
Matlovich Society

Periodicals

Winter 1991

Matlovich Society (Winter 1991-1992)

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MATLOVICH**



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IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE

THE MATLOVICH SOCIETY

**ANNOUNCES A
Poetry Performance**



By

Becky Birtha

February 27, 1992

FREE • Seating is limited

WINTER CALENDAR '91/92

12 December: Lois Reckitt: Legislative Chair, Maine Coalition for Family Crisis Services; Executive Director, Family Crisis Shelter; lesbian feminist activist, moderating a panel presentation on ... "Domestic Violence in the Lesbian and Gay Community"

26 December: Holiday Open House/Art Show: at the office of The Matlovich Society, 72 Pine Street, Portland; refreshments, music, and laughter! 7:30 PM until ? Come meet new friends, old friends, politicians, and activists in our safe space.

9 January 1992: The Honorable Joseph Grabarz: Connecticut State Representative, largely credited with the successful passage of the Gay Rights bill in his state by coming out on the floor of the House; recipient of death threats, and attempts on his life since the bill's passage, he continues to speak out on "Civil Rights Strategies for Lesbian and Gay People"

23 January: Dr. Dennis Sweet: Professor of German, Bates College, who has just returned from an extended stay behind the former Iron Curtain speaking on "Pink Violet on Red: Gay Emancipation in East Germany"

13 February: Rev. Dr. Carter Heyward, feminist Theologian and Professor, Harvard Divinity School: (Many of you may remember her delightful and poignant response to Jasper Wyman's attack on Marvin Ellison in the Bangor paper.) "Feminist Perspectives on Psychological Healing".

27 February: Becky Birtha: African-American, radical feminist, lesbian, Quaker poet; recipient of awards from the Philadelphia Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts, will address confronting racism and homophobia through readings from her book of poetry "The Forbidden Poems"

Background

Hundreds of years of religious fundamentalists calling homosexuality "unspeakable" have kept us from using our voices and telling our history, isolating us, sometimes turning our anger against ourselves and making us believe, like abused children, that we are responsible for our own victimization. Too much of our history is the story of silence, denial, misrepresentation, and letting others speak our truth for us, if spoken at all. Perceiving a real need in Maine for an organization to tell our story, enumerate gay and lesbian accomplishments, and provide affirming presentations and discussions led to the concept of The Society.

Who was Leonard Matlovich

and why was he chosen to lend his name to our organization? Because he was a hero: courageous as a military man who was decorated in combat, courageous as a gay man who risked (and lost) his career by taking the U.S. Air Force to court for discrimination against homosexuals, and courageous as a man who died with dignity from AIDS. His epitaph, "Decorated for killing two men, discharged for loving one", epitomizes the valor of gays and lesbians from all walks of life who have gone both unsung and forgotten. We want to change that! We want to identify our gay and lesbian achievers and utilize this information to provide ourselves with a positive sense of history and community. We want to educate ourselves and the public regarding gay and lesbian accomplishments thereby effecting changes in attitudes. These attitude changes will then result in justice for homosexuals, i.e. societal acceptance and equal rights.

Please join us; we welcome everyone and especially celebrate and affirm the diversity of our community. Confidentiality is respected.

Membership Privileges

1. Bimonthly presentations and discussions led by recognized speakers.
2. Greater Issues Lecture Series: Bi-annual addresses by national speakers.
3. Educational/informational mailings.
4. A healthy affirming social environment.
5. Your financial contributions are 100% tax deductible!

Programs are held: Rines Auditorium
Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square



7:30-9:00 P.M.

