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**Common Circle for Human Rights, Vol.2, No.3 (August-September 1998)**

M. Lichtman

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# Common Circle for Human Rights

c/o M. Lichtman, P.O. Box 793, Belfast, ME 04915

Volume 2, No.3  
Aug - Sept. 1998

## MLGPA AND MWD TO HOST MEETING to Consider the Creation of a New Coalition - Sept. 12th at 1:00 P.M.

In late July MWD called for a meeting to decide how to proceed on obtaining a civil rights bill in the future. Some discussion along these lines occurred with many options presented and no unanimity on when and how to proceed. A large number of those present made it clear that there was a need to have new leadership, structure, and communication in place before doing anything. Members of the MWD board made it clear they were willing to step aside if that was the will of the majority. MLGPA has proposed forming a new Coalition consisting of ALL groups committed to passing civil rights legislation and has drafted a proposal that will be at the discretion of the, to be formed, Coalition to follow. This follow-up meeting is extremely critical and will be held in Bangor on Saturday Sept. 12th from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. The location is the UU Church, 120 Park St.. Everyone is welcome and organizations are encouraged to attend. Inclusivity and diversity is desired to make the best decisions possible. Education as part of any campaign was felt to be vital. A discussion will take place on different strategies proposed and the organizational structure to be used for decision making and communication. To find out more about the day please contact: MLGPA, P.O. Box 232, Hallowell 04347 or call 1-800-55-MLGPA or 761-3732 or e-mail [mlgpa@java.net.com](mailto:mlgpa@java.net.com) Mitzi will be going and welcomes others to join her. Call 338-5889 if interested.

## STATEWIDE CIVIL RIGHTS MARCH SAT. OCT. 10th - BANGOR

In response to the repeal of the Civil Right law on February 10th, concerned Maine citizens from many organizations have been meeting regularly on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 P.M at the Hammond Street Congregational Church in Bangor. They need our help in putting together this ambitious and well planned event. If you or your organization can help with the march in any way please call (toll-free) 1-877-2484511. See enclosed flyer for more details about the day. Members of Common Circle will be marching and plan to have a banner! If you want to help with the banner call JaneA at 338-0425. If you want to march with us call Mitzi at 338-5889. This should be a major event with a rally at Paul Bunyan Park at 1:30 P.M. with to be announced speakers and performers. The day will end with a Civil Rights Celebration at the Maine Center for the Arts at 8:00 P.M.. Performers include Suede, The Maine Gay Men's Chorus, Steve Schalchlin, and Tim Sample. Please support the March by buying tickets for \$12 or \$10 by calling 1-800-MCA-Tixx.

## COMMON CIRCLE COFFEEHOUSE ON AUGUST 21st!!!

There will be a fund raising coffeehouse to help defray CCHR expenses held in Belfast at Bell the Cat on Church Street in Belfast from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. We will be treated to the singing of some members of Women With Wings and the poetry of George Van Deventer. There is the opportunity for anyone else to participate as there will be an open microphone time allowing 5 - 10 minutes. If you want to perform and sign up in advance call JaneA at 338-0425. Admission is \$2.00 or \$1.00 for children under 12. Please spread the word about this event, show up for a good time, and support our work!

## COMMON CIRCLE STEERING COMMITTEE -AUGUST 27TH!!!!

There will be a steering committee meeting to create a banner and plan future events. The meeting will take place from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. at Marcy's home in Montville. Everyone is welcome to come and help. We continue to need people to step forward and become more active in this organization! There are many tasks that are being done by a few of us and some new energy about now would be much appreciated! If you need directions call 589-4177.

## COMMON CIRCLE RURAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE TO MEET ON SEPT. 15th!!!

A group of people have been meeting to decide how to do education and outreach in Waldo County that will increase understanding and acceptance of GLBT issues and people and build a stronger coalition to do social justice and human rights work. There are many ideas on how to best go about doing this and we are looking at having several different projects emanate out of this meeting. We will meet at 7:00 P.M. at Nan and Mitzi's in Swanville. Call 338-5889 for directions. We hope we will see you there or hear from you if you can't make it but wish to be involved in this important rural organizing effort!

## SEPTEMBER DISCUSSION - Tues. SEPT. 22nd!!

We will return to our salon discussion format and meet at Harbor Hill health care facility in Belfast. 6:30 to 7:00 P.M. for a brown bag dinner and pot luck dessert and 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. to discuss "What inspires us to do social and political activist work?" Or - Why do we care about human rights issues? We'd love to see you there!! Spread the word. Need directions? Call 338-5889.

## OCTOBER DISCUSSION - LONDON MITCHELL To Lead!

Mr. Mitchell is the diversity trainer for Bath Iron Works and he has two videos to show. He will give a talk on "Social Justice and Truth in History". He will present an alternative to the school text history that we have all received that focuses on the achievements and efforts of wealthy white men. He will focus the discussion on the efforts and achievements of minorities, women and poor white men. We have not yet set a date for this event but it will likely be in late October. We will publicize in area newspapers. Please come!

## HELP THE COMMITTEE TO STOP CORPORATE WELFARE!

The signature drive to get the \$60 million tax break given to Bath Iron Works and General Dynamics is underway. Help is needed to gather signatures in order to allow a vote in November of 1999. Organizers of this effort are clear that General Dynamics does not need an additional 3 Million dollar yearly tax break and that this issue should be put before the voters. To help call David Demere at 338-6762 or toll-free at 1-877-818-6762.

## GRASSROOTS ORGANIZERS WORKSHOPS SEPT. 18-20th!

INVERT(Institute for Nonviolence, Education, Research and Training) is sponsoring G.R.O.W. at Camp Kieve in Nobleboro in order to teach about grassroots organizing, make one's current efforts more effective and to introduce people from around the state to each other. This is meant to reinvigorate and sustain statewide efforts in progressive organizing and to have fun!! Friday night is registration and an interactive theater piece. Saturday and Sunday will have workshops. Costs are \$50 for an adult and \$45 for a child. \$10 extra for a semi-private room. Register by Sept. 5th! Get registration materials from G.R.O.W., R.R. 1, Box 1013, Stockton Springs 04981 or call Nancy Galland at 567-4075 or e-mail: gallander@acadia.net

## MAINE RURAL NETWORK

"MRN is based on the model of the Oregon Rural Organizing Project... Rural areas are recognized both locally and nationally as places with the most need for education about homophobia. Our mission is to help create ways for people to find each other and to create safe environments in order to organize locally. MRN is committed to the decentralization and autonomy of each group, while creating a network to link the LGBT community.. MRN is committed to promoting the visibility of LGBT people in Maine while..broadening our political base by working in coalition with others for social justice" This group seems a natural ally for CCHR! In the future we will discuss ways to work together or become part of this network as they seem to share a common vision with Common Circle. There are meetings in Ellsworth Sundays at 2:00 P.M.. Contact: Naomi Falcone, 51 Shore Rd., Standish 04084 or 642-2015 or e-mail nomad@watchic.net Or call Mitzi - 338-5889.

## IT'S TIME TO ANTE UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER!!!!

As you may recall in the last issue we asked people to indicate if they wanted to continue to be on our mailing list. We also asked about how much you could pay for the newsletter ( a repetition from our survey earlier this year). we did not get very much of a response but did have one member send in their donation early! Thanks! We have decided to ask for a suggested contribution of \$7.00 a year for 4 issues. As long as we get sufficient contributions no one will be kicked off our list! So ante up and send in your contributions ! We do appreciate it and hope you agree it's a bargain. Membership is effective with October issue.

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## COMMON CIRCLE NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTION

Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Please make checks payable to: Common Circle for Human Rts

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Check if above is a new address      \_\_\_\_\_ Check if new membership

Mail to: Marcy Dishler  
RFD 1, Box 3160  
Freedom, Maine 04941

Date received: \_\_\_\_\_

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### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

*"The Common Circle for Human Rights is a group of individuals whose mission is to educate ourselves and the larger community on issues of equal rights and social justice. We will hold social, political and cultural gatherings in order to 1) facilitate respectful discussion and exchange of ideas, 2) create a more informed citizenry, and 3) increase the bonds of friendship and understanding among diverse people."*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 8/21/98 *Common Circle Coffeehouse*  
Bell The Cat, Church St., Belfast. 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.  
Women With Wings/ George Van Deventer Open Mic! Call 338-0425
- 8/22/98 *Sankofa Street Festival - Belfast*  
3:00 to 7:00 P.M. Post Office Square - sponsored by Multi-cultural Arts Project
- 8/26/98 *Susan B. Anthony & Friends*  
Women's Equality Day! Co-sponsored by Greater Bangor NOW and Peace & Justice Center. An original play!!  
At Peace & Justice Center in Bangor - 6:00 P.M. Call 989-3306 or 942-9343
- 8/27/98 *CCHR Steering Committee*  
Marcye Dishler's in Montville. 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. Call 598-4177
- 8/28/98 *Libby Roderick - Benefit for MAINE NOWPAC*  
Silent Auction 7:00 P.M. Concert at 8:00 P.M. Bangor Unitarian Universalist Church, Park St., Bangor Tickets: \$10 in advance or \$12 at door. Call 945-5971
- 9/5/98 *Bangor Clean Clothes Fair*  
1 to 4 P.M. Norumbega Mall (downtown) If rain UU church - 947-4203
- 9/5/98 *Bangor Singout for Manna! Nighttime*  
Bangor's finest musicians on stage to fight hunger! Bangor Unitarian Universalist Church, Park St., Tickets \$10 or \$12 at door. Kids 1/2 Tkts or talent - 945-5971
- 9/12/98 *MLGPA/MWD Meeting to create a New Coalition*  
Bangor UU Church, 120 Park St., 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. Call 1-800-55-MLGPA
- 9/15/98 *CCHR Rural Organizing Committee to Meet!*  
at Nan Stone's home in Swanville, 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. Call 338-5889 for directions.
- 9/18 -20 *G.R.O.W. (Grassroots Organizers Workshops)*  
contact G.R.O.W., R.R. 1, Box 1013, Stockton Springs 04981 call Nancy 567-4075
- 9/22/98 *CCHR Salon Discussion - "What inspires us to do social activist work?"*  
Harbor Hill, Belfast 6:30 to 7:00 P.M. Brown Bag dinner, dessert pot luck. 7:00 P.M. discussion. Call 338-5889
- 9/25-27 *Common Ground Fair in Unity!!*  
FMI - to Volunteer or tickets - Call - 623-5115
- 10/10/98 *The Maine Civil Rights March/Rally/Celebration!*  
7:00 to 9:00 A.M. Registration - Maine Center for the Arts, Noon - March Pick-Up Point at Cascade Park, 1:30 P.M. Rally at Pail Bunyon Park, 8:00 P.M. concert  
More info: toll-free at 1-877-248-4511 Concert - 1-800-MCA-Tixx