

MAINE LESBIAN FEMINIST NEWSLETTER
APRIL 1981

Maine Lesbian Feminists was formed at a workshop at Symposium III. The purpose of the organization was, and still is, to provide a basis for support, consciousness raising and political action. Also, a celebration for Lesbians throughout the State. CH

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was held at Jeans' house in Belfast on April 12. It was a very warm and friendly meeting with lots of new faces. In addition to introducing herself, each woman took some time to give a brief history of her careers, reasons for living in Maine, present situation, etc. There is amazing diversity among our community and also a lot of supportive group energy for each woman's choices.

There was a discussion of the purpose and future of the Susan B. Anthony Club in Belfast. The Belfast women discussed the need for the SBA to continue and the critical need for women's energy and input into the Club. The SBA is a club specifically for the women identified women's community of Maine and it needs more support from the community.. Donations of furniture are needed. For the Club to continue more women are needed to organize dances, speakers, and poetry readings. The SBA is your space and in order for it to continue, each of you needs to take part in whatever way you'd like to. If you are interested, there is a planning meeting at the Club at 7pm before each dance or you may contact the SBA c/o MLF, Box 125, Belfast, Me.

May will be a busy month for the MLF community, which is a welcome change after winter hibernation. The coming-up events include a dance in Belfast, the Symposium and the Mothers' Day March in Bath. The next meeting will be at Nancy and Terrys' in Montville.

AGENDA

12:30 Arrival, hugs, etc.

1:30 Workshops: Anger, Motherhood (Hopefully!)

Directions: From the north: Follow RT 1A to RT 1 going south. Over the bridge in Belfast-under the overpass make a right on RT 137-- sign says Brooks-Freedom- stay on RT137 until you come to RT220- (Hilltop Store on left-Rays Restaurant on right) Make a left on 220 go 1 3/4 mi. to the bottom of a hill- Melansons' Store is directly in front of you- the yellow house with 3 names on the mailbox is the place
From the south: take RT1 north to Belfast- make a right at the sign for Brooks-Freedom- make left onto 137 and proceed as above.
From Augusta area; take RT3 east to just past Lake St. George.. Make a left onto 220- sign says Thorndike 15mi.+ stay on 220 until you see Melansons' Store on your left- road curves to right and up a hill- don't go up hill-yellow house across street is it.!

SEE YOU ALL THERE!

CALENDER LOCAL EVENTS

DANCE: The first SBA Womens Dance will be held Sat. May 2 at the SBA Club in Belfast.(over the Grasshopper) There will be a clean-up party that week to spiff the place up. Any women interested in participating in the clean-up may contact MLF Box 125 for more info. If you are interested in setting up, please come to the organizing meeting at 7pm at the SBA before the dance. Donations will be taken to get the Club going this year. Get out your boogie shoes! The fun will start at 8:30ish.

MAINE LESBIAN and GAY SYMPOSIUM VII

Place: University of Southern Maine, Portland

Time: May 8-10 (child care available-wheelchair accessible)

Schedule

Friday May 8

6-11pm- Registration and Check-In at Payson Smith Hall
Sliding Scale 5\$-10

7pm- Films: 7pm- "Gay, Proud and Sober"

8:30- "The Making of the Dinner Party"

7-10pm- Music Coffeehouse

Saturday May 9

- 10am-12- Keynote Speakers- Karin Krut- teacher and lecturer of Feminist Studies
- Eric Rofus- writer for Gay Community News
openly gay teacher in Boston
- 3 Workshop Sessions
- 2pm-7- Including: (Coming Out (for women)
- Worshipping the Goddess (for women)
- Survival without Pain
- Lesbian Feminist Vision for the Future (for women)
- Energy, Intuition and Touch (for women)
- New England Conference Coalition Meeting
- Regional Gay Alliance
- Take Back Your Power (for women)
- Gay History Project

- 7-8- Buffet style dinner - cheese, meat, vegies (served as part of fee)
- 8-9--Play - Star Gays
- 9-12- Dance
- Films will be shown again

Sunday May 10

9am-11- Boston Area Lesbian /Gay History Project will present a slide show presentation of lesbians and gay men in history. They will be doing a workshop on how to do research on Saturday. The Symposium will end at 11 on Sunday so that women and children can get to Bath for the Mothers Day Celebration for Peace.

Maine Lesbian and Gay Rights Bill

On Thursday, April 9th, a public hearing was held on LD961. This is the Lesbian and Gay Rights bill which would add "sexual and affectional orientation" to the Maine Civil Rights Act. There were more proponents than opponents in attendance. It is thought that the bill will be reported favorably out of committee. Several lesbians testified.. We thank them for doing this service for all of us. Thanks also go to everyone who signed and collected signatures on petitions.

It is important now to put pressure on Senators and Representatives to pass the bill in the House. We need to demonstrate that the bill has general public support.. Now is a good time to write letters in support of the bill. You can find out who your senators and representatives are by contacting your town clerk or town office. Here is a sample letter:

Dear _____,

I am writing to ask your support of LD961 which would include the term "sexual or affectional orientation" in the Maine Civil Rights Act. If you think about it for a minute, I'm sure that you can think of many ways gay and lesbian citizens are discriminated against in our state.. There is currently no law which protects the basic rights of this group of about 10% (or 100,000) Mainers.

As a firm believer that the basic human rights of employment, housing, and credit belong to all citizens, I want LD961 to become law in Maine. I encourage you to vote yes, and urge your colleagues to do the same..

Sincerely,

MOTHERS DAY MARCH

Hello Sisters!

This is an invitation for you to join us on Sunday, May 10th as we celebrate a new surge of work for Peace..

In support of the Mothers Day Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament rally and lobbying campaign in Washington, D.C., women around the country will be gathering in their local areas. Here in Maine, the Mothers' Day Celebration for Peace will be held in Bath. The theme of this event will be to call for a halt to the nuclear arms race and to discuss the concept of conversion: converting from a mentality of destruction to one of peace and mutual support as well as converting military industries to products that affirm and respect people and the environment.. The purpose of the day is to gather women and children together to generate hope and enthusiasm for working in our local areas to protect our Mother Earth and her people..

The day will begin with a march/parade from Woolwich across the Carleton Bridge down front Street to the Bath City Park. For women who do not feel their children can endure a long march or tolerate possibly windy conditions, we have arranged to have them met in front of the Court House. These children will meet us at the Bath side of the bridge and join us for the rest of the parade. A bright, positive

attitude is encouraged and we are accordingly asking people to dress in costumes, wear colorful clothing, bring musical instruments create posters and banners and bring ecologically sound bubbles. The start of the parade will hopefully be 1:00 pm We encourage people to carpool and have arranged for parking in several lots underneath the bridge ramp on the Bath side of the bridge. It will also be possible to park on Front Street and in the area of the park under on Washington and Summer Streets. We hope to have vans parked under the ramp in the Yankee Clipper parking lot to shuttle people across from the bridge. People will gather across from the Dairy Queen in Woolwich before the parade

At the Bath City Park information tables will be set up and a series of brief speeches will be given. Exact speakers are still being lined up. Maria Holt will definitely speak on the Health Effects of Radiation. Other speeches and workshops will include conversion, war, tax resistance, a Bath Iron Worker will hopefully speak and the entire group will join together in a moving from despair to empowerment circle. Before breaking up to go into workshops/ A Slike show on the arms race will be shown throughout the day. Child care will be provided.

ADDENDUM SPEAKERS: Maria Holt "Effects of Radiation:"
Lee Sharkey "Herstorical Aspects of Mother Day"

Sipsis Thompson "Using Psychic Energy"

Women are invited to fast before the March and then join to break fast by eating fiddleheads-a traditional Penobscot purification ritual.

***** OO *****

ADDENDUM The May MLF meeting will be held on May 24 (Sunday) at Nancy's and Terry's in Montville, Maine.

!!!!!!JAN FIELD:SINGER/SONGWRITER FROM BOSTON will be performing at the Susan B. Anthony Club in Belfast Saturday May 23 at 8:00. A dance will follow. A \$5.00 admission covers both events. The NEA is located in Belfast above the Grasshopper Shop.

The next SBA dance will be held June 13. !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

MLF needs your \$%/yr in order for us to continue the Newsletter. It costs \$\$\$\$ to send it out, so please contribute as much as you can. ALL contributions are welcome and much needed. THANK YOU.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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