

Elderberries Newsletter

June 2015



1. Elderberries Potluck Social, June 14, 2:00 to 4:30 pm

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

The Program : We're starting to think (maybe...not making any commitment here...) about perhaps doing another cookbook. So before we enter the purely social part of our get-together, can each one please bring a food-related story to tell - it doesn't have to be long - "Then I discovered those lobsters were *alive* when they went into the pot, and it was ten years before I ever ate another lobster" or "and that's how I made my first batch of biscuits and set fire to the kitchen" or "why my father always had to cook his feed of eels out in the barn." Recipes optional.



The Social :

The Elderberries Potluck Social is a free monthly event, open to LGBT persons aged fifty plus, and our families, friends, and supporters. Not a member? Come and join us - bring a friend! Parking is often available in the surrounding streets, or there is paid parking in a lot across the street 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. Home-made or store-bought are both OK. Kitchen facilities are not available, so something room temperature is best. Don't forget any serving implements your dish requires - knife to cut squares, spoons or tongs for salad, etc. Coffee and tea are provided courtesy of Northwood.

2. Other June events :

2.1. Cafe Scientifique 2015 : Gay Men's Identity and Sexuality in the Age of HIV/AIDS, Tuesday, June 2, 700 pm.



Location : Central Library, 5440 Spring Garden Road, Halifax. Wheelchair accessible.

Free panel presented by Dalhousie University and the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia.

Moderator : Dr Bob Fredrickson

Panelists : Dr Matthew Numer will present his doctoral dissertation work on gay men and AIDS in Nova Scotia

Chris Aucoin is Gay Men's Health Coordinator with the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia

Kevin Kindred is a lawyer and activist in Halifax

Adam Myatt is Education Coordinator at the Youth Project, and Chair of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project

For more information contact Dr Matthew Numer, 902-494-1153, or

matthew.numer@dal.ca

2.2. Venus Envy Workshops : June 2, 16, 30 ; 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm



Location : Venus Envy, 1598 Barrington St, Halifax

June 2 : I'm Coming! a Guide to Women's Orgasm

June 16 : Cheap Thrills : Do-It-Yourself Toys for Power Play

June 30 : Going Down : a Guide to Fellatio

Audience : everyone (nineteen and older). Cost : \$20.00 (\$10.00 sliding scale).

Contact and/or register : www.venusenvy.ca , 902- 422-0004.

2.3. Health at the Library :

Aging at Home

Wednesday, June 3, 7:00 pm

Keshen Goodman Public Library, 330 Lacewood Drive, Halifax

Building Better Sleep

Thursday, June 4, 10:00 am

Sackville Public Library, 636 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville

Registration : 902 - 460 - 6750

Thursday, June 4, 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Halifax North Library, 2285 Gottingen St, Halifax

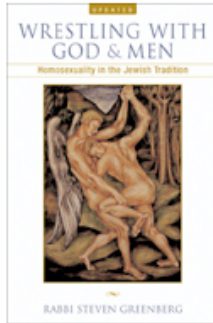
Understand and Get a Handle on Pain

Wednesday, June 10, 12:00 to 2:00 pm

Central Library, Spring Garden Road, Halifax

Registration : 902 - 487- 0272

2.4. Rabbi Steven Greenberg : author of *Wrestling with God and Men : Homosexuality in the Jewish Tradition*. Thursday, June 4, 7:00 pm.



Location : Halifax Central Library, 5440 Spring Garden Road, Halifax. Wheelchair accessible.

Co-sponsored by the Library and by Shaar Shalom congregation.

Steven Greenberg is known as the first openly gay Orthodox Jewish rabbi. He is a Senior Teaching Fellow and Director of Diversity Project at CLAL : the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership; winner of the Koret Jewish Book Award for Philosophy and Thought; and a founder of *Eshel*, a support organization for Orthodox gay Jews. He participated in *Trembling before G-d*, a film about gay men and women in the Orthodox world.

His writings are controversial among other Orthodox rabbis and academics, but he continues to explore the rationales behind the prohibition of sex between men in the biblical, rabbinic, and medieval Jewish literature, finding that each rationale offers a framework for reconsidering the law.

He is a dynamic and internationally known speaker on the topic of LGBT inclusion in Jewish communities.

Rabbi Greenberg lives in Boston with his husband and daughter.

2.5. Outwinning with Mama Tits, June 6, 2015, 7:00 pm.



Location : Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax. Wheelchair accessible.

Halifax Pride presents Seattle drag queen Mama Tits, who will host an evening of wine, light food, music, and laughter. Tickets \$60.00 each, www.halifaxpride.eventbrite.com. Online sales end Friday June 5 at 12:00 noon : remaining tickets, if any, will be sold at the door. Questions may be directed to secretary@halifaxpride.com

Mama Tits is a true heiress to the Stonewall drag queens : to find out more, read www.kplu.org/post/seattle-queen-mama-tits-drag-not-just-about-curves-and-glitter

2.6. OUTeast Queer Film Festival, June 6 to 14, 2015, varied event times



Locations : Multiple venues.

Films include : *Tab Hunter Confidential*; *Homegrown Homos : Canadian Short Films*; *Drag Becomes Him*; *Work-in-progress* and *Youth Short films*; and many more.

Social events : Opening Night Gala Reception, Retro at the Coho dance, Behind-the-scenes Conference, Queens on Screen Dance Party, OUTeast Brunch - with more in between. See details, including ticket information, at www.outeastfilmfest.com

2.7. Nova Scotia LGBTQ Health Research Conference, Tuesday/Wednesday June 9/10, 2015. All day.

Theme : *The Importance of Patient Engagement and Collaboration in Improving LGBTQ Health in Nova Scotia.*

Location : New Academic Building, 2nd floor, University of King's College, Halifax.

Keynote speaker : Anna Travers, Executive Director of Rainbow Health Ontario. Conference open to LGBTQ community members, health care providers, community organizations, etc. Registration free, but space is limited. To register or for more information : emily.colpitts@dal.ca or jacqueline.gahagan@dal.ca

2.8. Knowledge-Sharing Workshop on LGBTQ Health, Thursday June 11, all day.

Theme : *Developing culturally competent primary health assessment approaches for LGBTQ populations in Nova Scotia.*

Location : Penthouse, Northwood

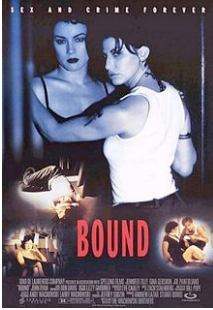
Keynote address, panels, discussions. Open to LGBTQ individuals as well as groups and health care providers. No registration fee, but space is limited. To register ASAP, or to ask questions, contact emily.colpitts@dal.ca or jacqueline.gahagan@dal.ca .

2.9. Halifax Pride Volunteer Orientation, Saturday June 20 : one session starting at 10:00 am and another at 11:00 am

Location : Cineplex Park Lane, 5657 Spring Garden Road, Halifax

As the Pride Festival gets bigger and better, the need for volunteers increases. Sign up for the required orientation session now and avoid the rush. Questions? email volunteer@halifaxpride.com

2.10. Bound. Sunday June 28, 1:00 pm.



Location : Cineplex Cinemas Oxford, 6408 Quinpool Rd, Halifax

Halifax Pride and Cineplex join up to present this lesbian film. Admission \$5.00 - supports the Halifax Pride Festival. For more information and a clip, see

www.halifaxpride.com/event/bound

3. News in brief :

Moscow, May 17, 2015



Seventeen activists were arrested at a rally for the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia. These "troublemakers" were releasing rainbow balloons. Police interpreted this as LGBT propaganda, which is forbidden in Russia.

Halifax, May 21, 2015 :



About 200 people gathered in front of the New Central Library to celebrate the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia, in a rally organized by the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project.

Bedford, May 22, 2015 :

Six members of Elderberries in two teams addressed Grade Ten students on coming out then and now, life in the Bad Old Days, the impact of LGBT organizing, and whatever questions the (mostly very quiet) students asked. This LGBT awareness event was organized by the school's Gay Straight Alliance.

Dublin, May 22 2015 :



Rainbows arched over the city as the people of Ireland overwhelmingly approved a revision of the Irish constitution that will allow marriage between same-sex couples. Note : does not apply to Northern Ireland.

Halifax, May 24 :

Annual General Meeting of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project. Hugo Dann, last year's NSRAP liaison with Elderberries, was re-elected.

Vatican, May 26, 2015



Vatican diplomat Cardinal Pietro Parolin calls Irish referendum result a "defeat for humanity." The Catholic Church may be moving forward, but not very fast.

4. Message from the Editor :

If you have received this Newsletter, you are a member in good standing of Elderberries, a free organization for LGBT persons aged fifty plus, and our families, friends, and supporters. To contact the Newsletter, email elderberries.scotia2@gmail.com or lynn.murphy46@eastlink.ca .

From time to time items are sent to the newsletter to be printed : these materials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Elderberries or of the Newsletter.

Your Editor had a lovely Newsletter almost ready for you. It had an interview with the author of the "hot sweaty bodies" quote which became such a touchstone of controversy during the "shirtlessness" debate. How historic is that? Unfortunately in the process of forwarding that newsletter, 80% of it disappeared into the unknown, and the whole dam - umm, that is, dratted - thing had to be re-created. The interview will reappear at a later date.

This whole thing is probably riddled with typos, grammatical errors, and horror of horrors, possibly errors of fact (were there *really* 200 people at the IDAHoT rally?). The proof-reading leprechauns have been heavily into the pot since last week : it's weddings, weddings, weddings, mornin noon an night. Yez likely never saw a female leprechaun, did yez? There's a raisin for that.

We don't want to hear any complaints, we're doing the best we can here. We're trying to put together a boycott of the Italian products to protest that Vatican diplomat. Is pizza Italian food or American food? Yeh Editorialist has already gone back to drinking retsina, it's Greek wine and Lord knows Greece needs the dollars. Surely we can trust the Greeks to go easy on us (Sappho and all that....).

All right, so.

Editor : Lynn Murphy

Photo editor : AnitaL Martinez