

LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

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Title: *Gay Switchboard Newsletter*

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Contact:

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Archives & Special Collections
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THANKS VOLUNTEERS

A special thank you is in order for our burned-out volunteers who concented to filling a February evening to help a new volunteer get started. We emmencely appreciate that special effort. Our thanks, also, goes out to everyone who is contributing to make February a record month in Switchboard history. It might not be 100% coverage on Feb. 28, but we're working on it! You're tremendous!

---Chuck & Colin

membership?

The Gay Switchboard membership drive continues in February. We wish to alliviate a common misunderstanding concerning Switchboard membership. Anyone can become a contributing member and that membership carries no responcibilities beyond that contribution.

We need money to function and invite your gifts in any amount. Our membership fee has purposely been kept low that everyone would be able to support our work. The cost of our newsletter alone barely stays within the cost of your membership fee, but we are more interested in supporting you than living the life of a fat organization.

If you haven't the time to be involved in work as a phone volunteer or any of the numerous jobs that keep the Switchboard running, just check the space marked "donor". If you wish to get involved, check the "active membership" block. We will call you to find out just what areas of service you might be interested in. That could be anything from phone volunteering to fund raising assistance to program planning for our meetings.

Please don't forget to fill out the below application. This is the last "free" issue. Your dollars tell us you're interested in what the Switchboard is doing and that you want to continue receiving our newsletter. Thank you for whatever support you are able to render to the Switchboard.

SWITCHBOARD MEETING

The March meeting of the Gay Switchboard will be at the home of our Treasurer, Tom. A representative from the Pennsylvania Dept. of Health will be with us to speak on the topic: "Sexually Transmitted Diseases".

Don't miss this informative meeting. Just mark your calendars for:

Sunday, March 1, 7:30 PM
at 2311 No. Front St., Apt. 222
Harrisburg

MAR. 1

and we'll see you there!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The 15th is the deadline each month for the upcoming issue of the Switchboard's newsletter. Contact the Switchboard office at 234-0328 or the editor, Colin, at 232-5674. And then it will be "news" to you.

Please enter my membership with Gay Switchboard '81. Enclosed is a \$9.00 payment to G.S.H. or Tom Basehore, treasurer (make note "for G.S.H." on check).

other contribution \$ _____

donor Name _____

active membership Address _____

phone _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

mail to: G.S.H., Box 872, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108 or bring your payment to the next meeting of Gay Switchboard '81.

JANUARY TRAINING

Two women and six men completed the initial training period for service as phone volunteers with the Gay Switchboard of Harrisburg. The welcomed additions are working with active volunteers this month to complete their training.

Our training director is back and slowly recovering from his illness. Frank is working with the Co-Directors to establish another training session in March.

Now is the time to make arrangements to be in the March session by calling the Switchboard (234-0328) or contacting one of our members to reserve your spot. Mondays will be the night for March training sessions (9 & 16). You're free then? GREAT!

ADMENDED FEB. 1

The Constitution was admended at the February 1 meeting. To Article IV Sec. 1 the addition was made: In the absence of a member of either gender, two members of the same sex will assume the duties of Co-Director of the Gay Switchboard. To Article V Section 1, a deletion was restored: Co-Directors shall be active members of the Gay Switchboard for six (6) months or longer, prior to election.

The admendment to the constitution was submitted to the membership in the January newsletter before action was taken upon it. This is in accordance with Art. IX, Sect. 1 to notify the membership of the topic to be discussed and subject to a quorum of 50% active membership. Membership for quorum was 57% at the meeting.

a thought -

When a man's self is hidden from everybody else...it seems also to become much hidden even from himself, and it permits disease and death to gnaw into his substance without his clear knowledge. Men who are unknown and/or inadequately loved often fall ill, or even die, as if suddenly and without warning...If one had direct access to the person's real self, one would have had many earlier signals that the present way of life was generating illness.

--Sidney Jourard

MICC in Hbg.

Since November, a group has been meeting in Harrisburg as a Parrish Extention of M.C.C. Philadelphia. This group is working to develop a ministry in the greater Harrisburg area and to become a recognized Study Group in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. A Study Group is the first step in becoming a church. M.C.C. welcomes and has a primary ministry to minorities. Your input is needed and welcomed.

M.C.C.'s scedule:

Fri. Feb. 27 - 7:30 pm - Open Topic at 1622 1/2 No. 2nd St., Hbg.

Fri. Mar. 6 - 7:30 pm - Leslie Philips, esq., from Phila. will speak on the topic "Gays & The Law" at Friend's Meeting House

Sun. Mar. 8 - 7:00 pm - A combined service with Lancaster- York Parrish Ext. at Friends Meeting House, 6th & Herr Sts., Harrisburg

For further information call 238-3746 or the Switchboard, 234-0328.

1981 IN THE BLACK

Treasurer's Rept.

The treasury moved into the black in January. Congraduations people --- we're gonna make it.

balance Jan, 1, 1981	-24.76
memberships (13)	39.00
collections (Jan.,Feb. mtg.)	32.00
donations	170.00
Ttl. income 1981.....	191.00
telephone (Jan., Feb.).....	27.44
room rent (Jan., Feb.).....	60.74
NGTF membership, 1981	11.00
conference room, Jan. 29 ...	2.00
checking acct. (per check)..	1.00
Ttl. expences 1981	102.18
balance Feb. 19,1981	64.06

JANUARY ENDS SLUMP

One-hundred sixty-four calls were rec'd by the Switchboard in January. There were 22 evenings of possible service in January and 16 of those evenings were covered by 7 phone volunteers.

The 73% coverage is the best we have been able to do since May, 1980. Of the many types of calls rec'd, bar information was the leading catagory with 31 1/2% of the January calls.

February has been looking promising to top our January record. There are twenty evenings of service this month and we are anticipating a 90% coverage with the help of those new volunteers. Thanks to you, it's working.....

YOU'RE FIRED!

WASH. You're Fired! That is a real threat to gay people in America and around the world. The reason for such firing is discrimination when the only reason is a persons sexual preference.

Recently a homosexual employee of the National Security Agency was NOT fired due to his gayness, but because of the nature of his job there was fear the employee could be blackmailed using his homosexuality to induce disclosure of highly classified gov't materials to which this employee has access.

Franklin E. Kameny, a gay rights activist, who is a commissioner on the District of Columbia's Commission on Human Rights, said the conditions to which the employee had agreed to keep his job were:

- to tell his mother and seven brothers and sisters about his homosexuality.
- to abide by agency guidelines on maintaining anonymity about his place of work.
- not to engage in any public activity that may be illegal (that does not include private consenting relations on the part of the employee and other adults)
- cooperate with any investigation to update his compliance with other points.

Daniel C. Schwartz, NSA general council, reported that all cases are considered on an individual basis and in this case it was decided there was no security risk.

Kameny said the employee was told in June that the agency had discovered he was a homosexual. It was suggested that the employee resign, but he declined.

The employee was stripped of his security clearance during an investigation and was temporarily assigned to a "nothing job" at Balt.-Wash. Int'nat. Airport, Kameny said.

The employee agreed to the 4 conditions during an Oct. 29 meeting and a few days later returned to his previous position.

\$.... please remember

Have you sent your contribution to GSH? We have a big job, please write that check to GSH or Tom Baschore (make note "for GSH" on your check) to: GSH, Box 872, Harrisburg, Pa. 17108.

A HUG

Feeling depressed? Dragging yourself around wearily for weeks? You might try Dr. Virginia Satir's simple remedy; get hugged today!

That's right, kid. Get hugged at least 8 times a day to stay healthy.

Dr. Satir, therapist, author and social worker, says that whether we know it or not, we all long to be touched, to be held, and to be hugged. And when the hugging, holding or touching is missing, we tend to get depressed and go moping around.

Why? Because our pores feel neglected, she said, and when the pores feel neglected the whole body begins to feel rejected.

"Our pores are places for messages of love and therefore being able to have physical contact is very important." Dr. Satir explains.

How important? Very. Dr. Satir believes 4 hugs a day are essential; 8 for good maintenance and 12 for growth.

Dr. Satir does consulting work for the U.S. Army and many universities and she contends that we just don't touch each other enough. "Unfortunately most of the touching in this country is done on the football field--and besides that's not the kind of touching I'm talking about."

Dr. Satir first proposed her theory 30 years ago and many medical people were labeling her a freak. But today, many are coming around to accepting the validity of her theory.

Dija get your eight today? *Go to it.*

WHO 'IS' WE ?

Switchboard membership is sometimes confused. To be a member of the Switchboard one only needs to be interested in assisting our organization to meet our objectives.

That could mean organizing a Street Sale, collecting junk for such sales, delievering local mail, typing, contributing \$\$\$\$ that permits us to function and of course answering that phone. There's much to do. If you're wondering what, drop us a line at GSH, Box 872, Harrisburg, Pa. 17108.

THAT BENEFIT - APR. 11

The Gay Switchboard is planning a benefit performance this April 11th at the Friends Meeting House in our fair city. Tickets will soon be distributed to our membership for sale. All proceeds will benefit the Gay Switchboard.

It is with heartfelt thanks that we, too, acknowledge the kindness of our Quaker Friends in providing us with the facility to make this benefit a success. The details concerning the event are provided below and look for our announcements elsewhere. Remember April 11.



HARRISBURG GAY SWITCHBOARD
presents

THAT RABBIT

a unique theatrical experience

APRIL 11

8 o'clock
Saturday eve

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE
6th & Herr Sts.
Harrisburg

Tickets available from
any member of the Gay
Switchboard or call

234-0328

all proceeds
benefit GSH

voluntary
contributions:

\$2. in advance
\$3. at door

NEW OFFICER - GSH

On January 23rd, our newly elected Data Compiler was forced to resign due to increased responsibilities in his career. At the February 1 meeting of the Gay Switchboard, Bob E. was elected to the post and will be informing us on paper concerning just how well the '81 Switchboard is doing.

We're sorry to lose you Jeff D., but we wish you much success in your field.

Veneer

by Sandra Trimble

I'm not calling for an army of lesbians and gay martyres. I'm asking that we ALL look inside ourselves, each in our own unique way, and ask ourselves if our lives are real, are authentic, are as we want them. Or are they some popular dance step, some mindless machination to a pimping music causing us to whore our very own lives. Now I really sound like Billy Graham. But, no, I sound like me because every word comes from my heart.

This will not be a shock to any thinking person, but the fact is that there are numerous lesbians and gay men who HATE THEMSELVES. They hate their gayness, they hate everything about themselves. Despite the window-dressing, despite coats and coats of veneer, these people absolutely hate themselves, deplore everything about themselves, and blame all their weaknesses on their homosexuality. There appears to be a reverse scale in operation: the more an individual cares about the outside of his/her body, the more poppers, the more alcohol consumed, the more late nights out per week, the more that poor sucker hates him/herself. Because, Buddy, that pitiful creature is saying "I Can't be with myself alone. When I talk to myself the words all come back at me whole and unheard." And that's because there's a big vacuum down there; it's hollow--there's just no place for those words to go.

My great-grandmother, whom I don't remember but who seems to me a hell of a grand lady, used to say that it was all right to talk to yourself--that you were the best person to talk to because if you looked hard enough, you had all the right answers. And the strongest thing one can do when not having an answer is to ask someone else to help you find it. Be real.

TRAINING in MARCH

Training is scheduled again for March. This time Monday will be the evening for training our future phone volunteers. The dates are March 9 & 16 with a follow up session following the in-house training with an active volunteer.

Our training director, Frank T., is back with us and readying for our second training session in 1981. It's good to have you back Frank.