

# MAINE SPEAKOUT COMMUNIQUE

Vol. 2, No. 2



Fall 1997

## *Recent Speaking Invitations*

Our invitations to speak keep growing. Here are our fall/winter engagements for 1997/1998 (so far!).

**September 4**, Job Corps Center, Loring, Limestone, 7pm; Speakers: Don Weatherford, Deb Madore & Dick Harrison

**September 7**, Kennebec County Fundraiser/Barbeque/Speakout, noon-5pm; Speakers: Elizabeth Watson & Donna Dolham

**September 11**, Safe Zones Training, USM-Portland, 2-4pm; Speakers: Andie Locke & Richard Waitzkin

**September 18**, PFLAG Meeting, Dover-Foxcroft, 7pm; Speakers: Todd Greenquist

**September 19**, Demo Speakout, Franklin County LGBT Group, New Sharon, 6-8pm; Speakers: Bill Gordon & Madeleine Winter

**September 25**, Safe Zones Training, USM-Gorham, 2-4pm; Speakers: Willow Femmechild & Tom Antonik

**October 1**, University College, Bangor, 9:30-10:15am; Speakers: Jean Vermette & Fern Stearns

**October 3**, Speech & Communications Class, U/Maine-Orono, 9am; Speakers: Fern Stearns & Jean Vermette

**October 2**, Belfast Lions, Belfast, 6:30pm; Speakers: Nancy Godfrey & Larry Godfrey & Beth Russell

**October 9**, Safe Zones Training, USM-Portland, 2-4pm; Speakers: Kathy Wilson & Elliott Cherry

**October 14**, Ecumenical Group, Orono Methodist Church, Orono, 7pm; Speakers: Todd Greenquist & Judy Harrison

**October 15**, Safe Zones Training, Lewiston-Auburn College, Lewiston, 2:30-3:30pm; Speakers: Bob Hobbs & Donna Dolham

**October 23**, Safe Zones Training, USM-Gorham, 2-4pm; Speakers: Eve Elzenga & Tom Antonik

**October 30**, Wilde/Stein, U/Maine Orono, 7-9pm; Speakers: Lucie Bauer & Annie Kiermaier

**November 6**, The Wilson Protestant Center, U/Maine - Orono, 5:30pm; Speakers: Fern Stearns & Janet May

**November 7**, Sexual Minority Potluck, U/Maine - Farmington, 6pm; Speakers: Nancy Niven & Chris Chenard

**November 13**, Safe Zones Training, USM - Portland, 2-4pm; Speakers: Barbara Potter & Michael Rossetti

**November 13**, Ellsworth Area Clergy Group, Ellsworth, 12:45pm; Speakers: Tamara Duff & Phil Gray

*(Continued on p. 8)*

### ***Aroostook County Speaker Training***

Date: January 17, 1998  
(snow date 1/24)

Time: 9-5

Place: Job Corps, Limestone

FMI: Deb at 764-0483

(Registration form in center of newsletter)

### ***Washington County Speaker Training***

Date: January 24, 1998  
(snow date 1/31)

Time: 9-5

Place: Location to be announced

FMI: Eilean at 733-5537

(Registration form in center of newsletter)



Send Newsletter submissions to:

**Maine Speakout Communique**

51 Shore Road  
Standish, ME 04084  
(207) 642-6909

e-mail: nomad@pivot.net

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*Office Address*

**The Maine Speakout Project**

723 Congress Street  
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**Mission Statement**

The Maine Speakout Project was organized in April 1995 with a mission to promote respect and understanding among persons of differing sexual orientations. To accomplish this mission Speakout trains and empowers volunteers to share their personal experiences and perspectives with individuals and community groups.

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The opinions expressed in the **Maine Speakout Communique** are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Maine Speakout Project.

# Letters

With the following, the **Communique Letters** column makes its debut. If you wish to send letters to the **Communique**. Please include your name and phone number.

Dear Communique,

This is to clarify my thoughts regarding the role and structure of the newsletter, Speakout Communique, prompted by Mike Bendzela's account in the last issue of a recent speakout.

I've heard Mike speak and he is terrific. I hope to learn to use humor the way he can. He is also an impactful writer. I don't want the following to be disrespectful. I do need to say that I am very concerned by the tone of Mike's piece. I am particularly disturbed that such a tone would appear in the newsletter. He referred to an audience member as "the haircut," and used that characteristic as a way to classify him. It didn't sound respectful to me. To reverse the scene and make it personal, I see myself seated in an audience of people, such as myself, who are Jewish. The speakers are wonderfully polite and I feel respected. The next day I happen to read an account of the event with my question paraphrased and me referred to as "the nose." In response, I would feel belittled and angry, and lose the trust in the presenters and the sponsoring organization.

The Communique is both a private and a public document. In both contexts, referring to a person as "the haircut" is dangerous. Language is powerful and how we speak privately about our work affects our attitudes and therefore our work itself. In the health professions, this concept is well understood. When we catch ourselves referring to a patient as "the gall bladder down the hall," or "Oh her...the big neck spasm," or "the nut case," etc., it is understood as a signal to look for help in processing the stresses of our work. If we are not careful, the need to change our stress level can compromise our mission.

*(continued on p. 3)*

## MSOP CHAPTER CONTACTS

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Androscoggin County | Donna Dolham, Auburn 782-5253  |
| Aroostook County    | Cathy Bohls, Presque Isle 768-3056                                       |
| Cumberland County   | Janis Tyderle, Yarmouth 846-5233   |
| Hancock County      | Tamara Duff, Ellsworth 667-5621  |
| Knox County         | Lucie Bauer, West Rockport 236-4734                                      |
| Oxford County       | Paul Alpert & Dave Fisher, Lovell<br>925-1034                            |
| Penobscot County    | Fern Stearns, Milford 827-3609   |
| Washington County   | Eilean Mackenzie, Lubec 733-5537   |
| York County         | Rosemary Guptill, Kennebunk 324-4071<br>Bob Wuertner, Kennebunk 985-6846 |

## Interested in Becoming a Speakout Trainer?

MSOP is looking for people who have completed the Speakout training to attend an all day "Train the Trainers" workshop to be offered by Louise Tate, which is tentatively scheduled for January 17<sup>th</sup> in Augusta. FMI @ the Speakout office at 879-0480, by Dec. 15th.



As a published document, the newsletter can find itself in the hands of anyone - including someone from the Rotary or church group I may have spoken to. I believe the newsletter should be edited (albeit as lightly as possible) to portray the Speakout tone. This is congruent with our mission and the way to accomplish it. Speakout training teaches us to edit our stories, and to monitor and choose our tone so that we are acting and speaking out of respect for our audience - as well as respect for ourselves. Not only is Speakout's tone at the core of its mission it is at the core of my involvement with the organization. My work is undermined if Speakout is inconsistent.

It is possible to share feelings and experiences in the newsletter while staying in tone. To allow us to "let it all hang out," we need to hold small meetings where we can process our issues privately, not publicly.

Sincerely,  
Elliott Cherry

\* \* \*

Dear Speakout Communique,

In response to some of the controversy surrounding Mike Bendzela's story in the last *Communique*, (Vol. 2, No.1, Summer 1997) I wanted to express some of my feelings on this subject as a participant of Speakout and not in my capacity as a member of the Speakout staff.

Speakout has the image and rhetoric of an inclusive, nondiscriminatory organization. Until now, we have never had any discussion of what that actually means and this situation seems like an opportunity to go beyond assumptions and explore the reality of who we are.

I am working class. This is a statement not only of economics but of culture. I have a different perspective on the world than do those who were raised in the middle class. Since middle class values and culture are dominant in our society, many people - of all classes - don't know that there is any other perspective. Nonetheless, these cultural differences between classes are continually creating tension and it is important to understand that we speak different languages.

I am very direct and I consider that to be one of my strengths. In general, middle class expression is polite, nice and indirect. In situations where I am asked to mask my expression and feelings, I feel very stifled. It is like being closeted and I feel that I am being asked to leave myself out of the situation and pretend to be someone I'm not. This is a long

way of introducing the idea that what is behind the reaction to Mike's story is about differences in class.

The directness I've been referring to is also about acknowledging the situation you are in. If you perceive someone in an audience at an engagement who may have an axe to grind, it is important not to pretend they are just another audience member. When I read Mike's article referring to someone as "the haircut," it created a graphic image for me of what it was like to sit there and feel your stomach clench as someone appears who is obviously not there to engage in dialogue. This information and the way Mike and Paula dealt with the situation is essential to me as a speaker and sweeping who this guy is under the rug does not serve the need to process what those feelings are. I think the middle class taboo is about graphically depicting what that felt like and presenting the situation with all the feelings intact. There also seems to be an assumption in the criticism of Mike's writing that this guy wouldn't want to be singled out. I think the dress, the attitude and the haircut were meant to communicate that he was on a mission and *wanted* to be noticed. It speaks volumes about power differences between heterosexuals and gay people in this culture.

The *Communique* was developed out of a recognition that speakers needed a way to be connected to each other in order to break down their isolation and to process what they had experienced. If we can't speak honestly here and really process what happens at Speakout engagements, then the newsletter will not be fulfilling its purpose.

On a slightly different note, the issue of "tone" in the trainings has made me uneasy from the beginning. Much of the concept behind maintaining tone is about using the socially acceptable forms rather than the more direct and honest ones. Though it is essential to connect with the audience, how we each do it, and process our feelings, is very individual. That is part of the point of Speakout engagements, offering the audience as much diversity as possible, to provide for the greatest possible identification of audience members with speakers. The assumption that we should use "tone" also assumes that the audience is middle class and most comfortable with those forms - a big assumption to make anywhere, but particularly in Maine, where an even greater portion of the population is working class.

The last newsletter was both loved and hated and received more response than any previous newsletter; clearly it struck a chord. Mike has continually



ried to process what it is like to speak and actually deal with a potentially hostile audience. Speakers need to be able to communicate directly about these issues, without masking their feelings or expressions. We also need to be an organization that continually opens itself to the possibility of differences between us; one that understands that learning about who we each are is a process. I think Mike

began that process by being willing to share all of the pieces of his experience and not to choose form over content. I am grateful to him for facing these issues directly, and for creating a forum to talk about what lies underneath the experience of speaking for Speakout.

Naomi Falcone



## ***What's Happening Out There?***

*We continue asking speakers to write short summaries of their speaking experiences. Reading about your experiences is helpful to both those who have spoken and those who are considering doing it. Please send your contributions to the **Communique**.*

### ***UNUM: Lunch & Learn, 6/17***

As I sat in my car waiting for my co-speaker, Sue Comyns, at the stone entrance to "Southborough," one of the many huge UNUM buildings, I thought I'm glad I made this arrangement with Sue, I'd get lost in these buildings even if I worked here! Not only is UNUM big but you get a feeling of mystery and important-things-are-going-on-here; as you are logged in and given an identifying security tag to wear. However, once in the inner sanctum, there was nothing but warm and friendly feelings, from our host Cobie Smith, to the 50+ people who wandered in with their lunches, to hear us.

I talked a little about Speakout and then Sue did the same for PFLAG. We each told our son-oriented stories and opened the meeting up for questions. The subject of homosexuality did not come up *per se*, many of the audience were interested in our roles as parents: how we'd felt, what we'd done, what were the issues that confronted us? A lively discussion of violence, in general, and in schools in particular ensued, with emphasis on the school climate for gays. Everyone seemed very empathetic about gay issues and I had the impression that UNUM was, indeed, an aware and gay friendly place. One woman sounded the call to action as she emphasized the need to go beyond informing oneself to "taking the next step" - actively confronting prejudice wherever found.

I felt good about the meeting and thought that Sue and I had stirred the pot a bit even with such a gay friendly audience. Whenever I team up with Sue, I'm struck anew with what an eloquent speaker she is and how well she relates to the audience. As

people were leaving, many wanted to thank us and shake our hands "for doing this difficult and valuable work." One gay man, particularly grateful, said to me "Please accept my personal thanks. Does your son know how lucky he is?" I answered only partly tongue-in-cheek, "I'll use your remarks to remind him."

Gerry Clement

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### ***New Sharon Potluck, 9/19***

On the evening of September 19<sup>th</sup>, I spoke out to a friendly group of folks gathered for a potluck at a private home in New Sharon (Franklin County). We were invited to present a demonstration of what we do and how we do it. Going in, we knew the group would not be hostile to the issues because of homophobia - that was good news!

The gathering was informal and friendly and the food was marvelous. We began by explaining what Maine Speakout is about and my cospeaker related an incident of violence she experienced while living in San Francisco. Her story was very moving, particularly because of the group to whom we were speaking. Most of us had assumed that living in a "gay mecca" was somehow safer than the streets of Smalltown, Maine. I then shared my own experience about growing up in central Maine and another kind of violence that happens when young people are not able to be themselves. Carrying the secret of my gayness for 30 years did its own kind of psychic/emotional damage.

We shared many stories that evening and raised some important issues in light of the upcoming





referendum. I was grateful for the opportunity to share the realities of being a gay man with the brothers and sisters present, and drove away to pick up my children feeling connected to my community.

Bill Gordon

### **Lesbian Wedding**

Before the need for a second Maine Won't Discriminate campaign arose this month, the Speakout Project began focusing on training us to respond adequately when we were asked about gay marriage at Speakout engagements. I would like to share with you our experience with planning a lesbian marriage. Cynthia is away this semester studying Tibetan so I will speak from my recollection of these events that took place three or four years ago.

At the time that Cynthia and I decided to have a ceremony to celebrate our relationship, we were relatively new members of Friends (Quaker) Meeting in East Vassalboro. We both were out lesbians, active in our Meeting, had received respect and felt fully included.

I knew there were some conservative members of the Meeting, so we first spoke with the Clerk of Ministry and Council in late Spring to seek her advice in having a Quaker ceremony. I did not want to cause hardship among the members. I was reminded that Quakers are known for their activism, so I proceeded.

In June we wrote a letter to Ministry and Council, as is customary, requesting "Marriage Under the Care of the Meeting." It was the end of the summer when we received our response. During the waiting period it became apparent that this process was not going to be easy. We proceeded with the next step of establishing a Clearness Committee. The committee hears the couples' intentions and readiness; and the members share their marriage experiences and concerns with the couple. The committee asked if we would be willing to request a Ceremony of Commitment as some gays at other Quaker Meetings in the US had done. We chose not to. My rationale included the idea that in early Quakerism the marriage took place in the Meeting. Friends didn't follow the practice of signing legal papers. I felt like a pioneer and wanted to do just that. Of course we, as lesbians,

couldn't sign legal marriage papers. Today, most heterosexual Friends do sign a legal certificate in addition to the ceremonial one signed by all members present.

We proceeded along the process with open sharing in the full Meeting which took several sessions to come to a "Sense of the meeting" (This is not consensus, but has some similarities). During that time of open sharing we listened to some of the most wonderful things ever said about us as a loving and stable couple and valued members of the Meeting. We also listened to a member read fundamentalist views that started with 'the homosexual, he...' and included things I never want to repeat or hear again. We shared much information that we had gathered from Quaker Meetings around the US including the video: "Love Makes a Family." (I have a copy if anyone would like to borrow it. Topic: A Quaker Lesbian Ceremony)

A few members were unable to accept us as becoming married. Someone in the Meeting came up with the idea of calling it a Union and suggested that from now on we could call all marriages Union to be inclusive. The Sense of the Meeting was to go with Union. It was a relief and members seemed to be quite satisfied that day in late November. It was a joyful day. Progress was made.

Following the holidays, we began the planning process. It was around the details of the ceremony that things began to fall apart. While going through another waiting period we decided to withdraw our plans for a Friends Ceremony. I was discouraged by the unsuccessful process and gave up my membership in Friends Meeting.

### **Same Gender Marriage Events & Information**

Are you interested in learning more about same gender marriage? Do you feel unprepared to answer audience questions or do you have questions of your own? These events are open to Speakout participants who want to expand their knowledge of the topic. Speakout needs more speakers who are prepared to address this issue, so please attend if you have the time.

**Thursday, December 4** - Speakout on Same Gender Marriage, sponsored by the Alliance for Sexual Diversity, USM/Portland campus, Campus Center Amphitheater, 1pm. FMI ☎ 642-6909.

**Saturday, January 24** - Speakout community gathering and potluck to view the Vermont Marriage Video, Auburn, 5:30pm, FMI and location ☎ Donna 782-5253. Bring a friend!

★ Marriage materials available for \$1 ★ call 642-6909 ★



It was painful for me to leave the Meeting that sits on the side of the hill a few doors from our home. However, there were many important life lessons that I learned during that time. First, it fully confirmed my love for Cynthia. Second, because the Quaker marriage process includes asking one's parents for their blessings, I worked hard to renew a loving relationship with both my parents, just before my father died. For that, I will be forever grateful. A third, my actions affect other people, sometimes significantly, and I need to be as careful as I can in gathering information before making decisions to act lest I hurt

them. Had I known that the Vassalboro Meeting was led by a fundamentalist type pastor before it chose to become a Meeting with a lay Clerk, I may never have proceeded with my request. The fourth major lesson that I learned was that I was proud that I took myself to my edge, for equality for us and for other gays and lesbians. Finally, I learned that we can't do it alone or in small numbers. We need heterosexuals to be as dedicated to equality and as involved as we are to make changes, like so many people did in the first Maine Won't Discriminate process.

Carol Brush



## Calendar of Events

**Tuesday, December 2,** Buzz and Sue Fitzgerald invite you to be their guest at a benefit for Speakout at Sewall House, 963 Washington Street, Bath, 6-8pm. It will include the premiere of the new video, *Speak OUT!*, by Ellen Spiro. Wine, light refreshments and music provided. \$50/person. RSVP: The Fitzgeralds, 1002 Washington St., Bath 04530.

**Thursday, December 4,** Same Gender Marriage Speakout, sponsored by the Alliance for Sexual Diversity on USM/Portland, Campus Center Amphitheater, 1pm. FMI ☎ 642-6909

**Friday, December 5,** Washington County meeting, Location to be announced. FMI ☎ Eilean 733-5537.

**Sunday, December 7,** Love Makes a Family exhibit reception at Lewiston-Auburn College, 51 Westminster St., Lewiston, 2-4pm. Refreshments provided. FMI ☎ 753-6500. Exhibit runs from 12/5-1/2 at the hall gallery of Lewiston-Auburn College.

**Sunday, January 11,** The Oxford County premiere of the video *Speak OUT!*, 4pm. It will feature a

number of Speakout participants. This viewing is in conjunction with a meeting for those interested in forming an Oxford County chapter of Speakout. FMI ☎ Paul & Dave 925-1034.

**Saturday, January 17,** Aroostook County training (snow date 1/24), 9-5 at Job Corps, Limestone. FMI ☎ Deb Madore 764-0483.

**Saturday, January 24,** Androscoggin County marriage video/potluck, 5:30pm. FMI and location ☎ Donna 782-5253.

**Saturday, January 24,** Washington County training, 9-5, Congregational Church, Machias. FMI ☎ Eilean 733-5537.

**Saturday, February 21,** Androscoggin County Speakout video/potluck, 5:30pm. FMI and location ☎ Donna 782-5253.

**Sunday, March 14,** Casco Bay Sweet Adelines & Women in Harmony in concert, 2-4pm, at St. David's Church, in Kennebunk. (Performers not yet confirmed). FMI ☎ Rosemary 324-4071 or 985-2748.



## Director's Update

Maine Speakout is in the midst of our third fall and I want to thank all of you for making this possible by committing your time, energy and resources as speakers, volunteers and donors. Over the summer, MSOP completed an amicable separation from our

former parent, the Unitarian Universalist Community Church in Augusta and I want to thank the church for providing us with the priest we needed. We are now an independent non-profit organization with 501(c)3 tax exempt status and have a new office:

723 Congress Street in Portland.

### ***Bangor Daily News says: Invite Those Speakout People In!***

Bravo! Bangor Daily News for an excellent September 25<sup>th</sup> editorial about MSOP and Bravo! to MSOP volunteers Fern Stearns,

## **Maine Speakout Project Training for Aroostook**

**When:** Saturday, January 17, 1998  
Snow date January 24, 1998  
9am to 5 pm

**Where:** Job Corps  
Loring, Limestone

**Cost:** \$10 registration fee  
No one will be turned away for lack of funds, but deadline to  
register is January 12, 1998

Please bring a lunch

For more information call Deb Madore at 764-0483

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### **Registration Information:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee enclosed:**       \$10                       Other Amount

*Please make checks payable to: Maine Speakout Project and send (with bottom of  
registration form) to: Maine Speakout Project, PO Box 15303, Portland, ME 04112*

*A-reg*

## **Maine Speakout Project Training for Eastern Maine**

**When:** Saturday, January 24, 1998 -snow date January 31,1998  
9am to 5 pm

**Where:** Location to be announced

**Cost:** \$10 registration fee  
No one will be turned away for lack of funds, but deadline to  
register is January 17, 1998

Please bring a lunch

For more information call Eilean Mackenzie at 733-5537

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### **Registration Information:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee enclosed:**       \$10                       Other Amount

*Please make checks payable to: Maine Speakout Project and send (with bottom of  
registration form) to: Maine Speakout Project, PO Box 15303, Portland, ME 04112*  
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Mark Nutt and Janet May for meeting with editorial board chair Todd Benoit a few days before our benefit concert at State Senator Mary Cathcart's in Orono. The editorial begins:

"Nothing tests a belief like experience, a chance to find out first-hand whether certainties and fears match reality. With this in mind, the Maine SpeakOut Project reasonably asks the members of local organizations to hear about the experiences of gays and lesbians before judging them."

Alluding to the likelihood of another anti-gay referendum, it concludes by stating:

"Before the heat of the campaign divides the state, SpeakOut gives residents a chance to consider the lives they will vote on. It offers an opportunity for experience that could help in the voting booth."

I cannot think of a better way to say that NOW is a very important time for you to be out speaking in your community or helping to create opportunities for more face-to-face "dialogues on discrimination." What can you do? If you're a speaker, sign up for our New Year's phonebanking venue drive and be thinking of groups in your area that can be approached for venues. For more information, call the MSOP office or a chapter contact near you.

**Here Come the Brides???**

I was impressed that the BDN editorial mentioned the impending Hawaii supreme court decision on same gender marriage as another issue that needs greater public discussion. I agree. The Hawaii decision will be big news throughout the United States and the sooner we begin talking about the discrimination we face by not having the freedom to marry, the

sooner this topic will become understandable to the majority population.

Some people have voiced concern that by talking about marriage now, we might make it easier for anti-gay organizations in Maine to play upon the anxieties of the general public. This is a legitimate concern and I would like to share the suggestion made to me by Pat Peard, chair of Maine Won't Discriminate, who recommended that we frame our conversations about marriage (with non-gay groups) around the theme of the discrimination we experience by not having the freedom to marry.

**Safe Schools in Maine: Yes!**

MSOP is working with other groups to make our public schools safe for sexual minority students, teachers and parents: Gay/Lesbian/Straight/Education/Network (GLSEN), Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Outright, the Lewiston-Auburn AIDS Coalition, Downeast AIDS Network and Health First in Presque Isle. In the coming months, we look forward to collaborating with PFLAG, GLESN and Outright in publishing a Resource Guide on making schools safer and more supportive.

Assistant Attorney General Steve Wessler will recommend our speakers as a resource for the 62 high schools chosen by his office to develop civil rights education programs and we look forward to making a contribution to these efforts.

**On the Road with Naomi Falcone**

Naomi and I have been on the road

recently to meet with MSOP chapter volunteers in Androscoggin, Aroostook, Hancock, Kennebec, and Oxford Counties. We value these face-to-face gatherings and appreciate the challenges of keeping an all-volunteer effort (but for Naomi and me) going in small towns where speakers are few in number and quite exposed.

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

Special thanks to Eilean Mackenzie and the other participants in what was a dream of a potluck-organizing meeting in Whiting, Washington County (near Lubec). About 40 people showed up, including a talented folk singer, Darthe Jennings, and by the end of the evening they had formed a SpeakOut chapter, signed up for a training for late January and did some productive brainstorming on generating speaking invitations. By the way, if you need a good motel in Lubec, by all means call the Eastland Motel on Route 189 at 733-5501. They deserve your patronage.

An equally special thanks to Paul Alpert, Dave Fisher and Nancy Brown-Jamison, whose August dessert fest in West Lovell raised awareness and \$2,000 for MSOP. Dave and Paul subsequently agreed to serve as

***In Memory of Eleanor Grimnitz***  
This is to acknowledge the recent death of Eleanor Grimnitz, a member of the UUCC/ Augusta, who served as a volunteer book-keeper for MSOP in the months preceding her death. Eleanor cared very much about Speakout's work and she gave of herself to enable that work to continue. She asked that donations be made in her memory to Maine Speakout and Speakout thanks her friends and family for donating \$850.



co-chairs of an Oxford County chapter and they'll be hosting a Speakout video presentation and meeting on January 11, 1998, at 4pm, for Oxford County folks.

MSOP is indebted to Harold Shaw of New York City for the wonderful work he's been doing for MSOP. Harold and a number of his friends attended our first fundraiser in New York city in June and we welcome their interest and support.

Another quiet helper who deserves acknowledgment is Vance Muse, who connected us to his friend Stockard Channing, who subsequently signed our October 31<sup>st</sup> mail appeal.

Vance is a free-lance journalist who's working out of Bath on what promises to be a very interesting book about an early 20<sup>th</sup> Century summer colony on Bailey Island that included gay/lesbian people. Entitled *We Were Here*, the book will be published soon by Pantheon.

Given that we still must raise \$15,000 by December 31<sup>st</sup> to make our budget for 1997, we appreciate Ms. Channing's support very much. We also appreciate the contributions of Gannett Communications, Letterworks, and PIP Printing of Portland towards this mailing.

**Speak Out! - the Video**

Videographer Ellen Spiro has completed her short video *Speak Out!* and it's great! Every chapter will soon receive a copy and we'll be planning some public screenings around Maine to build awareness of our work. We are just beginning to develop a national distribution program for the video to encourage groups in other states to start their own speakout projects. The video is available for \$30 plus \$5 for shipping and it would make a great holiday gift. For more information, please contact the MSOP office.



*(Continued from p. 1)*

**November 14** , Safe Zones Training, USM - Portland  
Speakers: Andie Locke & Stacy Parady

**November 15**, 10-11am, Camden Methodist Church, Camden; Speakers: Annie Kiermaier & Jip Pruden

**November 15**, 8:45-9:45am, Safer Communities Conference; Speakers: Donald Weatherford & Cindy Hebert

**November 17**, 7:30am, Wells Rotary, Wells; Speakers: Jackie Lozier & April Neuwirth

**November 23**, 7-8am, Resident Assistant Meeting, U/Maine, Presque Isle; Speakers: Cathy Bohls & tbd

**November 24**, noon, Maine Allied Health, Sanford; Speakers: George Dugovic & April Neuwirth

**November 25**, 6:30pm, L/A Women's Discussion Group, Lewiston; Speakers: Donna Dolham & Harriet Smith

**December 2**, 9:00pm. Student Life Program, UMPI, Speakers: tbd

**December 4**, 1pm Marriage Presentation, Sexual Diversity Group, USM/Portland; Speakers: John Buie & Naomi Falcone

**January 7**, 5pm Madawaska Rotary, Madawaska; Speakers: tbd

**January 26**, 7pm Altrusia, Biddeford; Speakers: tbd

**February 12**, 2-4pm, Safe Zones Training, USM-Portland; Speakers: John Buie & Richard Johnson

**February 26**, 2-4pm, Safe Zones Training, USM-Gorham; Speakers: Marc Gup & tbd

**March 11**, 7pm, American Association of University Women U/Maine - Orono; Speakers: tbd

**March 12**, 2-4pm, Safe Zones Training, USM-Portland; Speakers: Mary Hillas & Joe Stackpole

**March 19**, 2-4pm, Safe Zones Training, USM-Lewiston; Speakers: Gracia Woodward & Andie Locke

**Interested in getting Trained? Contact the office, we need to know you're interested.**



**MAINE SPEAKOUT PROJECT  
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