



Heart To Heart

OCTOBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

Donna Sachet's Labor of Love:

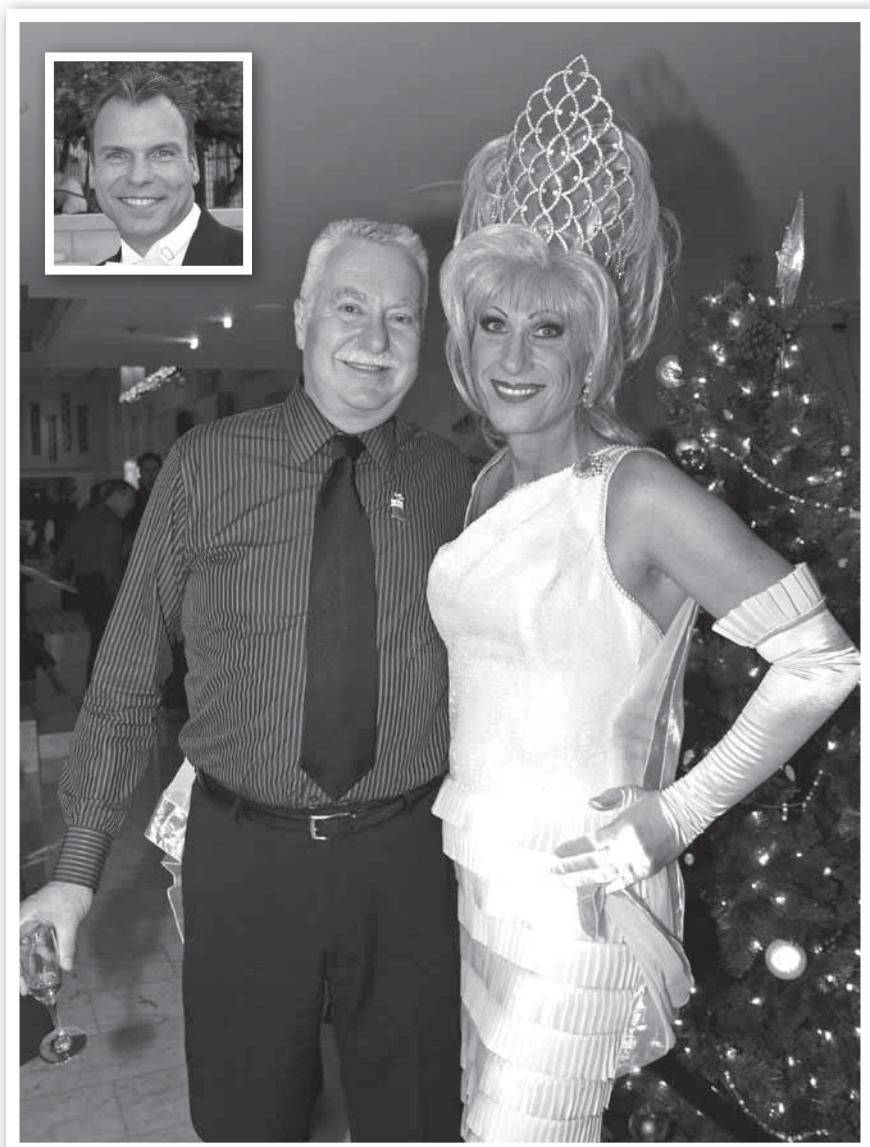
Songs of the Season: November 28–30

The holiday season never truly begins until **Donna Sachet** and her talented troupe of loyal friends herald its arrival at **Songs of the Season**, a holiday cabaret benefiting AEF. Produced by **Richard Sablatura** (and now in its 19th year!), Songs of the Season promises to be a magical evening filled with a variety of spirited entertainers, including **Sharon McNight, Abigail Zsiga, Val Diamond, Vicki Shepard, Dan O'Leary, Kelly Houston**, and more.

"Donna always creates a star-studded night of humor, music and love," said Mike Smith, AEF's executive director. "Year after year, our city's most talented performers just can't say no to Donna. And the result is pure magic."

The intimate **Rrazz Room** at the Hotel Nikko will once again be the venue for the three-night run. The roster of performers changes each evening, but all three shows include a hosted champagne reception with the performers after the show, sponsored by **Barefoot Wine & Bubbly**. Tickets for "**Lu Conrad Presents Opening Night**," on Monday, November 28 are \$75. Tickets for Tuesday and Wednesday night's shows are \$50.

More Information and sponsorship forms are available at the Songs of the Season website: www.songsoftheseason.net



Main photo: Donna Sachet with Opening Night Benefactor Lu Conrad
Inset photo: Producer Richard Sablatura

Bare Chest Calendar Gala



What do 13 handsome men, **Donna Sachet**, **Lenny Broberg**, and 200 patrons have in common? The **Bare Chest Calendar Dinner Date Auction Gala** was once again a resounding success, raising more than \$33,000 benefiting AIDS Emergency Fund and Positive Resource Center. The gala took place on August 23, 2011 at the **Sir Francis Drake Hotel**. Runway action included a fashion show courtesy of **Citizen Body**, the traditional Bare Chest and vest look courtesy of **Miller Beer**, and the breathtaking final trip down the platform donning tuxedos and brilliant smiles. The lively auction, conducted masterfully by Lenny Broberg, ignited the crowd in competitive bidding to garner a

dinner date the following Sunday night at **Starlight Magic**. **Scala's Bistro** was the site of a sumptuous meal and then the men and their dates moved on to Starlight Magic. The fantastic Donna Sachet hosted the evening with her own performance and was joined by performers **Irene Soderberg**, **Dan O'Leary**, and **Boylesque** for a spectacular cabaret. Congratulations to the 2012 Bare Chest Calendar Men – **Ed Mathews**, **Michael Rubenstein**, **Paul Margolis**, **Brad Harbin**, **Andy Cross**, **Seth Watkins**, **Patrick York**, **Christopher Humphreys**, **Stafford Hemmer**, **Will Swagger**, **Robert Weinhold**, **Philippe Gosselin**, and **Jay Laude!**



Top photo by: *Bill Weaver*
Bottom photo by: *Rich Stadtmiller*

30th Anniversary Campaign

Lubov Smith, Committee Member



Why did I choose to volunteer on the 30th Anniversary committee for the AIDS Emergency Fund? The answer is simple:

because there is no other nonprofit like it -- they give people money!

Through tireless fundraising, AEF collects thousands of dollars in donations every week, only to distribute it to their clients, people living with disabling HIV/AIDS, to improve their financial situation. Because the number of employees at AEF is minimal, the overhead is very lean, and the majority of the monies raised goes directly to the clients. How beautiful, simple, powerful and effective this is; to help a person with a chronic illness to

pay their rent, their phone bill etc., and to relieve the financial pressure that threatens their livelihood daily.

There are a lot of non-profits that provide counseling and medical services to patients with AIDS. AEF is unique in their desire to help these people to meet their basic needs. And they have been doing it for 30 years!

I am so excited and honored to help them to celebrate this marvelous achievement. We are going to have parties, parties, and parties. Big parties, small house parties, community gathering parties, all kinds of parties -- hopefully 30 of them -- exactly one for each year.

One thing is for sure: our community knows how to have fun and how to throw a glamorous gala. So, you are all invited to celebrate, to remember good times and difficult ones in our fight against AIDS, and to honor this amazing organization.

BigMuscle.com Meet & Greet

BigMuscle.com and **BigMuscleBears.com** founders **Bill Sanderson** and **Andy Wysocki** hosted their 7th annual Meet and Greet at the **DNA Lounge** over Folsom Weekend. This must-attend party was one of the hottest tickets in town during the weekend. We are grateful to Bill & Andy for their long-time support -- 100% of all ticket proceeds are donated to AEF, and they outdid themselves by raising \$11,000!



OUR COMMUNITY NEVER STOPS GIVING

AIDS WALK SAN FRANCISCO

Another amazing year at the AIDS Walk because we have wonderful volunteers! Many thanks to our team: **Bruce Smith**, **Doug Laine**, **Robert Longer**, **Dana Miller**, **Joanie Juster**, **David Lowe**, **Doug Hackett**, **Amy Smith**, **Marc Smith**, **Kelly Hart**, **Julia Avramides**, **Ramon Campos**, **Angel Garcia**, **John Kiersey**, **Clara Lee**, **Tim Linerud**, and **Suzanne Morris**, who raised a whopping \$22,140 to help fight the good fight. AEF has been part of this community-wide fundraising effort for many years, both as a beneficiary and as a fundraising team. Go Team AEF!

BEAT THE GONG

This fun and innovative talent show hosted at **Trigger** features the brightest talents... and not the brightest acts in San Francisco (we're not being mean, it's the reason for the gong.) AEF was privileged to be the July beneficiary, which raised... gong roll please... \$520! Thanks to **Ray McKenzie**, **Ana Mae Coxxx** and **DJ Daniel**.

NIGHT THOUGHTS

Special thanks to New York-based pianist **Adam Tendler** for donating \$300 of the proceeds from his recital at the **Old First Church** to AEF. **Sisters Eve Volution** and **Pat N Leather** of the always lovely Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence were the main drive behind this benefit in our honor. Thank you Sisters and Adam for an evening of wonderful music.

BUCK/WALTERSPIEL WEDDING

September 1st was a big day for **Skeeter Buck** and **Alexandra Walterspiel**, both former board members of AEF and BCEF. Skeeter and Alex tied the knot in sunny Sonoma, surrounded by friends and family. In lieu of gifts, the duo asked that contributions be made to AEF or BCEF. Everyone at AEF and BCEF thanks them for their service and generosity! We love you, Skeeter and Alex!



BASKET CONTEST

The Basket Contest is back at the **Edge** with a vengeance and will continue on the second Wednesday of each month! Thanks to the generosity of the manager of the Edge, **Terry Penn**, hostess **Ray McKenzie** (**Church Lady Sissy Parker**) and dedicated volunteers: **Glennon Sutter**, **Gavin Middleton**, **Erik Bryne**, **Barry Skown**, **JP Soto**, **Jeff Braff**, and **Timm Dobbins**. We have men lining up to drop their drawers for a good cause. A sweet basketful of over \$2,000 has been raised since the pants have come down this year.

20th Annual Leather Walk

Lee Harrington, Director of Client Services

Leather Walk kicks off “Leather Week” – the week before **Folsom Street Fair**. And kicking off Leather Walk was a beer bust at the **SF Eagle in Exile** at **El Rio** in the Mission. **Troy Brunet** – a long-time contributor to AEF, who has hosted fundraisers for Leather Walk for years – threw a really festive party with the help of **Doug** and the management of El Rio. Entertainment by the **Whoa Nellies** really had the packed crowd going. It’s people like Troy, who is tireless in his efforts throughout the leather community and the community at large, that make The City the best city.

Leather Walk has been produced for years by the incredible **Sandy Reinhardt**, known throughout the land as “**Mama**,” with the help of members of her extraordinary family (now 1,378 people from all over the world!). The walk ran so smoothly because of the help of **Sgt. Chuck Limbert** and the SFPD, who kept vehicles at bay; **Daddy**

Mike Floyd, who drove the sound truck and entertainers; **Randy Schiller**, who provided the sound equipment; **Mr. San Francisco Leather**, **Lance Holman**, who emceed the event; and the fantastic enthusiasm of the **Dykes on Bikes**.

Walkers have been assembling at **440 Castro** (formerly Daddy’s Bar) for years now, and they are always gracious and accommodating so early in the morning. Everyone gets in the mood for the walk, reconnects with old friends, and turns in donations. The **San Francisco Leather Daddies** raised the leather flag at Harvey Milk Plaza, followed by a blessing from **Sister Pat N Leather**; then they were off, down Market Street to 10th Street, to Folsom Street to the **Powerhouse** and **Hole in the Wall**, farther down Folsom to **Kok Bar**, and ending at the **Lone Star** on Harrison. The crowd was energized by the great local entertainment provided by **John Weber**, **Xavier Toscano**

and **Eric Hansen**. Many thanks to Mama and all of those involved who raised approximately \$6,000 for our clients in need.

You know, the wonderful thing for me about Leather Walk is how it feels like the very first Pride marches – no politicians pushing agendas, just a few hundred people dressed up in leather, rubber, latex, or whatever they want, celebrating the community, and raising some money for AEF’s clients. It’s the sense of community, the reconnecting with old friends you may not have seen for a while. It’s the folks waving at us from their windows, from the street cars, from the stores and restaurants along the way, or honking jubilantly at us from their cars. It’s amazingly exhilarating to feel that kind of energy and support for the event.



LET THE JOY RISE

SUNDAYZ

BOOZE BUST • TEA DANCE • FUNDRAISER

EVERY SUNDAY
3 – 8PM
ARRIVE EARLY

\$15 BOOZE BUST OR \$5 + CASH BAR

PORTION OF PROCEEDS BENEFIT:
AIDS EMERGENCY FUND

21+ OVER WITH ID
BOOZE BUST ENDS AT 7:00PM

BEATBOX
314 11th Street . South of Market
BEATBOXSF.COM/SUNDAYZ
FACEBOOK.COM/SUNDAYZTEADANCE
PASTCUREWINC.COM

MACY'S PASSPORT PRESENTS GLAMORAMA

San Francisco's fashion extravaganza of the year was held Friday, September 30 at the **Orpheum Theater**. Macy's 29th annual AIDS benefit featured fashion by a dozen top designers and was crowned by show-stopping performances by **Bruno Mars** and **Far East Movement**. The sold-out event raised funds for AEF, Glide and Project Open Hand while dazzling the audience with an explosion of fashion, dance, music and energy. Thank you, Macy's!

PRIDE PARADE CONTINGENT

It was another fabulous pride filled with mary-ment for AEF/BCEF. Our float featuring cast members from **Beach Blanket Babylon** singing “San Francisco” and “It’s Raining Men” won the SF Pride Parade Absolutely Fabulous Overall Contingent Award! Three snaps up to all of our fantastic volunteers that marched with us down Market Street carrying banners and promoting our Every Penny Counts program.



DO YOU HAVE A FUNDRAISING IDEA?

If you'd like to produce a community event that benefits AEF, please visit: www.aef-sf.org/eventsubmit

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

To get more information about how you can volunteer for AEF please visit: www.aef-sf.org/volunteernow

or you can contact:
Sean Greene
volunteer@aef-sf.org
415.558.6999 x225

Who's Who

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www.aef-sf.org
www.barechest.org

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Bare Chest Calendar

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HeartToHeart

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Save These Dates

11.9.11
**Basket Contest
The Hydrant**

11.28–30.11
**Donna
Sachet's
Songs of
the Season**

12.24.11
**Christmas
Eve Dinner**

Every
Sunday
**Sunday
at BeatBox**

Home Sweet Home

Mike Smith, Executive Director



As I visited other parts of the country recently, I was reminded of how lucky I am to live and work in San Francisco. It's easy to take for granted many of the aspects of this city that make it unique.

For people living with HIV/AIDS, the City offers the best HIV medical care in the country, regardless of ability to pay. San Francisco General Hospital, UCSF and the network of neighborhood and community clinics employ some of the best-trained and most knowledgeable HIV doctors in the country.

We all know that living well with HIV takes more than just good medical care. It takes

a comprehensive approach that includes supportive services like housing and meals, access to mental health services, and strong community-based social programs. Despite budget constraints, The City understands this too and continues to fund a wide array of services.

Unlike so many other cities, San Francisco offers this safety net of medical and supportive service to all of its residents, not just citizens.

For AIDS organizations (and nonprofits in general), San Francisco puts other cities to shame when it comes to charitable giving and philanthropy. From bar events to black-tie balls, The City has developed a 30-year history of generosity. It is nearly unthinkable here to put on a major event without a charitable component or a community beneficiary. Not

so in many other cities.

For many of our clients, all these positive attributes are overshadowed by the high cost of living. That's where AEF comes in. By helping pay the rent or keep the lights on, AEF is making it possible for a broad range of people living with HIV to actually continue to live here – to access quality medical care, receive other services, volunteer with other agencies, and contribute to the diversity and vibrancy that is San Francisco.

Without AEF and other support, many would have to compromise on their health and well-being by moving to somewhere more affordable. And San Francisco would be poorer for their loss. As Dorothy said as she clicked her heels, "there's no place like home, there's no place like home."