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# LAVENDER LETTER

PHONE:  
(717) 232-8382  
E-MAIL  
INFO@LAVENDERLETTER.COM

Volume 22 No. 3

A Calendar of Events for and by Womyn

March, 2004

## Activities....

### SATURDAY, MARCH 6

**7:30 PM...**Join the Central PA Womyn's Chorus as they present their concert, *With Love From Us to You*, as guests of the York Unitarian Church's Beechtree Concert Series. We'll touch your heart, lift your spirit, and tickle your funny bony with a wide variety of tunes that celebrate love's many mysterious and magical manifestations. Tickets are available at the door, and are \$7 for adults, and \$5 for teens and younger. Check out [www.cpwchorus.org](http://www.cpwchorus.org) for directions.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 13

**7 PM...**The Women's Circle Presents: Full Circle - An Evening of Women Songwriters and Singers at the Harrisburg YMCA, Highmark Room, 1101 Market St., Hbg. Tickets: \$10. Proceeds from this concert will benefit the Women's Circle. Performers include: Bobbi Carmitchell, Janie Womack, Elisa Smith, Colette Eckert, Geisala Collins, Kay Turner, Amy Shestack, Renee Grove, and probably a couple more. For ticket info, please call (717) 872-4512 or [www.womenscircle.org](http://www.womenscircle.org).

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2004

#### JUDY COLLINS IN HARRISBURG

**7:30 PM...**This fantastic woman will be appearing at the Whitaker Center's Sunoco Performance Theatre in downtown Harrisburg. Tickets are \$46, and are available by calling (717) 214-ARTS, or online: [www.whitakercenter.org](http://www.whitakercenter.org).

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

#### HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

### SATURDAY, MARCH 20

**5:30 PM...**The Lesbian Alliance will substitute a "dine-out" instead of the standard potluck. We will meet at al Dente! near Exit 18 off I-83 in York. It is an Italian restaurant with medium-range prices and excellent food. Please call (717) 755-3643 by March 19 so we can make reservations.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 20

**6:30 PM...**Lancaster Ladies Night Out meets for good food and fun. Singles and couples are welcome! For reservations please call Nancy at (717) 665-4234 by Wednesday, March 17.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 21

**COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF LOVE, UNITY & GRACE  
MCC OF THE SPIRIT, HARRISBURG  
PLEASE SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS**

### TUESDAY, MARCH 23

#### MELISSA ETHERIDGE CONCERT IN PHILLY

**8 PM...**Melissa in concert at the Electric Factory in Philly! Tickets are \$76.75. Box office: (215) LOVE-222 or [www.electricfactory.com](http://www.electricfactory.com). You will find directions and parking info on the website.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 27

**6:30 PM...**Harrisburg Ladies Night Out meets for a fun evening out at a local restaurant. Singles and couples are welcome! For reservations please call Judy at (717) 232-8382, or e-mail: [info@lavenderletter.com](mailto:info@lavenderletter.com) by Wednesday, March 24.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 27

**8 PM...**Join the Central PA Womyn's Chorus as they present their concert, *With Love From Us to You*, at the Lancaster Theological Seminary. We are excited to present our first ever Lancaster Concert, and hope to introduce ourselves to many new audience members. Tickets are \$15 for adults, and \$5 for students, children, and seniors, and are available by calling (717) 939-9729, or e-mailing [info@cpwchorus.org](mailto:info@cpwchorus.org), or at the door. Check out [www.cpwchorus.org](http://www.cpwchorus.org) for directions.

## Upcoming Events....

### SATURDAY, APRIL 24

#### CAPITOL DINNER THEATER PRESENTS: GREATER TUNA

**6:30 PM...**Join us as we watch this hilarious comedy at the Capitol Dinner Theater at 1300 Wayne St. Hbg. Tickets are \$35 per person, and all proceeds will benefit Common Roads, the LGBT youth group in Hbg. There will be great food and it's BYOB. For ticket info please call Common Roads at (717) 920-9534.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

#### 1ST ANNUAL CLAWS & PAWS GOLF TOURNAMENT

This golf tourney will benefit the Humane Society of the Harrisburg Area. Mark your calendars! This tournament is to be played at Silver Spring Golf Club. For more info please contact Heather Kuzmich at (717) 766-0462, OR Donna Goss at [dlgoss@comcast.net](mailto:dlgoss@comcast.net).

891 EISENHOWER BLVD, HARRISBURG, PA 717-939-1123 [PINKLIZARD891@AOL.COM](mailto:PINKLIZARD891@AOL.COM)

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Friday-March 5

9PM-Midnight KARAOKE

Friday-March 12

10PM ILLUSION AT ITS BEST

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Wednesday-March 17

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

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Friday-March 19

9PM VOO DOO LOVE HOUNDS

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Friday-March 26

10PM GRANDMA'S MEMORIAL GARDEN

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## Inspiring Quotes....

In the midst of movement and chaos,  
keep stillness inside of you.

-Deepak Chopra  
Famous Author

## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.unitychurchharrisburg.com)**.

...**Vision Of Hope MCC**, 130 E. Main St. Mountville, PA. 17554. Services: Sundays at 8:30 am, 10:30 am & 6 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>**.

...**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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**SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2004**

**4:30 PM**

**MCC OF THE SPIRIT CHURCH**  
**2973 JEFFERSON ST. HARRISBURG, PA**

### COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF LOVE, UNITY & GRACE

As you may have heard, Rev. Fred Phelps and members of the Westboro Baptist Church (WBC), Topeka, Kansas, have targeted Central Pennsylvania once again. They will be picketing our church and five other congregations in our area. They have issued a press release saying they will picket our congregational facility at 6:30 PM, a time which coincides with our 7 PM worship service. Because of this, our usual 7PM service will not be held; instead we will host a community celebration of love, unity and grace, with the goal of outshining the hateful message of the picketers.

At 4:30 PM, prior to the community celebration, we will be presenting a screening of **Jim In Bold**, the film that was the target of WBC's last August visit; suggested donations of \$10 per person (\$5 for students) will benefit the Common Roads LGBT youth group.



# CENTER PIECE

## LAVENDER LETTER

March 2004

### Support Groups...

...**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@comcast.net.

...**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.

...**PFLAG YORK** meets at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York, 925 South George St. at 7 PM on the third Tuesday of the month. Call Don & Pat (717) 843-3793, or Charles & Judy at (717) 741-1796 for directions or to be placed on the mailing list.

...**PFLAG Warrington, PA.** meets on the third Thursday of every month at Buxmont U.U. Church in Warrington, PA. For more information about this group, please contact Corinne Thornton at (215) 545-4331, ext. 48.

### 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.

...**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 and 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 is: 503 General Sutter Ave., Lititz, PA. 17543, or visit us at: www.susq.org.

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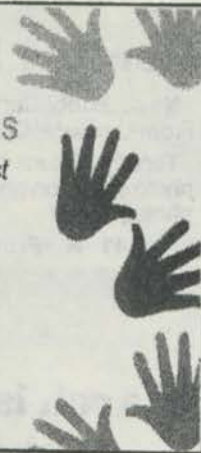
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## Call for Models....

Deb Swanger, a local lesbian photographer whose work is featured on [www.bridgesgallery.com](http://www.bridgesgallery.com), is searching for LGBT people to volunteer for upcoming images. Deb is looking for all shapes and sizes and ethnic groups. If you are interested in participating or finding out more information, please call Deb at (717) 653-6774, or e-mail her at: [debbieswanger@aol.com](mailto:debbieswanger@aol.com).

## 291 Exchange....

Offers artists an opportunity to participate in group discussions/critiques of your work. Artists of all mediums are welcome. 291 Exchange meets the second Friday of every month. For more information, contact Bridges Gallery at (717) 903-7933 or e-mail: [info@bridgesgallery.com](mailto:info@bridgesgallery.com), or Deb Swanger Photography at (717) 653-6774 or e-mail: [debbieswanger@aol.com](mailto:debbieswanger@aol.com).

## FYI....

...**Bobbi Carmitchell** announces the release of the long awaited CD "COUNTY WIDE - Song Stories From Lancaster County". Send for yours today! Locust Lane Music, PO Box 8301, Lancaster, PA 17604, or call Bobbi at (717) 872-4512, OR, try her new website: [www.BobbiCarmitchell.com](http://www.BobbiCarmitchell.com).

...**Susquehanna Club 2004 Banquet**, Saturday, March 6 at 6 PM at the Rockford Plantation in Lancaster, PA. Please bring a potluck dish. We pick out trips for the year at the banquet, and we have door prizes, and other fun activities. If you love camping, hiking, kayaking, and outdoor activities, please join us. For more info please contact Beth at [women@susq.org](mailto:women@susq.org).

## Classified Ad....

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## Moving?....

If you are moving please remember to notify the Lavender Letter, so you can continue to receive the Lavender Letter un-interrupted.

## Forever Books....

**New...**Bobbi Carmitchell's new CD "COUNTYWIDE - Song Stories From Lancaster County" is now available at the bookstore!

**Terrific...**Check out local lesbian photographer Deb Swanger's new photo exhibition going on now at the bookstore! These are really terrific photographs.

41 N. Front St. - Steelton - (717) 939-5507  
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## March is....

### NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

This year's theme is "Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility". The National Women's History Project honors 8 women this year for their contributions to society. To find out more about National Women's History Month, and brief biographies of this year's honorees, go to: [www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org).

## Theatre....

### FULTON THEATRE

#### HOT MIKADO

MARCH 11 - 28, 2004

Book and lyrics adapted by David H. Bell. Music adapted and arranged by Rob Bowman. Based on The Mikado by Gilbert and Sullivan.

If you know The Mikado, it's fun. If you don't know The Mikado, it's even more fun. Start with the classic Gilbert and Sullivan operetta The Mikado. Throw in a stack of swing and blues records and watch the sparks fly. A smash hit at Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC and in London's West End, this zoot-suity dance musical is all flash, all fun. It's a raucous tale full of comic and musical mayhem. For those familiar with The Mikado, yes, Nanki-Poo, Pish-Tush, Yum-Yum and the whole gang are on tap for a night of tradition-twisting fun! Tickets are \$14 - \$45, and available by calling (717) 397-7425, or online at: [www.atthefulton.org](http://www.atthefulton.org). The Fulton is located at 12. N. Prince St. Lancaster.

### OPEN STAGE OF HARRISBURG

#### THE BELLE OF AMHERST

BY WILLIAM LUCE

MARCH 5 - 7, 11 - 14, 18 - 21

Spend an evening with the first lady of American letters, Emily Dickinson, a woman who never left her home, always wore white, and wrote some of the most sublime poetry in the English language. Single ticket prices are \$22. For ticket info please call (717) 214-ARTS, or visit their website: [www.openstagehb.com](http://www.openstagehb.com).

### STRAND CAPITOL

The Strand has lots to offer this month! Too much to list it all here! Check out their website: [www.strandcapitol.com](http://www.strandcapitol.com), or call (717) 846-1155. Also check out their Chefs Back Door 2004 Series. Mmm, mmm, good!

### THEATRE HARRISBURG

#### PIPPIN

FEBRUARY 21-22, 26-28, AND MARCH 4-7

Theatre Harrisburg is the Resident Theatre Company at the Whitaker Center in Harrisburg. They are presenting Pippin! A young man graduates from college and wonders how to find real meaning in his life. What's an heir to the 9th-century Holy Roman Empire to do? If you're Pippin, son of Charlemagne, you decide to dabble in war, sex and politics before finally finding love. Pippin unfolds as a burlesque filled with broad comedy, bawdy characters, and magical but dark situations. Ensemble energy combined with variuos pop-rock styles makes for a snappy, tuneful score, including the soul-driven opener "Magic to Do", the soaring "Corner of the Sky", and the lovely ballads "With You" and "Love Song".



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## Website of the Month:

WWW.CATHOLICLESBIANS.ORG

You don't have to be a Catholic to explore this website. I was curious so I decided to check it out. I was looking through the Archives to see what the articles deal with, and I discovered one that was quite interesting. After you click on Archives you'll see the subjects page. Click on Sexuality, and then click on "The Power of the Erotic". The writer discusses an essay by Audre Lorde and how it speaks to us as lesbians. I found it so interesting that I now want to read Audre Lorde's essay on Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power.

deborah swanger  
photography

debbieswanger@aol.com  
(717) 653-6774

## Health Spotlight....

### WOMEN: CHECK YOUR GENITALS MONTHLY

I'm not kidding on this. How does one check that area and what are we looking for? Well, you could use a hand mirror, or have your partner or girlfriend check for you. What you are looking for is new lumps or bumps or spots that look like freckles down there. If you have something there and it stays for longer than a month, or seems to be getting bigger, please consult with your gynecologist. This could indicate anything from a benign cyst to cancer.

Check to see if the skin of the vulva is becoming thinner and more wrinkled, which could be a sign of lichen sclerosus, a non-cancerous skin condition marked by itching. Not sure what exactly the vulva is? The vulva surrounds the outside opening of the vagina and clitoris. The vulvar skin is very sensitive, and reacts to a wide range of allergens that include colored or scented toilet paper, fabric softener sheets, soaps of any kind, and nylon underwear. Women can become allergic to products that they have used for many years. Creams are available to treat the itching, and then of course you must avoid the allergen that triggered the allergic response.

Do you have a painful clitoris? It could be a sign that past or current sexual practices are irritating the clitoris. Or it could be vulvodynia, a condition in which symptoms occur without visible surface changes. There are numerous treatments available for this condition.

The clitoris can grow due to hormonal changes. This is caused by the adrenal glands overproducing male hormones, which can cause the clitoris to grow and become uncomfortable.

If you see or feel any changes down there, please make an appointment with your doctor and get it checked out.

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*The Central Pennsylvania  
Womyn's Chorus  
Presents*

**With Love from Us to You**

*A Musical Valentine*



*Our Unique Valentine's Celebration!*

**Saturday, March 6, 2004 at 7:30 pm**  
As guests of the York Unitarian Church's  
Beech Tree Concert Series  
925 South George Street  
York, PA

**And don't miss our first-ever Lancaster  
performance!**

**Saturday, March 27, 2004 at 8:00 pm**  
Lancaster Theological Seminary  
Across from Franklin and Marshall College

Tickets: Adults \$15  
Children, Students, and Seniors \$5

**For more information:**

**Call 717-234-4825**

**Or visit our web site at [www.cpwchorus.org](http://www.cpwchorus.org)  
or email [info@cpwchorus.org](mailto:info@cpwchorus.org)**