



The Resource Line

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE G/L/B/T COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS

2002 General Membership Meeting and Board Elections

Sunday, October 28th 5:30 PM

This year marks the tenth year the GLRC has been in the community. Would you like to help shape the future of the GLRC? Do you have what it takes to be a member of the 2002 Board of Directors?

The 2002 Board of Directors election will be held at the Annual General Membership Meeting on

October 28th, 2001, at 5:30 PM at the GLRC. The GLRC is located at 305 2nd Street SE, Suite 324 (take the elevator to the third floor). Nominations will be accepted in writing prior to this meeting and from the floor during the meeting.

If you are interested in becoming a board member, please write the GLRC at our P.O. Box listed in this newsletter or you can drop us an email at info@crglrc.org. You're qualified to become a board member if you hold to the purpose and objectives of the GLRC. Some of the responsibilities expected of a board member are to attend monthly board meetings, participate in GLRC functions, educate people on the role of the

GLRC, assist with GLRC events, and assist with staffing of the GLRC office.

The election process is very simple – written ballots are required if there are more nominees than there are positions to be filled. Nominees receiving the largest number of votes will be elected.

We hope to see you at this year's GLRC General Membership Meeting. Refreshments and snacks will be served, so be sure to join us!

ATTENTION!
Correction to the
Third Annual Men's Retreat
October 13, 2001
Wapsipinicon State Park
See Article Inside



Inside *The Resource Line*:

September 2001 Board Meeting Minutes	2	National News	8
October Movie Night & Potluck	2	Tell Us What You Think	9
Lives Worth Living Men's Retreat	3	Out'n'About.....	11
AIDS News	4	Area Resource List.....	14
World AIDS Day	5	October Calendar	15
SpiritHill Women's Retreat	5	Uniting Communities.....	16
CSPS Anniversary	6	Reach Out	17
Vagina Monologues Review	7		



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NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Scott Alt

Newsletter Editor

Kendy Wazac

Layout Editor/Writer

Kathy Towe

Assistant Editor/Writer

September 2001 Board Meeting Minutes

Attending Members:

Scott Alt, Linda Davenport, Andy Harrison, Tricia Kitzmann, Dave Shafer

Secretary's Report:

Minutes were approved from the August meeting and were accepted. Scott informed the group of updates to the current mailing list. Five new people were added to the mailing list.

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning Balance 08/01/01:	\$5,673.41
Income:	\$183.00
Expenses:	\$996.07
Ending Balance 08/30/01:	\$4860.34

Programs:

Tricia reported on events coming up in October for AIDS Month. Event information will be published in October newsletter. Condomania and the Men's Retreat are scheduled. Scott is working with IMG speakers to bring national speakers to the area next year. Details will be provided when they become available.

Grants:

It was reported that all ICAP grants and Philanthrop Fund grants are completed and submitted. Applied for a total of \$11,000.00 in grants from the two organizations.

Website:

Dave continues to work on website enhancements, but he is waiting for the service provider to update their systems to support the computer language Dave is using for the updates.

Newsletter:

Scott reported that Kendy completed the September issue as Layout Editor, and that she did a great job. Scott also reported that all current advertisers were sent bills, and were given until 9/10/2001 to remit payment or their ads would not appear in the October issue of *The Resource Line*.

Surveys:

GLRC surveys will be going out in the October issue of *The Resource Line*. Beginning in October, the surveys will be available at Club Basix. The surveys can be mailed back or turned in to Andy at Club Basix. The Board reviewed the survey and Tricia stated she would make revisions and get to Scott by *The Resource Line* deadline.

October General Meeting:

The October General Meeting is set for October 28th at 5:30 PM. Refreshments and snacks will be served, and the GLRC will provide miscellaneous door prizes.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.

October Movie Night & Potluck - October 25, 2001 at 7:00 PM

Featuring **Love! Valour! Compassion!**

Love! Valour! Compassion! is a sentimental, romantic drama/comedy about eight gay friends coping with life and love during summer vacation. Fans of films that movingly explore and celebrate the human condition appreciate this film.

Pick your favorite movie from the Center's movie collection and join us on Thursday, October 25th from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM for the **October Movie Night and Potluck**. Please bring your favorite dish to share with the crowd and bring a hearty appetite! The GLRC will furnish table service (plates, plastic utensils, and napkins). Soda pop is available for 50 cents each at the Resource Center.



If you haven't been to a movie night, please join us. If you've been to a movie night, you know it's a good time, so we expect to see you again! This is a great chance to socialize and check out the GLRC office space.

Movie night is FREE. Bring a friend – this event is an "open event" and all ages are welcome! The GLRC is located at 305 2nd Street SE, Suite 324 (take the elevator to the third floor).



Third Annual *Lives Worth Living* Men's Retreat Updated Location - Wapsipinicon State Park October 13, 2001

The third annual *Lives Worth Living* retreat for gay and bisexual men, will take place **Saturday, October 13, 2001, from 10 AM to 5 PM, at Wapsipinicon State Park in Anamosa.**

Organizers promise an array of social, cultural, political and spiritual resources. They say that the day-long event offers men an opportunity retreat from the daily grind while networking with each other and acquiring ideas and information.

Featured presenters at this year's retreat are Kevin Sitter, Minneapolis, and David DeBlieck, Honolulu.

Kevin Sitter is a coordinator for Clinic 42 at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis. He has directed a variety of community programs serving gay men, high school students, health care workers and people living with HIV/AIDS, and has published over 50 articles on such topics as coming out, men's health issues and caring for people with AIDS.

David DeBlieck grew up in small-town Minnesota and studied theatre and dance at Augsburg College and the University of Hawaii. He's worked for 20 years as a performing artist, including four years with the Nancy Hauser Dance Company in Minneapolis, six years with the avant-garde Iona Pear Dance Theatre in Honolulu, and stints with other dance companies throughout Hawaii.

DeBlieck's one-man show, *Portrait of a Sissy*, premiered at the Honolulu Academy of Arts in 1999, and has since toured to Seattle and Minneapolis. The show, alternately hilarious and touching, uses cheerleader choreography, confessional narratives, '70s pop songs, and a reenactment of a *Charlie's Angels* episode -- in which DeBlieck plays all three angels! -- to explore the experience of "growing up sissy in an anti-sissy world." *Portrait of a Sissy* will be presented at CSPA, a community arts center in Cedar Rapids, Oct. 11-13.



Retreat sponsors include the Rapids AIDS Project (RAP), a program of the American Red Cross, the Gay and Lesbian Resource Center (GLRC) of Cedar Rapids, Legion Arts/CSPA, Linn County Health Department, Planned Parenthood, Johnson County Department of Public Health, and Flierman Resources Ltd.

Cost for the retreat is \$10, which covers all materials, breakfast and lunch. Pre-registration is required. For more information or registration materials, call the Rapids AIDS Project at (319) 393-9579.



The HIV/AIDS Alliance Of Cedar Rapids Presents: Are You Positive?

In 1997, the Healthy Linn Care Network in Cedar Rapids gathered like-minded folks to discuss what was and wasn't going on in our community on the topic of HIV/AIDS education, prevention and direct services. Doctors, nurses, clergy, agency representatives, counselors, individuals living with HIV and AIDS, family and friends of folks living with HIV and AIDS and others who were interested in the cause met for the first time. Out of this came the HIV/AIDS Alliance, which is still strong today. Many things have been accomplished through the years, including developing and distributing a brochure on area resources to help people infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS and offering professional conferences to health care providers and educators on this topic.

OCTOBER AIDS AWARENESS MONTH

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT HIV/AIDS OR GETTING INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY AS AN HIV/AIDS EDUCATOR, THE RAPIDS AIDS PROJECT WILL BE CONDUCTING HIV/AIDS EDUCATION COURSES DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL (319) 393-9579 OR E-MAIL US AT: RAP@GRANTWOOD-REDCROSS.ORG



A program of the American Red Cross
Grant Wood Area Chapter
3601 42nd Street NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

This year the Alliance is kicking off the "Are You Positive?" campaign and will be working throughout the next year to continue to keep people aware of, and talking about, this epidemic. The name "Are You Positive?" has many meanings to the general public. It asks:

"Are You Positive you know what HIV and AIDS is?"

"Are You Positive that you know how people get HIV?"

"Are You Positive that you know how to protect yourself from HIV infection?"

"Are You Positive you know about HIV testing and where to get it done?"

The logo of the campaign will mirror that of a Duracell battery (copper and black). The campaign kicks off in October for HIV/AIDS Awareness month and will start with a series of educational opportunities at the Mercy Medical Center Education Center. The times and dates are:

Friday, October 5th, 12:00-1:00 PM. "Are You Positive?"

This is a panel of area health care professionals that will discuss the assessment of HIV and STD testing and how they can be improved.

Tuesday, October 9th, 12:00-1:00 PM. "20 Years of AIDS – Where are we now?"

Dr. Jack Stapleton, from the University of Iowa

Tuesday, October 16th, 7:30-8:30 AM. "World and Local View of AIDS-Identification and Treatment"

Kris Davis, ARNP, MSN, ACRN, from the University of Iowa.

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All sessions are free of charge and either breakfast or lunch will be served.

The HIV/AIDS Alliance welcomes new members at any time. There are no fees to be a member, only a desire to make our community more aware of this epidemic. The Alliance meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 9:00 to 10:15 AM in the Medical Office Plaza at St. Luke's Hospital, conference room 2. Please call Traci Taylor at Planned Parenthood, 363-8572, if you have any questions.



World AIDS Day is almost here! The Rapids AIDS Project (RAP), a program of the American Red Cross Grant Wood Area Chapter, will hold their World AIDS Day Benefit on November 30, 2001 at the Crowne Plaza. RAP invites community members to remember loved ones who have lost their battle or who continue their fight with AIDS, by remembering or honoring a loved one in the *Memorial Section* in the World AIDS Day Program. If you are interested in remembering or honoring a loved one, please contact Tricia Kitzmann at RAP 393-9579. RAP hopes to see you at the World AIDS Day Benefit.



What is World AIDS Day?

World AIDS Day has a special place in the history of the AIDS pandemic. Beginning in 1988, December 1st of each year has been a day bringing messages of compassion, hope, solidarity and understanding about AIDS to every country in the world.

What prompted this extraordinary response? World AIDS Day emerged from the call by the World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS Prevention to open channels of communication, strengthen the exchange of information and experience, and forge a spirit of social tolerance. Since 1988, World AIDS Day has received the support of the World Health Assembly, the United Nations system, and governments, communities, and individuals around the world. World AIDS Day is the only International day of coordinated action against AIDS.

SpiritHill: A Retreat and Healing Space for Women

SpiritHill, located on a partially wooded bluff overlooking the Cedar River in southeast Iowa, is a seventeen acre healing and retreat space for women. SpiritHill exists to provide a safe space in which women can explore healing of the body, mind and spirit. SpiritHill is dedicated to the expression and enhancement of peace, love, joy and harmony throughout women's lives.

On the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 7:00 – 9:00 PM, women gather at SpiritHill, to share their spiritual experiences, visions and longings. The evenings include time for sharing and time for silence. No specific spiritual practice is followed. Newcomers are always welcome!

All activities at SpiritHill are intended to be women's events. Also, in keep with the healing focus of SpiritHill, smoking is discouraged, except in designated areas. All areas of the land are to be respected as chemical-free.

SpiritHill publishes a newsletter four times a year. To receive the newsletter, or for additional information, write or call SpiritHill, which is tended by Gail Ardery, Sharon Smith and Marcy Newmann.

For more information and/or directions:
 SpiritHill: A Retreat and Healing Space for Women
 604 Cedar Valley Rd.
 West Branch, IA 52358
 (319) 643-2613
spirithill@juno.com



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Legion Arts

CSPS Celebrates Tenth Anniversary

CSPS opened in October 1991 as a different kind of arts center – one devoted to innovation, diversity and community. As the decade progressed, we noticed that those concepts were turning up more and more often in conversations we heard going on around us – among elected officials, business leaders, policy makers, artists, and others who work in cultural organizations.

While we can't take credit for all the change, it's worth noting that a change has taken place, and that the commitments of Legion Arts are the same today as they were ten years ago.

The fact that the context has changed sometimes makes our job easier (though not as often as you'd think) and the audience larger (ditto). Often a shifting context deepens and complicates the work presented at CSPS. For the most part, however, the changing context simply confirms our mission, where we've been and where we're going.

We invite you to join us!

Our tenth anniversary year will be much like those that preceded it – full of remarkable artists, musicians and theatre makers from across the country and around the world. We hope you'll resolve to experience as much of it as you can this season. Make your calendar with these dates:

Italian folk-rockers **Spaccanapoli** (Oct 1)
 Songwriter **Stacy Earle with Mark Stuart** (Oct 3)
 Honolulu performance artist **David DeBlieck** (Oct 11-13)
 Dedication of the **Paul EngleCenter** (Oct 14)
 Austin songwriter **Michael Fracasso** (Oct 14)
 Songwriter **Freddy Johnston** (Oct 16)
 Honky-tonk hero **Ray Wylie Hubbard** (Oct 19)
 Iowa songwriters **John Smith and Dave Moore** (Oct 20)
 Uilleann piper **Paddy Keenan** (Oct 21)
Sonia of "Disappear Fear" (Oct 24)

Canadian troubadour **Garnet Rogers** (Oct 30)
 Mexican singer **Lila Downs** (Nov 1)
 A new exhibit inspired by **Sister Corita** (Nov 2)
 Christmas with the **Moscow Boys Choir** (Nov 27)
 Bluesman **Guy Davis** (Jan 17)
Rude Mechanicals in "Lipstick Traces" (Jan 24-26)
Voices on the Verge (Feb 11)
 Singer and songwriter **Eric Bibb** (Feb 14)
 Swedish folk trio **Frifot** (Mar 3)
 The songs of **Phil Ochs** (May 16)

Based at CSPS, a former Czech social hall near downtown Cedar Rapids, Legion Arts is an independent, nonprofit arts organization, run by artists and committed to innovation, diversity and community. Our offices and galleries are open from 11 AM-6 PM, Wednesday through Sunday. For more information, phone 319-364-1580 or visit <http://www.legionarts.org>.



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Yes, Virginia, you have a vagina. It's okay to say

so. It's okay to talk about it. It defines who you are and what you are. It's the celebration of your womanhood and the core of your vulnerability.

These truths emerge in Eve Ensler's ground-breaking play, "The Vagina Monologues," presented September 14th and 15th at Hancher Auditorium in Iowa City. The play was 90 minutes of exploration and unveiling of a subject Ensler likens to the Bermuda Triangle – "no one ever reports back." That is changing, though, through nationwide performances and a challenge to "think inside the box."

Consequently, for an hour and a half every audience member's thoughts were focused on the genital triangle peculiar to half the world's population.

We heard about "The Little Coochi Snorcher That Could" and "The

Vagina Workshop." We learned of women embarrassed about "The Flood" of orgasm, and another woman's story about her initial discomfort with a sexual partner who was entranced with looking at her vagina ("Because He Liked to Look at It"). We learned facts about the clitoris – the only human organ designed purely for pleasure, with twice the nerve endings as the penis – and facts we wish we could obliterate about genital mutilation. We laughed at the fanciful thought of vaginas dressed in lace and baseball caps ("If your vagina got dressed, what would it wear?") and talking vaginas. We heard stories of angry vaginas, confused vaginas, empty vaginas, and fertile vaginas. We learned about women who love to make vaginas happy, and about abused vaginas. We heard the sobering and dreadful account of mass rape and multiple rape perpetrated in the name of war and ethnic cleansing ("My Vagina Was My Village").

We heard our own local celebrity, Amy Johnson Boyle, say cunt. Not once, not twice, but at least a dozen times. In a monologue titled

"Reclaiming Cunt," Johnson skillfully wrapped her tongue around a litany of adjectives designed to elevate this euphemism from derogatory to delightful. The audience joined in a chorus of vocalizing cunt that left no doubt we still feel the negative connotation of the word and a reluctance to let it slip from our lips.

There was no reluctance, however, in our appreciation of the moans of moving sex and Amy Love's portrayal of multiple orgasms that makes Meg Ryan's performance in "When Harry Met Sally" look like happy hour at the nunnery. Love and her touring partner, Tracey Leigh, carried the monologues from peak to peak with skill and style and a grace that should raise the consciousness of each audience member about our collective "down there." If others felt as exposed as I did leaving the performance, that's a step in the direction of education and awareness and rejoicing in our female sexuality.

~ Kendy Wazac

THE RESOURCE LINE is the monthly publication of the GLRC of Cedar Rapids, IA, a non-profit organization under IRS code 5011. Articles and advertisements are welcome from anyone. They must be submitted by the date published in the prior month's issue and are subject to editing as needed. Mail or e-mail to attention of the Managing Editor.



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Gay Blood Donors in NYC Turned Away

Taken from DataLounge.com - -Editor

NEW YORK -- Tuesday's September 11th, 2001 terrorist attack leveling the World Trade Center in New York City, which resulted in the death and injury of thousands of people, prompted an urgent appeal from regional blood donation centers run by the American Red Cross.



The calamity of the tragedy has prompted a surge in volunteer donors and many New Yorkers have waited in line for hours outside of blood centers to assist in the rescue effort.

But as would-be donors in the city have learned over the past 36 hours, the Food and Drug Administration continues to ban blood donations from self-identified gay men. Indeed, guidelines issued in 1985

aimed at keeping HIV out of the blood supply continue to pre-screen any man who admits to having had sex with any other man since 1977.

Though viral screening procedures have grown in sophistication, speed and thoroughness, the ban against gay donations has remained. The rule, copied and criticized around the world as needlessly discriminatory, came under intense scrutiny last year, when an advisory committee to the FDA opened discussion on a repeal recommendation.

"Personally, I'm very open to a change," Dr. F. Blaine Hollinger, chairman of the FDA Blood Products Advisory Committee, said at the time. "It's discriminatory. We have to see all the data first. If it can be done without changing the safety of the blood supply, it ought to be done."

In September of 2000, scientific advisors to the FDA considered whether or not to change the ban to apply only to men who have had sex with a man in just the last five years. Citing concerns about keeping HIV-positive blood out of the supply, six out of seven advisors voted against changing the ban.

In May 1999, the FDA considered issuing new regulations for sperm banks that would ban gay men from being anonymous donors, leading to enormous community outcry. It was never instituted.

Though he admitted all blood is tested before it is released, Hollinger said that policy changes repealing the gay ban on blood would likely be considered only with the advent of newer and cheaper HIV screening methods -- and only then after rigorous testing.

Privately, sympathetic officials say the issue is political, not medical.

The FDA's guidelines, replicated despite very different HIV demographics in other parts of the world, have done little but increase anti-gay hostility overseas, say critics.

South Africa repealed its ban on gay blood donations in 1999, saying that gay men in the country had a constitutional right not to be discriminated against by the nation's hospitals and clinics.

As to the situation in New York, the FDA's ban has generated resentment and frustration in many. "I came to do my part, to give part of myself to this, and to help," one gay New Yorker told the DataLounge. "I'm (HIV) negative, but I was turned away anyway, like what I had in my veins wasn't good enough."

"I can't tell you what that feels like." - - Editor

College offers scholarships for gays cut off by parents

BOSTON (AP) -- The decision to tell his family he was gay didn't go well for one Bridgewater State student. His father threatened to cut him off financially and left the junior feeling "like a piece of trash."

"There's no way I could support myself," said the 22-year-old, who asked that his name not be used. "I was very, very scared."

A new scholarship offered by the school could make it easier for gay and lesbian students to break unwelcome news by helping gay students whose families refuse to support them financially.

The school says it's the only program of its kind.

The 22-year-old student's parents kept paying for school after his mother insisted, but not everyone gets that break, said communications professor Susan Holton, co-chair of the school's Safe Colleges Task Force, and advocacy group for gays.

Bob Haynor, Bridgewater's outreach education coordinator, started raising fund for the scholarship in April 2000 after meeting students who were cut off after they came out. About \$8,200 has been donated so far. Haynor hopes the first awards will be given next year.

The college's Frank-Tremblay Safe Colleges Scholarship is named for lesbian folk singer Lucie Bley Tremblay, who's raised money for the scholarship, and U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., who is gay and represents the Bridgewater area.

Frank has not raised money for the scholarship, but said he was flattered to be associated with it. "The potential for rejection or the fact of rejection is a crushing blow," he said.