

SLANT

T H E L A A P I S B I - M O N T H L Y N E W S L E T T E R

VOLUME FOUR NUMBER THREE • JAN/FEB 1997

L • A • A • P • I • S Meeting/Potluck

Sunday, January 5

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Katherine's House

1759 Sunny Heights Drive

Eagle Rock, Los Angeles

(213) 225-8785

Bird, Box and Frog: Here's your chance to learn how to fold a bird with wings that flap, a box that inflates into a balloon, and a frog that jumps somersaults.

DIRECTIONS:

from San Fernando Valley:

East 101, East 134, South 5, North 2 exit San Fernando Road (right turn) left at Cazador, right Cypress, left Division, right Sunny Height Drive.

from Orange County:

North 5, exit Figueroa, left Avenue 26, right Figueroa, left Cypress, right Division, right Sunny Height Drive.

from L.A.:

North 110, exit Figueroa, right Figueroa, left Avenue 26 which changes into San Fernando, right Division, right Sunny Height Drive.

If you are unsure about directions check your Thomas Guide or call.

Happy New Year!

The board of LAAPIS would like to wish our community best wishes for a fulfilling, exciting, and joyful 1997 to come. While you're making your New Year's resolutions and deciding which charities to give to this year, keep LAAPIS in mind. We're not United Way or the American Cancer Society. We don't have a zillion donors on our lists, we're not in any millionaires' wills, we have no trillion-dollar marketing campaign, and we're not funded by the government.

We're just a grass-roots organization trying to keep the integrity and continuity of our MUCH NEEDED programs alive. There are still many Asian and Pacific Islander lesbian and bisexual women out there who haven't heard of LAAPIS. Women and their families who need support, advocacy, education, and empowerment. Some who may not have the financial resources to access something as simple as a Lunar New Year banquet. The LAAPIS

board and other volunteers work hard to keep events, workshops, and other happenings as affordable as possible for the community it serves. Many have donated endless amounts of time, sweat, and skills to keep LAAPIS running.

Keep LAAPIS growing, dynamic, and relevant to the community. IF YOU CAN GIVE JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE this holiday season and this coming year, we'll be eternally grateful. You can even earmark your funds for specific programs, such as the mentor program, newsletter, outreach and education, or support group. Or even as financial aid for a needy woman who would like to come to a LAAPIS banquet. NO ONE in LAAPIS gets PAID to keep it going; all funds go to printing, advertising, supplies, outreach costs, educationally-related materials, etc., etc. Whatever you can give, whether it's time, money, or support, LAAPIS thanks you and wishes you and your family a wonderful new year.

Yes, I can help LAAPIS a little bit more this year!

I'm including a check or money order (made out to LAAPIS) for...

☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other_____

*I'd like to specifically fund*_____

I would like to be acknowledged in the newsletter ☐ yes ☐ no

Send to: LAAPIS, P.O. Box 86484, Los Angeles, CA 90086-0484

P.S. Donations are not tax-deductible...yet.

L·A·A·P·I·S



SUPPORT/CHAT GROUP

**Join Grace and Mia for two
hours of lively conversation
on anything and everything.
Come check us out!**

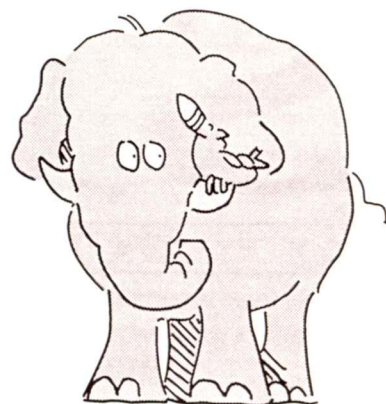
LOCATION: The Gay and Lesbian Center
1625 N. Schrader Blvd.
(Major cross streets are
Sunset and Cahuenga in
Hollywood)

DATE & TIME: Wednesday,
January 8, 1997
8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

**(Two-dollar donation request-
ed but not required.) Please
call Grace on the LAAPIS
Hotline for more information
(213) 969-4084.**

White Elephant Party

BY JEM



Did you ever receive a gift so tacky you wanted to sue the giver for emotional distress? We're talking outrageously ugly here—you know, gifts like that Christmas classic, the Chia Pet, whose mossy foliage turns wintry gray before spring even sets in. Or that pair of neon-pink fuzzy dice that now keeps your hamster warm in kind of a hairy menage-a-trois. How about that plastic Hawaiian figurine with a head that bobs along with the throbbing bass from your car stereo? And for sheer uselessness, it's hard to beat the "Hotdogger," a torture chamber of metal device that 'cooks' hot-dogs to soggy, wrinkly perfection, then takes years to clean. In other words, the tackiest, ugliest, and wackiest contraptions you can ever hope to find in that vast netherworld called "gift hell."

Well, now there's another place for them, and it's called the "White Elephant Party." Not for the weak of heart, this gift exchange will pit ugly against horrendous. It's definitely not for those who are courting sainthood with that cliché, "It's the thought that counts." No, we want none of those new-age, feel-good statements dripping with faux sincerity. We want your tired, your old, your useless junk to pass around and laugh at during this fun and wild event, which will also feature food, music, games and a bunch of nice, maybe even cute, women.

Why "white elephant?" Heck if we know. All we know is, don't even try to cram Dumbo into your Yugo. Just wrap the darn gift and bring it on:

Saturday, January 11
3 p.m.

Jo and Theresa's Place
460 Oak Street, #220
(Cor. Pacific, right behind the
Galleria parking lot)
Glendale, CA 91204
(818) 247-3769

Oh, and did we mention it's potluck? Please call Ronnie at (818) 281-2830 to let her know what you're bringing. And ladies, let's be adults about this. Don't try that old trick of passing off a sprig of rosemary as potroast. If you must partake, please contribute.

DIRECTIONS:

From either 5 North or 5 South, exit Colorado Street, left on first stop light (Pacific), right on first street (Oak).

From 134 East, exit Pacific and turn right, left on Oak (one block before Colorado).

From 134 West, exit Pacific and turn left, left on Oak (one block before Colorado).

First apartment building on your right.
Buzz #31 to get in.

The Minutes from the New Board Meeting

Committee heads at pre-meeting should be punctual; attendance (self or alternate) is very important.

Committee schedule:

- Support: Both attend usually at the Center (Mia & Grace)
- Financial: As needed, but might have monthly
- Social: Monthly (maybe)
- Outreach: Volunteers per event.
Break down to 4 sub-committees
 - 1) Political
 - 2) Special Events
 - 3) Workshops/Education
 - 4) Outreach

Looking for an Outreach committee. Meeting with Connie who will still help/serve as resource.

Outreach manual in progress.

January workshop ideas: Mechanic or Contractor (need to confirm).

LAAPIS Archives: We will be applying for the space in ACW. Cost will be \$50.00 per month but not if we commit to 1-2 fundraisers/year to help fund the space.

Lee Ann will be our Secretary/ Historian.

501c3 Status: Will be submitting to the State & Federal.

Proofread the by-laws before January 1997(from Karen per Teri).

Changes in by-laws: Add Support, Newsletter, Mentor (will make 10 total Board members).

Budget: "Lack of Funds" Stipend or Sponsor someone else (Angel Fund). Vote on Creation of Outreach/Installment Event stipend: YES

Co-chairs will get Meeting & Workshop information to Teri each month.

Guidelines for the monthly meeting will be written by Cypress.



Sunny Kim's
Korean Barbecue

Every newsletter will feature someone's favorite recipe or concoction. Send your recipes to the LAAPIS address.

You need 3 lbs. of short ribs, wash well and dry with paper towels

Ingredients for the marinade:

- 1 cup of seven up, to tenderize meat
- 2 tablespoon of sesame oil
- 1/4 cup of brown sugar
- 1 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 8 cloves of garlic, pound into a paste for more flavor
- 1 tablespoon of ginger, pound into a paste for more flavor
- 2 tablespoons of sesame seeds
- 6 green onions, cut into fourths
- 1/4 teaspoon of pepper
- Add salt to your preference

In a large bowl (big enough for the ribs) combine the ingredients of the marinade and mix together well.

Add the meat to the marinade, with clean hands and rub the marinade into the meat until it is well-coated.

Cover the bowl and leave it in the refrigerator allowing the meat to marinate for at least 4 hours. I, myself, prefer not to marinate the meat overnight, it doesn't taste as fresh.

When you are ready to barbecue the meat, remove the chunks of the marinade off the meat for the best barbecuing results.

Enjoy your Korean barbecue with a fresh pot of hot rice and some kim chee or what ever you prefer to eat it with.

You may want to vary the ingredients to your own taste. Have fun and enjoy!

— Sunny Kim

"I Will Survive" Update

CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU to all LAAPIS members & supporters! The "I WILL SURVIVE" fundraising dance on October 27 was a GREAT SUCCESS! With the help of everyone's contributions and donations, over \$27,000 in proceeds were raised for Asian AIDS wellness and education. And for our collaboration in the planning and coordination of the event, LAAPIS received \$1900.

Thank you to:

APLA—AIDS Project Los Angeles

Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Caucus

APAIT—Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team

Barangay—The Gay Filipino Association of Los Angeles

GAPSN—Gay Asian Pacific Support Network

JACL—Japanese American Citizens League, Lambda Chapter

Special thanks to all the LAAPIS volunteers who donated their time and effort:

Cypress, Nancy, Kim, Rita, May, Di, Sunny, Jiyon, Miyabi, Le, Celeste

Ethnic Surveys

Dilemma.
Want to claim my identity.
"Please check only one box."
I cannot.
Choose only one?
Which one?
Minutes pass.
Ate Chinese food today.
Choose "Chinese/Chinese American?"
Not just Chinese.
Choose "Other Asian?"
Hung out with white friends earlier.
Choose "Caucasian?"
Not really me.
Choose "Other?"
No box for me.
Frustrated.
More minutes pass.
Which will give me the better advantage?
Finally choose one.
Misrepresentation.
Not happy.
Why?
Not my choice.
Does not reflect my identity.
I am biracial and multi-ethnic.

Rita A. Schack

Slight variation from piece included
in the 1993 uc san diego,
"moving the mountains"
asian american women's journal.

L · A · A · P · I · S Announcements

LAAPIS Workshop

Hey, all you bi/multi-racial, mixed heritage, mixed race, or whatever you want to call yourselves out there. Want to help put together a workshop for the greater LAAPIS membership on our lives and experiences as API mixed heritage women? Leave a message on the LAAPIS voicemail (213) 969-4084 and call you right back.

Take a Hike

Need a break from the indoors? Going nowhere on that Stairmaster? Cure your claustrophobia and enjoy nature by taking a hike once every month with LAAPIS' Hiking Group. Explore the trails of Santa Monica Mountains, Mt. Wilson in La Canada, and Griffith Park (to name just a few) with some of our funniest and friendliest members. The first hike will be on Sunday, January 26 at 9 a.m. and we'll meet in front of the Pony Ride ticket booth in Griffith Park (follow your nose!). Date and location of the February hike to be announced in the next newsletter. Questions? Call the LAAPIS Hotline at (213) 969-4084.

Directions to Griffith Park Trail:

From 5 North, exit Los Feliz Boulevard and make a left, right on first stop light (Riverdale), first parking lot on your right (immediately after you enter the park)

From 5 South, exit Los Feliz Boulevard West, right on first stop light (Riverdale), first parking lot on your right (immediately after you enter the park)

Looking to get involved in 1997?

The Outreach and Education Committee is looking for folks to help out with any part of the following components:

Education: Coordinating educational workshops or seminars (like those great workshops during LAAPIS meetings!), panel discussions at conferences, and sensitivity trainings for other organizations.

Outreach: Coordinating outreach at festivals (like Gay Pride!), conferences, university events; acting as liaison between LAAPIS and other bisexual, gay, and lesbian groups.

Political: Coordinating LAAPIS' participation in political events or rallies; disseminating information on relevant political issues to the LAAPIS community.

Special Projects: Coordinating LAAPIS participation in Asian Pacific Heritage Month, International Women's Day, etc.

You don't have to do it all! Take on a one day project or help out in a big project. It's actually a lot of fun and glamorous as well as FULFILLING. Want more info? Call us at (213) 969-4084 or e-mail at LAAPIS@aol.com

Spit it Out!

by Gabby Wu*

Hello, folks! As we start another great year, we find that leftover problems from 1996 still haunt us. Why didn't they get tossed out with the rest of those empty gift boxes and crumpled red-green wrapping paper? Why are we compelled to re-examine every aspect of our lives every time January 1st rolls around? Holiday Melancholia lingers and here's what some of us have to say...

Q It's getting much harder to hide my sexuality with my co-workers. Although I sense they're open-minded people and will accept me as I am, I still feel uncomfortable disclosing. I know I would be able to breathe easier and rid myself of that ugly, heavy feeling yet I can't find the courage to come out.

A *Coming out is, for the most part, a matter of timing—both for the person you're coming out to and for you. It seems like your co-workers are accepting and rejection from them is quite unlikely. Anytime is probably the best time to tell them. However, you sound like you're not emotionally ready to reveal something very personal. That's OK. Having that "ugly, heavy feeling" surely is unpleasant but I recommend against rushing into things just to "get it over with." Take your time until you feel comfortable and have considered all the ramifications that may come about from your coming out. Good luck on your endeavor!*

Q I recently got into a relationship that seems to be the best among all the ones I've had in the past. My girlfriend is funny, smart, attractive, and a great companion. However, my friends started to drift away from me and have openly made some comments that really upset me. You see, my girlfriend is Caucasian and they couldn't deal with that. I'm not a sellout, I love my girlfriend, and I value my friendship with them. But it seems like they're making me choose between her and them. I find all this childish and ridiculous. What should I do?

A *Your friends' reaction do seem immature if the only reason why they're avoiding you is because of your new girlfriend's skin color. However, you might want to think about other reasons, as well. Have you spent some time with them lately? They probably feel left out since you've gotten into this relationship and the big deal about your lover being Caucasian is just an excuse to get your attention. Talk to them about the situation, how you feel, and find out what the real issue is. Choosing between your girlfriend and your friends will hopefully become unnecessary once you open up the lines of communication again.*

*"Gabby Wu" is a pen name.

The Top 10 Reasons Last Night's Date Was a Failure

10.

Dinner reservations at Barney's Beanery.

9.

Putting chopsticks in your nose doesn't go over so well since getting a BA.

8.

You woke up in a tu-tu, a cowboy hat, and scuba flippers - but where the hell is your hockey mask?

7.

Losing that Happy Meal prize to your date in an arm-wrestling contest kind of put a damper on the rest of the evening.

6.

Her job as an Elvis impersonator didn't bother you until you discovered the sideburns are real.

5.

The only tongue you got was at the Chinese restaurant.

4.

You thought your date went to the bathroom, but you found her in the back washing dishes.

3.

It was a double date with her ex.

2.

Your date was featured on "American's Most Wanted" and they picked last night to arrest her on live TV.

and the Number **1** Reason Last Night's Date Was a Failure...

You found out your date was really a drag queen and he thought you were a boy.

Submit your own top ten list ideas or suggestions.

Mission Statement

LAAPIS seeks to provide an environment of advocacy, support, and affirmation for API/mixed heritage women, including API transgenders (male-to-female) who identify as lesbian, bisexual, queer, gay or women loving women.

Disclaimer:

"Any view or opinion expressed by any individual in this newsletter is not necessarily a reflection of the view and opinion of LAAPIS."

Membership Guidelines:

LAAPIS is comprised of voting and non-voting members. Lesbian and bisexual women of Asian and/or Pacific Islander/mixed heritage, are voting members, and have the right to vote during elections, general meetings, and on issues affecting LAAPIS. All events are open to voting members. LAAPIS offices can only be occupied by voting members. Those persons who are male, heterosexual, or of non-API descent are non-voting members who support LAAPIS' mission. Support members are welcome to events designated as "open." LAAPIS discussion/rap groups, monthly general meetings, and some events and workshops are closed to support members, unless otherwise stated. The annual membership cost of \$20 for general, and \$10 for students or for those facing financial hardship, includes a bi-monthly newsletter for all members.

Submissions

Of course you may send in your own writing! If you have a poem, a viewpoint, or want to slam an article we published, send it in. Compliments would be great, too. Here are the rules: (1) You must give us your full name but won't print it if you request anonymity; (2) You must provide us with some way of contacting you, i.e., address, phone number, email address, etc.; (3) We reserve the right to edit your work for clarity or length, or to withhold its publication. Send your ponderings to:

LAAPIS

Attention: Newsletter

P.O. Box 86484

Los Angeles, CA 90086-0484

or, email to: laapis@aol.com

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