

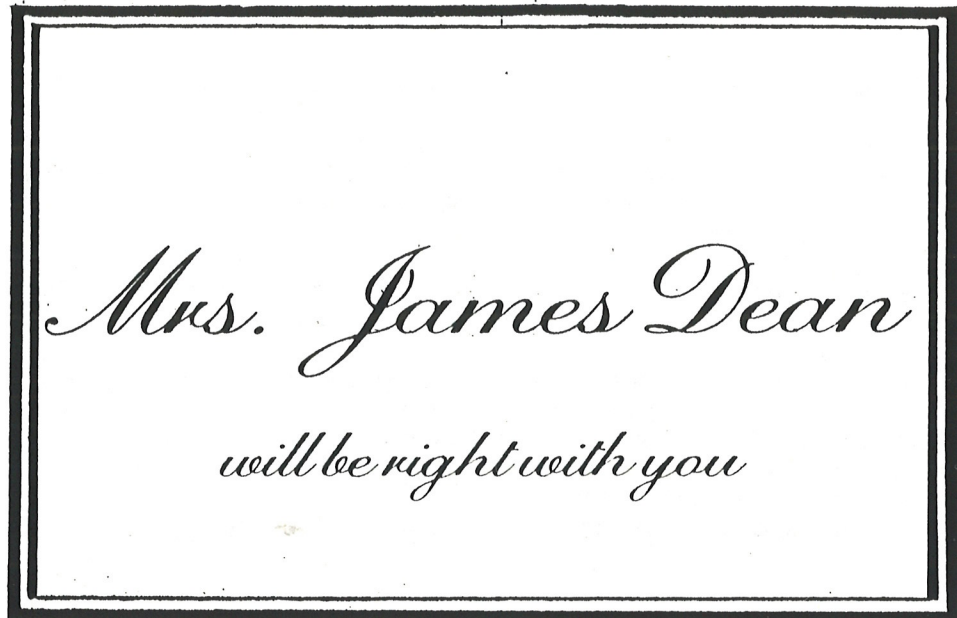
# **Symposium XII**

**May 17, 18, 19, 1985**

**sponsored by  
Gay People's Alliance**

**with lots of help and support from  
lesbians and gay men throughout Maine.**

# Mrs. James Dean



**Mrs. James Dean** is a play written by Bill Bemis and directed by Jeff Torish. This high energy, 3-act melodrama deals with (among other things) alcoholism, long-term gay relationships, hustlers, overeaters & drag queens in a humorous and thought provoking way. Don't miss the opening night performance of this play about all of our lives. (The play will continue for two consecutive weekends after Symposium.) **Tickets will be available at the door.**

**Luther Bonney Auditorium**  
**\$3.00/students/low income**  
**\$5.00 general admission**

# Boston Gay Men's Chorus

The Boston Gay Men's Chorus will be performing two concerts in Maine this month. Both concerts are sponsored by the Margaret Fuller Forum. Founded just three years ago, the Boston Gay Men's Chorus has grown in stature both musically and artistically. Its reputation as one of Boston's best choruses continues to spread both by word of mouth and by critical acclaim as their concert appearances move farther and farther from Boston.

Finally, here in Maine, the Boston Gay Men's Chorus will perform Saturday, May 18, 8 p.m., at the South Parish Congregational Church in Augusta and **Sunday, May 19, 3 p.m. at the First Parish Unitarian Church in Portland**, as part of the Symposium program.

The music selected for these two concerts is representative of the variety of the BGMC repertoire, ranging from classical music to show tunes. Included are pieces from early American composers, spirituals, barber-shop renditions, a "Wizard of Oz" medley, and part of Randall Thompson's "Testament of Freedom," with text drawn from the writings of Thomas Jefferson.

Don't miss this rare chance to see the Boston Gay Men's Chorus!

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The **Gay People's Alliance** wishes to thank all of the individuals and groups that helped produce Symposium XII.

Special thanks to **USM, Underground, Backstreet, Cycles, Spring St. Gym, Our Books, Our Paper, Papa Joe's, Sportsman's, MLGPA & AIDS Action Committee of Boston.**

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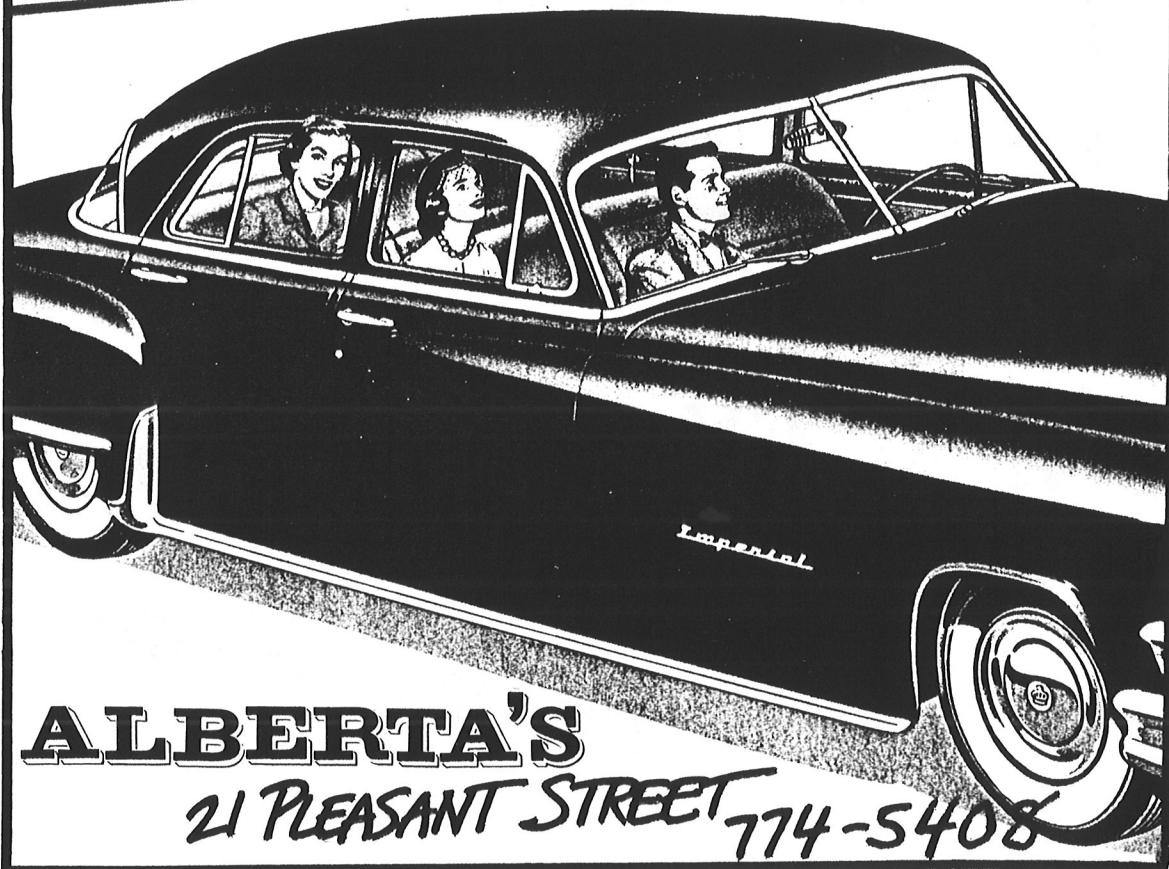
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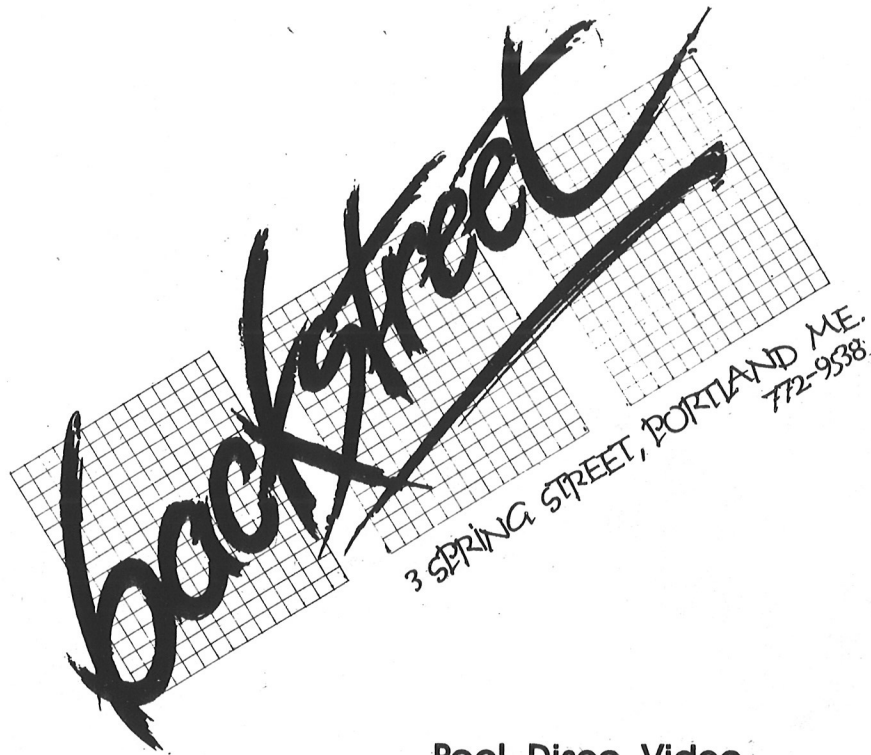
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## Symposium Dance at



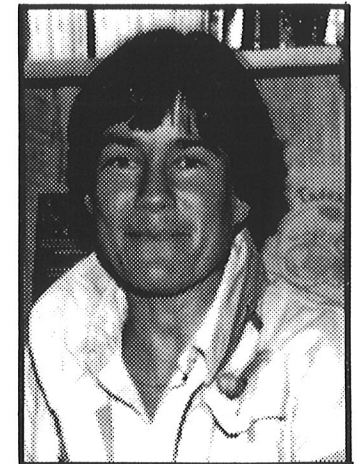
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# Dale McCormick

Dale McCormick is a carpenter, teacher, writer and politician. She has been involved in politics all her life: the peace movement, women's issues and gay rights. It has only been in the last year that it occurred to her to work within the system to further our cause. Why this sudden switch from politics to Politics at the age of 37? Come to the Symposium XII and find out. It's too complicated a story for this little paragraph.

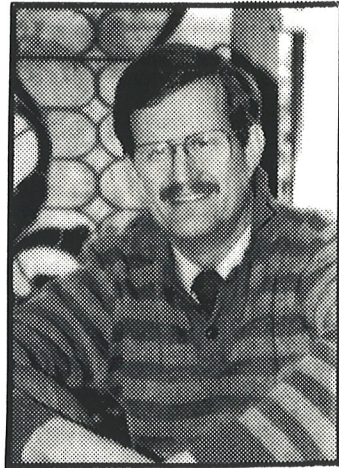


LEARNING TO LIVE WITH OUR SUCCESS

We're on a roll. More people than ever before have been involved this year in the effort to legislate civil rights for gays and lesbians. The Keyplayers are watching us and they are impressed. We're HOT. If not now then soon.

# Doug Strong

Douglas Morgan Strong first moved to Maine in 1978 when he became the student minister of the Unitarian Meeting House in Eastport. After two years he was hired by the congregation of All Souls Church, Unitarian Universalist in Augusta and became the first openly gay Unitarian Universalist minister to be hired by a church where the congregation knew the sexual truth of their minister prior to being called (and would you believe this could happen in Maine?). Doug served the church in Augusta five years and resigned last February. During his ministry Doug worked extensively with gay issues and has been publicly visible as a gay leader within the state.



## WE TOO HAVE A SONG TO SING

Generally gay men and lesbians find themselves having to justify their existence and to plea with society for basic human dignity. The reality of course is that we are not a pathology but rather a minority and we have, for centuries, brought special gifts to humankind. Another reality is that there has been no group more dedicated to denying us our personhood than "the church". Yet, we too have a song to sing—a melody interwoven with achievements and contributions and we need to remind ourselves of our goodness to combat the religiously narrow-minded who constantly attack our existence.

## Workshop Period 1

**Saturday 11:00 — 12:30**

### **BISEXUALITY — LET'S CELEBRATE**

Room 502

Ginny LaCrow, Gay People's Alliance

Do you sometimes feel like a minority within a minority? Come to this open discussion about the myths, lifestyles, and strengths we have as self-identified bisexuals. What is our position within the community: heterosexual as well as homosexual. Interested in a socializing group? Let's Talk!

### **LONG TERM RELATIONSHIPS**

Room 503

University Womyn's Forum members

This workshop will briefly examine why relationships do and do not work. The main areas to be discussed will be: interpersonal communication, finances and fidelity.

### **MAINE LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE**

Room 509

Dale McCormick, President

Diane Elze, Treasurer

Marty Sabol, Secretary

Come find out more about ML/GPA and the gay rights bill.

### **GAY LIFE AFTER FORTY**

Room 510

Barry Wood, MD

The workshop will deal with projections and reality about gay life for the aging gay male. (Workshop will be restricted to gay men over age 35, please.)

### **LESBIAN VIOLENCE**

Room 523

Nancy Fritz

Many of us are reluctant to talk about the violence which has been perpetrated against us, or the violent acts we have done to others. This workshop will provide a chance to talk about the violence in our lives, to examine what, if anything, is different about lesbian violence, and ways we can respond to one another. (Lesbians only, please.)

## SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY

6-8 pm ..... Registration  
 8-10 pm ..... Mrs. James Dean

### SATURDAY

9-9:30 am ..... Coffee and donuts (registration)  
 9:30-11 am ..... Keynote speakers (rm. 165, Science Bldg.)  
 10-12 pm ..... MLGPA Meeting  
 11-12:30 ..... Workshop Period 1  
 12:30-2 pm ..... Lunch—Dance Performance  
 2-3:30 pm ..... Workshop Period 2  
 3:30-4 pm ..... Break  
 4-5:30 pm ..... Workshop Period 3  
 8-10 pm ..... Kate Clinton  
 9:30-12:30 pm ..... Dance at Backstreet

### SUNDAY

12-1:30 pm ..... Workshop Period 4  
 1:30-2 pm ..... Closing Ceremonies  
 3-5 pm ..... Boston Gay Men's Chorus  
 7-9 pm ..... Improper Conduct at The Movies

## WORKSHOPS

	Room
<b>Period 1</b>	
Bisexuality—Let's Celebrate .....	502
Long Term Relationships .....	503
Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance .....	509
Gay Life After Forty .....	510
Lesbian Violence .....	523
<b>Period 2</b>	
Sexuality for Sexual Abuse Survivors and Their Lovers/Mates .....	502
Talking About Sensible Sex .....	503
Lesbian and Gay Parents: Sharing Our Stories, Meeting and Affirming Each Other .....	509
Abortion Rights—A Lesbian Issue? .....	510
Cook Workshop .....	523
<b>Period 3</b>	
Lesbian/Gay Radio in Maine: Let's Talk About It .....	502
Rebirthing .....	503
Organizing in Small Communities .....	509
After You've Been Out a Number of Years .....	510
Consenting Adults (movie) .....	523
<b>Period 4</b>	
Meeting the Goddess: A Feminist Spiritual Journey .....	502
Legal Needs of Lesbians and Gay Men .....	503
An Introductory Discussion of Contemporary Feminism .....	509
The Psycho-Social Aspects of AIDS .....	510

## Workshop Period 2

**Saturday 2:00 — 3:30**

### **SEXUALITY FOR SEXUAL ABUSE SURVIVORS AND THEIR LOVERS/MATES**

Panel of Sexual Abuse Survivors and Mates (4-6 women) Room 502  
As awareness of sexual abuse increases, support is needed for survivors and their mates around issues of sex. After brief opening remarks from each presenter, the workshop will be open for discussion and feedback.

### **TALKING ABOUT SENSIBLE SEX**

Room 503

Larry Kessler, Boston AIDS Action Committee  
A presentation and discussion about how persons at high risk of acquiring AIDS can modify their sexual activities. Participants will be encouraged to share their experiences (frustrations?) with learning and practicing sensible sex.

### **LESBIAN AND GAY PARENTS: SHARING OUR STORIES, MEETING AND AFFIRMING EACH OTHER**

Room 509

Mary Ellen Alicandri & Frank Brooks, Gay/Lesbian Parents Group  
Presenters will lead/facilitate discussion toward discovering the issues that connect us as lesbian/gay parents. Participants will be invited to share their parenting experiences. This is an opportunity for sharing, listening, networking and supporting each other.

### **ABORTION RIGHTS—A LESBIAN ISSUE?**

Room 510

Christine Torraca, Greater Portland NOW  
We'll explore the connection between reproductive freedom for women and the right to be a lesbian. We'll also talk about the connection between those opposed to reproductive freedom and those opposed to lesbian existence. This is not a lecture. Attendees will share their ideas.

### **COOK WORKSHOP**

David Wright, Chef from The Underground Room 523  
Elegant yet simple dishes: caesar salads, fettucini alfredo, elegant desserts, and instructional workshop. Recipes, steps shown. Will eat dishes at end.

## Workshop Period 3

**Saturday 4:00 — 5:30**

### **LESBIAN-GAY RADIO IN MAINE: LET'S TALK ABOUT IT**

Room 502

Dick Harrison, Northern Lambda Nord  
Our community in Maine has made great strides over the years, and our potential is enormous—as one-tenth of the state's population we number nearly 100,000! Yet outreach to that deep space behind the garment bags and hangers is difficult. OUR PAPER is an excellent information source, but it reaches too few. How can we make contact with members of our community in Meddybemps, Madison, and Mars Hill? Radio. Sitting in the dark recesses of the closet with a Walkman to your ear can provide news, information, and the support necessary to help one deal with issues relevant to our lives. Gay/lesbian Radio in Maine: Let's talk about it!

### **REBIRTHING**

Room 503

Marjorie Arber, Cara-Dawn  
A conscious breathing process which frees a person from previous trauma, including his/her own birth, by allowing it to be totally relived. And, as part of this wondrous process, the person may experience being breathed by the breath of birth of life.

### **ORGANIZING IN SMALL COMMUNITIES**

Room 509

Larry Kessler, Boston AIDS Action Committee  
The inevitable has happened in Maine; AIDS is here. The gay community working with supporters, is beginning to organize a support/education system for patients with AIDS and their care givers. This workshop will help guide our actions in providing the most compassionate services in towns all over Maine.

### **AFTER YOU'VE BEEN OUT A NUMBER OF YEARS**

Room 510

Miles Rightmire  
At the last Symposium an impromptu workshop entitled "After You've Been Out A Number Of Years" was held. It was extremely well attended and a lot of people had the opportunity to share their experiences. Let the dialogue continue!

### **CONSENTING ADULTS (movie)**

Room 523

If you didn't see **Consenting Adults** when it was on TV earlier this year, here's your chance.



## Workshop Period 4

Sunday 12:00 — 1:30

### MEETING THE GODDESS: A FEMINIST SPIRITUAL JOURNEY Room 502

Kathryn Baptista, Feminist Spiritual Community

In this workshop we will explore the places of spirituality in our lives, work, play, relationships and sexuality. Using Goddess imagery, we will do ritual, guided meditation, storytelling, and music to share our life-journeys and integrate our spiritual lives into them. This workshop is limited to women.

### LEGAL NEEDS OF LESBIANS AND GAY MEN Room 503

Erna Koch, Attorney

This workshop will focus on the legal needs of Lesbians and Gay men, especially in the area of Gay couples; each partner's rights and how to plan for unforeseen circumstances which could compromise a couple's wishes about the rights and position of each partner; child custody; and discrimination against Gay people. Discussion of your questions is encouraged, so feel free to bring and raise questions you have about the legal system and your relationship to it.

### AN INTRODUCTORY DISCUSSION OF CONTEMPORARY FEMINISM Room 509

Cyndie Lamoureau

We will discuss feminism in contemporary society by studying authors who are representative of contemporary feminist thought. Texts will include poetry and selected readings. Participation and discussion will be encouraged.

### THE PSYCHO-SOCIAL ASPECTS OF AIDS Room 510

Larry Kessler, Boston AIDS Action Committee

Open discussion about the implications of AIDS in our lives. Personal and societal attitudes will be explored.

Sunday 10:00 am — 12:00 pm

### MLGPA MEETING Room 523

The monthly MLGPA meeting will be held during Symposium since every gay man and lesbian from the state will be there! Continental breakfast will be served.

## Kate Clinton



Since 1981, comedian Kate Clinton has been on a roll. Packed audiences from coast to coast and everywhere in between have been on a roll with her—generally in the aisles. She has played comedy clubs, colleges, coffeehouses, conferences, and that's just the c's. Her style of stand-up comedy has been called, "courageous", "energized", "brilliant" and "gutsy".

A classically trained stand-up comedian, this joker/jokewriter composes and arranges all her own material, drawing from her deep roots as a white, middle class, former high school English teacher and Recovering Catholic. Kate calls herself a fumerist—that's feminist and humorist combined. Her repertoire reflects her twin feminist convictions that women are oppressed and that it must end. Unlike men's humor which is based on the maintenance of the status quo, feminist humor is based on a vision of change. Kate believes that our sense of humor is proof of our sense of survival. Laughing together, we are women bonding together through shared experience and through common opposition to our oppression.

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**\$5.00 general public**

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CLOSED SUNDAYS

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## **Larry Kessler**

Larry Kessler has been the coordinator of The AIDS Action Committee for the past two years. He is a member of the Mayor's Task Force on AIDS for the City of Boston and serves on Governor Dukakis's AIDS Task Force since its creation in 1984. His pre-AIDS activities include many years as a gay activist in Boston and also has a history of involvement in civil rights, peace and hunger movements since 1963. As coordinator of the AAC he is responsible for the direction of a staff of 5 and over 150 volunteers who carry out the mandate of the AIDS Action Committee of support, education, outreach and advocacy for people with AIDS and those involved in the care of people with AIDS and those at risk for AIDS.

## **Peter Lombardi**

Peter Lombardi is one of the founding members of the AIDS Action Committee of Boston and is currently in charge of the Support Services Team for the AAC. His experience includes working directly with people with AIDS and helping them develop comprehensive home care programs, buddy systems and hospice services in the home. He recruits, trains and supervises the volunteers who make up the Support Services Team of the AAC. He is a former Maine resident.

A film by **NESTOR ALMENDROS** and **ORLANDO JIMENEZ-LEAL**  
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