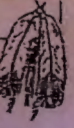


# LesbianPride Newsletter

Good news, positive reminders and inspirational messages  
by, for and about Lesbians

Volume II, Issue #6 June 1997

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## Good For You, You're Gay!

On the coming out episode of *Ellen* last month, Ellen made the remark that no one ever gives you a cake that says *Good for you, you're gay!* (the possible exception, as she noted, being the Baskin and Robbins in North Hollywood).

Actually, I think there are many other places you could buy that cake these days. And it doesn't have to be *a cake* that celebrates who you are – or congratulates you on knowing who you are – it may be something else: cards, flowers, balloons, a singing telegram, announcements, a party, a smile or a hug.

Since the Stonewall riots 28 years ago, which signaled the beginning of the modern Gay Pride Movement (which we celebrate at PrideFest this month), we've made great progress in saying to each other *Good for you, you're gay!* It's been a long process, and we aren't done yet (will we ever be?), but we *are* definitely making headway.

I'll admit, being lesbian or gay still presents its unique challenges in today's society. It may be awhile before your straight parents or other family or friends will say *Good for you, you're gay!*, although many of them do seem closer to saying *I accept you for who you are* than they used to be, and that's at least something.

But remember, just because you don't hear those words from *some* people doesn't mean you can't or won't hear them from other people. There is a myriad of positive support to be found in the world today, and not just on one PrideFest Sunday or in one month of the year, or from one source. Words or expressions or methods may vary, but the idea is getting across everywhere that not only is it *okay* for you to embrace your gayness or Lesbianism, it's downright preferable

to living a lie or living in the shadows (it's a *good* thing, so *good for you!*).

This newsletter says *Good for you, you're gay!* every month in a variety of ways. Other publications also say it to you over and over again. Books – both novels and non-fiction – are saying it. Movies and other television shows, besides *Ellen*, say it all the time nowadays. Music says it loudly and proudly and with a variety of beats.

Bumper stickers say it; buttons and tee-shirt slogans say it. Greeting cards say it. It's even being said in the mainstream by politicians who recognize our power, and by advertisers who want our consumer dollars, and by straights who recognize and celebrate with us our right to be.

But most importantly, people you know are saying it to each other; maybe someone has said it to you recently. (The actual sentence *Good for you, you're gay!* may be surrounded by other things like *Well it's about time!* or *I always thought you were...*, but that doesn't change the sentiment.)

I think it's a blessing to be living in these times and to see the changes in attitudes that are happening, both in our community and in the world at large. It feels good to know I'm not alone in who I am and that I can find support and encouragement from friends and strangers alike.

Hearing *Good for you, you're gay!* is really hearing *Good for you, you know who you are and you're rejoicing in who you are!*

*Good for you, you're gay! You're being true to yourself and I admire that.*

Those are beautiful words. And I don't think we can ever hear them enough.

Who have you said them to lately?

– Mel White



♀♀ June Affirmations:

*There is much to learn in my journey through this life:  
I welcome all lessons  
with an open mind and an open heart.*

*Send us your favorite affirmations and we'll share them with everyone.*

## **Lesbian and Gay Pride March/Solidarity**

### **I march in solidarity with those who share my pride**

*Many years have passed since the first "Gay Power" rally that commemorated the Stonewall Inn riots. Accounts vary about what actually happened when police raided the Greenwich Village gay bar the night of June 27, 1967, but historians have documented the diversity of lesbians and gay men who participated in the several days of resistance. As I join with others to commemorate that symbol of the lesbian and gay political action movement, I celebrate the power we have in marching and working together.*

*With the amazing diversity among lesbians and gay men, it may seem at times that we are many communities rather than a unified group. But I have much in common with those who walk with me on this day of shared pride. When I find myself emphasizing our differences, I remind myself of our commonalties: our humanness, our same-sex orientation, our understanding of oppression, our need to belong to a larger community, our vision of liberation, and our pride in who we are as people. When I am willing to look beyond how we are different to how we are similar, I find it easier to respect each person's journey and affirm that all of us are needed for our continued progress and liberation.*

*Today, I feel pride in what my community has accomplished over the years since Stonewall. Through our courage, our mutual empowerment, our tenaciousness, and our willingness to continue envisioning better tomorrows for ourselves and others, we have made a difference.*

*- Eleanor Ruth Wagner in Lavender Reflections*

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### **Reminder:**

*"Not Knowing" times are an essential part of the growing cycle...*

*Trying to "figure it out" before it's time for knowing*

*is exhausting, frustrating and gets in the way*

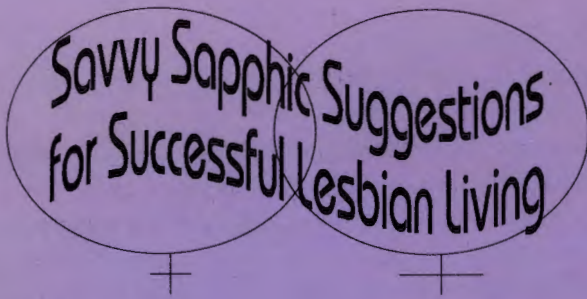
*of the "being in the process."*

*Talk lovingly and gently to the frightened part of you*

*who's fearful of not having the answer now.*

*from Rememberings and Celebrations, a 64-card deck  
of Loving Reminders of the Great Mother's Voice  
available through Robyn Posin, © For the Little Ones Inside,  
Box 725, Ojai, CA 93024 (805-646-4518)*





Dear Savvy Sappho,  
My lover's sister just made a pass at me. Should I tell my lover?  
Signed, Torn

Dear Torn:  
It will depend on whether or not you are going to leave your lover for her sister. If you spurned the sister's advances, keep quiet. Blood is thicker than water - you do not want to put yourself in the middle of a family fight. If the sister continues to come on to you, your lover will eventually see it and say something to her. - SS

Dear Savvy Sappho,  
My girlfriend likes to experiment with different hair colors. The chartreuse was jarring, and the puce was provocative. How can I tell her to cool it with the colors?  
Signed, Startled-Once-a-Month

Dear Startled:  
Try to be positive: Revel in her individuality. Bring along a scarf or a wig only when absolutely necessary (like your grandmother's funeral). She wants to be noticed; if you do not like a lot of attention, date someone else. - SS

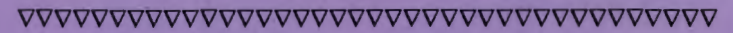
Dear Savvy Sappho,  
My lover's new sport is baseball. I find it tremendously boring, especially on TV. What can I do to show my support without suffering through each and every game?  
Signed, Going Batty in Brooklyn

Dear Going Batty:  
Find out how long a game usually lasts. Be there cheering with her during the first inning, then go and do other things. Return for the tenth inning and continue to cheer her on. The good news is that baseball is seasonal...you will not have to suffer continuously forever. - SS

This month's Savvy Sapphic Suggestions  
by Stacy Chandler © 1997 Stacy Chandler

If you have questions  
that need some savvy Sapphic suggestions,  
send them along to  
Savvy Sappho, % Makaw,  
PO Box 5812, Denver, CO 80217

"She was a friend of men and lover of women, which for people full of ardor and drive is better than the other way round."  
- Natalie Barney's idea for her epitaph, circa 1920



**PROGRESS IN THE MAINSTREAM**

**Going after Lesbian Business**

Progress can be measured in many different ways:

⇒ For the first time ever, a mainstream ad appeared in the most recent issue of the long-time and venerable *Lesbian Connection* (A Nationwide Forum of News and Ideas For, By and About Lesbians). The ad was for the Subaru Outback. In the ad the fact that Subaru is a "Proud Founding Sponsor of the Rainbow Endowment" (i.e. the Rainbow credit card Martina Navratilova promotes) was also noted.

It's quite a jump to go from Chrysler, who withdrew their regular *Ellen* commercials because of the *Coming Out* episode, to Subaru, who goes out of their way to get Lesbian business.

Way to go, Subaru!

- Submitted by several readers

⇒ Although they don't use the words "gay" or "lesbian," Nordstroms has started offering personalized sterling tags and charms through its mail order catalog. The keepsakes are made of heavy-gauge sterling silver and are personalized any way you want them. In the catalog page ad, one charm is shown for two girls and one is shown for two boys (and of course there's also the requisite one for a boy and girl, single girl, single boy, etc.). It's hard to tell if they are hoping for lesbian/gay business or just willing to have it, but it's nice to have the option of letting Nordstroms know how many same-sex charms may be in demand.

- Thanks to Stacy Chanidler for sending this in.

**PRIDEFEST '97  
DENVER, COLORADO  
Sunday, June 29, 1997**

**Parade: 10:00, departs from Cheeseman Park  
Rally: Noon at Civic Center Park Amphitheater  
Festival: 10:00 - 5:00 at Civic Center Park  
For information call 303-831-6268 X18**

PrideFest is an annual fund-raiser for the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Community Center of Colorado, to support vital community services.

*Let us know about your PrideFest experience  
this summer.*





**Makaw  
PO Box 5812  
Denver, CO 80217**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

**Label circled?  
*Time to renew!***