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Title: *Lavender Letter (Harrisburg, PA)*

Date: July 2001

Location: LGBT-009 Lavender Letter Collection

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LAVENDER LETTER

NEW PHONE:
(717) 766-0602
NEW E-MAIL
Lavlet4womyn@aol.com

Volume 19 No. 07

A Calender of Events, for and by Womyn

July, 2001

Activities...

SATURDAY, JULY 14

5pm. . . Movie Night and Potluck with The Lavender Letter. For details email: lavlet4womyn@aol.com or call (717) 766-0602

SUNDAY, JULY 15

4pm... Lebanon County Lesbians Social Group and Potluck, call Marie at 717-865-6944 for more information.

3pm. . . Lancaster Ladies Night out invites you to join us for a potluck picnic. Call Shirley at (717) 560-6817 or e-mail: Shoac@aol.com for directions.

Noon till Sunset. . . "Chilling' In the Park" AIDS Fundraiser at Lancaster County Park, Pavilion #22. Bobbi Carmitchell will be in concert at 4pm. Concert tickets are \$10. There will be a bike raffle, silent auction, hiking, bike rides and food for sale. Grills are available to cook your own food. No dogs are allowed in the park. Money raised will benefit The Alaska AIDS Vaccine Ride in August. The money will aid the Pallotta Team Works. For more information on the ride check out this website: www.vaccineride.org. For more info on Pallatta Team Works call Bobbi at (717) 872-4512.

TUESDAY, JULY 17

6pm. . . The Women's Circle Informational Meeting at the Institute for Cultural Partnership at 3211 N. Front St. Suite 104, Harrisburg. Entrance is at the rear of the building. We are in the planning stages to lay the ground work for a Women's Center in Harrisburg. We need your help! Let us all join together to make this a reality! For more information call Bobbi at (717) 872-4512.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18

7 pm. . . Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg Monthly Meeting. If you are interested in working with GLSH in it's continuing stand for the community, I encourage you to get involved. For more information call 717-234-0328 or e-mail glsh@harrisburgpride.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JULY 20-22

Join Lavender Letter on a camping trip to Delaware Seashore State Park near Rehoboth, DE. If you would like more information about the camp out, e-mail: lavlet4womyn@aol.com or call (717) 766-0602. For more information about the park, visit their website: <http://www.destateparks.com/dssp/dssp.asp>

SATURDAY, JULY 21

The Lesbian Alliance of South Central PA Women's Potluck and Swimming. York Location. Call (717) 792-7711.

SUNDAY - FRIDAY, JULY 22-27

Adventure in the Catskills! Women's Motorcycle Skills Week. A fun filled week in the Catskill Mountains of New York State. There will be workshops and a variety of activities to participate in. For more informaion call (845) 657-6227 or e-mail at womenride@aol.com

FRIDAY, JULY 27

7 pm . . . Harrisburg Ladies Night Out. Join us for good food and good conversation and a night away from home. Call (717)776-0602or E-mail Lavlet4womyn@aol.com

SATURDAY, JULY 28

12 noon-7 pm . . .Pride Fest 2001 is at Riverfront Park in Harrisburg. Website is www.harrisburgpride.org and phone 717-234-0328 or e-mail hbgride@harrisburgpride.org.

Pink Lizard's 2nd Anniversary & Gay Pride Day. Doors open at 5 pm. Drink specials and giveaways.

Upcoming Events...

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

7th Annual Gay Day at Knoebels Amusement Park. Gay Day is sponsored by American Mosaic. For more information visit their website at: <http://members.tripod.com/american-mosaic>. For more information about Knoebels visit their website at: www.knoebels.com

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

The Lesbian Alliance of South CentralPA Women's Potluck and Swimming. York location. Call (717) 792-7711.

MONDAY, AUGUST 27

7pm. . . The Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus will hold an Open House at St. John's Lutheran Church in Shiremanstown. Come meet the singers and board, and find out how much fun Monday nights can be! Regular rehearsals start Sept. 10 (every Monday night at 7). We need YOUR voice and spirit. For directions & more info see our website www.cpwchorus.org or email info@cpwchorus.org or president Lucy Vincent 717-938-5051.

SEPTEMBER 14,15 & 16

Wild Western Women's Weekend at CampOut, a Camping and Event Center for Women in Ferncliff, Virginia. For more info about CampOut, check out their website at: www.campoutva.com

OCTOBER 8-14

17th Annual Women's Week in Provincetown, Mass. Start making your plans now! Check out www.ptownguide.com for accomodations listing!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Mark your calendars now for FAB at the Harrisburg Marriott!



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...**DIGNITY OF CENTRAL PA** meets the 1st Sun. of every month at 6pm, at the Friends Meeting House (lower level), 6th & Herr Sts. Harrisburg, for a potluck dinner and discussion. Fellowship for gay and lesbian Catholics, and supportive non-Catholics. All are welcome. Call (717) 652-7683.

...**MCC OF THE SPIRIT**, 2973 Jefferson St., Hbg. Every Sunday 10:30 am & 7:00 pm. Call 236-7387 for information. We offer Christian educational sessions that nurture the whole person, call for details and special events. **Website: www.mccofthespirit.org**.

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...**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF THE CUMBERLAND VALLEY**, Sundays, 10:30 a.m. at the Meeting House, 2 Forge Road in Boiling Springs, PA 17007. Children's program runs concurrently. Fully accessible. Rev. Judy Welles and Rev. Duane Fickeisen, ministers. For info., call 717/249-8944 or write: P.O. Box 207, Boiling Springs, PA 17007. Web site: www.uucv.org

...**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF LANCASTER**. Sunday, 9am & 11am. Rev. M. Susan Milnor. 538 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster. (717) 393-1733. E-mail: UUCL@epix.net. Website: <http://members.tripod.com/~uulanca/index.htm>.

...**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF YORK**, 925 South George St. (717) 845-8212. Services Sunday 10AM. Rev. Jennifer Justice, Childcare and religious education for youth provided. Welcoming Congregation.

...**UNITY CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH**. 4695 Charles Rd., Mechanicsburg. (Behind Trindle Bowling Alley on Trindle Rd.) Services: Sundays 9am & 11am. (717) 691-0300 or e-mail: unity@bbimaging.com Unity is a culturally diverse spiritual community, promoting positive life transformation and recognizing that all people are one in God. Website: www.unitychurchharrisburg.com.

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

...**UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HARRISBURG** Sundays 10:30 am 1280 Clover Lane, Harrisburg, PA 171-564-4761. We are a liberally religious "Welcoming Congregation". Our Interweave Committee promotes acceptance and affirmation of GLBT concerns. Please join us. E-mail: uch@paonline.com Website: <http://www.paonline.com/uchuaa/>.



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Just write it down & Mail it to:

Lavender Letter, P.O. Box 266, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
or E-Mail to: Lavlet4wym@aol.com

CENTER PIECE

LAVENDER LETTER

July, 2001

Support Groups...

"DON'T BE A BOOB - GET A BOSOM BUDDY" Are you concerned about the Procedure? Are you concerned about going alone? A volunteer network of 'BUDDIES' is being organized to accompany women who know the importance of a mammogram yet fear the mammogram procedure whether is the first or the 100th.

We are looking for participants who would like to have a 'BUDDY' and for those who would like to be 'BUDDIES'. Please contact Natalie Damrauer at 540-7725 or email her at LoonSng@aol.com for more information, to request a BUDDY or to volunteer to be a BUDDY!

...NOW, York Chapter, (National Organization for Women) meets on the 3rd Wed. of odd-numbered months at the YWCA, E. Market St., at 7:30pm. and on the 3rd Saturday of even-numbered months at various locations at 10am. Call Cindy at (717) 848-9142 or Janice at (717) 259-6092 for info/directions & location of the Saturday meeting.

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

...ENCOREplus was established in 1994 to provide free clinical breast exams, Pap test and mammograms to women over the age of 40 who have annual incomes below \$15,448 (add \$5,365 for each additional dependent). Clinical breast exams and Pap test are done at Sadler Clinic, 117 N. Hanover St, Carlisle, by a nurse-practitioner. Mammograms are provided by Carlisle Imaging at their Medical Arts Building location, Wilson St. Carlisle. Interested women should call ENCORE plus at the YWCA of Carlisle, 243-3818 or e-mail, diantz@ywcaofcarlisle.org.

...NETWORK and FORUM for lesbians of Catholic heritage. A Web Site of the "Conference for Catholic Lesbians" (CCL) is now up and 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 and support...to learn how other women celebrate being Catholic and lesbian...to express what's on your mind and in your heart to others who have shared your experience and understand...please join us at catholiclesbians.org. For other information from a member in the Harrisburg area, you can send email to "cathles_RU12@aol.com" or leave a message in the CCL "Guestbook".

Social Groups...

THE LESBIAN ALLIANCE OF SOUTH-CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA. Activities include potlucks, bi-monthly newsletter, media liaison, and 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 848-9142.

The Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus rehearses Monday nights at 7:00 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church in Shiremanstown. For more information, e-mail info@cpwchorus.org, see our web site at www.cpwchorus.org, or call Joanne and Linda at 761-6958.

Rainbow Riders-Gay and Lesbian Motorcycle Club forming for the South Central PA area. Scheduled rides and socializing. For more information call 717-229-2703.

.....Womynspirit-You are invited to a safe and sacred space where womyn may explore and express their own unique spirituality. Where we may find strength in ourselves and each other. We meet the 3rd Friday of every month in Carlisle. For details call Jennifer Polhemun, 243-6585 or Joanne Kinsey, 337-1656.

...Triangle Interests... A national nonprofit, Lesbian membership organization working to build the economic strength, and improve the quality of life, of the Lesbian community. TI is the sponsor of Triangle Interests Federal Credit Union (TIFCU), the first national credit union formed to benefit Lesbian Women. TI also offers financial seminars, business networking, social activities and health insurance. For info call: (215) 487-3736. VM#1; E-mail: ti@triangleinterests.org Website: www.triangleinterests.org

...Shippensburg Circle. Women from the Shippensburg, Carlisle, & Chambersburg area get together monthly. Connect through our e-mail list or phone. To get info or put yourself on our list, call (717) 530-1743 or lkuj125@innernet.net.

...GLORA (Gay & Lesbian Organization of Reading & Allentown) is a group that gathers at least 2x/month to do fun activities and make new friends. We sponsor a broad range of events. To contact GLORA write: P.O. Box 1952, Allentown, PA 18105, or E-mail: GLORAinPA@aol.com.

...Book Discussion Group. If you like to read...join our book club. We meet the 2nd Sunday of the month at 6pm. Call Caroline (717) 545-3164 for this month's book and meeting place.

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FYI . . .

Editor's Note

The Lavender Letter has a new email address and a new phone number. Please make note of the changes. New Email: Lavlet4womyn@aol.com
New Phone: (717) 766-0602.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
The Midtown Cinema needs your help! They are in dire need of a heating/air conditioning system. They cannot open without it! They are looking for corporate and individual donors who will help the theater overcome this last hurdle. Your contributions are tax-deductible. Please send your contribution to : MidtownMarket District Inc., 1230 N.Third St., Harrisburg, PA 17102.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Jude Sharp has a new website for J A Sharp Custom Jeweler. It's still a work in progress! www.jasharp.com

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
The next time you go to Rehoboth Beach, stop by the New Amsterdam's Dream Cafe at 26 Baltimore Ave. and say HI to Ned and Kat. They left Central PA a while back and headed to Rehoboth Beach. They are serving breakfast and lunch daily.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
HOWL (Hanging Out With Lesbians) has a website! It is: <http://howlofpa.homestead.com/index.html>. This website is still a work in progress. The home page is really great! Kudos to HOWL!

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Looking for lesbians with kids under the age of 18 to form a Lesbian Parents Group in Central PA. If you have an interest in such a group, call (717) 766-0602 or email lavlet4womyn@aol.com

Health Spotlight

SEX!

Now that I have your attention. . . This month's health topic is about STD's. Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

Did you know that the incidence of STD's has risen dramatically within the lesbian population in the last 2 years? What does this mean, you ask? It means we are not practicing safe sex ladies! If you share your sex toys, you are at risk. If you have had multiple sexual partners within the last year or less, you are at greater risk. STD's can happen to you!

Here's a list of STD's:

Allergic Vaginitis-Bacterial Vaginosis-Chlamydia-Gonorrhea-Hepatitis-HIV/AIDS-Human Papillomavirus(HPV)/Genital Warts- Pubic Lice-Scabies-Syphilis-Trich-Yeast Infections-Pelvic Inflammatory Disease.

What can you do to protect yourself? Practice safe sex! What is safe sex? It's any type of sex which does not let one person's blood, semen, vaginal fluid or breast milk get inside another person's body. What are some of the safer sex practices? For reasons of space limitations I can only name a few. These are the more important ones:

...Putting your fingers inside your sexual partner can be risky. It's recommended that you wear latex gloves. If you have a latex allergy, there are non-latex gloves available.

...Contact with menstrual blood is very high risk. I know that some women enjoy that kind of thing, but what if she has HIV/AIDS and doesn't know it?

...Oral sex. This is a biggie for us and it's risky, especially if your sexual partner has her period. To be safe, use a piece of plastic wrap or a dental dam to cover her vulva(genital area). This prevents her fluids from entering your mouth.

...Sex toys - It's risky to share them. It is recommended to use condoms for your vibrators or dildoes, and to put a fresh one on everytime it's used by a different person.

For safer vaginal and anal penetration it is recommended that you follow these guidelines:

...Get a manicure. Keep those nails smoothly filed.

...Use latex, nitrile, or vinyl gloves.

...Use water-based lube.

...Put on a fresh glove when you switch activities or partners.

...Don't share your toys without cleaning in between uses.

...Use condoms on your toys. Always use a fresh condom when switching sexual activities or partners.

...And last, but not least, this is a biggie also...don't allow bacteria from the anus to enter the vagina.

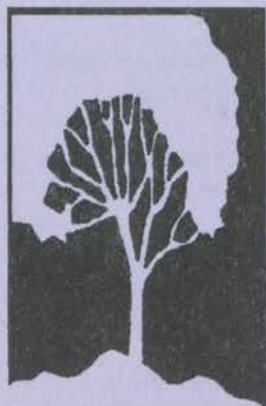
I know when things get hot and heavy it might be hard to follow all these guidelines, but at least try.

For more information on STD's, you can check out this website: www.lesbianstd.com.

It's a very informative website and it's user-friendly. Also, The Whole Lesbian Sex Book by Felice Newman devotes an entire chapter to Safer Sex and Gynecological Health. She also gets into gynecological care and concerns. It's a good chapter to read.

Remember this ladies, you know your sexual history, but you don't know hers. She could have an STD and not know it, or she knows it and doesn't care. Let's be careful out there!

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Information must be received by the 20th of each month.

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Central PA Womyn's Chorus and Positive Opportunities

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7th Annual GAYDAY at Knoebels

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join us for the meal and / or for the day

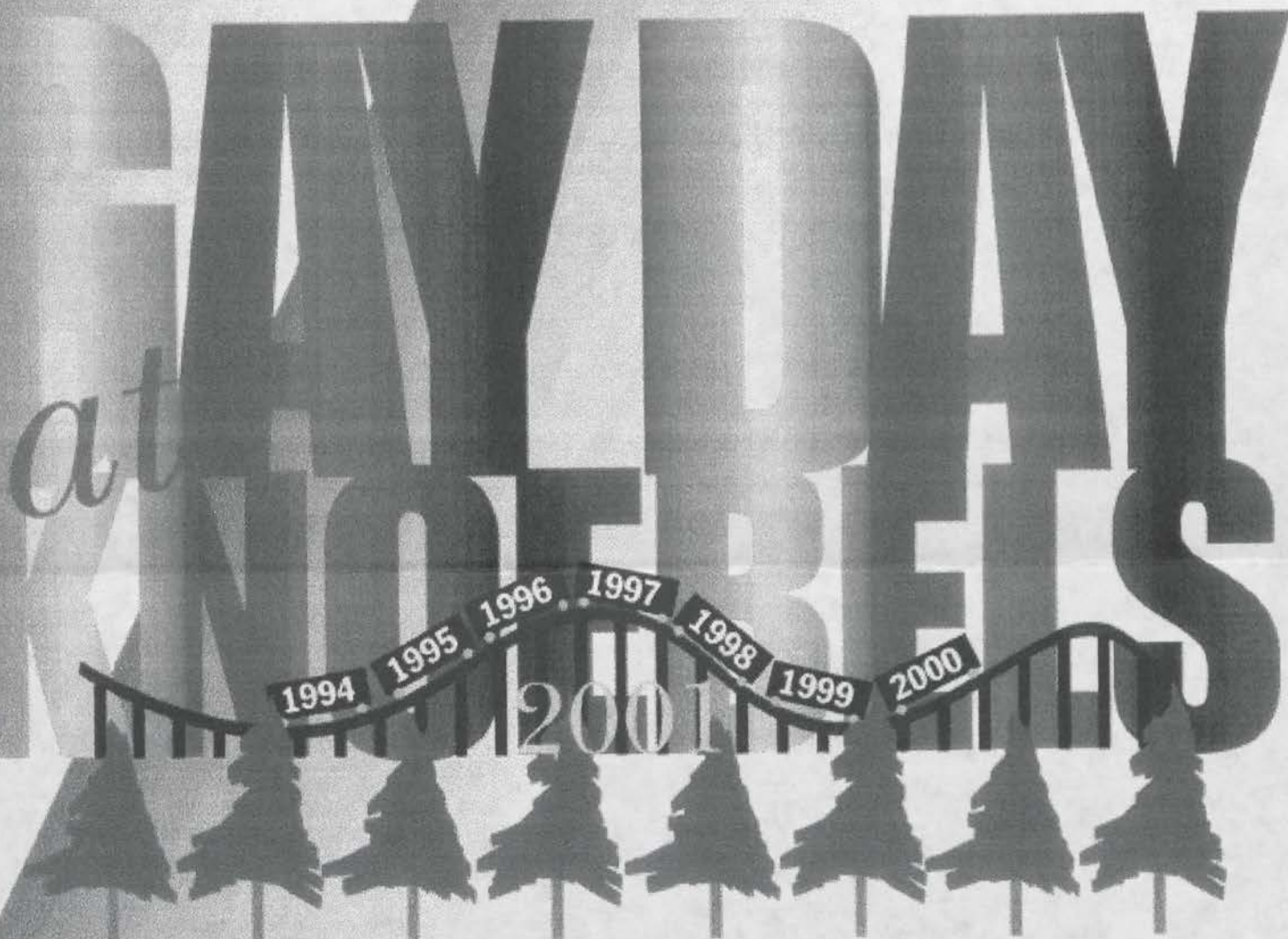
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Rick: 570•522•8036, Susan: 570•322•7607

Carlos: 215•755•4540, Mike: 717•361•0355

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