

WOMEN'S CENTRAL NEWS

Arizona's Lesbian Newspaper since 1974

NUMBER 3

VOLUME XXVII

April 1999

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WCN's Last Issue

A Message From the President

Dear Friends:

The Women's Center, Inc. became a non-profit corporation in 1973 and, with a physical space, served mainly as an information and referral service for women. In 1977 they began to publish a newsletter to assist in providing out-reach to low income and working class women. In 1984 their physical space closed but the newsletter continued. Since then a large number of volunteer women have worked tirelessly to make the Women's Center, Inc. newsletter a shining success. These lesbians did such an outstanding job that our *little WCI newsletter* grew and became the respected *professional newspaper* you now hold in your hand. Unfortunately, the workload required to accomplish all the tasks involved can no longer be maintained by volunteers. Many of the current volunteer staff have worked on the paper for a half dozen years or more and now need, and want, to devote their spare time to other pursuits.

Though the Women's Central News will cease to exist, the Women's Center, Inc. will go on and find other ways to serve the lesbian community.

It has been a time of great reflection and soul searching for us all. We care deeply about the lesbian community and realize that the demise of the newspaper will leave women without a connection. The calendar of events and activities in each monthly issue has been a lifeline for many lesbians. The Women's Center, Inc. has had a web site for the past 3 years at www.swlink.net/~wcnews. Go to our site on the internet to see the monthly calendar of community events and activities as well as information on future WCI activities. We want to publish your events, meetings and activities on our web site, just contact us one of the ways listed below. Over time we will be expanding our site to include other kinds of interesting information for lesbians.

We appreciate the support of every lesbian who has worked with us, every lesbian who became a member and every lesbian and gay, or gay-friendly sponsor who has financed our monthly production costs. We could not have done it without you. Within the next 4 to 6 weeks, after our Treasurer has had an opportunity to prepare an accounting, all Members and Sponsors will be contacted by letter and will be apprised of our refund policy.

To contact us with your comments and event/activity info write to: Women's Center, Inc., P.O. Box 26031, Tempe, AZ, 85285, call our voice mail at 898-4844 or e-mail us at: wcn@swlink.net

Being involved with you through the pages of the Women's Central News has been a life-changing experience; a roller coaster ride rife with joy and grief, challenges and hard work. It has been rewarding beyond my expectations.



Volunteers Needed

A successful Pride is the result of volunteers – people just like you – doing all sorts of jobs large and small. If you've got the whole day, or just a few hours, Pride can use your help for both parade and/or festival duties. To volunteer, or for any other purposes, call their voice mailbox at (602) 279-1771. Or write to ACP/PLGPC, PO Box 16847, Phoenix, AZ 85011-6847. E-mail is info@azpride.org. Arizona Central Pride/Phoenix Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee, Inc. is a non-profit corporation with a 501(c)3 federal tax-exempt status.

Robin Dee

It's That Time Again '99 Pride Is This Month

By Margot Marie Bronski, staff writer

Pop/B&B singer Jody Watley, singer/comic Lynn Lavner and a 5K Run are just three of the highlights of the 1999 Pride Parade and Festival to be held Saturday, April 18.

Following the new 5K Fun Run, the parade steps off at 10 AM from Park Central Mall and heads south to Margaret T. Hance Park. After the parade, the festival gates open at 11 AM, with entertainment beginning at noon. Advance tickets are \$8 and are available at many community businesses; at the gate admission will be \$10. All stage shows and events are included in the one ticket price and kids under 12 are free. A supervised kid's care area will be available until 6 PM.

Details Still Coming

Pulling together all the details for our Pride is a big job and at WCN press time there was still much being finalized. WCN readers are advised to consult the Pride page at www.azpride.org for the latest information, as it becomes available. Or call Pride at (602) 279-1771. There will be shuttles from the Festival to various parking areas as well as to some of the local clubs in the area; this information will be made available on the web site.

Lots of Entertainment

In addition to Lavner and Watley other headliners will include: White Light, acoustic female, singing duo;

continued on page 2

WOMEN WHO DARED

Boyd Foster-Burns, Carey Avery, Cindy Stahl, Diane H., Ginger Brooks, Karen L. Forrester, Lynn Suffecool, Margot Bronski, Nancy Strong, Robin Dee, Shawna Rae, Sheila Bernstein, Sherrie Nist, Sheryl Lamoreaux, Susan Douty and Winnie Gettings.

The number of community lesbians who have worked on the Women's Central News at some time or another, for a long period or a brief period, is in the hundreds.

These women are the ones who dared to do it and did!

Final Thoughts

by Lyle C. Miller, Executive Director, The Community Center

I just received word that, Women's Central News, the premier publication for lesbian feminist news in the valley is producing its last issue. And this is it.

When I heard this information, I needed to pause and think about the WCN and how it has affected my life in Phoenix. When I moved to the Valley just over three years ago, I remember a small publication, just coming out of its infancy of a newsletter with cute little stories. Over these three years, I have been pleased with how this publication has matured. Better quality, cutting edge stories, reliable delivery, more advertisements, some wonderfully insightful humor, and in the more recent past, more inclusion of general queer news. This has been a publication that all women (and men) should be proud to have in their home town.

The small group of volunteers who have brought this publication to its current level needs to receive our thanks and gratitude for giving so

much time, energy and talent. I know many of them, and through their acquaintance, and the newspaper they painstakingly put out each month, I know that I have learned a great deal about the women's community and issues. And I thank them for that. I also thank them for giving me the opportunity to express my opinions about the community and share the news from The Community Center. They have always welcomed me with open arms. I am honored to have shared this part of our journey together.

It is sad and disheartening that this period of WCN has come to a close. I should mention here that I have recently been studying the spiritual beliefs of Taoism and Buddhism, and I hope (and know) that, sometime in the future, this critical part of the queer community will be reincarnated. But in order for that to occur, the women of this community must truly want it to happen. I think they do. I hope they do...for we need a strong lesbian feminist paper in this town.

Until we meet again, may all your travels be safe, may all your friendships be true, and may all the news be printed.

Community Center Announces Annual Meeting

The Valley of the Sun Gay and Lesbian Community Center (D.B.A. The Community Center) will have its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 6, 1999 at 6:30 PM. A recap of the 1998 events, activities, successes and areas for improvement will be presented along with the 1998 Annual Report.

This meeting, like all board meetings, is open to the public.

For more information contact Lyle C. Miller, Executive Director at 602-265-7283.

The Community Center is a 501(c)3, volunteer based, non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Pride continued from page 1

Tea Manson, local singer and songwriter; Charlie "The Castro Cowboy" Pacheo, country singer; Lorne Newman, standup comedian from New York. As always, a wide variety of local singers, musicians, female impersonators and other entertainers will be on hand. There will be continuous entertainment on three stages from noon to midnight. The headliners are due to start sometime after 6 PM.

5K Run

New this year is a 5K run being hosted by Team Arizona, a non-profit gay organization dedicated to encouraging sports in the community. The Pride Fun Run begins at 8:30 AM and will end prior to the parade. The starting line will be just north the Festival site. Winners will be recognized in each of six age groups. To cover expenses, Team Arizona is asking for a registration fee of \$10, or \$12 at the event. For more details call (602) 408-

4311 – NOTE, that is not the Pride phone number.

Food and Shopping

Pride always offers plenty to eat and drink, including cold beer. Community, and other, vendors will be there offering all manner of goods and services. This is also a great place to meet many of the community organizations which will have booths set up. As those who attended last year found out, the Deck Park site offers lots of places to just get comfy, relax and watch the dykes go by.

Special Hotel Rates

Have friends coming in for Pride? Or just want to treat yourself to a get away weekend. The Quality Hotel & Resort is offering a special Pride Rate this year – but, be sure to ask for it. Call (602) 248-0222 or visit their web site at www.getawayresort.com. They are located at 3600 North 2nd Avenue. (And yes, that was a plug, but it's nice to see the a part of the tourist industry giving Pride a hand.)

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Letter from the Gay, lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Veterans of America

Dear Veterans and Friends,

I am inviting you to participate in a history making effort to honor past, present and future servicemembers whose sacrifices have earned our freedom. From the time our country was founded, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people have served quietly and with distinction. Myth has it that we are unfit to serve, or our service would be cut short by misconduct, or that we could not be counted on. Truth tells us otherwise. Lesbian, transgendered, bisexual and gay people have always answered the call, and we always will.

In a country that takes great pride in equality and recognition of those who have served to protect the freedom of ALL people, we have stumbled across an oversight. The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America (GLBVA) has discovered that there are no monuments or memorials in the National Cemetery system that pay tribute to veterans who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered. Nor is there any monument or memorial for veterans from any bisexual, transgendered, lesbian or gay friendly organization. We propose to remedy this situation.

The Phoenix Chapter of the GLBVA is leading an effort to place a memorial in the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix. We have contacted the Cemetery Director and she has assured us that the Cemetery will accept our donation of a Memorial. We have the design requirements that all Memorials must meet and will design our donation accordingly.

This is where you can help. This will be the first Memorial in the national cemetery system that is for and by gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered veterans. We want the help of the entire community in the design and financing of this Memorial. We are asking individuals, organizations, veterans, politicians, and everyone else to share their ideas and suggestions with us. Your input will be crucial in erecting a monument on behalf of the entire community! One that not only honors the sacrifices of veterans, but also instills pride in those who contributed.

The first meeting of the Veterans Memorial Committee will be at the Community Center Sunday March 28. The Center is located at 24 West Camelback Road and the meeting will begin promptly at 5 PM. We will be discussing the design guidelines from the National Cemetery and the options available to make this 'our' Memorial. Please try to attend if you are in the Phoenix area.

The first fundraiser for the Veterans Memorial will be April 16th at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 1418 N. Central Ave., in Phoenix. The Banquet/Reception will include guest speakers Miriam Ben Shalom, (a GLBVA founder and first president, and Arizona Central Pride's 1999 Grand Marshall), and Edward Clayton, (the current GLBVA president). We are asking a donation of \$15 per person which includes dinner.

All proceeds from the dinner will be applied to the Veterans Memorial Fund. As a 501(c)3 organization your donations may also be tax deductible. To purchase tickets, or to make a contribution, make your check payable to the Veterans Memorial Fund and mail it c/o PGLBVA, 2039 W. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85021.

I hope that you will become a part of this effort. I know that your suggestions and contributions will be deeply appreciated.

Respectfully,

Wally Straughn, President, Phoenix Chapter, GLBVA

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Print Run 2,500 Memberships 300

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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.

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10" x 16" (full page)	\$125.00

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. 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 - 15th of the month.

HOW TO REACH US

Postal Service:
WCN
P. O. Box 60008
Phoenix, AZ 85082-0008
Voice Mail: 898-4844
Website: www.swlink.net/~wcnews
Electronic mail: wcn@swlink.net

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Please call or e-mail us if you can give a few hours a month toward working on your community paper. Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor or articles by contributors are not necessarily those of the Women's Central News. Although the WCN has many terrific sponsors, we will not be responsible for any claims made pertaining to their product or services. Permission to reprint is granted when credit is given to the Women's Central News.

Pick up the Women's Central

News

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J.C. Fun One - 5542 N. 43rd Ave.
The Waterhole - 8830 N. 43rd Ave.

MESA

Borders Bookstore - 1361 S. Alma School
PHOENIX

- Ain't Nobody's Biz - 3031 E. Indian School
- Arcadia Cuts - 2303 N. 44th St.
- Borders Bookstore - 2402 E. Camelback
- Cash Inn Country - 2140 E. McDowell Rd.
- Charlies - 727 W. Camelback Rd.
- Desert Rose - 4301 N. 7th Ave.
- Gay and Lesbian Center - 24 W. Camelback Rd.
- Incognito - 2424 E. Thomas Rd.
- Insights - 333 E. Virginia - #106
- Johnny Mc's - 138 W. Camelback Rd.
- Marlys - 15615 N. Cave Creek Rd.
- Movies On Central - 4700 N. Central Ave.
- Nasty Habits - 3108 E. McDowell Rd.
- Obelisk The Bookstore - 24 W. Camelback Rd.
- The Park - 3002 N. 24th St.
- Pookie's Cafe - 4540 N. 7th St.
- Club Roxy - 4343 N. 7th Ave.
- Roscoe's - 4531 N. 7th St.
- Unique On Central - 4700 N. Central Ave.
- The Wave - 998 E. Indian School Rd.
- Willow Coffee House - 149 W. McDowell
- Wink's - 5707 N. 7th St.

SCOTTSDALE

B.S. West - 7125 E. 5th Ave.
Crystal Moon - Los Arcos Mall

TEMPE

- Clan Tatu - 1415 E. University - #4
- Changing Hands Bookstore - 414 S. Mill
- Gentle Strength Co-op - 234 W. University - #105
- Healing Waters Church - 225 W. University

TUCSON

- Antigone Books - 411 N. 4th Ave.

New Women's Publication

By Margot Marie Bronski, staff writer

A new publication aimed at community women will debut May 1st. The Women's Community Connection will provide continuous coverage on community events, activities and announcements according to owner and publisher Sherrie Nist.

The WCC will be available by subscription for \$18 per year. Additionally it will also be available at some retail outlets and at The Community Center at 24 W. Camelback. Display advertising rates will run from \$12 for a business card up to \$80 for a full page. Bulletin Board and personal ads will also be available. The format of the new publication will be twelve 8.5" x 11" pages.

Nist, who also owns Zodiac Desktop Publishing, has been doing layout and composition for WCN for the past eight months. "I will continue to provide the community with a newsletter and relevant news through the Women's Community Connection", Nist said.

WCC can be reached by e-mail at WComCon@aol.com. The mailing address is 2544 N. Champlain Ave., Tempe, AZ 85281.

Lesbian chosen as one of century's top journalists

By Sherrie Nist, staff writer

The New York University Department of Journalism recently released their choices for the 100 best journalistic works of this century. Among their choices made by the 36 judges were works by at least three openly gay men and one open lesbian.

Truman Capote's 1965 "In Cold Blood: a True Account of a Multiple Murder and its Consequences" was number 22. African-American author James Baldwin was honored twice; the 1963 "The Fire Next Time" was number 35, and his "Letter From the South: Nobody Knows My Name," published in the "Partisan Review" in 1959 was number 40. Foreign correspondent and open lesbian Janet Flanner, who wrote under the pen name "Genet" received the number 45 ranking for her 1944-1955 "Paris journals" columns in "The New Yorker."

That Time of the Month!

Semi-coherent opinion by Margot Marie Bronski

"Turn out the lights, the party's over..." Well not exactly...

If it were still a party, we'd still be publishing the Women's Central News. Truth is it quit being a whole lotta fun some time ago. It turned into too much work for too few women. The decision to quit was like pulling the plug on Grandpa or putting down Ol Shep. We tried to avoid it. We kept hoping for a miracle cure. But in the end, even though it hurt, we had to do the right thing. We didn't want to see WCN just whither away. We wanted to quit while it was still something we could all be proud of.

Personally - and probably selfishly - I wanted to see us quit while the memories were still good. I've got some great memories of WCN. I got to meet and interview Janis Ian, Karen Ripley, Judy Carter, Candace Gingrich and a fair number of other interesting folks.

I remember calling the police in Medford, Oregon - "I'm Margot Marie Bronski from the Women's Central News" I said. And by goddess I was. And Sgt. Schoen talked to me about the murder of the two lesbians. I got a quote from him. It was just like being a real reporter for a real newspaper. And I'm very proud of that. We took a newsletter and for some time turned it into a real newspaper.

We certainly raised the bar. Looking back now, I think we probably raised it too high, too fast. It's one thing to get volunteers to work a booth at Pride, or set up tables for a Meet 'N Greet. It's quite another to get volunteers who want to be real reporters for a real newspaper. It takes a special breed. Hell, there aren't that many decent reporters working for the regular media as far as I'm concerned.

Good reporting takes a lot of phone calls, and phone tag. You sit through a fair number of boring meetings hoping to find a paragraph or two of real news. Facts have to be checked and rechecked. You research and write, rewrite and re-research. Your ego swells when you see your story in print. It goes into the crapper when you find that you got a date wrong or misspelled a name. And then you gear up to do it all over again.

And that's just the reporting part. There's calling on the sponsors - two or three or six times. There's layout and composition. Getting the pages to the printer. Getting the papers from the printer to outlets and to the subscribers. Maintaining the web site. The list goes on. Point is, a small number of really great women who had never done anything like this before, did it and did it pretty damn good.

Enuf of that, before I get too maudlin...

What a difference a year makes for Pride. Last year at this time we weren't even sure there'd be a Pride. This year the ACP is going into Pride with some money in the bank, a good list of headliners and a fair number of people who have already volunteered to help out. Way to go guys!

If you've gotten ho-hum about Pride and think it's not that important, I'd remind you to think of three things. 1. They're still trying to pass laws against us. 2. There's still too many of us living in closets. 3. Now and then they're still killing us.

Pride is a great way - maybe, THE way - to show the world that "We're queer, and we're here." See ya there.



WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CONNECTION COMMUNITY CALENDAR & EVENTS YOUR SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS LESBIAN IN PHOENIX AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Women's Community Connection is a new publication designed to be your "one-stop shop" for local lesbian events and activities. In addition, the Women's Community Connection will carry classified and personal ads, reviews of local events and activities, announcements, and information about local lesbian resources.

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Bulletin Board

In Search Of...

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Heart to Heart

Abuse: An opportunity for soul deep connecting

Part two

Dina Bachelor Evan, PhD, MFCC

Last month I emphasized the importance of learning to stay objective and not take each other's responses to childhood abuse personally. In addition, we emphasized the importance of on-going communication. This issue we are going to look at how having to deal with abuse issues in your relationship can actually provide opportunities for becoming more deeply connected.

Many couples express feeling most connected during or immediately after sex. That is why sexual problems may be frustrating both to the survivor and the partner. It can feel as if the most important means of connecting has been taken away. Childhood memories of trauma are often fragmented and stored in the body, in the mind or emotions and in the Spirit. That is why some survivors can be in talking therapy for years, feel they have resolved the issues and then still be triggered when physically touched in a certain way or in a certain area of the body. This is because the body memory portion of the trauma, which is held physically at a cellular level, has not yet been resolved.

So much emphasis has been put on performance when it comes to sexual activity that this issue becomes heavy laden with potential for hurt feelings, hurt ego's, mistrust and abandonment. Flashbacks, lack of sexual desire, numbness or dissociation during sexual activity can leave the survivor feeling unprotected and at risk, and can leave partner's feeling rejected, abandoned and betrayed. Actually a survivor's response to being triggered or touched in a way that evokes a childhood memory has little or nothing to do with the current partner. It has everything to do with the perpetrator. Don't take it personally!

Survivors can help themselves by committing to a well focused effort to resolve the trauma, preferably in therapy with a professional specifically trained in abuse issues and trauma resolve. Survivors who are not in a position to get on-going professional support can begin educating themselves by reading and doing at-home healing processes. If you are a survivor, you have a right to experience and express all your feelings. You have a right to enjoy your own body and be fully sexually active in your relationship. If you are not doing your own healing work, no doubt your partner is also paying the price. Your inability to connect to yourself and your partner will be in direct ratio to the amount of unresolved trauma you are still holding inside.

If you are a partner, you can begin your own healing process by not allowing the focus to be entirely on the survivor. You have much to learn and a great deal to gain by becoming fully involved in the healing process as well. The first and greatest gift to both of you is that you will learn to become profoundly connected on many levels

instead of only on the sexual level.

How do you stay connected while healing trauma? First you individually make a commitment to remaining connected as you explore new ways of helping each other feel safe. For instance, you may begin a spiritual journey and exploration together. You can meditate together, study new thoughts and ideas, take classes or seminars on spiritual growth issues. You can read about different concepts and take time each week to share what you have learned. You can begin to explore ways of sharing energy. Try sitting across from each other and expressing your love without words and without touching. Deeply connecting through the eyes can be a profoundly moving way to say, "I Love You."

Stay connected through regularly scheduled communication exercises during which you can each express your deepest emotions without judgment. Take time to talk about your fears and expectations. Feel free to call my office for a copy of these exercises. Write letters to each other. Create journals that reflect the things you are learning and share the contents with each other. Write poetry, draw or paint, find creative outlets for your energy and for expressing the traumatic energy in your body together.

It is important for survivors to hear how a partner can love and desire them and see how it is different from the abusive energy of their perpetrator/s. It is also important for partners to learn which words and phrases are triggering and change the loving or love making dialog into new phases and words that feel safe to the survivor.

Explore new ways of staying connected physically. Make sure that you do not stop being affectionate with each other. Reach out, touch each other and explore what safe touching means to each of you. In many cases, when partners give all the control over to the survivor and survivors are able to express what feels safe and not safe, touching can resume. Make a contract that states partners will stop immediately when the survivor expresses a need to stop or change the kind of touching taking place. Partners who can allow themselves to experience this kind of "following" process find they become more sensitive and in tune to their partners. What an incredible gift that is! This also gives survivors a greater sense of safety and being in control. Cuddling, holding and just being close in non-sexual ways can be deeply satisfying while deeper healing work is taking place.

When it feels safe to resume sexual activity, it may again be important to give the survivor the majority of control. Communicate! Communicate! Communicate! If your abuse took place on a bed in a bedroom, it may be best for you and your partner to make love in the living room or on a carpet. It may be necessary to choose positions that allow you to see each other's face or stay in contact in some

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way that reminds you your partner is not the perpetrator. Talk about the triggers, the fears and the expectations of resuming sexual activity. If during the process you become triggered, simply stop, hold each other, literally or energetically, and talk about what has happened. Again I emphasize, don't take it personally. Get your ego out of the process.

The most important key to healing childhood abuse is to decide not to abandon each other on any level. Staying connected and learning new ways to express your love will bring you out on the other side of your healing process feeling more deeply in

love than ever before.

Finally, remember you are not your abuse. You are a multi-dimensional, multi-faceted human being with lots to learn and lots to offer your partner. Don't allow your abuse to consume you or your relationship. Get qualified help and put the memories behind you. Make yourself go out feel the wind in your hair and the sun on your face and remind yourself there is still great joy in life.

Dr. Evan is a psychotherapist in Phoenix. To contact her directly call (602) 230-7570.

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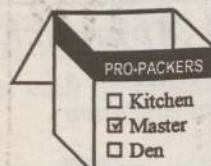
Don't wait until it's too late,
HAVE PEACE OF MIND NOW!

Openly lesbian French tennis pro finishes second

By Sherrie Nist, staff writer

Openly lesbian French tennis pro Amelie Mauresmo came in second in the Gaz de France Open to African-American Serena Williams on February 28 by 6 - 2, 3 - 6, and 7 - 6 (7 - 4). It was Mauresmo's third loss this year in 16 matches. To qualify for the finals Mauresmo defeated third-seeded Belgian Dominique Van Roost 6 - 0, 7 - 6 (7 - 5) in less than an hour-and-a-half on February 27th.

This tournament will be remembered for Mauresmo's defeat of top-ranked Hingis for the first time, after Hingis defeated her in the final for the Australian Open title and insultingly told reporters Mauresmo was a "half-man." Mauresmo said, "I have beaten two Number One players this year and that can only build confidence." Mauresmo defeated the then top-ranking Lindsey Davenport of the United States in Australia and then went on to beat Hingis, who between Australia and France regained the #1 title she lost in October.



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Family times

New gay/lesbian internet magazine

Dallas, TX---the newest gay/lesbian publication to hit the internet is Family Times. Located at <http://www.gaylesbiancalendar.com> and promoted as a newsletter, this web site debuted in February 1999. Originally intended to provide information on GLBT events in the United States and world wide, it has grown in scope to meet the growing demand in the GLBT community for direct involvement in politics, fund raising, social clubs and sports groups.

"The bar scene is fine," explains Jerry McMeans, Family Times editor. "But eventually a person wants more. And so much more is out there!"

The discovery that "so much more is out there" came during a seven month research project, McMeans said. "My daughter is gay. And she became frustrated in trying to keep up with activities in our area's gay community. I jumped in and --drawing on my experience as a newspaper reporter--began using the Internet to produce a personalized, professional calendar of local events for her that could be updated. But I got carried away and began finding the most extraordinary opportunities, not just in this area, but everywhere I looked."

Family Times is the end result of the research project. "I became so enthusiastic with each discovery, it finally occurred to me that no other web site provided this information all in one package," McMeans explains. "So, I invested in an office, equipment, a web site and finally quit my job to produce Family Times on a full time basis. It's a labor of love and certainly challenging."

The excitement of finding little known activities in the GLBT community began during the first week of Internet research. McMeans remembers: "My first surprise came when I

Cathedral of Hope wins right to air gay & lesbian TV ads

By Sherrie Nist, staff writer

A half-hour video documentary produced by Texas' predominantly gay and lesbian Cathedral of Hope Metropolitan Community Church will finally see air time.

The video, originally scheduled for August 1998, was cancelled by the Chicago-based station WGN. Shortly before the broadcast WGN returned \$12,000 they were paid to air the program. In October, Cathedral of

THE WOMEN'S CENTRAL NEWS

found a GLBT antique car restoration club with members across the United States and beyond. They have several annual car meets in various locations. Next was an even bigger shock. There is an international GLBT bird watching association that has not only a web site, but also provides members with annual bird watching excursions," McMeans explained.

Further digging provided information on bridge players, square and western dancers, spelunkers, stamp collectors and other hobby clubs seldom mentioned in the GLBT community.

"We are all familiar with the large organizations--and of course information on those organizations and their events are included in Family Times--but here was a treasure chest of special interest groups that took real effort to find," McMeans said. "And it didn't end there."

"I ran across a couple of GLBT hot air balloon festivals planned for 1999 produced by the Gay and Lesbian Pilot Association. It was a surprise to find a support group for pilots and I wondered if other support groups were available for specific career paths. Over the next few weeks I found groups for law enforcement officers, teachers, government employees, medical personnel, and tons more."

McMeans chuckles at the memory. "Maybe I was naïve, I just didn't have a clue so much was available in the gay and lesbian community."

As a result, Family Times became more than just an events calendar, it creates a connection between subscribers and clubs, organizations and associations that represent the many special interests in the GLBT community.

"We are still evolving and addressing the needs of our readership," McMeans added. "But I think the best value of Family Times is in the opportunity it provides the GLBT community to inter-connect with each other at a personal level."

Hope filed a lawsuit for breach of contract. They won their case in a federal lawsuit March 12th.

The settlement requires the TV station to air the program 5 times for \$35,000. The title has been changed from "Holy homosexuals" to "A Cathedral of Hope."

The Cathedral of Hope hopes that the broadcasts will provide some balance "at a time when hateful messages about gays and lesbians fill the airwaves."

The documentary was turned down for airing by several other stations that feared losing their regular Christian following.

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National Center for Lesbian Rights sponsors Liberty Weekend in San Francisco May 14th – 16th

Phone your friends and pack your bags!

Get ready to spend a fun-filled weekend in San Francisco this Spring with Kate Clinton and 1500 of your newest best friends, celebrating for a great cause.

National Center for Lesbian Rights LIBERTY WEEKEND, May 14 - 16 in San Francisco.

FRIDAY, MAY 14th:

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM: WELCOME RECEPTION at one of SF's 'in' spots, Mecca, at 2029 Market Street in the heart of the Castro. Meet other friends of NCLR from around the country. After 6:00 PM, continue to socialize at the bar, enjoy dinner here, or dine at another restaurant of your choice. Then take off to explore the San Francisco nightlife. For dinner reservations at Mecca, call (415) 621-7000.

SATURDAY, MAY 15th:

MORNING/AFTERNOON: GOLF TOURNAMENT. NCLR's first annual tournament, all skill levels welcome. Play a beautiful Bay Area course with the NCLR golfing set. Prizes for 'Longest drive,' 'Closest to the hole,' and more. Transportation provided. Call Sally Elkington (510) 601-0404 to sign up.

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM: WINE COUNTRY TOUR. Visit the Napa Valley, home to some of the great wines of the world. Enjoy a private tour and tasting at St. Supery Vineyards, share a lunch in the vineyards, and finish the afternoon on the terrace of the architecturally-acclaimed winery Cordonlu Napa while sampling the Napa Valley *methode chompenoise* sparkling wine. Cost is \$75 per person. Transportation provided. Call Vivien Gay, at The Isosceles Group, (415) 896-5553 to reserve your place.

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM: VIP RECEPTION. Become a Table Captain or Sponsor of our 22nd Anniversary Celebration and attend the VIP Reception with Kate Clinton and NCLR's 1999 Celebration Dinner honorees. Call NCLR at (415) 392-6257.

6:00 PM - 1:00 AM: NCLR's 22nd ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION at the San Francisco Marriott, 55 Fourth Street. Celebrate the successes of the nation's premier legal or-

ganization devoted primarily to advancing the rights of lesbians and their families. Kate Clinton will emcee the program honoring Jewelle Gomez, Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon, Assembly woman Carole Migden, and the six youth plaintiffs in a landmark NCLR case. Betty DeGeneres will be a special guest for the evening. Dinner, auction, and dancing with DJ Page Hodel. Tickets begin at \$125. For individual tickets, or to become a Table Captain or Sponsor, contact NCLR at (415) 392-6257.

SUNDAY, MAY 16th:

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM: BRUNCH with NCLR members and supporters at 2223 Restaurant and Bar, located at 2223 Market Street, where manag@fdavid.com and chef Melinda Randolph will offer the warmest of welcomes. Or brunch on your own at lesbian-friendly restaurants. NCLR will provide a list with contact information. For reservations at 2223, call (415) 431-0692.

FRI/SAT/SUNDAY: SHOPPING AND SALON DISCOUNTS. Nordstrom will open its doors to NCLR guests with gift bags and a 10% discount on every purchase of \$100 or more. The elegant Nordstrom Spa, inside the store at 865 Market Street in the San Francisco Shopping Centre, is holding a limited number of appointments (massages, facials, manicures and more). Call (415) 977-5105 and ask for the Nordstrom Spa. Chic Cinta Salon, also in the San Francisco Shopping Center, 865 Market Street, will offer NCLR guests a special 15% discount on haircuts, styling, and all personal services. Call Cinta Salon at (415) 777-3313 for an appointment and mention NCLR.

For hotel accommodations at NCLR's special rate, \$129/night, call the San Francisco Marriott: (800) 228-9290.

For travel arrangements, call Travel Concepts, NCLR's Liberty Weekend travel agency: (800) 829-2999.

For Celebration Dinner reservations and Information, call NCLR: (415) 392-6257.

Visit the NCLR website <http://www.NCLRights.org> or email Herring@NCLRights.org

Hindu groups unhappy about "Xena"

By Sherrie Nist, staff writer

A recent episode of "Xena: Warrior Princess" has upset Hindu groups in America and New Zealand. The Wellington Indian Association in New Zealand, the American Hindus Against Defamation, and the U.S.-based World Vaishnava Association claim that the episode featured Lord Krishna helping "Xena to save her lesbian lover." The relationship in question, between main characters Xena and Gabrielle, is a primary element of the popular series and is deliberately deliberately kept rather ambiguous and basically non-sexual.

Tusta Krishnadas, a spokesperson for the U.S.-based World Vaishnava Association, said, "It treats Lord Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, speaker of the scripture Bhagavadgita, as fictional. It makes it appear that Lord Krishna and Vedic religion approves of and gives its blessing to homosexual relationships, which is completely false."

A producer of the syndicated show stated that they had used a Hindu consultant and that "Every effort was made to ensure that all references to the Hindu religion were treated with the greatest respect."

Prairie Lights GLBT conference to be held in Minneapolis & St. Paul

Prairie Lights: The Sixth Midwest Regional Conference of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Jews, will be held for the first time in Minnesota's Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul on May 7 - 9, 1999. Conference attendees will come from across North America to attend seminars on a variety of topics, including family, spirituality, community, and culture.

Participants will also attend a world premiere of an original play, *I Did Not Speak in Secret: An Ancient Song in Modern Voices*. The play is being created by Michael Robbins, Sima Rabinowitz and David Harris for *Into the Light: A Celebration of Jewish Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Arts and Culture*, a special arts series being presented by the St. Paul Jewish Community Center and the St. Paul Companies.

NOW sponsors Lesbian Rights Summit

Activists from across the country will participate in the Lesbian Rights Summit, a feminist strategy session for lesbians and allies, organized by the National Organization for Women (NOW) and sponsored by more than 70 other organizations, in Washington, D.C. on April 23-25, 1999. "The Lesbian Rights Summit is designed to promote grassroots dialogue on feminist strategy," said NOW President Patricia Ireland.

The Summit agenda will be packed with powerful speakers, round-table discussions, entertainment, caucuses, book and poetry readings and film previews. Activists will also be invited to participate in strategy working groups, the results of which will be presented to leaders of national organizations that work on lesbian rights issues.

The highlights of the Summit will include speakers like U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisc.; Lt. Col. Grethe Cammermeyer, 1998 candidate for U.S. Congress; Urvashi Vaid, author of *Virtual Equality* and director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute; Willa Taylor, director of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum; and Patricia Ireland, president of NOW.

Roundtable presenters will include a wide range of talented feminists, from young feminist Rebecca Kirkpatrick to long-time activists Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, who will receive NOW's Women of Courage Award for their pioneering work on lesbian rights.

Roundtable and working

Raw Thunder Women's Motorcycle Association

All women are welcome to ride with us. Call or e-mail Char Zack, Road Captain, at (520) 634-9739 or azraw@sedona.net, for further information.



A photo exhibit, "Our Simchas, Our Lives, Our Pride," will be displayed. The photos are selected from submissions that show different special times and events in the lives of Jewish GLBT people.

Sabbath and Havdallah services are being specially created for Prairie Lights which concludes with a panel featuring local Jewish congregations and organizations that have made special efforts to be inclusive and welcoming of GLBT Jews. Prairie Lights is co-sponsored by the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Jews and Keshet Ga'avah, the Twin Cities organization for GLBT Jews.

Registration brochures are available by calling Keshet Ga'avah at 612.374.8638 or by writing: hzuckerman@firsttech.com or Keshet Ga'avah, 3500 Holmes Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55408

NOW sponsors Lesbian Rights Summit

group topics will cover the gamut of feminist issues. They will address lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (LGBT) issues and incorporate multiple goals such as attaining economic justice; eliminating sexism, racism and ableism; assuring freedom from violence; electing Feminists to political office; and educating the nation on the importance of civil rights for all.

The Summit's co-sponsors represent a diverse cross-section of the feminist, LGBT and progressive movements. The list includes: PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, the National Asian Women's Health Organization, Planned Parenthood, the African-American Women's Clergy Association, the National Latina Caucus, the American Psychological Association, the American Friends Service Committee, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Organizations, the Ms. Foundation and the Feminist Majority, among many others.

Entertainment on tap will include Sonia of Disappear Fear and singer Catie Curtis, as well as a dance.

"We are facing serious right-wing attacks on lesbian and gay civil rights --now is the time to close ranks and fight our enemies. The Lesbian Rights Summit will give us the opportunity to start the new century with unprecedented strength and a unified Lesbian Rights agenda," Ireland said.

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The Valley's Lesbian Calendar Pull-out

Events, Activities, & Announcements

Breakfast with Friends

Join us every 2nd Saturday of the month for Womyn To Womyn's "Breakfast with Friends." We meet at 10:00 AM, at the Eggery restaurant, located at Central and Camelback. April's breakfast date is the 10th. For more information, call Cheryl at 780-3102 or e-mail sammie@psn.net.



Friends of Ellen

Friends of Ellen (FOE) will be meeting at Einstein's Bagel in their outside courtyard at the Albertson's Plaza on 16th St. and Camelback (SE corner). There are plenty of umbrella tables outside, and late arrivals won't stir panic in waitresses eyes! We will meet at 10:30. April's dates are the 4th and 18th (1st & 3rd Sunday). I'll have a small sign that says FOE in case some of you bashful types don't think you'll recognize us!

For information call Arlene 944-9432.

Women at the Movies

Join us the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month for a day at the movies, at the AMC Arizona Center 24, on Van Buren between 3rd and 5th Streets. 4th and the 18th. We will be going to early afternoon showings (around 1:00 PM) - for specific details regarding times and the movie selected, call Karla at 277-0677, or e-mail oceanwmn69@aol.com.

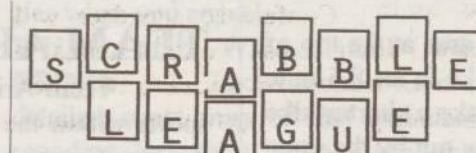


Free Health talk

Free health talk every Thursday, 8-9 PM at Dr Susan Rayeski's office, A Chiropractic Place, 5527 N. 27th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85017. 602-242-2370. All are welcome!

Women Sought for Tennis Team

An all lesbian/gay tennis team has openings for new team mates in 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



The Tuesday Night Lesbian Scrabble League, held at the Coffee Plantation on Mill Ave. and 6th St. in downtown Tempe, is growing! We meet at 6:00 PM, in the back room. Our players cover all levels of skill, and everyone is welcome. Whether you just play for fun, or are viciously competitive (all in fun, of course), or anything in between, come join us. If you have a Scrabble board, or any other Scrabble "paraphernalia," bring it along. It's a great way to have some fun, meet new people, and make friends all at the same time. Drinks are half-price until 6:00 PM, and food is available. For more information, call Sherrie at 946-5570, or e-mail SHNIST@AOL.com.

Alternative Healing Workshop

Join us for our highly successful Alternative Healing Workshops & Networking Meetings, where Reiki, Chiropractic and other Alternative Healing Practitioners get to work and learn together. Third Tuesday of every month at the Hand of Love Ministry, 6605 N. 14th Street, Phoenix (between Maryland and Glendale). Expand your abilities and gain new insights with the experts.

Admission by good-will donation. Adepts of all disciplines of Healing therapy are welcome. For more information call (602)264-1470.

Jewish Lesbian Group

The Jewish Lesbian Group will meet twice during April. On Sunday April 11 we will discuss Coming Out Stories and on Sunday April 25 we will talk about It's In the Stars and Astrology. We meet at 11:30 am in a Central Phoenix home. Please call Ellen at 222-9545 to RSVP and to get directions. All Jewish Lesbians and your significant others are invited to join us!

winner. This will be the second year for the lesbian/gay team to make its second appearance in the local 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 in April. If you are interested in participating please call Doug at 971-4387.



Lesbian Night Out

A new social group for women has formed and is meeting on a regular basis.

Lesbian Night Out is an alternative to or before the night clubs. Join women from all over the valley for fun, games (board games, card games), videos, discussions,



networking, socializing and education.

Lesbian Night Out meets at The Community Center, 24 West Camelback Road at 7:00 PM every Friday night. For more information call 265-7283 and leave a message for Sue with Lesbian Night Out.

S.C.A.M.P.

E-mail Club for lesbians looking for intelligent conversation

Singles! Couples! Meet people in your area! Join S.C.A.M.P. (Scottsdale, Chandler, Ahwatukee, Mesa, and Phoenix, and surrounding areas) - the lesbian e-mail club for Arizona women only! We are especially looking for lesbians who live in the Chandler/Ahwatukee areas to even out the mix, but all areas are welcome.

Express your opinions, have a laugh, help make policy, attend SCAMP events, and maybe find your dream dyke - who knows! For more information, visit our homepage at <http://members.home.net/beeswax>, and don't forget to check out the Member Pics and Bios. There are also community links to the Womyn 2 Womyn event calendar, the Women's Central News, Az Women's News, and member's personal home pages. Get connected!

In April SCAMP is sponsoring a road rally. See article on page 9 for information.

Glenna's Community Potluck

The April Potluck will be held on April 17th at 6PM. We will meet at 3401 N. 38th Street, which is on the N.E. corner of Osborne and 38th Street, north of Thomas and south of Indian School. Bring a delicious dish, table service, drinks and of course a friendly smile. Any? Call Glenna at 671-4166.



Latina group

Latinas wanted for a new organization for cultural/heritage get togethers.

Seeking women in the community that miss La Familia in their lives.

We're planning festivities, concerts, outings, Mexican food, possible Spain/Mexico tours, and lots of fun. We'll be collaborating with the Tucson Latina Group for future plans. Email Personnaly@aol.com or 803-9952 for further info.

Clogging Group

A new clogging group in Phoenix, called the Jalapeno Stompers, gets together every Wednesday except for holidays and special events.

We are clogging at the Augustana Lutheran Church from 7-9:30 PM. The Church is located on the corner of 14th Street and Virginia, just south of Thomas. The address is 2604 N. 14th Street. There is a large parking lot in the back of the church; pull in and enter the facility through the door titled Larson Hall.

An 8 week Clogging from Scratch Class (Beginner Clogging) will be conducted March 3-April 28 Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 7:15 PM at the Augustana Lutheran Church. There will be a minimum charge (\$2-\$4) to cover the facility rental fees. Leather sole shoes, clogging shoes or tennis shoes with taps need to be worn.

Wednesday evenings are used to conduct classes and to get together as cloggers to have fun dancing and carrying on the tradition of clogging. All are invited. We have a nominal fee in order to cover the cost of renting the facility. If interested come on by: e-mail me at: clogaz@aol.com or leave a message on the pager: 560-4833. Contact is Sherry.



Gay & Lesbian literature groups

There are several Gay & Lesbian Literature book discussion groups that meet at "mainstream" book stores around the valley. Call the store for date, time, and the title of the next book.

In Phoenix, Bookstar at 2030 E. Camelback has a group that meets every first Thursday of the month. Call 957-2001.

Border's at 2402 E. Camelback has a group that meets every second Wednesday of the month. Call 957-6660.

In Mesa, at Borders at 1361 S. Alma School Road, the group meets every third Wednesday of every month. For more information, call 833-2244.

Xena

Have you learned everything you need to know by watching Xena? Well there's still more to learn because the Xena board, card, and role playing games are here! Come play the Xena games with 20 other lesbian and bi-women. Other activities may include: listening to hot lesbian fan fiction, viewing previous episodes and Lucy Lawless interviews.



For meeting dates and further information on the Phoenix Xenites Group, call XeenaFan at 813-8681 or e-

mail me at xeenafan@worldnet.att.net and visit our website at <http://lavender.fortunecity.com/Kane/598/>

Telephone Tree

Let's keep the messages flowing. The way to send any message of interest to the community, at no charge, is by using the Telephone Tree. Tell us what you have to sell, or what you want to buy; ask for a roommate or a place to live; or announce a new business. Call me with your news and it will be passed down the line.



Volunteers are needed to make just one call. The more people on the tree, the more people who will hear your message. Call Jean at 954-8007 for news or to volunteer.

"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 3 PM and the social events call GB at 997-2411.

Verde Valley Support Group

Women's Chat in the Verde Valley is held every Wednesday night from 5 to 7 PM at the Huff n Puff Straw Bale Inn near Sedona. Call 520-634-4842 for more information.

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



WREN

Hike Saturday May 1st

Magon and Ann will be leading a moderate to difficult WREN hike on Mt. Lemon in Tucson. We will be hiking the Wilderness of Rocks trail through pine trees and herds of boulders of all species, shapes, sizes, and poses.



The trailhead is located near the ski area at the top of Mt. Lemon at around 9000 feet, and the hike is an 8.5-mile loop. However, individuals may choose to take a shorter hike by going in a few miles and then backtracking out by the same route. The elevation change of the loop hike is over 1000 feet.

Meet at 8 a.m. Saturday May 1st on the northwest corner of the intersection of I-10 and Grant in Tucson. The Grant exit is on the north end of town. I believe there is an Exxon gas station there. Ann and the Tucson hikers will meet up with our Phoenix-area group at the gas station, so we can drive up Mt. Lemon to the trailhead together.

The park entrance fee is \$5 per car. Bring your lunch and about two liters of water. It may be chilly up there at 9,000 feet, so pack a jacket. Also, plan to join us for dinner in Tucson before flying away if you can. Please call me if you have any questions or want to coordinate a carpool to Tucson. Magon (602) 931-4891.

As always, we need event submissions....got something you wanna do, see, whatever??? Let me know...call Kelly 225-0940 or e-mail KELSTR@aol.com

Spirituality Gathering

If you are interested in this year's Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender Spirituality Gathering in New Mexico, it's a gathering of 70-100 queer folks of various spiritual bents who get together for 4-5 days each year to explore the mysteries and celebrate in all our queer glory. This year's gathering is from June 3-7.

If you'd like to receive a brochure, which contains lots more info and a registration form, please send your name and snail mail address to --max at airborne@sirius.com

ARIZONA LESBIAN LIST

Wild and crazy e-mailers listen up! For those who love mail, and want to get out and meet others, check out the Arizona Lesbian List (ALL). There are no rules, no forms of decorum to be observed; the only rule is that there will be NO RULES on this list! It is for LESBIANS IN ARIZONA. Visit our web site, at <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Park/9700>, check out our members, see our short bios, and then send your bio and request for membership to azles@geocities.com See you in cyberspace!

Women in Tune Chorale

The Women in Tune Chorale (formerly known as the TLC Chorale) rehearses every Thursday night at 7:00 PM at the Augustana Lutheran Church, 2604 N. 14th Street, Phoenix.

Simplicity Circle

We are beginning an 8 part discussion on simplicity using materials from the Northwest Earth Institute. Please join us for a stimulating evening. Our first topic is "The Meaning of Simplicity". We will be meeting in Tempe on Tuesday, April 13 at 7 pm. New women welcome!! For more information call Carey at 350-9556 or Judy at 275-6261.

TEAM ARIZONA

Team Arizona is a non-profit group promoting sports within the gay community. They participate in the Gay Games as well as producing local events, helping people within the community get connected with other gay and lesbians who have interests in the same sports. For further information on attending about Team Arizona, call 264-2645.

!!!Golfers!!!

Come join Sunday Women Golfers for relaxed and fun golf. We play around the valley on the first Sunday of each month. For more information, call Judy at (602) 732-0754.



Women's Spirituality Group

We meet the 3rd Monday of every month

Contact Kathy - 470-4518

Verde Valley Resource Directory

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.

Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club

WOMEN: Please join us at the Coffee Talk, 48 N. Robson, Mesa (east of Country Club and North of Main). We meet every Sunday at 10 AM to talk, eat, talk, drink coffee, talk and talk. For more information call Robin at 848-0083.

Gentle Shepherd

Gentle Shepherd has a new address. It is 7810 N. 27th Ave, in the Aztec Center, just south of Northern, west of I-17. Traditional service is at 9:15 AM. and Contemporary Service is at 11 AM. New phone number is 602-864-6404. We will be starting a Sunday evening service in the very near future, which will be a gospel service. We have plenty of parking, front and rear and we also have a fellowship hall with offices at 7820 N. 27th Ave. Pastors are Rev. Brad Wishon, Rev. Rick Schisler and Rev. Katie Cassidy. All are invited.



The First Annual S.C.A.M.P. Road Rally!!!

Come one, come ALL - You don't have to be a S.C.A.M.P. member to participate in the First Annual S.C.A.M.P. Road Rally - A Fundraiser to promote S.C.A.M.P. - "THE" Local Email Club for Lesbians who enjoy intelligent conversation!

For those of you that don't know what a road rally is, you're in for the greatest day of your life!!! --- Take four people, shove 'em in a car for 2 hours with a street map, (don't forget the reading glasses), a book of clues & directions, colored markers & paper, and a keen eye or two. Then, take a picture of the team, let 'em loose on the streets of the city for a Big Scavenger Hunt on Wheels, and you've got yourself a day of hilarious excitement!!!

DAY: April 24th, 1999

TIME: 10 a.m. Please be PROMPT - and prepare to be engaged in several hours of hilarious fun, challenging mind-twisters, raucous company, and a great time!" The earliest we could possibly be done is around 1 o'clock but give yourself more time to eat lunch and hang around for the voting and tallying before you go scheduling your afternoon appointments.

PLACE: JACKRABBIT PARK - at the intersection of Hayden Road and Chapparal - that's North of Camelback on the East side of the street. The Park is flat and open, so everything in it is easily visible from the street. We will have Colored balloons and possibly a SCAMP sign or banner where we are camped out.

Desert Adventures

Monthly Social Meetings

Learn about upcoming activities from the trip leaders and pick up their information flyers. Hear about recent trips, usually with pictures and slides. We meet at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month and socialize until 7:30 when the meeting begins. The location for our Monthly Social Meetings is The Hope Activity Center at 4400 N. Central Ave., in Phoenix. The Hope Activity Center is between Camelback and Indian School on the Northwest corner of Central and Turney. Parking is on the South side in the lot. Enter through the front doors on Central Ave. Guests are always welcome at the monthly Social meeting.

Our history

Desert Adventures was founded in March of 1980 by a group of people who got together one night for dinner and found themselves discussing the need for an alternative and better way to meet people and socialize, other than the bars. From that meeting arose Desert Adventures, an organization designed primarily to provide camping and hiking activities for members of our community. Since then, Desert Adventures has expanded its activities to include various indoor and other recreational activities as well. Some of our recent activities include: four days of camping in Rocky Point Mexico, hot air ballooning, camping weekend in the White Tanks Mountains, IMAX theater, bowling

COST: \$11 Per Person in advance (\$13 if you show up at the park looking dazed and confused) \$5 for children under 13 Free for children under 8 (who won't be counted in the 4-per-car rule).

YOUR TEAM: Up to 4 people in a car. Don't worry if you're single. We will match you up with a group of crazies when you arrive!

WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO BRING: 1.) Each car must have a detailed street map of the area surrounding Jackrabbit Park - that is the Scottsdale, Phoenix, Tempe areas. Believe me, you'll be needing it when you make the wrong turn and find yourself off the route! Don't count on your team mates to bring it! Bring your own!

2.) A set of colored markers or crayons and something to lean on. In the quieter moments (yeah RIGHT!!!) you will be thinking up a team name and someone will be illustrating a team logo to present to the judges when you get (uh.... I mean IF you get) to the mystery destination. We will provide the paper!

3.) Drivers bring your driver's license and gas up your car.

4.) Bring something to drink for the road trip! And bring money to buy lunch afterward.

Send the following information and your payment to:

Denise "Beeswax" DeSio
15401 South 14 Street
Phoenix, AZ 85048

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

NUMBER OF TICKETS: \$11 per person each in advance, \$13 at the door

Indicate whether you need/want to be matched up with other team members.
and many others.

Member advantages

As a member of Desert Adventures, you are entitled to attend all of our trips and activities. Our ability to obtain group rates and discounts is passed on to you in the form of reduced fees and charges. Three free members parties offer the opportunity to get together for recreational type activities, socializing, and of course sampling each other's favorite recipes. Our annual holiday party is offered at a 50% reduced fee as our yearly gift to you. You also will receive our monthly newsletter, "TRAIL MARKER", which provides you with all the necessary information to sign up for future trips as well as stories about past events.

Membership Information

Membership is open to men and women, 21 years of age or older within our community, for an annual fee of \$25. Non-members, (guests), are always welcome and are encouraged to attend activities before joining Desert Adventures. Guests pay a higher activity fee, but if you join within one month of the attended activity you will receive back the difference between the member and the non-member fee. Activity fees are structured to cover the costs of the activity, plus other minor expenses (photos, flyers, etc.). Unless otherwise noted, fees for single day activities (hikes, movies, lunches, etc.) are \$2 for DA members and \$4 for non-members, plus incidental costs of the activity (food, activities, gas, etc.).

Saturday Morning Hiking Group

Do you enjoy the outdoors, meeting new people, and hiking? If so, join our hiking group for a morning hike. Our next hike will be on April 17th at 8:45 AM at the Hieroglyphic trail in the Superstition Mountains.

We will meet at the south entrance of Home Depot (by Burger King) at 8:45 AM. Home Depot is located off Power Road (about one block) and turn left at the first light. We will then carpool to the trailhead together.

To get to the trailhead we will

continue to take 60 east past Apache Junction to Gold Canyon. Between milepost 202 and 203 we will turn left (north) on King's Ranch Road. Follow King's Ranch Road 2.8 miles to the cattle guard. We will park on the southeast corner of King's Ranch Road and Baseline Ave. before the cattle guard. This is a moderate level hike with elevation gain of 710 feet. Remember to wear your hiking boots and bring plenty of water and snacks. If you have any questions call Deb at 396-8068.

Friday Evening Full Moon hike

Come join the Saturday morning hiking group for an evening hike. We will be enjoying an evening where we will be hiking to the moonlight. Our hike will be on Friday evening April 30th at 8:30 PM at the Lost Dutchman State Park (this is part of the Superstition Mountains). From Phoenix or Mesa take US 60 east toward Apache Junction. Exit off of Idaho road and travel north. Take Idaho Road north until you reach HWY 88. Turn right (go east) on HWY 88 for approximately 6 miles. You will see the signs on the right side of the road for the Lost Dutchman's State Park. Turn right into the park

Women's chorale announces name change

The only all woman choral group in Phoenix has changed its name to Arizona Women in Tune. Formerly known as TLC, the group has incorporated under the Arizona Women in Tune banner as a 501C3 corporation and will keep its tax exempt status. The Board of Directors was elected February with the following officers: Lee Kovacsevics, Chair; Terry Gunn, Vice Chair; Dawn Bates, Treasurer; Lushanya Echeverria, Secretary; Member-at-Large, Kaweah Lemeshewsky. Arizona Women in Tune is a member of GALA Choruses (the international alliance of gay choruses.)

"We are very excited for the opportunity to set goals, find new members and develop our musical skills," said Business Manager Barbara Wodrich. "Under the direction of Kim McCreary we are blending as a group and have every intention of travelling, performing and having fun as we continue to grow."

The group performed in Prescott for the Gay Lesbian Yavapai Alliance in March and the Gilbert Library re-opening ceremony April 10th. Arizona Women in Tune also plans a booth and participation at Gay Pride, April 17th. Volunteers and new members are welcome!

Arizona Women in Tune practices every Thursday, 7pm, Augustana Church, 2604 N. 14th Street, Phoenix. Everyone is welcome and no auditions are held. For more information, please call Business Manager Barbara Wodrich, 878-5430.

INSIGHTS: Exploring Mind & Body Connections

Is offering the following workshops:

April 10, Sex is Innocent:

an opportunity for Lesbians to talk about the hidden, forbidden, no kiddin' pleasures of our sexuality. If you're curious, embarrassed, speechless, or numb this is the workshop for you. Informative, relaxed, and affirming, our discussions will spark interest and laughter. Cost: \$50.00. Saturday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

April 29, May 6, May 11, Understanding your Dreams:

learn to interpret your dreams, resolve unconscious material, awaken your inner voice to creativity, and reach your potential. This workshop is for those interested in developing a deeper understanding of the importance and power dreams have in your life. Cost: \$75.00. 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

May 1, Reiki 1:

teaches the techniques for using this Tibetan healing art. The Japanese word Reiki means "universal life force." You will learn how to utilize this simple but powerful tool. Four energy attunements (clears and increases your energy to ready your body for healing) will be given to each participant. Cost: \$150.00. 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

Call 257-1964 for registration and information. All classes will be held at Insights Exploring Mind Body Connections, 333E. Virginia, Suite 106, Phx, AZ.

April 1999

Community Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 7	29	30 Scrabble league, pg. 7	31 Verde Valley support group, pg. 7 Clogging group, pg. 7	1 G/L literature group, pg. 7 Women in Tune, pg. 8 Health Talk, pg. 7	2 Lesbian Night Out, pg. 7	3 Sojourner benefit cookout, pg. 16
4 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 8 Friends of Ellen Brunch, pg. 7 Sunday women golfers, pg. 8 Women's movie day, pg. 7	5 	6 Scrabble league, pg. 7 Community Center meet- ing, pg. 2	7 Verde Valley support group, pg. 8 G/L literature group, pg. 7 Clogging group, pg. 7	8 Women in Tune, pg. 8 Health Talk, pg. 7	9 Lesbian Night Out, pg. 7	10 Breakfast w/ friends, pg. 7 Los Amigos Del Sol, pg. 8
11 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 8 WREN event, pg. 8 Breakfast w/ Friends, pg. 7 Jewish Lesbian Group, pg. 7	12	13 Scrabble league, pg. 7 Alternative Healing Workshop, pg. 7	14 Verde Valley support group, pg. 8 G/L literature group, pg. 7 Clogging group, pg. 7	15 Health Talk, pg. 7 Women in Tune, pg. 8	16 Lesbian Night Out, pg. 7	17 Glenna's Community Pot- luck, pg. 7 Saturday morning hiking group, pg. 9
18 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 8 Friends of Ellen brunch, pg. 7 Sports women, pg. 9 Women's movie day, pg. 7	19	20 Scrabble league, pg. 7	21 Verde Valley support group, pg. 8 Clogging group, pg. 7	22 Women in Tune, pg. 8 Health Talk, pg. 7	23 Lesbian Night Out, pg. 7	24 SCAMP road rally, pg. 9
25 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 8 Jewish Lesbian Group, pg. 7	26	27 Scrabble league, pg. 7	28 Verde Valley support group, pg. 8 Clogging group, pg. 7	29 Women in Tune, pg. 8 Health Talk, pg. 7	30 Lesbian Night Out, pg. 7 Full Moon hike, pg. 9	1 WREN hike, pg. 8
2 Same Time/Same Place Breakfast Club, pg. 8 Sunday women golfers, pg. 8	3	4 Scrabble League, pg. 7	5 Verde Valley support group, pg. 8 Clogging group, pg. 7	6 Writers group, pg. 7 Women in tune, pg. 8 Health Talk, pg. 7	7 Lesbian Night Out, pg. 7	8 



1999 Mercury Pocket Schedule



Home games in bold ESPN * NBC # LIFETIME + All times local

June						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						12 @SAC 7:00
					13 # CLE 7:00	
14 SAC 7:00					15 # DET 1:00	
21 @ORL 4:30	22 @WAS 4:00		24 @CHA 4:30		26 # @DET 1:00	
28 * @CLE 4:30						

July						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 @NYL 4:30		3 @MIN 5:00
				7 LOS 7:00		9 + HOU 5:00
11 @LOS 1:00	12 @UTH 11:00					17 # LOS 1:00
	18 * HOU 5:00		21 @LOS 7:30		23 ORL 7:00	
25 WAS 7:00		27 UTH 7:00		29 MIN 7:00		31 # @HOU 1:00

August						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 * @MIN 5:00						6 + NHL 6:00
	9 MIN 7:00			11 BET 7:00		13 @UTH 6:00
15 CHA 7:00			17 SAC 7:00	18 @HOU 5:30		20 UTH 7:00

Beltane (May Eve)

by Karen L. Forrester, staff writer

Beltane or May Eve is the last Sabbat of the waxing year and is celebrated on April 30. The next Wiccan holiday is Summer Solstice, the zenith of the light, from which the year begins to wane.

Beltane is the approaching height of fertility and is a feast of fires and flowers, says Diane Stein in *Casting the Circle, A Women's Book of Ritual*. Its themes are women's passion, the Goddess' passion and the earth's passion to bloom and bear fruit. Brightness and abundance are present everywhere at Beltane, notes Stein, "in the greening and blooming of the land, the colors of the Maypole and the candles, and the brightness of the women's clothes."

In *The Holy Book of Women's Mysteries*, Zsuzsanna Budapest describes Beltane as a time when the maiden Goddess comes of age. "Flora is now in flower and trees, fruits, crops and animals are fertile. Our lady of May grants rebirth to the world." She also notes that Beltane is a holy day sacred to Brigid, the fairy queen.

According to Stein, Beltane colors are rose for new love or primary colors that emphasize brightness and fertility. Flowers are female sexual symbols and the symbol of the season, as are the Maypole and the May Eve fire. Foods for the Sabbat are sensual ones: strawberries and vanilla ice cream, lady locks, cream puffs, whipped cream and red cherries, red fruit juices and cherry sodas, she says. Budapest advises wreathing the altar in flowers and wearing crowns of bright blossoms. She also recommends holding the branches of trees and filling the cauldron with good-smelling herbs.

Decked with flowers and danced/woven by women, the Maypole is "a female

Goddess and fertility totem, the moon-tree of the Great Mother," says Stein. "Fertility in this Sabbat can be sexual or celibate, procreative or creative in any form." The May fire is jumped over for fertility, health and good luck for the year and can be a candle in a cauldron, a small charcoal grill, or a real fire.

Stein gives instructions for constructing a Maypole, which is a European custom brought to this country from Wiccan England: "Where a handy tall tree without low branches is unavailable, use a pole such as a clothesline pole. Ideally the pole should be twice as tall as the dancers, and the ribbons are half again as long as the pole, attached at the top."

Each woman should bring a roll of wide gift wrap ribbon or crepe paper, in all colors. To make the pole stand up unassisted, dig a hole for it a

foot deep or more (depending on the length of the pole), and wedge the base with rocks, Stein advises. You can also steady it at the top by crossing two clotheslines. (The ribbons should then be attached below the clotheslines or you will have trouble weaving.)

Here are Stein's instructions for weaving the Maypole: "The women form two circles, one inside the other, and the circles move in opposite directions. As the women pass each other in the dance, they go *over* the first woman's upheld ribbon, then pass *under* the next ribbon after, over and then under alternating. This makes the weaving around the pole. The movement should be steady but not too rapid, and go with singing, bells and rattle or drum rhythms. . . . There is a great deal of merriment here."

"When the Maypole is wound to the bottom, the women go to the

THE WOMEN'S CENTRAL NEWS

Beltane fire. Each makes a wish as she jumps over, steps over or walks around it, and gets in line again. Each jumps the fire for as many wishes as she has, speaking them aloud or not as she does so. The last round over the Bel-fire is for good health and prosperity for the year."

Goddesses of flowers and blooming, love, fertility, and the moon tree/Maypole are the Goddesses of Beltane, says Stein. They include: Flora (Rome), Bloddeuwedd (Wales), Bona Dea (Italy), Freya (Norway), Oshun and Mawu (Africa), Aphrodite (Phoenicia/Greece), Ishtar (Semitic), Asherah (Hebrew), Tonantzin (Mexico), Danu (Celtic), Gwenhwyvar (Wales), Mary (Christian), Ostara (Germany), Belili (Mesopotamia), Kwan Yin (China), Spider Woman (Native America), and Hina (Polynesia).

Dina's Schedule

of Workshops and Classes

Or Call Dr. Evan for Individual, Couple or Family Therapy
Phoenix - (602) 230-7570

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Note: Please call each respective locations to reserve your space, inquire about price, location and times.

Introduction to Intuitive Studies

Southwest Institute of Healing Arts - Scottsdale - (602) 994-9244 -
Eight week course Starting April 6th - Tuesdays 6pm-9:45
Only 3% of the energy in the universe can be seen, touched or heard. This class teaches students to work with the remaining healing energy available to all of us. What is intuition? How can it be developed? What gifts does it bring to one's life and profession? Experiential processes and tools for developing greater awareness and psychic/intuitive skills.

Healing the Healer - Applied Psychology

**Eight Week Series 1pm to 4:45pm Thursday Starting April 8th through 5/27
also September 7th through Oct 26th 6pm to 9:45pm**

Southwest Institute of Healing Arts - Scottsdale - 994-9244

This class is an experience of moving toward wholeness through greater awareness and personal transcendence. Ethical issues often arise when a professional healer is unconscious of his or her own psycho/spiritual development. Students will examine the professional boundaries and ethics that help to make healing practices authentic, successful and ethically safe for both the healer and the clients. Discussions and processes will result in an internalized voice of wisdom that will go with practitioners into their practices to keep them aligned with themselves and their own internal code.

Break Through Relationship Workshop - Women Only

3/13

**Dr. Dina Evan Saturday - 4/10, 5/8, 6/5, 7/17 -10am-2pm - 230-7570
#30 per person - \$50.00 per couple**

This workshop is for you if it's time to Break Through in 1999, address your relationship issues and get them healed! You'll learn to fix the relationships you are in or find the right relationship. A Workshop for singles, families, couples and friends who want more out of life and love. If you are bored, this one is for you. It will light a fire under your relationship and get you back on track. Deal with communication problems, setting and respecting boundaries and getting out of destructive patterns. Experiential exercises. Many new Tools and new ideas. Written exercises and At- home work.

Break Through Relationship Workshop - All couples & Friends

3/6

**Dr. Dina Evan Saturday - 4/24, 5/22, 6/19, 7/24 -10am-2pm - 230-7570
#30 per person - \$50.00 per couple** This workshop is for you if it's time to Break Through in 1999, address your relationship issues and get them healed! You'll learn to fix the relationships you are in or find the right relationship. A Workshop for singles, families, couples and friends who want more out of life and love. If you are bored, this one is for you. It will light a fire under your relationship and get you back on track. Deal with communication problems, setting and respecting boundaries and getting out of destructive patterns. Experiential exercises. Many new Tools and new ideas. Written exercises and At- home work.

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COMMUNITY SERVICE



State Labor Commissioner Supports Gay Bakersfield Teacher Ruling

School district violated state law by removing students from his classroom

LOS ANGELES -- The California Labor Commissioner ordered a Bakersfield school district to stop removing eighth graders from a science class because the teacher is gay, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund said Tuesday.

The Commissioner ruled that Rio Bravo-Greeley Union School District officials' yanking 15 students from the classroom of award-winning teacher James D. Merrick, Ph.D. was a violation of state law. The California labor code prohibits employment discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation.

Staff Attorney Myron Dean Quon of Lambda's Western Regional Office said, "The decision vindicates all of us who believe that bigotry and hate have no place in the classroom." Lambda assisted Merrick in the administrative process, and continues to represent him in related legal matters.

Last year, after Merrick challenged anti-gay comments by a Kern County Human Relations commissioner, some parents demanded that the students be removed from the class, solely because of Merrick's perceived sexual orientation.

The 15 students removed from the class were assigned to study hall because Merrick is the school's only 8th grade science instructor. Over 100 students remain in his six science

classes. The 40-year teaching veteran is a recent recipient of the Teacher of the Year Award from the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce.

Merrick filed a complaint with the state Labor Commissioner, whose March 8 decision states that the school district's actions "fostered 'different treatment in an aspect of employment' based upon [Merrick's] perceived sexual orientation."

The state Labor Commissioner ordered Rio Bravo-Greeley Union School District to "cease and desist" from removing students from Merrick's class because he is gay. School officials also are prohibited from "engaging in discrimination or different treatment in employment or opportunity based on actual or perceived sexual orientation."

Lambda and the California Teachers Association are planning a lawsuit on Merrick's behalf.

Said Legal Director Beatrice Dohrn from Lambda's New York Headquarters, "Schools need to learn about justice so they can teach it to their students. If schools themselves can't be fair and non-discriminatory, how can they teach those values to kids? Merrick's students are far better served by this ruling than they were by missing science class rather than be taught by a gay man."

Same-sex marriage ban killed

By Sherrie Nist, staff writer

The House Judiciary Committee in Colorado recently Tuesday put an end to a bill (SB 159) proposing to prevent the state of Colorado from recognizing the union of gay couples who might marry in other states. The bill died in committee with a 6 - 7 vote. Five Democrats and two Republicans voted against the bill.

Although Colorado only allows marriages between a man and a woman, the U.S. Constitution's Full Faith and Credit clause dictates that Colorado recognize contracts entered into in other states, unless they pass a bill that states otherwise.



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843-1404
<http://www.pflag-phoenix.org>

1999 Schedule of Women's Festivals

Here is a list of music and other festivals in 1999:

Gulf Coast Women's Festival: April 1 - 4 at Camp Sister Spirit, GCWF, Box 12-LC, Ovett, MS 39464, (601) 344-1411, sisterspirit@aol.com.

Campfest: May 26 - 31, Memorial Day Weekend, near Oxford, PA. Campfest, PO Box 559, Franklinville, NJ, 08322, (609) 694-2037, campfest@aol.com

Spring Fling: May 28 - 31, Memorial Day Weekend, at Camp Pleiades in the NC mountains. CP, 390 Garden Lane, Atlantic Beach, FL, 32233, (888) 324-3110, starcamp@aol.com

Virginia Women's Music Festival: June 3 - 6, INTOUCH, Rt. 2 Box 1096, Kent's Store, VA, 23084, (804) 589-6542.

Womongathering: June 10 - 13, in Poynette, PA. PO Box 559, Franklinville, NJ, 08322, (609) 694-2037, womongathr@aol.com

National Women's Music Festival: June 17 - 20 in Muncie, IN. WIA, Dept LC, PO Box 1427, Indianapolis, IN, (317) 927-9355, wia@indy.net

Golden Threads Celebration: June 25 - 27 in Provincetown, MA. Golden Threads, PO Box 65, Richford, VT, 05476-7037, (802) 848-7037, GOLDENTRED@aol.com

Drumsong: July 2 - 8 at Camp Pleiades in the NC mountains. CP, 390 Garden Lane, Atlantic Beach, FL, 32233, (888) 324-3110, starcamp@aol.com

National Conference for Lesbians of Size: July 9 - 11 in Kingston, NY. NOLOSE, 245 Eighth Ave., New York, NY, 10011, (201) 843-4629, Nolosee@aol.com

Michigan Womyn's Music Festival:

August 10 - 15 near Hart, MI. WWTMC, PO Box 22, Walhalla, MI, 49458, (616) 757-4766 or (510) 652-5441 (winter #)

Northeast Woman's Retreat: September 3 - 6, Labor Day Weekend, in Marlborough, CT. NEWMR, PO Box 57, Hartford, CT, 06141, (860) 293-8026, newmr99@aol.com

Star Fest: September 3 - 6, Labor Day Weekend, at Camp Pleiades in the NC mountains. CP, 390 Garden Lane, Atlantic Beach, FL, 32233, (888) 324-3110, starcamp@aol.com

Midwest Womyn's Autumnfest: Sunday, September 5. Athena Productions, 217 S. 2nd St. #193, DeKalb, IL, 60115, (815) 748-5359, mwautumn@aol.com

SisterSpace Weekend: September 10 - 12 in Darlington, Maryland (75 minutes from Philadelphia). SisterSpace, 1315 Spruce St., (215) 476-8856, sodvnew@aol.com

Ohio Lesbian Festival: Saturday, September 11 near Columbus, Ohio. LBA, PO Box 82086, Columbus, OH, 43202, (614) 267-3953.

Wild Western Woman's Weekend: September 24 - 26. INTOUCH, Rt. 2 Box 1096, Kent's Store, VA, 23084, (804) 589-6542.

Friends Fest Music Festival: October 1 - 3, 25 miles west of Austin, Texas. Recreation Plantation Campground, 3650 Pursley Rd., Dripping Springs, TX, 78620, (512) 894-0567, tree01@flash.net

"This list first appeared in Lesbian Connection, the free nationwide forum of news and ideas for lesbians. For more info or to get on LC's mailing list, lesbians should write LC, c/o Ambitious Amazons, PO Box 811, East Lansing, MI 48826."

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GLAAD Alerts

GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) is the nation's lesbian and gay media advocacy organization. GLAAD promotes fair, accurate and inclusive representation of individuals and events in all media as a means of combating homophobia and all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity.



Teens Learn the Truth About Homophobia

During the first half of March, UPN is broadcasting "The Truth About Hate," the third edition of The Teen Files. While the first two shows dealt with substance abuse, this hour-long program explores an often overlooked topic--Hate. As host Leeza Gibbons states, "It's prejudice that keeps us separate and it's prejudice that creates hate." During the hour there are segments on racism, gang warfare, and homophobia. The third segment introduces a group of teens who share a distaste for their peers who are lesbian and gay. 16 year-old Ben freely admits, "If I had a gay friend, my family would cut off my manhood. Sometimes I do feel like I want to, you know, hit a gay guy." First this group of teens meets Gabi Clayton a mother whose son was attacked because of his sexual orientation and later committed suicide. The group is then introduced to openly gay police officer Chuck Limbert, who takes them to the Diamond Youth Center, where gay teens seek support, shelter and meals. This experience causes many of the teenagers to reconsider their earlier remarks. Whereas one of the girls stated at the opening of the telecast, "It's just wrong to be gay. It's nasty to me," she comes to the realization that "We [are] all the same people."

Gibbons shares some sobering statistics: 42% of all homeless youth identify as gay, lesbian, or bisexual; Gay youth are four times as likely to commit suicide; Violence against gays and lesbians has doubled in the last year.

Over the course of his career, producer Arnold Shapiro has won eight Emmys, an Academy Award for *Scared Straight*, his groundbreaking 1978 documentary on juvenile crime. With "The Truth About Hate," he has turned his attention to the relationship between homophobia and violence, and given teenagers the opportunity to examine their own prejudices. You can preview each of the show's segments by visiting the Teen Files website at <http://www.teenissues.com>. Also, check your local listings to see if "The Truth About Hate" has aired yet in your region.

Please thank UPN and Arnold Shapiro Productions for their sensitivity in covering this vital issue.

Contact:

... Dean Valentine, President, UPN Television Network, 11800 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025-6602
... Arnold Shapiro, Arnold Shapiro Productions, 520 Broadway, Suite 220, Santa Monica, CA 90401

Rolling Stone's Exposé on the Christian Right

Robert Dreyfuss' March 18 article, "The Holy War on Gays" is required reading. This comprehensive piece covers the creation and growth of the National Pro-Family Forum, an anti-homosexual network begun in January 1996 by a trio of conservative organizations including the Christian Coalition, the American Family Association, and Focus on the Family. Dreyfuss identifies this winter meeting as the enesis for the Right's initiative to roll back acceptance of homosexuality, and to specifically attack same-sex marriage, cataloguing how the language for the Defense of Marriage Act had its airing at the Memphis meeting.

This article chronicles the persistence of religious political extremists from the overturning of Maine's 1997 Human Rights Act, to the opposing James Hormel's nomination as Ambassador to Luxembourg, to the culmination in last fall's Truth in Love, a \$500,000 advertising campaign launched by religious political extremists, claiming that lesbians and gay men can walk "out of homosexuality into sexual celibacy or even marriage." Noting the savviness of the advertising strategy, Dreyfuss recognizes how the campaign and the concept of conversion allowed the Right to express a politically-correct, if false sympathy for gays--through the bankrupt message that love will rescue and return homosexuals into the heterosexual fold.

Dreyfuss' piece serves as a who's who among the religious political extremists identifying the work of Dr. Paul Cameron, as the intellectual

underpinning of the movement. Cameron is founder of the Family Research Institute and ISIS, the Institute for the Scientific Investigation of Sexuality. "We're kind of the well-spring of most of the statistics about the gay lifestyle," said Cameron to Dreyfuss.

The piece spotlights the work of Robert Knight and his Family Research Council (a \$14 million-a-year operation that lobbies at both the Federal and state levels, and through print and radio reaches more than 400,000 homes across the nation); discusses Peter LaBarbera's The Lambda Report, which dissects the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community as seen through the eyes of a religious political extremist; and describes the Rev. Fred Phelps, an extremist's extremist, who takes hellfire and brimstone against gays literally, picketing funerals of people lost to the AIDS virus, and defining the Right-most flank of fundamentalist Christianity.

Dreyfuss ends with a sobering observation: following the successful overturning of the Maine Human Rights Act, Families 2000 was launched. This campaign seeks to "repeal special rights based on sexual behavior, and defeat state gay-adoption laws." Ending on this note reinforces the importance of the work that lies ahead, and this indispensable guide to religious extremists will educate the general populace, while empowering our community to mobilize and act.

Please read the piece at <http://www.rollingstone.com> and applaud Rolling Stone magazine for publishing this essential article.

Contact: Robert Love, Managing Editor, Rolling Stone, 1290 Avenue of the Americas, 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10104, fax: 212.767.8203, e-mail: letters@rollingstone.com

20/20 Leads in Coverage of Gay Parenting

On Friday, March 5, 20/20 presented a nuanced look at the implications of surrogacy and parenting for same-sex couples. Correspondent Sylvia Chase followed two gay male couples in the course of this segment. Will Halm and his partner Marcellin Simard, the first couple, have been pioneers. They have spent nearly ten years researching and preparing for parenthood. It has taken them nearly that long to find a surrogate mother to carry their child. During the broadcast, we watch the birth of their second child. John and Paul, the second couple, expect the birth of their first child in the spring of 1999. For them, it has not been as rough a journey; still, both couples comment on the level of scrutiny leveled at them. Repeatedly they have been asked, "Why do you want to be parents?"

The segment also covers Growing Generations, the nation's first and only surrogacy firm specifically dedicated to serving the lesbian and gay community, and Maybe Baby, a company designed for same-sex parents who wish to start a family. Chase notes that while anti-gay organizations believe that same-sex parenting is bad for children, the American Psychological Association sees no evidence to support this contention. "We are just thrilled that we are going to be parents. That's all," offers one of the fathers, stressing the ordinary aspects of raising a family, rather than framing same-sex parenting as a political act.

Please commend 20/20 for its outstanding coverage on this supportive view of gay parenting.

Contact: Victor Neufeld, Executive Producer, 20/20, 147 Columbus Avenue, 10th floor, New York, NY 10023-5900, fax:

Recognizing the Covenant of Lesbian and Gay Marriage

The Winter 1998 issue of the Union of American Hebrew Congregation's Reform Judaism magazine featured an impassioned and persuasive call to arms for the sanction of same-sex marriage within the Reform community. Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell's first-person narrative celebrated her union with her partner, affirming the positive strides that Reform Judaism has already taken to embrace the lesbian and gay community. Reform Jews welcome lesbians and gay men into their synagogues; the seminary ordains and hires lesbian and gay rabbis; the Reform movement has supported federal recognition of gay unions and their families. Yet Elwell asserts that the ultimate step would be for the Reform movement to recognize that same-sex marriage is holy and that, like heterosexual marriage, it deserves to be blessed as a sanctified covenant. Referring to the biblical sage Beruriah, Elwell argues that the sexual behavior described in Jewish texts was not imagined in the context of a long-term, loving relationship based on equality and mutual respect. She claims that Reform Judaism must therefore recognize that in its commitment to understanding and reforming Jewish tradition, it must include upholding the holiness of same-sex marriage. Elwell concludes, saying it "is time for Reform Jews to celebrate the kedushah, the holiness of gay and lesbian marriages, and to welcome us and our families as a new source of strength into the house of Israel."

Point your browser to <http://uahc.org/jmag/1198se.html> to read this enlightening article, and thank Reform Judaism for publishing Rabbi Elwell's commentary.

Contact: Joy Weinberg, Managing Editor, Reform Judaism, 633 Third Ave., New York, NY 10017-6778

Columnist Links Hate Crimes to Denial of Freedom to Marry

Julie Pratt's March 4 Charleston (West Virginia) Gazette column supports a proposed amendment to West Virginia's hate crimes statute, which would include sexual orientation and disability. But she doesn't end there. Pratt reasons that "If we really want to stop hate crimes, we need to give some thought to the source of the hate." Pratt sees that the Defense of Marriage Act being proposed in the state, which would ban same-sex marriages, encourages bigotry which "makes hate crimes possible." She continues, "It is just plain preposterous to think that someone else's same-sex marriage could possibly threaten my own heterosexual one." Her most poignant observation circles back to hate crimes: "I'm convinced that all it takes for bigotry to prevail is for good people to do nothing." In throwing down the gauntlet, Pratt asks her readers to call their senators and delegates, to "ask them to stand up to bigotry."

Please thank the Charleston Gazette for publishing this sophisticated analysis of prejudice, and political call to arms.

Contact: Dan Radmacher, Editorial/Op-Ed Page Editor, Charleston Gazette, 1001 Virginia St. East, Charleston, WV 25301, fax: 304.348.1233, e-mail: letters@wvgazette.com

The GLAAD Alert is the weekly activation tool of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. GLAAD promotes fair, accurate and inclusive representation in the media as a means of challenging homophobia and all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity.

Hate Crimes Prevention Act introduced at press conference

WASHINGTON -- Members of Congress announced the upcoming introduction of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA) today at a bipartisan press conference on Capitol Hill. The HCPA would extend current federal hate crimes protection to cover gender, sexual orientation and disability. In the wake of several high-profile, brutal hate crimes in the past year, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act will help send a clear message that hate motivated violence is unacceptable and un-American, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act is a key component of the effort to reduce hate crimes, and it sends the message that hate-motivated violence against minorities has no place in America, said HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch. The murders of James Byrd, Matthew Shepard and Billy Jack Gaither highlight the need for Congress to pass this legislation and make it clear that our nation must no longer ignore this growing problem.

The press conference featured nine congressional co-sponsors: Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.; Ron Wyden, D-Ore.; Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.; Arlen Specter, R-Pa.; Gordon Smith, R-Ore.; and Reps. Michael P. Forbes, R-N.Y.; John Conyers, D-Mich.; House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo.; and Constance A. Morella, R-Md.

Members of Congress pointed out that while crime continues to decrease nationally, hate crimes based on sexual orientation were up 8 percent in 1997,

according to the latest FBI statistics. Sexual orientation was the third highest category of hate crimes behind race and religion and represented 14 percent of all hate crimes reported.

Calls for passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act accelerated in the aftermath of three brutal murders that rocked the nation. Last year, white supremacists dragged James Byrd to death behind a pick-up truck in Jasper, Texas. University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard was killed in Laramie, Wyo. last fall in part because he was gay. Two men beat Shepard, tied him to a fence and left him to die in freezing weather. On Feb. 19, Billy Jack Gaither, 39, was lured from a bar by two men, beaten to death and burned on a pile of tires in Sylacauga, Ala. Two men, Charles Monroe Butler, 21, and Steven Eric Mullins, 25, confessed to killing Gaither because he was a homosexual Coosa County Sheriff's Deputy Al Bradley told the Associated Press.

Currently, hate crimes monitoring and enforcement consists of a patchwork of laws that offer citizens varying levels of legal protection depending on where they live. Twenty-one states and the District of Columbia have hate crimes laws that include sexual orientation. Twenty one states have laws that do not include sexual orientation. Eight states have no hate crimes laws at all.

Hate crimes against gay and lesbian Americans are rapidly increasing as more people choose to live their lives openly and honestly, said HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act is needed to stem the tide of this alarming trend and to bring uniformity to the maze of state laws that exist today.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act will also allow local law enforcement authorities to utilize federal assistance in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. This key aspect of HCPA

is why it has broad support from notable law enforcement agencies and state and local leaders, including 22 state attorneys general, the National Sheriffs Association, the Police Foundation, former Attorney General Dick Thornburgh and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

While high-profile cases such as Shepard's and Gaither's gain a lot of publicity, anti-gay violence is far from

Moderate Republicans disparaged by Family Research Council

WASHINGTON -- The growing tension between moderate and socially conservative Republicans was exacerbated on Saturday at the Reclaiming America for Christ conference, in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. In a speech at an afternoon session titled "Homosexuality", FRC Cultural Studies Director Bob Knight said that moderate Republicans are "always the bane of our existence."

"The Family Research Council has now added moderate Republicans to their growing list of groups they disdain. Robert Knight's comments show how the extreme right thrives on dividing the Republican Party and fostering an atmosphere of mistrust and antipathy at a time when our nation is demanding that Congress move forward, in a bipartisan fashion, and address the important business of the American people," said HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg.

Moderates were debased during a packed ballroom speech where Knight expressed his fear that these Republicans would support the Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA), which would add sexual orientation, gender and disability to current federal hate crimes law.

"So, what they [gay organizations] will do is push ENDA (the Employment Nondiscrimination Act) with everything they've got, then they will go to moderate Republicans -- who are always the bane of our existence -- [to push HCPA]."

Knight was joined on the anti-gay panel by Reclaiming America for Christ director Janet Folger and Focus on the Family's John Paulk and his wife Anne, both who claim to be former homosexuals. Keynote speakers at a Friday banquet were House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-Tex.), former FRC President Gary Bauer, and FRC spokesperson Janet Parshall.

The sixth annual Reclaiming America for Christ conference, which took place at the Ft. Lauderdale convention center, Feb. 26-28, was hosted by Rev. D. James Kennedy of Coral Ridge Ministries. The conference trains right wing grass roots activists on how to influence elections so American law can be replaced by biblical law. Panels included: "The case for purity", "Defeating Darwinism" and "The Assault Against Christianity".

uncommon. A study released in August by Dr. Karen Franklin, a forensic psychologist at the Washington Institute for Mental Illness Research and Training, suggests that harassment and hate crimes against gay students by their peers is commonplace. According to the study, nearly one-quarter of community college students who took part in this survey admitted to harassing people they thought were gay. Among men, 18 percent said they had physically assaulted or threatened someone they thought was gay or lesbian. And 32 percent admitted they were guilty of verbal harassment.

An October 1998 CNN/Time poll found that 75 percent of Americans

think violence against gay Americans is a serious problem across the country. According to the survey, 68 percent of those polled said a similar attack could happen in their community. And 39 percent said anti-gay violence is a very serious problem, while 36 percent said it is a serious problem.

Two federal hate crimes laws include sexual orientation as a protected group. The Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990 requires the FBI to collect statistics on bias-motivated crimes. The Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act of 1995 provides for tougher sentencing when it is proven that the crime committed was motivated by bias.

“Women's love for women has been represented almost entirely by silence and lies.”

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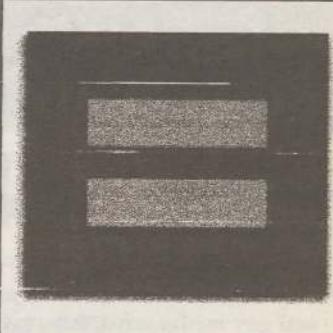
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HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

The Human Rights Campaign is the nation's largest national lesbian and gay political organization, with members throughout the country. HRC effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support, and educates the public to ensure that lesbian and gay Americans can be open, honest, and safe at home, at work, and in the community.

Governor Glendening campaigns to make Maryland the 11th state to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation

WASHINGTON -- The Human Rights Campaign applauds the courageous stand taken by Democratic Maryland Governor Parris N. Glendening who testified before the State House Judiciary Committee last week in support of a bill that would prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation. The Governor's testimony was particularly significant because it marked the first time in his nearly five years as governor that he testified before an Assembly committee. At the request of Glendening, HRC spoke at the hearing on the importance of passing House Bill 315.

"In the absence of a federal law, it is still perfectly legal in forty states to fire a person simply because he or she is gay, lesbian or bisexual," said HRC Associate Director of Communications Wayne Besen at the hearing. "This kind of discrimination is wrong. But it remains sanctioned by law, or rather by the absence of any law prohibiting it."

The governor offered an emotional five minute speech in which he discussed how legal discrimination took its toll on his brother Bruce, a career military service-member, who died of complications from AIDS in 1992.

"He was in great pain. You could not touch his skin without causing great pain," said Gov. Glendening. "As difficult as that was, he told me it was more difficult to live 19 years of his life knowing that if anyone was aware of his sexual orientation, he would lose the job he loved so much."

If passed, H.B. 315 would authorize the Maryland Commission on Human Relations to investigate complaints about housing, employment, and public discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Even with the Governor's support and the backing of conservative speaker of the House Casper Taylor, D-Allegany, passing this bill remains an uphill battle. It has failed to win the assembly's support for the past six years and the bill is expected to have a difficult time getting out of the House Judiciary Committee. It is opposed by the chamber of commerce. The bill is also before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, one of the most conservative in the assembly.

The fight to pass a Nondiscrimination law in Maryland is led by the Free State Justice Campaign and their Executive Director Liz Seaton. HRC has assisted their efforts including a \$5,000 grant, mailings to HRC's action network in Maryland, E-mail information alerts and the printing of thousands of action materials for Maryland residents to send to their state representatives in support of passing this legislation.

"Given the extraordinary commitment of the Governor of Maryland, we need to match that commitment within our Maryland HRC membership -- person-by- person, family-by-family -- until the Assembly does what is right and what is fair," said HRC National Field Director Donna Red Wing.

The Maryland counties of Prince George's, Howard, and Montgomery, already have Nondiscrimination ordinances, as does the city of Baltimore. Together, they cover nearly half of all Maryland residents. If Maryland passes a law prohibiting discrimination, it would become the eleventh state joining Hawaii, California, Vermont, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, Minnesota, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Lesbian volleyball coach faces charges

Wendy Weaver, the Utah teacher who in November successfully sued the Nebo School District after school officials ordered her never to speak of her sexual orientation to anyone connected in any way with the school, whether on or off the campus, on pain of termination, is facing charges that she trashed the Mormons and made a student she didn't know nervous about undressing in the locker room.

The lawsuit filed by the Citizens of Nebo School District for Moral and Legal Values against lesbian teacher and former volleyball coach Wendy Weaver will go to trial on those two allegations, although many of the charges originally filed as part of the lawsuit, including that Weaver had "inappropriate contact" with female students, have been thrown out.

One of the claims that will be heard is that of former student Joshua Lee, who says that Weaver made negative remarks in a psychology class about his church, the Church of Jesus Christ, Latter Day Saints; Weaver says she does not remember making the remarks. The other claim is that of Jeana Barney, who claims that because of her own religious beliefs, she would not have undressed in the locker room had she known of Weaver's lesbian orientation. Although Barney attended Spanish Forks High where Weaver teaches, she was never Weaver's student and Weaver does not recall having seen her before the lawsuit.

Matt Hilton, spokesperson and attorney for the Citizens of Nebo School District for Moral and Legal Values, says that the lawsuit was never intended to harm

Weaver -- and he is not seeking monetary damages -- but to establish the rights of Utah parents in the public school education of their children.

RESOURCES

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 60008 Phx, Az 85082-0008, 898-4844, e-mail address wcn@swlink.net, website <http://www.swlink.net/~wcnews>

*Lesbian/Gay Community Switchboard: 234-2752

*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 A437, Cottonwood, Az. 86326, 520-634-4842, 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

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

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

*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

*Arizona Amazons BD/SM organization. Contact Sheryl Tilley at Bobby Cook Studio (602) 254-4513 or E-mail at azamazon@juno.com or Sheyltilley@juno.com find us at www.geocities.com/westhollywood/heights.3231

*Latina Social Group, Contact Anita at 803-9952 or e-mail personnaly@aol.com

*Womyn 2 Womyn Connection Call Cheryl: 780-3102 or e-mail Anne at sammie@psn.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.

*Phoenix Chapter of the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Veterans of America meets the first Monday of every month at the Community Center. For more information contact Wally Straughn at 864-6092 or E-mail PGLBVA@aol.com.

POLITICAL GROUPS:

*Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF), P.O. Box 25044, Phoenix, AZ, 85002, Phone: (602)650-0900, Fax: (602)650-0901, E-mail: ahrf@AOL.com

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

*Arizona Central Pride: Phone: (602) 279-1771 for information

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 (602) 952-1612, P.O. Box 66904, Phx, Az 65082.

*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 (Mormon), 553-8674

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

*Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Phoenix, 4027 E. Lincoln Drive, Paradise Valley, 840-8400.

*Hand of Love Ministry, 6605 N. 14th St, Phoenix, 602-264-1470.

NEWSLETTERS OF INTEREST:

*Rubyfruit Journal, Tucson Wimmin'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

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

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Women Helping Women Heal: A therapy group for Lesbians. This is an ongoing group for women seeking support for their personal growth and healing. This group meets on Mondays from 7:00-8:30 pm at Willow Counseling Center. For further information, call Denise Daup, M.A. at 921-3936.

Have you ever wondered "What's it all about?" Do you long for more peace, more happiness, more love, more energy, more meaning in your life? **LIVING SOULFULLY: A WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL RETREAT GROUP** is for any woman who would like to be a part of the safe and supportive environment of a healing circle of women seeking to explore and deepen their connection with Self and Spirit. The Living Soulfully Group will meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. beginning March 24, 1999. The cost for this eight-week group is \$200. Partial scholarships are available for anyone needing assistance to attend. The group will be facilitated by Denise Daup, M.A., C.P.C. To register or for further information, contact Denise at Willow Counseling Center, 921-3936.

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Bulletin Board notices - \$5.00 up to 50 words and \$5.00 for each additional 50 words.

Cookout to benefit domestic violence victims

On Saturday April 3rd, 11AM - 2 PM there will be a cookout to benefit the residents of Sojourner, a battered families shelter in Central Phoenix. The concept is to create a fun time for approximately 60 people (23 of whom are kids), have a barbecue, and just treat these people who are in a really lousy place in their lives to a couple hours of life as we know it.

We NEED volunteers to help set up, cook, clean up and make sure the kids are having a good time. Donations of cash or food are also needed. If you have a giving heart and care about making a difference for folks, will you please bring a smile, and positive energy for three hours on the April 3rd?? It's the day before Easter but you'll feel great stuffing your face the next day, knowing that you made a big difference in a kid's life--please help. Oh, and nobody would mind if you brought a few dozen hard boiled eggs - and non toxic markers with you, to entertain the kids!

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