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BAGLSC Newsletter, Vol.4, No.3 (Summer 1986)

Lee K. Nicoloff

Richard Forcier

Bangor Area Gay Lesbian Straight Coalition

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BAGLSC Newsletter

Bangor Area Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition

Vol. 4 No. 3

Summer 1986

Attention! Special Issue

CHARLIE HOWARD MEMORIAL DAY - HUMAN RIGHTS CELEBRATION

The Bangor Area Gay-Lesbian-Straight Coalition formed in July, 1984 in response to the violent death of Charlie Howard, a 23-year old man who was murdered in downtown Bangor on July 7, 1984, because he was gay. We welcome you to join us in remembering Charlie Howard on July 6th, as Bangor Area Gays and their friends commemorate the second anniversary of the young man's murder. His murder and the subsequent trial attracted world-wide attention and has served as a rallying point for gay activism in Bangor and throughout Maine. Organizers are hopeful that many people from Maine and New England will participate in remembering Charlie and enjoying that sense of community he often spoke of.

Events are under the sponsorship of the Unitarian Church of Bangor, Bangor Interweave and the Bangor Area Gay Lesbian Straight Coalition. The schedule of events begins Saturday and will continue all day Sunday, concluding with a reception for keynote speaker feminist Sonia Johnson.

The Schedule

Sat. July 5, 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Church--A panel discussion centering on the changes in living in Bangor since Charlie's Death.

Sat. July 5, 9:00 p.m. Student Union, BCC--Dancing and good company.

Sun. July 6, 10:30 a.m. Unitarian Church--Memorial Service.

Sun. July 6, 12 noon Unitarian Church--March to Kenduskeag Stream.

Sun. July 6, 1:00 p.m. Davenport Park (Cor. Cedar and Main Streets)--
Picnic, Music, and remembrances of Charlie. } *Site*

Sun. July 6, 2:30 p.m. Davenport Park--Sonia Johnson.

For those planning to attend from outside the Bangor Area, housing is available at \$3.00/person at the University of Maine. Call 581-4545 or 4549 and ask for Joan or Amy. Two days prior notice is requested.

DIALOGUE '86

We arrived at the 13th Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium at about 8:30 after a long wet journey from Bangor through Houlton to the University of Maine at Presque Isle. The long northern journey made me feel like I was on the top of the world; everything is downhill from Presque Isle. It will be a tough act to follow.

We were greeted warmly in the dormitory lounge by cordial LAMBS (affectionate name for the members of the host organization- Northern Lambda Nord) eager to get us situated for the evening. Next to the registration was a cozy lounge with soft tones emanating. Although I retired early, when I literally bumped into a fellow Bangorite at 3:00 am in the dormitory hallway on my way to the women's room, I realized the party had just begun for some.

Early the next morning, after complimentary coffee and donuts, the day's events kicked off by two eminent keynoters, one of our very own. Hal Hinds, founding member and past president of Fredericton Lesbian and Gays (FLAG), spoke of the trials and tribulations of starting a gay organization in a rural area. A notable quote I recall was that the lesbian of the group threatened, in jest, to withdraw from FLAG to leave the gay men with what they deserve (FAG). Well, you had to be there to appreciate the humor. It roused the some 150 warm bodies gathered in the room.

Following Hal's rather soft-spoken talk, our very own JoAnne Dauphinee, local hardcore feminist, gave a rousing address that enraptured the crowd with its imagery. "Imagine a world" she said "where almost all of the Premiers and Presidents and Vice Presidents and world leaders are women." Women, and men alike were moved by the stark realities faced by women in our society today. (JoAnne, we love

you).

The theme of the conference, Dialogue '86, promoting discussion between and among the various segments of our diverse community-women, men, urban, rural, whites, blacks, Canadian, Americans, French-speaking, English-speaking . . . - was animated through a panel discussion. Each of the panelist expressed some personal insights and a lively debate followed on separatism.

Numerous workshops were offered throughout the day- safe sex, christian schizophrenia, substance abuse, aspects of S&M, gay/lesbian Jews. Concurrent with the workshops were showings of films, 14 different films were offered in the course of the Symposium, Choosing Children, Silent Pioneers and The Times of Harvey Milk to name but a few. Dinner, a floor show and dance brought us to the end of the day and the start of the next, literally.

The next days' events were a little more sedate for me. A spiritual gathering, late brunch, MLGPA meeting, and a panel discussion of the health crisis affecting our community--AIDS, followed by more workshops and lots and lots of socializing with new and old friends. The separatists of the group even held a closeted "Lesbian Only" Workshop.

Good friends, good cheer. If you didn't have a good weekend it was no fault of Northern Lambda Nord. Lams, Good Job, Many Thanks.

BAGLSC CONTACTS

Marty Sabol	947-3801
Lee Nicoloff	862-2078
JoAnne Dauphinee	989-3306
Robin Binnall	989-6035
Linda Kling	947-3163

CHARLIE HOWARD MEMORIAL DAY

A DAY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

A LIST OF SUNDAYS EVENTS

- July 6th: 10:30 a.m. Unitarian Church--Memorial Service for Charlie.
12 noon from the Unitarian Church--March to Kenduskeag Stream.
1:00 p.m. Davenport Park (Cor. Cedar and Main Streets)-- Picnic, Music, and remembrances of Charlie.
2:30 p.m. Davenport Park--Keynote Speaker Sonia Johnson.

SONIA JOHNSON

Sonia Johnson, feminist activist since 1977 and a true believer in nonviolent direct action, including civil disobedience, gained national notoreity when, in December of 1979 she was excommunicated from the Mormon Church for her work on behalf of the federal Equal Rights Amendment. A fifth-generation Mormon, mother of four, and head of the former Mormons for ERA, she proved herself more than equal to the task of rising above her personal pain at that public chastisement, to become one of the feminist movement's most outspoken and thoughtful theorist, strategist, and activist.

In 1984 she ran as a candidate for President of the United States on the Citizens' Party ticket. Join us in listening to this widely acclaimed feminist on Sunday, July 6th. She will inspire you to question, to become involved, to work for a better tomorrow. Don't miss this empowering speaker. She is destined to reach out and touch the "power within us."

JOIN US ON SUNDAY, JULY 6th, IT IS SURE TO BE A GREAT DAY OF CELEBRATION!

For those planning to attend from outside the Bangor Area, housing is available at \$3.00/person at the University of Maine. Call 581-4545 or 4549 and ask for Joan or Amy. Two days prior notice is requested.

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