

Gay and Lesbian Community Network Newsletter

Act/Up Bangor

Major Act/Up activities are in the offing in two New England Queen Cities - February 15th in Manchester, NH and February ? in Bangor - See insert.

About the insert - No funds were used from the GLCN treasury to print or distribute the AUB flyer. Your privacy and mailing list confidentiality have not been breached as the envelopes were stuffed by GLCN members. GLCN does not take any position on any information in the newsletter other than the position that if the information could be of any use to any of our members then it will be included.

BFSC - Call the Networker. We can't get in touch with you for the newsletter.

Bangor Pride

A committee is now forming to organize Bangor's first Gay Pride Weekend! We need your input: suggestions for events, entertainment, activities, etc. We would like to see a full-fledged parade of proud Gays and Lesbians march down Main Street sometime in June. Anyone interested in helping out can write to Purple Pride, PO Box 462, Hampden 04444 or call Jim and leave a message at 990-3420.

Dignity/Bangor

The meeting on Sunday, February 9th, was small but warm and rewarding. There was no celebrant because he was called to a parish finance meeting at the last minute. In lieu of an official presence four people got to network and share ideas and background.

Dignity/Bangor is looking to expand its membership, which recently shrank when several committed couples moved out of state. It is an organization for Catholic men and women who wish to continue to work within the framework of the church. For more information contact Tom at 422-3140,

especially if you are intending to drive from any distance, since a service may infrequently be cancelled.

Ecology

From the Women in Curriculum Program comes "Ecological Revolutions in New England: Nature, Gender, and Science." Carolyn Merchant, Professor of Environmental History, Philosophy, and Ethics, University of California, Berkeley. 12:15-1:30pm Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union, UMaine.

Full Moon

There is a full moon gathering for womn(sic) in Troy at 6:00pm, SASE to chris of coventree, Troy 04987.

Getting the Love You Want

Relationship Resources is presenting a seminar for Lesbian and Gay Couples. This workshop includes lectures, guided imagery, written exercises and communication processes. While couples are invited to participate and to build a supportive group atmosphere, they are not pressured into unwelcome self-disclosure. The workshop emphasizes partners sharing with each other. Confidentiality is maintained in a safe and comfortable environment. The seminar is March 28 from 8:30am to 5:30pm at Howard Johnson's in Danvers, Mass. The fee is \$100.00. For more information contact Cornelia Walsh (508) 465-1366.

Happy Anniversary

It's been one year since the Riverfront Lounge moved to its present location on Franklin Street in Bangor. The one year mark was February first to be exact. GLCN recently visited Mike and Dave, owners/operators of the Riverfront. Here's what we talked about.

How did you decide to open a bar in Bangor?

Dave - I always wanted to run a bar with a live band. We noticed lots of Bangor area people at bars in the Augusta and Waterville areas. Besides, we were both sick of our jobs.

Now they each put in 60 hour weeks. Both guys felt that it's the people, the community, that ultimately make operating the bar worthwhile.

What sort of surprises have you had to deal with?

Business tends to ebb and flow and seems related somewhat to the seasons. Mike and Dave have also been learning about the kinds of entertainment that the community wants. For example, men like strip shows, women tend not to. At times it is hard trying to please people with a variety of tastes and views as to what entertainment should be offered. To their credit, Mike and Dave have brought a variety of options to the Bangor area. They are also open to all suggestions from community members. The large screen TV and the video games in the pool area were added to provide more options to patrons.

Many people who have gone to the bar have commented that there is no pressure to consume/buy alcohol. In fact, there are a variety of non-alcoholic choices available. Poland Spring Water is available, for example because people asked for it specifically.

Is there any other way into the Riverfront besides the Franklin Street entrance which has a large set of stairs?

There is an entrance at the ground level. In the winter, as long as it is plowed, the entrance is accessible. To use this entrance, call ahead to let Mike and Dave know.

Mike and Dave encourage you to call and leave suggestions on the bar's answering machine. They appreciate hearing from the community and would like your ideas.

This month, if you happen to stop by the Riverfront, tell Dave and Mike "Happy Anniversary."

Kerry Flyer

See second paragraph under Act/Up Bangor.

Local Celebrity

Joe Nadeau, co-chair of Wilde-Stein will be included in an article in the Advocate on the topic "Growing Up Gay in Rural New England." Joe said that the over the phone

interview was "cool" and "laid back." That's L.A. Rush out and buy your copy - Bangor's going national! Congrats Joe!

MLGPA Annual Dinner

Although 350 people reserved, many more braved the weather than the all-knowing weather people could have predicted. Mary Bonauto from GLAD - Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders - kept 'em rolling in the aisles. If you missed it, there's always next year. It is without a doubt the largest annual collection of beautiful people in the state of Maine. An additional point of interest is that all five Democratic presidential candidates had representatives at the dinner including Mrs. Tsongas. Maybe they are realizing that our vote counts too.

Mainely Men

Mainely Men is a twice-yearly weekend conference in which men gather in a quiet, rustic lakeside setting in central Maine. During the weekend each man may develop new friendships, participate in a program related to men's issues, relax, and enjoy the woods, the shore, the lake, the loons, and the herons. For more information and a flyer write: Mainely Men, PO Box 278, Stillwater, ME 04489-0278.

News from the Minneapolis Star and Tribune 12/18/91

Sharon Kowalski and Karen Thompson exchanged rings and committed themselves to love each other forever on Dec. 17, 1979. Exactly 12 years later, Thompson went to the Robbinsdale nursing home where Kowalski lives to tell her that she had won the right to be her guardian.

"She was visibly moved," Thompson said at a news conference. "We now have the freedom to build our lives."

The Appeals Court ruling said that Sharon Kowalski had indicated that she wanted to be with Thompson and that Thompson is the only person willing or able to care for her lover outside an institution. Although the case sets precedent in Minnesota, its legal impact nationally is questionable. Guardianship laws are different state to state. While the Kowalski decision could be used as "persuasive authority" in cases in other states, it does not

change law.

The ruling clearly recognizes the couple's lesbian relationship "... Thompson and Kowalski are a family of affinity, which ought to be accorded respect," the decision reads.

Thompson, of St. Cloud, said yesterday that she will move into her new role slowly. She will consult with Kowalski's doctors and will explore options such as moving her lover closer to St. Cloud or into her handicap accessible home.

Our Paper

Maine's Lesbian and Gay Newspaper is holding a contra-dance fundraiser on February 15th at 7:30pm at the First Congregational Church at 301 Cottage Road in South Portland. This "Mac Contra!" is to help raise money for their conversion to the computer age. Free instruction is provided in a chem-free and smoke-free environment and refreshments will be available. Chris Ricciotti is the caller and tickets are \$5.00. If past contra dances are any indicator, this promises to be a fun night all the way around.

Park Street Universalist Church

A Women's Love Yourself Valentine Dance, 9:00pm to midnight on the 15TH at 120 Park St. Bangor, \$3.00. Chem-free and women only please.

Heidi ho folks - Did anyone catch this tidbit in the paper? Two gay men were elected to the Homecoming Court for the first time at Ohio State University. Maybe it's time to make a contribution to the old alma mater.

The Riverfront

On Friday, February 14th, there will be a Valentine's Day Party - wear your best pink, red or formal garb! Doorprizes for wonderful, fabulous, outrageous people.

Victor Victoria watch out! The "Mr." Bangor women's lipsync contest is coming on Sunday, Feb. 16th. This is the second annual contest with a \$50.00 prize. Contact Dave or Mike at 947-1213 for more info.

Due to copyright questions videos have been temporarily(?) suspended, however watch large screen TV on weeknights.

The results from the Miss Riverfront Contest are:

Mercedes (Keith) First Prize - \$50.00

Diva (Tom) First runner up

Jacqueline (Joe) Second runner up

Mercedes will represent the Riverfront at the Miss Gay Maine Pageant this March in Portland.

Thank You

Special thanks are accorded to those individuals who responded to the request for transsexual/transgenderist information. The information which was quite substantial was forwarded. Thanks again.

Wilde-Stein

Stewart Commons at UMaine will be the location of WS's Valentine's Day Dance (Fri. 14th), which will be held from 8:00pm until midnight. Admission will be \$1.00, more if you can, less if you can't. Refreshments will be for sale in this smoke-free environment. Bring your partner and join the fun or come by yourself - you never know who you might meet on this day of amour.

Ed.'s note - Many apologies to the women who read this newsletter. Due to space limitations there are a number of women's events that are not listed in this edition of the newsletter that come from the Peace and Justice Center Calendar. Events have been listed through the 15th, however if you wish to find other things that are going you are urged to call or write to get on their mailing list. Their # is 942-9343 and their address is 58 Columbia Street, Bangor, 04401. To the men - sorry no info for you this month from their calendar.

Women's Resource Center

The center is having an Open House on January 24, 12:00-4:30pm. Refreshments will be served. For more information write: Women in the Curriculum, 101 Fernald Hall, UMaine, Orono, 04469 or call 581-1228. They also have a great calendar. Call or write the above to get on their mailing list.

GLCN

PO Box 212, Bangor, 04402-0212
Ernie 941-8454
Janet 862-5907

QUEEN CITY ACTIONS

**FEBRUARY 15 IN MANCHESTER,
New Hampshire's Queen City
March for an End to AIDS
and Health Care for All**

**ACTing UP Soon
In BANGOR, Maine's Queen City
Under the Watchful eyes of Paul Bunyan
ACT UP MAGIC**

**ACT UP BANGOR meets
TUESDAYS at 7
PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER
58 COLUMBIA ST
BANGOR**

**ACT UP Bangor
PO Box 1554
Bangor ME 04402-1554**

**Phone 942-9343
234-4503**

**ACT UP
BANGOR
FIGHT BACK•FIGHT AIDS**