



ELDERBERRIES NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2014

*Seasonal Greetings from your Interim Editor!*

*Our Founding Editor is sorely missed, her contribution unmatched! The best I can hope to do to offer our members with a sampling of events that may be of interest. Wishing you all seasonal joys of the Solstice and the return of the light! Your humble servant, - Hugo Dann*



**1. Elderberries Potluck Social & Holiday Party – Sunday, December 14, 2014, 3:00 to 7:00 pm; Special Guests Rainbow Refugees NS & Scott Jones.** Location: The Company House, 2202 Gottingen Street. Wheelchair accessible. Please bring some food you'd love to share! Admission is FREE! ( \$5 - \$10 optional donation in support of RRANS). Coffee, tea, and some soft drinks will be provided. There will also be a cash bar for those over 19 who like a little nip in their nog!

Join the party on Facebook and invite your friends!!  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/380497142109751/>

**This year The Elderberries are inviting the community!** Our Special Guests, the Rainbow Refugees Association of NS (RRANS) have now successfully settled three gay refugees into new lives here in Halifax. Come and meet these new members of our community and learn more about RRANS and some exciting new developments. We will be collecting small donations at the door from those who would like to contribute. Anyone wishing to make a donation of \$25 or more can get a tax receipt, so bring your cheque books if you're so inclined.

In addition, **Scott Jones**, the founder of *Don't Be Afraid* will be playing the piano and leading a sing-along of holiday favourites. The Elderberries wish to express their sincere thanks to the following, without whose help this special community

celebration would not have been possible: The Company House, NSRAP, RRANS, and Don't Be Afraid. Find out more about our Holiday Party & Potluck on Wayves.ca: <http://wayves.ca/node/255>

**The Elderberries have a lot to celebrate!** Founded five years ago as an offshoot of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP), The Elderberries have been a source of social connection and information for older LGBTQ Nova Scotians. We have members on our mailing list from all corners of the province, and our monthly potlucks at the Elegant Northwood Penthouse area..(Outstanding views of our beautiful Dartmouth, Harbour & Halifax area) are an important social event for many members. We have twice participated in the Nova Scotia GSA (Gay Straight Alliance/Gender Sexuality Alliance) Network's annual conference, talking about our lives and experiences with LGBTQ youth, hungry for that inter-generational connection, and we continue to support NSRAP in its work with continuing care facilities. **Ed's Note:** You can find out more about the GSA Network on the Youth Project's website: <http://youthproject.ns.ca/gsa/index.php>

**The Social:** The Potluck Social is a free monthly event for LGBT persons aged 50+ and our families, friends, and supporters. Bring a friend! 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. Please bring any serving utensils your dish requires : for example, knife for cutting cake, serving spoons for salad, etc.

## **2. Elderberies Planning Committee News:**

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

### **2a. Elderberries Road Trip!**

In other news, Elderberries Lynn Murphy and Hugo Dann made an excursion to the Annapolis Valley last month. We were guests of the Valley Youth Project at their monthly drop-in. We had a lively discussion about the early years of LGBTQ activism and numerous other topics. Many thanks to the VYP's great volunteers and the fantastic LGBTQ youth. You made us feel most welcome and the conversation was fantastic!

Earlier that day, together with NSRAP Chair Kate Shewan, we met senior staff at a continuing care facility in the Windsor area. The meeting was positive and NSRAP hopes to be conducting a series of workshops on LGBTQ aging and cultural compassion there in the new year. If this goes through, we would very much like to hold a community meeting with Elderberries in the Valley and Windsor areas. More on this topic in next month's newsletter.

### **2b. NOTICE: Do you have photos, mementos or stories of "The Turret"**

The NSRAP Youth & Elders Project is planning a community talk (Jan. 24th at the new Halifax Central Public Library) about *The Turret*: how it came to be, what happened there, and the significance (socially, politically, etc.) of having that

community-controlled space. If you have photos, mementos or stories to share please contact Chris Aucoin at 902-423-6999 or [CAucoin@eastlink.ca](mailto:CAucoin@eastlink.ca).

### **3. Other December/January Events**

#### **3a. Rev. Darlene Young Memorial Christmas Dinner - Saturday, December 6, 2014, 6 PM. St. Andrew's United Church, 6036 Coburg Rd. Halifax NS.**

The Darlene Young Memorial Christmas Dinner is a free dinner that the community holds every year to serve a turkey dinner to those who need it. The dinner is completely done by members of the community so we can give the community a dinner. We invite one and all to the community dinner for a nice hot Christmas Dinner. So come and enjoy! Follow the link to RSVP on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/334810990013605/>.

#### **3b. Stories of The Turret**

##### **Saturday Jan. 24, 2 pm - Halifax Central Public Library, Spring Garden @ Queen**

What did *The Turret* (1976-1982) mean to the LGBTQ community as a social and political space? Here the first-hand experiences of LGBTQ elders in creating a community-controlled social space long before there were any human rights protections for LGBTQ people in NS. Refreshments will be supplied. All LGBTQ community members, friends and allies welcome. This program is part of the NSRAP Youth & Elders Project. For more information contact [NSRAP@nsrap.ca](mailto:NSRAP@nsrap.ca)