

Dancers for Life Raises \$23,000

by Stacy P. LeBlanc



"Karen Kain and Doug Durand"

The evening of Tuesday, December 1, 1998 (World AIDS Day) was filled with magic. Victoria's first Dancers For Life gala featured some of Canada's best dancers: Evelyn Hart, Rex Harrington, Aleksandar Antonijevic, Ballet British Columbia, Joe Laughlin, Lynda Raino, David Earle, Dancestreams, Stages Dance Company, Kidco Theatre Dance Company, Decidedly Jazz Danceworks and Veronica Maguire of Alma de Espana Flamenco Dance Co. This stunning evening of dance was hosted by Canada's celebrated ballerina Karen Kain.

With 900 tickets sold for the event we were able to raise \$23,000 for the Victoria AIDS Respite Care Society, the Victoria Persons With AIDS Society, and AIDS Vancouver Island.

On behalf of everyone at VARCS, VPWAS and AVI, I would like to thank Kim Breiland and Doug Durand, the event chairs, as well as the rest of the committee: Walter Quan, Anne Russo, Blair Lischeron, Tathra Street, June Beattie and Ray Coombs.



"Decidedly Jazz Danceworks"

Much appreciation to Anna Russo, Fran Willis, Paddy Stewart and Cynthia Annett and to all the volunteers who gave so graciously to make this event the huge success that it was. A special thanks to all the dancers who gave so generously of their time and talent—without you we are nothing. We look forward to the next Dancers For Life in the year 2000.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Dancers for Life Raises \$23,000

page 1

AIDS Walk '98 Another Success

page 2

Up in Nanaimo

page 2

Hello from Volunteer Services

page 2

A Strong Healthy Voice

page 3

Changing Face of Education

page 3

A Different Kind of Food Store

page 4

Client Services Offers New Programs

page 4

AIDS Walk '98

Another Success

by Stacy P.
Leblanc

It seems like only yesterday that I was milling about Fisherman's Wharf Park with 1,600 other people on a brisk Sunday morning, but it was six months ago.



Held on September 27, 1998, Victoria's most recent AIDS Walk, one of more than 60 across the country, was a great success. More than \$40,000 were raised for Victoria's three AIDS service organizations, the Victoria AIDS Respite Care Society, the Victoria Persons With AIDS Society and AIDS Vancouver Island, to assist in the education and prevention of HIV and direct service to those living with HIV/AIDS.



Planning is well underway for the 1999 Walk, Sunday, September 26th. Anyone interested in volunteering for the event can call Tathra Street at 384-2366 ext. 312, and anyone seeking general information about the 1999 Walk can call Stacy Leblanc at 384-2366 ext. 317.

Up in Nanaimo by Dana Becker

We now have two support groups. Our ongoing support group for HIV+ people runs on the second and fourth Monday of each month, and the new group for couples (in which at least one partner is HIV+) will meet on April 21 and May 19. There is also an art therapy group. Please call Carolyn at (250) 753-2437 for more details.

Part of our office space has been opened up to create a video/reading area for anyone who drops in. We wanted to offer more things for people to do while they are here.

Our seventh annual AIDS Benefit will be held on April 23 at 8pm at the Cavallotti Lodge here in Nanaimo (2960 East Wellington Road). Come for dancing, prizes and fun!

We are gearing up for our fourth AIDS Walk; she looms larger each week! We already have some great volunteers, and expect this year to be another huge success.

Hello from Volunteer Services by Tathra Street

We've been really busy with special events and training. In fact, there have been three rounds of core training in the last six months, and the next one is scheduled for October.

Mark your calendars. A volunteer recognition event is being planned for Friday, April 23. Details will be released April 9.

Also, the Victoria AIDS Walk '99 is being held on Sunday, September 26. We are looking for committee members as well as people who can promote our largest public awareness and fundraising event of the year.

Even though I have been with AVI for the better part of a year, I have met only half of the people on my list of volunteers. I'd love to meet the rest of you to find out how your volunteer experiences have been and if you'd like to get more involved with Volunteer Services.

VOX - The Voice of the Victoria HIV/AIDS Centre

VOX is published bi-monthly by AIDS Vancouver Island (AVI). Typed submissions and letters to the editor are welcome c/o The Victoria HIV/AIDS Centre Attn: VOX #304 - 733 Johnson St., Victoria, BC, V8W 3C7, or via email at sleblanc@avi.org. Letters to the editor should not exceed 200 words and must include name, address and telephone number. Your name can be withheld by request. VOX will print no sexist, racist or homophobic copy and will cover issues and events pertaining to the lives of those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The appearance of any advertisements, treatment information or letters to the editor does not imply endorsement by AVI. Submissions may be edited for concision and grammatical correctness. AVI will not be responsible for errors or omissions.

Editorial Committee

Sian Morgan, Cheryl Price, Walter Quan, Shelley Motz - Editor

Who's Who @ the Centre

AIDS VANCOUVER ISLAND

Ruthann Tucker - Executive Director

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Tathra Street - Coordinator Volunteer Services

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Wayne Solomon - Coordinator Administrative Services

George Pine - Administrative Assistant

Doug Aikenhead - Custodian

STREET OUTREACH SERVICES

Claire Dineen - Coordinator Street Outreach Services

Debra Froemming - Street Outreach Worker, Duncan

Joshua Goldberg - Street Outreach Worker

Echo Haelstromme - Street Outreach Worker, casual

Lisa Herising - Street Outreach Worker, casual

Margot Izard - Street Outreach Worker, Duncan

Hermoine Jeffris - Street Outreach Worker, casual

Megan Lewis - Street Outreach Worker, casual

Sonia Ottosen - Street Outreach Worker, casual

Cheri Pilotte - Street Outreach Worker, casual

Tracey Poirier - Street Outreach Worker, Duncan

Chris Schmidt - Street Outreach Worker, casual

John Sinclair - Street Outreach Worker, Duncan

Kate Thwaites - Street Outreach Worker

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Stacy Leblanc - Coordinator Communications &

Resource Development

Shelley Motz - Communications Assistant

CLIENT SERVICES

Garth Greatheart - Acting Coordinator, Client Services

MaryKay MacVicar - Client Services Worker

Vince Ruttan - Client Services Worker

EDUCATION SERVICES

Jim Wilton - Coordinator Education Services

Marc Mertens - Gay Community Outreach Worker

Katrina Jensen - Education Worker

REGIONAL & REMOTE SERVICES (Nanaimo)

Dana Becker - Administration/Fund Development

Carolyn Pickett - Support Worker

Guy Tohana - Educator

how to reach us and where to find us

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AVI Nanaimo

201 - 55 Victoria Rd.

Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5N9

Tel: (250) 753-2437

Fax: (250) 753-4595

Street Outreach Services

1220 Commercial Alley

Victoria, BC

Tel: (250) 384-1345

AIDS INFOLINE (Victoria)

384 - 2366

TOLL-FREE INFOLINE

1-800-665-2437

Cowichan Valley Needle Exchange

Tuesday & Thursday Nights

from 6pm to 9pm.

Tel: (250) 246-6483

VICTORIA PERSONS WITH AIDS SOCIETY

541 Herald Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1S5

Phone: 382-7927

Fax: 382-3232

VICTORIA AIDS RESPITE CARE SOCIETY

PO Box 8158, Victoria, BC V8W 3R8

Phone: 388-6220

Fax: 388-7011

Calendar of Events

APRIL 1999

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat./Sun.
<p>The Drop-In is open Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm and Wednesday from 6pm-8pm. Unless otherwise noted, a hot lunch is served and a noon group gathers @ the Drop-In from 11:30-1pm each weekday.</p>			<p>Education Cte 1 5:30-7:00pm @ the Centre Gay & Bi Men workshop (see Jim Wilton) 7pm-9pm @ the Centre Acupuncture Clinic 7pm-9pm @ SOS</p>	2	<p>3 4 Acupuncture Clinic 7pm-9pm @ SOS</p>
<p>5 Easter the Centre is closed Alcohol & Drug Support Group @ SOS 7pm-9pm</p>	<p>6 Chiropractor 7pm-9pm @ SOS Acupuncture Clinic 7pm-9pm @ SOS</p>	<p>7 Video & Pizza 6pm-8pm @ the Centre Drop-in Art 7pm-9pm @ SOS</p>	<p>8 Acupuncture Clinic 7pm-9pm @ SOS</p>	9	<p>10 11 Acupuncture Clinic 7pm-9pm @ SOS</p>
<p>12 Alcohol & Drug Support Group @ SOS 7pm-9pm</p>	<p>13 Infoline Training starts (see Tathra Street) Acupuncture Clinic 7pm-9pm @ SOS</p>	<p>14 Games Night 6pm-8pm @ the Centre</p>	<p>15 Acupuncture Clinic 7pm-9pm @ SOS</p>	<p>16 Negotiating Desire: Women's Outreach Forum 7:30-9:30pm @ the YM-YWCA</p>	<p>17 18 Acupuncture Clinic 7pm-9pm @ SOS</p>
<p>19 Alcohol & Drug Support Group @ SOS 7pm-9pm</p>	<p>20 Chiropractor 7pm-9pm @ SOS Acupuncture Clinic 7pm-9pm @ SOS</p>	<p>21 AIDS 101 6pm-8pm @ the Centre in the training room</p>	<p>22 Two-Spirited Persons Inservice 1pm @ the Centre SB/infoline inservice 6pm-9pm Acupuncture Clinic 7pm-9pm @ SOS</p>	<p>23 Volunteer Appreciation Party (see Tathra Street for more info) Nanaimo 7th Annual AIDS Benefit (call 250-753-2437 for info)</p>	<p>24 25 Women & Safer Sex forum 7:30-9:30pm @ the YM-YWCA Acupuncture Clinic 7pm-9pm @ SOS</p>
<p>26 Monday Dinner 5-7pm @ the Centre Alcohol & Drug Support Group @ SOS 7pm-9pm</p>	<p>27 Infoline training 6pm-8pm @ the Centre Acupuncture Clinic 7pm-9pm @ SOS</p>	<p>28 No Hot lunch @ the Centre AVI Resource Centre Open 5-8pm</p>	<p>29 The Generation Gap Men's Forum @ Open Space 7:30pm Acupuncture Clinic 7pm-9pm @ SOS</p>	30	

A Strong Healthy Voice by Shelley M. Motz

This month *VOX* reintroduces itself to you, and guides you through some recent changes at AIDS Vancouver Island, home of the Victoria HIV/AIDS Centre.

It has been quite a while since the last issue of *VOX* zipped through the postal system and landed in your mailbox. You will notice some changes. First off, as the new Communications Assistant at AVI, I have assumed the editorial reins and will be steering much of my energy into the production of this newsletter.

Which brings me to my next point, one that probably hasn't escaped your attention. *VOX* is no longer a tri-agency newsletter put out by an editorial committee comprised of representatives from AVI,

Victoria AIDS Respite Care Society, and the Victoria Persons with AIDS Society. *VOX* is now the responsibility solely of AVI. In particular, it is in the hands of a committee formed primarily by keen AVI volunteers.

Through their effort and mine, we plan to send a comprehensive, issues-oriented *VOX* to you every two months. In fact, the May/June edition of *VOX* is already in the

works. Watch for it. It will focus on HIV and youth aged 14 to 20, a group that is especially at risk of HIV infection.

As for AVI and the HIV/AIDS Centre, the last several months have been eventful. Here, you will find updates from the various departments that make up AVI. The HIV/AIDS Centre, particularly the Drop-In, has been extremely busy.

Although VPWAS and VARCS sadly have chosen to leave the centre, our staff, volunteers and Board of Directors have been hard at work, implementing new programs and maintaining previous levels of activity.

Speaking of the Board, David Swan has stepped up from the position of Vice-Chair to assume the role of Acting Chair until AVI's AGM in June. Swan, who is HIV+, has been active in the local HIV/AIDS community since the mid-80s.

Ted Matthews served as Chair for nearly three years, and will continue to play an active role on the Board as a Director-at-Large. Swan is mindful of Matthews' considerable contribution to AVI and is

grateful for his ongoing support of both Swan and the agency.

As for the future, he states, "I'm committed to AVI's tradition of building community partnerships and continuing down the road of healthy cooperation between Victoria's three AIDS organizations. I am also committed to ensuring that the programs and services of AVI meet the needs of those we serve and recognize that as the community's identity and needs shift and change that we must shift with it to ensure accessibility of services. Accessibility, accountability and the openness to change are the marks of a healthy organization."

Well-worded, if I may say so myself. Here's to a healthy organization, the willingness to roll with the changes, and a strong voice.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy this issue of VOX and are eagerly anticipating the next one. If, however, you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, contact me at (250) 384-2366 and I will remove your name from our mailing list.

Changing Face of Education by Jim Wilton

The last few months heralded many changes in the Education department.

We are especially pleased that Katrina Jensen has joined us as the Education Worker. She has significantly updated the resource centre. A Victoria Foundation grant will help complete the transformation.

The Speaker's Bureau continues to provide workshops to the community, and the Infoline—which is recruiting new trainees—has been re-established as a volunteer program.

The Men's Outreach Project (M.O.P) is planning more of its successful community forums, with an added focus on young gay men, including participation in "Check your Booty", an upcoming GLBTQ Youth conference.

AVI's inservices continue in April with a workshop on Two-Spirited people and their place in First Peoples communities. A combination of Native storytelling and information sharing, it is sure to be engaging and informative.

Regretfully, we must acknowledge the completion of Doug Durand's contract. Thanks, Doug, for all of your valuable hours as M.O.P. Outreach Assistant.

A Different Kind of Food Store

by Ray Brunet

Since November 1998, I've been putting together a program for a food store, which will provide PWAs with the essentials of a well-balanced diet.

The food store will focus on health and nutrition. With time and participation, grocery items such as dairy products (milk, yogurt, cheese and fresh farm eggs), and fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables will be available. Perhaps some hygiene items—like toothpaste and shampoo—as well as vitamins and supplements and even household cleaning agents—like dish soap and laundry detergent—will be stocked.

The store will provide nutritional information, diet tips, menu suggestions, coupons and free membership with Safeway and Save On Foods. It will also offer a fair exchange on Thrifty's food vouchers, and will let members know where they can find the best weekly specials.

If you're HIV+, get registered. As often as twice a month, you will be able to make purchases from the store (open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 2pm until 4pm

on a first-come first-served basis). You may purchase, however, no more than 28 items per month.

As a new client, you will be asked to complete a questionnaire. Then you will receive a starter kit, which is, in fact, a grocery bag containing 28 staple items.

The food store will operate on a credit system. A bar of soap may be marked as 30 credits; a can of soup as 45 credits. Basically, you can compare a credit to a penny; 100 credits are the equivalent of a dollar.

Credits for the food store may be accumulated in three different ways:

- Option A: For every hour you volunteer at AVI you will earn 150 credits.
- Option B: You may exchange Thrifty's food vouchers for credit at face value.
- Option C: You may purchase credits for the year by donating anywhere between five and 20 dollars from your Emergency Assistance Fund.

The food store will also bring new volunteer opportunities to PWAs. I hope many will get involved.

You can help the food store get off to a good start.

Look through your cupboards and recycling bins. You may be able to provide us with the following items:

- Egg cartons
- Large scoops
- 125 ml plastic containers with lids
- 250 ml plastic containers with lids
- 750 ml plastic containers with lids
- 1L plastic containers with lids

All items must be clean and empty when donated. Plus, all containers must be plastic—we cannot accept glass jars or bottles—and all must have lids that fit. We no longer require containers larger than 1 L, nor do we need plastic bags.

Thanks to all of you who have already donated time and supplies to the food store. It is much appreciated.

The Food Store will be located at the Victoria

HIV/AIDS Centre. For more details, call Ray

Brunet or Garth Greatheart at (250) 384-2366.

Client Services Offers New Programs

by Garth Greatheart

The Client Services department at AIDS Vancouver Island has hired Vince Ruttan to look after the Drop-In centre.

A recovering addict who is HIV+, Vince helps other HIV+ people get acquainted with the centre and its programs every weekday from 9am to 1pm.

The department has also introduced new programs for HIV+ people, including regular video and game nights. A hot lunch is served every weekday, and a noon group meets to socialize and talk about their hopes for the Drop-In.

In the months to come, Client Services will be offering a harm reduction group for anyone interested in using drugs safely, and a group for sero-discordant couples.

Client Services continues to provide short-term, solution-focused counselling and advocacy by appointment. If your HIV+ and want to find out more, call 384-2366 and ask to speak to a support worker. Also, check the April calendar of events.