

# DYKE NOTES

coming out at solstices, equinoxes & some cross quarter days

SOMETHING SPECIAL  
A LESBIAN VENTURE  
Since 1987



BELTANE

3rd issue of the 1st millesbium 7762 northwest 14 court miami, florida 33147-5771 305.696.8826 cost: priceless!

## BELTANE TUESDAY, MAY 1

Beltane/Mid-Spring means blossoms, planting, fertility and heightened sexuality. It is known as May Day (Euro-American), Root Festival (Yakima), Ching Ming (China) and Whitsuntide (Dutch). Beltane is one of the great Celtic fire festivals and celebrates the powerful forces of nature that call us to one another. It is a time to banish unhealthy patterns. In many countries there is a tradition of ritually cleansing and renewing livestock (mad-cow?) and fields in preparation for another cycle of growth and to ensure a plentiful year.\* We wish you a plentiful year and a joyous celebration of Beltane. Something Special is closed on Tuesdays. Our next gathering will be for Summer Solstice Thursday

## Getting Your Legal Protections in Order



OK - so income taxes are behind you and that's the last of the necessary paperwork for this year - right? Wrong! Liz Schwartz, Queer Lawyer Extraordinaire, reminds us not to wait for a tragedy before we start taking our personal and financial affairs into our own hands. "The law of Florida presumes that, even if you are not married, you are heterosexual. Therefore, it presumes you want all of your property to go to and medical decisions to be made, in order of preference, by your legally wedded spouse, children, parents, siblings, but never your lesbian lover.

Survivorship.

**DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY:** this gives your partner the power to do everything short of vote on your behalf. But, be careful - it is effective immediately, lasts through your incapacity, and gives her the power to clean you out.

**DESIGNATION OF HEALTH CARE SURROGATE:** this is about access and decision-making in the health-care context. Providers love this document because they know to whom they can turn for consent.

**LIVING WILL:** if you should be in a terminal condition, this advance directive states

June 21st.

\* excerpt from We'Moon '01  
by Colette Gardiner

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Fortunately, you can make different choices about how you want those matters handled. Following are some of the items which you should strongly consider implementing in order that you and those you love can have some peace of mind:

**WILL:** Even if you do not have much money or own any real estate, a will is a simple way to make your intentions clear for what you want to have happen to your stuff in the event of your death as well as to name the personal representative of your choice to administer your estate through the probate process

**PROPERLY TITLED DEED & ACCOUNTS:** If you want your interest to pass directly to your partner on your death, and avoid probate, the property might be titled Joint Tenants With Rights of

your intention for how you would want to be treated. **DESIGNATION OF PRE-NEED GUARDIAN:** If a court determines you are unable to handle your medical and financial decisions, a guardian may be appointed for you. Specify who you would want to do this, or the court will likely appoint someone else."

Depending upon your situation, there is also Designation of Pre-Need Guardian for Minor, Child, Beneficiary Designations, Co-Habitation Agreement & Co-Parenting Agreement. The area of legal protection can get quite complicated depending on your circumstances, so it's best to consult legal counsel familiar with Lesbians and family & Florida law. As Lesbians we face enough challenges. Act now.