



### VOLUNTEER SERVICES

When I started here in October, I spoke to lots of volunteers about what kind of recognition would make them feel most appreciated. Many volunteers told me that what they wanted was recognition which was spread throughout the year, and a chance to meet and interact with people. In response, a group of volunteers from all three agencies has been meeting over the last 3 months to meet this challenge. The ideas generated ranged from going to a play together to a midnight swim. We decided we needed an event that would be fun, a little bit whacky, and something where we would all get to wear matching shoes. So naturally that lead us to: Bowling!



We hope you can join us for a couple of hours of tacky shirts, matching shoes, food, fun and prizes on Saturday, April 25 from 1:00 to 3:00 at the Town and Country Bowling lanes (3494 Saanich Rd). Please RSVP by April 15<sup>th</sup> by calling Theresa or Michael at 384-2366 ext. 312.

We will be holding another event in August. If you have any comments or ideas, please feel free to call me at 384-2366.

-Theresa Aspol



*AIDS Vancouver Island shall confront Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome, prevent its spread through education, support all those infected and affected by the disease, and advocate on their behalf.*



Town & Country Bowling Lanes  
3494 Saanich Rd.  
Saturday, April 25th, 1:00 - 3:00pm  
Please RSVP by April 15th by calling  
Theresa or Michael at 384-2366 ext. 312



## EDUCATION SERVICES

### Speakers' Bureau

March saw the Bureau presenting to 13 groups and mounting 2 information displays. Engagements of special note included a presentation to a large group at Friendship Baptist Church in Saanich, and full participation in Reynolds High School's Wellness Week including an activity booth in the school health fair and a series of workshops for the students. The Bureau hosted a field trip for the Peninsula Community Assoc. Youth Group complete with a workshop and a site tour of the Centre and SOS.

Of very special note was the participation of the Speakers' Bureau in a "Coffee Chat" for delegates at the International Summit on the Sexual Exploitation of Youth. Although prepared for a basic harm reduction talk, it was soon made painfully clear to the speakers that the concepts under which AVI usually does its work were far too advanced to be of any use to this group. With the assistance of Portuguese and Spanish interpreters, the first question was from a 15 year old Central American Aboriginal who asked how babies were made. The next questions, from a group of young Brazilian prostitutes, concerned the effectiveness of using chocolate bar wrappers as a substitute for condoms. It seems that in Brazil, condoms are prohibitively expensive or are so fragile they are useless. To bring it all home, one of the speakers ended up doing intense outreach with a very young First Nations woman from Saskatoon who had many of the same questions as her Third World counterparts. It was a disturbing eye opener, stressing not only the need for education in other countries but also in our own.

-Jim Wilton

### Men's Outreach Project

Great news, gang! The Men's Outreach Project has been extended for twelve more months under Health Canada's *Bridging Year*. So we're deep into the planning stages setting an action plan for the next year. Oh, we'll still be doing as we have in the past: the Latex Brigade will be doing outreach in the parks, and now in the baths as well. We've got a great bunch of new volunteers, so expect to see us at even more venues.

Our website is being updated. Justin Gammon from Reflex Press has been working hard to make our presence on the Internet more useful and effective. Take a look when you get a moment - any comments are greatly appreciated.

Our forums will play an important part of our programming over the next 12 months. We'll be presenting a series which will follow the gamut from Cruising & Sex to Dating to Relationships. Our next forum is scheduled for April 30th @ Open Space Gallery. We'd love to see you there!!

-Marc Mertens

P.S. Check out the new and improved MOP Website at [www.avi.org/MEN](http://www.avi.org/MEN).

## BOARD REPORT

### Balanced Budget For 1998/99

No, that's not the BC provincial budget, it's the budget for AVI.

The directors, at their March Board meeting, adopted a budget with expenditures for 1998/99 of just under \$1.1 million, up slightly from the budgeted expenditures for 1997/98. With stable funding predicted from both the federal and provincial governments, cost sharing of some of the Victoria HIV/AIDS Centre

expenses with Victoria PWA Society and VARCS, and a steady growth in our fundraising, the budget allows for a modest (\$7,700) surplus.

This is great news for the agency. With revenues matching those of the current year, we will be able to spend the next 12 months concentrating on building and enhancing our programs. For example, the money for the Emergency Assistance Fund is being increased from \$12,000 to \$20,250. Expenditures for general program materials are being increased from this year's actual amount of about \$38,000 to a budgeted amount of \$52,000.

The largest part of AVI's funding comes from the BC Government (\$770,000, or 70%) with the Federal Government providing about another \$150,000 (14%) this year. United Way grants (\$33,000), fundraising (\$65,000) and contributions from our Victoria HIV/AIDS Centre partners (\$27,000) make up the balance of the income side of the budget.

Credit for the good news of this year's budget goes, as well as to our funders and donors, to last year's Board, for taking the hard decisions it did in cutting expenditures from 1996/97 levels, and the work of the Executive Director and staff who adapted to the new reality and lived within that budget. AVI remains a financially healthy organization, living within its means to continue the ongoing fight against HIV/AIDS.

-Bob Milne, Treasurer

### AVI BOARD INFORMATION SESSION

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 1998

@ VICTORIA HIV/AIDS CENTRE,

TRAINING ROOM - 12 NOON

### 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 to AVI #304-733 Johnson Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 3C7, or via EMAIL at [update@avi.org](mailto:update@avi.org). 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.*

Ruthann Tucker (Editor in Chief) c/o [ratucker@avi.org](mailto:ratucker@avi.org) Stacy P. Leblanc (Managing Editor) c/o [sleblanc@avi.org](mailto:sleblanc@avi.org)

NewsLetter Committee: Michelle Purdon

# AVI BOARD INFORMATION SESSION

Reps from AVI's Board of Directors will be present to discuss the budget for 1998/99, as well as, other items of interest to the membership.

## April 14, 1998

**Location:** Victoria HIV/AIDS Centre  
Training Room

**Time:** 12 noon

For more information please call:

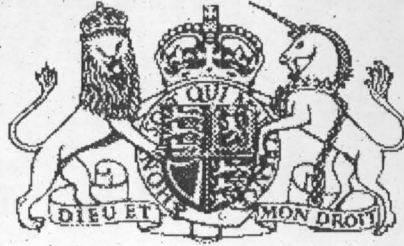
Ted Matthews - 360-0685

or

Ruthann Tucker  
1-800-665-2437  
(outside Victoria)

or

384-2366



H.M. QUEEN VICTORIA

*requests  
the pleasure of your company  
for*

*An evening of  
international cuisine  
music from MUSAIC  
dancing and more!*

*Saturday, April 18, 1998, 7 pm  
Fairfield Community Place  
1330 Fairfield Road*

*Tickets \$15*

*Audrey (598-9711) or Lawrence (370-0340)*

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EQUALITY FOR GAYS AND LESBIANS EVERYWHERE

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## BOOK REVIEW

**LESSONS FROM THE DAMNED: QUEERS, WHORES, AND JUNKIES RESPOND TO AIDS** by Nancy E. Stoller (1998) is a history of how AIDS organizations, mostly founded and run by gay white activists, have triumphed and failed in their dealings with marginalized communities. The book also offers a fascinating glimpse of the shift from community-based organizations to establishment agencies and details what has been lost along that evolutionary path.

In her introduction, Stoller states that "each 'community', each individual approaches HIV in terms of an existing set of cultural norms and past experiences. The power relations within each group, among the groups, and between the groups and the dominant institutions are replayed (repeatedly) in the struggle against the epidemic...When the traditional modes of public health, epidemiology, and medicine are applied to the AIDS epidemic, they usually ignore the social organization of groups and look primarily at 'interventions' - distribution of brochures, media campaigns, empowerment training, discussion groups, proper condom use." Stoller argues that the "structure and processes of the groups are themselves keys to the success of the interventions, because it is organizational culture that ultimately determines who is served and how that service is accomplished."

Stoller goes on to say that most ASOs began as local movements committed to social change, but that the majority of them have developed in ways that have made them almost indistinguishable from the very bureaucratic agencies from which they arose in opposition. In a shorthand version of an interesting chapter, she offers the following:

Organizational Histories of Community-Based Programs:

Stage 1: Grassroots Base: charismatic leadership; high community input and member-based; heavy reliance on volunteers; small budgets with few paid staff/low salaries.

Stage 2: Non-profit Status: Board of Directors;

paid staff manage volunteers; board and staff make all important decisions; reduced community input; increased bureaucracy/less democracy within the organization.

Stage 3: Competition with Established Institutions: paid staff run organization; professional orientation of staff increasingly excludes community workers; reduced use of volunteers; search for more elite board members who can raise greater sums of money; work of organization becomes more capital - and less labour-intensive; increasing dependency and focus on funding sources and a moderating of dissidence so as not to offend funders; grassroots base lost as the organization becomes increasingly distanced from the community from which it arose.

Stoller finds the process "ironic and troubling" stating that "the original model that they leave behind - community input, organizing, and empowerment - may well be the most promising strategy for AIDS prevention.

In summation, Stoller writes: "Contemporary community AIDS organizations face several daunting challenges. One is the difficulty of inter-community and inter-ethnic cooperation. A second issue is staying connected to one's community base. While a third challenge is meeting the consequences of multiple cutbacks in social spending at the same time that the epidemic is spreading."

-Caryl Peters

## REGIONAL & REMOTE SERVICES

Welcome Spring, birds, flowers and longer days of sunshine!

Support group meetings fall on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Contact Carolyn Pickett for a calendar of support group meetings and special outings. At the time of the printing of this newsletter, support group members and friends are tobogganing down Mount Washington: ahhhhh!

On April 4th, we are hosting a Complementary Health Seminar. Local health practitioners will present a diverse array of therapies, including acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine, chiropractic therapy, massage therapy, hypnotherapy and guided imagery. Contact the office for more information.

The big event on March 22nd is the 6th Annual Music Benefit for AIDS at the Queens Hotel. Dana is confident that this will be our biggest and most successful yet.

Office hours are 9 am - 5 pm, Monday to Thursday: Drop in for a visit!

-Guy Tohana

## COMMUNICATIONS & RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The Communications and Resource Development department is currently keeping busy with a number of projects. The Steering Committee for the 1998 AIDS Walk, scheduled for Sunday, September 27, has had two meetings. The department is also gearing up for the second Dining at Home Fundraiser, A Midsummer Night's Dream, so please stay tuned for dates, details and information. Irene Hiebert and the Bizarre Bazaar gang are hard at work planning for this year's sale.

On the Communications side of things, it has been confirmed that come June, we will have a Centre-wide newsletter! While still in the planning and implementation stage, things are going well. A group of three people, consisting of Michael Yoder-VARCS, Corinne Sawarin-VPWA and Stacy Leblanc-AVI, have been hard at work setting up the basic structure. The "new newsletter" (new name still forthcoming) will be a bi-monthly edition and the inaugural issue is set for June. As the structure and mandate are developed, I will endeavour to keep you informed. If anybody has thoughts or feelings on the tri-agency newsletter I would welcome the feedback and input. I can be reached at the Centre @ 384-2366 ext 307.

-Stacy Leblanc



# AIDS Vancouver Island

APRIL 1998

## DIRECTORY

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

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

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

**STREET OUTREACH  
1220 Commercial Alley  
Tel: 384-1345**

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

**AVI WEBSITE  
<http://www.avi.org>  
E-Mail: [info@avi.org](mailto:info@avi.org)**

### 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 Resource Centre Open 5-8pm  Peers, Friends and Family Drop-in 6:00 - 8:00pm at The Centre	2 Staying Negative Support Group 7pm  Acupuncture Clinic detoxification only 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	3	4 5
6	7 Acupuncture Clinic General Issues 3:30pm-6:00pm and 7:00- 9:00pm at SOS.	8 Resource Centre Open 5-8pm  Peers, Friends and Family Drop-in 6:00 - 8:00pm at The Centre	9 Staying Negative Support Group 7pm  Acupuncture Clinic detoxification only 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	10 Good Friday Office Closed	11 12
13 Easter Monday Office Closed	14 AVI Board Info session 12 noon at The Centre  AVI Board meeting 6:00pm at The Centre  Acupuncture Clinic General Issues 3:30pm-6:00pm and 7:00- 9:00pm at SOS.	15 RSVP deadline for Volunteer Recognition Event  AIDS 101 6-8pm Training Rm. (call JimWilton)  Peers, Friends and Family Drop-in 6:00 - 8:00pm	16 Staying Negative Support Group 7pm  Acupuncture Clinic detoxification only 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	17 AIDS 101 7-9pm @ SOS.	18 19
20 PWA Dinner at the Centre 5:30pm	21 Resource Centre Volunteer Mtg 5:30- 7:00pm  Acupuncture Clinic General Issues 3:30pm-6:00pm and 7:00- 9:00pm at SOS.	22 Resource Centre Open 5-8pm  Peers, Friends and Family Drop-in 6:00 - 8:00pm at The Centre	23 Staying Negative Support Group 7pm  Acupuncture Clinic detoxification only 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.	24 Volunteer Recognition Event 1:00 - 3:00pm	25 26
27	28 Acupuncture Clinic General Issues 3:30pm-6:00pm and 7:00- 9:00pm at SOS.	29 Resource Centre Open 5-8pm  Peers, Friends and Family Drop-in 6:00 - 8:00pm at The Centre	30 Staying Negative Support Group 7pm  Acupuncture Clinic detoxification only 7:00-9:00pm at SOS.		