

SYMPOSIUM
XXIII

community
"Come-in-Unity"

JUNE 13, 14, 15, 1997

SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE

Special Symposium Guests:

Kate Clinton - The one and only "First Lady of Gay Comedy," there are no skeletons in this versatile comic's closet. Witty and wise - savvy and sweet - get ready for an evening of irreverent, but relevant, humor. Join Kate in a celebration of life, liberty and the pursuit of laughter.

Bob Smith - From appearances on The Tonight Show, his own HBO special (yes, even five times on the Howard Stern Show), you won't want to miss a rare New England appearance by this hilarious "Funny Gay Male."

Urvashi Vaid - attorney and community organizer whose national involvement in the gay/lesbian movement spans more than 15 years. She is Director of the Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and author of Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay and Lesbian Liberation. Time Magazine named her one of 50 leaders for the future under forty in the United States.

*Every gay person must come out...
Once they realize we are indeed their
children, we are indeed everywhere,
every myth, every lie, every innuendo
will be destroyed once and for all.*

- Harvey Milk

Symposium XXIII Welcomes You!!

We are so glad you could come to participate and celebrate with us during this wonderful weekend filled with enlightenment and entertainment. We have worked hard to provide a diverse blend of workshops to stimulate the mind, touch the heart, and open new possibilities within that place we love - "community."

On May 8, 1997 history was made in Maine with the passage of "An Act to Prevent Discrimination" (L.D. 1116), making it illegal to discriminate against any individual based solely on sexual orientation. It's been a very long and difficult journey and now it's time to **celebrate!!** Enjoy the weekend - learn - laugh - and most importantly, celebrate yourselves!

Reminders:

- the rainbow pin is your admittance to all events (not meals)
- you must present your meal ticket to eat
- no alcohol on campus
- no pets on campus or left in cars
- no smoking in any buildings (outside only)

Thanks for sharing and being a part of this wonderful gathering of community!! We are honored to be able to contribute and hope this will be a special time for each and every one of you!!

In unity and community,

Deb and Susan

GAY TIMES FESTIVAL

bar harbor area's 2nd annual oceanside romp retreat and all around 'good times, gay times' gathering! 1997 = August 16-18

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Your hosts: Judy, Larry, Lin, Rosemarie, Trevor.

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looking AHEAD TO SYMPOSIUM XXIV!!

Symposium XXIV is already TENTATIVELY SET FOR
AUG 7-9, 1998 ON THE SACO RIVER IN Biddeford!

For more information or to join the 1998 local planning committee, contact:

Paul Fortier by email at baileyprk@aol.com write to PAUL at P.O. Box 873, Portsmouth, NH 03802-0873. And YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN PAUL AND THE SYMPOSIUM FOREVER BOARD FOR A BREAKFAST MTG HERE SUN. AT 9am!

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A festive holiday-themed graphic featuring various black silhouettes of stars, hearts, and a crown. The text is arranged in a central and right-hand layout. The word 'DROP' in 'DR**OP** ME A LINE...' is written in a larger, bolder font than the rest of the title. The background is white with black shapes.

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Friday - June 13, 1997

- Noon - 5:30 Registration, room assignments, etc.
- Noon - 5:30 Time for kayaking, beach walks,
 volleyball, settling in, etc,
 Both lounges in the Campus Center
 are available for our use.
- 6:00 - 7:00 Dinner
- 7:00 - 7:45 12-Step meeting
- 7:45 - 8:00 Welcome and announcements
- 8:00 - 10:00 **Kate Clinton** with special guest
 Bob Smith
- 10:30 -12:30 Dancing with DJ Lisa

Take a few minutes while you are here to check out the Spring Point Museum which features a great exhibit on Portland Harbor. Historic Fort Preble, the Spring Point Ledge Lighthouse, and the Shoreline Walkway are also located next to the S.M.T.C. campus. They are easily accessible and well worth a visit.

Saturday - June 14, 1997

6:00 - 8:00 Kayaking, beach walks, bike rides, etc.

7:30 - 9:00 Registration continues

7:45 - 8:45 Breakfast

9:00 - 10:30 **Keynote - Urvashi Vaid** (will be available for book signing afterward)

10:30 - Noon Workshops:

Coming Out and the New Gay Identity in the Media
#108 M.T. Bldg. Victoria Zavasnik. Dialog among participants addressing the topic of coming out as it is happening all around daily, the effect of the news coverage for the gay issue and it's impact on programming such as The Ellen Program. The therapist will act as facilitator and encourage all participants to voice their opinions and experience on how this new gay identity in the media is affecting us personally, professionally, and privately.

Practicing Self Acceptance Day-to-Day, #109 M.T.
Bldg. Ann Hastings. Most people have a hard time accepting themselves as being good enough on a consistent basis. The challenge of self acceptance can be even greater for gay and lesbian people, yet the effort of self examination that opens the door to acceptance of self, as well as others, is extremely fulfilling. This workshop will offer a unique approach, arising from channeled teachings, that redefines the meaning of self acceptance, and how it can be integrated into our daily lives.

Outright - Issues for L/G/B/T Youth. Campus Center, 2nd Flr. Boardroom. Being facilitated by a panel of youth from Outright. Listening to queer youth - what it's like today.

Drumming - the Beat Goes On. #105 Hildreth. The workshop welcomes wanna-be drummers of all levels. Bring your drums!! The purpose of the drum circle is to bring us together, in unity, rhythm, and spirit. Several different rhythms will be taught to encourage drummers to explore various influences in drumming. A fun workshop - no experience necessary - dancers welcome! As often happens, the men and women who have attended this workshop gather later for a jam session or evening drumming circle. Come express your rhythms!!

The Transgender Phenomenon. Auditorium, M.T. Ari Kane. The workshop will provide an overview of the world of the transgendered individual. After some general concepts and a brief glossary of terms, we will focus on some of the social, personal and spiritual issues through some fun exercises to heighten gender awareness and experience some of the ecstasy and agony of being a happy transgendered spirit in a gender rigid culture.

Making Community: Gay Parenting in the Nineties. #110 M.T. Bldg. Jo Moser. This workshop is for those considering parenthood and those already parenting. What issues are unique to being gay and what are the challenges we face as parents? How do we create community? How do we integrate parenting with the rest of our lives? How do we educate others (other parents, schools, work place) as gay parents? Come explore these issues in an exciting interactive format.

12:15 - 1:15 Lunch

1:30 - 3:00 Workshops

HIV Disease in 1997 - Communities Still at Risk.

Today's workshops will examine issues that affect us differently as lesbians and gay/bisexual men.

AIDS - Lesbians at Risk - Myth or Reality?

#108 M.T. Bldg. Linda Pfaffinger and Victoria Rash. Who are we versus what we do. Are we at risk? The different medical concerns of women and other gender-based differences: access to clinical trials; differences in treatment efficacies; the affect of race and socio-economic status, etc.

AIDS - Gay/Bisexual Men - The Epidemic: 16 Years and Counting - Renewing Our Commitment to

Ourselves and Our Brothers. Auditorium, M.T. Bldg. Gerry Scoppettuolo. What are the long term effects on the quality of our lives and our relationships? What is the meaning of our sexual behaviors?

Establishing a Legal Relationship Without Marriage.

#110 M.T. Bldg. Ann Hastings. This workshop will discuss the various legal mechanisms now available to allow couples who cannot marry to establish the right to make decisions on behalf of each other while they live and to transfer to the surviving partner ownership of property and other rights after the death of one partner. This workshop would be particularly helpful for those couples who have accumulated property together and for those couples who would like to be sure that their roles in relation to each other would not be threatened if one partner were to become disabled.

Living in Rural Areas. #109 M.T. Bldg. Lin Gould.
How do we survive it? Let's share strategies for lessening the burden of isolation.

Abuse in Lesbian Relationships. #121 P.S. Bldg. Janie Waterhouse & Aimee DesRoehs. Internalized homophobia - what it is and what it does. Power and control - why people batter - barriers to leaving. Parts of the video, "My Girlfriend Did It", will be shown as time permits.

Bisexuality 101. #128 M.T. Bobbi Keppel and Alan Hamilton, What is bisexuality? What are the myths and what are the facts? A chance to talk about your questions and the meaning of bisexuality in any area of your life.

Self Help for Your Soul: Using the Imagination to Heal Old Wounds. #105 Hildreth Bldg. Patricia Burke.
The imagination is a sixth sense that can help us make meaning of our life experience and develop a different relationship to our sometimes painful past. In this workshop Patricia will help participants unleash the unlimited healing potential of the imagination and touch the innermost longing of the soul.

Feel free to take advantage of this great location to kayak, walk along the beach, explore the lighthouse, play volleyball and just relax with friends. The lounges in the Campus Center are available for your use and Black Tie Catering will have coffee/tea/sparkling water/munchies for sale there on Saturday.

3:30 - 5:00 Workshops

Couples: Issues and Communication. #110 M.T. Bldg. Victoria Zavasnik. There will be a short presentation followed by some group and individual hands on work. The workshop will spotlight one aspect of couple communication -- called couple dialogue. Several steps will be pointed out that couples can use and practice to develop and maintain more direct communication with each other, and developing the skills of empathetic listening and dialoguing. The experiences will be light-hearted but the context can be quite serious.

The Internet - Just Another Resource. Computer Lab. Campus Center. Paul Fortier. While much ballyhooed, the Internet, in many cases, has done for computing what cable did for television. Join me in dispelling some of the myths as we cut through the jargon jungle, and hopefully, find that there can be benefit gained in using the Internet. Basic terminology and access methods will be discussed.

Policing Desire: A Queer Response to Public Sex, Prostitution and Pornography. Auditorium, M.T. Bldg. Wendy Chapkis and Roger Mayo. In recent years, the Portland police department has been energetically "policing desire", by making use of new "anti-cruising" laws and campaigns to entrap men having sex with men in local adult movie theaters. This workshop will consider the role such "social purity crusades" historically have played in efforts to discipline and silence sexual minorities and will discuss possible responses by the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered community against criminalizing consensual adult sexual activity.

Singles - Looking at Love Pain. #108 M.T. Bldg. Carol Jenkins. Have you been stuck in the pain of an old relationship? Has this unhappy memory made it difficult for you to move ahead into a new place? Here is a surprisingly light workshop, designed primarily for singles, to look at the relationships from the past and to finally let go of the pain that might still surround those events. Using the energy releasing properties of Thought Field Therapy, members of the group will be able to recover from the past discomfort with a few simple exercises. This work has been described by those who have experienced it as a "feeling of a warm rush of calmness passing through their body, taking with it the discomfort and pain". Afterwards, it is difficult to remember what the discomfort was like, anyway.

Fiction Writing, Editing and Publishing: A Lesbian Perspective. #108 M.T. Bldg. Nanci Little. Lesbian author, Nanci Little, will mediate an open forum and offer her perspective on the crafts of writing and editing fiction, and the business of publishing. All writers of correspondence, journals, essays, novels, what have you --published or not-- are welcome to participate.

S & M 101 - Facts for the Curious. #121 P.S. Bldg. John Struble and other Harbormasters.

Starting and Running Your Own Business. #109 M.T. Bldg. Paul Bernard. What you need - Where to look - How to do it!! Should you do it!!

- 5:30 - 6:30 Dinner
- 6:30 - 7:30 12-Step Meeting (Campus Center)
- 6:45 - 7:45 Symposium Forever Committee Mtg.
- 8:30 -10:30 **Comedy with Bob Smith**
- 10:30-12:30 Dancing with DJ Lisa

Sunday - June 15, 1997

- 7:00 - 9:00 Open time (kayaking, beach walks, extra sleep, etc.)
- 9:00 - 10:00 Brunch
- 10:00- 11:30 AIDS Plenary Discussion - Campus Center
Report back to the full group on prior days individual Aids workshops
- 10:00- 11:30 Annual Town Meeting - Auditorium
with moderators Susan Farnsworth and Dick Harrison
- Noon - 1:00 Closing Circle
- 1:30 ----- You are welcome to remain for the afternoon
and enjoy the oceanfront surroundings

**Thank you for being a part of Symposium! Happiness,
good health and love to each of you!! See you next year
at Symposium XXIV!!!**

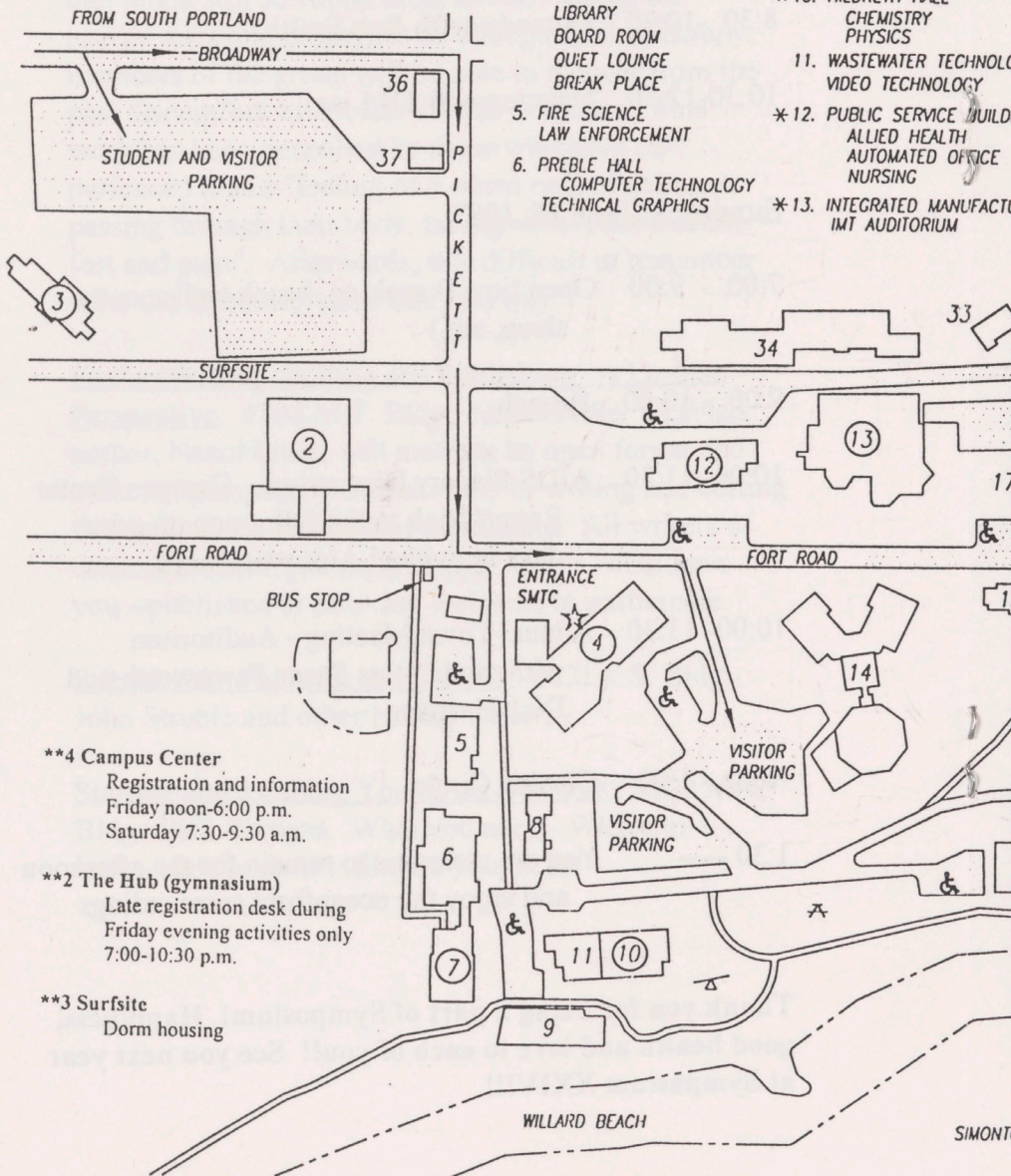
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****4 Campus Center**
 Registration and information
 Friday noon-6:00 p.m.
 Saturday 7:30-9:30 a.m.

****2 The Hub (gymnasium)**
 Late registration desk during
 Friday evening activities only
 7:00-10:30 p.m.

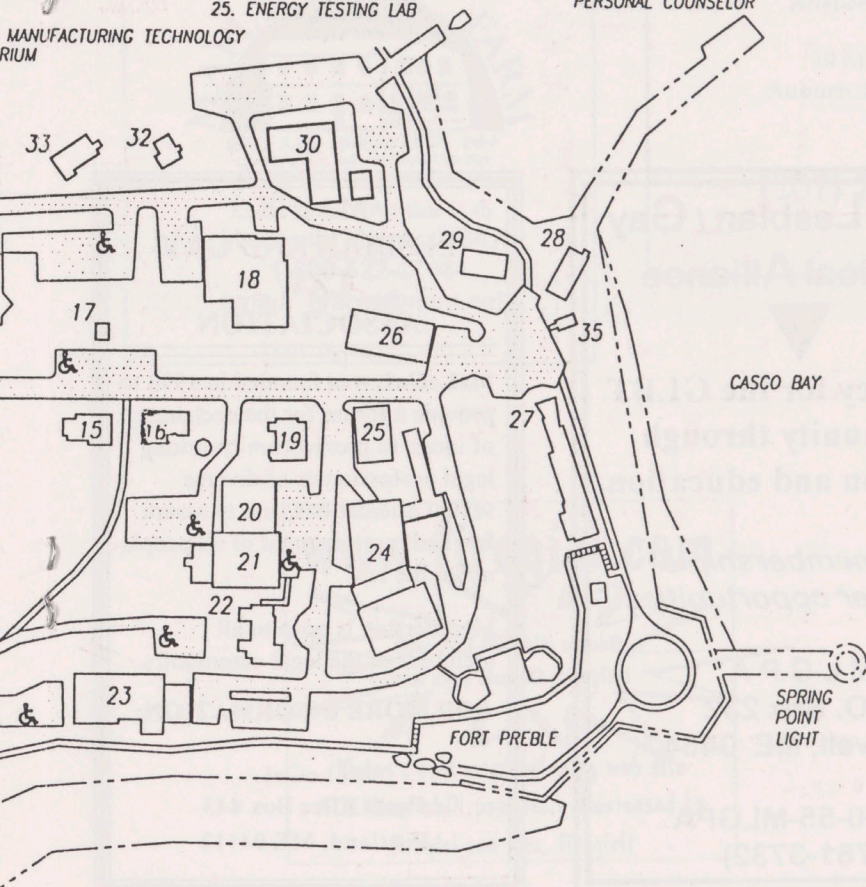
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27. SPRING POINT MUSEUM
28. MR. & MRS. FISH
29. MARINE TECHNOLOGY LAB
30. MARINE SCIENCE CENTER
32. EBCOT DEMONSTRATION CENTER
33. PLANT AND SOIL SCIENCE
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MAINE LESBIAN AND GAY LAW ASSOCIATION

MeLeGaL was founded in 1993 to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, to promote unity among legal professionals of diverse sexual orientations, and to assure fair and just treatment of all people under the law.

Membership is open to all members of the legal community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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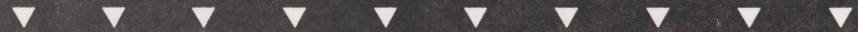
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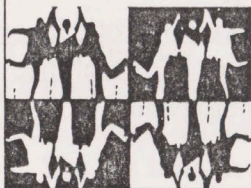
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Presenters...

Paul Bernard

Paul is owner of Adventure Travel, Inc. and Treasurer of the Rainbow Business & Professional Assoc. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience for those beginning small businesses.

Patricia Burke

Patricia, MSW, author of *Breathe Deeply! Healing Stories for the Soul* is a nationally known educator and psychotherapist. She is co-founder (with her partner, Ann Hastings) of the Beyond Mind Healing Center and a faculty member of the Rutgers University Summer School of Alcohol and Drug Studies. She has taught for the social work schools at USM, UNE and Rutgers. She is also a member of the N.Y. Region Pathwork, a spiritual community in upstate New York.

Wendy Chapkis

Author (*Live Sex Acts: women performing erotic labor and Beauty Secrets: women and the politics of appearance*), educator (Assistant Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies, USM) and activist.

Deena Clevenson

Deena has had 40 years of drum lessons and is still learning. She has wide experience in African/Caribbean/Latin percussion and was instrumental in founding SISTAH BOOM. She has appeared with Richie Havens, Rhiannon, Randa McNamara, Margie Adam, Ferron, Meg Christian, Chris Williamson, Casselberry & Duprey and many others. Her style is fun, instinctive and instructional.

Aimee DesRoches

A member of the Homophobia and Lesbian Battering Task Force in the Maine Coalition for Family Crisis Services. She has presented numerous workshops in domestic violence programs throughout Maine.

Paul Fortier

Paul leads a quiet life in southern Maine with his many computers (and 4 operating systems) where he works diligently to protect his personal privacy. He believes that Bios for strangers are annoying and pointless.

Lin Gould

Lin lives and works on Mt. Desert, where she and her partner Rosemarie live within a mile of her parents! She is active in the Gay Times Bar Harbor Festival (August 16-18, 1997), Out on MDI, Symposium Forever, and the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center Board.

Alan Hamilton

A founder of the international Bisexual Resource Center, member of the Boston LesBiGay Speakers Bureau, and internationally known bisexual activist.

Carol Jenkins

Carol is a therapist who works in a body-mind modality, Rubinfeld Synergy, and an energy modality, Thought Field Therapy. She has been in private practice in Portland since 1991. Carol works both with individuals and groups. She lives in Freeport and enjoys cross country skiing, kayaking and bicycling. She is a founding mother of the Single Older Lesbian Organization (SOLO). She shares her home with a small black dog named Murphy and two musical cats, Topaz and Caruso.

Ari Kane

Ari is a gender specialist who has been doing extensive work in the area of gender, perception, conflict resolution and issues related to social change for the past 15 years. He has lectured at many major universities and organized and directed national conferences. He has appeared on David Susskind, Phil Donahue and the Geraldo Show.

Bobbi Keppel

Nationally known bisexual activist, sexual orientation educator, coordinator for the Maine Bisexual People's Network, and former board member of the international Bisexual Resource Center.

Nanci Little

Nanci Little is a certified massage therapist and Reiki Master in Presque Isle. She is a published writer whose first novel, *Thin Fire*, was nominated for the 1993 American Library Association's Gay and Lesbian Book Award for Literature and rated the third best lesbian novel published in 1993 by Bay Windows. Her second novel, *The Grass Widow*, was published in 1996.

Roger Mayo

Roger was born and raised in Mexico, Me. and attended UMF. After coming out in 1978, he relocated to Ogunquit before settling in Portland. In 1990 Roger and his life partner, Jim Neal, opened "Drop Me A Line", Maine's first card and gift store dedicated to serving the gay, lesbian and bisexual community.

Jo Moser

Jo is a psychotherapist in private practice in Portland. She is a parent educator and a teacher of child development. Jo and her partner of 23 years share in the intensities of raising their two children aged 13 and 11. A native San Franciscan, Jo has experienced many challenges in Maine as a lesbian mother. Her interest in alternative families and making community is a blend of humor, compassion and communication which participants will find contagious.

Linda Pfaffinger

Victoria Rash

Gerry Scoppettuolo

Our AIDS workshop facilitators. Linda is with the Muskie Institute of the University of Maine, Victoria is with TAPA, and Gerry is HIV Prevention Coordinator with TAPA.

Janie Waterhouse

Janie is part of Caring Unlimited and a member of the Homophobia and Lesbian Battering Task Force in the Maine Coalition for Family Crisis Services and has presented numerous workshops on domestic violence.

Victoria Zavasnik

Victoria is a native New Yorker but has adopted Maine as her home since 1975. She has lived in "Ba Haaba", Topsham and Portland where she presently has a strong and established private practice for families, both gay and straight. She specializes in addictions with a special emphasis on the spiritual aspects of recovery. Victoria is the clinical supervisor for the therapeutic staff at the Day One residential treatment facility and occasionally teaches Perspectives on Chemical Dependency at USM in the Masters in Counseling Program. Dr. Zavasnik is a lively presenter, down to earth, and has a thoughtfully provocative philosophical style. She welcomes diversity and participation among those people attending her workshops.

Outright

The outright panel facilitators were unknown at printing time.

JUDITH M. WOHL
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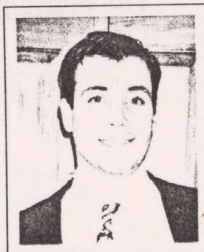
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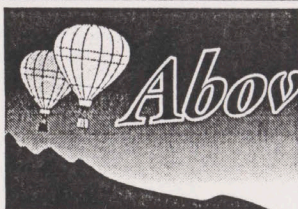
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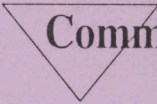
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Very Special Thanks!!

An event such as this requires an enormous amount of effort and we are grateful for the wonderful help we have received. In no particular order they are:

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Community Pride Reporter

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