

HUGS EAST

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2002

Volume 4, Issue 5

HIV / AIDS

In time for the 14th International AIDS Conference, the United Nations issued a sobering report in July warning that the global AIDS epidemic is still in its early stages and that 68 million people will die by 2020.

The conference, held in Barcelona, Spain, focused on money almost as much as medicine. Research was presented on young, gay Americans who don't know they're infected, the latest vaccine progress, the yearly cost of treating one patient with AIDS and more.

Currently Eastern Europe has the highest rate of infection in the world. Russia had 75,000 new cases by November 2001, a 15-fold increase in the last three years.

The epidemic continues its rapid spread through Africa, with 3.4 million new infections and 2.3 million deaths in 2001.

China recently downplayed a warning from the U.N. that the country was on the verge of an "explosive" epidemic, with the potential to infect 10 million citizens by 2010.

In other heavily afflicted areas, officials and activists are pressing for drug companies to waive patent restrictions or reduce prices. Patent struggles and generic drug conflicts have been reported in Brazil, South Africa, India and Indonesia.

Since September 11, the United Nations' global fund for AIDS relief has experienced a major decrease in contributions.

In recent United States news, two studies have shown that delaying HIV treatment can help those who are

**Hugs - Hope * Understanding * Giving * Support
To the Gay & Lesbian Community of Lake, Geauga, and
Ashtabula Counties.**

newly infected. HIV infection statistics, however, continue to rise among young gay men, particularly among men of color. This development, sometimes referred to as a "second wave" in the epidemic, has led to calls for increased vigilance about safer sex and HIV awareness

PlanetOut Staff, "HIV/AIDS." 17 July 2002: Online. Available: <http://www.planetout.com/news/roundups/package.html?sernum=333>.

Epidemic Will Get Worse

A new United Nations report warned that the global epidemic is still in its early stages and could destabilize many regions in the next two decades.

"We haven't reached the peak of the AIDS epidemic yet," said Dr. Peter Piot, executive director of UNAIDS, the agency responsible for the report. "It's an unprecedented epidemic in human history."

The report estimates that 68 million people will die of the disease between 2000 and 2020 four times more than the number of deaths during the previous two decades. A record 3 million died of AIDS in 2001, and an estimated 40 million are now infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

The report, filled with grim statistics about the surging epidemic, was released ahead of the 14th International Conference on AIDS that begins on Sunday in Barcelona.

In an interview with Reuters, Piot warned that AIDS is no longer a medical problem; the epidemic is affecting economic, social and security concerns worldwide. He

(Continued on page 3)

Contacting Hugs East

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[HTTP://HUGSEAST.TRIPOD.COM](http://HUGSEAST.TRIPOD.COM)

E-mail your questions or comments to:

HUGSEAST@HOTMAIL.COM

Calendar of Events

September, 2002

- 09/05 Stress Management. — Brenda
- 09/12 Spirituality. — Terry
- 09/19 Online Personals / Dating. — Kevin
- 09/26 AIDS — Where Are We Today? — Brenda

October, 2002

- 10/03 Gay Domestic Violence. — Rhonda
- 10/10 Terry’s Shenanigans. — Terry
- 10/17 Cat Lesbians...Dog Lesbians. — Rhonda
- 10/24 Planning Meeting. - Brenda
- 10/31 Movie “Rocky Horror Picture Show”. — Kevin
Please bring snacks and beverages to share.

Hugs Social Activities for September & October

- 09/14 9:00 AM Golf Outing at Johnnycake Ridge Golf Course. 7134 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH. Contact Brenda if you are interested in golfing so she can set up a tee time. You can contact Brenda via email at hugseast@hotmail.com, the information line, or during a Thursday evening meeting. ***In the event of rain, golf will be cancelled but lunch is still on.***
- 09/14 10:00 AM Miniature Golf Outing at Putt Putt Golf and Games. 38886 Mentor Ave., Willoughby, OH. Next to Johnnycake Ridge Golf course. ***In the event of rain, golf will be cancelled but lunch is still on.***
- 09/14 12:00 PM Lunch at the Max & Erma’s. 7850 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH. (located in the Great Lakes Mall parking lot. Across from Kaufmann’s)
- 09/21 6:00 PM Dinner at The Grovewood Tavern & Wine Bar. 17105 Grovewood Ave., Cleveland, OH

It’s called the “blue-collar” wine bar by the Plain Dealer, complete with knotty pine paneling, bowling and pinball machines and juke box. The food, though, is new-wave and not bar food.

Directions: It is located off I-90 westbound in

Cleveland: Get off at E. 185th St., continue west through 3 lights and turn right at the second street, which is Grovewood. It’s on the right at E. 172nd St. Park anywhere there is an opening.

- 10/19 5:00 PM Dinner at Budapest Hungarian Restaurant. 13968 Cedar Road, University Heights., OH (corner of Cedar Rd. and Warrensville Center Rd.)

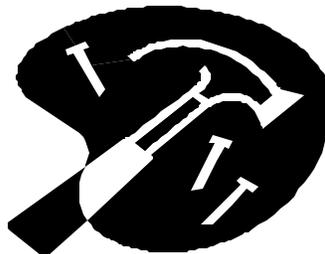
Other Activities for September & October

- 09/22 11 AM AIDS Walk. Edgewater Park. Cleveland, OH. For information call 440-735-9255
- 10/12 8 AM - 6 PM Ashtabula Covered Bridge Festival. Ashtabula County Fairgrounds. Jefferson, OH.

For more details regarding any social event or meeting topic please call the information line at (440) 974-8909.

The Thursday evening meeting begins at 7:00 PM and is located at: 8521 East Ave., Mentor, OH 44060

Under Construction



Our meeting space is being enlarged and re-modeled sometime during September or October. An exact date has not been set. There is a good possibility that our meeting may have to be moved for one or two weeks during the construction. If this happens, a note will be posted on the door with directions to an alternative meeting site. Sorry for any inconvenience.



(Continued from page 1)

said the disease threatens to wipe out a generation in Africa and destabilize the continent.

"The world can't afford a whole continent to be destabilized because of AIDS," Piot said. "It's going to have implications for all continents."

In addition to warning about potentially disastrous outbreaks in China, India and sub-Saharan Africa, where 9 percent of adults aged 15-49 are infected, the report warned that unsafe sex practices in North America and Europe are triggering an increase in infection rates.

UNAIDS also appealed for more money from wealthy countries to fight the epidemic. Last year the U.N. set up a global fund for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, with a target of spending \$7 billion to \$10 billion per year (until at least 2005) to halt the epidemic's growth.

Spending is expected to reach \$3 billion this year, according to Reuters. For 2002, the U.S. Congress authorized only \$500 million for the global fund.

Piot criticized wealthy nations for considering AIDS a "marginal problem" and not being generous enough.

"It's not asking for the moon," he said. "By any standards that are used for breaches in security, that's peanuts."

PlanetOut Staff, "U.N. warns AIDS epidemic will get worse." 02 July 2002: Online. Available: <http://www.planetout.com/news/article.html?2002/07/02/1>.



Mark Your Calendars!

Join the North Coast Men's Chorus for their Fifteenth Anniversary in song. Here's what's in store:

"We Wish You the Merriest"

Saturday, December 21, 2002 - 8 PM and
Sunday, December 22, 2002 - 3 PM

Join the chorus for their annual holiday concerts, bringing you mirth and merriment in a way that only the NCMC can.

"Everything's Coming Up Sondheim"

Saturday, March 29, 2003 - 8 PM and
Sunday, March 30, 2003 - 3 PM

Join the North Coast Men's Chorus in celebrating the works of one of musical theater's great composers.

"Bustin' Out All Over"

Saturday, June 21, 2003 - 8 PM and
Sunday, June 22, 2003 - 3 PM

Pride month concert, filled with powerful, touching, and sometimes funny pieces that will make you laugh, cry, and everything in between.

Tickets On Sale Soon!

Place:
Cleveland State University's Waetjen Auditorium
Music & Communications Building
2001 Euclid Ave. at E. 21st St.
Cleveland

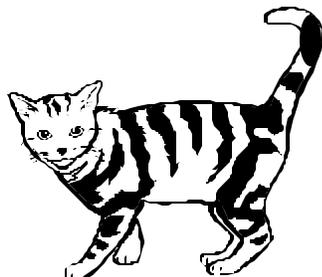
Single-ticket prices: \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door

When tickets are available you may get them at tickets.com or by calling 1-800-766-6048 or at the following ticket outlets:

Impulse@Union Station, W. 28th & Detroit Ave., Cleveland;
Body Language, 3291 W. 115th St., Cleveland;
Diverse Universe, 12011 Detroit Ave., Lakewood;
High Tide Rock Bottom, 1814 Coventry, Cleveland Hts.;
Angel Falls Coffee, 792 W. Market St., Akron

~ Poetry Page ~

GRANNY PATCHES



It seems like only yesterday
 With mom and me she came to stay.
 In cat years, she was 49
 That black, and white, and tan feline;
 A blue-eyed beauty - fully grown,
 Who'd won awards when she was shown.
 Patches liked us from the start,
 And very quickly stole our hearts;
 But she wasn't fond of men,
 And gave them no cat-kisses,
 My step-dad once stepped on her tail,
 From then on - he got hisses.

Patty liked my room the best,
 And she became my special guest.
 I moved her toys and litter there;
 I served roast beef that mom prepared.
 She ate cat-nip, and things like that,
 But really was "a relaxing cat".
 Her favorite part of every day
 Was basking in the sunlight's rays;
 And every night as bedtime neared,
 On my pillow she appeared -
 To shower me with kisses there,
 And very gently lick my hair.



Our years with Patches quickly passed,
 I wished that they could last and last;
 But July third, two thousand one,
 I gave her food - and she ate none.
 I told her, "Mommy loves you so,
 And to the vet we need to go".
 She panted hard along the way,
 I said, "It's going to be okay".
 She meowed loud once - then dropped her head.
 The vet confirmed....my cat was dead.



When my Granny Patches died,
 For the longest time I cried ;
 She was a cat the day we got her -
 Who through the years, became my daughter.

"Patches 3/22/84 — 7/3/01"

By Terry V.

(A poem written in honor of a friend's cat)

HUGS FUND RAISER

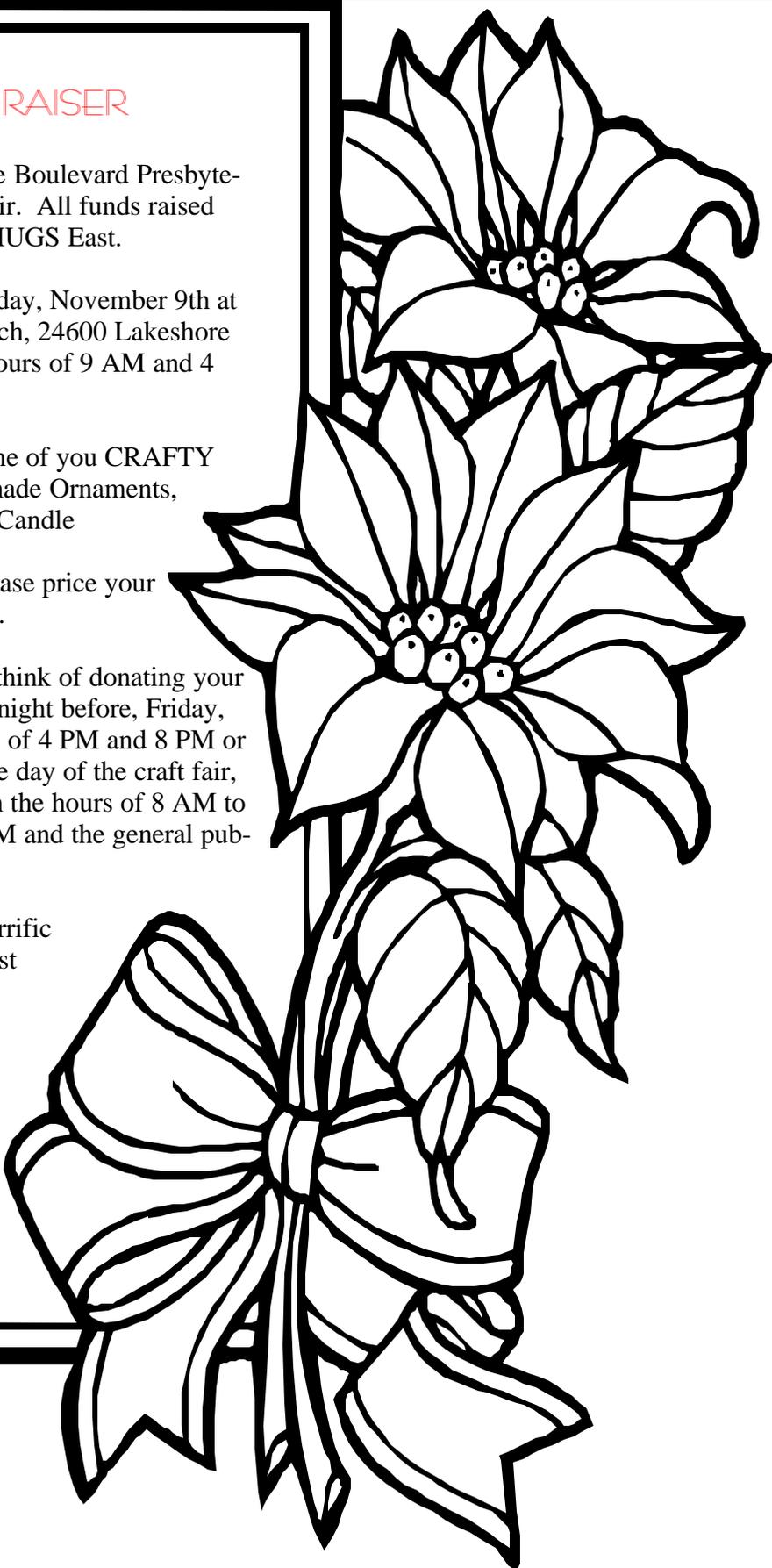
HUGS East is participating in the Boulevard Presbyterian Church's Christmas Craft Fair. All funds raised will be used directly to support HUGS East.

The Craft Fair will be held Saturday, November 9th at the Boulevard Presbyterian Church, 24600 Lakeshore Blvd., Euclid, OH between the hours of 9 AM and 4 PM.

HUGS requests each and everyone of you CRAFTY people out there to donate handmade Ornaments, Wreaths, Flower Arrangements, Candle Arrangements, etc. to HUGS by Thursday, October 31, 2002. Please price your items prior to dropping them off.

If you are not very crafty please think of donating your time to either setup the table the night before, Friday, November 8th between the hours of 4 PM and 8 PM or to take a shift to man the table the day of the craft fair, Saturday, November 9th between the hours of 8 AM to 4 PM. The vendors arrive at 8 AM and the general public arrives at 9 AM.

If everyone helps this can be a terrific opportunity to support HUGS East financially.



Be a part of HUGS EAST

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Due to the increased cost of the mailing of our newsletter we can no longer afford to continue our current mailing to non-paying members. This will be the last to those not currently with paid dues or who do not mail their dues prior to the next newsletter mailing in March.

Please send your dues to Hugs East P.O. Box 253, Mentor, Ohio 44060. If your not currently paid and would like to remain on the mailing list, please submit your dues by the next scheduled newsletter. Current newsletters will still be available on Thursday nights at the Mentor site for those who are not on the mailing list.

2002 HUGS EAST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY & STATE _____
ZIP CODE: _____
PHONE #(optional) _____
EMAIL (optional) _____

<u>Membership</u>	
Individual:	\$8.00
Student:	\$5.00
Household:	\$10.00
Supporter:	\$25.00
Contributor:	\$50.00
Benefactor:	\$100.00

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

YES or NO (circle one) I would like my newsletter sent to me via email in a PDF format instead of sent via the post office. Please include email address above if you circled yes.

*Dues run from January thru December.

To update our membership list we ask that you complete the above information. Even if you were a current member, we would like to update our records to show current information. This will ensure your copy of the newsletter. Membership dues are suggested amounts. Please feel free to pay more if you can, less if you cannot. All members share the same privileges. Make check or money order payable to: HUGS EAST P.O. Box 253 Mentor, Ohio 44061-0253, or bring to the Mentor site any Thursday evening (7pm to 9pm).

_____ Do not send HUGS EAST newsletter to my home.

**\$8.00-\$10.00 dues are not tax deductible; amounts paid over said dues are considered contributions and are tax deductible.