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Title: *Mutual Interest Groups Flier*

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[Circa 1979]

MUTUAL INTEREST GROUPS - A G.C.S. IDEA

Does your group, like many others, have trouble getting its members involved? Try a new idea. LET THEM DO THEIR OWN THING IN A MUTUAL INTEREST GROUP!

Some groups do dumb things that no one is interested in doing. But a mutual interest group is two or more persons doing things they like to do. The measure of success is that the event was planned, executed and fully enjoyed by the participants.

Some groups build their treasury by big expensive events. Their reputation is that they are money hungry. Give your members a cheap night out with a mutual interest group.

Some groups meet only once a month. But gays love being with other gays. Why else do you think the bars are so crowded on weekends. Get them together with mutual interest groups.

Some groups rent halls to meet in. But a mutual interest group could meet in a broom closet if the interest was small enough. Hosts for a small group aren't too hard to find.

Lots of gays live alone or with their parents but they could do more if they had someone to do it with. So he's not your friend- but you have got mutual interests, He might become your friend.

The end result of mutual interest groups is that people know each other better, they learn to like each other more, and they are more willing to work together on mutual interests such as gay rights which is the interest they share in belonging to your homophile organization in the first place.

All right! So what is a mutual interest group?

A mutual interest group is ART ALLIANCE which designed a Bicentennial Gay Stamp we are trying to drum up nationwide support for. ART ALLIANCE has sponsored an Art Show of three local gay artists in a local gay bar, and planned a second show. ART ALLIANCE designed the G.C.S. flag, our membership badge, and a homophile badge. They have worked with live, nude models and spun off a PHOTOGRAPHY INTEREST which also likes working with live, nude models.

Some of our members live alone and don't know what to do with leftovers if they cook. So they have a DINER'S INTEREST which eats out at new places (or old ones) together, or take advantage of their friends who do like to cook.

Our group found out at a CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING that lots of our members like growing things. You know the result- a HORTICULTURAL INTEREST that has everybody swapping seedlings and threatening to put all those gay little plant shops out of business.

The PERFORMING ARTS INTEREST supports local theater groups as an audience. They have sponsored old fashioned Sing*A-Longs and gather about once a month to listen to records together. One of our members who likes concerts and plays and art exhibits but is too poor to afford them and won't go unless someone goes along, knows another member who is retired and likes concerts and plays and art exhibits but is too poor to afford them and doesn't own a car. These two attend all the Freebies in town, of which there is quite a number when you get into it.

Do you begin to get the idea of what MUTUAL INTEREST GROUPS ARE? If your going to do it anyway, take a friend along to do it with. Take two if you happen to have a spare. Or, invite the whole group- you might be surprised to find who your friends are and what they are interested in doing.

Mutual interest groups don't have to be formal, they don't have to have once a months events, they don't have to make money or cost money. But they pay. They bring wallflowers out of the closets. They make your group the place to where its happening. They generate interest, and activity.

Some Mutual Interest Groups have chairpersons who are responsible for planning the day, the time, and the place for events. Others simply happen such as plant swapping and we recognize them at our meetings for what they are. There is a time set aside when we find what our members have been doing together, and, what they would LIKE to do.

Among our less active interests are such as HISTORICAL INTEREST which sponsored a tour of Historic Oley Valley (it was better than you think, and they are planning it again for those who missed it) and which keeps tabs on Bicentennial events; DANCE INTEREST in square and Ballroom dancing chaired by an ex-Arthur Murray instructor, a group which is looking for a place to meet that is not someone's second floor apartment (or one with a deaf old lady on the first floor); OUTDOORS INTEREST, whose chairman went into the Army just as he was about to become active- we recently got it together with a Hay Throwing Event (or was that a Hayride); and TRAVEL, our one failure, thanks to the state of the economy.

INTERESTED parties can take it from here, or contact us.

Presented by

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