

# **LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA**

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**Title:** *Lavender Letter (Harrisburg, PA)*

**Date:** May 2002

**Location:** LGBT-009 Lavender Letter Collection

**Contact:**

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17055

# LAVENDER LETTER

NEW PHONE:  
(717) 303-0425  
E-MAIL  
LAVLET4WOMYN@AOL.COM

Volume 20 No. 5

A Calendar of Events, for and by Womyn

May, 2002

## ACTIVITIES....

### SATURDAY, MAY 4

8 PM...The Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus presents " Singing for Our Lives", a benefit concert honoring women who have faced cancer at the York Unitarian Church. Tickets are \$15 (\$10 for students & seniors). For more info: (717) 234-4825, or e-mail: info@cpwchorus.org, or check the website: www.cpwchorus.org

### SATURDAY, MAY 4

5 - 7 PM...Common Roads presents the Annual Spaghetti Dinner! An evening of good food and great entertainment at St. Michael's Lutheran Church on State St. in Hbg. Cost is \$5 for adults, and \$3 for kids 12 and under. All proceeds benefit Common Roads.

### SUNDAY, MAY 5

Tret Fure in concert at the 1st Annual Susquehanna Music & Arts Festival in Columbia MD. For more information please check the Festival website: www.smaf.info.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

Ellen DeGeneres is appearing at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia. For more info call: (215) 790-5321, or visit their website: www.kimmelcenter.org.

### FRIDAY, MAY 10

Ellen DeGeneres is appearing at the Kirby Center in Wilkes-Barre PA. For more information and tickets call: (570) 826-1100.

### SATURDAY, MAY 11

6 PM...Lancaster Ladies Night Out meets for good food with good folks! Singles and couples are welcome! Call Shirley at (717) 560-6817, or e-mail: snoac@aol.com for reservations by Wednesday, May 8.

### SATURDAY, MAY 11

DAE will be performing at Unity Center for Spiritual Growth's Annual Music Festival. Concert proceeds will go towards the fund-raising for renovations of their new church home. For more information please call: (717) 691-0300.

### SUNDAY, MAY 12

#### MOTHER'S DAY

Don't forget Mom on her special day!

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

7 PM...Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Hbg. 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 info: (717) 234-0328 or e-mail: glsh@harrisburgpride.org

### SATURDAY, MAY 18

5 PM...Harrisburg Ladies Night Out. Join us for good food and a fun night out! Singles and couples are welcome! Call (717) 303-0425, or email Lavlet4womyn@aol.com by Wednesday, May 15 for reservations.

### SUNDAY, MAY 19

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

### SATURDAY, MAY 25

5:30 PM...Lesbian Alliance of South Central PA potluck. Bring a dish to share with others. Call (717) 854-5810 for directions.

### SATURDAY - MONDAY

MAY 25-27

Greater Harrisburg Artsfest in Riverfront Park! Lots to see, plenty of food, and the official start of the Festival season at Riverfront Park!

### FRIDAY, MAY 31

It's the Indigo Girls in concert at the Mann Center for Performing Arts in Philadelphia. For tickets, please call TicketMaster: (215) 336-2000.

## Upcoming Events....

### SUNDAY, JUNE 2

Patty Larkin in concert at Concerts Under the Stars in King of Prussia, PA.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 7

**WOMEN'S DRUMSONG WORKSHOP WITH UBAKA HILL**  
6 - 9 PM...She's back!! For more information on the workshop call The Center for Women's creative Expression at (717) 238-6244, or e-mail: Womencreate@aol.com. The Women's Drumsong Orchestra performs with Ubaka June 8 at the Midtown Multicultural Festival.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 16

5:30 PM...Chastity Bono at Giovanni's Room in Philadelphia. She will be reading from her memoir, The End of Innocence. For more info call: (215) 923-2960, or check their website: www.gioannisroom.com.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 22

5 PM...Lesbian Alliance of South Central PA potluck. Bring a dish to share with others. Call (717) 755-3643 for directions.

### SATURDAY - SUNDAY

JULY 20 -21

It's here!! It's happening!! It's the LGBT Film Festival at the Midtown Cinema in Harrisburg!! More info in next month's Letter!

### SATURDAY, JULY 27

Noon till 7 PM...It's the 12th Annual Central Pennsylvania pride Festival. Mark your calendars for this fun event!

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

Gay Day at Knoebels Park in Elysburg, PA. Mark your calendars now for this fun day at the Park!

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## Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit

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8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. (717) 236-7387  
E-mail: [mccthespirit@cs.com](mailto:mccthespirit@cs.com)

## Spirituality....

### WORSHIP SERVICES

...Dignity of Central PA meets the 1st Sunday of every month at 6 pm, at the Friends Meeting House (lower level), 6th & Herr Sts. Harrisburg, for a potluck dinner and discussion. Fellowship for gay & 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 pm. Call (717)2367387 for information. We offer Christian educational sessions that nurture the whole person, call for details and special events. Website: [www.mccthespirit.org](http://www.mccthespirit.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. M. Susan Milnor. 538 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster. (717) 393-1733. E-mail: [UUCL@epix.net](mailto:UUCL@epix.net). Website: <http://members.tripod.com/~uulanpcpa/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 Center For Spiritual Growth, 4695 Charles Rd., Mechanicsburg. (Behind Trindle Bowling Alley on Trindle Rd.) Services: Sundays 9 am & 11 am. (717) 691-0300 or e-mail: [unity@bbimaging.com](mailto:unity@bbimaging.com). 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/>.

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# CENTER PIECE

## LAVENDER LETTER

May, 2002

### Support Groups...

...**NOW**, York Chapter, (National Organization for Women) meets on the 3rd Wednesday of odd-numbered months at the YWCA, E. Market St., at 7:30 pm. & on the 3rd Saturday of even-numbered months at various locations at 10 am. 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 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 Center for Spiritual Growth** has an Alternative Lifestyles Support Group that meets every 2nd & 4th Friday evening of the month. We start at 7 pm at the Unity Center for Spiritual Growth on Charles St. in Mechanicsburg, PA, which is behind the Trindle Bowling Alley on Trindle Rd. 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](mailto:sansmagic@aol.com).

...**Common Roads**, formerly known as BiGLYAH, 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 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).

...**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.

### 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).

...**Rainbow Riders**, a Gay & Lesbian Motorcycle Club in the South Central PA area. Scheduled rides and socializing. For more information call (717) 229-2703.

...**Triangle Interests**...A national non-profit, 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 Womyn. TI also offers financial seminars, business networking, social activities & health insurance. For more info call: (215) 487-3736, voice mail #1. E-mail: [ti@triangleinterests.org](mailto:ti@triangleinterests.org). Website address is: [www.triangleinterests.org](http://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 e-mail: [lkuj125@innernet.net](mailto:lkuj125@innernet.net).

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

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

...**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 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: [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, social & community service 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 \$25 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.

### 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!

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## FYI....

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

...**Looking for new members**...The Central Penn Blades Women's ice hockey team seeks players. All ages are welcome, no experience required. Some equipment is available for use. The team meets every Tuesday evening for practice at Regency SportsRink in Lancaster from 7:45 to 9:15 PM. The regular season runs from October thru March. Games are generally played on Saturdays or Sundays and some travel is involved. Practice is ongoing year round. The rink is also forming new Women's Ice Hockey Skills program this spring & summer in conjunction with the Central Penn Blades for those interested in learning more about the sport. Programs will be available for beginner to advanced skaters. For more information, call Mary at (717) 396-0712, or Denise at (717) 964-3363. This is a fun group of gay & straight women.

...**Pennsylvania Association of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues in Counseling**, is looking for new members. Are you a consumer of mental health services, or a mental health professional? Do you have an interest in improving the delivery of high quality mental health services to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities? If so, a group of Pennsylvania counselors would like your help. They are looking for new members, both professionals and consumers, who can help support our mission of promoting a greater understanding of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered issues among members of the counseling professions, and developing and implementing educational programs and publications that support our community. If you have an interest, either personal or professional, in these issues, please contact Lisa Slobodian at slobodian@blazenet.net for more information.

## Lavenderletter.com....

It's coming very, very soon! Sometime in May the site is going live! Finally!! You're going to like it!

## Open Stage of Harrisburg....

### PRESENTS WOMENSPEAK III

Once again, 4 nationally known solo performers will show us that theatre does have a distinctly feminine side. As always, they're the "cream of the crop", and a local favorite, Karen Gray will be back!

Performance dates are: May 23, 24, 25, 30, 31. June 1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22.

Open Stage will tell you more about the other performers soon! This is an extremely popular series, so order your tickets early! For more information and ticket info, please call (717) 232-OPEN.

## Michigan!!!

### MICHIGAN WOMYN'S FEST INFORMATIONAL NIGHT AND POTLUCK

May 19 at 5 PM at The Women's Center for Creative Expression, 1507 N. Third St. Harrisburg. This fun-filled evening is sponsored by the Women's Circle, and it is FREE! If you have never been to Michigan and would like to find out more information.....or you have been there and would like to share your experience with others, this is the place to be! Please call Bobbi Carmitchell for more info and to RSVP at (717) 872-4512. Join us for a great evening!!

## New Phone Number!!

Effective May 13, 2002, the Lavender Letter will have a new phone number. Please make note of the change! The new number is on the front page, top right corner.

## MONEYtalk....

### BOOST YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS POTENTIAL

(This article is provided by AIM Mutual Funds and Janney Montgomery Scott)

Not only does the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 put money back into your wallet today, it can help you to boost your retirement savings potential for tomorrow. Refund checks, new tax brackets, higher contribution limits, catch-up provisions and expanded portability all mean opportunities to put more money away for your future.

- Annual 401(k), 403(b) and 457 plan limits increase to \$11,000 in 2002, and increase annually in \$1,000 increments through 2006.

- Annual contribution limits to defined contribution plans increase from the current limits (the lesser of 25% of compensation or \$35,000 including employer and employee contributions) up to the lesser of 100% of compensation or \$40,000 in 2002. (Individuals will be able to roll over distributions between 401(k)s, 403(b)s, governmental 457 plans and IRAs. Previously distributions from 401(k) plans could not be rolled into 403(b) plans [and vice versa] and 457 plan distributions couldn't be rolled into any other type of plan.)

- Traditional and Roth IRA contributions increase to \$3,000 in 2002, \$4,000 in 2005 and \$5,000 in 2008.

- Salary reduction catch-up contributions have been added for individuals who will reach age 50 by the end of the calendar year. The 401(k), 403(b) and 457 catch-ups amounts are \$1,000 in 2002, and increase \$1,000 annually through 2006. The IRA catch-up amount is \$500 in 2002 and increases to \$1,000 in 2006.

[Tax reform will become effective over a 10 year period from January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2010. This information is not intended as tax advice and is not meant to replace the counsel of your tax advisor or investment representative. Please consult your tax advisor about your particular situation.]

## MAY at the Pink Lizard

- Fri-May 3 9PM DJ NANCY spins Classic Disco  
8PM-9PM Come play pool against the Coors Lite Beer Man & win giveaways
- Fri-May 10 DRAG SHOW starring Truely Fabu, Cristina Carruthers, Stephanie Michaels & More
- Fri-May 24 INGENUE DRAG SHOW starring Sabrina White & Champagne Douglas
- Fri-MAY 31 9PM-Midnight SOMETHING FLUID  
Come out to hear this local band!

## FYI... D-GEM REUNION FRI-JUNE 7

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## Editor's Note....

### VIP ELECTION!

This is a Very Important Primary election for Democrats! Why is this primary so important? One of the candidates is gay friendly, while the other is not. One has experience in running a big-city government, the other does not. I could go on and on like their commercials on TV, but I won't.

Your vote is important! The next 4 years will be tough times for Pennsylvania. Whomever is elected governor will be looking at huge budget deficits next year. We could be looking at tax increases to cover the short-falls. We need a real leader to help us get through the coming tough times.

Personally, I like Ed Rendell. What do I see in him? I see strength. I see someone who is a real leader. Someone who can be tough when he has to be. Ed Rendell did a lot for the city of Philadelphia. He had the vision and the guts to pull the city out of its financial trouble. He had to fight the unions to get them to tighten their belts a little, to help ease the city's economic burden in the payroll department. He fought wasteful spending in city government. He had a tough job to do, and he did it. He has the experience that we will need in the next 4 years.

The state teachers union is for Bob Casey, and they say Ed Rendell was bad for the schools in Philly. What you have to remember is this: where was the school board? Ed Rendell didn't run the city schools all by himself now did he? Of course not!

Ed Rendell is also a friend of the gay community in Philly. He helped push through a lot of gay-friendly initiatives, such as same-sex partner benefits for city employees. When he first started running for political office in Philly, notably the District Attorney's race, he was the first candidate to reach out to the gay community. He was the first candidate to visit all the gay bars in Philly to meet voters. That impressed the gay community. He has stressed that he is for all people. With Ed Rendell as governor we have a better chance of getting gay-friendly legislation passed.

If my article has offended you in some way, I apologize. I'm not usually this political, but this primary is important for all gays and lesbians in Pennsylvania. Please exercise your right to vote!

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### Lavender Letter

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PHONE/FAX: (717) 303-0425

E-MAIL: LAVLET4WOMYN@AOL.COM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Center for Women's Creative Expression**  
1507 N. Third St., Box 1801, Harrisburg, PA 17105  
(717) 238-6244; [Womencreate@aol.com](mailto:Womencreate@aol.com)

**Food for Thought:** Women's Book Group  
*The Descent of Music: Stories* by Deborah Cumming  
May 21, 6-8pm, with Publisher Mary Hoffman  
at Susan's Treasures, West Shore Farmer's Market

**EXHIBIT: ZENscapes/MINDscapes**

Paintings by Virginia Cohn Parkum

Pottery by Pam Cummings

**Opening Reception: 4 to 8 p.m. May 18**

*Premiering the second issue of PHASE –  
Pennsylvania's venue for authors and artists*

**Women's Retreat: The Art of Being**

**Spirituality and Self from a Zen Perspective**

Led by Sensei Anthony Stultz and Shuso Virginia  
Cohn Parkum of the Blue Mountain Lotus Society

June 1, 10am-3pm \$45; CWCE Members, \$40

**Women's Meditation Series** with Shuso Parkum  
Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m., May 22 – June 12. Offering

**Lecture/Workshop: The Many Faces of Women and  
Compassion in Buddhist Art** with Shuso Parkum  
Saturday, June 22, 10am-1pm \$30; Members, \$25

**GREATER HARRISBURG ARTSFEST**

May 25-27 – Visit us on Cultural Avenue!

**WOMEN WHO CARE – Thursday, May 30**

Reception honoring Center founder Sandy Cullen,  
6:15pm; Holly Hughes' one-woman show *Preaching to  
the Perverted*, 8pm. Open Stage of Harrisburg.

Call 238-6244 for more information.

**Mind-Body-Spirit Workshops with Gigi Jantos**

**Nature's Wisdom: Deepening Our Connection**

May 11/June 15, 9:30am-12:30 \$35; Members, \$30

**Exploring Women's Spirituality\***

May 21/June 26, 7-9pm \$25; Members, \$20

**Creating Sacred Space\***

May 28/June 27, 7-9pm \$25; Members \$20

**\*Both workshops: \$45, Members, \$35**

**NURTURING OUR SEXUAL SELVES**

**Movement Retreat led by Lisa Levinson**

*Exploring Eastern Influences on Western Sexuality*

June 29, 10am-5pm. \$65; CWCE Members, \$55