

LAVENDER

VISIONS

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Our community — both independence and common ground

[Editor's Note: As a young black woman, I can't help but reflect on the meaning of these significant times in which I am now living. We, you and I, the world, are in the midst of constant change. All around us are the demands for empowerment and representation. We see this in our global community, dealing with personal struggle and freedom, health care, hunger and education, and in our local communities. Community, to me, involves the common experience of its inhabitants. It is responsive, challenging, evolving. It is collective, yet respectful of individual concerns.

Recently, I have had conversations with close friends, whom I call "sisters" in the community. Each is individually powerful in her own concerns and expressions in life. Collectively, they share a bond with the African American culture.

It is interesting to explore oneness and "differentness" among my sisters. For in doing so, I was reminded that in community there must be freedom to come and go, to give and to take, to educate and to learn. There is a choice to be part of, to participate or to observe. I anticipate future strides from all of us. And so ... these expressions of community come as a series of two parts: part one in this issue, part two in the next issue.]

Interview I: My sister is 30 years old. She is a professional, but feels she does not always receive the recognition from the system in which she is employed.

LV: As an African American who is also a Lesbian, what is your community?

Friend: My community is not the "women's community" because I don't have many friends or associates in the community. I don't have any association with the women's community unless I'm out at the clubs, and I don't go to any Gay functions. I see myself as outside of the community most of the time.

LV: Are there any aspects of the community that you can identify with?

Friend: I can identify with some parts of the Lesbian community; however, to me, being a part of a community means being a part of the activities and organizations of the community. For instance, as black woman, I participate in activities and functions that support my African American community. As yet I don't see the Lesbian or Gay community as offering much which supports me

— shares my interests and concerns. If it does, then the information isn't reaching me.

LV: What do you feel the community needs to offer so that you feel a part of or can identify with it?

Friend: I feel the community is not focusing on issues that interest me as a black woman. For me community is not what you live in, but what you're a part of. I would like to bring in different interest groups — people who, for instance, would like to have a literature group, get together and read African American literature and literature of other cultures.

I would like to hear more about the opportunities being offered to young Lesbians and Gay teens who need positive role models and activities to help them through the transitions they must go through.

I am interested in the political life of the community. I'm interested in concerns of homelessness, employment, etc. Other cities offer more diverse activities besides dance clubs, and the information network seems to be better. In Indianapolis, there aren't many places where women of diverse backgrounds can come together.

LV: Given what you've shared about the lack of identity for you in this community, what do you enjoy about the women's community?

Friend: There is a social outlet at the clubs. It offers a place to relax socially; unfortunately, that's all I presently see. I want to be able to see more or to know about other opportunities in the community.

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**LV Staff
Pictures ...**

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Celebrate our Mother Earth

Twenty years ago, on April 11, 1970, Earth Day was established by Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, as an event to honor the Earth. Today, as never before, our ailing planet requires our loving care and commitment. How easy it is to become overwhelmed by the many injunctions to recycle, replace incandescent lighting with fluorescent bulbs, save water, don't dump toxic products down the drain, mend and repair rather than discard and replace. (Are all environmentalists so *intense*?)

While we at *LV* are indeed committed to making these important life-style changes in order to save our planet, we decided that Earth Day would be, for us, a CELEBRATION of our Mother Earth. We share our vision of this celebration with you:

Plan a dinner party with a period theme somewhere between *Clan of the Cave Bear* and *Patience and Sarah* — a time when our Mother was bountiful, simple and unpolluted.

Certainly, any dinner party begins with a trip (on bike or on foot, of course) to the market. Remember to take along your string bag or old paper and plastic bags for re-use. Select organically grown vegetables, requesting that nothing be wrapped in plastic or Styrofoam. (Just respond to those weird looks with "Happy Earth Day!") Choose only glass-contained liquids and non-toxic, biodegradable cleansers. Milk or juice in paper cartons is preferable, of course, to plastic.

Feeling ever-so-environmentally-correct, you return to your asbestos-free, radon-free, toxic-free home. Selecting clothes and linens that have been sunshine-dried, you prepare your celebratory feast.

Appropriate guest attire might range from various stages of sky-clad to simple cotton clothing. (Remember: we're back to basics!) We suggest a menu consisting of foods eaten without utensils — certainly all plastic, un-recycled paper and Styrofoam is verboten. Friends may gather to bake bread; let your Lesbian creativity flow into interesting and exciting shapes to form the loaves. It would be environmentally appropriate to serve foods low on the food chain (meatless), such as steamed artichokes, veggies, rice and beans. (Tofu is not a pre-requisite!) A challenging dessert would be ice cream, (no spoons; fingers only) or for the less adventuresome, bite-sized chunks of Jello. Of course this sensuous meal must be savored by candlelight!

Use the dinner hour for consciousness-raising and support for those who are environmentally disorganized and impaired. Group discussion of the traumas of recycling ("O.K., so I can live with dingy laundry, but garbage oozing out of paper bags onto the floor is where I draw the line" or "Where in my tiny efficiency am I going to put bins for recycling plastic *and* newspapers *and* glass *and* aluminum cans?" and "You mean that if I plant some trees, I'm really helping the environment?")

If you're not into a dinner party, you might plan a picnic for the birds and squirrels, get out into the woods, feed the ducks and geese in Broad Ripple.

Wherever you are on April 22, we hope you will take time to celebrate Earth Day . . . and remember, showering with a friend saves water!

LV survey — great returns

We would like to extend a special thank you to those who returned our survey form. We are pleased to be communicating with so many of you. The results of the survey will be published in the next issue and *LV* is evaluating the results to make us even more responsive to the entire community.

Subscription Renewal !

Look at the address label on your *Lavender Visions* mailing envelope! The date on the far right of the first line indicates the date of the last issue under your current subscription. If your envelope has been stamped with a renewal notice, please send us your renewal along with the subscription form from page 16 of this issue. We need to receive your renewal by May 10, 1990 to ensure that you don't miss a single issue. Your continuing support is greatly appreciated!



Statement of Purpose

Lavender Visions is
for me and for you,
for all Lesbians,
for us to connect within
our larger community
so that together we may increase
our respect and support
for each other and ourselves,
affirming, celebrating and
honoring the women we are.

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Resources

Indianapolis (317)

AIDS Hotline: 257-HOPE, answered 7-11 PM, every evening.

AIDS: Living the Journey Together: a family therapy group for persons with AIDS and a care partner, parent, sibling, lover, friend. Sponsored by Courageous Living Counseling Services, located in Westview Hospital Professional Bldg., 925-0043.

Catholic Lesbian Support Group; open to all Catholic and non-Catholic Lesbians who want to explore their Christian faith within the context of their sexuality; 925-6866 (Martha) or 357-7964 (Carol).

Dignity meets at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 46th & Illinois, Sundays at 6 PM; P.O. Box 431, Indianapolis, IN 46202; 924-6578 (Drew).

Feminist Writers; 5138 E. North St., Indianapolis, IN 46219; 357-7964 (Carol).

Friends for Lesbian and Gay Concerns (Quaker); 356-8646 (Diane or Perri).

Gay AA meets at Bethlehem Lutheran, Sundays at 7 PM; 632-7864.

Gay/Lesbian Switchboard: 253-GAYS (7 - 11 PM).

Gay and Lesbian Codependents Anonymous meets at Winona Hospital, 3232 N. Meridian St.; 925-1135 (Don), 636-4986 (Joe), 297-0386 (Pam).

Gay Parents Coalition of Indianapolis meets at Holy Eucharist Church, 38th & Illinois, 2nd Sunday of each month at 7:30 PM; 253-2280 (John)

Indianapolis Youth Group for Lesbian and gay youth ages 23 and under meets bi-weekly. For more information call Lesbian/Gay Switchboard at 253-GAYS and ask for the organization's contact person.

Indianapolis NOW meets at Planned Parenthood, 3219 N. Meridian, 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM; 925-4641.

Indianapolis Pitch-In: Our monthly pitch-in dinners provide social and networking opportunities for all Lesbians. Generally, the pitch-in is scheduled for the second Friday of each month, beginning at 7 PM. The location (and directions, if necessary) usually is available at Dreams and Swords at least a week before each pitch-in.

Integrity meets at All Saints Church, 16th and Central, Mondays at 6:30 PM; 635-3744.

Justice, Inc.: Lesbian resource for issues regarding state laws, community/police relations, civil rights, Lesbian/Gay conferences, other special events. 1534 E. 10th St., Indianapolis, IN 46201, 634-9212.

Lesbian Discussion Group: 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, 7 - 8:30 PM, at 6356 N. Guilford; 577-2245 (Lori).

Lesbian Incest Survivors Therapy Group. Contact Linda Gensheimer, (219) 426-5778 (Fort Wayne).

Older Women's Network for Women Over 40 meets at 7707 Lancer Lane, 3rd Tuesday of each month; 547-7702 (Sharon or Carol) or Dreams & Swords.

Our Parents Aren't Straight (for children of Lesbians and Gays), 3rd Tuesday of each month. No age limits. Parents can/will meet in different room for discussions; 353-6636 (Debbie or Vicki), 881-0786 (Donna, Ruth, or Judy).

Overeaters Anonymous (for men and women) meets at Dreams and Swords, 828 E. 64th Street, Fridays at 6:30 PM, 253-9966.

P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) meets at Butler University in Atherton Center, Room 312, 2nd Sunday of each month at 2:00 PM; 251-9307 (Donna).

University Gay/Lesbian Alliance meets at 3754 N. Illinois St. (Lambda Center). Call 274-2585.

Women's Open Network: 274-5041 or 274-2585 (Sue Moenius).

Womenspired: 274-5041 or 274-2585 (Sue Moenius).

Bloomington (812)

Bloomington Switchboard: 336-4299.

Gay/Lesbian Alliance: 332-1847.

SPARKS: a social/educational forum for Lesbians. Contact Marcia, 334-0414, or Carolyn, 339-4283.

Columbus (812)

Pitch-In: for information, call 376-0784.

Switchboard Concern: 293-8671 (24 hours).

Evansville (812)

Tri-State Alliance Meeting meets at Unitarian Universalist Church, 856 So. Kentucky Ave., 4th Sunday of each month.

Fort Wayne (219)

Dignity/Fort Wayne, P.O. Box 12151, 46862.

Drop-In meets at Up the Stairs Community Center, 3426 Broadway, Fridays at 7:30 PM

Fort Wayne Women's Bureau: 303 E. Washington Blvd., 424-7977. Peer Counseling: 9 AM - 2 PM, 426-0023. Rape Awareness Program Hotline: 426-RAPE.

Liberty (812)

The Pearl: Feminist resource/journal. Contact: Natalie Isaac, editor, 304 South Fairground, Liberty, IN 47353.

Mishawaka (219)

Open Arms: Monthly newsletter for Michiana Lesbians. Contact: P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46544. Yearly subscription: \$10.00; sample copy: \$1.00. Make check payable to Roberta Miller.

South Bend (219)

Help Line: 232-2522 (9 AM - 5 PM).

Hot Line: 232-3344 (24 Hours).

IUSBU Womyn's Center: 929 Greenlawn, 237-4494.

Monthly Lesbian Potluck and weekly Lesbian support group; 291-3720.

Who is that masked black woman?

by Deb Mullins

It is not unusual to be sitting in my den with a coke and cigarette talking about the Emmy Awards, socio-political events, and the latest developments in the Women's Community with Donna Jones. Having been friends for many years I thought it would be an easy task to interview and gather a few thoughts from Donna's brain when the folks at *LV* asked me to do an interview with her. However, Ms. Jones, known as "DJ" to many, is not a simple being and my efforts to translate her witty and straightforward personality became no less than a lesson in how to describe one of your closest friends honestly.

In another life she may have been a captain in the United States Navy. Picture it, a bright, bold, black woman with a lot of vision and information that would lead our military in the advancement and protection of our country. (This could have been possible if that can of prohibited chili and hot plate in the barracks had not exploded throughout the quarters.) Of course it didn't happen that way. Fate placed Donna Jones back in our town, and made her a leader for our community instead.

Donna has made possible many pleasures for us through her hard work and talents, although often times unnoticed. How many concerts, dances, and events have you attended where music and sound reinforcement was needed? Name about any function

presented by the women's community, the Walker Theatre and other promotions. Who is that masked black woman with the braided dreadlocks, pens and patch cords running to

the front of the stage, making sure the microphones aren't plugged into the guitars? None other than our woman, DJ Jones!

Donna is native to Indianapolis, raised by her working mother, Kathryn, an IU graduate and research technician at Veteran's Administration Hospital, as her only child. Flanner House had the pleasure of monitoring the precocious development of Donna in day care and after elementary school hours at IPS #23. In-the-year-of-our-war, 1972, Broad Ripple High School ushered Donna through another rite-of-passage, prepared for the college circuit. I believe it is all right to reveal her birthday since most "Women with Awareness" have no outward qualms about their age. As Lesbians we can revel in the fact we have successfully survived years of getting to know ourselves and our sisters and have become stronger throughout our existence. On July 27, 1954, we were blessed with the future president of the board of Women in the Arts.

If you visit her home, in Meridian Kessler neighborhood, be prepared to step lightly. The speakers, records and tapes will only overwhelm you the first few moments. The rest of the time will be spent in awe over the collection of electronic devices, musical instruments, patch cords and hard candy wrappers. In the corner will be lying the memorable black derby with the stuffed surgical glove sewn on top. This hat was an early introduction to what I had

to look forward to in our relationship. I just couldn't believe she actually wore it in public!

Settling back with our cokes and Vivaldi on the stereo, we began our formal but strange conversation. Strange, only because I already knew the answers to the questions but didn't quite know how to ask the questions. So we continued in our usual spirit of jive and pretended as best we could to be adult-like and appropriate as possible.

Deb: As a growing but non-aware Lesbian, who do you remember being your heroine in childhood?

DJ: Well, I always thought Lena Horne was hot. That's who I followed or looked after — definitely looked. I still look. Shit, girlfriend looks good! I guess, when I was in high school, I thought Gloria Steinem was a neat person. And Sonja Sanchez, a black woman poet. I thought she was pretty together. Those girls I admired for their heads, definitely for their heads. Lena Horne I admired for her body.

Deb: What about your experiences with a heterosexual life? Was that ever a part of your developing identity?

DJ: We don't want to talk about him. He was a pain in the butt! Besides, I don't think all these girls could handle the fact that, "Oh, no! Donna Jones had a boyfriend." He was stupid even if he had had breasts. In high school I didn't have an awareness about much of anything. I was mostly interested in having a good time. Most of the kids in my neighborhood were boys. And until later in life, I was never the most physically affectionate person on the planet, until I got older.

Deb: Everyone enjoys sharing their coming out stories and it is important to share with one another. When did this occur for you?

DJ: My coming out process ... I was sitting in the car with you. You and I used to work together. But we were sitting in the car and you came out to me. And the only reason that happened was because you had observed me doing some reading. And I read everything ... cereal boxes. I really can't put a clear cut time upon it. We are all brought up to be heterosexual persons, and are all taught that is the way to be. Lesbianism and homosexuality are actually never talked about or discussed. Did your parents sit down with you and say, "Dear, when you grow up, and you meet that woman in your life ..."? Parents don't have conversations with their daughters like that nor with their sons. It is always about that person of the opposite sex. But when I did come out with my mom, I went to talk to her about this woman I had a serious crush on. I was being as euphemistic as I possibly could. My mother finally said, "What is his attitude?" I told her, "Well Mom, firstly he's a she." She just said, "Oh, I thought so." I had prepared myself for major breast-beating, gnashing of teeth, pulling of hair,

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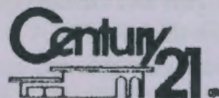
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Masked woman

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maybe chopping off a finger. She didn't do any of that. She just said, "I thought so." But why in the fuck don't they tell us there is that possibility in life so we aren't so freaked out? She simply said, "That's okay, you're still my child and I will always love you." And that was that. Perhaps they should have articles in parenting magazines like "Your Child: They Could Grow Up To Be Lesbian or Gay," along with the many spreads on raising your child's IQ to 3000 or starting a savings for them before they are born so they'll have \$500 million in the bank for college tuition. Why not "How to prepare your child for sex, love and heartbreak even if your daughter's lover is another woman"? Life would be a lot easier for many of us.

When I was growing up I never ever saw a husband in my future. I saw the possibility of children but never a husband. I do believe they have a function in life. Their job is to do the heavy physical work. That's why god made them bigger and stronger, so they could go out and cut the trees and drag them back. I'll pay them, but that's the majority of men's function in my life.

Deb: In our lessons of learning about ourselves and identifying our needs, what strengths do you draw upon as a Lesbian?

DJ: What does it mean to be a Lesbian? I guess you have to think about politics. For me that's what it is. A socio-political definition. Trying to build community, and community is broad and diverse. Within that community I can have my needs met. A long term vision would include work that I choose to do. Doing that, I can offer price breaks on services that I perform for other women. It's a spiritual thing as well. That I really can't define. I have a genuine closeness with women in my life that are heterosexually identified. That too is a part of that community — being able to allow those people to be as they are unconditionally and still have a genuine and heart-felt bond with those people. I have some men in my life — that little black man Melvin, who I've known since grade school and stay in close contact with. I believe that we care about one another. It also means I am secure and strong enough within myself to know and accept women who are radical separatist women, who are heterosexually identified, heterosexual men and some Gay men. Just being able to embrace a broad spectrum of humanity. That's a real inner type of thing.

Deb: In daily living we must nurture and affirm our identities and personalities. How do you feed these affirmations?

DJ: Because I have this broad spectrum of humanity I get something from all these people. I guess if I had to pick my ace number one "she-ro," it would have to be my mom and her mother before her. My mother passed on to me some very good advice. She gave me some basic tools for living well and living right. One of the things was, "Surround yourself with people that can help you." The other thing she told me, and she started telling me these things when I was a little bitty shit, was, "Be nice to everybody,

... there are some things they [people at work] cannot say around me, "In my presence, you will not call people heebs, wops, spics, or queers."

because all the people you meet on the way up are also the people you meet on the way back down." Just being able to keep those two things in mind a big part of the time makes me comfortable with who I am and what I do.

Deb: In the work place, do you run into any confrontations or concerns as a Lesbian?

DJ: I work at Channel 59, WXIN TV, Fox (they'll love that I put that in here). I'm the senior film editor and what I do is watch a lot of TV. I take out the sex, the naked people, the dirty words you cannot say on television and put in breaks for the commercials and sometimes I make them shorter. I also happen to be an independent sound reinforcement contractor. I have every reason to believe homophobia exists because most of the men I work with are straight. New people that are hired in our department, I generally sit them down and tell them there are things they cannot say around me, "In my presence you will not call people heebs, wops, spics, or queers." There just are things I will not allow around me. I don't encounter any problems related to work.

Deb: Because of nonacceptance and potential threats how do you handle personal and professional attitudes about being in or out of the proverbial closet?

DJ: I don't know. I don't have an opinion on that. I suppose I'm like most people on the planet. If it comes up in conversation, I deal with it; if it doesn't, I don't. You know? I mean, I discuss issues with people at work. With this 24-year-old white boy, in fact. We ran an episode of a show called "Hard Copy." It was a week that was a ratings week. The topic of the week was "sex in America" and reporters had secretly attended a meeting of the North American Man/Boy Love Association. I have a real problem with those people. They did a segment and had footage. We talked after the fact about the implications of this particular group of people concerning civil rights and human rights and the political lobbying for them and how the NAMBLA as an organization of pediphiles impacted upon civil rights and human rights legislation passage for Lesbians and Gay men. So, I mean, I talk about issues and not about myself personally. I don't come up and say, "Hello, I'm Donna Jones, your friendly neighborhood African American Lesbian." I don't do that. I talk about my life. No more, no less. I have no concerns of visibility.

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THE SUPPORTERS' PAGE

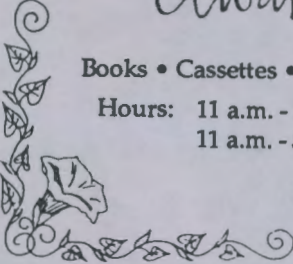
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NWMF Spirituality Conference '90: Strength in community

by Pat Jordan

Goddesses, witches, chants, magic, Native American traditions, Afrikan dance and tradition — all these and more have blended at the National Women's Music Festival (May 31 - June 3) as women explore their own spirituality. Each year more women at the festival have come together to struggle with what happens to spirituality when we leave the patriarchy out of it and focus on ourselves.

We have learned that ancient spirituality was women centered, that in the long-ago past, everyone worshipped the goddess, and that ancient bits of wisdom have been passed to us through the Tarot cards and by word of mouth through a long line of witches.

We have learned that we can create our own spiritual traditions and rituals to meet the needs of each of us today. We have learned that we each have an essential spiritual side and that it is in and through this spiritual (not necessarily religious) piece that we experience connectedness to one another and the universe.

At the NWMF, women who are exploring their own spirituality share their experience and intuitive knowing in workshops and presentations through which we each come in closer contact with our own Higher Power. This year featured presenters are Margot Adler, Shekhinah Mountainwater, Arisika Razak, and Nan Brooks and Jane Winslow, and AmyLee — each of whom brings her own piece of spiritual perspective to share.

Shekhinah Mountainwater says of herself, "I came here (the earth) to do the Goddess's work." And she does this through music, dance and ritual creation. She believes we need a female cosmology, and so she has set about to create one through myths, particularly the Persephone Myth, and an understanding of seasonal holidays.

She began calling herself a witch about six or seven years ago because she felt it was the one word that described all the things she was — writer, mythmaker, poet, songster, teacher, etc. Shekhinah emphasizes the political implications of the title "witch." She speaks of the nine million burned, the total rejection of woman's power, and the deep fear the patriarchy has of womanliness. "Witch" personifies all this, reclaiming the ancient wisdom of the Mother. She will be creating ritual in Bloomington with the women in her workshop, ever seeking to define and reawaken the spirituality in each of us.

Arisika Razak works as a midwife in a hospital. She also describes herself as a healer, spiritual dancer and a student of Afrikan, Native American and Celtic spiritual traditions. Her work is a blend of all those traditions into a creation that is uniquely her own. Through dance, movement, music, guided imagery and art, she seeks to reawaken the sacred feminine within each of us.

At the Festival, Arisika will focus on healing wounds and generating the power of female sexuality. Participants will find their sacred ground of being and experience their own power. In the Vulva dance, Arisika works to have each participant reclaim and rekindle the sacred fire of femininity. And, in her workshop on Shakti, Arisika reclaims the creative work sustaining life force — the female power of creativity.



Nan Brooks and Jane Winslow will be performing *Women of the Gateway* at this year's Spirituality Conference.

Arisika places the emphasis on each woman's own definition of spirituality and provides a vehicle for its expression. Her workshops are not about Arisika's spirituality, but rather about each women's claiming/reclaiming of her own creative life force.

Nan Brooks and Jane Winslow will be featured in Bloomington with another performance of "Women of the Gateway." Their production is ritual as well as theater and it encourages each member of the audience to become a participant in the re-membering of women's history and spirituality. A blend of the ancient and modern, "Women of the Gateway" evokes in women who allow it a re-membering of our ties to one another, our herstory, and our spirituality.

Margot Adler, a neopagan and wiccan priestess, is the author of *Drawing Down the Moon*, a scholarly yet fascinating look at ancient and modern goddess-centered religions. Religion is defined very differently by neopagans. They point out that the root of the word religion means to relink and connect and so religion makes connections between human beings and the universe. Neopagans therefore consider articles on ecofeminism, for instance, to be religious in nature.

While exceedingly diverse in their beliefs and practices, the neopagans described in Adler's book have some commonalities. They believe that everything in the universe is a part of Divinity and that the goddess dwells within each of us. We may all experience periods in which we are out of touch with our essential connection to the universe but there is no such thing as sin. Finally, there is the belief that the energy we send out into the world comes back to us in another form, so energy is transformed — the essence of magic.

Adler says in her preface to the 1986 revised edition of her work that "the real message of *Drawing Down the Moon* is that the spiritual world is like the natural world — only that there is no one spiritual path; each of us must find and reclaim our own." The NWMF Spirituality Conference challenges each of us to do just that.

Bulletin Board

Women in the Arts Presents (fund-raising for NWMF):

Art Exhibit and Sale featuring women artists of Indiana, Saturday and Sunday, April 21-22, wine and cheese reception; location to be announced.

Karen Beth in Concert, Friday, April 27, Bloomington. For information call Carolyn VandeWiele (812) 339-4283.

Karen Beth in Concert, Saturday, April 28, Indianapolis. For information call Mary Byrne (317) 923-5574.

Deb Mullins in Concert, Saturday, May 5, Unitarian Universalist Church, 615 W. 43rd St., Indianapolis. For information call Mary Byrne (317) 923-5574.

[For more information about any of the above events, call Mary Byrne (317) 923-5574.]

Hunter Davis at Mugwumps, Friday, April 13, 608 Massachusetts Ave., Indianapolis, (317) 635-7115.

Deb Mullins at Mugwumps, Friday, April 27, 9 PM, 608 Massachusetts Ave., Indianapolis, (317) 635-7115.

EARTH DAY, April 22.

More Light Churches Conference, April 27-28, Central Presbyterian Church, 318 W. Kentucky St., Louisville, KY. Theme is "Integrating Sexuality and Spirituality: A Call to the Churches." For more information, call Jim Oxyer (502) 897-5719 (home) or (502) 569-5005 (work) or call Nick Wilkerson (502) 635-7003 (home) or (502) 568-7590 (work).

Football & Picnic: Sports-minded Lesbians interested in coming together to organize a monthly crunch and munch. First meeting is Sunday, May 13, 1 PM. For information, call Pam (317) 784-4410.

"Into the Gay '90s with Pride", Pride Celebration on Monument Circle in Indianapolis, Saturday, June 16, 5-9 PM. Part of Indiana's 1990 Gay/Lesbian Pride Week, sponsored by Justice, Inc. For more information, call Ruth Peters (317) 253-1460 (home) or (317) 635-4059 (work) or call Justice (317) 634-9212.

National Women's Music Festival (NWMF), Thursday - Sunday, May 31 - June 3, Bloomington, IN. Here are some of the featured performers, speakers, writers: May Sarton, Minnie Brua Pratt, Karla Jay, Kay Leigh Hagan, Rachel Bagby, Shekinah Mountainwater, Arisika, Nan Brooks & Jane Winslow, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Adrienne Torf, Ferron, Holly Near, Heather Bishop, Linda Tillery, and Deidre McCalla. Don't miss it—save some vacation days for these dates! For more information, contact the Indiana University Conference Registrar at (812) 331-7799.

Catholics for a Free Choice. A local chapter of Catholics for a Free Choice is presently forming. CFFC supports reproductive freedom for women; activities include providing educational programs, meetings with Catholic legislators, and networking with other pro-choice organizations. For more information, contact Carol LeMasters, 1538 E. North St., Indianapolis IN 46219 or call (317) 357-7964.

Womyn's Tennis League. A spring-summer womyn's tennis league is forming. Will include both beginners and more experienced players. Some instruction for beginners could be available. Please contact Dian Miller (317) 924-7906 (work) or (317) 243-8939 (home) or Laurie Anderson (317) 924-7906.

Please send information about upcoming events for publication in **Bulletin Board** to:
Lavender Visions, PO Box 321, Zionsville, IN 46077.

THE SUPPORTERS' PAGE

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(317) 255-2459

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Indianapolis, IN 46220

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Clinical Social Worker — Therapist

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Fort Wayne, IN 46815

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THE LAVENDER PAGE

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Iris, Inc., 6367 Guilford, Indianapolis, IN 46220(317) 251-4747 [251-IRIS]

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Nancy VanArsdall Jones, MA, 6360 Guilford Ave., Indianapolis, IN(317) 253-5160

Pat Jordan, MS.....(317) 257-2350

June Thompson, ACSW, CADAC(317) 251-7051

ENTERTAINMENT

Jane Winslow, Singer/Songwriter/Workshop Presenter, 3416 Brookline Ave. #2, Cincinnati, OH 45220(513) 281-2944

FLORISTS

Town and Country Florist of Carmel, 2182 E. 116th St., Keystone Square Mall, Carmel, IN(317) 846-4221

HELP WANTED

Wanted: Woman Musician for working band. Must play various styles & be willing to commit to scheduled rehearsals. Bookings scheduled through June. Drummer, keyboard/synthesist, bassist. Call now! Ask for Deb Mullins at(317) 283-5932

Wanted: Womyn to do standard housecleaning. Permanent position, 4 hrs/wk, \$7/hr; 10 miles south of Bluffton IN; references required. Ask for Barb(317) 283-5932

JEWELLERS

The Brass Ring, Custom jewellers, gold-silversmiths and lapidaries, Antique Alley, Nashville IN(812) 988-2729

MASSAGE/RELAXATION THERAPY

Freda Neal, Alternatives for Health, 1217 Washington St., Columbus, IN(812) 376-9194

Maryann Steinhart, 6407 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268(317) 257-2350

Sue Wagman, Certified Massage Practitioner,(317) 283-6607 (H) or 251-9992 (W)

Kay Whitehead, BA, MsT(317) 924-4557

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Mary A. Byrne, Realtor, 1202 N. Pennsylvania, Indianapolis, IN 46202(317) 638-1020 or 923-5574

Haynes Bookkeeping, Tax service specializing in small business and S-corporations(317) 293-3190

Candace L. Shearls, Computer Consultant(317) 255-8328

Shopping Sprees by Diane, 6701 N. College Ave., Suite 305, Indianapolis, IN 46220(317) 255-2459

WANTED — INFORMATION

Looking for stories from Mennonite and Brethren Lesbians and Bisexual women for publication in anthology. Please send prose, poetry, or black/white drawings to: BMC (Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian and Gay Concerns), Box 65724, Washington, DC 20035. For more information, contact same.

Masked woman

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Deb: As a developing woman did you have role models that helped you envision and teach you how to accomplish your dreams?

DJ: There are no role models in my career. And I do not see myself as a role model. But I didn't think of myself as being interesting enough for an interview, so what do I know?

Deb: Amidst all of your committees and projects, do you have time to envision dreams for the future?

DJ: I am president of the board of directors for Women in the Arts, National Women's Music Festival. One dream I have is that Women in the Arts can become a grant-giving organization that

will be endowed with the capabilities for funding women artists. That's a long-term vision. I suppose a short-term vision is to win the lottery, even though I have yet to buy one ticket. Also, I would like to see this year's attendance at the NWMF grow at least 50%. This is our opportunity to develop and encourage women artists both nationally and locally. Everyone leaves with something from the festival and it sustains a feeling of enrichment and celebration throughout the year, not just for that weekend. A special interest has been developed to encompass an Alliance For All Women. We wish to exchange and communicate the desires of all races, physical abilities and economic stratospheres. I personally invite all women to join us this year. We have an exciting line-up of conferences and concerts. Need I say more?

With that, Donna and I knew we had given it our best shot. So we lit another cigarette, turned up the stereo and stared at the silent video on VH-1 of Paula Abdul gyrating to "Opposites Attract."

Our parents aren't straight

A new discussion group for children of Gays and Lesbians is forming. The group, "Our Parents Aren't Straight," would like to involve children of all ages, parents, and partners/co-parents.

The purpose of the group is to provide a time for children to get together and share common problems, questions, concerns, fears, and some answers. The group would also like to provide opportunities for future social events (bowling, movies, picnics, etc.). The intention is to include adult children of Gays/Lesbians, as well as teens and pre-teens. Eventually, this group will work into a Hotline Network for those times when our kids need to talk to another person who is in the same position and find out how they would (did) react to a crisis. Or maybe they just need to talk to another kid and blow off some steam! A sort of Big Brother/Big Sister organization with support from kids who understand the EXTRA pressures of living in a Gay/Lesbian family.

At the same time that the kids meet, there will be a Coffee Group time for parents and partners/co-parents — an informal discussion group with other adults who also face the extra problems and pressures of raising kids in a Gay/Lesbian family.

It is not mandatory that parents attend, nor is it mandatory that kids must attend if the parents come. These meetings are intended to be informal, friendly, warm, and supportive — a time for sharing and caring.

If you are interested in joining (or know of anyone with kids who might be interested), please call Vickie or Debby at 353-6636 or Ruth, Donna, or Judy at 881-0786.



The mood was really in the groove recently at the community dance sponsored by Women in the Arts on February 24th. Great sounds were provided by the lovely deejay for an evening of festive fun. If you missed the dance, there are several more WIA events scheduled in the next few months. See the Bulletin Board for details. All proceeds go to support the 1990 National Women's Music Festival.

Community

continued from page 1

Interview II: My sister is an African American who is in the profession of chemistry and research. She is 32 years old.

Friend: The question of community is an interesting question. I was just talking about this to a Gay male friend of mine. It's one thing to be a woman in a white world, another to be a black woman in a white world, and still another to be a Lesbian black woman in a white world. It's like having a triple whammy or standard to live by.

To a certain extent I want to feel accepted in this community. But at the same time, I *want* to keep a part of me that allows me to identify strongly with my culture.

LV: What does community mean to you?

Friend: I guess community means something almost like a family — that there is a feeling of closeness, and people look out for each other when there are needs to be met.

LV: How does the Lesbian community meet your definition of community for you?

Friend: I feel that since I'm not very active in the community, it doesn't meet my definition. And from the people that I've met who are involved in the community, they aren't very friendly. There's not a lot of activities to participate in, not much that is fulfilling. For instance, an inter-denomination group or prayer study group, or a volunteer service group would be great. Outside of the sexual-social experience, there's not much identity for me.

LV: Do you feel that the spiritual (Christian) experience is important in your community?

Friend: Yes, definitely. It is a personal value that serving God through the life of the community, and learning more about relationships with people strengthens us. I think one's spirituality helps make relationships lasting ones.

One of the differences I see between the black community and the Lesbian community is that in the black community, one of its foundations is the church. In the Lesbian community, the foundation seems to be social. I don't mean to stereotype, but from my observations, this is the impression I get.

LV: What keeps you from being more active in the community?

Friend: The lack of activities such as volunteer services, study groups, issues addressing parenting, children, etc., that provide a purpose for gathering besides drinking, drag shows, and bars.

LV: What are some ways the Lesbian community can reach women of minority groups, especially black women?

Friend: Person to person contact, visual contact through flyers, bulletin boards, etc., that offer people an opportunity to get involved. Have someone ask black women for their input.

Interview III: My sister is a professional woman in social services. She is 42 years old.

LV: As a woman who loves other women, describe your identity with the Lesbian community.

Friend: I don't have an identity in the women's community and I don't know exactly why. I'm fairly new to the community in terms of being involved with a woman lover. As I foresee becoming a part of the community in the future, I don't know if this will happen in Indianapolis. I say this, due to the type of political interests I have and due to my religious commitments here.

I see the need to be very careful, due to the fact that I am very involved in a "traditional" religious community. There's no way that the two can interface here in Indianapolis. This is because I choose to attend the church I attend, not because the Lesbian community won't allow it. It is possible that this would change if I attended at a different place.

Another problem in my involvement in the community is lack of information. I don't have information; I don't subscribe to any publications that give me information on activities or religious celebrations among Lesbian women.

LV: Is religion the only reason you don't identify with the women's community?

Friend: I don't know how well, or if, the women's community embraces integration of cultures and the political issues I'm interested in. I haven't seen it at the Women's Music Festival. There's more to binding us together than being women. My concerns go beyond sexism or being a woman. I'm concerned with economic issues, homelessness, parenting, etc. These issues impact women of color in different ways than from majority culture.

LV: What, then, does community mean to you?

Friend: Community means to me a place to belong, a place to be comfortable, a place to be liberated. I think this is why I stick to being involved in my religious community. It offers me these things. Community means family, friends.

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Community

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While we have some common ground, I don't see women embracing other women, regardless of the issue or culture. There's still a certain level of "ism" involved that is oppressive. Until this oppression is addressed, it is going to be difficult for me to become involved.

Outreach to women of color means personal contact. There needs to be a genuine invitation of friendship that is recognizable without peeling back too many layers. I also realize that black women have to be willing to participate and involve themselves.

LV: What are some positive things you see about the women's community?

Friend: From what I've seen there is networking among women for businesses, non-traditional experience, the freedom of expression to embrace and be intimate with each other, etc. The fact that there is a Women's Music Festival in Bloomington to connect with is very positive. I can appreciate that there are women in the community who recognize the need for more women of color to be involved and are willing to put forth energy to help bring that about.

Interview IV: My sister is an independent, award-winning filmmaker and writer. She is 25 years old.

LV: What does being in the community mean to you?

Friend: Being out in the community is very, very important to me. I realize not everyone can do that, but I am fortunate enough to be in a position where I can. Personally, I don't think I could expect to raise my child, sensitizing her and positioning her in society, if I wasn't very out and very proud. I think we are at a point in our lives and in the world where we are having to integrate harmony into our lives and into our beings.

Being out personally is a way of relieving bigotry around me. Being out is akin to toilet training a child. I'm presently going through toilet training with my child, so this is a good analogy. It can be kind of messy, but then things start to click. It works and it's great! It becomes natural. People appreciate honesty. I'm being very honest and people are very appreciative.

I also believe being out is providing a positive image. I was very fortunate in Ohio where I went to school. I was in the company of women artists who were very open and out of the closet. What these people did for me was incredible! They saved my life. Coming full force at the world, to be who you are, is important.

I learned to love myself and not to believe in those images I was taught in my youth. Those images were that all Lesbians are unattractive, lonely, have no friends, are usually destructive and/or poverty-stricken. I was fortunate that at Antioch, many of the college leaders and professors were Lesbian/Gay and provided an important environment and institutional backup. I was supported by people who valued every kind of human expression.

Humans have to make a commitment, whether it is using their power in institutions, schools, churches, or other spiritually-based places. Whether in their personal life, or wherever, commitment has to be there somewhere. People have to be that bridge where knowledge and understanding are considered ideals to live up to as opposed to ignorance and oppression. I hear a lot of excuses. I talk to school teachers who ask how they can bring a positive influence or image to their class. I say, ask a Lesbian to come and talk to the class. Perhaps not about being a Lesbian, but about their art or profession. Allow her to be a bridge, a positive influence. There is no reason to be trapped in ignorance, prejudice, racialism, sexism, heterosexism, etc.

So, that's my commitment. To be honest, out there, to be whole.

[Part II of this Conversation will follow in the next issue of *Lavender Visions*.]

Shopping Sprees — fun for all

Diane Kennaugh felt burned out with her career as an LPN and advocate for the elderly. She launched her own business when the last of her nine children went off to college. Can a social worker mentality thrive in the business world? We hope so!

Diane hates to shop and offers a unique, easy, and fun-filled option to "mall mauling" — Shopping Sprees by Diane. For \$60 per person, you and up to five other friends will be chauffeured in a limo to various women-owned businesses, boutiques, and gift shops. A luncheon is included on the tour and the fee includes all taxes and gratuities. Clothing shops on the tour are selected for their ability to provide for the petite to full-figure sizes.

Tours are conducted from 10 AM to 3 PM, Monday through Saturday. Shopping Sprees is a great gift idea for newcomers to the Indianapolis area, for shopping phobics, and a great way to support women in business. Diane is also willing to customize tours for your special interests.

For more information and bookings, call (317) 255-2459.

You must've been a beautiful baby...

These adorable faces belong to the members of our exuberant *Lavender Visions'* staff just a "few" years ago — Candace, Carol, Deb, Dorin, Joan, M.G., and Nancy. Can you recognize us or can you guess who we are? Don't despair, for in the next issue, we'll show you up-to-date pictures.





Happy Birthday, Lavender Visions! Reflections on the 1st year

[Editor's Note: Several of the staff members of *Lavender Visions* offer their thoughts on the first year of publication.]

As a new staff member of *Lavender Visions*, I can appreciate the vision and determination of the women who gave us that first issue. The purpose of their efforts was to provide communication within our community. Thank you for a job well done. I expect to see the results magnified in the coming year, for both others and the woman within myself.

Reflecting on this first year of *Lavender Visions*, one knowing is crystal clear: We have been, and are being, led. Taking on a second full-time job was certainly not my intention and miraculously, each time I would despairingly think, "I simply can't do anymore," there would be a wonderful gift — a love letter from a reader, an anonymous contribution, 10 new subscriptions, a request for information from New York or Oklahoma City, or a volunteer to write an article. And now as our baby moves into her second year, I celebrate her growth — to nearly 400 subscriptions representing 12 states and an energetic and creative staff of 8 committed not only to the philosophy of *Lavender Visions*, but to the belief that we can and do have fun doing the paper! Blessed Be!

"Why am I involved in *Lavender Visions*?" I've asked myself that question several times in the past year — especially when the production deadline is fast approaching and I feel a bit overwhelmed. Each time the answer is different: sometimes I recognize it as my way of being politically minded; sometimes it's to fulfill my desire to serve the community; sometimes it's to foster my own personal growth; sometimes it's to meet new and

wonderful people; and, sometimes, I don't know why. In looking back at the first year, at this particular moment, I feel that the basis for "Dorin's Diary" is the most compelling reason — to remind me, as well as others, of the positive aspects of our lives — that victories of all magnitudes and types are happening all the time. The success of *Lavender Visions* and the excitement I feel about my involvement, for whatever the reason, are two of those triumphs.

A year ago, we talked a dream alive. For twelve months, we have been discovering the joy, frustration, fear, loneliness, anger, bewilderment, and ecstasy of publishing *Lavender Visions*. I committed my energy to this effort because I wanted to give something back to the community — the universe — that has nurtured me for so many years. I thought it would be fun to plant seeds of affirmation and consciousness raising, and to invite Lesbians to participate in a sense of community wherever they may live their daily lives.

In time, *LV* took on a life of her own and gave to me a deeper and broader appreciation of community. I felt the rape of the Alaskan oil spill in the core of my being, the triumph of justice as the Berlin wall crumbled, and I wept with joy watching Nelson Mandela speak the freedom of his heart outside of prison walls. There really is no separation between the beings of this living planet except those imposed by fear. *LV*, along with many other Lesbian/Gay publications, affirm our existence, our experience, and contribute to diminishing the fear that oppresses all people. We set out to reach women in Central Indiana and now have subscribers coast to coast in twelve states. It is immensely satisfying to be growing in this expanding sense of community.

INFORMATION FORM

APRIL/MAY 1990

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writing stories

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Name _____ Day Phone _____ Night Phone _____

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Seasonal Magick

by Shekhinah Mountainwater

The year is a dancing woman Who is born at the coming of spring	Spring Equinox (Kore)
The year is a dancing woman Of Her birth and death we sing ...	Beltane (Diana)
In spring She comes to power When the red of Her moonbloods come And She dances and spins towards summer	Summer Solstice (Aphrodite)
To the beat of Her passion's drum 'Tis then She becomes so fertile With the Life that is to come	Lammas (Habondla)
And She flows with the Love that feeds us 'Til the Harvest Time is done Then dances and spins towards darkness	Autumn Equinox (Persephone)
All dressed in autumn file To descend to the time of shadow And rest from the world's desire	Hallowe'en (Hecate)
Now Her hair is touched with sliver Winter's wisdom claims Her soul And She births the spirit within us	Winter Solstice (Lucina)
Bringing light and hope to us all Igniting a blaze in the darkness To kindle the coming spring	Candlemas (Aradia)
Then dreams 'til Her resurrection And Her story again begins ... The year is a dancing woman Who is born at the coming of spring	
The year is a dancing woman Of Her birth and death we sing ...	

[Through Shekhinah Mountainwater: Revised Version, Santa Cruz, California, 1988,
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SUBSCRIPTION/ORDER FORM

APRIL/MAY 1990

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