

Common Circle for Human Rights

c/o M. Lichtman, R.R. 3, Box 1119, Belfast 04915

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Open Discussion Slated for May Meeting:

"What Does Passage of the Anti-Discrimination Law Mean To You?"

We are meeting a week early in May, since our regularly scheduled meeting day happens to be Memorial Day! The meeting will be on TUESDAY, MAY 20 at the *St. Margaret's Parish House*, 49 Court Street in Belfast. This will be a salon-style discussion format, and what a positive topic of discussion we have!

As you may know, the Maine Legislature overwhelmingly passed the "Act To Prevent Discrimination" (L.D. 1116) this past week! The Senate voted 25-5 in favor of the bill, while the House of Representatives voted 82-62. Our heartfelt thanks to Sen. Susan Longley for her outstanding leadership on this issue. And our sincere appreciation to Reps. Dave Lindahl, Joe Brooks, Judy Powers, Elizabeth Watson and the many other legislators who cast their votes in support of this bill.

A large number of supporters, including several of our Common Circle members, filled the House Gallery to hear the emotional debate and be present for the historic vote last Thursday. After the House of Representatives' vote, the supporters greeted the Representatives outside the House Chamber with thunderous applause ... an act of appreciation that legislators said was almost unprecedented in their experience!

Have you considered how this piece of legislation will affect your life, your workplace? Have you experienced the discrimination that this law seeks to prevent -- in employment, housing, access to public facilities, or when applying for credit? What will passage of this bill mean for our group's work and focus? Will we participate in a statewide coalition effort similar to, but more grassroots than Maine Won't Discriminate, in response to announced plans by Carolyn Cosby and allies to obtain signatures to force the bill to go to Public Referendum? Come and share your thoughts, experiences, and insights with the group. Let's celebrate this hard-fought victory, assess what our goals are, and reflect on this historic event together. Please join us on TUESDAY, MAY 20!!!

The Gay and Lesbian National Victim's Hotline

If you or someone you know has been a victim of anti-gay/lesbian violence, sexual assault, domestic violence, HIV related violence and other forms of criminal victimization, call the GLNV Hotline at 1-800-259-1536. The hotline is staffed by trained volunteers.

ENDA Alert!!

ENDA, the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (S.932, H.R. 1863) has been reintroduced and has strong bi-partisan support and the President's support. Please contact your U.S. Senator and Congressperson by calling 202-224-3121 and ask for their office. Or Write: The Honorable Senator Olympia Snowe, U.S. Senate, Washington D.C. 20510 or The Honorable Representative John Baldacci, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. You can also reach your federal legislator by calling 1-800-962-3524 and asking to be connected. This number happens to belong to the Christian Coalition!

June Program To Address Hate Crimes

On Tuesday, June 24 our Common Circle for Human Rights will be sponsoring a community-wide event. The program, entitled "*Not In Our Town: Revealing the Shadow of Hate*" is designed to heighten public awareness in the mid-coast area regarding the prevalence of hate crimes directed against minority groups in Maine and elsewhere. Through this program we hope to promote dialogue, increase levels of tolerance, and build coalition among groups that advocate for social justice.

The event will begin at 6:00pm with a free supper. Following supper, the award-winning documentary "Not In Our Town" will be shown. This film describes how residents of one rural town organized against hate activity in their area. After the film, there will be an open microphone session, during which participants will be invited to make a personal statement regarding the issue if they wish. A candlelight vigil honoring hate crimes victims will conclude the evening, with participants forming a lighted "circle for human rights".

We will be inviting other groups as possible to join us for this program. Among the organizations we will be contacting are:

Alternatives to Violence Project
Amnesty International, Midcoast Chapter
Center for Vision and Policy
Common Courage Press
Central Maine Indian Association
Friends Society of Quakers
Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network
Holocaust Human Rights Center of Maine
Interfaith Association for Peace and Justice
INVERT (Institute for Non-Violence Education, Research and Training)
Maine Attorney General's Hate Crime Division
Maine Community Foundation
Maine Council of Churches

Maine Human Rights Commission
Mid-Coast Mental Health Center
NAACP, Bangor Chapter
National Coalition Building Institute
New Hope for Women
Outright
Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays
Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine
Penobscot Indian Nation
Synagogue Adas Yeshurun
The Guatemala Project
Unitarian Universalist Church
Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition
Waldo County Committee for Social Action

Please contact Mitzi Lichtman (338-5889) or Debbie Hockensmith (338-1704) if you know of other groups which might be interested in this event or if you would like to volunteer to help with the event!

Community Calendar

- May 17 Conference on Lesbian Health & Sexuality
\$20.00 University of Southern Maine, Masterton Hall, Portland
9:00 to 5:00 P.M. A full day of workshops! Call Linda Wolfe AT 865-9768
- May 18 Holocaust Human Rights Campaign - Annual Meeting
\$15.00 - 2:00 P.M. - Sheraton Tara Hotel, So. Portland. Keynote by Dr. Yaffa Eliah
creator of the Tower of Faces at the U.S. Holocaust Museum
- May 20 Common Circle for Human Rights Monthly Meeting
Discussion Topic: "What Does Passage of the Anti-Discrimination Law Mean To You?"
7:00 - 9:00pm
St. Margaret's Episcopal Church Parish House
49 Court Street, Belfast
- May 24-26 Take Back the Trails Weekend
An event in remembrance of the two women, one of whom was
a Unity College student, who were murdered last year on the Appalachian Trail.
For more information about the local event, call Susan Marshall at 587-4632
- May 29 - Springfest - Women's Camping Weekend
June 1 Call 737-0930. This is in the mid-coast area.
- May 31 Women & Friends on the Move
9:00 A.M. - Bike, walk, run, rollerblade, hike or kayak. Raise \$ for New Hope for Women
Call Andy Burt at 596-7147
- June 13-15 Symposium XXIII: Community -- Come In Unity!!!
Workshops, recreation, entertainment designed for the GLBT community.
Southern Maine Technical College, South Portland Campus
Please preregister ASAP, organizers need a commitment of attendance.
To register or volunteer, call 625-8499
- June 13 Kate Clinton at Symposium XXIII Bob Smith Lead-in
Sponsored by MLGPA
For tickets to concert only - Call 773-6974
- June 18-22 Southern Maine Pride Week
Events include dance and parade!!! For more information, contact Southern Maine Pride
P.O. Box 11502, Portland, ME 04104 Contact: Laurie Fortman, Exec. Director 878-0546
Michael Rosetti, Operations Director 879-7323 (e-mail: smepride@gwi.net)
- June 21 Maine Gay Men's Chorus 8:00 P.M. at Merrill Auditorium, Portland. Volunteers are
needed & will get free tickets! To volunteer e-mail Peter at pstone@llbean.com
- June 24 "Not In Our Town: Revealing the Shadow of Hate"
Hate Crimes Awareness Program
Sponsored by Common Circle for Human Rights
Abbott Room, Belfast Free Library
Supper at 6:00pm, Program 7:00 - 8:30pm

Not In Our Town: Revealing the Shadow of Hate

***A Hate Crimes Awareness Program
And Candlelight Vigil***

***Tuesday, June 24
6:00 - 8:30pm
Belfast Free Library
Abbott Room
46 High Street***

Program Schedule

6:00pm	Free Supper
7:00pm	Showing of "Not In Our Town" Video
7:45pm	Open Microphone Speakout Session
8:10pm	Candlelight Vigil

**Sponsored by
The Common Circle for Human Rights
For Information, Call 338-1704 or 338-5889**