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LAVENDER LETTER

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Volume 20 No. 7

A Calendar of Events for and by Womyn

July, 2002

ACTIVITIES....

THURSDAY, JULY 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY

Celebrate our country's 226th birthday! Picnics and fireworks! Have fun!

SUNDAY, JULY 14

3 PM...Lancaster Ladies Night Out will be having a potluck picnic. Singles and couples are welcome! For more info please call Shirley at (717) 560-6817, or e-mail snoac@aol.com.

SUNDAY, JULY 14

4 pm...Lebanon County Lesbians Social Group and Potluck. Call Marie at (717) 885-8944 for more information.

FRIDAY - THURSDAY

JULY 19-25

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GAY & LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL

Join us for this pre-Pride event at the Midtown Cinema. 250 Reily St. in midtown Harrisburg. Telephone: (717) 909-6566. 5 great movies! The Iron Ladies, The Monkey's Mask, Circuit, Burnt Money, and The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me. Single tickets (\$8.00) and Festival Passes (\$30.00) can be purchased at the Midtown Cinema. Don't miss this great event!

SATURDAY, JULY 20

ONE NIGHT ONLY!

FILMMAKER'S RECEPTION

7:30 PM...Filmmaker's Reception for "The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me" with guest appearance by writer/performer David Drake at the Midtown Cinema! Light food and refreshments will be served. See you there!

FRIDAY, JULY 26

7 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, July 24 for reservations.

SATURDAY, JULY 27

12TH ANNUAL PRIDE FESTIVAL OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

Noon to 7 PM...Join us for this fun event at the South Riverfront Park in Harrisburg! Admission is still \$5.00! This year's Pride Fest will be really great! All new entertainment this year! We have some new regional artists that will be performing at Pride! Listen to Delta Jelly, Men of Rainbow, 9bobnote, Julie Schrieber, Valkyrie, and Melissa Holt of Modest Proposal! Also, the always energetic acoustic duo Plan B! Back by popular demand are the Queens of Entertainment! The MCC of the Spirit Gospel Choir returns again this year to open the festival. The Pride headline entertainers include singer/songwriter Mark Weigle, the wildly popular Michele Balan (who was here for Comedy Jam in March) who will also be our MC for the day, R&B artist Ruth King, and funk/soul act Sister Funk. There will be a Kid's Korner where kids can play games, do crafts and get their faces painted! There will be plenty of food & picnic tables, vendors, artists and information. This is a don't miss event!!

Upcoming Events....

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

8TH ANNUAL

GAY DAY AT KNOEBEL'S GROVE

11 AM...Bring a covered dish! Hot dogs and tableware will be provided. Covered dish lunch and raffle at 3 PM at Pavilion T-10. Gay Day is sponsored by American Mosaic (not Knoebel's Grove). For questions and directions please e-mail Rick at: gayspirit@hotmail.com, or call Susan at (570) 322-7607.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

7:30 PM...7th Annual Fall Achievement Benefit (FAB) at the Whitaker Center on Market St. in Harrisburg. This year's special guest is Suede, plus the jazz sounds of the Steve Rudolph Trio. Tickets for the cocktail reception from 7-8 PM are \$135. Tickets for FAB from 7:30 PM till 1 AM are \$75. There is a 10% discount on all tickets purchased before September 30. For tickets and info, please call Greater Harrisburg Foundation at (717) 236-5040.

JULY at the Pink Lizard

- Thu-Jul 4 **CLOSED...Happy 4th of July!!!**
- Fri-Jul 5 **9PM DJ NANCY spins Classic Disco**
- Fri-Jul 12 **9PM DJ for our Melissa Etheridge Post Concert Party! Giveaways & \$1 Bud Lite Pints**
- Fri-Jul 19 **9PM Miss Harrisburg Gay Pride Pageant**
- Fri-Jul 26 **10PM Ingenue's Birthday Drag Show**
- Sat-Jul 27 **Doors open at 5PM for the PINK LIZARD'S HUGE 3 YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY!!!**
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Wednesday & Thursday **7PM - ?**

Friday & Saturday **7PM-2AM**

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Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit

2973 Jefferson Street,
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Services: Sunday: Pastor Eva O'Diam
8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. (717) 236-7387
E-mail: mccofthespirit@cs.com

Spirituality....

WORSHIP SERVICES

...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.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.

...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. 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 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. Unity is a culturally diverse spiritual community, promoting positive life transformation & 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 10:30 am & 7 pm. 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) 564-4781. We are a liberally religious "Welcoming Congregation". Our Interweave Committee promotes acceptance & affirmation of GLBT concerns. Please join us. E-mail: uch@paonline.com. Website: <http://www.paonline.com/uchua/>.

Mikaela Tallman MA CAC Kathy Patterson MS

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LAVENDER LETTER

July, 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 "Confederation 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. For other information from a member in the Harrisburg area, you can e-mail: 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.

...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.

...PFLAG Central Pennsylvania meets monthly. For more information e-mail: pflagcnpa@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, or e-mail: info@cpwchorus.org.

...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. Website address is: 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.

...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.

...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 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.

...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.

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FYI....

...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....

Have you seen the website yet? It's great! This website is still a work in progress. There will be more great things added to it in the coming months, so check back often! There is a PlanetOut page that has the latest gay and lesbian news, and the news headlines changes several times a week.

The Lavender Letter has joined Giovanni's Room and PETsMART affiliate programs to bring you an easy way to order from them plus help out the Lavender Letter. Click on their ad space and you will go directly to their website. PETsMART offers monthly specials, and Giovanni's Room has the most gay and lesbian literature, videos, and music anywhere. By ordering through the Lavender Letter website you will help the Letter too. The Lavender Letter will get a small percentage of each sale, which will go towards the operating costs of the Letter. This is especially helpful since effective July 1, postage rates go up by 3 cents a stamp.

Great things are happening with the Lavender Letter!! Stay tuned!!

Sad news....

The Rainbow Lighthouse's July issue will be their last issue. After this issue they will cease operations. We are sad to see them go. Deb and Elena, the editors, did a wonderful job with this newsletter over the last 3 years. It is sad to see them go. The Lavender Letter would like to wish these 2 talented womyn all the best in their future endeavors.

Three years ago these 2 womyn took a courageous step to introduce another lesbian newsletter to the Central Pennsylvania area. It's not easy starting a new publication. I heard some people say that they would go out of business within a year. They lasted 3 years. They covered things that the Lavender Letter could not cover. Plus, they gave others a chance to write for the Lighthouse. I, for one, wrote a Travel Corner for them. I enjoyed doing that, and I thank you 2 womyn for that opportunity you gave me to do it. We'll miss you!

Editor's Note: It's getting harder for gay and lesbian publications to stay in business these days. For most, it's lack of community support that makes them go out of business. For others, it's lack of advertisers, or mismanagement that drives them out of business. This is a tough business these days. Please show your support for all gay and lesbian publications!

...Harrisburg Women's Rugby Club is looking for players for Summer and Fall league play. No experience is necessary! E-mail: rugbydog34@aol.com.

...Harrisburg Gay Men's and Women's Volleyball - social/recreation. Every Wednesday at 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm. Baughman United Methodist Church, New Cumberland. Cost: \$2.50, contact Jim at (717) 233-3172.

It's Melissa!!

Friday, July 12, 7:30 PM, it's Melissa Etheridge in concert at HersheyPark's Star Pavilion. Melissa brings with her Meredith Brooks and Rosey. It will be a great concert! Things you should know when you go to the concert: security is very tight for ALL concerts at Hershey. NO cellphones, cameras, backpacks, or large bags allowed! You will be searched, everyone is subject to a pat-down. This is for your safety!

Central PA Pride Festival....

Saturday, July 27, 2002, 11:30 AM to 7 PM. at Riverfront Park in Harrisburg.

Pride is looking for volunteers!!! Volunteers are needed for Set-Up Crew, Children's Activity Area, Pride Info Booth, Volunteer/Entertainment Check-In, ticket sellers, ticket takers, clean-up crew, AND, they are looking for American Sign Language Interpreters for on stage interpretation.

You may request any of the following 3 or 4 hour shifts:

Friday, July 26, 12 noon to 8 PM (any amount of time here is appreciated)

Saturday, July 27, 11 AM - 3:30 PM, 3 PM - 7 PM, & 7 PM - 10 PM

Sunday, July 28 if needed

You will receive free admission and a Pride Fest tee shirt as well as a sense of belonging to YOUR community!

To volunteer, please call (717) 234-0328 or e-mail: harrisburgpride@harrisburgpride.org

More Pride....

The entertainment schedule is posted on the Pride website: www.harrisburgpride.org.

At noon on the 1st Stage Ms. Jennifer Ellis, Esq. will be talking about wills and estate planning for gays and lesbians. It's an important subject for you and your partner. Learn how to plan for the future if you or your partner should fall ill or die, because if you don't plan now, the family could legally step in and leave you with nothing. Come hear Ms. Ellis speak about this very important subject!

For those of you who cannot attend Pride Fest this year, and wish that you could, your money can! Please help support your community by sending a check for the \$5.00 admission to:

Pride Festival of Central PA

PO Box 60927

Harrisburg, PA 17106-0927

All contributions are tax-deductible! Thank you for your support!

Editor's Note....

I wish to apologize to some of our subscribers and others who tried to send e-mails to me from the Lavender Letter website using the info@lavenderletter.com and received no response. There was a problem with that e-mail system for part of May and June. The problem has been corrected. I will answer all e-mails within 24 hrs. If you receive no response please call the Lavender Letter phone number and leave a message.

Also, I want to apologize to those of you who have tried to call the Lavender Letter on the telephone and DID NOT get the answering machine. I was having some minor technical problems with that as well. I am very pleased to say that ALL problems have been corrected! Again, please accept my apologies!

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Health Spotlight....

POISON IVY

It's summertime!! Poison ivy time! Gardeners get it, hikers get it, kids and pets get it. It's everywhere! This bad weed grows in all of the lower 48 states, and can appear as a small shrub, or a woody, ivy-like vine. We all remember the old saying, "leaves of 3 let it be", well, it doesn't always have leaves of 3.

The worst part of the poison ivy plant is the oil that comes from it, called *urushiol*. This is usually a colorless oil, but sometimes it might appear as light yellow. Sensitivity to the oil is the single most common cause of allergic skin reaction in the U.S., AND it's the leading cause of worker's compensation payments related to outdoor injuries. What happens when you come in contact with the oil? Well, if you don't wash it off right away, you will develop redness in the area of contact within 2 to 6 hours if you are highly sensitive. If you are not highly sensitive it could take up to 2 weeks before you experience any rash. After the rash comes some swelling, followed by blisters which eventually erupt and discharge fluid, which eventually crusts over in the final stage. During this time you are in misery!

What do you do now that you have it? You can use calamine lotion, or if it's really bad, go to the doctor to get prednisone, which will help. Not all calamine lotions are the same. Look for one that has the highest concentration of calamine in it. Stay away from any that have antihistamines or anesthetics in the ingredients, they could make things worse. Read the labels! You can try these drying agents also: oatmeal bath, epsom salt bath, and ocean water. These do help!

Prevention: wear long pants and sleeves when you know you will be around it. When you get home, strip and launder the clothes right away, and YOU take a shower immediately to wash off any oil you might have come in contact with while taking off the clothes. There are also ivy-blocks you can buy at the drugstore that you can put on any exposed skin while you are outdoors. These do work as long as you follow the directions! Look for ones that are FDA approved! These will cost about \$10 - \$15, but they are worth every penny!

Now go out there and enjoy your summer!!

Advertising Rates

Business Card Size (2" x 3½")	Double Card Size (4" x 3½")
One Month \$ 20.00	One Month \$ 40.00
Six Months \$ 100.00	Six Months \$ 200.00
One Year \$ 170.00	One Year \$ 340.00

Other Services:

Personal Ad (5 lines) ... \$5.00 Insert (1/3 page) \$50.00
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Information must be received by the 20th of each month.

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Lavender Letter

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