

Elderberries Newsletter, March 04, 2014: 4th edition

Spring forward! Fall back!

Yes, at some point in the wee small hours that lie between Saturday night and Sunday morning of March 8-9, the semi-annual Switching of the Clocks will take place. This is something like the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, but (sorry guys) without the splendidly fit young men in scarlet coats. If you are likely to find yourself staring at your time-pieces wondering, "Which way does it go?", Your Editor can tell you : **"spring forward, fall back."**

Do not ask Your Editor why this is so. Do not ask Your Editor whether you will get an hour more of sleep or an hour less : she believes it all evens out in the fall anyway. You may ask Your Editor whether this is the first day of spring : regrettably, it is not.

You will not wish to be an hour late (or an hour early, whichever it is) for the March Elderberries Potluck Social, which is on Sunday March 9 beginning at 2:00 pm New Time. So remember to re-set your clocks - **spring forward, fall back!**

1. Elderberries events :

a. March Elderberries Potluck Social :

Sunday March 9, 2014, 2:00 to 4:30 pm

Free monthly event for LGBT people aged 50+ and our families, friends, and supporters.

Location : the Penthouse, 2615 Northwood Terrace. Wheelchair accessible. Parking is often available in the surrounding streets, or there is paid parking in a lot just across from the entrance. Please - no scents, no peanuts, no alcohol, no pets. Service dogs welcome.

Program : Jesse Robson, co-founder and Managing Director of Happily

Ever Active will speak on the founding of the organization and on its current activities. Happily Ever Active's chief goals are to create and provide fun-filled healthy living activities for older adults experiencing health challenges, and to foster leadership and personal development opportunities for young adult volunteers. Recreational programming includes music, dance, exercise, and theatre activities - and much more. Jesse Robson is a Master's candidate in physiotherapy at Dalhousie University.

<http://happilyeveractive.org>

For the potluck, please bring something you would enjoy eating and sharing. Homemade or store-bought are both welcome. Coffee and tea are provided. There are no kitchen facilities, so cold dishes or finger food would be the best choices. Please bring along any serving utensils your dish requires : for example, knife for cutting a cake, salad tongs, etc

b. Elderberries Coffee Break :

Wednesday March 12. Northwood Coffee Room (Harbourview), 10:30 am. Refreshments available from adjacent Coco's outlet. Staff and residents of Northwood are invited to join Elderberries for conversation and getting-to-know-you.

2. News and connections :

Halifax Pride Community Meeting

Saturday March 8, 10:30 am to noon. Halifax North Public Library, 2285 Gottingen St. Everyone is welcome.

Rally : International Women's Day, 2014

Halifax Grand Parade, Saturday March 8, 2:00pm. - 3:00pm Celebrate the advances women have made - and how far there is to go!

Homophobia in the Irish Media

Scotiabank Theatre, Saint Mary's University, Thursday March 27, 7:30 pm. Speaker : Irish drag queen and activist Panti Bliss. Panti Bliss's speech on homophobia, given at Dublin's famed Abbey Theatre, has rocked Ireland and challenged the "polite" homophobia of Irish media, politicians, and society. Free event sponsored by SMU Centre for the Interdisciplinary Study of Culture. Seating is open, but space is limited.

Youth Project's 20th Anniversary Party

Friday, March 28, 7:00 pm. Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. Open to all.

Jesus Is a Faggot

Wednesday April 2 to Saturday April 12, 8:00 pm to 10 pm. Menz and Mollyz Bar, 2182 Gottingen St. Garry Williams presents his play about "faith, sex and men loving men and men loving boys."

Do you remember **Maggie's Farm**? This was a lesbian commune in Tatamagouche in the 60s and/or 70s. A local history researcher would like to find out more : who started it? when did it begin and end? are there any photos? Please respond to Kim Cole at cole@tru.eastlink.ca

3. International news :

Are you able to represent Elderberries on the organizing committee for the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia?

First organizing meeting is Monday March 10, 5:30 pm, at the offices of the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, 1668 Barrington Street, Suite 401.

Wheelchair accessible. The IDAHOT rally is sponsored by the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project, which is looking for representatives from LGBT community groups to share in the planning. Please email **both** Your Editor at malm1@ns.sympatico.ca, and Chris Aucoin at nsrap@nsrap.ca .

Think homophobia and transphobia are on the downswing? Look at some reports from the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission <http://ilghrc.org/>

March 7 : Global Day of Action against Homophobia in Nigeria: the Solidarity Alliance, Nigeria, calls for a day of protest against the new Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Bill and the Anti-same-sex Law.

Late February : President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda signs into law the Anti Homosexuality Bill. The next day, Ugandan tabloids publish lists (some with photos) of persons in Uganda believed to be LGBTI.

Early February : Protesters at a demonstration against internet censorship in Taksim, Turkey, were tear-gassed, and many arrested. Sezer Yekta was taken into custody for being in possession of a rainbow flag. He was harrassed and assaulted by police.

February 6 : The Iranian Football Federation banned seven female football [soccer] players for "gender ambiguity."

4. Community Event Links :

The Company House

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

Gay Halifax

<http://gayhfxns.org/LocalEvents>

HalifaxPride

<http://halifaxpride.com/events>

Menz & Mollyz Events Calendar

<http://menzbar.ca/calendar-events.html>

Wayves

<http://www.wayves.ca>

5. Message from the Editor :

If you have received this newsletter, you are a member in good standing of Elderberries, a free social group for LGBT persons aged fifty plus, and our families, friends, and supporters. Contact email for the group is malm1@ns.sympatico.ca, or elderberries.scotia2@gmail.com.

From time to time, information or requests for information may be sent to us for inclusion in the newsletter. Inclusion does not imply that the information has the approval of the newsletter, or of Elderberries.

Your Editor has recently spent a few days on Prince Edward Island, owing to a death in the family. The visit was haunted by foxes, seen leaping on their prey in a snow-covered field, looking for handouts on the deck, or peering in the picture window at the side of the motel (which looks onto farmland). In Celtic folklore, foxes were relied upon as guides to the spirit world. Whether it was my aunt making one last farewell to the family, or the fox getting a good look at me as now the eldest in the clan, and likely to be his next customer, who knows? Anyway, I trust to his legendary cleverness to proofread this month's newsletter.