

LPN

*Good news, positive reminders
and inspirational messages*

*from
Makaw Press
(Fun Stuff, Feel Good Stuff)*

May 2000



Lesbian Pride Newsletter

*Good news, positive reminders
and inspirational messages
by, for, about and of interest to Lesbians*

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FAMILY GARDEN AT MMOW IS LARGEST EVER GLBT FAMILY EVENT

The Family Garden during the Millennium March on Washington (MMOW) drew 7,000 gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered parents and their children, friends and other family members to the Mall in Washington, DC on Sunday, April 30. Martina Navratilova, Melissa Etheridge and her partner Julie Cypher energized the Family Garden crowd when they visited in the morning.

The event is the largest ever GLBT family event, and marks the first time that a national march featured a special location devoted to GLBT parents and their children.

The Family Pride Coalition, a national coalition of GLBT parenting groups and individual parents, and Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE) coordinated the Family Garden, with sponsorship support from Gay.com. Volunteers from Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) also assisted during the day. The Family Garden featured a special Toddler Zone with toys; a picnic and game area that included three-legged races and tug-of-war; a craft area; a quiet and private area for napping, diaper-changing or breast-feeding; and a stage that featured clowns, drummers and other performers as well as spontaneous performances by children throughout the day.

"During an election year, our opponents will use rhetoric about

'family values' to attack GLBT individuals and families. The Family Garden embodied the reality of our community's family values – love, respect and commitment," said C. Ray Drew, Executive Director of the Family Pride Coalition.

A Family March kicked off the day, with several hundred people marching from the Smithsonian Castle to the Family Garden at 9 AM. Throughout the Family Garden, which featured free snacks, water and fruit juices, families picnicked, played, and met up with old friends and made new ones. A group of men and their children gathered around a sign that read, "Men with Strollers." Other T-shirts and signs said, "My Mommies Rule," "Proud Bisexual Daughter of a Lesbian Mother," and "I Love My Transgender Parent." Older COLAGE kids painted the faces of younger children and helped make signs and T-shirts with paints and glitter. Some families spent the entire day at the Family Garden, while others stopped by to rest or rejuvenate after a long day of marching and rallying.

"The Family Garden allowed parents to participate in the day's events without leaving their children behind," Drew said. "GLBT parents often face a choice between their families and their political involvement. By creating a space for families, we wanted to make sure no families need to isolate themselves from political and community events."

"Many parents told me that their children didn't want to leave the Family Garden," said Suzette Southfox, Program Director for Family Pride and a coordinator of the Family Garden. "Others said that they almost didn't come to the march because they were worried about their children in the crowd. They were thrilled when they heard about the Family Garden."

The Family Garden at the MMOW was modeled after a similar area at the GLBT pride festival in San Diego, which is where Family Pride is based. Carolina Ramos, a longtime Family Pride supporter and board member of the Latino/a Lesbian and Gay Organization (LLEGO), originally created the idea and was instrumental in producing the Family Garden at MMOW. Siobhan Hinckley produced the event. COLAGE staff members and volunteers, including executive director Felicia Park-Rogers and Jude Koski and DC area COLAGE member Ryan Lalonde, spearheaded numerous activities for small children, teens and young adults. A small but dedicated group of volunteers helped ensure a smooth and safe event.

Astrology



by Stacy Chandler

TAURUS (APRIL 20 – MAY 20)

To some you seem rather pushy
Although it's not always true!
Unlike a raging bovine;
you're more like Ferdinand the Bull
Rather meek and mild, with the heart of a
child
Unwilling to force any issue
Steadfast and stalwart are you!*

*Be warned: The views expressed above
do not necessarily reflect the aura of the cosmos.

On the Bright Side

A Collection of Selected Columns by Marilda Mel White

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or merry mailboxes (specify which)
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*Through our willingness to help others we can learn
to be happy rather than depressed. - Gerald Jampolsky*

OO May Affirmations

*Every day is an empty page, waiting to see
what I will write on it.*

*Every day I am reborn, and
every day I can recreate myself.*

Every day I am the person I want to be.

I move beyond stereotypes.

I am ready to be my own person. Putting other people in boxes puts me in a box too. It may feel comfortable in a box, but it limits me. Whether I want to appear straight or gay, I need to resist the temptation to take on any particular stereotype unthinkingly. I concentrate on simply being myself, throwing off the subtle messages I have internalized from my culture of what I am expected to be.

I am more than a label, more than a stereotype, more than words can describe – ever changing and growing, unpredictable, unlimited in potential and beauty.

I can fit in without trying to be the same as others in my peer group. Even if I look or act differently from those around me, there will always be those comfortable enough with themselves to accept me.

Exploring the uniqueness within me, I find what feels right and celebrate my being. I am a new edition, a signed original, a one-of-a-kind. I am wonderful, beautiful ME!

– Eleanor Ruth Wagner, *Lavender Reflections*

The thing to do with feelings
is to make it safe
to feel all of them.

– Robyn Posin from *Rememberings and Celebrations*



GOLDEN THREADS

is a worldwide network designed to end loneliness and isolation among midlife and older Lesbians. **GOLDEN THREADS** is a discreet contact publication for Lesbian women over 50, and younger Lesbians (no woman is excluded because of her age). send a SASE to: **GOLDEN THREADS P. O. Box 65, Richford, VT 05476-0065, or email: GOLDENTRED@aol.com** See us at: <http://members.aol.com/goldentred/index.htm> Sample copy mailed discreetly \$5. US/Canada (US dollars) Other countries \$10 (US dollars, International Postal Money Order)

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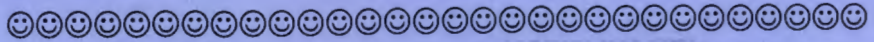
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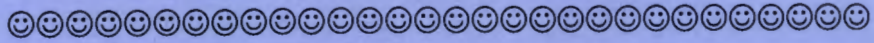
HELPFUL BUTCHY KITCHEN HINTS
from singer/author Sandy Rapp

- 1 - Lick the peanut butter knife before introducing it to the strawberry jam container, lest the peanut butter promote mold in the jam.
- 2 - When the haircutter suggests hot olive oil treatments for your brittle dry hair, do not apply to your hair the liquid in which commercial olives are packaged. As it turns out, this is a brine which will pickle one's hair into an even worse condition.
- 3 - This tip via the late Anne Butler, proprietor of a famous Manhattan Gay Bar of old: When something in the kitchen is making noise, PAY ATTENTION TO IT!



Do You Know About...?
OUT ON BROADWAY

The original cast album of New Line Theatre's 1996 production of *Out on Broadway* has been released on compact disc and is currently available nationwide. *Out on Broadway*, an evening of theater songs sung from a gay perspective, was first produced in March 1996, and brought back in August of the same year for additional performances. The original cast members from 1996, many of whom were/are gay or bisexual, are the ones on the newly released CD and all but one will be returning to perform *Out on Broadway 2000* this spring. The CD is available at local music stores everywhere, or directly from Original Cast Records, 203-544-8288. Or check out www.newlinetheatre.com



*Sometimes on my morning run,
I think to myself, "I'm not having fun!"
But what keeps me going,
is the absolute knowing:
I'm gonna feel great when I'm done!*
- Marilda Mel White

ON THE AMAZON TRAIL

by LEE LYNCH

ROAD PEEVISHNESS

I'm a turtle. I'm the kind of driver Alix Dobkin used to call "an old man in a hat driving a Chrysler product." I'm the white-haired woman you don't want to get behind when you have an appointment. Lover fears I go so slow I might cause accidents. I'm the type who brakes for yellow "suggested" speed signs because I don't relish meeting a monster truck on a narrow curve with no where to go but imagined frothy waters at the bottom of a ravine.

Last week I got a speeding ticket.

If the young officer hadn't been apologetic to the point of obsequiousness I might have done something rash – like cried.

My first speeding ticket! My only ticket since the seventies when I went through a toll booth without paying in a Bug full of crazy dykes. We thought it was revolutionary fun.

This wasn't fun. I was facing a ten hour drive as part of my job, but I'd left enough time so that I could drive slowly over snowy mountains and along roads threatening landslides. The trip was that long because a landslide had plugged the north-south highway I normally drive. I metamorphosed into a confused speed demon in the midst of a complex maneuver from one unfamiliar road to the next without the benefit of detour signs. This routing took me very briefly in to the city's 25 M.P.H. speed limit. I was caught doing 40, desperately looking for directional signs.

Here's what I suspect. The cop had done something that annoyed his boss. He was assigned to drive the overpasses and underpasses on this little interchange again and again till he got dizzy. He was told to rack up enough speeding tickets to fill the whole squad's quota for the month – and it was only the 14th.

It was an easy enough assignment with all us bumpkins squinting to find our way through a corner of this town of 45,000. "He must have bagged bunches!" surmised a friend. I, of course,

immediately decided the officer had pounced the minute he saw my Gore, food co-op, animal protection, Human Rights Alliance, literacy, rainbow flag and Victory Fund stickers. On the other hand, it's a university town, filled with kids in dread locks and soccer moms alike driving vans or mini vans that sport "Question Authority" decals and Darwin magnets. The cop probably thought I was a middle-of-the-roader in comparison.

I bought my mini-van for safety. Although the candy-apple red one my in-laws got made me froth with jealousy, I hadn't wanted a vehicle that would attract the eyes of the law. Everyone says cops go after red cars first. Convertibles, SUVs, sports cars, luxury cars – they're all supposed to get ticketed before turtles in mini vans.

In my young and reckless years I raced across America, doing u-ies in unfamiliar territory. Never got stopped.

I sped wildly, hormone-fueled, along east coast parkways in the dark of night to covert assignments. Never got stopped.

Decades ago I ignored traffic and substance abuse laws simultaneously. Never got stopped.

I'd run into New York from Connecticut, speeding along with the flow of traffic which was more like the flow of a river at flood stage. Never got stopped.

In my cab I rode the brakes from pickup to pickup, weaving in and out of traffic as if other cars and people were nothing but a barrier between me and my next fare. No blinking lights ever shone in my rearview mirror.

As a commuter I concentrated only on making up for that extra time I spent in bed and drove as if I had a siren atop my car. But so did everyone else.

To me, New York City was one gigantic dodge-em car amusement park ride, the hills of New England free roller coasters. I guess my lawlessness finally caught up with me.

A ticket, though. Now, when I'm old enough to understand that I'm not immortal and that traffic laws actually protect me, now I feel like a criminal. When I really *really* flaunted the law I felt only rebellious. I'm lucky to be alive. My next bumper sticker's going to read, on a background of rainbow stripes, "I Brake For Turtles."



this month's guest poet: Victoria Barnett

Enchanted

Lost in the mystery of the connection
to each other and all things,
Comes the charm to open, enrapture,
and look inside for what it brings.

So many secrets to keep in this savage place,
The dark shadows linger in all its space.

As we look deeply for the enchantress,
This mystery begins to undress.

The magic, the charm, and the delight,
The spell that seems to open this mystery light.

Make all things come forward and allure,
Allow the magician to endure.

With the chronic mystery of illusion,
Perception of the senses or mind is the confusion.

As the secret gardens of the mystery unfold,
Only the Enchantment will be told.



People who can agree on what's funny can usually
agree on other things. - Anonymous

Who am I to tell someone they can or cannot serve
their country? I could care less what a person's
sexual orientation is. All I care is that the guy next
to me can get the job done. - Governor Jesse Ventura

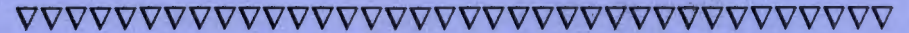
MILLENNIUM MARCH ON WASHINGTON
PARTICIPATION EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

An estimated 800,000 gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, along with their friends, families and allies, marched on the national mall today as part of the Millennium march on Washington for Equality.

"The gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and their supporters sent a powerful message to the rest of the country today," said Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Millennium March on Washington. "We ushered in the new millennium by declaring our commitment to families, employment non-discrimination, racial justice and an end to hate crimes and HIV/AIDS.

The crowd began by marching from the Washington Monument to the National Mall. The crowd was led by activists including Melissa Etheridge, Ellen DeGeneres, Anne Heche, Wilson Cruz, the parents of Matthew Shepard, Martina Navratilova, Rev. Troy Perry, U.S. Reps Tammy Baldwin and Jerrold Nadler, co-chairs of the Millennium March on Washington board of directors Nicole Murray-Ramirez, Duane Cramer and several others.

The Millennium March on Washington was the fourth national GLBT civil rights march to promote equal rights for all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals.



The Butch Cookbook (Call for Writing)

Lee Lynch and Renee LaChance are seeking submissions for The Butch Cookbook. "We have come to recognize that butches do most of the cooking in many relationships," they said. "It's time for us to come out of the kitchen and share our knowledge."

All recipes are welcome. "We want everything from How to Boil Water Without Burning the Pan to Gourmet Recipes for Your Twenty-fifth Anniversary." Payment is a copy of the book; limit 3 recipes per person; deadline June 30, 2000.

Cookbook
PO Box 2170
Waldport, OR 97394
birders66@hotmail.com

Do You Know About...?

Antarctica Tour


MAKE GAY HISTORY –
 On a cruise to ANTARCTICA November 6-21, 2000 you can join an exclusive group of gay men and women on an historic voyage to ANTARCTICA aboard the 49-passenger Professor Multanovskiy. This historic trip departs the US on November 6 for fashionable Buenos Aires, Argentina, where we spend two nights in the newly renovated Marriott Plaza Hotel. During our stay

From here we travel south to Ushuaia, a frontier town set amidst spectacular mountains and rugged landscape. Embarking the 49-passenger, Professor Multanvoskiy, we sail across to the White Continent, where for the next five days we travel along the Antarctic Peninsula, discovering magnificent scenery, Gentoo, Adelie and Chinstrap Penguins, elephant seals, humpback, Minke and killer whales. Also, stop at one of the working research stations to meet with the resident scientists and learn about life in Antarctica.

The gay-friendly Russian crew is more than hospitable. Superb service, great food, comfortable accommodations all characterize this once-on-a-lifetime trip. Join us to symbolically plant the rainbow flag on the great continent of Antarctica and toast champagne to celebrate the conquest of gay travel to all the world's continents!


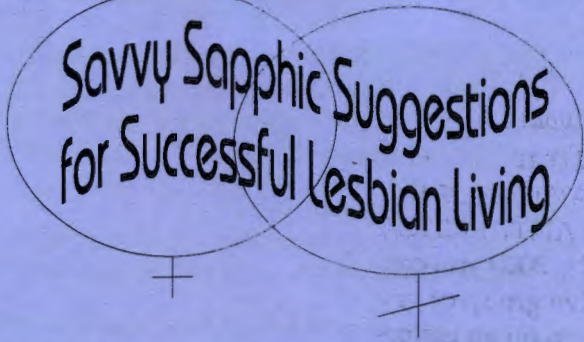
Prices start at \$5595 per person. Airfare as low as \$500 per person from Miami. Call today for a brochure or information. Coda International Tours (888) 677-2632.

Other trips this year will include: Kenya & Tanzania: An African Safari - June 18-July 1, 2000 (\$4295 per person, double occupancy; \$600 single supplement); Sailing the Greek Islands aboard the private yacht, Halcyon - July 19-29, 2000 (from \$3395 per person double occupancy; single supplement from \$500); The Turquoise Coast of Turkey: A Sailing Adventure - August 22-September 3, 2000 (\$3795 per person; \$650 single supplement).

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Dear Savvy Sappho,

My sweetie has been playing the tuba for years now. She's getting longer and louder, but she can't keep a tune. How should I broach this subject?
 Signed, Deef in both ears

Dear Deef,

You did not mention whether or not your sweetie is trying to get into a symphony or a rock band. She may just reap great pleasure from playing without any goal in mind at all. Pipe down and double up on your ear plugs. She knows – say nothing if you love him.
 – SS

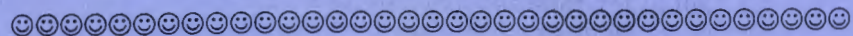
Dear Savvy Sappho,

I want to increase my physical activity. My partner is a couch potato. How can I motivate her to come with me?
 Signed, Road Runner

Dear RR,

You can ask, beg, plead. And even nag...but the only person you must really motivate is yourself.
 – SS

If you are in need of some Savvy Sapphic Solutions for Successful Living, send your questions to Sassy, % Makaw, PO Box 5812, Denver, CO 80217
 This month's Savvy Sapphic Solutions for Successful Living by Stacy Chandler.



Truly, I say she is the very soul of goodness.

– referring to Xena

I've been on so many blind dates I should get a free dog.
 – Wendy Liebman

UPCOMING EVENTS

Memorial Weekend 2000, SOUTHERN WOMYN'S FESTIVAL, SWF,
Docospace, PO Box 262, Macclenny, FL 32063 Gaywomyn@aol.com

June 11 - 30 LESBIAN LIVES IN MEXICO
For all women interested in studying Spanish while learning about lesbian life
in Mexico today. Cetalic@mail.gigi.com or www.giga.com/~cetalic

June 22-25, National Women's Music Festival, Ball State University in
Muncie, IN (all indoors), NWMF, PO Box 1427, Indianapolis, IN 46206
317-927-9355 www.a1.com/wia (that's a number 1)

June 22-25, Golden Threads Celebration, Provincetown, MA; Goldren
Threads, PO Box 65, Richford, VT 05476 802-848-8002
GOLDENTRED@aol.com

August 8-13, 25th Annua Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, Hart, MI;
WWTMC, PO Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458 231-757-4766

GAY GAMES, Sydney, Australia, Oct 25 - Nov 9, 2002

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