

AUGUST 1981

MLF was formed at a workshop at Symposium III. The purpose of the organization was, and is, to provide a basis for support, consciousness raising and political action. Also a celebration for Lesbians throughout the state.

Meeting Minutes

General discussion on families, community reactions, lifestyles, and lovers. Began generating resource list of therapists. About 15 women convened at the 7/25 meeting at the Unitarian Church in Augusta.

Sexuality Workshop

Immediately following the MLF meeting, Vicki arrived with her "film festival" workshop. About 25 women were there and as the afternoon progressed we made a small dent in sharing some of our most intimate thoughts and feelings about ourselves and our bodies. The films, two very explicit about lesbian lovemaking, were a jumping off point for individual and group discussion. Debby Estelle organized the day, and to her and Vicki, we give thanks!

Next Meeting and Directions

Barbara Guess 623-1864

65 School Street

Augusta, Maine 04330

AUGUST 16th Starting at 1:00.

Watch for signs by Cony H.S. At the rotory in front of Cony, take road that puts Cony on your right; go to the top of the hill and bear left; go to the 2nd street on the left-School St. White house on the corner, with red shutters.

Agenda

1:00 Name reps from different areas for newsletter

2:00 Organizational mtg. for Augusta area women's groups

2:30 Softball game- BRING YOUR EQUIPMENT PLEASE!

5:00 Potluck Supper

Calendar

August 8 SBA Dance and Concert by Kathryn Wetzel. Donation for dance and concert \$4 -8:30 p.m.

August 18-22 Women in the 80's Conference- Workshops, films, panel discussions. More info call Joy 359-4692 or Nancy 359-4416. Reservation deadline Aug.12 Space limited. Boulodaire, Blue Hill Falls, Me.

August 21-24 Healing Arts Festival, New Life Foundation for Holistic Studies, Hidden Valley Camp, Freedom, Me. Keynote speakers, Kay Mora, Michael Jansen, John McLaughlin. More Info write- New Life Festival, Box 335, Athens, Me. 04912 or call 1-800-547-5995 Ext. 700

Sept. 5,6,7. First Annual New England Women's Musical Festival. Margie Adam, Alix Dobkin, Maxine Feldman, Terry Garthwaite, Judy Sloan, Jane Sapp, Latteta Theresa, Nancy Tucker and more.... #203 247-4061, N.E.W.M.F., P.O. Box 14269, Hartford, Ct. 06114 Prices, 3 day advance 35/40/48 3 day gate 45/50/58, 1 day advance 16/18/22, 1 day gate 21/23/27.

Sept 11-13 Lesbian Feminist Collective Camping Weekend. Kay Gardner in concert. NO PETS. \$15 in advance \$20 at the gate. LFC, POBox 47, Penacook, N.H.03303

Oct 23-25 Thirt Nat. Conf. on Gay and Lesbian Issues. Blackstone Hotel, Chicago! \$50 til 9/1; \$60 9/1-10/15; \$70 10/15-23; \$80 Door.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communique from Northern Lambda Nord: "RFD Magazine is a quarterly journal for "Country Gaymen Everywhere." The Mother Earth News (TMEN) is a homesteading/back to-the-land publication with a very wide general circulation. According to the recent issue of RFD, TMEN has a policy of refusing RFD advertising. A phone call to TMEN in North Carolina has confirmed their policy of refusing ALL lesbian-gay advertising. They stated that their readers had complained about seeing gay or lesbian items in TMEN.

This is a letter received in response to urging MPBN to broadcast The Man With the Pink Triangle.

"Thank you for your letter concerning the WGBH program offering entitled The Man with the Pink Triangle. The program has been made available to us through the Extended Program Service of NPR. As with all EPS offerings, we have recorded this program for review. We appreciate your interest in MPBN Radio and the MAN WITH THE Pink Triangle.

It is with some displeasure I must inform you the MPBN "Radio will not be broadcasting this dramatization. Due to the nature of the subject, the format of its delivery, and our current program schedule, there is only two slots where we could have aired this program. One of those is taken by a contracted series called The Studs Terkel Almanac. We cannot pre-empt that series. That leaves only Earplay slot on Mondays at 8 p.m. And frankly, the technical and production quality of The Man with the Pink Triangle does not meet the standards set by Earplay.

If you wish to obtain a cassette copy of the program, you may be sending \$7 to: The Pink Triangle, WGBH Radio, Boston, Ma. 02134. I hope you find it appropriate to support MPBN Radio in the future. Sincerely, Robert E. Robinson
Radio Program Manager.

MAINE WOMEN FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE

There are existing in all areas of Maine, women who are activists. What I envision is a network, a web of connections so we can all become aware of the important work our sisters are undertaking. The vehicle for carrying on the communication could be the newsletter (Aurora). We could project our ideas, projects, problems, and creative solutions outward to our community.

Maine Women for a Nuclear Free Future would be a loose affiliation of practitioners of woman power, giving a feminist perspective to the pressing issues of our day. Whether our interest is local or global, we could air our views and encourage supportive response.

MWFF has already accomplished several things. An ad appeared in newspapers last year right before the Referendum vote endorsed by almost 800 women. It encouraged women to vote YES and concluded by stating, "we resolve to raise our voices against the research, production, and use of nuclear weapons, and nuclear power. We dedicate ourselves to seeking a peaceful future for the world's children...together we affirm the sanctity of human life. We call for a Nuclear Free Future". This first act was very inspiring and well received.

Besides this ad, the group helped almost 30 women from Maine to travel down to Washington, D.C. for the Womens Pentagon Action last November. They organized rides and gave out gas scholarships to sisters who otherwise might not have been able to make the trip. Almost 2,000 women from the East attended.

The other activity undertaken by MW was the successful May 10 Mothers Day March for Peace. Almost 500 people attended voicing opposition to the rise of a defense mentality in this country and asking for a peaceful world for us and our children.

MW has published a newsletter, Aurora, that will come out again this summer. Through this, we are putting out a call to women statewide to become involved with the work of MW. We are encouraging grassroots organizing on a county level.

This fall, we hope to have an organizers conference. We will ratify a unity statement, create and energize statewide projects, share skills like press releases, canvassing, action oriented events and get to know each other. This event will take energy to plan. If you would like to be more involved in the planning of such an event, or receive the newsletter or just find out what is going on write-MWFF, P.O. Box 4118, Station A., Portland, ME 04101.

Dear Women-

An issue arose at last week's dance (7/25) at the SBA Club. Simply stated, several young local lesbians came to the club. Some women objected strenuously to their presence on the grounds that they were dangerous to the club and to the surrounding womens community. There are so many different opinions and levels of feeling about the incident that a comments seems appropriate.

First of all, it is obvious that our community and the SBA club is in a fairly vulnerable position (it's less than lovable to be a dyke in Maine). However, not one woman who participated in the heated discussion regarding this issue was cognizant of the legal rights of the club. A woman agreed to find out exactly where we stand legally by the next dance.

Second, only a very few women participated in the impromptu and emotional discussion (held right after the open meeting), and only these few were in the decision making process.

Third, the young local women who were judged to be Dangerous, were not asked for their opinions or observations regarding the issue. Thereby, whether we like to acknowledge it or not, the SBA Club contributed to their oppression.

Fourth, How much power do the local homophobes really have and how much are we imagining that they have? How much power are we giving them in our imagination and in reality?

Fifth, Where is the fine line to be drawn between being sensible and discreet and suffocating inside a closet?

The decision that was made by the impromptu committee is that women who look and or who are not generally known are to be asked for identification at the door of the club.

In Sisterhood.

NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST

"If we know, then we must fight for your life as though it were our own - which it is and render impassable with our bodies the corridor to the gas chamber. For if they take you in the morning, they will be coming for us that night." James Baldwin in a letter to Angela Davis, Nov., 1970

Newsletter Mailing Address:

M L F

P.O. Box 125

Belfast, Maine 04915

\$5 yearly.

