

# **LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA**

**Located at Dickinson College  
Archives & Special Collections**

**<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>**

## **Documents Online**

**Title:** *Freedom Newsletter* (MCC)

**Date:** June 1982

**Location:** LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

**Contact:**

LGBT History Project  
Archives & Special Collections  
Waidner-Spahr Library  
Dickinson College  
P.O. Box 1773  
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

**[archives@dickinson.edu](mailto:archives@dickinson.edu)**



# Freedom

*"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."  
—Galatians 5:1*

The Newsletter of the Metropolitan Community Churches in Lancaster and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Vol. 1, No. 3

June, 1982

## "FREEDOM" Continues -- But What of "The Link"????

Herewith and herein and right in your hand is the third big issue of FREEDOM. Once again we are combining the efforts of MCC-Harrisburg with the Lancaster Parish to publish this opus.

But what, oh what, has become of "The Link"--the gay newspaper serving central Pennsylvania that what sponsored by MCC-Harrisburg? Well, truthfully, we don't know. There has been a breakdown in communications between the editor of that paper and the Board of the Harrisburg church.

Because of this, and because of the responsibility that MCC-Harrisburg feels for that paper, the Board took some actions at the meeting last Friday.

First, we affirmed that we still support the idea or concept of a newspaper serving the gay community in central Pennsylvania. However, since we have no idea if or when the next issue of "The Link" will come out, we have decided to refund the subscription money to all those subscribers who request such a refund in writing. In like manner, any advertiser whose paid ad did not appear in print will receive a refund if they request one in writing. We will continue these refunds until the money in the "Link" fund runs out.

And lastly, we have a board meeting on June 25, 1982. If it appears at that time that there is to be no further communication with the "Link," our intent is to vote to discontinue our relationship with that paper.

As far as FREEDOM goes, the Board voted to continue publishing it as a joint venture for the next two months.

In other action, the Board voted to sponsor a bus trip from MCC-Harrisburg to Atlantic City in August. The tickets will be about \$16, and the success of the trip depends on support by the community. See the calendar for the date and times involved.

And speaking of busses, it looks like the Lancaster bus trip to Gay Pride Day in Washington, DC actually will take place!!! A committee has been formed and is making the plans as we go to press. More details may be found in later pages of this very paper.

And speaking of busses, the Dignity/CP annual bus trip to Gay Pride Day in New York City is on once again, this year on June 27. Because of the extensive participation of the Harrisburg church, MCC-Harrisburg and the Lancaster parish will hold joint services that day in Lancaster at the Unitarian center. Mark your calendars!

As many of you know by now, I was involved in a minor auto accident on May 16. Although I am still very sore, I am healing very nicely, thank you. Thank you also for all your prayers. They really helped.

I was very happy to be able (finally) to share my "Bunch of Baloney" sermon with MCC-Hbg, last Sunday. That's the one that inspired the name of this newsletter. Freedom is our birthright as God's children. Enjoy your FREEDOM!

--Arthur

# Harrisburg News

## PASTORAL SEARCH UPDATE

In our continuing search for a pastor, Gloria Root from Dayton, Ohio will be visiting Harrisburg for the June 18th weekend.

Ms. Root is interested in meeting the people of Harrisburg, whereas she has asked the pulpit committee to consider her application. She will be attending our Friday night picnic and doing the Sunday service that weekend.

Marianne VanFossen, our most recent pastoral candidate, has decided to find her ministry in the Wash.D.C. area. Marianne will be visiting us the weekend of June 12th and doing our worship service on the 13th.

We welcome these wonderful women with open arms and warm hearts, praising God for all being blessed with Marianne's and Gloria's love.

## GAY SKATE

On May 6th, we had our second successful skating get-together for the gay community. With over a hundred people, it was lots of fun. Watch our calendar in future issues of Freedom to catch our next Gay Skate!

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting in Harrisburg on Monday, June 28th, at 7:30 pm at the Friends Meeting House. We will vote concerning our new pastor, among other things.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

The district conference held in Richmond, VA this month brought up a very special surprise for our MCC's. Our Worship Coordinators, Gary Norton and Art Runyan were presented with outstanding service awards for their work in Harrisburg and Lancaster, respectively. Praise God!

## HOORAY!

As a result of a resolution that Harrisburg MCC wrote and presented to the district conference, from Fall 83 on, conferences will be held on a FRI-SAT-SUN schedule for every other conference. This will enable more lay people to attend these uplifting and rejuvenating meetings. We are very grateful to God and the loving people in this district for their support.

## GREAT NEWS

Harrisburg is very pleased to see new people every week in church. We've been getting new members and seeing people coming back again and again. We pray that God will guide us in sharing peace, kindness, hope, and LOVE to all so that each of them can share it with still more people.

## ATLANTIC CITY BUS TRIP

MCC-Hbg. is sponsoring a one-day bus trip to Atlantic City. The tentative date is Saturday, August 14th. The bus will leave Harrisburg at 7 am and return around 10:30 pm. Tickets will cost \$16, so start saving your quarters.

# Lancaster News

## PLANNING SESSION

On Sunday, June 6th, the MCC-Lancaster congregation will meet to continue its planning process for the summer. We have come up with a statement of purpose and are now in the process of setting some goals to achieve that purpose. Come and see what we are all about. Everyone's input is valuable and will be appreciated.

## MEET GLORIA ROOT AT POTLUCK SUPPER!

MCC-Lancaster will hold a potluck supper at Don and Earl's house, Saturday, June 19th, at 6:30 p.m. Come and bring a covered dish, chips, crackers, dessert, or some other appetizing item.

Gloria Root, who is candidating for the pastorate of MCC-Harrisburg (and, by extension, Lancaster) will be the special guest. Gloria hails from Dayton, Ohio; let's all turn out to make her feel especially welcome.

## GAY PRIDE BUS TO WASHINGTON IS ON!

The Gay/Lesbian HelpLine and MCC-Lancaster are joining forces to sponsor a chartered bus to Washington, DC for Gay Pride Day, June 20, 1982.

The bus will leave from the Lancaster Shopping Center (free parking!) at 8:45 a.m. and return at approximately 10:45 p.m.

There are only 41 seats so get your tickets early. They are only \$12.00 for the round-trip and can be purchased from Kit & Ev of the HelpLine or Art & Al of MCC. For more info, call MCC at 392-2729 or the HelpLine at 397-0691.

## WHAT'S OVER THE RAINBOW?

by Al Johnson

Since moving to Lancaster, I lost what was over the rainbow. I'm living in a city with gay people but no gay community.

You may ask what was over the rainbow. I hoped I'd find a community of gay people working together to bring about community services of interest to gays since they weren't provided by straight society.

I needed those outlets for a sense of purpose--betterment. I needed them to educate myself as a gay man who was still learning what the gay world has to offer, and in turn, what I can give the gay world and society in which I live.

I began to read about the minority to which I belong--about which most gay folks don't care one way or the other. I felt that somewhere over the rainbow I would no longer be completely ignorant of the lifestyle I was living.

I needed to know that there was life after the bars, cruising, and book stores like in Baltimore where I used to live. I found this in the newly emerging services provided by the gay community 12 years ago. These excited me as I was just coming out. I was surprised that we were beginning to have gay rap groups, hot-lines, churches, dances, educational book stores, literary forums, youth groups, over-40 groups and many other opportunities for me to participate in.

I thank God every day for that community for it helped me deal with my gayness since 1970.

We gays here in Lancaster are in the beginning stages of forming a much needed community. Don't turn your back on what this community will have to offer without checking it out first.

We all can't move to the "bigger rainbows" of Philadelphia, D.C., New York, etc., so let's make our rainbows here. Everyone's help is needed.

## BOARD MEETING

The Advisory Board of MCC-Harrisburg will meet at Art & Al's house in Lancaster on Friday, June 25th at 7:30 pm. Everyone from Lancaster and Harrisburg is welcome. This is a good opportunity to see how your church is run. Call 392-2729 for details.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 5** North Street Flea Market, *Harrisburg*, all day. We will sell the stuff left over from our own flea market. Everybody welcome.
- June 6** Sunday Service, *Harrisburg*, Frank Lang preaching; Mary Ellen Dowdrick celebrating the Eucharist. 7:00 pm, Friends Meeting House, 6th & Herr Streets, Harrisburg.
- June 6** Planning Session, *Lancaster*, 5:00 pm at Art & Al's house. Come and plan the future of our church. At this meeting we will be setting goals for the summer.
- June 12** Tupperware Party in *Hershey*. Call 238-3746 (Hbg.) for details.
- June 13** Sunday Service, *Harrisburg*, Marianne Van Fossen preaching and celebrating. Friends Meeting House (6th & Herr) at 7:00 pm
- June 13** Sunday Service, *Lancaster*, Arthur Runyan preaching and celebrating, Unitarian Center, 538 W. Chestnut Street, Lancaster at 5:00 pm. This time we should be in Emerson Hall.
- June 18** Picnic at Negley Park, *Lemoyne*, 6:00 pm. Bring a friend, a covered dish, and some utensils. Gloria Root will be there to meet and socialize with members and friends of the Harrisburg Church. Also, we will hold the drawing for the Afghan. Tickets are still available for the unheard of sum of 50¢ (cheap!). See any board member for tickets.
- June 19** Potluck Supper in *Lancaster* at Don & Earl's house. This will be Lancaster's chance to meet and socialize with Gloria Root. Bring a friend and a covered dish. Or bring a dish and a covered friend. Call 392-2729 for directions.
- June 20** Bus trip from *Lancaster* to **Gay Pride Day** in Washington, D.C. We will leave the Lancaster Shopping Center at 8:45 am *SHARP!* We hope to be back in Lancaster by 10:45 pm. Tickets are available to the first 41 people who approach us with \$12.00 in their hot, little hands. For tickets, call MCC-Lancaster at 392-2729 or the Lancaster Gay/Lesbian HelpLine at 397-0691.
- June 20** Sunday Service, *Harrisburg*, Gloria Root preaching and celebrating the Eucharist. Friends Meeting House (6th & Herr) at 7:00. Come and hear her who may be our new pastor!
- June 25** Advisory Board meeting in *Lancaster*. Everyone is welcome to come and see how our church is run and to provide input on all decisions. The meeting will be at Art & Al's house at 7:30 pm. Call 392-2729 for directions.
- June 27** Joint Worship Service for both congregations in *Lancaster*. 5:00 pm at the Unitarian Center, 538 W. Chestnut Street, Lancaster. Arthur Runyan will be preaching and celebrating the Eucharist. Fellowship hour will follow the service.
- June 27** *Dignity* bus trip to **Gay Pride Day** in *New York City!* Tickets are \$15. Call 238-3746 for information.
- June 28** Congregational Meeting, *Harrisburg*, 7:30 pm at the Friends Meeting House (6th & Herr). We will consider many important issues including our new pastor. Everyone is welcome. Members are expected to attend so they can vote.
- August 14** Bus trip to Atlantic City from *Harrisburgh*. Tickets are \$16, call 238-3746 for details.
- July 11-17, 1983** MCC General Conference in Toronto, Canada. If you save just \$10 each week from now until then, you should have enough money to make the trip. General Conference is a treat you just don't want to miss. Imagine, thousands of gay Christians from all over the world in one spot! Don't let this chance pass you by. Come and celebrate with us.

LANCASTER  
GAY/LESBIAN  
HELP LINE  
397-0691

Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Thursday, and Sunday  
6:30 to 9:30 pm

Have a problem?  
We can help.

YOU ARE . . .  
a poem by Maggie Cruz

You are living proof that with love for yourself, Confidence of who and what you are, and knowledge of what you want in life, you can accomplish great things.

## FREEDOM

Vol. 1, No. 3

FREEDOM is the newsletter of MCC-Harrisburg and the Lancaster Parish. It is published monthly and mailed on the Monday prior to the first Sunday of the month from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania (Lord willing and the creek don't rise. . .).

MCC-Harrisburg P.O. Box 3897 Harrisburg, PA 17105 Gary Norton, Co-W.C.	MCC-Lancaster P.O. Box 863 Lancaster, PA 1703 Arthur Runyan, Co-W.C.
---	---

Editor . . . . . Philip Holt
Hbg. Correspondent . . . . . Shari Gackstatter
Contributor . . . . . Al Johnson
Design & Paste-Up . . . . . Art Runyan

(Publication of the name of any person, business, or organization should not be construed as indicative of the sexual orientation or ideological stance of that person, business, or organization.)

The Metropolitan Community Church is an ecumenical, Christian church for all people with a special ministry to the lesbian and gay community.