

Of Interest

Ellen Orleans, local author and humorist, hosts the **Yellow Pine Reading Series**. At these events local writers read from their works. The next scheduled reading is February 13th, 7:00 PM at the Wild Sage Community House located on North Broadway. These readings are open to the public. You can learn more about the **Yellow Pine Reading Series** location/directions or get on the list to share some of your writing by contacting Ellen Orleans at 303-444-2691 or eorleans@earthlink.net

Program Committee Creates 2007 Agenda

The Rainbow Elder Program and Newsletter Committee members set aside their busy holiday schedules to meet in late December. They eagerly poured over the ideas submitted by members in the recent survey, compiled suggestions, resolved contradictions, established a new meeting format and created a schedule of programs and activities for 2007. They also had input into the revised banner and look of the Newsletter. What do you think? Let us know. Much of the real work was done by Boulder County Aging Services graphic artist Joe Eichenauer.



Ellen Orleans, local author, on the trail of wild wise words in the Canadian backcountry.

The meeting format will cut down the check-in time to 20 minutes max. A bell timer will be used to hold members to a one to two minute share. New attendees will be given most of that time to introduce themselves to the group. Others will be asked to keep their check-in short. One committee member gave this

as a example: "I and my partner spent most of the summer in Europe. If you want to know the details ask us at dinner."

The first quarter meeting activities are now in place. In January Ronda Disney, dietitian, will present "Eating Healthy in 2007". Jackie Tono, an authority on identity theft restoration, will

present in February. Ellen Orleans will be at the Rainbow Elders in March to lead us in a fun writing exercise using color samples.

Special activities for the first quarter include by popular request another writers workshop (see article below) led by Ellen. On the fourth Saturdays of each month in 2007 a brunch/lunch plus movie or other activity is planned. The first potluck brunch will be February 24th. In the spring a workshop to help with establishing legal documents will be held. More later!

WRITING GROUP A GREAT SUCCESS! By Writing Group Participant, Mary Jo

The Rainbow Elders Writing Group met for four Wednesday mornings in October. It was led by local writer Ellen Orleans who had guided us in a fun writing session at one of our regular Rainbow Elder meetings last spring.

In each of the four sessions five Elders -- four women and one man -wrote on a specific topic.

Ellen suggested various topics on "Words from the Wise" worksheets each week. We shared our writing efforts and received lots of good feedback from each other. Several of the topics included writing about a pair of shoes, a photo, a color. Some of us chose a narrative essay style; others chose a poetic style.

At the end of the group, we all



submitted one to three items which Ellen is compiling into a small booklet for us. Suddenly we are "**published**" **writers!**

Survey Results by Teresa DeAnni

We had 26 responses (out of 87) to our July member survey. We received great feedback and suggestions. In addition, since becoming a Rainbow Elder member, most survey respondents reported feeling less isolated, more connected, and more satisfied with their lives. The survey also shows the myriad of strengths and talents that members have to offer. We are excited about the promise of the future together!

2007 marks the introduction of a fresh approach to programming for the Rainbow Elders and the LGBT program here at Boulder County Aging Services Division. We will be co-hosting an LGBT grief group with HospiceCare of Boulder & Broomfield Counties. Our writing workshops will continue and we will be adding a series of financial and legal planning workshops.

The Rainbow Elders of Boulder County (REBC) is a fun-loving social group of older LGBTs and friends. Come join us on the **third Tuesday** between **4-6pm**. See below for location. After meetings, folks usually go out to dinner at a local restaurant.

January 16, East Boulder Senior Center
5660 Sioux Drive, Boulder
Topic: Eating Healthy for 2007

February 20, Longmont Senior Center
910 Longs Peak Ave., Longmont
Topic: Identity Theft Protection

Fourth Saturday Special Event:

February 24, Potluck Brunch
Boulder Meadows Club House
4500 19th Street, Boulder

March 20, East Boulder Senior Center
5660 Sioux Drive, Boulder
Topic : Writing Exercises with Ellen Orleans

To be added to the Rainbow Elder mailing list call
303-441-3583 or email elewis@co.boulder.co.us.

WINTER LAVENDER GALA: A GREAT END TO A GREAT YEAR

What a great night it was for dancing! December 8, 2006 marked the 6th year for the Winter Lavender Gala. More than 75 people showed up at the East Boulder Senior Center to enjoy the food, dancing, ambience and to pick up a *door prize*. As you can tell from the smiles everyone had



a good time. There are many to thank for the night's success.



John Wilkins, DJ, doing a great job of picking everyone's favorite tunes to dance to. THANKS JOHN!

A great big thank you goes to the many volunteers who helped with decorations, door prizes, provided desserts and greeted attendees at the door. Thanks also goes to Boulder County Aging Services Division, Longmont Senior Services and the Open Door Fund, a fund of the Community Foundation Serving Boulder County.

In addition a special thanks to the many folks like Maggie



and Sonja who supported the Winter Lavender Gala by attending, dancing and having fun!

Sponsored by Boulder County Aging Services Division & the Open Door Fund, a fund of the Community Foundation serving Boulder County.

www.co.boulder.co.us/cs/ag/programs/glb.htm

elewis@co.boulder.co.us • 303-441-3583 • PO Box 471, Boulder, CO 80306