

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

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**Contact:**

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# LAVENDER LETTER

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INFO@LAVENDERLETTER.COM

Volume 21 No. 5

A Calendar of Events for and by Womyn

May, 2003

## ACTIVITIES....

### 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

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, MAY 6

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, MAY 10

5 PM...The Lesbian Alliance of Southcentral Pennsylvania will host the monthly potluck in the Hanover area. Call (717) 633-1796 for directions. Please bring a dish to share. You do not need to be a member to attend the pot luck.

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.

SATURDAY, MAY 17

#### MOTORCYCLE RIDE

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

SATURDAY, MAY 17

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

SUNDAY, MAY 18

6 PM...Harrisburg Ladies Night Out. Something different! Singles and couples are welcome! Call Judy at: (717) 232-8382, or e-mail: info@lavenderletter.com.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

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. Website: www.askglsh.org.

MAY 24, 25 & 26TH

#### HARRISBURG ARTSFEST

Come to beautiful River Front Park along N. Front St. in Harrisburg! Lots of great art work and crafts, and of course, the food! Something for everyone! Times to be announced, check www.pennlive.com., or check www.lavenderletter.com, Community Calendar. This is a FREE event!

## Upcoming Events....

JUNE 18 AND 19TH

8 PM...Bitch and Animal at The Point, 880 West Lancaster Ave., Bryn Mawr, PA. Tickets: \$14. For more info: (610) 527-0988.

TUESDAY, JULY 8

The Crowbar, State College, PA presents live in concert, Melissa Ferrick with opener Eric Himan. Doors open at 8 PM, Eric starts at 9, and Melissa takes the stage at 10:15. For more information please visit: www.crowbarlivemusic.com.

SATURDAY, JULY 26

#### 2003 CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA PRIDEFEST

Noon till 7 PM...This year's PrideFest will be better than ever! We have great entertainment! Great vendors! Great food! AND....the first mass Commitment Ceremony at a Pride Festival in Pennsylvania! Come on out for a great time! Where: South Riverfront Park, Harrisburg, PA, along N. Front St. For more information: www.harrisburgpride.org.

## The Festival of Womyn's Spirituality



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## Inspiring Quotes....

Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it.

- Michael Jordan

## 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.mccothespirit.org](http://www.mccothespirit.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/~uulancca/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](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/uchua/>.

...**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>.

### \*\*OPEN LETTER TO THE SHIPPENSBURG CIRCLE\*\* FROM LORRAINE

The Shippensburg Circle for the Shippensburg area, (Carlisle and Chambersburg) is losing its leader. Elaine and I are relocating to Provincetown, Mass. in June of this year. We have enjoyed the camaraderie of the women in this area for the past five years since our move from Harrisburg. Your friendship through the Circle Branches and most recently the potlucks has made us feel connected in this rural community.

I encourage anyone out there to keep up the connection by hosting a get together each month. I encourage all of you to be supportive of the organizations in your area so important to surviving happily in this world that fails to recognize the potential of so many wonderful people.

If you need ideas on continuing the Shippensburg Circle, feel free to contact me until June, I'd be delighted, as usual, to give my two cents worth. (717) 530-1743.

Thank you for everything. Lorraine

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# CENTER PIECE

## LAVENDER LETTER

May, 2003

### 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](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 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](mailto: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 facilitators. 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](http://www.commonroads.org), or call (717) 920-9534.

...**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.

### 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](http://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 commitment to building a powerful political movement. Please visit us at: [www.nglft.org](http://www.nglft.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](http://www.cpwchorus.org), or e-mail: [info@cpwchorus.org](mailto:info@cpwchorus.org).

...**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 house hold. 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](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, 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](http://www.susq.org).

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## FYI....

...GayWebMonkey Magazine, is a brand new quarterly publication focusing on the Gay & Lesbian Internet. It's only \$9.95 per year! To learn more and to subscribe online, go to <http://www.gaywebmonkey.com/subscribe.cfm>. The magazine features stories that helps gays & lesbians learn about and find gay and lesbian sites and resources online.

...Tourisme Quebec, is pleased to announce the launch of their new gay-focused Internet site <http://www.bonjourquebec.com/gay>. Focusing both on Montreal as one of the strongest "out" gay communities in North America, as well as the Quebec as a whole, this site allows gays & lesbians the opportunity to learn more about Quebec's gay culture and it's thriving gay scene in both Montreal and Quebec City.

...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](http://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](http://www.openstagehbg.com), or by calling (717) 232-6736.

...4th Annual WomenSpeak Festival, June 5 - 28th. Four of WomenSpeak's most popular guests return with all-new material...and the topic is sex. What happens when we discover it. How we get to know our sexual selves. How we make babies and raise teenagers. Plus, THE play about the font of all things sexual - from a woman's point of view. Single ticket prices are \$22. Series tickets are \$72. Early Bird Discount Series (order before May 9) tickets are \$56. Reserve your WomenSpeak tickets online at: [www.openstagehbg.com](http://www.openstagehbg.com), or by calling (717) 232-6736.

## Editor's Note....

...Reminder, 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.

...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](http://www.dogtoys.com) and [www.cattoys.com](http://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 categories for couch potatoes and cats who play at night. And for you dog owners, they carry Greenies!

When you buy from [dogtoys.com](http://dogtoys.com) and [cattoys.com](http://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!

## COMMITMENT CEREMONY AT PRIDEFEST 2003

**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](mailto: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....

### TROUBLE WITH ODORS?

If you have trouble with household odors from time to time, you want to use vanilla air fresheners, potpourri, or candles. Why vanilla? Vanilla absorbs odors. Other fragrances just mask odors, while vanilla eliminates them. It's good to use over the winter months, when your residence is all closed up, which traps odors.

If by chance you are allergic to vanilla, another good thing to do is once in a while just throw open those windows and let the fresh air in. Leave the windows open for an hour or so in the winter. I know, it might cause a slight rise in your heating bill, but the benefits are worth it. During the rest of the year, open those windows! Unless of course, you live in an odoriferous area!

## MONEYtalk....

### WHY SMART MONEY REMAINS FULLY INVESTED

(Provided by AIM Mutual Funds and Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC)

Some investors like to wait for just the right moment to get into the stock market...and for just the right time to pull their investment out. If that sounds like you, there's something you should know. While you're sitting on the sidelines, some of the market's best single-day performances could slip right past you. Are you so confident in your timing strategy that you're willing to forfeit those gains? Missing even a handful of them could cost you dearly.

If you had invested a hypothetical \$10,000 in the S & P Index on December 31, 1992, by December 31, 2002, your \$10,000 would have grown to \$24,425, an average total return of 9.34%. But suppose during that 10-year period there were times when you decided to get out of the market and, as a result, you missed the 10 best single-day performances. In that case, your 9.34% return would have fallen to 4.29%. If you had missed the market's 20 best days, that 9.34% return would have dropped to 0.47%.

**Smart investors don't play the timing game.**

The more you try to time the market, the greater your chances become of missing the market's biggest single-day gains. That's why smart investors don't play the timing game. They don't let the market's short-term movements sideline them or dictate their investment objectives. They're patient investors, focused on the long term and on their long-term goals. Take a disciplined approach to money management, focusing on long-term performance, not short-term ups and downs.



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## Health Spotlight....

### HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT HIPAA?

HIPAA is the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. If you have been to your doctor's office in the last couple of weeks, you were probably given a couple of papers to read and a form to sign saying you have received the explanation of HIPAA and you understand it. PLEASE READ IT! SAVE IT! IT'S IMPORTANT!

HIPAA is the first major federal rule to protect the privacy of medical information. Among other things, it gives you new power to obtain your medical records, BUT, it also allows companies to pay health plans to market drugs to you. Personally, that's the part I do not like. You can thank the drug lobbyists for that.

This "privacy notice" outlines how your personally identifiable health information is used and disclosed. It will also give you details about HOW a provider interprets HIPAA rules. Your health information may be used to treat you, to collect payment, and for hospital administration. Your information may be shared to conduct research and raise funds, and to comply with requests regarding organ donation, worker's compensation, public health, and national security. Other uses may give you grounds to file a complaint.

HIPAA also contains a section about your rights regarding medical information about you, and it also tells you how to file a complaint if you feel your privacy rights have been violated. You have the right to inspect and copy medical information that may be used to make decisions about your care. This usually includes medical and billing records, but only limited access to psychotherapy notes per Pennsylvania regulations.

You can get a copy of HIPAA at this website: [www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa), or wait until your next doctor visit.

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# Be A Friend of Pride!

## -Individual Sponsor Program

Many people believe that the money it takes to produce PrideFest comes from corporate sponsors. In actuality, our corporate sponsors cover only 30% of that cost. That leaves 70% of the expenses that must come from other sources.

As a Friend of Pride sponsor, you help ensure the continued growth and success of PrideFest. Our PrideFest continues to grow every year. But it can not happen without you.

Get the chance to show your support proudly! With a gift of \$25 or more, we will list you as a Friend of Pride in the PrideGuide, the official program guide of PrideFest.

All donations to PrideFest are fully tax-deductible, so please give generously. And please give what you can. Donations of ANY amount are truly appreciated. We're counting on you!

If you wish to make your donation of \$25 or more anonymously without the Friend of Pride listing in the PrideGuide please check the appropriate box on the form below.

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### Yes, I want to be a Friend of Pride!

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please make checks payable to "Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania" )

Choose one:

- Please list my name as a Friend of Pride in the PrideGuide  
(donation of \$25 or more)
- I prefer to remain anonymous, Please do NOT list my name  
in the PrideGuide.

Please mail this form along with your check or money order to:  
Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania  
1300A North Third St.  
Harrisburg, PA. 17102

### History of Pride

At a time not long ago, the social climate against sexual minorities made police raids very common for many of the places gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people gathered.

But on June 27, 1969, the patrons of a small New York City bar called The Stonewall Inn fought back in a three day resistance that spilled out on the streets of Greenwich Village marking the birth of the modern gay rights movement.

Today, millions of people each year gather to commemorate this historical turning point in hundreds of Pride marches and Pride festivals throughout the world.