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To: elderberries-all@bonmot.ca



ELDERBERRIES NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2014

Greetings from your Interim Editor!

It would be a difficult task indeed to replicate the inimitable style and painstaking attention to detail of our Founding Editor; a task I shall not even attempt to undertake. The best I can hope to do over the next few months is to provide our members with a sampling of events that may be of interest. Your humble servant,

- Hugo Dann

1. Elderberries Potluck Social – November 9, 2014, 2:00 to 5:00 pm

Location: the Penthouse, 2615 Northwood Terrace. Wheelchair accessible.

Coming Out Stories: Please note that while November's Potluck Social has no scheduled presentation, there will be an opportunity to share stories and experiences.

It might also be a good time to talk about an Elderberries Holiday Party. Rainbow Refugees has approached us about an opportunity to explain some exciting developments for their organization. We might be able to combine their presentation with an Elderberries Holiday Party that could include the larger community. It might be good to talk these ideas over as a group.

The Social: The Potluck Social is a free monthly event for LGBT persons aged 50+ and our families, friends, and supporters. Bring a friend! 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.

The Potluck : please bring something you would enjoy eating and sharing. Homemade or storebought are both welcome. Coffee and tea are provided. There are no kitchen facilities, so cold dishes or finger food are your best options. Please bring any serving utensils your dish requires : for example, knife for cutting cake, serving spoons for salad, etc.

2. Elderberries Planning Committee:

The Planning Committee is seeking a permanent Editor for the Monthly Newsletter. Hugo is comfortable serving as Interim editor until January, 2015.

3. LGBTQ Events:

Saturday, November 15: 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Coming Out: Now vs. Then at Shirley Burnstein Hall (Edward L Roach Building, Northwood, 2615 Northwood Terrace, Halifax) A panel discussion of the coming out

experiences of three LGBTQ youth and three LGBTQ elders.

Free Admission. Refreshments provided. Wheelchair accessible and *SCENT-FREE* event – so please no scented personal care products. Find out more via [Facebook](#).

Saturday, November 15: Mass, by Tanya Davis

Fort Massey United Church in Halifax, 5303 Tobin Street (Queen and South Park)

Mass is a poetic, probing, and playful rendition of the liturgy of the Catholic church, written for cross-disciplinary presentation and presented with the theatrics and fervour that are often suppressed in modern day religious service.

Saturday, November 15: NSRAP Fundraising Wine Tasting, 6-9pm:

In partnership with the Winery Association of Nova Scotia, NSRAP is hosting *Fruits of the Vine: An Evening of Wine, Food & Fun*, at The Company House. Tickets can be purchased online (<http://nsrap.ca/fruits-vine>) for \$60/person, with discounts available for parties of six or more.

Fruits of the Vine brings some of the finest winemakers from the Annapolis Valley to sample their vintage, discuss food pairings, and talk about where the Valley stands in relation to other wine regions. You'll hear their visions for the future of Nova Scotian wine. There will be lots of delicious fruits, breads, fine local cheeses and charcuterie to feast on. No one will go hungry! A silent auction of wine, dining, and entertainment related prizes will give our guests a jump on holiday shopping. Dancing the night away with Queer Pressure Dance Party follows, from 10pm to the wee small hours.

We hope we can continue to earn your support. NSRAP can provide good food, good wine, inspiration and entertainment, and a chance to make a difference in the lives of LGBTQ Nova Scotians. For the price of a night out, your contribution enables us to:

- Make LGBTQ Elders safer and more secure in continuing care;
- Enhance LGBTQ access to health services, including Trans health and mental health services;
- End Canadian Blood Services ban on donations by gay and bisexual men;
- Host events such as International Day Against Homophobia & Transphobia, Trans Day of Remembrance, TimeOUT Lectures, and the Community Heroes Awards. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Hugo at : 902-420-1395.

Sunday, November 16, 4:00 p.m. Integrity NS/PEI regular monthly Eucharist at the Cathedral Church of All Saints (1330 Martello Road). Integrity is a Anglican GLBTQ group and their supporters who provide a safe and inclusive worship space for people on their spiritual journey. Refreshments and conversation follow the service.

Wednesday, November 19, 4:00 pm.

Halifax LGBT interMix at SMU Art Gallery (5865 Gorsebrook Ave). The [Halifax LGBT Business Association](#) and Saint Marv's University Art Gallery co-produce this event

encouraging LGBTQ community members to mix and mingle while viewing SMU's queer ceramics show, Camp Fires. Finger foods provided : cash bar. For more details, RSVP via [Facebook](#).

Thursday, November 20 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Transgender Day of Remembrance Ceremony at St. Matthews United Church (1749 Barrington). Please join members of the transgender community, our friends, families and allies in marking the 16th Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR).

This year's ceremony will be held from 6.30 pm to 7.45 pm, followed by a reception, with coffee, tea and light snacks. Doors open at 6:00 pm. In addition, community members are invited and encouraged to join in a candlelit walk prior to the vigil. The walk will leave Victoria Park at 6.00 pm, walking to St. Matthews for the event, in solidarity. We ask that those participating in the walk gather at Victoria Park (Spring Garden Road and South Park Street) at 5.45 pm.

Find out more via [Facebook](#).

Sunday, November 23 Noon to 3:00 p.m.

10th Annual [YouthProject Auction & Brunch!](#) at Lord Nelson Hotel (1515 South Park St.)

Join the [YouthProject](#) for an afternoon of fun with auctioneer Neville MacKay, to raise funds for LGBT youth services!

If you wish to purchase tickets in person, please contact The Youth Project at youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, or 902-429-5429.

Do you have an item you'd like to donate to the auction? Are you interested in sponsorship options? Please get in touch with auction coordinator [Ian Mullan](#) at auction@youthproject.ns.ca

Planning ahead :

Rev Darlene Young Memorial Dinner : December 6,2014. 6:00 pm. St Andrew's United Church.

4. International news :

Uganda :

The LGBTQ San Francisco-based Organization for Refuge, Asylum & Migration (ORAM) has published an extensive report titled "Country of Origin Report: Sexual and Gender Minorities - Uganda." The unique report includes an extensive case law section, analyzing key asylum decisions in Ugandan LGBTI asylum cases from six jurisdictions worldwide.

This report is particularly timely. Ugandan LGBTI individuals and activists recount growing hostility and fear as Uganda debates re-introducing an "Anti-Homosexuality Bill," while homosexuality remains criminalized under existing law. The Anti-Homosexuality Act, initially dubbed the "Kill the Gays Bill," was annulled by Uganda's Constitutional Court in August 2014 on a parliamentary technicality. The Act imposed up to life imprisonment for same-sex sexual acts, and punished those who advocate for sexual minority rights or provide services to LGBTI people. Violence toward LGBTI individuals in Uganda has escalated, and many are fleeing the country.

Country of Origin reports are a critical tool for adjudicators and protection experts assessing risk of persecution, credibility, and availability of state protection in asylum and refugee claims.

Download the full report [here](#)

5. 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>

NSRAP

<http://nsrap.ca>

Wayves

<http://www.wayves.ca>

6. Message from the Interim 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 : elderberries.scotia2@gmail.com

From time to time information is sent in for inclusion in the Newsletter. Inclusion does not imply that the information has the approval of the Newsletter or of Elderberries.

