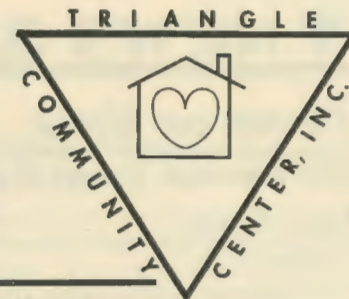


Triangle Community Center News & Views



Free to Members and Subscribers

Vol.8, No.4
April 1997

MANY HEARTS ♥♥♥ ONE COMMUNITY

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN APRIL, MAY & JUNE

- SAT, MAR 29 CT Gay Men's Chorus presents "Out!, the Whole Story." 8 pm, Shubert Theater, New Haven.
- SUN, MAR 30 Bloodroot 20th anniversary beer, wine, cheese and juice tasting, 85 Ferris, Bridgeport. 5-7:30. \$5. (203) 576-9168.
- SAT, APR 5 and Sun, Apr 6. 4th Annual Gay & Lesbian Business Expo, New York Coliseum, Columbus Circle, NYC. 11-6 Sat, 12-6 Sun. Food, performances, shopping.
- SUN, APR 6 Sunday at the Center, Clean the Office, 2-5 pm.
- SUN, APR 6 Whoop Dee Doo Appreciation Brunch for volunteers and cast, Trumbull. See TCC News.
- SAT, APR 12 CT Premiere of "It's Elementary" about gay issues in school, sponsored by GLSTN, Trinity College, Hartford, 1:30 pm. See FYI for details. (860) 289-45766.
- SUN, APR 13 Casino Bus Trip to Mohegan Sun Casino, Uncasville CT. Leave TCC 10 am. \$25 members, \$30 non members. Limited seating, so book reservations by Apr 5. (203) 261-4661.
- FRI, APR 18 Hartford Stage Fundraiser, "Gershwin at the Goodwin". See FYI.
- SAT, APR 19 TCC Friendraiser, at the home of Bob Scrofani in Norwalk, 6-9 pm. See article for directions.
- FRI, APR 25 Another Octave, the Connecticut Women's Chorus presents *Music in My Mother's House*, Pequot Library Southport 8pm. Tickets \$10 advance, \$12 door, \$7 seniors and children. Info (203) 772-0639. See flyer.
- SAT, APR 26 Another Octave, the Connecticut Women's Chorus presents *Music in My Mother's House*, Church of St Paul & St James, New Haven, 8 pm, (203) 772-0639.
- WED, APR 30 "Ellen Morgan" comes out, at long last, ABC-TV.
- FRI, MAY 2 Another Octave, the Connecticut Women's Chorus presents *Music in My Mother's House*, Unitarian Society of New Haven, Hamden, 8pm.
- SAT, MAY 3 Another Octave, the Connecticut Women's Chorus presents *Music in My Mothers House*, Community Center, Hartford, 8pm.
- SUN, MAY 4 Sunday at the Center, 4-6 pm. Salad Potluck.
- SAT, MAY 31 CT Gay Men's Chorus reprises *The Hat Ball*, the "Prom Night of your Dreams... with fifty fabulous men and their eighty-three dancing feet." 8:30, Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford. Info 1-800-644-CGMC.
- SAT, JUNE 21 TCC Pride Friendraiser and Back-yard Barbecue — at Meg & Justine's home in Stratford, 3-6 pm. Save the date!
- SAT, JUNE 21 Connecticut Pride in Hartford. Watch for more info.
- SUN, JUNE 29 Annual New York City Pride Parade. Watch for more info.

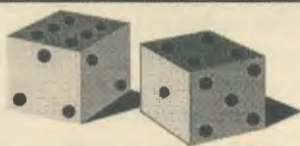
For the latest update on What's Happening in the area check our TCC home page on the internet.

<http://members.aol.com/tccenter>



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CASINO BUS TRIP

VISIT THE MOHEGAN
SUN APRIL 13

Oh no! Tax time again! Don't you wish you had 'found' money to pay those taxes? Do you feel lucky? Well, maybe we have the answer — a bus trip on April 13 to the Mohegan Sun Casino Resort in Uncasville, CT.

Triangle Community Center Fund Raising Committee is sponsoring this trip on a Fitzgerald Coach chartered exclusively for the TCC and the New Haven Community Center.

The coach will leave from TCC, 25 Van Zant Street in Norwalk at 10 am headed for the Mohegan Sun. We will

provide a light snack and sodas and show an appropriately themed video! Alcoholic beverages are permitted on the bus if you bring your own, but no glass bottles are allowed.

Once at the casino, there are over 10 restaurants to choose from, live entertainment, bingo, and six hours of gambling! We will depart from the casino around 6 pm.

The price is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. There is limited seating for 47 people, so book early. Call (203) 261-4661 for reservations or further information. The cutoff date for reservations is April 5, 1997. - RB

POINT OF VIEW

WE SHOULD TREAT EACH OTHER LIKE GOLD

by Mike Collins

We should treat each other like gold.

We homosexuals should treat each other like gold.

I have mentioned this to many friends in the gay and lesbian community.

I am flattered that John Allen, founding president of the New Haven Gay and Lesbian Community Center, regularly quotes me on this, and that Roger Hooverman, N&V editor, asked that a piece be done. Chris Bull, author of Perfect Enemies (the fight between the Christian Coalition and gays) also strongly agrees.

As Andrew Stone, former member of TCC's OutSpoken and now a student at NYU, once told me — and he articulated it well — members of every other minority group who are persecuted by the bullies can at least find peace and support at home.

If you are a member of a religious group or ethnic group, at least your parents and family will hug you and give you affection when you get home.

But not gays, in some cases.

In some cases, the parents and family will torment you even worse than the schoolyard bullies.

So, I ask, why is it a good idea for some in our community to not treat others "like gold", and, be what one gay acquaintance from Tennessee termed them, "attitude queens"?

Sometimes you'll even see it in newspaper personal ads: "no fems."

Or at a social gathering, the atmosphere will be ice cold.

I have found so many wonderful and loving people in the gay community over the past quarter century, and I love the gay community and lesbian community.

But it seems some in the gay community buy into the right-wing agenda of stupidity, arrogance, negative competitiveness, and attitude, along with selfishness.

Why is it a good idea to impose this on members of our own community, who are already being persecuted by society in general, and in some cases, by their own families?

We should treat each other like gold.

We should recall the attitude of the "counter-culture" days as Newt Gingrich calls them, when the ethic was "Everybody's your brother/sister" and Stephen Stills sang, "Love the one you're with."

We should reject the superiority and attitude values that flooded back into society with the Reagan Revolution, along with the Reaganite attitude of total selfishness.

The right's so-called "family values" ethic is: "My family, and screw the rest of the world." These so-called Christians might refer to scripture, and to Jesus, who never says anything about homosexuals, but does say the GREAT-EST commandment is to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself. Not just your family.

No one is perfect and certainly I have many faults and have disappointed many people over the years.

But it should at least be our ethic, or "agenda," to drive to reject the mean-spiritedness and total selfishness and negative competitiveness of the extreme right.

We should treat each other like gold.

LETTERS AND E-MAIL

GAY ADVICE FROM DEAR OLD AUNTIE EM!

Hello! Come in dear. Come and visit with your dear sweet old Auntie Em. Come tell me what's on your mind. I've seen a lot in my time, and I've got some good advice for you. Believe me, this old gal has seen it all. So why don't you pull up a chair while I pour myself a brandy. There now, just tell me what's on your mind, and don't be shy. I love to dish the dirt with you boyz, it adds a bit of spice to an old lady's life. I've only been on-line a short time, but I already consider myself the cyber advice queen like, now what was that Abby girl's advice column? Please stop by and visit my web site, Ask Auntie Em, at the address <http://members.aol.com/ecbbs1/auntem> - and drop me an e-mail. I'll be looking forward to hearing from you! [(Editor's note: "Auntie Em"'s website is maintained by the Emerald City Bulletin Board Service.)]

READER IS NOT THINKING IRRATIONALLY AFTER ALL

I just thought I would let you know that as I read through all the editorial responses and messages to those, you say all that I would. This is having a calming effect as it proves that I am not thinking irrationally. Politics can upset me...

-Stianna

RESEARCH ON DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS

I am researching the issue of Domestic Partner benefits and I was wondering if you could put a question out to all those on your distribution list. I would like to know of all companies with employees in Connecticut that offer Domestic Partner benefits to their employees. I would also like to know what Domestic Partner benefits are offered by each of these companies. Anyone with information related to these 2 questions can E-Mail me at: mmelanso@bcbsct.com

Thank You, Mark Melanson

RESEARCH ON GAY ADOPTIVE COUPLES

I am conducting my dissertation research on gay male adoptive couples. I'm comparing this group with other gay male couples who choose not to become parents. I'm contacting your center in hopes of using it as a source for volunteers for my study. Would it be possible to post a flyer in your facility or perhaps insert an ad in your newsletter asking for participants? I can provide you with whatever references you might need to validate who I am and my study including the name and phone number of my committee chairperson. Thanks for considering my request.

- Daniel Scott Angel, CIIS ILL Department, 9 Peter Yorke Way, San Francisco, California, 94109; 73741.3205@compuserve.com.

INVITATION TO INTERNET NEWSGROUPS

If you want, you can remind readers that I put out regular e-mail mailings of news items of interest to CTgays and lesbians. You can invite readers of your newsletter to e-mail me if they would like to be added to the: (a) marriage list; (b) religion list; &/or (c) youth issues list.

All I ask is they send their name and which list(s) they are interested in by e-mail to ctfreedom@aol.com.

Thank you, Thomas Jackson (tcjackson@snet.net)

TRIVIA

by Seggerman

ANSWER TO MARCH

Sorry, Liz, but that crack about Congressman Bob Barr's multitudinous marriages was written by Margaret Carlson in a Time Magazine essay of September 16. There she acknowledged a queasiness about same-sex marriage but still was able to comprehend the hypocrisy of one of DOMA's chief sponsors.

QUESTION FOR APRIL

What openly gay commentator on the Jim Lehrer News Hour recently joked that he should have a bumper sticker reading, "Assimilation Happens"?

▼ NEWS & VIEWS

TCC NEWS

STONE, DELVECCHIO NEW N&V EDITORS

Michele Stone and John DelVecchio will be the new co-editors of our newsletter, *TCC News & Views*, beginning with the May, 1997 issue. They replace Roger Hooverman, who is retiring as editor after three years.

Michele Stone, senior editor, has already been on the *News & Views* staff for over a year as advertising manager, a position which she will continue. Earlier, she had been an editor of *Talking Triangles*, the now-defunct newsletter of the CT Coalition for Gay & Lesbian Civil Rights.

John DelVecchio, assistant editor, who recently joined the TCC Board of Directors, also has significant newsletter experience. He is Editor (*Direttore Responsabile*) of *Attenzione*, the monthly newsletter of the greater Bridgeport area's Italian-American community. John's principal responsibility will be garnering information from outside sources and overall coordination of the TCC communications effort. Michele, the computer maven of the team, will be in charge of compiling and editing materials into the finished newsletter.

Contributions to the *N&V* may be now be sent to

Michele Stone, Editor
PO Box 8185
Stamford CT 06905
Voice Phone (203) 316-0333
Fax (203) 964-1133
e-mail NewsViews2@aol.com.

HIV COUNSELING/TESTING CONTINUES AT TCC

The Norwalk Health Department, in partnership with the TCC, is offering a program of counseling and HIV testing at the Center. The counselor, Karen Gorman, will be available at the Center, 25 Van Zant St., every Tuesday from 3:30 to 6:30 pm for walk-in counseling. HIV testing will also be available by appointment. For more information, or to make an appointment for testing, please call 854-7979 or 854-7779.

SUNDAY AT THE CENTER SWINGS IN TO SPRING

On the first Sunday in April we'll do "Spring Cleaning" and get the office cleaned up. There is so much stuff under the table that the typewriter can't be used to type up membership cards and the fax machine is blocked. If you can't make it but think you may have stuff that you want to save, please call Marianne at 222-8294 prior to April 5. Work will begin at 2 and go on until 5 or so.

On the first Sunday in May, "Salad Days Are Here Again." Sunday at the Center is holding a Salad Potluck on May 4 at 4 pm. Bring a flower or two for a communal decoration. A vase and sodas will be provided.

THE OAKS ON YOU

For its May 6 meeting, the Lesbian Literature Group has chosen "Trees Call for What They Need," by Melissa Kwasny. Thanks to Justine Michaud for supplying the following synopsis of the book.

"Trees Call for What They Need," published by Spinsters Ink, is a beautiful new novel with a warm regional flavor. It is the story of three women born at the turn of the century and their lives in the Town of Pines: Nettie, a woolen mill worker and tenant farmer; Aunt Till, a Spiritualist medium and lesbian; and Marie, a Polish immigrant who owns the Poletown bar. It is the story of their friendship and their exchange of pain and remedies as the novel chronicles the changing of their lives with the changing of their land near the Big Lakes. It is a lyrical remembrance of life, both past and present, narrated to us in Nettie's own inimitable voice. It is a novel about family and belonging, farming and caring for the land, the roots you put down and leave behind you. It's about love, caring, healing, and friendship. It is the story of one woman's life, and how she made a difference without even trying.

The group meets at the Center the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm. Copies of "Trees" can be found in your local library or bookstore, or ordered from Bloodroot (203) 576-9168. For more information please call Gwen (203) 316-0333.

WHOOPEE-DOO! FOLLOWUP

WHOOPEE-DOO: THE MOVIE!

Watch your local Resource Room for the new addition of a video copy of our Whoop-Dee-Doo! show. Relive the music, fun and costumes of your favorite musical. Watch this video of the final performance of TCC's production of Whoop-Dee-Doo!

WHOOPEE-DOO: THE PERPETUAL PARTY!

Following up several cast parties and a recent screening of the new Whoop-Dee-Doo! video, there is to be yet another associated get-together. All Whoop-Dee-Doo! volunteers are invited to an appreciation brunch Sunday, April 6, "noonish". Peter and Russ are graciously hosting the event at their Trumbull home. Call 203-261-4661 to RSVP and obtain directions.

WHOOPEE-DOO: THE FINANCIAL UPDATE!

Last, but not least, is a report of the finances for the Whoop-Dee-Doo! theater fund raiser held in January. TCC's Finance Committee has reported a net income from the project of \$17,703.90. These proceeds include income from all sources: corporate and individual underwriting, ticket sales, raffle, t-shirt and soda sales, and the ad book/playbill revenue.

Expenses of just over \$14,000 were just over budget, due to printing costs which we had hoped would be donated.

All in all, this was an extremely successful project, financially and otherwise. Profits are being shared with Bread & Roses, Stamford CARES and Mid-Fairfield AIDS Project.

TCC's share, over \$7000, will be used to establish a new TCC scholarship program. This program was proposed by the Fund Raising Committee and is now being developed by a special committee organized by the TCC Board of Directors. More information about the scholarship fund will be announced later.

POLITICAL ACTION GROUP ON A NEW NIGHT

The Political Action Group has announced a change in its meeting time from the third Wednesday to the Second Tuesday of each month, 7:30 at the Center. The group's principal activity is to generate letters expressing lesbigay viewpoints to political figures. For information, call Michele, 438-4465.

TCC GETS A NEW COMPUTER

Thanks to Bread & Roses, the TCC office now has a new — well, a newer — computer. Now we can perform important recordkeeping functions, like maintaining our mailing lists and financial records, on a close-to-state-of-the-art machine.

If you have expertise in MS Access, we could use your help in revising and upgrading our membership database. Call membership database manager Marianne Seggerman at 222-8294.

APRIL FRIENDRAISER

AT BOB SCROFANI'S IN NORWALK

Our next TCC friendraiser will be Saturday, April 19, 6-9 pm, at the home of Bob Scrofani in Norwalk. Buffet will be provided; BYOB. The usual donation will be requested: \$8 members, \$10 non-members, more if you can, less if you can't.

Directions: From I-95 northbound, take Exit 16 and turn left off the ramp, southbound, take the same exit and turn right. Continue northward on East Avenue, past the Norwalk Inn, bearing right at the Norwalk Green, and turn right on Park Hill Ave, just before you get to Route 1. Go almost to the end of the short street; Bob's house is the stucco, #33 on the left. If you get lost, call 838-3292.

▼ NEWS & VIEWS

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

[This month's "Splinters" is shared by the three retiring members of the TCC Board of Directors]

THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS

One thing I can definitely say about this past year is that being President of TCC's Board of Directors was an experience I will never forget! Many things — the good things — I don't want to forget. I very much appreciate the fact that you trusted me enough to be the official "voice" of the Triangle Community Center, and I am grateful to have had a chance to serve, in a small way, Connecticut's gay/lesbian/bisexual population in general and the Fairfield County community in particular.

Mostly what I won't forget are PEOPLE: people I've spoken with by phone; people I've met; people I've worked with; friends I've made. But first and foremost, PEOPLE WHO VOLUNTEERED — who gave of their time and talents and energy to keep the Center ("Our Center") going for six years and will, I hope, for sixty more. The phenomenally successful "Whoop-De-Doo" benefit demonstrates better than anything what our community can do when lots of volunteers work together. We need that "Whoop-Dee-Doo" spirit to continue all year, year after year, not just for "BIG EVENTS" but also in the hundreds of "little things" that are necessary for the Center's day-to-day existence. The Center, in short, needs YOU! ALL OF YOU!!! Young and Not-So-Young; Rich and Not-At-All-Rich; Single and No-Longer-Single; People of Any and Every Color; Bisexual, Transgendered, Gay and Lesbian (especially lesbian, for the Center to reach its stated goal of "gender parity" — equal membership, equal participation, equal leadership).

By the time you read this, my term as Board President will have ended. I want one last time to thank ALL OF YOU for ALL YOU'VE DONE, and for giving me the chance to be a part of it.

Respectfully and Sincerely, Tom Mariconda

A FAREWELL TO THE BOARD

When I joined the Board of Directors, the 1993 March on Washington was fresh in the minds of those of us who attended. Gays and lesbians had taken a grip on the nation's attention in the unlikely conduit of a struggle over their presence and visibility in the military. There were over 400 paid memberships at the Triangle Community Center, and ten or eleven board members. There was less than two weeks of operating funds. A move to cheaper space was in order. The present location is the result of that effort.

I had promised myself, way back in 1989, that when there was an openly gay Republican in Congress (my equivalent of "when pigs fly"), then I would put aside gay activism and concentrate on my career, like I'm supposed to. Well, by the end of 1996 there were two openly gay Republicans in Congress, and I was still on the Board. As much an indicator of progress — a mainstay of the local bike club brought her companion to the annual brunch for the first time last year.

The Center's move back to financial health was started by a summer of reduced energy bills — the air conditioning broke down, remember? Unfortunately, as the financial picture improved, the equally necessary people capital declined, stemmed somewhat last year by a huge mailing. The energy and numbers of the women is quite high but then as now fewer women go from being active in the rap group to Center leadership than do men from the men's rap. Groups have come (the Bi rap) and groups have gone (the Mixed rap). The constant is the Resource Room, and space to use in any way ones imagination takes one.

There is one thing I have not done in the past almost 4 years of maintaining the Center's membership database: I have not been constantly making updates to account for members and former members who have died — because hardly any have. Am I callous to be grateful that in the time when the AIDS epidemic has so hit hard in so many places, our membership roster counts only two casualties over those four years, and those happened to be women who died from other causes.

So what has changed in the past four years, and what is to come? Certainly there is a lot more public visibility of Center and of the lesbian community. A number of our past presidents have been in the closet at work (to some degree). That is no longer possible. The days when we

had less than one month's operating expenses in the bank seem to be over, but so are the days when 35 people could be counted on to show up at any event.

Looking forward, I foresee that there will be a shift towards a more working-class sensibility, judging solely from the current make-up of the Board. Perhaps the crowds will come back (or come to Center for the first time) when the State of Hawaii starts issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. If I have learned anything about the demographics of the lesbian community in this area, I have learned it is an overwhelmingly *coupled* community. Even many of our "Contributing" members are in fact one half of a poor, cheap or closeted pair. I predict that many of these couples (those that have never been in the Center) already know the Triangle Community Center exists and will turn to it for advice and support when they try to get their marriages recognized. I'll probably still be doing membership then.

- Marianne G. C. Seggerman

LIFE GOES ON

Long ago, in a universe far away, when it finally dawned on me that I was gay, one of the first things I did (after sex) was seek out the local Gay Community Center. That was in Albany, New York, over 20 years ago, so long ago that the name of the organization did not have the word "lesbian" in it yet. I owe a lot to that Center — because through it I learned that being gay was more than sex; it was being part of a community of oppressed, liberated, foolish, brave, dysfunctional, life-giving, crazy, wonderful women and men who from that time on were my family.

I was a part of that Center in Albany for ten years before I moved to Connecticut, and during that time I saw it go through one crisis after another. There wasn't enough money to pay the bills. There weren't enough volunteers to operate the organization. Yet, every time that Center was about to close its doors, new people would show up out of nowhere; with the enthusiasm and involvement to make the old Center climb out of the grave and hum again. They are still going strong today.

That's why I am not worried about the future of our Triangle Community Center either. I know from experience that crisis is what makes our Community, and our Centers, strong. A few years ago the TCC had a financial crisis, and people who needed the Center and wanted it to survive came forward, and today we operate with a comfortable reserve in the bank. Two months ago, I was afraid that no one would be here to continue *News & Views* after I left; and now we have not one but two able editors to carry on and, yes, improve on what has gone before.

At present, the TCC in general and the Board of Directors in particular are feeling a severe crisis because there are too few people willing and able to take on the job of running the Center. Our new Board is starting out with only five members — four men and one woman, barely enough to maintain the legal requirement of four officers of the corporation.

Yet our membership numbers remain healthy, and scores of people come through the Center every week for rap groups and other events.

There are a lot of you members out there who take the Center for granted — not to mention others who make regular use of the Center, but refuse to support it with a membership. You use it, you need it, your lives would be poorer without it. Or, even if you don't need it for yourselves, you realize how valuable it is as a positive presence in the community, as a safe place for our youth, and a source of support for those just coming out and for their families. I trust that any day now it will dawn on a number of you that the Triangle Community Center is about to disappear out from under you because there is no one left to run it.

Then we will see volunteers coming out of the woodwork, with a rebirth of enthusiasm and dedication that will fill the board room with new faces, new ideas, and a new life for our community. That's the nature of a volunteer organization like ours. It's cyclic. It lives from one crisis to another. But as long as there is a need for places like the Triangle Community Center in Norwalk, like the Centers in New Haven and Hartford and White Plains and Albany and scores of other cities, those Centers will not, can not be allowed to die.

Let the last word from the retiring Board be this above all: Your Center Needs YOU, NOW! **VOLUNTEER!!**

- Roger Hooverman

▼ NEWS & VIEWS

F. Y. I.

IT'S ELEMENTARY

The Connecticut chapter of the Gay, Lesbian Strait Teacher's Network (GLSTN) invites you to see and discuss "It's Elementary," a film for educators and parents talking about gay issues at school.

This 78-minute documentary makes a compelling case that children should be taught to respect all people, including lesbians and gay men, as part of their early education. At its heart is incredibly inspiring footage of elementary and middle school classrooms where teachers are finding age-appropriate, creative ways to confront anti-gay prejudice and counter gay invisibility. "It's Elementary" demystifies what it means to incorporate information about gay people into early education, and inspires teachers and administrators to take the next steps at their own schools.

Rather than focusing on the political debate or the impediments to dealing with gay issues in the classroom, the film is an inspiring look at what can be done.

Faith Middleton, author of *The Goodness of Ordinary People* and Connecticut Public Radio and Television interviewer, will be hosting the event and moderating a discussion following the film.

Connecticut premiere of "It's Elementary" will be Saturday, April 12, 1:30 pm at Cinestudio, Trinity College, Hartford CT. It is sponsored by the Trinity College Women's Center, Children from the Shadows, the CT Education Association, Safe and Affirming Network of Educators, Metroline. And PFLAG. A reception for sponsors will follow.

For information or tickets, call (860) 289-4576.

A GUIDELINE REMINDER

The Gay and Lesbian GuideLine offers information, referrals and support. If you want to find a gay-friendly doctor, lawyer or therapist in your town, we have the latest listings. If you're new to Connecticut and where to know where to meet people, give us a call. Or if you just need to talk to someone who understands, we are here for you. Call us most weeknights at (203) 366-3734.

NEW HAVEN "COURSE IN MIRACLES"

STUDY GROUP

Miracles Mondays, A Course In Miracles® study group, is changing its start time to 8 pm beginning in April 7th, 1997. The group meets at the New Haven Gay & Lesbian Community Center, One Long Wharf Plaza. The change in time will help the New Haven Gay & Lesbian Community Center to provide even more programs and services to the New Haven Community.

Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Casey Roberts at (203) 230-2050 or Rev. Alexander R. Garbera at (203) 937-8085. The group is open to all persons. There are no dues or fees for membership for the Miracles Mondays group. Donations will help support use of the space.

A long time student of A Course In Miracles, Rev. Alexander Garbera stated that "even though I have been through the text and workbook several times, there is always something new to learn and experience through it. It is an unfolding process, and has been an instrumental part of my own healing journey." Rev. Garbera is an Interfaith Minister and graduated from The New Seminary.

Rev. Garbera also went on to say that "from the very first meeting in February, the group was positively electric! When leaving by the elevator, some other individuals came from a different part of the building, noticed our enthusiasm, and asked 'where did you people just come from?' to which we replied.. 'we were just exploring the mysteries of the Universe.' The onlookers, tired from working late, smiled and said 'that explains it.'"

GERSHWIN FUNDRAISER IN HARTFORD

On Friday, April 18, Hartford's Goodwin Hotel will be transformed into an Art Deco paradise for "Gershwin at the Goodwin," a fundraiser for the many educational programs of the Hartford Stage Company. A raffle-type auction is planned, along with lots of live entertainment. There will be performances by pianist Paul Biscaccia, jazz singer Dianne Mower, guitarist Norman Johnson, and the Connecticut Gay Men's Chorus, accompanied by special guest Harvey Fierstein. Tickets for the program, which runs from 8 pm to midnight at the Goodwin Hotel. Prices are \$75 for atrium tickets and \$100 for salon tickets. For tickets or more info call Anne Dyjak, (860) 525-5601.

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDERED YOUTH

As part of its on-going support for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Youth, the Gay Lesbian Student Teacher Network/Connecticut (GLSTN) is offering a \$500 scholarship to recognize such students, support continuing education and foster a positive image of GLBT students in the school and community.

The \$500 award will go to a student who is a self-identified gay, lesbian, bisexual youth who is between the ages of 16 and 21 as of May 1, 1997 and planning to attend a post-secondary education institution during the next year. Applicants must be residents of Connecticut, and prior recipients are not eligible. All application materials must be received by April 15, 1997.

This is the second year GLSTN Connecticut has offered such a scholarship. Last year's winner was Carl Sciortino, Jr. of Milford, who attends Tufts University.

Applications have been sent to guidance offices in all of the state's public and private high schools. Applications are also available by mail. Write to: Ronnie Kim, Robertson School, 227 Cross St., Coventry, CT 06238.

SHAYS AGREES TO BE PRINCIPAL ENDA SPONSOR

U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays (R-Conn.) has agreed to become the principal Republican co-sponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), marking the first time a House Republican has taken the lead in sponsoring the measure.

Shays's office disclosed his new role in backing ENDA less than a week after Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) told leaders of the Human Rights Campaign, a national Gay political group, that he will become a co-sponsor of ENDA in the Senate.

ENDA calls for amending the U.S. civil rights code to prohibit employment discrimination based solely on a person's sexual orientation. The bill covers both private sector and civilian government employment.

Shays's spokesperson Seth Amgott said Shays will join openly Gay Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), ENDA's chief Democratic sponsor in the House, and HRC in recruiting other House members to sign on as ENDA co-sponsors. HRC Legislative Director Winnie Stachelberg said HRC expects "considerably more" House members to sign on as ENDA co-sponsors in this year's 105th Congress than the 139 who became co-sponsors in last year's 104th Congress. Amgott said Shays and Frank are expected to reintroduce ENDA sometime next month.

"ENDA is based on a fundamental American idea," Shays said in a statement released by his office. "Americans should be judged at work based on their performance at work. I am proud to be lead Republican sponsor of this common sense legislation."

- Lou Chibbaro Jr., Washington Blade, via the internet.

P-FLAG SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AT TCC

"Big" Monthly Meeting: Every 1st Wednesday, 7:45

Spouses and Ex Spouses group: Every 3rd Thursday, 7:30

Deadline for the May News & Views is Saturday, April 12. Material received after this date will not be included in the May newsletter.

NEWS & VIEWS

EDITOR'S DESK

...AND MAKE OUR GARDEN GROW

It is with great joy and satisfaction that, after three years as editor, I put this, my last issue of *News & Views*, to bed and turn the newsletter over to our new Editors: Michele Stone and John DeVecchio.

I am confident that this team will continue to maintain the TCC *News & Views* at the high level of excellence that Connie Cash, Martin Ulmer and I have striven for since its first issue, over seven years ago. In fact, I expect they will make it even better.

For one last time, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the many people who have helped me produce *News & Views* over the past three years: To our many regular contributors, especially Marianne Seggerman and Michael Collins, who have provided news and opinion with dedication and wit. To David Dey, whose artistic talents have given the layout of our newsletter a professional appearance worthy of a commercial magazine. To Damian Kane and Len Horey and their crew of staffers, who have committed themselves to getting the finished product into the mail and to your doorstep on time month after month, and the many volunteers who have helped deliver stacks of newsletters to gay establishments, bookstores and libraries about the community. And, of course, to my partner, Greg Weingardt, who has faithfully proofread each and every newsletter before it went to press, and helped bring our product as close to perfection as possible.

As for myself, I now breathe a great sigh of relief and look forward at last to a summer where every sunny weekend is mine to enjoy, with no deadlines and no commitments. I might even get around to some of those housekeeping chores that have been piling up for the last three years, like cleaning out the closet...

I'll keep my hand in to a limited amount, of course, maintaining the TCC web page and contributing occasionally to the local papers and lesbian news groups on the net. And I've promised Michelle I will continue to provide occasional articles for *N&V*, though I won't commit myself to contributing something every issue.

After twenty years of on-and-off gay activism, I feel I am ready for a period of relative rest and retirement — at least for a while. The image that comes to my mind is the closing chorus of Leonard Bernstein's *Candide*. There the principals, after trying and failing in one adventure after another to make this the best of all possible worlds, finally step back and decide they will be satisfied simply to do the best they know — to "build our house, and chop our wood, and make our garden grow."

See you on the beach.
- Roger Hooverman.

OTHER AREA GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Bare & Gay (B&G) gay nudists	(860) 644-4305
Bisexually Curious Support Group Bpt	(203) 264-5605
Chiltern Mountain Club	(203) 899-0270
Connecticut Kids and Families	(203) 256-8414
Connecticut Freedom to Marry Coalition	(203) 791-9553
40-Up Club. (Social Grp.-call Dale before 10pm)	(203) 261-4019
Gay Fathers Group	(203) 866-7051
Gay Mens Association of Danbury	(203) 778-7016
GEMS (Mature GLBT)	(860) 688-1881
GuideLine (gay/lesbian phone info)	(203) 366-3734
Hartford Community Center	(203) 724 5542
Married Men's Bisexual Suppt Grp Htfd	(203) 262-1555
Metropolitan Community Church	(203) 389-6750
The Loft, White Plains NY,	(914) 948-4922
Triangle Bowling League	(203) 931-8789
Triangle Kids	(203) 255-6229
	(203) 323-6278
Western Connecticut Gay Men's Group	(203) 773-9947

We're glad to list your non-profit gay/lesbian/bi/tg group free of charge. Call (203) 849-1508. Please keep us informed of changes.

WORTH REPEATING

GAY HEAVEN

From the CT Gay Men's Chorus' World Premiere of "Out! - The Whole Story," first performed in New Haven March, 1997. Lyrics by Winston Clark, Music Director.

Lush green forests everywhere
And really, really incredible hair
That's Gay Heaven
Judy Garland at the Emerald Gate
and whoop-dee-doo
It's ten percent straight
That's Gay Heaven

Endless beaches where turquoise waters
Kiss the cool pink sand
Soft sea breezes and rock hard bodies
Perfectly, evenly, perpetually tanned

Laughing at earthly mediocrities
Brunching with Tchaikovsky
Dancing with Socrates
That's Gay Heaven

Jesse Helms all butch and sweaty
And Pat Buchanan's nicknamed "Betty"
That's (Frederick's of Hollywood) Gay Heaven
Hunky waiters and flirty bellmen
Look! in the strapless —
It's Cardinal Spellman
That's (Eleanor Roosevelt) Gay Heaven

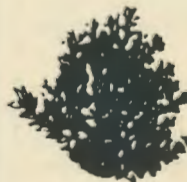
Sexy slow tunes and swanky show tunes
Swing for ever more
One part leather and one part feather
Two parts Eva and Zsa Zsa Gabor

Noel Coward at the eighty-eights
In fact, it's just like Provincetown
without the straights
In James Dean, Jodie Foster
Rock Hudson, Hillary Clinton
Heaven, Heaven, Heaven
Gay Heaven!

Contributors to this issue:

Russ Bain, CT Gay Men's Chorus, Mike Collins, Thomas Jackson, Tom Mariconda, Peter McKnight, Justine Michaud, Michael Pavlicin, Bob Scrofani, Marianne Seggerman, Stianna, Michele Stone, Michele Tesbir.

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NEWS & VIEWS

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NEWS & VIEWS encourages its readers to submit materials of interest to our community, including short articles, letters to the editor, etc. We cannot respond to, or publish, anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit or condense as appropriate to meet space requirements. Authors will be contacted if major revisions are necessary. Please submit to:

NEWS & VIEWS

Michele Stone: Editor	John Delvecchio: Asst Editor
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Phone 316-0333 Fax 964-1133	Mike Collins: Publicity
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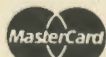
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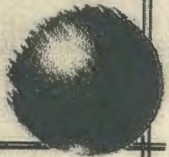
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Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Mar 30 Easter AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6 Bloodroot beer, wine, juice etc 5-7:30	31 Women's Rap 7:30	Apr 1 HIV couns 3:30-6:30 Lesbian Lit Grp 7:30	2 P-FLAG 7:45	3 Men's Rap 7:30 Oral History 7:30	4 40+ Women 7-9 Bowling 8:30 Circle Lanes	5 Business expo NYC Deadline for casino trip reservations
6 AA 9-10 am Whoop brunch OutSpoken 4-6 Sunday at Center Business expo NYC	7 Women's Rap 7:30	8 HIV couns 3:30-6:30	9 Bi Rap Grp 7:30 TCC Board 7:30	10 Men's Rap 7:30	11 Out & About 6:30-8 Bowling 8:30 Circle Lanes	12 It's Elementary, Hartford N&V deadline
13 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6 Casino Bus Trip to Mohegan Sun leaves TCC 10:30	14 Women's Rap 7:30	15 HIV couns 3:30-6:30 Fundraising/Spec Events Comm 7:30	16	17 Mens' Rap 7:30 P-FLAG Spouses & Ex- spouses 7:30	18 40+ Women 7-9 Bowling 8:30 Circle Lanes	19 TCC Friendraiser, Bob's in Norwalk
20 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6	21 Women's Rap 7:30	22 HIV couns 3:30-6:30 Passover begins	23 Bi Rap Grp 7:30 TCC Board 7:30	24 Men's Rap 7:30	25 Bowling 8:30 Circle Lanes Women's Chorus, Southport 8pm	26 Women's Chorus, New Haven 8pm
27 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6	28 Women's Rap 7:30	29 HIV couns 3:30-6:30 Passover ends	30 "Ellen" ABC TV	May 1 Men's Rap 7:30 Oral History 7:30	2 40+ Women 7-9 Bowling 8:30 Circle Lanes Women's Chorus, New Haven 8pm	3 Women's Chorus, Hartford 8pm
4 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6 Sunday at Center	5 Women's Rap 7:30	6 HIV couns 3:30-6:30 Lesbian Lit Grp 7:30	7 P-FLAG 7:45	8 Men's Rap 7:30	9 Out & About 6:30-8 Bowling 8:30 Circle Lanes	10

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GROUPS MEETING AT OR SPONSORED BY TCC

A.A. - Don 762-9964

Bi Rap Group - Peter 838-2806; Robin 358-8391

Connecticut Business Guild - 225-6464

40+ Womens Group - Judy 227-5566

Free Association of Fairfield County - John 268-8858 x304

Gay Men's Rap Group - Dave 838-1881; John 926-8971

Gmosaic (People of Color) - not currently active call TCC 853-0600

Lesbian Literature Reading Group - Michele, 316-0333

Out & About (Gen.X Group) - Jen 736-6417 or Dan 838-2367

OutSpoken (Youth) - Barb 259-8171; Dan 227-1755;

Doug 838-2367

Political Action Group - Michele, 438-4465; Charlie, 226-8652

P-FLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays) -

Joan 544-8724; Lester 322-5380; Belinda 855-1203

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Triangle Bowling League (Circle Lanes, Fairfield) - Lisa 333-3113; Roseann 931-8789

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All meetings are held at the Center and in the evening unless otherwise noted. A \$3 donation per person is appreciated with your participation in activities to help support the Center.

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