LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

Located at Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

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Documents Online

Title: Lavender Letter (Harrisburg, PA)

Date: April 2003

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

717-245-1399

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PO BOX 266 MECHANICSBURG, PA. 17055

Volume 21 No. 4

A Calendar of Events for and by Womyn

LAVENDER

LETTER

April, 2003

PHONE:

(717) 232-8382

F-MAIL

INFO@LAVENDERLETTER.COM

ACTIVITES

NOW THROUGH MAY 4, 2003

REBEKAH SCHILLER PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

Our friend Beka has a show consisting of her Polaroid transfer art, and hand-colored and non hand-colored photography in Lancaster at The Friends Gallery in the Lancaster County Library, 125 N. Duke St. Gallery hours are: M-Th 9 AM - 9 PM, Friday and Saturday 9 AM - 5:30 PM, Closed Sunday. Art Walk Weekend hours: Noon - 5 PM. For more info about the Friends Gallery please call (717) 394-2651.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

APRIL FOOL'S DAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Spring forward.....turn your clocks AHEAD one hour!

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

7 PM...Central Pennsylvania Pride Fest 2003 monthly meeting. Pride is still looking for people to help with planning the 2003 Pride Fest. If you are a team player, serious about your commitment, and want to work for your community, then we want you! Please call (717) 234-0328 or e-mail info@harrisburgpride.org.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

MOTORCYCLE RIDE

1 PM...Meet at the Summerdale Diner on the West Shore near Harrisburg. For more details please call: (717) 728-9587.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Lancaster Ladies Night Out and Harrisburg Ladies Night Out will meet for dinner together. Singles and couples are welcome! Call Shirley at (717) 560-6817, or e-mail: snoac@aol.com. Call Judy at (717) 232-8382, or e-mail: info@lavenderletter.com for reservations.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

ELLEN DEGENERES

8 PM...Ellen will be appearing at the Tower Theatre in Philly. Ticket prices range from \$38.50 - \$47.50. For information and to order tickets: (610) 352-2887.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

DAR WILLIAMS

Dar is in concert at the Keswick Theatre in Glenside, PA. Tickets are \$26.50 and \$30.00. For more information and to order tickets: (215) 572-7650, or online: www.keswicktheatre.com.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

7 PM...Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg monthly meeting. Get involved in your community! We need YOU! For more info: (717) 234-0328, or e-mail: info@askglsh.org.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20 EASTER SUNDAY

TUESDAY, APRIL 22 EARTH DAY

Check out www.earthday.net to learn what YOU can do to help preserve our planet and our precious resources.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

ARBOR DAY

Plant a tree! Hug a tree! Find out more about Arbor Day by going to: www.arborday.org.

Upcoming Events....

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

MAY 3 & 4TH

LANCASTER ART WALK WEEKEND

Noon - 5 PM...Downtown Lancaster. A FREE two-day walking tour of 25 arts organizations, artist's studios and businesses. For more information please call The Framing Concept - (717) 295-7290.

SATURDAY, MAY 10

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN'S CHORUS CONCERT

8 PM..."Music In Our Mother's House", a Mother's Day celebration in our own inimitable style. Bring your mother and grandmother, your daughter and granddaughter. Bring your birth family and your family of choice. And bring all your friends! For more information, please visit www.cpwchorus.org, or e-mail" info@cpwchorus.org, or by calling (717) 234-4825.



Inspiring Quotes....

The Great Law of the 6 Nations Iroquios Confederacy says, in all our deliberations we have to be mindful of the impact of our decisions on the 7 generations to follow ours. For more information on the Iroquios: www.iroquios.net

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.

...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 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. ...Vision Of Hope MCC, 130 E. Main St. Mountville, PA. 17554. Services: Sunday at 10:30 am & 7 pm. Morning Children's Sunday School.

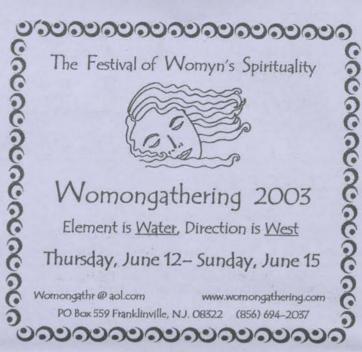
Call (717) 285-9070. E-mail: REVDCOGGIN@aol.com ...Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, Sundays 10:30 am. 1280 Clover Lane, Harrisburg, PA. (717) 564-4761. We are a liberally religious "Welcoming Congregation". Our Interweave Committee promotes acceptance & affirmation of GLBT concerns. Please join us. E-mail: uch@paonline.com. Website: http://www.paonline.com/uchuua/.

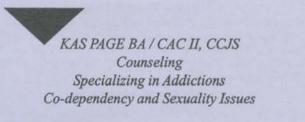
...Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Of Pottstown, Sunday services 10 am. 1565 South Keim Street, Pottstown, PA 19465. (610) 327-2662. Website: http://members.aol.com/uupottstown.



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April, 200

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. 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 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.

...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 facilitors. 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, or call (717) 920-9534.

...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.

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.

...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 committment to building a powerful political movement. Please visit us at: www.ngltf.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, or e-mail: info@cpwchorus.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.

...The Lesbian Alliance of South-Central Pennsylvania. Activities include potlucks, bi-monthly newsletter, media liason, & 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, 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., Lititz, PA. 17543, or visit us at:www.susq.org.



Your future in focus.

COMMITMENT CEREMONY AT PRIDEFEST 2003

FYI....

....Loaves of Love, a food bank for people with HIV/AIDS, located at the Harris Street United Methodist Church, 1605 Susquehanna St., Harrisburg, needs food for their pantry. Items they need most, peanut butter, tuna fish, and personal care items. Please call (717) 877-6674 to set up drop-off arrangements.

....Central Pennsylvania Pride Fest 2003, will be Saturday, July 26, Noon till 7 PM at South Riverfront Park in Harrisburg. This year we will be doing something that no other Pride Fests in Pennsylvania have done, we will have a Mass Commitment Ceremony! If you and your partner are thinking about a commitment ceremony this year, why not have it at Pride Fest?

....Equality Forum (formerly PrideFest America), the annual global GLBT symposium and festival, takes place in Philadelphia from April 28th to May 4th, 2003. Their website (www.equalityforum.com) has been updated with details on all 76 events! Check it out!

....www.interpride.org, has all the Pride Fests listed throughout the world for 2003. It's a great website!

Theatre....

OPEN STAGE OF HARRISBURG

...True West, April 25 to May 18. In this play by Sam Shepard, you'll see that this is about the shifting balance of power between brothers. Shepard both holds the ideal of the western hero up for veneration and shoots it full of holes. Ticket prices are \$22, Sr. Citizens and students are \$18. You can reserve your tickets online at www.openstagehbg.com, or by calling (717) 232-6736.

THEATER OF THE SEVENTH SISTER

...Julius Caesar, March 27 to April 19. Come see Shakespeare's first great tragedy, Julius Caesar is a masterpiece of political intrigue, and a timeless tale, in which a group of noble Romans plot, carry out and face the bloody consequences of the assassination of Rome's leader. The play can be seen at Millersville University's Rafters Theater, Millersville, PA. General admission is \$18, and you can reserve your tickets online at: www.seventhsister.com, or by calling (717) 396-7764.

Editor's Note

...Starting with the March issue of the Lavender Letter, your renewal date will be on the outside of your envelope under your address. Renewal notices will be in the envelope with your Letter when your subscription is about to expire. Please be careful not to throw it out with the envelope.

Also, beginning March 1, 2003, the lavlet4womyn@aol.com will no longer be in service. The address that will be in use will be the one that you see on the top right hand corner of the Lavender Letter, Info@Lavenderletter.com. Please make these changes to your e-mail address book.

...Please be sure to check the Lavender Letter website from time to time for changes in the Community Calendar, Issues, and also advertisers.

...PetsMart is no longer with us, but we have 2 new ones that were just added: www.dogtoys.com and www.cattoys.com. These are lesbian owned and operated and they operate from West Chester, PA. They were featured in the April 2003 issue of Curve magazine. They both use a breed code system which sorts toys by breed and by size. Cattoys.com also lists toys by personality, with catagories for couch potatoes and cats who play at night. And for you dog owners, they carry Greenies!

When you buy from dogtoys.com and cattoys.com you will also be helping the Lavender Letter. Whenever you want to order from them, just go to the Lavender Letter website, and click on their ad and place your order. Each time you want to order something you have to do it that way for the Lavender Letter to collect a small commission. Check it out! Celebrate your relationship in a powerful and meaningful way before a loving and supportive community...

Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania is offering a Commitment Ceremony at PrideFest 2003 on July 26 for couples celebrating a relationship of **one year or more**.

Registered couples receive:

One-day couples workshop

Non-denominational ceremony performed by a minister

Certificate of Holy Union

Reception area for couples and their guests

Professional photographer on-site at reduced fees

Please call the Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania at (717) 574-1755, or e-mail: info@harrisburgpride.org and ask for a registration application before June 15.

A Blessing of Relationship immediately following the Commitment Ceremony is available to couples who do not register for the Commitment Ceremony, but would like the relationship recognized. Contact the Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania for more information.

Ms. Kleen sez....

Welcome to a new feature in the Lavender Letter. Ms. Kleen will bring you cleaning tips each month, tips to make your life at home easier.

SINK STINK?

Do you have a garbage disposal in your kitchen sink? Does it stink? You can go out to some store and buy disposal deodorizing tabs for a couple bucks, OR, you can save some money and use these things that you might have in your house:

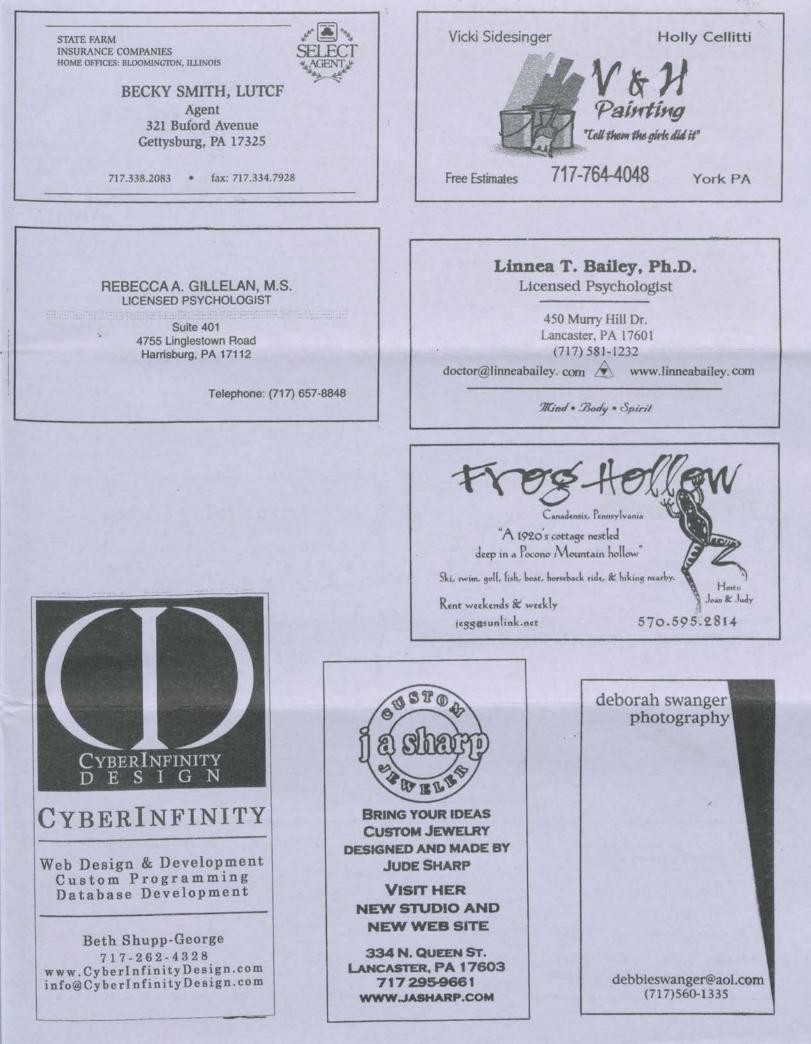
Baking soda - take about a 1/4 cup and put it down the disposal, run hot water in the sink, turn on the disposal for about 30 seconds, and continue to run the hot water for about 1 minute. No more stinky sink!

Orange - take 1 orange and quarter it. Put 1 quarter down disposal, turn on the water, turn on the disposal, and continue to do that with each quarter, and then let the water run for about a minute. Smells nice and orange-yl

Lemon - cut a lemon in half, put half down disposal, run the water, turn on disposal, put other half down and do the same steps, and then let water run for about a minute.

Want to keep your disposal blades sharp? About once a month put 5 or 6 ice cubes down dispoal, turn on the water, and then turn on the disposal, and then turn off when it is done chopping the ice cubes. This will help keep those blades sharp!





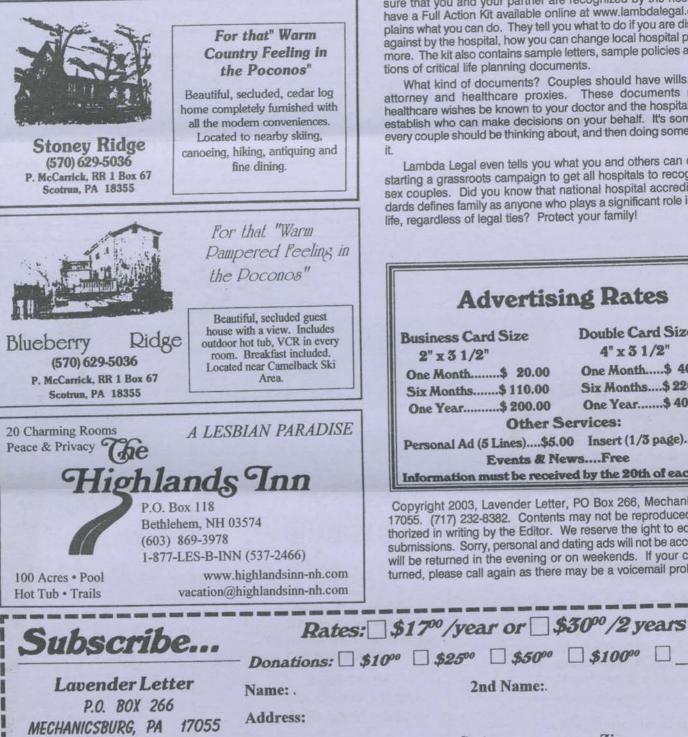
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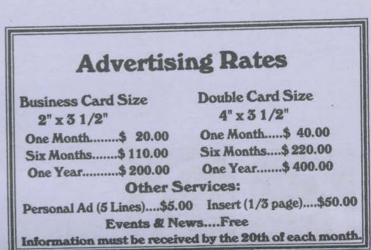
Health Spotlight. HOSPITAL VISITATION: A RIGHT FOR ALL FAMILIES

Have you given much thought to what could happen to your partner if you have a medical crisis and have to go to the hospital? Hospitals don't always recognize same-sex partners as family because of homophobia, inadequate staff training, or some policy flaw. Even domestic partnership registration or a civil union doesn't guarantee that same-sex couples will be treated as family. So your partner would be denied the right to see you or to confer with your doctors as to your condition.

What can you do? Lambda Legal can show you what to do to make sure that you and your partner are recognized by the hospital. They have a Full Action Kit available online at www.lambdalegal.org that explains what you can do. They tell you what to do if you are discriminated against by the hospital, how you can change local hospital policies, and more. The kit also contains sample letters, sample policies and descriptions of critical life planning documents.

What kind of documents? Couples should have wills, powers of attorney and healthcare proxies. These documents make your healthcare wishes be known to your doctor and the hospital, and helps establish who can make decisions on your behalf. It's something that every couple should be thinking about, and then doing something about

Lambda Legal even tells you what you and others can do as far as starting a grassroots campaign to get all hospitals to recognize samesex couples. Did you know that national hospital accreditation standards defines family as anyone who plays a significant role in a patient's life, regardless of legal ties? Protect your family!



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