# LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

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Title: Lavender Letter (Harrisburg, PA)

**Date:** February 2002

**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

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P.O. BOX 266 MECHANICSBURG, PA 17055

# LAVENDER LETTER

PHONE:
(717) 766-0602
E-MAIL
LAVIETAWOMYN@AOLCOM

Volume 20 No. 2

A Calender of Events, for and by Womyn

February, 2002

# **ACTIVITIES....**

# FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1 - 10

Theater of the Seventh Sister in Lancaster presents Sojourner, a play about Sojourner Truth, an abolitionist and women's civil rights pioneer in the mid-1800's. A truly amazing woman! For play times and ticket information, please call (717) 396-7764.

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

2 pm...The Vagina Monologues being presented at the Whitaker Center's Sunoco Performance Theater in Harrisburg. Proceeds will benefit Shelters for Abused Women in Harrisburg and Lancaster, the Sexual Assault Counseling Center in Lebanon, and the Women of Afganistan. Tickets are \$10. Please call (717) 214-ARTS for your tickets.



### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14 VALENTINE'S DAY

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15 - MARCH 10

OPEN STAGE of Harrisburg presents WIT. Vivian Bearing is a brilliant scholar and a terminally ill cancer patient who discovers that brains and "wit" are no substitute for love during life's most transcendent moments. Call OPEN STAGE at (717) 232-OPEN for times and ticket information.

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

7 pm...Lancaster Ladies Night Out meets for good food with good folks! Singles and couples welcome! Call Shirley at (717) 560-6817, or e-mail snoac@aol.com for reservations.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

6 pm...Lesbian Alliance of South Central PA. The potluck for February will be in the east York area. Call (717) 840-1673 for directions.

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

1 pm...Lesbian and Gay Parents Group meeting! Calling all parents with children under the age of 18, and those considering adoption! Partners are welcome! Please call (717) 766-0602 for details.

4 pm...Lebanon County Lesbians Social Group and Potluck. Call Marie at (717) 865-6944 for more information.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

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 info@harrisburgpride.org. Your community's future begins with YOU!

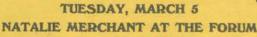
### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

8 pm...Central PA LGBT MARDI GRAS! Join the party at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in the Crowne Plaza Ballroom in Center City Harrisburg! There will be a buffet, live entertainment, DJ and dancing, BEADS, Best Costume contest, and a King & Queen of Mardi Gras will be crowned! Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door! For tickets please call the Switchboard at (717) 234-0328. This is a fundraising benefit for GLSH!

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

5 pm...Harrisburg Ladies Night Out. Join us for good food and a fun night out! Singles and couples welcome! Call (717) 766-0602, or e-mail Lavlet4womyn@aol.com by Wednesday, February 20 for reservations.

# Upcoming Events....



8 pm...Spend an evening with Natalie Merchant at the Forum, located at 5th and Walnut Sts. Harrisburg. Natalie is on tour promoting her latest CD "Motherland". For tickets please call THE BOX (717)214-ARTS, or Ticketmaster (717) 260-2000.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 9

### KATE CLINTON IS COMING TO HARRISBURG!

8 pm...Central PA, get ready to laugh! Writer, comedian, entertainer and womin Kate Clinton will present a benefit performance at the Shrine Auditorium for AIDS Community Alliance. Call Jen or Mark at (717) 233-7190 or 1-800-867-1550 to make your reservation. Tickets are \$25 general admission, or \$35 with VIP reception after to meet Kate herself.

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 16

5 pm...Lesbian Alliance of South Central PA. The potluck for March will be in the Dover area. Call (717) 292-5998 for directions.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 30 2ND ANNUAL COMEDY JAM

8 pm...Pride presents the 2nd Annual Comedy Jam live at the Whitaker Center. Laugh along with comedians Michele Balan and Jason Stuart! Tickets are \$22.50 and \$27.50. For tickets call THE BOX at (717) 214-ARTS.

### SATURDAY, JULY 27

Noon to 7 pm...Pride presents the 12th Annual Pride Festival! Mark your calendars now!

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

Gay Day at Knoebels Park in Elysburg, PA. Mark your calendars now!

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# Spirituality . . . .

### WORSHIP SERVICES

...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-

...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 LANC. 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/ ~uulancpa/index.htm

...UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST **CONGREGATION OF YORK, 925** South George St. York, 17403.(717) 845-8212. Services Sunday 10AM. Rev. Robert Renjilian, Childcare and religious education for youth provided. WelcomingCongregation.

deborah swanger photography

> debbieswanger@aol.com (717)560-1335

...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 717-564-4761. We are a liberally religious "Welcoming Congregation". Our Interweave Committe promotes acceptance and affirmation of GLBT concerns. Please join us. E-mail: uch@paonline.com Website: http://www.paonline.com/uchuua/.

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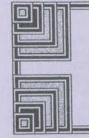
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# CÉNTER PÍÉCÉ

# LAVENDER LETTER

February, 2002



# 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 <a href="LoonSng@aol.com">LoonSng@aol.com</a> 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, dlantz@ywcaof carlisle.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".

...The Unity Center for Spiritual Growth has an Alternative Lifestyles Support Group that meets every 2nd and 4th Friday evening of the month. We start at 7:00 PM at the Unity Center for Spiritual Growth on Charles Street in Mechanicsburg, PA, which is behind the Trindle Bowling Alley. This is a spiritual as well as a social group. Interested folks can contact the church at (717) 691-0300, or Sandy at sansmagic@aol.com.

...Common Roads, formerly known as BiGLYAH, is a support group for teens & young adults in the Harrisburg, PA 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 and is led by multiple facilitors. We meet every Friday to talk about our problems, our good times, and to simply have fun! For more information visit our website: http://www.commonroads.org.

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

# Social Groups...



..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 4th Friday of every month in Carlisle. For details e-mail Jennifer Polhemus at jlpolhemus@aol.com, or Joanne Kinsey. (717) 486-3259.

...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.

...THE LESBIAN ALLIANCE OF SOUTH-CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA.

Activities include potlucks, bi-monthly newsletter, media liason, and any other event that the group is willling 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 wants you!!! Join now and you can be in our April concert, Singing For Our Lives! The chorus rehearses at 7 pm every Monday night(except holidays) at St. John's Lutheran Church, 44 W. Main St. in Shiremanstown. For directions and more information about the chorus: call President Lucy at (717) 938-5051, see our website: www.cpwchorus.org, or e-mail info@cpwchorus.org.

...HOWL (Hanging Out With Lesbians), is a diverse group of womyn with diverse 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: http://www.homestead.com/howlofpa/index.html



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# Classified Ads . . . .

...Housemate(s) Wanted, non-smoker preferred, to share 4 br, 1.5 BA house in historical area of Harrisburg. Pets and rent negotiable. Call (717) 260-0202.

## FYI....

Our photographer/artist friends, Beka Schiller and Deb Swanger, have been accepted into a multi-media show in NYC! The show is:

Unfolding Desire - Fulfilling Desire 5th Annual Lesbian Biennial January 15 - March 16, 2002

This show is at the Leslie-Lohman Gay Art Foundation, 127-B Prince St., NY, NY. 10012. It's a women's show consisting of all media that speaks to the issue of women's concerns and love for women.

If your plans take you to The Big Apple during that time, make plans to stop at the Foundation to see the show in Soho!

New group forming.....Looking for Jewish lesbians! Are you interested in meeting with other Jewish lesbians informally on a monthly or bimonthly basis? If so, please call Lisa at (717) 213-9989 and leave a message.





# CENTER FOR WOMEN'S CREATIVE EXPRESSION NEW EXHIBIT

### "PATTERNS: WORKS BY WOMEN ARTISTS OF COLOR"

In a joint celebration of Black History Month and Women's History Month, the Center will present the exhibit "Patterns: Works by Women Artists of Color".

The exhibit will open with a reception from 2 to 6 pm Sunday, February 24, in the Center's galleries at 1507 N. Third St. in Harrisburg's Midtown Market District. The reception, sponsored by Harrisburg's St. Moritz Supper Club, will feature a cappella vocalist Lady Jayne Henderson. At 4 pm, performance artist Diane Hetes will present her original work "Me, Myself and Them," examining phases of conscientiousness (denial, acceptance and resolutions) involving destructive behaviors, such as addiction, violence and irresponsible sexual behavior leading to risk of HIV-AIDS.

"Patterns" is curated by Nataki McNeal, artist in residence at the Center, whose work will be featured in the exhibit. A multimedia artist, McNeal's work is rooted in the African Aesthetic principles of improvisation, symmetry, color contrast, color balance and call and response, embodying the rhythms of a spiritual journey.

Other featured artists are Nancy Mendes and Michelle Green of Harrisburg, and Diane McNeal and Laura Griffin of Atlanta.

Diane McNeal is the mother of Nataki, who states: "The theme of patterns developed from my experience growing up with my mother, who is a weaver. Patterns are an exploration of the cycles and intricacies of life and spirit. Patterns in our hair, patterns in the way we speak and how the griot tells our story, patterns in the things we do. We layer our patterns, integrating a complexity and language rooted in the talking drum and expressed in every aspect of our lives and cultural expression."

"Patterns" will be on view through April 21. Gallery hours are 6 to 8 pm Thursday and Friday, and 2 to 5 pm Saturday and Sunday. For more information call (717) 238-6244, or e-mail womencreate@aol.com.

Pet Owners! Have you thought of providing for your pet's future without you? You can get stickers to notify emergency workers that you own a pet and a wallet alert card with important caregiver information. It's available FREE of charge by calling the Humane Society of the U.S. at (202) 452-1100, or e-mailing gifts@hsus.org. If you love your pet, please do this!

## Education....

The Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg is proud to provide financial assistance to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth through its annual scholarship. The intention of this scholarship fund is to expand access to post-secondary education to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth between the ages of 16 and 24 years of age, who maintain permanent residence in Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry or York counties. Recipients will receive \$500 annually. Application forms can be obtained from the Switchboard by calling (717) 234-0328 or e-mail glsh@harrisburgpride.org.

## HRC....

The Human Rights Campaign has announced the creation of the HRC Relief Fund. Money sent to the Relief Fund will be used only to help GLBT families impacted by the Sept. 11 terrorist tragedy. Donations can be made to:

Human Rights Campaign Relief Fund

919 18th St., 8th Floor, NW Washington, D.C. 20006

## **MOVING?**

If you are moving or have moved recently, please let the Lavender Letter know! Please send a change of address card so we know where to send your Lavender Letter! Thanks!

# February at the PINK LIZARD

Fri-Feb 1 D-Gem Reunion with DJ NANCY. Come
out and have a Birthday Drink with Marcia!

Sun-Feb 3 SUPER BOWL PARTY - BIG SCREEN TV

6

Doors open at 12:30. Bring a dish for the Buffet. 50/50 Drawings thru the game, HALF

TIME ... Muff Diving Contest, & lots more

Thu-Feb 7 Come have a Birthday Drink with EmJay!

Special birthday entertainment! Open at 7PM

Fri-Feb 8 10PM INGENUE DRAG SHOW starring

Sabrina White (Miss Gay America)

Fri-Feb 15 8PM Come see BOBBI CARMITCHELL!

Fri-Feb 22 10PM INGENUE DRAG SHOW starring

Fonda LaFemme (Miss Gay Arkansas)

Sun-Feb 24 Join us for our last Sunday of the season till fall



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# Health Spotlight....



#### FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH

Are you "heart smart"? Do you know what the heart attack warning signs are? If you do, good for you! If you don't, I'll list them here:

- Chest discomfort feels like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain in the center of your chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or it goes away and comes back.
- Discomfort in other upper body areas such as, pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
- Shortness of breath this often accompanies the chest discomfort, but it can also occur before the onset of any chest discomfort.
- Other signs breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

If you have any of these symptoms, get help fast! Call 911 or have someone take you to the nearest emergency room ASAP!

Did you know that more young people are dying of sudden cardiac arrest? In the 1990's, the US death rate rose 10% among men and 31% among women between the ages of 15 to 34. Cardiac arrest is rare in people under the age of 35, but the increase does represent a trend. Why? Unhealthful choices, such as smoking, poor diet and lack of exercise.

Do you know what steps you can take to reduce your risk of having a heart attack?

- Stop smoking
- Lower high blood pressure
- Reduce high blood cholesterol
- Aim for a healthy weight
- Be physically active each day
- Manage diabetes

It all comes down to a more healthy lifestyle! Need help? You can talk to your doctor, and he/she can give you the information you need. You can also check out the American Heart Association website: www.americanheart.org, and click on Healthy Lifestyle. It's a great website, and it's loaded with all kinds of useful information. Get "Heart Smart"!

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# **Need a Little Comic Relief?**



The PRIDE organization is proud to produce its second annual Comedy JAM with two nationally known gay comedians. This year's headliners will be Michele Balan and Jason Stuart. This night of laughs will take place at Whitaker Center's Sunoco Performance Theater, downtown Harrisburg.

At first glance, you may think Michele Balan is Bette Midler. You may also think that this is not a neurotic person. You are wrong on both counts. The New York-based comic is a nationally known, neurotic (her own description) talent in the gay and lesbian community. She has helped emcee the mainstage at the Millennium March and has performed on HBO's Comedy Central as well as clubs throughout the world. Michele performs regularly at the Dinah Shore Open and Michigan Women's Music Festival as well as Aspen Gay Ski Weekend. As Nell Carter puts it... "She is a walking sitcom, the girl is NUTS!"

Jason Stuart is a self-described actor and comedian. Stuart has lately become one of the top openly gay performers leading him to some of the country's best comedy clubs
-The Cornedy Store and Improv to name just a couple. His colorful career has brought him acclaim through hard work and high-profile performances like Cornedy Central's
-Tout There in Hollywood: As an actor he's appeared in big studio comedies such as 'Vegas Vacation', and 'Kindergarter Cop'. Last year he completed the Disney comedy 'Ghost
of a Chance' opposite Scott Bakula, and the Indie film 'Osaw' with Dennis Leary and Eitzabeth Hurley, His manic TV acting resume included a role in the HBO film 'Gia' with
Angelina Jolie, and guest roles (gay and straight) on 'The Drew Carey Show,' Norm,' Three Sisters,' 'Providence' and 'Will & Grace.' Jason is now promoting his new comedy CD

entitled "Gay Comedy Without A Dress."



A FUNDRAISING BENEFIT FOR THE GAY AND LESBIAN SWITCHBOARD OF HARRISBURG

## CROWNE PLAZA BALLROOM / CENTER CITY HARRISBURG

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