

Highlights

- Day of Self Discovery
- Art Exhibit at Cricket's Fox River Lounge
- Valentine's Day Editorial

Inside

- Event Listing
- News and Commentary
- Community Calendar of Events

PositiveVOICE, INC News



DAY OF SELF DISCOVERY

Positive Voice's annual conference to be held February 25th and 26th

Letter From the President

On Friday, January 28th, **POSITIVE VOICE** opened the office door for the very first time. The open house scheduled from 6-8pm was planned to offer a tour of our recently acquired and transformed space. Just one week previous, we wondered if indeed the renovations would be completed in time.

And now, several Board members anxiously waited to greet guests; both wondering if indeed anyone might attend and if so, would they share our excitement and the potential this humble beginning could offer our community.

The event was a success on many levels. Not only was it well attended, but a collective pride and collaborative energy infused the many conversations among attendees, causing them to linger well beyond the scheduled ending time.

The **PV** Board is already working to determine what programming will be offered in the space. A **"Drop In" social evening is currently planned for Thursday evenings from 6-9pm starting on February 17th.**

The **PV** education committee has begun meeting in the space and will soon catalog for our library the boxes of donated books, videos and magazines.

PC's will soon be setup for both board and member usage. A DSL connection to the Internet will be completed by week's end and a Wireless Access point will follow soon after for the space.

Minor projects remain to be completed. An updated wish list of items includes the following:

- 4 Folding Tables (plastic tops/6 foot length)
- 2 Storage Units with shelves
- Kitchen Supplies
- Coffee Maker
- Disposable Dishes/Utensils
- Microwave Cooking Dishes
- 3 Unit Wireless Portable Phone system with Answering Machine
- Box of Copy Paper
- Miscellaneous Office Supplies
- Monetary Donations for "office" to purchase some of the above items.
- Donation of time/Expertise (cleaning, painting, carpeting, carpentry, etc)

Please contact **PV** or a board member if you would like to contribute.

In the spirit of community collaboration, please consider attending the **FREE Day of Self-Discovery GLBT Conference** scheduled for February 25th and 26th. This will be a great opportunity to network, strategize and work to speak

with one Voice to affect Positive change in our communities. Thanks, Dennis

Valentine's Day Editorial

By Cheryl Myers, PV Editor

My partner and I have been together 13 years. I don't know if "13" is lucky or ominous, but I'm leaning towards lucky. Thirteen years—it seems like such a long time, yet it passed so quickly. All the cells that replicate in our bodies have completely turned over every 7 years, so in a way, it wasn't even the same person that met her, kissed her, and brought the clichéd U-Haul on the second date.

Our romance was complicated with the grief shame exhilaration of learning in each other's arms that we were not straight. No storybook first date, or giggling glances or roses at work the next day. What should have been our most passionate time was shared with the profound experience of discovering we were members of our country's most loathed minority. In a way, our social status went from top of the heap to bottom of the barrel in one night.

When straight couples marry, they commit to forsaking all others and cleaving only unto their spouses.

When our lives joined, we forsook, in addition to all others, many of our legal rights and protections; the affection of some of our friends; and our secure roles

in the powerful heterosexual majority. That's a hell of a lot of weight to put on a fragile new romance. That we stayed the course amazes me to this day.

We are mature ladies now, with children, pets, and a mortgage. We have careers that can be a bit stressful, and our Friday night "dates" are most usually pizza and a video. I don't really long for the fancy ceremony anymore, and I don't know that I am svelte enough for the sexy white dress. And if we were given the choice of spending thousands of dollars on a lavish wedding, or converting the basement to a rec room, I fear the basement would win out.

But do I want to marry my partner? Even after 13 years of crying babies, diapers, car accidents, job layoffs, illnesses, arguments and red wine spilled on the beige carpet, the answer is a resounding "yes." For all the legal and financial reasons, sure, but also for the social recognition of the validity of our love and commitment. That is why we have ceremonies of any kind—to sanctify the profundity of an event, and to show the support of family and friends. I want that for us. I want that for all committed couples who face another Valentine's Day, quietly holding the hand of their partner, and wondering what it will take to climb back up to the top of the heap.

My thanks to the activists who campaign for equal marriage rights. I know we will get there one day—I really and truly believe it. Sigh. But we are not there today. Maybe "14" will be a lucky number.

Poet's Corner

For Love of Sons and Scripture By Len Tews

When I first saw Chandler after church in The Fellowship Room, I could tell by his rough hands the uneasy way he wore his white Sunday shirt and the natural way he wore his sun-faded jeans that he was no gay-bar copy of a cowboy.

He told me he was going through a divorce with a woman who had Bible

quoting ways who he had finally told the truth to.

He left behind two sons, eleven and fourteen who he knew still loved him.

He wrung his hands in the telling he had nothing else to grab onto.

His mother game him an ultimatum – either get cured by her Christian counselor or leave the family ranch in eastern Washington hoping she would get him to lie all his life, blinded as she was by Leviticus and St. Paul, loving black-and-white scripture more than the gray of her son's eyes.

But she lost the gamble – he threw his saddle into the back of the pickup and drove to Seattle to live with Eddy.

The poet, Len Tews, moved from the Green Bay area some years ago and now resides in Seattle, WA. He returns to the Fox Valley area a few times a year to visit friends and relatives.

Cricket's Fox River Lounge Welcomes Winkler Art Exhibit

Paul Jacob, "Cricket," owner of Cricket's Fox River Lounge, works with artists to schedule art exhibits. Cricket has always worked with performing artists and provided many talented performers the opportunities to perform in his lounge and has always been a strong supporter of charities. He is known for always helping others. Cricket enjoys all types of art and has thought about the idea of art exhibits in his lounge for some time now. This new idea is another example of Cricket's big heart. Art galleries generally charge a necessary commission for handling the display and sale of art, but Cricket does not charge the artist any fee or commission for displaying and selling the art, when the artist donates a portion of the proceeds to a charity.

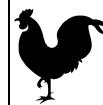
Cricket's first exhibit and sale will be folk art by artist Dale Winkler. The exhibit will be held at Cricket's Fox River Lounge, 715 South Broadway, Green Bay, Wisconsin. The exhibit will open Friday evening, February 18th with a

fantastic performance by Glamarama, Green Bay's premier female trio. This trio performs hits from the 40's, 50's, 60's and more. Pop tunes are just some of the songs from the group's repertoire. Swing melodies are crooned and Broadway hits belted! Members include Green Bay's songbird Kathryn "Zoomie" Szumiel who is the featured vocalist with The River City Six Orchestra, Lana Kakuk, actress and songstress extraordinaire from Menominee, Michigan, and Milwaukee's Barbarella Alloy, the comic and sexy dance leader of the troupe.

Dale's unusual and colorful sculptures that include figures, snakes, fish, picture frames, chains, etc. are assemblages created mainly from bottle caps, but also include other recycled and found materials or objects. Dale will be donating 40% of the proceeds from his art sales to **Positive Voice, Inc.** for AIDS Education and outreach to youth.

Dale's work is the result of his inspiration by many self-taught artists throughout the world. Dale's idea for creating with bottle caps came about as a result of visiting the International Museum of Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He saw items from an exhibit, Recycled Re-seen: Folk Art from the Global Scrap Heap, and began to create works with used bottle caps and other found materials. Dale's work has sold nationally and has been exhibited in Kentucky, Wisconsin, New Mexico and Minnesota. Current Wisconsin galleries carrying Dale's work are The Flying Pig in Algoma, WI and Frame of Mind Gallery in Lakewood, WI.

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Prices are for three months, and sizes are only approximate:

1/8 Page (Business card 4.25" X 2.75") \$15.; **1/4 Page** (4.25" X 5.5") \$25; **1/2 Page** (4.25" X 11" OR 8.5" X 5.5") \$40; **Full Page** (8.5" X 11") \$70. To inquire about placing an ad or the rates for running an ad for longer than three months, please contact **PV** at (920) 435-4404 OR write to **POSITIVE VOICE** PO Box 1381, Green Bay, WI 54305-1381. We can also be reached via e-mail at pvnew4gibt@aol.com.

Our Mission Statement:

We believe all gay people, their families, and friends have the right to come together

and treat each other with respect, dignity and friendship. We must work together as a unified group to create a positive atmosphere that allows us to share our viewpoints and feelings, to grow, and to gain a greater sense of fulfillment in our lives.

Editorial Policy:

Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of **POSITIVE VOICE** or its members. Publication of the name, photograph or likeness of any person, organization or business in this newsletter is not be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of that person, organization or business. No one's name will be

published without his/ her consent. Contents of this publication may not be reprinted in whole, or part, without the permission from the board of directors.

PV Board of Directors

Pres: Dennis Krenn; **VP:** Bob Gulig;
Treasurer: Bruce Moran; **Secretary:** Michael Nitz. **PV Board Members:** Ed Huyck, Jennifer Schwarz, Lloyd Schaefer, Tana Koss, Tim.

Calendar of Events 2005:

Upcoming Events at Harmony Cafe

- ***GLBT Partnership:** A weekly support and youth development group for teens ages 14-18 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or questioning (GLBT). Call Rebecca at 734-2233 for details.
- ***Free basic computer skills training** offered in English and Spanish Saturdays from 10am-noon
- ***NAMI Teen Support Group:** NAMI Fox Valley (www.namifoxvalley.org) offers a weekly teen support group at Harmony Cafe for youth ages 14-18 (call 954-1550 for details)
- ***Parent-Child Playgroup:** Wednesdays from 10am-noon, free coffee for parents!!
- ***Youth Worker Coalition:** networking, resource-sharing and education for professionals who work with youth ages 6-25 (meets second Wednesdays from 8-9:30am).

Happenings at the Harmony Café ~a peaceful place to celebrate diversity of people, ideas and activities~ **Harmony Cafe regular hours of operation:** Mon-Thu: 7:30am-9pm. Fri: 7:30am-11pm; Sat: 9am-2pm at 124 North Oneida Street, Appleton, WI Contact info: www.harmonycafe.org 920.734.CAFE); All Activities at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

Rainbow Gathering Youth Group Calendar:

The Rainbow Gathering Youth Group always meets at Angels of Hope, MCC located at 3607 Libal St. in Green Bay. ALL meeting times are from 7pm - 9pm For more information, contact: RainbowGathering1@yahoo.com

Positive Voice Meeting and Event Calendar

- Feb 12 – Have A Heart Dinner** (see article in Newsletter)
 - Feb 17 – Drop In – Meet and Greet Night 6-9pm- POSITIVE VOICE, 618 Stuart St, Green Bay, WI**
 - Feb 25 – Day of Self Discovery Community Leadership evening program**
 - Feb 26 - Day of Self Discover Day program (open to the general public)** Details elsewhere in Newsletter.
- For a more complete calendar listing, see our website at www.pvinc.org.

Organizations and Regularly Scheduled Events:

- Action Wisconsin:** GLBT political action group. For more info., call Mike Fitzpatrick at 920-437-7400 (days).
- Alcoholic's Anonymous (Gay Meetings):** Five open meetings each week in Appleton and Green Bay. In Green Bay, Sunday 9:30am and Wednesday 6:30pm at Angels of Hope-MCC; Mondays 8:00pm at UWGB Campus Ecumenical Center. For more information, call 920-336-2868 or 920-954-9169.
- Angels of Hope M.C.C.:** Services every Sunday (11:00AM) at 3607 Libal St., **Allouez**. Call 920-983-7453. Services every Sunday (6:00 PM) at 815 North Richmond St., **Appleton**. Call 920-991-0128.
- AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW)** Green Bay: 824 S. Broadway 920-437-7400 or 800-675-9400. Appleton: 120 N. Morrison St. Suite 201 920-733-2068 or 800-773-2068.
- Support Groups:** Free, confidential open to any person living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Green Bay: 7:30-9:00pm, every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of month at Renaissance Healing Arts Center, 311 S. Jefferson, Green Bay, WI 54301, 920-437-4325. Fox Cities: 7:00-8:30pm, every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of month at Family Resource Association of Fox Valley, Midway Road, 1488 Kenwood Drive,

Menasha, WI 54952, 920-739-4226. For information, contact the numbers above or Sylvia at AIDS Resource Center of WI at 1-800-675-9400 or 920-437-7400.

Central Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance, Inc. PO Box 390, Steven's Point, WI 54481. For more information, you can phone (715) 592-6245 and then enter voicemail #5920200 when prompted or visit us online at www.racwinc.org or email: racwinc@hotmail.com.

GLBT Partnership: Lesbigan teen support group in Appleton & Green Bay. Call 920-731-4847.

The Lavender Salon: Lesbigan reading group meets fourth Sunday of the month. Call Michael Nitz at 920-738-0497. The Salon's website is: www.lavendersalon.org

Lawrence University PRIDE: Meets every Thursday at 9:00pm PM in the Diversity Center. Contact: PRIDE, Diversity Center, 207 S. Meade St., Appleton, WI 54911; phone: 920-832-7051 – e-mail: www.lawrence.edu/org/pride

PFLAG Appleton/ Fox Cities: Meets third Tuesday of the month. For more info, write PFLAG, P.O. Box 9178, Appleton, WI 54911-9178; Helpline assistance phone is 920/735-1025.

PFLAG of Door County: Meets third Sunday of the month, Hope Church at 12th and Michigan Streets, Sturgeon Bay, WI. Contact Sandy at 920-743-8146.

Positive Voice Education Committee: Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network. Working for safer schools. Contact: Kathy Leadley or Paul "Cricket" Jacob at: 437-7400 or at paul.jacob@arcw.org Meetings variable; announced in newsletter. You do not have to be a teacher to become a member—you need only care for all our schoolchildren's well being.

Preble Park Presbyterian Church: Open and Accepting. Sunday Service at 10:15am, 607 Ravenswood Drive, Green Bay, WI. Phone: 920-468-7125.

Rainbow Over Wisconsin, Inc.: Northeast Wisconsin charitable foundation. For more info., contact Mark at 920-433-9821.

Sheboygan Lesbian and Gay Potluck- Meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at 6pm at Unity Church of Sheboygan 2409 N. 8th street. Call 920-452-5447 for more information. Spend a Saturday evening making new friends, eating good food, having good conversation and playing cards, board games, etc. (over 18 years old please)

Toward Community: Unity In Diversity Racial/ethnic unity group supportive of gay rights. Meets third Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. odd months; 6:30 p.m. even months at the Harmony Café. Contact number is 731-6602 ext. 1242.

Union Congregational Church-UCC: Open and Affirming . Sunday Service at 10am, 716 S Madison Ave, Green Bay, WI. 920-437-9266.

Unitarian/Universalist Fellowship: Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship: Services at 4:30 PM Saturday, and 9:00 and 11:00 AM on Sundays, September through May, and at 9:00 AM June through August. We are a congregation that welcomes all people and invite them to come as they are. Rev Roger Bertschausen, 2600 E. Philip Lane, Appleton, WI: 920-731-0849.

Womyn's Fox Valley Potluck/Social Group. 920-727-1444.



To become a member of POSITIVE VOICE or renew your membership:

Think about becoming a member of **Northeast Wisconsin's largest GLBT organization** or renewing your annual membership. Memberships are in effect for one year from payment date, \$25 for individuals and \$35 for families. There is a special full-time student membership available for \$10 per year. Members receive the **PV** Inc. News, discounts on **PV** events and help support our organization in reaching our goals and enriching our lives. Use the following coupon to send in your membership fee. Remember that **additional donations are always welcome** to help support our work to fulfill our mission statement. **THANK YOU!**

Name: _____

Optional Information:

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ - _____ - _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ - _____ - _____

Today's Date: _____

Email: _____ @ _____

- I am enclosing \$ _____ for my individual **PV** Membership for one year (commences with payment date).
- We are enclosing \$ _____ for our family **PV** Membership for one year (commences with payment date).
- Enclosed is an *additional* amount of \$ _____ to help support the mission statement of **POSITIVE VOICE**.

Total Amount enclosed: \$ _____ (make checks payable to **POSITIVE VOICE, INC.**) Should we mail the newsletter in a private envelope? **Yes** or **No** or **EMAIL** (circle one)

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Roses are Red
Violets are Blue
We send to our members
A big: "We I ove you!!!"

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