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Fifth Freedom, 1978-02-01

The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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Publication of the Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

FEBRUARY 1978

You are most likely surprised to see Fifth Freedom appear as a newsletter. Frankly we, the staff, are not. We have seen this fate coming for the last few months. The decision to abandon the newspaper format was heavily deliberated and made only when we felt that there was neither the manpower nor the energy to publish such a large and demanding paper.

We cannot help but express our disappoint in having had to make such a decision. Fifth Freedom has served the Buffalo gay community for over four years. We are committing ourselves to this newsletter format indefinately. We feel the important thing is to continue to inform our readers of local gay activities, Mattachine events and news items of interest to the Buffalo gay community.

NYSCGO NEWS

John Nehrich, the full-time lobbyist hired by NYSCGO (New York State Coalition of Gay Organizations) to represent gay interests in Albany spoke at the Unitarian Universalist Church on January 22,1978. His appearance was sponsored by the Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier and drew an attendence of about fifty people.

John discussed the need for and priorities of NYSCGO. The primary interset continue to be repeal of the consensua&odomy law and passage of the omnibus gay civil rights bill. A number of small bills to end discrimination on the basis of sexual preference in the areas of housing, civil services, general employment, or in the sale of alcoholic beverages are being introduced. He also revealed that Assemblyman Siegal has agreed to sponsor a bill ending discrimination in determining child custody.

John explained the need for continuing pressure on our legislators by lobbying and letter writing. He told of ways in which we could be effective here in Buffalo, and how we could organize a trip to Abbany to lobby there. He said these methods are very effective, and stresses that the movement at the state level must have "grassroots" support.

As in all the gay movement, money is needed. Three organizations in Region X11(our region) have decided to become members of NYSCGO. There was one individual membership, and two people pledged to become members of the 100 Club. The latter is composed of people who have pledged at least \$100 to NYSCGO. There are about 23 people who are members throughout the state, but many more are needed. If you have any questions or wish to become a member, please call Jim Haynes Interim Coordinator for Region X11 884-8198.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS IN MATTACHINE SOCIETY

At the Jan. 15th meeting of Mattachine Society nominations were open from the floor for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The list of nominees is as follows: President-Claude Gary Vice President-JIm Haynes Secretary-John Good Treasurer-Bart Kane There are two members-at-ærge posts open: 1. From Feb. to Feb.nominees Chuck Nevins Don Licht 2.From Nov. to Nov. As there were no further nominations, nominations were closed until the next meeting. On Sunday Jan.22nominations were reopened, there were no more nominations ,they were closed. Nominations will be open again on Feb. 19. The election will be held on Feb. 19, at the 7:30 General meeting of the Mattachine Society at the Unitarin Church on Elmwood and Ferry. Hope to see you there.

NEW BOX NUMBER

The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier has a new P.O. Box number, it is P.O. Box 1270 EllicottSta. Buffalo N.Y. 14205

HELP! HELP! HELP! MEN

MEN International Womens Day needs help with child care, on March 4th from 10 a.m.-4p.m. at the Puerto Rican Center on Swan ST. Your help will be appreciated.....

HURRICANEANITA'S ON HER WAY!

Up-State New York will be the next location of ANITA BRYANT's latest attempt to preach her message of hate and bigotry. The Stage: An appearance on April 22 in Utica at a banquet sponsored by the Oneida County Right to Life group.

Many organizations across up-state New York are already planning a major demonstration protesting Ms. Bryant"s visit to Utica. NYSCGO will develop preliminary plans for supporting this coalition effort at this weekend"s NYSCGO Board meeting in Albany. <u>Please reserve the weekend</u>. This could be the most improtant nonlegislative event NYSCGO participates in this year-and it is sure to have a direct and important impact on the State Legislature too.

REMEMBER

This month's general membership meeting will be held on February 19,1978 at 7:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Elmwood at West Ferry. Among the topics to be discussed will be the future of this paper.