

the COMMON SCOLD

75¢

a women's newsletter, Portland, Maine

Visions, Quests and Journeys...

[No. 32]

August, 1983

Birdsong Farm is a workshop and retreat center in Southern Maine, 20 minutes from the ocean, an hour from Portland and 2 hours from Boston. The "magic" of the farm is the place itself- the 100-year old farm house, the barn, vegetable garden, 11 acres of land- and in the people who are drawn to share its energy. Each person who visits the farm builds and rekindles its magic and in turn leaves with a sense of abundance.

"HARVEST"...CREATING A COLLECTIVE RITUAL

A workshop for workers in theatre, music, visual and verbal arts, and anyone open to creativity and collective work. We will spend 5 days creating a harvest celebration, using myths, music, visual arts and improvisation. We will explore what is possible and special about creating in a group, as a group. How can we function in a group as individual artists? How can we help each other push deeper than we might do alone, so that the truest myths/stories/images are born? The workshop will culminate in a Harvest celebration, a day long ritual/myth/performance at Birdsong Farm, Aug. 21 at 8 PM.

The workshop will take place: Wed. Aug. 17, noon through Sun. Aug 21, 8PM

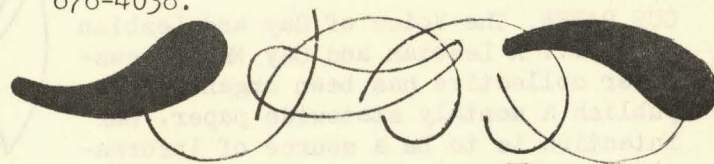
Facilitator, Gina Kelly, Portland School of Art
Fee: \$100 for 5 days- includes room & board. Some scholarships may be available.

To register: Send \$50 deposit, name, address, phone # to: Birdsong Farm, Box 143, N. Berwick ME 03906 (deposit refundable to 7 days prior to the workshop.) Balance of the fee is payable on arrival.

HARVEST CELEBRATION, AUG. 21

Sunday, 11am-8pm. This will be a day of exploring the many levels of the Harvest. All friends of the Farm and new friends are invited to join together for this day of stories, myth and ritual; magic is afoot! Bring Harvest food and your stories as we mark the turn of the season and 10 years at the Farm.

MAKING A SOLITARY JOURNEY TOGETHER: A Retreat for Writers and Artists, August 8-14. This workshop provides a place to generate individual and collective creative energy, to talk with people in a variety of fields at levels from beginning to professional, to reflect and to germinate ideas for new work, to continue, refine or complete work in progress, and to share and critique one another's work in a direct and caring way. The group meets each day to focus, share work and talk about the creative process and the context(s) in which we do creative work. Most of each day is spent in silence and individual work. In the evenings we eat, play, and process the day. Facilitator: Cynthia Finn. \$240 for seven days. The number of participants is limited to ensure reasonably private work space for everyone. Some scholarships available. The workshop will be held at Birdsong Farm, North Berwick. Call Pam Annas, 676-4038.



***** Unearthing Our Heritage *****

We are gathering women's works to reinvent our Heritage. We invite women to make works along with a Fantasy each has written about her work; and to share in the story-telling of these to create an archaeology of our Past and a vision of our Future. A show of our works representing an archaeological dig will be presented in the Nickelodeon Cinema windows, Sept. 15- Oct. 15. A booklet of our stories will be printed. Please join us in this spirited, light-hearted, sometimes humorous celebration of our lives. Be in touch with: Liz, 799-6905, or Martha, 772-4022, before our meeting, Aug 15, 7PM, 148 Middle St. 4th floor (Lunney).

HARDSCRABBLE HILL EVENTS

August 4 - Portia Cornell (Conn.) and Heartroots collective kindle a mid-summer ritual celebration of warmth and bounty.

August 7 - Vickie Pollard, a graduate of the Worsley School (England) offers an informative evening, "Traditional Acupuncture."

August 11 - "Food, Fat and Self-Image" a provocative evening with Maddy Spadola of Skyward Center, a therapist whose practice also includes issues of food abuse.

August 14 - Katherine Wetzel (singer/writer/actor) and/or Karin Spitfire (thoughtful dancer) spin an evening of creative work in progress.

August 21 - Performance by Anna Dembska at the Blue Hill Town Hall, 8 pm. Singing exotic, native & new-born music.

Hardscrabble Hill is a residential retreat and workshop center for Women in Orland, Maine. (207-469-7112)

FEMINIST SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

Feminist Spiritual Community meets every Monday at 7PM at State St. Church in Portland. All Women are welcome*****

OUR PAPER, The Voice of Gay and Lesbian Maine.... A Lesbian and Gay Men's newspaper collective has been organized to publish a monthly statewide paper. Our intention is to be a source of information, support and affirmation and a vehicle for celebration. We hope the paper will serve as a bridge between Lesbians and Gay Men through furthering our understanding of each other. We are contacting Gay and Lesbian organizations and individuals throughout the state for support and participation. We are looking for individuals to submit feature articles, graphics, essays, humor, cartoons, commentaries, etc. on a regular or irregular basis. We hope to have the first issue out by Sept. 1, so are soliciting material now. Our deadline is August 10. Please be in touch with us by mail: PO Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104 by phone: Diane Elze, Liz Moberg, 799-6905 Fred Berger, 773-5540, Ken Mellenthin, 773-6642.

Women-Quest/A Transformational Journey

6-Day Quests in August:

Aug. 15-20, Penobscot River Vision Quest Mon. 8am-Sat. 2pm. A six day women's canoeing vision quest on the West branch of the Penobscot and Chesuncook Lake. Co-lead with Bev Cochrane. Meet in Greenville, Me. cost, \$195.

Aug. 31-Sept. 5, Mt. Katahdin Vision Quest, Wed. 3pm- Mon. 2pm. A six day women's vision quest backpacking in the heart of Katahdin's wilderness. Meet in Millinocket, Me. cost, \$195.

NEW ENGLAND WOMEN'S MUSICAL RETREAT

Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 2-5, 1983

Camp Lake of Isles, N. Stonington, Ct.

Tucked away in the low rolling hills of New England, in North Stonington, Conn. is the beautiful Lake of Isles camp area.

There on Labor day weekend, September 2-5, 1983, we will again present the New England Women's Musical Retreat. A gathering of

all women of all ages, the festival is a 4 day retreat into an all female, women identified environment filled with workshops, poetry, politics, jam sessions and MUSIC. With the exception of a number of tents and canopies that cover facilities and canopy the stage, all activities will be held under the sun and stars.

Due to space limitations, three day camping will be limited to 2,500 women. There will be unlimited day tickets.

*for info/tickets, send SASE to, NEWMR PO Box 728, W. Hartford, Ct. 06107, or call (203) 521-9772, leave a message, we will return long distance calls collect.

Do you know over-60 Jewish women with Lesbian relatives or descendants to be included in an oral history project?

JUDY SLOAN, accomplished character actress (Sophie, Jennifer, Muriel, Garbanza Fazooli), comedienne and writer has received a grant for an oral history theatre project to preserve and present Jewish lore. She wants to conduct interviews for a full-length script. Please contact her c/o Denslow Brown, 147A Tinker St., Woodstock, NY 12498.

(The following article should have appeared in the July issue of The Common Scold. We apologize to Roberta and our readers for the oversight. We had it - We "buried it" - And we found it again. Again, our apologies.)

gay rights

by Roberta Hickman

The 111th Maine State Legislature has killed the Gay Rights bill. Despite the historic support of the Judiciary Committee and the Senate, the House defeated the bill 101 to 37. Below is an account of the House debate. It is important to report what was said by whom. There is much to be learned from this: concerns, attitudes, beliefs and most importantly, who the vocal proponents (*) and opponents (-) are.

Larry Connolly (*Portland), sponsor of the bill, pointed out the bill's merit as a human rights act. It would not advocate or promote homosexuality. Separate laws exist which govern illegitimate behavior. As a Democrat, he challenged Republicans to see the passage of the bill consistent with the GOP's long-term fight for minorities' rights. He suggested that fear of reprisal among constituents inhibited a vote for justice. If a secret ballot were taken, the bill would pass.

James Dudley (-Enfield) stated, "If the 'great creator' had wanted homosexuals, we would only need one sex." He was very certain he represented the majority of his constituents.

Edward McHenry (-Madawaska) said, "Homosexuality is a sickness. These people need help. Give them the right to be treated."

Harlan Baker (*Portland), co-sponsor, pointed out that the American Psychiatric and Psychological Associations had removed homosexuality from their list of diseases and disorders in the '70's.

Barry Hobbins (*Saco) said the bill would protect both heterosexuals as well as homosexuals. "Without it, fear (of recrimination) is generated on both sides." He said the bill would not lead to gay teacher recruitment or family unit decline. Homosexuality is not a learned behavior and current school boards prohibit evangelical promotion of any type of lifestyle. If an affirmative vote posed a political liability, he wondered why he had run unopposed despite his vocal support for the bill. He emphasized the need for the bill by stating that last year, over 50 cases had to be turned away by the Human Rights Commission. He said, in the past, fear of the Irish, Blacks, Catholics and Jews led to an abhorred Third Reich mentality which is intolerable in this modern, human rights oriented world.

Norman Racine (-Biddeford) suggested this bill would invite additional work for the HRC, and that employers would have to defend actions taken. He said constituents' phone calls had not given instances of discrimination and, therefore, he saw no need for the bill.

McHenry stated, "The Board of Psychiatrists (board unknown) has proven that homosexuality can be cured."

Edith Beaulieu (*Portland) spoke as a mother and woman who would never deny anyone their civil rights for any reason. She said that the majority of women's groups support this bill.

Sharon Benoit (*South Portland), co-sponsor, countered Racine's concern for a HRC overload by stating that the same things had been feared about the antidiscrimination amendments for blacks and women. She referred to testimonials from the Judiciary Committee's public hearing which clearly demonstrated cases of discrimination and fear. She said a mother who testified would like to be assured her children would be protected from discrimination should one of them be gay. She said many clergy spoke in favor of the bill. "Toleration is good for all, all of god's children."

Baker said that without this amendment, the State was giving permission for a "witch hunt." With passage, there would be recourse, for heterosexuals falsely rumored as gay, too.

Nancy Masterton (*Cape Elizabeth) traced a history of equal rights amendments. She expressed a concern that if this bill were not passed, her "own freedom (would be) diminished." She challenged the House to "write history...and to temper (the vote) with justice and mercy for all."

Nathaniel Crowley (-Stockton Springs) wondered how anyone would be able to prove in court whether one was truly homosexual. Hobbins replied, "How would you not be able to prove it?"

John Joyce (-Portland) said he "stood proud to oppose (the bill)" and that for the first time if this bill were to pass, the Human Rights Act would be protecting a type of behavior. He envisioned widespread recruitment in the schools.

Benoit relayed her experiences as a public school teacher. "Surely you jest, Mr. Joyce. How many of you really believe a teacher would stand up and say, 'I am a homosexual. Isn't it a great way of life?'" She stated teachers are very closely scrutinized. They must be extremely careful on matters of much less concern than homosexuality.

Tom Andrews (*Portland) countered Joyce's statement. "Religion is a behavioral condition which is protected by the current Human Rights Act."

Robert Carrier (-Westbrook) said this was a "bad bill." He said he knew what the cause of homosexuality was but that "it was too dirty to bring up". He felt the solution to the problem was self-discipline, that if you lead a good, moral life, you will get your reward in the end. He said that all gays are sad. "Whatever we do won't help them." He named Portland as the "gays' stopping-ground". He said that if this were the right thing to do, then why do the armed forces still prohibit this "animalistic behavior".

(Ed. Note: Roberta included a listing of those House and Senate members who voted in favor of the bill. Due to constraints, we could not print the whole list.)

It may have been a true act of courage for some to have voted the way they did.

In speaking with many, I was truly impressed by their genuine disappointment with the bill's failure. Please let them know you are thankful for their support.

(Ed. Note: To find out if your Senator and Representative voted for the bill, contact Roberta, 623-2125 or Diane, 799-6905, or ask your legislator.)

the COMMON SCOLD

Under English Common law, "common scold" was a criminal charge levied against "women addicted to abusive speech." Men could not be so charged. We name this newsletter "The Common Scold" to honor all of herstory's scolds. We honor the women who dared to speak their minds, the women who dared assert themselves, the women tried and convicted by all-male juries. Let us all be guilty of the charge "common scold."

Editorial Policy

The Common Scold is published monthly by the Newsletter Task Force of the Collective. Our purpose is to provide women with a forum for our feminist voices. We will only print material by women, and will consider for publication any material not deemed racist, sexist, classist, hetero-sexist, ablebodiist or ageist. We reserve the right to edit material on matters of length and content. No revisions or rejections will occur without dialogue with the author. The viewpoints expressed are not necessarily those of the Newsletter Task Force.

Submission Guidelines

We encourage women to submit articles, graphics, poetry, cartoons, reviews and announcements. We appreciate type-written submissions, though handwritten submissions are also welcome. Deadline for submissions is the 10th of each month. All submissions must include the author's name, address, and phone number (if available) should we need to contact the author. Within the pages of the Newsletter, names will be omitted upon request. Please enclose SASE if you would like your work returned to you.

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Advertising

Cost of advertising is \$5 per issue. Submissions and advertisements should be sent to: The Collective, c/o Elze, 372 Preble St., South Portland, 04106.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

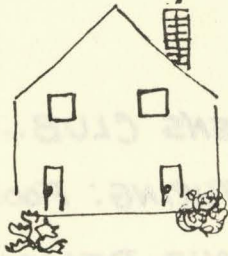
THE COLLECTIVE MEETING for August will be a barbeque/pot luck at Fort Williams, Sunday Aug 14, 4PM. We will meet and dine at the spot behind a tree, to the left and down the hill from the big flagpole. Come to 372 Preble St., So. Portland if it rains. For more info call Liz, 799-6905

The SUSAN B. ANTHONY Club has begun their dances for the warm months. They will be held on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of each month. \$3 admission, or whatever you can afford. Soda, chips, tea & coffee are for sale/or you may bring your own. Located in Belfast on Main St., third floor above the Grasshopper Shoppe. Doors open at 8 pm.

Theme for September issue: **WOMEN & SPIRITUALITY**
deadline: august 10

APARTMENT FOR RENT, \$250/month plus utilities. Sunny 4 rooms plus bath, garden space, Eastern Prom area. Call 772-3093 evenings.

WEEKEND TRIP TO DEER ISLE AND ISLE AU HAUT, August 6 & 7. Camping overnite on Deer Isle, day trip to Isle au Haut. Contact Jennifer for details, 772-3457.



*****WOMEN OUTDOORS EVENTS*****

Aug. 13, Bicycling at Acadia Nat'l Park; call Kristi Skanderup, 882-7254.

Aug 26-28, Women's Ritual and Healing, at Freedom, Me. Contact Terri Granger, 774-4044, or Ruth Rohde, 774-7066.

Sept. 2-4, Backpacking weekend at Bigelow Mountain. Call Terri Granger, 774-4044

Sept. 11, Rafting on the west branch of the Penobscot with Eastern Rivers. Call Debbie Sugarman, 948-3131, 948-2053

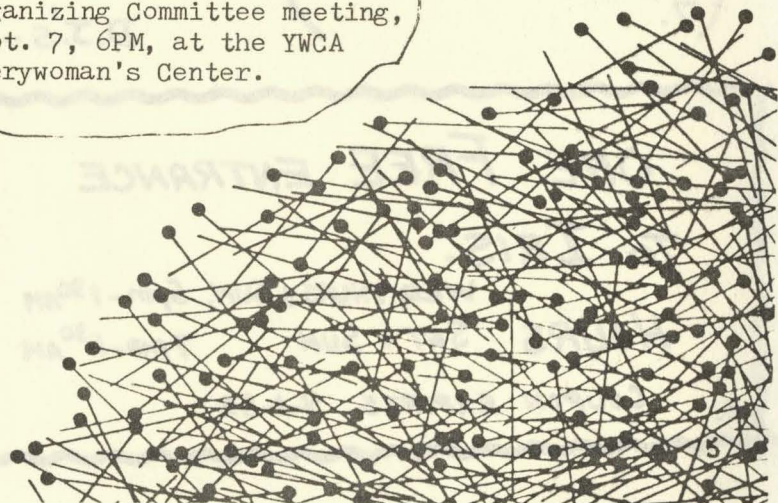
*****MAINE AUDUBON TRIP*****

Women in the Wilderness canoe trip, led by Bev Cochrane and Ruth Rohde. Wed. Sept. 7- Sun. Sept 11, call Maine Audubon Field Trip Dept. 781-2330

****TAKE BACK THE NIGHT ***
Organizing Committee meeting, Sept. 7, 6PM, at the YWCA Everywoman's Center.

Maine State NOW:

We're Pro-Family too! The Moral Majority is neither!!!
Aug. 23, 6PM in Farmington, a counter-demonstration outside Dearborn Gym, UMF campus where Jerry Fallwell will be speaking. Our demonstration will be a positive peaceful statement to stress the diversity of family life- offering validity to the many different life styles people choose. Car-pooling and other info, call Marilyn Kirby, 773-3333



AUGUST 27*****
 March on Washington, "We Still Have a
 Dream- Jobs, Peace and Freedom."
 Through this march we hope to in-
 volve labor groups/unions, women's
 organizations, peace groups, low-
 income groups, racial/ethnic minori-
 ties, handicapped people, environ-
 mental groups; as broad a spectrum as
 possible. July 27, statewide organiza-
 tional meeting: 7PM, Common Cause Office
 335 Water St. (2nd floor). Augusta. For
 more info contact Larry Dansinger,
 INVERT
 PO. 110
 Stillwater, ME 04489
 827-3107

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MORE MARCH INFO.....

20th Anniversary of the March on
 Washington. From the Smithsonian
 Museum to the Lincoln Memorial in
 D.C. Buses will leave Aug. 26 at
 \$ 50 round trip. For more informa-
 tion on bus reservations/car-pooling;
 Carolyn Rummell, 23 Sheridan St.,
 Portland, 04101, 774-4067 or Lang
 Davis, 98 Winthrop St., Augusta
 04330, 622-0735.

THE ALLIANCE TO PRESERVE REPRODUCTIVE
 CHOICE meets every 2nd Tuesday of the
 month at the YWCA, 87 Spring St., at
 7 P.M.

GREATER PORTLAND NOW meets the 4th
 Tuesday of every month, 7:30 P.M., at
 the Y.W.C.A., 87 Spring Street.

IRIS

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 (603) 436-8958

A PRIVATE WOMENS CLUB... UPSTAIRS
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 NEW SOUND SYSTEM; COME MEET OUR NEW
 D.J.'S.. SUSAN... SHIRLEY... GLADI... DEB...

ONE FREE ENTRANCE
 TO IRIS.

WED, THURS + SUN. 5pm - 1³⁰AM


HOURS SAT + SUN 7pm - 1³⁰AM

COUPON EXPIRES 9-1-83

BUY ONE DINNER, GET
 THE 2ND ONE FREE.

TRY OUR NEW UPSTAIRS!

COUPON EXPIRES 9-1-83

August	D1 Feminist Spiritual Community Tpm State St. Church	2	3	Ritual Celebration with Portia Cornell & the Heartroots Hardscrabble Hill	4	5 Deer Isle and Isle Au Haut Trip - Aug. 5,6,7. Women Outdoors Relaxation Weekend Aug. 6,7	6
Deer Isle 7 Women Outdoors Hardscrabble Hill: Vickie Pollard on Trad. Acupuncture	8 Feminist Spiritual Community	9 Alliance to Preserve Reproductive Choice 7-9pm YWCA	10 Deadline for Sept. Issue of Common Scold: Women and Spirituality	11 "Food, Fat & Self-Image" Maddy Spadola Hardscrabble Hill	12	13 Bicycling at Acadia Nat. Park, Women Outdoors Susan B. Anthony Dance, Belfast. 8pm	
Making a Solitary Journey Together - Retreat for Writers and Artists; Aug 8-14. Birdsong farm							
Collective 14 Potluck/Barbaque 4pm - Fort Williams Hardscrabble Hill - Katherine Wetzel/Karin Spiffire	15 Feminist Spiritual Community "Unearthing Our Heritage" mtg. 7pm	16	17	18	19	20	
Harvest, Creating a Collective Ritual, Aug 17-21 - Birdsong Farm							
Harvest 21 Celebration Birdsong Farm Anna Dembska, Blue Hill Town Hall, 8pm	22 Feminist Spiritual Community	23 Portland NOW Meeting 7:30 pm YWCA	24	25	26 Women's Ritual & Healing, Women Outdoors	27 Jobs, Peace & Freedom March on Washington Susan B. Anthony Dance, Belfast, 8pm	
28	29 Feminist Spiritual Community	30	31			September 2,3,4,5 New England Women's Musical Retreat in Connecticut	



WHAT IS THE WOMEN'S ENCAMPMENT FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE?

The women's encampment is an action to bring women together to protest the Cruise and Pershing II missiles. It is inspired by the women's peace camp at Greenham Common, England and those protesting all over Europe. Women from all parts of the United States and a variety of backgrounds will gather in a large outdoor camping area to say **No to war and Yes to life**. We will conduct workshops on such topics as racism, sexism, social and economic justice, non-violence, homophobia, women's history, feminism, military conversion and conflict resolution. We will explore our common ground and differences as women of color and white women, as lesbians and straight women, as differently abled women, and as old and young women.

Women are encouraged to come to the camp for a day, a week or all summer. Donations of camping equipment, transportation, and especially time and money are needed. Work in your local area doing outreach, fundraising and arranging transportation for women in your community.

The encampment is from July 4 through Labor Day. The tenting area will be located near the Seneca Army Depot, in Romulus, New York, 15 miles from Geneva, about 37 miles from Ithaca and 60 miles from Rochester. There are bus lines to Geneva and a shuttle will be maintained to the camp. There will be childcare at the camp, if you plan to bring a child call for more information.

This summer is a crucial time for women to demonstrate their opposition to the deployment of new nuclear weapons in Europe and to express their belief that there is a better way to live in the world based on respect and compassion for all living things — people, animals, the earth itself.

*For more information call:
Liz, 799-6905*

IS THERE A GREEN DOT ON THIS ISSUE OF YOUR NEWSLETTER? If so, then this is your last issue, so resubscribe now- (please!!). Subscriptions are \$8 (more if you can, less if you can't) AND PLEASE KEEP US UP TO DATE ON YOUR ADDRESS--NEWSLETTERS ARE NOT FORWARDED; and it costs us 25¢ for each returned copy.

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