

Elderberries Newsletter : April 17, 2012

1. April Potluck Social

Did you kiss at your wedding? Will you fly the rainbow flag? Did you nearly split up over inviting your homophobic brother?

The next Elderberries Potluck Social is on Sunday April 22. “Nova Scotian gay and lesbian couples and the process of getting married” will be a presentation by Aine Humble, Associate Professor at MSVU in the Department of Family Studies and Gerontology. Doctor Humble researched the wedding experiences of 20 members of LGBT couples aged 42 to 72, and presented her work at the 2011 conference of the Canadian Association of Gerontology. Questions accepted both during and after the presentation. Members and guests welcome.

The social takes place at Spencer House Seniors Centre, 5596 Morris Street, Halifax. Accessible entrance at the side, parking at the back. No alcohol, no scents, no pets, please. Therapy dogs welcome. There is no fee for the social, but we will pass the hat for a thank-you donation to Spencer House.

For the potluck, please bring something you would enjoy eating. Full kitchen available, so both hot and cold foods are welcome. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Please note : To allow for more membership participation in the organizational side of Elderberries, we will begin with an Open Meeting at 1:30 pm. Dr Humble’s presentation begins at 2:30 pm.

2. Beacon Award for Social Justice Literature

Is your unpublished novel designed to ignite readers’ passion for, and understanding of, an issue of social justice? Then you may

wish to check out the **2013** Call for Submissions for the Beacon Award for Social Justice Literature. Beacon particularly would like to see works by marginalized writers, including gay, lesbian, and transgendered persons, Submission deadline is **February 1, 2013**. Complete guidelines and a submission form are available at www.beaconaward.ca The main prize includes \$1000.00 and an offer of publication by Roseway Publishing.

3. *Slayer* Finalist for Award

Slayer, the mystery-thriller by local author and Elderberry guest speaker (October 2011) Nadine Lapierre, has just been named a finalist in the Debut Author category of the Golden Crown Literary Awards. These awards were created to encourage the enjoyment and enhancement of lesbian literature. Winners will be announced in June. For more, see <http://www.goldencrown.org>

We may be a little long in the tooth to actually *join* the RCMP, but if you've ever dreamed of being romanced by a lesbian RCMP officer, Lapierre's book may be for you.... Snatching you from the grip of a would-be killer, the Staff Sergeant clasps you to her womanly red serge bosom and throws you into the saddle of her magnificent black horse, in the very midst of dress rehearsal for the Musical Ride at the Metro Centre... OK, that isn't actually in *Slayer*. Just a possible action scene for your next novel, Nadine.

4. *La Cage aux Folles*

Neptune's new production of *La Cage aux Folles* is a hit! An aging gay couple's life is plunged into comic chaos by the visit of the son of one of them (one-night stand) with his fiancée's conservative family. The original French version goes back to 1973, but this musical has retained its freshness and *joie de vivre* for modern audiences, according to *Chronicle-Herald* reviewer Elissa Barnard (Arts and Life section, April 11 and 15). Runs until May 27. For ticket information, see www.neptunetheatre.com

5. Familiar Names among Merritt Award Winners

The annual Robert Merritt Awards, www.merrittawards.ca, presented by Theatre Nova Scotia, recognize excellence in professional theatre in Nova Scotia. Among this year's winners, announced at an awards gala on March 26, 2012, were :

Lead actor : Walter Borden, for Hoke in *Driving Miss Daisy*,
Valley Summer Theatre

New Play by a Nova Scotian : Daniel MacIvor, for *Bingo*,
Mulgrave Road Theatre

Mayor's Award for Achievement in Theatre : Bryden MacDonald

6. Community event links :

The Company House

<http://www.thecompanyhouse.ca/html/calendar.html>

Gay Halifax

<http://gayhfxns.org/LocalEvents>

Wayves

<http://www.wayves.ca>

7. Making Elderberries Happen

The Elderberry Fairy is only our logo! Last month's call for members to come forward for the Elderberries Organizing Committee was unanswered. If members want the organization to survive and flourish, only members can make it happen.

The Elderberries' accomplishments in our short existence have been substantial :

- * building a province-wide membership of more than 120
- * presenting monthly information/recreation programs relating to LGBTs and/or seniors, ranging from legal and health issues (nutrition, exercise, role of prideHealth) to artistic expression (music,

poetry, photography, guest authors) and community history

- * coordinating a panel on how to preserve LGBT community history, as part of NSRAP's Pride Week lecture series, 2011

- * publishing a monthly email newsletter, an organizational brochure, and a fundraiser cookbook

- * providing contact people and/or information to researchers and media regarding LGBT senior issues

If any of this sounds like something you would like to take part in, please respond to malm1@ns.sympatico.ca, or to nselderberries@gmail.ca

8. Coda

If you have received this newsletter, you are a member in good standing of Elderberries. If you wish to resign, please email nselderberries@gmail.ca.

All typos in this edition are the fault of the Easter Bunny, who hopped forth from her pastel straw nest to lead Your Editor into previously unplumbed depths of chocolate intax-, intaaxicat-, inticktocks-....

That is to say, cherry liqueur chocolate mind melt.

And speaking of intaaxicat, don't forget to do your taxes!