitated by Daniel Lebold. Pullen Memorial Baptist Church. *See announcement on page 9.*

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**Deadline for submissions for the  
March-April issue is February 10th.**

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### Memoirs of a Frustrated Father

Technically, I am a father: I have a thirty-year-old daughter whom I love dearly. But we live so far apart we don't see that much of each other.

I've also tried to be a stepfather--twice--and that has been a disastrous project. The first mother left me; I left the second mother, and the third mother left me. It all sounds like some sort of musical chairs.

I was stepfather to five children, one of which keeps in touch. Two others are still teenagers and still haven't worked out their mother's anger toward me. This has not been very satisfying, and I am ready to quit trying. A single mother may want a man as a surrogate parent for her children, but this man often gets in the way and you always know who the genuine parent is. Being a stepfather is rather a thankless job, though I am sure there are men who succeed in this role and continue to have father-like relations with their stepchildren.

I would like to hear from these men.

For me, being a stepfather has been a lot of heartache and pain, since children I cared for are taken from me and I have no legal or any other kind of rights other than maybe the good will of those kids. There are no blood ties between me and them, and I remember lawyers telling me, with such glee, that I was not responsible for those kids. Of course, I knew that, but I didn't take much satisfaction that, after divorce, I didn't have to support them. I felt I lost them, and I loved them all every one, even though Mom and I could not work out a relationship. It's a strange thing to lose children that you have put your heart into but can have no connection with, according to legal and cultural sanctions, once the marriage is severed. It's a terrible experience that I'm sure many men beside myself have gone through. I'd like to hear from them.

I think it's a widespread tragedy that stepfamilies are affected by such a high divorce rate and, as a result, so many children are being left without fathers. I know that the scarcity of fathering in our society has been an issue brought up frequently, but I don't know how to make sense of it or what to do about it.

--Bob Katrin  
420 S. Ashe St.  
Southern Pines, N. C. 28387  
(910)-692-5339 (h)  
(910)-695-3871 (w)



### Mark Your Calendar!

**4/23-4/25/98, Fourth Annual Spring Conference**, Camp Chestnut Ridge. Sponsored by The Raleigh Men's Center, The Men's Council of the Triad, and The Men's Council of Asheville. Cost (includes lodging and meals): \$85 before April 1; \$100 after April 1. For more information, contact Doug Lester: 919-676-9546 (h); 919-782-2900 (w); e-mail: [djlester@mindspring.com](mailto:djlester@mindspring.com).



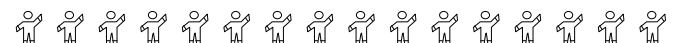
### Supporting Heroes

*The following men have recently made donations to support the work of the Men's Center. We are deeply grateful for their demonstration of caring and help.*

Vaughan S. Clauson

Hilton Freed

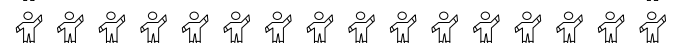
Temple Porter



### New Members

Since our last issue, **Brian Sweeney** has joined the Men's Center.

Welcome, **Brian!** We're glad to have you with us. And we look forward to your full participation with us as we do "men's work."



## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL IN ACTION

### November Retreat, December Meeting

The Leadership Council has had a busy November and December. Under the leadership of Temple Porter, our President, we have worked hard to implement new policies and procedures in some key areas. We spent part of a weekend in retreat at Temple's cabin in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. During that weekend and in the December Council meeting, we enacted new policies for annual membership dues and support groups, as well as new procedures for dues collection. We also designated a Support Group Assignments Coordinator, a Support Group Fees Coordinator, and a Support Group Contact Man.

We also prepared a new Men's Center application for membership, established guidelines for support group members, and published our Support Group Policies.

Under the leadership of Temple Porter and Daniel Lebold, we are seeking ways to fund the hiring of a paid Director and developing a fund-raising plan for the Men's Center.

Because of pressures from work and the distance from Kinston to Raleigh, Ron Cyr tendered his resignation to the Council. We have asked one of the Elders, Doug Jennette, to take Ron's place on the Board. Doug has generously agreed to accept this appointment.

--Art Kirwin

## YOUR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL FOR 1998-1999

FUNCTION	LEADER	E-MAIL	Phone
Information Manager	Frederick Whitmeyer	whitmeyer@mindspring.com	
Marketing Manager	Daniel Lebold (VP)	dalebold@email.unc.edu	929-7199
Membership Manager	Doug Lester	djlester@mindspring.com	676-9546
Financial Manager	John Marmaud	jmarmaud@tc2.com	872-8732
Support Groups	Ron Blankenship	ronman51@aol.com	787-8159
Facilities Manager	Wiegand Rodler	wrodler@aol.com	362-1007
Events Manager	Doug Jennette		832-6071
Secretary	Art Kirwin	arkjr@juno.com	833-1893
President	Temple Porter	coachme123@aol.com	872-3330



*("Fog Rolls In," continued from page 1)*  
 were being hurt by the custodial arrangement, and that the court should change the arrangement and award her physical custody. The trial court awarded custody to Mom, granting Dad one month of visitation during the summers, during which the court ordered him not to allow his sons to stay in the same house with Tim, Dad's partner.

We all know how painful, laborious, and expensive custody disputes can be. Prior to this Supreme Court decision, North Carolina law had attempted to encourage the stability of hard-wrought custody arrangements by requiring that, before a custody agreement could be further challenged in court, a parent must demonstrate that, since the time when the custody arrangements were made, there has been a substantial change of circumstances adversely affecting the welfare of the child. In the light of this principle, when Smith took the case to the Court of Appeals, the court held that the child's mother had not demonstrated the required "substantial change of circumstances," because the findings, including those relating to the homosexual lifestyle of the father, did not include particular evidence of an adverse effect on the welfare of the children. Therefore, the Court of Appeals reversed the trial court's decision and refused to permit Ms. Pulliam, the mom, to overturn the existing custody arrangement.

In fact, proof of an "adverse effect" in order to support finding a substantial change of circumstances affecting the welfare of the child had been required by over eighteen prior Court-of-Appeals decisions spanning nearly thirty years. Such proof had been established firmly enough in North Carolina law to become an oft-tested point on the N.C. Bar Examination. To Smith's temporary relief, the trial court was reversed because its findings did not support the change in custody. Ms. Pulliam, the mom, then appealed to the Supreme Court.

The N.C. Supreme Court directly overruled the Court of Appeals' decision--and all of its eighteen prior decisions--by holding that, as long as a parent shows there is a change of circumstances that affects the children,

proof of an "adverse effect" is NOT required for a parent to relitigate a custody agreement. In the typical case (not as in Pulliam v. Smith), Mom generally has primary custody of the children while Dad is busy bringing in a good salary from, say, Glaxo, and has every-other-weekend visitation and pays hefty child support. Now, after Pulliam v. Smith, regardless of how good a mom she may be, if Dad later marries a woman who can be available for his children for a larger part of the weekday than Mom currently can, Mom's custody arrangement is subject to challenge in court even if the children may not be "suffering" in their present situation. Some may conclude that this is a desirable situation: Why not permit a child to benefit from an improvement in one of his or her parents' living situations?

The irony of Pulliam v. Smith, which basically permitted this in a situation where the sex roles are reversed, is that its legal conclusion upsetting the current state of the law was completely unnecessary to the result. (Justices Orr and Webb made this point in concurring and dissenting opinions that they wrote separately.) While holding that proving an "adverse effect" was unnecessary, the Supreme Court decided that the trial court was correct in concluding that Dad and his partner Tim's homosexual conduct (although the sexual aspect was carried on behind closed doors) was a sufficient basis upon which to find "improper influences" on the children without specific proof that it harmed them. The court, however, specifically denied that homosexuality, alone, was grounds for finding that a parent was unfit to have custody of his or her children. But the court concluded that Dad's extramarital sexual conduct, his refusing to counsel his children against such conduct, his allowing the children to see "unmarried persons known by the children to be sexual partners in bed together," and his "keeping admittedly improper sexual material in the home," all supported a finding that these were "improper influences" that would harm the children. The court did not focus on Mom's improved situation. In other words, the Supreme Court gave custody to Mom, because it agreed with the trial court's conclusion that the effects of Dad's extramar-

ital sexual conduct were improper and harmful. Even though it avoided using the phrase "adverse effect," the Supreme Court might just as easily have found that these behaviors were, on their face, sufficient for the court to conclude they were "adverse" to the welfare of the children.

So why did the court go to the trouble of upsetting the state of the law by overruling eighteen prior Court of Appeals decisions? I believe the only explanation for this curious behavior is that homosexuality is such a profoundly divisive issue for the justices that it compromised the logic of the opinion. No judge ever wants to create law unless they cannot avoid it, particularly if it means upsetting a long-held legal rule. A good number, if not a majority, of the justices may have found it impossible to accept that an actively homosexual parent can be a responsible parent, and be therefore entitled to the custody of children, if there was another alternative available. On the other hand, the justices could not, without discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation, simply make a rule that would deny any gay parent custody of his or her children. My suspicion, which may be wrong--and which is based solely upon the logic of the opinion and the well-known conservatism of judges on social issues and not on any personal knowledge of the justices themselves--is that to avoid what the court saw as worse results, the majority of the justices took pains to make it absolutely clear that the court was not awarding custody based on the sexual preference of the parent.

Unfortunately for North Carolina, in order to achieve this result, the court had to pay an awful price: to sacrifice the legal principle of "adverse effect," and to accept in its place a rule that, as in the bad-old-days of fault-based divorce, subjects the sexual habits of parents, regardless of sexual orientation, to court scrutiny. As Professor Sally Sharp ruefully remarked in *The North Carolina Lawyers Weekly*, "This opinion could put private investigators back in business." Unfortunately, it also puts custody arrangements that are otherwise completely satisfactory at risk to parties who may be continuing to use control over the

*(Continued on page 6)*

*("Fog Rolls In," continued from page 5)*  
children as a way to extort emotional or financial advantage.

Meanwhile, in the wake of this decision, the only advice I have for custodial fathers, regardless of their sexual orientation, is either 1) have a clear understanding with Mom regarding appropriate extramarital sexual conduct or 2) do not engage in any extramarital sexual conduct or even *appear* to engage in such conduct. (My advice would include keeping any "adult" magazines or "art" out of the family residence when children are present; not openly advocating sexually promiscuous behavior; and not permitting an unmarried partner to take the children on outings without the parent knowing their whereabouts. Such things were all cited by the N.C. Supreme Court to be circumstances indicating "improper influences."

I wonder, though, what the Supreme Court would say if it considered the cases of custodial parents--surely not rare--who permit their kids to watch *Melrose Place*, *Friends*, or *Party of Five*?

--Vaughn Clauson

*If you are curious about legal matters, or would just like to check out a particular judicial decision of the North Carolina Court of Appeals or the North Carolina Supreme Court, you may download them at the website of the Administrative Office of the Courts. <http://www.aoc.state.nc.us>*

## "What It Means to Be an Adult Man" -- A Year Later

Now it has been over a year since the first Men's Inquiry meeting. We have successfully held a meeting every month since October 18, 1997. Each time I post three related questions on a dry erase board. We begin at 7:30 PM, and until 7:55 PM we use this time to say whatever is required to bring our attention fully into the room and be prepared for the Inquiry. At 7:55 I go over the meeting structure and the request for confidentiality for the new men in the group.

At 8:00 PM I begin the Inquiry by reading the first question from the board. A few examples of the questions we have explored this year are: "How do we learn to accept ourselves?"; "How do we develop the way to be assertive without being aggressive?"; "Now, what is a man's role in a household, family, or relationship?" Our job is to examine the questions as though we have never seen them before, discovering together something that we may not have discovered alone or in the company of women.

My job is to lead the inquiry by encouraging us to dig deep into the questions, staying with each question until it has been fully explored. The inquiry continues until 9:20 PM. Then we take time to review what new insights we have discovered and what actions we are willing to commit to doing in the coming weeks.

On reflection, it has been a profound satisfaction for me to be part of the birth and growth of such a practice. Each time we discover something new about ourselves that enhances our lives and nurtures the development of the courage to be close to other men and to trust them. The premise of this work is that, often, the behavior, beliefs, and values which have the most influence on

our lives are just outside our individual conscious awareness. It is hard to change something that we are not aware of. Through this inquiry we can discover that which we are not aware of, allowing us to choose either to continue it or to change it. The intention of the Men's Inquiry Group is to create an environment where men can profoundly nurture, trust, and emotionally support each other. It is a place where together we can explore ourselves in such a way as to be able to embrace our full humanity.

My personal vision is that when men can re-learn how to profoundly nurture and emotionally support each other--to stand up for each of us to be the men we would be truly be proud to be--then there will be no room for violence toward ourselves and women. I believe that this type of support would make it possible for a man to stand silent when another man takes an action that does not support himself, his family, or his community.

Visitors are welcome to join the Inquiry, and I also am available to support the creation of other groups like this.

--Martin Brossman

*If you know any men interested in joining, "An Inquiry Into What It Means to Be an Adult Man and Other Questions Related to Our Lives," have them call 919-608-8157 or e-mail Martin Brossman at: [to-inquire@mindspring.com](mailto:to-inquire@mindspring.com). The web site is: <http://to-inquire.home.mindspring.com>*

*The Inquiry meeting is held on the 2nd Thursday of every month, from 7:30-9:30 PM, at 6200 Coldwater Court, Raleigh, NC. Bring a favorite beverage or snack.*

*"The commitment of the Inquiry is to support the Men's Center of Raleigh and Wake County as well as to support the creation and maintenance of relationships with ourselves and others."*

## New Raleigh Men's Center Dues Policy

By unanimous vote of the Leadership Council:

1. Beginning in 1999, annual membership dues for all members will be payable every year by March 1.
2. Current members, who have paid their dues by their anniversary date, will be billed under a rebate schedule.
3. New members who join the Men's Center after March 1 of any year will be billed under a separate rebate schedule.
4. The Finance Manager is responsible for implementing this policy.

The Procedure:

The following procedure was adopted unanimously by the Leadership Council:

1. Annual membership dues of \$30 are payable by March 1 of every year.
2. Current members will be billed according to the following schedule:

If dues were paid during the 1998 period of:  
dues for 1999 will be:

Dec 1-Mar 1	Mar 2-May 31	Jun 1-Aug 31	Sep 1-Nov 30
\$30	\$22.50	\$15	\$7.50

Members will be billed Feb 1, 1999.

3. New members joining the Men's Center in 1999 and beyond will be billed as follows:

If they join during the periods of  
their dues for the current year will be:

Jan 1-Mar 1	Mar 2-May 31	Jun 1-Aug 31	Sep 1-Nov 30
\$30	\$22.50	\$15	\$7.50

4. Billing statements will be the responsibility of the Finance Manager.
5. The Finance Manager's Monthly Report to the Leadership Council will include the status of dues payment.

## Point Your Web Browser **HERE!**

We now have a web presence due to the effort of many men. If you haven't visited our web page please take a peek. If you have any comments, observations or suggestions, send a note to the Web Master, Allen Frazelle.

I want to extend some words of thanks to the men that made this page happen. First, thanks to Hilton Freed for keeping the web-page vision alive. The page became Hilton's personal mission. He did a great deal of legwork to find out the particulars about developing a web page. And he did research to find out what other men's groups were doing with their page.

Thanks also to Victor Taube for advising me of the possibility of getting some free web space from Interpath. If he had not taken the initiative to talk to his friend at Interpath, we would still be trying to figure out how to make this happen.

Thanks also to the folks at Interpath. Because of their generosity we can now let men know there is a safe place for them. --Ron Blankenship



<http://www.mens-ctr.interpath.com/>



### FREE LEGAL INFO FROM WOMEN'S CENTER

The Women's Center of Chapel Hill offers free legal information. Speak with a volunteer attorney by phone for fifteen minutes about divorce, consumer law, tenant's rights, etc. This is information, not advice, consultation or representation, but it may help you clarify your legal issue. Appointment times vary. **968-4610.**

**The Rafting Trip**

September 28, 1998

The school teacher with incredibly big hair

The very tall insurance retiree

The soft spoken environmentalist

The computer whiz guy

The Dreadlock house painter

Stopped by HIGHWAY CONTROL, Don insisted cruise control was set at sixty-five/ officer insisted seventy as we sat patiently while he ran Don's tag just to be sure the two long-hairs weren't bank robbers holding the three short-hairs (probably bank presidents) hostage which would be a potential fifteen minutes of fame for him if something other than what it was, was happening. We appreciated Barney's commitment to peace keeping. But alas, it was just a group of men together creating spirit.

We rented a cabin without power/ no problem because we planned to prepare dinner over an open fire.

Everyone brought a contribution for supper/ chicken, couscous, and beans, a feast fit for a hungry group of men supporting each other.

Later we stood around the fire no doubt to get closer but no one verbalized the need and I was pleased to bring my brothers closer to the spirit of the dread. But I'm wondering what kept us grouped around that fire? True, we were without power; but fear of darkness was not the reason for our unsolicited participation.

We bed down in the cabin, the dread and the long-hair in the loft, the retiree and environmentalist in bunks, and the computer guy on the floor. Sleep came quickly as the four and a half hour trek proved to be more tiring than anyone of us would admit.

We awoke accusing each other of snoring, showered, and breakfasted on bagels, cream cheese, and fruit.

We walked to the river's edge as if being called by voices.

Anticipation filled my senses knowing I and my comrades would soon be one with THE FRENCH BROAD.

We chose to take the river in individual kayaks against protest from one member but, spirit calmed whatever his fear and allowed him courage.

And then, it was upon us. The long ride up the mountain/ feeling confidence and fear from the river spirit/ climbing into my kayak and feeling the calm and the power of THE FRENCH BROAD.

Some of us experienced great difficulty, at times being propelled from their kayak after hitting a rock, I recall at those moments how are differences didn't matter. Indeed the prevailing thought was concern for each other's safety, hoping whatever the problem, a positive outcome resulted.

In some areas we found the water and rocks quite challenging. Even with the most intense/precise instructions from our guide, ultimately, it was the river that made the choice. A scary thought but too late to turn back.

There was a back-up raft trailing (for safety) but neither of us opted for its refuge. We stayed in our kayaks embracing the river spirit. No matter how intimidating, our choice was to be with our feelings on the river.

I could see questioning looks; looks of wonderment, curious inquiring glances trying to reason what our group could possibly have in common.

There was a man whose need to know overcame fear of asking. He questioned, "who are you guys?" "Oh, we're just friends" one group member explained. Later we joked about appropriate responses if the questions persisted.

"We're a Reggae Polka Band and the tall white-haired guy plays lead accordion."

"We're residents of DOROTHEA DIX HOSPITAL and we got separated from our attendant."

--Gregory Blaine

**Take the First Steps  
to a New Life**

*Men's Center Seeks New  
Support Groups*

Have you ever been a member of a support group? This kind of a group is a place to make connections, to meet some new men with whom you can share the important things going on in your life. A support group provides a special place, a safe place, to speak from your heart and to listen to the hearts of other men--to give and receive support when you feel \_\_\_\_\_ (you fill in the blank!)

The Men's Center maintains two small offices at 723 W. Johnson St. as meeting spaces for support groups. Groups are currently meeting on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Occasionally an existing group will have openings for new members. And, of course, there is always the opportunity for new groups to form. When the Center receives your request for entry into a support group, we set down your name in a list of other men seeking membership. If an existing group has an opening, we contact the group about your interest. Otherwise, when we have enough men for a new group (usually 5-7), the Center will provide a facilitator to help the group get started. Depending on the number of calls we receive, it can sometimes take a couple of months to get a new group going. If you are on this waiting list and need support in the short term, the Men's Center has several members who will speak with you by phone on a weekly basis. If you wish to join a support group or just receive more information, contact Patrick Knox at 80-0765 or via e-mail at [knoxiebb@mindspring.com](mailto:knoxiebb@mindspring.com).

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# Monthly Meetings

## January

### A New Year. . . A New Men's Center

The Leadership Council is currently performing some outreach activities to make the wider community aware of the Men's Center and what it has to offer. It is also forming mutually beneficial alliances with other community service organizations in order to better serve the needs of men in our community.

As a continuation of this process, Temple Porter, President of the Leadership Council, will facilitate our monthly meeting by getting your input--your thoughts, ideas, dreams of what a renewed Men's Center might look like and act like.

As preparation for this meeting, please ask yourself the following questions:

*What specific needs of men in our community are not being met effectively?*

*With whom should the men's center join forces in order to serve more men better?*

*What are other men's groups around the world doing that we might benefit by?*

*How do we meet the simultaneous challenge of reaching out and maintaining that safe place for men to do their inner work?*

## Meet for Dinner Before January and February Meetings

On Thursday, January 21, and Thursday, February 18, at 6:00PM, those men who wish to can meet at Joe's Place, 301 West Martin Street in Raleigh. Phone 832-5266.

We will gather at this popular and inexpensive Raleigh diner, featuring "Joes Mom's Food" in order to socialize with one another.

If their schedules permit, our program leaders will join us.

## February

### Community Outreach... Men Reaching Out to Men

As a follow-up to January's program, Daniel Lebold will lead us in a discussion focused on Outreach--one of the new directions of the Men's Center for 1999.

Daniel writes: "Stuff that I might talk about in terms of community service relates to the notion of 'civil society'--and the inter-relationships between the nonprofit sector, the corporate for-profit sector, and government--the 'three pillars' on which 'civil society' rests."

Daniel will present some of his own ideas and invite men to share specific ways the Men's Center can reach out to the larger community.



**Psychotherapist**  
**Lee Lourdeaux, Ph.D., C.C.S.W.**  
**Individuals, Couples. Groups**

**Durham**

**(919) 286-5686**

## New Discussion Group for Men

We would like to invite you to an inquiry into what it means to be an adult man and other questions that relate to our lives.

**2nd Thursday of Every Month, 7:30-9:30 PM**  
6200 Coldwater Court, Raleigh, NC  
Call Martin Brossman (919)-608-8157

Bring a favorite beverage or snack.

"Our Commitment is to support the Men's Center of Raleigh and Wake County as well as to support the creation and maintenance of relationships with ourselves and others"

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### Financial Assistance

Members may apply for up to 50% financial assistance for fees to any Men's Center event. Applications are treated confidentially. For information, call Temple Porter at 872-3330..

### Subscription and Membership Services

Full membership -- \$30/year which gives discounts to Men's Center Events and subscription to the monthly Newsletter. Subscription to the newsletter alone -- \$15/year. Tax deductible donations are always greatly appreciated. The Men's Center is a tax exempt organization. Send your name, address, home and work phone numbers to Ray Shuh, 4705 Baybridge Crossing, Apt. 1319, Raleigh, NC 27604.

### Newsletter Contributions

Send all contributions to Richard Yell via e-mail at ryell104@aol.com. Send hard-copy contributions to Lee Elliott, 1019 Iredell St., Durham, NC 27705. Calendar items will be included as appropriate and as space permits.

**Deadline for March-April issue: February 10**

### Staff

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Labels:	Ray Shuh	876-4321

### Support Groups

All men are welcome to the Men's Center. The only requisite for joining a support group is a genuine desire to join with other men in supporting each other's journey. At this time, there are groups meeting one evening a week, Monday through Thursday. Most groups meet at the Men's Center on the second floor at 723 West Johnson St. in Raleigh. There is a small charge to help pay the rent for the facilities. To join, or for more information on support groups, call Patrick Knox--phone # 870-0765.

### The Men's Center's e-mail address:

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Phone Number: 832-0509

The newsletter welcomes all your comments, suggestions, and letters to the editor.

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*Forwarding and Address Correction Requested*

*The vision of the Raleigh Men's Center is a world in which people recognize one another as who they are rather than what they do, and celebrate the spiritual connectedness of all life.*

*Its mission is to provide a safe place in which men support men in becoming themselves. We are committed to strengthening men's roles as friend, son, father, husband/partner and citizen. The Men's Center is committed to strengthening the individual, the family and the community.*

**This newsletter is a publication of the Men's Center of Raleigh and Wake County and does not necessarily express the views of the center.**