Northern Lambda Nord Communique, Vol.16, No.5 (May 1995)

Northern Lambda Nord

Dick Harrison

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/nln_communique

Part of the American Studies Commons, and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies Commons

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/nln_communique/60

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Periodicals at USM Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Northern Lambda Nord Communique by an authorized administrator of USM Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jessica.c.hovey@maine.edu.
Off the Top of My Head
The Future: Let's Think Big!
by Dick Harrison, editor, Communiqué

At Lambda’s March meeting, a guest made a presentation about grant-writing and how NLN should go about getting money for projects and programs. I was not present at that meeting (I was at a wonderful weekend workshop in Nova Scotia dealing with rural organizing). So when we followed up the discussion at the April meeting with brainstorming about our vision of NLN, I wasn’t too sure exactly what the focus of the discussion was. As it turned out, the people present at the meeting completed a list of both tangible and intangible goals: getting our own community center building (number one on everyone’s list), expanding outreach, trying to determine the needs of the community and fulfilling them, getting both a PFLAG (parents group) and a youth group started, and getting on the Internet, among other goals. A few days later while lunching with Jim and Jim, NLN’s social chair and NLN’s director, respectively, Jim put it pretty succinctly: this Vision is what we say to foundations to convince them to give us grants. Sure, we all want a bigger space for the Community Center, but if we had that tomorrow, what would we do with it? You can’t tell a foundation that you want $40,000 or $90,000 for a building so we can have a place to hold dances!

This got me thinking. At the monthly meeting we had mentioned the PFLAG and youth groups, but I later recalled something which was part of NLN’s presentation last fall to the Haymarket People’s Fund of New England when we were vying for a $20,000 grant. The presentation noted that the southern parts of Maine – Portland, Lewiston, Augusta, Bangor – have their bars, their PFLAG groups, their youth groups, their outdoors club, and a host of other groups and services. Aroostook County has Northern Lambda Nord. NLN is our bar, our social group, our organized community. So let’s think of ourselves as providing all those services, of creating a Community Center space for a variety of uses, something which just screams for funding!

Idea: The organization The Matlovich Society brings speakers to Portland twice monthly to discuss a wide variety of topics. They do not limit the subject to gay and lesbian issues, but include related issues which are of interest to a broad cross-section of people in the Portland area. In March, they had a panel of clergy discussing spirituality in a homophobic world, something that would be of interest to gay people as well as those interested in religious issues. The second Matlovich presentation in March featured Lisa Keen, Senior Editor of The Washington Blade newspaper, analyzing “The National Political Scene: What’s Happening and What It Means to Our Community,” something of concern to gay people but also to people who follow Washington politics, especially those who strongly support what’s happening there as well as those who strongly oppose it. So why doesn’t NLN act as northern Maine’s “Matlovich Society” and bring in speakers to our new Community Center building and open the presentations to the public? Why couldn’t we tie in with Matlovich, find out their schedule, and piggy-back a booking of a speaker, bringing them to Portland one day and to northern Maine the next? We wouldn’t have to do this twice monthly, but perhaps once every other month. This would be a way of doing outreach to the people in this region who are our friends and supporters. We could tie in with other events happening south of here.

Another idea: In Caribou, there are a limited number of meeting spaces for local groups (we’re well aware of that!): the Lions Community Center, a room at the Motor Inn, a basement space in a church (not...
When contemplating a vision of the future direction of NLN, we need to think beyond the tangible bricks and concrete, books and computers. It’s what we do with what we have. It’s thinking of the impossible and making it real.

In 1980, people said there was no way that a group by and for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered people could ever exist in this rural region. Well, it’s 15 years later and Lambda’s continuing viability has proven the nay-sayers wrong. We have our own office, telephone, and library, and over the years almost 400 people have held NLN membership cards. Let’s think big, and imagine what we can accomplish in just five more years, by the year 2000, in time for Northern Lambda Nord’s 20th anniversary.

**Maine Symposium XXI Update**

**Have You Registered Yet?**

by Dick Harrison

The Maine Lesbian & Gaymen’s Symposium XXI will be here before you know it.

Organizers have conservatively planned for 125 people for the Memorial Day weekend, but 18 people had already registered before the 1500 pre-registration forms were mailed out! There was no Symposium held during 1994 (the first year without one in two decades), and people have said they look forward to coming to Presque Isle this year.

Here are more details about what’s been planned and what to expect, in case you haven’t been to a Symposium before. This year’s theme is “Coming Of Age,” reflecting the fact that this is our 21st conference.

Almost all events are in the new Campus Center at the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

**Friday evening is a social time** when people arrive, meet old friends and make new acquaintances. There will be some munchies in the student lounge, people will sign in, and out-of-towners will get settled in the dorms. A couple of videos will be shown during the evening for those who are interested.

Saturday starts with more registration time, breakfast in Kelly Commons for those with
meal tickets, and then the activities begin. Mary Bonauto, a lawyer with the Boston-based firm GLAD – Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders – will address the opening plenary. She will discuss the status of the legal battle to keep the pending anti-gay referendum off the Maine ballot in November (she is a principle in the case, representing the good guys); she'll reflect on the progress of our movement; and she'll discuss the next big issue ahead of us, the right to marry. She said it's on its way; it's starting in Hawaii and moving east!

There are three workshop periods scheduled for Saturday. As of this writing, 17 workshops have been identified (details on page 4). Those which are not held Saturday will be offered Sunday; some may be repeated if interest warrants.

Saturday night is a buffet banquet, followed by a concert in Weiden Auditorium featuring the Maritones and Karen Williams. The Maritones are 12 voices of the Maine Gay Men's Chorus who are coming up from Portland to entertain. They will be followed by comic Karen Williams, who has performed at numerous venues including the March on Washington. We're bringing her in from Cleveland for the weekend. Karen will also lead a Saturday workshop, discussing how we can use humor to explore our differences.

Following the concert we'll move back to the Campus Center for a dance, which will also be Northern Lambda Nord's 15th Anniversary Celebration. Organizers are discussing whether to make this an alcohol-free dance. What are your thoughts about that?

Sunday begins with an early-morning nature walk lead by a nationally-recognized New Brunswick botanist. He's lead these excursions at the other Presque Isle Symposia and they're always popular. Following Sunday brunch, our second Keynote Speaker will discuss "The Fine Line Between Spirituality and Sexuality." Tuma Young is a MicMac who lives in Halifax. Until recently he was involved with the Atlantic First Nations AIDS Task Force. Tuma (pronounced "Duma") will also lead a workshop on Saturday.

Because much attention, money, and energy will be focused on Maine and the anti-gay initiative we face in November (the only statewide one in the U.S.), Sunday afternoon will feature a panel discussion/town meeting. Speakers from the organization Maine Won't Discriminate will update us about the efforts to keep Carolyn Cosby and her group, Concerned Maine Families, from codifying discrimination in this state. Maine Won't members will also offer Saturday workshops about organizing to counter the radical right's efforts in Maine.

Women will be interested in the session Sunday afternoon when the Mabel Wadsworth Clinic from Bangor will offer a free cancer screening clinic. A large bulletin board in the Student Center has been identified for use as an AIDS Memorial Wall, where the names of those whom we've lost will be listed.

Sunday night we're trying something new: a benefit casino. The UMPI Conferences Office has a variety of Las Vegas games which will be set up in the Campus Center's Great Room. Players will purchase lesbian lira and gay guilders. At the end of the evening there will be items auctioned; you'll use your winnings to bid on the prizes. All proceeds will go towards the Gay & Lesbian Phoneline of Maine's fundraising to establish a statewide, toll free number. A dozen or more different activities begin.
videos will be shown during the weekend, reflecting gays as we’re portrayed on film. **We still need someone to coordinate this part of the Symposium.** It would involve selecting the videos to be shown; locating the video rental sources; arranging for rentals; scheduling the videos for the weekend – day, time and room; with the help of other volunteers making sure the films are shown at the proper time; and take responsibility for returning the tapes to the rental places.

"Gulf of Maine Books" of Brunswick is shipping us a large selection of titles which will be set up in a room in the Campus Center as a weekend **bookstore.**

**We still need someone to:** set out all the books on display; with help from other volunteers make sure the bookstore is staffed; accept responsibility for the money and receipts; keep track of inventory; pack and return books to the Gulf of Maine Bookstore.

If you’ve never been to Symposium, the ones in Presque Isle are rated the best. This is a good chance to meet people from other parts of Maine and eastern Canada, to be in a safe environment, to relax with “family” and make new friends.

**Registration** includes admission to all events – workshops, films, panel discussion/town meeting, opening and closing sessions, Saturday night dance & concert, and all other special activities during Symposium weekend.

Registration is $25; you may pay in advance or at the door. If you want meals and/or lodging, too, you must sign up in advance.

**Costs** You have the choice from among several weekend packages or "plans". **Prices are in U.S. funds; registrations received after May 1 will cost more.**

- **Plan A:** 3 nights lodging, 6 meals, registration, $109.
- **Plan B:** 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, registration, $80.
- **Plan C:** one night lodging, 4 meals, registration, $5.
- **Plan D** is if you don’t want to stay on campus and includes 6 meals and registration only for $65. **Plan E** is just the registration for $25. **Pre-registration is required if you want on-campus housing and/or meals (Plans A, B, C or D).**

**Tickets for admission to the Saturday night banquet/concert/dance are $20 and must be reserved in advance (we need to know numbers for meals).**

Admission to just the concert and dance is $10, available at the door. Admission just to the workshops and/or keynote speakers is $5/day, available at the door.

---

**Symposium Workshops**

Here are some of the workshop discussions and presentations which are planned for the Memorial Day weekend conference at the University of Maine at Presque Isle. Most will be presented Saturday, May 27th; some are scheduled for Sunday, May 28th. If you are not registered for the conference, **you may still attend the discussions which interest you.** Admission is $5 per day; tickets are available at the door. A final schedule will be available in mid-May.

**THE RADICAL RIGHT**

**Keynote address,** Mary Bonauto, Boston attorney working with the Maine Civil Liberties Union and with Maine Won’t Discriminate to defeat the pending anti-gay ballot referendum

Organizing to counter the Radical Right agenda, discussion leaders: members of Maine Won’t Discriminate

**Town Meeting/Panel Discussion** about the Radical Right in Maine and the status of the current effort to defeat their anti-gay initiative; panelists are members of Maine Won’t Discriminate

**HEALTH**

**Men’s health issues,** dealing with our physical and mental well-being; leader: James Shedlin, from The Men’s Project, Halifax

**Women’s health issues,** discussion leader pending

**Women’s free cancer screening clinic,** Sunday afternoon, sponsored by the Mabel Wadsworth Clinic from Bangor

**Living with HIV/AIDS,** discussion lead by a person living with HIV/AIDS

**Grieving and Loss,** dealing with our feelings after our friends and family members have died

**IN THE SCHOOLS**

**Gay and Lesbian teachers and other schoolworkers,** there’s been a “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy in our schools for years

Organizing a student group, discussion lead by students from Unity College, focusing on organizing in the secondary schools

**OUR FAMILIES**

**PFLAG,** organizing a Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians and Gays group, with members of the Lewiston-area PFLAG group
Youth, forming a support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning young people; developing resources for youth

Lesbian and Gay parents, a discussion lead by a gay father and a lesbian mother

OTHER TOPICS

Using humor in dealing with our differences, lead by our Saturday night comic, Karen Williams

Building a community organization

Keynote Tuma Young from Halifax discusses “The Fine Line Between Spirituality and Sexuality”

Gays & Lesbians “on line,” discussing computer services, bulletin boards, the Internet, etcetera

Owning your own business, a discussion lead by a gay small business owner; how “out” are you to your local business community, how does being gay affect your business decisions, if at all

Gay, Lesbian and Native, lead by our Keynote, Tuma Young

Funding, discussion about identifying sources and getting grants

Gay Scruples, a popular gayme developed by a Maine lesbian

Check It Out!

New Library Books

Northern Lambda Nord’s lending library, Bibliothèque Lambda/Lambda Library, receives some books directly from the publishers. These new books were all acquired from Vintage Books. Descriptions are from book jackets:

Out of the Past: Gay and Lesbian History from 1869 to the Present, by Neil Miller. This narrative investigates the more than 100 years since the concept of a homosexual identity. The 31 chapters include “The Age of Whitman”, “England During the Great War”, “Sex and Music in the Seventies,” and “The Clinton Years.”

The Redneck Way of Knowledge, by Blanche McCrary Boyd. Combines autobiography, reporting, and the dressed-up lies we call fiction. Wildly funny personal testament of a ’60s radical and born-again Southerner, a lesbian with an un-P.C. passion for skydiving and stock-car racing. These next four books are by Edmund White: his first novel, Forgetting Elena, was praised by Newsweek magazine as “One of the most finely worked and satisfying novels to appear in some time.” The Beautiful Room Is Empty brings together the acts of coming out and coming of age, populated by eloquent queens, buffy poseurs, and a fearfully incompetent shrink. The Burning Library, a varied collection of White’s most enduring essays from the past 25 years—a wide range of writing on art, politics, and sexuality. Genet: A Biography, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award, traces the life of this gay French literary genius.
The following events are held at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine, 398 South Main St., Caribou, across from the Nylander Museum, 207.498-2088 (M=Maine time, N=New Brunswick time).

**SECOND SUNDAY of the month:** NLN Meetings - May 14, June 11, 3-5pm(M) 4-4pm(N).

**EVERY TUESDAY:** Gay & Lesbian AA Meeting 7:30-8:30pm (M) 8:30-9:30pm(N).

**EVERY WEDNESDAY:** Community Center Drop-In & Open House 7-9pm(M) 8-10pm(N).

**FIRST FRIDAY of the month:** First Friday Fabulous Film Festival 8pm(M) 9pm(N) May 5: "Servicing In Silence," the story of a lesbian colonel dismissed from the U.S. military; June 2: TBA.

**THIRD FRIDAY of the month:** Women's Night 7pm(M) 8pm(N) - Apr 21, May 19.

The following events are held at other locations:

- **FILM:** "Toles of the City" in 3 parts, Saturdays, Apr 22, Apr 29, May 6 6:30pm(M) 7:30pm (N) at a private home in Presque Isle - refreshments provided.

- **DANCE**
  - Authentic SIDA/NB 506.457-9016
  - 2nd Saturday of the month, 7:30pm(M) 8pm(N), Centre des Congrès, Howard Johnson, Carrefour Assomption (centre-ville), Edmundston - admission: info: Maurice, 506/773-1015
  - **AIDS/NB Benefit**

- **DANCE de Centre des Congrès, Howard Johnson, Carrefour Assomption, (downtown) Edmundston - admission: info: Maurice, 506/773-1015
- **Maine Lesbian & Gaymen’s Symposium XXI** May 26-29, 1995

---

**Lesbian-Gay Guide Lesbiennne-Gai**

**NORTHERN LAMBD A NORD (NLN), CPI/POB 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990 USA 207.498-9888 TTY/Voice**

**GAY-LESBIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER of Northern Maine 398 South Main Street, Caribou; mailing address: POB 990, Caribou 04736-0990; 207.498-2088 TTY/Voice**

**GAY-LESBIAN PHONELINE of Maine 207.498-2088 TTY/Voice - staffed Wed, 7-9pm (Maine), 8-10pm (N-B)**

**GAI/LESBIAN AA meets Tuesdays, 7:30pm (Maine) 8:30pm (N-B) at Gai-Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine, 39C South Main Street, Caribou; Call 207.498-2088 to make contact. ▼**

• **REGIONAL GROUPS/GROUPES REGIONAUX**
  - **FREDERICTON LESBIANS & GAYS (FLAG) POB 1556, Station A, E3B 5G2, 506.457-2156 (Mon & Thurs 6-9pm)**
  - **GAIS & LESBIENNES DE MONCTON/GAYS & LESBIANS OF MONCTON (GLM) CPI/POB 1072, Riverview E19 1V0, 506.855-8054**
  - **GAIS.ES. NOR GAYS (GNG) CPI/POB 983, Bathurst E1A 4H8**

• **GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY NETWORK POB 212, Bangor 04401, 207.862-5907, 9741-2189**

• **HARBOR MASTERS, INC.** leather-levi group, POB 4044, Portland 04104

• **NO BORDERS/SANS FRONTIERES CPI/POB 461, Campbellton E1N 3G4**

• **TIME OUT** outdoor activities, monthly calendar, POB 1150, Portland 04104

• **WOMYN’S GROUP POB 20082, Fredericton E3B 6Y8, 506.457-2156**

• **HEALTH/SANTE**
  - AIDS New Brunswick 800.561-4009
  - AIDSLine/Maine 800.851-AIDS - Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Mon & Wed till 7:30pm

---

**Atlantic First Nations AIDS Task Force**

POB 47049, Halifax B3K 2P0 800.565-4255, 207.874-2155

**Eastern Maine AIDS Network POB 2038, Bangor 04401-2038, EBM-EMAN**

**PWA (People living with AIDS) Coalition of Maine**

377 Cumberland Avenue, Portland POB 4101, 207.773-8500

**Health 1st Anonymous HIV testing**

1-800-432-7881

**SIDA/AIDS Moncton**

100 Arden Street, Suite 427, EIC 8R3, 506.859-9616

**SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick**

800.561-4009

**Media/Media**

**APEC** A Point of Departure, published monthly by Phoenix Press, POB 4743, Portland 04112

**Community Pride Reporter** The newspaper for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community of Maine, published monthly, 142 High St, Suite 634, Portland POB 1410, 207.879-1342

**Fruits of Our Labor** monthly Lesbian-Gay-Bi events calendar, POB 125, Belfast 04915

**Gaëzzette** for Lesbians & Gay Men In Atlantic Canada, 10 issues/year, POB 34090, Scotia Square, Halifax NS B3J 3S1

10% Maine's monthly newspaper for lesbians & gay men, POB 10536, Portland 04104

**Youth/Jeunesse**

**Dial Kids, 807-774-TALK for lesbian, gay, bisexual & unsure youth under 19**

**Outright/Central Maine age 22 and younger, 1-800-329-4042**

**Outright/Portland POB 5077, 807-774-TALK or 807-774-HELP**

**Outright Too Bangor area, ages 16-22, 287-285-7180**

**University/Universite**

**Gay & Lesbian Alliance University of New Brunswick, c/o Help Centre, UNB SUB, POB 4400, Fredericton E3B 5A3, 506.457-2156**

---


Ceux qui ont de la difficulté financièrement, des paiements à terme peux être organisé. NLN est une organisation a but non-lucratif, toutes les donations sont taxe déductible aux E-U seulement. Les tarifs de publité dans le CommuniQué sont disponibles. Vos commentaires et contributions sont les bienvenue. Redacteur en chef: Dick Harrison

CommuniQué est published ten times yearly by NORTHERN LAMBD A 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.

Editor: Dick Harrison