

COMMUNIQUE

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NOVEMBRE-DÉCEMBER/NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1996

Celebrate Life!

by Sheila Everett, Director, Northern Lambda Nord

During this holiday season I find myself making a list – no, not requests for material gifts from Santa, but a list of gratitude. I have had so many blessings bestowed upon me in my second chance at living, none of which is of the superficial world of material things. My gifts are the intangibles which, for me, are priceless. HP has showered me with His unconditional Love and Guidance: the gift of my sobriety and acceptance of responsible living; the blessing of my renewed spirituality and faith; the freedom of my sexuality; the caring and support of true friends; the love of my partner, J.C.; and the strength and courage to be true to myself.

Don't get me wrong; I've had my share of life's pooh – but by surviving the pooh I have learned that I can be a proud cast member in His plan for me. I know I can reach my potential, ONE DAY AT A TIME, if I choose to take the risks and do the footwork to honestly develop an attitude of LIVE AND LET LIVE, realizing that the power comes from WITHIN to change and modify the only thing I can – ME.

Every day I am offered choices for my learning and growth. Today, I trust myself to make the decisions for daily living that are healthy. My life experiences of 47 years have been “Good, Bad and Ugly.” I have chosen to process and learn from the emotional pain, abuse, and mistakes of too many self-centered and irresponsible errors in judgement – that's learning and progress (not perfection) for *moi*.

This holiday season I am choosing to celebrate life with truth, honesty, and genuine caring for my fellow beings. In this not-so-perfect world I opt to take and be part of the life that is happening around me. I find that I am calm, serene, and happy if I perceive my life in the positive and be a participant rather than a spectator. Self-pity and stagnation are character defects that I choose not let dictate my living.

I truly hope you join me in the celebration of love, life, and the pursuit of happiness, ONE DAY AT A TIME. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year to one and all!

Now for the hard part of this *Communiqué*: “For every door that gently closes, a new one magically opens.” I am saddened by the move of my two special friends, Nancy and Donna, yet happy for the opportunities their next adventure in the process of growing will offer. Thank you for enriching my life with your support, caring, and love. *Bon voyage*, Special Ladies!

Thought for the moment:

Hate is not a family value. All it takes to make a family is unconditional love, mutual respect, and the acceptance of diversity.

Yours in reclaiming Pride & Life,

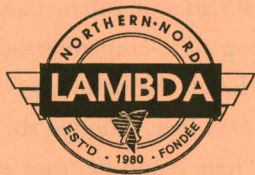
/s/ Sheila ▼

Maine Election Results

by Dick Harrison, editor, Communiqué

The more things change, the more they stay the same. The November 5TH election in Aroostook County yielded no changes in our representation in Augusta, save one. In Legislative districts 141 through 150 (Oakfield to Madawaska), every incumbent was re-elected. In district 151, the Fort Kent-Eagle Lake area, one-time Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives, John Martin, was denied a spot on the ballot due to a new term-limits law; he staged an unsuccessful write-in campaign. The new Representative is a Republican, Belanger (I don't know his/her first name). Here is a list of the new County delegation:

DISTRICT . TOWNS . REP'S NAME . REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT
141 . Oakfield area . Henry Joy . R
142 . Houlton area . Dean Clukey . R
143 . Presque Isle to Littleton . Edgar Wheeler . R



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NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD, INC.

The Mission of Northern Lambda Nord is to advance the interests and well-being of the gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgendered community of the Upper Saint John River Valley of New Brunswick and Aroostook County, Maine.

STEERING COMMITTEE COMITÉ EXECUTIF

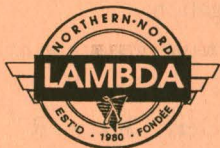
Sheila Everett *Director/directrice*
Phil Bushey *Treasurer/trésorier*
Diana Campbell *Secretary/secrétaire*
vacant *Social Director*
directeur des activités sociales
Ray LaValley *Librarian/bibliothécaire*
Donald Weatherford *Phoneline*
coordinator/coordonateur du téléphone
Dick Harrison *Newsletter editor*
rédacteur du bulletin
Members-at-Large/membres en liberté
Walter Fournier & Wayne Morrow

COMMUNIQUÉ

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COMMUNIQUÉ

CommuniQué is published six times yearly by Northern Lambda Nord, an organization serving the gay-lesbian-bisexual community of northern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick (Aroostook, Madawaska, Victoria and Carleton counties). *Subscriptions*, \$15 per year. *NLN Membership*, \$25 per year (U.S. funds), which includes a subscription. Low-income people may make arrangements to pay in installments. NLN is a non-profit organization; all donations are U.S. tax deductible. Advertising rates in *CommuniQué* are available upon request. Your comments and contributions are welcome.



- 144 . Easton area . Richard Kneeland . R
145 . Presque Isle . Jim Donnelly . R
146 . Ashland-New Sweden . Mabel Desmond . D
147 . Caribou . Irvin Belanger . R
148 . Limestone area . Gary O'Neal . D
149 . Caribou-Van Buren . Rosaire Sirois . D
150 . Madawaska-Ste-Agathe . Douglas Ahearn . D
151 . Fort Kent-Eagle Lake . Belanger . R

IN THE MAINE SENATE, our representatives are still Judy Paradis (D) from district 1 (a friend of our community representing northern and central Aroostook), Leo Kieffer (R) from district 2 (representing central Aroostook and historically not a friend), and Michaud (D) (first name?) from district 3 (southern Aroostook; I'm not sure of his voting record).

The Democrats control both the House of Representatives and the State Senate; chances are good for passage of an amendment to the Maine Human Rights Act to protect people from discrimination based upon sexual orientation. Democrats are traditionally supportive of extending civil rights protections to gay people (there are exceptions among the Democrats, though), and Governor King said that if the legislature passes such a bill, then

Symposium IS Forever!

by Dick Harrison, editor, CommuniQué

SYMPOSIUM. For those who have been there it elicits memories of good times, fun, learning, and a great way to spend a weekend with scores of other gay people.

SYMPOSIUM. I'm referring to the *Maine Lesbian & Gaymen's Symposium*. It's an annual tradition in this state. What other state, province, or region on this planet has held a queer gathering regularly for the past 22 years?

A brief history: The WILDE-STEIN CLUB (named for Oscar Wilde and Gertrude Stein) is the gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgendered student organization at the University of Maine at Orono. They put together the first Symposium way back in 1974. The *Bangor Daily News* editorialized against the event, referring to it as a "Homosexual Hoedown." In the mid-'70s it took a lot of courage to hold such a public gathering of lesbians and

he will sign it. Jim Donnelly from Presque Isle has been chosen as the House Minority Leader. He's been receptive to listening to our reasons for the need to pass this amendment, but has yet to vote for us. His support would be valuable. He needs to hear from us, *especially* if you live in his district.

IN OTHER POLITICAL NEWS, Carolyn Cosby, the woman behind the unsuccessful anti-gay Question 1 referendum in November 1995, is at it again. She claims to have collected enough signatures to place a referendum on the 1997 ballot which would outlaw marriages in Maine between people of the same gender, and would refuse to recognize these marriages which have been performed in other states. She feels she is staging a pre-emptive strike against a perceived threat: the right of gay people to marry the one we love. Though she may vehemently deny it, here is another case where she tries to put gay people in a "special category", granting us the "special [non-]rights" she so strongly decries. Rather than working to codify our "special class status", i.e. someone denied the right to marry whomever we want, Carolyn should take Governor King's advice to heart and "get a job!" ▼

gays. (*Bravo, Wilde-Steiners!*) But Symposium filled a need and it was held again the next year and the next and the next. Soon, the Gay People's Alliance (now called the Gay & Lesbian Alliance) at the University of Southern Maine in Portland/Gorham began sponsoring Symposium in alternating years with Wilde-Stein. It was usually held on a weekend in March or April on the Orono or Portland-Gorham campus. There were the now-traditional workshops, a keynote speaker, and a dance. Some meals were provided. Folks from out-of-town were billeted in local peoples' homes – on couches, floors, any available space. (I recall the first one I attended: Symposium V in 1978. It was sponsored by Wilde-Stein and I remember having to sleep on the floor of someone's apartment in Bangor. I was still living in Boston at the time and had been thinking of moving to Maine.

When I read about Symposium in one of the Boston gay papers, I decided it would be a good opportunity to get a sense of living here. Symposium. *I loved it!* Little did I know that the following year I would be offered a job and then move to Van Buren, of all places!

At the opening plenary at 1985's Symposium XII in Portland, people applauded and cheered when it was announced that Symposium in 1986 would be a little different; it would be held at an entirely new venue, the University of Maine at Presque Isle, and hosted by a different group of people, the women and men of Northern Lambda Nord.

As sponsors of Symposium XIII, Lambda did things a bit differently up here, things that resulted in a new way of doing Symposium. We moved it to a three-day weekend in May. We "rented" the entire UMPI campus for our own *Gay University of Maine*, creating a safe environment and an atmosphere different from what Symposium had offered in the past. Everyone stayed in the dorms. Everyone ate together in the dining hall. We drew one-third participation from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. We set a new standard for organizing this annual event. NLN was now in rotation with southern Maine and central/eastern Maine as a location for the conference. We sponsored Symposium XVI (1989), and XIX (1992).

The twentieth Symposium, a milestone in our state's queer history, was to be in the Portland area. Initial organizing began but then fell apart. No one picked up the ball, so there was no 20th gathering in 1993. But Symposium resumed in 1994 with the 20th at Unity College near Waterville-Augusta, and then returned to Presque Isle for the 21st in 1995. Technically speaking, because we had skipped a year, Symposium was no longer an *annual* event. Technically speaking.

As a result of the missed year in 1993, a group of interested people met at Symposium 1995 in Presque Isle to discuss the need to keep this conference going. From this initial meeting, the group **SYMPOSIUM FOREVER** was formed. Its mission states that it is "a standing committee established to ensure that a statewide gathering is held annually in the tradition of the Maine Gay & Lesbian Symposium." Its 12-member board is composed of men and women from throughout the state, from

Aroostook County in the north to Kittery in the south, from Bar Harbor to Bangor to Belfast to Portland. Following their initial meeting at Presque Isle in 1995, the Symposium Forever board worked with a local committee from the Bar Harbor area where the August, 1996 conference (XXII) was a rousing success. Organizing for the 1997 Symposium is well under way, hosted by a group from the Portland area. Symposium XXIII will be June 13-15, 1997, on the campus of Southern Maine Technical College in South Portland. It will kick off Gay Pride Week, which culminates with Southern Maine Pride weekend. There's already the seed for a 1998 local committee from *far south* southern Maine which may put together Symposium XXIV in the Kittery, Maine/Portsmouth, New Hampshire area. The 25th conference may return to Presque Isle in 1999. Symposium Forever's task seems well executed. The board is *not* responsible for organizing the actual conference, but is responsible for finding a local committee to host the weekend, and to guide them through the year-long process. So far Symposium Forever has been very successful. But they also need to raise seed money to provide the local committee with funds to pay for initial printing and mailing of materials, to make a down payment for a keynote speaker or entertainer, and for initial start-up costs. This fundraising will become an on-going concern of Symposium Forever.

A FINAL NOTE: MORE GOOD NEWS! The local organizing committee on Mount Desert Island, the folks who hosted Symposium XXII in Bar Harbor last summer, had such a great time and felt that it was such a wonderful, rewarding experience (masochists that they are), that *they're doing it again!* They are pleased to announce "Gay Times," a Symposium-like weekend scheduled for August 16-18, 1997. It will be at the same venue – College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor – and they hope it becomes a yearly festival and celebration of queer life in Maine. So, my dears, mark all of these dates on your newly-purchased 1997 Engagement Calendars and start saving gas money:

- ✓ June 13-15 is **SYMPOSIUM XXIII** in South Portland
- ✓ June 16-22 is **SOUTHERN MAINE PRIDE week** in Portland
- ✓ August 16-18 is "**GAY TIMES**" in Bah Hahbah.

So you see, Symposium IS Forever . . . and beyond! ▼



World AIDS Day Candlelight Vigil

We Are All Touched by AIDS

*A time to remember those we have lost and
those who continue to fight*

Sunday, December 1, 1996, 4:30pm (Maine Time)

Aroostook County Courthouse

Sweden Street, Caribou (across from Reno's Restaurant)

Holiday Dance

Saturday, Nov 30
8pm-1am (Maine time)

samedi, le 30 nov
21h00-02h00 (heure N-B)

Presque Isle Snowmobile Club

near Aroostook State Park

près de l'Aroostook State Park

ADMISSION

NLN members, \$5^{US}

Non-members, \$7^{US}

Soda & Juice available

BYO alcohol

ENTRÉE

Membres de NLN, 5^{US}

Non-membres, 7^{US}

Soda & jus disponible

BYO alcool



SIDA LES NIVEAUX DE RISQUE

LE BAISER avec échange de salive (french-kiss) ne comportent aucun risque. **LES CARESSES ET LA MASTURBATION** ne constituent aucun risque de transmission du VIH. **LE SEXE ORAL** Il est peu probable que cette pratique sexuelle puisse transmettre le VIH. **LA PÉNÉTRATION ANALE ET VAGINALE** non protégée par un condom constitue un haut risque de transmission du VIH, qu'il y ait éjaculation ou non. **LES JOUETS SEXUELS** (ex.: vibreur, godemiché) non partagés ne constituent aucun risque de transmission du virus. **LÉCHER L'ANUS** ne constitue pas un mode de transmission du VIH. Cependant, elle ne vous protège aucunement de l'hépatite B ou des autres MTS. **ACTIVITÉS SADO-MASOCHISTES** qui ne causent pas de saignements et qui n'incluent aucune autre activité à risque ne favorisent pas la transmission du VIH.

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD Inc. (NLN) CP/POB 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990 USA 207.498-2088 or in Maine 800.468-2088 TTY/Voice - serving northern Maine & northwestern NB (Aroostook-Madawaska-Victoria-Carleton counties); desservant le nord-ouest du N-B et le nord du Maine (les comtés Madawaska-Victoria-Carleton-Aroostook)
Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine 398 South Main St, Caribou; mail: POB 990, Caribou 04736-0990 USA; 207.498-2088 or in Maine 800.468-2088 TTY/Voice

Centre communautaire des gai.e.s et des lesbiennes 398, rue Principale sud, Caribou; postes: CP 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990 USA; 207.498-2088 or in Maine 800.468-2088 TTY/Voice

Gay-Lesbian Phoneline of Maine 207.498-2088 or in Maine 800.468-2088 TTY/Voice - staffed Mon, Wed, Fri 7-9pm (Maine) 8-10pm (N-B); mail: POB 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990

Gay-Lesbian AA meets first Tuesday each month, October-May, 7:30pm (Maine) 8:30pm (N-B) at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine, 398 South Main St, Caribou; to contact, call 207.498-2088 or in Maine 800.468-2088

AIDS THE SAFER THE SEX, THE BETTER

CONSIDERED SAFE: Mutual masturbation, Hugging/body rubbing, Massage, Social (dry) kissing, Fantasy, Light S/M (without bleeding or bruising), Sex toys (when used only on yourself)

CONSIDERED POSSIBLY SAFE: Anal or vaginal intercourse with a condom, French (wet) kissing, Sucking (but stopping before climax), Watersports (external only), Cunnilingus

CONSIDERED UNSAFE: Swallowed semen, Anal or vaginal intercourse without a condom, Watersports in mouth or on skin with sores or cuts, Sharing IV needles, Fisting or rimming, Shared enema equipment, douching equipment, or sex toys

 Your Business Card-size Ad is Only \$5

Wanted: Big Brother

NLN member looking for "an outstanding person over 25 who has a good rapport with children" to be a positive male role model for her sons, 6, 10 & 12. "They miss their older brothers because of a marital separation."

Contact a Board member or call the Phoneline, 498-2088 or 800.468-2088 (M,W,F, 7-9pm^{Maine})

Calendrier Northern Lambda Nord Calendar

THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE HELD AT THE
GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER OF NORTHERN MAINE
 398 MAIN STREET, CARIBOU, 207/498-2088 ACROSS FROM NYLANDER MUSEUM (M=MAINE TIME, N=NEW BRUNSWICK TIME)

- **First Tuesday** each month **Gay & Lesbian AA** - 7:30pm(M) 8:30pm(N)
- **Every Wednesday** is **Drop-In & Open House** 7-9pm(M) 8-10pm(N)
- **Second Thursday** each month is the **NLN Meeting** 6:30pm(M) 7:30pm(N)

THESE EVENTS MEET AT OTHER LOCATIONS

Holiday Dance Sat, Nov 30, Presque Isle Snowmobile Club, 8pm(M)9pm(N)

Christmas Party, Pot Luck Meal & Gift Exchange Sat, December 14

in Ashland 6:30pm(M) 7:30pm(N); bring a gift & get a gift. Bring your favorite food or a specialty item

New Year's Party in New Sweden, Tuesday, December 31, 8pm(M)9pm(N)

CES ACTIVITÉS TIENS AU **CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE DES GAIS ET DES LESBIENNES**
 398, RUE PRINCIPALE À CARIBOU, 207/498-2088 DE L'AUTRE CÔTÉ DE LA MUSÉE NYLANDER
 (M=HEURE AU MAINE, N=HEURE AU NOUVEAU BRUNSWICK)

- **premier mardi** tout les mois **Gay & Lesbian AA** - 20h30(N) 19h30(M)
- **tout les mercredis** - **Portes Ouvertes** 20h-22h(N) 19h-20h(M)
- **deuxième jeudi** tout les mois à l'été **rencontre NLN** - 19:30h(N) 18:30h(M)

CES ACTIVITÉS TIENS AU LIEUS DIFFERENTS

Dance de la fête sam, 30 nov, club de motoniège à Presque Isle, à partir de 21h00(N) 20h00(M)

Party Noël, repas & échange des cadeaux sam, 14 déc à Ashland; à partir de 19h30 (N) 18h30 (M); recevoir un cadeau - apportez un cadeau

Fête de l'An mardi 31 décembre à New Sweden, à parti de 21h (N), 20h (M)