

10-1998

**Common Circle for Human Rights, Vol.3, No.4 (October-December [1998])**

M. Lichtman

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**Recommended Citation**

Lichtman, M., "Common Circle for Human Rights, Vol.3, No.4 (October-December [1998])" (1998).  
*Common Circle for Human Rights*. 10.  
[https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/common\\_circle/10](https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/common_circle/10)

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# Common Circle For Human Rights

c/o Mitzi Lichtman P.O. Box 793 Belfast, Maine 04915 338-5889 Vol.3 # 4 Oct.-Dec.

## Mitzi Lichtman To Move! What Will This Mean?

After much soul and house searching, Mitzi has found a home for herself on the St. George peninsula about 1 mile from one of her favorite beaches. It would be perfect situation except it does mean I will now be living 40 miles from Belfast. I intend to maintain my Waldo County friendships and connections and extends an open invitation to everyone to come and visit! The extent of what this will mean to Common Circle is not clear but it does mean some short and long term changes in energy and ability to get the word out about issues and events. This is a perfect opportunity for people to step forward and take on some leadership in the group, think about helping put out the newsletter, being a networking coordinator, an events planner or coordinating some type of activity! Mitzi has thoughts of trying to replicate this group in the Rockland/Camden area and is committed to helping the Waldo County group to continue to be a presence locally and statewide. If anyone is interested in helping in Waldo or Knox County call or e-mail at [mitzijoy@agate.net](mailto:mitzijoy@agate.net) or come to the next steering committee meeting set for Tuesday 11/10 at 7 P.M. Call 4 location.

## Maine Civil Rights March/Rally/Concert - Sat. Oct. 10th!!!

This Saturday is a big day for the Civil Rights movement in Maine! Mitzi and David will be walking the 10 miles. If you want to caravan to ME. Center for the Arts meet at the Swan Lake IGA at 7:45 A.M. or call Mitzi. Otherwise we hope you will be able to attend some part of this historic day & walk with us. Meet at Cascade Park at noon to walk the last part of the march. Attend the Rally at Paul Bunyan Park which will start at 1:30 P.M. but will have music happening before. From 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. there will be a continuation of a Statewide Civil Rights Coalition Meeting in which further discussion about the possible options for extending civil rights protection based on sexual orientation will take place. This meeting is set to occur at the UU Church in Bangor, 120 Park Street. Then grab a bite and attend the Civil Rights Celebration at the Maine Center for the Arts in Orono - 8:00 P.M. Tim Sample, The Maine Gay Men's Chorus, Suede, and Steve Schalchlin will entertain. Tickets \$10 or \$12 available by calling 1-800-MCA-TIXX

## THANKS To JaneA Kelly & David Demere For The Banner

Thanks to JaneA and David , Common Circle has a beautiful banner that has our name in black letters and a circle of rainbow figures. It will be carried proudly at the Civil Rights march and displayed at future events. We love it and think it's beautiful!

VOTE NOV. 3<sup>rd</sup>!

## Statewide Civil Rights Coalition Meeting

On September 12th in Bangor there was a well attended and very positive meeting including members of 32 organizations and religious groups to discuss when, how and under what type of structure, future efforts to obtain civil rights protections based on one's sexual orientation would occur. Some basic assumptions were agreed to: 1. The Maine Human Rights Act should be amended to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. 2. We need to educate ourselves about the reasons people voted against us. 3. we need to counter the "Special Rights" claim and other misconceptions. 4. We need to do a lot more work in rural areas. 5. We need to do more grass-roots organizing. 6. We need to get more people of all orientations to do this work. 7. No one group can do this alone. 8. We need to start this work now.

There were 5 options presented for moving forward 1. Education only. 2. Pass local ordinances as broadly as possible. 3. Initiate a signature drive to put a referendum question on the ballot. 4. Pass a civil rights bill in the Legislature. 5. Pass a civil rights bill in the Legislature and have the Legislature send it out to referendum.

As we discussed the options it was clear that education was a component of all the areas. Time ran out before the full agenda could be discussed so we set Sat. Oct. 10th from 4 to 6 P.M. to continue. Minutes will be available from the last meeting. The legal and timing issues will be presented and there will be time for open discussion. Everyone is welcome!! Bring your friends!!!

## Future Directions For Common Circle.

In planning events for the next couple of months those present at the last planning meeting decided to return to the earlier Common Circle roots that grew from our work on GLBT issues. Our November 17th discussion will be "*Looking for the Gay Community- They say we are every where but where are we?*" This event will start at 6:30 with a brown bag dinner following by the discussion from 7:00 pm to 9:00 p.m. Watch for fliers and a press release for the location. In December, on the 8th, also at 6:30 p.m. for a brown bag dinner and discussion from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., we will talk about "*Being Gay During The Holidays*". We realize that focusing on a GLBT theme will be excluding a segment of our membership. If you would like to suggest other topics for our monthly discussions, or organize discussions at other times of the month, please contact Marcy at 589-4177 or change@midcoast.com

## We Need Your Financial Support!!!!

Thanks to the eight people who sent in their money to cover the costs of printing this newsletter. Unfortunately that amount of income can not sustain our extensive mailings & we are out of grant money. We ask one of a few things. A check in the amount you can afford, a sign saying you are still wanting to receive the newsletter

HELP ELECT WORTHY CANDIDATES!

regardless of your ability to pay(suggested contribution is \$7.00 a year) or a sign that you wish to be taken off the mailing list. IF we don't hear from you we will assume you are no longer interested! Mail all responses to Marcy Dishler below.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes keep my name on mailing list. Here is \$\_\_\_\_\_ 2 cover costs

\_\_\_\_\_ Please take my name off the mailing list. Send to my e-mail.....  
.....

\_\_\_\_\_ Keep me on the list. I can't afford to pay right now.

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

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Please make checks payable to Common Circle For Human Rights and mail to: Marcy Dishler Box 3160 Freedom, Maine 04941.  
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Simultaneous Saturday October 31st Events to Include *Speak Out* Training and "Social Justice and Truth In History"

Mr. London Mitchell, from Pittsfield, will present a talk and video presentation on the contributions of people of color to American history. This event will take place at the Abbott Room of the Belfast Free Library, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday, October 31, 1998. This event is free and sponsored collaboratively by Common Circle, The Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast, The Belfast Free Library and The Community Multicultural Arts Project. People are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch and stay after the presentation to socialize and commiserate.

On the same date SPEAKOUT is sponsoring a training day for anyone of any sexual orientation to become trained to talk to groups about their personal experiences being a GLBT person or a family member or strong ally. Speakout has a strong history of bringing speakers to local organizations and putting a human face on the issue of homosexuality. If you are interested in attending this full day of training - from 9:00 to 4:00 P.M. at St. Margaret's Parish on Court St. please call 338-1704. There is a modest cost for this training.

Belfast Vigil Held in support of the Jewish & Gay Community in Aroostock County After Recent Rash of Hate Crimes

Over 100 people were brought together in Belfast at Post Office Square on Thursday Sept.24th evening due to the extraordinary organizing skills of Karen Marysdaughter, Nan Stone , Mitzi Lichtman, Sharon Nichols and many area concerned citizens! We quickly brought together people and made an immediate statement to the press and

our community that we stood with any group that is targeted with hate speech and acts. Our immediate response was as a result of the pre-Rosh Hashanah desecration of the Presque Isle Synagogue with two swastikas and the words *Burn Jews* written underneath one. After we were already in action mode, we learned of two additional acts up North. In Houlton a new building with bricks noting donators to the building had an arrow painted to the brick which said "Gays are people too!" and the words under the arrow written "Yeah, Right!"

Within a day of that event the West Enfield Baptist Church was broken into by three teenagers and vandalized with anti-semitic slogans again written on the walls. We can be very proud of our community's immediate response and showing of support. I know it meant a lot to the Jewish Community in Presque Isle to have a very strong and statewide response to their situation. I believe we were able to effectively reach the more isolated GLBT community as well.

While we have no reason to believe these acts are in any way related to any kind of a hate group and are more likely the acts of young people it is very important for people to respond immediately and say that such actions will not be tolerated. I understand that there was a recent dialogue at UMO after some hate speech took place between parties that normally would be labeled victim/oppressor and that the results were positive. Anyone with more details on this please contact Mitzi, Our apologies if you were not notified of the event. This kind of thing brings to mind the need for a more organized phone tree. If anyone wants to take on that task let us know!

### Free Training opportunity for GLBT Organizational Activists!!

Friday & Saturday November 6th & 7th from 8:30 a.m to 5:30 p.m. the Equity Fund of The Maine Community Foundation and The Outgiving Project of the Gill Foundation invite all board members, staff, and volunteers to a 2 day workshop in Fundraising and Leadership. The workshop takes place in the Auditorium of the South Congregational Church, 9 Church St., Augusta (at State St, 6 -7 blocks north of the traffic circle). Workshop and lunch are free. Topics include: Fundraising Fundamentals, Recruit Volunteers, Dive into Development Planning, Strengthening the Board of Directors, ASK! People for Money Face to Face, Strategic Planning, Fix Your Fundraising Events & Next Steps. RSVP before Oct. 30th to: David Becker, 94 Neal St., Portland, Me. 04102, 772-3670 or e-mail to, [DBecker566@aol.com](mailto:DBecker566@aol.com) If you plan to go give Mitzi a call at 338-5889,

### South Portland Citizens for Justice Faces Referendum!

Help the citizens of South Portland pass an anti-discrimination law! Help drop literature on 10/16, 17 & 18 or phone banking 10/27-11/3. If you can't volunteer, how about some financial support? Call 767-1668.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Oct. 10th Saturday - Maine Civil Rights March & Rally - Orono to Bangor. See article for details. Call 862-5907 or 941-8454
- Oct. 9th Friday - Out At Work - 7:00 P.M. Film about workplace discrimination Peace & Justice Center, 128 Main St. (Below Epi's), Bangor. 989-3306.
- Oct. 9th Friday - Interfaith Worship - 7:00 P.M. - First Congregational Church Bangor. Check local papers for more details.
- Oct. 9th Friday - Southern Maine Pride's Cabaret Night - 8:00 P.M. Local performers & Suede! Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland \$17 or Reserved \$20. Call 878-9277
- Oct. 11th Sunday - "Tangible Fathers" 7:00 P.M. documentary film at Movies on Exchange Street. By Bob Poirier
- Oct. 21st Wednesday - Maine Womens Lobby "Breakfast of Champions" 7:15 - 9:00 A.M. Sheraton 4 Pts at Bangor Airport. RSVP by 10/13 622-0851
- Oct 24th Saturday - Finding Common Ground II (creating a vision 4 Social Activism thru Connections & Collaboration. 8:30 am - 4 pm Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 209 Eastern Ave Augusta. \$10. To register Call 525-7746 Should be a GREAT EVENT!
- Oct. 25th Sunday - 4:00 PM Hope From The Frontlines. Esmeralda Miranda Rivera will talk of her work in El Salvador. Sponsored by PICA 947-4203 UU Church, 120 Park St., Bangor. Free Refreshments.
- Oct. 31st Saturday - 10 AM to Noon - London Mitchell - Video/Talk Belf. Library
- Oct. 31st Saturday - 9 to 4 PM - SPEAKOUT training - Belfast
- Oct. 31st Saturday - 7:30 -Midnite - MLGPA's GREAT PUMPKIN BALL - Holiday Inn by the Bay. Tix: \$12 advance/\$15 door 1-800-55-MLGPA
- Nov.10th Tuesday 7P.M. CCHR Steering Committee. Call 4 location -338-5889
- Nov.17th Tuesday - 6:30 - 9PM Salon Disc. @ Harbor Hill, Belfast on Gay Community
- Dec. 8th Tuesday - 6:30 - 9PM - Salon Disc. @ Harbor Hill - Gay 4 the Holidays!

Sorry folks. Wanted this out by this weekend! Have a great Fall/winter and holiday season!! I hope to see you all soon!  
At fun & political events!!  
Mty. ☺