

Prime Times



PRIME TIMERS WORLD WIDE

JUNE 2009

SINCE 1987

Year 'round FUN with your fellow Prime Timers

Denver
in July

Oklahoma
City in
September

Toronto
in October

Two
Cruises in
2010

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PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE BOARD

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BY WOODY BALDWIN, FOUNDER,
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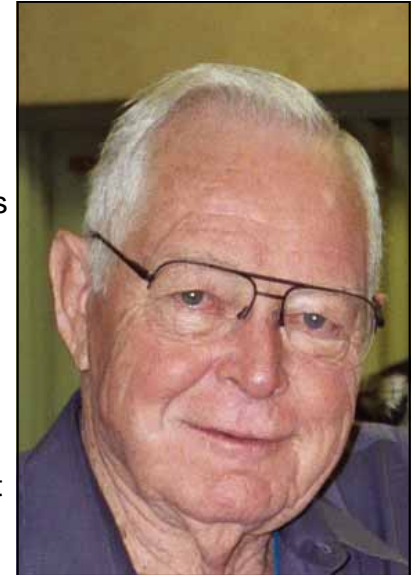
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Every life, including yours, is so very important because it touches many other lives, even though we are not conscious of it at the time the experience is happening.

We all live in one big, wide world; yet each of us lives in a world that is different from that of any other individual, even your identical twin. My individual world is not the same as yours. Our worlds are the result of many factors, some controllable and some not. It is a composite of our genes, our experiences, our conscious and oftentimes unconscious efforts to mold it, etc., all of which results in our own peculiar and precious little world.

Our attitudes, our personal philosophies, our personalities, our influences, our behaviors etc. are the confluence of every experience we have ever had. Speaking of personal philosophy, if you want to have a fun and perhaps revealing experience, sit down at your computer or with pad and pencil and define your philosophy of life. It's worth the time.

So, how does all this affect us as Prime Timers? We all need each other to share our thoughts, our aspirations, our talents, our passions for the growth of not only our own worlds, but the great opportunity as an organization to enrich the lives of so many other fellows who embrace our commonality. As the world's largest organization of its kind, we have a golden opportunity to significantly help thousands of older gay and bisexual men to have a happier and richer world. Hey, Fellows, let's not pass up this opportunity. Become an active Prime Timer, starting today. You'll probably be pleasantly surprised at how much it will enrich your own world.



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LOOKING FORWARD TO DENVER AND BEYOND

By Michael Stone

If you missed the recent shindig in Las Vegas (see my other article about that) then you still have a chance to participate in another great event before the Toronto Convention! Our Denver chapter has spent over a year planning and preparing for "Connecting Colorado – Prime Timers Summer 2009 Regional Event". I spent 33 years of my life in Denver and can tell you that this is a great place to spend time, especially in summer. The days are clear and warm and the nights crisp and refreshing. If you need it cooler just take a short drive into the Rocky Mountains and watch temperatures drop!

The dates are from Friday, July 17 until Sunday, July 19. Events kick off with a welcome Cocktail Party on Friday, a breakfast on Saturday followed by your choice of two afternoon excursions (Central City or Colorado Springs) and ending with a dinner at our host hotel, the Ramada Inn. Sunday begins with another breakfast and your choice of two more excursions (Central City or Rocky Mountain National Park).

Your board is planning on being there and meeting before the events begin on Friday. I hope to see a great many of you there during my seven days in Denver.

You can find information on our Worldwide website or at: [primetimersww.org/Colorado Regional 2009.pdf](http://primetimersww.org/Colorado%20Regional%202009.pdf)



An optional excursion is available to Rocky Mountain National Park on Sunday July 19

Details on Denver

Dates: July 17—19

Registration Fee: \$50

Registration includes: Saturday Night Dinner and a Box Lunch; additional cost events include excursions to Colorado Springs (\$25 including box lunch), to Central City (\$25—bus ticket only), to Rocky Mountain National Park (\$25 including box lunch), and to Denver's Central City (FREE).

Hotels are not included: Special rates at Ramada Inn, Econo Lodge, Capital Hill Mansion, and the Warwick Hotel.

PRIME TIMES is the Newsletter of Prime Timers Worldwide, Inc., a social organization for mature gay and bisexual men. It is published six times a year in the even numbered months. Subscription rates are \$15 for a year. To subscribe, write your check to PTWW, and mail to Prime Times, c/o Rob Howard, Editor, 4436 NW 59th St., Oklahoma City OK 73112.

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.

www.PrimeTimersWW.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL MARKS 10 YEARS

Hardly seems like 10 years ago what many thought would be a small group met at the MCC Church in Minneapolis to look into a Prime Timers chapter here. The small group turned out to be over 100 men at that first meeting.

On Sunday August 16, the chapter is marking it's 10th anniversary with a "green" party...an outing in one of the city's newly revitalized parks on a bluff top overlooking the Mississippi River. Green because it's outdoors with covered pavilions if there is rain. Green because it is accessible by car...bikes...walking...light rail and metro bus.

Plenty of room for outdoor games...there's even a Frisbee golf course for those so inclined.

Games and activities are mainstays of the chapter with a full monthly calendar. There's a book club...there's a mall walking exercise group...there've been cooking classes...theater, concert and opera outings. Dining out..breakfast..a monthly noon lunch and an "adventure" dining bunch that tries different ethnic foods are all groups that are popular. Movie night has also been popular and is now a video night at one member's condo building where a big screen projector gives a true cinema experience to DVDs members bring in.

So...there are lots of things to celebrate at our 10th anniversary gathering. Especially the almost 200 men giving the chapter it's energy and camaraderie.

Call 612-371-9597 to reserve your place if you are going to visit the Twin Cities. Cost is \$20.

PRIME TIMERS
Minneapolis/St. Paul

PROUDLY CELEBRATE THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY!

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE:
SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2009
FROM 4 P.M. UNTIL 10 P.M.

WHERE: MINNEHAHA PARK, WABUN PICNIC AREA PAVILION D

WHAT: HAWAIIAN LUAU

COST: \$20.00 Per Person

Call 612-371-9537
to reserve your place
no later than August 3, 2009

This is a GREEN event. The picnic area is accessible by LRT, bus, bike, walking, or automobile. Centrally located in a great area of Minneapolis. Brand new facility with volleyball net, frisbee golf, wading pool, restrooms. The picnic area is walking distance to the Longfellow House, Stevens House, Minnehaha Falls, Longfellow Gardens and the Mississippi River (Lock & Dam #1).

LABOR DAY WEEKEND OKLAHOMA CITY SEPTEMBER 3-7 REGISTRATION STILL AVAILABLE

The Central Oklahoma Prime Timers are pleased to invite you to the Prime Timers 2008 Labor Day Get-A-



Way Weekend. The five day event held at the Southwest's premier gay resort – the Habana Inn in Oklahoma City – begins Thursday, September 3, and continues through Monday, September 7, 2009.

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 is located in the heart of Oklahoma City's gay bar district.

For a registration form and more information, email PTLaborday@aol.com, or download a form from www.primetimersww.org (Click on Oklahoma City Labor Day Weekend)

“Convention is THE event to attend”

By PTWW President Michael Stone

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The way 2009 is flying by we'll all be meeting in Toronto at the Convention before we know it. In my travels and at home I've talked to way too many people who said they don't plan on attending. I ask you to reconsider this. Our Convention is THE event to attend and it only happens every two years. The facilities couldn't be better with the 'Gay Village' just 1-1/2 blocks away and all of our events planned under the same roof where you'll be staying: the Marriott by Courtyard.

At present 90 cents (US) buys you one Canadian Dollar, so make sure to take that into consideration when you send in your application. Our Toronto Chapter has put together a wonderful weekend and we know you'll love participating in the workshops, trip to Niagara Falls and, of course, the two dinners plus all the new friends you'll meet.

Once again, our Worldwide board is busy making some by-law changes. Sometimes, when we refer to the by-laws we find that times have changed and language that may have worked 21 years ago may need some clarification today. In the next couple of months chapters will be sent and asked to review the proposed changes. There is nothing drastic; we'll ask for a vote on these by your representatives in Toronto.

The business meeting at the convention is also the time that we elect a new board to serve for the next two years. Several members of the current board have indicated that they intend to run again for a position, and two plan on “retiring.”

I love this job. I love the work I do because I love this organization. I'm planning on running as President for another term (2 years). Pat Karr is retiring as our trusty and wonderfully efficient Treasurer. He's been on the board six years and feels it's time to move on. My super trusty right hand man, Rob Howard, is planning on vacat-

ing his position of Vice-President of Chapters and plans, instead, to run as Treasurer. Don McVay plans on vacating his member-at-large position and run as Vice-President of Chapters. I really look forward to working hand-in-hand with Don, again. For 2 years he served as my assistant when I held that position. Our great Secretary, Steven Dubois, plans to again run as Secretary. Our Vice-President of Independents, Jay Pitard, also plans on running for another term. Our other member-at-large, Doug von Zuben plans to retire from the board.

So, there are at least two at-large board positions open. I'm sure hoping one of our Canadian brothers (or two) will join the board. I still have no consensus as to which and how many chapters will make presentations in Toronto to host the next convention. It would be great to have a board member from the upcoming hosting chapter. Having Doug (and previously Ed Healey) on the board from Toronto was great. If you are interested in running for a position on the board you must be nominated by your chapter, which will also certify that you are a member of the chapter in good standing. Nominations should be sent to Pat Karr, who is serving as the chair of the Nominations Committee.

So, what am I up to now, personally?

Well, my wonderful friend Robert Rosenthal (Independent Member) and I recently returned from a great two week trip out west; first to Southern California and then to the super Western Regional in Las Vegas. On June 6 we fly to China for a 20-day trip, covering 9 cities. I am meeting with a man in Hong Kong, while there, to talk about our starting a chapter. The summer will also be spent in Denver at their Regional Event and Oklahoma City for their fantastic Labor Day shindig. So, register and join in all the fun our organization has to offer.



Michael having fun in Las Vegas

For More Information about the Toronto Convention and Registration Forms:

www.primetimerstoronto.ca



GET YOUR PASSPORT NOW

Practically all cruises, and this year's Prime Timers Convention in Toronto will require a passport. The convention promises to be one of the best that we have had in the twenty-one years Prime Timers has been around. BUT, if you are going to fly to Canada, or take a cruise you WILL need a passport. New rules have gone into effect that might make the lead time longer, but right now people are getting passports in a reasonable time. BUT DON'T WAIT! Get yours now. See how: Go to TRAVEL.STATE.GOV, and select “Apply for a Passport.”

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LAS VEGAS EVENT WAS GREAT!

PLANNING ALREADY UNDERWAY FOR 2010

Breaking the Rules!

Michael Stone, President

All right, I know the rule: "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas"! I need to break that rule in order to share the wonderful time we all had at the second annual Las Vegas 2009 Western Regional Event. The men of the chapter are to be highly commended and



thanked for the fine job they did. It took lots of coordinated effort, work and time to make things happen so successfully.

Having been at their first event the year before I can tell you that the changes they made, this year, were wonderful. Like

other Prime Timer gatherings lots of new friendships were made and, most importantly, we were all able to share time and experiences with friends and Independent members from past events.



The addition of daily excursions (shuttles to and from the Blue Moon, excursions to Hoover Dam and the Atomic Testing Museum) helped fill the days. The nightly events were all new: the Classic Car Collection had changed from last year and the Tuesday night Hawaiian Luau Dinner and Show was a super



addition. Sitting together at reserved seats with friends and feasting on the wonderful food was only part of it. The talented show that followed was certainly the dessert of the feast. It was great to see the announcer mention 'Prime Timers' in her first sentence and nice to see so many of us stand up to be recognized by the crowd. Each of us also received a lei (use your imagination on this one)!

The Wednesday night buffet banquet dinner was superb; I don't think I've ever tasted better 'fillet mignon' than that. My friend (and much of the energy behind this event), Pete Pedersen surprised me by making me an honorary member of the chapter and handing me a chapter T-shirt! What could be better? And, the after dinner surprise was being entertained by our very own 'Tina Turner', who is also a member of the chapter. Oh, yes, and I came away from Las Vegas \$2.00 ahead of when arrived! Can't wait 'till next year!

NEXT YEAR in Las Vegas

Sunday - Thursday, May 2 - 6, 2010 - at the Imperial Palace. Agenda will be similar to this year's, but with new entertainment and new optional tours. The Las Vegas Chapter is working on them right now.



Michael Stone and Pete Pederson with "Tina" - Before and After

OPPS! BOSTON ISN'T HAVING A FLOAT THIS YEAR. BUT THEY DID HAVE ONE LAST YEAR AND IT WON FIRST PRIZE!

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In the last issue we reported that Boston was planning yet another award winning float. Alas, the news was a little old, coming as it did from their April 2008 Prologue (their newsletter), rather than April 2009.

They aren't planning on having a float this year—it takes a heck of a lot of effort to produce one. But they DID win first place in the float category in Boston's Pride Parade in 2008, and have won first the last three years out of four, placing second the other year.

The do plan on marching in this years parade, so if you are in Boston for gay pride, consider joining them.



Boston's Award Winning (First Prize) Pride Float For 2008

RGV LAUNCHES FIRST PRIME TIMERS COMMEMORATIVE COIN

BY DAVID HILSE, RGV PRIME TIMERS



On May 15-17, 2009, the San Antonio and Rio Grande Valley Prime Tim-

ers gathered at the New Upper Deck on South Padre Island Texas for a weekend of fun activities and camaraderie at the beach. In attendance was the founder of the first Prime Timers chapter, our very own, Woody Baldwin. When the RGV group was invited to attend the annual San Antonio get together, the board wanted to do something memorable and decided to design the first Prime Timers Commemorative Coin with which to honor Woody and the 10 month-young RGV chapter.

A special Saturday afternoon ceremony was held for the launching of this new coin with an attendance of about 30 Prime Timers. Numismatist/Coin Collector-Dealer Raul H. Gonzalez of the RGV PT's presented Woody his coin in a special wooden box. This was Raul's first foray into the world of coin designing. The coin features Woody's signature portrait on the obverse in a shiny nickel 3-Dimensional format that is outlined in a gold tone. At the bottom is the famous handshake logo that he created. The colorful handshake logo of the RGV Prime Timers is on the reverse, which symbolically features the semi-tropical area where the chapter is located in South Texas. This design features the sun, palm trees, an island, two waterways (the Gulf of Mexico and the Rio Grande River), the established

year of 2008 for Chapter 72 and a single red Lone Star for the great state of Texas.

"I am so happy and proud that our chapter had the foresight to allow me to design this coin in honor of Woody Baldwin. It's not everyday that a person gets a chance to create something meaningful and be able to recognize the founding father of a great organization. We owe every bit of gratitude to him for starting a club for older, like-minded men that can have an avenue to meet and have fun" explained Raul. "I'm hoping all Prime Timers chapters will follow suit and keep the Woody side of the coin as is and use their chapter logo on the reverse" he added.



David Hilse and Ruben Zabala of RGVPT with Woody Baldwin

The RGV chapter has a limited supply of this beautiful commemorative coin for sale at ten dollars each, a black velvet box may be purchased for an additional five dollars. We are very pleased with the quality of the coin and believe it to be a perfect keepsake in honor of a very special man, Woody Baldwin.

To buy a coin, rgvprimetimers.com and click on Fund Raisers for order information.

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HERE AND THERE

BY ZACH MULLANEY, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR, CENTRAL OKLAHOMA PRIME TIMERS

PERTH, W. AUSTRALIA: The chapter is eagerly awaiting their annual miniature golf tournament. The course where they play reduces the tee fees by the more that are playing. The term "hole-in-one" has been reviewed for any that may have been confused. I'll bet this outing is a good time.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON: The guys are discussing the possibility of taking an Amtrak train ride up to Vancouver or down to Portland. Prez Jerry is putting out feelers to see if enough would be interested for a possible September trip. What a gorgeous ride that would be along the coast of the Pacific Northwest. If you know you'll be in the area around that time, stay tuned, and think about contacting them to go along.

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA: (165 members) Talk about an organized chapter! They have the monthly meetings, monthly dine-outs, and monthly cocktail parties all planned with dates, times, locations, and hosts for the rest of the year. I'll bet they had a good time at the Cinco de Mayo Chihuahua Parade around the Plaza. Hey, any reason to have a margarita works for me.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS: In their newsletter was an interesting article about the several that went along on the trip into Mexico sponsored by the new Rio Grande Valley Chapter. The writer's comments of Mexico City reminded me that it is one of my favorite cities. There are some good

photos of the group that went along. As chapters located close to the border know, the farther into Mexico one travels, the better it gets. They are now talking of taking the train trip through the Copper Canyon some time in the future. Good going, guys.

CENTRAL VIRGINIA/RICHMOND: Many of their guys are interested in antiques, and one of the members is well-versed in them. Member Greg Overfelt is heading up a special interest group to go "antiquing" on a regular basis. Also, Chef Andy is starting an Italian Cooking Class, limited to eight 'students'. Anything to do with food is a good thought food for most of us.

CHARLOTTE, N. CAROLINA: Their chapter had been mentioning the upcoming trip to Wilmington, an old city down along the coast. Their latest newsletter has several photos of the trip. What an attractive city it appears to be, and what an attractive bunch of guys in the photos. Must be that Carolina water.....

TUCSON, ARIZONA: One of the members is conducting an "Arm-Chair Aerobics" class at 11AM every Monday morning. This is a private class just for the PrimeTimers. The exercises are primarily to retain strength in the upper body. That's something that most of us need to be mindful of as we 'mature'. After class, there is still plenty of time for them to go down to the Wild Cathouse for lunch.

CHARLOTTE CHAPTER CELEBRATES 16TH YEAR WITH PICNIC

By Tom Hendricks, VP Charlotte, NC Prime Timers

The Charlotte Chapter of Prime Timers celebrated their 16th year with their Annual Picnic on May 16th. The picnic was held at Latta Plantation Park under cloudy skies and warm temperatures. There were between 35 and 40 Prime Timers including members of both the Myrtle Beach Chapter and the Raleigh-Durham Chapter plus two independent members from Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The food was excellent with great chicken and pork supplied by our own Richard B. as the main entree. Numerous side dishes and desserts were brought by the members along with a variety of sodas, tea and water.

Music again was supplied by our own resident DJ Jay H. The afternoon was filled with an assortment of different styles of tunes. We all moved to the music laughing and bringing up memories the songs reminded us of.

Around 3 PM we all had to say our goodbyes to our guests and one another but the memories will hold us until next year. We have already

booked the same shelter for 2010 so look forward to everyone returning then.



Charlotte members resting after the big lunch

WOODY BALDWIN TURNS 90 IN 2010

TO CELEBRATE LAWRENCE PETERSON IS BUILDING WOODYBALDWIN.COM

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By Lawrence Peterson

Yes, Woody turns 90 early next year. Lawrence Peterson, a member of the High Sierra Chapter in Reno, NV, has volunteered and begun to create a Web site for Woodrow Wilson [Woody] Baldwin's 90th birthday. Woody has humbly accepted and allowed us to do this for him. It is no secret. We need a lot of participation from Prime Timers!!!

The Web site is to reflect his entire person. Comments and stories from friends are very important. Articles and photos you may have regarding Woody Baldwin are needed. Have you any old Chapter newsletters or event flyers which mention a visit by him with or without photos? Have you any anecdotes we can publish? Have you any interesting first hand stories? Any old or recent photos? Any old CR, Centaur or Swan magazines from the 80s' wherein he was interviewed with Sean? Any academic or event photos? Early years are important but so are the later ones.

Information should be emailed to info@woodybaldwin.com. If there are physical materials (photos to be scanned, articles to be retyped, etc.) they should be sent to: Lawrence Peterson, 1730 Aquila Avenue, Reno, Nevada 89509. Materials sent will be forwarded, upon completion, to the Prime Timers World Wide archives. If you need materials returned please contact Lawrence ahead of time. He desires to return anything requested, but if response is overwhelming (how many thousands of members are there with an individual photo of Woody?) he will have to be selective in the commitment to do so.

The start of the Web site, although very primitive so far, can be seen at : <http://www.woodybaldwin.com/>
And you may also participate in the online Blog and watch for updates there: <http://woodybaldwin.blogspot.com/>

Your thoughts and assistance are welcomed. Please pass this information along to your members.

Woody As....



A Child



A Young Man



A College Professor



A Retiree

Help make WoodyBaldwin.com a great success
Contact Lawrence Peterson at info@woodybaldwin.com
To offer materials and other memorabilia

“BUY A GIRL A DRINK, SAILOR?”

By Zach Mullaney, Central Oklahoma Chapter

There are many jaunts sponsored by several of our World Wide chapters, and most guys that go on those trips are generally a lot of fun. It is good to hear when some of our own members take advantage, and get out of town to cruise among 'em.

Don Fleming took note of one of the ads in the WW newsletter. As he's made good friends with several that visit us over Labor Day, he looked forward to this Reunion Cruise. He flew to San Juan for a couple of days on the beach ahead of time. He then climbed aboard the Celebrity ship, "M.S. Galaxy", joining the PrimeTimer Reunion's eleven-day cruise, calling at nine different islands in the Caribbean.

There were 89 PrimeTimers on board, from many of our US chapters, along with several from Canada, Australia, Germany, and Italy. These cruises are always internationally interesting as many of our World Wide members there is no chapter. The group had a reserved section in the dining room so they could enjoy their meals together. Happy Hour cocktails were a fun time, receptions were highlights, and all in the P/T group had their own "White Party" where they were the talk of the ship. An interesting note about our P/T group aboard, nine of the guys were retired Catholic priests, including two that were at Don's dinner table. He said they had many interesting tales to tell, and were enjoyable table mates.

Don was asked to speak to the group regarding our Labor Day Getaway, the venue and activities, and invited all to attend. Michael Stone enthusiastically seconded the invitation. Many of the cruisers have attended our Getaway, and made many favorable comments. Don received commitments from several that wanted to attend for the first time.

The day it was 11F degrees here at home (in Oklahoma City), the group was basking around the pool on the top deck (ogling, of course) in 89F degree weather, while sipping cool pina colodas, and watching the 'hot action' around the pool.

There are several P/T guys that have been on each of the Reunion Cruises, and Don understands why. The food was great, the ports were interesting, the weather sublime, and the friendships made beyond compare. The eleven days passed rapidly, were both interesting and fascinating, and a great time was had by all.

BECAUSE SHARING A TRIP WITH FRIENDS IS A LOT OF FUN!

Both Prime Timers Worldwide (PTWW) and many chapters offer travel opportunities to Prime Timers and their friends.

Michael Stone, President of PTWW has hosted cruises offered through Courtyard Travel for several years. See information on Page 11 for information on two great upcoming cruises in 2010.

Other chapters have offered cruises in Southeast Asia, and to Alaska. Many chapters host large events that are open to Prime Timers everywhere—among them Boston's annual Halloween event at Provincetown and Oklahoma City's annual Labor Day Get A-Way.

One of our newest chapters, the Rio Grande Valley Prime Timers (or RGVPT) hosted a bus trip through Mexico in January that from all reports was a lot of fun (and report they are planning another.)

Regional events also offer opportunities for fellowship and fun. Las Vegas has hosted a spring event in their GREAT city for two years, and is already planning for 2010. Denver is planning one for July (see article on Page 3.) San Antonio has hosted an event to celebrate Fiesta in their fair city a couple of times.

And of course, there is the Biennial Convention, held this year in Toronto (See Page 5.)

Prime Timers is a social and educational organization—our main intent is that members have fun. Most of the events offer a bargain price for a lot of fun.

Look through Prime Times every issue for upcoming events, and join in the fun with your friends from other chapters.

live where
Fun for all

16 NIGHT TRANSATLANTIC CRUISE VENICE TO FT. LAUDERDALE WITH 2 DAYS IN VENICE

October 8—24, 2010 on Princess' Ruby

Hosted by Michael Stone and Robert Rosenthal



Michael and Robert

Only days after celebrating the announcement of our first Prime Timers cruise of 2010 and writing about it last month, Courtyard Travel was finally able to confirm the 'Repositioning Cruise' we've been promising each month since October.

Imagine 16 days starting in romantic Venice aboard the gorgeous Ruby Princess. Imagine



using your ship as your hotel in Venice for two days. Then on to Naples, Rome, Cannes, Barcelona, the Azores and ending the journey in Ft. Lauderdale. Can you possibly imagine all of this with prices starting at only \$795pp for an inside cabin? Outside cabins are only \$1145pp and for only \$150 more (\$1295) you can have a balcony cabin. All prices are plus port charges and taxes. It only takes \$400 to hold a cabin at these early-bird prices. We don't know how long Princess will honor these prices but we do know you have nothing to lose by booking early.

PRIMETIMER'S, FRIENDS AND FAMILY CRUISE! JANUARY 10, 2010

7 Night Western Caribbean Cruise on NCL's Jewel

January 2010 will see yet another in a series of great Prime Timer Cruises, a 7 night trip on Norwegian Cruise Line's Jewel, one of their newest and most luxurious ships. The cruise sails on January 10, 2010 from the Port of Miami. Ports include Roatan; Belize City; Costa Maya, Mexico; and Great Stirrup Cay, plus two great days at sea, and returns to Miami on January 17.

Inside staterooms begin at \$439; premium ocean view at \$609; and a verandah stateroom at \$739. All prices are per person, double occupancy. Port charges, taxes and fees add \$237.27 to the price.

The group will be hosted by Michael Stone and Robert Rosenthal.

To reserve space, make a \$250 deposit which is fully refundable. Contact Courtyard Travel or Marc Solomon for additional information or to book your cruise.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

on these cruises

Michael Stone 941 359-8212

mstonefl@verizon.net or

Marc Solomon 917 359-3888

marc@courtyardtvl.com or

Courtyard Travel Great Neck, NY

www.courtyardtvl.com/

1-800 437-9685 and ask for Bobette

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ARMY SERGEANT DARREN MANZELLA CAME OUT ON “60 MINUTES” SPEAKS TO CENTRAL OKLAHOMA PRIME TIMERS

Former Sgt. Darren Manzella, a six year veteran of the US Army and two tours in Iraq and the Middle East, was the speaker at the Central Oklahoma Prime Timers April meeting. Sgt. Manzella was discharged in 2008 after speaking openly about being gay on “60 Minutes” in December 2007. He is now a Policy Advocate and Major Gifts Officer for Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN).

Darren told his story about growing up, and his experience in the Army. He graduated from college, taught high school, and enlisted in the Army after the September 2001 terror attacks. After basic and advanced training, he served one tour in Iraq as a health care specialist for his battalion.

After his return from Iraq to Ft. Hood, TX, he ultimately told a few friends and family members that he was gay. He began receiving emails threatening to out him and have him investigated. As a result, he talked with his supervisor. The command opened an investigation, and ultimately decided that “they could find no evidence of homosexuality,” according to Manzella. SLDN advised him as he went through the investigation. He continued to serve in the military as an openly gay man. He says that he met with overwhelming support from both his fellow soldiers and his command structure.

In 2006, he was again deployed to Iraq, and then to Kuwait, serving a 15 month tour as an out gay man. In late 2007, SLDN asked him to be interviewed by CBS’s “60 Minutes.” The interview was aired in December 2007. A week later, his unit was deployed back to Ft. Hood, where he served an additional three months before the Army informed him that he was being discharged. He received an honorable discharge, and now works for SLDN.

SLDN works to repeal the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” law that has resulted in the estimated 65,000 lesbian and gay military members living in fear of discovery, and the discharge of nearly 13,000 members for homosexuality. Manzella spoke about the work of SLDN, and indicated that they hope that within the next two years, “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” will be repealed. Their website is www.SLDN.org.

Central Oklahoma Prime Timers jointly sponsored Sgt. Manzella’s visit to Oklahoma City with a local LGBT advocacy group.

About the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network is a non-partisan, non-profit, legal services, watchdog and policy organization dedicated to ending discrimination against and harassment of military personnel affected by “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT).

SLDN provides free, confidential legal services to all those impacted by DADT and related discrimination. Since 1993, their in-house legal team has responded to more than 9,000 requests for assistance. In Congress, they are leading the fight to repeal DADT and replace it with a law that ensures equal treatment for every service member, regardless of sexual orientation. In the courts, they work to challenge the constitutionality of DADT.

SLDN is a 501(c)3 corporation and contributions are fully tax-deductible as prescribed by law.

For more about SLDN and its work, about the DADT law, or to contribute, go to:

www.sldn.org



Former Army Sgt. Darren Manzella with former WWII Medic (and Central Oklahoma Prime Timers member) Ernie Laferriere. Both Darren and Ernie served in the Army medical corps facing enemy fire – both are gay.