



**1. Elderberries Holiday Party,
Sunday December 11, 2:00 to 5:00 pm.**

Location :

The Company House, 2202 Gottingen St, Halifax



This free Potluck Social is open to all LGBT people aged fifty plus, and our families, friends, and supporters. Not a member? Come anyway, and join our group. Bring a friend!

The Potluck : please bring something you would like to eat and share. Home-

made and store-bought items are both welcome. Full kitchen facilities are not available, but some potluck tables will be set up near electrical outlets so we can offer hot dishes if we wish.. Also, bring any utensils your dish requires : knife for cutting cake, spoons or tongs for serving salad. Note : it has recently been observed that some members have been coming for the refreshments but not bringing anything for the potluck. It doesn't have to be expensive, it doesn't have to be gourmet (although we thank our gourmet chefs for their delicious concoctions!), but please bring something to share.

Facilities : Wheelchair accessible. Please : no peanuts, no scents, no pets. Service dogs welcome. Please note that a cash bar will be in operation during this event.

Program : Sharing seasonal stories, maybe singing some songs or carols.

Free will offering : There is no charge for attending this event. However, it is customary to pass the hat for a free will offering. This year we will donate the December free-will offering to Rainbow Refugee Nova Scotia, an organization working to advocate and resettle LGBTQI refugees in Nova Scotia. Cash is always welcome, but cheques may also be made out to "Rainbow Refugee N S." To find out more about this organization and its work, see the



www.rainbowrefugeens.com

2. Dan MacKay's Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner

Saturday December 10, begins 8:00 pm.

Location : 3247 Union St. Wheelchair accessible.

Christmas punch, mulled wine, and roast turkey will be ready when you get here. BYOB and potluck. Please bring something you would like to make and eat. If undecided whether to bring a sweet or a main dish - go for the main dish : we usually have many many sweets.



Sing carols, visit with friends old and new, eat, drink, and be Mary!

3. Events from mid-December :

December offers dozens of events - here are a few picked out by your editor, whose taste in seasonal music was formed around 1950. If you are looking for something around or after the reign of Elvis Presley, get your own copy of ***The Coast***.

Saturday December 10 : The Celtic Christmas Show. Spatz Theatre, 1855 Trollope St, 7:00 pm, \$30.00.

Tuesday December 13 to Saturday December 24 : Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Neptune Theatre, 1593 Argyle St, 7:30 pm, \$23 - \$28.

Sunday December 18 : Community Hanukkah Party, Shaar Shalom Synagogue, 1981 Oxford St, 4:30 - 7:30 pm, \$10.00. Ramped entrance around the side on Pepperell St. Menorah lighting. Latkes (yum!).

Wednesday December 21 : Wild Abandon Productions brings you Merry

Wishing You a Joyous



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slamakwanzakah! A holiday cabaret, 8:00 pm. The Company House, 2202 Gottingen St, Halifax. Wheelchair accessible, including washroom. Tickets at the door, or from www.thecoho.ca, \$15.00. (Get tickets early - they may run out!)

Saturday December 24 : Midnight Mass with Maritime Brass Quintet and the Cathedral Choir. All Saints Cathedral, 1330 Cathedral Lane, 10:30 pm - 12.01 am.

Tuesday December 27 : Menorah Lighting. Grand Parade Square, 6:00 pm.
Rain date TBA.

JANUARY EVENT

Sunday January 08, Northwood Centre, the Penthouse. Panel discussion on LGBT life in the military. What were the long-term psychological effects of living in the closet or coming out (or being forced out)?

February event :

Downsizing : what does it mean for you?

4. Non-holiday events :

Amnesty International :

What would it be like to spend the holidays sentenced to prison, perhaps for sending an e-mail critical of the government, or organizing a protest against anti-gay legislation? Amnesty International knows prisoners around the world who have been sentenced for non-violent resistance to repression.

"Write a letter, change a life." You need not be a member to join Amnesty's "write for rights" celebration of Human Rights Day, Just Us Cafe, 5896 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, Saturday December 10, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

In fact, you do not even have to go to Just Us! Find out more about Write for Rights at <http://www.amnesty.ca/category/issue/write-for-rights>

You can write letters in the comfort of your own home : food in the cupboard, heat in the radiator, police with torture equipment unlikely to break down your door... Does it work? Hundreds of letters from former prisoners say that letters from members of Amnesty International were a warning to authorities that the eyes of the world were upon them. Some prisoners were released, others were allowed contact with families or doctors.

Change in The Gambia :

Gambia's president Yahya Jammeh who had ruled for 22 years, was riding high last spring when he said he would personally slit the throats of any gays found in his small nation. He had previously referred to LGBT people as "vermin," and threatened to behead them.

An early December election promises some changes in The Gambia : a seven-party coalition led by Adama Barrow defeated Jammeh, who stepped down peacefully. The coalition's stance on LGBT issues is not known, but its campaign promised greater respect for human rights.

6. Rev. George Parker 1929 - 2016:

Rev. George William Parker age 87 years of Bedford passed away peacefully on December 11, 2016 at the Abby Lane Hospital in Halifax.

George hosted many summer "Over 30s Parties" at his home in Greenhill, Hants County. One of the highlights of the occasion was a walk back in the woods to a lovely waterfall... and occasionally partake in a skinny dip!

Funeral service will be held 1:00pm on Monday December 19, 2016 at Saint Francis by the Lakes Anglican Church, 192 First Lake Drive in Lower Sackville. A reception will follow service in the church hall. Complete obituary will be posted soon.

6. Message from the Interim Editor :

If you have received this Newsletter, you are a member in good standing of Elderberries, a free organization of LGBT seniors, and our families, friends, and supporters. You may reach us at elderberries.scotia2@gmail.com

This final Newsletter of 2016 has not been read by Edward Snowden, Donald Trump, nor any representative of the Nova Scotia Teachers' Union (who might have caught some of the usual spelling and grammatical errors). Yer former, latter, and interim editor (yep, at it again!) looks forward to being replaced in January by a new volunteer editor, Wayne Collette.

God rest ye, merry gentlemen! (and ladies, and others)
Let nothing you dismay.... (If we have survived the past fifty-plus years as LGBTQ2SI etc etc in Nova Scotia, we are not easily dismayed)
Oh - ohh tidings of comfort and joy!