INTERVIEW WITH GAYLE REMICK
Humor Her Seriously

By Anna Rose

"M y father had eight brothers and sisters, and the only thing normal about them was their names. My mother had only one sister but she had eight personalities.

So began Gayle Remick's humorous account of her life in a dysfunctional family. She stood on stage at the Daily Planet delivering one liners and funny stories to a crowd of dykes, straights and questionables at the annual Women's Comedy Night, while I sat at the side of the room taking notes on her performance.

"I was off that night," she told me a few weeks later as we sat in her kitchen eating spaghetti. "But this community is very for­mulated, "is like a healing for me and} get to going to be funny."

Gayle, 35 years old, is a gay comedian who lives in Santa Rosa with her life partner, Francis Fuchs, a local therapist. She has been performing stand up comedy in the Bay area since 1974. Her brand of humor includes bits on recovery and twelve step programs, reli­gion, dysfunctional families, channeling, gays and lesbians and anything else she can conjure up in her search for the absurd.

"I do n't do humor that's degrading or will hurt anyone. I want the audience to feel safe," she said. "I feel like a little healer when I can make people laugh." However, she does acknowledge that she has a really bizarre sense of humor.

"Like putting things out there just to see how crazy I really am. Doing stand up comedy being locked up. And hope­fully it helps keeps a few other people from being locked up too — that's the healing part."

Gayle is the youngest of four kids and has spent her childhood in New England. Her mother was a New Zealand war bride and a singer and dancer. She came from a family of vaudeville entertainers who sang and danced on roller skates. "They didn't work," Gayle said.

"My family was extremely dysfunctional — and we were all hilarious," she added. "It was the only way to survive. I learned by being funny. My younger brother that by using humor I could ease the tension in the house and take the heat off me. So I would make a conscious effort to think of things that were funny. It became my obsession. I found it personally satisfying and I got a lot of attention."

Gayle never realized she was from an alcoholic family until she was in her late 20s and in therapy. "My family's denial system was truly blind until I realized that I was an Adult Child of an Alcoholic that I saw that everyone doesn't live that way," she said.

When Gayle was in junior high school she switched from Catholic school to public school and was very uncomfortable with the change. "I felt really out of place. So I used humor to get people to like me. But comedy is a skill; it's not who the person is, and I remember when people would say, 'God, you're so funny.' I would still feel an incred­ible loneliness. When I was alone, I felt empty no matter how funny I'd been that day. I tried even harder to be funny, and that became my persona all through high school.

When Gayle moved out to California on a ten speed bike — I know it sounds crazy but it truly is a story, but you'll have to catch her act to hear about it — she started singing and playing guitar at clubs in Santa Cruz. Out of nervousness, she made some jokes and people started laughing. Pretty soon her improv comedy became part of the gig. After two years, she moved to Sonoma County and took a comedy class at Sonoma State University. Soon she began performing at local clubs. "I wasn't out as a lesbian when I first started to do comedy in clubs," Gayle

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Gay/Lesbian Community Center Wants You

An Open Call To All Members Of The Gay/Lesbian Community Of The Greater Sonoma County Area Concerning The Now-Forming Gay/Lesbian Community Center: We invite all of you out there to join us in making this a reality. We need your presence, support and energy. Our next meeting will be Saturday, October 28, from 10:30am-12:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (Todd and Sunny Points Roads). For more information call Pam McDaniel 795-0463 or Bob Casanta 887-1057.

Local Catholics Probe Homophobia

By Sandy Lowe

S ister Jeannine Gramick, a nun in the Roman Catholic Church, eyes spark­ling, stands lean and strong, speaks cheerfully and softly, and says rather matter of factly, "We just have to make friends with our sexuality!"

We must all know how many people who grew up in the closet of the church who would drop their teeth watching a nun sally forth so affirmatively into the dread realm of sex and sin.

But that's the way it is with Sister Jean­nine Gramick and Father Robert Nugent and their New Ways Ministry. They established this ministry in 1977 in an attempt to foster discussion, do education and stimulate a supportive climate for lesbians and gay men within the Catholic Church.

At first their bishop in Washington, D.C., brought in the Vatican's heavy forces to force Gramick and Nugent to leave his diocese. They each found support in their own Catho­lic religious communities and relocated their ministry to Maryland. Since then they've been publishing, lecturing and running semi­nars on homosexuality and more recently on letter "undid a lot of very positive things we had accomplished in this country and caused a lot of pain and anger."

Nugent suggests that there is "now some sanity among the clergy and people getting on the wrong side of Rome. They are being very cautious and careful. Bishops are aligning with more conservative forces in Rome and in the United States. The new people that are gone as "the bishops try to prove their loyalty to Rome" by ousting supportive and sympathetic gay groups like Dignity from the church.

In the wake of the Vatican letter and other repressive actions taken against some North American Catholic thinkers and bishop­ops, most progressive theologians have adopted a low profile and have stopped put­ting their thoughts in print.

Both Nugent and Gramick believe that the Catholic laity is far more open than the hierarchy of the church. "People are far more open and accepting of change," said Sister Gramick. "Typical Catholics out there in the pews are willing to live and let live" in matters of sexual politics, and they cite survey after survey to prove it.

This small gathering at the Angela center demonstrated the willingness of the ordinary people of the church to deal with the increasingly obvious and ugly reality of homopho­bia and its many violent and deadly manifestations. There was a noticeably mild­ hanging over the group. The mood of the seminar was one of quiet resignation, and I thought to myself: "this must have been what it was like at the clandestine meetings of the European politicians in the church, the calcu­ lated medieval hierarchy of the Vatican, CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Photography by Janet Zadorna

Gay Remick mugs during a performance at The Daily Planet in Santa Rosa recently (right) and mugs for the camera with part of her family in her backyard garden (above).
Adam's Apple

By Michael Brewer

October 1989

The Bi-Weekly

By Michael Brewer

October 1989

Join the Social-Life Club

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SANTA ROSA, CA 95404

By Michael Brewer

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Include your name, address and telephone number. Contributions $12 per year, 526-7464.

The Bisexual Network

Supporting bisexual identity and rights. Bisexual Network, founded in 1983, with the purpose of promoting visibility and inclusion. They believe in fighting to end the oppression of all people, regardless of sexual or gender identity and expression. "It's time to come out of the closet," says Robin Maguire, chair of the network. The group meets bi-weekly (of course!) on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the AIDS Project office, 1301 11th Street, just east of Market. The group is open to everyone, gay or straight, and a contingent of bisexuals from the conference will be present. They are also looking for volunteers to help with the organization's various projects. The group can be contacted at 526-7464.

The Socal-Life Club has been at it again. This time it is offering a five-year subscription to the magazine for $12.00. The magazine is available at the San Francisco Public Library, the San Francisco AIDS Project, and the San Francisco Women's Health Center. The subscription includes a copy of the magazine, which is mailed to your address. The Socal-Life Club is a non-profit organization that promotes the rights and needs of bisexuals in the San Francisco Bay Area. The magazine is published four times a year and contains articles on the issues affecting bisexuals, as well as interviews with people from the gay and lesbian community.

September 1989

The Bisexual Network

By Michael Brewer

October 1989

The most exciting news this month is that there will be a Bisexual Network Conference held in San Francisco June 20-24, 1990. This is Gay/Lesbian pride week, and a contingent of bisexuals from the conference will be marching. Already, representatives from numerous states, cities, and countries are committed to being there. The Socal-Life Club is offering free attendance to this event for any gay or lesbian who wants to participate. For more information about the conference call 726-4746.

In case you're wondering, the Socal-Life Club is a non-profit organization that promotes the rights and needs of bisexuals in the San Francisco Bay Area. The organization is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for bisexuals, as well as promoting visibility and inclusion. They believe in fighting to end the oppression of all people, regardless of sexual or gender identity and expression. "It's time to come out of the closet," says Robin Maguire, chair of the network. The group meets bi-weekly (of course!) on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the AIDS Project office, 1301 11th Street, just east of Market. The group is open to everyone, gay or straight, and a contingent of bisexuals from the conference will be present. They are also looking for volunteers to help with the organization's various projects. The group can be contacted at 526-7464.
October 1989

Cruising The River

By Patricia Ther

SUMMER PAST .... Hard to believe in the final unfolding of the Names Quilt in Washington, D.C. on October 6th. I attended one of the five labor day weekend events. A number of new gay owned or oriental owned and operated businesses got started this past summer. Among them were the sprawling gay bathhouses on Broadway, the Gay and Lesbian Community Center and the newly opened Q Spa. A new store on the second floor of a long winding road to Hana, lined with lush tropical foliage isles across the Pacific. The quaint old whaling town of Lahaina, which features a number of restaurants and gift shops, is also home to the only gay bar on the neighbor island.

Kilauea Bay...A privately owned radio condominium, is happily yours at a steep price. It's a short walk to the beach. NOTE: The property has no road service, but is in condition, has color TV, phone, refrigerator, lunch room and pool. Wildlife. Honolulu, Hana and the Neighbor Islands are connected to the Neighbor Islands.

Carlsbad Beach. Bed and Breakfast. Plantation style home built on 6 acres at 2000 feet elevation in up-country Maui. Peaceful grouping with beautiful mountain and ocean views. Les is at the beach. The Prince Kuhio has one twin bed and the Queen Emma Room as a king bed and sitting area. Both rooms share an adjoining bath. A daily continental breakfast is served.

ACT-UP IS Everywhere

Cities to Participate in National AIDS Protests

October 6th the AIDS Coalition To Network Organize and Win (ACT) is coordinating nationwide AIDS protests. The main-division organizations across the country are demanding action taken to end the existing AIDS death toll.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — ACT-UPS will conduct a march from the federal building in the U.S. Mint and to the 'gay community' center. The dual theme for the march is a national coordinated AIDS protest day, to be included in the final unfoldung of the Names Quilt in Washington, D.C. October 5th. The New York City, Miami, Chicago"Stonewall Inn, the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, and the director of the Mental Health AIDS Project, have all pledged to be part of the most comprehensive event ever attempted.

FURTHER MORE, the AIDS Coalition To Network Organize and Win (ACT) is coordinating nationwide AIDS protests. The main-division organizations across the country are demanding action taken to end the existing AIDS death toll.

SANTA ROSA, CA — ACT-UPS, ACT-UNIC is joined together to shut down the federal building with a march from the federal building in the U.S. Mint and to the 'gay community' center. This march is a national coordinated AIDS protest day, to be included in the final unfolding of the Names Quilt in Washington, D.C. October 5th. The New York City, Miami, Chicago, Stonewall Inn, the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, and the director of the Mental Health AIDS Project, have all pledged to be part of the most comprehensive event ever attempted.

The protest march will be a march of gay and lesbian organizations across the country, demanding action taken to end the existing AIDS death toll. The protest march will include the March on Washington, D.C., the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, and the director of the Mental Health AIDS Project, have all pledged to be part of the most comprehensive event ever attempted.

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October is the month of Libra, the sign of partnership, with its opposite sign, Aries. Libra is associated with the balance of the day and night, and when we think of Libra, we think of relationships. The relationship questions that arise during this time often have to do with finding a balance between the needs and desires of both partners. Libra is ruled by Venus, the planet of love and beauty. Librans are known for their charm and friendliness, and they can be wonderful. However, they must be careful not to let love blur their vision and become too absorbed in their own process and are considered the battleground of the Sun, the Moon, and Venus.

The point is healing and getting better and clearer in our lives. We can only heal what we are willing to see. I suggest we all take a look at where co-dependency still operates in our lives without our knowledge and, at the same time, to the struggles and the Moon also align with the planet Mars, the planetary ruler of the sign Aries. Mars governs our 'animal and energy, competitiveness, and completions. An opposition is the counterpart for refined, though sometimes superficial Libra, anger.

It's how we know what we want at any time until the end of February. Use this month to get into different homes monthly for the last year and a half and to look for new homes. If you would like information on the location of the next meeting of the National Anti-Violence Project. The meeting included more than a dozen other invited participants, including researchers, psychologists, social workers, and members of the NAP. This workshop was an example of our efforts to identify the government's response to anti-gay violence, said Bennett. The workshop was attended by the gay community and by organizations working with the government.

Over 100 Librans, including women from California, met in Portland, Oregon, last month to plan and staff for the National Libran Conference. It will be held April 22-24, 1989, at the Oregon Convention Center and will focus on the political aspects ofLibra.

In Montpelier, Vermont, a judge gave custody of an thorax to his mother's companion of five years. The two women, who had exchanged wedding rings, had a baby together, and were living together, were separated by a serious illness.

The rest of the evening discussed the formation of the Special Health Education Project (SHEP), a program of the AIDS Project. Shep's mission is to provide information and education about AIDS and related issues to the public through workshops, conferences, and other educational activities. The SHEP Project is a collaboration between the AIDS Project and the Sonoma County AIDS Network.

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**I leave my work is about questions and change. My performances are experiments in failure, and I am very excited by that." Maria St. John, a performance artist in the Bay Area, states "all my work is about questions and change. My theatre is addressed to an audience that is not a group of single individuals but an audience that is a cultural entity that is a rejection of lesbian issues. I am very excited about performing in front of an audience."

**Continued from Page 1**

Maria St. John's work often includes characters and motifs from her own life. "I never go on stage not knowing who I am going to be," she says. "I often go on stage with big questions. In performances that have been about weight, I have been aware that being thin has been a part of my identity. I have been aware that the way I was being used to deal with feminism issues worked best for me."

**Continued from Page 1**

Maria St. John says her real life is often cut into the subject matter she is working on. "She was invited to perform at the 1989 AIDS Benefit she performed. INFAMOUS was an annual event that was my way of saying that I want to be a part of the community." 

**Continued from Page 1**

Maria St. John's work on weight is always about failure. "I don't get "juiced" unless I am asking some questions," she says. "If I go on stage not knowing what I am going to be, but if I go on stage not knowing what I am going to do, I think that is a mistake."

**Continued from Page 1**

Maria St. John's work is often about weight, but it is also about failure. "I never go on stage not knowing who I am going to be," she says. "I often go on stage with big questions. In performances that have been about weight, I have been aware that being thin has been a part of my identity. I have been aware that the way I was being used to deal with feminism issues worked best for me."

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Maria St. John's work on weight is always about failure. "I don't get "juiced" unless I am asking some questions," she says. "If I go on stage not knowing what I am going to be, but if I go on stage not knowing what I am going to do, I think that is a mistake."
The opposing forces, Randle P. McMurphy (Allan Armstrong) and Nurse Ratched (Maudie Steenwald) are well cast. Mr. McMurphy is understated but committed and honest. Young's voice is assured, emotionless, and without false bravado. The rest of the cast lends good support with the exception of Carol Ann Pearson's Elyot (David Scott Black) and his new cutesy Italians, annual gathering. West Coast Quaker Lesbian and Gay Community. Sat. Oct. 7-Sun. 8:30 pm. Sausalito 94965. Call Jerry or Kris at Community Services, 575-7962, sorry Tom is not there. Gayle says, "I don't feel separate from the audience. I'm not a part of the 'us' and 'them' like other people paint pictures. It's like being an art form."

I was so pleased with the first stand up act, Gayle came out in her act as Countess Catches. The day I came out of the closet, it was the first time that I had someone who was going to be like me. It's not going to be easy but it was easy." Gayle is my gay. I'm not going to be in denial about my sexuality that was kind of terrorizing. I look at the world, which is torn apart, and in the season of the season information call 544-STAR and stay.

I was in the hospital and then when I'm ready, I'll be in the hospital when they're not ready. Gayle's diarrhea made reference to the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free. And for the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free. And for the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free. And for the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free. And for the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free. And for the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free. And for the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free. And for the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free. And for the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free. And for the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free. And for the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free. And for the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free. And for the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free. And for the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free. And for the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free. And for the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free. And for the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free. And for the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free. And for the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free. And for the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free. And for the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free. And for the Constitution of the United States. Unless we gain our democracy, we'd be a failure. It's very important that this country be free.
SUNDAY OCTOBER 1

Godfather Interfaith Circle for Womyn meets 1st Sunday of the month at 2:00 PM, First Church of Christ, Scientist, Santa Rosa. Sponsored by Sonoma County Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club.

Womyn’s Spirituality Circle meets 2nd Sunday of the month at 7:30 PM in downtown Santa Rosa. For info call 576-7464.

MONDAY OCTOBER 9

Buddy Connection/Safar Sax Workshop 6:30-10:00 PM, Founders Hall, 1st Floor, Santa Rosa. For info call 579-AIDS.

GOBA North Bay Chapter will sponsor a Drums Out at Prospect Park, 515 4th St., Santa Rosa. Meet at 6:30 PM, dinner at 7:00 PM.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 10

Dinner with Harry Bitt, the gay sport San Francisco Giants during his brief stint with the Steaps. Deadline to get tickets is Oct. 5. Sponsored by the Sonoma County Democratic Club. For info call 576-7464.

Healing Alternatives Group, for people with AIDS/HIV will include self-help model and support groups for individuals responding to AIDS and civil rights concerns. For info call (415) 457-8016.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 11

Tonight Pick is facilitated by Allen Storm and Richard Santos. 7:30 PM, Face to Face,665-2411.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 12

Women’s Group from your local woman’s home, 7:00-9:00 PM. Sponsored by the Sonoma County Democratic Club.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 13

Catherine Russell and her fabulous Vibeaters, live acoustic music, 9:00 PM, Jerry O’Donnell’s downtown Sebastopol.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 14

ACT-UP Sonoma is organizing a team of dancers to perform a medley of dance tunes. 2:10 PM, Sebastopol’s Vert. For info call Michael 687-7005. Silence-Die & Dance for Life.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 15

LOBN Men’s Potluck meets 3rd Sunday of the month at 6:30 PM, Founders Hall, Santa Rosa. For info call Ed 826-8475.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 17

BASIK Gay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian professionals, meets 3rd Tuesday of the month. 7:30 PM, Golden Gall, 510 Market St., Sebastopol. All gay professionals and their significant others welcome. For info call Jerry 526-7464.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18

BANKLE, Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian professionals, meets 1st Wednesday of the month, 7:30 PM, Santa Rosa Junior College, Faculty Senate Room.

Charl Davidson, teacher, therapist and psychologist, will give a workshop about the difference between “Caring vs. Caring for.” 7:30 PM, Clarity Club, Sonoma. For info call 768-4585.

Halloween Book Club. The book this month is “Dial M” and starring by Jan Austin. 7:00 PM, Founders Hall, Santa Rosa. Sponsored by the Sonoma County Democratic Club. For info call 576-7464.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 20

“Deep Draw” Gay Men’s Potluck meets 3rd Friday of the month at 7:00 PM. For info call 544-4109.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 21

Evelyn Underwood, daughter of Evelyn Underwood, returns following the release of her debut recording “When someone loves you.” 8:30 PM, Clarity Club. $6-$8 sliding scale. 576-8779.

Social and Support Group for gay men and women, Potluck, meets 3rd Saturday of the month. 6:30-8:00 PM, Santa Rosa Church of Religious Science, 1033 4th St. For info call 576-4543.

Theater Outing: “Angels of God,” an electrifying drama about a young nun run accused of murdering her boss. 8:15 PM, Luther Burbank Center. Reservation deadline is in Oct. Sponsored by the Social Life Club. For info call Jerry 576-7464.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 22

BACW Marin Potluck and Barbecue and Day Meet at Point Reyes in Larkspur (let’s all eat to Donny’s at 11:00 AM. $2 BACW members, $3 nonmembers. For info call Sandy (415)457-8016.

SUNWE Well Coalition Meeting. A broad based gay and lesbian coalition formed of groups and individuals responding to AIDS and civil rights appeals. For info call the 579-LGBTY & Gay Pride Week. 7:00 PM, Forestville Real Estate Co., 6665 Front St., Forestville.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 24

Playing, Spirituality and Sex, presentation by Frances Fuchter, CT, and Mary Wind, Sonoma County Senor Center. $10.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 28

Halloween Celebration in Marin, an event for women. Music by DJ Michelle, costume contest, hors d’oeuvres, dinner arth Harry Britt, the openly gay San Francisco alternate . 7:30-10:30 PM. Sponsored by the Sonoma County Democratic Club. $10.

Rafing on the Russian River above Cloverdale 10:00 AM ki Guanabille area. For info call Jerry 576-7464.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 29

BACW Marin planning meeting. Call Julie (415)242-7220.

Anniversary. A 10 week commitment is asked of each member. Limited to 25 individuals. Facilitated by Ourmala L. Jonas, RN. For info call 576-7464.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 7


WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8


AA Gay Men’s Group. 7:30 PM, Umtanum Church, 676 Sonoma, Santa Rosa. For info call Jerry 526-7464.

AA Gay Men’s Group. 7:30 PM, Benton St. Clubhouse, 1055 Benton St., Santa Rosa.

AA Steing Group (Lesbian) Sunday, 8:00 PM, 167 High St., Sebastopol.

AIDS Awareness Group of AA (alcoholics only) Monday, 7:00 AM, Alano Club (Labor Center), 170 Corby Ave.


Coming Out Group, facilitated by Jerry Noakes, every Wednesday at 8:00 PM, Santa Rosa Senior Center. For info call Jerry 576-7464.


GLAB, gay and lesbian allies of Sonoma State, meets every Tuesday, 12 noon, Santa Rosa Senior Center. For info call 823-5845.

HIV/AIDS Health Maintenance Group, a closed group of peer-lead support group for individuals dealing with our own health care for ourselves. Facilitated by Donna L. Jones, RN, FNP and Mary Ann1e, LCSW. Meet every Monday, 7:30 PM at 201 Bennett Valley Road. For info call 823-5845.

HIV Positive and Support Group, every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM, Central Baptist Church, 1717 Yulupa Drive, Room 5. For info call 823-5845.

Lesbian and Gay Overanes Anonymous, meets every Monday at 7:30 PM at the Santa Rosa Senior Center, 704 Bennett Valley Rd. For info call 839-8882.

Lesbian Co-Dependents Anonymous, meets every Thursday at 7:30 PM at the Santa Rosa Senior Center, 704 Bennett Valley Rd. For info call 839-8882.