Maine Lesbian Feminist

It was bound to happen eventually, folks – the Maine Lesbian Feminist meeting was showed out! You weren't the only ones who couldn't make it, well, Bette, we want to plan for a meeting at your house next summer?!
In the meantime... the next MLF meeting will be

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25
DONNA & PHIL & ROBIN'S HOUSE
17 PERKINS STREET
TOPSHAM
PHONE: 725-2519

Directions:
From the NORTH: Come down I95, take the Topsham exit, or go down Rte 201 directly into Topsham, or take Rte. 1 south, get off at the Topsham-Lisbon Falls-Brunswick exit and follow the signs into Topsham.
From the WEST: Take rte. 196 into Topsham
From the SOUTH: Take 295, get off at the Bath-Brunswick exit, follow Rte. 1 north, take the Topsham exit; or take 295, get off at the Topsham exit, follow signs into Topsham.

When you arrive in Topsham you may:
1. Give a big YUMMM!
2. Wander the streets looking for over lesbians to bring with you, or
3. Turn this page sideways and follow this map. Whatever you do, don't give up - you're only a few blocks away from a whole housefull of warm, cuddly lesbians.
10:00 - 11:00: Hot coffee or tea and warm greetings for everyone
11:00 - 11:30: (And we mean 11:00 sharp!) Political task force meeting
Gay Symposium
Telephone support network
Democratic convention
Local "chapters", etc. etc.
11:30 - 1:00: Task-oriented workshops
Strategizing for the Democratic convention - Diane
Increasing lesbian visibility - Nan
Intro to MLF, for new members - Donna
Other workshops as interest warrants
1:00 - 2:00: Lunch - bring your own
2:00 - 3:30: Issue oriented workshops
Menustration - our experiences, our feelings, our visions - Donna
Power Struggles - why they exist, how do we deal with them - Mary
Issues for lesbians with children - Nadine & Dolores
Coming out at work -
MLF Business
Finding new workers
- treasurer
- newsletter crew
- subscription person
MLF contact list
Childcare at MLF meetings
Announcements:
Symposium
Democratic convention
Support network
Etc., etc.
3:30 - 4:00: Let luck supper - come one, come all, bring food to share
And all of this followed by partying, rappings, dancing and
otherwise enjoying old friends and making new ones, for as long
as we wish.
Anyone wishing to stay overnite - there's plenty of room. Just
bring sleeping bags
CHILDREN ARE WELCOME - dogs, on the other hand, are best left at
home if at all possible.

You will notice that this meeting is considerably more structured than most.
We have received feedback from women who have felt lost at MLF meetings, not at
all sure where (or whether) they belonged. Others have expressed frustration that
not enough work is getting done. This format is an attempt to respond to these
needs. Please respect it. If you only want to socialize, do not come until
5:00. And whatever you come for, be on time!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAINE GAY SYMPOSIUM, '78
Plans are underway for the next Maine Gay Symposium which will be held in
Bangor on March 31, April 1 and 2. There are still plenty of slots open for
workshops, so if you have any ideas please let us know. Also, if you would like
to run a workshop, that would be wonderful. WE NEED PEOPLE TO WORK AT THE SYM-
POSIUM, AND WE NEED YOUR INPUT FOR IDEAS, ETC. Please contact:
Dolores Cote/Nadine Lopez
Chadbourn's Ridge Road
West Boston, Me. 04093
727-5391
or
Diane Elze
16 Sanford Street
Bangor, Me. 04401
947-0466
or, see us at the next MLF meeting.

QUILTING PARTY
To raise money for the Symposium, a collectively - constructed quilt will be
raffled at the Symposium. Anyone up for a wild afternoon of hand or machine
sewing can stay in the area after the MLF meeting and go to the QUILTING PARTY
on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 at 1:00 p.m. at 92 BEDFORD STREET, PORTLAND.
MAINLY GAY

Mainly Gay is in severe financial trouble, and will have to stop publication unless some new energy and interest is found immediately. There will be a meeting on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19 at 11:00 a.m. in the main classroom building at the University of Maine in Augusta. Anyone with ideas, interest and/or energy is urgently asked to come to this meeting.

WOMEN’S DANCE

Wildstein Club is sponsoring a Women’s Dance on February 18 at the Maine Christian Association Center at the U of M in Mohegan. It is from 6:00 p.m. – midnight. Please bring records and drinks. Housing will be available if you’d like to stay over.

GAY DANCE

They have a report of a gay dance planned for February 13 (Monday nite) at Lunar Base One. Trouble is, nobody knows what or where Lunar Base One is. If you find it, admission is $1.50.

RUDDY TURNSTONE

That’s the name of a wonderful new restaurant in Harrington, Maine, which includes an area for swapping or buying books. If you’re in the area, it’s well worth checking out, so we hear.

DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION

Now you’re probably wondering what all the stuff on the agenda about the Democratic Convention means, anyway. Well, here’s the scoop. It seems that it’s a pretty easy process to become a delegate to the state convention, which will be April 28 through 30. So, there’s a move afoot to "infiltrate" the convention to raise very relevant issues they will probably try to ignore – like the Gay Rights Bill and abortion – and to find out more about the political process.

Therefore, all you lesbians aspiring to be Senators, and those of you with unfulfilled desires to play political games, here’s your chance! What you have to do is (1) have yourself and a handful of your friends register as Democrats, if you’re not already, and (2) attend the Democratic caucus meeting which will be held in your town sometime between February 12th and 16th, and (3) have one of your friend’s nominate you as a delegate. Given that very few people attend these caucuses, that nomination will practically assure your election!

If you haven’t heard when your caucus meeting is, you can find out by calling your City Hall and asking for the Democratic Party head in your area, or by calling State Headquarters at 622-6233. So far 4 women are planning to do this – a group of 5 to 10 at the Convention would be superb. You must act now – the caucus meeting will be held between Feb. 12 & 18. Then there will be a strategizing meeting at the Feb. 28th MLP meeting for all of you who have been elected and all of us who want to support you to plan for the Convention.

Who knows – one of you may be the next Elaine Noble!!

HELP!

MLF needs new people to take over the various business tasks within the organization. Diana Fish has resigned as newsletter subscription person, and Rhody Hinks as treasurer (note her enclosed letter). Also, it’s time for a new newsletter crew to take over. Please give these careful consideration before Feb. 28, so that we don’t have to spend a lot of our time figuring out who can do them. None of those tasks take much time, but all are vital to the continuance of the group.

INFO FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Anyone with announcements, letters, comments, feelings or anything else you want to share via the newsletter, please send it to Mary Parsley, 594 Washington Street, Bath, Me. 04930 before MARCH 6. And PLEASE BE DISCREET!

SEXUALITY WORKSHOP

(Oops – we almost forgot this one!) The Women’s Counseling Service is holding a nine week sexuality workshop, Getting in Touch, beginning February 28. The course will use group discussion, body awareness exercises and take home assignments to help women reclaim their sexuality. Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:30; cost is $20 for 9 sessions. Women must register before February 21 by calling WSC, 773-9581 M & W from 11-2, Thurs. 4-7 or Sat. 10-1. Note: this course is not for lesbians only!
Dear Women,

I’m hoping this letter will be printed and taken by most readers as constructive criticism, or at least construed as not meant in an attacking way. I felt very supportive of MLP when I first became aware of its existence, and I tried to show my support by offering my home for meetings and taking on the miniscule responsibilities of treasurer.

Maybe not everyone has experienced being new to a place or group and maybe those of you who have don’t have difficulties with it, but I sure do. It seems even more difficult to be in a fairly isolated position the majority of the time, and then all at once to be surrounded by forty or more beautiful lesbians. Personally it’s a very intense feeling resulting in a fluctuation between wanting to hide and wanting to easily begin a conversation with someone — hiding usually wins out.

My overall feeling of the past year is one of disappointment. I’ve had women express to me how they enjoy having meetings here, but from very few women did I get any feeling of support or concern for me.

I don’t deny any responsibility for this and I understand the difficulties of being so spread out geographically, but does that mean we have to be spread out spiritually and emotionally as well? If we aren’t that is the alternative a number of cliques to which newcomers can’t fit in unless they meet certain criteria? I can’t be anyone but me, not even for lesbians. Maybe we need to be more than just accepting of each other and be actively supportive despite different lifestyles, politics and values.

That’s mainly what I wanted to express other than my giving up the treasurer position and, at least for now, coming to meetings. Perhaps my expectations are too high, but I know they can’t be met at my straight every day job — and if not by a lesbian community then where? I welcome feedback, and one of the fears I have is that I’ll get none.

with continuing hope and support,
Rhody Hinks
Washington
Me. 0h574

Ed, note – don’t assume somebody else is responding to Rhody; if you have feelings about what she has said, write her yourself!

And poetry from our sister on the West Coast, Loie Hayes!

woman of the stars
like your soft sculpture
you build on a frame
of cold hard glass
adding stuffing here and there
defining soft breast and lips with corda
the nylon surface soft but not warm

you share your smile with me now
though eyes still dart sometimes
and hands cannot rest
on my back
as we hug
you are so beautiful
I wish to touch you as freely
as I can your work

your black wool skirt
slightly abrasive
but warm and flowing
not so much mourning
as healing

abandoning myself again
I am not my Mother.

screaming senselessly
sense-ful
I will rip this
small red placenta
from my insided out

i will run from her
even with the wound
still bleeding between my legs

I am no mother.

and still
She waits
cradling the child to her breast

6/1/77

1/30/77: