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# LAVENDER LETTER

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(717) 232-8382  
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Volume 21 No. 11

A Calendar of Events for and by Womyn

November, 2003

## Activities....

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

**6:15 PM...**MCC Harrisburg - Dinner Theatre, Spaghetti Dinner and the Play, Looking for Normal. MCC of the Spirit, 2973 Jefferson St., Hbg. PA. 17110. Come to dinner, the play or both. The play is a bittersweet transgender domestic comedy drama about a multigenerational family and its reaction to the transition of its main character from Roy to Ruth, and her search for normalcy in her life. The play wrestles with the meaning of marriage, family, love and commitment. This play contains adult language and situations. \$10 for meal OR \$15 for the play OR \$20 for both. For more info please call the church office at (717) 236-7387.

### NOVEMBER 4

#### ELECTION DAY

Polls will be open from 7 AM to 8 PM. Please remember to vote! Your vote does count!

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

**6:30 PM...**Lancaster Ladies Night Out meets for good food and fun. Singles and couples are welcome! For reservations please call Nancy at (717) 665-4234 by Wednesday, November 5.

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

#### SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK

#### WITH TOSHI REAGON AND BIG LOVELY

**2 PM...**In concert at the Kimmel Center, Verizon Hall, in Philadelphia. For more info please check their website: [www.kimmelcenter.org](http://www.kimmelcenter.org), or call (215) 893-1999. This year marks their 30th year as a group.

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

#### VETERANS' DAY

Please remember to say thank you to an Armed Forces veteran!

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

**1 PM...**The Lesbian Alliance of Southcentral Pennsylvania will host a potluck at Rocky Ridge Park. It is located on the east side of York. There will be a meal and a hike. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy some conversation and exercise with friends. Call (717) 840-1673 for directions to the park.

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

#### 8TH ANNUAL FALL ACHIEVEMENT BENEFIT

**7 PM...**This year FAB will be at the newly renovated Strand Capitol Theatre in York, PA. and will be catered by Accomac Catering. This year's featured entertainer is Suzanne Westenhoefer. Proceeds benefit the LGBT organizations serving the Central Pennsylvania community. Tickets are \$65 and \$125. For more information and tickets, please call Greater Harrisburg Foundation at (717) 236-5040, or visit: [www.fab-pa.org](http://www.fab-pa.org).

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

#### THANKSGIVING DAY

Mmm! Turkey and all the trimmings, pumpkin pie, family and friends, and football! The Lavender Letter would like to wish all of you a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving. Enjoy!

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

**6:30 PM...**Harrisburg Ladies Night Out meets for a fun evening out at a local restaurant. Singles and couples are welcome! Please call Judy at (717) 232-8382, or e-mail: [info@lavenderletter.com](mailto:info@lavenderletter.com) by Wednesday, November 26.

## Upcoming Events....

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

#### CRIS WILLIAMSON & HOLLY NEAR

**8 PM...**See these 2 great women in concert at The Keswick Theatre in Glenside, PA. Tickets are on sale now! All tickets \$24.50. For more information please visit their website: [www.keswicktheatre.com](http://www.keswicktheatre.com). They do have a directions page and also a listing of nearby restaurants.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

**7 PM...**AIDS Community Alliance presents a play, The Normal Heart, at Open Stage of Harrisburg. Alicia Richards and Dennis Owens of ABC27 join Dennis John Cahill of Comcast Sportsnet and WGAL for a star-filled dramatic reading of the emotionally charged Larry Kramer play. For one night only the cast will take the stage of The Open Stage of Harrisburg (223 Walnut St. Hbg.), transporting the audience back to the early days of the AIDS epidemic in New York City as a group of men struggle with how to save their friends and the community from a new and horrifying disease. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. All proceeds from the performance benefit AIDS Community Alliance and HIV/AIDS services throughout south central Pennsylvania. Please call AIDS Community Alliance for more information at (717) 233-7190.

## NOVEMBER at the Pink Lizard

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Fri-Nov 7 9PM DJ plays your favorite dance tunes

Fri-Nov 14 9PM THE QUITTERS fun band..don't miss!

Fri-Nov 21 10PM ILLUSION AT ITS BEST starring Coco Vega

Sun-Nov 23 8PM MR. HARRISBURG PAGEANT

Wed-Nov 26 Huge Thanksgiving Eve Party! No Cover!

Beach Party - DJ starts at 9PM. Giveaways & Drink Specials

Thu-Nov 27 Closed - Happy Thanksgiving 

Fri-Nov 28 10PM BISCUIT'S FUNDRAISER for a

needy family Xmas show

#### MARTINI MADNESS

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## Inspiring Quotes....

Nothing is a waste of time if  
you use the experience wisely.

- Auguste Rodin (1840-1917)  
Famous Sculptor

## Spirituality....

### WORSHIP SERVICES

...**MCC of the Spirit**, 2973 Jefferson St. Hbg. Every Sunday 10:30 am & 7 pm. Call (717)236-7387 for information. We offer Christian educational sessions that nurture the whole person, call for details and special events. **Website:** [www.mccofthespirit.org](http://www.mccofthespirit.org).

...**Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley**, Sundays, 10:30 am at the Meeting House, 2 Forge Rd. in Boiling Springs, PA 17007. Children's program runs concurrently. Fully accessible. Rev. Judy Welles & Rev. Duane Finkeisen, ministers. For info call (717) 249-8944, or write: PO Box 207, Boiling Springs, PA 17007. **Web site:** [www.uucv.org](http://www.uucv.org).

...**Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster**, Sundays, 9 am & 11 am. Rev. Valerie Mapstone Ackerman. 538 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster. (717) 393-1733. E-mail: [UUCL@epix.net](mailto:UUCL@epix.net). **Website:**

<http://members.tripod.com/~uulancpa/index.htm>.

...**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York**, 925 South George St. York, 17403. (717) 845-8212. Services Sunday 10 am. Rev. Robert Renjilian, Childcare & religious education for youth provided. Welcoming Congregation.

...**Unity Church**, 927 Wertzville Rd., Enola, PA 17025 Services: Sundays 9 & 11 am. (717) 732-9773. Unity is a culturally diverse spiritual community, promoting positive life transformation & recognizing that all people are one in God. **Website:** [www.unitychurchharrisburg.com](http://www.unitychurchharrisburg.com).

...**Vision Of Hope MCC**, 130 E. Main St. Mountville, PA. 17554. Services: Sunday at 10:30 am & 7 pm. Morning Children's Sunday School. Call (717) 285-9070. E-mail: [REVDCOGGIN@aol.com](mailto:REVDCOGGIN@aol.com)

...**Unitarian Church of Harrisburg**, Sundays 10:30 am. 1280 Clover Lane, Harrisburg, PA. (717) 564-4761. We are a liberally religious "Welcoming Congregation". Our Interweave Committee promotes acceptance & affirmation of GLBT concerns. Please join us. E-mail: [uch@paonline.com](mailto:uch@paonline.com). **Website:** <http://www.paonline.com/uchuaa>.

...**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Of Pottstown**, Sunday services 10 am. 1565 South Keim Street, Pottstown, PA 19465. (610) 327-2662. **Website:** <http://members.aol.com/uupottstown>.



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# CENTER PIECE

## LAVENDER LETTER

November 2003

### Support Groups...

...**PFLAG YORK** meets at 750 Kelly Dr. (the former Lutheran Home building) at 7 pm on the first Tuesday of the month. Call Don & Pat (717) 843-3793, or Charles & Judy at (717) 846-7633 for directions or to be placed on the mailing list.

...**NETWORK and FORUM** for lesbians of Catholic heritage. A web site of the "Conference for Catholic Lesbians" (CCL) is now up & running. CCL was organized in 1982, published a monthly newspaper, "Images" and held many national conferences in different parts of the country. **IF YOU ARE SEEKING...**to connect with others on a spiritual journey for strength & support...to learn how other women celebrate being Catholic & lesbian...to express what's on your mind & in your heart to others who have shared your experience & understand...please join us at [catholiclesbians.org](http://catholiclesbians.org). For other information from a member in the Harrisburg area, you can e-mail: [cathlesRU12@aol.com](mailto:cathlesRU12@aol.com), or leave a message in the CCL "Guestbook".

...The Unity Church has an Alternative Lifestyles Support Group that meets every 2nd & 4th Friday evening of the month. We start at 7 pm at the Unity Church at 927 Wertzville Rd. Enola. This is a spiritual as well as a social group. Interested folks can contact the church at (717) 732-9773, or Sandy at [sansmagic@aol.com](mailto:sansmagic@aol.com).

...**Common Roads**, is a support group for teens & young adults in the Central Pennsylvania area who need a place to fit in, a place where their sexuality will not be held against them. The group consists of many different people from ages 14-24 & is led by multiple facilitators. We meet every Friday at The Center, 1300-A Third St. Harrisburg, to talk about our problems, our good times, and to simply have fun! For more information visit our website: [www.commonroads.org](http://www.commonroads.org), or call (717) 920-9534.

...**PFLAG Central Pennsylvania** meets monthly. For more information e-mail: [pflagcenpa@yahoo.com](mailto:pflagcenpa@yahoo.com), or call daytime (717) 795-0330. Their 24-hour hotline is: (717) 728-8800.

...**PFLAG Warrington, PA.** meets on the third Thursday of every month at Buxmont Unitarian Universalist Church in Warrington, PA. For more information about this group, please contact Corinne Thornton at (215) 545-4331, ext. 48.

### Activism....

...**NOW, York Chapter**, meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Call Peg or Delma at (717) 846-2089, or Kathy at (717) 845-4086 for info/directions.

...**HRC (Human Rights Campaign)**, is the largest national lesbian and gay political organization, with members throughout the country. We effectively lobby Congress, fight anti-gay initiatives, and educate the public to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Americans can be open, honest, and safe at home, at work, and in the community. Please visit us at [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org).

...**Lambda Legal** is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, the transgendered, and people with HIV or AIDS through impact litigation, education, and public policy work.

...**National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF)** is the national progressive organization working for the civil rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people, with the vision and commitment to building a powerful political movement. Please visit us at: [www.nglftf.org](http://www.nglftf.org).

### Social Groups...

...**The Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus** rehearses at 7 pm on Monday evenings in Mechanicsburg. Find out how much fun Monday nights can be! For directions & more info, leave a message at (717) 234-4825, or see the chorus web site, [www.cpwchorus.org](http://www.cpwchorus.org), or e-mail: [info@cpwchorus.org](mailto:info@cpwchorus.org).

...**The Lesbian Alliance of South-Central Pennsylvania.** Activities include potlucks, bi-monthly newsletter, media liaison, & any other event that the group is willing to take on. Membership dues are \$10 per household. To get on the mailing list or for more information, call Kate or Cindy at (717) 848-9142.

...**HOWL (Hanging Out With Lesbians)**, is a diverse group of non-smoking womyn with various interests. They do just about everything from camping to concerts, frisbee, fireside chats, horseback riding, snow tubing, movie nights, you name it! These womyn know how to have fun! You can visit their website: [www.homestead.com/howlofpa/index.html](http://www.homestead.com/howlofpa/index.html).

...**BAGAL (Business Association of Gays and Lesbians)** is a South Central Pennsylvania Association of Lesbian & Gay professional & business people offering networking, community service and social opportunities for its members & friends. BAGAL meets every other month & prospective members are invited to attend their first meeting free of charge. Annual dues are \$35 per year & payable to "BAGAL". For more information, address questions and/or payments to: BAGAL, PO Box 135, Harrisburg, PA. 17108-0135, or call (717) 612-8445.

...**Susquehanna Club, Mid-Atlantic Lesbian & Gay Outdoors Club**, was conceived for the lesbian, gay men, bisexual & transgendered community members & their friends. We go hiking and camping throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. We have and continue to provide a "safe space" for LGBT people. Participants are asked to respect fellow participants comfort as to the degree of "being out" both during activities and elsewhere. Membership is \$10 per year for individuals and \$15 per year for couples. Address: 503 General Sutter Ave., Litz, PA. 17543, or visit us at: [www.susq.org](http://www.susq.org).

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## Theatre...

### OPEN STAGE OF HARRISBURG

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 @7 PM

#### COOTIE SHOTS

#### THEATRICAL INOCULATIONS AGAINST BIGOTRY FOR KIDS, PARENTS AND TEACHERS

Adapted from the book by Norma Bowles and Mark E. Rosenthal, Cootie Shots will be a touring Production by Open Stage of Harrisburg, available in Spring and Fall of 2004. The public is invited **free of charge** to the pilot presentation of this new weapon in the war against bigotry. For more information please contact Janet Bixler at (717) 214-3250, or e-mail: [management@openstagehbg.com](mailto:management@openstagehbg.com), or visit their website at: [www.openstagehbg.com](http://www.openstagehbg.com).

### THEATER OF THE SEVENTH SISTER

NOVEMBER 13 - 30, 2003

#### PROOF

Winner of the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the 2001 Tony Award for Best Play, Proof is the most heralded new American play of recent history by David Auburn.

It's the story of a young woman, Katherine, who has spent years caring for her father who is a brilliant mathematician, and her father began having various kinds of mental illness problems. She gave up her life to care for him. When the play begins the father died. She is sitting alone on her 25th birthday and wondering is this going to happen to me. How much of my father's mental illness have I inherited and have I inherited any of his talent as well? So the play is about a week-end in her life where she is trying to sort that out and she is trying to deal with her sister, who's flown in from New York and she has some plan's for Katherine's life. There is also a character who is a grad student who is a protégé of the father's who is upstairs in the house looking through the dad's papers hoping to find something he left behind. He also kind of has designs on Katherine.

For more info please call: (717) 396-7764, or visit their website at: [www.seventhsister.com](http://www.seventhsister.com).

### HERSHEY THEATRE

NOVEMBER 4 - 9, 2003

#### RIVERDANCE

RIVERDANCE, the internationally-acclaimed celebration of Irish music, song, and dance that has touched the hearts of millions around the world, triumphantly returns to Hershey Theatre. "An explosion of sight and sound that simply takes your breath away," cheers the Chicago Tribune. "A family evening unlike anything else" raves the London Times. Discover why nothing in the world compares to the original!

For more information, visit [www.hersheytheatre.com](http://www.hersheytheatre.com) or call: (717) 534-3405.

## NEW....

### FOREVER BOOKS

A new LGBT bookstore, owned and operated by an African-American lesbian couple (Monique & Tameca), located at 41 North Front Street, Steelton, PA. (across from the Turkey Hill). Their hours are:

M - Th 10:30 am - 6:30 pm

F - Sat 10:30 am - 8 pm

Sun - Noon - 5 pm

They also have a website: [www.foreverbooks.biz](http://www.foreverbooks.biz)

Stop in and check out the store! Book clubs are forming now. There will also be poetry nights and other special events going on at the store in the near future. The Lavender Letter will also sponsor special events there from time to time.

## Christmas is coming....

Next month's Lavender Letter will have the annual Christmas Gift Idea List!

## Help!!

**Loaves of Love**, a food bank for people with HIV/AIDS, located at the Harris Street United Methodist Church, 1605 Susquehanna St. in Harrisburg, needs your help. They are in need of personal care items such as, tooth brushes, toothpaste, deodorant, disposable shavers, soap, shampoo, vitamins, etc. They serve 45 men and women every other week. If you would like to donate some of these items, please call Dave at (717) 418-1359 to set up drop-off arrangements.

## Call for Models....

Deb Swanger, a local lesbian photographer whose work is featured on [www.bridgesgallery.com](http://www.bridgesgallery.com), is searching for LGBT people to volunteer for upcoming images. Deb is looking for all shapes and sizes and ethnic groups. If you are interested in participating or finding out more information, please call Deb at (717) 653-6774, or e-mail her at: [debbieswanger@aol.com](mailto:debbieswanger@aol.com).

### \*INTERVIEW WITH SUZANNE WESTENHOEFER\*

I had an opportunity recently to interview Suzanne about her upcoming appearance at FAB November 22, 2003, and also to talk about other subjects.

LL: Are you looking forward to your appearance at FAB?

Suzanne: Yes! It's close to home, Columbia, and gives me a chance to see my family. My mom and the rest of the family come to my shows when I'm close to home.

LL: How was Women's Week in P'Town this year?

Suzanne: I love Women's Week, it was great! I was busy. I did 14 shows in 9 days, and every show was sold out. The other women performers were busy too. Usually we get a chance to hang out together and visit, but this year everyone was busy that week and we couldn't get together.

LL: Are you doing another Olivia Cruise soon?

Suzanne: Yes! In January I'll be on the Mexican Riviera cruise. They're a lot of fun. I do at least one a year.

LL: How many performances do you do a year?

Suzanne: I do anywhere from 80 to 100 shows a year. Last year I did 85.

LL: Have you ever thought about writing a book?

Suzanne: Everyone is after me to write a book, but I don't want to do it right now. Everybody's writing a book these days!

LL: Were you nervous about your appearance on Late Night with David Letterman back in March?

Suzanne: Oh yes, definitely. I was the first openly gay comic to appear there. I've never really been nervous about an appearance before, but this was different. I was the first and I didn't want to screw up. I had 4 minutes on stage, and it's like, ok, how do I open? How do I let them know I'm a lesbian? If I come right out and say it then it takes the audience 45 seconds to process that, and then I've only got 3 minutes left. I thought about it quite a bit, how do I let them know and keep their attention? So I started out....my girlfriend of 11 years and I....and went right into a joke about our living together. It went really well. It was quite an experience.

LL: What is your favorite charity?

Suzanne: Planned Parenthood. I'm very pro-choice.

LL: So what is a typical day like for you?

Suzanne: There is no typical day. Every day is something different. When I'm home, I wake up, worship Buddha, I'm a Buddhist, do my yoga, have breakfast, do some things around the house, and then do interviews in the afternoon.

LL: What do you want to be when you grow up?

Suzanne: Hmm. What I am now. I really enjoy what I'm doing. I have control over my career, I decide what I'm going to do, where I'm going, I'm the boss. I make a good living doing what I do, and I wouldn't want to change anything. I love doing stand-up comedy. This is what I want.

## Linnea T. Bailey, Ph.D.

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## Website of the Month:

WWW.FOREVERBOOKS.BIZ

FOREVER BOOKS

41 N. FRONT ST. STEELTON, PA.

Forever Books specializes in LGBT of color items, and also has a full line of LGBT items for everyone. You can find ethnic magazines, lesbian books, gay books, movies, etc. Click on Renaissance Poets and read some fascinating poetry. Be sure to check out MO'S PLACE, a forum for questions of the week. You can also sign up for this store's e-mail newsletter so you know what's happening at the store. Check it out!

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## Health Spotlight....

### LIVING WILLS

This subject has been in the news lately. I'm sure you all have read about that comatose Florida woman, Terri Schiavo, and the heated battle between her parents and her husband, over whether she should be allowed to die or not. If she had had a living will there would be no battle between her parents and her husband.

Everyone needs a living will. What is a living will? Basically it is a statement that is directed to medical personnel, which spells out the medical care you do or do not wish to receive if you become incapacitated. That means spelling out which life-prolonging procedures should be provided to you, or which life-prolonging procedures should be withheld.

Do you want the right to die with dignity? And without the tremendous agony and expense for you and your family caused by prolonging your life artificially? Then get yourself a living will.

The Sunday Patriot-News(Harrisburg) for October 26, 2003 carried an excellent article about living wills. The article also listed some places where you can get Living-will forms and other information. They are:

Aging With Dignity  
To order the "Five Wishes"  
workbook for \$5:  
(888) 594-7437 OR  
www.agingwithdignity.org

Partnership For Caring  
(800) 989-9455, a 24-hour hotline  
OR Living-will forms for each state  
can be downloaded at  
www.partnershipforcaring.org

U.S. Living Will Registry  
www.uslivingwillregistry.com

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### Other Services:

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Donations:  \$10<sup>00</sup>  \$25<sup>00</sup>  \$50<sup>00</sup>  \$100<sup>00</sup>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**FAB 2003 Gala in York**  
presents

# Suzanne Westenhoefer

at the

**Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center**

- downtown York, PA

with **18-piece Charlie Van Horn Big Band**

- a dance band that swings

catered by **Accomac Catering**

**Cocktail Reception w/Suzanne 6:30 p.m.**

Premium open bar and butlered hors d'oeuvres

**FAB Main Event 7:00 p.m. - midnight**

7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - Silent auction

9:00 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. - FAB Community Service Award presentation

9:15 p.m. - 10:15 p.m. - Comedy of Suzanne Westenhoefer

**Cocktail Reception and Main Event w/premium seating \$125/person**

**Main Event Only w/reserved seating \$65/person**

**Black Tie or Business Dress**

**Mix and Mingle**

Accomac Catering will be butlering an assortment of elegant hors d'oeuvres as guests mingle throughout the Strand-Capitol complex.

Additional hors d'oeuvres will be offered from five beautifully designed displays including an assortment specially selected for our Vegan and Vegetarian guests.

The hors d'oeuvres are prepared fresh on-site and the assortment includes a variety over 35 FABulous items so no one will go home hungry.

Beverages from six full services cash bars will be provided by the Strand-Capitol for your enjoyment

Tempting sweets, freshly-brewed coffee and hot tea will be available after 9:30 p.m.

**Saturday, November 22, 2003**

**For Reservations call The Greater Harrisburg Foundation 717.236.5040**

**Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center Box Office 717.846.1111**

Proceeds from FAB2003 will benefit non-profit organizations serving the Gay and Lesbian community in York, Lancaster, Cumberland Dauphin, Perry, Franklin, and Lebanon counties. Funds are granted through Equity for Gays and Lesbians (EGAL) Partnership Fund and administered by The Greater Harrisburg Foundation.

