

We The People

FREE!

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

September 1988 Vol. I No. 5

SONOMANS ARE NOT ORGANIZED

New Initiative Threatens All State AIDS Programs

by Sandy Lowe

THE DANNEMEYER AIDS Initiative, Proposition 102, is "far more dangerous than anything proposed by Lyndon LaRouche," according to attorney Ben Schatz of the the National Gay Rights Advocates. Current strategy in combating the AIDS epidemic relies heavily on voluntary testing, strict confidentiality, humane counseling and lots of education to help people modify and avoid high risk behavior. Proposition 102 would wipe out these approaches, criminalize privacy, outlaw confidentiality and, according to Schatz, "turn our health-care providers into state police."

Prop 102 would repeal 80% of the state legislation that currently restricts HIV testing and protects confidentiality. According to Ben Schatz, the Dannemeyer Initiative "would eliminate all anonymous testing in California. It would wipe out the law that bars employers from forcing you to take the AIDS antibody test. It would allow insurers to test applicants for HIV. And it would allow testing without written consent."

Furthermore, Schatz warns that "any doctor or blood bank that believes that you are HIV -positive must turn your name in to the health department within 48 hours or face criminal charges. And if you test positive, you must turn in your own name and the names and addresses of all your sexual partners within seven days" also under penalty of

criminal law.

The Initiative requires doctors and health officials to violate confidentiality. "If you test positive, the doctors are allowed to disclose your results to anyone they think has had sex with you and can be forced to reveal your results in court. Health officials are required to use 'every available means' to investigate 'all reported cases' of HIV infection and to inform persons known or believed to be their sexual partners. To make things worse, health officials are given broad authority to do what they want with a person's test results if they think it will help 'control the spread of AIDS.'"

Prop 102 also copies the LaRouche Initiative by defining HIV as an "infectious, communicable disease" which could ban HIV-infected children from the schools and "result in the firing of all seropositive food handlers and school employees."

However, unlike the LaRouche Initiative, Prop 102 stands a terrifying chance of success. In spite of the opposition of such groups as the the California Medical Association and the California Nurses Association, the Initiative has not earned the same bipartisan opposition as the LaRouche measure. LaRouche is widely rejected for his lunatic politics. However, the authors of the Proposition 102, U. S. Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-Fullerton), co-sponsor Paul Gann and state Sen. John Doolittle, are all elected public officials with constituency and clout.

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JANET ZAGORIA/PHOTOGENICS

"Liz," who is HIV positive, called attention to the special needs of women, minorities and children, who get forgotten when AIDS is condered a gay white male disease.

COUNTY SLOWLY AWAKENS TO GROWING AIDS CRISIS

By Lois Peariman

In case you have been away for the past few months and haven't heard the news, it is now estimated that one out of every 44.3 people in Sonoma County is infected by the AIDS virus. That's approximately 7900 people-four to five times higher than the national average.

This is the difficult but unavoidable reality that the Board of Supervisors had to face on Tuesday morning, August 2, when the Sonoma County Commission on AIDS presented its report entitled; "AIDS in Sonoma County; An Interim Assessment of the Scope of the Epidemic, the Immediate and Intermediate Needs, and the Available Services and Resources". The Board's chambers were filled to overflowing with PWA's, their caregivers and others who are concerned about the county's "business as usual" response to the epidemic which, in the words of one "Face to Face" advocate; is threatening to "devastate the social fabric of this county".

Authorized in autumn of 1987 by the Board of

Supervisors, the Sonoma County Commission on AIDS is a sixteen member body whose diverse membership represents "...those who live, work, treat, care and teach AIDS in their daily lives". It was chartered to..."develop a comprehensive response plan for Sonoma County which strategically addresses the needs of the entire community and assures a proactive and coordinated response to the AIDS epidemic".

The report, the results of six months of extensive research, sets forth four emergency recommendations: a \$60,000 allotment to Face to Face to carry it through until other funds become available, the retention of two half-time AIDS counselors, the development of hospice and/or conjugate living facilities for people with AIDS and ARC, and a declaration by the Board that AIDS education is to be considered a top priority for county schools, businesses, and social organizations. AS Greg Wherry, Coordinator of the Commission on AIDS says, these are considered "bottom line" recommendations - they are all absolutely essential. He insisted the Board should not "pick and choose" which of these recommendations it is willing to consider.

During the hour-long presentation and the subsequent budget meeting on the following Monday the Board considered the recommendations and then rejected some and accepted others. The Board allocated \$60,000 to Face to Face, but refused to retain the AIDS counselors, and deferred on AIDS education in schools (because each school district sets its own policies). They could not even begin to deal with the problem of subsidized housing for people with AIDS/Arc, because it is, admittedly, an enormous problem which will require extensive planning.

In addition to the four emergency recommendations, the commission researched the entire spectrum of AIDS-related services. Overall they discovered that "...there is not one area in the service delivery continuum that provides adequate services for 1988. Furthermore these services would be even more inadequate in 1991."

The commission also interviewed fifteen PWA's and sixty one caregivers, the real experts in

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HIV: Experts Redefine AIDS

Many medical specialists have begun using the term "HIV Disease" to describe the devastating AIDS epidemic.

The term represents a subtle shift in thinking, but one with vast implications for how the nation will deal with the virus, according to Jayne Garrison, staff writer for the S.F. Examiner.

Admiral James D. Watkins, chairman of the President's Commission on AIDS, has continuously emphasized that testing positive for the HIV anti-body and not the presence of AIDS (the ultimate complications of HIV infection), must be the criterion on which health care and civil rights are based.

As evidence mounts that most infected people will develop AIDS, more specialists believe everyone who is infected should receive medical care whether they feel sick or well.

"The concept of a healthy sero-positive (infected person) is one we no longer use at all," said Dr. Paul Volberding, co-director of the AIDS Clinic at San Francisco General Hospital, who is championing the new term. "It's important for us to start facing that reality and dealing with it."

Coining a new term could have wide psychological and financial ramifications, but also important medical benefits.

"The words that we use are very important," Volberding said. "One of the benefits of using HIV Disease is that it gets people and physicians to thinking of the illness as a spectrum. We need that for good medical care."

The implications are immense: There have

been 66,464 cases of AIDS reported in the United States; using the new terminology, there would be 500,000 to 1.5 million people with HIV Disease. Many infected people think of themselves as still healthy; but with the use of the term, they would think of themselves as diseased and in need of medical care. Such a term would widen the scope and projected costs of the epidemic overnight, and perhaps increase discrimination against infected

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Phone Line Available To Report Violence

A telephone line to report information on hate crimes committed against lesbians and gay men is now available in Sonoma County. The number is (707) 887-2650.

Information received by the line will be compiled by Sonoma County Community Against Violence and used to work with political leaders and law enforcement officials. In existence since last fall, SCCAV already has established a working relationship with Sheriff Dick Richardson.

SCCAV will also use the statistics derived from information reported on the line to generate support for the Hate Crimes Statute bill now pending in the US Congress. This bill provides for the collection of national data on hate-motivated crimes

against minorities, including gays.

The data is expected to further the work of Congressional and State Legislative officials who seek to deliver civil rights guarantees to their lesbian and gay constituents via anti-discrimination laws. Homosexuals are the only recognized minority in the United States to lack some of the standard civil rights.

Marissa Tonello, a local private telephone installer, donated her services to help set up the line. Tax deductible donations to further the work of Sonoma County Community Against Violence can be sent in any amount to SCCAV, 5620 Enterprise Road, Glen Ellen, CA 95442.

Adam's Apple

By Adam Richmond



No Action/ Hot Tips

ALL TALK, NO ACTION. Last month was free personal ad month here at We The People. In the spirit of things, I took advantage of my column and proclaimed my newfound availability—having emerged from an ever-so-civil divorce. Disappointingly, not one romantic response to my overture in the column. Even with The Press Democrat's front page coverage of the Anti-violence message center (887-2650), complete with a color picture on my best side, brought no date. You'd think that minor fame in a small town would at least land you movies on Friday night! One exception: Jim Spahr did have me out for sushi in Petaluma. Jim is an interesting guy. Not only is he vice chair of the AIDS Commission here, he's also an insurance man who bravely opposes that industry's hysteria-based response to AIDS testing. New York Life recently sent out a mailing to get their insurance agents to support mandatory AIDS testing. Jim sent out a counter letter urging a second thought on the almighty & powerful's approach. You just don't say no to these guys. He's also spearheading an effort to bring the SF Gay Freedom Day Band to Petaluma in June 1989.

****EXTRA HOT NEWS TIP**** The Names Project Quilt comes to Sonoma County the first week of February 1989. Sadly we have more than our share eligible for this community Arts Memorial to the AIDS dead. Kudos to Dan Perdios for arranging this. Some of the quilt panels will be shown at the "Performance of the Heart" on Nov. 5 in Petaluma. The Dance Brigade, of national fame & talent, will perform at the evening presented by the irrepressible Eva Motter. What is going on in Petaluma with all of these events? Lots more stuff happening even if I have to go alone. The Fourth Democratic Labor Day Picnic at the fabulously suburban Dan Galvin Park on Yulupa Ave. is no exception. The newly formed and heavily Hispanic Sonoma County Industrial Union will be welcomed into the fold there. An apparent first in Sonoma County.

GAY AND LESBIAN DEMOCRATIC DINNER. Roberta Achtenberg will be the guest of honor at the Sept. 26 event. (Details elsewhere in this paper.) Roberta ran a successful SF Assembly campaign which lost to John Burton, but maintained the cohesiveness of the fractious Gay & Lesbian community down there. She's a lawyer for the Lesbian Rights Project where she's been very much on the leading edge for progressive child custody (i.e., for us) and for domestic partners legislation. She serves with the above mentioned Petaluman Jim Spahr, on the Board of Directors of the United Way of the Bay Area.

NO ON 6 & 10! Speaking of politics, voter registration is vital this time. Make sure you and all of your friends are registered. Low voter turnout on our crowd's part spells victory for the anti-gay AIDS initiatives—especially since very little has been done to get the word and the vote out on the Block or Dannemeyer initiatives.

HOT OFF THE PRESS. And finally look for the National Coming Out day celebration on Oct. 11, organized by Magi Fedorka and the gang at Forward Together. Tentatively scheduled to convene at the familiar Unitarian Church on Stony Point Road at Todd, the event demands you clean your closets of Gay & Lesbian memorabilia, slides, photos, whatever, and bring em in! I'll have to squeeze into my Keith Harring designed T shirt for L.A.'s 1986 campaign against the LaRouche initiative. Those L.A. boys sure know how to dress for a demonstration! Look for more details next month here at the paragon of the free press - We The People.

Editorial

We're On Our Own This Time

In the past ten years whenever the lunatic right has set out to attack gay people, our community organized an effective campaign of public education. At the same time we unified our own communities, sharing our solidarity and strength. We transformed every attack into a victory of assertiveness and pride.

Our political triumphs were not isolated achievements, however. A commanding majority of sensible citizens of all persuasions determined the danger and absurdity of the right wingers for themselves and voted accordingly. So it was with Prop 6 in 1978, Prop 64 in 1986 and Prop 69 this June.

In November we will be faced with two more initiatives which attempt to exploit the supposed fear and ignorance of the general public on the issue of AIDS.

The Dannemeyer Initiative (Prop 102) is LaRouche in disguise and, together with the Block Initiative (Prop 96), they demonstrate that the right wing's reaction to a health or social problem is to criminalize it and treat it as a police matter.

We no longer need these guys to give us a cause for unity and self-definition. We have our own sweet gay lives well under way and we have the continuing challenge of AIDS to mobilize us. In fact these right wing attacks have become just one more opportunistic infection associated with HIV disease. They try to weaken our body politic by hitting at the same issue again and again, draining community energy away from vital health care and public education. The demagogues care nothing for AIDS or for us but only for the terrorist interests of the criminal right.

Well, once again lesbians and gay men and their friends across the state are organizing to fight Prop 102 and we will do what needs to be done to beat it back.

It is possible, however, that in Sonoma County no heroic expenditure of energy is necessary or possible this time around. In the past we have mounted our own campaigns independent of efforts in San Francisco or the state. Perhaps this is a good time to rely on our allies in the statewide CAP102 campaign.

Even if some local group does spring up before November 8, we are all on our own this time - to take the political attack seriously, to alert our families, friends and the people we work with, and above all to REGISTER AND VOTE! When all is said and done, the ballot is our only effective antibody, and it costs nothing to use.

The last day to register for the November election is October 10. You can register by mail. For information call 527-2614

-Sandy Lowe

Letters

Open letter to Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

Mr./Ms. Supervisor,

On August 2nd I spoke to your board during public testimony on the AIDS Commission report, at which time I urged you and your fellow supervisors to visit one of your constituents who is lying in bed dying from AIDS. I asked you to talk to them and hear their concerns and fears. Admiral Watkins, the chair of President Reagan's Commission on AIDS, said that he accepted that post with a lot of preconceived ideas and his own personal agenda. However, after talking with numerous people with AIDS, his position was turned around 180 degrees. Today I would like to reiterate my plea to you to visit these members of your constituency who in many cases feel ostracized and left out of life. Many feel that their government, both locally and in Washington, has let them down and cast them out. Please take some of your very valuable time to show them that they are wrong, that you do care, and that you can share some of your time with them. I don't think that you truly understand the devastation of AIDS; physically, mentally, emotionally, and financially. A short visit, or at the very least a telephone call, could be the high point of a person with AIDS' day and could be rewarding and eye opening for you. So consider what I have said and act on it today. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Sam Lawman

Sexual Activity Discussion Continues

Dear Editor,

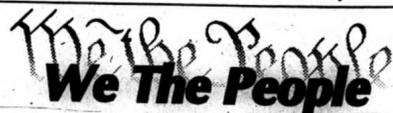
I'm writing in response to the letter in August's issue that made it clear to the supervisors that "we are not sexual activity." Of course we are. The object is to have people accept our sexual activity. Sexuality may be only a part of a person, but it's foolish to deny that it's a big part. For lesbians especially, I think who we have sex with is of primary importance.

In this patriarchy, women are expected to be sexually available to men, either as wives or whores. Women are expected to bear babies for men. (And if you think children are presumed to belong to mothers you need to read up on recent custody decisions. If men want custody they nearly always get it from straight women and lesbians.) It's OK for women to have emotional attachments to other women, to spend most of their time with women, to think and work and live women, but only so long as they're providing sex for at least one man. Dykes are the definitive out-of-control women. We'll never be accepted in the heart, only tolerated as misfits, by anyone who can't accept that lesbians have sex with women.

I hope some gay man writes this paper offering his understanding of why this is equally true for faggots.

So, I say, flaunt it! We have to work really hard to remain visible in the sea of heterosexual images and messages we swim through daily.

Sincerely,
Judy Helfand



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 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.

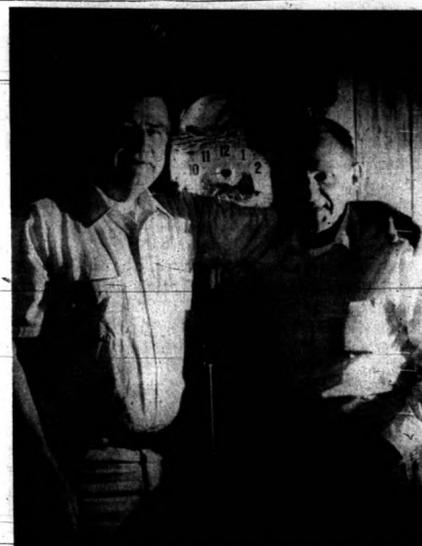
We the People welcomes contributions of news articles and features and seeks the participation of lesbians and gay men interested in its publication. Articles should be limited to 500 words, with suggested editing for length, if needed. The next copy deadline is September 12th. Include your name, address and telephone number. Contributions may be sent to: We the People, P.O. Box 1301, Forestville, CA 95436. Telephone (707) 887-2422. Subscriptions \$12 per year, call (707) 887-2422.

This issue was put together by: Pamela Canyonrivers, Julia Elliott, Robin Gail, Sandy Lowe, Kris Mazure, Jim Melanson, Jaye Miller, Melvin Muller, Jerry Noakes, Lois Pearlman, Noel Quinn, Patrick Satterthwaite, Bill Shelley, Dilys Shippam, Jay Smith, Cheryl Traendly, Nick Valentine Mark Watt, Janet Zagoria

Circulation: 5,000

AN INTERVIEW WITH CHUCK SCHOEN Gay, Patriotic and Proud

By Noel Quinn



JANET ZAGORIA/PHOTOGENICS

Chuck Schoen (left) of Vets. Care at home with his long time partner Jack Harris.

My introduction to Chuck Schoen was over a very large American flag laid out on a very long table. Chuck and Jack, his partner of 20 years, were in the process of folding it—a herculean task in itself. "Who made the flag?" "Jack did," Chuck answers warmly. Jack describes the two of them wrestling the large quantities of material as he stitched and Chuck helped feed the strips into the sewing machine to create the great 26 by 50 foot flag. This flag is the one carried by Veterans C.A.R.E. (Council for American Rights and Equality) in local and national parades and marches.

Chuck Schoen is known in the gay community for his work with Veterans C.A.R.E. His captivating good energy reflects someone committed to a purpose. He speaks with such ease and warm presence about the politics of gayness that it would seem he had years of training on the political battlefield. Not so.

Chuck was born in 1925 and raised in Boston. He served in the Navy for 21 years, reenlisting with each completed tour of duty after receiving honorable discharges. In 1963 during what would be his last tour of duty, naval intelligence learned, through the intimidation of peers in a giant sweep to find gays; that Chuck Schoen fit the bill. He was immediately dishonorably discharged and denied all veteran's benefits until 1979 when a Department of Defense ruling permitted a change in status of discharges. The new ruling permitted homosexuals honorable discharges providing their service had been honorable.

The answer to each question put to him begins to weave the fabric of Chuck's personal life in the present moment: his commitment to the gay community and particularly gay and lesbians serving in the military. He recites statistics and court cases and his experience most recently with Leonard Matlovich; the March on Washington and recognition of gays by the

Sergeant of the Guard when laying the wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier. He speaks with fervor about the injustices gays and lesbians face when serving their country in the armed forces. He speaks of trying to make changes and how important it is for each voice to be heard.

After being discharged, Schoen came to San Francisco because he had become acquainted with the area while stationed at Treasure Island. He worked with a friend in the hardware business, and this work eventually led to establishing his own drapery business in San Francisco. From San Francisco, he and Jack, his second partner (his first relationship was for 18 years), moved to Marin and finally came to this area about 5 years ago.

Chuck's political life emerged in 1978. "I met Harvey Milk who influenced me tremendously to take a verbal stand—not sit silently. We openly fought and successfully defeated the Briggs Initiative, Prop. 6, a bill directed to identifying and firing gay public school teachers. At this same time Matlovich fought the Air Force for an honorable discharge. When he won his case it was the light at the end of the tunnel for me. This was the beginning of my activism."

Like a battleship christened to active duty, Chuck slipped into the mainstream of gay politics, guns smoking. His political agenda currently includes recognition and equality for gays and lesbians in our armed services, including medical and pension benefits; and equal legal rights for gay and lesbian partners. As Chuck begins speaking of these issues, his voice quickens and his energy vibrates the surrounding space, clearly indicating the crystallization of his life in total devotion to gay rights. "Each year I do a little more."

He works in many ways in our community but is best known for his dynamic work with Veterans C.A.R.E. He founded the group in June 1985, and has served as its first officer since that time. It has grown from 17 members to over 200. Chuck is reluctant to take credit, but it is due to his tireless energy that Veterans C.A.R.E. has made such a positive impact on the gay community.

Under Schoen's leadership the group has become a major supporter of Face to Face with contributions totalling \$30,000 in the past three years. The veterans carried the flag in the October 11 March on Washington and provided money to send PWA's to the march. "Veterans C.A.R.E. is an accepted member of the United Veterans council which gives us respect and equality with other veterans' organizations." Chuck's philosophy and his work have been directed toward the concept that gays are not a separate group but part of the total community.

After a visit with Chuck Schoen, one comes away from this soft spoken, dedicated man with the feeling that here is a man who truly symbolizes the word "patriotic". His strong love of country is demonstrated by his continuing efforts to see that its principles of freedom of expression and equality

National Coming Out Day

We need your personal coming out story for the October issue. 200 word limit, submit by Sept. 12.

(707) 869-0869

Carol Owens, MA
Marriage and Family Counselor Intern
(Relationship, Individual, Couples)
HIV Specialist

Intern Employer
Sue Brown, MA MFCC

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by Robin Gail

Lovers and Friends

It isn't always easy coming up with a good topic for a column like this. I think and ponder and sift through the 3X5 cards of my mind looking for something suitable, but what often sparks me is an idea from someone else. In this case someone suggested writing about ex-lovers—something about the process of change in that area.

Last month I poked fun at the status-change— Lover to Best Friend—in a relationship, and we laughed perhaps a little ruefully. It's not usually an easy transition to make. Mostly it's painful, and like many changes, we have to be dragged kicking and screaming into it. Whether you are the initiator of the change or the unwilling participant, it's painful either way.

And not all ex-lovers become best friends. Sometimes there is too much anger or hurt. There might have been too much abuse to allow trust to develop on another level. Nonetheless, I believe from my own experience that generally when intense bonding has occurred in an intimate relationship, it needn't be discarded just because the relationship changes.

You can probably learn something about a new person in your life by how they speak of their exes. Do they mention them with meanness and spite? Do they have contact with any, or are they uninterested now that they're no longer involved? Do they speak of them warmly? Do they care about them? Pay attention to this, 'cause you might be her ex yourself someday, and how they feel after is related to their attitude during the relationship.

As I delve deeper into myself in the process of unfolding and growing—on my own personal journey of self-discovery—I find I feel more keenly. Love and grief are both more intense, but what is very interesting to me is that I've become aware I can feel several different emotions about different people all at the same time! This astounds me. I can feel passion, anticipation, grief, anger, loneliness or kindness in relation to several people and relationships. This is only a partial list of possible feelings, and one does not detract from another. As a result, it appears that everyone I have ever loved still lives in my heart in a very special place with a different set of feelings.

Is there something odd in wanting the people who have been the dearest to us to continue to be important in our lives? I don't think so. The complex network of friends and lovers in our community indicates to me that such continuity of relationships is perfectly natural to us.

When straight couples divorce and remarry, there is usually little or no contact between ex-spouses, except around children. New wives and husbands are threatened by and jealous of old ones, and therapists and advice counselors indicate there is something unhealthy about divorced couples maintaining a relationship when a new marriage has begun. Isolation of the couple, and therefore the individual, is encouraged.

I think this attitude is an outgrowth of the predominant culture's general dysfunction. I believe the extended family—a complicated grouping of close relatives all more or less involved in each other's life processes—is a far more "natural" state than the isolated one-on-one arrangement prevalent today. I would call couple bonding the core of my ideal extended family model and build from there, whereas the general culture encourages us to believe only the couple and some children comprise the Family. Everyone else is a nuisance who comes to visit once a year or needs to be put in a rest home. As a result, the society is fragmented, and the individual is isolated.

Many of us are estranged from our families of origin, often because the rigid family model cannot flex enough to accept our life-style.

Therefore, for most of us, the lover/friend people in our lives become our families. These are the people who have proven time and time again they love us and are there for us when we need them. These are the people with whom we've worked the hardest, because we didn't give up the relationship when it changed. These are the people who, when they said as lovers do, "I'll love you forever," meant it—perhaps more deeply than they knew.

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Hortiphiles Take Root

By Harlan Contri

While record droughts this summer and last have parched many local gardens, the shortage of rain has still failed to wither the spirits of a hearty new group of plant lovers who are taking root in Northern California.

Hortiphiles, a group of lesbians and gays who share the joy of plants, has flourished in size and membership since first organizing last fall. The group presently has more than 100 members in the San Francisco, Eastbay, and Southbay areas, and on October 8th plant lovers in Sonoma County will have their chance to gather in Guerneville and talk about their green thumbs.

"One of the most inviting things about Hortiphiles," according to Geoff Wong, president of the group, "is that there is no expected level of experience or expertise for someone to have in order to be able to join the group and to enjoy the activities. Our members range in plant interest from apartment dwellers with potted palms to homeowners with garden patches to professional horticulturists with some of the best known botanical gardens in Northern California. So no matter to what degree a person enjoys plants, they will fit right in with Hortiphiles."

The idea for the group was the combined effort of Wong and three friends who all have an interest in plants and thought it would be fun to expand their circle to include others who shared the hobby. It was with this seed of an idea that the

group officially began last November with their first gathering.

Since then, Hortiphiles has steadily grown and expanded. The group meets monthly at different locations for either garden tours, visits to specialty nurseries, hikes to natural preserves, and other activities related to horticulture. Often an outing will include a potluck picnic or lunch. So far these events have included a day-long expedition to nurseries in Sonoma County, tours of the Botanical Gardens at the campuses of the University of California in Santa Cruz and Berkeley, and other visits to the homes and gardens of its members. In an effort to be fair to its members who are located throughout the Bay Area and beyond and must travel to meetings, locations of the outings rotate around the entire region.

The group also has a monthly newsletter which notifies members of next month's outings, announces plant workshops, and generally keeps members in touch about a variety of topics between meetings. Since all of its organizational services are done on a voluntary non-paid basis by members, the annual dues for Hortiphiles are only \$10.00 per household.

Guerneville resident, Peter D'Amato, who is a horticulturist and writer on plant topics, will be hosting the first meeting of Hortiphiles in Sonoma County on Saturday, October 8th. Anyone interested in more information on attending this gathering can contact him at (707)869-3641. However, be warned in advance, carnivorous plants are his specialty!

Achtenberg to Speak at Demo Dinner

The first annual dinner of the newly-formed Sonoma County Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club will feature an address by Roberta Achtenberg, the openly lesbian Democratic candidate for the State Assembly who recently waged a fierce campaign against John Burton in San Francisco. Although Achtenberg lost, her effort raised the visibility of gays in politics on the state level.

The dinner will be September 26 at the Santa Rosa Senior

Center, 704 Bennett Valley Road, at 7pm. Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased by contacting Adam Richmond, co-chair (with Georgia Prescott) of the club, or at the door. Richmond can be reached at 579-9347.

Achtenberg, an attorney with the Lesbian Rights Project in San Francisco, will talk about lesbian and gay politics, a relevant topic here in Sonoma County, where homosexuals are becoming more active in political circles.

Spiritual Healing Group Offered

A healing and support group, facilitated by Dan Perdios and Laurel O'Neill, will begin in the Guerneville area on September 12. The group is based on the recognition that there is no separation: no separation between those who have AIDS and those who don't; those who are sero-positive and sero-negative; between gay and straight; male and female. We believe that this is a time for all of us to join together to heal. As we begin to acknowledge and release our fears and confusions and honor who we are, we open to new levels of

healing.

This is a drop-in group, conducted on an on-going basis, meeting every Monday evening, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Sessions will include meditation, visualization, ritual and healing.

Both Dan and Laurel have trained at the Center for Spiritual Healing. They have been active in all aspects of AIDS work and are conducting similar groups in San Francisco and Mendocino. Call (707)865-2159 for more information and location.

Insurance Industry Fails AIDS Test

By Jim Spahr, CLU, ChFC

Bucking the majority of the legislators in Sacramento, Senators Diane Watson and David Roberti have succeeded in postponing a Senate vote on a bill that would allow insurance companies the use of HIV test results for underwriting individual and small group health insurance plans. The measure, AB 2900, is sponsored by Assemblyman Patrick Johnston, D-Stockton. The industry claims to need such testing to avoid increasing everyone's premiums and to protect the solvency of the companies.

The industry and supporting legislators ignore the fact that the HIV epidemic is going to cost us all more, either through higher insurance premiums, taxes or both.

Also ignored is the fact that insurance companies no longer issue health policies with "fixed" premiums, in insurance terms, noncancelable, guaranteed renewable policies.

Insurance companies can and do protect their financial position which is clearly demonstrated by recent benefit reductions and rate increases of 100% and more. Most insurance agent organizations are blindly supporting the industry's shortsighted efforts and shooting from the hip. The leadership is prodding the members to write and call their legislators in support of AB 2900.

Attempts to get opposing views before the agents have met with repeated failure it is almost impossible to silence the cries of "we test for cancer and heart disease". Most agents fail to recognize that no one who understands the insurance mechanism expects the industry to take on those in active HIV disease.

There are many of us who believe the private health care financing system is the best system for spreading the costs of the HIV disease risk. Governor Dukakis is one such person and by executive order he has prohibited mandatory testing in Massachusetts.

Several years ago Bob Haas, president of Levi Strauss, said about the AIDS epidemic, "we can pay now or we can pay later, but we are going to pay."

That advice applies to the health insurance industry and its agents as well. With 1 in 44 Sonoma County citizens HIV+, by the middle of the next decade all Sonoma County citizens will be 'AIDS sensitive.' If by that time the agents and industry have not joined in full partnership in battling the epidemic, they will be pariahs.

Jim Spahr is a Charter Life Underwriter and financial consultant. He has been in the insurance business for more than ten years and is the vice chair of the Sonoma County Commission on AIDS.

LOCAL ART AUCTION PROMOTES HEALING

By Pamela Cayonrivers

The voice of the artist speaks out this September 29 at the Flamingo Hotel ballroom where Sonoma County AIDS PROJECT, FACE TO FACE will host an art auction fundraiser. A preview of the two and three-dimensional, mixed media artwork, donated by sixty locally invited artists, begins at 1:30 p.m. Art connoisseurs note: This is a unique opportunity to purchase artworks valued up to five-hundred dollars at great loving prices, and simultaneously support the growing need for local AIDS services.

FACE TO FACE indicates our local population of AIDS patients has tripled over the past year alone. In-home outreach services, emergency funding and emotional support groups and buddies now consume the lives and energy of seven staff members and over one hundred volunteers. Special Events coordinator, Rick Dean says this FACE TO FACE art auction fundraiser seeks to broaden the base of its community support to people of all classes, races and sexual preferences. "AIDS is breaking the barriers among us and this calls for mainstream support."

Stained glass artist, Lawrence Evangelinos first introduced the idea of an art auction fundraiser to Rick Dean when she became "frustrated and almost angry at the way things were moving in the government's response to AIDS."

Evangelinos says "everybody who has some power or skill needs to act however they can to fund AIDS programs and stop politicizing this universal health problem."

After a roving gallery expedition, a self-appointed committee of artists and FACE TO FACE boardmembers, invited over two-hundred local artists to submit to the auction

fundraiser. The works of over sixty participant artists embrace a multi-media approach to healing. A unique collection of donated oils, watercolors, acrylics, stained glass, expanded steel mesh and metal sculpture, earthenware, terracotta, procelain and jewelry will be previewed at 1:30 p.m. and up for auction bids at 2:30.

Many of these pieces speak especially from the artists' sensitivity toward AIDS in our lives. For Evangelinos, of Lawrence Glassworks stained glasswork is a person expression of her inner feelings which she "puts on a medium." She says, "it may be abstract to the viewer, but its a way to get deep feelings and issues out of my system and to touch others in their own way." She says her creations are usually not preordained, but the one she is submitting to the FACE TO FACE ART AUCTION FUNDRAISER will be "something ugly, and pretty and humorous all together, as yet unvisualized."

Among local entrepreneurs supporting this fundraiser are the Flamingo Hotel, the Peace Press, and Ed Berklund Design Group who, among them, donated the space, the poster design, the paper and the printing; A host of local wineries and food caterers will provide sumptuous food and the best of our Sonoma county vintage wines, and Sebastopol jazz band, SAVVY will perform from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. during the previewing of art pieces to be auctioned.

The event promises to present a smorgasbord of art to be auctioned with minimum bids starting at twenty-five to one-hundred and fifty dollars. Enjoy the generosity of hosts and hostesses and the camaraderie of local artists, connoisseurs, healers and caregivers whose sensitivity and creativity promise to dress this deep wound in our community.



CHERYL TRAENDLY/PHOTOGENICS

Thirty women met Sunday, August 7 at the Sonoma Developmental Center to participate in the "Challenge Sonoma Adventure Ropes Course". The course is an exhilarating sequence of events including cables, logs and platforms affording physical and mental challenges. It is designed to develop trust and self confidence through group support and encouragement. Pictured above are Anita Poree (left) and Mary Jo Dickerson, getting her courage together to do the Dip, one of the high elements of the course.

LVAC Presents a Powerful Reading

The Lesbian Voters Action Caucus (LVAC) is bringing back by popular demand "Passion and Power", a readers theater on s/m. The script was first performed last spring after LVAC members had struggled together for months to write pieces about our experiences, or feelings about s/m.

It was a difficult script to work on. As we read our material in the group we became more aware of the complexity of the issue because it brought up intense feelings for everyone. Not only were

we talking about intimate sexuality, but we were talking about everything that brings up for women in our culture. Power, fantasies, violence, incest, love, bitch/femme ideals, anger, or-gasm, trust, rape, vulnerability, and religion were all being stirred up, and it was uncomfortable, exhilarating and hard work!

We all wanted to do a fair presentation, not presenting s/m as an evil, as we thought some women in our community could perceive it, but as a way of being sexual - an option, a variance, exciting, funny, common and certainly something as valid as our lesbian sexuality - not deserving of censorship.

We also wanted to be sensitive to the painful issues s/m can bring up. As we well knew through our own process of writing, rehearsing, and performing the script, much can evolve.

So, here it is again. After the performance we plan a facilitated discussion for those women who want to talk about the script, s/m, just what was brought up. "Passion and Power" will be read on Sunday, Sept. 18, at 7 p.m., at the Santa Rosa Senior Center, 704 Bennett Valley Rd. Childcare can be provided, with 72 hour notice - call 823-5082. The event is wheelchair accessible, no scents please, donation of \$3-\$10.

COMING OUT '88 CELEBRATION PLANNED

Sonomans are planning to join in the celebration of National Coming Out Day set for October 11, the first anniversary of the National March on Washington. Plans for the Coming Out '88 Celebration include a slide presentation of the Washington March, a display of lesbian/gay memorabilia, and more.

Memorabilia such as buttons, T-shirts, posters and banners are being collected as can be brought or worn to the celebration. Old photographs of Sonoma County lesbian/gay gatherings and SCRAP 8 campaign are especially desired. All items will be returned request. For more information call Megi 792-1263.

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AIDS News

by Doug McCulloch

Hyperoxygenation Review

This month's AIDS treatment information will be a review of an article by Waves Forest published in the March 1988 issue of the *Well Being Community Calendar*. In his article "AIDS, Cancer Cured by Hyper-Oxygenation" Mr. Forest presents several blood hyperoxygenation therapies, which he claims cures AIDS.

The first therapy Mr. Forest discusses is Ozone Blood Treatment. Ozone is simply composed of three oxygen atoms, O3. Ordinary atmospheric oxygen occurs as O2, or two atoms of oxygen. The two atom molecule of oxygen is much more stable than the three atom molecule in ozone, and ozone tends to readily release one oxygen atom to create atmospheric oxygen and an oxygen radical (one lone oxygen atom). Ozone blood treatment involves removing a pint of blood from a patient and forcing ozone into the blood while gently shaking it. The idea being that the extra oxygen atom will be released from the ozone and bind to a heme group on the hemoglobin molecule in the red blood cells. The energy released during this reaction is claimed to destroy enveloped viruses such as the AIDS virus. Evidence to support this claim is anecdotal, not scientific.

Another therapy Mr. Forest writes of is treatment with hydrogen peroxide. The chemical formula for hydrogen peroxide is H2O2. The theory behind this treatment is that, as with ozone, the extra oxygen atom will be released creating water, H2O, and an oxygen radical. The difference between this treatment and the ozone treatment is that the hydrogen peroxide is ingested or absorbed through the skin. The oral treatment is accomplished by ingesting increasingly concentrated amounts of hydrogen peroxide daily. Mr. Forest claims that in the stomach the hydrogen peroxide undergoes the reaction which produces water and oxygen radicals. The oxygen radicals supposedly find their way to the blood stream creating a highly oxygenated environment which is hostile to micro-organisms including the AIDS virus.

Having a background in chemistry and biology, I was somewhat skeptical of the claims made by Mr. Forest. Free oxygen radicals can be very destructive to living tissue because they are electrically unbalanced, having one less electron than the more stable oxygen atoms found in atmospheric oxygen molecules. In discussing my concerns with several professors in the biology department at SSU my suspicions were confirmed. While it is true that blood can be hyperoxygenated by the ozone method, it has yet to be shown that this treatment is actually virucidal. As for the ingestion of hydrogen peroxide, I feel this to be a very dangerous undertaking.

It is true that in the stomach environment hydrogen peroxide breaks down to water and free oxygen radicals. It is not true, however, that these oxygen radicals find their way into the bloodstream to hyperoxygenate the blood. That kind of chemical reaction simply cannot take place. The oxygen radicals most likely combine with each other to form oxygen gas which can either be passed in that form or combine with hydrogen ions in the stomach to form water. It is also quite likely that oxygen radicals damage and kill stomach cells. This would account for the nausea and stomach pain reported by many people undergoing hydrogen peroxide therapy.

It seems to me Waves Forest lacks the necessary background, biologically, to understand the claims he makes. If he knew more about biochemistry and blood physiology he would understand the fallacy of his claims. He seems to be using the format of giving hope to PWA's in the form of a so called cure to slam U.S. drug companies. While U.S. drug companies may well need slugging, it is cruel and unconscionable to falsely raise the hopes of PWA's in order to make a point.

As far as I know, ozone therapy is not available in this country. It should be more thoroughly investigated as an AIDS treatment option. Hydrogen peroxide treatment is potentially dangerous and should not be considered as a legitimate AIDS treatment.

Francisco, as well as Director of In-patient Care at Santa Rosa Community Hospital, has had considerable experience with AIDS and ARC patients.

The central philosophy of the training is to use meditation as a tool to gain greater control over one's life. Through meditation one gains a new sense of self worth and power, creating greater calm and times of peace from which one can gradually exercise greater control over one's life, including such health-enhancing practices as good eating and regular exercise. One learns a mantram to be used as a kind of emergency intervention technique during periods of great stress, anger, or frustration to gain time and poise for considering alternative actions to one's normal patterns of behavior or addictions.

If you are HIV positive and looking for ways of raising the efficiency of your immune system, I recommend you attend the introductory meeting on September 7th. Ten weekly sessions will follow on Wednesdays and also on Tuesdays if enough people are interested. The program is free; those wanting more information, including exact meeting place and time, should contact the office of Dr. Rick Flinders, Medical Director of the RISE Program, at 544-3340, extension 4170.



JANET ZAGORIA/PHOTOGENICS

Greg Wherry, Coordinator of the AIDS Commission, and Diane Brabetz, R.N., of the Medical Personnel Pool, offer their conclusions to the Board of Supervisors.

SON OF AIDS INITIATIVE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
cerned citizens and AIDS activists called Californians Against Proposition 102 (CAP102). The campaign will seek to run the campaign for less than a million dollars which, according to Boneberg, is expected to be many times less than the proponents of the measure will spend.

Boneberg, who is the Northern California Outreach coordinator for CAP102 notes that a number of counties have already begun to organize their opposition campaigns.

In Sonoma County, where gargantuan and successful struggles against anti-gay and negative AIDS measures have been mounted over the past ten years, local activists may be choosing to sit this one out. Adam Richmond, who helped lead the battles against the LaRouche Initiative in 1986 and again in June, continues to work hard in many other areas of concern to the lesbian and gay community but he confesses that he cannot undertake another initiative campaign at this time. It is not certain whether the "Oh No, Not Again!" Committee, organized last winter to fight the LaRouche Initiative will pick up the effort. "At this point," says Richmond, "it doesn't look like much is happening."

How can people in Sonoma and other North Bay counties help in the campaign against Prop 102? Boneberg suggests three ways: First, people willing to organize small groups to work locally can get assistance and material from the CAP 102 and Boneberg by calling him at (415) 863-4676. Second, people may volunteer their assistance directly to the state campaign by calling Dana Van Gorder at 415-621-6164 or third, people may make donations to Californians Against Proposition 102 c/o Mobilization Against AIDS, 1540 Market Street #60, San Francisco, CA 94102.

For information on activities in the county call the "Oh No, Not Again!" Committee at 527-0485 and be sure to register and vote.

Recovery - Through Death Comes Life

By Kate Ryan

I turned 42 in May and this year feels particularly significant to me. My father died of a 'surprise' massive heart attack when he was 42 during a water-skiing trip at the Colorado river. My golden retriever was 42 (by dog years) when we carried all 65 lbs of him off the beach to the emergency vet to die on the operating table of a strange heart problem about which I previously knew nothing. At this particular time in my life there is a death happening within me, too, and it also has the heart at the focus.

For about ten years I've been working on transforming a personality programmed for failure and self-hatred, primarily through affirmations and visualizations. It has done wonders for turning around my thinking about myself and the world; however, many of my patterns of behavior remained unchanged. This last year, with the help of 12 step programs, I've begun to identify 'illnesses' within myself and under-

stand their origins from my childhood. In the process I've uncovered a deep sadness that turned itself into a disease called love addiction, one of the many manifestations of my co-dependent personality.

For years I've protected that vulnerable scared place within by opening my heart to others on a very superficial and seemingly safe level, putting on a facade of confidence and lack of neediness. As I have healed and attempted to open up on deeper levels, I find I set myself up for having to face my worst fears - rejection, failure to communicate and abandonment - consequences of trying to find love 'out there' instead of within.

I talk to my clients a lot about emotional clearing - a process of allowing emotions and tears induced by present situations and experiences to clear and cleanse and heal parts of ourselves suffering from emotions that were 'stuffed' as children, when no one wanted to see our feelings and shamed us for having them. I use this process myself sometimes, day after day after day, wondering if there is ever an end to the tears and the sadness. On days and in moments when there is relief from the pain, I know it has been worth it, because I feel a lightness and a joy from a depth I've never known before.

I was about 25 when I realized I didn't have the foggiest notion what I was feeling and what it was about. Seventeen years later I do know what my feelings are and what they are about, though I often feel powerless from the intensity. And sometimes I can't tell the difference between being there with my feelings, being willing to feel those feelings, and obsessing. I do know that my intention is self-love and release from judgments about myself and others. And I firmly believe that my desire to love myself and to reflect the spark of God within me will create healing and the "serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." I am firmly committed to experiencing whatever deaths are necessary within me to create a life filled with joy, abundance, fulfillment and love.

Happy birthday, Kate. I love you.....

Along with many others, lesbians and gay men continue to grow in various programs of recovery from 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 personal experiences and thoughts. By-line names will be printed as submitted. Requests for anonymity will be honored.

Face to Face Auction is a Good Investment

Veterans C.A.R.E. and the Santa Rosa Inn are sponsoring a second annual auction to benefit Face to Face/Sonoma County AIDS Network. The auction will be held Sunday, September 18 at the Santa Rosa Inn, 4302 Santa Rosa Ave. in Santa Rosa, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

A buffet will be provided; there will be drawings for door prizes, entertainment by The Barbary Coast Cloggers and many others. The \$5 admission includes one raffle ticket with a grand prize of a week for two in the Bahamas.

Last year's auction raised over \$17,000 for Sonoma County's only direct care organization for people with AIDS/ARC. This year's goal is \$25,000 plus. For more information or for donations of merchandise or gift certificates for the auction, call Rick Dean at Face to Face (707) 887-1581

Calendar...

(Continued from page 8)
persons testing HIV-positive and their care partners, the course is open to anyone interested in learning practical self-stewardship techniques for strengthening the immune system. (See article this issue) The program is free. For information call Dr. Rick Flinders, 544-3340, ext. 4170.

Men of Color Conference II: "Healing the Illusion of Differences". The goal of the conference is to bring men of color together in a common ground of friendship, unity, and concern. Scheduled workshop topics include: Men of Color in the Men's Movement; AIDS in our Third World Communities; Communication Among Men of Color; Drugs, Alcohol and Violence; and Bi-Racial Men of Color. Additional workshops and entertainment are planned. 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Capp Street Center, 362 Capp St., San Francisco. Registration Fee: \$30. Refreshments and lunch. (If the cost of registration presents a financial hardship, a sliding scale can be arranged.) Wheelchair accessible. For information call Bart Casimir, (415)861-3237 or Ron Franklin, (415)436-7435.

Russian River Jazz Festival 1988, Sept. 10-11. Saturday: Sonny Rollins, Angela Bofill, Katie Webster, Little John Chisley, Sarah Vaughan. Sunday: Wynton Marsalis, David Benoit, Richie Cole, Freddie Hubbard, Andy Narell, and more! Tickets available at all BASS/Ticket-Master centers, (415)762-BASS, and from Russian River Jazz Festival, Inc., Box 763, Guerneville, CA 95446, (707)526-0436.

Yalode-Mother River Spirit, a lesbian-owned business featuring arts and crafts by women, announces a Full Moon Akas' Aba Sale, Sept. 24-25. 11:00 - 6:00, Main St. (above the Chocolate Factory), Guerneville. 887-1802.

In Celebration of Life, seventh annual conference, sponsored by Sonoma County lesbian and gay members of the 12-step recovering community. Workshops, speaker meetings, entertainment, and dancing. At Sonoma State University, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 8-9, 9 a.m. \$10 donation/registration fee. For more information call 579-4938 or 525-0578.

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 457, Graton, CA 95444.

Flinders Presents RISE Program

By Jaye Miller

RISE (Raising Immune System Efficiency) will begin a new workshop series in Santa Rosa Sept. 7. The RISE program which has been functioning during the last year in five cities (Santa Rosa, Berkeley, San Diego, Le Grande and Toronto) is dedicated to helping people raise the efficiency of their immune systems when facing HIV infection or other immune threatening diseases.

The 10-week workshop is based on meditation, diet and exercise. The foundation of the training is learning and practicing meditation on an inspirational passage. This general technique was developed by Eknath Easwaran who founded the Blue Mountain Center of Meditation in Berkeley, now located in Sonoma County.

Director of the program, Dr. Rick Flinders, who is an Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of California in San

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Calendar of Events

Friday September 2

Sonoma County Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club steering committee meets 1st Friday of the month. Time and place to be announced. For information call 579-9347 or 527-0485.

Saturday September 3

"A Couple of DRAGONIAS Inn Labor!" - a collection of comedy skits and impersonations. (See article this issue.) 10:00 p.m., Santa Rosa Inn, 4302 Santa Rosa Ave. For information call 584-0345.

Monday September 5

Democratic Labor Day Picnic, sponsored by the Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee. Dan Galvin Community Park on Yulupa Ave. at Bennett Valley Rd., Santa Rosa. Starts at 1:00 p.m. and runs all afternoon.

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. For information call 829-5393.

Wednesday September 7

RISE (Raising Immune System Efficiency), a ten-week health education course designed for persons affected by HIV, introductory meeting. (See article this issue.) For information call Dr. Rick Flinders, 544-3340, ext. 4170.

Thursday September 8

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

Friday September 9

Gay Fathers Group meets 2nd Friday of the month for potluck in members' homes. For information call 823-6190.

Saturday September 10

Dignity, gay Catholic organization. 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.

Tuesday September 13

Healing Alternatives Group, for people with AIDS/ARC or HIV positive, meets 2nd Tuesday of the month. Jim Dreaver, a Sebastopol chiropractor, will discuss "Presence", his article on healing and transformation in the *Healing AIDS* newsletter. 7:00-9:00 p.m., Face to Face, Guerneville. 865-2411.

Wednesday September 14

"Contracts and Agreements for Daily Living", an informative session led by local attorney, MaryGlare Lawrence. 7:00 p.m., ClaireLight Books. No admission charge. 575-8879.

"Taking Care of Yourself: Bioenergetic Exercises and Visualization Techniques" with Nyla Fleig, MS., bodywork practitioner, and Gloria Biddle, MA, MFCC. 7:00 p.m., Artemis Club, \$4-\$6, sliding scale. For information call 576-1657.

"Deep Dish" - Gay Men's Potluck meets 3rd Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. For information call 544-4109.

Saturday September 17

Elaine Townsend and band in concert. Don't miss this exciting performance! Get your tickets early. 8:00 p.m., ClaireLight Books. \$4-\$8, sliding scale. 575-8879.

Men of Color Conference II: "Healing the Illusion of Differences". 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Capp Street Center, 362 Capp St., San Francisco. Registration Fee: \$30, includes lunch. For information call Bart Casimir, (415)861-3237 or Ron Franklin, (415)436-7435.

Sunday September 18

AIDS Benefit Auction, sponsored by Veterans C.A.R.E. and the Santa Rosa Inn, to benefit Face to Face/Sonoma County AIDS Network. (See article this issue.) Beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Santa Rosa Inn, 4302 Santa Rosa Ave., 584-0345. For more information call Chuck or Jack, 823-5393.

Passion and Power, a readers theater on s/m, presented by Lesbian Voters Action Caucus. 7:00 p.m., Santa Rosa Senior Center, 704 Bennett Valley Road. Childcare with 72 hours notice - 823-5082, wheelchair access. No scents please. Donation-sliding scale \$3-\$10.

LGRN Men's Potluck meets 3rd Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. For information call Mert at 579-5308.

Monday September 19

Marge Penley, MFCC, presents *Humor as Alkido*: How to use humor to increase self-confidence, reduce stress and fears, improve your ability to handle potentially embarrassing situations and lessen anxieties. 7:00 p.m., ClaireLight Books. No admission charge. 575-8879.



"A Couple of DRAGONIAS Inn Labor!" - a comedy review group, will be appearing September 3 at the Santa Rosa Inn.

Aromatherapy: M. Lavelle, cosmetologist and herbal enthusiast, will share how we can increase the quality of our lives and the lives of those around us by practicing the art of aromatherapy. 7:00 p.m., ClaireLight Books. No admission charge. 575-8879.

Wednesday September 21

Fall Equinox Ritual for Women sponsored by Yalode-Mother River Spirit. Bring a candle, fall altar objects and percussion instruments. 7:00 p.m. Call for location, 887-1802, or come by Yalode, Main St., Guerneville, 11-6 Thurs. - Tues.

Friday September 23

Freedom to Read Celebration kicking off Banned Books Week. Local book-lovers will read selections from banned and challenged books. Come and see our display of books someone else doesn't want you to read! 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., ClaireLight Books. 575-8879.

Saturday September 24

Carol Becker, PhD, author of *Broken Ties: Lesbian Ex-Lovers*, will read from her book and discuss stages of recovering from a break-up. 5:00 p.m., ClaireLight Books. No admission charge. 575-8879.

Hortiphiles Potluck Brunch. A group of lesbians and gays throughout the Bay Area who enjoy plants. (See article this issue.) 11:00 a.m., San Francisco. For more information call Michael at (415)826-2515, or Henrietta at (408)246-1117.

Full Moon Aku' Aba Sale at Yalode-Mother River Spirit. 11:00 - 6:00, Main St., Guerneville. 887-1802.

Wednesday September 28

Bodywork and visualization techniques designed to reduce stress and

restore body-mind integration. An evening with Gloria Biddle, MFCC and Nyla Fleig, MS. 7:00 p.m., ClaireLight Books. \$4-\$6, sliding scale. 575-8879.

Saturday October 1

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.

Tuesday October 4

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. For information call 829-5393.

Saturday October 8

Hortiphiles, a group of lesbians and gays throughout the Bay Area who enjoy plants, hold their first meeting in Sonoma County. (See article this issue.) For information call Peter D'Amato at 869-3641.

Judy Fjell in concert. 8:00 p.m., ClaireLight Books. \$5-\$7, sliding scale. 575-8879.

Weekly Meetings:

Santa Rosa AIDS Awareness Group. An open informational/support group committed to decreasing the isolation of people with HIV, ARC, and AIDS. The program is sponsored by Face to Face. Monday nights, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the library of Community Hospital, Santa Rosa. Newcomers, family, and friends are welcome. For information call 578-0855.

Weekly, on-going AIDS/ARC support groups under the professional supervision of Marjorie Thirkettle, MFCC (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.

Lesbians in Committed Relationships Support Group, facilitated by Marjorie Thirkettle, MFCC (ML021923), meets every Friday at 6:00 p.m. For information call 869-3304.

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, Monte Rio. 865-9922.

Living with AIDS Support Group for PWA/PWARC, facilitated by Carol Owens, M.A., meets every Monday. 7:00-9:00 p.m., Face to Face office. No fee. Call 887-1581 to enroll.

HIV Positive and Spirituality Support Group, meets every Tuesday in September. 7:30-9:00 p.m., Knox Presbyterian Church, 1650 West 3rd Ave., Santa Rosa. For information call Dennis at 575-5132. Sponsored by the Santa Rosa Metropolitan Community Church.

AIDS Healing Group. Spiritual Healing Group for those involved with and affected by the AIDS crisis, facilitated by Dan Perdios and Laurel O'Neill, meets every Monday, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Call (707)865-2159 for more information and location. (See article this issue.)

Other Programs:

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.

Santa Rosa RISE program. A ten-week health education course designed for persons affected by HIV. Introductory meeting: Sept. 7. Ten weekly sessions will follow on Wednesdays and also on Tuesdays if enough people are interested. Although especially suited to the needs of

(continued on page 7...)

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