

MAINE LESBIAN FEMINIST NEWSLETTER

September, 1979

Meeting Notes Aug. 18, 1979  
Debbie Legge, Scribe

It was a small meeting of a dozen or so women. There was a work-shop/discussion on relationships and a general meeting afterwards. Janice had ticket info on the Holly Near concert on Sept. 16 in Ptld. Tickets are \$4.50 at the door, with a sliding scale available. Tickets can also be purchased at: Belfast-The Grasshopper Shop, Brunswick-MacBeans, Portland-PIRG, 68 High St. 04101, USM Women's Forum, Good Day Market, 54 Brackett St., Opus One, Exchange St, Lebanon, N.H.-New Victoria Publishers, Mass-New Words Bookstore. We need people to sell tickets up north, contact Donna Jones at 780-4044. All checks made payable to her. There will be an MLF table set up at the concert PIRG (the sponsor) isn't handling housing so possibly we'll have a sign-up sheet there.

The next meeting will be at Diane's - Sept. 16 in Portland.

One isolated dyke in Auburn is looking for friends and/or pen-pals. Contact Marjorie from Auburn c/o The Newsletter (P.O. Box 125, Belfast)

Treasury report: \$18.13 in printing machine fund  
\$182.46 Newsletter checking account  
Received \$30 from Symposium and .41¢ kids collected  
\$99.63 - General Fund

Women interested in exploring their spirituality and attending a monthly meeting at the full moon where we can create our own rituals, contact Mary at 968-2117. The October meeting will be at Mary's in China on Oct. 20 - Directions will be in next months newsletter.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MLF MEETING: Sunday, Sept. 16 in Portland at Diane's, 15 Deering Ave., 3rd floor - 774-3329.

DIRECTIONS: Take Forest Ave. South exit off 295. Follow State St. sign thru Deering Oak's Park - turn right at first set of street lights (that's park ave.) Take left at 2nd set of lights. It's a Brown house on top of hill - park wherever you can.

There is at this time, no plan for the day. There could be a pot luck if women want to bring whatever they want to eat-no pets please. General meeting has been held at 3:00 which seems to be a good time. Holly Near starts at 7p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door, but hopefully we may be able to have some at the meeting. For those of you who do not know it, Holly Near is NOT for Women only-it's mixed.

We are looking forward to seeing as many ~~of~~ as possible at both the MLF meeting and the Holly Near Concert. Housing can be arranged at concert at the MLF table or at the meeting if you need it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

"An Evening with Gertrude Stein" with Pat Bond

The Great Gertrude Stein--uppity, witty, egotistical, charming--was brought to life by Pat Bond at the Gay Task Force program during the 1979 conference of the American Library Association.

In Bonds one-q show, Stein was humorously recreated through quotes from her work embellished with little-known facts about her early years in the U.S., her life in Paris with Alice B. Toklas, and the many famous artists who graced their salon, including Hemmingway, Picasso, Zelda & Scott Fitzgerald. Pat Bond is a seasoned actress who is still best known as the WAC in the film "Word is Out" (shown nationwide on PBS-TV) giving a comic yet poignant account of gay life in the army and the closeted 40s.

Mimeo Machine: Last month's MLF newsletter referred to a mimeo machine donated to MLF by the Bath q Center. Actually the machine came from the q Counseling Service, which had been in Bath until it folded in June. Even though the q Counseling Service played an active role in the feminist movement in Maine for 4 years providing counseling, contacts and referrals for q throughout the southern half of the state, its final struggles went unsupported and its eventual demise unnoticed. This is a process all too familiar to us as we recall other feminist organizations around the state which no longer exist--Maine Freewoman's Herald, Brunswick Women's Center, Colby College Women's Center, etc. and as with other organizations, we will find no documents coming from the Counseling Service explaining why it failed, partly because those who hung on until the end are burned out and discouraged, and partly because nobody knows the answers! *Maybe no one asked*  
Yet, the formation, growth, struggles and failures of all the feminist organizations in Maine, past and present, can teach us lessons we could well use to improve existing groups (like MLF) and

create vital new ones. It is a sad commentary when we get so involved in the immediacy of activities and issues within whichever group most fulfills our needs at the moment that we cannot reach out individually and as organizations to other groups and share energy of group process. We in the Maine Feminist community are in the privileged positions of being small and interconnected enough that we have avoided the factionalism that exists in big cities. Within this framework, can we not go one step further, and use our good relationships and overlapping memberships to support, learn, and grow from each other's groups?

*This article should be signed*

Gay People's Alliance is one of the sponsors of the Holly Near Concert. We need help and support! Rumor has it that U.S.M. Portland will have a larger showing of Dykes on campus this fall. You are welcome to stop in the office and say hello.

There was also a showing of Dykes who marched in the 3rd annual ERA walk-a-thon for equality in Bangor, Aug. 26. Not every Q can be out as we all know, yet it is nice to know who we are to each other just the same.

**Letter:** The following is part of a courageous letter Nan Stone received after she put an add in Lesbian Connection. If this sister's plea rings bells for you, and you would like to correspond with her, write to Nan at P.O. Box 141 Hope, Maine 04847 and she will send you her name and address:

"Dear Nan:

Please forgive me for bothering you. Saw your plea in LC and I am taking a chance on sending you a note.

I am a closet sister, I guess that's what I would be termed, and I am just in the thinking stage! Finding my way about, etc. I would like to exchange correspondence with others like myself--those who don't know at all and are attempting to find out slowly rather than all at once. This may not make sense but it's pretty close to what I feel I need right now.

"This is the first time I saw a copy of LC, and I am amazed at the progress, in fact it is almost too much for me to assimilate too quickly. Hope you might be able to suggest where and how I might find others interested in exploring themselves by correspondence--I believe this is the best way of moving into the stream."

\*\*The Gay Book Award for 1979 was presented to Betty Fairchild and Nancy Hayward for their book Now That You Know: What Every Parent Should Know About Homosexuality (Harcourt 1979). Betty Fairchild founded a Parents of Gays group in 1974 in Washington DC. She also wrote a pamphlet Parents of Gays and an article "When Your Child is Gay" in The New Gay Liberation Book (Ramparts Press, 1979).

\*\* The Gay Archives: Natalie Barney Edward Carpenter Library (P.O. Box 38100 Hillywood, Ca. 90038 # (213) 463-5450 - The Gay Archives is looking for leaflets, newsletters, minutes, bylaws, essays, notes and press coverage, current and past, even the most trivial-seeming records to increase its collection. It presently contains partial or complete records of some 1200 gay groups and prime activists and is requesting info about MLF. We should discuss this at the next meeting to decide whether or not we want to contribute to the Archives. Also, if anyone has any info of this type, other than MLF items, she should feel free to send it.

\*\*I would like to thank at this time all the women who have helped sell raffle tickets for the Greater Portland Chapter of N.O.W. and for the support of each and every one of you. Thanks to Deb who has started a new chapter in the Farmington area. We are everywhere and need to be everywhere. -Janice-

\*\*I am coordinating a Children's Festival - to be held Sept. 29, Sat. 10-4 at The DownEAST Magazine Grounds on Rt. 1 between Rockland and Camden (Rain date Sun. Sept. 30) It is a fundraising event for Coastal Child Care, a day care agency in Rockland. Festival geared for 3-10 yr olds; games, educational activities, music, clowns, farm animals, wholesome foods, surprises and fun. \$1.00 adults; 25¢ kids. Needed: volunteers to help before & on festival day. Musicians to get kids involved in music, clowns, puppetiers, jugglers, story tellers, used kids clothes, toys, furniture donations, craftspeople to teach kids a craft. For more into contact Coastal ChildCare at 594-2591 -leave message for Rita or call me at home - 729-1594.

\*\*A National Assoc of Gay Alcoholism Professionals has been formed. Further info contact NAGAP, P.O. Box 276, Oakland, NJ 07436.



\*\* Glad Day Book Shop for gay people is now open--22 Bromfield St., 2nd floor - Boston. Visit there and support it!

\*\* Odd Couple Travel Club - a business Q travel club. Trips planned to Bermuda, Puerto Rico, Aruba, a Caribbean Cruise. Weekend and flight arrangements made for the Oct. 14 Gay Rights March on Wash. For more info call Betty Toscano (617) 771-3835 or write OCT, Box 358, W. Yarmouth, Mass. 02673.

#### PUBLICATIONS

\*\*"No More Cages" is a new bimonthly women's prison newsletter. Send to: Women Free Women in prison; P.O. Box 283, W. Nyack NY 10994. \$1.50 an issue, \$6 yr. and free to prisoners. -Off Our Backs-

\*\*Task Force on Gay Liberation, American Library Assoc(Social Responsibilities Round Table)--A pamphlet of tips for the non-librarian on how to get gay materials into libraries is now available from the Gay Task Force of the American Library Assoc. Called Censored, Ignored, Overlooked, Too Expensive? How to Get Gay Materials into Libraries, the pamphlet explains library selection policies in a general way and tells what an individual or group can do to get a library to buy more gay books and periodicals. There are also sections on what to do if the library refuses your request, on why gay books are sometimes kept where you have to ask for them, and on donating materials to the library. Pamphlet costs \$1.00, pre-paid, checks payable to: Barbara Gittings-GTF at P.O. Box 2383, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103. The Gay Task Force of the ALA was formed in 1970 to get more and better gay materials into libraries and out to users, and to deal with discrimination against gays in libraries. Membership is informal, the members at any time are those actually working on projects. Some of their key accomplishments: \*\*launching the Gay Book Award \*\*Getting American Library Assoc to pass resolutions in 1971 and 77 supporting the rights of gay people as librarians and library users.\*\*Doing a survey to get facts about job discrimination against gays by libraries.

Lady Unique- a journal of the goddess, Cycle 3 available now. New mythologies for feminists--an integrated vision of spirit, politics, art and ritual. Autumn '79 issue included new works by Merlin Stone, Olga Broomas, Mimi Lobell and more. Send \$3 to PO Box 803, New Brunswick, NJ 08903 From Lesbian Connection

\*\*LESBIAN CONNECTION is out again. Write to: Helen Diner Memorial Women's Center, Ambitious Amazons, PO Box 811, E. Lansing, MI 48823

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

\*\*\*Holly Near Concert\*\*\*Sun. Sept 16 at 7p.m. Univ. Southern Maine Portland Bym with J.T.Thomas and Susan Freundlich. This concert is part of an anti-nuke tour and proceeds after costs will go to benefit anti-nuclear and feminist groups. The concert will be wheelchair accessible, interpreted for the hearing-impaired, free childcare by calling 780-4044 or 780-4086. Childcare won't be denied if you don't call ahead.

Women Against Pornography in NY on Sept 15 and 16 for \$10 or work exchange. Saturday speak-out will feature Q talking about their personal experiences, then afternoon c-r workshops such as "Pron and My self-Image". Write Women Against Pornography, 579 Ninth Ave NY, NY 10036 #212-594-2801. They'll march against pron on Oct.20.00B

NATIONAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS: Oct.14,1979 For info write PO Box 3624, Houston TX 77001 -#1-800-528-7382.

Sisterspace--Philadelphia's lesbian center invites you to attend "building our lesbian culture" a wkend in the Poconos, Sept.14,15, and 16. This is their 4th annual lesbian wkend in the Pocs. This includes secluded woody site with cabins and tenting space, showers pools, lake/canoes, tennis and basketball courts, gym. There will be workshops and skill sharing sessions. Sliding scale fee from \$20-\$40, which includes everything. For more info contact Sister-space, Pocono Weekend, P.O. Box 18571, Philadelphia, PA 19129.

Sept.2 Sunday at 9:00 pm "Ina Ray" will be performing at the CNEWAY 10 Union St, Portland. "Ina Ray" is a 6 piece all Q dance band, appearing for the first time in Maine. Please come and support! Suggested donation is \$3 - spread the word.

Nat'l Conference on Gay & Lesbian Issues-Oct 26-28 at Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chic, Ill. Conference is to provide for "straights", gays & lesbians to clear up misunderstanding, dispell myths about gay &

lesbian life-styles, to provide helpful info to gays, lesbians & straights", to practice problem-solving in gay and lesbian organizations and to deal with our common human needs for clearer communication and being accepted on our own terms. Fee \$65 Till Oct 1. For further info write to Oasis Center for Human Potential, 7463 Sheridan Rd, Chic. Ill, 60626.

THE SUSAN B. ANTHONY CLUB CALENDAR  
(formerly the Belfast Wimmins Center)

SEPTEMBER

- 1 - Sat - WIMMINS DANCE 8:30 - 12:30
- 2 - Sun - Short Story and Poetry Reading and Craft show 3 p.m.
- 18 - Tues- Committee Meeting all are welcome to attend 9:00p.m.
- 22 - Sat.- WIMMINS DANCE 8:30-12:30
- oct. 7-30 - Sun - Joan Larkin Poetry Reading, 7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

- ~~7 - Sun - Poetry Reading & Childhood Snapshot Show 3:00p.m.~~
- 13 - Sat - WIMMINS DANCE 8:30 - 12:30p.m.

Joan Larkin Poetry Reading

Joan Larkin, poet, founder of Out and Out Books, editor of Amazon Poetry, author of a book of poems entitled "Housework", and teacher of writing & English at Brooklyn College in NY, will give a poetry reading at the Susan B. Anthony Club in Belfast at 7:00. Come share this wonderful experience with us and support our efforts to bring lesbian writers to Maine.

Poetry reading and crafts show, Sept. 2. Lorraine & Karen will read. Bring your own crafts to show, tables available to set up. Please come and share your skills and crafts.

Women's Center renamed: The Belfast Women's Center has a new name- The Susan B. Anthony Club, please make an attempt to call it so. If it fits, we'll wear it for awhile. If you have other suggestions let us hear them. The Club is located in downtown Belfast, above the Grasshopper shop. Enter the door to the right of the Grasshopper and go up to the 3rd floor-take a left-You're there. We are trying to put a bookstore together in order to have at least a good selection of wimmin's books available in Maine. Donations appreciated Also would like to have a library or feminist books and periodicals Please pass on reading material of this nature. Send donations to: Susan B. c/o MLF P.O. Box 125, Belfast, Maine 04915.

We miss you, Rebecca Wave, who has gone off to Calif--your wonderful, sensitive music, super energy, great efforts to help make the Susan B. Anthony Club a reality. Best of luck and much love to you.

MLF NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

MLF needs your \$5.00 (our yearly subscription rate) in order to us to continue the Newsletter. It costs money to send it out so please contribute as much as you can if not \$5.00. All contributions are more than welcome and needed.

Send to: MLF, P.O. Box 125, Belfast, Paine 04915

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