

Travel

The Highlands Inn *(continued from previous page)*

For those interested in a less ambitious program, the Highlands is a great place to relax, read, nap, take walks, sit by the fire in the winter, or enjoy romantic time with a lover. There is a "couples atmosphere" to the Highlands, and while children are welcome, most parents decide to leave the kids at home with a babysitter.

Many women see the Highlands Inn as a way to meet people, either friends, lovers or other couples. According to Newman, "We have tons of people, literally tons of people, who have met all of their best friends here. It's a nice easy atmosphere, so it's a nice place to meet other folks without

The Highlands Inn is often host to joining ceremonies and receptions, birthday parties, anniversaries and other special events. For instance, there will be a quilting weekend in late May, where participants will make a quilt together in the space of a weekend (no experience necessary). Several times a year there is a couples weekend – a sort of marriage encounter for lesbians, facilitated by a therapist. And this year, after repeated requests, Newman plans to institute a lesbian singles weekend.

Relations with the surrounding community are excellent. In fact, this year the Inn came in first in Bethlehem's seventh

annual Christmas decoration contest. Newman "didn't even know there was a contest until I read in the paper that we'd won it." Local restaurants call Newman to thank her for sending them business. And by now, whenever local merchants see two women together, they just assume they're staying

a week, and when asked why she does it, she says, "First of all, I love the place. I love the land. It's really satisfying to look at it and say, 'This is mine. I've made it what it is.' And the other thing that's really satisfying is the response I get from people. I can't hear too much that people love it. People thank me all the time for having a place for the community, a beautiful country inn for them to be comfortable in and enjoy. Most of the guys who come really enjoy it, even though there aren't many. But for women, it's 'our place.' There's really an identification with it."

For information or reservations, you can call Grace at (603) 869-3978, or write her at the Highlands Inn, Box 118VT, Bethlehem, NH 03574.



Joining ceremonies, quilting bees, and eventually a lesbian singles weekend: all part of the regular calendar of events at the Highlands Inn

a lot of pressure. It's funny, but there are even cases where I thought people knew each other because they've been coming here for ages, and they say 'Oh, no, we met here four years ago!'"

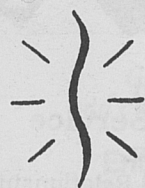
at the Highlands!

The Highlands Inn reflects Grace Newman herself: a casual, warm, friendly woman who laughs a lot and chats easily with her guests. She works about 100 hours

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