

MAINE LESBIAN FEMINIST NEWSLETTER
February, 1980

"Waine Lesbian Feminist was organized at a workshop at Gay Symposium III. The purpose of the organization was, and still is, to provide a base for support, consciousness raising, and political action. Also, a celebration for Lesbians throughout the State of Maine". C.H.

Minutes from Jan. 26th meeting in Belfast
General Meeting:

- A. The Gay Symposium name has been changed to Lesbian & Gay Symposium.
***1. Workshops were discussed. People with ideas for workshops & facilitators to run them submitted them to Kathy.
***2. MLF table: MLF decided to run a table at the symposium to distribute info about MLF & to sell lesbian & feminist buttons. Money from sales will benefit MLF. Selection of buttons & other possible sale items will be done at next meeting. Anyone with catalogues should bring them.
***3. Music/Art: If you wish to show your art or be involved with making music at the sym. contact the Wilde/Stein Club, Memorial Union UMO

B. MLF \$\$ to support Lesbian/Gay causes: Two groups of people have asked for our support: 1) The Body Politic (see pg. 3 of NL) and 2) Bunny King Defense Fund (see page 4 of NL). MLF decided to contribute \$20 to the defense fund and set up collection cans at SBA dances for individual contributions.

C. Next MLF meeting is set for Feb. 16-17 in Strong. The wkend is scheduled as a retreat wkend with Sat set primarily for MLF workshops and business & Sun as fun-time. The setting is rural, near the western mtns. Skiing, ice-skating, & snowshoeing are possible activities. Nancy plans a pottery workshop Sun 10 am. Several people are looking into the possibility of showing a film Sat. eve. Betty plans to have a healing circle & who play instruments are encouraged to bring them. Those coming for the wkend should bring food and sleeping bags (if possible). See below for directions.

D. Announcements: MLF revolving library: Q with books to lend/trade with other MLF members submitted lists of books to Micky who volunteered to make up a master list of books with names of who to contact to borrow the book. If you have books you wish to put on the list, contact Micky at the next meeting.

DIRECTIONS TO JAN & DEBS:

FROM PORTLAND: Take turnpk to Auburn. From Auburn exit road turn LEFT onto 4N. Stay on 4N thru Farmington. Turn RT on 145 (x 11 mi north of Farmington) Go thru Strong. At Starbird Lumber take the left fork (W. Freeman Rd.) Bear LEFT past Couseneau Lmbr & continue-rd winds thru woods, passes some small houses & camps, then comes into the W. Freeman Valley Cross sm. bridge & pass graveyard (rt). Ours is next house on LEFT-White clapboard farmhouse with tan barn (phone: 684-4142)

FROM BANGOR: Take Rt. 2 W. to Farmington, turn RT onto 4N & follow above directions.

From Belfast: Take 137 W thru Waterville to 2 W (E. Mercer) and follow above directions.

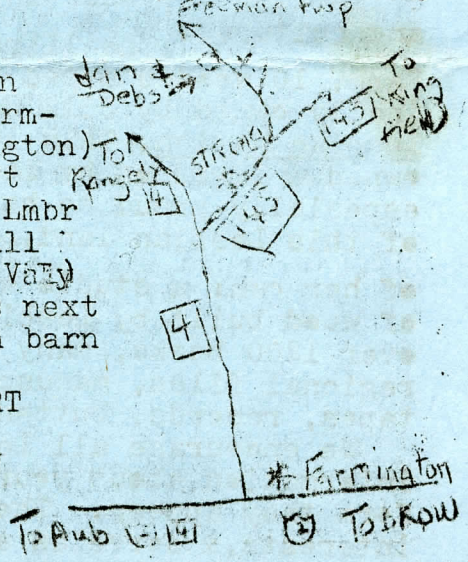
MLF AGENDA - Feb. 16 & 17 at Deb & Jan's

11:00	- Hellos & Huggies	S	9:00	- Pottery Workshop
S 12:00	- In/outside play Bring	U		
A	snow & ice toys	N 12:00	- In/outside play	
T 3:00	- General Meeting	D	evening-	Music, reading, poems,
?	- Motherhood workshop	A		maybe a movie, play-
evening	- Massage workshop	* * *		time, bring instrumts.

***Need revitalization??? Here's your chance to relax & recoup your energies in a large quiet cabin deep in the woods North of Belfast. I am traveling from about Feb. 16-26 & need housesitter(s) to keep the fires burning for my plants, cat & 2 birds. If interested, call Nan at 338-1975 soon!! ALSO, know anybody traveling to or thru Iowa about Feb. 16?? Q & child looking for ride. Again, call Nan - 338-1975 Thanks

AN OPEN LETTER: "To the Q of MLF: I want to thank you for the wonderful connections I had this past wkend. The workshops were excellent & very beneficial. I felt very warm & connected with all of you. As an outsider I felt very very accepted & comfortable, as though I had known you for many years and probably have some in spirit. I am leaving Jan. 1 for my journey to Calif. I will be thinking of you often. Good luck with getting things together & wrapped up for march. I send you lots of Q energy. Love to you -- Sally Burke"
Some nice positive feedback is always nice!! Sally was visiting from Burlington, VT. Come back anytime, Sally!!

***Is there a lavender moon on your envelope?? That means that your subscription is due. Please send in your \$5. Thanks.



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THE SUSAN B. ANTHONY CLUB

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This is a club for Q identified Q. It was created with the intention of getting cultural, social & educational events happening in Maine for Q. So, if you want something to happen & keep happening, help by supporting the place or by using the space for Q's events. Write to Susan B. Anthony Club, c/o MLF P.O. Box 125, Belfast, Me. 04915. Directions: Located in downtown Belfast, above the Grasshopper shop on Main Street. Enter the door to the right of the Grasshopper, go up to the 3rd floor, go left and you are there!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

- Sun. 6th - Film/Discussion series - "Banners & Babies" 3:00 p.m.
- Sat. 23rd - QOO DANCE - Celebrate Sweethearts Day a little late 8-12 pm \$2.00 donation

March

- Sun. 9th - Film/Discussion series - will announce film next month
- Sat. 15th - Concert QOO*LISA**SPARKS**MICKY*-playing acoustic guitars & singing wimmin's music. They are really great! Don't miss them!! 7:30 - 11 pm \$2.50

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

***The Q's Resource Center - Portland-is offering Counseling services for individuals & groups. Types of groups include: Separation, Divorce, Single Lifestyles, Menopause, Self-Help, Mid-Life Experience. Sliding scales available. Contact Kathleen MacPherson, Women's Resource Center, 14 Ponce St., Portland, Me or Call 772-7686. They also have Educational Services and offer Free Referrals.

***NOTICE: CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR THE NEW ALEXANDRIA LESBIAN LIBRARY This move marks a significant step in the Library's growth. Conceived in 1974, the Library has been collecting, recording, and preserving the expressions of Lesbian life in this country & throughout the world. Located In Chicago for 5 yrs, the New Alexandria has a very rich archives of Lesbian activities in that city. In her new country home, the Library will continue to be a national archives which focuses on collecting & preserving the rich experiences of our Lesbian lives and cultures. The library is presently located on Crescent Moon Star Farm, 10 wooded acres in the foothills of the Berkshires-the farm originally owned by Jill Johnston. It was in this space where she wrote Lesbian Nation. This land is close to Northampton, MA and has been owned & lived on by Lesbians for the past 10 yrs. The Library is especially proud to have such a heritage & to be adding to the herstory of this Lesbian land. The New Alexandria will be housed in a building of her own: a studio with a loft and leaded windows, a beautiful house of wood built by Lesbian carpenters. The Library's holdings include over 1200 books, many different titles of periodicals, Subject & regional files, manuscripts, flyers, guides, bibliographies, posters, tapes, records, Buttons and much more.

We encourage all Lesbians to contribute to the collection by sending information about your lives, events, groups, experiences in whatever form they appear. The Library will continue to support your research interests, & serve as a center for Lesbian thought & writings. The space is large enough to accommodate visitors who wish to stay & enjoy the quiet & beauty of the surrounding woods, hills, rivers, & streams.

Please make a note of the new mailing address & after Jan. 1st, continue to send any inquiries, donations of Lesbian money, materials, publications, recordings, manuscripts, poems, posters, flyers, photos, to: NEW ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY, P.O. Box 111, Huntington, MA 01050 - Diane, & Betty Birdfish for NALL

***Shiatsu Massage for Q-an afternoon workshop-shiatsu massage for head, nect, & shoulders, Sat Feb. 16, 1-4pm \$10. All Q welcome. For further info and to register, call Helena Lipstadt, 359-2026.

***A series of workshops on Sexuality & Relationships for young people is being organized in the Belfast area. They would like input from MLF-anyone wanting to do or help with a workshop, please contact Bo Bergstrom from Midwest Gay Men, Box 57, Belfast, Me 04915, tele: 338-3275, 338-3384. Also, a spin-off that Bo envisions will be the organizing of a gay youth group for young Q & men.

***A state-wide monthly newsletter is being organized to distribute "Alternate" news stories, such as: local & safe energy sources, decent housing, rights/respect for Q, gay men & lesbians, elders & youth, low-income people, minorities, & other living things-native culture, consumer info, food cooperatives, labor unions, alternative schools, nuclear power, etc. In other words, they'll print news that "somehow" doesn't make it into our local papers. If you want the newsletter or if you would like to help with articles, policies, organizing, or printing, write to: Larry Dansinger, RFD 1, Newport, Me. 04953 or call 938-2219. Subscriptions are \$4/yr, more or less.

***Canada's Major gay liberation journal The Body Politic would like donations to put the following full page ad into the Toronto Globe & Mail-Canada's equivalent to the New York Times, with names of group names listed in the ad for support. They are asking \$10/individual, \$20/group. Checks payable to Hallman & Higgins in Trust for The Body Politic Globe Campaign c/o Box 7289, Sta. A, Toronto Ontario/M5W 9Z9. They are planning to place the AD beginning of Feb so please be prompt with donations.

AD: WE URGE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ONTARIO TO DROP THE APPEAL AGAINST THE BODY POLITIC. In Jan, 1979, The Body Politic, Canada's national gay liberation journal was tried on a charge of using the mails to distribute "immoral, indecent or surrilous" material. The paper was found not guilty.

Although the court battle was both lengthy & costly for the non-profit community newspaper, supporters of freedom of the press & of minority rights were justifiably pleased by the verdict. In his judgment, Judge Sidney Harris remarked on the basis of the issue before him, that The Body Politic is a "serious journal of news & opinion".

Some weeks later, however, the Attorney General of Ontario, Roy McMurtry, decided to appeal the verdict and force the defendants in this case to face still further legal proceedings.

This decision to appeal is an attack on the freedom of a minority to express it's views. It will drain the energy & financial resources of the gay community's principal newspaper & will further weaken that community's capacity to make it's views known. Moreover the effect of this appeal, whatever the intention, will be to punish people who have been found not guilty in the courts.

We urge the Attorney General to drop the appeal & to restore the reputation of his department for the fair & equal treatment of minorities. NOT GUILTY MEANS NOT GUILTY A thousand or more signatures & endorsements listed.

If you wish to help you can send donations to The Body Politic Free The Press Fund c/o Lynn King in Trust, Cornish, King and Sachs, Barristers & Solicitors, 111 Richmond Street West, Suite 320, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 3N6. (affiliations for the purpose of identification only)

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***Augusta lesbian with trailer is looking for Q to share space. Must like animals. Write Stephanie Law, RFD #7, Augusta. Tell me a little about yourself & a phone number where I can call you.

***The steering committee for the Maine Lesbian & Gay Symposium will be held at the UMA campus (hopefully, Call 763-3211 the day before to check on place) at 12:00 Sat. Feb. 9th. All are welcome to come & help. NOTICE- the name change for the symposium!!!

***The Maine Democratic caucus is Feb.10. Supporters of Senator Kennedy's campaign are urging all to get there. If you would like info about Kennedy & Q's issues, write to Citizen for Kennedy, 14 Columbia St., Augusta, Me

***Reprints of "The Nuclear Frontier", Harvey Wasserman's "Radiation Roulette" (MJ, August 1979), Mark Hertsgaard's "Trading in Nuclear Futures" (MJ, June 1979) & Paul Jacobs "What You Don't Know May Hurt You: The Dangerous Business of Nuclear Exports" (MJ Feb/March 1976) are available. Prices: 2 copies (minimum order), \$1.00 plus 35¢ shipping additional copies, 3 for \$1.00. Send to Mother Jones Reprint Service, 625 3rd St., San Francisco, CA 94107

***Chrysalis also has an excellent article in issue #9 for \$3.50. Send to Chrysalis, 635 South Westlake Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90057. Oh! The article is on the effects Nuclear power has and will have on our existence and is written by a Q

***PERSEPHONE PRESS is announcing - The Coming Out Stories by Julia Penelope Stanley, Susan J. Wolfe, Editors, Adrienne Rich, Foreward. \$6.95. To order add \$.60 shipping for first book, 20¢ for each additional book. Send to: PO Box 7222, Watertown, MA 02172. Persephone Press does workshops on lesbian-feminist publishing & the importance of lesbians owning our own words. Please contact Deborah Snow if interested at the same address.

PUBLICATIONS*****

***ALBATROSS - The Lesbian Feminist Satire Magazine. News-views-reviews-interviews-poetry-fiction-humor-comix! \$7/yr. Send to: Albatross, 82 S. Harrison, E. Orange, NJ 07017.

***Big Mama Rag - Colorado's Monthly Q's Journal. News, Theory interviews, poetry, health. \$50 lifetime subsc. \$6/indiv. Send to Big Mama Rag, 1725 Gaylord, Denver, Colorado 80206.

***STYVL - CHILD a women's arts & culture journal - 3 issues/\$16 1 issue/\$6. Send to: 6906 West Park Drive, Hyattsville, MD 20783

***LESBIAN TIDE - National News & features \$7.50/yr. Send to: Tide-B, 1314 Tremaine Lane, Los Angeles, CA 90019.

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***Madness Newtork News - A quarterly journal of psychiatric inmates/anti-psychiatric movement. \$5/yr 6 issues for individuals, \$1/yr. prisoners, free to psychiatric inmates. Send to: Madness Network News, PO Box 684, San Francisco, Cal. 94101.

LESBIAN CUSTODY CASE NEEDS HELP!!!

There's a lesbian mother in Franklin County (Western MA), Bunny King who's been fighting for the custody of her 2 young daughters, ages 7 & 5, for 3 years now. In 1971, Bunny, when she was 17, became involved in a lesbian relationship with Maggie Patenaude, then 26. Their relationship continued over the next 5 years, even through Bunny's marriage and the births of 2 children. In 1972, Bunny's 1st child was born & her second was born in 1974. During that time Bunny became seriously ill & almost died. Unable to care for her children & afraid of dying, she gave Maggie legal custody. After getting custody of the children, Maggie tried to cut Bunny off from them. Maggie is denying that she is, or ever was a lesbian.

This past fall, there was a custody hearing in Probate Court which lasted 5 days. There were numerous extensive inquiries into Bunny's mental, emotional, & physical health; her economic, educational, and family background, religious affiliations, her lesbianism, as well as her past and present associations, friendships & relationships, & anything else that could be dragged in. Bunny waited 3 painful months for the Judge to make a finding. On Friday, Dec. 7th, Judge Keedy handed down his decision that in his opinion:

"...the environment in which she proposes to raise the children, namely a lesbian household, creates an element of instability that would adversely affect the welfare of the children."

Clearly, his aim is to uphold the status quo. Bunny, her lawyers, family, friends, & supporters are not willing to give up & give in to this blatant form of oppression & discrimination. These rulings, of being as "unfit mother" based solely on lesbianism, are being overturned in many states across the nation. We're taking this to the Mass State Supreme Court for appeal. We want a good precedent set in Mass as well, for all lesbian & gay parent custody cases.

Please send all donations to Franklin County Lesbian Alliance
Checks made payable to: P.O. Box 235

Bunny King Defense Fund Deerfield, Mass. 01342

PLEASE BE AS GENEROUS AS POSSIBLE & HELP US STOP ONE MORE OUTRAGEOUS INJUSTICE. For more info call (413) 772-0807. Thank you all.

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***A new organization, Aroostook Lambda, has been formed to serve the needs of the gay community in northern Maine & western New Brunswick. The group hopes to reach those lesbians & gay men in the area who "feel isolated & alone." Aroostook Lambda will provide mutual support for gays in this part of the country. Group members will be available to answer questions from both gays & non-gays, about who and what gays are and are not. Meetings will be the last Sunday in every month at different locations. Anyone interested contact: Aroostook Lambda, PO Box 990 Caribou, Me 04736

***ROBIN TYLER - feminist comedienne at Sleeper Hall, Boston University Friday, Feb. 15, 1980. *8:30 sharp \$6.00. She's really very funny. Even has her own album. Sponsored by Gay People of B.U.

***Third National Lesbian & Gay Health Conference - June 19-22, 1980 San Francisco State Univ. For more information write: The Program Committee, NLGHC P.O. Box 6189, San Francisco, CA 94101 (if you are interested in presenting papers, leading workshops, speaking, etc mail a one-page description and a one-paragraph summary of your presentation, for more info, write above.)

***THE GESTALT INSTITUTE OF NEW ENGLAND, INC. A training center in gestalt therapy, theory and practice. Jan. thru Sept. 1980. For more info on this extensive training write: The Gestalt Institute of New England, Inc., 430 Centre Street, Suites 44-45, Newton, MA 02158

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MLF NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

MLF needs your \$5.00 (our yearly subscription rate) in order for us to continue the Newsletter. It costs \$\$ to send it out so please contribute as much as you can, if not \$5. All contributions welcome & needed. Thank you!

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