



RESOURCE LINE

Volume 10, Issue 12
December 2002

Meet the GLRC 2003 Executive Board

By Scott Alt

Congratulations to all the directors who have been chosen to represent the GLRC in the upcoming year. Some of your new board members are highlighted below, telling who they are and why they decided to make the year-long commitment to the Gay and Lesbian Resource Center of Cedar Rapids.

Doug Davidson:

Doug is a native Iowan who graduated from high school in Waterloo and attended UNI. After graduation, he lived in Colorado, Illinois, Minneapolis, Iowa, Missouri, and then moved to Cedar Rapids. Doug has been employed at gay night clubs here since 1990, in every capacity from bartender to performer. He at APAC in Cedar Rapids for five years, and was the general manager of Happy Joe's Pizza. Currently, Doug works at Club Basix and does volunteer work for the Rapids AIDS Project. His home life consists of his partner, Jeff, their two dogs, and their two part-time dogs (*The editor wonders what these two dogs are the rest of the time?*)

Trish Hyde:

Born and raised in Texas, Trish found her way to Iowa in 1998. She lived in Coralville for almost three years before moving to Cedar Rapids in May, 2001. Trish feels Cedar Rapids definitely suits her better.

After Trish's work schedule changed, she acted on her desire to get more

involved in the community by joining PFLAG, where she currently holds the secretarial position. In June 2002, Trish was elected to the GLRC board. She was part of a group that was instrumental in putting together several events that focused on community involvement of families, singles, couples, and young and old alike. A few of those events were a beach party in July, women's campout in August, and Gay Day at Adventureland in September.

Trish looks forward to her next term with the goal of more GLRC-sponsored events away from the bar scene. She feels that while bars have their place in society, not everyone can or wants to go to them. She has some great ideas ready for 2003, and welcomes your ideas as well. Says Trish, "Better yet, why not work with the GLRC to make those ideas become reality? You don't have to be on the board to make things happen."

Dot Sheldon:

Dot, a Marion resident, enjoys a six-year relationship with her partner, Julianna. Dot has been employed at Rockwell Collins for over fifteen years and moonlights as a bartender at Club Basix. Dot is also vice chair of the Homeless Children's Trust of Eastern Iowa and has been involved with that organization for six years. She has been a St. Luke's hospice volunteer

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GLRC Board of Directors

President: Linda Davenport
Vice President: Scott Alt
Treasurer: Trish Hyde
Secretary: Open
Members at Large: Duane Foster
Tony Hansen
Lorma Lang

GLRC Resource Line

Scott Alt, Kendy Wazac

The **Resource Line** is a monthly publication of the GLRC of Cedar Rapids, IA, a non-profit organization under IRS code 5011. Articles and advertisements are welcome from anyone, and are subject to editing as needed. Mail or e-mail submissions to the attention of the Editor, GLRC **Resource Line**.

November Board Meeting Minutes

The November board meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM. Attending board members were Linda Davenport, Scott Alt, and Trish Hyde. Tony Hansen, Lorma Lang and Duane Foster were absent. Members-elect present were Dot Sheldon, Gary Van Fleet, Deb Loftsgard, Nancy Bernardi, Jon Sealy and Doug Davidson. Due to the absence of a quorum, business requiring a vote was postponed until Tony Hansen arrived at 6:40.

Secretary's Report

Minutes from the previous Board meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance: 10/01/02 \$7,666.36
Income: \$1,499.83
Expenses: \$1,973.90
Ending Balance: 10/31/02 \$7,192.29

The treasurer's report was read by Trish Hyde and unanimously accepted.

Agenda Items

"Trembling Before G*d" Update – Ready to go. No date as of yet, but most likely in January. Cost on 16MM is \$500. VHS is \$300-\$400. Both Kirkwood and Coe have VHS capability.

Scott was given a check to pay for his conference meals by the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce. Sponsored by National Association for Tobacco Control. Scott will be at the conference from November 6-10. Scott had a brochure of seminars that will be presented while there. Linda suggested information on youth and transgendered issues as well as domestic partnership.

Keys – no updated list. Linda will put together a list.

Gay American Smokeout – Scott will attend the educational meeting on November 20, the day before the Smokeout. In addition we will have a speaker with a program from Area Substance Abuse Council Tobacco Prevention Program. The hypnotist was booked in Des Moines but sent literature on his services.

All 2003 board members will need to have brief bios to Scott by November 15 as that is the deadline for the December newsletter.

Newsletter for 2003 – Scott and Kendy will be transitioning out with Kendy doing so a little later. Both Scott and Kendy would like to work with whoever is going to take over as editor. Deb Loftsgard and Dot Sheldon would like to be co-editors. Kendy would like one person to be the contact. Scott will work with the new editors on the January newsletter and possibly the November one as well.

Dave Shafer is the person to contact if there is ever a problem with the GLRC Rainbow pages.

Christmas Caroling – Would like to have a group carol at the nursing homes, Clare House and Children's Ward. Need a write up for the newsletter. Can solicit requests for caroling for those who may be shut in and cannot get out. Will contact Tricia Kitzmann to see if she knows of anyone who would like to have carolers come out. Also, can get a write up for RAP newsletter.

ICAP and Philanthrofund grants should be known by next meeting. For the Philanthrofund, it would be nice to send a representative of the organization to pick up the grant at awards banquet.

Keys revisited – 3 main door keys – will ask for 4 keys for main door.

Additional funds for purchase of materials the conference Scott will be attending was declined. It was determined that there should be enough free literature that purchase of other items wouldn't be necessary.

Linda moved to set a budget of \$300 to update and add to our lending library with quarterly updates and reviews. Unanimously approved.

Scott moved to increase newsletter production to 650 copies temporarily through the March mailing, during which time the GLRC will do a postal review to determine the amount of "lost" copies. Unanimously approved.

Web Design – Tony Hansen will continue with web design. No longer can accept large files via his GLRC e-mail; would like all files put on FTP site. If he can no longer continue with web design, Tony will notify the GLRC in writing with a 30 day notice. However,

updates may be slow due to no longer being at School of Dentistry. Sue Hickerson would be willing to be trained as

she has the time and wanted to know if it would be feasible.

Linda moved that Tony purchase copy of Front Page from U of I that will be registered to the GLRC, who will reimburse Tony for the cost. Unanimously approved.

RAP World AIDS Dinner – Linda moved to purchase ten seats as done last year at the cost of \$400. Unanimously approved. The dinner is November 22. Members and their partners will be able to attend if they so desire.

Linda moved to support PFLAG through a Corporate Sponsorship of \$75.00 without reciprocal sponsorship necessary. Unanimously approved.

Lesbian Think Tank – Sue Hickerson was concerned with lack of interest in the Think Tank and wanted to advertise more in the *Resource Line*. Scott also advised free publication in the Penny Saver calendar. Sue

GLRC Mission Statement

Our purpose is to provide an information and referral center for the mutual support of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered persons, their families, friends, and allies, and the community at large.



will do an ad in a text box for the December newsletter.

Tony Hansen reviewed info to gradually move advertising and newsletter to electronic format that would save on printing and postage. We will also advise in the hard copy newsletter that is available online as well. In order to allow better consideration, Tony will provide 2003 board with different sized ads available and locations of where they may be placed for electronic copy. He will also put together a marketing proposal and deliver it to the new board, possibly at the next meeting.

Scott will send updates while at the conference.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM. Next meeting Monday, December 2



We Wish You a Merry Christmas
We Wish You a Merry Christmas
Christmas Caroling!!
The week before Christmas!
For more information, please call
366-2055 after December 6th.

Movie Night & Potluck

December 19, 2002 ~ 7:00 PM
In and Out



In this delightful comedy, Kevin Kline stars as a high school English

teacher outed as a gay man by a former student while accepting an Academy Award

Join the fun! Bring your favorite dish to share and bring a hearty appetite. The GLRC will furnish plates, utensils, and napkins. Soda is available for 50 cents a can at the Resource Center.

Movie night, hosted by Alan Frederickson, is FREE. Why not bring a friend? This is an "open event" and all ages are welcome! The GLRC is located at 305 2nd St. SE, Suite 324 (take elevator to 3rd floor).

Holiday Dinner Sponsored By The GLRC & Faith United Methodist Church

Don't know where to hang your hat for the holidays?
Join us for a **FREE** Holiday Dinner with
All the trimmings on Christmas Day!

Where: Faith United Methodist Church
1000 30th St NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

When: December 25, 2002 5:30 P.M.- 8:00 P.M.

Please RSVP
(319) 363-8454

Leave message in the "support line" mail box.



Meet the Board—(Continued from page 1)

and has been involved in the Rockwell-sponsored K-12 program. She would like to get more active in the GLBT community and hopes to get more community members involved with the GLRC.

Nancy Bernardi

Nancy is married to Jody Swarthout, aka JD Lesbiani, a local drag king. They have four cats, a daughter and a son-in-law. They are patiently (maybe not so patiently!) waiting for a grandbaby to spoil rotten - there's already a tiny pair of Dyke boots just in case!

Nancy has been out for a little over two years. She claims she still has a lot to learn, but feels she can help the community by volunteering her talents as needed. Nancy works at an

electronics plant writing work instructions for assembly operators to build circuit boards, a position she has held for the past fourteen years after spending eleven years working on the line. Nancy loves her job and her lead role in various special projects. She also enjoys diverse interests such as crafts, sewing (she makes JD's outfits for her performances), digital photography, and using the computer - for play and serious business alike.

Linda Davenport:

In Linda's own words, "I was fortunate enough to be re-elected for another term" to the GLRC Board of Directors. Her first year and a half on the board was spent as the treasurer, and for the last six months she has filled the position of president. Linda, a veteran teacher with 23 years of experience,

currently teaches students with special needs.

Linda is from the Dubuque area where she attended the University of Dubuque. Since then, she has lived in Clinton, Marion, and now, Newhall. After getting involved with the GLRC, Linda became involved with PFLAG Cedar Rapids, a relatively new chapter for the area, where she serves as vice president.

As a member of the GLRC board of directors, it is Linda's hope to see the GLRC reach out to all who may be struggling or questioning their sexuality, offer opportunities for involvement; and provide a safe environment for the GLBT community.

*(See the January issue of the **Resource Line** for the remaining introductions.)*

From Our L/G/B/T Community . . .

Women's Think Tank

By Sue Hickerson

Every year, year after year, in city after city, women who love women come out and do the hard, sincere work of talking down homophobia of every form, everywhere, even within ourselves, so that some day we can all be free.

Cedar Rapids is a wonderful city, but there is a fear and closeness here. From among us, quiet champions must step forward and do all they can to open closed minds, encourage the growth of gay/straight friendship, and make us safe from violence: emotional, physical, or ideological. We must create freedom. We must nurture inner esteem. This is the work of generations. We, now, will not complete the work. But if those of us who care deeply don't dedicate ourselves now to the work of change, change will never take place.

There are many actions that can be done to promote a thriving lesbian community within a supportive larger CR community. Some examples:

- Informative, supportive pamphlet for women and men coming out.
- Line up facilitator/supporters for women who are coming out.
- GLRC and PFLAG booth at all community events.
- Developing work situations for lesbians.
- Learning how to facilitate business startups.
- Sending informative materials on GLRC, PFLAG, etc. to relevant professionals.
- Raising consciousness within the lesbian community and the larger CR community.
- Activities with/for Arts Center, History Center, Science Center, Sports Arena, Nature Trails, etc.
- Research and speaking on healthy views of lesbianism, religious, psychological, spiritual.
- Declare a Cedar Rapids Gay-Straight Friendship Week with activities fun for both segments of the population.
- Pamphlet of responses to make to comments people might make against lesbians/homosexuals.
- Honorary Dyke Awards for straights who support the lesbian family affectionately and bravely.

The Women's Think Tank is the group where this work will be done persistently, sensitively and effectively. If you want to work for the well being of your sisters, this is the group for you.

For more information, contact Sue Hickerson, shickerson@crglrc.org. Meetings will be held the first Sunday of each month at the GLRC, 305 2nd St. SE, Ste. 324. First Meeting : January 5, 2003, 7 to 9 PM.

A Day With the Guys: Another Successful Retreat

By F. Joseph Wilson

It was another successful men's retreat sponsored by the Rapids AIDS Project (RAP). The full title of the event is the "RAP Lives Worth Living one-day rural retreat for gay and bisexual men," and


Saturday, October 26, 2002, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., was the fourth annual such event. The first three retreats were held on the first or second Saturday of October, but the fourth annual retreat was later in the month due to availability of the Woodpecker Lodge at Pinicon Ridge Park outside of Central City, Iowa. Site of the first retreat in October 1999, the Woodpecker Lodge was chosen as the best of all three sites used thus far. The Retreat Planning Committee decided to use it again, even though the retreat had to be held later in the month. It turned out to be a lucky date. While the weather had been unseasonably cold, cloudy and damp during most of the month, October 26 was a beautiful autumn day, ideal for a retreat in one of Iowa's most scenic rural areas!

A total of 32 men, representing a diverse group, participated in the retreat. As in previous years, there were men of all shapes, backgrounds, and ages, from their late twenties to their early seventies. The men were in all stages of the coming out process, from wallflowers to activists. Many participants came from larger cities, including Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Dubuque, Iowa City, and Waterloo, but there were also residents of smaller towns, including Nashua, Solon, Sumner, and Vinton. While most men were from eastern Iowa, a few drove from central Iowa cities, including Ames, Des Moines, and Nevada, and one came from as far away as Arnolds Park (Okoboji) in northwest Iowa.

While the annual Lives Worth Living retreat is not specifically for Iowans living with HIV, most retreats for gay and bisexual men include programming about HIV/AIDS, other sexually

Community (Continued on page 6)

PRIDE WORLDWIDE



SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2002
GREEN SQUARE PARK
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

**2003 Pride Fest
Planning Committee
Set to Meet:**

Date:
December 10, 2002

Time:
7:00 PM

Location:
GLRC
305 2nd Street SE
Cedar Rapids

Clare House Anniversary Open House



On November 6, Clare House hosted an anniversary open house celebration at the Ecumenical Center Meeting Room, 1035 Third Avenue

SE. This well-attended event marked the second anniversary of our new home purchase. Kathy Hall of Marian Arens Real Estate was very helpful at the time of purchase, and we will always be grateful for her expertise in helping us to find the perfect property.

The open house event offered a chance for board members, volunteers, donors, and other interested people to come to together

for fun and sharing of ideas. A buffet supper was served, which included chili, clam chowder, turkey, and a variety of salads and desserts. A pictorial display and a slide presentation offered information on history and mission of the organization.

Clare House is very grateful to be able to offer this housing service to all in need living with HIV/AIDS. If you would like more information about Clare House, or would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact the Clare House office at:

**PO Box 1183
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406
319-364-4101**

**GLBT & Friends
A.A. Support Group**
Here is an A.A. group
that meets the special needs of
our community.

Where:
**305 2nd Street SE, Suite 324
Cedar Rapids
319-366-2055**

When:
**Every Friday
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM**

Let's Stay Sober Together

Meeting Outline:

1. Meeting begins at 7:30 PM.
2. Moment of silence.
3. Announcements.
4. A.A. Preamble read.
5. Read from the A.A. "Big Book."
6. Smoke break at 8:15 PM.
7. Open discussion (no crosstalk).
8. Inspirational reading or A.A. twelve steps and traditions.
9. Group ends at 9:00 PM.
10. Serenity Prayer.

The Gay and Lesbian Resource Center of Cedar Rapids is a 501(c3) non-profit organization. As a sponsor of the GLRC, you can help us to continue providing information, referral, and support services to Cedar Rapids and surrounding communities. Become a part of the GLRC by sending your tax-deductible sponsorship donation today. In return, you will receive the GLRC's community newsletter, the *Resource Line*, delivered to your home or office each month to keep you informed of the latest community news.

Please make checks payable to: **GLRC of Cedar Rapids**

You may send your completed form
and sponsorship donation
(check or money order) to:

**GLRC of Cedar Rapids
P.O. Box 1643
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-1643**

Sponsorship Levels:

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Less than \$50 | Red Swirl | \$200 to \$349 | Green Swirl |
| \$50 to \$119 | Orange Swirl | \$350 to \$599 | Blue Swirl |
| \$120 to \$199 | Yellow Swirl | \$600 and above | Violet Swirl |

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Telephone: _____

Sponsorship Amount: _____

Help Improve AEGON's L/G/B/T Record Now!

A New York City man is looking for Cedar Rapids area employees of AEGON USA who are interested in improving the company's environment for L/G/B/T workers. AEGON USA is the third largest insurance company in America, and one of the largest employers in Cedar Rapids. However, unlike numbers one and two insurers Met Life and Prudential, or nearby Principal, AEGON does not offer its employees domestic partner benefits. In fact, AEGON only includes "sexual orientation" in its Equal Employment Opportunity statement in the states and

municipalities where it is legally required, and goes out of its way to omit the phrase in other jurisdictions.

Kenneth Lang is an employee of AEGON in New York City, where the company has a very small staff. Having co-founded an L/G/B/T employee organization at Pricewaterhouse-Coopers, which successfully campaigned for domestic partner benefits, Ken is now looking to effect change in the corporate culture at AEGON. He needs the help of concerned employees at the company's

headquarters in Cedar Rapids.

AEGON's parent company is based in the Netherlands, where same-sex marriage is legal. In 1999, AEGON acquired TransAmerica, headquartered in the famous TransAmerica Pyramid building in San Francisco. Ken thinks there should be plenty of allies for this effort, but needs to find the people to help make it happen. If you or anyone you know is interested, contact Ken via e-mail at kennlang@hotmail.com; via home phone at 718-388-3255; or via (direct) work phone at 212-448-8201.

Community—(Continued from page 4)
transmitted infections (STIs), and related sexual health issues. As at previous retreats, roughly a third of the participants openly self-identified as HIV+. Almost half of the men were single, the rest being involved in long-term relationships with other men. Several of the men had been married to

**Did
You
Know**



GLRC donations are tax deductible.

Have you made your donation this year?

You still have time!

women in the past, and a few of the men had children. About three-quarters of the men had attended at least one of the previous three retreats. Old friends spent some quality time together, and new friendships were made.

Among the featured presenters was Rob Nash, who also performed that evening at CSPA in Cedar Rapids. Nash led a session, "Claiming Our Stories," about telling tales, making memories, and

getting to know who you are. A native of Houston, Texas, and currently a New York resident, Nash is a unique young artist whose work includes epic high school dramedy, epic family tragedy, out stand-up comedy, and classes for writers and actors. An award-winning playwright, Nash is the author and performer of the acclaimed *Holy Cross Quadrilogy*, four full-length plays in which he plays a total of 26 characters. As one of the first out comics in America, Nash has been featured on *Stand-up Spotlight* on VH-1 with Rose O'Donnell, *Out There in Hollywood* on Comedy Central, and *Half Hour Comedy Specials* on HBO. His one-man play *Holy Cross Sucks* was recently scheduled for an off-Broadway production at New York's Revelation Theatre, opening in January 2003. The *New York Post* calls him a "writer and actor to watch." Nash was involved in the retreat thanks to Mel Andringa and John Herbert of Legion Arts, Iowa's leading presenter of queer artists since 1991, the organization that operates CSPA.

Dustin Jones led a discussion, "Life Beyond the Bar," about the organizations and resources available to gay and bisexual men in Iowa. Jones started working at RAP this past August, where he serves as Grants Data Administrator. He grew up in Cedar Rapids, graduated from Washington High School, and studied history at DePaul University in Chicago. Jones taught high school in Chicago for four years before returning to Cedar Rapids and taking a position at RAP.

Perennial retreat favorite Kevin Sitter, who has presented at three of the four Lives Worth Living retreats, led a session to show how making choices that are good for you can also be good for your community. Sitter is employed as coordinator for Clinic 42 at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis. With a background in social work and public health, Sitter has directed a variety of community programs serving gay men, high school students, health care workers, and people living with HIV/AIDS. He has published over fifty articles on such topics as coming out, men's health issues, and caring for people with AIDS.

Aside from a full schedule of sessions and other events, the \$10 retreat registration fee included a continental breakfast, a full lunch, other refreshments, and a packet featuring informational materials. Also available was the Wilson Resource Center display (formerly the Flierman Resources Ltd. display) featuring free and relevant cultural, social, political, and spiritual materials (fliers, quarter sheets, brochures, booklets, newsletters, etc.) on ongoing resources and upcoming events of interest to the queer community. At the end of the day, participant names were drawn for fabulous door prizes, including gift certificates, books, CDs, T-shirts, safer sex supplies, professional massages, and much more. All participants received at least one prize. All of this, plus an invigorating day of

Community—(Continued on page 8)

The Cedar Rapids Gay and Lesbian Resource Center & The Coe Alliance Present:

TREMBLING BEFORE G-D

Religion and Sexuality—two of today's most divisive issues—are the backdrop of the award-winning documentary film, **Trembling Before G-d**. Built around intimately-told personal stories of Hasidic and Orthodox Jews who are **gay or lesbian**, the film portrays a group of people who face a profound dilemma—how to reconcile their passionate love of Judaism and the Divine with the drastic Biblical prohibitions that forbid homosexuality.

Sandell DuBois, director and producer of Trembling Before G-d, brings a greater understanding of these complex issues to his audiences. Breaking down barriers and shattering stereotypes, he generates a dialog that helps **transcend our sexual and religious differences** and connect with one another on a human level. His lectures also include a screening of his controversial award-winning film.



Director and Producer
Sandell DuBois

AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD

for Best Documentary
at the Seattle Lesbian and
Gay Film Festival

THE MAYOR'S PRIZE for Jewish Experience
at Jerusalem Film Festival

GOLD PLAQUE for Best Documentary
at Chicago Film Festival

THE TEDDY AWARD
for Best Documentary
at Berlin Film Festival

THE GRAND JURY PRIZE for Best Documentary
at OUTFEST Los Angeles

Showing Dates & Times

January 23, 24, 25 @ 7:30 PM

Doors Open @ 7:00 PM - - Free Admission

Kessler Auditorium in Hickok Hall

For More Information Call GLRC: 319-366-2055

CSPS Calendar of Events ~ December, 2002

1103 Third Street SE ~ Cedar Rapids, IA 52401-2305 ~ 319-364-1580

All events at CSPS unless otherwise noted.

- Sunday, Dec. 1** Local artists, celebrities and students read from the holiday writings of a Cedar Rapids poet in *A Paul Engle Christmas*, at the Paul Engle Center for Neighborhood Arts, 2 - 5 PM.
- Thursday, Dec. 5** Silent Night, a Christmas concert by *Tribute* (Carol Montag, Kathy Donnelly, Nina Swanson and friends), 8 PM.
- Friday, Dec. 6**
- Tuesday, Dec. 10** Legion Arts Board of Directors meets, 5:30 - 7 PM.
- Friday, Dec. 13** A Celtic Christmas with some of Irish music's finest talents in *Bohola*, 8 PM.
- Tuesday, Dec. 17** In a special holiday concert, *Suzzy and Maggie Roche*, 8 PM.
- Wednesday, Dec. 18**

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networking opportunities in a relaxed, informal setting, was included in the small registration fee. A limited number of scholarships were also available, and nobody was turned away due to inability to pay.

The Lives Worth Living program was launched in 1997 by RAP. Committed to revitalizing and reinventing HIV prevention for Men who have Sex with Men (MSM), the effort started at the grassroots level with surveys, focus groups, targeted events, discussion groups, safer sex workshops, and educational brochures. The Lives Worth Living mission is to substantially reduce the number of new HIV infections in eastern Iowa MSM by building gay community and self-esteem, promoting communication, and nurturing a culture where MSM see their lives as worth living. Lives Worth Living is funded in part by a grant from the Iowa Department of Public Health.

The Retreat Planning Committee included some people who had served all four years and others who were new this year. Members included Shannon Decker (RAP), Mark Downing, Brandon Engmark, F. John Herbert (Legion Arts), Dustin Jones (RAP), Tricia Kitzmann (RAP), Kathy Luense (Linn County Public Health), Rexton Lynn, Jeffrey Moore, Phil Nickerson, Dick Spurlock (GLRC of Cedar Rapids), Chris Taylor (Iowa Department of Public Health), Traci Taylor (Planned Parenthood of

East Central Iowa), Andy Weigel (Johnson County Public Health), and F. Joseph Wilson (Wilson Resource Center). As in years past, it was Tricia Kitzmann, RAP Executive Director, who coordinated the planning and made it all possible. In previous years, Kitzmann has always left the retreat in the morning, after completing the setup process. This year she was talked into staying, and I believe her presence was not only welcome but appreciated. Given all the work she does for the Cedar Rapids area gay male community, Kitzmann is considered by many to be an honorary gay man.

KitzmannT@grantwood-redcross.org, and have her add you to the mailing list so you'll receive the retreat registration brochure each September.

Creating Change Conference Update

By Scott Alt

The 15th Annual Conference for Creating Change, held in Portland, Oregon in early November, attracted an estimated 2700 people and offered a similar quantity of educational information! Okay, I'm exaggerating a little, but the conference was very



Pictured at Closing Plenary Brunch: Scott, Sylvia from Reno, Nevada Center, and Bob, Executive Director from Las Vegas Center.

If you're an MSM, you should really consider attending the RAP Fifth Annual Lives Worth Living one-day rural retreat for gay and bisexual men in October 2003! If you think you might be interested, then contact Tricia Kitzmann at the Rapids AIDS Project at 319-393-9579 or

educating, with so many seminars that I wished videos could have been available for each of them. Instead, I had to make do with attending those that seemed most important to the GLRC and me. The ones I attended

Community—(Continued on page 9)

PFLAG Holiday Party & Elections Update:

Join us for a holiday party! Because PFLAG's regular meeting date in December falls on Christmas Eve, we will meet on Thursday, December 26 at 7 PM at Faith United Methodist Church. Please join us and bring a favorite holiday snack to share! And don't forget, PFLAG's annual meeting will be Tuesday, January 28 at 7 PM. We will discuss plans for the upcoming year and elect officers for 2003.

PRIDE CANDLEHOLDERS

*You saw them at the GLRC Pride Picnic
You saw them at the Coming Out Day Dance.
Now you can get your own set or one for your friends!
Just in time for Holiday presents for your family and friends!
Add a*



*to your Holidays with these hand-decorated candleholders
from PFLAG.*

Large holders - \$25

Small holders - \$22

For more information, call PFLAG at 399-2543

Or visit our website at

<http://www.geocities.com/pflagcr/Candleholders.html>

Community—(Continued from page 8)

focused on GLBT community centers, with details on the number of centers in the USA, the average budget for those centers, obstacles they face, how to apply for funding, youth programs and issues, tobacco cessation programs, board structure, fundraising strategies, and HIV testing in our centers.

One major thing that I noticed while attending this conference was the lack of discrimination among the conference attendees. All the people I met felt comfortable with themselves and their

identities. The conference gave me a chance to meet other people from Iowa like Rick, a board member from the Des Moines LGBT Center, Brad from the Quad Cities area, and some students from the Iowa State University LGBT Student Services group. I was asked to attend the Western Midwest regional meetings, as Iowa is grouped into this region along with North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Illinois, and Missouri. As it comes in, information about the next regional conference in Minnesota will be available.

If you ever attend a Creating Change

Conference, I recommend that you attend the plenary sessions. They were very powerful, educating, and rejuvenating. Speakers ranged Portland's Mayor Vera Katz, to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Lorri Jean, with speakers from as far away as Mexico and Nigeria.

I would like to thank the 2002 GLRC Board of Directors, along with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, for making it possible for me to be part of the Creating Change Conference. It was an experience I will never forget.



Come Celebrate Christmas

By Cindy Staton



Come celebrate Christmas with us at Faith United Methodist Church, a place where ALL are welcomed and embraced.

For those of you in our community who have been shamed, judged or excommunicated in the name of religion, we at Faith would like to extend an invitation to you to come and experience the unconditional love that Jesus extends to us all.

Many of us have been wounded by someone, or by a church doctrine that puts limits on God's love. We live in times that are very uncertain, but God's love is always certain and never failing. In this season of tinsel and gifts, let us help you focus once again on the real meaning of Christmas. As Mary gave birth to our Savior on that night so long ago; may we birth Him in our hearts and give Him to everyone.

Come home to Christmas. Come home to His love.

Faith United Methodist Church
1000 30th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
319-363-8454
Christmas Eve Service December 24th 6:30 PM

Holiday Rifts: The Empty-Chair Syndrome

By Brian Willoughby | Senior Writer,
Tolerance.org



November 18, 2002 -- The image is stark, simple: an empty chair at a Thanksgiving table. and it breaks Carolyn Wagner's heart.

Wagner, 49, lives in rural Arkansas, and she has experienced empty chairs at holiday tables firsthand. Her son, 22-year-old William, is gay. When William came out to the family at age 13, the Wagners were no longer welcome at Carolyn Wagner's in-laws' house for holiday meals.

"In our case, it was four empty chairs," said Wagner, whose entire family stopped going to the in-laws for holiday meals. "I never set foot in that home again."

Even if ostracized or outcast family members attend Thanksgiving, the chairs they sit in still may feel empty.

"Think of those chairs, the ones that have people physically sitting in them, but emotionally they feel alienated, very

alone, not knowing how to speak up, completely withdrawn," said Oakland, Calif.-based family counselor and author Sharon Ellison. "Those chairs are filled with a body but not with a soul."

That, said David Tseng, is the damage done by stereotypes and narrow-mindedness.

"Society should not be about tearing families apart or endorsing behaviors that isolate children from their parents," said Tseng, executive director of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays in Washington, D.C. "Society should be about doing everything it can to strengthen a family, to strengthen ties, and no time is more important than the holiday season."

Patchwork families

Tseng, son of a Chinese father and Ecuadorian mother, said he came out in the 1970s "not without some difficulty." But he has felt supported by his family and has not skipped holiday gatherings.

"It takes only a small amount of empathy to appreciate how difficult it must be," Tseng said. "I know how much my family means to me -- and how those emotions are magnified around the holidays."

Tseng's favorite time at Thanksgiving is being in the kitchen with his mother as she prepares the meal.

"We talk about simple things," he said. "Like, Do you have enough walnuts for the stuffing? Did we run out of ice cubes? How many leaves do we need to open up on the table?"

Such simple conversations are out of reach for those who are outcast or ostracized.

"The sharing of food at Thanksgiving is an American tradition," Tseng said. "It's part of our cultural fabric, as Americans, and when people don't feel welcome in their own homes, in their own families, you can hear that fabric start to tear."

'More empty chairs'

To mend that tear, some estranged family members create patchwork "families" of friends, colleagues and others.

"There are many ways to create nontraditional families," Tseng said. "That's OK for the occasion, and that's OK for life. It can be a very meaningful approach to self-empowerment to say,

Holiday Rifts—(Continued on page 11)

Women's Music Festival Update

29th Annual National Women's Music Festival, June 5–8, 2003

Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana

Check out the exciting programming changes to take place at the 2003 NWMF:

- We're back to a 4-day festival (June 5–8), with intensive workshops on Thursday afternoon. Registration opens at 10 AM; Marketplace Shoppes open from 2 to 6 PM; Mainstage is from 7:30 to 10:30 PM.
- The SheRocks! concert moves to Friday night (June 6) in the Emens Auditorium.
- Mainstage on Friday night (June 6)

moves to Pruis Auditorium and features regional choruses performing at their best, with a few of your favorite headliners joining the choruses for a number or two.

- The live auction moves to Saturday (June 7) from 2:30 to 4:30 PM in the Irving Gym, so you don't have to choose between checking out of your dorm room on time and attending this wildly fun auction.
- Our first-ever drag king show is Saturday night (June 7) at the Pruis Auditorium. Come and see why this phenomenon is sweeping the country with its popularity!

Keep checking our website for more updates as our plans unfold and performers are booked over the next few months.

www.wiaonline.org/nwmf

Join us at next year's National Women's Music Festival and "Be as B.A.D. as you can be in 2003!"



Summit Addresses GLBT Smoking Habits

David Ryan Alexander,
Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network

Approximately 115 people attended the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Intersex Tobacco Control and Research Summit on Monday in San Francisco, addressing tobacco use in the GLBT community and the tobacco industry's marketing to the community.

Summit organizer **Elise Lindborg** spoke at the event about documents discovered by the American Lung Association about an R.J. Reynolds project of "subculture urban marketing," titled "Project SCUM." According to the documents, one of the groups specifically targeted by the marketing initiative were gays in the

Castro district of San Francisco.

"They don't really care about the community; they just want to sell their product and make a profit," she said.

A spokesman for R.J. Reynolds, David Howard, replied, "We look to reach a diverse audience, and so we have equally diverse marketing behind each of our brands. We want to reach as wide an audience of adult smokers as possible."

Lindborg said that one of the only bits of data on smoking in the GLBT community is a study done at the University of California at San Francisco, the results of which showed that approximately 48 percent of gay men smoke, nearly twice that of the 28 percent of straight men who

smoke.

The Gay American Smokeout intends to raise awareness of tobacco issues and risks in the GLBT community "and hopefully convince some people to quit smoking," said Lindborg.

This is the first year that the summit was held. Lindborg stated that, due to the unexpectedly large turnout at this year's summit, it will most likely become an annual event.

Editor's Note: Scott Alt met Elise Lindborg (mentioned in this article) while at the Creating Change Conference in Portland, Oregon. She plans to use the Cedar Rapids Gay American Smoke Out Poster as part of the Gay American Smoke Out Campaign.

Holiday Rifts—(Continued from page 10)

"No my family doesn't look like that; it looks like this."

Wagner, though, said younger people don't necessarily have that option. What does a 13-year-old do when Grandma and Grandpa don't want him at the holiday table?

Wagner's answer: "We stayed home and have created new family traditions for the holidays."

Those traditions include inviting others to share holiday meals at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter -- anyone pained by or estranged from their own families. Such patchwork gatherings, though, still can be painful.

"It's meant to replace the family, but it doesn't, not really," said Sam Thoron of San Francisco, a 63-year-old father of three whose daughter came out in 1990 at age 19. "We are programmed to please our parents, and when that doesn't happen, it's always a certain sadness."

Thoron's daughter comfortably attends family holiday gatherings, but he knows others who don't.

"A lovely couple, two young women who basically can't go home," he said. "There's another empty place at Thanksgiving, two more empty chairs."

'Grounded in love'

Thoron said parents of people in the gay,

lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community need to educate themselves about such issues.

"When my daughter came out, I realized very quickly that she hadn't changed essentially," he said. "Her coming out was not a problem for us, but it was new information and we needed help dealing with it."

He encourages parents to be open to such new information.

"Children do need to allow their parents time and space to deal with this, but parents need to do the work," Thoron said. "The families I've seen who changed, they're the families who have been open

Holiday Rifts—(Continued on page 12)

FDA Approves New Rapid HIV Test Kit

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson today announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved a new rapid HIV diagnostic test kit that provides results with 99.6 percent accuracy in as little as 20 minutes.

Using less than a drop of blood collected, this new test can quickly and reliably detect antibodies to HIV-1, the HIV virus that causes infection in most cases in the U.S. Unlike other antibody tests for HIV, this test can be stored at room temperature, requires no specialized equipment, and may be considered for use outside of traditional laboratory or clinical settings. The newly approved HIV test is called The OraQuick Rapid HIV-1 Antibody Test, manufactured by OraSure Technologies, Inc., Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

To perform the test, a fingerstick sample of blood is collected from an individual and transferred to a vial where it is mixed with a developing solution. The test device, which resembles a dipstick, is then inserted into the vial. In as little as 20 minutes, the test device will indicate if HIV-1 antibodies are present in the solution by displaying two reddish-purple lines in a small window on the device. Although the results of rapid screenings will be reported in point-of-care settings, as with all screening tests for HIV, if the OraQuick test gives a reactive test result, that result must be confirmed with an additional specific test. The OraQuick test has not been approved to screen blood donors.

FDA currently categorizes the OraQuick test as "moderate complexity" under the Clinical Laboratory Improvements Amendments of 1988 (CLIA). Under CLIA, new tests are categorized as either moderate or high complexity. This designation means that the OraQuick test can only be given in CLIA-approved labs by CLIA-certified laboratory technicians or medical staff. If the test manufacturer applies for a CLIA waiver, the FDA can evaluate it for use under less stringent conditions.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has estimated that one fourth of the approximately 900,000 HIV-infected people in the U.S. are not aware that they are infected. Because of the potential public health benefits of rapid HIV testing, the CDC and the

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are working with state and other health officials to make the test widely available and to offer technical assistance and counseling training for its use.

"This test will be a great help in identifying pregnant HIV-infected women going into labor who were not tested during pregnancy so that precautionary steps can be taken to block their newborns from being infected with HIV," said FDA Deputy Commissioner Dr. Lester M. Crawford. "It will also be a critical resource in helping identify HIV infection in health-care and emergency workers who are accidentally exposed to HIV-infected blood while doing their job."

December Fun Night

December 21, 2002
7:00 - 11:00 PM

GLRC
305 2nd Street SE
Suite 324

Bring a small gift to exchange (\$5-\$7)

Holiday Rifts—(Continued from page 11)
to new information."

Other families, though, are anything but open, reacting instead with anger and sometimes violence.

Wagner, co-founder of Families United Against Hate, has become a resource for young people in Arkansas' gay and lesbian community. She recalled one case when a 15-year-old girl called her for help during the holidays.

"Her daddy had attended (church) service and decided he could beat the lesbianism out of her," Wagner said.

That teenager survived, but Wagner said she knows other cases in which the pain of estrangement led to suicide among young people.

Thoron, too, said death sometimes comes instead of healing.


"I know families who would not let their (gay) sons be buried in the family plot," he said. "That's the ultimate empty seat at Thanksgiving."

Thoron said he sees many families who avoid discussing the issues. Such silences sustain the rifts, he said.

"Unless we can talk about it, unless we

can educate one another, unless we can humanize the issue and stop 'other'-ing people, unless we can do all that, it gives us an excuse for maintaining it," Thoron said.

"The best answer is grounded in love," added Tseng. "There are moms and dads across the country who love their kids no matter what, even when they don't understand completely. It is their love that guides them through the conversation, through the meal, through the weekend. If you're coming from that place, a place of love, you stand a much better chance of creating a healthy and loving environment for everyone."



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Faith United Methodist Church

1000 30th St NE
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319-363-8454

Sunday Services: 11:00 am

www.crfaithumc.org

"We proclaim that all persons are individuals of sacred worth in the sight of God."




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*Best wishes to you
and your loved ones
for a peaceful and joyous
holiday season*



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December 2002

GLRC and Community Events

All calendar events are held at the GLRC unless otherwise specified.
See the Area Resource List for other location addresses.
CSPS events are listed on Page 8.

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| 1 This Way Out AM 910 WSUI 10 PM | 2 GLRC Board Meeting 6 PM | 3 | 4 Women's Group hosted by Lorma Lang 6:30 - 8:30 PM | 5 Open House hosted by Alan Fredericksen 7- 9 PM | 6 AA Support Group 6-7:30 PM | 7 |
| 8 This Way Out AM 910 WSUI 10 PM | 9 Open House hosted by Sue Hickerson 7- 9 PM | 10 PrideFest Planning Meeting 7 PM | 11 | 12 Open House hosted by Alan Fredericksen 7- 9 PM | 13 AA Support Group 6-7:30 PM | 14 OWLs Potluck Faith UMC 6 PM |
| 15 This Way Out AM 910 WSUI 10 PM | 16 Open House hosted by Sue Hickerson 7- 9 PM | 17 | 18 | 19 Movie Night and Potluck 7- 9 PM | 20 AA Support Group 6-7:30 PM | 21 Fun Night 7- 11 PM Bring gift to exchange |
| 22 This Way Out AM 910 WSUI 10 PM | 23 Open House hosted by Sue Hickerson 7- 9 PM | 24 | 25 | 26 Open House hosted by Alan Fredericksen 7- 9 PM PFLAG Holiday Party, Monthly Mtg - Faith UMC 7 PM | 27 AA Support Group 6-7:30 PM | 28 |
| 29 This Way Out AM 910 WSUI 10 PM | 30 Open House hosted by Sue Hickerson 7- 9 PM | 31 | December Office Hours: Tuesdays 8:30 AM—5 PM | | | |

Area Resource List

See our Rainbow Pages (<http://www.crglrc.org/rainbow>)

for more listings for counselors, restaurants, youth information, other social support offerings, and miscellaneous organizations.

BUSINESS SERVICES

Kathy Hall, Realtor
Marian Arens & Associates
319-362-9111 (Business)
319-269-0024 (Home)

Brian E. Martin, Realtor
WHY USA – Advantage Realty
319-393-9070 (Business)
319-364-3777 (Home)
WHYUSA1@aol.com

Hanna B. Weston, Attorney-at-Law
305 2nd St. SE, Suite 420
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
319-366-7796

ENTERTAINMENT

Alley Cat
13 South Linn St. (in the alley between
Linn & Dubuque)
Iowa City, IA 52240
319-356-6969

Club Basix
3916 1st Ave NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
319-363-3194

CSPS (Community Arts Center)
1103 3rd St. SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
319-364-1580

One Flite Up
44-48 Main St.
Dubuque, IA 52001
563-582-8357

The Metro
GLBT Bar
510 Mulberry (between 4th & Park)
Waterloo, IA 50703
319-232-2239

HEALTH

AIDS Interfaith Network of Eastern IA
1621 East 4th St.
Waterloo, IA 50703

Cedar Rapids Clinic for Women
Health care services by women, for
women. Serving Cedar Rapids and
Eastern Iowa since 1976. Gynecological
exams, STD testing and treatment. All
services **confidential**.
4089 21st Ave. SW Suite 211
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
319-390-4342

**Iowa Center for AIDS Resources &
Education (ICARE)**
321 East First St.
Iowa City, IA 52240
(319) 338-2135 or info@icare-ia.org
www.icare-ia.org

Iowa City Free Medical Clinic
Free Confidential HIV Testing
120 North Dubuque St.
Iowa City, IA 52245
319-377-4459

HEALTH

Linn County Health Department
Free Confidential HIV Testing
501 13th St. NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405
319-892-6000

Planned Parenthood East Central Iowa
Confidential STD Testing & Treatment
for Men and Women
Full Gynecological Exams for Women
1500 2nd Ave. SE Suite 100
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
319-363-8572
www.plannedparenthood.org

Rapid AIDS Project
Lives Worth Living Program
Women's Voices Program
3601 42nd St. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
319-393-9579 or rap@crossnet.org
www.redcross.org/ia/cedarrap/rap.html

PUBLICATIONS

ACCESSLine
Iowa's Newspaper for LGBT
c/o ACCESS in Northeast Iowa
PO Box 1682
Waterloo, IA 50704
319-232-6805 or access@forbin.net

Resource Line
GLRC Monthly Newsletter
PO Box 1643
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-1643
319-366-2055 or info@crglrc.org

SOCIAL/SUPPORT

Coe Alliance
Weekly Meetings & Events
www.coe.edu/organizations/alliance
319-399-8594 or jchaimov@coe.edu

GLRC of Cedar Rapids
Open House Every Mon & Thurs Night
305 2nd St. SE, Suite 324
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
319-366-2055 or info@crglrc.org
www.crglrc.org

GraDykes
Iowa City, IA
For bi/les/queer/dyke identified women
in Grad School
319-337-7661

OWLS
Older & Wiser Lesbians
Monthly Potluck & Social
319-366-2529

SpiritHill Women's Retreat
Info, counseling, Women's Dance on
1st Saturday of each month
319-643-2613

UNITY
GLBT Club for Students at Kirkwood
Community College in CR
Julia Haseleu
Jhasele@kirkwood.cc.ia.us

SPIRITUAL / WORSHIP

Faith United Methodist Church
A Reconciling Congregation Worship
Service at 11 AM
1000 30th St. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
319-363-8454
www.crfaihtumc.org

Pathways of Light Spiritual College
Rev. Lorma Lang, O.M.C.
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& other ceremonies
Relationship Counseling for Couples &
Individuals, and Study Groups
319-447-5729

Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation Forum at
10 AM, Worship Service at 11 AM
600 3rd Ave. SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
319-362-9827
www.peoples.cedarrapids.uus.org

Unity Center of Cedar Rapids
Rev. Thelma Hembroff
Sunday Service 10 AM
3791 Blairs Ferry Road NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
319-393-5422 or
319-393-6837 (*dial-a-prayer*)
www.unitycr.org

SUPPORT

Clare House
Independent Living for people with
HIV/AIDS
PO Box 1183
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-1183
319-364-4101

GLBT AA Meeting
Fridays 6-7:30 PM at GLRC
305 2nd St. SE, Suite 324

Iowa Artistry
Transgender Support
PO Box 11093
Cedar Rapids, IA 52410
IowaArtistry@tgforum.com
www.transgender.org/iaar/index.html

Men's Support Group
Call 319-393-9579 for information.

PFLAG
Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays
4th Tuesday of every month
Faith United Methodist Church
1000 30th St. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
319-399-2543 or PFlagcr@yahoo.com
www.geocities.com/pflagcr

Women's Chat Support Group
1st Wednesday of every month
6:30 - 8:30 PM at GLRC
305 2nd St. SE, Suite 324
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
319-366-2055

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