

JUST ONE BLOCK FROM CHURCH STREET • FREE PARKING FOR SHOPPERS • EBT CARDS WELCOME

## IT'S OUR FIRST BIRTHDAY! (BUT THE GIFTS ARE FOR YOU)

On Thursday, **FEBRUARY 20TH**, you're invited to City Market's birthday bash. Help us celebrate our first year, while we thank you for your support with raffles, giveaways, and a huge cake to share at noon.

Don't miss the fun! And thanks from everyone at City Market for making this a truly happy birthday.



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## Happy 17th Anniversary from all of us at

### Theatre on a Shoestring

Auditions for

**SAME TIME,  
ANOTHER YEAR**

& **Crazy and a Half**

will be held Wednesday-Friday, February 26-28 from 7-9PM\*  
The Merlin Suite, University Inn and Suites, South Burlington.

\* Play selection, dates, and times may change without notice. Check the website for up-to-date information.

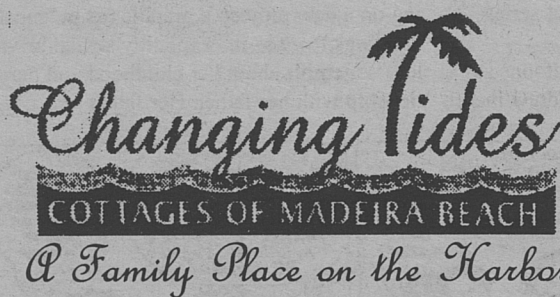
Check out our website at [www.theatreshoe.com](http://www.theatreshoe.com) for the latest information on theatre, music, and dance performances around Vermont, plus much more!

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Take in the breathtaking sunsets when evening falls, and choose one of the nearby fine restaurants or grill out on the deck. Whatever your lifestyle, you'll enjoy the serenity of these cottages, and you'll want to return time and time again.



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in the  
**out mountains**

## Views: Greetings

**D**id you know Hallmark is adding a line of gay greeting cards? According to not one single major newspaper headline, we have good ol' PFLAG to thank for persuading the corporate giant to do the right thing. Yes, Hallmark, the feel-good company, opted out of having their kneecaps broken by our burly moms and dads, and finally agreed to include us in their product mix.

And none too soon! What I wouldn't have given for a coming out card — Keith Haring's famous closet art on the cover, of course — to break the news to my folks. I think a lot of babydykes would gladly forego the sweaty-palmed confrontation for the instant recognition and understanding a Hallmark card could bring. Grateful parents would be spared the embarrassment of ever having to wrap their lips around the L-word and instead simply announce to friends and relatives, "I got The Card." A few hugs, bittersweet tears and violin music — now there's a Hallmark commercial!

What about some cards savvy parents can buy for their clueless kids? Psssst, Honey, You're a Bulldagger. In my case, parental denial cards would have been popular — my folks would have swooped up boatloads of It's Just a Phase cards. Hallmark should direct their marketing to the cool parents, the ones who will purchase special occasion greetings like We're So Glad You Came Out To Us, Mazel Tov on Bringing Your First Lover Home — She's Adorable, and one with a little pouch inside: Here's a Contribution to Help Defeat That Nasty Anti-Gay Candidate / Initiative. Hallmark can also make the perfect card for parents coming out to give their kids — She's Not Really Your Auntie — parents coming out to each other — The 'Other Man' is a Woman — and for ex-husbands to give their gay divorcees: Here's Your Child Support, Happy LGBTQ Pride Day!

Oh yeah, Hallmark's profits will soar. Queer greeting card sections will spring up in supermarkets across the land. They'll stretch from the 50-pound dog chow all the way back to the yogurt case. Drove of us will crowd the aisles to pore over the new Hallmark line, inspiring some young corporate exec to earn a sweet bonus for suggesting the addition of a Saw You in the Card Aisle card. Let's make that one have pop-up nipples.

I hope Hallmark creates special editions just for Sweetie and me, along with tens of thousands of our nearest and dearest, to celebrate our anniversaries of

**sally  
sheklow**

being married by Reverend Troy Perry at a March-on-Washington Wedding. Come to think of it, some friendly To My Ex cards would be nice, too.

We can expect racks and racks of cards to acknowledge our myriad anniversaries. Sweetie and I alone are going to need cards to celebrate the anniversary of our first exchange of rings, commitment ceremony, civil union,

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domestic partner registry signing, and a special embossed flowery one for the day we finally got our butts down to the lawyer's office and signed our durable powers of attorney. We'll need cards for the anniversaries of when we first met, our first date, first dance, first kiss, the first time we did it, and when we moved in together (obviously, some dykes can economize here with an all-in-one card.)

The first night Sweetie and I did it, neither of us actually slept. That could account for why I'm going to need a card celebrating the anniversary of my first car wreck caused by sleep deprivation, combined with driving while having her on my mind (and face, and fingers.) Hallmark will have to come up with cards for all our other sleeping together firsts: the first night I wore my wrist braces, mouth guard, and >>