

News Briefs

Gloria Steinem to host fundraiser for documentary

Gloria Steinem calls it "the best film I've ever seen on domestic violence." To back those words up, Steinem will be traveling to Chapel Hill this weekend to host a fundraiser in support of *Private Violence*, a feature-length doc from local filmmakers Cynthia Hill and Rebecca Cerese and domestic-violence advocate and survivor Kit Gruelle, in which Steinem appears.

The event will take place this Sunday from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Spice Street in University Mall, with a minimum donation of \$25 per person.

Also speaking will be feminist and author Ann Jones, National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence Executive Director Deborah Tucker, Pulitzer Prize-winning author George Lardner and domestic-violence survivors Fran Bumgarner and Vernetta Cockerham. Poet/musician Shirlette Ammons and singer/songwriter Greg Humphreys will perform. The event also will include an auction of memorabilia signed by Steinem. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served with a cash bar available.

For more information, call 824-0811 or email privateviolence@gmail.com

ROBINSON

FROM PAGE I

The Lantern restaurant's Andrea Reusing said Robinson was a straight-shooter with a reputation for fairness with both fishermen and the people who bought his wares. "In the seafood business, you don't always get that," she said.

"He was very honest about what his stake was in something, both with his customers and the people he bought fish from."

Reusing said that over the years, as she got to know him, she saw that same, sometimesblunt honesty many times.

"You would never not know where Tom stood on something," she said.

Like a lot of his customers, Reusing hopes to see the business continue, and not just because of the seafood it supplies.

"It's one of those rare places where you'll see an African-American grandmother, a

woman from Japan and a man from Spain all in the same room at once," she said. "We know we live in a diverse community, but you don't see it in many places like that. The shop is a huge gift to the community, and I hope we can hold onto it."

Robinson's longtime companion Kay Hamrick said that thought has been in her heart as well. She's talked it over with the shop's employees and the many friends, personal and professional, who have offered condolences.

"The shop is still in operation, although with a lot less selection right now," she said.

Robinson is gone, but keeping the network of fishermen and suppliers connected to the legion of loyal customers seems the only right thing to do.

'We're going to try to keep it open," Hamrick said.

A memorial service for Tom Robinson has been scheduled for Sunday, March 7 at Walkers Funeral Home.

COUNCIL FROM PAGE I

Rich said that to set a good example for her teenage children, she doesn't use her cell phone while driving. Council member Sally Greene said that while she does occasionally use her cell phone while driving, she'd like to think she would stop if it became illegal.

Other council members questioned the enforcement issue. To date, the number of people stopped for texting while driving is at most five, according to Assistant Police Chief Bob Overton, due to how difficult the law is to enforce.

Overton said it would presumably be easier to see someone talking on a phone than spot someone texting, but that there

would be exemptions, such as calling 911. He said a police officer would have to do a search and seizure on the phone if the driver claimed exemption, and that that's getting into an area in which many officers are uncomfortable.

The council will further consider the issue after reviewing an informational report scheduled to be released in April by the General Assembly.

A public forum was also held on proposed changes to the treeprotection ordinance. According to the town, "The draft ordinance would establish minimum tree canopy coverage requirements for individual lots and tracts. It also would establish standards related to significant tree-removal activities on residential properties, excluding many routine maintenance activities."

Many residents were on hand to speak on this issue, with the majority against the ordinance.

Ralph Mason, a Chapel Hill resident, showed a picture of his house and said that if the ordinance were passed he'd have to plant trees in his yard, where his grandchildren love to play croquet and volleyball in the sun.

While I love trees, I also love well-manicured lawns," Mason said.

Resident Scott Radway also voiced concern about the ordinance, saying, "I think the way this is written is an administrative and functional nightmare."

Council member Jim Ward said that though he loves trees, the ordinance does seem overreaching. "I try to be the Lorax and speak for the trees, but this ordinance needs some work," he said.

Those in support of the ordinance expressed their desire to keep Chapel Hill a beautiful place to live, free of an excess of parking lots and buildings with no trees.

The ordinance proposal is scheduled to return for council consideration on May 24, with possible revisions based on public feedback and concerns expressed by council.

In other action, the council approved an agreement with the N.C. Department of Transportation on the use of federal and bond funds for new sidewalks on Weaver Dairy Road between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Erwin Road, and authorized the town manager to enter into an agreement with UNC to proceed with upgrades to traffic-signal measures.

MENTAL HEALTH

deep-seated pain, and that the best therapy a minister or fellow churchgoer can provide is acceptance and inclusion.

"I'm struggling every mo-ment of the day," said Christine Jernigan, a member of Binkley Baptist. She said that what she most wants to hear when returning to church after an absence due to her illness is, "So glad you're back."

Jernigan said she doesn't understand why she used to cut her arms, and she can't

taking me seriously," she said. Just as it does in society at large, the stigma of mental illness persists within the church. "It's not talked about," said David Girod, a Method-

ist minister who is bi-polar. Girod said that admitting he lived with a mental illness meant "coming out," uncertain of how he would be received, and finding support from fellow clergy.

Dale Osborne, an associate minister at Binkley, said members of his congregation came to him to suggest that

Binkley become a "beacon of light" for those with mental illness. The church now provides education on mental illness, including a class called Faith and Mental Health, and sometimes addresses the disease from the pulpit.

Osborne said the church must strive to embrace the "reconciling" spirit that Jesus advocated.

Emmanuel Katongole, a Catholic priest on the faculty of Duke Divinity School, spoke of a friend with mental illness who sometimes chose not to attend church services because she didn't want to feel

obliged to smile and pretend to be happy. Katongole suggested that too often the church aims for a "Marine spirituality" - clean-shaven and efficient - but that perhaps it should be more open to a "messier" theology that acknowledges, "This is who we are. We have come to worship."

He said the search for spirituality is a journey of lament and rage and, still, hope. The underlying message conveyed Sunday was that it is the church community's calling to nourish that hope.

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More info: 969-3006 or communitydinner.org

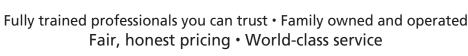
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