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Volume 21 No. 7

A Calendar of Events for and by Womyn

July, 2003

Activities....

EVERY TUESDAY IN JULY

7 PM...Central Pennsylvania Pride Fest 2003 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.

FRIDAY, JULY 4

Celebrate our nation's 227th birthday! Have a happy and safe 4th!

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.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11

7 PM...Gays In Gettysburg (GIG) meets this evening. For directions, please call Florence at (717) 576-2724. GIG is a new organization in Gettysburg that welcomes everyone in the GLBT community. The purpose of the group will be to provide mutual support and to provide public service to the GLBT community in this area.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 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. Website: www.askglsh.org.

SATURDAY, JULY 19

6:30 PM...Lancaster Ladies Night Out meets for good food and fun. Singles and couples are welcome! Please call Nancy at (717) 665-4234.

SATURDAY, JULY 19

9 - 3 PM...The Green Room LGBT Party! It's at Susquehanna Fire Co. at 10th & Manor Sts. in Columbia, PA. Tickets are \$20 per person, and it's all you can eat and drink! Entertainment by Delta Jelly.

FRIDAY, JULY 25

7 PM...Harrisburg Ladies Night Out meets for a fun evening out at a local restaurant. Singles and couples are welcome! Please call Judy at (717) 232-8382, or e-mail: info@lavenderletter.com for reservations by Wednesday, July 23.

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.

SATURDAY, JULY 26

The Pink Lizard celebrates it's 4th birthday! Doors open at 5 PM. Come on out and party with Marcia and Sabrina!

JULY 30 & 31

8:30 PM...Melissa Ferrick alone in concert at the Tin Angel in Philly. Please check www.tinangel.com for more info and tickets.

Upcoming Events....

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

10 PM...Female dancers (strippers) appearing at the Pink Lizard. Don't miss these tit-alizing, ummm, I mean tantalizing dancers. Ohhh baby, a feast for the eyes! Woo hoo!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

8 PM..."United We Sing!" --a joint concert of the Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus, MCC Gospel Choir, and the newly formed Central Pennsylvania Men's Chorus at the MCC Church, 2973 Jefferson Street, Harrisburg. Tickets: \$10 donation at the door.

AUGUST 12 - 17

MICHIGAN WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

Make your plans soon if you are planning on going to the mother of all womyn's music festivals!! For more info and to see the great entertainment line-up go to www.michfest.com.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

7:30 PM...The Sunoco Performance Theater at the Whitaker Center in Harrisburg presents Suzanne Vega, featuring Patty Larkin in concert. Tickets are \$29.50 and are available by calling (717) 214-ARTS, or on-line at: www.whitakercenter.org.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

7:30 PM...The 6 - voice a capella women's vocal ensemble Marmalade will be performing in concert at the historic Union Church in Mechanicsburg, PA. The concert will include jazz, folk, sacred, pop, and women's music in a lovely, acoustic setting. For more information, please call (717) 691-2065, or e-mail: imamezzo@aol.com.

JULY at the Pink Lizard

COME CELEBRATE THE 4TH OF JULY

at the LIZARD...Frozen drink specials all weekend!

Fri-Jul 11 9PM Miss Central Gay Pride Pageant 2003

Come see who our new Miss Gay Pride is

Fri-Jul 18 9PM DAMON & DESIREE...Live Music

Fri-Jul 25 Kick off Pride Weekend at the LIZARD!

10PM INGENUE DRAG SHOW...Starring

SABRINA WHITE & your favorite lizard cast members:

Ingenue, Ito, Starr Powers, Poison, & Biscuit...

PINK LIZARD

4 Year Anniversary Party

SATURDAY, JULY 26

Doors open at 5PM

Lots & lots of giveaways

& drink specials

Marcia & Sabrina would like to thank everyone for making this a successful 4 years

We look forward to this coming year!

891 Eisenhower Blvd, Harrisburg, PA phone: 717-939-1123 pinklizard891@aol.com

Inspiring Quotes....

Behold the turtle. He only makes progress
when he sticks his neck out.

- James Bryant Conant (1893 - 1978)

Chemist, Harvard University President, Ambassador,
and atomic researcher.

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**.

...**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. Valerie Mapstone Ackerman. 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/uchuaa/>**.

...**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>**.

Church Survey...

A survey is being conducted to determine if GLBT persons in Lancaster County have an interest in a place to gather in addition to the bars and churches that are available to our community. Surveys can be picked up at various locations in Lancaster County (like Vision of Hope MCC, Borders and The Green Room). Or, you can access the survey on-line at: www.Visionofhopemcc.com. Tell all your friends about this survey as well! WE APPRECIATE YOUR WILLINGNESS TO FILL OUT THIS GLBT AND AL-LIES SURVEY!

This survey is being sponsored and conducted by Vision of Hope Metropolitan Community Church located in Mountville, which is a Christian church whose primary ministry is to the GLBT community. Yet, if such a place to gather were offered, it would be open for a variety of activities and events, most of which would be of a non-church nature.

If you are interested in more information about this survey or church services offered at Vision of Hope MCC, please contact Rev. Deb Coggin at (717) 285-9070, or via e-mail: visionofhopemcc@aol.com.

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LAVENDER LETTER

July, 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. 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 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, 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 commitment to building a powerful political movement. Please visit us at: 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, or e-mail: 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 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.

...**Women Golfers**, interested in meeting other lesbians for golf? Let's get together! Please contact Nancy at (717) 872-0148 or e-mail: nancy.smith@millersville.edu.

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...**Women golfers**, interested in meeting other lesbians for golf? Let's get together! Please contact Nancy at (717) 872-0148, or e-mail: nancy.smith@millersville.edu.

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

...**Interested in reading the recent Supreme Court ruling striking down sodomy laws?** Go to <http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/cgi-bin/getcase.pl?court=US&navby=case&vol=000&invol=02-102>. Whew! That's a long one! It is very interesting reading.

Classified...

HOUSE FOR RENT OR SALE

Looking for a place to rent that accepts pets? Or are you looking to buy a house in Harrisburg? It's a 3/4 bedroom, 1400 sq. ft., 2 - 1/2 story semi-detached house with a washer/dryer, a fenced-in yard, and a private 2 car parking area in rear. To rent: \$600 month plus utilities. To buy: \$44,000 with 3 % seller help towards closing costs. Both amounts are firm. If you are interested please call Laura at (717) 783-7007 daytime, or (717) 564-6996 evenings.

Issues...

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN LGBT RELATIONSHIPS

Domestic violence in the LGBT community is a serious issue. The domestic violence rate in same-sex relationships is about the same as domestic violence against heterosexual women (25%). The percentage is probably more because a lot of this abuse goes unreported.

No one deserves to be abused. Abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and involve verbal behavior to threaten, coerce, or humiliate. Such abuse often occurs in a cyclical fashion. The purpose of this abuse is to maintain control and power over one's partner. The abused partner feels all alone, isolated and afraid, and is usually convinced that the abuse is somehow his or her fault, or could have been avoided if he/she knew what to do.

In same-sex abuse, a pattern of violence or behaviors exists where one seeks to control the thoughts, beliefs, or conduct of their intimate partner, or to punish their partner for resisting their control. This may be seen as physical or sexual violence, or emotional and verbal abuse. An additional form of abuse for someone who is LGBT may be to "out" them at work or to family and friends.

Local resources for domestic violence in the LGBT community are often scarce and many traditional domestic violence services lack the training, sensitivity, and expertise to adequately recognize and address abusive LGBT relationships. However, in Central PA that is changing, albeit slowly, but it is changing none the less. The different agencies are receiving training in this area, and it also might help if more LGBT people would help volunteer in some capacity in these agencies. Some day I would like to see "safe houses" for LGBT victims of abuse.

Are you concerned about your relationship? Please read the following questions: Are you afraid of your partner? Does your partner try to control what you do and who you see? Has your partner ever threatened to harm you or your family? Has your partner ever hit you or thrown things at you? Have you ever been forced to have sex, or unprotected sex? Does your partner threaten to "out" you or have you deported if you are a foreigner? If you have answered yes to even one of these questions, your partner may be abusive.

What do I do? Talk with somebody you trust, a friend, relative, co-worker, your minister or your doctor. There are agencies that you can call also for help.

Dauphin County - YWCA Domestic Violence Services 1-800-654-1211

York - ACCESS...York Inc. 1-800-262-8444

Cumberland and Perry Counties Domestic Violence Services

1-800-852-2102

(con'td next column)

Lebanon - Domestic Violence Intervention of Lebanon County Inc.

(717) 273-7190

Adams County - Survivors Inc. 1-800-787-8106

Lancaster County - Lancaster Shelter for Abused Women

(717) 299-1249

At some time you may find yourself in trouble, so be prepared and put together an "emergency kit" of things you would really need if you had to leave suddenly.

For example: store some cash in a secret place where you can easily get to it. Be sure to include some coins for phone calls. Keep an extra set of keys in a safe place (at a friend's or neighbor's) in case you need to leave quickly. Important papers for you and your children like birth certificates, passports, health insurance documents, photo ID/driver's license, immunization records, checkbook, meds, social security cards, etc. (or copies of them) and keep them in a safe place. Keep a small bag with your meds, copies of legal papers, clothes, etc.

If you find yourself in an emergency situation, call 911 for assistance.

Remember, everyone deserves to be treated with respect. Don't let your partner mistreat you. Help is available.

Ms. Kleen sez....

DIFFERENT USES FOR BAKING SODA

Car Cleanup...Remove bugs and tar from cars without damaging the paint by applying a light baking soda paste on a damp cloth. Let it set for 5 minutes, and then simply wipe off the dead bugs and then rinse it clean. You can also use it to clean chrome trim, bumpers and hubcaps.

Outdoors...Prevent grass and weeds from growing in sidewalk cracks by sprinkling baking soda on the cement and sweeping it into the cracks. The excess sodium that is in baking soda is what kills them. You can also sprinkle baking soda on any other unwanted grass or weeds, such as moss growing on patio bricks.

Puppy Puddles...When housebreaking puppies, use baking soda on the urine spots to make sure the odor is gone or they'll want to use the same spot again.

Combs and Brushes...Put combs and brushes in the sink to soak in a solution of hot water and 1/4 cup baking soda. The dirt will fizz away!

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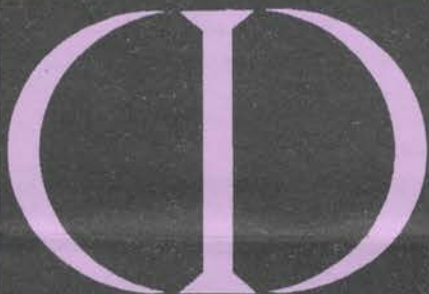
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Health Spotlight....

NEW FIRST AID KIT FOR TODAY'S WORLD

It's time to upgrade your family's first aid kit. In light of what is happening in today's world it's time to include some items to make it part disaster kit as well. The American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends that every household assemble a two-part family disaster supplies kit.

The first part consists of a home first-aid kit with standard supplies like bandages, antiseptic ointments, and non-prescription drugs, to deal with minor medical emergencies. If you are not sure what all goes into a basic first aid kit, please call your local Red Cross chapter or visit their website: www.redcross.org.

The second part consists of tools and emergency supplies that you might need in case you have to evacuate your home quickly, or are confined to your home for a few days due to a natural, biological, chemical, or nuclear disaster. These include: a battery-powered radio to listen to emergency announcements in case of power failure; flashlights with extra batteries; enough non-perishable food and water for each member of the household for about 3 days; one change of clothing and footwear for each household member; blankets or sleeping bags; sanitary supplies like toilet paper, soap, disinfectant, chlorine bleach, personal hygiene items, and plastic garbage bags; plastic sheeting and tape; personal identification, cash, traveler's checks, or a credit card; and emergency contact information and family documents stored in a waterproof container. Candles are no longer recommended due to the risk of fire.

You should also personalize your kit to include some recreational items that are easy enough to carry with you, like playing cards, games for the kids, etc. After you assemble your kit, it is recommended that you rotate food and water supplies every six months to keep them fresh; replace batteries at least once a year; check through your kit once a year to keep it up to date; and store those items that you are most likely to need during an evacuation in an easy-to-carry container, like a backpack or duffel bag.

Let's hope and pray that we never have to use our disaster kits.



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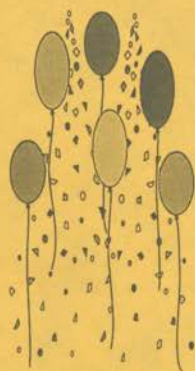
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Where: Susquehanna Fire Co
10th & Manor Sts.
Columbia, PA.

Time: 9 - 3 PM

Price: \$20 per person

All you can eat and drink!



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Prize: Dinner for 2 @ Garfield's
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Entertainment by Delta Jelly

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