

# Communiqué

Volume XIV: no. 2 février/February 1993

## 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

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## 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. ▼

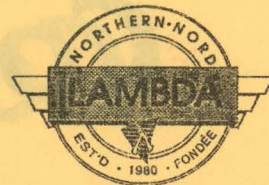
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CP/POB 990 Caribou, Maine 04736-0990 USA Gay-Lesbian Phoneline/Télégai 207.498-2088 (TDD/Voice-Voix)



# 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, chastizing 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. ▼

*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.* ▼

## 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

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## 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. ▼

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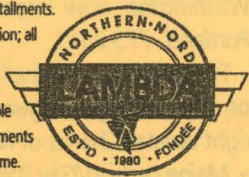


# Communiqué

**COMMUNIQUÉ** publié dix fois par année par **NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD**, une organisation pour la communauté gaie-lesbienne-bisexuelle au nord-ouest du Nouveau Brunswick et au nord du Maine (les comtés Madawaska-Victoria-Carleton-Aroostook). **ABONNEMENTS** - 10\$ par année. **COTISATION NLN** - 15\$ par année, dans lequel inclus la subscription. Les fonds E-U et canadiens sont acceptés au par. Ceux qui ont de la difficulté financièrement, des paiements à terme peuvent être organisés. NLN est une organisation à but non-lucratif; toutes donations sont taxées déductibles aux E-U seulement. Les tarifs de publicité dans le **COMMUNIQUÉ** sont disponibles. Vos commentaires et contributions sont les bienvenus.

**COMMUNIQUÉ** is published ten times yearly by **NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD**, an organization serving the gay-lesbian-bisexual community of northern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick (Aroostook-Madawaska-Victoria-Carleton counties). **SUBSCRIPTIONS** - \$10 per year. **NLN MEMBERSHIP** - \$15 per year, which includes a subscription. U.S. and Canadian funds are accepted at par. Low-income people may make arrangements to pay in installments.

NLN is a non-profit organization; all donations are U.S. tax-deductible. Advertising rates in **COMMUNIQUÉ** are available upon request. Your comments and contributions are welcome.



## BUILDINGFUND



The NLN Building Fund is designed to raise money for a community center for this region.

The center would house the phone line, library, office, meeting space, and party space.

Since NLN is a 501(c)3 group, all donations are tax-deductible on federal U.S. income tax; merely ask for a receipt. Donations of any amount - U.S. or Canadian funds - are appreciated. ▼

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

## Gay/Lesbian G-U-I-D-E Lesbienne/Gai

**NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD (NLN)**, CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 USA

**GAY-LESBIAN PHONELINE** 207.498-2088 TDD/Voice - staffed Wed, 7-9pm (Maine)

**AROOSTOOK AREA GAY/LESBIAN AA GROUP** meets Sundays, 7pm (Maine time) in Madawaska. Groupe bilingue/bilingual group. Call 207.498-2088 to make contact

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**ACT UP/BANGOR** POB 1554, 0402-1554, 207.947-3947  
**AIDS New Brunswick/SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick** 800.561-4009  
**AIDSline/Maine** 800.851-AIDS - Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Mon & Wed till 7:30pm

**AM CHOFSI** 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

**EDMUNDSTON AREA GAYS & LESBIANS FOR EQUALITY (EAGLE)** POB 611, Edmundston E3V 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

**GAISES 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-lew group, POB 4044, Portland 04104

**INTEGRITY** Episcopal 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

**MAINE 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 Gay-Lesbian Bisexual youth group, c/o POB 212, Bangor 04401  
**PWA (People With AIDS) COALITION OF MAINE** 377 Cumberland Avenue, Portland 04101; 207.773-8500  
**WOMYN'S GROUP** POB 20082, Fredericton E3B 6Y8, 506.457-2156