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Northern Lambda Nord

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Caribou Unitarians: UPDATE

Three members of the board of the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Caribou met with four Lambda members in early January to discuss NLN’s third request for space in the church building for our monthly meetings. It seems that as much as 25% of the congregation is homophobic, some so adamantly so that they threatened to withdraw their support – both spiritual and financial – if any faerie feet or dynamic dykes so much as crossed the threshold of that building’s sacred meeting rooms. These ghastly homophobes seem to be some of the most prominent and monied people in Caribou, so their financial support is seen as more important to the church than the principles which the congregation professes to espouse (i.e., support of gay-lesbian people). In a nutshell, the Caribou UU church still says NO! to our request for monthly meeting space.

What the supportive church members want to do, with our help, is to educate those members of the congregation who are open to expanding their narrow, bigoted horizons. It was thought that having a pot luck meal to which some of us queers would be invited to make a presentation might be too much for some, who may even refuse to eat at the same table with (gulp!) homosexuals. But they may try one, anyway.

Those present felt that a good beginning for dialogue could focus on the current politics of “gay rights” in Maine, since both Portland and Lewiston have passed non-discrimination ordinances, and the state legislature will consider one this spring.

A Lambda member brought up the fact that many other groups, including a rabbit-raisers club, meet regularly at the church. A church board member pointed out that one member of the rabbit group was a member of the congregation, and perhaps if Lambs were involved in the congregation we, too would be allowed to meet in the building. However, we pointed out that gay people ARE in the congregation, yet UU members have said in the past that we are welcome as individuals, but not as the organized group, Northern Lambda Nord.

Our continued meetings with the UU/Caribou board and request for space was discussed at NLN’s January meeting. The concensus was that we have repeatedly requested their support and been patient for many years while they grapple with the hypocrisy of some in their

What Unitarians do in Augusta

The Unitarian-Universalist Community Church of Augusta held a symposium January 16 entitled, “Broadening The Dream: a call for simple justice”. It was a program on equal rights for gays and lesbians in Maine.

“We hope to demonstrate and mobilize support for legislation which will provide equal protection against discrimination to all of Maine’s citizens.” Presenters included Portland police lieutenant Mark Dion, Houlton native B. J. Broder (who lead the recent NLN discussion group), mayor of Lewiston James Howaniec, Portland city councilmember Peter O’Donnell, former Portland city councilmember and lesbian activist Barb Wood, and three members of the Maine legislature, Senators Dale McCormick and Gerry Conley, and Rep. Susan Farnsworth.
Highlights

OF NLN'S JANUARY BUSINESS MEETING

Eight members present, all Steering Committee members.

❖ The ten new members of the Steering Committee began their one-year tenure; first-time members are the new director, new secretary, and three new at-large members. ❖ It was approved to divide the remaining surplus funds from Symposium XIX: 25% to the building fund, 75% to the general fund. ❖ The books in the library collection are now being entered into the computer. Six people have been trained on the procedure; each will work in the library at least 3 times by the end of February, entering books into the computer file. ❖ Four volunteers - all men - now staff the Phoneline. Women are encouraged to help on Wednesday nights. ❖ Thank yous go to Dick and Phil in New Sweden for hosting two New Year’s Eve parties, and for hosting the discussion and pot luck. An additional Thank you to Roger for hosting the January meeting. ❖ Three Caribou Unitarian-Universalist board members met with 4 NLN members to discuss future use by NLN of the church for our monthly meetings. The answer is still “no”, but they want to work with our help to change the attitude of the reportedly 25% of their congregation who are homophobic and have money which they would withdraw if NLN were allowed to meet in the church. A supportive letter from UU member Dale Gordon (Caribou) urging NLN, “don’t give up on us!” ❖ The building fund increased $30.62 since December. ❖ We are sending out a press release informing the local media that we have requested clarification by the Aroostook United Way of their non-discrimination policy. ❖ A press release about our discussion with MLGPA (Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance) re: the up-coming gay-lesbian civil rights bill was included in two early morning news broadcasts on WAGM-TV. It followed an item about the Lewiston city council’s adoption of a gay rights ordinance. A note will be sent to news reporter Ed Walsh for recognizing the importance of the issue. ❖ As a result of the discussion with MLGPA representatives, NLN will seek to work with MLGPA to pass the up-coming civil rights bill. ❖ Due to energies spent on other more pressing projects, work to get Maine Public Radio to air a weekly gay-lesbian program is on indefinite hold. ❖ A new gay-owned long distance phone company is offering 2% of callers’ long distance charges to gay & lesbian groups. NLN will try to get as many people to sign up for that service and designate NLN as the recipient of donations, which will be used to defray the costs of our Phoneline and begin a financial drive to support a future statewide 800 Phoneline.

❖ Activities calendar ❖ Snow

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Unitarians continued from front page
congregation, and we have received their answer. Now it is up to them to work things out within their congregation. If they want our help as speakers and presenters, to talk with them and educate them, that is fine. But we've been meeting twelve times a year for over 13 years without their support and will continue to do so.

A letter received just before our January meeting was read to those present. It was a copy of an angry letter sent by UU/Caribou member Dale Gordon to the church board, chastising them for not allowing NLN to have space to meet. "If there is any religious group which should be expected to extend understanding and kindness it should be us...What is WRONG with the Caribou UU? Was anyone listening to the sermon last Sunday? Have we really closed our doors to gays and lesbians? Certainly we cannot expect them to be comfortable in our midst! I am outraged and seek an explanation." Brava, Dale! Her footnote to us was, "Don't give up on us."

Lambda representatives will meet again with UUA Board members February 4th. ▼

Did You Hear?
Without homosexuals, there would be no Hollywood, there would be no show business. - Elizabeth Taylor, in an interview in Vanity Fair magazine.

Brief Notes:
• Maine State Senator and lesbian activist Dale McCormick is keynote speaker at March 31st Aroostook Teen Conference at University of Maine/Presque Isle.
• Bus transportation from Maine to March on Washington now organizing. Call John in Portland, 775-2813.
• Two gaymen have challenged Canada's ban on gay marriages, arguing that denying that right violates Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
• Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance annual awards banquet & dance is Sat, Feb 27, 5pm at Atrium Inn, Cook's Corner, Brunswick. Join with 600-800 other gaymen, lesbians, and our straight friends to party. Call Judy Edgerly for reservation information, 626-9309; call the Inn for a room for the night, 729-5555.

HIV Testing
Testing for HIV in Maine is completely anonymous - they do not need to know your name, address, phone. This is not true in New Brunswick! Call ACAP Family Planning for more information and an appointment. (All area code 207)
Fort Kent, 834-3513 Caribou, 498-3798
Presque Isle, 768-3056 Houlton, 532-0503
Testing includes both pre- and post-discussion. There is a minimal fee to cover lab costs. ▼

Fun day, pot luck, and games - Sun, Jan 24, starts at noon (Maine), New Sweden: sledding, snowshoeing, fun-in-the-snow, pot luck, evening of board/card games, even a film; NLN's 13th anniversary dinner party - Sat, Jan 30, 7:30pm (Maine), Carriage House Restaurant, Presque Isle; "First Friday" - Fri, Feb 5, 7pm (Maine) - continue work on the library; A Day in the Orient - Sun, Feb 7, starting at 11am (Maine) at a lakeside home in Orient, Maine (20 mi. south of Houlton), with ice fishing, a hot tub, pot luck, and just fun; Valentine's party - Sat, Feb 13, 8pm (Maine) in Caribou; Snow fun day two - Sat, Feb 20, noon (Maine); Monthly meeting - Sun, Feb 21, 3pm (Maine), Presque Isle Fold & Stuff the March newsletter & calendar - Wed, Feb 24, Caribou; "First Friday" - Fri, Mar 5, 7pm (Maine), the library work continues; Pot luck & games - Irish theme Sat, Mar 13, 6:30pm (Maine), Caribou; Monthly meeting - Sun, Mar 14, 3pm (Maine), Presque Isle First day of spring BBQ - Sat, March 20
The meeting adjourned after 1 hour 50 minutes. ▼
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Gay/Lesbian GUIDE/Lesbian/Gai

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD (NLN), CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 USA
GAY/LESBIAN PHONELINE 207.458-2088 TDD/VOICE - staffed Wed, 7-9pm (Maine time) in Madawaska. Groupe bilingue/bilingual group. Call 207.458-2088 to make contact.

ACT UP/BANGOR POB 1554, 04402-1554, 207.947-3947
AIDS New Brunswick/SIDIA
Nouveau-Brunswick 800.561.4009
AIDSLINE/Maine 800.851-AIDS - Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Mon & Wed till 7:30pm
AM CHOSFI Maine Jewish group, meets monthly, POB 5017, Portland 04101, 207.871-1014 (Bob) or 833-6004 (Susan)
APEX: A Point of Departure, published monthly by Phoenix Press, POB 4743, Portland 04112
DIGNITY/MAINE Catholic group, POB 8113, Portland 04104
EASTERN MAINE AIDS NETWORK POB 2038, Bangor 04401-2038, 207.990-EMAN
EDMUNSTON AREA GAYS & LESBIANS FOR EQUALITY (EAGLE) POB 611, Edmundston E5V 3L2 506.735-5029
FREDERICTON LESBIANS & GAYS (FLAG) POB 1556, Station A E3B 5G2, 506.457-2156 (Mon & Thurs 6-9pm)
GAZETTE For Lesbians & Gay Men in Atlantic Canada, published 10 times yearly, POB 34090, Scotia Square, Halifax, NS B3J 3S1
GAIS & LESBIENNES DE MONCTON/GAYS & LESBIANS OF MONCTON (GLM) CP/POB 1072, Riverview E1B 1V0, 506.855-8064
GAIS ES NOR GAYS (GNG) CP/POB 983, Bathurst E2A 4H8
GAY/LESBIAN ALLIANCE University of Southern Maine, 88 Winslow Street, Portland 04103, 207.874-6596
GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY NETWORK POB 212, Bangor 04401, 207.862-5907/941-2189
GAY/LESBIAN PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP Portland, 207.780-4085/772-4741
HARBOR MASTERS, INC leather-lexi group, POB 4044, Portland 04104
INTEGRITY Episcopalian group, St. Matthew’s Church, 18 Union Street, Hallowell 04347, 207.623-3041/845-2985
LESBIAN/GAY COMMITTEE, MAINE CHAPTER, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS POB 5112, Station A, Portland 04102
LESBIAN/GAY COMMITTEE, MAINE CHAPET, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS POB 5112, Station A, Portland 04102
LESBIAN/BISEXUAL PEOPLE'S NETWORK POB 10772, Portland 04104
MAINE LESBIAN-GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE POB 232, Hallowell 04347
NEW BRUNSWICK COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REFORM/LA COALITION POUR LA RÉFORME DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK POB/CP 1556, Station/Succursale A, Fredericton E3B 5G2 506.457-2156
OUR PAPER: A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine, published monthly, 9 Deering Street, POB 10744, Portland 04104, 207.761-0733
OUTRIGHT: Portland Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth, age 22 and under, POB 5028, Station A, Portland 04102, 800.339-4042
OUTRIGHT CENTRAL MAINE for age 22 & younger, every Fri, 7:30pm 1st Unitarian Church, Pleasant St, Auburn; POB 802, Auburn 04212, 800.339-4042
OUTRIGHT TOO Bangor area Gaylesbian Bisexual youth group, c/o POB 212, Bangor 04401
PWA (People With AIDS) COALITION OF MAINE 377
Cumberland Avenue, Portland 04101, 207.773-8500
WOMEN'S GROUP POB 20832, Fredericton E3B 618, 506.457-2156

January 30, 1993

NLN's 13th Anniversary Dinner Party
April 25, 1993

March on Washington for Gay, Lesbian and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation
May 28-31, 1993

Maine Lesbian & Gaymen's Symposium XX
Unity College, Unity Maine