

LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

**Located at Dickinson College
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Documents Online

Title: *Lavender Letter (Harrisburg, PA)*

Date: October 1996

Location: LGBT-009 Lavender Letter Collection

Contact:

LGBT History Project
Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

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Center Piece

Lavender Letter

October, 1996

SPRINGFIELD COUNSELING CENTER

D. Mikaela Tallman, MA CAC
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Support Groups...

LESBIAN AND GAY PARENTING GROUP. I would like to get a group together for social activities, and discussions on issues important to us as parents. Anyone interested in meeting other parents please call Audra at 871-1384.

A "COMING OUT" SUPPORT GROUP for sharing life experiences will meet on the 2nd & 4th Monday of the month at 7pm at Vision of Hope MCC, Mountville. Learn how to "Come Out" to family, friends & foes throughout life. For info. or brochures call (717) 285-9070.

CANCER... Looking to connect with other Gay/Lesbian persons whose partners have been diagnosed with cancer, to form a support group with those whose lives have been touched by this disease. Call Deb at (717) 245-2504.

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...**WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP** meets Tuesdays 8pm at Trinity Lutheran Church. 415 N. West St. York. 12 Step format. All recovering women are welcome. For directions or more information call (717) 854-4141.

...**Support group for GAY/LESBIAN/TRANSGENDERED PERSONS** who are parents. 2nd Thurs. of each month 7-8:30pm at the Friend's Meeting House, 6th & Herr Sts. Sponsored by MCC of the Spirit, facilitated by Susan Thornsley, M.D. Child care will be provided.

*Donna L. Goss
Account Executive*



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Join us for the Golf Clinic (19-20 Oct), Great Pumpkin Gathering (Nov 11-14), Thanksgiving (Nov 27-Dec 2), our Christmas Celebration (Dec 22-29), and our New Year's Eve Dance (Dec 31).

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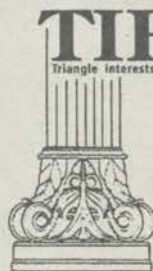
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Press Release...

Gay York Productions is once again putting together a voter's guide for the upcoming general election. This guide will cover the candidates for York County's U.S. Congressman & the PA State Representatives. Each of the candidates was asked 4 questions, their responses will be available on Stonewall Haven's BBS (717 843-2361) or their web page (www.catamart.com/home/casque/stone.htm). A printed guide will be available by Oct. 7 by sending a legal size S.A.S.E. to GYPI, Box 1903, York, PA 17405-1903.

**New Lavender Letter Phone Number:
(717) 691-5577**

Calls will be returned either in the evening or on weekends. If you don't hear from us within 3-4 days, the voice mail machine may not have recorded your message properly, so please call back!

**Please do not call or FAX
after 10pm or before 8 am.**

Thanks!

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...Looking for a business partner to assist in developing a successful home based business. If you are an aggressive self starter, I need YOU on my team!! Full time or part time available. Call (717) 564-8219 for details on an opportunity that could proved the income security you've been looking for.

...Roommate wanted. Non-smoker preferred. Must tolerate 2 cats. Share a house in the Mechanicsburg area near 81. \$300/mth + phone. Call (717) 697-0439. Leave Mssg.

...Help! Recently purchased geodesic dome in the Williamsport area. We need an individual knowledgeable in design and construction of porches, decks, patios, and screen rooms. Inf interested please call Patti or Shirley (717) 435-0703 anytime.

...We Need Your Help! Gay/Lesbian friendly neighborhood home on West side of Lancaster. 5 BR/2 full baths; 2300 SF; built-ins; excellent condition. Call today at (717) 295-1914 Rltr.

...If you're interested in acting (novices welcome) or any other aspect of theatre, join the Women's Theatre Guild. It could be your first step towards Broadway. Call (717) 737-7104.

...1996 First Edition "OPEN" Holiday Ornament Available. (OPEN ~ Ordinary People, Extraordinary Needs) The Ornament captures a universal symbol of hope throughout all faith communities... the lighted candle, within a holiday wreath of hospitality., intertwined in the wreath is a red ribbon which culminates at the top to create the international symbol of AIDS awareness. OPEN is an ecumenical volunteer HIV/AIDS ministry of the York County Council of Churches dedicated to move our community beyond fear to healing, beyond judgement of justice, and beyond isolation to service. The programs of OPEN are the Buddy/Care Team Program, Scattered Site Housing, Social Activities and Support Groups. Pastoral Care is offered as desired by clients. You can support OPEN though the purchase of our first annual holiday ornament. Cost: including tax & shipping is \$15.31 for each ornament. Send Checks payable to OPEN, Box 1865, York, PA 17405. Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

...Entertainment books \$25.00. Enjoy local restaurants & other activities at 1/2 price. Proceeds benefit Lily White & Co. Call (717) 234-6644.

HER STORY



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Thank You!!!

Thank You Everyone for helping Odie, through donations and great taste in ODIE T-Shirts! Special thanks to Nat & Kim, Linda & Diane at B-TLS and the L.L.! Odie's last Chemotherapy treatment will be Oct. 12. He is doing well and has a second chance at a longer life!!! Love, Teresa, Caroline & Odie.

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THE LAW AND YOU



Q: We are a same-sex couple.

Working in the health care field, I know that unexpected medical emergencies can occur and

that hospitals have rules and regulations. Is there anything special we can do for the legal protection of our relationship?

A: YES -- and you are wise to think about this now.

A legally married heterosexual couple is afforded certain protections under the law. If a "husband" is physically or mentally incapable of making health care decisions, the courts will generally assume that the "legal spouse" should be appointed to do so. Because your relationship is not legally recognized, you have special concerns. Let us consider the following scenario: Some of your immediate blood relatives do not accept (or maybe even know about) your same-sex relationship. A serious auto accident leaves you in a severe coma. Without the ability to speak or hear or even sign your name, it is impossible for you to explain your wishes to have your love-mate by your bedside to comfort you and to make any necessary medical treatment decisions. Your family members, who live in Florida, immediately enter the scene and take complete charge. They decide that you should be moved to a Florida nursing home and expressly prevent your mate from even visiting because she is not a "relative." What a precarious situation! Expect a lengthy court battle and huge legal fees, not to mention emotional turmoil for both of you. There is a better way to prepare for this possible occurrence.

When an individual is unable to make decisions for herself, someone must act on her behalf. Because none of us knows when this might occur, it is important to plan for such an event. There is a rather simple legal document that, when properly prepared, appoints a Health Care Surrogate. This document should be prepared now while a person is competent and able to make that selection. Later, when a person cannot speak for herself, the document will speak for her. This is an excellent way to declare who will make important decisions about medical treatment and care. Even those who are not in a committed relationship may wish to appoint someone other than (or in addition to) a specified blood relative. Some people feel more comfortable involving more than one designated person in potentially difficult decision-making. There should also be a provision for a substitute Health Care Surrogate, just in case of a common disaster.

If any readers would like to receive a free easy-to-complete form to appoint a Health Care Surrogate, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the address at the end of this column. Also, feel free to include a legal question for consideration in future columns.

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NOTE: This column is written by a retired attorney and judge. She answers questions of a general nature and she is not giving specific legal advice. Laws in different jurisdictions may vary. For specific legal problems you are best advised to consult a practicing attorney in your area. Ruth Joseph welcomes questions from her readers. Please mail your legal question to Ruth Joseph Legal Enterprises at P.O. Box 185 Paradise, PA 17562-0185. Only one question will be selected for each column -- and no personal replies can be provided.

AA Groups...

...**Lambda AA Harrisburg** - meets Mon.: 8-9pm & Fri.: 8:30-9:30pm at Friends Meeting House (social room) 6th and Herr Sts. Hbg.

...**As We Are, Gay Alcoholics/Narcotics Support Group**, 7:00pm Wednesdays. at Newberry United Methodist church, 909 Diamond St. Call Pat for more info. (717) 323-3641.

Latisha K. Frederick, Esq.

Attorney and Counselor at Law

909 N. Second St.
Harrisburg, PA 17102
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MOIRA Means

Hope... Support group for students and young adults who are dealing with gendersexual identity issues will meet the 3rd Tues. of each month at the Unitarian Society of York. 49 E. Springettsbury Ave., York. Anyone ages 14 thru 24 is welcome. Moira offers accurate info, practical advise and can help address and discuss anxieties associated with sexual identity. For more info call Lew Bupp (717) 852-8543, Lorrie Barlett (717) 684-6310, or Kathy Weems (717) 757-4270.



REBECCA A. GILLELAN, M.S.
LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST

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