

COMING UP!

December, 1981

Largest Lesbian/Gay Circulation in the Bay Area

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Sarah Tomateo, ace face-painter joins singer-songwriter Kate Wolf, the Dancing Dill Pickles, the Screaming Meemies, plus many other entertainers and over 300 skilled artisans at the 11th Annual KPFA Holiday Crafts Fair Dec 5th & 6th and 12th & 13th from 10am-6pm at the Pauley Ballroom in the Student Union Bldg at UC Berkeley. And on this side of the Bay there's the Winter Women's Art & Crafts Fair '81 — exquisite, affordable handcrafted gifts, scrumptious foods and joyous entertainment, December 5th & 6th, same time. There's more info inside on our centerfold calendar.

KEEP COMING UP! COMING OUT!

In the 25 months of *Coming Up!*'s operation, the community has seen massive changes take place in the paper. What began as a four page calendar of events has grown into a 12-page community resource, with a distribution of 23,000 copies.

In addition to three full pages of calendar listings, *Coming Up!* covers events and issues that reach out to very facet of the gay and lesbian communities from Gay Rodeo to the Women's Music Festival, from Poppers to the Family Protection Act, from Cabaret to lesbian-feminist theatre, and much much more.

To serve the entire community, we had to grow — and we had to grow quickly so we could arrive at a size that would pay for ourselves. In fact, our last several issues have covered expenses, but it costs us a lot to make the expansion, and now those debts have caught up with us.

We owe almost ten thousand dollars in expansion costs, although this is a lot of money for us as a not-for-profit corporation, we know that it's a drop in the bucket when we consider the tens of thousands of you who read us each month. That's why we're staking our future on your support.

We're asking you to take a chance in the First Great *Coming Up!* Raffle, our first major fundraiser. The Grand Prize is a trip for two to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, roundtrip airfare and accommodations included — plus there are hundreds of other prizes. A donation of \$1 per ticket is requested, or \$10 for 12 tickets. Although you don't have to be there to win the raffle, your attendance at our *Coming Up!* Benefit Party Friday, December 4th, from 7pm-1am, will also help us retire our debt. For only a \$5 donation you'll see a preview performance of a new musical revue *A Fine Romance*, featuring the songs of Jerome Kern, hear the jazz sounds of Swingshill, laugh as Tom

Ammano comes out as a stand-up comic; and be able to play BINGO with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Plus, you'll be there for the drawing for the Raffle, culminating in the Grand Prize Drawing at the stroke of midnight. You can buy raffle tickets at our office, 2120 Market St., Room 104 in San Francisco, at our table at 18th & Castro, or mail us a check and we'll send you some tickets (our zip's 94114).

If you read *Coming Up!*, you know that the paper is a free community service, and in the end must be saved by the community. If you can afford a donation, large or small, it would be greatly appreciated — possibly 25¢, 50¢, or even more for every issue you've read, enjoyed, and hung up in your kitchen. Each raffle ticket purchased is one more dollar into the pot. A large attendance at the benefit could keep us in business.

So please, if you can, help keep *Coming Up!* coming out.

A network for Gay writers

Gay Writers Network of the Bay Area (GAWNABA) is forming in San Francisco to support and promote gay poets, playwrights, and prose writers. Their goal is to create an effective writers' organization, which will help further support, reflect, define, and contribute to the blossoming cultures of the gay communities. Tentative plans for the organization include workshops, meetings, readings, a newsletter, and the possible creation of a gay literary journal.

The needs and concerns of the individual writer will be addressed during formation of the Network, and the group will need input. They also need a regular meeting space.

More specific plans and goals will be developed as the Network forms. The Gay Writers Network is tentatively planned to meet the needs of gay male writers, but not necessarily exclusively, since there are lesbian-writers organizations already in existence.

Writers interested in joining and constructing the organization can call Eric Allyn at (415) 864-3971 or write Eric Allyn, Gay Writers Network, 1433 Haight Street #, San Francisco, CA 94117.

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Ten years of Modern Times

by the Modern Times Collective

Modern Times Bookstore celebrates its tenth birthday December 13th at Valencia Rosa, a new cabaret in the Mission, with cake, champagne, live music — and growing pains. The store, generally considered the country's leading left/feminist bookstore, recently moved to a large and beautiful space on Valencia Street, between 20th and 21st Streets. With the move, we've begun an exciting series of cultural events, including bookparties, films, readings and gallery showings. Things are intellectually charged, hopeful and exciting.

Our plans to celebrate a decade of operation bring to mind thoughts of what the decade's been like. We first opened our doors in the era of the anti-war movement, the New Left, and the burgeoning women's and gay movements. We end our first ten years in a very different, difficult and challenging time. Inflation, budget cuts, growing militarism and increasing political reaction are affecting us all.

At Modern Times, it's always been our commitment to present all the information that is diverse — and often divided — left might find useful, interesting or inspiring. As we enter the Reagan era we want to keep doing this — and more. We think that at this time it's critical that we, and folks like us, keep open the channels of information to all who are interested, from gay socialists to disaffected Democrats.

But nobody lives by politics alone, and Modern Times' stock reflects this. Leftist and feminist, like everybody else, need sensitive, well-written, exciting books which fit no one category. They need books that tell you how to do when your back goes out, books on how to cook a good meal, and books just to curl up with. Even a clientele entranced by political economy should have access to matters of general interest and speculation, from the origins of matter to the theory of sexual desire.

You won't find *Winning Through Intimidation* at Modern Times, nor gothic novels with languishing heroines and aristocratic heroes, nor much about tax-shelters and money market funds. But our store is filled with carefully-chosen, interesting, engaging books that would be of interest to many more people than committed political activists.

What we are doing at Modern Times is innovative and unique. We are trying to expand the typical boundaries of a left bookstore. We deeply believe in the vitality and importance of progressive thought and culture in our society, and we are committed to making this culture available to leftists and non-leftists alike. At a time when the Right is on the attack, we think that many people have a lot more in common with Modern Times than they might suppose. Loving to read and to think is a good start.

Making ends meet in a community bookstore is always difficult. One of the ways we get financial support is through our Memberships. Friends of the store buy a \$15.00 or \$25.00 membership, and in return get a 10% discount on all the stock we carry. It's nice to think that we can raise needed capital and be able to return that favor to our community.

The Birthday Party on Dec. 13th begins at 7:30. We'll have Swingin'ham, a hot new women's jazz band, Judy Grahn, Catesberry & Dupree and other special guests. Join us. In difficult times, it's nice to have something to celebrate.

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Photo by Mike Chazler



Lou Rudolph with his work — images captured live of new wave audiences, performers, and music at 544 Natoma Performance Gallery. Main calendar listing for Dec. 11th has details.

DRINKING: a gay way of life

By Arthur Evans

© by Arthur Evans 1981. All Rights Reserved. This is the second and final installment on the impact of gay big business on the quality of Bay Area life.

Next to the popper industry, the second biggest money-maker in the Gay business world is the network of bars and baths. Among straights, bars are just one way among many for meeting social needs. Among Gays, however, bars have become the dominant means of socializing and meeting sexual partners. The reasons for this dominance are clear. A long history of straight bigotry has driven us out of families, churches, labor unions, and other open avenues of making friends and lovers. For decades we have been forced to flee to the one place where we could meet each other in relative safety — the local Gay life. As a result, the bar has played a historical role in Gay life that is unparalleled by its straight counterpart.

Until recently many Gay bars were owned by straights. In large cities, especially on the East Coast, the most popular were run, directly or indirectly, by the Mafia. The gangsters who controlled these bars had absolutely no concern whatsoever for the quality of Gay life. Their only goal was to make as much money as possible. By the 1960's, they had cultivated into a fine art a set of tricks to make their customers become heavy drinkers.

For example, they deliberately avoided having any ventilation system, so that the bar would fill up with hot air and cigarette smoke, making people thirsty. In addition, they kept the music so loud that it was uncomfortable to initiate a conversation. The patrons, having come to the bar to cruise, and now having each other in sight, were nevertheless inhibited by the loud noise from talking to each other. To relieve the tension and deal with the environment, they would buy more drinks.

As closing time approached (desperate hour), the volume and tempo of the music would soar, as the cash registers rang away. Most Mafia bars in the 50's were, in fact, run-down, dimly lit, filthy fire-traps, reflecting both the arrogant contempt of their owners and the lack of self-esteem of their patrons.

With the coming of Gay liberation, the influence of the Mafia declined. On the West Coast

In particular, a large number of Gay-owned, legitimately run bars sprang up. But the new owners — whether unthinkingly or from the same profit motive — tended to continue the same contrived environment. As a result, this day — twelve years after the Stonewall Riots that began the modern Gay liberation movement — many independently run Gay bars in San Francisco are indistinguishable in atmosphere from the Mafia-run bars of New York City in the 1950's.

In view of this historical development, we shouldn't be surprised to find a high rate of Gay alcoholism. And, indeed, those who have read the existing medical literature as well as those who actually treat patients agree: Gay alcoholism has become a real problem.

Gina White, in a recent survey of social needs, cites a 1980 overview of research by Zigzag that concludes: "...three out of every ten homosexuals are likely to experience significant difficulties as a result of alcohol abuse." According to Roy Grey, the business manager of Acceptance House (a Gay alcoholic recovery program) about 20% of all Gay people are alcoholics, compared to a national average of 10%. Carol Migden, the executive director of Operation Concern (a Gay mental health service), claims "Drinking problems are pervasive and almost taken for granted by our clients," adding that Gay alcoholism is "a paramount problem that probably will increase."

Of course, the bars can't be blamed for all of the problem, since Gay men are also under great personal stress from a hostile straight world, and San Francisco is traditionally a drinking city. Nonetheless, the special role of bars in our lives and the contrived environment of these bars are added factors.

Do the bar owners feel any sense of concern because of these factors? Not much, judging by the behavior of the Tavern Guild, an association of more than 100 of San Francisco's 200 Gay bars. I asked Roy Grey how much money the Tavern Guild had contributed to Acceptance House's alcoholic recovery program. He couldn't remember ever receiving a contribution of any significance. I checked this with Jim Bonko, the Tavern Guild's administrator, and he said he could find no record of

'The Christmas Present' A gift for the city's disabled

The San Francisco Grocery Express, working with the Independent Living Project, Easter Seals, and Goodwill Industries, invites individuals and members of San Francisco's corporate community to co-sponsor a Christmas Present to lower-income persons with physical disabilities.

The present — a week's supply of nutritious foods delivered to the door — is a capstone to the International Year of the Disabled.

"We've received support for the project, and not just because of the holiday season," says Charlotte Maillard, Honorary Chair of "The Christmas Present." "People also feel it's time to focus public awareness on the many every-day activities — like grocery shopping — for which our existing facilities are inadequate to the needs of the disabled."

A nutritionist working with The Grocery Express has designed a package of food that meets a person's basic dietary requirements

for a week. For every \$40 raised, a package will be sent to a lower-income resident sponsored by the Independent Living Project, Easter Seals, or Goodwill Industries. The Grocery Express will assemble and deliver the food package, which will arrive with a holiday message.

"The Christmas Present" offers several opportunities to members of the community," says John Goggin of The Grocery Express. "It offers the opportunity to further awareness of the special needs of people with disabilities; the opportunity to go on record in the community as being 'it's supporting those who most need it; and the opportunity to participate in a project grounded in the spirit of the season.'"

If you want to help send a Christmas Present, you can contact Charlotte Maillard at 641-5480. Contributions should be mailed by December 15 to: The Christmas Present, c/o SFGE, 1650 Evans, San Francisco 94124.

the Guild ever having given them any money. Operation Concern, on the other hand, has received some money from the Tavern Guild. Ed Scott, president of the Guild, told me that he had benefits from time to time and give all the proceeds to Operation Concern. Nonetheless, the money given hasn't been very much, according to Carol Migden. She characterized the amount of support as "minimal" from the Guild, both when Operation Concern was a part of the Tavern Guild Foundation, and after it became an independently incorporated facility. She says certain individuals within the Tavern Guild (such as Bob Ross, publisher of B.A.R.) have been very helpful, but that the overall pattern was poor.

Carol Migden also notes that most bar owners have no health plans for their employees. As a result, a financial strain falls on Operation Concern when they come there for professional services.

Ed Scott says that although "the good Gay bars" have health plans, many do not. When I asked him whether the Guild tries to persuade its members to have such plans, he responded, "We can't tell the owners how to run their businesses."

The bar owners are also completely absent from fire and safety conditions in their businesses. In 1978 a committee of Bay Area Gay Liberation (BAGL) conducted a fire and health inspection of 17 bars, mostly in the Folsom area. The members of the committee (Randy Alfred, David Goldman, and Chris Perry) filled out a written form for each bar, noting such things as number and placement of fire extinguishers, accessibility of fire exits, sanitation in bathrooms, level of sound, etc.

Here are some of the observations recorded for various bars: "One [fire] extinguisher located in locked storeroom; bartender does not have a key"; "no apparent rear exit — no

exit signs"; "no apparent ventilation to exterior." In public testimony before the Human Rights Commission, David Goldman stated that several of the bars inspected were "in flagrant violation of minimal standards of the fire and health codes." Unfortunately, BAGL soon disappeared from the scene, and the market was flooded. But in some bars, fire and safety problems remain to this day.

When I raised this concern with Ed Scott, he responded: "To my knowledge it's not a problem. Fire and Health Departments do a good job." But when I pressed him whether the Guild had ever actually inspected its member bars for fire and safety requirements, he replied "no," adding, "observance of fire and health standards is not part of the requirement for membership in the Tavern Guild."

The network of bars and baths has given rise to a distinct type of lifestyle that has affected the lives of many people beyond the questions of alcoholism, fire safety, and even discrimination. Though difficult to measure in quantitative terms, these other effects — psychological, and to an extent spiritual — are far-reaching and devastating.

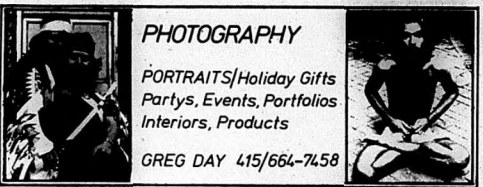
They are nowhere more evident than on Castro Street, the heartland of the Gay-bar lifestyle. During the last five years, Castro Street has changed from being a genuine neighborhood for Gays of widely varying lifestyles, fantasies, personal appearances, and social classes. Increasingly, it has become a bar zone where uninteresting men with overdeveloped bodies attract people and snort poppers, and give each other attitude. And in the wake of this bar culture has come an increasing amount of loneliness and alienation, while the bar owners seem totally oblivious to.

I mentioned to Ed Scott the growing number (continued on page 8)

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Coming Up! features news and photographs of many events that are not necessarily gay or lesbian-identified, which we feel are of interest to the gay and lesbian communities, and recognize the important commonalities between many straight-identified groups are doing that would be of interest to the widely diverse gay and lesbian communities. Coming Up! also recognizes that many straight-identified people attend or participate in gay or lesbian-identified events. Therefore, publication of the names, photographs, or likenesses of any person, organization, event or business in Coming Up! cannot be taken as any indication of the sexual orientation of that person, organization, event or business.

Calendar Listings

Performers, clubs, individuals or groups who want to list events in the calendar should mail notices to us so that they reach us before the 20th of the month preceding publication. We can not take listings by phone. Listings are free.

Staff & Contributors

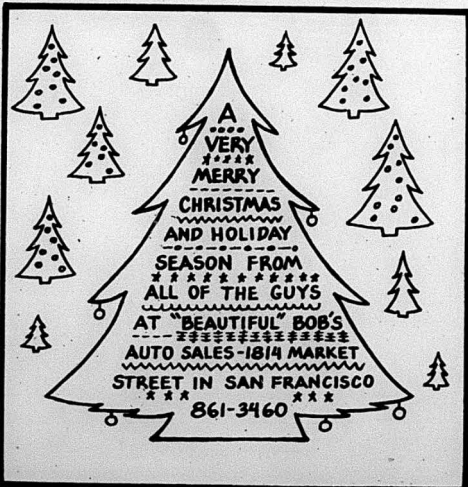
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Coming Up! Benefit Party

See Dec. 4 listing

for all the glorious details.

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6

Sexuality & Identity for Jewish Lesbians — an experiential workshop with Mary Lieberman McNew & Laura Plinick of the Helicon Collective. 10am-5pm, \$20-\$35 SS. Res: 654-23168.

Amistad Maupin is the featured guest of G40+, a social group for gays over 40. 1668 Bush St., SF 2pm.

Celebrate the Opening of West Coast Lesbian Collections, 3-6pm, 66 Hamilton Place, Oakland. Food, entertainment, tours of collections. For women only. Info: 465-8880.

Leslie Scalapino talks on "Speeding Up in Narrating: Elements of Technique" at 544 Natoma, SF 3pm, \$3.

Women Against Violence in Pornography & Media Action Meeting to build n!t! letterwriting network to end abusive images of women. 4:30pm, 2910 Fulton St., 4th, Berkeley.

Putlock for women new to the Bay Area, 6:30pm, Berkeley Women's Center.

Coming to Power — a book signing with Samois to celebrate this new book on lesbian S&M. Erotic readings begin at 8pm. Amelia's, 647 Valencia, SF.

Holiday Auction — Christmas Bargains Galore — a benefit for the SF Lesbian & Gay Men's Community Chorus. 7:30pm, 1 Beam, 1748 Haight, SF. Free admission with this notice.

Romantic Love vs. Reproductive Rights — a forum with Mother Jones editor Deirdre English on the return of the "feminine mystique" & a feminist response to issues of love, sex & reproductive rights. 8pm, \$2, La Pena, Berkeley.

An Evening of Women's Music: traditional, original, political & spiritual by Marlene Habib, Holly Tannen, and Linda Hirschorn with Tay. 8pm, \$2, Ollie's, Oakland.

Die Mannerstimmen — a Chamber Chorus of Men's Voices sings "Songs to Mary". 8pm, \$6. Mission Dolores Basilica, 16th & Dolores, SF.

13

Modern Times Bookstore celebrates their 10th birthday at the New Valencia Rose Cabaret, 766 Valencia, SF. Story page 2 has more info.

Joy to the World a carol/communion worship in song by the Golden Gate MCC Choir. 10:30am, California Hall, 625 Polk, SF.

Taxi Zum Kio — a film benefit for Fruit Punch Gay Men's Radio on KPFA-FM. High Noon services hosted by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence plus music by The Choral Majority. Northside Theatre, 1828 Euclid, Berkeley. Noon, \$4.

Lesbian Co-counselors — a workshop for experienced co-counselors to affirm our pride & work on holiday feelings. 9am-6pm, \$20, Call Melissa (282-0327) by 12/7.

Rita S. Losch reads poetry & discusses politics, 2pm, Noe Books & News, 2233 Market, SF.

Gayle Marie sings nice songs for nice people at Ollie's of Oakland, 3:45pm, for free.

El Rito's 4th Annual Christmas Party, 4-8pm. Bring an ornament for the tree! Egg nog on the house. 3158A Mission, SF.

SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade Committee gen'l mtg — vote on theme, 5-7pm, SF Women's Bldg.

Joe's Goodbye to San Francisco — recreation of the Old Black Cat. Many, many stars at the Pine's, 1093 Pine, SF. 4:30pm.

For Every Woman Who Has Ever Loved A Woman — Stand Up and Call Her Name! of Lambert Van Buuren, poets Rose Mitchell & Andrea Canaan, flautist Fundi, and powerful blues & gospel sounds with Somethin' Special — A Celebration of Black Womanhood to benefit Pacific Center. 6-10pm, \$5-\$10 SS. Ollie's, Oakland.

The New Anti-Feminism — a forum with Barbara Ehrenreich (editor of Ms.) analyzes the new "right" attack on feminism. 8pm, \$2, La Pena, Alameda's call it jazz at Elie's Solano Club, 1403 Solano, Albany. 9:30pm, \$5.

20

Daniel Curzon/Richard Hall: "The Gay Short Story" — a rare chance to hear two of our finest writers read & discuss their short fiction. 9:30am, Unitarian Univ. Gay Caucus.

Post-Party Brunch with Black & White Men Together at Dunst's Corner Zoo, NoeMarket, SF \$5, 11am-4pm, Info & Res: 821-9220.

G40+ Gala — celebrate 8 yrs of this great group for gays over 40! It's a holiday party, cabaret, founder's day & 1991 year's party all in one. 2pm, 1668 Bush St., SF.

Robert Gluck on "Some Thoughts on Sade: The Pleasure of Manipulating Images & Codes" — the dynamics (sexual, power) between writer & audience, and more. 3pm, \$3, 544 Natoma, SF.

Fundi — soft, sensual, original piano & vocals, and tightly lute. 3:45pm at Ollie's, Oakland.

Shaman Art: Dolls & Healing Shields — opening reception with artist Karen Vogel at Laughing Goddess Grotto, Oakland. 4:45pm.

Now Sing Again With Hearts Aglow — SF Gay Men's Chorus and the SF Lesbian & Gay Men's Community Chorus in concert at Nourse Aud., Hayes at Franklin (next to Davies Hall), 7:30pm, \$8 loge, \$6 gen. Tix: 864-0326.

"Winter Solstice Dance" — celebrate the return of light. Kissing Dance at midnite. 8pm, Ollie's, Oakland. Info: 653-4169.

27

Sound Off! on your favorite topic — an open meeting at Unitarian Univ. Gay Caucus, 9:30am.

Tommy Utah — song-writer, performer & sometimes comic. 3:45pm at Ollie's, Oakland. Free. Party at Suro Baths with Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade Committee. 6-8pm admission benefits the Parade, party till midnite.

One-Eyed Jack plays C&W at Rainbow Cattle Co., 199 Valencia, SF. 9pm-1am.

monday

7

Advent/Christmas Stained Glass Show — a group show at Gallery Sanchez, 1021 Sanchez, SF. Mon-Sat, 1-5pm thru 1/3.

Solidarity — Gay/Lesbian Liberation mtg, 7:30-10pm, 766 Valencia, SF. Open to all.

Cabaret and Isadora: The Biggest Dancer in the World double-bill at the Roxie Cinema, 16th & Valencia, SF. Box office: 863-1007.

Fight the blues with jazz — Swingshift shows you how with Latin jazz & more. 9pm, free. Major Pond's, 2801 California, SF.

14

Cassellberry & Dupree and Luisa Teish plus Annette Aguilar — powerful poetry/prose/ performance — 12:30pm, free. Barbary Coast, SF State Strid Union Bldg. 16th & Holloway.

A New Circle of lesbian working-class women forming under midwifery of Kevin. Come together for support & magical empowerment. Details: 564-7896 (Kevin).

Alice B. Toklas Memorial Demo Club gen'l mtg, 7:30pm, SF Women's Bldg. Nominate officers for 1992 & hear Charles Lamb, Pres of Local 2, speak.

The Decline of Western Civilization — a searing look at the world of punk music. Electric Theatre, 960 Market, SF. 980 Market, SF. Today & tmw. Info: 673-7373.

SHAMAN ART:

Dolls &

Healing Shields

DEC. 20



Illustration by Annaconda

Phone the
Gay Events Tape
- 861-1100

for weekly updates
on community happenings

21

A Solstice Celebration — join Reclaiming & friends for sunrise at Red Rock. Gather as a tribe to welcome the new sun arising from her dark womb of winter. Roosevelt/Museum Way (above 15th & Castro, SF). Celebrate our variety & renewal ourselves & our earth.

Winter Solstice Ritual — last public ritual with Coven of the Laughing Goddesses until midsummer. Meet at the Laughing Goddess Grotto, 4415 Telegraph, Oakland, 6pm. Call 653-4169 for important info.

Solidarity — Gay/Lesbian Liberation mtg, 7:30-10pm, 766 Valencia, SF. Open to all.

GOA Coffeehouse — find out more about this gay social alternative. 7:30pm, 12/3 has details.

Mildred Pierce and Harriet Craig — Joan Crawford is a mommie dearest & a zealous housewife. Roxie Cinema, SF. Box Office: 863-1067.

28

tuesday

1

Mothering From a Feminist Perspective — a panel on "Ways to Mother" moderated by lesbian mother Cheryl Jones. 7:30pm, \$4-7 SS. RCC, Berkeley Women's Center.

Theater Class for Lesbians & Gay Men taught by Gay Theatre Collective. 8:30pm class on Mont & Tues nights forming now. Info: 282-9346.

Seize Power Over Your Life — a group for women to confront the usual issues of self esteem, work & love with neurolinguistic programming, rebirthing & yoga from a feminist perspective. Info: 237-7255 (Nancy Freedom).

"Venetian Coathangers" — acrylic paintings/spin & ink drawings by Manuela Jemma at Vida Gallery. 6-8pm opening reception; CC, Women's Bldg. SF Show runs thru 12/20.

Alberta Jackson & Touch — high energy, hot women's music to dance, plus Cassellberry & Dupree. 9-11pm, \$2, Amelia's, 17th & Valencia, SF.

8

SF Commission on the Status of Women monthly mtg, 4:30pm, SF Public Library, Larkin/McAllister, SF.

WOMANBLOOD: Portraits of Women in Poetry & prose — readings by local authors from this new anthology. For women only. 7pm, free. RCC by 12th & Women's Place, Oakland.

How To & Chanukah Bush Decorating Party & Putlock at Great Outdoor Adventures, 1618 Castro, SF. Bring an ornament & dessert to share. Egg nog & coffee. Info: 863-1007.

Open Forum for the Latina Community of the Bay Area — talk about the future of 3rd World Women's programming, and forming an outreach committee at SF Women's Bldg. Bilingual, CC. 7pm.

Mothering From a Feminist Perspective — Donna Hitchens speaks on "Mothering the Law". 121 has details.

Sing-It-Yourself Messiah with the SF Conservatory of Music at L.M. Davies Symphony Hall. 8pm. Tix: 431-5400.

El Salvador: The People Will Win — a film on the history of resistance in this country. 8pm, \$3, La Pena, Berkeley. Tonite & tomte. 8pm, 1111 Addison St. Details: 548-7278.

"Byron A Play" a play by Gertrude Stein, with production systems, special lights, word sculpture & movement at 544 Natoma, SF. Tues-Thru thru 12/17, 9pm, \$2.

Frolic for Freedom Benefit — San Francisco answers "Fairwell Desert" (who does it to EVERYONE's kids) with an Oral Majority Epic. 9:00am-4pm, \$8 at Trocadero Transfer, 520 Fourth, SF. Funds to help defeat all 281 Moral Majority types in the US House who voted to repeal Wash. D.C. Consenting Adult Bill. Info: 621-7111.

15

Couples Together Christmas Party at Golden Gate, MCC, California Hall, 625 Polk, SF. 7:30pm.

Mothering From a Feminist Perspective — tonite, Chris Cleary on "Resources for Mothers in the Bay Area". See 12/1 for complete info.

"Serenade on the Hill" — quality music to benefit Potrero Hill Community. 7pm, \$5, 655 DeHaro, SF. Res: 863-8350.

Women's Poetry Writing Workshop forming — share work, criticism & support. 7:30pm, 718 Arguello, SF. More info: Ann (752-0507) or Cheryl (821-7918).

Quintanar Eduardo & Gaston Guzman direct from Chile sing songs of the countryside. 8pm, \$4, La Pena, Berkeley.

Cherere — hot Latin & Brazilian jazz at Amelias, 647 Valencia, SF. 9:30pm, \$2.

"December Madness Comedy" with Carol Roberts & guest Jane Donacker. 9:30pm, \$3, Fanny's Cabaret, 4230-18th St., SF.

Winter Solstice, 2:52pm.

22

The Dispossessed — a film with a speaker about the Pit River tribe struggle for their land vs. PG&E. Plus music and arts & crafts for sale. 7:30pm, \$2, La Pena, Berkeley.

Mothering from a Feminist Perspective — Andrea Canaan speaks on Mother-Guilt. 121 listing has details.

Paul Robeson a play in Berkeley Stage Co.'s Festival of "Extraordinary People". 8pm, 911 Addison, Details: 548-4728.

Comic Madness with dynamic duo Carol Roberts, foodies and Ruby Rodriguez at Fanny's Cabaret, 4230-18th St., SF. 9:30pm, \$3.

29

Harvey Milk Gay Demo Club meets tonite, SF Women's Bldg, 7:30pm. Burgers & Beer at 8pm before the mtg.

Mothering from a Feminist Perspective — Sue Saperstein speaks on "Supermom Syndrome". 121 listing has details.

Fraserhead, Alpha, & The Grandmother — a triple bill of bizarre attack & horrors. Roxie Cinema, 16th/Valencia, SF. Info: 863-1067.

Survive the Holiday Season laughin' with food, sexual comedian, and Ruby Rodriguez at Fanny's Cabaret, 4230-18th St., SF. 9:30pm, \$3. Fanny's Cabaret, 4230-18th, SF.

WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

2

2 **1978** - The Bakery Cafe on Castro Street closes when its workers go on strike for benefits and an established wage policy providing for raises. It is sold five days later.

ave the Cable Car! A benefit concert with Journey, special guest, 8pm at the Cow Palace. Tickets available thru BASS.

Female - The Body Glorious - Massage Basics - with Donna Maloussi & Janet Roslund, 7:30 pm, SF, info: 653-4198.

Images of Women in Mass Media & Pornography - a slide show & talk with Women Against Violence in Pornography & Media, 7:30pm, 5143 St. La, La Pena, Berkeley.

3 **Due De L'Amor** by the master of farce, Georges Feydeau, opens 8pm tonight at SF Repertory, 4147 19th St., & continues Thurs-Sun thru 1/3.

On Stage, page 60 has complete details on this and other theatre.

Nuclear Freeze - learn about this effort in an informal lecture/discussion, 8pm, free. The Network Coffeehouse, 1329-7th Ave, SF. Our story page 3 has complete details on the freeze.

Sculpture by Michele Carey at Pro Arts Gallery, all month, 1214 Webster, Oakland, Tues-Fri, 10-5pm.

faerie network forming - develop a common information network to combine political & spiritually and use magic in our daily lives. Rituals, magic, healing services, etc. more info: Richard (645-5237) or Shawn (489-1197).

9 **Celebration of their Third Anniversary** at the Alhambra Hotel presents the art of Joni Eisen, Karen Hamilton, Gordon Jamieson & Lorraine King, Elizabeth Haynes & Dan Scannell, 885 Ellis St, SF, Thurs 12th, info: 474-3720.

Women in Transition - a 2-wk workshop with Gay Sultano & Beverly Jordan, Tontine & 1216/30, 3pm, \$35, \$25 pre-reg by 12/17, RCC, Berkeley Women's Ctr.

Spice in poor taste - Divine in Pink Flamingos and Female Trouble. Electric Theatre, 980 Market, SF, info: 673-7373, Today & 12th.

Salvador: The People Will Win, 12th has details.

Christmas Celebration & Dinner for the Chorus - the Grand Ballroom of the St Francis Hotel, SF will glow with holiday cheer & reverberate with the voices of the SF Gay Men's Chorus, 6:30pm, \$10 (tax deductible) to defray the deficit from the chorus' fantastic national tour. Info: Mary Feaster.

hbi Sextrous - renowned interplanetary transmutational entertainer/personality, opens a new musical comedy drag revue, 9:30 & 11pm, 32, Wed & Thurs thru 12/31. Preview, 10/22, Geary, SF, Wild, bizarre, crazy & fabulous!

Self-Defense Course - 7:30-9pm, Bldg C, FI Mason, SF, \$25/\$15.25 srs & disabled, Reg. Info: 564-9140.

16 **Gallery Artists** - a group exhibition of recent works by 24 men and women artists at the Pace - Price Gallery, 2159 Powell St, SF. The exhibit occupies both levels of the gallery. Tues-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 12-6pm.

Christmas Party at Stern Grove (Victorian Clubhouse) with Great Outdoor Adventures. A fire in the fireplace, lots of eggnog, coffee & live entertainment. Bring food & drink to share. Res. required: 641-4020.

Days that Shook the World and Read: **Insurgent Mexico** - two films at the Roxie to benefit Modern Times Bookstore, \$2.50. Time: 9:30-10:57.

tendri's Messianic Christmas Concert with the SF Symphony, 6pm, Davies Symphony Hall, Tnt. 431-5400, Tontine thru Sat.

Country Joe McDonald sings new songs & takes requests for old favorites. Plus, David Davis sings songs about mothers, children & children's books, 8pm, La Pena, Berkeley.

23 **An Evening with Samuel Beckett** & **The Real Molly** continues at the Intersection, 750 Union St, Wed-Sat, Details: 982-2259.

The Worst Movie Ever Made - **Plan 9 From Outer Space** - Bela Lugosi's last flick, he died during production (poss of shame) & 7.5 pm at the Roxie, 1619th St, SF.

ena International - lots of North & Latin American groups share an informal concert with the mikes open for all to sing along, 8:30pm, \$2.50 (includes a glass of wine!) La Pena, Berkeley.

30 **Portraits of the Hand** - the works of Imogen Cunningham, Paul Strand, Edward Weston & more showing the many human moods expressed by the hand. SF Museum of Modern Art, Van Ness/McAllister Thru 1/17.

The Distracted madcap musical revue **A Good Time Call** at the Chi Chi Theatre Club, 440 Broadway, SF info & Res: 392-6213.

18 **Godless Faggots** on the air! The Gay Atheists League meets middle America on "The Phil Donahue Show", 11am, KTVU Channel 2.

Sai Roselli Champagne Celebration - music & hors d'oeuvres, Building Service Ctr, 240 Golden Gate Ave, SF 5-7pm. Donation to retire campaign debt.

Call It Jazz - an album release celebration with Alvin at Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell, SF 7:30-10pm, \$6, \$16 at Chi Office.

All Minority March on Washington Committee being formed - vote on board members tonight, 7:30pm, SF Women's Bldg, info: 441-6929.

Women in Revolution - a new video on Nicaraguan women, plus music & speakers on women in El Salvador, 7:30pm, La Pena, Berkeley.

Coffee, tea, or with Great Outdoor Adventures, 1618 Castro St, SF Meet outdoor people & learn about upcoming events, 7:30pm, \$2, info: 641-4020.

Tenants Rights Workshop for women - learn about rights, repairs, deposits, evictions, harassment, leases, rent increases & more with the Housing Rights Outreach Project, Free, 7:30pm, for women, Old Wives Tales, SF.

Fog in a Nursery - Harvey Fleisher's sequel to *International Stud* at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2940-16th St, SF, (Redstone Bldg), Thurs-Sun 12:00, info: 552-4100.

The Diary of Anne Frank with Holy Names College Drama Workshop, 8pm, \$25/50, McClellan Hall, 3500 Mountain Blvd, Oakland, Info: 436-0111.

Delta Carnival in 19th - explore images drawn from the mythological content of the film, 8:30pm, today thru Sat, 8:30pm, 55, Project Artado, 401 Alabama, SF Res: 552-2742.

Small Picture Show - a holiday art exhibit features small, inexpensive items suitable for gifts, Thurs-Sun, 1-6pm, 12/29, Endodge Gallery, 1591 Masonic, SF.

Options for Women Over Forty gen'l mtg, 10:30-11:30, "Winter Solstice Day" by the Women Over Forty Theatre group, 8:30pm, 33 Gough, SF.

Free, for women of all ages!

WOMANBOLO: Portraits of Women in Poetry & Art - readings by local authors from this new anthology. For women, 7:30pm, free, Old Wives Tales, SF.

Hot! Hot! Hot! & "Ivory Fiddlin'" with Robin Flower & Friends, featuring Barbara Hammer, 8:30pm, La Pena, Berkeley.

New films by Barbara Hammer (in person) - SF State, SF, 8pm, 25.50, SF Art Institute, 800 Chestnut, Free coffee.

For Men's Eyes - film on being gay in prison, plus *The Killing of Sister George* - an early lesbian drama, The Strand, SF, Phone: 552-5990.

17 **Nevis Mountain Dew** by Steve Carter at the Loraine Hansberry Theatre, 2940-16th St, SF Thurs-Sun, Details: 864-5500.

The Nutcracker with the SF Ballet, Today thru 12/29, info: 441-6929. At the Opera House, SF, T & F: 621-3838.

Women in Sex *Heart Piece, Seven Years, Inside Out, Women's Sodomy Images, Dream Menagerie, and Face to Face* - new films by women around the Bay Area, 7:30pm, 32, Old Wives Tales, SF.

Hot! Hot! Hot! & "Ivory Fiddlin'" with Robin Flower & Friends, featuring Barbara Hammer, 8:30pm, La Pena, Berkeley.

Women Against Violence in Pornography & Media action mtg - Write Back & Fight Back! 7:30pm, SF Women's Bldg.

Sugarplums, Snickerdoodles & Gingerbread People - a messy sweet way to get into the holiday spirit by baking cookies, 6pm, 31, The Network Coffeehouse, 1329-7th Ave, SF, Bring cookie cutters!

Tonno United from San Jose, SF, singing the blues plus Los Peloteros plays music from Afro Cuban to traditional corridos, 8pm, 33, La Pena, Berkeley.

Gay the cinema at the Strand, SF: A Very Natural Thing and This Special Friendship.

24 **Christmas Eve, 1959** - The California Supreme Court rules bars may not be closed by anyone merely because they are frequented by homosexuals.

A Christmas Service with Luciano Pavarotti at Nimitz Memorial Cathedral, 10pm, KQED Channel 9.

Christmas Eve Service at Golden Gate MCC, 625 Polk (California Hall), SF, Come home to the real Christmas. And bring a friend, 7pm.

Christmas Celebration with choir & caroling, 8pm, followed by midnight community service, 11:30pm, at MCC East Bay, Oakland.

Now Sing Along with Hearts A-Glow - 12/20 has details.

31 **New Years Eve!** Grand Fiesta! - dance to Conguito Garibai, no hard Caribbean music, Sanjuntivo food & much more, 8:30pm-7:45, La Pena, Berkeley.

Alberta Jackson & Touch Cassellberry & Dupree for a New Year's Eve Dance at the Women's Bldg, SF, 10pm-2am, \$10.

Rest of Duck's Breath & **High Wire** followed by New Year's Eve Party at One Act Theatre Co, 430 Mason, SF, 12/15 includes champagne, food & live music by Hot Links, Res: 431-6162.

Carnival Celebration in the Brazilian tradition with Chevere and disco at Ollie's of Oakland, Costume prizes & special headpiece prize. Midnite champagne included, 10pm-2am, \$10.

Shit-kickin' foot-loose! music with the John Gallagher Band to bring in the New Year at Rainbow Cattle Co, 199 Valencia, SF.

Exotic-Erotic New Year's Eve Ball, 4 Hot Bands at this masquerade evening - clothing optional! \$15 adv/\$20 d/c, California Hall, 525 Polk, SF, Tnt: 835-4342 & BASS.

Ring in the New Year at the White Sulphur, 1750 Polk, Gala party - come early, stay late, No Cover.

Special New Year's Party at the Pines, 1039 Pine St, SF, SF by reservation only, dancing, buffet, \$10 single/\$15 couple, Call 885-9871.

Gala New Year's Party, Cash drawing to follow midnight kissing, Amelia, 647 Valencia, Call 552-7788.

Have a warm & friendly New Year's Eve - old friends meet & greet new friends, Maude's, 937 Cole, SF, No Cover.

December 4, 1987 - Ronald Reagan speaking at Yale University, says homosexuality is "a tragic disease" that "should be illegal".

Keep Coming Up Coming Out - attend our Benefit Party, 7pm-1am at the new Valencia Rose Cabaret, 766 Valencia. See a preview performance of *A Fine Romance*, a gay musical revue featuring the songs of Jerome Kern; hear the sensational jazz creations of Swingshift; laugh as Tom Ammann comes out as a stand-up comic; and play BINGO with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Plus: at midnite the Grand Prize Drawing in the First Great Coming Up Raffle. All for the suggested donation of \$5. You can't beat it!

Feminism & Jewish Humanism - an open discussion with Lesbian & Gay Jewish Activists - how do Jewish ideals serve as a basis for feminist & lesbianing activism? 7:30pm, Complete info: 333-9218.

A Night of Gayety - laughter & music with Carol Roberts, Jane Donneracker & Joe Campiolo, plus music by Sparkle at "The Thoroughfare", Student Union, SF State, 8pm, \$4/\$3 students.

A Studio Warning - prints & drawings by Barbara Johnson, 7-10pm, 1420-45th St, Studio 45, Emeryville.

Orquesta Saborito - women's Latin dance band at Ollie's of Oakland, 10pm, \$4.

"Victory Party" for Pacific Center - good food, drinks & spirits provided, \$2.55, SF, 7:30pm.

'Holiday Spice' Ed Mock & Co.

12 **December 5**

Full moon in Gemini, 5:41pm.

Hotel of Follies - Angels of Light murder-mystery-musical at Project Arctura Theatre, 450 Florida, SF, Fri-Sun thru 12/20, info: 863-7213.

Christmas Present - a community celebration with music & dance, Fri-Sun thru 12/20, 8:30pm, 5625 srs & students, Berkeley Bay Theatre Collective, 2320 Bancroft, Berk.

"Reindeer Romp" with Gay & Lesbian Campus Community of SF State, Beer, wine, music, entertainment, plus a special guest appearance by Santa Claus, 8pm-1am, \$3.50/\$2.50 student, Student Union at State, info: 469-1953.

Woody Simmonds sings her special blend of bluegrass, country, pop & jazz at La Pena, Berkeley, 8pm, \$2.50.

Performance Posing - at Lu Rodolph paints live the performance of Rhythm Riot - immediate visualization of the new wave music & musicians, 9pm, \$4, 544 Natoma, SF, Paintings on display Wed-Sat, 1-5pm.

Chicago Blues Power - come and dance, dance, dance! Ollie's, Oakland, 10pm, \$4.

Alberta Jackson & Touch play hot, high energy music to dance, 10pm-1:30am, \$3, A Little More, 15th & Potrero, SF.

Curt McDowell double-bill at the Roxie - *Taboo: The Single and the LP and Thundercrack!* Today & 12th, m. box office, Details: 863-1067.

Gala Opening! The new Valencia Rose Cafe Restaurant-Cabaret officially opens today. Our page 11 story has all the details.

The Wind Hags & Friends invite us to celebrate the full moon, no matter what the weather. Call Gweneith/Rose (626-9236) by 12/9 for complete info.

58 **Cable Car Caroling!** a caravan of enthusiastic voices tour the city in motorized cable cars offering holiday cheer, Details: 474-0307.

Gay & Lesbian Campus Community Coffeehouse with Harry Britt, Newman Ctr, 50 Banbury Dr, nr SF State, 7:30pm, info: 469-1952.

Activistly Gay but Politically Jewish! - a talk with Lesbian & Gay Jewish Activists, 7:30pm, info: 648-8285. No closets & no apologies!

Rock n' Soul with Avalon Boulevards at New Bell Salon, 1203 Polk, SF, info: 757-6905.

Hendel's Judas Macabre, by SF Community Chorus at Mission Dolores Basilica, 18th & Dolores, SF, 8pm, \$4/\$2 students & srs/\$8 max for families.

The Nutcracker with the Oakland Ballet, Today thru 12/27 (except 12/21 & 25), Complete details: 465-4400.

Internalized Oppression - a forum with the SPIRIT Collective - discuss, share experiences, & learn practical techniques for use in our daily lives, 8pm, \$2, SF Socialist School, 29-29th St, info: 654-3015.

25 **The White Sulphur**, 1750 Polk, shares the Christmas spirit with a Xmas ballet, 2-5pm, no cover. Join the Gang at the Pines, 1093 Pine St, for a scrumptious Christmas dinner, 5pm, Free.

Maude's 15th Annual Christmas Dinner, 973 Cole, 3:30pm, No cover.

Animal Pixilation - learn to animate live objects, 14pm, \$35. Includes film & equip, info: 658-6959, Barbara Hammer.

The Fabulous Pauline, plus accompanist Jim Brown at the New Bell Salon, 1203 Polk, SF, 9:30-1:30am, No cover, info: 757-6905.

Gay Youth Community Coalition general mtg, noon-4pm, SF Public Library, Larkin/McAllister, info: 552-6025.

Celebration! Winter Women's Art & Crafts Fair '81 - exquisite, affordable, handcrafted gifts, scrumptious foods & joyous entertainment at SF Women's Bldg. Everyone welcome, 10am-6pm, today & 12th, 505, kids under 12 free.

11th Annual KPFA Holiday Crafts Fair, 10am-6pm, A kaleidoscope of colors, activities, & artisans' wares, Pauley Ballroom, Student Union Bldg, UC Berkeley.

"Super" fundraiser for Harry Britt features actress Margie Kidder, \$25-\$35, 5:30-7:30pm, 79 Urus St, SF.

Donor Insemination & Lesbian Parenting - a panel with Donna Hitchens followed by music with Sonoma County Women's Band, 6:30pm-midnite, music starts at 9pm, \$3.50/\$5 srs, benefits Lesbian Mother/Donor Parental Care, RCC 45th & Colma, 654-8897, Ollie's, Oakland.

Holiday Art Auction spots by Other Ways (A Gay Sexual Alternative), 7pm, 54, Stage Way 00 has details.

In French with an English outline, Molliere's *The Miser*, Theatre de l'Ensemble Francaise, 414 Rue Mason, SF, 8th floor, 7:30pm, \$5.50, Fri-Sun thru 12/13, Details: 871-6755.

The Best News in Town a recent benefit features the hot salsa sounds of Tropical Nights, 8pm, \$5 dr/\$4 adv, info: 654-6725. For People's Translation Service.

Evolutionary Studies - experience a billion years of motion, Oakland Theatre of Dance, 4226 Park Blvd, Oakland, Today & 12/12, 8:30pm, 12th, 7:30pm, T & info: 538-0000.

"Holiday Spice" - an evening of dance with Ed Mock Dance Company, Fri-Sun thru 12/27, 8:30pm, Victoria Theatre, 2961-16th St, SF. Special matinees for children & srs, plus ticket info: 863-3758.

"A Night in Havana" - gay Latino American dance, 6:30pm-8:30pm, 6 years! Daniel & special guests, 8:30pm-2am, Atlantic Indian Ctr, 225 Valencia, SF, Details: see story page 3 or call 626-5400.

Gayle Marie, singer songwriter, performs at The Artista Cafe, SF, 8pm, \$3.50.

West African & western music blend to dance with John Haastrop & the Africans, 9:30pm, \$4, La Pena, Berkeley.

Tim Parks & John Blackoff create high-tech music that allows the unhealed, 8pm, \$4, 544 Natoma, SF.

Tear Gas/Self-defense Course - 10am, SF Women's Bldg, \$25/\$12.50 srs & disabled.

Overcoming Shyness - a workshop for gay men with Ira Rudolph, PhD, 10am-5pm, Details: 474-7759.

Women Loving Women: Sexual Styles - In Celebration of Women's Intimacy - explore & develop the variety of sexual styles & behaviors open to women. A workshop with Trudie Williams & CC, 10am-5pm, \$35, srs pre-reg \$40 door, info: 436-8000.

"Mothers Leaving Separate From Their Children" a workshop with Diana Case, \$25 pre-reg by 12/10, \$35 door, 10am-5pm, Berkeley Women's Ctr.

Mystery Day Hike with GOA's Art Smith - he'll take you to where you know where, Call/for details: 641-4020.

Recent Feminist Writings on Pornography - WAMP gen'l mtg, 10pm, SF Women's Bldg.

Handling Depression - a sharing group to explore personal experience, feelings & what to do, with Gloria Darow, 11am-2pm, for all women over 40, OPT/OPT Office, SF Women's Bldg, \$3.50, \$5, but NO woman turned away for lack of \$\$. Animal Rights Rally to protest exploitation of animals by the fur industry. Music, speakers, film, Union Square, SF, 11am-1:30pm, info: 474-0200 (The Fund for Animals).

Play Stakes in Women's Tennis? - a clinic for all levels of ability with a tennis pro ranked in women's 35s in So. Cal. 77, Noon, info: 664-0887 (rain date Sat).

"Burying the Ghosts of Season's Past" - a pot-luck supper and Christmas workshop at Metropolitan Community Church of the East Bay, 8pm.

Avoteja - poetry & music accompanied by Hakia Ayodele, plus a set by blues-matter J.C. Burris on harmonica & hambones, 9pm, \$4, La Pena, Berkeley.

Swingshift at Fillmore's, at Haight & Fillmore, SF. The jazz gets going at 9pm, \$2 cover, Vuc.

19 **Mass Picketing** all day at the Metro Theatre, Union & Webster, SF, to support striking theatre janitors. More info: 431-5522 or 757-2677.

The Christmas Surprise Box - a special show for kids by The People's Theatre Coalition & Make-A-Curse, Today thru 12/27 (except 12/25), 2pm, \$4.50/\$2.50 children. People's Theatre, FI Mason Ctr, Bldg B, SF Res: 776-8999.

Turning It Over - Meg Christian & Chris Williams in concert together again, plus the crew from Meg's latest album, \$5.50, 8pm, Berkeley Community Theatre, Tnt: BASS, CC, WA, Sign (ask BASS for seating). See story page 10 for interview with Meg.

Black & White Men Together - 2nd Annual Xmas Party, Star King Room, 1st Unitarian Church, 10am-11pm, SF, 7pm-midnite, \$15, info: 821-9220.

"Runway: The First Stage of the Exploration Into Flight" - luncheonpaper Debora Stoll creates a performance-environment synthesis of sound, light & sculptural elements, 9am, \$4, 544 Natoma, SF.

Chevere - women's Latin & Brazilian jazz at La Pena, Berkeley, 9:30pm, \$3.50.

New Moon in Capricorn, 2:11am.

26 **The Hired Wire** Radio Choir & D'Alan Moss at One Act II, 432 Mason, SF, Thurs-Sun thru 1/10, info & Res: 421-8162.

By George - musical revue of the rhapsodies & rhythms of the Gershwin's & friends, 8pm, Fri-Sun & 4pm Sun, Savoy Tivoli, 1438 Upper Grand, SF Res: 363-7024.

Dangerous Curves - rhythm & reggae with this women's info, 9:30pm, \$3.50 La Pena, Berk.

Address Directory

Artemis Cafe, 23rd & Valencia (1199 Valencia), San Francisco, 821-0232, WA.

The Bachchan available at Studio 45 in Emeryville. See Dec. 4 listing for details.

Berkeley Women's Center, 2955 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, 548-4343.

Eighteenth Street Services, 4131-16th Street, San Francisco, 863-8111.

Gay Community Center of Marin (now forming), Contact Gay Information Line: 457-1311.

I.C.I. Women's Place Bookstore, 4015 Broadway, Oakland, 547-9920. Call to reserve childcare for events, WA.

La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley, 849-2568, WA.

Laughing Goddess Grotto (Susan B. Anthony Coven #1), 4118 Telegraph, Oakland, 653-4169, 444-7724.

Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St., San Francisco, 863-4434.

Metropolitan Community Church - East Bay, 4985 Fairfax Ave., Oakland, 533-4948, WA.

Old Wives' Tale, 1009 Valencia St., San Francisco, 821-4675. Call to reserve childcare for events, WA.

Ollie's, 4130 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 654-0717, WA.

Operation Concom, 2485 Clay Street, San Francisco, 563-0202.

Pacific Center for Human Growth, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 548-8283, WA.

Unitarian Universalists Gay Caucus, First Unitarian

Prison Poems

These poems come from prisoners at Pleasanton. Stuart wrote his poem just before his release from prison this fall. Mary is still in Pleasanton — her poem was written at the death of Martin Luther King.

Where Are They? by Mary E. Brunson

Where is my sister?
Where is my brother?
Ones who said we didn't care.
Ones who said we didn't share.
Where their voices were clear.
At one time their footsteps were near.
Oh! they couldn't be very far,
For divided they are.
We've lost track of them as we pushed ahead.
Somewhere in the dark they're lost I'm afraid.
Within the presence of my great soul,
I tried to convince them of our goal.
But brainwashed they've gone astray.
It's so sad they won't view the new day.
Wait my sisters!
Wait my brothers!
Those of us who are strong.
On! No! We've got to keep moving along.
Can't let a few daunt our leader's dream.
We're emerging as we see the sun's gleam.
But where is my sister?
Where is my brother?
I pray our progress they could only see:
Rising or of our own who doubt our
ability.
Unleashing hope to the children
And dishonoring the leader's omen
Of the mountain together.
Where is my sister?
Where is my brother?

Penology Used To Be A Science... And Now It's A Crime by Stuart Schwartz

An environment where
Don't and can't are the guidelines
Places that teach you
Not to commit your crimes.

That is where they put us
Those are the bars they build
And this is where we sit "til time
Inevitably permits us to go.

No one makes us
Do our crime
No one makes our
Poetry rhyme.

The buildings are pretty
The landscape outstanding
Too good just fine
And
The entertainment is passable.

With any gift of intelligence
We realized we erred at sentencing
And that is just the beginning
Of the path.

For this is jail.
And why do I even care how they run this
Staff doesn't affect me.

They only work here.
I live here.
They're locked in for life.
I get out Labor Day.
They only work here.

They don't care how they run this prison.
Staff can't work on the outside.
Their opportunities are limited.
Mine abound.

For
They are institutionalized,
We are incarcerated.

self-hatred of many gay consumers feed off each other, and combine to lower the quality of our lives.

This deterioration is symbolized in a particularly vivid way for me by an address, 575 Castro Street. Once upon a time, that address was occupied by a small-time camera shop. Its owner Harvey Milk, whom I knew as an outgoing, on-the-line gay man who deeply cared about social justice. His store was unpretentious, and catered to local neighborhood needs. At times it was almost like a little community center.

Before Harvey was assassinated, his store was forced off the premises by scandalous rent increases. It was eventually replaced by a sleek new store, Statements, which is still there, and specializes in selling designer lamps to a monied clientele.

I went to Statements recently to ask the owner his views on how gay business has affected the quality of our lives. I recognized him from the time he had crossed our picket line while we were protesting discrimination at the Club Baths. He said he was too busy to talk to me, and that he had no time for any customer (in the store). He also asked that I not print his name.

I milled around Statements thinking of the day I and many others accompanied Harvey Milk on his inaugural walk from that address to City Hall. And I looked at what was now being sold there. A small white chrome lamp (the "Balance 200"), consisting of a rod about 2' high, made of 1/2" thick tubing, sticking out of a small marble block, \$1,250.00. This, of course, was not the only thing, but the dream that Harvey Milk died for!

A STATEMENT ON PHOTOGRAPHY

There has been some controversy over the photograph that I took that ran with the Women's Music Festival article in the October Coming Up. On October 25, I was at the festival and took the photograph. I was not at the festival and the November 13 women of color meeting to continue that discussion, some of whom were raised around the photograph, the role of photography in the women's community in general, and especially how that relates to women of color.

The issues that came up were —
(1) That one of the women in the picture spoke to me before publication and said she did not want her picture used.

(2) That the women in the festival picture were not asked for permission to use their picture for publication, and in general, photographers should get permission from anyone in a picture before the picture is published, especially in a gay publication about a gay event, because people in the picture may not be out.

(3) That the picture was primarily of women of color, and it was a white woman's festival, attended primarily by white women, so the picture was not representative of the festival, and therefore racist. And, in general, pictures of women of color should not be used to represent events where white women are in charge and the majority of people there are white women.

(4) That photographs of women-only events should not appear in publications that are read by men, or where they can be seen by men. I thought about these issues, and these are some of the things I've come up with —
(1) My understanding with the woman I spoke to before publication was that she didn't want her picture used if she could be recognized without her clothes on. I'm sorry for the misunderstanding between us — I did not understand that she didn't want the picture run under any circumstances. We screened out the part of her body that showed without clothes, so she was not recognizable. I'm OK. I think that there was this miscommunication between us.

(2) The issue of permission for publishing photographs is difficult one.
In patriarchal law, photographs fall into different categories. First are photos of private events. These photos can be used for publication without permission. Second are photos of public events, which means anything that could be covered by "news" and "public information" in the community. Legally, I can publish a photo from any public "news" event without permission from anybody. A third category is that of private events that become of interest to the public. If an event starts out private, but something happens that

makes it of community interest, that event becomes "news" and is a legitimate public event so that any photos from it can be used without permission.

At the Women's Music Festival would probably fall into the second category of a "news" event to start with, just because of what festivals mean to our community. I'm not sure if that's the case with the Yosemite, "news" no question that the festival became "news" and therefore, a public event. That's what I've said, and what's "legal" to say. I know that because I am about the people I photograph, and what their lives mean, I have to go further than that.

Whenever I take pictures, I'm very open about it — I usually walk right up to someone and take their picture, or I'm very obvious in the middle of their taking pictures. Because I'm real open I get lots of immediate feedback from people — some people don't want to say anything, but it's obvious they don't want their picture taken, so I don't take it. Other times, people will come up to me and ask me not to use a picture I've just taken because they're not out, or for some other reason, and those pictures never see the light of day.

But that's what I've always depended on — I put myself out there, and I'm not just taking pictures of people who are at a public event I don't want to have their pictures used, they'll let me know it's impossible for me as one person at an event where there can be hundreds or thousands of people to ask every single person personally if it's OK before I take a picture.

I thought about that, that's not enough, and it's not going to always cover everybody. One thing that would help a lot would be for people who are taking pictures to be more prominent. I've asked that "don't take my picture." At the Women's Bohemian Club Action last month, the organizers had an announcement for people to press and demonstrators that the badges were available, so women who didn't want their picture taken could identify themselves. It would be helpful if organizers had an announcement for people to press and demonstrators that the badges were available, so women who didn't want their picture taken could identify themselves. It would be helpful if organizers had an announcement for people to press and demonstrators that the badges were available, so women who didn't want their picture taken could identify themselves.

Additionally, Coming Up will start to publish a disclaimer in the Staff Box every month that says that we are not responsible for the content of the necessary gay or lesbian. We've started that this month (see page 2).



Prison Pen Pals

Coming Up! is looking for ways to support lesbian and gay prisoners, and one thing we'd like to do is run pen pal ads. Ron Enderby has started us off with a list of some people in prison he knows that would like to write to people, and we'd be glad to hear from other prisoners who would like pen pals. When you write to a prisoner, it's helpful to include a stamp with your letter.

Coming Up! also sends free subscriptions to prisoners so if you're a prisoner and would like to receive the paper, let us know. And we'd appreciate donations from the community outside to help pay the expense of these subscriptions (see the subscription form on page 3).

Margaret Fields
1034 Bragg St.
Raleigh, NC 27620

Beverly Snoddy
17373 PTL St.
Frontiers, CA 91720

Michael Finn
41515, Box 407
Carson City, NV 89702

Harry Cramer
#087260, Camp H
Angola, LA 70712

Mark Alan Hoge
#27439 F-61, Route 3
Box 55
Rosharon, TX 75083

There's a place for the Gay business establishment in our lives. We need the baths, bars, and other places of stores that provide us with necessities and diversions. But that place should be a responsible one. Gay business owners should not sell products that may be a source of harm to others. They should observe applicable laws concerning discrimination, fire hazards, and public safety. And above all, they should be sensitive to how the general lifestyle they are pushing affects the quality of our lives.

Sad to say, many gay businesses are not acting responsibly, and in fact are behaving just like the straight business establishment, where they now consciously say, But just as we deserve to be treated with respect by the straight world, so we deserve to be treated with respect within our own community. If it's a matter of Gay pride!

We won't put this request unless we have a message. Such has been the lesson in dealing with straight bigotry, as it has been the experience of American consumers in general, dealing with big business. With this in mind, a new organization, Gay Renewal, is being formed to challenge the business interests that take us for granted and to raise a public discussion of the quality of Gay life. In the spirit of both Stonewall and Harvey Milk, this new group will leaflet, agitate, do street theater, educate, litigate, organize, demonstrate, and confront. For the time has come to open wide the windows of Gay life.

If you would like to help create an organization as outlined above, please send a note with your name and address to Arthur Enderby, Coming Up!, Room 104, 2120 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.

will help insure that even more than what I've done in the past, I would very much like to hear from other people who have other workable suggestions to deal with this at large public gatherings. (3) The images of women of color have been used in a racist way to represent events that are mainly white. And of course, Yosemite, what we don't want their picture taken, so I don't take it. Other times, people will come up to me and ask me not to use a picture I've just taken because they're not out, or for some other reason, and those pictures never see the light of day.

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— Kim Corso

Astrological Forecast For the month of December, 1981

by George Hurm

Last month I talked about the formal aspects of the coming grand alignment of the planets in the fall of 1982-1984. To consider what to expect from such a concentration of energies, we need to explore the section of the zodiac so focused. The alignment will span late Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius and early Capricorn, signs that represent collective modes of being. Libra symbolizes the other, relationships; Scorpio, the energies of relationships, shared resources; Sagittarius, the philosophy of relationships; the integration of the self with the other; and Capricorn, the structures of relationships, institutions and traditions.

The concentration of planetary energies — especially the inclusion of the transformative powers of the outer planets, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto — symbolizes a period of dramatic change in the way we deal with others, as individuals and as collectives. Experiences and events during this period will challenge the very roots of our being together — social/cultural; economic; political; religious. Coming during the last two decades of this century, a time of revolutionary/evolutionary developments, this concentration will add considerable fuel to the transformation of the world as we know it.

We can expect circumstances to trigger a re-evaluation of the ways in which we relate; in the ways in which we share the resources of this planet; in the value systems that have led us to this crisis point; in the rules and regulations with which we dance this dance. Coming during the regressive phase of these last two decades, we can expect considerable resistance to this change — a last desperate attempt to hang on to the old ways of doing being. As a species we seem to choose to add trauma to drama; the transition may not be an easy one.

Aries: The confusion and doubt that start the month give way to aggressive self-assertiveness later that could lead to some dramatic confrontations, especially at work. Your energy level also accelerates around Christmas, peaking around Christmas. Monitoring your travels — and your tongue — frees you from unnecessary conflict.

Taurus: The emotional intensity that has been building for the last week or so climaxes during the first few days of December. Resistance to relationship changes that might appear to be forced on you could seriously alienate others. This tendency seems quickly and a little self-indulgent. Moderation could prove difficult and New Year's resolutions could be the result of too much...
Gemini: A comparatively quiet first week of the month is soon forgotten as the tempo builds later. Communication, a natural talent for you, becomes more of a challenge. Speaking in tongues toward the middle of December presents you as eloquent but difficult to understand. In the end, your inability to comprehend is apt to be a bawling. Join it all down and sell it you can make sense out of it next month.

Cancer: Your sensitivity to others increases and your tendency toward self-sacrifice is activated. Your emotional reactions to others are heightened — as are your physical reactions to drugs and alcohol. All-in-all, though starting slowly, December will end in a strong self-affirming reaction at home or with family at Christmas.

Leo: The middle of the month highlights December with romance coloring your days — and nights. Creative and pro-creative energies flow freely as they move around you. Try not to let that verbal confrontation toward the end of the month interfere with what could well be a very pleasurable period for you.

Virgo: Your interest tends toward home-making and the kind of tasks that require some effort needed to be understood clearly. Arranging/re-arranging your close environment brings forth some of your deepest feelings. Your expenses during the 18th could bring a strong reaction from others involved.

Libra: December starts with a bit of an energy crisis, but those feelings of self-doubt and insecurity soon pass.

Scorpio: Feelings that have been stirring with characteristic intensity erupt early in December, affecting some changes in your daily routine. Though a lot of your attention is taken up by business/money matters, miscommunication possibilities require extra effort for clarity. It may be best to pass on that lunch later in the month.

Sagittarius: Buying Christmas presents for yourself seems quite appropriate — changes in your life require changes in your lifestyle. It's an expensive month — watch for a minor tendency to over-do it. Extravagant plans for the holidays may require more realistic considerations and go for the gold.

Capricorn: The second week of the month provides the energy and the ability to really get things done — especially at work. Plans fall into place as year-end holidays approach. You find yourself easily able to clean up and close out all those loose ends, clearing your desk and your mind for the coming year. Look out for a tendency to heavy out on New Year's Eve.

Aquarius: Take advantage on what borders on inspiration to lay plans for 1982. They will include the further development of an existing relationship as bonds deepen. Though some of these plans may appear somewhat unrealistic to others, a decision to go for it during the coming year could prove them attainable. Take a second look at that impulsive urge to travel over the holidays.

Places: At work you are positively brilliant, sensitive to the needs of co-workers and supervisors, as well as to those of the company. Your insights work well for everyone, though you may tend to leave yourself out of the planning. Some tendency toward self-reliance early in the month could set you up for self-exclusion later. Stay in touch with the important role you play here.

The full moon in Gemini is on Fri, the 11th at 5:41 a.m. in the new moon in Cancer on Sat, Dec. 12 at 2:11 a.m. The Winter Solstice is on Tues, Dec. 22nd, at 2:52 p.m.

Nuclear Freeze

Tim Wolford, one of the founders of Gays Against Nuclear Power, a now-defunct group, recalls that at the 1973 transsexual occupation at Diablo Canyon, no gay or lesbian speaker was allowed onstage to address the issue.

"There was a number of hopeful elements in the anti-nuke movement such as the emphasis on the decentralization of power, and the use of feminist process," Eric notes. "However, I think that he has since become cynical feeling in the gay men's community about the anti-nuclear movement."

"There could be a lot more activity from the gay community in the issues of mostly weapons," Eric says. "Wolford also notes that several gay men have told him that they support nuclear war."

"In the women's community there is more of a tradition of women working politically against war and violence, which is what the issue of nuclear power represents," Wolford observes.

Lynn, a woman who identifies as bisexual, told Coming Up! that many of the members of Women Against Nuclear Power, a San Francisco-based group she helped found, are lesbians.

"There's one of many anti-nuke groups has been very straight, as in most leftist politics," says Lynn, "which is one of the reasons women started all-women groups. Some of them have been very successful in this regard to mixed groups and other haven't."

The anti-nuclear movement is gaining momentum, internationally. As people organize to protest the proliferation of nuclear weapons, as well as demand the shutdown of unsafe nuclear facilities and a halt to related practices such as uranium mining on Native People's land, gay men and lesbians will continue to be seen as part of the movement, as Grace Paley puts it, the known world. If you want to join the growing network of anti-nuclear groups, or start your own, contact any of the people mentioned in this article.

Neither Lee nor Eric have had any homophobia directed at them from people within the anti-nuclear movement. "I think I feel it's a lack of education," Lee explains. "If there were more lesbians out there, introducing themselves as lesbians, it would take care of some of the ignorance that still goes on."

Give a Whistle!
Get Help!
Give Help!
FAST!

Weekly

sunday

Gay Men's Open Rap at Pacific Ctr, Berkeley, 7:30pm.

Changpoo brunch at Armitage Cafe, 11am-2pm. Run with the FrontRunners — noncompetitive running for lesbians, gay men & sympathizers. 10am. Call 621-0202 for details on weekly runs.

Dignity — Catholic Gay men, lesbians & friends meet at 6pm for positive worship in the Liturgy of the Eucharist at St. John of God, Fifth Ave & Irving St, SF.

Metropolitan Community Church of the East Bay worships Sundays, 6pm, Oakland.

Country & Western in the afternoon at Rainbow Cattle Company, 189 Valencia, SF 5:30pm.

Don't all home alone — Gay Sunday Brunch with OPTIONS for Women Over Forty, 11am-1pm.

SF Women's Big, Open to women of all ages! Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church worships 10:30am, room 404, California Hall, 625 Polk, SF.

Women's Dance Jam — dance & free play from 9-10pm, 33 drop-in, Eighth Street Studio, 2525-8th St, Berkeley. Info: 866-0636 (Sybil).

Consciousness raising and support group for women in the East Bay, 10am, 1000-10th St, SF. Info: 866-0636 (Sybil).

Affirmation: Gay & Lesbian Men's — a support /social group for current or ex-homosexuals & friends, 8pm, Info: 441-0791.

David Kelsey & Pure Trash at the New Bell Saloon, 8-1:30am. No cover.

monday

Amazon Kung Fu in Oakland — classes in Kajukenbo system at new studio, 5660 San Pablo. Info: 492-2006.

Semals: contact this lesbian feminist/SW support group for info on next orientation meeting. Write PO Box 2364, Berkeley, 94702, or call Ruby, 552-0505.

Irish Music & Dance at the Starry Plough Irish Pub, 3101 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley.

Oakland Lesbian & Gay Rights Organization (OLGRO) meets 2nd & 4th Mon ea month, 7:30pm at Oller's in Oakland. Info: 547-5474.

Lesbian Separatists gather to create a lesbian-only space in the East Bay. Open by Spring Equinox. Migs alternate Mondays. Info: 534-5007.

Alternative Airwaves

Godless Faggots on the Air KTVU Channel 2, 11am, Dec. 3
The Gay Atheists League meets middle America on "The Phil Donahue Show."

The Gay Life with Randy Alfred KSBW 95.7M, Sundays, 11pm
Dec 12: "Night of Candles" — highlights of the 3rd annual George Moscone/Harvey Milk Memorial March.

Gay, Tax Exile, and Personal Financial Planning for Lesbians and Gays — a panel discussion from the Nat'l Lesbian & Gay Business & Professional Conference.

Dec 20: "Lesbian Relationships: What Do We Know From Empirical Studies on Love, Power and Commitment," an address by Ann Penland of UCLA to the Assoc. of Gay Psychologists.

Dec 27: "Poppers: Are they safe?" A talk with the Committee to Monitor the Long Term Effects of Poppers.

A World Wind
KPFA 94FM, Mondays, midnight
International music, especially by women, and programs on world events & cultures. With Max Dashed & Chana Wilson.

Full Nunch, Gay Men's Radio
KPFA 94FM, Wednesdays, 10pm
Dec 2: Rush to Judgment: Poppers and the Gay Community. Hear Hank Wilson (Committee to Monitor the Cumulative After Effects of Poppers) and W. Jay Ferrell (Pres. of Pharm. manufacturer of Rush) debate on the air, and call in your comments at 848-4425.

Dec 5: A Little Destiny for Our Own: Sarah Gilbert & Emily Dickinson. A radio drama of the ways editors, critics & scholars have disregarded one of the deepest sources of Dickinson's creative imagination — her love for women.

Dec 6: A press conference with Frank Ripplhoff, creator of *Taxi Zum Kilo*, a film about love, lives & sexual encounters in modern Berlin.

Dec 13: Sister Missionary Preacher's X-Mas Rated Holiday Special — *Fruit Punch* & the Sisters, plus the Choral Majority carry on the spirit of good will, Cameo at the crib spots by Mark Bunbury, Dory Previn, Leon Russell, the Men About Town, James Broughton, Rita Mae Brown, Charlie Murphy & many more, including favorite fables from parochial school such as "The Communist Conspiracy to X the Christ from Christmas."

Dec 20: Frutkate '91 — slices of the radio year just passed.

Love Styles, Cable Channel 6
Wednesdays, 10pm; repeats Fri, 10:30pm
Gay-oriented talk show hosted by Judi Kuhl.

The Common Woman
KPFA 94FM, Wednesdays, midnight
Music & features by and about women hosted by Pam Hoelscher.

The Majority Report
KPFA 94FM, Thursdays, 8pm
A magazine of news & public affairs, presented by the Women's Dept.

Dec 10: A Special focus on reproductive freedom means for all women as we talk to the people behind the pro and anti-choice movements. An update on the Human Life Amendment.

Rap Group for Gay Men at Pacific Center, Berkeley, 7:45pm.

New Wave at the Studio, 1535 Folsom, SF. Info: 863-6623.

Rhythm & Motion/Aerobic Dance Exercise — a great workout for all ages, levels of fitness. First class free, \$3/class, \$2.50/series card. Mon-Sat, 10-11am. Info & RCR: 621-0643. SF Women's Big.

Amazon Kung Fu — serious training for women in the art of Kajukenbo Kung Fu. Develop strength, confidence, good health & street sense. 1-3pm, 330, SF Women's Big. Info: 428-2006.

Job Counseling for Women Over Forty — 10am-2pm by appointment only in OPTIONS Center, SF Women's Big. Info: 431-6405.

Job Listings for Women Over Forty — updated regularly, available at the OPTIONS Center, SF Women's Big, 10am-5pm, Monday-Friday.

African Movement taught by Marion Olicker — everyone & all levels welcome. \$3.50/class. 6-7pm. SF Women's Big. Info: 386-0935.

Practical self-defense for women based on jujitsu — classes at The Dojo for all ages & physical abilities. 6-8pm, \$30/month. Sign arrangements can be made, call for details & other info: 530-5043, 3718 Maricourt, Oakland.

Lesbian Rap Group — meet new friends and share old ones. Facilitated by Midgett, 7:30-9:30pm, SF Women's Big. RCR: 864-0876.

Suit Dancin' — Dance of Universal Peace, 8-10pm, 11:50, SF Women's Big.

Job Listings for Women Over 40 — every Mon thru Fri, 10am-5pm in the OPTIONS office, SF Women's Big.

tuesday

Lesbian Clinic — gynecological & general med. run by & for lesbians at Berkeley Women's Health Collective. Every Tues eve. Call 843-6194 for info.

Tuesday Evening Fun Run, 7pm with the FrontRunners — gay & lesbian running group. Info: 348-0300 (Jill). Noncompetitive and free!

Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous — beginners meeting 7:15-7:45pm, regular mtg 8:15-9pm. All Saints Church, 1350 Waller, SF.

Woodworking & furniture making class for beginning & experienced woodworkers. 6:30-9:30pm, free. VLA, Complete info: 524-8716.

Psychic Circle, searching psychic technique. 7:30-10pm. Complete details: 648-4123 (Tasha).

wednesday

Lesbian Break-up Group — a support group forming to talk about ending relationships, dealing with ex-lovers, being single & starting over. 5-6:30pm. Price, location and other info: 839-1097 (Karri).

Disability — Lesbian Support Group facilitated by Rick Boden & Jill Lessing, 10am-noon, low SS, insurance OK, WA. Operation Concern, 2483 Civic Center Blvd., SF.

Support Group for Black Women of all ages who've survived rape, incest, batter — share resources & help solve problems. 7-10pm, free. Tuesday. Call Black Women's Anti-violence Project, 626-0239.

A Psychic Circle, for women only 5-7pm, call Tasha (648-4123) for details.

David Kelsey sings solo at The New Bell Saloon, 1203 Polk, SF. 9:30-1:30am. No cover.

SF Lesbians & Gay Men's Community Chorus rehearses. All Saints Episcopal Church, 1350 Waller, SF. 7:30-9:30pm, WA.

Drop-in Graphics Circle for women working on graphics & paste-up for offset printing. \$10-\$15 SS, 7-10pm. Women's Press Project, 532 Valencia St, SF. Info: 524-8716.

Bisexual Women's Open Rap, 7:30pm, Pacific Ctr, Berkeley.

Gay Men's Substance Dependence Group — advance notice required: 841-6224, Pacific Ctr, Berkeley.

Transsexuals & Transsexuals Rap — let's & 3rd Wed ea month at Pacific Ctr, Berkeley. 7:30pm.

Women Over Forty Experimental Theater at the OPTIONS Center, 1000-10th St, SF. 7pm.

Comedy for lunch at The Marine Proposal (a romp by Anton Chekhov) plus *The Rehearsal* (a humorous, touching monologue by Benjamin Brichol). Every Wed & Thurs, 12-12:30. Show times 12:50. One Act Theatre, 430 Mason.

Midweek Bible discussion with Golden Gate MCC, 7:30pm, 804, California Hall, 625 Polk, SF.

Prayer & Communion Service with MCC, SF. 7:30pm.

Transsexual/Transfeminine, MTF/MTF migs at SF MCC. Additional info: (408)734-3773. 2nd Wed each month.

Rhythm & Motion/Aerobic Dance Exercise, 10-11am, 7:30pm. See Tuesdays.

Bisexual Mixed Rap Group see Tuesdays.

Assertiveness Training for women over forty, 10-11am, noon. OPTIONS office, SF Women's Big.

Amazon Kung Fu, 12pm. See Monday.

Building Self-Confidence for women over forty, 1-3pm. OPTIONS Center, SF Women's Big.

Menopause Counseling — share concerns & info, learn about estrogen & alternatives. 3-5pm, Berkeley Women's Health Collective, 2908 Ellsworth. Info: 843-6194.

Women's Contact Class with Naomi Nini — improve structure & connect techniques in a trusting environment. Beginners & somewhat experienced. \$28/6 wks. \$4.50 drop-in. 5:30-7pm, SF Women's Big. Info: 431-6210.

SF Lesbian & Gay Men's Community Chorus now auditioning new members — sopranos, altos, tenors, basses. Weekly rehearsals, 7:30-9:30pm. All Saints Episcopal Church, 1350 Waller, SF. Call Robin, 527-4462.

Hatha Yoga classes with self-healing methods by Rha Medeon. Learn asanas, deep & color breathing, sound vibrations & more. 7:30-9:30pm, 2680 Sacramento, SF. Info: 585-5090.

Sound & Trance Dance Class with Kerlac, Dancentral Studio, 7:30-10:30pm. Info: 626-0756.

Metropolitan Community Church worships in Berkeley, 7pm. Directors: 533-6846.

Intuitive Problem Solving Support Group/Energy Circle led by Margo Adair — pool psychic resources to combat isolation, energize realities & gain insights that help attain our goals. 7pm, SS. Location, special needs & res: 861-6838.

Worship with Metropolitan Community Church, East Bay, 7pm, 4668 Fairfax, Oakland.

Metropolitan Community Church, midweek worship in Hayward, 7:30pm, 27621 East 12th St. Info: 533-6846.

The Anything Goes Chorus — 8-10pm, Berkeley. See Tuesdays.

Incestuous Assault Special
KPFA 94FM, Thursdays, 7pm.
Produced by Santiago Casal and Rich Snowdon. These programs are designed especially, but not exclusively, for male audiences.

Dec 3: Incest: The Crime of Ordinary Men — one of four girls and one of eleven boys is sexually assaulted before age 18. Since 95-99% of offenders are men, this is a difficult subject for men to talk about. Tonight offenders, women who were assaulted as children, and professionals answer the questions: Why do so many men commit incest? What do men need to do to stop this crime?

Dec 10: Incest Survivors: The Interviews — Women talk about the terror of being sexually assaulted as children & about their struggle for safety, healing, and strength. This program tells the story of the consequences of a crime committed almost entirely by men, & to think about ways to change what it means to be a man.

Dec 17: "Safe, Strong, and Free!" Empowering Children — Children need to know what to do to protect themselves from being sexually assaulted as children & about their struggle for safety, healing, and strength. This program tells the story of the consequences of a crime committed almost entirely by men, & to think about ways to change what it means to be a man.

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Lesbian Drop-In Rap, 7:30pm at Pacific Ctr, Berkeley.

Married Gay Men's Rap, drop-in, 7:30pm, Pacific Ctr, Berkeley.

Women's Drug & Alcohol Group — advance notice required: 841-6224 — Pacific Ctr, Berkeley.

Maltri — Buddhist gay men, lesbians & friends meet 7:30pm, 47 Hartford, SF.

Slides, discussions, poetry, prose & more — weekly events for women at ICI Woman's Place in Oakland — check centerfold calendar for details on the evening.

Rhythm & Motion/Aerobic Dance Exercise, 10-11am, 6-7pm. See Monday.

Therapy referral at the Berkeley Women's Ctr, 10-11am.

Career-Life Planning for all women over 40, 10am-noon. Call OPTIONS for Women Over Forty for complete info: 431-6444.

Support Group for Women & Alcohol for women of all ages at the OPTIONS Center, SF Women's Big. 5-6:30pm.

Bisexual mixed rap group for both men & women interested in bisexuality, or partners of bisexual mixed, 7:30pm, 33, Bisexual Center, 1757 Hayes, SF. Info: 929-9299.

The Anything Goes Chorus — a group singing class — lots of fun & support, popular music sing in 2, 3 & 4 part harmony for all voices. 6:30-8:30pm, SF. Info: 654-8415. Closest singers come out!

Foodsexual Comedian Carol Roberts (wingsuise) guests at Fanny's Cabaret, 4230-18th St, SF. 9:30pm, \$3. Break up your week breaking up with laughter! See centerfold calendar for more info.

SF Gay Rap Drop-In, 8pm, basement of First Congregational Church, Post & Mason, SF.

thursday

Lesbian Break-up Group — a support group forming to talk about ending relationships, dealing with ex-lovers, being single & starting over. 5-6:30pm. Price, location and other info: 839-1097 (Karri).

Disability — Lesbian Support Group facilitated by Rick Boden & Jill Lessing, 10am-noon, low SS, insurance OK, WA. Operation Concern, 2483 Civic Center Blvd., SF.

Support Group for Black Women of all ages who've survived rape, incest, batter — share resources & help solve problems. 7-10pm, free. Tuesday. Call Black Women's Anti-violence Project, 626-0239.

A Psychic Circle, for women only 5-7pm, call Tasha (648-4123) for details.

David Kelsey sings solo at The New Bell Saloon, 1203 Polk, SF. 9:30-1:30am. No cover.

SF Lesbians & Gay Men's Community Chorus rehearses. All Saints Episcopal Church, 1350 Waller, SF. 7:30-9:30pm, WA.

Drop-in Graphics Circle for women working on graphics & paste-up for offset printing. \$10-\$15 SS, 7-10pm. Women's Press Project, 532 Valencia St, SF. Info: 524-8716.

Bisexual Women's Open Rap, 7:30pm, Pacific Ctr, Berkeley.

Gay Men's Substance Dependence Group — advance notice required: 841-6224, Pacific Ctr, Berkeley.

Transsexuals & Transsexuals Rap — let's & 3rd Wed ea month at Pacific Ctr, Berkeley. 7:30pm.

Women Over Forty Experimental Theater at the OPTIONS Center, 1000-10th St, SF. 7pm.

Comedy for lunch at The Marine Proposal (a romp by Anton Chekhov) plus *The Rehearsal* (a humorous, touching monologue by Benjamin Brichol). Every Wed & Thurs, 12-12:30. Show times 12:50. One Act Theatre, 430 Mason.

Midweek Bible discussion with Golden Gate MCC, 7:30pm, 804, California Hall, 625 Polk, SF.

Prayer & Communion Service with MCC, SF. 7:30pm.

Transsexual/Transfeminine, MTF/MTF migs at SF MCC. Additional info: (408)734-3773. 2nd Wed each month.

Rhythm & Motion/Aerobic Dance Exercise, 10-11am, 7:30pm. See Tuesdays.

Bisexual Mixed Rap Group see Tuesdays.

Assertiveness Training for women over forty, 10-11am, noon. OPTIONS office, SF Women's Big.

Amazon Kung Fu, 12pm. See Monday.

Building Self-Confidence for women over forty, 1-3pm. OPTIONS Center, SF Women's Big.

Menopause Counseling — share concerns & info, learn about estrogen & alternatives. 3-5pm, Berkeley Women's Health Collective, 2908 Ellsworth. Info: 843-6194.

Women's Contact Class with Naomi Nini — improve structure & connect techniques in a trusting environment. Beginners & somewhat experienced. \$28/6 wks. \$4.50 drop-in. 5:30-7pm, SF Women's Big. Info: 431-6210.

SF Lesbian & Gay Men's Community Chorus now auditioning new members — sopranos, altos, tenors, basses. Weekly rehearsals, 7:30-9:30pm. All Saints Episcopal Church, 1350 Waller, SF. Call Robin, 527-4462.

Hatha Yoga classes with self-healing methods by Rha Medeon. Learn asanas, deep & color breathing, sound vibrations & more. 7:30-9:30pm, 2680 Sacramento, SF. Info: 585-5090.

Sound & Trance Dance Class with Kerlac, Dancentral Studio, 7:30-10:30pm. Info: 626-0756.

Metropolitan Community Church worships in Berkeley, 7pm. Directors: 533-6846.

Intuitive Problem Solving Support Group/Energy Circle led by Margo Adair — pool psychic resources to combat isolation, energize realities & gain insights that help attain our goals. 7pm, SS. Location, special needs & res: 861-6838.

Worship with Metropolitan Community Church, East Bay, 7pm, 4668 Fairfax, Oakland.

Metropolitan Community Church, midweek worship in Hayward, 7:30pm, 27621 East 12th St. Info: 533-6846.

The Anything Goes Chorus — 8-10pm, Berkeley. See Tuesdays.

Incestuous Assault Special
KPFA 94FM, Saturdays, noon-2pm.
Dec 12pm — **Women Who Kill**, author Ann Jones is interviewed about her landmark book that connects the changing role of women in society with their crimes; and a talk with Kim Chelmer, author of *The Obsession: Reflections on the Tyranny of Stendhalism*, on the meaning of body size in American culture today & yesterday. 1pm — **Yoga and Self Healing** a talk with Heidi Loga, author of *Yoga and Self Healing* on the practice of yoga as a system for change.

Dec 12: Scientists, Scholars & Policy Makers among the feminist who gathered on the State Campus for "Women's Studies & the Politics of Interconnection" conference. Highlights from the panel speeches.

Dec 19: 12pm — Celebrate the Solstice, a quick & lively look at the rites, writings & songs celebrating the shortest day of the year. 12:10pm — **Politics & Consciousness**: Margo Adair of the SPIRIT collective (Spirit & Politics Integrated in Revolutionary Transformation) on the interface of spirituality & political action. 1:20pm — **Liberation Theory in Argentina**: a conversation between Mary E. Hunt & Clara Fisher on one of four girls and one of eleven boys is sexually assaulted before age 18. Since 95-99% of offenders are men, this is a difficult subject for men to talk about. Tonight offenders, women who were assaulted as children, and professionals answer the questions: Why do so many men commit incest? What do men need to do to stop this crime?

Dec 10: Incest Survivors: The Interviews — Women talk about the terror of being sexually assaulted as children & about their struggle for safety, healing, and strength. This program tells the story of the consequences of a crime committed almost entirely by men, & to think about ways to change what it means to be a man.

Dec 17: "Safe, Strong, and Free!" Empowering Children — Children need to know what to do to protect themselves from being sexually assaulted as children & about their struggle for safety, healing, and strength. This program tells the story of the consequences of a crime committed almost entirely by men, & to think about ways to change what it means to be a man.

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Carol Roberts, crazed foodsexual, does "Comedy Nights", Tuesdays at Fanny's

Tai Chi Chuan — longevity practices, group & individual instruction in this dance of life. \$254 wks. 5:30-7pm, SF Women's Big. Info: 456-0784.

Therapy referral at the Berkeley Women's Ctr, 10-11am.

Awareness Through Movement — a class suitable for all ages, with Julie Casson. Wear loose clothing! 5-7pm, SF Women's Big.

Psychic Circle for women — share healing energy & develop psychic skills. Call Tasha, 861-6838 for details. 6:30-8pm.

Cowboy Boots & Dancing Shoes — country rules from 7pm to midnight with Skip Barrel & The Foggy City Strappers to teach you square dance steps. 12:30am-Sun the mood goes city with live disco DJ at Trocadero Transfer. Events Hotline: 495-0185.

The Black Gay Truculent Society presents: *Dionysia*, a cinema club featuring cinema & video art. Sat, 7:30pm. 925 Hayes, SF. Event info: 621-3190.

Beginning Contact Improv Class with Kerlac at Dancentral Studio, 7:30-10pm. Info: 626-0756.

Comedy for lunch at One Act Theatre. See Wed for details.

C&W in the financial district — Country & Western dancing downstairs at Trinity Place, 5:30-8:30pm, 25 Trinity, SF.

Choir practice at SF's Metropolitan Community Church, 7pm. Details: 863-4434.

Lesbian & Gay Assoc. Engineers & Scientists meet 2nd & 4th Thurs monthly, 7:30pm. Location info: 265-1587.

Drop-in Gay Men's Open Rap for women & men. 7:30pm at Glide Memorial, 330 Ellis at Taylor (2nd floor, RM 209, SF Free).

Slightly Older Lesbians (SO-L) support group for women over 40, 7:30pm, Pacific Ctr, Berkeley.

Black & White Men Together Rap — 7:30-10pm, SF Saint's Episcopal Church, 1530 Waller, SF WA.

Friendship & Confidence — a support/awareness group for gay men: explore personal life in a supportive environment, practice learning to trust. SS. Student discount. Led by Bob Rops. Info: 885-0098.

Self-defense for women at the Dojo — Monday has details.

Job Search Techniques for women over 40. 9:30am-11:30am at OPTIONS Center, SF Women's Big. \$5-\$10.

Shabbat Services with Sha'ar Zahav, Jewish lesbian/gay congregation, Jewish Community Ctr, 3200 California, SF. 8:15pm.

O & C Men's Club — a social club for chubbies & chasers meets 1st & 3rd Fri ea month at First Congregational Church, Post & Mason, SF. 8pm.

Under 21 Lesbian Rap, 4:40pm, Pacific Ctr, Berkeley.

Intuitive Problem Solving Support Group/Energy Circle with Margo Adair, for women only 2:30pm and open drop-in 5:30pm. See Wednesdays for details.

Women's Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, 7:30pm, SF Women's Big.

Leather Nights at Trocadero Transfer — gleaming boots & glowing bodies to a torrid disco beat. 10pm-7am, 33 with leather. Guests \$5/General \$7. Events hotline: 495-0185, 530-4th St, SF.

Marin Gay Rap meets every other Fri, 7:30pm, 810 D St, San Rafael. Different subjects of topical interest. Dec 4 & 18.

Live Country & Western bands at Rainbow Cattle Co, 199 Valencia, SF. 8pm-1am.

Menopause Rap Group — share concerns, experiences & feelings & info. 2nd & 4th Sat, 12:20pm. Berkeley Women's Health Collective, 2908 Ellsworth. Info: 843-6194.

Open lesbian rap at the Berkeley Women's Ctr, 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 2:40pm.

Gay-Con rap group for gay/lesbians ex-cons who want to learn how to survive in SF & talk with other ex-cons. 2:30pm, United States Mission, 1769 Oak St, SF. Info: 431-2671.

WENDO: "Way of Women" — exciting new school of self-defense for women. 2 day (10am-5pm) workshops Sat & Sun. Also daytime & eve classes available. SF or East Bay locations. Details & Res: 848-6752.

Beginning Lunar Yoga drop-in class for women. 4:40pm, 26 2571 Shattuck Ave, #9, Berkeley. Complete info: 845-3277 (Vicki Noble).

Hand Tool Classes for women. Call Debra Zito, 524-9716 for time & details. WA.

Massage Class — 10am-12:30pm. Call Tasha (648-4123) for details.

Knotty Things
— Plant hangers
— Wall coverings
— Unusual creations
in fiber

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Cabaret Checkerboard

by Gary Menger

It's a month for musicals shows more than for single vocalists, in almost every cabaret in town... and every one of the shows has been justly well reviewed.

At the Plush Room, "Steppin' Out," a 30's/40's revue with a sprightly cast of six, continues six nights a week at 8:00 and 10:00 p.m. Reservations are advised.

Over in North Beach at Savoy Tavern, the primarily Gershwin revue, "By George," shows on Friday thru Sunday at 8:00, with a Sunday matinee at 4:00, and features Richard Roemer, Tully Eldridge, Craig Jessup and Deborah Akhet. It's probably the slickest of the shows in town; may it run forever. Also in North Beach, "Street Dreams" is showing at the Spaghetti Factory — it's a winner, dealing

for each of the two nights. Special guest for both evenings will be Patty Wolfe.

Before leaving the topic of shows, watch for the grand opening of Valencia Rose, a new musical supper club on Valencia near 19th Street, which will be presenting "A Fine Romance," a musical revue of the music of Jerome Kern.

Finally, welcome and best wishes to Our Cabaret, at 131 Gough Street, (which is also Our Kitchen, serving great lunches, brunches, dinners daily, with Earl Galvin, harpist, playing over dinner). Cabaret shows will be presented Thursdays thru Saturdays, beginning December 3, and opening with Sean Salgado (a fantastic jazz singer; it's nice to know she's back in the City). Sean will be there all month and, from December 11 thru December 26, she shares the bill with Pamela Brooks. What a double-header!

Keep an eye on the Hal & David Show, new to Los Angeles. With any luck, they'll decide to make San Francisco their home, and we'll be richer for it. They're appearing this month on Wednesdays at Trinity Place and on Fridays at Fanny's. They'll do a special show at the Pines & Company (corner of Pine & Jones) on Sunday afternoon, December 6, and will be part of Carol Roberts' guest lineup on the Tuesday, December 8 show at Sutter's Mill. Busy ladies, they put on a great show.

Trinity Place, by the way, is just about the only place in town where you can catch cocktail-time entertainment on weekdays (5:30 to 8:30). This month, Scott Phillips and David on Wednesdays, they're featuring another new-comer to our City on Tuesdays: Nepata Mero, who does a gangbusters, high-energy jazz show and is a must-see for fans of Faye Carol or Pilar DuRum. Cocktail time entertainment (on Sunday afternoons) also happens at Pines & Co. (mentioned above) — Hal & David will be on hand for the first Sunday, and Samantha Samuels, who is teaching her hard to catch with these days, will do the third Sunday of the month (it is rumored that the fabled Jose is actually going to appear for a scheduled performance on the second Sunday, but call before you go).

This month may be your last chance to see regularly scheduled Wednesday evening cabaret and musicals at Sutter's Mill House, so go. On December 22, it's Patty Wolfe; on December 9, jazz singer Rachel Sael; and on December 16, the extraordinary talent of Justin Griffin (of whom I hope to be seeing a lot more soon).

The count isn't in yet for New Year's Eve — but at the moment I can't think of a better way to spend it than with either Samantha Samuels, over at Tony Place, or with Terry Hutchison at Fanny's. If you choose either, call well ahead.

Best holiday wishes — and, if you're stuck for ideas for people on your gift list, take them to a show to share a memorable evening!

Gary Menger has written for Pacific Coast State, Daly City, Bay Area Reporter and Vortex Magazine. He was the first manager of the Plush Room/Hotel Vortex, and currently books and promotes several local cabarets. He is President of "Hots Off Productions," and is Publisher/Editor of "Sold Out" — San Francisco's Cabaret Magazine.



Scott Phillips

with heavy topics but in an entertaining way. "Our Affair with Astaire," a musical tribute to Fred Astaire's songs, has put Previews (on Gary near Polk) on the cabaret map. It runs Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays, and it's a delightful show.

Opening at Fanny's on December 13, we'll have a revival of Kenneth Vega's "Bathin, 1932," with some new music and a largely new cast. This time around, Jae Ross, Judith Corber, George Quick and Sandra Rider are featured, and the show will play every Sunday and Monday thru January, at 9:30 p.m.

ONE SHOT SPECIALS

"Full House," playing at Savoy Tavern on Tuesday, December 15, and featuring an all-star lineup: Pam Brooks, Scott Phillips, Terry Cowick, Kevin Ross and Lydia Bergin. This will be an in-concert evening of the words and music of Bob Bendorff, and is not to be missed.

Two new houses (new in that they haven't till now presented cabaret) are Rooney's Bar/Restaurant (9th near Market) and Sutter's Mill (Kearny near Market). On Monday, December 14, Rooney's will present "A Performance with Projection Systems, Special Lights, word sculpture & movement at 44 Natoma, SF: Tues-Thurs thru 12:15 p.m., \$2.

Intersection Theatre presents An Evening of Samuel Beckett and the Real Middle Ages. Molloy, one of the most talented Beckett actors on the Dublin scene. Featured are From an Abandoned Work, The Stone Sucking Sequence from the novel Molloy, That Time, and A Selection of John Moly's Type Characters. 8pm, \$6. Wed-Sat thru 12:15 756 Union St. SF: Res: 985-2256.

A secularly styled Yuletide celebration aimed at absolutely everyone is the theme of Christmas Present — the Bay Theatre Collective's first show of its '81-82 season. Fri-Sun thru 12:00 and 12:15, 8:30pm, \$6/85 stonks & ars. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2320 Bancroft Way, Berkeley: Res: 843-1801.

In the throes of her own death, Queen Elizabeth I, a force to reconcile herself with the end of her reign and the death of Mary Queen of Scots. This is the background of Elizabeth Dead by George W. S. Trow, brought to us by the Berkeley Stage Co. 1111 Addison St. Thru 12:15. Complete info: 546-4778.

The American premiere of Living Quarters by Brian Friel, a deeply moving portrayal of a family crisis in a modern Irish context, by the Irish Theatre Company of San Francisco. Gilt Theatre, 1011 California, 2130 Fulton, Fri & Sat thru 12:12, 8pm, Res: 564-7542.

Berkeley Stage Company presents "A Festival of Extraordinary People" — three plays about larger than life people. Damien, by Aldrich Morris, deals with the work of Father Damien, priest to a leper colony. Paul Robeson by Phillip Hayes Denbar traces Robeson's life in prose & music. Letters Home by Rose Leiman Golderberg follows Sylvia Plath's life through her correspondence with her mother. For details on dates & showtimes thru Dec call 546-4728.

Last chance to catch Les Nickleby's 1st Rather Be Doing Something Else... The Didi Gilt Story for this season. People's Theatre, Ft. Mason, Bldg B, SF: Thurs-Sat thru Dec 12, 8pm, \$4. Res: 776-0999.

The Black Repertory Group New Arts Experiences Program presents A Friend In Need and Man About Town, two one-acts by Carey

Williams. Every Sunday this month, 8:30pm, 1917 Alcatraz Ave, Berkeley. Info & reservations: 662-2120.

Ami Sextrous, renowned interplanetary transvestit/entertainer/personality, opens Alan Glanz's new musical comedy drag revue that plays with a subshow subtitled "Bom to Cheap." Absolutely wild costumes, fabulous musical arrangements, bizarre humor, crazy fun — and a real steal at only \$2 per show. Wed & Thurs thru December 31, 9pm (Dec 9, 9:30 & 11pm, Previews, 1029 Geary). SF: Res: 985-2256.

Drama, music & dance combine to form the College Theatre's Christmas Offering. Included are Gian Carlo Menotti's opera Amahl and the Night Visitors, four original ballets by the Pacific Ballet Company and readings from A Child's Christmas in Wales by Scott Beach or John Brener. Fri-Sat thru 12:15, 8pm, Sun 12:13 & 2pm, \$3/2 stonks. College Theatre, City College of SF: Phelan & Judson. Info: 293-3100.

Berkeley Repertory Theatre presents Shakespeare's As You Like It. Previews 12:15, runs 12:15-1:10. Time & Price: 845-4700, 2025 Addison St, Berkeley.

Comedy for Christmas — the One Act Theatre Company brings us their holiday special of two comedy shows: "Some of the Best of Duck's Breath," an evening of screwball comedy, and "The High Wire Radio Choir" a band of comedians, plus Olan Moore, the City's hottest new stand up comic. Duck's Breath, Wed-Sat 12:11-1:10, 8pm at Mainstage, 430 Mason, SF, and High Wire, Thurs-Sun, 12:12-1:10, 8pm at One Act II, 432 Mason, SF. Reservations: 421-6162.

The West Coast Premiere of Nevils Mountain Dew by Steve Carter in a production by the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, a sensitive moving play about the tensions that mount between a man entrapped in a respirator & his loving, but long-suffering family. Thurs-Sun 1:13. Showtimes & prices: 864-5500. The Redstone Bldg, 2940-16th St, SF.

13 Rue de l'Amour — a classic tale by George Feydeau of an amorous hunt where wild improbabilities and passion provide a delightfully any evening of entertainment. SF Repertory Co., 4147-19th/Collingwood, Thurs-Sun thru 1:13, 8pm, \$4-7. Reservations: 864-3305.

Revels, music, Elizabethan food and drink and other delights are offered by the Berkeley Shakespeare Festival, each performance of their latest show: Twelfth Night — Shakespeare's most festive comedy. Previews 12:2 & 3:3. Runs Wed-Sat 8pm, Sat & Sun 2pm.

Meg and Cris

In Concert Again: Turning it Over

by Adele Prandini

Well friends, it's time to drag your boots from the closet, be they Gucci or the army surplus variety, and go steppin' out. Olivia is proud to present Meg Christian, Chris Williamson and the Turning it Over band in concert at the Berkeley Community Theater on Saturday, December 19 at 8:00 p.m.

This is the first time in five years that Williamson and Christian have performed together. Certainly they have something to sing about — each has a new album coming out (forgive the expression). "Lumiere" is the name of the new Chris Williamson album which will be available to you in Feb. of 82. "Turning it Over" is the new release from Meg Christian which is already waiting for you at your local record stand.

Recently I was able to talk to Meg about her new album and the up and coming concert. "This occasion is, well, a kind of reunion for me. The first time Chris and I played together was in March of 73. It was also the first time each of us played for a woman's audience. It took place in the basement of the Women's Center, in Washington, D.C. It was a real coming together, a celebration, totally inspiring to me."

"Chris and I have always had a great deal of caring and mutual respect for each other and each other's music. I am really looking forward to playing together again. We'll be resurrecting some old songs and doing some new ones."

We talked a bit about women's culture in general. "Culture brings us together, involves us emotionally. We learn from it. Culture is a catalyst, it moves us, makes us feel what's going on inside. When you feel it in your guts that's when you make a change."

Certainly, the performing arts do fulfill all of needs for us. Women's music, dance and theatre provide us with rejuvenation and identification, not to mention the chance to look over the audience and see who's out with whom.

Seriously, I agree with Meg that we have to continue to build a community that can support its artists. Historically, artists have been both instigators of change and the messengers of new ideas. Truly, performance is a highly personal way of reaching people.

The words change and growth came up in our conversation time and time again — I think you'll sense both in her new album.

It speaks about responsibility: "Me turning your life over to you, I can't change anyone's life but my own." Her song echoes this feeling — "I'm just all I can handle at the moment ..."

The idea of turning it over is something new for us.

It's hard to admit that we can't do it all, at least not in a week. We can take a rest once in a while, take care of ourselves.

As I mentioned earlier, the up-coming concert also features Chris Williamson. Certainly, I don't have to acquaint you with the accomplishments of Chris's career. "Strange Paradise," "The Changer and the Changed" and "The Changer and the Changed" are already a part of your record collection. Despite little advertising, marginal press and almost no airplay, "The Changer and the Changed" has become one of the most successful albums ever produced by an independent label, selling nearly 100,000.



Photo by Bruce Maying

copies. So let's name drop a little. Did you know that Chris has shared the stage with such notables as Lily Tomlin, Bonnie Raitt, Jose Feliciano, Harvey Mandel, Tracy Nelson, and the list goes on and on, but good taste prevents me from continuing. Chris has performed all over the country in just about every college and club you can think of. Her music has been featured in a number of films and documentaries.

With such dynamic talents as Chris Williamson and Meg Christian, plus the band from the Turning it Over album, this concert promises to be a highly entertaining evening of music.

Some of you may know that Olivia Records is nine years old this year — that means that next year, Olivia will celebrate her ten year anniversary! A momentous occasion indeed. On this special occasion, we will witness another reunion of Meg and Chris, this time, however, at the other end of the country. For this concert, you might want to drag a tuxedo from the closet, for it will take place at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Bravo!

If you can't make it to New York next year, you won't want to miss the Berkeley concert this year. The concert is wheelchair accessible and there is special seating for the hearing impaired upon inquiry at BASS. Free childcare is provided. You can get tickets at all BASS outlets or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Olivia Records, 4400 Market Street, Oakland, 94608.

Meg continues on the subject: "Rage takes a lot of energy. It's draining. How can we transform anger into something constructive?" I must admit it's comforting to find these thoughts admitted publicly in print. As a matter of fact, I think you'll find the entire album uplifting.

Meg sums the gamut of emotion in her songs. There's a wonderfully humorous song called Gym II. This number is all about picking yourself up and putting yourself into shape; it also speaks about muscle liberation. Those of you who have spent some time grunting and

groaning over barbells, will find this number an interesting treat. Also on this album, is a beautiful tribute to lovers, in the past tense. If you have an ex-lover that you are still absolutely mad for, this album would make a great Christmas present. And, you might want to circle the name of the song Old Friend on the album cover.

I talked to Meg a little about what she writes, where the lyrics come from. "Writing for me is intensely personal. Often women come up to me saying 'please write a song about this issue or that issue.' But I can't. I have to cover what is most vital in my life experience."

It occurred to me while listening to the album, that much of that experience is universal and certainly the songs speak for many of us. I also noted the change in that experience and how we perceive it. We're getting a little older and we're learning some things about living. Meg's album not only reflects a personal change for her but also reflects the changes for many within the feminists community.

"Turning it Over" took a year to make, not counting the time writing the songs, most of which are originals, with contributions from Julie Horni (There's a Light) and Linda Lewis (For Mama).

The list of artists contributing to the effort is impressive. Accompanying Meg on bass, keyboards and back-up vocals is Diane Lind. In the supporting vocals you'll also hear the voices of Chris Williamson and Vicki Randle. Wait, the list is not complete. There's the drums of Bernice Brooks, electric piano of Mary Watkins, Lori and Debbie (I have not last names) on horns, and a little help from their friends from the Bay Area String Ensemble. Quite a collection of talent, don't you think? Hold on, we're not through yet. Last, but certainly not least, there's Margie Adams on piano, Robin Flower with her mandolin and Marty Centa on steel guitar. O.K., now you may applaud.



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF PHOENIX COLLEGE
1202 WEST THOMAS ROAD • PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85013

October 16, 1981

Dear Gay and Lesbian Organization:
We of Phoenix College have no similar organization at this time, and have been looking for the formation of such a group. The Associated Students of P.C. likewise have no desire to interact with the many perverse groups expected to attend your conference. Please do not contact us with any more invitations to disquieting seminars and militant organizational meetings. You have our best wishes for the failure of your conference and society's complete ostracism of your lifestyle.

Sincerely,

John M. Smith, President
Associated Students

Jodi M. Stovall, Vice-President
Dave Ricketts, Elections

Janet Pelzek, Public Relations
Christy J. Kopack, Secretary
Wynne R. Tetterton, Treasurer
Shari Sorenson, Social Events
Rosanne Dupras, Athletics

This word of encouragement to our community was received in response to a mailing from the Gay, Lesbian Community Center at San Francisco State University. GLCC is hosting a January conference of gay & lesbian student groups from all over the Western U.S., so they sent an invitation to Phoenix College. The conference is designed to network existing gay & lesbian groups, and cover social, health, political and other issues of public concern.

If you or your organization want to respond to the Phoenix College letter, GLCC encourages you to do so. The SF State Student Activities Office has already written, saying they found the letter "inappropriate and inhumane."

If you're a student at State, and would like to work on the conference, contact GLCC in the Student Union Building. If you're at another campus, and there's no gay or lesbian group for you, GLCC will be glad to help you out with information on starting your own. They can be reached at 496-1952.

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From West Berlin to the West Coast

'Taxi' takes a long trip

by Penni Kimmel

Frank Ripplott's *Taxi Zum Kilo* has travelled a long way from West Berlin via Frameline (San Francisco's lesbian and gay film collective) to its West Coast premiere at the Castro Theatre to its present run at the Lumiere. *Taxi to the Toilet* — a literal, and therefore inherently inadequate, translation — somehow got past the external censors, but then notices in the *New Yorker* and *Time* and *Atlantic* magazines always seem to help gay Uncle Sam with his own chastity belt for a while. The liberal straight intelligentsia to the rescue! Come rally round the flag boys! (you can put a comma in there, if you feel you must.) There's no doubt about its popularity, either, according to box office receipts and full houses. Filling up the 1,300-seater Castro is no mean feat; gay films rarely do, "porn" flicks never do, and "limited engagements" no matter how good the press aren't usually stretched out into regular runs. Subtleties and all, this movie has to be something else.

Now, San Francisco's gay audiences are peculiar, if not downright queer, about sex on the silver screen. It has something to do with the fact that this is supposed to be a trend-setting city, a citadel of power and pride, the end of the all-weather rainbow and the home of instant expertise in same-sex. It is, withal, the world's biggest closet at times. *Taxi* puts a big, fat tire between the closet door and its jamb and scares the *gesundheit!* out of a lot of people. About time, too.

Mary Poppins and her parrot-headed umbrella — now that's kinky! Frank Ripplott acting in view of his own lifestyle? That's state-of-the-art. In a long piece one could fault, somewhat, the acting script, production, directing, cinematography, editing, length, width or typeset of the credits — one could create artificial controversy around a technical point or two, by why detract from the fun of the film.

Man (city mouse) meets man (country mouse), man and man settle down, lifestyles change as each other in sense of sex, the outside world, both professional and social, impinges naturally on the idyll, and . . . Frank will get up out of his hospital bed, tucking in a long, long bedgown to run round the Teutonic wintryland in a hired cab looking for fast relief while Bernd slaves over a hot stove. It's a conflict of taste, and as moral as apple pie. Frank just happens to like his pie frequently and with different flavors of cream on top, occasionally cheesy, when and where the mood hits. Bernd, on the other hand is a conventional vanilla-on-moderate-wedge, strictly for dessert at the dinner table, to be consumed with the aid of the proper fork. They are very much in love.

What, then, is the shockiness of it all? Well, there are scenes in *Taxi* never before seen on the legitimate commercial screen. There's an actual avowed homosexual teacher teaching real live impressionable intelligent youngsters in an honest-to-goodness classroom. Frank and students don't love each other as much as Frank and Bernd do, but they rather respect each other more. Mein Gott, c'est extraordinaire! Then there's a grand, royal, high drag ball. And then there's a bedraggled queen in the school-

room, and the lesson for today, kiddies, is: stop talking about it and do it.

Also filmed — and well-filmed without being 10-Watt backlit and mirrored and scrimmed to death — are the following scenes: sucking, fucking, watersport, whipping, gentleness, romance, sarcasm, tiredness, illness, bowling, boredom, friendship, subterranean, confusion and growth. If NASA showed its astronauts taking a shit once in a while, maybe the titillating mystery would go

out of it and we could get on with letting them show us one personal way to solve some of our problems.

Taxi Zum Kilo is an uncompromising, exclusively gay film that does what no gay or straight film has done to date — explored the full range of one person's sensibilities at a crucial point in that person's life. It's a show and tell time, for a change. Find it and get in line with or without an umbrella; you'll probably wet yourself laughing, anyway.

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Theater

'Nisei Bar & Grill' at Asian American Theatre

by M.J. Lallo

The Asian American Theatre presents *Nisei Bar and Grill*, a play concerned with the generation gap between the *Nisei*, first generation Japanese in America, and the *sansai* children of the *nisei*, and the second generation.

The *Nisei* lived through World War II, and there's the conflict between the generations — the younger generation were born after the war and know nothing about the camps or the racial hatred that the *Nisei* endured.

This deep conflict makes for a real zizzer in any play, but the evening I saw it, the play was very slow moving. The entire play takes place at "Harry's Bar and Grill." Harry runs his philosophy into every drink and every olive. Ron Muriera skillfully plays the "Kid", a singer-songwriter, who composes his material by the bar telephone and then sings it to potential publishers for only a dime's investment.

Emilia Cachapero turns in another excellent performance as Keiko, the hooker-waitress from another bar. Though she steals the show for the time she is on stage, which is all too brief, she also has been given lines that are so "theatrical classical", one is sure the playwright stole them from her.

Cachapero's character is pitted against Shirley, played by Mitzie Abe, who continually expounds on community action, and political problems. Her speeches are again too much like "an activist handbook."

So the play is uneven — some of the actors are excellent, some of their lines are not. In the first act there are two anti-gay comments, both of which seem unnecessary. Shirley tries to make up for an insult directed at Keiko and puts her hand on Keiko's shoulder, only to be pushed abruptly aside and scorned, "Hey I ain't no dyke!" Her response is completely inappropriate in terms of what they're fighting about. And again, Judith Nihel, who plays Kimi, a hairdresser, talks about Jimi Hendrix's hairdo, and how it makes me think like "homosexuals." In 1980, an older generation person of any descent that thinks Afro is homosexual, is too far out for me to comprehend.

It could be poor writing by Garrett Hong that makes these lines awkward, or it could be his stretch in irony to somehow encompass prejudice toward homosexuals cropping up in a minority group that is also oppressed.

The most important part of the play was the references made to the "camps" that the Japanese were relocated to during the War. And the most poignant line came from Sol-Fi (Ken Narasaki). Ken is a young writer trying to

make it big in his field, just like the Kid. He writes about the future and tries to link the past with the present. But he also has to be good ole American commercial when he says, "I'll write 'Son of the Camps,' it will be sci-fi, but it will also talk about the camps, this way it will reach more people."

So in the end what's left out of his people and his Bar and Grill? Will the older people he employs stand in the welfare line, or end up in sweat shops? There's some good political commentary here, definitely some good acting, and a terrific set.

'Fugue in a Nursery' with Theatre Rhinoceros

by Penni Kimmel

The season opener at Theatre Rhinoceros, Harvey Fierstein's *Fugue in a Nursery*, is an ambitious construction in dialogue among its four assorted paid grown-ups: the devilishly queensish Arnold, his ex-lover Ed, the debonair cone tripping and bisexual transsexual with his neurotic fiancée, Laurel, and Arnold's baby-boy boyfriend, the sweet and street-wise Alan.

The quartet play clever conceit against the inherently disastrous situation — a weekend together in the country. Add unresolved relationships surface to add to the socially wretched and sad and time is had by all. Once again, in gay theater, emotional adversity is the nanny of wit. The verbal games ricochet off the walls, the alphabet block furniture come tripping and tumbling, the bisexual gore-ish and cunning set design to underscore the musical "fugue" theme of the title. The psychopathological fugue state is present, too, buffering the zip-zap convulsions with its convenient amnesia: four people on a lost weekend, behaving in a seemingly rational manner while having no memory of what was really said or meant, or who was really there.

Martin Koe wraps himself comfortably around "Arnold" — a continuous, but never stock character in the Fierstein trilogy — and the strengths as well as the vulnerabilities of living the torch-singing drag show life are admirably portrayed. Curt Crider's "Ed" is characteristically smug. Sheila Leichliter's "Laurel" marvellously pillars a help to everyone but herself; and Robert Wendell has to be very talented indeed to rise above the pretty-boy hustler image of "Alan" to make him the strength of the play. And like the Director J. Kevin Hanlon has done it again.

Fugue in a Nursery plays through December 20th at the "NEW" Theatre Rhinoceros, 2226-16th St. at South Van Ness, Thurs-Sun. at 8:30 p.m. Call for reservations: 861-5079.

The new Valencia Rose Has gala opening this month

A rose will bloom on Valencia Rose Cafe-Restaurant-Cabaret area this month when the Valencia Rose Cafe-Restaurant-Cabaret opens its doors. A form used furniture/antique store, the new Rose is the brainchild of gay activists Ron Lanza, Hank Wilson and Ward Smith, former chef at Hyde & Green.

"We got the idea last November," says Ron Lanza, "and finally acquired the building in February of this year. Our vision was of a place that combined good food with good music, a place where people feel welcome, a neighborhood cultural and community center."

Ron doesn't believe Valencia Rose will add to gentrification of the Mission. "We took a run-down, empty commercial property, rehabilitated it, including a long unused upstairs apartment I now live in, and are turning it into a place that will provide good food and entertainment to our neighbors."

"Our neighbors will be our customers. The cafe will be open 7:30am to 2pm, — so, who's gonna come for breakfast or lunch? No one outside the neighborhood."

He continues, "Our intent is to serve food at reasonable prices, non-processed foods, fresh vegetables, fish, and poultry. We'll have a menu of seafood, pasta, chicken, and vegetable dishes that will please any palate, with special surprises for our vegetarian friends. The restaurant will serve dinners and a carte entrees from 5-11pm, and our bar (beer, wine & champagne) will be open all day."

Since the building is so large, two huge floors with big rooms including the down-

stairs cabaret area, there'll be space for on-going classes and meetings.

This wonderful place didn't happen overnight, even though the City Planning Commission voted unanimously for it. It took months of hard labor, dealing with various city bureaucrats for licenses and permits, meeting in person for plumbing, electricity, building codes, and borrowing heavily to pay for it. But Ron feels it will all be worth it. He's especially excited by the cabaret's potential for discovering new talents in music, dance, comedy, and drama.

Assisting Valencia Rose in it's hunt for new talent will be Allen Sawyer, manager of the Castro Theatre. Allen will be auditioning and booking acts, as well as creating and directing the Rose's first musical revue, *A Fine Romance*.

"I got the idea from a Frank Lesser revue that failed. It was a musical soap opera and just awful," says Allen, "so I thought I'd try to do a better one and decided to use the music of Jerome Kern for the show."

The revue went through two incarnations, both bad, one was titled *Ear of Kern*, but Allen fell in love with Jerome Kern's tunes in the process and *A Fine Romance* is the end product with a cast of three men and two women, a three-piece orchestra and the promise of a "wonderful show, full of surprises." If you're not familiar with Kern's music, Allen Sawyer thinks you'll be surprised at how songs you'll recognize and go away humming.

A Fine Romance will preview its first act at our very own Coming Up! Benefit Party, Friday night, December 4th (details in our front page story) followed by a full scale public preview Thursday, December 11th.

The revue will open the night of December 12th as part of the Official Grand Opening Celebration of Valencia Rose. Sunday, the 13th, Modern Times Bookstore celebrates their 10th anniversary with a dynamic party. Performances of *A Fine Romance* continue Thursday through Saturday at 8pm, and Sunday at 2pm; tickets are \$5 or \$15 with dinner. Monday nights will be "Gay Comedy Night" with Holy City Zoo or Other Cafe live format, that will bring us gay and lesbian comics of promise.

Jan and Daniel, acoustic guitar players and balladeers, will entertain you on Tuesday nights.

Wednesdays will see an open mic for would-be vocalists, and following *A Fine Romance* at 10pm on Friday nights will be cabaret stylist, Scott Phillips.

After the revue on Fridays at 10pm, the vocal magic of Patty Wolf! but alas, the post revue entertainment for Saturday is to be announced.

There you have it! The first month's schedule at the new Valencia Rose Cafe-Restaurant-Cabaret, 766 Valencia Street, in San Francisco. There's valet parking available directly across the street and the whole shebang is completely wheelchair accessible. Call 552-1445 for complete information and reservations.

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Memories of holidays past and present



Wheel of the Year

by Gweneth Rose

For the Pagan people who follow the Wheel of the Year, the turning of the seasons, Winter Solstice is the first sabbat, or holiday, of the year. The period between Samhain, or Halloween, and the Winter Solstice is the darkest time of the year: it is a time of introspection and incubation. According to my tradition, derived from the Faerie Wiccan tradition, the horned god, son and lover of the Goddess, has died at the Summer Solstice, has gone into the grain, and has been harvested. He is dead, and yet we know he is to be born again. For in the darkness, he grows within the womb of the Goddess, and we await his birth, the coming of the light, the turning again of the yearly wheel, at the Winter Solstice.

The story and the celebration of Winter Solstice varies among the different traditions. Many Paganists do not call the Divine Sun Child the sun king; instead the Child is the Goddess Lucina. But whether this child is male or female, she/he is the light and the hope which comes again to guide us through the year. All Pagan festivals are celebrated with feasting, music and dance. Winter Solstice is usually a vigil on the longest night of the year. Celebrants gather to assist the Goddess in bringing the Light to birth. Since this holiday is symbolic of the intimate connection between death and birth, dark and light, celebrants can use this vigil to undergo symbolic death and birth themselves.

Several years ago I helped plan a ritual for Solstice in which we asked people to bring the celebration objects representing qualities or virtues which they wished to be done with, and likewise to bring objects representing that which they wished to be born with the light.

We gathered together and cast a magical circle around us, invoking the spirits of earth, air, fire and water. We called upon the Mother Goddess and the Divine Child to join our circle and to be present in each one of us. One by one we

shared our feelings about what we wished to banish: "This padlock represents my fear. I want fear to die in me," one person would say, and the rest chanted, "Fear is dying, fear is lost to the night!"

We went round and round the circle, moving from the personal outward: "I want nuclear poison to be banished." "Nuclear poison is dying, is lost to the night!"

Our chants grew, we began to dance counter-clockwise, and we raised a great cone of power with our sound and movement, and then we dropped to the floor, and went together into a deep trance where we underwent a symbolic death.

The work being done, the rest of the night was filled with feasting and joyous celebration, a birthday party for the light.

This year I again look forward to the long vigil with my circle on the night of December 20, when again I will explore the connection between death and life, dark and light, sitting and watching with the Goddess until just before dawn, reviewing my year and planning the year to come. Then, while it is still dark, my circle will join other circles high on a hilltop above the city, and we will join hands and sing together, chanting the sun up over the horizon, greeting the promise that comes with the birth of the Light.

Then a priestess, our midwife, began to guide us in the journey of birth, and we were each born again and brought back into the light. Together we shared our hopes for the coming year, showing each other the objects we had brought for this purpose. We chanted together about what was being born: "Hope is born, power is born, love is born, joy is born," and again raised power with singing and dancing, this time dancing clockwise.

A Child's Christmas in Puerto Rico

by Aurora Levins Morales

Christmas day was the least of it then, when I grew wild on the mountainides of Indiera, ranging the coffee farms and filling my skirt with stolen tangerines. Gifts must wait for the Three Kings on their plodding camels to pass wearily through our corner of the world on their way to Bethlehem and stable their beasts at our little fettings of green grass and pine needles. Meanwhile it was the dry season and we sat outdoors. In the yellow light that spilled from the kitchen while Tito Cruz from across the road slipped down to the store where the old men drank their shots of Don Q from paper cups and fetched back Cho's cousin from Sabana Grande. And he appeared, melting suddenly into the circle of light. "Get him a chair," yelled my mother and pours him a little red glass of the best white he turns his guitar. I remember verse after verse like dark birds rising from his quiet face with an echo of the moorish troubadours in the high singing, of the Andalusian peasant and the black cane cutter from Angola all mingling, somewhere far away in his libero blood while nearby, just across the valley, dogs barked at the shadows of the coffee branches skittering in the moon.

But Noche Buena the noise rose from every corner and hollow of the mountains, from the green and red jeeps roaring up and down the roads and Lencho Perez arguing with his wife about the basting of the pig that his son had butchered that morning, that Tita and I had fed orange peels to all fall in the pen on the hill, careful always to walk on the uphill side to keep our shoes clean. All afternoon the pig turned in the pit, and the little boys fought for a chance at the crank, poking it to see if it was done, until Chinita la de Ada pulled on his ear and it came off in her hand. But now it was night and the pig was carved into heaps of garlic-pepper-and-oregano smelling slices, everyone diving for the bits of skin on them and the smell of arroz con dulce, in the oven and huge pots of rice and gaudules. Best of all Spanish turnos and dulce de everything, quivering slabs of candied orange, mango, guava, coconut being sliced with cheese, until outside the bright house there was only soft light brushing the dark hills and the chickens' feathery shuffling under the orange tree while the pigeons on the porch hummed softly to themselves in their cage.

Late, late in the night sleepy children were bundled into blankets and the jeeps roared off into the second dark. The road stayed in the headlights and an owl swung like a brown pendulum across our path. Dogs eyes lit up red at the roadside and we thought they were unheard of beasts from the middle-of-the-night.

In the town in the city the fat jovial gringos in the red suit was pushing out the old men on their wise steeds. Blondes dolls and GI Joes poured into the small towns and came by mail to backwaters like ours. He spoke better english, and he had contacts in N.Y. they say he had a brother-in-law in the government. Nowadays my younger cousin wait for Santa with tinsel trees in their living rooms and unwrap Barbie dolls and machineguns and Three Chimpunks Christmas Records and never hear the song rise into the dark air filled with the velvet light of bats or see the buff light pour down the red hill while all the world sleeps off and the church bells ring in the misted dawn.



Light in the Darkness

By Guy Mannheimer

Hannukkah is an eight day Jewish festival of both historical and seasonal origins. The historical roots originate with the Jewish revolt led by Judah the Maccabees against the Syrian Greeks who occupied Israel about 2400 years ago. Confronted with superior numbers and power, the Jews, nevertheless, won. Their victory was an affirmation of their right to exist as Jews in the face of Imperial edicts prohibiting them to follow the ways of Judaism.

A legend concerning lights was added to this historical event: when the triumphant Jews entered their Temple in Jerusalem after liberating it, they found it had been desecrated by the Syrian Greeks. So, first, they cleaned and prepared the Temple for Jewish worship. Then they searched for oil, because one of the necessary rituals was to maintain a constant light (the "eternal light") in the Temple. But they could find only one small flask of pure olive oil, enough to light the Temple menorah (candelabrum) for only one day. The legend tells that this amount of oil burned, miraculously, for eight days, enough time for new suitable oil to be prepared. Hannukkah, which in Hebrew means "dedication," is therefore partly a celebration of the Jewish victory over oppression and the rededication of the Temple and Jewish peoplehood.

The seasonal roots of Hannukkah predate the historical. The practice of a festival of lights comes from an old Jewish nature festival, a winter solstice celebration, in which light is the central motif. At the time of year when the nights are longest and coldest, Jewish men and women and their friends gather to share in the lighting of candles in a menorah (symbol of a tree bearing light) over a period of eight days, increasing by one the number of candles on each successive day of the festival. The winter is rebuked, the miracle and wonder of light created out of darkness is celebrated, inspiring hope, joy, and an affirmation of life.

Because the Jewish calendar is based primarily on the moon, the dates of holidays vary each year. This year, the first day of Hannukkah begins on Monday, December 21st and the first of the eight candles is lit on Sunday night, the 20th, right at the time of solstice.

As a queer Jew, I see Hannukkah addressing being queer and being a Jew.

Jewish men and women at the time of the Maccabees, throughout history and still today, have been pressured to be just like everyone else or to give up or downplay their separate identity or to disappear altogether. Many have survived those pressures and attempts at destroying them for being different.

So, too, throughout history and up to this very day, have dykes and queers been pressured to go straight or to hide in closets and disappear entirely. Lesbians and gay men have survived those attempts to destroy us for being different.

The Jews who asserted themselves 2400 years ago at this time of year in a victory of the weak over the strong and the few over the many fought back to claim their right to express themselves as a people spiritually, culturally, and politically. Lesbians and Gay men have also fought back (most notably, in our time, at Stonewall in 1969 and at San Francisco City Hall in 1979) to claim our right to express ourselves spiritually, culturally (I included sexuality here), and politically. As a queer Jew, for me, then, is a rededication to my Gay and Jewish identities, a reaffirmation of my Gay and Jewish pride, struggled for and maintained in the face of oppression and great odds. So, paraphrasing a Jewish prayer, I can give thanks at Hannukkah for being alive and having been sustained and brought to this moment, for being a witness to light in the darkness.

SHALOM (PEACE)

Black Community Christmas

by David Williams

For most Afro-Americans, Christmas is a time for children, and it occurs to me that the adult partying that starts before Christmas and stretches beyond New Year's Day, is but one small result of the hope that we have had to invest in each generation. Until I was thirty years old, Christmas remained primarily (though less so each year) a family affair. Since then, it has been for me a time of separation. I grew up in the shadow of the Empire State Building, and here I am on the edge of the Park Panhandle. So while my Christmas's remain mainly Black, it is of what I have given up that I wish to speak.

Somewhere, the tensions between Santa Claus and the real world from which my relatives had to wrest our presents was always real, if imperfectly understood by us. Once we began to speak, my sister and I ceased to believe in Santa Claus. Old folks who asked us "what did Santa bring you?" were regarded as complete lunatics. Who else but our parents had gotten us all that stuff?

A friend of mine who grew up here likes to say, that in his neighborhood, everybody knew that no white man dressed all in red carrying a huge bag of custom-made goodies would be flying down chimneys in the middle of the night.

We didn't have a fireplace until I was fifteen. When it came time for me to buy presents, I paid for them in search and payment, but it was still a fun time for me because I like to buy presents. I had a teaching job in those days, and used to fly home without fail, even when I was in London.

My father believes that the Church is the real center of the Black community, although as children we felt punished if the twenty-fifth fell on a Sunday, which meant not merely an 11 o'clock service, but the added duty of Sunday school which began at 9:30. Most of the time Heaven spared us this interruption of gaiety, allowing "Christmas Sunday" to precede the great day. Children had to perform Christmas Pageants, the Church was full — although not as full as at Easter — and all the Carols and Spirituals were sung.

Sometimes on that day, my sister and I avoided the kiddy chatter after Sunday School, and went up early to the Sanctuary, where the Stewards were deciding it out and the old folk without family who had been brought out in plenty of time were singing the old Christmas Spirituals a cappella in the ancient style. Then the church would fill, the Organ sound, the choir proceed down the aisle and the minister appear. Thank Heaven "Joy to the World" was always sung, and all four verses which I still know by heart, in the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Paterson, New Jersey. My Aunt Mildred sings in the choir of the Calvary Baptist Church, which always sang Mr. Handel's Messiah on Sunday evening, and I always revelled in it.

The big event was still Aunt Martha's Christmas dinner. As I grew the dining room became less and less crowded due to the natural course of things, but it was always festive. For me the dish that signified Christmas was sweet potato pie. I firmly believe that every Black family has at least one person who can do the thing to near perfection — in our family it was Grandma Maggie.

The truth of Christmas Day for Black people is that it is of and for us — although there are exceptions. I once asked to bring a Dutch friend of mine, who had been my host in Amsterdam, home to Christmas dinner. My mother suggested that everyone would be uncomfortable. My father was plainer: "David, we have one day of the year when we can relax, and put aside the burden of the whole world we have to deal with, to be with our own." So off I went with my friend to Connecticut to spend Christmas with old friends. Also, one can have everything, and while I respected my father's feelings at the time, I now know how he felt.

TAXI ZUM KLO IS WITTY, CHARMING, RIGOROUSLY UNSENTIMENTAL and fair to all its characters. TAXI IS A BIG STEP TOWARD LIBERATING THE SCREEN.

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Selected for presentation at the
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