

WHY CONNECT?

There's a new book out titled **CONNECT**. I've been hearing, seeing, and thinking a lot lately about connecting, disconnecting, and of course our own **CONNECTION**.

The author of **CONNECT** is Edward Hallowell, M.D., a senior lecturer at Harvard Medical School and the director of The Hallowell Center for Cognitive and Emotional Health in Concord, Massachusetts. He is also the co-author of *Driven to Distraction* and *Answers to Distraction* and is the author of *Worry*. He

Continued on page 4

News Release

from Adventist News Network
and Ben Kemena's Response to It

Seventh-day Adventist Position Statement on
Homosexuality
October 3, 1999
Silver Spring, Maryland, USA
Adventist News Network (ANN)

The Seventh-day Adventist Church recognizes that every human being is valuable in the sight of God, and we seek to minister to all men and women in the spirit of Jesus. We also believe that by God's grace and through the encouragement of the community of faith, an individual may live in harmony with the principles of God's Word.

Seventh-day Adventists believe that sexual intimacy belongs only within the marital relationship of a man and a woman. This was the design established by God at creation. The Scriptures declare: "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh" (Gen. 2:24, NIV). Throughout Scripture this heterosexual pattern is affirmed. The Bible makes no accommodation for homosexual activity or relationships. Sexual acts outside the circle of a heterosexual marriage are forbidden (Lev. 20:7-21; Rom. 1:24-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-11). Jesus Christ reaffirmed the divine creation intent: "Haven't you read," he replied, that at the beginning the Creator "made them male and female," and said, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?" So they are no longer two, but one" (Matt. 19:4-6, NIV). For these reasons Adventists are opposed to homosexual practices and relationships.

Seventh-day Adventists endeavor to follow the instruction and example of Jesus. He affirmed the

Continued on page 5

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 *Why Should We Connect?* ▼ ANN News Release
- 2 *Who's Who & What's What & Where's ... well, you get it...*
- 3 IMRU
- 4 "Connect" - continued ▼ The 100 Word Challenge
- 5 ANN Release & Response - continued
- 6 *Wellness* ▼ KinNet
- 7 *The Proust Inspired Questionnaire*
- 8 *Longterm Relationships* (continued on page 9)
- 9 *Longterm Relationships cont.* ▼ *Room for a View*
- 10 *Lesbian Lifestyles* ▼ KAMP-O-GRAM
- 11 *An Incomplete History of O.C. - Part 2*
- 12 *Regional Updates*
- 13 *Regional Updates - continued*
- 14 *Kinship Parents - continued on p. 15*
- 15 *Stopovers* ▼ *Mission Statements*
- 16 *Holiday Help from Hal*

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WHO WE ARE...

Seventh-day Adventist Kinship International, Inc. is a support group which ministers to the spiritual, emotional, social, and physical well being of Seventh-day Adventist lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and their families and friends.

SDA Kinship facilitates and promotes the understanding and affirmation of homosexual and bisexual Adventists among themselves and within the Seventh-day Adventist community through education, advocacy, and reconciliation.

Founded in 1976, the non-profit organization was incorporated in 1981 and has a board of 15 officers and 10 regional coordinators. The current list of members and friends includes well over a thousand people in 16 countries.

SDA Kinship believes the Bible does not condemn, or even mention, homosexuality as a sexual orientation. Ellen G. White does not parallel any of the Bible texts which are often used to condemn homosexuals. Most of the anguish imposed upon God's children who grow up gay or lesbian has its roots in a misunderstanding of what the Bible says.

SDA Kinship operates solely on contributions from its members and friends.

SDA Kinship supports the advancement of human rights for all people.

SUPPORT KINSHIP

Kinship depends on you because it is supported solely by contributions. Help us reach out to more gay Adventists by making a tax-deductible donation to SDA Kinship International. Please send your check or money order to the address below.

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IMRU

The following was posted on the IMRU message board. It particularly caught my eye as not too long ago, I myself was at Loma Linda University as a student and felt that I was the only gay boy on campus. I can laugh at it now, but not at the "aloneness" and vulnerability I felt. That will be with me the rest of my life. The perspective we can draw upon from this is that we (Kinship) need to continue to make ourselves more and more visible. If we fail this mission, we will let others, and ourselves continue to feel "aloneness."

*Greg Cox
Young Gay/Lesbian
Outreach Coordinator*

"I am sitting in the pew. The spirit of God overwhelms me. I am brought to tears. I swallow them. My emotions explode onto my face. Everyone will see them. They aren't bad emotions. In fact, they are quite the opposite. I mean, I have never felt this close to God before. I have never felt this full. — But what is God to everyone else? Is He this vibrant and full to everyone else? — I have never felt so unsure of the future. And I have never felt so utterly content with being unsure.

I have to tell myself every day, "You are in California. Over 3,000 miles away from home. You would have never known you'd be here. God gave this to you!"

This blissful thought always brings an eruption into my stomach, which oozes it's way up into my chest, fills my head and cheeks, and explodes into my already huge smile. I can't help but suck in the sweet air as I head to class, then breath it out again

with a sigh of much satisfaction. —
- "God gave this to me."

I owe my spiritual bliss to God, and to coming to terms with who I am. I finally accepted myself as a Christian lesbian. I finally realized that He already accepted me. God was offering me the peace that I needed all along, but I just couldn't handle it. I was listening to society, and beating myself up. I was praying everyday, and seeking the truth. But I was struggling. "Why wouldn't God help me?" He had to answer my prayer about four times before I finally took His answer!

Although I am only 20 years old, I have experienced many numerous spiritual highs in my life. Most of these were not permanent. I would always come back down to earth. Alone, these single experiences did not change my character. It's not that they weren't great, or unfelt, ...they just didn't stick. I expected one experience of blissful emotion to stand alone. But I've come to realize that not one of them can stick by itself. It is the repetition of these great spiritual highs that brings me to a higher plane, and closer to God. But the next plane is always obtained through a bit of struggle.

I hop up and I am wobbly, with no balance. "Where is the line between religion and spirituality? Where is the line between religion and culture? Where do they over-lap? Where do I get all of my pre-conceived notions from? How can I tell if it is God speaking, or society?"

It's then that I realize that one of the goals of being a Christian is to try to break away from societal thought. And here I was trying to conform to what society wanted! I

felt that I had to choose between my sexuality and God. But God wouldn't let me go! He had to tell me about four times before I finally took His answer! Over and over again I had to hear it before he could change what society had etched in my head. I realized that I can be a lesbian and a child of God! I do not have to reject who I fully am!

I do not have to chose one or the other because of society! No one said that life as a Christian would be easy. In fact, it is usually quite the opposite. And sometimes when you grow closer to God all of the bad stuff grows too. I will have many struggles with-in my life. But won't everybody?

Life as a Christian lesbian is not too easy on my SDA college campus. I haven't yet found one other gay or lesbian child of God to share struggles with. I would very much like to have that available to me, but I am not worrying about it at the moment. God provides me with what I need, when I need it. And I am very content here and now. I try not to fear about the future any more. I try to no longer fear about not finding another woman like me. I know there are many women out there like me — Women who need spirituality in their life. Women who never want to stop searching for who they really are. Women who want to be closer to something awesome. I'm sure there is at least one out there! But until I find her, I will continue searching for myself." ▼

— Aimee

lives in Arlington, Massachusetts;

Inside the front cover it says:

"The promise of wellness and satisfaction has never been as ubiquitous in our culture as it is now. Images of happy people stare out at us from magazine pages and television screens; they are successful and busy, hurrying from the office to the opera, eating healthfully and acting responsibly. We are a nation of achievers but, as Dr. Edward Hallowell makes clear in *Connect*, what sustains us – emotionally, psychologically, physically – is connectedness, the feeling that we are part of something that matters, something larger than ourselves that gives life its meaning, direction, and purpose.

Hallowell examines the real life most of us lead – overwhelmed, harried, pressured – and outlines the steps we can take to connect ourselves to the people and things that matter to us. He elevates the simplest forms of communication, understanding, and self-knowledge as examples of the *human moment*: the basis of the bridges we build to one another. He tells stories of personal growth – one woman's plan to bring a neighborhood together, another woman's assembling of a makeshift family, a real estate developer's institution of company-wide weekly pizza dinners – and identifies in the twelve vital ties [see list that follows] to a more connected life. Hallowell concludes that within each of us exists the capacity to connect with the people around us – our parents, spouses, children, friends, and colleagues – to become who we want to be and to be happy with who we are.

I recommend checking it out at your local library! Here's part of what it says on the back cover:

In *CONNECT*, you can learn to nurture a heartfelt connection with:

1. **Your family of origin**
Are you as emotionally close to your family of origin as you would like to be?
2. **Your immediate family**
Do you treat one another with love and respect?
3. **Your friends and community**
Do you see friends and neighbors on a regular basis?
4. **Work and activities**
Do you feel a sense of mission at work?
5. **Appreciation of beauty**
Do you make time to enjoy a favorite art form?
6. **History**
Do you feel the power of the past in your daily life?
7. **Nature and special places**
Are there special places that speak to you in ways no other place can?
8. **Pets and other animals**
Do you seek companionship from your pet or other animals?
9. **Ideas and information**
Do you feel that you know how to get the most out of your brain power?
10. **Institutions and organizations**
Do you take pride in group membership?
11. **Greater truth or spiritual faith**
Do you continue to seek the truth by whatever means make sense to you?
12. **Yourself**
Do you feel comfortable being who you are?

Hallowell, M.D., Edward M.
CONNECT. New York: Pantheon Books, 1999. ▼ — rw

The 100 Word Challenge

Inspired by the *Washington Post*

In the September 12, 1999 edition of the *Washington Post* (page F8) the headline reads: "Tell Us Who You Are in a Hundred Words. In Return, We Can't Offer You Much. Except Eternal Life."

That got my attention! But what the 'winners' in their 'contest' would get would be their entry (deadline 10/15) printed in a special edition of the *Post* on January 1, 2000. (They also acknowledge that strictly speaking the millennium doesn't end until January 1, 2001.)

Here are two examples:

My name is Sharon F. Jones. I live in Alexandria, Va. If I could live my life over, here is what I would do. I would marry precisely the same grouchy, stubborn, faithful, wonderful man, and I would give birth to Sally and John, exactly as I did, and I would get cancer and survive it, exactly as I did. I'm not a philosopher, but I believe the meaning of life is life itself. In that, there is joy enough for everyone.

My name is David Johnson. I am an orthopedic surgeon. My father was Jim Johnson. He was a fireman. His father was Jacob Johnson Jr. He was a grocer, and once when I was little he showed me a chestnut and said it was God's heart and I believed him, and I suppose I still do. His father was Jacob Johnson Sr. He worked for the B & O Railroad. His father was Carlton Johnson. He put up fences for people. His father was just called Teddy. He had no last name. He was owned by someone named Aaron Johnson.

Let's hear from YOU now. Send your 100 (or fewer) word description of who you are via email to RomWilder@aol.com or by way of the US Mail to Editor, Connection, P.O. Box 7320, Laguna Niguel, CA 92607

dignity of all human beings and reached out compassionately to persons and families suffering the consequences of sin. He offered caring ministry and words of solace to struggling people, while differentiating His love for sinners from His clear teaching about sinful practices.

BEN'S RESPONSE

October 28, 1999

Jan Paulsen, President
General Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, Maryland USA
20904-6600

re: Seventh-day Adventist
Position Statement on
Homosexuality

Dear Pastor Paulsen,

I recently reviewed the Seventh-day Adventist Position Statement on Homosexuality approved October 3, 1999, by the Executive Committee of the Church meeting at its Annual Council in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA.

Upon hearing that the church position on homosexuality was being revised for the first time in 12 years, I held some cautious hope and optimism. Yet, on reading this latest policy, it is apparent that another opportunity for diversity appreciation and reconciliation by the church for its gay and lesbian members has been lost.

The latest Adventist statement uses unsophisticated language and modifier to describe the complexities of human relationships. Regrettably, it never mentions "sexual orientation" as an explicit concept. Furthermore, the timing of its release -- very near the first anniversary of the murder of gay college student Matthew Shepard -- was particularly insensitive.

Despite the premise of compassion, this church statement is a serious step backwards in Adventist doctrinal guidelines

toward "homosexuality" -- in particular because it condemns "homosexual activity" and "homosexual relationships" without qualifier. All homosexual activity (from hugging to intimacy) and all homosexual relationships (from friendship to love) are uniformly condemned by this crudely worded policy directive.

This church policy will doom many Adventists to further abuse, violence, disfellowship, and in some cases, death. A statement like this institutionalizes a degree of intolerance that simply cannot be overcome by the thin veil of compassion that supposedly legitimizes the church position. With all due respect to the church of my cradle roll, this policy is incendiary. It offers no future hope, invites no further dialogue, and misrepresents the spirit of a loving Savior.

This Adventist statement creates a serious "double-bind" for Adventist health care institutions. This church policy is well outside the ethical boundaries of the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, National Association of Social Workers, and the American Psychological Association with respect to their positions on sexual orientation. It may also be outside the ethical guidelines of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the Association of American Medical colleges.

It is one thing for a church to hold a particular opinion on morality. But it is quite different when that church desires to own and operate accredited academic programs to teach future health care providers. The doctrinal position on homosexuality of the Seventh-day Adventist Church runs counter to the ethical guidelines and research of numerous professional health care organizations. I believe this disparity should be called into question particularly as it pertains

to the education of future health care providers.

I hope this Adventist policy will be reconsidered as soon as possible. I hope its authors and their rationale will be identified and shared. Were health care and legal professionals included in the discussions? Were Adventist lay leaders from the more than ten different outreach programs to gay and lesbian Adventists solicited for advice or counsel? Were any openly gay or lesbian Adventists solicited for opinions or advice? Were the ethical positions of accrediting agencies and health care professional organizations cross-referenced in review? There are many more questions.

As a former student and clinical instructor at the Loma Linda University School of Medicine, I have a personal interest in this matter. As a physician who is also gay, I am very concerned that future health care professionals treat gays and lesbians according to general ethical standards and professional guidelines. Because Adventist institutions of higher learning require religious instruction, I am very concerned that current church policy will promote further prejudice by future Adventist-trained health care professionals against gay and lesbian human beings. Sadly in this situation, secular standards are far more humane and well-reasoned than current church doctrine.

Please consider the possibility that pity is not compassion; condescension is not kindness; doctrine is not competence; intolerance is not love. If the Seventh-day Adventist church cannot see fit to help gay and lesbian Adventists more, might it consider hurting them less?

The matter of revision is in your hands now. May we both submit to the power of prayer.

Sincerely,

Ben Kemena ▼



Bev Winsted

GIVE STRESS A HOLIDAY

Should we invite just the neighbors or people from work? Will our bank account survive the Christmas season? The Smiths and Jones have both invited us for New Years. Being with my family can be very difficult.

Ninety percent of us will experience some degree of holiday stress this year, according to Ronald Nathan, PhD., professor of family practice and psychiatry at Albany Medical College. We can minimize the amount of stress we experience and possibly change our reactions to stressful situations.

PLANNING: Remember your worst moments during past holidays and plan to avoid them. Maybe it would help to buy fewer presents or not send as many cards. Start shopping earlier. Keep in mind that enjoying the holidays is the objective. Ask yourself, "Does everything have to be the very best I can do?" If it's good enough, it's done.

BUYING GIFTS

SHOULD BE FUN: If gift-buying has become a dreaded ordeal, something's wrong. If you're a perfectionist, know that there's no such thing as the 'perfect gift'—at least not for everyone. Try to buy only

what you can pay cash for. Talk it over with family mem-

bers and see if everyone will agree to simplify. If you can't afford many presents, consider drawing names so each one only buys one gift.

LEARN TO SAY NO: If you're invited to too many events, turn down some invitations.

DON'T GET YOUR EXPECTATIONS UP: Be flexible and go with the flow. When back with parents and siblings we tend to revert back to our roles as kids. We may feel like we have pimples again and braces on our teeth. Each may come home with a different script for the perfect holiday. How can we avoid regressing? In the midst of family, it helps to get away. Take a brisk walk or do some meditative breathing. Or retreat from the hubbub and do nothing for half an hour. Pauline says that she always expects these 'Hallmark Moments' and many times it's just everyone talking and no one listening. Far from being a 'Hallmark Moment,' it is a very ordinary time.

TOXIC FAMILY

RELATIONSHIPS: If family doesn't support you as lesbian or gay, or condemns you, or your partner isn't welcome, what do you do? Some choose to not return home. Others decide to go for a day or two, having alternate plans made in advance so that you have a means of escape if you need to abort the visit. Staying in a motel with your partner is an example of this.

FOOD: We usually eat more during the holidays and

it's usually more fattening. But it's okay to have some of these foods, unless there's a

medical reason. Just don't overdo it. Remember, you can bring healthy foods to parties.

DON'T FEEL LEFT OUT: If you'll be alone for the holidays, you can invite some others who are in the same situation to join you. Few people want to be totally alone during the holidays.

Often we reap benefits from our families that we don't receive anywhere else. Hopefully they love us no matter what. But if that isn't so, we need to create another 'family' that loves us unconditionally as our God in heaven does. Have wonderful holidays! ▼

Bev can be reached via email at: Bswinsted@aol.com



Have you been on the web to see Kinship's homepage?

www.sdakinship.org

For more information about KinNet email Floyd Poenitz at floydap@home.com

The Proust Inspired Questionnaire

A few months ago one of my bosses was scheduled to attend a seminar. He was asked to fill out the following questionnaire which is one of many, based on the kajillions (I like to be concise) of questions developed by Proust and used in *Vanity Fair* magazine for interviews with well-known people.

I consider each of you to be as important as the 'well-known people' and I feel that your response to this questionnaire would interest other Kinship members.

A few people on KinNet have already answered these questions. I now invite you to do it ... for fun and to help us to get to know each other better.

The results (from KinNet and what you send in) will be printed in future issues of the *Connection*.

Be sure to indicate what name you'd like attached to YOUR response and whether it is a pseudonym or not.

For the sake of brevity, please keep your answers to a maximum of 25 words per question. (Remember those old contests: "Tell us in 25 words or less why you think Sudsy is the best laundry soap in the universe"?)

Send your responses to me either via email

RomWilder@aol.com

or by post to: Rom Wilder,
Editor, P.O. Box 7320, Laguna
Niguel, CA 92607.

One of Many Proust Inspired Questionnaires

1. What is your greatest extravagance?
2. What is your favorite journey?
3. What is your most marked characteristic?
4. Who are your heroes in real life?
5. Which talent would you most like to have?
6. What do you consider your greatest achievement?
7. What is your most treasured possession?
8. Whom would you nominate as *TIME* magazine's person of the century? Why?
9. If you had to choose another profession, what would it be?
10. Which three persons, living or dead, would you most like to invite to a dinner party?
11. What is your principal hobby?
12. What do you consider to be the most unusual event in your life?
13. What do you consider to be the most important book you've read?

Here's an example of someone's answers. See if you can guess whose answers these are!

What is your greatest extravagance? **Travel**

What is your favorite journey? **Any trip with Pauline especially one to Seattle**

What is your most marked characteristic? **[no response, but the editor thinks it is her smile!]**

Who are your heroes in real life? **Irene Osborne**

Which talent would you most like to have? **Play the piano**

What do you consider your greatest achievement? **Raising two sons**

What is your most treasured possession? **My cat, Graylyn**

Whom would you nominate as *TIME* magazine's person of the century? Why? **Mother Teresa; her life of service**

If you had to choose another profession, what would it be? **Entrepreneur**

What three persons, living or dead, would you most like to invite to a dinner party? **Jesus, Kate Clinton, Barbra Streisand, Virginia Cason [ed: she can't count, but hey, nobody is perfect!]**

What is your principal hobby? **Reading**

What do you consider to be the most unusual event in your life? **When a thirty ton tree fell on our house**

What do you consider to be the most important book you've read? **The Bible**

Can you guess whose answers these were? Hint: Having all of us stay well is important to her.

LONGTERM RELATIONSHIPS

Ed: Often there are stories which bear repeating. If this is one you have read before, reading it again will remind you that it CAN work! If it is the first time you've read this, you're in for a treat!

Vicki Shelton

This is not a tale of perfection, nor is it to say, "Look at us to see how it's done." It's merely the story of two women lucky enough to find each other as Adventist kids in college. But, wait, I'm getting ahead of myself! When we were asked to reflect on our relationship, the emotion which most overwhelmed Emy Lou and me was gratitude. We feel profoundly thankful to have spent so much of our lives together, that we've found enduring love together. With a full heart, we share some of our story and hope your life may be filled with a joy similar to what we know.

Meeting and Discovery

Although neither of us remembers exactly when, Emy Lou and I met in the mid 1960s as students at an Adventist college. We lived separately in the women's dormitory and had separate circles of friends. For the first year or two, we knew each other only in passing. In the spring of 1967, Emy Lou asked me to room with her during her senior year. At the time, I had a year plus a semester remaining. She wanted to room with someone at least as old as she, someone who also had been on campus forever. I was it! Knowing her to be a gentle, fun-loving person with a marvelous wit (sensational, actually!), and because I'd not made other plans, I agreed. It was a wise choice.

In the fall of 1967 (we cite August 26 as the date), we moved into overflow apartments designated for upper-class women. It was a lovely setting with living room, kitchen, bedroom (twin beds) and a bath.

We studied and conducted our college business pretty much independently through the first semester. Christmas break took us separate ways — she went home and I visited another friend, a faculty member at an Adventist academy nearby.

After returning from vacation, we realized how immensely glad we were to be together again. Probably right then, but no later than sometime during the first several days of 1968, we knew our love and friendship was special, and it has remained so to us every day since. The intimacy we have been fortunate to share on all levels — emotional, physical, spiritual — during our life together makes us profoundly grateful. It is a gift we covet for every one we know.

Acceptance and Coming Out

From the beginning, we knew we'd have to reconcile church teachings with our lives and relationship. Celibacy never seemed to be a reasonable long-term option. We knew our lives together and our expression of love was for us a beautiful thing, but we also knew others might see it differently if we were to disclose the nature of our relationship. Because scriptural conflicts and religion in general were greater concerns for me, these issues troubled me more, but we each continued on some level to struggle with our sexuality as we moved to our present home state and both began our careers in denominationally-linked employment.

A breakthrough came on the concerns troubling me most (the so-called "clobber" texts of scripture) when dear friend Larry Hallock, with his understanding of biblical languages and scriptures in general, prepared and shared his own coming-out story with his family. His essay (about 1975) was the first I'd read which suggested interpretations for those texts other than the condemnation so familiar to me.

The rest, as they say, was like coasting, because about then books on the subject began to appear and to become common. During our college days, there was nothing on the subject in the college library other than a very old medical book which described homosexuality as an illness. As books became readily available, I read everything I could find and became convinced our sexuality and loving expression of it within our committed relationship was perfectly right and moral for us.

In summary, our coming-out process began with religious conflict (more so for me than for Emy Lou), followed by eventual acceptance. It continued through being open among close friends and acquaintances, then with family members who have been highly supportive (both families), and ultimately in a general way to almost everyone in almost every situation. As I've said (quoting a Kinship writer from many years ago), "Although we don't always choose to disclose our orientation, we no longer fear its discovery."

The Stuff of Living

We consider our life to be very similar to anyone else's. Sometimes life is a complete joy, other times a thorough drag. We work, decorate, renovate, recreate, garden, volunteer,

Continued on next page

vacation, entertain. We do no gender role stereotyping in any area of our life. Work is work, and we each do what needs doing until the task is finished. As we get older, we hire more of these things done — or we plead with willing friends for help! In short, we live. We do the same things you do, the same our neighbors do — own homes, have problems, share intimacy.

Home ownership began for us in 1975. We believe this kind of intermingling of financial and day-to-day property responsibility is important to relationship permanency, particularly for same-sex couples. Because same-gender couples have no other legal obligation to remain in relationship, a mutually shared financial responsibility can create an additional reason not to bail out if things get tough. Since whatever problems we have would likely be carried into another partnership, it has always seemed preferable to us to work through our issues rather than part ways.

Each of us ultimately left denominational employment and feel much better for having done so. Presently, we have our own business and consider ourselves to be semi-retired while enjoying our work and needing to remain productive in preparation for more senior years when we're ancient rather than just in the process of getting old.

Every relationship has problems. Fortunately, we have worked through the concerns which have surfaced so far. Some issues have been significant for us, others better fit a "misunderstanding" category, whether related to a tough day in general or to a passing crabby disposition. And some difficulties were just plain funny — after they were over.

In every circumstance of conflict, we are pledged to talking

things through carefully. We never "sleep on" a difference. We try also to remember two guidelines: 1) we are permanently committed to each other and to our relationship, and 2) our bottom line in every circumstance is, we love each other. Parting ways has never been for either of us a viable option.

Regarding sexuality and its expression, let us say that even women in their fifties enjoy exquisite intimate expressions of love. I've always been curious about how ageing might affect one's need, desire and capacity to express physical affection. So far, we don't imagine losing that dimension.

After 32 years our love for each other [with all of love's dimensions] has endured the ups and downs of the life of Adventist lesbian women — coming out, careers, career changes, easy times and difficult times. Being with Emy Lou has anchored me, we have anchored each other.

None of our stories can be alike. We have no expectation that your story should parallel ours. We continue to choose each other and to build our bank of beautiful memories. Our only expectation is that the same love we've shared as we've journeyed together this far will go on as long as we both live. ▼

WONDERING WHAT TO DO CHRISTMAS EVE?

What can you do Christmas Eve that will only take a minute but will mean a lot to our friend Kevin Rabe? Wish him a "Happy Birthday" with a prayer and/or email kevrab@one.net.au. His birthday is the 25th, but his being "down under" means this Aussie will already be having his birthday while most of us are having Christmas Eve! ▼

Room for A View or Two

Last month I grew a little bit, thanks to Hal, our Office Coordinator (see his recipes on the last page of this issue).

By having the Connection printed on orange paper (my heretofore least favorite color) Hal caused me to re-think my attitude about orange.

Not only did I actually get used to the color, I now have orange leaves on my auto tags ...and in the office, where I use colored files, blue for Art, green for Angela... you get the picture, things that are *mine* go in orange folders now.

Thank you, Hal, not only for all the work you do getting this newsletter printed and in our hands, and not only for sharing great recipes, but also for helping me learn the 'joy of orange' and flexibility.

On another note, I appreciated the letters I received regarding last month's issue and very much look forward to hearing more of your likes and dislikes for this newsletter since this is **ours** -- yours and mine! Your input is wanted and needed! ▼

~ Rom Wilder

LESBIAN LIFESTYLES

I once heard of an author who dedicated a Pulitzer Prize to his dog, who had eaten the first and only draft of a novel before there were back up disks. After a minute amount of ex-pletives, the beleaguered soul went back to the typewriter and pounded out what must have been an improved version of his internal tome. Should there be any awards or acknowledgements of this particular holiday article, I will dedicate them to Rom's computer who ate the only draft I E-mailed several weeks ago. Being a lax and confident soul I not only managed to avoid back-ing my thoughts up on disk or hard copy, I didn't even keep them in the mailbox. I know, I know Larry. I will learn someday. I promise?

When I wrote my first draft, the October winds were accosting the leaves on our trees and assisting their descent to my unsuspecting lawn. This evening, the shadowy skeletons are outlined against November's full moon, dreaming quietly until red maple buds that will powder our days next April are ready to burst on the post equinox scene. The neighbors must have taken advantage of the weather my mother sent home with me from California. It's not Thanksgiving yet and the area is littered with blinking Christmas lights. There are years when I can't

get organized enough to get mine up before the New Year's football games. These folk are lighting up the walkways for the turkeys to arrive. I find this kind of efficiency overwhelming. As of Sunday, I am relatively certain only that we may have food in time for the guests to arrive on Thursday. I have no clue what it will be. Can you just imagine someone with this internal schedule having the where-with-all to make fruit cakes six months in advance?

I am looking forward to Judy Collins accompanying our local gay men's chorus' presentation of holiday music. It's good of her to take second fiddle to such an august group. As far as we are concerned, David is the star ... I don't think he has realized that yet. You probably already know that Sam is the true diva of the Boston performers. Both concerts help those of us in the tundra throw on the festive spirit. The gay lifestyle is pretty wild here. Richard, of the local garden club, makes swags and wreaths with the ancient traditional rainbow ribbon. Then, of course, there is the early dinner before the concerts. The sidewalks roll up at eight p.m., and that's on weekends. If we are awake, we have tea dances. The Adventists have tea roller-skating or Pathfinder marches. For the turn of the Millennium we are going to huddle around our wood stoves with flashlights and hope that for once in our lifetimes there will be a benefit to choosing an adventure that has us pulling water up from the well. Not that we are in any way **really** wish-

ing for the power grid to go out in California. Remember, that's where people put on their mittens when the temperature plummets to 53 degrees at night.

There are many things to be grateful for this holiday season, end of the century, end of an era. My relationship with my family and with many people in my life has gone through difficult times and come out stronger. I can now see the gift I complained about just a short time ago. I have work. I have people and animals, and yes, plants that give my life beauty and meaning. I have health and opportunities to improve even that. No one close to me died this year. I have read beautiful poetry and heard its improvement in the wind of the trees. I have seen a coral moon rising from the apple orchards of our local valley. I have laughed so hard the tears rolled from my eyes and gave me concern that liquids might flow from other places also. I have cried in sadness and not been ashamed of salty grief. I have had people love me through my really awful fits of self-centered temper. I've gotten to travel in places that warm my soul.

I wish for you some dreams, and hope. I wish for you safety in difficult places. I wish for you people to forgive your humanness and demand that you become more. I wish for you love in your life. And I wish for you many blessings. ♥

Shalom

Catherine

SDA KINSHIP INTL. ***** KAMPOGRAM *****

KAMPMEETING 2000 UPDATE

KAMPMEETING PLANNING PROGRESSING WELL stop SPACES STILL AVAILABLE BUT BOOKING FAST stop ARE YOU PLANNING TO ATTEND KM2000 stop DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE stop REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE AT WEBSITE stop OR REQUEST FROM OFFICE stop WE ARE PLANNING PLENTY OF TOGETHER TIME stop WILL KEEP IN TOUCH stop

- HAL

AN INCOMPLETE HISTORY OF GAY & LESBIAN OC (PART 2)

Rich Kane

"An Incomplete History of Gay & Lesbian OC" (Orange County, California) by Rich Kane which appeared in the *ORANGE COUNTY WEEKLY*, August 12, 1999, gives some interesting parallels to many parts of our own histories, tongue-in-cheek at times. Because of its length, it will be presented in more than one part.

Rich Kane has graciously given permission for it to be reprinted in the *SDA Kinship Connection*.

Special thanks to our resident research leader, Vickie, for finding this treasure.

SEPTEMBER 1972 A man wearing a GROOVY GUY T-shirt attempts to enter Disneyland. Park security, however, makes him turn his shirt inside-out. The slogan refers to a hunky-man contest regularly featured in the *Advocate*. It's not clear how Disneyland security officers would know this.

APRIL 1973 The Orange County Imperial Court, a fundraising/activist organization made up of drag queens, holds its first coronation ball at the Balboa Pavilion. Big hair, hoop skirts, glittery jewelry and glam, glam, glam are the rules. Tourist heads turn and crowds gather at the sight of drag queens getting out of their cars and entering the building.

SEPT. 7, 1974 Police harassment of gay bars in Garden Grove has been an ongoing problem. The *Advocate* reports that bar patrons have had address books stolen from their cars, and anyone arrested on a lewd-conduct charge (which often involves nothing

more than hugging, kissing and hand-holding) has the names and addresses of their acquaintances copied down by police. Things come to a head on this day, when nearly 500 demonstrators hold a 1.5-mile march down Garden Grove Boulevard to protest a recent spate of 43 arrests. The crowds chant slogans like "Two, four, six, eight, how do you know your son is straight?" The march ends with several speeches at Garden Grove City Hall. The *Advocate* interviews a gas-station manager on what he thinks of it all: "I guess it's all right, if that's what they want to do. I think I'd rather see them out marching than a bunch of communists or draft dodgers." Another bystander is less sympathetic: "I was aware [of all the gay bars in town]. I've been beating them up for a long time."

1976 Exodus International, a "reparative therapy" group that attempts to change gays and lesbians into perfect specimens of heterosexuality, is founded at Anaheim's Melodyland Christian Center by Michael Bussee and Gary Cooper. But on a plane ride while stumping for the group, the pair realize they've fallen in love—with each other. They quit the organization and begin speaking out about the harmful effects of reparative therapy programs. Now based in Seattle, Exodus has grown into one of the largest of such groups—though they don't like to talk about their founders, whose story is told in a 1993 PBS documentary.

JUNE 18, 1976 A group of about 20 transsexuals meet for a potluck dinner at a private home in Costa Mesa to stir up interest in a trans support group in OC. A special guest of the evening is Laguna Niguel resident Christine Jorgensen, who in 1952 underwent

the world's first sex-change operation. News of the event runs in *Renaissance*, a Santa Ana-based newsletter for transsexuals.

SEPT. 14, 1977 The San Clemente Sun-Post reports on the growing number of military men from nearby Camp Pendleton who are coming into town and prostituting themselves to older gay men.

1978 John Briggs, a Republican state senator from Fullerton, gets an initiative placed on the November ballot, the Briggs Initiative (Proposition 6), which if passed would make it illegal for California public schools to hire gay teachers, mandate the removal of any teacher discovered to be gay after he or she is hired, and prohibit even straight teachers from portraying homosexuality in a positive light, under the penalty of dismissal. Prop. 6 is so smelly, even Ronald Reagan speaks out against it. But supporters include Anaheim burger mag-nate Carl Karcher—the initiative's No. 1 financial contributor—and soon-to-be-infamous homophobe, the Reverend Lou Sheldon. While stumping for Prop. 6 in San Francisco, Briggs calls the city "the moral garbage dump of homosexuality in this country," to which Harvey Milk replies, "Nobody likes garbage 'cause it smells. Yet 8 million tourists visited San Francisco last year. I wonder how many visited Fullerton?" ▼

Reprinted with permission.

**WATCH NEXT MONTH FOR MORE
OF THE
INCOMPLETE HISTORY OF GAY
AND LESBIAN OC**

Regional Reports

CHECK OUT REGIONAL COORDINATOR NAMES & NUMBERS ON PAGE 2

Region 1 – Thanksgiving: We here in the North country are having an open house Thanksgiving. There will be vegetarian and omnivarian options, some traditional New England Fare, and, a proper California Thanksgiving papaya, banana, pineapple salad. If you would like to join us, please contact us.

December 5: The Pioneer Valley Gay Men's Chorus, with our beloved David T., will be having a holiday concert at the Calvin Theater, Northampton, MA. Judy Collins says she will sing along. More info can be garnered by contacting Katigurian@aol.com

December 10, 11, 12: The Boston Gay Men's Chorus with our also beloved Samuel P. Will be presenting two evening concerts and a Sunday matinee. These are always wonderful; great fun, inspirational, and filled with good looking people.

The Forum at Columbia University in New York usually has a great holiday program.

~ Catherine

Region 2 – In September, Pamela and Karen were the gracious hosts of a potluck at their home. Approximately 8-9 people were able to make it, which wasn't easy since Pamela forgot one street in her directions. But what's just one street?

Natalie spoke at vespers on a book she was reading. We had a lively discussion on it.

In October, we did putt-putt golf and went out to eat. A whopping 17 made it to this social event. The light rain held up until we were almost done. Brian, Arlene, Joyce and I were in the last group finishing. Joyce was playing with an umbrella in one hand and a golf club in the other—something about African-American hair not having a great

appreciation for rain. We also had a new fellow join us and a lesbian couple who don't often get to join us because they have 5 children to take into consideration. We all went over to the Macaroni Grill and got a table for 17—not a small feat in itself. The waiter turned out to be 'family' as well as a fabulous waiter! He was just as wonderful to the lesbians as to the handsome guys in our group.

Our vespers speaker was to be Terry Johnson, but he had a last minute meeting at Sligo. Leif did a great job of filling in for him. We had another lively discussion on acceptance/ tolerance of homosexuality within various churches.

November's activities started with a potluck at Brian and Dotun's place following church the first weekend of the month.

On Sunday the 7th we picked up trash for the Adopt-A-Highway program. [See separate article on this.]

Vespers on November 12th at the Oaklands Presbyterian Church in Laurel, MD had us listening to Dr. Lea Annette Carlson, an electrical engineer who retired from the Department of Defense in 1998. She is a transsexual who is now involved in attempting to expand the understanding of complex human issues, like gender, and to apply the principle of the inherent worth and dignity of all persons to everyday life. She is the past president of the Transgender Education Association (TGEA) in Chevy Chase, MD and is currently the key holder for the Metro (DC) Area Gender Identity Colloquium (MAGIC) in Falls Church, VA.

In December, we are in the process of planning a weekend or more likely a full day and evening at Williamsburg, VA on the weekend of December 4th.

Yolanda Elliott –

YSE@compuserve.com

Region 3 –

Already she wants copy?

Region 4 – A note from Charles Shobe, our Kinship Secretary: Two weeks ago, I moved in with my significant other. This is new and exciting and scary territory for me. I have "roomed" with plenty of other people, but I have never lived with someone with whom I am also intimate. I have all these fears and hopes running around in my head, colliding with each other.

One of my fears was that he would feel invaded because I was moving into his living space. I promised that the only part of the house that I would completely take over was the kitchen. It turns out that I'm the cook in the house. Boy, did I tear that kitchen apart! It was work, but it was also fun, and Scott has just taken it in stride. He's a wonderful guy, and I feel very lucky to be the recipient of his love.

We're having a crisis right now because he has developed a hernia and will very likely have surgery this next week. Pray that everything goes smoothly!

We also got exciting news today. I just got confirmation of a timeshare condo for the week before Kampmeeting in Maui, so we get 2 weeks in wonderful Hawaii!! See you at Kampmeeting!

Charles Shobe

Region 5 – Some of the members went to the Texas State Fair for Coming Out Day, and of course we've had the regular twice a month meetings.

Last month's flick was "Three To Tango". But not many people have been coming to the meetings, so we hope that having this month's meeting at Floyd's will help. (Report from Tasha ... Floyd was out of the country during this period!)

.... continued on the next page

Regional Reports - continued

Region 6 - Region 6 is proud to announce the arrival of Scott W. to his new residence in suburban Denver. Scott is working with information technologies and is adjusting in his move from New York to Colorado.

Bryan is getting his massage therapy practice up and running - and also moving.

Frank has been involved in another most excellent local theatre production.

Vickie is recovering from her surgery quite nicely - and Emy Lou has been her constant "nurse" and attendant!

Mike [Ben's partner] has been admitted to the Bar in Colorado - a nice way to end law school!

A holiday mailing will soon be going out to Region 6.

Negotiations are currently underway to organize a chapter group in Lincoln.

Ben recently gave a workshop seminar on the perils of so-called ex-gay "reparative therapy" to Colorado educators and clergy. He has also completed his assignment as a columnist for the Denver Post.

Kinshippers in the Denver area will be getting together in mid-December for a holiday gather - probably in conjunction with a Christmas concert of the Denver Gay Men's Chorus.

Ben Kemena

Region 7 -

A foggy day, in Portland town!?
Rom misses the Northwest, so I'll
have to send her a report!

Region 8 - Walt & Virginia Cason (aka Ge-Ge or VCTalk-@aol.com) hosted our October Meeting in their beautiful home near PUC. We had 3 new faces

including Aimee, Laurel & Robby. After a wonderful meal and Aimee's special vegan bean dip, we sang Happy Birthday to Juliana.

Ge-Ge gave an inspiring devotional, as well as showing each of us that God is real and personal through her warmth, touch and unconditional love. Karen shared a recent sermon video from her SDA church, which said that Sodom & Gomorrah was not about homosexuality, but about inhospitality and sexual abuse. It took longer than usual to say goodbye as we all had a good time and didn't want to leave.

On November 13, we had our monthly meeting in Juliana & Linda's home in Alameda. We had 16 people, including more new faces. Pam & Gretchen were here from Reno with their two boys, Riley & Zachary, visiting Doyle. There was more food than we could possibly eat. Linda got us singing and then gave a devotional. The women outnumbered the men and stayed afterwards to enjoy the company.

Our next meeting will be on December 11 at Harry's house in Alameda. We will be having our usual Christmas gift exchange, so please bring a unisex gift of around \$10. Our January meeting will be on the 22nd in Cupertino at Pearl & Karen's home. Think of activities for the group for the new year.

Report from:
karen.lee1@juno.com

For further info, anyone is more than welcome to contact Roland Anderson via email: -
rolandea@jps.net

Region 9 -

Wonder if it's time to send a report yet!

Region 10 -

Zzzzzz ... nothing like a cool
Canadian Autumn nap!!

Region 13 (Kinship Germany)

We've just passed our annual fall meeting, this time in Melsungen /Kassel, a small village in the countryside, nearly in the geo-graphical middle of Germany, surrounded by hills and some forests.

Thus a nice place to relax. We've had a good time, with cold (daily highs in the lower 40s) but sunny weather, and much time to talk about actual problems and other things. Two new people (both male) have joined our group.

The weekend finished with the "official" part, the HAD members meeting and election of a new "board of directors". There are some plans for the next time: we'll try to improve the connections to other National (Christian) groups, and to advertise a little bit in national and regional magazines (to announce the existence of HAD). I'm almost done with the English translation of our web pages. They'll be out as soon as possible.

Stefan Pietruska -
steve@idbremen.de

LET'S HEAR FROM THOSE
MISSING REGIONS NEXT TIME...
YOUR ACTIVITIES ARE JUST AS
IMPORTANT AS THE REST OF
THE REGIONS ... AND
REMEMBER, "WHERE TWO OR
MORE ARE GATHERED"

KINSHIP PARENTS

Pam Roberts

Ever since I can remember I wanted to have children. It was a factor in my first career as an elementary school teacher. It was also a factor in choosing my life partner, Gretchen. When we first got together, I was thirty-one and Gretchen was thirty-seven, so we didn't want to wait too long before starting our family. However, we also wanted to be firmly grounded in a stable and healthy relationship before we brought a wee one into our home. So after almost two years together, we initiated our quest to be parents. We obtained information from at least three different California sperm banks. We attended a workshop at a Kinship Kampmeeting presented by a Kinship doctor who specializes in fertility. We read the book, "Considering Parenthood" (Cheryl Pies) which discussed different parenting options. We set up a meeting with a local OBGYN doctor for the physical and authorization we needed to obtain sperm from the Cryobank. She provided us with additional information and we prepared for our first insemination cycle in August, 1992. However, a new job, a new home and eye surgery for Gretchen proved to be too stressful and we decided after one unsuccessful attempt to postpone our babymaking efforts.

Within six months, we became the foster parents of my then five-year-old niece, Rachel. We did not want to make Rachel feel displaced, so we continued to postpone our insemination plans. This interim parenting experience helped us in at least two ways. First, Gretchen and I discovered we had different approaches to parenting. We had started couple counseling before deciding to become foster parents and we

resumed this counseling to find some common ground. Second, after parenting a special needs child, Gretchen and I reconsidered our decision to use an anonymous sperm donor and approached a friend and his partner, both of whom we had met through Kinship.

Adapting a form from the back of the "Considering Parenthood" book, we drafted an agreement that clearly stated that the donor would not have any parental rights, obligations or liability arising from this artificial insemination. We had our attorneys review the agreement before executing it. Our friend submitted to all the same donor-screening tests that the sperm banks require, including two HIV tests, six months apart. It is important to realize at this point, that despite all the legal and medical protections we attempted to put into place, ultimately, we trusted our friend, and his partner, with our lives.

After charting my menstrual cycle for over six months and then utilizing an ovulation predictor kit, our first attempt to inseminate occurred on a houseboat floating in Lake Mead. We had to be quite flexible and adjust to the path of one little egg. Ultimately, we were successful after only the third cycle. The average is six cycles (or six months) – so people doing this need to be patient. Our donor flew up from Southern California and Gretchen inseminated me in our home. No we didn't use the turkey baster provided to me at Menucha II Kampmeeting.*

I had a relatively uncomplicated pregnancy but a full 24 hours of labor including three hours of pushing before our first son Riley made his way out into our world.

Our second son, Zachary only needed three pushes. We videotaped both births – something I highly recommend. A close friend stood up on the nightstand near my head and got a great view of the baby without exposing my more private area.

As an attorney, I must warn prospective mothers of the inherent dangers of utilizing a known donor. Even though we had a written agreement, courts will not allow parents to contract away a child's rights. Therefore, after Riley was born, we still needed to file a petition to terminate the parental rights of the donor. During this time period, the donor could change his mind and create a legal and emotional nightmare. If the donor is a heterosexual married man, he may have even greater power to undo the deal. In addition, many states grant grandparents certain rights.

However, as a mother, I must acknowledge that our family has received many extra blessings because we chose a known donor. One of the biggest blessings occurred after we mutually decided to rescind our original agreement to not reveal the donor's identity to our respective families. Our donor dad was one of two gay sons and his mother would never know that she had a grandson unless we allowed her into our lives. There were several family dynamics that needed resolution before the donor had found the right moment to tell his mother. He had correctly anticipated that she would want to fly immediately to Reno to see her grandson. Well, after an Oprah type day complete with tears of joy, we welcomed Grandma M. into our expanding concept of

Continued on the next page

STOPOVERS

In his book *Stopping: How to Be Still When You Have to Keep Going*, Dr. David Kundtz talks about "Stopovers."

Many (most?) of us have times in our lives when it just all feels like 'too much' ... when we are overwhelmed by the daily activities, responsibilities, schedules.

How can we deal with these times? A complete emotional breakdown isn't something most people have the time, energy, money or even stomach for! So what are our options?

Stopping contains a wealth of information about what keeps us from 'stopping' and what things we can do to actually 'stop' now and then.

For several months I've found myself listening to and dealing with people at work who are stressed to the max. I consider it part of my 'job' to support these people, not only in their work needs, but in their need for a sane work place. Doing this has drained me, however, so I planned a 'mini-vacation.' Three days off with a weekend stuck between the three days would give me five days away from the Stress Factory, one of my affectionate terms for the firm.

Without realizing it, I'd planned what Kundtz calls a "Stopover" ... a time of doing "nothing: an hour or many hours, a day, a weekend, or several days."

I encourage you to pick up *Stopping* the next time you're at the library if you're finding yourself mumbling the title of that play from the 60's: "Stop the World; I Want to Get Off."

And for those ultra busy persons who can't take an entire day or even an hour, there's a chapter on "Stillpoints." ▼

~ Rom

KINSHIP FAMILY continued

family and she has been able to spend several weeks per year with her Grandson(s). And of course, she was able to see her second grandson, Zachary, within the first few weeks of his life.

We always planned to tell our sons the truth about their conception, but were nevertheless surprised when four-year-old Riley informed us that he had two moms and two dads. We asked who he thought were his two dads and he responded, "Mike and John." He went on to explain to us that he was special because he has two moms and two dads. One of the pre-school teachers overheard the children discussing this topic at lunch and after initial comments like "you can't have two moms and two dads" they apparently reached a consensus that Riley was a lucky kid. Sometimes he asks why they don't live with us and so far he accepts our response, "because they have a home in Southern California." Although he has not asked specific questions about his conception, there have been other tough questions, like "why are bad people bad?" and "does God love bad people?" and "can men only marry women?"

The other big blessing has been the added dimension to our friendship with Mike and John. Of course we knew they were special before we started this whole process, but we have found so much more to love and admire. And while there is a definite biological thread to this whole story, what truly connects us all is the love we share for each other.

Sometimes we have to pinch ourselves to keep from laughing or to make sure we aren't already in heaven. Sometimes I am so tired I forget to brush my teeth or so busy I find myself headed toward work with Zachary still in his car seat. But always I know that my family is a gift from God and look forward to every day we get to spend together. On October first I started

a new half-time position so I could spend more time being a mom and less time being an attorney. If being a parent is something you always wanted, I encourage you to explore your options and begin planning now. ▼

* Pam Roberts, who has been past Secretary, Women's Coordinator, VP and President of Kinship, was presented a turkey baster, along with a crown, when Mike McLaughlin, the outgoing President of Kinship, passed the "torch" to her as the new President of Kinship.

Watch for another article in the future on Kinship Parenting! ▼



MISSION STATEMENTS

There are many definitions of "mission" in the dictionary. In her book *The Path*, Laurie Beth Jones talks about the various meanings of the word and tells ways of creating mission statements for ourselves at work and in life.

What is your mission statement? Would you like to change your mission?

As we grow and change, our mission 'fields' and our missions perhaps change also.

You're invited to share your mission statement here. Remember to say what name you'd like used for yourself if you want a pseudonym, and keep it under a page in length! ▼

Holiday Help from Hal

Here are a couple of Hal's favorite recipes that are great and easy to make for the Holidays!

MUSHROOM NUT PATE

2 TBLS. BUTTER
1 LB. MUSHROOMS, (USE ANY COMBINATION OF MUSHROOMS), SLICED
1 SM. ONION, CHOPPED
1 CLOVE GARLIC, MINCED
1 CUP WALNUTS, (YOU CAN USE ANY TYPE OF NUT OR COMBINATION)
2 TBLS. PEANUT OIL
1 TEAS. THYME, GROUND
SALT AND CAYENNE PEPPER TO TASTE
SESAME SEEDS, TOASTED
CRACKERS

MELT BUTTER IN LARGE PAN. ADD MUSHROOMS, ONIONS, AND GARLIC. SAUTÉ UNTIL MOST OF THE LIQUID HAS EVAPORATED. REMOVE FROM HEAT.

IN A FOOD PROCESSOR, COARSELY CHOP THE NUTS SLOWLY ADDING THE PEANUT OIL AND BLEND. ADD SEASONINGS AND THE MUSHROOM MIXTURE AND CONTINUE BEATING UNTIL WELL BLENDED.

LINE A SMALL BOWL WITH PLASTIC WRAP, AND FILL THE MOLD WITH THE MUSHROOM/NUT MIXTURE SMOOTH THE TOP AND COVER WITH PLASTIC WRAP. CHILL OVERNIGHT.

UNMOLD THE PATE ONTO A SERVING PLATTER, SPRINKLE WITH TOASTED SESAME SEEDS, AND SERVE WITH CRACKERS.

SERVES ABOUT 6 AS AN APPETIZER

RED CABBAGE AND BEET SALAD WITH CHERRIES

1/4 CUP RED ONION, FINELY SLICED
3 TBLS. BALSAMIC VINEGAR
1 TBLS. OLIVE OIL
1/4 CUP PARSLEY, MINCED
2 TBLS. CRYSTALLIZED GINGER, MINCED
1 8OZ. CAN PICKLED BEETS, JULIENNE
1 CUP SWEET CHERRIES, PITTED AND DRAINED
3 CUPS RED CABBAGE, SLICED
SALT AND PEPPER TO TASTE

IN A LARGE BOWL, TOSS TOGETHER ALL INGREDIENTS. COVER AND CHILL AT LEAST 4 HOURS OR OVERNIGHT.

SERVES 8