

WOMEN'S CENTRAL NEWS

Arizona's Lesbian Newspaper published since 1974

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State Bar of Arizona defunds the Gay and Lesbian Task Force

By Dianne Post, Community submission

The State Bar of Arizona recently defunded the Gay and Lesbian Task Force ... and no other group. We are livid. And we are fighting back.

They are very concerned about public image and it would be very helpful if non-lawyers would write and call about this. Lawyers are certainly needed to write too! On your letterhead please!

Please write to:

Board of Governors
State Bar of Arizona
111 W Monroe - Suite 1800
Phoenix, AZ 85003-1742
or fax to 271-4930.

Please send me a copy at 1826 E Willetta, 85006 or fax to 258-7985. If you call them, the number is 252-4804. Let me know you called.

Women sought for Tennis Team

An all lesbian/gay tennis team is forming for an existing World Team Tennis league. World Team Tennis contains teams of both men and women. This format stresses equality between the sexes. The six set matches are made up of a set each of women's doubles and singles and men's doubles and singles and two sets of mixed doubles. The total number of games won determines the winner. The all lesbian/gay team will be part of an on-going World Team Tennis league that plays in North Central Phoenix on Monday nights. "The format is both fun and competitive" team captain Doug McNeil said, "You get a feeling of camaraderie."

Team members should be a "B" or "A" recreational player or have a National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) rating of 3.0 to 4.0. The next season will start the end of February. If you are interested in participating please call Doug at 971-4387.

TLC Chorale accepting new members

A musical program of the Lesbian Resource Project, TLC Chorale offers a rewarding opportunity for Valley women to join together in song. The Chorale enjoys the benefits of professionally trained conductor Kim McCreary and pianist Angela French, who holds a degree in piano performance.

The members of the Chorale enjoy lasting friendships and the joy of building harmony in the lesbian community. Soprano Dawn Bates remarked about the range of lesbian experience in the group. "We've had life-long lesbians join us, as well as women who were just coming out. We've even had a straight woman or two sing with us." Bates added, "Instead of looking AT each other, examining our differences--as so many lesbian activities seem to lead

to--we all face the same direction, we all sing toward the same goal. We get to create something together, something new and beautiful every week. And that focus allows friendships to grow, bridging differences and supporting growth and change."

Operations manager Lee Kovacsevics is equally enthusiastic, saying "I consider it an honor to be able to sing with the women of TLC. It has given me great joy to see the positive impact our music has had within our communities."

TLC Chorale is celebrating its fifth year and recently offered its second full-length concert to a full house. A concert is planned for late spring, and the Chorale has several smaller engagements in the interim. TLC Chorale is a member of GALA,

an international federation of gay and lesbian choruses.

The Chorale currently has twenty active members and is recruiting new members. No formal audition or extensive previous musical experience is required, although the director consults with each prospective member and assigns her to a vocal section.

Interested women should call Kim McCreary (246-2545) or Lee Kovacsevics (254-0189) and plan to attend a TLC practice in the near future. The Chorale currently practices every Thursday night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Augustana Lutheran Church, 2604 N. 14th Street in Phoenix (14th and Virginia). Once the Lesbian Resource Project obtains meeting space again, the Chorale will resume practicing at the LRP.

Center Has Moved - Open House Planned

By Margot Marie Bronski, WCN staff

The Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community has found a new location - finally.

Things looked very bleak for The Center in December. The unexpected sale of the old location forced The Center to pack up and get out in less than a month. Center staff, board members and volunteers had to hustle to get it all done. At the same time they had to keep core services operating, and look for a new home.

Luckily, a new home was found in fairly short order. The Center is now located at 24 West Camelback; right next to the popular Obelisk Bookstore.

"It's a great location", executive director, Lyle Miller told WCN. "Walk in traffic has already increased", he added.

The new site is actually a combination of two office suites, which will provide a total space of some 2,700 square feet. In addition to executive offices, the library and the switchboard, The Center will house offices for both Arizona Human Rights Fund and Arizona BiNet USA,

as well as three meeting rooms for community use. After extensive remodeling efforts, the new place will be ADA compliant.

There's some financial good news too. The new site will cut The Center's overhead by some \$2,000 per month. However will also be looking at less income from rent; not all the previous tenants have decided to move into the new location. Most notably, the Lesbian Resource Project has decided to seek their own location. Unconfirmed reports are that the LRP is also going through a reorganization effort. The cash strapped Pride Committee has not moved into the new site either.

Current plans are for a Grand Opening Celebration to be held on Sunday, March 8. Check next month's WCN for complete details.

Contact info

The phone number for the center is 602-265-7283. The mailing address is P.O. Box 33367, Phoenix, AZ 85067-3367. The Center's web page is updated regularly, and can be found at www.swlink.net/~vsglcc. Their e-mail address is vsglcc@swlink.net. Their fax number is 602-234-0873.

WOMEN WHO DARED - Geraldine Ferraro

Geraldine Ferraro, in 1984 she was the first woman on a major party's presidential ticket. In 1992 she finished second in a tight four-way race to challenge Senator Alfonse D'Amato who consequently won his third term in office.

Happy Valentines Day



British Embassy pledges that Cayman Islands will review cruise ship policy after turning away gay tourists

WASHINGTON -- The government of the Cayman Islands will review its policies regarding the berthing of cruise ships after the Human Rights Campaign and members of Congress filed complaints with the British Embassy over the Caymans' denial of docking space to a cruise ship because it would be carrying gay tourists.

"We are encouraged by the statement we have received from the British Embassy and hope that the government of the Cayman Islands will immediately discard its anti-gay tourism policy," said Elizabeth Birch, HRC's executive director. "Clearly, the British government recognizes that the actions of the Caymans and the tone of their original refusal were offensive to lesbian and gay people everywhere. As we have said repeatedly, denying berthing rights to a ship because it is carrying gay passengers is morally wrong, as well as economically foolish."

In a letter to the Human Rights Campaign released today, the chancery of the British Embassy stated: "[T]he British Government is surprised that a Minister of the Cayman Government should have responded to the cruise operator in the terms to which you refer. The British Government's concerns about this decision were expressed by the Governor to the Caymans Executive Council on 7 January." The letter went on to say that the Cayman Islands government has agreed "to review its policy on cruise ship berthing facilities."

The Human Rights Campaign learned last week that the Cayman Islands had sent a letter to Norwegian Cruise Line Inc. denying a berth to a ship chartered by Atlantis Events Inc., a gay tour operator based in West Hollywood, Calif. In the letter, Thomas C. Jefferson, the Cayman Islands' minister of tourism, commerce and transport, said: "Careful research and prior experience has led us to conclude that we cannot count on this group to uphold the standards of appropriate behavior expected of visitors to the Cayman Islands, so we regrettably cannot offer our hospitality."

The M/S Leeward, operated by Norwegian Cruise Line, was slated to arrive in Grand Cayman on Sunday, Feb. 1. The letter was sent to the port captain for Norwegian in Miami.

HRC decried the action as discriminatory, and immediately registered a complaint with the government of the Caymans, which is a British territory, and with the British Embassy. HRC also asked the public to voice complaints to the Cayman Islands.

Members of Congress, including Rep. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., and Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., also complained to the British Embassy and the State Department.

"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."
- Will Rogers

Rainbow's Edge

By Mary, WCN Staff

There is a new web site out there for us called Over The Rainbow, it is a travel agency for gays and lesbians. Containing travel news, bits and bites of travel trivia, and lots of good information, this site is fun to browse. There is comprehensive information on the agency itself, which is aimed at both vacation and business travel.

A creation of Reamy Publishing Company, they offer information about gay and gay-friendly accommodations, nightlife, restaurants, shopping, sightseeing, and cultural events in the city of your choosing. There is a message board, which was scanty when I visited (but they are new). And - Phoenix was listed!!! So, if you are planning a trip, or just California dreamin', visit Over the Rainbow at www.overtherainbow.com.



President's Message

Dear Friends:

At the March general meeting the Women's Central News will be holding elections for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer as well as for board positions. If you have wanted to become involved in how the newspaper is run please come to the general meeting, held at Insights, 333 E. Virginia, suite 106, at 7 PM on March 11th and cast your vote.

I encourage lesbians across the Valley to take part in making changes in our community by becoming involved in community organizations. If you think the paper could be better or if you have ideas upon which we could build come to the meeting and contribute them. If you like the paper in it's present form then come down and give us your support.

It is amazing that a city the size of metropolitan Phoenix, a city of over 2 million people - using the 1-in-10 rule that means there are 200,000 gays, or 100,000 lesbians - has difficulty finding committed women for our organizations. The Women's Central News is YOUR paper; work on it and support it any way you can. Most tasks that need doing require just one night a month of your time.

Most of the current staff have been holding the reigns for several years. Come join us; bring us your fresh ideas.

ROBIN

Will ABC keep Ellen?

LOS ANGELES TIMES January 16, 1998
By B. LOWRY, Times Staff Writer

Although the network "couldn't be more thrilled" with the program creatively, ABC has yet to decide whether to renew the controversial sitcom "Ellen" for next season, officials told a gathering of reporters in Pasadena Thursday. The network--buffeted by criticism on a variety of fronts in recent months--also fielded questions about a dearth of minority characters in its prime-time lineup, its widely discussed "TV is Good" ad campaign, the controversial drama "Nothing Sacred" and what ripple effect, if any, NBC's blockbuster renewal of "ER" will have on television. Sources say "Ellen's" namesake, Ellen DeGeneres, has pressed the network for early notification so she can make plans regarding either ending the series or charting its course through another season. But ABC Entertainment President Jamie Tarses said the network will wait and monitor the program's ratings performance before making a decision. The networks announce their schedules for next fall in May.

"Ellen" has won critical praise since its star came out as a lesbian both on the show and in real life, but the ratings remain marginal, losing more than 20% of the audience that views the lead-in "The Drew Carey Show" during an average week. Because third-place ABC has few desirable time periods in which to introduce new series, the network hasn't ruled out temporarily resting "Ellen" in March, when ABC will try out a number of mid-season programs.

ABC has yet to air a "Nothing Sacred" episode featuring a gay priest dying of AIDS, with Tarses saying that particular show "hit some real hot buttons" but that it's "likely it will turn up at some point." Some Catholic groups have already objected to the series about a faith-questioning priest, though the show has won support in other corners. The network also said it is actively developing programs featuring minority characters and is "profoundly aware" of a shortage in its current lineup, which ABC Entertainment Chairman Stu Bloomberg called an unintended function of the development process.

"You don't set out and say, 'I want an all-white schedule,'" he said. According to Tarses, it's premature to gauge ramifications of the "ER" deal, for which NBC agreed to pay an unprecedented \$13 million per episode. She also said that ABC will continue its much-lampooned advertising campaign--featuring pithy slogans against a bright yellow backdrop--but that the format will continue to evolve.

"Anything that has generated the kind of attention and controversy this campaign has [must] be a good thing," she said.

ABC has several specials planned for February to counter the Winter Olympics on CBS, including a two-hour tribute to actor Christopher Reeve, a four-hour history of Motown Records and "The Wedding," a miniseries starring Halle Berry produced under the "Oprah Winfrey Presents" banner. Bloomberg also said ABC will air more original programs this summer--a period when network ratings have swooned playing reruns against original cable programming. ABC will offer a one-hour series hosted by model Cindy Crawford, a game show and "Maximum Bob," a quirky drama starring Beau Bridges produced by Barry Sonnenfeld, the director of "Men in Black." The network follows Fox, which ran several new shows (without much success) last summer.

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Deadline is the 15th of the month. Display copy and/or artwork must be camera ready or laser printed on white paper and cannot be returned. Photographs must be grayscale.

SUBMISSIONS

You are encouraged to send in your event announcements, book reviews, dining experiences, news analysis, commentaries, poetry, coming out stories or anything of interest to the lesbian community. **WORD LIMIT:** Letters to the Editor: 200 words; Articles: 350 words.

Submissions must include name and address. You may request that your name be withheld. Submissions cannot be returned. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, brevity and spelling. Copyright remains with each contributor. Deadline is the 15th of the month.

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"Often you must turn your stylus to erase, if you hope to write anything worth a second reading."
 - Horace

NGLTF says High Court decision in Shahar case highlights need for increased legislative action

WASHINGTON, DC—January 12, 1998—
 The Supreme Court today declined to hear the case of a woman who had a job offer rescinded because she is a lesbian. An appellate court had previously ruled that the woman's civil rights were not violated by the employment discrimination.

Attorney Robin Shahar was offered a position in the Georgia Attorney General's office in 1991. After she accepted, then-Attorney General Michael Bowers rescinded the offer after discovering she was planning a commitment ceremony with her partner. Bowers claimed her lesbian relationship violated the Georgia sodomy law, which he himself defended in the precedent-setting Supreme Court decision *Bowers v. Hardwick*.

"The Supreme Court's action highlights the need for legislation at the state, local, and national level to promote equality and social justice for all people," said Kerry Lobel, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director. "Nearly one in four Americans live where discrimination based on sexual orientation is outlawed. Unfortunately Robin Shahar is not one of them. This case also serves as yet another reminder of how sodomy laws are used against us in many facets of our lives."

The state of Georgia does not have a history of supporting equal rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. There are no state laws banning discrimination or hate crimes based on sexual orientation. The state does ban same gender marriage and criminalizes sodomy.

"We must be vigilant not only in the passage of civil rights laws, but also in the repeal of sodomy laws," continued Lobel. Even though they are rarely enforced, they are frequently used as the basis for other forms of discrimination. Another well-documented case includes Sharon Bottoms, who lost custody of her son because of Virginia's law.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has worked to eliminate prejudice, violence and injustice against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people at the local, state and national level since its inception in 1973. As part of a broader social justice movement for freedom, justice and equality, NGLTF is creating a world that respects and celebrates the diversity of human expression and identity where all people may fully participate in society.

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Wedding, Ellen vie for GLAAD awards

Variety, January 23, 1998 B. Carver

HOLLYWOOD (Variety) - "As Good As It Gets," featuring Jack Nicholson's portrayal of a homophobic writer, and "My Best Friend's Wedding," starring Rupert Everett as a gay editor, found favor in this year's nominations for the ninth Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) Media Awards.

Other nominees for outstanding wide-release film were the Kevin Kline star "In & Out" and the Clint Eastwood-directed "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil."

The GLAAD Media Awards were created in 1989 to honor balanced and accurate representations in the media and entertainment industries of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and the issues that affect their lives.

The limited-release film category boasted "All Over Me," "Bent," "Different for Girls," "Lilies" and "Ma Vie en Rose."

In television, Ellen DeGeneres' ABC sitcom "Ellen," not surprisingly, topped the list of comedy series nods, followed by ABC's "Spin City" and NBC's "Mad About You" and "Suddenly Susan." Nominated for outstanding TV drama series were NBC's "ER," Fox's "413 Hope Street" and ABC's "NYPD Blue."

The awards will be celebrated on three occasions: in New York on March 30, in Washington, D.C., on April 4 and Los Angeles on April 19.

My best (pet) friend is a ?

By Robin Dee, staff writer

Parade Magazine has listed the most popular American pet as, guess what? The cat. We own 59 million cats. And I personally know the two lesbian's in Phoenix that own half of those.

And where does your dog fit into the pet picture? Second place one would think. Buzzzzz! Wrong! Americans now own more fish, 55.6 million of them, than dogs, 52.9 million, give or take the million or so pet goldfish that die from one day to the next.

Birds come in as the fourth most popular pet with 12.6 million of them squawking in the spare 'bird' room. Rabbits and ferrets account for 5.7 million of our pets with rodents (Uck!) at 4.8 million, horses at 4 million and reptiles at 3.5 million.

Now, do you want to take your meower or barker on vacation with you? Then check out this website at www.petswelcome.com where thousands of pet-friendly hotel's and B&B's are listed.



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What about race?

By Dianne Post, Community submission

This country will make no progress on race until we whites admit the wrong of our actions, ask forgiveness, and are held accountable. We are a nation built on enslaved labor. Those seeking reparations have made estimates of the millions of dollars owed to African-Americans. The government, through its laws (e.g. Fugitive Slave Laws), its courts (e.g. *Dred Scott*), and its police forces (e.g. Bull Connor) are responsible for their complicity. Yet President Clinton, representing this same government, refuses to apologize for slavery. Why? What more wrong thing could there be than enslaving another person - taking their body, mind, work, children, lives, dignity, and humanity? Why is there such resistance to an apology? Because an apology means accountability and neither the government nor we as individuals want to be held accountable.

For the government to be held accountable might mean it has to pay. The government has agreed that we should pay reparations to the Japanese whose homes and businesses were taken during World War II; we have agreed that we should pay Hawaiians whose islands we stole; we have agreed that we should pay Native Americans whose land and culture we destroyed. Why shouldn't we pay African-Americans whose very bodies, and their labor, and the produce from those bodies, their children, we took and then worked to death making profit, building a nation. Why shouldn't we pay them?

For we as individuals to be held accountable, we would have to admit the existence of white privilege and that whites continue to benefit from the sins of our fathers. The old excuse, "I didn't do anything", meaning I wasn't even alive at the time, is disingenuous since whites continue to benefit from a system of oppression while Blacks are still facing detriment from that same system. The conservative prattle in the affirmative action debate that they dislike preferences is a colossal lie. Business and government has had preferences in this country for over 200 years. That preference is white, male, able-bodied, non-Jew. That preference still exists. And understandably white males don't want to give it up.

In order to expiate our own sin, not that of our fathers, but our own sin of receiving privilege based on white skin and not on merit or the "content of our character", we have to admit that affirmative action is a small price to pay to level the playing field, to rid us of the existing "white male preferences". Society needs affirmative action just to have equal opportunity. Without it, we

have a contest with some starting far in the lead and others shackled and hobbled.

Perhaps we are hoping that the victims, here African-Americans, will forget. Well, they won't. The Jews today, more than fifty years after the Holocaust, are seeking the property, monies, and insurance proceeds that were stolen from their families. Whites forget. We go on about our daily lives as if nothing has happened because we don't see our white skin privilege. But African-Americans cannot forget so long as we continue treating them less than fully equal; so long as we continue the existing white male preference.

In a recent working trip to South Africa. I asked a man I met if it (meaning the Blacks and whites working and living happily together) would ever happen there. He responded, "It doesn't work in the U.S. and you've had over a hundred years." Two women told me that they could forgive whites and it could be a society of harmony between the two if 1) whites would admit they had done wrong; 2) they would apologize; and 3) they would start immediately treating Blacks with dignity and respect. None of that is happening in South Africa. Neither has it happened here.

When you are injured, unjustly, illegally, horribly, by someone, can you just forget it and go on? If you must now spend the rest of your life in a wheel chair or blind or without an arm, can you forgive and forget? In most cases, the answer is, no. You want recompense. You want revenge. You want to sue. You want to make whoever did they pay. You want to make a statement, prove a principle. So do the victims of slavery.

They want to establish a principle, receive some justice, feel vindicated. Africans were kidnapped, brutalized, and tortured in violation of every principle we claim to hold dear. Whites enslaved Africans. (Yes, some tribal members participated but that is not my focus nor do two wrongs make a right.) "Enslave" is a verb - whites did the acting; Africans were acted upon. "Slave" is both a noun, "a person held in servitude as the chattel of another" and a verb, "to work like a slave". It's archaic meaning is "enslave" also a verb.

In fact, Africans were enslaved and did work like slaves as defined by the verb. And, during the years when slavery was legal in the U.S., they were persons held in servitude. Note they were persons held in servitude; not slaves held in servitude. Slaving is what they did; it is not who they were. White Americans today have conflagrated the meaning of "slave" to mean the

person, not what the person did. Whites have then assigned certain characteristics to "slaves", and then, because African slaves are the major slaves we know about, have assigned those characteristics to all Africans.

In fact, whites have been enslaved along with Asians and Hispanics. Today there is a huge slave trade in women and children of all races. But because of the history of institutionalized slavery in the U.S. "black" and "slave" have been collapsed into one category which has become a noun, defining a person, rather than a verb, defining an act. In truth, Africans were never anything other than fully human beings with the rights and dignity belonging to every human being.

Once whites are forced to admit that, are forced to see African-Americans as who they are rather than what slavers once made them, we can begin to heal this racial wound. Every major religion, every moral code, has


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a principle of absolution, of forgiveness as a main precept. But each one also has a principle of honesty, cleansing or confession before such forgiveness can be given. We white Americans have to come clean. If society is going to create a moral and ethical dialogue on the race issue, whites have to have forgiveness. To get forgiveness, we white Americans have to admit our wrongdoing, and ask for that forgiveness with honesty in our hearts.

We need a cleansing. We have an infection that is deep and deadly. We cannot solve this "racial issue" until we hold ourselves accountable. Until we apologize and until we pay.

Guest Editorial Dianne Post is the chair of the Maricopa County NAACP Legal Redress Committee and attorney for the State NAACP. She will be appearing at the Presidents Forum on Race.


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Antigone Books - Tucson

Friday, February 6 at 7 pm. Please join us for a reading by Janice Eidus, two time winner of the prestigious O. Henry Award as well as a 1998 Pushcart Prize. She will be reading from her most recent book, *The Celibacy Club* (City Lights, \$9.95), a collection of 19 short stories ranging from "spiritual parable to intellectual parody as she recruits a madcap cast of Barbie, Elvis, Jimmy Dean, teen TV stars and other fading icons of pop culture." (*The Women's Review of Books*) Eidus is also the author of two highly acclaimed novels, *Faithful Rebecca* and *Urban Bliss*, as well as a collection of short stories, *Vito Loves Geraldine*.

Friday, February 13 at 7 pm. Join us for a reading by Laurie King from her new mystery, *The Moor: A Novel of Suspense Featuring Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes* (St. Martins, \$23.95). This is the newest in her wonderful series which began with *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*. In this case, Russell and Holmes untangle a mystery in Devonshire, England, the scene of Conan Doyle's "The Hound of the Baskervilles."

Friday, February 20 at 7 pm. The "migratory prowess" of monarch butterflies so impressed Alison Deming that it prompted her to write her latest collection of poems, *The Monarchs: A Poem Sequence* (Louisiana State University, \$12.95). Join us for a reading from this wonderful new book. This collection "is like one of those memorable conversations that occur in places we least expect, that somehow manage to transcend their subject and touch the heart of things." (A Stonecrop Review) Deming has received numerous fellowships and awards, including two NEA fellowships, a Pushcart Prize and the Walt Whitman Award. She is currently the Director of the University of Arizona's Poetry Center.

Friday, February 27 at 7 pm. Barbara Atwood, Professor at the University of Arizona College of Law, will read from her new book, *A Courtroom of her Own: The Life and Work of Mary Anne Richey* (Carolina Academic Press, \$40.00). This book tells the story of Richey, a remarkable twentieth century woman who defied gender stereotypes throughout her personal and professional life. Atwood not only provides a vivid portrait of Richey from her tomboy girlhood in Indiana to her career as a federal judge, she also examines and challenges the assumptions of cultural feminists that women judges will bring predictably "feminine" perspectives to the law.

To Your Health

By Bonnie J. Brooks, M.D.

Heart disease is prevalent in womyn. It often presents as a heart attack (myocardial infarct) in post-menopausal womyn. Other heart-related problems are hypertension and chronic lung disease, which stress the heart and cause it to compensate, developing structural and functional abnormalities. These changes in the heart predispose it to possible future injury. Our goal is prevention!

Healthy habits - Healthy living - Clear mind!

Let's talk "heart healthy"! What does your heart, that big muscle pumping blood in your chest, need to function well, with vim and vigor?

Luckily, most of us are blessed with normal hearts - structurally sound with 4 chambers to squeeze blood and 4 valves to control blood entering and leaving the heart. Common minor variances/abnormalities in structure, i.e., mitral valve prolapse, are usually well tolerated.

First, we need to eat a well balanced diet - moderate protein and carbohydrates, low in fat, low in cholesterol. Vitamins and minerals (yup - the "one-a-days") are necessary for normal heart muscle function. Your gastrointestinal tract loves the fruit/vegetables/roughage but your heart is less interested in these.

Then, exercise becomes an issue. Consider any physical activity which raises your heart rate and makes you breath hard as good. We're bombarded with exact numbers on how high your heart rate should be and how long to maintain it-immobilizing data. Look - just get moving! And try doing it everyday - and be nice to yourself when you miss a day now and then. If you have fun, then you will continue the activity. Consider walking - we do it daily, it's cheap, and available everywhere. In Phoenix swimming pools propagate like rabbits - jump in one and thrash around - you're swimming!

Now for the No-No's...No street drugs, low to no alcohol, no tobacco (chew or smoke). They are toxic to your heart muscle (and lungs which intimately affect your heart.) Consider any substance that is taken for a "quick-fix" - is it necessary? Is this going to harm me in the long run? Why do I "need" this?

A great book just out! *The Lesbian Health Book: Caring For Ourselves*, edited by White and Martiness. Check it out!

Bonnie J. Brooks, MD is an allopathic-trained physician living in Phoenix with her sweetheart. If you have questions or interesting topics e-mail bonniejb@msn.com or write to Bonnie c/o WCN, PO 26031, Tempe, AZ 85285

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The Devine Miss M

Bette was born on 1, December 1945, in Honolulu, Hawaii. Her parents, Fred and Ruth Midler, named her after actress Bette Davis, however they mis-pronounced her name. Bette grew up in a rural town, Aiea, where she found it hard to fit in. She stood out among the rest of the children: First, she was white, second, she was this strange thing called "Jewish" and third she was "bigger" than the other girls as well.

In 1965, after studying drama at the University of Hawaii, Bette was cast as an extra in George Roy Hill's movie, "Hawaii". The film took her to the mainland, where she stayed in order to pursue her career. Her arrival in New York shocked her: she had never seen such dirtiness in her entire life. Growing up in Hawaii had spoiled her, in a way. She just assumed that everywhere was just as beautiful as her childhood surroundings.

Her first major stage debut came from the role of Tzeitel in the Broadway musical, "Fiddler On The Roof". From there, she went on to work various local clubs around New York. Her manager, Bud Freedman (The IMPROV) started her off at the Continental Baths (a gay healthclub). Though to most, performing in front of a room full of men in towels would seem unusual, Bette thought of it as just another job. On her opening night, Bette chose to call herself the Divine Miss M, (Miss M being a name given to her by her makeup artist). The crowd adored her, and the name stayed.

It wasn't too long after this that she signed a contract with Atlantic Records, and released her first album, *The Divine Miss M*, in 1972. For this album, Bette was awarded a Grammy for Best New Artist. Also in 1972, she was awarded a Tony for her performance at Broadway's Palace Theater. Over the next few years, Bette went on to do a host of television specials, and to release more albums.

In 1979, Bette made her motion picture debut, in *The Rose*. Her portrayal of a self-destructive rock star earned her an Oscar nomination, and two golden Globe awards, for Best Actress and Newcomer of the Year. The soundtrack went RIAA platinum, and won her a Grammy. That same year, *Divine Madness* opened on Broadway, and Bette starred in her next film, *Jinxed*.

As irony would have it, *Jinxed* actually jinxed her. Her career took a terrible turn. No one in the movie industry would hire her, and Bette fell into a four-year long depression. It wasn't until 1984 that she started a deal

with Walt Disney Studios, and began her comeback. She starred in comedy films (on the suggestion of her husband, Martin Von Haselberg), including *Down and Out in Beverly Hills*, with Richard Dreyfuss, *Ruthless People*, with Danny DeVito, *Outrageous Fortune*, with Shelly Long, and *Big Business*, with Lilly Tomlin.

Bette formed her own production company, All-Girl Productions, with her partner Bonnie Bruckheimer. Their first film, *Beaches* was a huge success in 1988. Co-starring Barbara Hershey, the

film dealt with the lives of two best friends, through a span of about thirty years. The soundtrack hit #2, and the first single, "Wind Beneath My Wings" went to #1 on the charts. From there, Bette has gone onto many other films, including *For the Boys*, *Stella*, *Hocus Pocus*, and CBS's special presentation of the Broadway musical, *Gypsy*.

With the release of "Some People's Lives", in 1990, Bette touched the lives of so many people -- especially those fighting in the Persian Gulf War -- with the Grammy award winning "From a Distance". In 1993, she went on her first tour in over ten years, with "Experience the Divine". The tour included a six-week run at Radio City Music Hall, and went to hundreds of other destinations, nation-wide.

Recently, Bette has released her latest album, "Bette of Roses", including the two hit singles "To Deserve You" and "In This Live" (The "To Deserve You" dance remix going #1 on the Dance Club charts). In February, she won an American Comedy Award, for her appearance in *Get Shorty* and her new movie, *The First Wives Club*, which co-stars Diane Keaton and Goldie Hawn, is a hit. Also this fall, CBS will air Bette's new sitcom pilot, "The Harlettes".



How to be sure that your exercise program will fail

By Boyd Foster-Burns, Department of Exercise and Wellness ASU

A pretty weird name for a health article, right? But if you think about it, you see hundreds of articles telling you how to succeed at exercising, so I thought I'd catch your attention this way. After all, it is the new year and many of us have made those new resolutions that we solemnly swore to on January 1, and lots of those resolutions involve exercising more. If you are going to exercise just to feel better and healthier, good for you! However, the number one way to get turned off by exercising is to set unreachable goals, like losing ten pounds in two weeks or winning the New York Marathon this year. Heck, if you don't succeed at your goal, what's the point in continuing? Congratulations, you have just subconsciously sabotaged your efforts!

A second way to get out of exercising is to be sure to choose an activity that provides a good workout but that you find unpleasant. You hate running (always have), but you decide that you are going to run 2 miles a day as fast as you can. You'll soon find so many excuses not to run that you'll find it really easy to quit. Thirdly, schedule your exercise time at your most inconvenient period of the day, or certainly at the time you're least likely to want to do it. If you are NOT a morning person, be sure to pledge to get up at 5:30 am every weekday to work out. Or schedule your aerobics class for right after work when you're tired or busy with other stuff. That way you can be sure that after a couple of weeks you'll taper off and soon be exercise-free.

Joining a class or club that is located across town in rush hour traffic is another sure way to quit soon. By making exercising as big a hassle as you possibly can, you can set yourself up to quit within a month or so. Lastly, since you are busy all week long, save all your exercising for the weekend. Cram in all your activity for the

week on Saturday afternoon, and you will probably get sore and stiff, if not injured, with little gain in fitness. Being hurt is an excellent excuse for laying off exercise, and for avoiding it in the future.

The point is that for some, the real obstacle to exercising is a secret desire to escape from doing it. We subconsciously set ourselves to fail by making exercise punishing, inconvenient and unfulfilling. In order to stick with it, there are a few common sense guidelines that may help. First of all, ease up. Remember that a commitment to exercise lasts a lifetime, it isn't a race to be finished as quickly as possible. You are trying to establish a habit, so pick an activity or sport, or a variety of them, that you enjoy. It may be basketball, walking briskly with a friend, or gardening; anything that uses muscles will do! Make exercise convenient, fun and safe, in a place and with people that are pleasant. Recent research has shown that women who walked outside enjoyed it more than those who walked on a treadmill did. They were able to enjoy the scenery and fresh air (of course this study was not done in Phoenix or LA, but you get the idea). Exercise should be a regular part of your schedule, but not a chore.

If you do have some goals you want to reach, whether it is weight loss or being able to run after your puppy more successfully, don't expect overnight success. If you expect a lot at first, you are going to be disappointed when you don't get the results you want and be likely to quit. The less you expect at first, the more likely you are to succeed in the end. If you focus more on the process of activity rather than keep seeking some outcome, you may find that you enjoy the exercise for its own sake. But if you are set on your goals, make them reasonable; given some time, maybe two or three months, you will probably see some results. Once you participate in activities you enjoy and that are convenient and safe, with no unreachable goals or push to succeed, you'll be less inclined to sabotage your good intentions.

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Your lesbian community calendar and events pull out.

Simplicity Circle

At the last Simplicity Circle meeting we discussed how to stretch your food dollars, which lead to eating out, which lead to growing your own food, which lead to, etc. We never know where our topics will take us.

On February 11th (Wed.), we will meet at 7 pm and discuss "What is Enough?". At 8:30 we will stop to watch Ellen. Please bring a folding chair if you can. For more information call Robin 848-0083 or Judy 275-6261.

Community Potluck

Community Potluck is seeking a new place to meet and a new coordinator. Call Kathy at 899-7276 with ideas, suggestions and recommendations.

6th Annual Saguaro Regional Rodeo Tucson

The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (AGRA) is a chapter of the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA). IGRA and its regional associations have committed themselves to raising funds from their activities to distribute back into the community for charitable use. Over 1.5 Million dollars, as reported by our Member Associations, has been raised and distributed to charitable organizations who care for and seek cures for those with the HIV disease as well as other health and social illnesses within our society as a whole.

The AGRA Tucson Chapter will be hosting the 6th Annual Saguaro Regional Rodeo on March 20th, 21st and 22nd, 1998 at Old Tucson Studios and we are looking for your support.

Our host hotel will be the Rodeway Inn at I-10 and Grant. The convention center at the Rodeway Inn will provide a 10,000 square foot space for vendor booths. Stage 2 at Old Tucson Studios will also be providing a large area for vendor space.

Old Tucson Studios offers a special exchange ticket which will offer a \$3.00 discount off the regular admission price of \$14.95 per day. A 2-day pass will be offered for \$19.90 includes admission to the rodeo as well as full Old Tucson Studios park admission. Coupons must be presented at the gate to obtain the discount. Contact the AGRA office for discount coupons.

Women's Initiative update

We don't want to alarm you, but the latest statistics about women and HIV/AIDS are frightening.

In the United States today, the number of women with HIV/AIDS is steadily rising. HIV infection is now the third leading cause of death among women ages 25 to 44. It is the leading cause of death among black women in this age group. And worldwide, about 42 percent of the 21 million adults living with HIV/AIDS are women.

The number of lesbians and bisexual women with HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS

is also growing. But because of the way the Center for Disease Control gets its data, exact statistics for the rates of infection for women who have sex with women are not available.

"Giving women the tools to create their own sexual identities is one way to slowing and preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS," explains Beth Beck, the new director of the Women's HIV Education and Prevention Program.

Beth believes that if women can learn to recognize our society's sexual stereotypes and erase the negative messages, we can also be empowered to take control of our own sexuality. Hopefully, in the process, we will begin to respect our bodies and ourselves.

This is especially critical when it comes to practicing safer sex, a top workshop priority for the Women's Initiative. For many women it is not easy talking to a partner about practicing safer sex. That's why, in addition to information on the basics of HIV/AIDS and HIV/AIDS

safer sex symptoms unique to women,

volunteer facilitators provide women with details on various safer sex practices and strategies for talking about safer sex with sex partners.

These strategies will be taught in a new pilot program that will target the DC-area women's community this fall. Also on the horizon, says Beth, are programs to reach into college communities and maybe into high schools to set up education and prevention workshops as well as peer rap groups.

Have you expired?

The Women's Central News is run by a totally volunteer staff and we need your help so you don't miss a single issue of this fantastic paper. Refer to this sample mailing label and take note of placement of your expiration date.

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Lesbian Resource Projections Upcoming Events

Lesbian Resource Project
(602) 266-5542 (tdd) 266-5797
(fax) 234-0873
email lrp@swlink.net
www.swlink.net/~lrp

When the Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center moved at the end of December, the LRP lost our offices on 3rd Avenue. The LRP Board of Directors decided not to move with the Center because the new location would be too costly for us at this time, and it does not meet the needs of the Lesbian Resource Project. However, we are committed to maintaining our collaborative relationship with the Center.

As a result, we are actively searching for a new home. **In the meantime, you can reach us at 266-5542 or at P.O. Box 1917, Tempe, AZ 85280-1917.** Since We do not have office space during this transitional period, please bear with us if we take additional time in returning your calls and limit some services.

As you know, moving is always costly and we have ongoing program expenses. For example, our expenses include rental of storage space, new voice mail services, and postage for mailings. While we keep you abreast of our plans, we need your help now. Please provide the stepping stones to a promising future for the women of the Valley.

MORE NEWS

TLC is still singing out. Please contact Lee at 254-0189 with any questions regarding the schedule or location of practices.

The Lesbian Mom's Group has been discontinued following the loss of our coordinator. If you know of anyone who would like to serve this need, please let us know.

The Xena group is ongoing. Call Tammy at 813-8681.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please join us for a **Lesbian Town Hall on Sunday, February 22, at 3 pm at the Community Church of Hope at 4400 North Central at Turney.** With our founding Director having gone on to the Director position in San Jose and with the move to a new location, now is the time to **RE-VISION the future of the LRP. You are the LRP.** What do you want the LRP to do and be? What do you envision for the future of the LRP? Be part of the process. Be part of our heritage and create the future!

March 14th at the John Paul Theater at Phoenix College. The Susan B. Anthony Story. A live(ly) presentation of feminist herstory during this 150th anniversary of Seneca Falls.

Dates and Times to Be Announced

Do you have questions about Legal, Financial, or Real Estate Affairs? A discussion with lesbian professionals will focus on these issues.

Our Experiences Across the Generations. A gathering of lesbians of all ages.

Call the
Greater Phoenix Lesbian Coalition
CONNECTION LINE
to find out about programs, services and events
(602) 266-5542
Please see the **COMMUNITY CALENDAR** for
other events or
check out the **community calendar ON-LINE**
www.swlink.net/~lrp

Resource directory for Verde Valley

Want to know what's going on in the Gay and Lesbian community in the Verde Valley? The Verde Valley Alternative Lifestyles Directory is now available to provide resource, social events, and friendly services available to the Gay and Lesbian community. For info. call 520-634-1405 or e-mail martimac@sedona.net.

Women writers WANTED:

Women writers, poets, essayists for a WOMEN'S SALON on May 3, 1998 at 3 pm. Sponsored by the LRP. If you are interested in reading your original works, call Diane Post at 258-7985.

"Over 45" Potluck

The former "Over 45" Potluck, now known as Glenna's Community Potluck, will be held on February 21st at 6pm. The address is 6743 W. Utopia Road. Directions: from East Valley/Central Phoenix, take I-10 to I-17 North exit to Union Hills; Left to 35th Avenue to 101 Loop; Left to 67th Avenue to Utopia; Right at Utopia. Look for a 2 story house on the South side of Utopia.

Bring a dish to pass and your own drinks and table service. Come and visit with friends while you eat, drink and enjoy yourself. Any questions, call Glenna at 345-7453 or 671-4166.



WREN hikes

Saturday, February 28, the Women's Recreational Enjoyment Network (WRENs) will be hiking to the Eagletail Petroglyph site in the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness Area, where several thousand petroglyphs decorate a small butte and nearby canyon walls. The petroglyphs were left by Archaic Hohokam and Patayan groups over a 2000-year period.

The trail to the glyphs follows an old jeep road and a couple of creek beds. It is very easy walking and there is no significant elevation change; however, the distance is about 9 miles round (or approximately 4 1/2 hours of walking time), and it is not a clearly marked trail. Once we arrive at the site, plan to spend an hour or so eating lunch and climbing around the butte boulders and canyon looking for petroglyphs, bedrock mortars, and other artifacts. Bring your lunch and two liters of water.

Meet at 8:00 am on the southwest corner of the intersection of

Blues Blast '98

By Margot Marie Bronski, WCN staff

Its that time of year again when blues fans gather on the grass at Mesa Amphitheater for an afternoon of blues and barbecue. Blues Blast '98 will be held Sunday, February 22 from 11 am to 6 pm.

This year's lineup includes Terrance Simien & The Mallet Playboys (high energy zydeco), Smokin Joe Kubek Band featuring B'nois King, Big Jack Johnson & the Oilers, The Johnny Rawls Revue, Bad News Blues Band and Sweet Jeffery & Friends.

Tickets are \$12 in advance from Dillard's or the Mesa Amphitheater box office.

Scrabble league

The new women's Scrabble League meets every Friday, 5:30, at the Coffee Plantation in Tempe.

We usually play "Scrabble Queen of the Hill": winner plays winner, loser plays loser until there is one winner of the night. Most of the players are casual and supportive; however, a few players are harshly competitive and play to win every game!

We have fun! Coffee drinks, tea, and Italian sodas are half-priced for the first hour or so. If you have any other questions, please call 732-7916 for details.

I-10 and the 101 (at the 99th Avenue exit off I-10) in the dirt next to the field. The drive to the site takes approximately 1 1/2 hours from the meeting place and heads west for the most part, first on I-10 then on dirt roads. Specific driving instructions will be given at the meeting place. A high clearance vehicle is necessary to navigate the last 6 miles of dirt roads. (We'll want to stick together on the dirt roads, because wrong roads may require four-wheel drive maneuvers and may involve unmarked obstacles. It is also important to leave by the same route we go on.)

If you have questions, call Magon 931-4891. If not, see you at the meeting place.

MARCH WREN HIKE PREVIEW
March 14, the WRENs will be doing the Tortilla Creek Loop, starting at Tortilla Flats, near Canyon Lake. The loop is 7.4 miles (about 10 hours) of very difficult hiking, first over rocks and boulders in the creekbed, followed by bushwhacking over a low mountain pass, and then finishing the loop on an old jeep road. Look for more information in the March WCN newspaper.

Spring softball

Phoenix Metroplex 3/4 Spring Softball Fever is in the air! The first official day of the CCSL 1998 Spring Season is Sunday, February 22nd. One of the many reasons this will be a special year for players and fans is that El Dorado Park will be the new home of our softball league. This beautiful park is located on Miller Road north of McDowell in Scottsdale and we invite all fans to join us for softball fun! If anyone is interested in playing softball, there is still time. The CCSL is hosting the following Sign-Up days: Sunday, February 1 and Sunday, February 8 from 9:00am to 1:00pm. If you want to play but cannot attend a Sign-Up day, please call the CCSL Hotline at (602) 848-8562. All beginner, recreational, and competitive players are encouraged to participate in the spirit of fun, friendship and sportsmanship.

Cactus Cup V

Phoenix Metroplex 3/4 The Cactus Cities Softball League is proud to host the 5th Annual Cactus Cup Softball Tournament. Fans will be able to see teams from Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Seattle, San Diego and many other cities. Up to 64 teams are expected to participate in what has become one of the best gay softball tournaments in the country. Catch that softball spirit by joining us the weekend of April 3-5! If anyone is interested in volunteering for the Cactus Cup V, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Melissa Keefe at (602) 926-2348. For tournament information, contact Tournament Director Kevin Whitenack at (602) 589-8593.

Hand of Love Ministry

Announcing a series of Workshop Networking Meetings for Reiki practitioners and exponents of other Healing Techniques, to learn from, and to practice with each other.

Meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of each month, 7-10pm, at Hand of Love Ministry, 6605 N. 14th Street, Phoenix (between Flanagan and long-time natural Healer Rev. Roderic Vickers. Admission by good-will donation.

For information call 264-1470, between 9am and 5pm.

Telephone Tree

Try the tree if you want to spread an important announcement; want to buy or sell something; or you are looking for a roommate. Call Kathy 899-7276 for information.



Mountain Bike Adventures

I'm looking to start a mountain bike club for women of all ages and skill levels. This is not a competitive group. Just a group to explore Arizona and nature. Meet new friends and have fun.

All you need to join us is a mountain bike, helmet and water bottle. For more information contact Joy at 926-4261.

Valentines For Everyone With Womyn 2 Womyn

Whether you are single or in a couple, you are welcome at the Womyn 2 Womyn Valentines Day Celebration on February 14th. Singles come on out!!! And, if you are a couple, please make sure you bring your single friends with you! This evening will have fun activities to help you get to know everyone. Were not telling exactly what...because, that's half the fun. Call our event line 941-3513 for exact details about when and where.

Join us for breakfast South of the Border. We are going to meet at Mi Patio located on the South East corner of 7th Ave. and Osborn in Phoenix. Well meet on Saturday, February 14th at 10 a.m.

Were also heading out to the Arboretum near Superior. If you've never been there, it is a beautiful spot for seeing all the landscapes of Arizona in one scenic setting. Well meet in the parking lot at Town and Country (20th St. and Camelback) in front of Trader Joes at 9:30 a.m. to carpool together. If you live on the East side, please call us to arrange an East side location to meet up with you. Kids and moms welcome. Bring a picnic lunch.

Womyn 2 Womyn is open to everyone in the community. There are no membership fees. Just call our community phone line at 941-3513 to here about upcoming activities.

Support group in Verde Valley

Women's Chat in the Verde Valley. Every Wednesday night 5 to 7 at the Huff n Puff Straw Bale Inn near Sedona, 520-567-9066 for more information.

"Los Amigos Del Sol"

Now 22 years old, Los Amigos Del Sol continues to benefit its members and the community as a social organization of men and women working together for the fun of it.

For information on the location of business meetings held the 2nd Saturday of each month at 3pm and the social events call GB at 997-2411.



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Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club

Now's the time to join us at the Coffee Talk, 48 N. Robson, in Mesa (north of Main/East of Country Club). We meet every Sunday at 10 a.m. and talk and drink coffee and talk and eat and talk.... For more info. call Robin 848-0083.

Phoenix area women's shelters

- National 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233
- Metro Phoenix shelters and safe homes:
 - *My Sister's Place, Chandler, 821-1024,
 - *Faith House, Glendale, 939-6798
 - *New Life Shelter, Litchfield park, 935-9161,
 - *Autumn House, Mesa, 835-5555
 - *DeColores, phoenix, 269-1515
 - *Chrysalis Shelter, Phoenix, 944-4999
 - *Sojourner Center, Phoenix, 244-0997
 - *Chrysalis Shelter, Scottsdale, 481-0402

California's first gay & lesbian wedding showcase

As a collaboration of Gay & Lesbian owned and operated businesses, we are proud to announce, "Partners for Life", a Gay & Lesbian Wedding Showcase. This prestigious event will take place on Sunday, February 8, 1998 from 11 am to 4 pm at the Sequoia Conference Center in Buena Park, California. The purpose of this event is to specifically cater to all Gay & Lesbian couples who are planning a commitment or re-commitment ceremony in the near future.

Personalized ceremonies celebrating the love and commitment between two people are becoming increasingly common within the Gay & Lesbian Community. The "Partners For Life" event will allow same-sex couples direct access to a wide variety of gay-friendly and supportive businesses to help plan their special day.

This unique showcase will have many gay owned and operated businesses along with a select group of "mainstream" businesses who are already established as "gay friendly" or desire to become more accessible to this new target market. The exhibits will include everything from florists, invitations, formal wear, caterers, ministers, reception sites, photographers, D.J.'s, jewelers and wedding registries. There will be a full runway fashioning show featuring the latest in formal attire. Delicious hors d'ouvres, tempting cake samples and a full compliment of beverages including a no host bar will be available.

We believe this extraordinary showcase to be the first event of it's kind in California. We are targeting mainly the Orange County, the greater Long Beach and Los Angeles area. However, we expect residents from San Diego to Santa Barbara to attend. Advance ticket prices are two for \$5.00 (at the door \$5.00 each) and can be purchased by sending payment along with a self addressed stamped envelope to L & M Productions, 3553-A Altantic Ave., #125, Long Beach CA 90807.

The Top Ten Lesbian & Gay Films of 1997!

1. Lilies (John Greyson)
2. Chasing Amy (Kevin Smith)
3. Love! Valour! Compassion! (Joe Mantello)
4. Happy Together (Wong Kar Wai)
5. In & Out (Frank Oz)
6. Licensed To Kill (Arthur Dong)
7. Bent (Sean Mathias)
8. The Delta (Ira Sachs)
9. Fire (Deepa Mehta)
10. All Over Me (Alex Sichel)

Keep an eye out for these lesbian and gay films coming (eventually) to a theater near you! We've also included information about a few movies that sound pretty campy and/or intriguing that we thought you might want to know about! As well as including films that have some of our favorite icons in them.

Goodbye Lover (3-13-98) - Warner Bros. A new Ellen Degeneres comedy! Actually it's been in the can for about a year at this point (Warner Bros. keeps pushing back the film's release).

Mrs. Dalloway (2-20-98) -- First Look (dir. Marleen Gorris) Vanessa Redgrave stars in this film version of Virginia Woolf's novel. From the director of such lesbian faves as Antonia's Line, **Krippendorff's Tribe** (2-27-98) -- Buena Vista (dir. Todd Holland) Okay, so not that this necessarily counts as queer, but this is a new Lily Tomlin pic (co-starring Richard Dreyfuss).

Hush (3-13-98) -- Sony/Tri-star & Triumph Jessica Lange and Gwyneth Paltrow play lesbian lovers, and Johnathon Schaech is the man who comes between them in this Southern drama. (Formerly titled Kilronan, formerly titled Bloodline).

We hope you are enjoying sitting back and reading this issue of the WCN. It would be great to hear your positive feedback, as well as the negative we always seem to hear. Pick up the phone and let us hear from you! 898-4844

NOW - National Organization of Women: East Valley Chapter

Meetings will be held the third Thursday of the month from 7-9PM at the Pyle Center, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe. For information contact Jennifer Deprey-Jackmen at 917-4760.



WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP

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MEETINGS

We Meet the 1st & 3rd Mon. of the Month

Feb. 2nd - Creating " Day Dreams"
Contact Patti - 277- 3911

Feb. 16th - Astrology
Contact Kathleen - 753-0821

Mar. 2nd - "Healing Waters, Healing Ways"
Contact Valissa - 468-9672

Mar. 16th - no meeting - due to our
"Spring Equinox Social"

Apr. 6th
Apr. 20th

SOCIALS

All Women Welcome to
Join us for our Social Gatherings

Mar. 22nd - "Celebrating Spring Equinox"
Morning Hike & Breakfast

For more info contact Patti - 277-3911



Remember the old neighborhood "WELCOME WAGON"

Well it's an idea whose time has come again
in our Lesbian Community !!

We're in the process of gathering information and materials relating to GOODS, SERVICES, OPPORTUNITIES, & PLACES TO MEET that represent our community. We will present this to any "Newcomer" who makes known her wish to be visited.

If you have suggestions, or are a lesbian business, club, or group please call & let us know how you would like to be represented.

Contact

Patti - 277-3911 or Dawn 535-1208

Have a activity planned and need more women? This is a great place to find them.

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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SUSAN BALLARD
TUESDAY - 9 P.M.

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MOLLY - SPINS
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Bisexual Community find common symbol of Pride

South Florida Provides a Supportive Forum for the Birth of Alternative Lifestyle Awareness.

Following in the footsteps of the gay and lesbian community, bisexuals now have a international symbol of pride to call their own. Originally conceived by a group in South Florida, the new symbol now offers bisexuals a way to express their individual pride. "Until now, bisexuals have been forced to rely on pride symbols that were really intended for the gay and lesbian," says Bi-Symbol spokesperson, Amazon Woman. "Being gay or lesbian is not the same as being bisexual, and these differences need to be recognized, rather than glossed over. Even though we are proud to be members of the gay community at large, bisexuals need to make a separate awareness statement in order to gain true understanding and acceptance."

"Just as gays have fought for years to counteract injustice and discrimination using common forms of gay expression, so now can the bisexual make a public statement about who and what they are," says Amazon Woman. "Bisexuals face all of the same issues as homosexuals regarding

acceptance and human rights, yet compounding these problems are unique challenges that

specifically relate to the bisexual. Even today, many people do not consider bisexuality to be a legitimate, acceptable sexuality. Bisexuals face a lack of understanding not only about their sexuality, but also about the lifestyle that often accompanies it."

The Bi-Symbol is also unique in the way that it allows bisexuals to express specific preferences. "Unlike homosexuality, bisexuality is not black and white," states Amazon Woman. "When designing this symbol, we felt this fluid nature needed to be reflected. If I am a bisexual with a preference for a particular gender, I can now express this by wearing a certain version of this symbol."

Items incorporating the Bi-Symbol include jewelry, clothing, and home accessories. The full line of Bi-Symbol products can be found at your local pride retail outlets, or via the Amazon Ink website at www.amazonink.com. "An estimated 7 million people on this planet are bisexuals, most of whom had not had much of a voice in our own community." She continues. "Such a large group of people needs to be heard and understood. By wearing this symbol, bisexuals can now express their unique differences, while continuing to work towards the ultimate goal of global equal rights."



"Sometimes a person has to go back, really back—to have a sense, an understanding of all that's gone to make them—before they can go forward."

-P. Marshall-

Washington Feminist Faxnet

CELEBRATE IN '98

You've come a long way, woman -- 1998 is the 150th anniversary of the U.S. Women's Rights Movement, initiated by the 1848 Women's Rights Convention, held in Seneca Falls, N.Y. Celebrations, commemorations, and visioning for the future will be going on all year. Your organization should be a part of it -- start by displaying the logo you see today on WFF -- free from the National Women's History Project, 707-838-6000. NWHP has asked President Clinton to issue a Presidential Proclamation during the second week in February calling for national celebrations of women's rights throughout '98. The week is especially fitting, because birthdates of two pioneer activists and organizers at the 1848 convention, Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony, fall on Feb. 14th and 15th respectively. Urge the Prez. to proclaimate at 202-456-1111; fax 456-2461. Sample proclamations for your state and local governments can be had from www.nwhp.org.

CHALK UP THE FIRST ONE FOR THE NEW YEAR

Thanks to the outrage from activists all over the country and picketing from feminists in New York, MTV has pulled the video for the misogynous *Smack My Bitch Up* (WFF 12/19). No word yet on whether Target will follow K-Mart and Wal-Mart and ditch the album too. Keep the pressure on store managers when you shop.

COME FLY WITH ME

WFF members flying off to grandma's house over the holidays on Continental Airlines were treated to some new ticket pouches -- full color photos of a mechanic happily working away. She looked like she was enjoying her job. Tell Continental this one flies high at 800-932-2732.

PEOPLE UNCLEAR ON THE CONCEPT

Well, in this case we can't say we're surprised. Susan Gingrich, sister of Newt, is starting a new magazine called *Today's Lady*. She says the mag will be "Patriotic yet feminine," and features topics ladies want to read about -- like women and guns.

'More Tales' finds home away from PBS

Pasadena

If "Tales of the City" made some of its critics apoplectic, Armistead Maupin's *More Tales of the City* might give them heart attacks. The sequel promises to be, if anything, saucier than the original PBS miniseries, along the same vein of casual nudity, pot smoking and gay sex.

But Maupin, author of the "Tales" saga about San Francisco in the 1970s, won't have to worry this time about cranky legislators in Georgia or weaselly PBS administrators in Washington.

The Showtime cable channel will televise "Armistead Maupin's *More Tales of the City*" in June, four years after PBS ash-canned the proposed sequel.

Showtime likes the kind of stuff that makes PBS types dyspeptic. So it was an ebullient Maupin who was in Pasadena yesterday to flog the new miniseries to TV critics and to celebrate what he called "a joyous occasion."

He was joined by four returning cast members -- Olympia Dukakis, Laura Linney, Bill Campbell and Thomas Gibson, who play Anna Madrigal, Mary Ann Singleton, Jon Fielding and Beauchamp Day.

Maupin's mood contrasted sharply with his anger at PBS four years ago. He said that not even an offshore storm, intestinal distress and overall weariness could dampen his cheer as he went to Zihuatanejo, Mexico, last year for "More -- Tales" location shooting. "The very last night Billy (Campbell) and Paul Hopkins (in the role of Michael Tolliver) were filming a kissing scene out on a pier in Zihuatanejo,"

Maupin recalled. "We were all exhausted, it was raining, and I was looking around and I thought, 'I'm a happy man. I wrote this story, and here are these two hunky straight guys sitting there just playing tonsil hockey all night. . . . 'I thought, 'Things are

changing. The world is changing, and we're helping to do it. We're doing it the way I always wanted to do it, which is to show that this is about love. It's about affection. It's about people connecting."

The sequel, beginning just days after "Tales of the City" ended, takes place on the Pacific coast of Mexico and in Nevada, as well as in San Francisco. The San Francisco scenes, including those of Mrs. Madrigal's boarding house on Barbary Lane, were mostly filmed in Montreal.


Dukakis called the long-delayed sequel "a little triumph that somehow what was attempted to be buried did not get buried." For her part, Linney took a shot yesterday at PBS' latest slogan: "If PBS won't do it, who will?" Leaning forward in her seat on the interview stage and raising her voice, Linney crowed, "Well, the answer is Showtime!"

In fact, Showtime had its own new slogan -- "No Limits" -- pasted all over its press materials for "More Tales" and other original movies. Showtime will televise the 4 1/2-hour "More Tales" over a Sunday and Monday night in June, said Jerry Offsay, Showtime's programming president.

Showtime is also commissioning a series of documentaries produced by the New York Times' television arm, Offsay said, and the first might be about the controversy surrounding PBS and "Tales of the City." Offsay said the occasional documentaries will relate to issues in movies on Showtime.

It's not certain whether "More Tales" will be the last TV production based on Maupin's "Tales" series. The stories themselves, first published in *The Chronicle*, continue with "Further Tales of the City."

Maupin, not surprisingly, is game to keep going. "With any luck at all," he told the critics and reporters yesterday, "Mr. Offsay and the folks at Showtime will ask us back."



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Visitation Hearing set for Tucson woman

(part one of this story ran in the December WCN)
By Shawna Rae, Staff reporter

On Feb. 4, a Pima County Superior Court judge will decide whether Elise Green, a Tucson woman, will have rights of visitation to her non-biological daughter from a previous lesbian relationship.

Green was in a relationship with Shari Wilson, the biological mother, when Hayley was born. When Wilson and Green parted ways in the fall of '96 Hayley was 14 months old. Wilson allowed Green to continue a relationship with Hayley through shared custody at first but cut off all contact between her daughter and her ex-partner in the Spring of '97.

Green contends that there was a verbal agreement between the two women that, should their relationship ever fail, she would be able to maintain a parental role in Hayley's life. "We discussed all that, from the very beginning," Green said. "We decided that if we ever broke up that I would remain in Hayley's life. Physically, emotionally and financially, to help raise her. She's my child."

But Green and Wilson had no sort of legal agreements drawn up. Even if they had, there is no guarantee the courts would have held them legally binding. In fact, courts have often denied such documents as wills and personal contracts.

Wisconsin Supreme Court became the first state Supreme Court to recognize the visitation rights of non-biological parents.

Case law varies state to state in how non-biological parents have been treated when they seek visitation or custody rights to their children after the dissolution of a gay or lesbian family.

In June of 1995, the Wisconsin Supreme Court became the first state Supreme Court to recognize the visitation rights of non-biological parents. The court concluded that "a trial court may determine whether visitation is in the best interest if the petitioner first proves that he or she has a parent-like relationship with the child." The court explained that the petitioner must prove four elements:

That the biological or adoptive parent consented to, and fostered, the petitioner's formation and establishment of a parent-like relationship with the child.

That the petitioner and the child lived together in the same household.

That the petitioner assumed obligations of parenthood by taking significant responsibility for the child's care, education and development, including contributing towards child support, without expectation of

financial compensation.

And that the petitioner has been in a parental role for a length of time sufficient to have established with the child a bonded, dependent relationship parental in nature.

The U.S. Supreme Court in 1995 let stand the Wisconsin ruling.

Pennsylvania, New Mexico and Texas have also recognized, to some degree, non-biological parents' rights to custody and visitation.

"We need the legal system to impart into these disputes the same rules as apply to heterosexuals,"

"We need the legal system to impart into these disputes the same rules as apply to heterosexuals," said Kate Kendell, legal director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights in San Francisco. The NCLR, founded in 1977, advocates to achieve equality for lesbians. It specializes in areas of family law including second parent adoption, visitation and custody issues, youth rights, health care policy and immigration and asylum rights.

"If this person functioned as a parent then there should be the same objective criteria (as used in heterosexual cases) used for considerations of visitations and custody," Kendell added.

"Let's not overwork this business of who's a parent and who's not a parent. We know a parent when we see one. It's not as if we're creating a whole new set of problems if Elise Green is recognized."

Although there have been cases that provide a positive beacon for legal precedents, there have been more instances where judges rule that a homosexual, non-biological parent has no legal standing.

In two such cases in California in the early '90s, the courts refused to expand a stepparent visitation provision to encompass non-biological mothers. A ruling in one of the cases stated that it would not use the law because it did not want to "face years of unraveling the complex practical, social and constitutional ramifications of this expansion of the definition of parent."

Wilson, who is not speaking to the press but released a statement through her attorney James Stroud, is bringing up this fear.

"I might become involved in several long-term relationships over the next 16 years," she said in her statement. "Does that mean that each of my partners will have the right to seek visitation of my child once the relationship ends?"

Kendell said she believes this argument to be disingenuous.

"These are baseless, red-herring arguments to divert the court's attentions away from the real issue," she said. "We only need to look at heterosexual laws to get our instruction. A nanny or a boyfriend who is not the father can not get parental visitations."

"These non-biological mothers are often bumped out of court before they even get a chance to make their case. Each of these women who walk like a parent, talk like a parent, act like a parent should get a day in court to present the merits of her case."

Jennifer Siegel, also with the NLRC, said that is the main issue; for these parents to get their day in court.

"When we look at these kinds of cases, we don't necessarily argue that in every case the non-biological parent should be granted visitation. Once the hearing is set, then the court decides. But in many states right now a non-biological parent can't even get the standing to ask for a hearing," she said.

One difficulty is that there are few ways in which to legally establish parenthood for the non-biological mother or father.

One route being sought by some gay and lesbian families is to have the non-biological parent adopt the child. These types of adoptions are called "second parent" or "co-parent" adoptions.

Judges in Alaska, California, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Vermont, Washington and the District of Columbia have granted co-parent adoptions.

This option was not available to Elise Green and Shari Wilson because in Arizona the right of the parent is terminated upon adoption, unless the person adopting the child is the spouse of the biological parent.

"If Elise really wanted legal rights, what she should have done was sought second-parent adoption in

"There are some things you can do. One is to make a contract."

Missouri where the child was born," Stroud said.

Lesbian and gay couples can take steps to try to make their intentions clearer in the event of a family break up.

Dianne Post, a Phoenix attorney who has been working in the lesbian community since 1979, said it is important for a family to establish the parental relationship of the non-biological parent.

"There are some things you can do. One is to make a contract. But the court won't uphold such a contract

if it violates public policy, which in conservative Arizona is likely. I recommend people make one anyway.

"The second thing is to lay out a track record," Post said, pointing out that it is important to show proof that the non-biological mother is indeed parenting.

"Use a joint household account to buy all the diapers and food, and save the receipts. Get power of attorney for the non-biological mother to show more proof of the actual parenting relationship."

She also said to save all those wonderful momentos that come from a child.

"The Mother's Day card with pictures of two mommies. Any drawings the child does for you. Anything that will show that he or she views you as a parent," she said.

And if a person does all of this and has to use it later in court? Post said it will perhaps give you a "fifty-fifty shot."

However, both Kendell and Post said that the gay and lesbian community should not depend on the legal system entirely to fix these problems.

"We need to recognize these children within the lesbian community," Kendell said. "And create new ethics of how we treat each other and our children."

Kendell takes particular offense at Wilson's reasoning that this is not a gay rights issue.

"If we do this to each other," Kendell said, "it's as though we are saying the legal system shouldn't respect our families because even we don't respect them."

The Tucson case will help in determining whether a new Arizona statute will be respected in the reflection of gay and lesbian families.

Back at her apartment, Green picked up a small tan stuffed monkey from her hope chest. In one paw the monkey has a pacifier. The tip has been chewed off.

"Hayley used to carry this monkey around, dragging him by one arm," she said. "She wouldn't take other pacifiers but chewed this one clean through."

Green said she knows what it means to be a parent.

"A parent is someone who takes a child and loves them unconditionally. Who gets that warm feeling when their

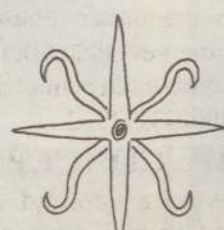
"A parent is someone who takes a child and loves them unconditionally."

child lays their head on your chest. A parent is someone who is there through the good times and bad times. Always, emotionally and physically, for the long haul.

"If I have to wait until she is 18, I will see my daughter and become part of her life. At that point it would be her choice."

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Women on their spirit paths

By Rev. Jannie Eagle Flyer,
Community submission

In these days of fast paced life, we spend our time delegating time to all our jobs - for women wear many hats - and all in one day! But, I find we tend to set aside very little of our time for our spirit; its nurturing and growth.

As a Cherokee woman, I do not separate any of my life duties from Spirit - for spirit is in every breath, every thought, every minute - and, believe me, I am a busy woman; mother of 3, grandmother of 1, business owner, medicine woman, and so it goes. This blessed connection did not just happen suddenly.

Through time I have come to realize life is a circle and we are all connected! We impact each other even though we may not have even met. I heard someone share "If you don't think you are an important part of this creation, look at the impact one stalled car can leave on the freeway at 6 pm!" Yes, we are all vital to each other and I would urge you to honor your Spirit in the Bigger Picture. Worship in whatever way your practice is - continue to pray to Great Spirit and honor our Great Earth Mother and pray for peace and healing. We all together can and will make a difference.

Aggravation is in the mail

By Robin Dee, staff writer

I have to be careful what I write here since I have heard that the Internal Revenue Service does not take kindly to anyone bad-mouthing them. Far be it from me to bring an audit down on my head even though I am clean — no pets listed as my children — no expense account to justify.

I live hand to mouth, paycheck to paycheck, and I am aggravated at this time of year when I add up all the money I have been taxed, scrupulously note it on my tax form and anxiously await the final tally. Do I give them more or do they give me some back?

The IRS is sending out 60 million tax packets this year at a cost of 21 million for printing and postage. There are several changes going into effect so you might want to check with your tax consultant to make sure you are getting all the money back that the law allows.

The IRS is offering free telephone assistance at 800-829-1040 (ha ha! Who says the IRS doesn't have a sense of humor?) The service operates 16 hours a day, six days a week. You might also want to check out their website at:

www.irs.ustreasurer.gov

Religion and wannabe religions can be ugly

By Robin Dee, staff writer

I'm a simple-minded person (I can see all my friends nodding their heads as they read that) and I like simple concepts, like 'love one another' and before judging 'walk a mile in another's shoes'. I don't like complex concepts like 'love one another unless the other is black, gay, Jewish', you get the picture.

It continues to amaze me that intolerance, the father of hate, thrives in religious organizations. I should understand this better since people run religions and people are not God.

Religious people, and I use that term loosely, protested Orlando Florida's Walt Disney World gay-friendly policies in early January. The Rev. Flip Benham (also a leader in an anti-abortion group called Operation Rescue - wonder how many babies he has adopted?) led the group and was arrested with two others for obstructing public streets.

Scientology is a wannabe religion brought to us by L. Ron Hubbard. John Travolta is a big believer. One problem, L. Ron Hubbard believes being gay is very very bad. Thank you very much L. Ron, for your personal opinion on the matter.

Scientology has finally gained respectability by paying the IRS \$12.5 million in 1993 as a part of a settlement with the federal government. The details of the settlement, which have been kept secret until now, include the IRS granting tax-exempt status to this wannabe, and apparently now-is, religion.

L. Ron Hubbard's (should it be the Rev. L. Ron, or Father L. Ron, or perhaps God the second?) Scientology is one more religious book on the shelves of our local bookstores which promotes intolerance.

A plus is that L. Ron did not purport to find his opinions through lengthy conversations with Jesus while he was walking on a California beach.

And frankly, I thought John Travolta would know better.

MANAGING STRESS MINI-WORKSHOP SERIES

INSIGHTS: Exploring Body & Mind Connections

is offering a series of mini-workshops presented at our office: 333 E. Virginia, Suite 106, Phoenix starting in February. Cost is \$12 for each workshop; time is 6:30-8:30pm. Please call 257-1964 for information and to register for individual workshops (or the entire series).

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Melody Hicks*

Monday, February 23: AROMATHERAPY

Sandra Leal**

Monday, March 9:
IMAGINATION & PLAY

Melody Hicks

Monday, March 23:
NURTURING YOURSELF

Melody Hicks

Monday, April 6: REFLEXOLOGY

Sandra Leal

Monday, April 20: VISUALIZATION

Melody Hicks

Monday, May 4: HEALING HERBS

Sandra Leal

Monday, May 18:
COMPASSION & FORGIVENESS

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*Melody Hicks, MC, CPC

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“Action without study is fatal. Study without action is futile.”

- Mary Beard

NGLTF urges greater federal action to curb hate crimes

WASHINGTON, DC---January 9, 1998---The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), the nation's oldest gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) advocacy organization today urged Congress to expand the federal mandate for prosecution of hate crimes so that crimes against people because of sexual orientation are prosecuted like all other hate crimes.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act (S 1529 and HR 3081) would add hate crimes based on an individual's real or perceived sexual orientation to the list of bias crimes that the federal government can prosecute. NGLTF sent this message on the day that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) released its annual report on Hate Crime Statistics for 1996.

"Our nation strives for fair and equal treatment for everyone," said Kerry Lobel, NGLTF Executive Director, "no one should be a target for bias motivated violence because of their sexual orientation. Congress must follow the lead taken by twenty-one states and the District of Columbia to do their part in ending these crimes."

The FBI report noted 8,759 total reported hate crimes in 1996. Of that total, 1,016 were based on the victim's sexual orientation. This is a higher total than the 7,947 incidents report in 1995. However, 1995 had three more (1,019) crimes based on sexual orientation. Lobel compared these numbers to a report recently released by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects. That 1996 national report shows a six-percent increase in hate crimes against GLBT people in ten U.S. cities with large GLBT populations. She pointed out that the discrepancy between these and FBI figures could be attributed to a number of factors.

"GLBT people often do not report hate crimes based on their sexual orientation because of their fear of discrimination by police; lack of interest or diligence on the part of the police; and lack of training in many police departments in working with members of the GLBT community."

NGLTF sponsored a nine-city hate crimes tour through the heartland in 1997. During community forums, Lobel heard dozens of stories of hate violence targeted at GLBT people and got hundreds of people to sign petitions urging President Clinton to take additional steps to address the high number of hate crimes against GLBT persons. She delivered those petitions to the Administration at last November's White House Summit on Hate Crimes.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has worked to eliminate prejudice, violence and injustice against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people at the local, state and national level since its inception in 1973. As part of a broader social justice movement for freedom, justice and equality, NGLTF is creating a world that respects and celebrates the diversity of human expression and identity where all people may fully participate in society.

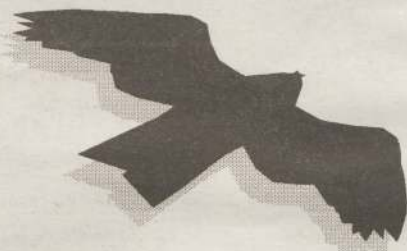



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HUMAN RIGHTS ARE WOMEN'S RIGHTS: CAMPAIGN FOR COMMITMENT

The letter below is part of a campaign to get the Senators who have not committed their support for US ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women to do so. The campaign goal is to have 75 Senators committed to ratification by March 8, International Women's Day.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1.) Copy this letter to distribute as widely as possible to persons who would be interested in signing the letter.
- 2.) Sign the letter. Include name and address so the Senator knows that you are in his/her state.
- 3.) Mail the letter(s) to Ratification Working Group, c/o AIUSA's Washington Office (see note) for delivery to the Senator's Office with all the other letters being sent from your state.

RETURN SIGNED LETTERS BY FEBRUARY 16, 1998

Please mail all signed letters to:
RATIFICATION WORKING GROUP
 c/o Amnesty International USA
 304 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
 Washington DC 20003
 For Delivery to Your Senator

Date _____
 Dear Senator _____

I firmly believe that human rights are Women's rights. I hope that you do too. But the reality is that women suffer violence and discrimination in today's world. We all need to fight against this. I support US ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Women's Convention). I want the United States to stand behind the efforts of women and men who are working to end that discrimination. The Women's Convention is an important tool for that work.

As your constituent I am asking you to express your support for US ratification of the Women's Convention and work to bring the Convention to the floor of the Senate for a vote in the 105th Congress. On International Women's Day, March 8, 1998, we will be publicizing your position.

Sincerely yours,

signature _____
 Name (please print clearly) _____
 Street Address, City, State, Zip _____

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Bulletin Board

Roommate Wanted: Tempe, McClintock and Southern. Own room and bath. House has pool, laundry, yard. Non-smoker, no drugs. Must be responsible. \$400 including utilities. Call 413-9631.

Astrology - A transformative spiritual/psychological experience. Astrological chart read by well-known west coast astrologer Karen Freeman, M.S. Sedona/Phoenix. Call 520-282-7601.

Marti's Guest Ranch - A nice private cottage yards away from the banks of Oak Creek. A stress free, natural, serene environment. A haven for birds and wildlife. Please call Marti 520-634-4842 or write to Marti McElroy, 989 S Main St, A601, Cottonwood, Az. 86326 for more information.

Room needed: Gay N.S., quiet, resp. female seeking room to rent in a gay quiet N.S., sober household in N.W. or N. Central Phoenix. Can pay \$200-\$250 including utilities. Call Lynn at 202-2916 voice mail.

Paradise By The Creek B&B - Escape to Sedona for some R&R in the red rocks. Relax in your private suite, or wander along Oak Creek watching orange sunsets on Cathedral Rock. Enjoy the peace of our secluded hideaway. L.O.O. \$75+ per night. (520)282-7107.

Women's Tours of Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Canada and New Zealand! Canyon Calling Tours of Sedona (L.O.O.) offers small group, seven day adventure tours to some of the most beautiful places in the world. Come join us for the trip of a lifetime! (800)664-8922 color brochure.

Bulletin Board notices - .15 per word with \$3.00 min.

RESOURCES

(Please note: This is a PARTIAL list of non-profit groups. If your group would like to be included please write or call us at 898-4844. We are looking for groups supportive of and of interest to Lesbians.)

INFORMATION:

Women's Center, Inc. publisher Women's Central News PO Box 26031 Tempe, Az 85285, 898-4844, e-mail address wcn@swlink.net, website <http://www.swlink.net/~wcnews>

Lesbian/Gay Community Switchboard: 234-2752

Lesbian Resource Project: 3136 N. 3rd Ave, Phoenix, Az. 85013, 266-5542 (voice) 266-5797(TDD).

Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 24 West Camelback; , Phx 85013, 265-7283

The Gay and Lesbian Community, based out of Flagstaff, (520)526-6098.

Verde Valley Alternative Lifestyles Directory, 989 S. Main St. Suite 437, Cottonwood, Az. 86326 520-634-1405 e-mail: martimac@sedona.net

SOCIAL GROUPS:

Desert Adventures: Indoor/Outdoor social activities 266-Camp(2267).

Desert Valley Squares, Ltd.: Lesbian/Gay Square Dance Club, PO Box 34615, Phx 85067. Contact C.J. at 252-0048.

Same Place Same Time Breakfast Club, Sundays at Coffee Talk, 48 N. Robson, Mesa 10AM

Desert Hearts Motorcycle Club: Monthly rides. Deb at 279-9228.

Lesbian and Gay Seniors Group: 241-1604

Valley Community Women: PO Box 33393, Phoenix, Az. 85067. Call Melissa D. at 897-0528.

Camelback Business & Professional Assoc., Business networking, socialization, 225-8444.

Scuba Diving Club, Phoenix, 957-9399 or Tucson digital pager, 261-9602.

Womyn 2 Womyn Connection: social group for womyn (singles and couples). Call 941-3513.

Valley of the Sun Community Band: concert band. Call Jayne at 947-0907 or Terry at 954-9244

Parents By Choice-Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group. Family gatherings 1st and 3rd Sat of every month. Call 252-3393 or 924-9974 for info or e-mail at JJKOPRY@swlink.net

SUPPORT NETWORKS:

Women Veteran's Support Network: VIRAGO!, PO Box 1171, New Market, VA 22844.

Rainbow Alliance: meets Tuesday at 7:30pm in the Memorial Union at ASU. Contact 965-9756.

POLITICAL GROUPS:

Arizona Committee For Progress: PO Box 40374, Phx, 85067.

Lesbian & Gay Public Awareness Project: PO Box 60881, Phx, 85082. Call 351-3080.

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS:

Casa de Cristo Evangelical Church: 1029 E. Turney, Phx 265-2831.

CCL/Conference for Catholic Lesbians: Donna 947-8187 (Phx area) or Pat at 326-8379 (Tucson).

Dignity/Integrity: PO Box 21091, Phx 85036. Bill 258-2556.

Gentle Shepherd MCC: Quality Inn, 2nd Ave & Osborn, Phx., 10AM Sundays.

Goddess Womyn Network: Meetings & quarterly newsletter. Call 266-4111.

Healing Waters Ministries: 225 W. University Dr., Tempe 85281, 894-8681.

Lutherans Concerned: Phoenix, Frank 870-3611

Aviv (Jewish lesbian & gays): Call Gene, 996-8622.

Augustana Lutheran Church, 2604 N. 14th St, Phx, 265-8400

In His Steps Christian Fellowship, call 209-8155.

Community Church of Hope, Sunday 10AM, Turney & Central, Phoenix, 234-2180.

Affirmations (Morman), 553-8674

Universal Church of Love, Pastor Joyce Cascio, Chandler, 917-5671

NEWSLETTERS OF INTEREST:

Rubyfruit Journal, Tucson Womyn's Community Newsletter. 517 E. Gay St., Tucson 85705. \$15.00.

Flagstaff Women's News: Aradia Bookstore, PO Box 266, Flagstaff, Az. 86002. \$18.00

conmoción, Bi-lingual, bi-cultural, latina lesbian newsletter, 1521 Alton Rd, #336, Miami Beach, FL 33139, \$4 sample, \$13 for 3 issues.



Care To Join Us?

You see our work all over the community.

We're the women of Women's Central News, published by the Women's Center, Inc. We're a non-profit, all volunteer bunch. Somehow we manage to get this newspaper out every month. We do a whole bunch of other stuff too. Along with being rewarding, satisfying, fun, and a great way to meet other lesbians, WCN is also a lot of work. In order to better serve our readers - and our community - we could use some help...your help.

Currently, we need:

Writer/reporter - spirituality/religion.

Writer/reporter - sports.

Writer/reporter - women's health.

Writers/reporters - general assignment.

Distribution/drivers - once a month drop WCN at selected sites.

Helpers - help with all the other stuff we do.

Tucson - reporting and distribution help.

Norther Arizona - reporting and distribution help.

Wanna know more?

Contact Women's Central News at:

voice mail: (602) 898-4844

e-mail: wcn@swlink.net

snail mail: POB 26031 Tempe, AZ 85285

Visit our website: www.swlink.net/~wcnews