

MAINE

LESBIAN

FEMINISTS

NEWSLETTER

MAY

1978

Skowhegan, Maine

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There have not been any minutes of the last MLF meeting received, and since it was a beautiful day and the room was very crowded, this Dyke did not stay for the entire General Meeting. As a matter of fact, I only stayed for the introductions. (Next meeting I suggest someone volunteer to take minutes and see that they are forwarded to the Newsletter staff.)

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# NEXT MLF MEETING!!!!

The next meeting will be held at Erna and Nancy's in Palermo (?), on Sunday, May 21st.

## Tentative Agenda:

- 10:00 - 11:30 Open time (Greetings, Eating, Workshops, whatever)
- 11:30 - 12:30 General Meeting
- 1:00 - 2:30 Workshops
  - Statewide Clearing House/ Task Force to Support Lesbian Mothers - Jan (see info on page 2)
  - Matriarchy - Nan (see note on page 3)
- 2:45 - 4:15 New Members - Donna
- National Lesbian Feminist Organization - Gettin' it together in Maine - Kate
- 5:00 - 6:00 POT LUCK SUPPER

Bring KITES, softball stuff, etc. We have large fields.

We did not hear of too many workshops, so women wishing to do them should pick a time and "do them".

## PLEASE :

- No smoking in the house (Porch is okay )
- Please try not to bring dogs
- We would like the meeting to end by 7:00PM

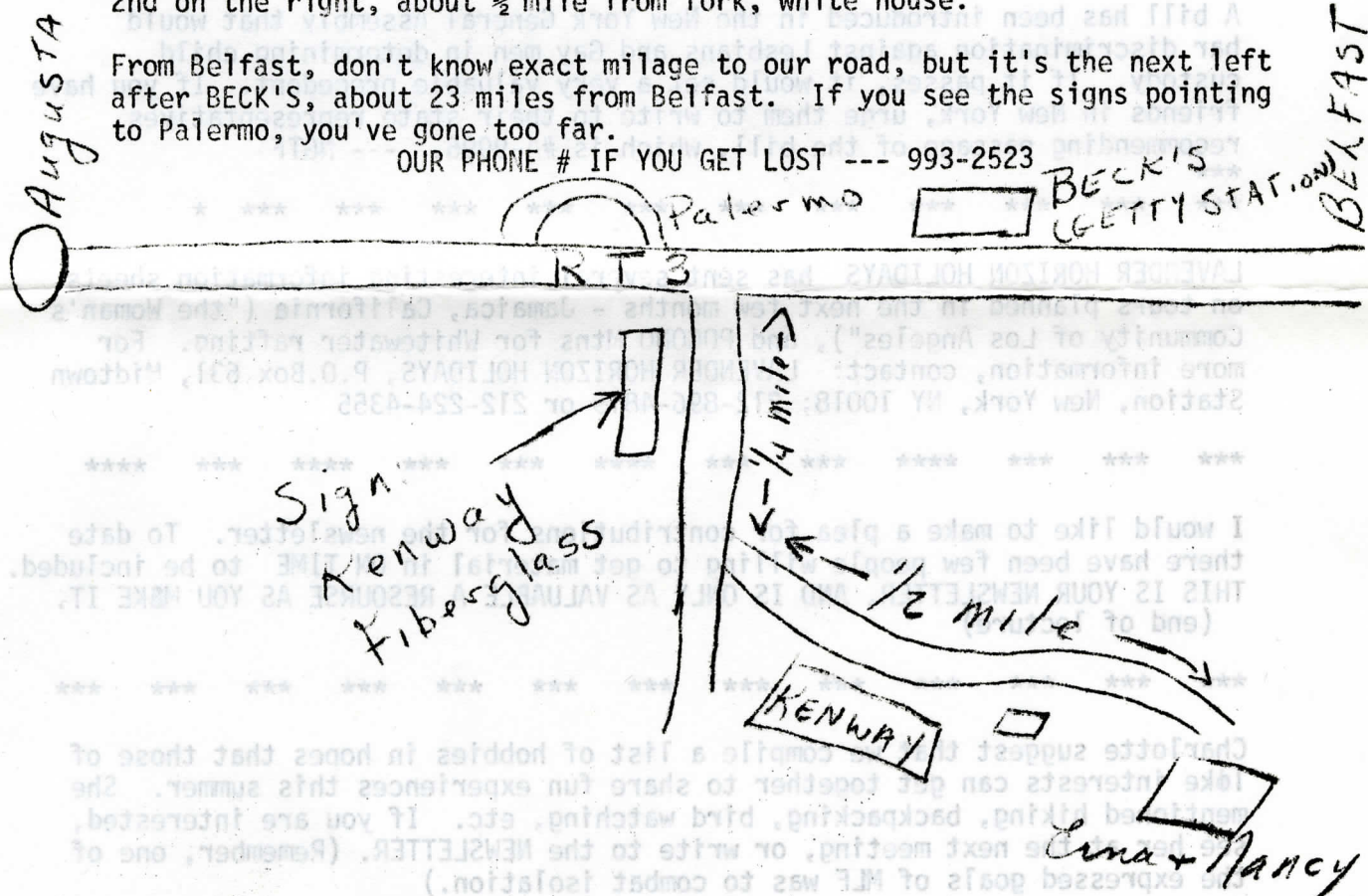
\*\*\*\*\*RAINDATE : June 4th (Sunday) \*\*\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE\*\*\*\*\*

## DIRECTIONS:

It is almost exactly 24 miles from Cony Circle in Augusta to the "Kenway Fiberglass" sign, where you go right. Take left fork, and our house is 2nd on the right, about 1/2 mile from fork, white house.

From Belfast, don't know exact milage to our road, but it's the next left after BECK'S, about 23 miles from Belfast. If you see the signs pointing to Palermo, you've gone too far.

OUR PHONE # IF YOU GET LOST --- 993-2523





2

NOTES ON WORKSHOP: Forming a Statewide Clearinghouse/ Task Force  
about Lesbian Custody Cases

Many women in the state have had to deal with custody cases in which lesbianism was an issue. Many more will be dealing with that situation as "coming out" becomes more widespread. Right now, there is no way for women to benefit from the experiences of others except through word-of-mouth or good luck - there is no efficient way to pool the growing body of experience, to share information about lawyers, to exchange names of helpful professionals, and to try to harness some finances for the use of women who may need them.

This workshop is the beginning. If you have been, are now, or expect to be involved with a lesbian custody case, please come.

Lawyers, judges, and professionals, and heterosexual spouses all suffer from lack of true information about the nature of lesbianism. As long as we stay in the closets and remain invisible, these influential persons have no accessible information or experience to challenge their misconceptions. A Clearinghouse/ Taskforce need to be available to these persons as well as to lesbians. We need to keep files of transcripts, when available, of both courtroom successes and disasters. We need to invite interested lawyers to contribute their experiences or to learn from ours. We need to work to see that lesbianism in itself is divested of its fearful, evil image, and to see that lesbianism is divorced from any association with ability-to-raise-and-nurture-children.

Come to this workshop. Let's get moving and help to rid ourselves of a tremendous, needless fear and hassle. Let's start now. Jan Monroe

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There is a Gay-Straight Alliance that formed in Orono this semester at the University of Maine. It has been meeting since February to promote communication and understanding between heterosexuals and gays. We have had some good discussions at meetings. There has been a bake sale, a workshop in conjunction with the Waterville Gay-Straight Alliance at the Maine Gay Symposium V, & a workshop at the Sexuality Symposium at the University of Maine at Orono, put on by the Alliance. Currently, we are preparing to facilitate a discussion of homosexuality at a Call to Worship seminar of the Maine Christian Association. Meetings are at the University of Maine at Orono on Tuesday's at 8:30PM. They are at Estabrooke Hall in seminar room #1. The place may change when school ends in May. Interested people may call: Laura Rizzardini at 989-1253, or write her at : 55 Brimmer Street, Brewer, Maine 04412

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A bill has been introduced in the New York General Assembly that would bar discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men in determining child custody. If it passes, it would set a very valuable precedent. If you have friends in New York, urge them to write to their state representatives recommending passage of the bill, which is #A-9996. --- NGTF

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LAVENDER HORIZON HOLIDAYS has sent several interesting information sheets on tours planned in the next few months - Jamaica, California ("the Woman's Community of Los Angeles"), and POCONO Mtns for Whitewater rafting. For more information, contact: LAVENDER HORIZON HOLIDAYS, P.O.Box 631, Midtown Station, New York, NY 10018; 212-896-4819 or 212-224-4355

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I would like to make a plea for contributions for the newsletter. To date there have been few people willing to get material in ON TIME to be included. THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER, AND IS ONLY AS VALUABLE A RESOURCE AS YOU MAKE IT.  
(end of lecture)

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Charlotte suggest that we compile a list of hobbies in hopes that those of like interests can get together to share fun experiences this summer. She mentioned hiking, backpacking, bird watching, etc. If you are interested, see her at the next meeting, or write to the NEWSLETTER. (Remember, one of the expressed goals of MLF was to combat isolation.)



4

NOTES ON WORKSHOP: MATRIARCHY

3

The impromptu workshop on Matriarchy held at the April 23rd MLF meeting generated a lot of thought about what matriarchy is and how (if) it can be achieved. As a result, the group decided to continue with a series of workshops on matriarchy, each covering a specific topic and with suggested reading materials announced in the newsletter.

The matriarchy workshop this month will focus on the questions:

1. What is matriarchy - our own definitions of such a feminist utopia?
2. What would be included in a matriarchal society?

The reading material is "The Answer is Matriarchy", an article by Barbara Love and Elizabeth Shaklin appearing in Our Right To Love, Ed. Ginny Vita. Anyone without access to that article can get a copy from:

Nan Stone - Topsham - 725-2519

Connie Huntley - Skowhegan - 474-8349 (work phone)

Laurie Bruce - Skitikuk School, Orono - 866-4052

Rhodie Hinks - Washington - 594-6405 (work - Camden)  
845-2509 (home)

Sparky - Portland - 774-3221

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ANTI-ANITA BRYANT PROTEST MAY 13 and 14 PORTLAND, MAINE

May 13, Saturday night, CANDLELITE MARCH, 9:00

Meet at 8:15PM on the corner of Park Ave and State Street to march to City Hall Plaza. Bring your own candles (matches to light them)

May 14, Sunday Afternoon PICKET - DEMONSTRATION

Meet at ONE-WAY, Union Street, at 1:15PM. Demonstration will be at City Hall Plaza at 2:00 or 2:30PM. Bring signs.

There will be a final planning meeting at the GPA office on Friday, 5/12. For information call 780-4089, M-F 6-9PM, Allday Saturday.

Get out, enjoy the fresh air, lend your support for YOUR Human Rights.

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IF THERE IS AN X ON YOUR ENVELOPE, YOU SHOULD FILL THIS OUT AND MAIL IT TO: Nadine Lopes, Chadbourne Ridge Road, West Buxton, Maine

I want to receive (or continue) a subscription, here's my \$5.00

I want to continue to receive but don't have that much now, here's a contribution.

I don't wish to receive the Newsletter any longer.

The Newsletter will soon begin the second year of "publication", and many suscriptions will be running out. Keep an eye on your envelope. If there is an X in the lower left hand corner, that means, according to our files, it's time to renew. If we are wrong, please say so. We don't want to stop anyone's subscription, but we also don't want to mail unwanted copies. It costs money for stamps and envelopes.

PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS"

love is a closeness

(not) too bare (not) to bear

a freedom

(not) too near (not) to find

an awareness

(not) too elusive (not) to be read

CAROL



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Hello!

I am inviting you to join me in my work to organize the Women's Counselling Center in Waterville, Maine. Now I've been thinking, talking and working on this project for several months with some success and considerable frustration. I've come to my senses and realized that such a center demands work of more than one person (unless said person can devote all her energies in that direction).

So grab your notebooks, prepare to organize. I've written foundations, agencies and others and will be getting said directions back (hopefully soon). I (we) may become a non-profit organization - I have appropriate applications.

Grants and proposals will need to be written. A house or place found to work in. Jobs defined/salaries found. Training money planned for.

If you are at all interested in committing yourself to the center - once a week meeting, follow thru on assignments, possibly creating your own job, and working with me on this, say so. List your skills, background, what you want to do.

There are basically 4 programs to be established:

Counselling/using traditional and feminist styles - hopefully to include group work, individual work, couple's work, family and child if people request it - using degreed (from Ph.D., etc.) and experienced counsellors not necessarily credentialled. Perhaps under counselling we'll be able to coordinate a rape counselling program and eventually a "battered wives" and abused women counselling program.

Drop in Center - a place to congregate, socialize, plan, play, organize specific interest groups, CR group study work projects, writing groups, theatre groups, any thing - do some fun and fund raising. This is an essential program to fight isolation around here. In general this program will develop ways to identify our interests and resources.

Body Work Program - a program focused on further developing a positive and strong self image/physical image. Health and vitality and liking and developing one's physical abilities is central theme for this program, hopefully to include any project/class encouraging us to know and develop ourselves fully. Some class ideas: organized women's sports, yoga, t'ai chi chun, self defense, massage, diet education, movement, dance, etc.

Education/growth program - groups - gestalt, T, similar workshops - classes relating to local interest from car mechanics to astrology. All of course developed for and by women with a woman's perspective in mind

So there's a brief outline of my dreams. Think where you'd like to focus your energies. Share this with your friends. I'm initially interested in working with 5 or 6 women though you are all free to further divide the work. There may be part-time or full time positions created by this program - much will depend on our efforts and successes. I'm certainly interested in a director - co-director consult, as well as running workshops and doing counselling.

Another important dimension of this center is to reach out to many classes of women. Rich, poor, working class, middle class, gay, and straight. I am seeking people who will work toward encouraging this. If your personal attitudes exclude other women or won't respect another's viewpoint, politics, life-style, than I'd ask you not to work with me at this time.

Ideally I'd like to meet Wednesday evenings (weekly). If we can't do that time let me know. Please contact me soon either by letter or by phone, 873-2136 days (work) leave a message if I'm not there 968-2117 evenings

MARY MacIntyre

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NOTICE!!!!

I'd like to see a Spirituality Study Group form. We might meet every two weeks to discuss books and articles we've read on spirituality. Women might give presentations on religions, cults, or other topics relating to Spirituality. Themes might be getting in Touch with Personal Power, Exercising Woman's Rage Positively, Re-establishing Woman's Religious Rituals and Holy Days. The first meeting can be at my house on June 3, at 7PM. I live at 55 Brimmer St. in Brewer, on the 2nd floor. Interested dykes can write me or call 989-1253 if they need more information. I'm hoping this group will be a mutual exploration of spirituality and hope women who come to the meeting will come with books and/or ideas and experiences to share. LAURA RIZZARDINI

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WHAT was your reaction to MAINE GAY SYMPOSIUM V? How do you feel about the direction of MLF? Have you attended an interesting conference? Do you know of an event of interest to your sisters? We are looking for contributions from every one. If you have information, please share it.



# HOUSING WANTED

I am looking for an apartment or small house to rent in the Portland area. I will be going to Portland School of Art and would like to find a place before September. I have a car and possibly two cats. Finances may be limited. I would appreciate all help and leads anyone can give me. Thank you.  
Susan L. Coombs, P.O. Box 177, Stonington, Me. 04681 (207-367-5091 after 4:30 PM)

# HOUSING OFFERED (in Portland yet)

I'm looking for someone to share a 2-bedroom apartment for July and August. Rent is about \$100 a month and I have two cats that I'm not supposed to have, so no other animals, please. (Sorry Susan) For September, I'm hoping to get some women together to rent a house somewhere in this area, so that'll be a possibility for after the summer. Many thanks, Debbie Legge, 25 Grant Street, #4, Portland, Maine

# MORE HOUSING

Looking for a place to live? Donna is leaving that wonderful house in Topsham, scene of many fine women's gatherings. Nan (34) and Robin (8) want to stay if they can find one or two other women (and possibly children) to share it with before June. If interested, call Nan at 725-2519---- SOON!!!!

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# COURSE OFFERED

Hello, I'm Mary, a full-time mechanic from Cambridge, Mass., and I'm offering a basic auto repair workshop for women mid July to mid-August. This course will be held once a week - either Saturday or Sunday (depending on women's schedules) for about 6 hours each time. It will cover basic maintenance, repairs, and use of tools. The cost is \$40 and for those women who can't afford it, I'm open to bartering. The maximum number will be 12. Call Donna Light about details and to sign up for the course. See you soon.  
Donna's Phone: 207-785-4756

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Greater Bangor Area Lesbian Support Group now has a post office box. Lesbians who want more information about us and/or want to know the location and time of the next gathering can write Bea A. Dyke, P. O. Box 533, Brewer, Maine 04412

A Lesbian Handicraft Circle has formed. We will meet for the first time on June 12th at 7pm at 4 North Main Street in Orono. Park in the University Motor Inn parking lot. The meeting will be in Irene's apartment which is entered on the right side of the house. Bring your needlework, whittling, painting, or other handiwork. Or bring a book to read to us or an instrument to play. We want to re-create the spirit of our foremother's quilting bees and sewing circles.