

THE UPDATE



AIDS Vancouver Island

APRIL 1996



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Welcome to a new and more frequent -- and responsive -- newsletter! Stacy, Marilyn, Michelle, and Kevin will be working hard over the next few months to make our Volunteer Newsletter a more immediate forum for you. Marilyn is covering volunteer issues; Michelle has taken over gathering information on fundraising and fund development and Kevin will be covering our expanding services and activities up island. Stacy, one of AVI's newest staff members, will be acting as a resource for the newsletter's editorial team. We urge you to contribute...and to pass your newsletter on to other potential volunteers. -- Erik Ages

VOLUNTEER NEWS

3 CHEERS FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Here it is April again...and with it comes Volunteer Recognition Week and "AVI's Volunteer Recognition Night," April 26th from 7 - 10 pm.

Once again this very special evening will be held at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. This evening provides an opportunity to thank all of our many volunteers for their invaluable contribution.

In addition to great fun, food, entertainment and door prizes, presentations will be made to the "Speaker of the Year" and the "Volunteer of the Year", so mark your calendar!

CORE TRAINING:

Congratulations to the twenty-two new volunteers who completed their training March 6, 1996. The next session is scheduled for May 22 to June 12, 1996.

We are undergoing some revamping of the training schedule in order to accommodate the extra training required in Nanaimo. This will likely result in the Core training being held twice a year instead of the current three times per year.

COMINGS AND GOINGS:

A very sincere "Thank you" to Barb for stepping in to the Volunteer Support Worker position, while Bridget was gallivanting around England! Have a sensational summer off Barb...we wish you well!

Good-bye and thanks to "Mushroom Mike" and "Tatiana" who have moved to Vancouver...but not together...lest we start any rumours!

Jackie Dineen has returned from her fourth adventure in Guatemala and has many fascinating tales to tell. Welcome Back!

Congratulations to Mana Herel who volunteered her time with the Women and AIDS Project and as a Volunteer trainer. Mana has been hired as the Education Programmer in the Nanaimo office.

Welcome to Jay Barclay Wallace and Celeste Emma Macevicius, twins born to Brenda Macevicius (former AVI Board Member and Women and AIDS Project Organizer), and Bruce Wallace. Our Warmest Congratulations and Best Wishes to Brenda and Bruce!

- Marilyn

HELPLINE: 384-4554 (GREATER VICTORIA) H

Reference Material
NOT FOR LOAN
AVI Resource Centre

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THE UPDATE

The Update is published monthly as a service to members. One-year subscriptions are available for \$15.00. Typed submissions and letters to the Editor are welcome, c/o AVI #304-733 Johnson Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 3C7, or via EMAIL at avi@IslandNet.com. The Update will print no sexist, racist or homophobic copy and will cover issues and events from perspectives which will initiate positive change in the work done by and for AIDS Vancouver Island. The appearance of any advertisements, treatment information or letters to the editor do not imply endorsement by AIDS Vancouver Island. Submissions may be edited for conciseness and grammatical correctness. AIDS Vancouver Island will not be responsible for errors or omissions.

Erik Ages (editor) c/o casper@IslandNet.com

NewsLetter Committee: Marilyn Branco, Kevin Knox, Michelle Purdon, Stacy LeBlanc

LIBRARY BOOKS!

A plea to all of you who have library materials out. Many of the books and videos are long overdue, some books are 18 months late! In order for a resource centre to be useful and accessible, it is important that its materials be readily available. Please return your library materials.

COMMUNITY RESEARCH

STEPHEN SAMIS: AVI'S NEW COORDINATOR OF RESEARCH PROJECTS.

In early February, I joined AVI as Coordinator, Research Projects. Over the next two years, I will be responsible for two research projects: an evaluation of AVI's Education Services (including the Helpline, the Speaker's Bureau and the Men's Project); and a study of men who have sex with men (MSM) on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. I come to AVI from Vancouver, where I recently completed my Master's degree in Sociology at Simon Fraser. My thesis research focused on the problem of anti-lesbian/gay discrimination and violence in Greater Vancouver ("lesbian/gay bashing").

I would like to take this opportunity to say hello to everyone, especially those of you I haven't met. I am pleased to be here at AVI, and in Victoria, and I look forward to meeting and working with all of you in the months ahead.

AVI LAUNCHES TWO MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

Since its beginning in 1985, AIDS Vancouver Island has sought to provide relevant, accessible and effective information and services to the Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands communities. In order to continue to do so, we are proud to announce that we have received funding for two major research projects. One study, funded through the B.C. Health Research Foundation, involves an evaluation of AVI's education services. In this study, we will be asking ourselves, our clients and those who presently do not use our services to help us to refine these services so that we may better

meet the educational needs of the community.

The other study, funded through the National Health Research Development Program of Health Canada, is focused on men who have sex with men (MSM) on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. We are looking for men who are willing to share their stories in an in-depth interview by telephone, e-mail or in person. We welcome a wide-range of experiences and particularly: participants from rural and remote areas; men who are 50 years and older; men under 20; gay and bisexual men who are (more or less) closeted; and men who consider themselves heterosexual but who have sex with men.

We would be grateful if you would please pass this information on to others, especially those who might be willing to participate in one or both of the projects. If they, or you, would like to participate, or require more information, please contact the Research Coordinator, Stephen Samis at AVI's Victoria office.

VOLUNTEER EVALUATIONS

Thanks to everyone who has returned their surveys! Your ideas and comments have been great and are proving very useful in helping to improve volunteer programs and create new in-service programs for AVI volunteers. For those of you who haven't yet had the opportunity to fill out a survey and send it back, there's still time. I would really like to hear your ideas. So even though the due date may have passed, don't worry, just send in your survey as soon as possible.

Phase Two of the Volunteer Program Evaluation begins in April. Focus groups are being organized to give volunteers a chance to brainstorm and discuss how to improve Volunteer Programs at AVI. These will most likely take place during/after the April monthly support meeting for each Program (e.g. Support, Helpline, Speakers Bureau). So plan to attend. And if you find you can't attend the monthly support meeting, or you volunteer in an area that doesn't offer a monthly meeting, but are interested in joining a focus group, please call EJ Davis at 384-2366 and leave a message that you wish to sign up. (EJ Davis)



ISLAND OUTREACH NEWS

News from the Island... Our programmes of rural outreach, support and education across Vancouver Island through our Island Outreach Programme continue to be very much in demand. And in Nanaimo, our office is starting to be well known in the community so we are getting more calls for support and information on HIV/AIDS. A special thanks to JoAnn and Bridget for their work in putting together the first core training for volunteers in Nanaimo which wrapped up in February. The training was really well received and many of the volunteers have now begun support and/or speakers' bureau training. Thanks to everyone for their participation and welcome!

A project focused on HIV/AIDS education in Nanaimo and the Central Vancouver island region has just been launched. Following on last year's Nanaimo AIDS Pilot Project that provided support services to PWAs in the area and conducted a preliminary assessment of available services, the Nanaimo HIV/AIDS Education Project will provide basic education to community service agencies, as well as working with youth. Education has been identified through last year's project as an important next step in creating a more supportive environment for PWAs in that community, as well as a need to create general awareness of HIV/AIDS, safer sex and prevention strategies. Mana Herel has been hired as the Education Programmer for this 8-month project which is co-sponsored by the Central Vancouver Island Health Unit. She will be working with the community to provide education on HIV/AIDS and sexuality to community service agencies; organizing training for peer education with youth; providing outreach to gay, lesbian and bisexual youth and assisting with a potential exhibit of the Canadian Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Display next September in Nanaimo. The communities we will be working with through this project include Nanaimo, Part Alberni, Parksville and Duncan for our peer education training for youth. For more information, please contact Mana at our Nanaimo office at 753-2437.

Support Groups:

There are currently support groups for people living with HIV/AIDS available through AVI in Nanaimo and Campbell River. Please call 335-1171 or the Nanaimo office at 753-2437 (AIDS) for location and further information.

Nanaimo: Support group for PWAs meets twice a month; 1st and 3rd Monday evening;

Art therapy for PWAs meets every 2 weeks on Wednesday afternoons.

Campbell River:

Yoga and meditation for PWAs meets every 2 weeks on Wednesday afternoons;

Art therapy for PWAs meets every 2 weeks on alternate Wednesday afternoons.

FUND DEVELOPMENT NEWS

The Artists for AIDS lottery draw was made on March 20th at 12 noon at the Sally Cafe. The event raised more than last year, although the expenses were higher as the Lottery Committee had tried to raise the profile -- and revenues -- of the event. As with last year, proceeds from the Lottery will be divided equally between AVI, VARCS and Victoria PWA. All in all, the project was a success, and a valuable tool for future events.

Winners of the 12 art works were as follows: Lorrie Brooks of Victoria won the Marlene Davis; Alanna Brownlee of Victoria won the Phyllis Serota; long-time volunteer Linda Graham won the Grant Leier; Roslyn King of Victoria won the Carole Sabiston; Lucy Lestage of Duncan won the Ron Telek; Dr Robert McNeel of Victoria won the Rowland Hill; Gary Murphy, Executive Director of VARCS, won the Myfanwy Pavelic; Adrienne O'Henly of Sooke won the Charles Malinsky; Stephen Olafson of Victoria won the Charlotte Beauchemin; David Omness of Victoria won the Brad Pasutti; Carole Smith of West Vancouver won the Paul Hutner; and Linda Walsh of Victoria won the Nixie Barton. Congratulations to all of this year's winners!

The Fund Development Committee's strategic planning sessions, which have taken place regularly since last fall, are now winding down. The Committee will take their recommendations regarding the diversification of fundraising and other issues to do with fund development before the Board for their consideration in April.

Again, one of the Committee's concerns has been with the identification of funding sources to accommodate the growing diversity of the AIDS affected and infected population.

Alan Elder, who sits on the Fund Development Committee, reports that a growing cooperation with other AIDS service organizations in Victoria and on Vancouver Island will also become a focus for AIDS Vancouver Island. An example of this cooperation is evidenced by the partnership of the Victoria



AIDS Respite Care Society (VARCS), the Victoria Persons With AIDS Society (VPWA), and AIDS Vancouver Island in working together to promote this year's Artists For AIDS lottery. Alan notes that this community structured commitment to AIDS awareness and issues will facilitate the new trend and process towards soliciting funding from more diverse sources.

In closing, AVI would like to thank Don Mathewson for his hard work and commitment to the Fund Development Committee over the past year. Don recently announced that he will be stepping down as a member of the Committee. Don's knowledge of fundraising and his ability to act as the 'memory' of past AVI fundraising endeavours has made him an invaluable asset in the Strategic Planning process. The Fund Development Committee is made up of 8 members who have brought a diversity of expertise and experience to the challenges of the Strategic Planning process.

--Michelle Purdon

EDUCATION UPDATES...

Latex Cafe was an exciting project for AVI. The theatre project held a retreat on Saltspring Island, followed by an innovative brand of playback theatre held in Victoria high schools. These workshops explored issues of intimacy, internalized homophobia and self-esteem and their relationship to HIV infection. Next, Latex Cafe held a week long series of workshops for PWAs that explored HIV from a personal and community point of view. The closing week of the project was open to the public and featured four main performances. Three cheers to Robert Osborne and his troupe, who dedicated themselves to a project that will be showcased at the International AIDS Conference in Vancouver this summer.

The Speakers' Bureau will miss Barb Chester over the next while. Barb is taking a six month leave of absence. Her humour, warmth and thoughtfulness will be missed both by Speakers and her co-workers. Replacing Barb during this period is Echo Haelstromme. Echo works part time at the needle exchange and has an extensive background in counselling, education and community work. Welcome, Echo.

Helpline training was held on March 13 and 20th. Speakers' Bureau was held March 23 and 24th.

JAZZ & COCKTAILS



A BENEFIT FOR
the time being
 A Film By Kenneth Sherman
 Live Performance By
D I G

Come out and help to support this important film, a story of one man's emotional, psychological, intellectual and spiritual crisis after assisting his partner's euthanasia, to avoid prolonged suffering from AIDS related illness. *The Time Of Being* deals with the painful process of loss and the confounding questions raised by death.

THE
**UNDERRUE
 NIGHTCLUB**
 1605 STORE STREET

TUESDAY APRIL 2, 8:00
 \$5 COVER TO THE FILM FUND
 ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE
 UNDERRUE AND THE DRAWING ROOM

WHOS HEAD ON STAGE 1996
 CURTAIN UP 1996
 WHOS HEAD ON STAGE 1996
 CURTAIN UP 1996
 WHOS HEAD ON STAGE 1996
 CURTAIN UP 1996

WILLIAM HEAD ON STAGE
 WILLIAM HEAD ON STAGE
 WILLIAM HEAD ON STAGE
 WILLIAM HEAD ON STAGE

Our Country's Good
 directed by
 [Name]

WILLIAM HEAD ON STAGE

WM. HEAD ON STAGE WHOS

Proudly Presents

No Exit

by Jean Paul Sartre

Directed by Tim Crofton

Endgame

by Samuel Beckett

Directed by Stephen Foote

Yes, you actually have to go INSIDE prison to watch these plays! At \$10 a ticket, the experience shouldn't be missed!

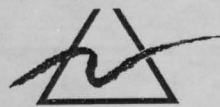
Treat yourselves to an evening's drive and a trip into William Head Institution for a night of fine theatre. The actors, stagehands...everyone involved have chosen to donate the proceeds of the prison theatre company's April/May play run to AIDS Vancouver Island's financial assistance fund. Come out and show your support!

Show times are: April 12th, 13th, 19th, 21st (matinee), 26th, 27th, and May 3rd and 4th. Gates open for evening performances open at 6pm and close at 7pm for 7:15 show times. Gates for the matinee performance on April 21st

open at 1pm and close at 2pm for a 2:15 show time.

William Head Onstage is a non profit theatre society located inside a federal prison. As such, you must be 19 years or older unless accompanied by an adult. You may be electronically scanned for metals; and any money or purses you may be carrying cannot be taken in, but must be locked in your cars.

Tickets for the shows are available at Tony's Trick & Joke Shop, 532 Broughton Street; Eagle's Moon Gallery, 1010 Government St; The Pantry, Old Island Highway and My Chosen Cafe, 4480 Happy Valley Road. See you there!



AIDS Vancouver Island

APRIL 1995

DIRECTORY

**AIDS INFO LINE
(VICTORIA)
384-4554**

**TOLL-FREE INFO LINE
1-800-665-2437**

**ADMINISTRATION
EDUCATION
SPECIAL EVENTS
SUPPORT SERVICES
VOLUNTEERS
Tel: 384-2366
Fax: 380-9411**

**STREET OUTREACH
609 Johnson St.
Tel: 384-1345**

**ISLAND OUTREACH
(NANAIMO)
Tel: 753-2437
Fax: 753-4595**

**ISLAND OUTREACH
(COURTENAY)
TEL 335-1171
FAX 355-1178**

**ISLAND OUTREACH
(Cowichan Valley)
TEL 746-0808
FAX 746-8666**

LOCATION OF EVENTS

Events, unless indicated otherwise, occur at
AVI's main office
304 - 733 Johnson Street.

| M | T | W | T | F | S/S |
|---|--|----|----|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 HIV+ Women's Support Group 5 pm | 3 | 4 | 5 CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY | 6 7 EASTER SUNDAY |
| 8 CLOSED EASTER MONDAY | 9 Support Committee Mtg. 5:30pm | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 14 William Head Onstage! |
| 15 Board Meeting 6:30 pm | 16 RUTHANN TUCKER'S BIRTHDAY HIV+ Women's Support Group 5 pm | 17 | 18 | 19 ERIK AGES & JOANN REID'S BIRTHDAYS William Head Onstage! | 20 21 William Head Onstage! |
| 22 PWA Dinner 5:15 AVI Living Room | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Volunteer Recognition Evening 7 - 10pm at The Art Gallery William Head Onstage! | 27 28 William Head Onstage! |
| 29 | 30 HIV+ Women's Support Group 5 pm | | | | |