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Common Circle for Human Rights, Vol.1, No.5 (June 1997)

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Recommended Citation

Lichtman, M., "Common Circle for Human Rights, Vol.1, No.5 (June 1997)" (1997). *Common Circle for Human Rights*. 4.

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Common Circle for Human Rights

c/o M. Lichtman, R.R. 3, Box 1119, Belfast 04915

Volume 1, No.5
June 1997

Hooray, We Got Our Grant!!

Our efforts paid off! Last month we were notified that our recent grant proposal was accepted for funding under the Maine Community Foundation's Equity Fund. More than 100 organizations applied for funding under the program, seeking more than \$120,000. We feel very fortunate that our proposal was accepted for funding ... and we think it speaks to the value that our proposed projects have, not only for the GLBT population but for the larger community as well. Thanks again to all who helped us gain the grant ... and to those who are helping to implement the ideas. We have an exciting summer and fall ahead of us!

June Program To Address Hate Crimes

The Equity Fund money will be put right to work as we host our first community-wide event on *Tuesday, June 24*, from 6:00 - 8:30pm at the Belfast Free Library! The program, entitled "*Not In Our Town: Revealing the Shadow of Hate*" is designed to heighten public awareness in the mid-coast area regarding the prevalence of hate crimes directed against individuals of minority groups in Maine and elsewhere. More than 25 organizations, including area churches and a diversity of human rights advocacy groups from the mid-coast area, have also been invited to participate. And we have posted more than 150 flyers around the mid-coast area to promote awareness about the program!

Our event will begin with a free spaghetti supper at 6:00pm. Following the meal, the award-winning documentary "*Not In Our Town*" will be shown. This film describes how residents, government officials, law enforcement agencies, and the media in one rural town effectively organized against hate activity in their area. The extraordinary efforts of those citizens has become a model for other communities throughout the United States.

After the film, there will be an open microphone session, during which participants will be invited to make a personal statement regarding the issue if they wish. Stephen Wessler, who directs the Civil Rights Section of The Maine Attorney General's Office, will be providing information about hate crime activity in Maine. A candlelight vigil in honor of hate crimes victims will conclude the evening, with participants forming a lighted "circle for human rights."

We certainly hope to see you there! Please plan to attend!!!

Love Makes A Family Photo Exhibit Comes to Belfast/Unity!

Please mark your calendars in advance for this nationally recognized photograph - text exhibit that celebrates the diversity and strength of lesbian and gay families. We plan to show this at the Spring Street Gallery in Belfast from Friday September 5th through Saturday September 13th. We want to thank Sam Mitchell for his willingness to support bringing this exhibit to our area. We also thank Chris Marshall who is working on bringing the exhibit to Unity College just after it is in Belfast. This is the second major project that our group is undertaking thanks to the financial support provided by the Maine Community Foundation and the Maine Equity Fund.

Volunteers for Love Makes A Family Needed!

PLANNING COMMITTEE, ADVISORY COMMITTEE, - We are looking for people to help in a variety of ways to help make this event happen. The amount of time and commitment is up to you. Help will be needed with overall planning, publicity, outreach, for staffing the exhibit and various tasks while or shortly before the exhibit is set up.

Planning Committee - If you want to help with this please call Mitzi at 338-5889 or show up on Tuesday July 8th at the Spring Street Gallery in Belfast just below the Belfast Dance Studio at 7:00 P.M.

Advisory Committee - We would love to get a diverse group of people, or names of people who we could approach, to be listed as advisors and extend our outreach to areas and organizations we may not currently reflect in our membership. Think about signing on or let Mitzi know names, addresses and phone numbers.

Roundtable or Forum Members - At this time we are still discussing how best to do a forum, panel or roundtable in conjunction with the exhibit. If you and your family are interested in participating in some way let Mitzi know.

We Need a Treasurer!

The Common Circle is in search of someone to take on the important and necessary role of treasurer. We would be eternally grateful to whoever steps forward in this capacity. Responsibilities would include helping to set up and administer a checking account into which funds could be deposited and withdrawn and fill out a Tax I.D. form for the group. Once someone is in place we can start to generate funds for our group independent of the grant we are now working under. Come to the planning meeting on July 8th or call Mitzi.

Community Calendar

June 13-15

Symposium XXIII: Community -- Come In Unity!!!
Workshops, recreation, entertainment designed for the GLBT community.
Southern Maine Technical College, South Portland Campus
Please preregister ASAP, organizers need a commitment of attendance.
To register or volunteer, call 625-8499

- June 13 Kate Clinton at Symposium XXIII Bob Green Lead-in , Dance after!
Sponsored by MLGPA
For tickets to concert only - Call 773-6974
- June 18-22 Southern Maine Pride Week
Events include pier dance on 6/20 and parade at Noon from City Hall to Deering Park!!!
For more information, contact Southern Maine Pride
P.O. Box 11502
Portland, ME 04104
Laurie Fortman, Executive Director 878-0546 or
Michael Rosetti, Operations Director 879-7323 (e-mail: smepride@gwi.net)
- June 21 Maine Gay Men's Chorus 5th Anniversary Concert
8:00 P.M. Merrill Auditorium. Reserved Seating Call 842-0800
- June 24 "Not In Our Town: Revealing the Shadow of Hate"
Hate Crimes Awareness Program
Sponsored by Common Circle for Human Rights
Abbott Room, Belfast Free Library
Supper at 6:00pm, Program 6:45- 8:30pm
- July 8 Planning For Love Makes a Family & Other Common Circle Events
7:00 P.M. at the Spring Street Gallery, Belfast
- July 12 Bangor Pride
Parade - 11:00 A.M., Festival 12 - 3, Potluck at UU Church at 5:00 P.M. Call 942-7681.
- July 13 Memorial Potluck for Bobbie Poulin on Sear's Island
1:00 P.M. on far side of island
- July 13 - 18 Seminars on Teaching the Holocaust
Aug. 3 - 8 Sponsored by Holocaust Human Rights Center. Call 993-2620
- Aug. 1 - 4 7th Annual Diversity Leadership Institute
Sponsored by Holocaust Human Rights Center. Call 993-2620
- Aug. 16 - 18 Gay Times Festival in Bar Harbor
More info later. Keynotes scheduled Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon
- Aug. 24 - 29 Intensive Retreat for Men Who Love Men
Duxbury, Mass. Creating a Community of healing, Wholeness and Transformation.
FMI email bt@stasio.com or call 617-247-3964
- Sept 5 - 19 Love Makes A Family - Photo Exhibit and Text
Belfast at Spring Street Gallery from 9/5 - 13 and hopefully Unity College afterward.
Sponsored by Common Circle for Human Rights
Call Mitzi to get involved. 338-5889.

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."