

Out in the Mountains

VERMONT'S NEWSPAPER FOR LESBIANS, GAY MEN, AND BISEXUALS

Volume VIII, Number 7

OCT 5 1993

October 1993

Jane Spahr, Renowned Lesbian Presbyterian Minister, to Visit Vermont

Torie Osborn to Speak in Burlington



Eric Nichols

Although in 1991, 90% of the members of the Downtown Presbyterian Church in Rochester N.Y. approved of the Reverend Jane Spahr becoming their pastor, a group of ministers from other Presbyterian churches in the area vehemently protested the appointment of a lesbian and brought Reverend Spahr's case to trial. Months later, after two victories for Reverend Spahr at successively higher levels, the decision to allow her call to serve was overturned by a 12:1 vote in the Permanent Judicial Commission of the General Assembly, the highest authority of the Presbyterian Church. Since that decision, Reverend Spahr, supported by the Downtown Church, has been traveling throughout the country speaking about the need for change within the Presbyterian Church and in the world.

Because Reverend Spahr is not only an excellent and highly dynamic speaker (she gave a rousing charge to a packed

large downtown Washington D.C. Presbyterian Church on the morning of this year's Gay Pride March) but a focal person in the struggle for equal rights for all people, her visit to Vermont should serve as another galvanizing force as the lesbigay community and its supporters strive for justice and equality.

While in Vermont, she will speak on two different occasions. On Saturday, October 16, at 7:30 P.M. in Burlington's Unitarian Church, she will speak about "When Communities Listen: The Abundance of Gifts from Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual People". Intended for people of all orientations, her address will be followed by desserts and informal conversation in the Church Parlors. Sponsored by Outright Vermont and P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), tickets, priced on a self-selecting sliding scale from \$5 to \$10, are available through Outright Vermont (865-9677), Burlington's Peace on Earth Store, or at the door.

She will also co-celebrate and give the sermon on Sunday, October 17, at the 9:30 A.M. worship service of Christ Church Presbyterian on the Redstone Campus of UVM. All are welcome to attend. Attire is informal. For questions or directions, call 862-1898. ▼

The Hawaiian Marriage Case: What Does it Mean for Us?

David L. Chambers

Something amazing happened in Hawaii this spring. In May, a majority of the Hawaiian Supreme Court came very close to saying that, so long as men are permitted to marry women, women must be permitted to marry women. The Court stopped short of ordering that same-sex marriages be permitted now. They decided instead that same-sex couples can still be denied the opportunity to marry if, but only if, the state can demonstrate that limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples furthers

Dot Brauer

Torie Osborn is coming to Burlington! Do you realize that Ms. Osborn once attended UVM and holds a degree from Middlebury College? That's right and she will be speaking at both campuses this October, Middlebury College on Monday the 11th and UVM on Tuesday the 12th.

In case the name is not familiar, Torie Osborn, the current Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the nation's largest lesbian and gay organization, is the woman who was making such a splash last April on McNeil Lehrer and other interviews about the March on Washington. She is also largely responsible for organizing the meeting that took place between gay community leaders and President Clinton before the March.

Sound interesting? It will be. Osborn has 27 years of activist experience in the gay community and has a growing national reputation. *The New York Times* says "She looks a bit like Doris Day, but Torie Osborn is closer to tougher cinematic heroines, like those played by Sigourney Weaver." *Los Angeles Times* says "Osborn is a bundle of contradictions: Part Doris Day with an MBA, part raging rebel operating by her own standards." Don't miss her evening appearance Tuesday October 12 at 7:30 pm in the Billings Theater on the UVM campus, free and open to the public. ▼

Continued on Page 8