

Vermont Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Therapists Meet

Walter I. Zeichner

On June 30th, 18 lesbian, gay and bisexual psychotherapists held a meeting in West Bolton. Three issues were identified as having priority for gay, lesbian and bisexual(g/l/b) clients:

- Boundaries and their role in creating safety while working within a small community;
- Homophobia within the mental health field and the need to identify and provide education to homophobic therapists;
- Ongoing need for peer support, supervision, resource sharing among g/l/b practitioners.

Discussion about boundary issues gave practitioners the opportunity to share views, feelings, and the experience of working with clients in a small community of which one is a member. Questions that were posed included, "Is it necessary to exclude oneself from the g/l/b community in order to maintain appropriate boundaries with clients?" "Does being politically out support my clients or get in their way?" "How do I get my personal needs for community met without interfering with the relationships I have with clients?" While these questions were not all definitively answered, the dialogue was an important foundation for the newly formed group.

Many people remarked on how glad they were to see this gathering happen. There are now many g/l/b therapists in Vermont and coming together was an important step in strengthening the mental health of our community and the Vermont community at large.

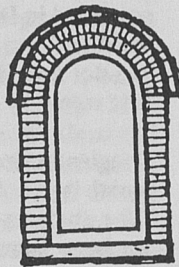
People attending the meeting included private practitioners, people working in community mental health agencies, and educators in the field of psychology. There was a great deal of interest and enthusiasm in forming an ongoing network. The next meeting is scheduled for September 29 at the home of Bill Lippert in Hinesburg. All mental health practitioners are invited. The agenda item will be "How it feels to be out as a therapist." The meeting will begin at 11 am and lunch will be shared. Discussion will follow facilitated by Dot Brauer and Howdy Russell. The group plans to continue meeting on a quarterly basis. Anyone wanting more information can contact Bill Lippert at 482-3528. ▼



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Patricia J. Noll
Psychotherapist

Individual and Group Counseling
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Middlebury, VT 05753

"Lesbian Support Group
Beginning in September"

Janet K. Brown, M.A., C.A.C.
Licensed Psychologist
Certified Alcohol Counselor

Jean Townsend, M.A.
Certified Mental
Health Counselor

- ACOA • IDENTITY ISSUES
 - TRAUMA AND LOSS
 - DEPRESSION
- Individuals Couples Families

Milton, VT
(802) 893-4816

2 Church Street
Burlington, VT
(802) 863-8162

The Passion of Pearls...

- September 1 Labor Day Dance**
7 p.m. downstairs.
- September 6 Women's Buffet & Dance**
\$5.00 5-9 p.m.
- September 8 Men's Tea Dance**
\$3.00 Tea Dance 6 p.m.
- September 11 Pasta Night - All You Can Eat**
\$5.95 6-10 p.m.
- September 15 Two Female Comedians**
9 p.m. \$5.00 cover
- September 21 Ladies Lounge Dance**
\$1.00 7-10 p.m.
- September 28 Fall Ball Charity**
VT C.A.R.E.S.
- September 29 Bingo, Pizza, & Prizes**
8 p.m.

Pearls
135 Pearl St.
Burlington, Vermont

