



The BAPHRON

Vol. 18, No. 2

Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights Official Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Spring cleaning — Office closed — Looking forward to a fresh start

BY CHUCK MELTZER, MD

A lot has gone on since spring. The big job was closing the office. Many thanks to Toby Dyner, John Gilmore, Sam Thal, Lenny Simpson, Michael Hulton and my partner, Scott Johnson, for helping me go through the material and decide what needed saving and what could be tossed. Most of it got tossed, thank God, because the rest now sits in a metal cabinet in my garage. We donated the furniture to the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, and sent some material to the new Gay/Lesbian Wing of the San Francisco Main Library.

We found a lot of dusty outdated pamphlets about STD's and AIDS; these were especially interesting to browse through to see where we started and have come. Poignantly, we found old pictures of former members who have passed on. But, then we also found some photos of present members from fifteen years ago (names withheld) which have definite blackmail potential and made us chuckle. Who knew sideburns could grow that long?

I was most impressed by the volume of work generated out of the office in its early years, when it was doing more community education and had the

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UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

- September 13 Liver Rounds
- September 15 BBQ/Volleyball in Palo Alto-Medical Student Mentoring Day
- October 11 Liver Rounds
- October 18 Annual Dinner at Sheraton Palace Hotel
- November 8 Liver Rounds
- December 13 Holiday Event (in lieu of Liver Rounds)

Monthly BAPHR Liver Rounds

Second Friday of
the Month

Alta Plaza Bar & Grill
2301 Fillmore Street
San Francisco

We buy the first round!



BAPHR's Executive Board and state Assembly Member Sheila Kuebl share a gay moment at our June 2 picnic. Left to right: Charles Meltzer, MD, Sheila Kuebl, Toby Dyner, MD, John Gilmore, MD.



Roses in Our Mailbox

BAPHR Foundation Philanthropy Well Received

Last year's grants have been put to good use. Here is a sampling of letters from some of the people who benefited from the Foundation's generosity:

FROM DOLORES STREET COMMUNITY SERVICES:

"We want to thank you and the BAPHR Foundation for the generous grant ... for the Richard M. Cohen Residence. Without the commitment and generosity of the community, we would be hard-pressed to deliver the critical services our clients depend on.

As you know, the Richard M. Cohen Residence opened its doors last December. In this first year, we have pro-

vided more than 20 homeless women and men disabled by AIDS with a stable, comfortable home and a comprehensive array of supportive services, including meals, peer support, visiting nurse and attendant care, case management, financial management, mental health services, substance abuse services, and coordination of nutritional and medicinal needs.

Again, we at Dolores Street are grateful for your joining us in creating

and providing unique models of service."

FROM PROJECT OPEN HAND:

"Thank you for your tremendous support of Project Open Hand. During Project Open Hand's tenth year of providing services, your support has made a tremendous difference. With your help, 5,754 men, women and children with HIV/AIDS received hot meals, nutritious groceries or nutrition counseling.

...During the year we have noticed, as people with HIV are living longer, more people are turning to our two food banks to meet their nutritional needs. While their financial resources are being depleted by a longer battle with HIV, many individuals are still able to prepare their meals and prefer the flexibility of the food bank program.

...You are an important part of a growing community of businesses which has had the foresight to recognize good nutrition as an essential component of effective AIDS treatment. Thank you."

FROM MEALS OF MARIN:

"On behalf of Meals of Marin and its over 175 current active volunteers, I would like to thank the BAPHR Foundation for their award ... towards our kitchen purchase...The kitchen has provided a vast work space for the increased demand for our services. It provides a haven for the daily crew of volunteer cooks as well as an easy access for our daily deliverers of meals. It allows our daily "expeditors" to organize and pack meals for delivery without disruption to the cooking process.... It is the center of our activity and a daily source of pride and feeling of accomplishment."

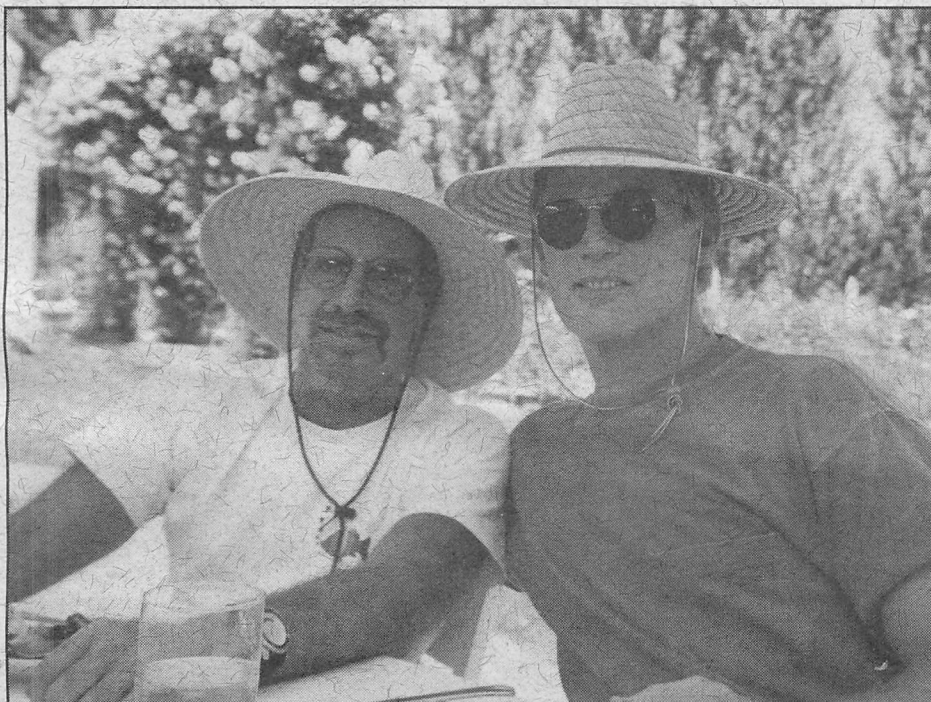
FROM LIVING WATERS HIV MINISTRY:

"I am pleased to present to you our first newsletter....we have received many enthusiastic responses in anticipation of The Reporter....Please note recognition of your funding in The Reporter. We are very pleased with our first edition and hope you will find it enjoyable and enriching."

FROM MOST HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH:

"We are most grateful for the grant

Continued on page 3



Lenny Simpson, MD, former BAPHR President, and his partner Peter Bradley soak up the sun at our Petaluma picnic in June.

Notice by Fax

Please note that in these modern days, we will from time to time send reminders of events by fax. If for some reason you prefer that we do not fax you, then please leave us a message at 558-9353, or if you have a new fax number, please leave us that information.



We Need Your Vote to Approve Two New Board Members

JULIE DESCH

Julie Desch is one of our newest BAPHR members. Julie is a surgical pathologist with sub-specialty training in dermatopathology at Kaiser Hospital in San Francisco. She hails from Nebraska, but that isn't her fault. It does perhaps explain why it took twenty-eight years, including a seven-year straight marriage, to realize that she was, in fact, quite gay. Medical school, residency and fellowship years were all spent at Stanford, thus the escape from the heartland.

Julie and her partner of five years, Laura Jarrell, live in Palo Alto, where Laura owns and operates an outdoor retail store. They are the proud parents of Cisco, Ashley, and Harley (all furry creatures) and are currently watching Laura's basal body temperature quite closely, turkey baster nearby. In her spare time, Julie loves to plan new careers, run, weight train, and is currently enthralled with yoga. She and Laura also love to travel, backpack, cross-country

ski and take Cisco to frisbee tournaments (he is a star).

Chuck Meltzer coerced Julie into joining BAPHR early this year, and she is busily trying to recruit more female members. She is also interested in attracting more members from down south on the peninsula, and will be hosting a BBQ for BAPHR in September with this goal in mind.

WOODY ISCH

Dr. Rudolf Isch, often known as "Woody" to friends and patients alike, is another of our newest members. A California native, Woody grew up in Millbrae and attended the University of the Pacific in Stockton and UOP Dental School in San Francisco. He began practicing dentistry in Lausanne, Switzerland before returning to California to open his own general dentistry practice at 450 Sutter Street in San Francisco nine years ago. Woody also has a distinguished history with many national

and regional dental associations. He enjoys cosmetic dentistry and helping patients improve their appearance.

Woody and his partner of four years, Ron Hill, divide their time between their home in San Francisco with their two treasured dogs, Bookie and Jake, and their country home in Sonoma where Woody enjoys gardening, biking and the tranquility of country living.

Woody is very active in politics and the gay community and has been involved with many AIDS service organizations along with the Human Rights Campaign. Woody was recently appointed to the platform committee for the National Democratic Convention and is a member of the finance council for the State Democratic Committee.

Woody is looking forward to a rewarding association with BAPHR and its many members.

Roses...

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...to fund our on-going education program. Our WE CARE NEWSLETTER is sent to all donors and friends of the Support Group. Our plan is to prominently feature BAPHR in the Spring '96 issue which we will mail in mid-March....we would invite you to discuss the vision of BAPHR in its philanthropic efforts."

AND MORE NEWS:

The video *All God's Children*, produced by Woman Vision Inc., with help from a BAPHR Foundation grant, is now available. It deals with the effect of homophobia on African Americans, and includes participants' visions of what the African-American struggle for civil rights means within the context of fighting discrimination against lesbians and gay men of all races.

We need your vote to approve these two new Board Members:

Please vote yes or no.

If you vote no and have a specific reason why you believe they should not be elected as Board Members, please comment on that.

Julie Desch, M.D. Yes No

Woody Isch, D.D.S. Yes No

PLEASE CUT OUT THIS COUPON AND MAIL IT BACK TO

BAPHR

P.O. Box 14188, San Francisco, CA 94114-0188

or send it to us in the enclosed envelope.



BAPHR Foundation Granting Update

New Approach with Larger Grants for 1997

The BAPHR Foundation voted to skip a granting cycle for 1996, and instead apply the money towards a larger grant for 1997. This would potentially make available \$150,000 for grants in 1997, with the concept of one large grant up to \$100,000 available to a worthwhile organization and smaller grants to other groups. A challenge grant is also being considered, and steps are going forward in this direction.

This is a very exciting change from grants of up to \$10,000 given out in the past. The Foundation welcomes ideas from the mem-

bership as to where the money might be directed. Keep in mind that the bylaws state that the money be earmarked for projects which are health-related and for the Gay/Lesbian community within the nine Bay Area counties. The applicant will need to be a 501(C)3 non-profit organization. The funds can't be used for regular operating expenses, direct medical expenses or research. We are not announcing the granting cycle yet, but rather gathering input from you, the members, and other folks from the community.

Support BAPHR Foundation Donate to Community Thrift

You can help promote health in the gay and lesbian community by donating your used clothing, books, records, small appliances, collectibles, jewelry, housewares, linens, toys and

furniture to Community Thrift Store. Request credit to account #102. The store is at 623-625 Valencia St. in San Francisco, phone 861-4910.

Save The Date
BAPHR - BAPHR Foundation
ANNUAL DINNER
October 18
See You There!



The BAPHRON

EDITOR: Charles Meltzer, MD
MANAGING EDITOR: Judy MacLean
DESIGN & LAYOUT: ZesTop Publishing
Printed on Recycled Paper

Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights (BAPHR) is a membership organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender physicians. Founded in 1977, BAPHR provides personal and professional support for its members and promotes health and wellness in the Bay Area gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

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The BAPHR FOUNDATION is dedicated to improving gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender health in the nine Bay Area counties. It is the largest health care foundation in the world that provides grants specifically for the health and wellness of the gay community. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization under the Federal Tax Code. Contributions are tax-deductible.

BAPHR FOUNDATION

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Sheila Kuehl Enlightens Us Petaluma Picnic

Picture blue skies, fields of blooming roses in manicured rows, green lush lawns, a gazebo with the strains of classical music, white umbrellas and a sophisticated lunch served up in style and abundance. You'll begin to get the idea of what John Gilmore pulled together for us on June 2. Thirty-five BAPHR members joined us for a hot, sleepy day in Sonoma, where melodies provided by students from the San Francisco

reminded us that at least here is a President who can say the words "gay" or "lesbian" and not gag. We must continue to be active members of the community at large if we are to make progress in achieving equal rights. We must also support openly gay officeholders and candidates so our message can be brought to the public forum.

A few years ago Sheila met with a gay/lesbian think tank conference of

As we were pigging out on cobbler, Sheila reminded us that while she is now joined by Carole Migden in the Assembly's Gay/Lesbian Caucus, she still is the only butch one.

Message from Chair...

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referral service. There seemed to be many more committees and much greater membership involvement. I would like to see us get more involved in the community again, aside from what we do by granting via the Foundation, but I think we still need to rebuild our commitment to each other as peers and get reacquainted.

If you think there are projects we should be participating in, and you would like to help spearhead one, then come to a Board meeting, or give me a call. Board meetings are generally the first Monday of the month at 7PM, at my home, with a light repast served. All interested members are welcome to come and join us.

With the office closed, we are able to subsidize more events, like our monthly Liver Rounds, and the delightful picnic we had on June 2 in Petaluma. Liver Rounds at the Alta Plaza Bar & Grill have started to catch on, with residents and students joining us on the second Friday of the month for a drink and congenial company. Informal mentoring and important chitchat are a nice way to decompress after one of those weeks. While I am only seven years out of my residency, I am thirteen years away from graduation from medical school. You tend to forget the innocence and enthusiasm of being a medical student, so I personally enjoy chatting with these "kids."

We have a number of upcoming events, as you will see on the calendar, so hold the dates and join us. I know I speak for the Board when I say we truly look forward to seeing you there.



Steve Follansbee, MD and Richard Wolitz, MD at BAPHR's June picnic.

Conservatory of Music intermingled with the occasional rooster crowing or cow mooing. It was very pastoral.

Guest speaker Sheila Kuehl, the lesbian assembly woman from Santa Monica, has the stage presence of Bette Midler and the determination of Eleanor Roosevelt. (Close your eyes, Hillary, and lets play make believe.) Sheila stressed how important it is not to be apathetic politically, and to be demanding as to who gets your vote and/or money. While talking about same-sex marriages and Mr. Clinton's stand on them, she

activists from various sectors. They summed up the most important issues in three words: health, family and violence. Certainly, these topics remain very relevant to us today. We are all involved in health from a professional and personal stance; family encompasses immediate and the greater gay family which we are part of; and violence is unfortunately a fear of all people in our society because of its randomness and prevalence. BAPHR may want to look at what role we might play in examining these subjects.



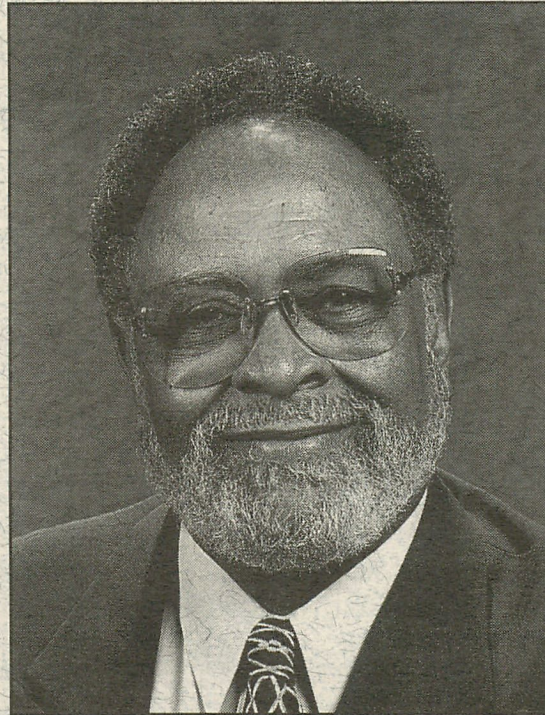
Combined Annual Dinner October 18

Guest of Honor to be Reverend Cecil Williams

BAPHR and The BAPHR Foundation are pleased to honor Reverend Cecil Williams with our Community Service Award at our annual dinner to be held on October 18, 1996 at the Sheraton Palace Hotel in San Francisco. The invitations will be forthcoming with the cost \$125 for members and guests and \$250 for patrons. Please hold the date for this truly exciting evening.

The Reverend Cecil Williams is Minister of Liberation of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco. From that position he has been on the forefront of change for more than 32 years as a minister, community leader, activist, advocate, author, lecturer, and television personality.

President Bill Clinton has publicly lauded Glide as "representing the best that America can be." Both he and Hillary Rodham Clinton have attended Glide, and have offered strong encouragement of Glide's work. Other notables who have attended and supported Glide include longtime member Dr. Maya Angelou, South African



Rev. Cecil Williams

Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Coretta Scott King.

Glide is one of the fastest growing and most culturally diverse United Methodist

Churches in America. The Glide Sunday Celebration is a lively and intense multi-media drama rooted in liberation theology and a spirituality that champions action above apathy, community above isolation, and the force of faith, hope and love above traditional religious symbolism.

Under the direction of Rev. Williams, Glide Church has been transformed into an urban center which powerfully advocates for under-served populations. It is the most comprehensive non-profit provider of human services in San Francisco.

Among Glide's network of services are a food program that serves over 3,500 meals a day (the only program in San Francisco to serve three meals a day, 365 days a year); an outpatient substance abuse treatment

and recovery program that has won national recognition as a model of innovation, and has proven especially effective with users of crack cocaine; an HIV/AIDS prevention, testing and case management program that has made critical inroads into populations not served by mainstream organizations (and which has received support by the BAPHR Foundation).

Williams' commitment to human rights is unswerving. He joined Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the Great March in Washington, DC in 1963, organized contingents from northern California to commemorate the historic moment in 1983 and in 1988 in Washington, DC, stood with the Black Panthers, and played a significant role in the anti-war movement.

Williams' latest book, "No Hiding Place," (Harper San Francisco) documents his program for recovery in the nation's urban centers. His autobiography, "I'm Alive," was published by Harper and Row.

Be sure and join us October 18 for what promises to be an inspiring evening.

Join! Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights

YES, sign me up as the newest member of the Bay Area's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender medical association.

TITLE _____

NAME _____

HOSPITAL AFFLTN _____ SPECIALTY _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE (OFFICE) _____ EXT. _____

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~~\$250~~ \$125 Sustaining Member

~~\$50~~ \$25 Residents/Disabled

FREE Medical Students

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The BAPHRON

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Political Activism – Social Agenda – Going On Line

BY CHUCK MELTZER, MD

Spring is finally here and another year of experience behind me. I think I am starting to get the hang of organizing this organization. The problem is planning ahead and not driving myself and others crazy with last minute deadlines. This year we have attempted to do just that, as you can see by the calendar of events you received in February. We hope to continue to be able to add to this list with various activities to bring us together and make us a more cohesive group.

We have included ourselves with the individual plaintiffs in the First Amendment Lawsuit defending Proposition 215. The Board had voted on this at our January meeting because it simply seemed the right thing to do. We were the only physician group to add our support. We have had numerous requests for interviews in the written press and for radio shows, but I have turned them down because of lack of time. If any of you have strong feelings in favor of what we are doing, a little time on your hands, and know what a sound byte is, then you should contact me and become a spokesperson for us. People usually prefer to hear opinions from doctors than lawyers.

Our informal gatherings, liver rounds, seem to have caught on. Thirty people showed up for Valentine's Day at Mecca and again in March. I enjoyed seeing many of the same old faces mixed in with some new faces, and hope the trend continues. We have been hosting the first cocktail as a promotion to get it going, so come on down and join us while the tab remains on us.

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BAPHR holds its Spring dinner at Cafe Riggio. Shown from left to right: Terry Stein, Chuck Melzer, and Bob Cabaj. See story on page 2.

START YOUR SEARCH ENGINES Visit Us at WWW.BAPHR.ORG

BY CHUCK MELTZER, MD

BAPHR went on line this spring. The web site is being created with a generous donation of time by George Heymont from World Wide Web Marketing Alternatives and the updates and monthly maintenance will be provided to us from Alert and Oriented Medical Transcription Services at a substantially reduced rate. The purpose of the web site is to demonstrate that we plan on

remaining a vital institution to you—our members and the community whom we serve.

The site has a home page which will provide our mission statement and links to other pages. We will have monthly updates of our activities, membership information and provider directory by specialty, a community calendar listing the various health related lectures available to the public in the Bay Area, and BAPHR Foundation granting information.

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SPRING DINNER

Being Homo Doesn't Mean You're Crazy

BY BOB CABAJ, MD

The first BAPHR education and social event for 1997 was held at Cafe Riggio on March 10th. Bob Cabaj, MD, and Terry Stein, MD, co-editors of their new book *Textbook of Homosexuality and Mental Health*, discussed the book along with three of the contributing authors, Jim Krajeski, MD, Graeme Hanson, MD, and Francisco Gonzalez, MD.

Bob and Terry discussed how the book came to be. The *Textbook* is nearly 1,000 pages, has 53 chapters covering at least as many subjects, and 64 contributing authors. The book addresses almost all aspects of homosexuality, sexual orientation, and the lives and clinical issues—medical as well as psychiatric—that face gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered people. The focus on mental health was done for two reasons. First, the vast majority of literature and thinking about homosexuality, until recent times, considered it a mental illness or some type of psychopathology. Only recently has the literature addressing the medical issues for gay men and lesbians begun to expand. Second, the title would hopefully alert people that gayness and homosexuality could, indeed, be associated with a mentally healthy existence.

Bob talked about the planning for the book, how it grew from a small project to the gigantic work that it is. The origins were with a group of psychiatrists—Bob, Terry, and Jim Krajeski—and a psychologist—Alan Maylon—who were instrumental in removing “ego-dystonic homosexuality”

book including: the effects of the sexual orientation of the therapist on psychotherapy; the issues involved in coming out as a gay physician; couples work with gay men and lesbians; the influence of specific settings such as inpatient units or general outpatient clinics on working with gay people; and, substance abuse in the gay and lesbian community.

Terry—Past-President of AGLP reviewed some of the topics he wrote about, including: the essentialist/social constructionist debate about homosexuality; lesbian, gay, and bisexual families; attempts to change sexual orientation; sexual abuse and domestic violence affecting gay, lesbian, and bisexual people.

Jim Krajeski, MD—also a Past-President of AGLP, described his chapter on the history of homosexuality and the mental health professions. He highlighted the factors involved in removing homosexuality as a diagnosis in 1973 and 1974, as well as the removal of “ego-dystonic homosexuality” in 1986. He emphasized that the attitudes of some clinicians to this day have not changed and many professionals still see homosexuality as a mental illness.

Graeme Hanson, MD, a child psychiatrist at Langley Porter Psychiatric

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Dinner enthusiasts, from left, Sam Thal, Joe Rosenthal, Jerry Rosenstein, and Jim Krajeski.

from the psychiatric diagnostic manual in 1986.

Bob—Past-President of both GLMA and the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists (AGLP) and BAPHR Board Member—described a few of the specific areas that he wrote about in the

Announcement

Outsiders on the Inside: Lesbians Exploring Sexual Orientation and Gender Identification

JoAnn Loulan (guest speaker at the 1995 BAPHR Annual Dinner) and Kate Bornstein will enrich your understanding of gender, sexual & sexual orientation issues. San Francisco. July 26th. 6 CE/CME credits. For more information please call the Institute for the Advancement of Human Behavior. (800) 258-8411.

Visit Us ...

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Members will be able to have navigational links to their own web sites or E-mail. We hope this service will help fill a gap in the community with regards to the need of patients who are looking for a gay or lesbian health care provider. We realize that many of you may already list yourselves in the Lavender Pages and we see this as an adjunct to that publication. We will also have an advertisement in the Lavender Pages which will direct people to our web site.

We hope to gain the unanimous

support of the entire membership for the directory. While it remains your choice whether or not to announce yourself to the world as a member of such an organization as ours, I would like to think that you would not belong to BAPHR if you did not believe it was important to be proud of who you are and what you do. A questionnaire was sent out in February to get your basics so we could include you in the directory. Please take a few minutes to fill it out and send it back to us so we can add you in our next update. If you want another one sent to you, leave a message on our line with an address or fax to send it to.



The BAPHRON

EDITOR: Charles Meltzer, MD
DESIGN & LAYOUT: ZesTop Publishing
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Message from Chair...

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We continue to make inroads with the students and house staff, and our policy to have free membership for them is a good incentive for them to sign up. Our recruitment of them will hopefully assure the future of BAPHR as well as provide them with mentors. I had a call recently from one student concerned about outing herself at school or in her upcoming residency. We had a nice discussion about her apprehensions and I feel I was able to provide some good advise to her.

Our series of articles on personal experiences of being a gay/lesbian healthcare person began with our last issue. We had Chris Leptak, a UCSF medical student discuss some of his issues about being a gay medical student. In this issue, we have Janna Doherty, an ob/gyn intern at Kaiser, write about some of her experiences. I hope you enjoy her article and the other ones in this Spring Issue.

Dinner ...

continued from page 1

Institute, discussed his controversial chapter on the latency period of prehomosexual boys. He discussed how most studies of gay men reviewing their childhoods are, of course, retrospective and therefore tainted by adult perceptions. There are no good studies looking at how children who will grow up to be gay or lesbian develop emotionally and psychologically. He summarized what we do know and speculated about some ideas that could warrant research.

Francisco Gonzalez, MD, a psychiatrist working at the Gay and Lesbian Inpatient Unit at San Francisco General Hospital, reviewed his chapter on Latino men and Latina women. He emphasized the important of a cultural sen-

sitivity and awareness in both understanding homosexuality and bisexuality in Latino cultures and in doing clinical work with Latino patients. He discussed the importance of masculinity as a cultural influence, and noted that each culture and background had other specific factors to be aware of and include in working with diverse patients.

The *Textbook* was recently given rave reviews by the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, and will be featured in the first issue of the new *Journal of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association*. The book has been sold out at Different Light and the UCSF Bookstore, but, if interested, it can be ordered directly from the American Psychiatric Press, 1-800-368-5777 (order #FLYR8716).

HOLD THE DATE	H elp us show San Francisco and the world that we are cuter than the gang on ER and Chicago Hope. There will be a pre-parade brunch to gather us all together before the parade.
June 29, 1997	
GAY PRIDE PARADE	



PERSONAL REFLECTIONS OF AN INTERN

Working Through the Dilemma of Outing Yourself in Residency

BY JANNA DOHERTY, MD

The first time I walked into Kaiser San Francisco, I was a fourth-year medical student and my mission was clear: I needed to convince as many people as possible that they were unable to live without me as a future resident. I knew from medical school that this entailed hard work, constant cheeriness, and most of all, not making any waves or invoking controversy. With my best Miss America finalist smile on, I approached the chief resident and inquired about my duties. As I saw her glance at my right ear, I suddenly remembered that I was still wearing the rainbow earring I had bought in the Castro that weekend. Horror washed over me as I thought I had blown all my chances of being ranked, yet I man-

aged to squeak out the words "Should I take this out?". She looked at me, puzzled, and said, "Oh no, I was just wondering if you wanted next weekend off for Pride."

Now, as a first-year resident at Kaiser, my girlfriend comes to labor and delivery to visit me on call, the nurses routinely ask about her, and the other residents are only concerned with when we are getting married. I know how fortunate I am in having matched at such an accepting residency because I went to a medical school where homophobic comments were not only tolerated, but often encouraged. Unfortunately, I think the latter is the norm for residency programs, perhaps not in the nirvana of San Francisco, but certainly at other areas across the country. Studies by GLMA have indicated that the supposedly educated world of medicine is not immune from the ignorance of homophobia, indeed, at times it seems to foster this attitude. Paired with the competitive nature of medical training and the feeling that one is entirely dispensable, it is not difficult to understand why many students and

residents are reticent to be out.

Luckily, things seem to be changing. Many schools are now requiring diversity classes, where students are taught how to take sensitive and non-judgmental histories. The AIDS epidemic has brought gays and lesbians to the forefront of the medical media. As Generation X moves through the ranks, we will hopefully bring a more open-minded, accepting attitude with us. From where I stand now, I am comfortable in being out, proud gay doctor. I hope that someday all students, residents and attendings across the country can feel the same.

HOLD THE DATE
October 17, 1997
20TH ANNUAL DINNER

Join Us for
ON THE
SECOND FRIDAY
OF EVERY MONTH
6:30 - 8 PM
Mecca
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Liver Rounds!

BAPHR Foundation Donors List

All It Takes Is A little Faith In Our Commitment to the Community

The BAPHR Foundation would like to gratefully acknowledge and thank the following people for their generous contributions for the period to 1/1/95-1/31/97.

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The BAPHRON

Vol. 19, No. 2

Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights Official Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Review of systems—All WNL

BY CHUCK MELTZER, MD

It is time again to kick back and look at what has gone on since the spring. Liver rounds are in full swing with thirty to forty members showing up regularly on the second Friday of the month at Mecca. We have been pleased with the turn out and plan to continue it there as a regular venue. We held a combined event with GLMA on August 22 at Vertigo for the medical students in lieu of the August Liver Rounds. We are back on schedule and hopefully by the time you all receive this newsletter, we will have seen you or get to see you at the September 12 liver rounds.

The Proposition 215 lawsuit has obtained a preliminary injunction in favor of not prosecuting physicians for recommending the use of medical marijuana. I understand that there will not be an appeal by the Federal government, but they may contest the final decision. The use of marijuana for specific medical conditions such as AIDS,



SAM THAL

The group getting ready for some steppin' out.

cancer, and glaucoma may be suggested by a physician to a patient as an alternative treatment plan.

The web site is on line at www.baphr.org.

Relatively few members have taken advantage of this service. Please consider joining the list so that we can provide this comprehensive information to the community seeking gay/lesbian health care providers. Physician web sites are becoming increasingly more popular as a way to list the type of practice you have, your hours, insurance programs you carry, your training, specialty and the list goes on. We will link our site to yours, along with your email, if you sign on. All you need to do is download the application and mail it back to us with all the relevant information.

Thanks to all who came out to march with us for the Parade. We had a nice pre-parade brunch at Spuntino's. A rather long post-prandial wait in the holding area, but then we made the walk down Market Street to the applause of thousands. Next year we would still like to see more of you joining us in the parade. We are thinking of doing something with gurneys and lots of red Jell-O.

BAPHR is celebrating its twentieth year at our Annual Dinner on October 17, 1997. We will be honoring two distinguished members, David Kessler and Dee Mosbacher. This should be a special evening, and I look forward to having you all come help us celebrate and pay tribute to these folks.

Join us!
 on the Information
 Superhighway
www.baphr.org



Award to be given to David R. Kessler, M.D. at Annual Dinner

Recognition for a lifetime of achievement

BY DEMETRI POLITES, M.D.

BAPHR is pleased to honor our first elected president as part of our celebration of twenty years. David took an important first step for all of us when he outed himself at a psychiatry grand rounds at UCSF in 1978. He was probably the first on the faculty of the UCSF School of Medicine to do so.

David R. Kessler, M.D., was born and reared in Brooklyn, New York. He got his undergraduate degree from Brooklyn College, then attended Yale University School of Medicine. Following his graduation and internship he served in the U.S. Public Health Service for two years. He then returned to Yale for a residency in psychiatry. He is board certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. He is a Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. He joined the faculty of the psychiatry department at Yale and served one year before coming to San Francisco in 1962, when he joined the staff at Langley Porter Neuropsychiatric Institute and clinical faculty of UCSF. He retired as a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry in 1986. He continues to practice part time as a forensic psychiatrist.

David has had a busy career with many achievements. He has numerous publications to his credit, including the co-authorship of a book on Marital and Family Therapy. He formed the first Gay Studies program at Langley Porter, in the form of a series of seminars, which ran over a period of two years. He also participated in the Human Sexuality program at UCSF, along with Dr. Lisa Capaldini. In 1990-91 he funded a visiting lectureship at the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (founded by Dr. Martin Duberman) at the Graduate School of the City University of New York. He served as president of the Caucus of

Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists in 1980-82; that organization was the forerunner of the presently named Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists. In addition to serving on several committees, he was on the Board of Directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Names Project.

He received a Community Service Award from the Golden Gate Business Association in 1982. He paid tribute to Harvey Milk by delivering a eulogy at the War Memorial Opera House. He has

been written up as a gay physician in the New York Times, People Magazine, the San Francisco Chronicle and has been interviewed on several talk shows.

David was active in BAPHR during our organization's formative years. Our own Bill Owen was the actual founder, and there was an appointed president during the prenatal period. David Kessler was the first elected president. He served again as president in 1988 (and for that alone, aside from every thing else he has done, he deserves an award). We are pleased to count David as one of our own.

Twentieth Annual Dinner Honorees

Dr. Dee Mosbacher to be honored at Dinner

BY BOB CABAJ, M.D.

Dee Mosbacher, MD, PhD, will be honored at the BAPHR Annual Banquet. She will receive an award for her distinguished contributions in the fight against homophobia on all levels, and in medicine in particular. Dee is based here in San Francisco but has

a national impact through her many achievements.

Dee is a film producer and director as well as a psychiatrist. She serves as a psychiatric consultant for some Bay Area organizations and is the immediate past Medical Director of Mental Health Services for San Mateo County.

She was nominated for an Academy Award™ for her co-produced and co-directed film *Straight from the Heart*, a breakthrough film looking at homophobia and families dealing with homosexuality. Dee is also co-producer/co-director of the award-winning film *All God's Children*, and the producer/director of the National Education



Some of the GLMA guys

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The BAPHRON

EDITOR: Charles Meltzer, MD
DESIGN & LAYOUT: ZesTop Publishing
Printed on Recycled Paper

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The BAPHR FOUNDATION is dedicated to improving gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender health in the nine Bay Area counties. It is the largest health care foundation in the world that provides grants specifically for the health and wellness of the gay community. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization under the Federal Tax Code. Contributions are tax-deductible.

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Annual Dinner Honorees...

continued from page 2

Media Award-winning film *Out for a Change: Addressing Homophobia in Women's Sports*.

Dr. Mosbacher has been honored by many other groups, including BAPHR's own prodigy, the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA), especially for her videos *Closets are a Health Hazard: Gay and Lesbian Physicians Come Out*, which has been used in medical school human sexuality courses and conferences throughout the United States and Europe, and *Lesbian Physicians on Practice, Patients, and Power*, a 30-minute video sent by GLMA to every medical school in the United States and Canada.

Dee is the founder and President of Woman Vision, a non-profit educational media production company, and has produced Women's Music concerts around the country.

A long-time activist for lesbian and gay concerns and for women's issues, Dee has served on the boards of many organizations including Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services (where she served as a past board president), National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, American Medical Students Association, Pitzer College, and GLMA when it was known as the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights. Dee and her partner Nanette Gartrell, MD, were the first openly lesbian couple to be invited to the White House, when Bush was President and her father was on the Cabinet.

BAPHR is proud to add another award to the many Dr. Mosbacher has already received for her outstanding and courageous work for all lesbian and gay people.



Which of these "girls" at the parade is wearing the scrub dress?

SAM THAL



BAPHR Foundation to Focus 1997 Grants on Seniors and Youth

1997 Granting cycle to be the biggest ever

BY STEVE HOROWITZ,
CO-CHAIRMAN, BAPHR FOUNDATION

Since 1986, the BAPHR Foundation, SBAPHR's fundraising and grant-making arm, has made over \$300,000 in grants to organizations working to improve the health and/or wellness of the gay and lesbian community in the nine Bay Area counties. In our 1997 grant-making cycle, the Foundation expects to make approximately \$150,000 in grants.

This year, the Foundation will focus its grantmaking on organizations providing services in two areas of acute need within the gay & lesbian community: seniors and youth. The Foundation hopes to support innovative programs serving these often ignored segments of the community.

To make sure a qualified organiza-



Carlos, Chris, John, Sam, Demetri and John

tion receives the Foundation's application materials, BAPHR members should contact the Foundation's consultant, Tod Hill at 415/647-4271. Interested organizations must submit

applications by Friday, September 5, 1997. The final list of recipients will be announced on October 17, 1997 at the BAPHR annual dinner.

BAPHR Foundation Gives Community Center Crucial Early Gift

New San Francisco Center to benefit from generous Foundation support

BY STEVE HOROWITZ,
CO-CHAIRMAN, BAPHR FOUNDATION

The BAPHR Foundation has proudly committed a grant \$50,000 in support of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Community Center Project's \$2.5 million capital campaign.

The Community Center will be a dynamic, community-oriented facility that fosters the health, identity and sense of purpose of all lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgenders. It will provide a safe, affordable and supportive place to link individuals with the many agencies

and programs that address their social, recreational, political, and spiritual needs. The Community Center will also help foster the development of new and emerging organizations, facilitate community events and meetings and help build bridges across racial, gender, age, HIV status and economic lines.

According to plan, construction will begin in the Summer of 1998 and the Center will open in the Winter 1999. As a "Distinguished Sponsor", the Foundation will receive major recognition at the Center for its generous and critically early support of the project.

HOLD THE DATE
October 17, 1997
20TH ANNUAL DINNER
Invitations to Follow

UPCOMING EVENTS	
September 12	Liver Rounds at Mecca
October 10	Liver Rounds has been CANCELLED
October 17	20th Annual Dinner
November 14	Liver Rounds at Mecca
December 12	Holiday Event

Board meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of the month. All members are invited to join us. Please call 558-9353 and leave a message if you are interested and need details)



The BAPHRON

Vol. 18, No. 3

Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights Official Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

BAPHR and BAPHR FOUNDATION Plan Active Year Ahead

BY CHUCK MELTZER, MD

This has been a busy year for us on the Executive Committee. We met our expectations for a successful transition, closing the office and taking on new events and projects with each quarter. We had our educational meeting with Dr. McClintock, our political meeting with Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl, our mentoring mode with the barbecue, and our annual dinner with the inspirational Reverend Cecil Williams.

We published quarterly BAPHRONS. While these are small newsletters, they still take more time and work than I expected. I have been fortunate to have some outside help with giving them a little polish from Judy MacLean and ZesTop Publishing. I never thought I would be an editor of a major magazine, but now my life is complete. In this issue, we have contributions from new and old members. I hope you enjoy their thoughts.

1997 will be a pivotal year for us and the BAPHR FOUNDATION. We will mount a major fundraising drive together to help provide a significant amount of money to an agency serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. We already have started to explore partnerships in discussions with people like Dana Van Gorder from the San Francisco Office on Lesbian and Gay Health Issues and Bill Hayes from the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Our hope is to provide at least one large grant from The BAPHR FOUNDATION of \$100,000, which might be matched with the recipient

continued on page 5



Rev. Cecil Williams, right, was guest of honor at the combined BAPHR-BAPHR FOUNDATION dinner on October 18. With him are BAPHR Chairman Chuck Meltzer, left, and Janice Mirikitani, Rev. Williams' wife.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Should BAPHR Change Our Name?

One of the goals for 1997 is to revisit the concept of a name change. Should our name reflect more accurately who our membership is and who else we might like to attract?

BY CHUCK MELTZER, MD

A new name for BAPHR? As 1996 comes to an end, we should reflect on our goals and accomplishments. One of the goals for 1997 is to revisit the concept of a name change. Should our

name reflect more accurately who our membership is and who else we might like to attract? Our demographics are changing, and perhaps our name needs to be more in keeping with the nineties and prepare us for the future.

continued on page 2



GRANTS UP TO \$100,000

BAPHR Foundation Welcomes the New Year

BY BILL SHEKTER, MD

In 1997, BAPHR FOUNDATION will be different, and, we believe, better. In the past, our largest grant has been \$10,000. Now the Foundation's endowment has grown to over \$1,000,000, as a result of bequests, individual donations, corporate donations and prudent investing. This allows us to make significantly larger grants, up to \$100,000, while we continue our smaller, but still much-needed, grants. We also expect to consider awarding challenge grants.

Over the past decade, from 1986 through 1996, BAPHR FOUNDATION has given out 138 grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000, for a total of approximately \$315,000. All grants have supported gay and lesbian physical and mental health in the nine Bay Area counties. Grantees have included programs for the entire gay and lesbian community, as well as those targeted to the community's women, African-American, Asian-Pacific Islander, youth, and senior citizen members.

The Foundation has always tried

to provide seed money for worthy programs that just don't qualify for funds from large general public funding organizations.

Traditionally, each director of the Board annually contributes \$200 to help with operating expenses, although this is not part of the Foundation's charter. These expenses include a mail box, mailings, telephone, and tax accounting. Virtually all of the regular operating expenses come from these donations, so that more than 90% of all other donations go directly to the endowment to generate funds for grants.

You can help assist this expanded program by remembering BAPHR FOUNDATION in your will, recommending us to clients who ask for suggestions, and, of course, by making a donation. In addition, donations to the Community Thrift Store on Valencia St. in San Francisco will not only give you a full tax deduction, but the Foundation will also benefit. Just tell the cashier that your donation is for BAPHR FOUNDATION, #102. We will also receive 10% of your purchases from Cole Hardware in San Francisco, if you let the cashier know to credit BAPHR FOUNDATION, #150.

We look forward to an exciting 1997.

Should BAPHR Change Name? ...

continued from page 1

What is to be gained by changing a name that already has name recognition? Our name is vague and is often misconstrued by callers as some watchdog group for general human rights. We actually have received calls from prisoners in South America!

Young people do not know who we are because we have not been as active in the community as we were in the early eighties. Therefore, when medical and dental students or residents come to the Bay Area, they join the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, because it is a clearly defined organization with a name they can identify with. They do

not know who we are, what we do, or where to find us in the phone book.

Also, with almost fifty percent of medical school classes composed of women, we should be attracting more and more lesbians. Women still make up a very small part of our organization. A name that encourages women to join us could allow us to more successfully represent our community.

We want dentists, psychologists, and podiatrists to feel welcome as part

of our group. But if we call ourselves Bay Area Physicians, are we giving an exclusive — rather than inclusive — message? Where is our political correctness? Health care providers? Perhaps just "docs"?

We also say "Bay Area," but why not say "Northern California"? We get people from as far as Sacramento and

Santa Cruz. Nobody yet from redwood country, but maybe because they feel left out by our name.

Are you getting the picture? Here

Our name is vague and is often misconstrued by callers as some watchdog group for general human rights. We actually have received calls from prisoners in South America!

is the challenge and the opening of the debate. Should we change our name? And if so, to what? If you have ideas, write them down on the back of your membership renewal form. If we find a name with a possible acronym which better suggests who we are, we will submit it to the membership for a vote. We will not change our name without adequate support by the membership. However, if the name recommended by someone is a winner, that person will win a free year membership (of course, you can donate it back). Put your thinking caps on and let your creative juices flow.



PENINSULA BAPHR BBQ Mentoring And Munching

BY JULIE DESCH, MD

Approximately 50 smiling, hungry faces showed up at the first annual fall barbecue welcoming medical students and residents to BAPHR on September 15. The event, held at my home in Palo Alto, drew students from Stanford, UCSF and even one lone traveler all the way from Davis. Several residents from UCSF, Stanford and Kaiser also came.

A great time was had by all. BAPHR members young and old renewed friendships and welcomed new physicians and physicians-to-be to our community. Early in the day, there was a threat of showers. But, as usual in Palo Alto at that time of the year, the clouds gave way to the sun. The majority of the folks hung out in

the back yard consuming wonderful grilled chicken with all the fixin's. The dogs hung out there, too, waiting patiently for any morsel to drop on the

ground. The proposed recreational activity, volleyball, lost out to post-prandial fatigue, but we look forward to setting up the net next year at the beach.



It was a sunny day in Palo Alto for the BAPHR Barbecue on September 15.



Ted Bruce, left, and Frank Bruce at the BAPHR fall barbecue.

**Checked with Your
Accountant?
Need a Charity Tax
Deduction?**

**Please Don't Forget
Your End-of-Year
Donation to**

BAPHR FOUNDATION

**It's Completely Tax-
Deductible and Your
Donation Promotes Health
In the Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Trans
Community**



TO COME OUT OR NOT A Medical Student's Dilemma

BY CHRIS LEPTAK
PRESIDENT, LGBTSA AT UCSF

Be out. The hallowed halls of UCSF have many closets and they are not all occupied by brooms! I should know, since I kept myself in one not so long ago.

Many times, we medical students grapple with the issue of being out to classmates, to professors, to friends, and most importantly, to ourselves. We ask, will being identified as a lesbian affect my recommendation? Should I openly confront homophobic comments directed at me or at the anonymous "them"? Will patients treat me differently if they suspect I am a gay man?

Confronting these questions takes courage and patience. It helps to find a group of individuals to serve as positive role models.

The UCSF campus community was recently surveyed concerning gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues. UCSF prides itself on its diversity and openness to differing points of view. However, the survey made it clear that a few individuals are comfortable making anti-gay comments without giving much thought to how such narrow-mindedness may affect gay members of the community. Such comments are especially damaging to students, who many times feel vulnerable in the power hierarchy.

When asked if they had experienced insensitive or disparaging remarks made about les-bi-trans-gay people, most survey respondents cited ubiquitous anti-gay jokes and name calling.

Some survey comments, however, brought to light the need for better communication and understanding between members of the gay and straight communities.

For example, a surgeon stated that gays were getting what they deserved.

When asked what that was, he replied "AIDS, of course."

In another instance, in response to an openly gay staff member's week-long sick leave, his supervisor assumed, "If he has AIDS, it will be a real pain to deal with the long absences." The staff

Many times, we medical students grapple with the issue of being out to classmates, to professors, to friends, and most importantly, to ourselves. We ask, will being identified as a lesbian affect my recommendation? Should I openly confront homophobic comments directed at me or at the anonymous "them"? Will patients treat me differently if they suspect I am a gay man?

member recovered from the flu nicely.

Finally, a dental school professor was overheard commenting that the survey was a waste of time and resources, as "There aren't any of those people in the dental school."

Although this type of homophobic behavior is rare, encountering it personally even a few times can keep students from being true to themselves and to their colleagues. One way of confronting the personalized attacks is to discuss the matter with other members of the les-bi-trans-gay community. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Student Association (LGBTSA) at UCSF gives students this opportunity. Throughout the year, the group plans events for Gay History Month, Awareness Week, and other topics of gay interest. This year we are also organizing an Alternative Lifestyles seminar series with a gay perspective on topics like adoption and financial planning.

In addition to peer support, les-bi-trans-gay people also need role models, to share experiences and get advice. One of the ways we have tried to foster such relationships is through an annual student/mentor dinner. The event usually occurs during the winter and includes members from the health-oriented fields of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, and research.

I encourage members of BAPHR to become involved in this event. By sharing your story with your future colleagues, you can help shape the next generation of health providers. And as a queer woman or man, your experience is all the more valuable! In addition to the student/mentor dinner, BAPHR members could also be a resource for students throughout the year, by serving as preceptors or simply making yourselves available for questions.

If you are interested in finding out more about LGBTSA events or would be willing to serve as a mentor, please contact me by phone at (415)661-9567 or via e-mail (leptak@cgl.ucsf.edu). Also, pass this information on to friends or colleagues who might be interested, especially those in the fields of research, pharmacy, and dentistry. By working together, we can lessen the adverse effects of homophobia and empower students with the tools necessary to be both gay and exceptional health providers!

Remember to
RENEW
your BAPHR
MEMBERSHIP
For 1997



The BAPHRON

EDITOR: Charles Meltzer, MD
MANAGING EDITOR: Judy MacLean
DESIGN & LAYOUT: ZesTop Publishing
Printed on Recycled Paper

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Message from Chair...

continued from page 1

organization's fundraising efforts. Where the money should go remains an open question. We value your input.

BAPHR's new directory will also be out this year, listing providers by specialty for the community. We still get frequent calls from folks in the community asking for a referral, so hopefully, this will meet those needs. We will also regain visibility and respect by providing this directory. We would like to get full involvement from all the present practicing members, and expect this will spur others to join or re-join BAPHR. You must be an active paying member of BAPHR to be included in the directory.

We'll continue to forge new friendships with medical students and residents in the various area programs. We will also encourage more participation in BAPHR events as they come up throughout the year.

I prefer to be able to remind people to come to events via fax or e-mail, because it is easier and less expensive than by mail. So please make sure, when you fill out your membership renewal cards, that you include all this vital information.

Have a happy and healthy New Year!



Promote Lesbian, Gay Bi & Trans Health with RUMMAGE AND HARDWARE

Your donations to
Community Thrift
benefit BAPHR FOUNDATION—
Ask for account 102

Your purchases at
Cole Hardware
benefit BAPHR FOUNDATION—
Ask for account 150



REV. CECIL WILLIAMS, GUEST OF HONOR Combined Annual Dinner A Big Success

Whether you are gay or lesbian, Afro-American or Native American, as a member of a minority, you know about the importance of acceptance into the whole community. At the combined BAPHR-BAPHR FOUNDATION Annual Dinner October 18, we honored a guest who has devoted his life to creating a more accepting community for all. The Reverend Cecil Williams, Minister of Liberation for Glide Memorial Methodist Church, was guest of honor at the dinner, along with his wife, Janice Mirikitani.

In his remarks, Williams said that in this world of diversity, it is important that BAPHR remain a visible group and to be there for the lesbian, gay, bi and trans community.

Williams was introduced by State Senator Art Torres, Chair of the California Democratic Party.

A highlight of the dinner was a new 7-minute video showing some of the good



Bill Shekter, left, with Phil Cbarney at the BAPHR-BAPHR FOUNDATION dinner October 18.

being done with grants from BAPHR FOUNDATION, narrated by then-Foundation Co-Chair Chris Kollaja. Thanks to Titan Media and Jo Ann Driscoll for producing the video.

Almost 100 people attended the dinner, which featured filet mignon and salmon. It was held at the Sheraton Palace Hotel.

Rev. Williams has been in the forefront of change for more than 32 years as a minister, community leader, activist, advocate, author, lecturer and TV personality. Glide Church runs many community service programs, among them an HIV/AIDS prevention program that serves populations not reached by mainstream organizations, and which has received a grant from BAPHR FOUNDATION.

BAPHR Chairman Chuck Meltzer commented on the link between Rev. Williams' civil rights work and that of BAPHR, "Just as Dr. Martin Luther King spoke of his dream in wanting justice and equality for all, BAPHR was conceived of because of discrimination felt by gay and lesbian physicians: We have made great inroads into mainstream society by being ourselves and letting people know who we are. We must stay involved with our community."

Join! Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights

YES, sign me up as the newest member of the Bay Area's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender medical association.

NAME _____
 HOSPITAL AFFLTN _____ SPECIALTY _____
 MAILING ADDRESS _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
 PHONE (OFFICE) _____ (HOME) _____
 FAX _____ E-MAIL: _____

DUES:

- \$100 Regular Member
- \$250 Sustaining Member
- FREE Residents/Disabled
- FREE Medical Students

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Monthly BAPHR Liver Rounds

*The tradition continues
into its second year*

**STARTING
 JANUARY 10, 1997
 AND EVERY SECOND FRIDAY
 OF THE MONTH
 6:30 - 8 PM**

Alta Plaza Bar & Grill
 2301 Fillmore Street
 San Francisco



The BAPHRON

Vol. 20, No.1

Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights Official Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Keeping Busy

BY CHUCK MELTZER, MD

It has been a little while since our last BAPHRON. We had our twentieth annual dinner honoring Drs. Dee Mosbacher and David Kessler at the Coconut Grove. There were over a hundred guests in attendance who dined, schmoozed and danced to some big band sounds and overall seemed to have a fun evening. Dr. Jon Tinkle and his partner Carl Strickland arranged the silent auction at the dinner which brought in over \$2000. Many thanks to them.

Then, there was the Holiday Party which we hosted with BALIF. The lawyers way out numbered us, but combined, we packed the gallery with more than 200 festive folks enjoying the food catered by Prego and the art at the Powell Street Gallery. And of course,

there have been the liver rounds at Mecca, which continue to draw about thirty to forty docs and their guests on a regular basis, every second Friday of the month, so if you have not checked it out, come on down.

We would like to get as many members involved from the various primary and specialty fields to come and help the students make one of the most important decisions in their lives.

I wrote you all last month about our plans for the year, so without repeating myself, I would like to bring you up to date on what we are planning for April. Two events to put on your calendar include a dinner on April 27 with one of our own, Dr. Mike Rankin. He will enlighten us on his Washington experience and, in general, policy making and HIV. The dinner will be held at the New Pisa Restaurant in North Beach.

Yes, North Beach, but it is a Monday night, so there should be parking. Invites will be forthcoming.

The other event is tentatively scheduled for April 14, and that is going to be an evening of helping medical students choose specialties. We would like to get as many members involved from the various primary and specialty fields to come and help the students make one of the most important decisions in their lives. Where and when will be announced, but please mark the date on your calendar.

That's all for the update now. Remember to send in your renewals and sign up to be on our web site's physician directory.

April 27 Dinner Meeting

Dr. Mike Rankin to speak on PWA's, CEO's, MOC's, PACHA, and ONAP: The Alphabet Soup of National AIDS Policy Making

Dr. Mike Rankin served for 28 years in the United States Navy and Navy Reserve, as a medical officer. He is a life member of the Vietnam Veterans of America and of the Disabled Veterans of America.

In 1978, Mike returned to his native state of Arkansas to become Commissioner of Mental Health in the cabinet of then Governor Bill Clinton. In 1980, he moved to San Francisco and about two years later, as Secretary of BAPHR, Mike and Dennis McShane organized the first national symposium on gay and lesbian health issues. At that meeting, the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights (now GLMA) was formed.

Most recently, Mike was Chief of Psychiatry and Mental Health Clinics for the VA Medical Center in Oakland where he developed and coordinated mental health services for HIV positive veterans, and for those still on active duty in the military. These services included individual counseling, support groups, and an outward bound program which received national attention and replication.

Mike has written extensively on the importance of spirituality in the treatment of HIV and AIDS, and on the mobilization of community resources for PWA's. He is former Chair of the Committee on HIV and AIDS for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations-Central Conference of American

continued on page 2





To Be or Not To Be

Medical Students – Read this Article

By JANA DOHERTY, MD

It's that time of year again, when fourth-year students put their fate in the hands of a computer and anxiously await the results of The Match. This time is fraught with fear and insecurities; will I match at my top choice, or (ack!) last? Where will I be living? Am I ready to be a doctor?

Since my own Match day was just 2 years ago, I remember these feelings well. I finally realized that the entire process was nothing more than another annoying hoop to jump through, designed to drive one completely mad, all the while being billed as something that would eventually "make you a better physician."

For gay/lesbian/bisexual and transgender students, this already stressful situation becomes even more so when deciding whether or not to come out on applications and during interviews. Coming out certainly has its advantages; it allows evaluation of the programs feelings about gay docs, whether or not there have been out gay residents in the past, and what the domestic partnership benefits are at the hospital. Outing myself also allayed my fear of being unexpectedly outed. I wanted to be up front with everything, because it would have been too stressful to me to start an internship and still have to come out.

That being said, I was very fortunate because of where I interviewed. Both

the program and the city are liberal, and I felt comfortable in being myself. Not everyone is this lucky. Many students wanting to go into very competitive fields, especially those that are still

For gay/lesbian/bisexual and transgender students, this already stressful situation becomes even more so when deciding whether or not to come out on applications and during interviews.

dominated by the "old boy" network, or to interview at more conservative programs, may not find it as easy to be so open. In this situation, the arguments for not coming out can be just as compelling. Many people feel that they do not want other's homophobia to keep them from achieving the residency of their choice. A student may want to be judged solely on his or her aptitude, and not on who they sleep with. Being closeted for the interview process and coming out after matching can often be a viable option. I also know several people who put "code words" on their application (such as the "Bay Area

Physicians for Human Rights" under activities), hoping that the astute gay or gay-friendly person would realize what it meant, but it would go undetected in the world.

In the end, the decision to come out or not to come out rests on the student, and should be very individualized. The whole process can become nerve-racking. I found it helpful to talk to interns and other students who had already interviewed. Everyone's experience varies, depending on who you are, the residency to which you are applying, and the area of the country in which you are interviewing. A couple of questions that I routinely used were:

1. "Are there any gay or lesbian residents or attendings?" (more than once the interviewer said "you're looking at one")
2. "Are there domestic partner benefits?"

It can also be very helpful to look up the gay attendings in the GLMA handbook before you interview, and possibly even call them for advice. BAPHR will also be hosting a panel discussion about this topic featuring gay docs from various specialties talking about our experiences in applying, residency and beyond. Tentative date scheduled is April 14. Details will be posted on E-mail in the next few weeks.

Good luck to all of you who are matching this year!

Dinner...

continued from page 1

Rabbis (Reform Judaism), and a former member of the Board of Trustees of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

President Clinton appointed Dr. Rankin to the Presidents Advisory Council on HIV-AIDS in 1996. He serves on the Prison, Services, and Research Committees of the Council.

Mike lives in San Francisco.

Upcoming Events

APRIL 10

Liver Rounds at Mecca
6:30-8:30

APRIL 14

Student-Mentor Night
TBA

April 27

Dinner at New Pisa

EVERY 4TH WEDNESDAY

Board Meetings

Call for location

All welcome



The BAPHRON

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Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights (BAPHR) is a membership organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender physicians. Founded in 1977, BAPHR provides personal and professional support for its members and promotes health and wellness in the Bay Area gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

BAY AREA PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (BAPHR)

P.O. BOX 14188
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114-0188
415-558-9353
www.baphr.org

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The BAPHR FOUNDATION is dedicated to improving gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender health in the nine Bay Area counties. It is the largest health care foundation in the world that provides grants specifically for the health and wellness of the gay community. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization under the Federal Tax Code. Contributions are tax-deductible.

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Community Projects Worth Noting

National AIDS Memorial Grove

There's hardly a person among us whose life hasn't been touched by the AIDS epidemic or the loss associated with it. Now there is a permanent way to remember those lost and to honor those who shared in the struggle. It is a simple, timeless right of inscribing a name.

San Francisco's Golden Gate Park is home to a historic, serene dell, lovingly transformed over the last few years by park staff and community volunteers into America's preeminent living memorial to those lost to AIDS.

It is the National AIDS Memorial Grove. The Grove is a natural sanctuary where individuals and groups come to remember, cry, laugh, heal, and hope. At its heart is the Circle of Friends, a chronicle of those who are gone and those who shared in their struggle, names engraved in concentric circles on flagstone.

The Circle is a special place, a place of remembrance. Although a life lost can never be recovered, that life can leave a mark in stone: a name that will be seen by thousands over the years. Like the Vietnam Wall and other national memorials, the Grove — and the Circle of Friends — is permanently open to the public; hourly and daily the names will echo their message of loss and remembrance.

By engraving a name in the Circle of Friends — one's own, or that of a loved one — the world is told that this global tragedy must never be forgotten, that everyone lost to AIDS will be eternally remembered. Moreover, Circle of Friends contributions will help maintain the Grove's health and beauty in perpetuity. Circle of Friends inscriptions are \$1,000 each and payable over one or two years; funds may be pooled by friends or colleagues.

NAMG's monthly workdays also provide a vehicle for thousands of individuals and groups to embrace their AIDS-related emotions, while also healing the environment through hands-on activities. These continuous monthly Workdays have been instrumental in developing the Grove, and include volunteers representing all segments of the community. From March through October each year, Workdays are held on a Saturday each month.

For more information about the Circle of Friends, Workdays or to reserve the Grove for a private service or gathering, please call or write: National AIDS Memorial Grove, 856 Stanyan Street, San Francisco, CA 94117, 415-750-8340, AIDS MEM GRV@aol.com.

Join Us!

on the Information Superhighway

www.baphr.org



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The BAPHR Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following donations during 1997:

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1997 BAPHR Foundation Grants

RECIPIENTS	\$ AWARDED	RECIPIENTS	\$ AWARDED
1 Project of the East Bay HIV Prevention for African American Youth	15,000	9 Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa County Makoche Youth Project	15,000
2 Alzheimers Association Support group for L/G care givers	2,879	10 Spectrum, San Anselmo Project 10 School-based Program	15,000
3 Aris Project, San Jose HIV Prevention & Peer Counseling Program	11,269	TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED FOR 1997	121,648
4 Dolores Street Community Services, San Francisco Homeless Gay Latino Youth Project	5,000	
5 The Edge, Fremont Youth group start-up	7,500	Additional Award Outside the 1997 Granting Cycle	
6 Larkin Street Youth Center, San Francisco Assisted care for HIV+ Youth	15,000	11 Mayor's AIDS Summit, January 1998, San Francisco	10,000
7 Lavender Youth Recreation Center, (LYRIC), SF Youth talk line	10,000	12 Gay and Lesbian Community Center, San Francisco first installment of \$50,000 pledge	10,000
8 Lesbian/Gay Senior Services Collaborative Multiple Senior Services and Organizations	25,000	13 Project Inform special grant	2,500