



MAINE LESBIAN FEMINIST NEWSLETTER

Feb'84

- ☆ **Feb 9** ~ Virginia Appuzzo, Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force, will speak at the Univ. of Southern Maine, Portland, in the gym. Her appearance is co-sponsored by the USM Gay People's Alliance, the Board of Student Organizations, & the Bureau of Cultural Affairs. As NGTF Executive Director, Cindy is a major spokesperson for lesbians & gaymen nationally. She has appeared on numerous talk shows and has spoken before Congressional committees. Immediately after her speech, a reception will be held at the Sonesta Hotel, sponsored by Cycles, the Spring Street Gym, The Underground, Backstreet, Bill's Coffeehouse, and Woodford's Cafe.
- ☆ **Fri., Feb. 10** ~ Pre-registration deadline for Conference on Lesbian Psychologies. To be held March 9-11, 1984 at Park Plaza Hotel in Boston. Workshops, training seminars, entertainment. Write Registration Committee, BAWP, POB 1267, Jamaica Plain, Ma. 02130.
- ☆ **Sat. Feb 11** ~ "Lianna", at The Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland
- ☆ **Feb. 11** ~ Women Outdoors cross-country skiing in the Sugarloaf area. Call Debbie at 948-3131 *
- ♥ **Tue. Feb. 14** ~ St. Valentine's Gay Party, Spring St. Gym, 117 Spring St., Portland.
- ♥ **Feb 14** ~ Valentine's Day Party at Pappa Joe's on Water St. in Augusta. Play the "Spinning Wheel", your drink may be 10¢ up to Reg. Price!
- ♥ **Feb 18** ~ Don't forget the MLF Valentine Party at Mitzi's! 7:30 at Blueberry Cove. \$4⁰⁰ donation covers entertainment @ donation to keep MLF on its feet. Bring your own refreshments @ a bit of fire wood. ♥♥♥
- ☆ **Sun. Feb 19** ~ Sock Hop at Pappa Joe's in Augusta. Music from the 50's to the 60's. Come dressed in the era clothes or not... Join in the fun!





Feb. 24~26 ~ Northeast Gathering: A weekend of workshops, skiing, music, forums, entertainment, snowshoeing at Peterborough, N.H. A wonderful experience - 150 outdoor women attend. \$60⁰⁰ mem., \$70⁰⁰ non-mem includes meals, lodging, @ ski trails. Write Janet Brown, 220 Wolcott Rd., Chestnut Hill, Ma. (617) 926-8014

Sun. Feb. 26 ~ Potluck supper at Interweave in Augusta All Souls Unitarian Church, 11 King Street - at 7:30, screening of the movie: "Tootsie"

Sat. Feb 25 ~ Boogie Bash - a dance at the People's Building, 155 Brackett St., 3rd floor, Portland, immediately following the evening's production of "The Black Madonna (9:30) \$ 2 admission. call 775-5658

☆ **Feb 25~26 ~** "Bent" opens at USM, Luther Bonney Auditorium; also March 3, 4, 10, & 11. "Bent" is a drama based on the Nazi persecution of homosexuals.

☆ **Feb 29 ~** Leap Day Party, Spring St. Gym, 117 Spring St., Portland.

☆ **Sat. Mar. 3 ~** Sweet Honey in the Rock * Brunswick, at Bowdoin College: call Tamarack at 342-5385 for more info.

☆ **Sun. Mar 4 ~** Mardi Gras Masquerade Party, Sportsman's, 2 Bates St., Lewiston judging at 10 p.m.

Women Outdoors ~ March 10: skating on a tree lined pond in Biddeford, & then warm up with hot chocolate & veggie soup. skate from 10 am to 1 pm. Bring some lunch to share. call 283-1343

* March ? Winter Camping. Are there those who dare? call Teri at 774-4044.

* March 21 - Planning session for spring. come to Everywoman's Center, YWCA, Portland at 6 p.m. call Teri at 774-4044

* March 25 - Ski/Snowshoe at Chewonki Neck. choice of skiing or snowshoeing the wooded trails of Wiscasset. Lunch overlooking Sheepscot River call Kristi at 882-7323 or Teri at 774-4044

* March 26 - Learn how to get your bicycle ready for those warm spring days. Unity College Art Gallery call Ret at 948-3131



☆ **April 13 ~** Holly Near Concert at UMO at 8 p.m. in Lenox Gym. (we'll keep you posted)

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Eidos: Erotica for womyn by womyn is a quarterly magazine which is soliciting material from both new & established writers, poets, and visual artists. Send contributions, inquiries to: Editor, Eidos % Brush Hill Press, 367 Brush Hill Rd., Milton, Ma. 02186. send SASE

Boycott Nestlé Products - for years, Nestlé has been promoting infant suffering & mortality, malnutrition & disease, by mass marketing breast-milk "substitutes" in Third World nations where conditions make mother's milk the only safe nurturance for newborns.

"Taster's Choice" is Nestlé's #1 money maker in the USA, so by choosing another brand of instant coffee, you can hit them where it hurts. For more info, & an endless list of Nestlé's products, write: Infant Formula Action Coalition, 1701 Univ. Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414 *Boycott now lifted - New York Times

Zomak, a drug used for pain, including menstrual cramps, was taken off the market due to its causing severe allergic reactions resulting in the deaths of 5 womyn.

Womanews is a New York City monthly feminist newspaper & calendar of events. \$8 for 12 issues. Sample copy - \$1.00. write: Womanews, P.O. Box 220 * Village Station, NY, NY 10014

***Congratulations**
to Lois on her new appointment. Good Luck!

A new gay/lesbian AA meeting each Friday - 7:30 - 8:30 at All Souls Unitarian Church in Augusta

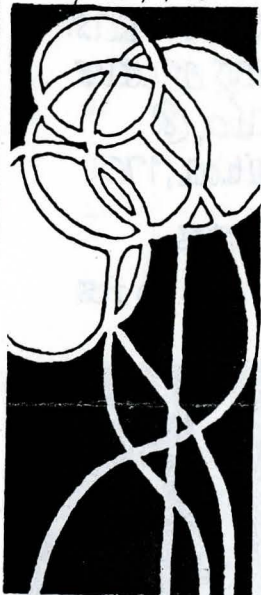
Womynlovers is a separatist's newsletter with articles, opinions, cartoons, & ideas to share with other womyn-loving-womyn. \$2/yr. send to F.L.O. Box 10621, Oakland, Ca. 94610



after washing her hair...

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- ✦ Jewish Womyn's Gathering ~ An East Coast Womyn's Gathering presented by Jewish Lesbians & Feminists is now in the planning stages. The Gathering, tentatively scheduled for Oct 12-14, 1984, will be open to all Jewish womyn & girls. Childcare provided. Write to project 5744, 699 Oriole Ave, West Hempstead, NY 11552
- ✦ Sinister Wisdom, a lesbian/feminist journal since 1976 has changed hands @ home. The new editors are Micheal Uccella & Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz. Artists & writers are urged to send manuscripts w/SASE to P.O. Box 1023, Rockland, Maine 04841
- ✦ Womyn of Spiritual interest to each other - Project Summer Solstice is collecting material for a womyn's spirituality directory. Write: 263 Wilton Rd. Westport Ct 06880
- ✦ "Woman of Power" magazine is now accepting submissions of fiction, poetry, artwork, & essays on the theme: "woman power" (dealers, artists, astrologers, writers, photographers) write: Box 827, Cambridge, Ma 02238-0827
- ✦ International Women Artists Archive, P.O. Box 1033, Hadley, Ma 01035 puts out a newsletter, \$6/YR. The Archives is a collection of reproductions of womyn's artwork & biographical material as well as a resource center.

✦ Elderly Lesbians who can no longer live alone but aren't interested in a nursing home may want to contact Walden Farm Services, RD 152, East Hardwick, Vermont 05836. The Circle of Angels at Walden Farm offers 24 hr. assistance, meals, cleaning, transportation, & other necessities. This is a caring, creative alternative to nursing home care. Write, or call Jo at 802-533-7739

✦ "All My Children", a popular daytime soap opera, has introduced an openly gay character. Donna Pescow plays Dr. Lynn Carson, child psychologist, and so far the character is being done. We urge you to write ABC with your support. They will inevitably get hate mail, so it's up to us to show some appreciation. Write: Jacqueline Babbitt, Producer, "All my Children", ABC T.V., 1330 Ave of Americas, New York, NY 10019, or to Ms. Pescow at the same address.

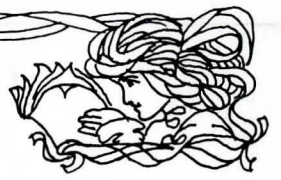
✦ A lesbian & gay rights bill has still not been seriously considered by the US Congress; the military blatantly discriminates against us. The Immigration & Naturalization Service is still mandated by Congress to refuse entry into the US to any lesbian or gayman. Internationally, we are beginning to organize. The focus of this will be the International Lesbian & Gay Conference and March on the United Nations in New York City, tentatively set for Sept 29-30, 1984.

✦ "Dignity" the world wide organization of lesbian & gay Catholics, celebrates its 15th birthday in '84. In Maine, the chapter is: Dignity/Maine, POB 7021, Lewiston, 04240



Here's Your Big Chance!

Subscriptions to MLF are available for
\$8⁰⁰ a year (more if you can, less if you can't)
Write: MLF • Box 125 • Belfast • ME 04915 ♥



✦ The National Campaign to Restore Abortion Funding has been launched. The goals of the Campaign are ① Stop the attack on abortion funding. Defeat the Hyde Amendment. ② Federally funded abortions must be restored to guarantee abortion rights for all women. ③ Rebuild the national movement in defense of abortion rights for all women. For more information write to ACRAF, P.O. Box 27175, Oakland, Ca. 94602

✦ A lesbian mother is in the process of writing a resource & support book for gay fathers, lesbian mothers, their lovers & children. The book will examine the social, legal, & emotional ramifications of being both gay & a parent in a positive light. It will include listings of resources within the gay community. Individuals with similar experiences & advice are requested to write. Identities will be kept strictly confidential. For info and/or to contribute write: Joy Schulenburg, Parenting Project, 806 Haight St., San Francisco, Ca. 94117

✦ Earlier this fall, in coordination with other national groups, the National Gay Task announced a voter registration drive, '84 and Counting, which is intended to register one million gay & lesbian voters. This is a grassroots effort. If anyone is interested in conducting a voter registration in accordance with state laws, please contact Lance Ringel at the NGTF for Human Dignity, 80 Fifth Ave, Suite 1601, New York, NY. 10011-2127 41-5800

✦ Goddesses & Amazons is a 200 page journal with 48 drawings by Studie Raskin on quality vellum 8 1/2 x 11 paper. Order \$10.95 to Studie Raskin / Journal, P.O. Box 88, Brooke, Virginia 22430 (Or ask at New Leaf Bookstore)

✦ Big Mama Rag, a monthly feminist newsjournal that is committed to radical feminism. \$6/yr. Write: 1724 Gaylord St., Denver, Colo. 80206



...because she is a lesbian. She had worked for Christian Science Monitor since 1974 & her work won first place honors from the New England Woman's Press Assoc.

But Christine Madsen was abruptly in 1982 because the Monitor heard she was a lesbian.

Christine needs our support now. Please send what you can to:

✦ For Nights Like This One: stories of loving women, by Becky Birtina, is a collection of positive stories about lesbians & their relationships. \$5.75 ppd to: Frog in the Well, Dept. E, 430 Oakdale Dr., E. Palo Alto, Ca. 94303

**THIS WOMAN
WAS FIRED..**

Madsen Legal Fund
Box 314, New Town Branch
Boston, MA 02258

(Disse Librette ise for iose u laich to folle di spiccher
uail ise spicce)

DI TRI BERRESE

Unas apponà taim usse tri berrese: mamma berre, pappab berre
e beil a berre. Live inna contri nira foresta. Naise ause No mogheggia.
Una dei papa, mamma e beibi olla go bice. Oreie, a forghette locche de
dorre.

Bai enne bai commese Goldilocchese. Sci garra nottingheto du
bette meiche troble. Sci puscie olle fudde daon di maute; no live
cromme. Den sci gos appesterrese enne slipse in olle beddse.

Heise slobbe:

Bai enne bai commes oma di tri berrese; olle sannaborne enne
send inne scius. Dei garra no fudde; dei garra no beddese. En uara
dei goine du to Goldiloccese. Tre erra aute inne strit? Colle
pulissemenns?

Fette Cienze!

Dei uas Italien berrese, enna dei slippe onna chera. Goldilocchese
stei oerre tri nicchase; itt aute ausen omme. En guiste bicosse de
esche erre unas to meiche di beddese, sce sai "go to elle," enna ronne
omme craine to erre mamma, tellenerra uat sanimebicesse di tri berres uere.
Uatsiusei -- Uara iu goine du? Go compleine sittiolle?

★ BOOKS ★ Lucie B.

Onlywomen has published Kindling, a luminous collection of poems by Irish lesbian feminist poet Mary Dorcey (\$4⁵⁰). Fluent direct, clear, her poems describe personal, political, & physical landscapes in a passionate & honest voice. The poems in this slim volume have a bitter-sweet charm which is hard to convey. They are powerful & very accessible.

From Britain as well comes a very promising collection of short stories: Mae West Is Dead: Recent Lesbian and Gay Fiction, ed. by Adam Mass-Jones (Faber & Faber, \$6⁹⁵). There are 21 stories by British & American authors, fairly evenly between lesbian & gay, and what looks to be an excellent, if caustic, introduction.

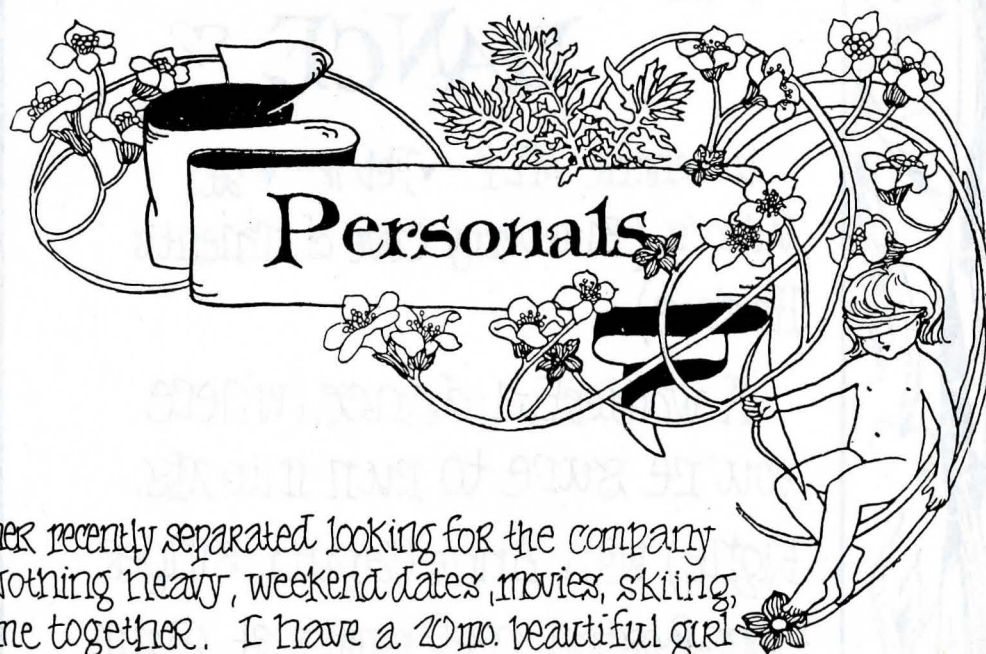
In a powerful new poem sequence, Sources, beautifully printed by the Heyck Press (\$8⁵⁰) Adrienne Rich explores her identity as part Southern Jew, part gentile, "split at the root", "white skinned social christian / neither gentile nor Jew". As always, she excavates uncompromisingly in the archaeology of her own life: "Everything that has ever / helped me has come through what already / lay stored in me." Adrienne Rich writes of her father and her husband, inhabitants of "floating world of the assimilated who know and deny they will always be aliens," both of whom die isolated and live suffering. She writes of an end to suffering: when I speak of an end to suffering, I don't mean anethcra.

Books . continued...

I mean knowing the world and my place in it, not in order to stare with bitterness or detachment, but as a powerful and womanly series of choices." The power of Adrienne Rich's moral courage of her unrelenting will to think through pain and to place herself in the world, is magnificent.

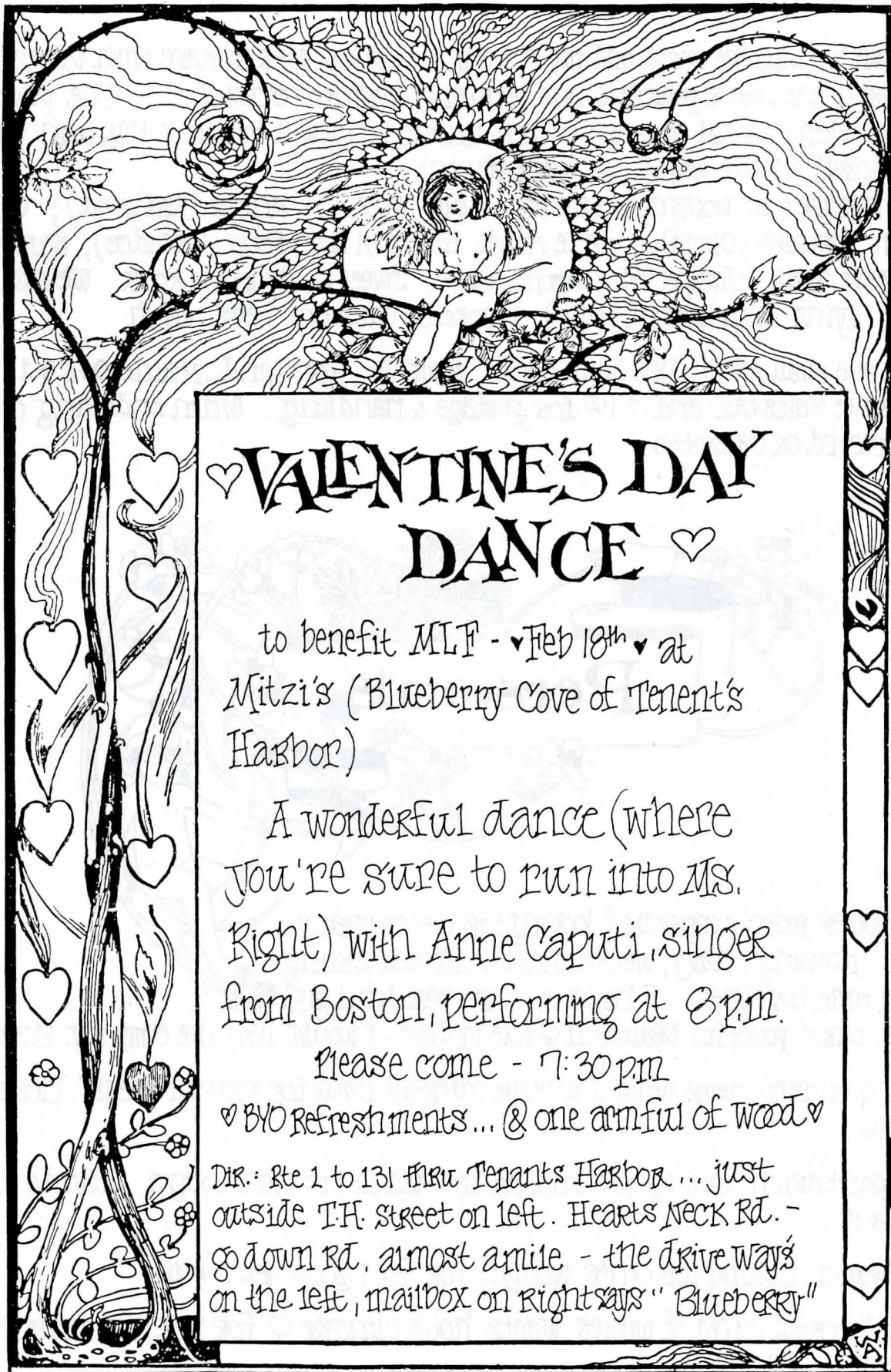
New releases in womyn's music are: Holly Near Journeys (Redwood); Chris Williamson Portrait (Olivia); Margie Adam Here Is A Love Song (Pleiadce); Barbara Higbie and Teresa Trull Unexpected (second wave); Sweet Honey in the Rock, We Are... Everyone of Us (Flying Fish, record only) Record or cassette \$8.95 each

All are available at New Leaf Books, Main St., Rockland, Maine 04841 Please add 5% for state sales tax and \$1.50 for postage & handling. When ordering music, please specify record or cassette.



- ♥ Artist/mother recently separated looking for the company of others. Nothing heavy, weekend dates, movies, skiing, sharing time together. I have a 20mo. beautiful girl who needs other powerful, beautiful ♀ role models. I would like the company. Pisces. Reply #15
- ♥ Charming entrepreneur willing to leave current lover for pinball freak. Please be discreet. Reply #16
- ♥ Shy sagittarian into sports and cars, would like to meet womyn. I can do it, you can help! #17
- ♥ Libra woman looking for other womyn for fun & games. #18
- ♥ Artsy illiterate, tired of winter, wants hot & hungry ♀ for sex and other related pleasures. #19

* The personals seem like a lot of fun, so we hope to do it every month. If you want replies mailed to you, please send in \$1.00, if it's just for a kick, that's fine too! We love reading each one!



♥ VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE ♥

to benefit MLF - ♥ Feb 18th ♥ at
Mitzi's (Blueberry Cove of Tenent's
Harbor)

A wonderful dance (where
you're sure to run into Ms.
Right) with Anne Caputi, singer
from Boston, performing at 8 p.m.

Please come - 7:30 pm

♥ BYO Refreshments ... @ one armful of wood ♥

Dir.: Rte 1 to 131 thru Tenants Harbor ... just
outside T.H. Street on left. Hearts Neck Rd. -
go down Rd. almost a mile - the driveway's
on the left, mailbox on right says "Blueberry"



The Worry Column

Happy New Year! Sunshine here, I managed to survive the holidays virtually worry free and for the most part, experienced the merriest Christmas of my life.

A very good friend of mine and I had an interesting conversation recently, that pertained to a couple of words used by our parents when we were growing up. I might add that both of us are adult children of alcoholics and recovering alcoholics ourselves and found that not only did these two words worry us terribly as children, (when our parents would threaten us with them), but as adults we carry these words around with us using them on ourselves without our parents around. These two words that have caused us so much worry are, "It"

and "They".

My mother was always saying things like: "What would 'they' say?" or "If you don't do such&such, you're going to get it." Strange as it may seem, it never occurred to me to ask what "it" was. I knew somewhere deep inside me that "it" was a fate worse than death; a subtle black cloud of disaster that would devour if I didn't do what "they" thought was right. As strange as it may seem that I never asked what "it" was, the thought never occurred to me to ask who "they" were either. To me, "they" were faceless, nameless beings who watched everything I did, waiting for the chance to give "it" to me, should I wander from their idea of what I should be doing.

A very confused and frightened child, I needed verification I was alright from "they". Never wanted to get hurt by "it" and tried to please "they" with what I thought it was "they" wanted. I managed my way through childhood with no noticeable scars, but finally into adulthood, far away from those people who used to tell me what to do, and what did I find? Without my knowledge "they" and "it" had embeded themselves into my brain like ticks; and although I shouted "Independence", I was still a prisoner to them.

My key to the prison has been by definition. Self-definition and defining how "it" and "they" are used today helped me tremendously. Today, I demand to know what "it" is, & if you're not willing to tell me what "it" is, I'll refuse to worry about "it" until "it" happens. "It" doesn't necessarily mean disaster today for me either, which is comforting. My mother is still out there playing the "it" game and is still very concerned with what "they" think, but unless she defines "it" for me I don't play. Sometimes I don't play anyway and she ends up playing with herself and we all know what that's called and I might add, wouldn't "they" give "it" to her if "they" knew!

"They" is defined differently by me today, also. Anyone outside myself is a "they". "They" all differ, and the trouble with trying to please "they" is that, first of all "they"

all think differently and if you asked them what "they" wanted from you, the answers would probably all be different. I would hope most of them would say "be yourself", but only a poll would tell us that for sure. I'm sure "they" couldn't care less if I washed my hands after I peed, but, as a kid I distinctly remember "them" watching to see if I did or not. Thank God "they" don't follow me anymore.

Those of you who read this column today and nod your heads with a faint smile of understanding; I hope you're as through with "it" and "they" as I am. For those of you who shook their heads from side to side in disbelief and amazement, don't worry about "it" because you never have and probably never will.

Thanks for listening,
Sunshine



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POETRY

absolutions

if i could begin asking
i'd say stop demanding
forgiveness
i have nothing to forgive
it is or it is not
it won't go away
forgiving does not absolve
if i could begin asking
i'd say just love me
love me
show it that you love
tell me that you love
let me feel it's real
it was never real
and then i might forgive
then it might absolve
this anger/hunger might
dissolve
i would not have to
ask again

Diane Stein
9/21/80

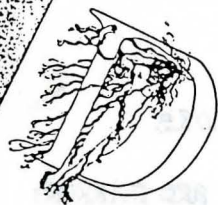
MIRRORS

your eyes are mirrors
reflecting back our pain
i see the glass cuts and
the splintered wounds
i see the crystal image
that i bring for you
a shattered hope
you cannot look at me
will not absorb
knowledge
or affirm the love
the love sharp eyes refuse
your eyes flash surfaces
glazed prisms
cold bright mercuries
that only must deny
you will not let me
look within you
your fear your fear
your fear

Diane Stein

12/24/01





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all \$\$ goes to support the newsletter!
(designs all from newsletter, all varied)

