

# Lambda Phoenix Center

MARCH 2009

## CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY IN MARCH

Members of Lambda Phoenix Center celebrating recovery birthdays this month are:

Chris S., 3-24-06  
Jacob F., 3-18-07  
Frank R., 3-16-05  
Roger G., 3-11-91  
Kelli (aka Jammer), 3-30-00  
Oliver C., 3-01-76  
John S., 3-28-02

Recovery birthday dinners take place at 7 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month. Spring Break has graciously offered to host the April dinner and has an exciting menu planned! The dinner cost is \$7 for non-members, \$5 for members and free for those celebrating their special day.

Everyone who celebrated a birthday the previous month gets a chance to share their experience, strength and hope at the 8 p.m. speaker meeting following the meal.

Will your recovery birthday occur in April? We'd like to announce it in the April newsletter. It's a great way to show newcomers that recovery really works.

Send your first name, last initial and recovery date to [newsletter@lambda.org](mailto:newsletter@lambda.org) by April 7.



## Planning to shine at Pride

Lambda Phoenix Center will be at **Phoenix Gay and Lesbian Pride** on **April 18 and 19**. Will you?

We plan to have a float in the parade and an information booth at the Pride Festival at Steele Indian School Park.

Help us show the community what LPC is all about. Last year we turned out in record numbers to decorate the float, march in the parade, and celebrate our LPC Pride.

Also, if you'd like to make a financial contribution to our effort, make sure to write "Pride" on the donation envelope and drop it in the LPC safe or give it to any Board member.

**Dates, times and locations are still being determined. Stay tuned.**

## IN MEMORY OF CHUCK H.

Chuck H. was a constant presence at the 8 p.m. Thursday Alcoholics Anonymous meeting held at Lambda Phoenix Center, even when attendance began to shrink.

To newcomers he was an unassuming gentleman. When called to the podium, he spoke of the need to keep the program simple and have a strong belief in a higher power.

To the old-timers Chuck H. was more than a lone voice keeping a struggling meeting alive. He was one of the people that paved the way for Lambda's very existence.

Chuck H., who died in December with 33 years of sobriety, will be missed. It is important that the Lambda community recognize



# Membership Counter



## ***Become an LPC member today & help us reach our goal of 100 members!***

With as many people that come into the rooms at Lambda Phoenix Center it's discouraging that we currently have **ONLY 44** official members.

This poses a major challenge. During the coming year, LPC faces significant expenses, including our new parking lot and an air-conditioning unit. If you are already a member, we cannot thank you enough.

Can you help us increase our rolls? The cost is \$65 per year or \$20 per quarter. It only takes a few seconds to ask a friend if they are a member. All they have to do is log on to [www.phxlambda.org](http://www.phxlambda.org), talk to a Board member, or fill out a membership form located on the safe and drop it in.

This is a tough economy and it's impacting everyone. But where would we be without our LPC clubhouse?

and honor the mark he made – although Chuck would be the first person to give the credit to others.

The start of GLBT-centered AA meetings in metropolitan Phoenix occurred throughout the 1980s during the AIDS crisis and ensuing homophobia. It seems difficult to imagine now, but GLBT people seeking recovery were often asked to leave straight meetings.

"I no longer felt safe in sharing my story at meetings," Chuck H. remembered in an oral history of Lambda. "It became apparent we needed to form our own group where we could work the Steps, Traditions and Principles of AA, while attending meetings without fear of rejection."

Chuck and others began GLBT-centered groups, meeting wherever there was space. They helped to incorporate the Lambda Phoenix Center in 1991. And, well, you know the rest. Chuck became one of the original chairs of Spring Break.

"It was very important for Chuck to carry the message," remembered Jane R, a longtime friend. "He used to sponsor so many people. His manner was such that you always knew where he stood. He didn't pull any punches."

Friends remembered Chuck showing them unconditional love, taking spon-sees back through repeated relapses and offering his couch to someone who couldn't be alone. He also showed us that GLBT people could get sober and maintain a long-term relationship.

Chuck and his partner Jay were together nearly 38 years.

## Quick Read

**Shop for a cause:** For \$10, you can support Lambda and have a day of shopping at Macy's at San Tan Village on Thurs., March 19. See a Lambda Board member to get your savings certificate. Shoppers can save \$10 when they spend \$25 in the store. Proceeds from the certificates go directly to Lambda.

**Advertise here:** Do you need a sober roommate? Do you need a hand around the house? Need to sell furniture? Use the power of the newsletter. For \$5, you can run your own advertisement. Contact: [newsletter@lambda.org](mailto:newsletter@lambda.org).

