

We The People

FREE!

Serving Lesbians, Gay Men, and Their Friends in the Redwood Empire

August 1988 Vol. I No. 4

Supes sink rights resolution

CARPENTER PRO-
POSAL LOSES 2-1

Lesbian &
Gay
Pride Week

By Lois Pearlman

"I don't feel that I can support this type of sexual activity", declared Nick Esposti as he cast his "no" vote against the Lesbian/Gay Pride Week Proclamation presented to the

Greater Bay Area three other counties, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, and San Mateo have similar ordinances.

This is the second year in a row that the lesbian/gay community has brought a Pride Week proclamation before members of the board. Last year a small group of activists met with Carpenter and Rudee to ask for their support, but the supervisors refused to place the proclamation on the agenda. Keeping in mind that it has taken a few years for similar proclamations to be accepted in other counties, Magi Fedorka, who initiated the proclamation, remarked, "We will return next year and each year, because this is our home. This is where we live. We contribute to this community like any other citizens."

And if the uniformly open-minded and sympathetic media coverage of the vote is indicative of the community's desire to grant legitimacy to the Lesbian/Gay Liberation Movement in Sonoma County, then the supervisors are out of step with their constituency. Out on the river, *The Paper* ran an



CHERYL TRAENDLY/PHOTOGENICS

CARRYING THE REQUEST—Magi Fedorka took Gay Rights to county supes.

Board of Supervisors on June 28. Helen Rudee's well-meaning response, "I do not want to separate you from the rest of us" was a second "no." Ernie Carpenter, who had agreed to place the proclamation on the calendar after rewriting it in a fashion that he apparently thought would make it more palatable to the Board, replied encouragingly, "My vote would be in support and to wait to see if things change." Jim Harberson and Janet Nicholas were out of town as the proclamation was defeated two to one.

In accordance with a statewide proclamation issued by Lt. Governor Leo McCarthy, the county proclamation would have declared June 25-30 to be Lesbian/Gay Pride Week in Sonoma County. And it would have been an opportunity for the Board to take a leadership role in promoting acceptance of lesbians and gay men in our county. It was sponsored by the AIDS Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women. In the

editorial denouncing the Board's decision as "disgraceful." "Hard hit by AIDS and the emotional and financial wrenching that comes with it, the county that is scrimping on providing direct care to AIDS patients even denies gays their pride." And in the thick of Esposti country, the *Healdsburg Tribune* printed the story on its front page.

Early in July after the dust had settled, Forward Together held a meeting to consider future events that will promote the visibility of the lesbian/gay community throughout the county. As a result of the meeting a "coming out day" is being planned for Oct. 11, the anniversary of the 1987 March on Washington. Thousands of rainbow ribbons will be made available for people to wear on that day in their neighborhoods and workplaces. At 7 p.m., Aug. 16, at 1256 Carr Ave., Forward Together members will gather to make the ribbons and plan activities for Oct. 11. Everybody is invited to attend and participate.

Gay Bashing Suspects to Cop Pleas?

By John De Salvio

Four young men charged with the brutal beating of a bartender at the Rusty Nail last year may accept an offer to plead guilty to misdemeanor battery.

Scheduled for their preliminary hearing Tuesday, July 5 before Municipal Court Judge Frank Passalacqua were Jay Joseph Riss, 19; Dean Joseph Mesquite, 19; and Mark David Simpson and Michael Scott Simpson, both 20. All are from the Forestville - Sebastopol area and all are charged with felony battery inflicting serious bodily harm.

The charges stem from an incident that occurred at the Forestville gay bar on July 11, 1987, shortly after 1 a.m. According to witnesses, several young men entered the bar. The bartender, 25-year-old Jerry Nienkark, told them they were too young to be served and would have to leave. He then came from behind the bar to call the sheriff's office when they refused, and they all set upon him. Cursing and screaming "Faggot!", they kicked and punched Nienkark repeatedly.

Nienkark suffered a broken nose, dislocated jaw, dislocated arm, bruised ribs, and several cuts and bruises from the attack.

After several months of investigation, the four defendants turned themselves in to authorities.

The preliminary hearing was postponed July 5 because one of the defense attorneys, Jack Montgomery, suffered an injury the previous night and was unable to appear.

Deputy District Attorney Donna Ryan told the court the DA's office had made an offer to reduce the charges for each defendant to misdemeanor battery, and three of the attorneys [Marty Woods appeared for

Montgomery] indicated the offer might be acceptable. Attorney George Luke, representing Mesquite, said he would have to discuss it with the boy's parents. The matter was put over to August 18 for settlement conference and setting of a new preliminary hearing date. Attorney Woods said it was "doubtful" there would be a preliminary hearing.

Deputy DA Ryan said it was a good offer because rarely in a multiple defendant felony case does the case remain felony. She said to get all the defendants to plea to the lesser charge is unusual in itself.

The difficulty in prosecuting multiple felony defendants is in tracing the moves and actions of each defendant. She noted that in a recent gang rape case the charges were dropped because the victim could not specify exactly who did what; even though there was ample physical evidence that the rape occurred.

In the Nienkark case, said Ryan, the problem is compounded in that two of the defendants -- the Simpsons -- are identical twins; but the actions of each have to be proven separately. Nienkark had been unable to pick the suspects out of yearbooks during the investigation, and the evidence against the defendants was not very substantial, according to Ryan.

Ryan said that the defendants could serve 30 days in jail maximum, but most likely would participate in a work release program, a condition of the offer. They would also have to make restitution. None of the young men have previous records.

Woods said, "It appears to be a very unfortunate situation that arose," and that the defendants are otherwise good people.

Suit Filed to Stop AIDS Testing Bill

Dr. Lauren White, president of the California Medical Association, and San Francisco's public health director, Dr. David Werdegard, have gone to court to stop an initiative requiring mandatory reporting of HIV-positive persons as well as that persons sexual contacts.

White stated, "It's bad medicine and bad public health. It's also bad for human rights." Werdegard added, "It would undermine what we have already achieved."

The measure, now listed as Proposition 102, would close four testing centers in San Francisco, where 50,000 people have been

Art for AIDS

Local artists have been invited to participate in a fund raising event for Face to Face/Sonoma County AIDS Network. The donated works of art will be auctioned in the ballroom of the Flamingo Hotel on Sunday, Sept. 25. The preview will begin at 1 p.m., featuring the finest of Sonoma County wines and foods along with music by local jazz musicians, followed by the auction at 2:30 p.m. Tickets for the event will be \$10. If you have a favorite local artist that you would like to be invited or for more information on this or any Face to Face event call Rick Dean at 887-1581.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Adam's Apple

By Adam Richmond



Local Divorce Spearheads Trend

One of the patterns I've noticed is that when one couple uncouples in a community, there are several more to follow. Perhaps it is some primordial scent we emit signalling domino-like fall of faulty relationships. So my newly current ex-lover Sam and I can take dubious credit for a rash of recent separations. It is tough being hot on a new trend especially when another divorce eclipses your own. Take Lia & Melvin Belli for instance. (I actually met her. She hosted a plush anti-LaRouche bash at her fabled home in S.F.)

What does the above have to do with politics, my usual grist for the mill? Very little. I'm just seizing this opportunity to advertise my new found single status. A cheap shot? Yes. Not only am I newly single, but I'll be leaving my position as dirty card buyer at Sweet Potato. A real career awaits, as a dental assistant trainee. This enhances my single status: I'll be starting my new position just before Leather Weekend. Just call me Mr. Pain.

Politically this column is being written on the eve of the Democratic Convention. We as a gay and lesbian community have empowered Jesse Jackson to represent our aspirations. I believe it is important to take the signal from Jesse to support Mike Dukakis as our best bet for advancement of our social agenda. Even counting Dukakis' terrible errors on equality in foster care, the Democratic ticket is vastly superior to the Republican, as far as I can tell, even with Lloyd Bentsen as VP. We still have a tough row to hoe, but there is still more room for us in the party of Harvey Milk, Roberta Achtenberg, Eleanor Roosevelt, Pat Norman and Harry Britt than the party of Jesse Helms, John Doolittle, Paul Gann, Bill Dannemeyer and George Bush.

LAROCHE III: A lawsuit to delete the reactionary Dannemeyer AIDS initiative has been filed by the California Medical Association, the California Nurses Association, the Lesbian Rights Project, and the National Gay Rights Advocates. This unique move is a great idea to thwart this well-financed, homophobic measure. We'll be looking for more on this one!

Congratulations to the new chairman of the Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee, David Thatcher. David, a popular instructor at SSU, is on the Board of Directors of the Peace and Justice Center. A belated farewell to Carol Owens of Face to Face, one who has done so well to meet the challenge. You will be missed, but never forgotten.



We the People is published by the Northern California Gay Media Project, a collective of lesbians and gay men, and is being produced to serve the lesbian and gay community of Sonoma County and the Redwood Empire by providing a forum for information, communication, community building, public consciousness raising, networking, access to resources, the exploration of lesbian and gay cultural history and for the reporting of the news in a forthright manner.

We the People welcomes contributions of news articles and features and seeks the participation of lesbians and gay men interested in its publication. Articles should be limited to 500 words, with suggested editing for length if needed. The next copy deadline is August 11. Include your name, address and telephone number. Contributions may be sent to: We the People, P.O. Box 1301, Forestville, CA 95436. Telephone (707) 887-2422.

This issue was put together by: Fran Crawford, Julia Elliott, Sandy Lowe, Jaye Miller, Melvin Muller, Jerry Noakes, Lois Pearlman, Noel Quinn, Patrick Satterthwaite, Bill Shelley, Dilys Shippam, Jay Smith, Cheryl Traendly, Nick Valentine and Janet Zagoria.

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Letters

Homo ignoramus

Perhaps next year the Board of Supervisors could vote on whether to celebrate *Homo ignoramus* Pride week. During this festive occasion, we can champion the causes of bigotry, prejudice and ignorance. We can have a parade with floats representing churches, the KKK, maybe even Republicans.

For this week only, all *Homo ignoramus* could be denied holy matrimony and tax benefits, we could discriminate against them in jobs and housing, they could be the brunt of locker room jokes. Psychiatrists, just for these few days, could label them "sick," and religionists proclaim them "sinners."

We can warn our children against them, even if they turn out to be 10 percent of our children. We can remember their history, like the Inquisition and Holocaust. We can make illegal their repugnant sexual habits and force them into anonymous, promiscuous, underground sexual practices where they can breed even more ignorance.

We can mock *Homo ignoramus* with nasty names like homos - whoops! That's been taken. How about iggs or iggies? We can deny that their beliefs are the result of genetics or other inborn conditions, and continue the myth that they are raised that way, or choose it.

Perhaps with a week's dose of pride in stupidity, all the *Homo ignoramus* of Sonoma County can be integrated into mainstream community life instead of being shunned into right-winged ghettos where their disease of ignorance is so selfishly contained.

-Peter D'Amato, Guerneville

Dear Editor.

This is late and I still needed to write it.

This is in response to the Gay/Lesbian Week Proclamation that was voted down by Supervisors Esposti and Rudee. Although Supervisors Esposti was out front with his homophobic statement "I can not vote for this because I cannot support that type of sexual activity," I believe that Supervisor Rudee is saying the same thing she was just doing it in a bleeding heart liberal way.

I would like to make it very clear to both Supervisors that we are not sexual activity. We are people. Why can't they grasp that? We are a very unique community in that we are virtually everywhere. No other minority group can say as we do that we are represented in every walk of life be it racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, social structure and sexual. For a group who does not basically procreate its own we are doing exceptionally well. What infuriates me is that when people like Supervisors Esposti and Rudee refer to us, it is in terms of sexuality. If a heterosexual person says to a parent or friend, I'm getting married or moving in with someone, people think how wonderful or possibly how not so wonderful. They do not think about the sexual acts that this couple will be performing which are as wide a range as the mind can think. Yet, if a Gay/Lesbian tells a parent or a Supervisor I'm moving in with so and so (we can't legally get married) they think of the sexual side of this. Why - I suppose most of it is just good old conditioning by our societies and religions.

Well it is time for us to wake up and start behaving as adults who are mature and responsible and to quit acting out from old patterns. The point of the proclamation is to try to change how society, including us, views gays and lesbians. We want to have more and more visibility so people like Supervisors Rudee and Esposti will see that we are not sexual activity. We are Wonderful, Proud, Strong, and Struggling People.

- Jerry Noakes

Congratulations on a great publications!

Although not fitting under either the Gay or Lesbian labels, I have found your paper to be informative, balanced, and above all, fun to read. Few newspapers meant for a specialized audience, ever manage to reach beyond their own narrow circles. After only three issues, you have already done it!

Looking Forward to a long future together.
--Ron Liskey

Editor's comment: Thanks Ron for your enthusiastic letter! It is our hope that we can live up to our subtitle, "Serving Lesbians, Gay Men, and Their Friends in the Redwood Empire," by providing relevant and interesting reading for our community. Please spread the word about We the People!

MANY THANKS!!!

We have so many people in our community to be thankful for recently...

THANKS! to Magi Fedorka of Forward Together, Colleen O'Neal and Carol Domeikis of the Commission of the Status of Women, Caren Callahan of the Sonoma County Community Against Violence, and Georgia Prescott of the Lesbian Voters Action Caucus, for their courageous work in bringing the Lesbian/Gay Pride Week Resolution before the county Board of Supervisors. Cheers to next year's success!

THANKS! to Dan Perdios for organizing the very moving AIDS Die-In vigil at the County Administration Center. And appreciation goes to Adam Richmond for his work in spreading the word about this important demonstration highlighting the need for greater county support of those affected by AIDS.

THANKS! again - to Magi, and to Leslie Scanagatta of Forward Together for organizing the second annual Sonoma County Lesbian/Gay Pride Picnic; to the cast of the theater production Dip Me In Honey, and especially to Chuck Schoen and Veterans' C.A.R.E. for their support and participation in this fun and unifying celebration in the sun. We had a great Time!

--Stephen Clark

Pride in Sonoma County

Thank you to all who came out at the Lesbian/Gay Picnic and showed their Pride in '88. The Picnic at Spring Lake was Great. The letters to the Board of Supervisors and to the editor showed we are proud, strong, and united. Those who came to the County Board of Supervisors meeting on June 28 know how good it feels to stand up together. We know Sonoma County is ready for Lesbian/Gay Pride Week - it is the Supervisor's who are behind the times.

Thanks to We The People for the extra effort in covering Pride Week and getting information out to our community.

Special thanks to Janet Zogoria for the terrific photo's of the Picnic. I loved the layout and appreciate your timeliness.

I'm looking forward to Lesbian/Gay Pride Week 1989. If interested in helping or have ideas for next year there is a committee forming now. Call me at 792-1393 or Leslie at 546-3103

With Pride

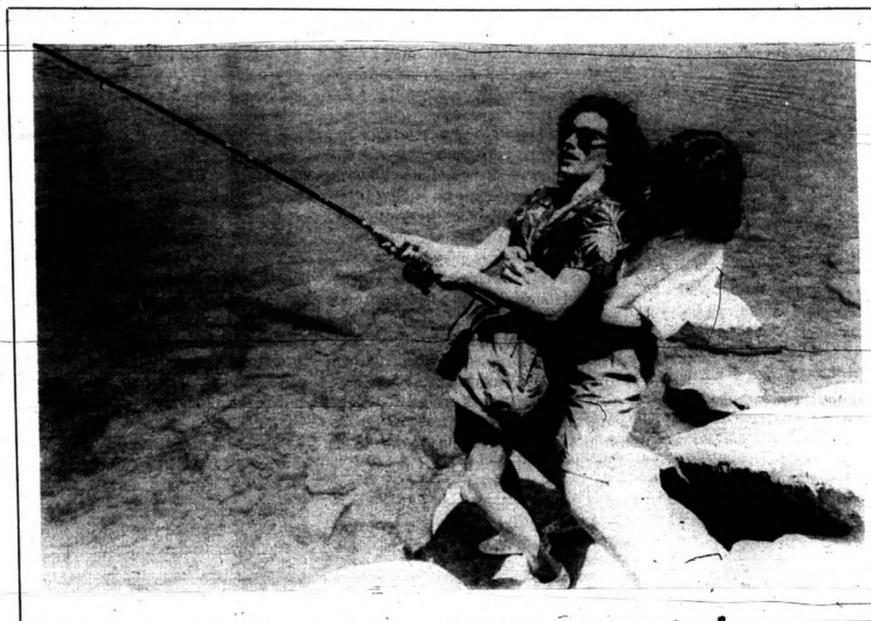
--Magi Fedorka

Coming Out!

Submit your thoughts or experiences on coming out, being out, staying in, or the process of deciding, as a part of National Coming Out Day, October 11, 1988. 200 words or less, due September 13.

Have you told a friend about We The People? Help us get the Word out!

Last Summer at Blue Fish Cove



It is early summer at an exclusively lesbian seaside resort somewhere in the Northeast. Seven friends have gathered for a party, three couples and a self-professed "alley cat," who is dying of cancer. Into this close-knit community stumbles a "straight" woman escaping from a stultifying marriage. When she meets the "alley cat" she discovers that she is not really so straight; and the ensuing action concerns how the couple, strengthened by their newly found love, copes with death and the ex-wife's fledgling independence.

This is the basic plot of Jane Chamber's tragi-comedy, *Last Summer at Blue Fish Cove*, performed by the Hollywood Actors' Theater during the last three weeks in July, under the direction of Ron Bastone. It's a pretty familiar 'coming-out story— wife meets dyke — but it is also an amusing and ultimately moving portrayal of lesbian life.

The strength of the play lies in the eight characters, each a unique individual, allowing all of the actors an opportunity to develop a rich characterization. And in the Petaluma production the repertory company rose to the occasion, providing the audience with a stageful of women with whom we

could really empathize. What an absolute joy it was to sit in a mixed crowd on theater-goers and watch a play about lesbians who are intelligent, humorous, sexual, capable, and generally happy with their lives.

While the performances were always interesting and usually emotionally believable, there were times when the acting was overstated and the speech patterns stilted. At these moments a little more subtlety and intimacy would have helped me to imagine I was in a cottage living room rather than in the audience of a darkened theater. The set, a realistic beach house and front porch, was well utilized by the director, adding dimension and authenticity to the action.

Affording the general public a meaningful glimpse of an alternative life style, HAT genuinely fulfilled its statement of purpose "to provide a high level of live theater, both original and impactful, to all segments of the local community." And only one lesbian died at the end. One out of eight is not a bad average.

--Lois Pearlman



by Robin Gall

Etiquette Lessons

Let's consider lesbian etiquette. I'm afraid I don't know enough about the behaviors of the gay male as a social animal to include him here at this time, but I'm open to information.

By etiquette, I don't mean prescriptive rules for behavior. And I don't intend to come on like Miss Manners, making everything all nicey-nice, either. Rather, I'm thinking of descriptions of behavior in certain situations. Any culture evolves its own sets of social customs, and these customs then become standardized and socially acceptable and expected. They are, perhaps, the little signs and signals by which we recognize one another as members of the same society.

Let's begin with the Automobile. Whoever drives, her lover rides next to her. This is automatic. Take any group of lesbians, crowd them into some total stranger's car, and the woman riding shotgun will be the lover of the driver. If the driver doesn't have a Serious Relationship going, the woman next to her will be her date or her best friend (usually her ex-lover). Unless the mother of one of them is going along. Then Mom rides in the front seat and Lover rides in the back. Dogs and children ride in the back except very tiny babies who are strapped into the front if Mommy is driving.

When driver gets a new lover, all things being amicable, Old Lover moves to the back and New Lover rides in front. Unless New Lover is being particularly understanding and generous and unthreatened and offers the front to the ex, who has recently been moved to Best Friend status.

The situation of a single driver with a couple as passengers poses some problems, because no one wants to look like passengers with a chauffeur. (I mean, in a compact?) In this case, whoever knows the driver best rides in the front, unless the other member of the couple is from out of town, in which case she might be put in front to maximize sightseeing and socializing. Or unless one of the pair has been away, then the two might ride in back to snuggle on the way from the airport.

Goodness this is complicated. But watch how it shakes out next time you ride with friends, and you'll see. My bet it's the same for gay men.

What else? How about Dining Out? When several lesbians go to a restaurant together, it is not permissible to study the menus individually, in silence, and then announce only to the waiter what the order is.

Instead it is necessary to consult: "Why don't I have the Red Snapper? If you have the Chicken Kiev, we can share." Or to advise: "Honey doesn't like stuff too spicy, so don't order Hot and Sour Soup." After the meal has been served and started, bites are shared, held out on forks like offerings to baby birds. This ritual may be observed initially only by couples, but it extends to the whole table, depending on how intimate the group is with each other. Beginning to sound as stuffy as Miss Manners, aren't I? It must be the nature of the subject.

How about Moving? Having moved a lot, I've had ample opportunity to observe how this works. The way it works is the people who help you move are not necessarily the ones you helped. (If everybody helps somebody sometime, the Moving Karma is kept current.) First there to help you will be your lover and your best friend. (This is part of their job description — they're obligated, as you are to help them.)

Next will be someone new in your life who is interested in you on some level and trying to make points. Then there is Best Friend's lover, and maybe, depending on the current level of commitment, even Lover's best friend. One who fits none of these categories is the occasional treasure who simply appears at the right time to organize and assist when your life is falling apart. Anyway, these are the basics. Add to these the helpful friends who are willing to keep their Moving Karma in order, and moving day can be a fun social event. Well, an event anyway, fun or not. Roommates help a new roommate move in, but they rarely help her move out. They usually ignore the whole process.

Fortunately, I don't have room to continue this in depth. But watch for these and other interesting codified sets of behavior in your social milieu. We have very definite, if complicated, ways of doing things, don't you think? Sociologists take note. There's a wealth of material here in the native behavior.

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Gay Men's Bookstore Comes to Monte Rio

The "World's only Lesbian bookstore" no longer exists at least not as a Lesbian bookstore. On Sunday, July 24, Nancy Glenn, the owner of Clicking Stones Bookstore in Monte Rio held an open house to celebrate the addition of a Gay Men's book section and a sculpture exhibit. The bookstore is now a cultural center for the entire Lesbian/Gay community.

Glenn originally planned to create a separate Gay Men's store in order to maintain the original Lesbian space. "I'm very excited to have men's books here - it's really filled my heart," says Glenn. Nancy believes that there are not really separate communities on the River, but rather an integrated Lesbian/Gay community; and that Clicking Stones owes its existence to the support of Gay Men as well as Lesbians.

Celebrants at the open house were able to view a newly installed art exhibit created by Bob Jessup of Monte Rio. It consists of five pieces called Climactic Ceramic Lights, each a rough terra cotta sculpture of male genitals, using neon and fiber optic lights to create the effect of sexual climax. According to Jessup these abstract pieces are not intended as Gay Men's erotic art but as "Food for conversation and communication". Expressing male sexuality in a positive and sensual way they are the fulfillment of his personal fantasy. "I've thrown barbs at homophobic society, not to injure but to promote communication and understanding," says Jessup.

After losing most of his artistic output in the flood of '86, Jessup turned to ceramic sculpture as his primary expressive form. In fact the five phallic sculptures, created in 1984, were the only pieces to survive the Russian River mud.

His new ceramic work can be viewed at Quicksilver Mine Co. in Guerneville, View Points in Pt. Reyes Station, and at his own Garden Gallery at 20503 River Blvd. in Monte Rio. For an appointment to visit the Garden Gallery call 865-1520.

Another new Feature at Clicking Stones

will be a breathing workshop presented by Tundra Wind on Thursday nights at 8PM during the month of September. Tundra Wind, a Zen Master, uses musical wind instruments to provide instant feedback on how shallowly or how deeply the participants are breathing. Greater oxygenation of the blood helps the human body to resist disease and improve general well being. The workshop is open to both men and women.

For more information about the workshop, the store, or the art exhibit call 865-9922. Clicking Stones is located at 19375 Hwy. 116 in Monte Rio and the hours are from 11AM-7PM, Tues - Sun.

Gang of Two From The River City



CHERYL TRAENDLY/PHOTOGENICS
Carmen McKay of Forestville (left) and Judy DeRosa of Guerneville part of the 400 Dykes on Bykes that led off the Gay Pride Parade in San Francisco on June 28.

Living Sober

The thirteenth annual Living Sober Western Round Up of gay and lesbian members of Alcoholics Anonymous drew a record 5,000 to Brooks Hall in San Francisco during the Independence Day weekend. With a 25 percent increase over last year's attendance, Living Sober's growth reflects the community's personal coming-to-terms with alcohol and chemical dependency. While the conference drew heavily on Northern California AA members, there were also attendees from all over the United States.

The mood of the conference was a jubilant mixture of "AA high school" and cathartic breakthrough. Held in a huge beaux arts conference center, the hallways were jammed with AA and Alanoners, going to workshops and meetings with diverse topics pertinent to recovery such as Dating in Sobriety (always a crowd-pleaser!), Codependency, Humor, Faeries in AA, Leathersex and Sobriety, racism in AA, and Gays in small-town AA, as well as a score of others.

We are not a glum lot, and the four day weekend was punctuated with entertainment: a football field-sized disco dance (what an overflowing delightful zoo that was!), ball-

room dancing by the elegant "City Swing" Orchestra, and square dancing. Best of all for me was the splendid production of a recovery-oriented musical, "A. applause, A. applause." Its "East-Is-Red" style rendition of a dance exhorting the "Big Book" of AA was hysterical and well done satire. Never have I seen such an excellent amateur performance. The Debutantes In Recovery Today (DIRT) girls, a drag troupe complete with yard-high beehives appeared spontaneously for their own "show". These debs prove that sobriety can be as outrageous as ever: No messy makeup lines from DTs.

The Brown Bag Reader's Theater, our very won Sonoma County group gave their annual performance, the only out of town group to do so. BBRT joined hundreds of AA and Alanon members from Sonoma County at the conference.

In the end it might be said that Living Sober demonstrates where we can go in our recovery. It has always been on the cutting edge, pressing the message of recovery in its own valuable and unique way. It is an immersion into four days of paradise for renewal as we trudge the road to happy destiny.

Welcome to "Club Mud"

Two years ago Club Mud was formed at the Russian River. According to Brother Duke, the club's founder, the purpose is to "promote fun and games and an outdoor environment away from bars..." At the first party people were divided into two groups and competed in contest such as tug-of-war,

mud volleyball, horse-and-rider and mud pole pillow fights. Prizes were awarded to the winners.

This year's anniversary party is scheduled for Saturday, August 27 and promises to draw members from all over the country. For more information call 869-0546.

Suit Seeks Halt to AIDS Testing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tested anonymously since 1975, as well as Sonoma County Public Health's testing facility, because confidentiality rules would be suspended.

The initiative bans anonymous testing for HIV and would make it a criminal offense for a person who tested HIV-positive not to report the test results as well as any sexual contacts they may have had. Doctors would

have to report to local health authorities the name of anyone "believe" to be carrying the AIDS virus and would face a \$250 fine for failing to do so.

Drafters of the initiative are State Representative William Dannemeyer, R-Orange County, Republican State Senator from Sacramento John Doolittle and HIV-positive Proposition 13 author Paul Gann. The measure is reportedly supported by several hundred conservative doctors in the state.

Federal Court Bans HIV Prejudice

A Los Angeles federal court has ruled that a federal law banning discrimination against handicapped persons protects HIV-positive persons as well as those who have developed full-blown AIDS.

Previous court cases had only implied that the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 could apply only to otherwise healthy HIV-positive people. The law prohibits institutions receiving federal monies from discriminating against the handicapped.]

A Supreme Court ruling last year had established that the definition of the handicapped under the Act included those who are seen by others as contagious, even if they are not physically impaired. The Supreme Court had failed to establish whether this ruling applied to HIV-positive per-

sons.

The new ruling by Judge Pamela Ann Rymen of the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles specifically extended the definition of handicapped to include those who are perceived to be contagious because they carry the AIDS virus.

Mickey Wheatley, a lawyer for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a New York-based gay rights organization that aided in the California case stated, "It really gives them significant new protection and sends out a clear signal - that fear of contagion cannot be used to discriminate."

The case involved a man, admitted to an inpatient alcohol treatment program, who was discharged when it was determined he was HIV-positive. The HIV antibody test had not been required for any of the hospital's other programs.



Eddy (Tim Hayes, left) gives his sister Kath (Joan Hawley, right) a run for her money concerning the affections of Mr. Sloane (Paul Huberty, center) in Joe Orton's modern farce "Entertaining Mr. Sloane" at the actors' Theatre of Sonoma County as part of their Summer Workshops '88. The play opens August 18. Call 523-4185 for early reservations.

UFW Seeks Gay Support of Boycott

The United Farm Workers have asked for gay and lesbian support in a boycott of California-grown table grapes. The UFW charges that pesticides used on the grapes are a danger to both fieldworkers and consumers. In addition, the Farm Workers are seeking free and fair union elections and good faith collective bargaining, practices that have been compromised by Gov. Deukmejian's appointments to the Agricultural Labor Relations board.

There is a history of support by lesbians and gays for UFW boycotts: Coors beer in the early 1980s, for example, because of Coors' alleged anti-union and anti-gay policies. In turn, Cesar Chavez, president of UFW, has shown support for gay rights issues by speaking at last October's National March on Washington. The Farm Workers Union also actively campaigned against the anti-gay school teacher Briggs Initiative in 1978 and the LaRouche-backed Prop. 64.

Housing for PWAs

Two Sonoma County women, concerned by the shortage of housing for PWAs, are offering to help coordinate shared households for PWAs and PWARCs.

Laura Blum and Debra Kelly are exploring the possibility of forming small shared households for those who are in need. "By sharing a house or apartment with others," they suggest, "rent and utilities can be less of a burden. Compan-

ionship and shared support services are additional benefits."

They are offering to coordinate meetings for potential housemates, locate housing and to assist people with moving. They would like to hear from PWAs and PWARCs who are interested in sharing housing with other PWAs.

If you are interested in finding a place to live, or if you have space available for a PWA OR PWARC, please leave a message at 576-1228.

Pies, Cakes and Ravioli

Food fetishists, as well as those who just came for the dish, packed the most recent Sonoma County Gay Men's Pot Luck held recently in Santa Rosa.

Pies, cakes and pasta salad were joined by a pot of ravioli, casseroles and not too many green salads. Convivial conver-

sation, appropriate announcements and the usual dish/self-dish were the order of the day. Many new faces joined with the regulars for an evening spent gaily socializing despite the hot weather.

The next Gay Men's Pot Luck will take place Friday, August 19, at 7:00 p.m. in Santa Rosa.

For information call 544-4109.

Joe Orton Comes to Sonoma County

Gay British playwright Joe Orton wrote some of the most witty and outrageous dialogue for his plays in the '60's. Today, the plays are just as fresh and valid. Maybe more so. "Entertaining Mr. Sloane" is no exception. Irreverent would be an understatement to describe the tone of the dialogue. It can also be called satirical, with a delicious twist for the ending. And it is all done in good fun. Due to adult situations and language, parents are advised to use discretion.

This production for Actors' Theatre Summer Workshop is one of two plays presented this summer. Under the direction of Michael Tabib, "Sloane" plays for seven performances only, August 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 at 8:15 p.m. and one matinee on Sunday August 21 at 2:00 p.m.

Actors' Theatre is located at Lincoln Arts Center, 709 Davis Street, Santa Rosa. Early reservations are recommended due to limited seating. Call 523-4185 for more information.

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Recovery

By Joey K.

Peeling Those Layers: More Will Be Revealed

After three and a half years of continuous sobriety I hit an emotional bottom which was deeper than the bottom which brought me to AA in the first place. Staying sober is no longer the issue. Instead, living life on life's terms is the issue. I've run out of things which have been protecting me from the pain of living, the pain of feeling, the pain of being a person among persons.

Early on in AA I heard that drinking was merely a symptom of my underlying disease. I was told that recovery was like peeling the layers of an onion, and that as sobriety progressed I would learn more about myself - "more would be revealed".

In recovery I have learned that I am an Adult Child of an Alcoholic, Co-dependent, and an Incest Survivor. If I had had any idea just how much more would be revealed, I probably wouldn't have stuck around. But stuck around I have, and now, after spending most of the day crying, I clearly see that it is possible to "switch addictions" while in recovery, thereby avoiding some of the pain of living, but certainly not all of it.

Since coming to AA I have systematically used sugar, sexual intrigue, bulimia, work, self-mutilation (cutting), and shopping (AKA retail therapy), to numb my feelings and keep me out of my body. I still, at times, will go to any lengths to avoid reality. True, avoiding reality will initially dull the pain, just like alcohol and drugs did, but afterward I'm left with a pervasive feeling of shame, self-loathing, and a nagging desire to kill myself. After three and a half years, I don't think about drinking and using, I think about checking out.

I believe that I have a disease of isolation, self-hatred and shame which tells me that I will never be good enough, never fit in, and never be comfortable with myself or anyone else. It is a soul sickness which only a spiritual program will help to heal.

Luckily, as the onion has been peeled, there have been resources to help when more was revealed. I personally believe that the typical alcoholic legitimately qualifies for at least two or three other 12-Step recovery programs. So far OA and SLAA have worked for me when I've had the willingness to work them. Al-Anon has a chair reserved with my name on it and I'll get there when I get there. And of course there is always therapy to help with whatever else comes up, and something always does.

I know now, (hindsight is always 20-20), that I must let go of my old ideas. One of those old ideas is looking good: trying to be perfect, overcompensating. I've spent way too much time working on my "outsides" to make up for what I knew was lacking on the inside. It is, as the bumper sticker says, an "inside job", and I need to heal from the inside out instead of putting so much energy into the exterior. I also need to learn to ask for help. Reaching out has never

been easy. Most recently, instead of looking for comfort and acceptance from program people, I have been borrowing a friend's dog. Arlo keeps me company, and I feel needed. The truth is, I need Arlo a lot more than he needs me.

I need the program and the people in it. I can't do this alone anymore. I've tried and it just doesn't work. I've got to stop pushing people away; I need to let you see that beneath this competent exterior is a terrified 32-year-old woman who uses her intellect and sarcasm to keep people from getting too close. Old survival tools are hard to put down. My fear of intimacy is an understatement, and despite all the relationships I've been in and out of, I still don't have a clue how to be in one. That's probably because I don't even have a relationship with myself. How could I? I've spent too much time running from myself and trying to get other people to fix me.

So what's the solution? An Eskimo in my life lent me a tape from Living Sober '88 which says that first of all I need to quit judging myself for my actions. Instead of feeling "less than" and asking what is wrong with me, I need to ask, "Why does this learned behavior make sense? What am I unable to say out loud?" Usually I'm musing, but because I can't put it into words, I act out with any one of a variety of survival tools I learned growing up.

Secondly, I need to nurture myself: food, exercise, meditation, learning to say "No", and being patient with myself.

Third, it's time to really surrender to God's will. Back to the basics, I plan to do 90 meetings in 90 days. And I'm going to talk about what is really going on instead of saying that I'm "fine", (which we all know stands for Fearful, Insecure, Neurotic, and Emotional, anyway).

I'm also going to avoid romantic involvements like the plague. Hopefully I can develop a loving relationship with myself and learn to accept myself just as I am.

Finally, I've made myself a little white flag, (thank you, Elizabeth, for the suggestion), with which I can, upon awakening, surrender my will over to my Higher Power. My best ideas have almost killed me. I know today that if I think something is a good idea, then it's probably not God's will. It's time to really turn it over and live the third step.

Yes, more has been revealed. Luckily I have new tools to help with the pain of peeling the onion. These tools work, if I use them.

Along with many others, lesbians and gay men continue to grow in recovery programs dealing with many forms of isolation, addiction, abusive behavior, and family dysfunction. We The People dedicates this column to recovery and opens it to those who wish to share their experiences and thoughts. Requests for anonymity will be honored.

Gay Educators Organize New Agenda

by Jaya Miller

Two years ago a group of six teachers met in San Francisco to found the organization named BANGLE, Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators; today the organization claims 400 members and has chapters or meeting groups in the East Bay, the South Bay, and Contra Costa, in addition to San Francisco. The latest addition to the organization, BANGLE-Sonoma County, was founded July 19th at a meeting on the Santa Rosa Junior College campus.

Ten lesbian and gay educators gathered to share their talents and concerns. Another 15 individuals in the community have indicated serious interest in the future of the group even though they could not be present. In addition to teachers at the elementary, high school, and college level, those attending had positions and training in educational administration, educational media, and special education.

The first priority of those present was to establish a sound, long-term organization committed to providing a safe and comfortable place for gay and lesbian educators to meet and discuss common problems. Many felt that the depth of homophobia in Sonoma County made it impossible and unwise to "come out" at their jobs. It was agreed that the group would support and respect each person's personal decision regarding this complex issue of identity and professional security.

It was agreed that the first issue on the agenda for the next meeting would be the issue of outreach: how to reach all the gay and lesbian educators of Sonoma County through gay and lesbian community organizations, through the Sonoma County of Education, and through teacher and other school employees' unions. The second issue identified for discussion at the next meeting was that of job protection; a couple of participants will report on current policies at Sonoma State University, Santa Rosa Junior College, and the public school of Sonoma County. Third, the group would like to discuss and plan the topics and possible guests for fall meetings of the organization.

Other, possible long-term projects, brought up included the following: 1) Research and survey of Sonoma County schools in relationship to issues of importance to homosexuals, 2) A speakers bureau to provide presentations on homosexuality in Sonoma County schools, 3) Coordination of efforts with the Sonoma County AIDS Education Task Force to the Schools to provide sound sex and AIDS education, 4) Job location and support resources for Sonoma County gay and lesbian educators, 5) Observation of Gay Pride and Awareness in the schools, 6) a video project on homosexuality for use in the classrooms of Sonoma County, and 7) news and media education to the public regarding homosexuality.

If you or any acquaintances would be interested in learning more about BANGLE-Sonoma County, the next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 16th, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Santa Rosa Junior College, Room 1596 of Emeritus Hall (across from the campus library). If you would like additional information, please call: Jaya Miller, (707) 433-9158.

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Senate Okays Denial of Gay Students Rights

The United States, by voice vote, recently approved legislation that authorizes Catholic Georgetown University, and other Catholic universities in Washington, D.C. to deny equal treatment to gay organizations.

The measure was an amendment to the District of Columbia's \$3.2 billion budget bill and sponsored by the Republican Senator from Colorado, William Armstrong. Armstrong maintained that church institutions have the right to exclude gay groups from student organizations allowed campus resources.

Senator Lowell Weicker, R-Conn., maintained the amendment would establish a rule of law legitimizing discrimination. "The subject matter before us is outrageous. It is just good, old-fashioned straightforward bigotry... This thing should go back down the sewer from which it came."

Armstrong denied the proposal was anti-gay saying it was drafted to correct a problem Georgetown had when a District of Columbia Court of Appeals ruled that the school had violated the city's Human Rights Code by denying equal treatment to gay groups. Following the ruling, Georgetown agreed in March to provide

meeting space, a mailbox and the right to apply for student government financing to two gay groups but was not required to recognize the student groups officially. Georgetown officials stated such recognition would violate church teachings.

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Conference Focuses on "Human Side" of AIDS

By Jay Smith

The 4th annual AIDS Update, July 15-16, sponsored by UC San Francisco and Davies Medical Center, brought together medical professionals, concerned lay people, the sick, and the well for a two-day conference at San Francisco Civic Auditorium.

It was physically impossible to attend more than a few of the multitude of workshops, ranging from highly technical presentations on the disease to emotionally charged panels on its effects. The workshops covered legal and social issues as well, like discrimination in housing and employment and antibody testing.

Continuing in the spirit of the Stockholm Conference held in June, the Update focused the attention of health care providers on the human side of AIDS, an emphasis which is rare indeed in a medical conference. Listening to the opening presentations on Friday morning, it seemed to me that one battle in the war against AIDS has already been won. Indifference, in the medical community at least, is a thing of the past. Dr. Stephen Follansbee of Davies Medical Center spoke of the words which had been casually applied to AIDS in the past: the "plague" with its "victims," some of them "innocent," some by inference not so innocent. Those words, he said, were never appropriate, least of all now when AIDS rages worldwide.

Dr. Jonathan Mann of the World Health Organization, continuing in this vein, called the disease a "pandemic," meaning it is no longer a disease that is spreading; it is already everywhere. Now after the initial period of discovery, health agencies worldwide are working together, under WHO's leadership, mobilizing against AIDS just as they did earlier

Florida Man Sues for HIV Confidentiality

A Florida man whose doctor insisted on telling his employer he was HIV-positive, resulting in the man's firing, may have his day in court should his case proceed to trial.

Jim Kautz, a surgical technician working at Humana Hospital Lucerne in Orlando, Florida, and now a San Francisco resident, had taken a battery of tests, including the HIV test, from a private doctor, Dr. Herminio Orizondo, who told Kautz he had AIDS, when he had only tested HIV-positive.

Realizing this and anticipating what might be a negative reaction from his employer, Kautz had asked Orizondo not to reveal the results to Humana. But Orizondo did tell the employer, directly causing Kautz's firing.

According to Ben Schatz, director of National Gay Rights Advocates Civil Rights Project, "This case highlights the danger of assuming we have laws that protect confidentiality, and the importance of having physicians we can trust."

against smallpox and measles. Mann emphasized that wrong-headed public policy is part of the pathology of AIDS and, for that reason AIDS must now be discussed on the floor of the United Nations on a level with any other social issue. Further, he said, WHO, working with authorities and available resources in each country, will not accept a solution to the AIDS crisis that provides a worse standard of treatment for the poor. "We [the caregivers] will refuse to be split," he declared.

Of the workshops that stand out in my mind, I was most impressed by a panel on "AIDS and the Family," where a soft-spoken grandmotherly woman from a small town in Massachusetts explained how she came to be a counselor

working with Coming Home Hospice. When her son died she felt there was one thing that she could do for other parents, and that was to help them accept a reality they were often not ready for—their child was gay and was dying of a disease they had scarcely heard of.

Many other workshops and addresses were given, ending Friday in sparsely attended video showings and "networking" sessions. The videos themselves, however, were impressive, including presentations for grade-school teachers, minority groups, and one that I missed called "Peace Officers Face the AIDS Crisis," aimed at reducing work-related anxieties. An annotated list is available from the UCSF AIDS Professional Education Project, (415) 476-7880.

CLASSIFIEDS

Share rental in Petaluma, three-bedroom house. \$232 per month plus one-third utilities. Deposit. Share with two gay men, mature, non-smoking, sober. Call 762-9615.

Windsor: New to area—seek friendship and more. GWM, 32, 5'7" 136#. Nice looking, masculine, in shape, considerate, mature and intelligent, seeks similar. (707) 838-3957, 9 a.m. to 12 a.m.

Do you own a horse? Want more horse-lovin' friends? Let's get together and share information, tips, possible trail rides. Call 829-5945.

Guerneville, G/W/M 31, Brown Hair, Blue Eyes, 5'9", 150 in shape, HIV. Neg., seeking friendship maybe more. Like quiet times at home. But impulsive on the moment desires and wants are the best! Love fishing, hiking, contact sports, working out with weights, art projects, learning, helping others, movies, music. 707-887-1201.

Housemate Wanted: \$200 month includes utilities for large rural house, garden, orchard, sun, no flood, 30 miles to Santa Rosa. Have 3 bedroom farmhouse to share with one man. Peace and quiet here, 2 acres surrounded by vineyard, great views. Am farmer, 42. Call after dark to Steve at 894-4623.

Let's get together for trips, outdoor & indoor activities with guy under 55. Non-smoker, no drugs. You are under 35, interesting personality and in good shape. P.O. Box 1762, Rohnert Park, Ca. 94927.

Alienated Lesbians: Feeling for one reason or another you can't plug into the local women's community? Or feeling unaccepted by the "community"? If enough interest, social/support group forming. Also open to women confused, unsure, or new to their lesbian identity. Acceptance and sincerity are only requirements. Reply Boxholder, 106 Washington #234, Petaluma, CA 94952.

Lesbian therapy group seeks a few new members. We have met on Thursday evenings in Santa Rosa for three years and we focus on emerging as self-loving and free women as we help heal the wounds and unlearn the behaviors caused by growing up in dysfunctional families. Issues being addressed range from incest to co-dependency in relationships. Our therapeutic style blends deep individual work and group process. Facilitated by Liz Raymer, M.F.C.C., 578-9218.

Where did all the crones go? Two crones would like to meet you for socializing—comfort, friendship, doing things together, sharing experiences and ideas for mutual support. Boxholder, P.O. Box 1001, Windsor, CA. 95492.

Easygoing GWM, 32, 6'3", 185 lbs., would like to hear from men 26-40 for friendship, hiking, camping, beach, river, dancing, enjoying life and expanding our horizons together. Please write to J.T., 1500 Petaluma Blvd. No., Petaluma, CA 94952.

Anyone interested in forming a men's camping group (Tents, Trailers, Motor-homes)? Please call 838-4210.

A men's support group forming with experienced therapist—Call Neil Duffy, 823-6190.

Green seeks Gay for shared effort at creating a future that works for everyone based on the key values of the U.S. Green movement: 1) Ecological Wisdom, 2) Grassroots Democracy, 3) Personal and Social Responsibility, 4) Nonviolence, 5) Decentralization, 6) Community-based Economics, 7) Post-patriarchal Values, 8) Respect for Diversity, 9) Global Responsibility, 10) Future Focus/Sustainability. Lets do it together! If you care... call Ron, 544-9762.

Are you interested in getting together with other Lesbian Moms and their kids for fun and games? Call Lynn at 792-1240 or Lois at 869-9160 to plan a get-together for August.

CAROL O!!! Lots of love and thanks for all your giving with Face-to-Face. Good Luck and CHEERS to you!

Lost at Lesbian/Gay Picnic: a volleyball and a treasured rainbow banner. Any information, call 548-3103.

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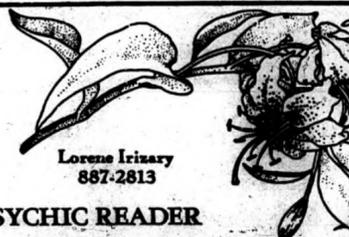
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Calendar of Events

Tuesday August 2

Veterans C.A.R.E., gay and lesbian veterans and their friends, meets 1st Tuesday of the month. Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Petaluma Vets Bldg. For information call 829-5393.

Wednesday August 3

Southern Women's Music & Comedy Festival (held May 1988), slide lecture by Cheryl Traendly. 7:00, ClaireLight Books, Santa Rosa. No admission charge. 575-8879.

Friday August 5

Sonoma County Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club steering committee meets 1st Friday of the month. 7:30-9:00 a.m., Omelette Express restaurant, Old Railroad Square, Santa Rosa. For information call 579-9347 or 527-0485.

Saturday August 6

Dignity, gay Catholic organization, meets 1st Saturday of the month. 6:30 p.m., Sonoma. Mass at 7:00, followed by potluck dinner. For information call Peter at 996-0352 or Mert at 579-5308.

Sunday August 7

Great Garlic Cook-Off, sponsored by members of the Sonoma County peace and justice community. Proceeds will benefit civilian medical aid for Nicaragua. 4:00-7:00 p.m., Cotati Veterans Building, Cotati. Admission: \$5-\$25, sliding scale. Entry fee, \$10 per dish for amateur cooks, \$20 for professionals. For information call 823-1143 (amateur entrants) or 584-4317 (professionals).

Tuesday August 9

Healing Alternatives Group, for people with AIDS/ARC, has a new meeting time: every 2nd Tuesday. 7:00-9:00 p.m., Face to Face, Guerneville. 865-2411.

Wednesday August 10

Energy & Lomi Bodywork workshop, conducted by Jan Marks, M.A., M.F.C.C. 7:00 p.m., ClaireLight Books. Admission: \$5-\$10, sliding scale. 575-8879.

Thursday August 11

Helen Walsh & Jody Russell perform music in a benefit concert for a friend with AIDS. 7:00 p.m., ClaireLight Books. Donation requested. 575-8879.

Gay Men's Minority Support Group meets 2nd Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. For information call Donnell, 528-3011.

Tuesday August 16

Forward Together meeting to plan Coming Out Day (Oct. 11). 7:00 p.m. 1256 Carr Ave., Santa Rosa. 546-3103.

Thursday August 18

"Understanding Arthritis from a Natural Health Perspective," with Lynn Spillinger, D.C. 7:00 p.m., ClaireLight Books. No admission charge. 575-8879.

Friday August 19

"Deep Dish"—Gay Men's Potluck, Santa Rosa. 7:00 p.m. For information call 544-4109.

Saturday August 20

Robin Flower & Libby McLaren in concert—"redefining the possibilities of contemporary music." 8:00 p.m., ClaireLight Books. Admission: \$6-\$8, sliding scale.

Art in the Park and concert sponsored by Healdsburg Senior Center. Healdsburg Plaza. For information call 431-3400.

Sunday August 21

LGRN Potluck. 6:30 p.m. For information call Mert, 579-5308.

Wednesday August 24

Connie Flieder Johann, co-author of *The Great Peace March*, book-signing and slide show on the march across America in 1986. 7:00 p.m., ClaireLight Books. No admission charge.

Saturday August 27

Anne English sings the blues in a first Sonoma County performance. 7:00 p.m., ClaireLight Books. \$4-\$7, sliding scale.

In Celebration of Life annual picnic and fundraiser, a clean and sober event. 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Hot coals provided for barbecuing. Baked goods, sodas, and melons for sale. Fundraising auction. For more information call 579-4938 or 525-0578.

"Taste of the Green Belt," food and wine tasting to benefit People for Open Space. 4:30-7:30, Landmark Vineyards, Windsor. 576-0162.

Sunday August 28

Sonoma County Gay Men's AA celebrates its 11th birthday with a barbecue party. 5:00 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Stony Point and Todd Roads, Santa Rosa. Open AA meeting follows at 8 p.m.

Thursday September 1

Face-to-Face Advocate Training begins. For information on this six-week course, call Jude, Volunteer Coordinator, 887-1581.

Tuesday September 6

Veterans C.A.R.E., gay and lesbian veterans and their friends, meets 1st Tuesday of the month. Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Petaluma Veterans Building, Petaluma. For information call 829-5393.

Weekly Meetings:

Weekly, on-going AIDS/ARC support groups under the professional supervision of Marjorie Thirkettle, M.F.C.C. (ML021923). Sunday: support group for women with AIDS/ARC or who are HIV positive. Wednesday: couples group where one or both partners have AIDS/ARC. Monday, 3:00-5:00 p.m.: AIDS/ARC support group. The Monday group is free of charge. Call 869-3304 for further information.

Alcohol-Free Social for Lesbians meets every Thursday. 7:00 p.m., Clicking Stones, Monte Rio. 865-9922.

Lesbian/Gay AA meets every Tuesday. 7:00 p.m., Clicking Stones. 865-9922.

Other Programs:

9th Annual West Coast Women's Music & Comedy Festival. Five days of activities in a private, wooded camp near Yosemite with access to swimming pool, lake, and river. Sept. 1-5. Entertainers include Robin Flower, Judy Fjell, Marga Gomez, Marilyn Pitman, The Blazing Redheads, Brownbag Readers Theatre, and many others. Speakers such as Jo Ann Loulan, Joyce Hunter, Ginny Foat, and Roberta Achtenberg will also be featured. Various accommodations for 3-5 days range from \$85 to \$150. For information call (818) 893-4075.

California Association of AIDS Agencies fall conference, Red Lion Inn, Costa Mesa, Thurs. afternoon, Sept. 8, and all day Sept. 9. Thursday's session focuses on the State contracting process and grant writing. Friday's will explore methods of health maintenance and include a special panel on possible models for public funding of AIDS research and education. The sessions are: Thurs., \$35; Fri., \$75 (less for CAAA members). For information and registration call (916) 447-7199.

Yalode-Mother River Spirit, a lesbian-owned business featuring arts and crafts by women, announces its Grand Opening Aug. 12-14. Located on Main Street above the Chocolate Factory in Guerneville, Yalode will show African art and jewelry as well as art from many other cultures and a collection of botanicals. Yalode, celebrating the Goddess, will also offer seasonal rituals, classes, and other activities. Artists and crafts-women are invited to stop in or call about showing their work. Claudia or Yolanda, 887-1802.

Healdsburg Plaza Summer Concert Series, every Sunday, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Free. Bring a picnic lunch. Aug. 7, Jazz with Makin' Music Trio. Aug. 14, The Vast Majority plays Chicago-style Dixieland jazz. Aug. 21, Elmo & the Hi-Rise Hillbillies. Aug. 28, HiJinks, playing swing and bluegrass. Sponsored by Healdsburg Downtown Business District, 433-6935.

Items for the Calendar of Events should be submitted in writing by the 15th of the month. Late items will be included as space permits. Please note that because of our press time, events scheduled before the fourth of the month should be submitted two months in advance. *We the People*, P.O. Box 1301, Forestville, CA 95436.

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