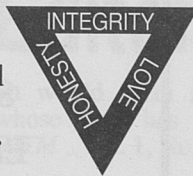


Dr. Tiffany Renaud
and
Dr. Mary C. Spicer



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Carol

About five years ago a group of women, tired of the lack of social activities for lesbians in Central Vermont, decided to venture forth and create some.

The women comprising the informal planning committee wanted the opportunity to meet and to have fun with other Vermont lesbians. A few events were planned and women volunteered to host events at their homes. Other women volunteered to type up newsletters, maintain a membership list, or send out newsletters. Two things were agreed upon: the mailing list would remain confidential and the group's focus would be social. A lesbian household offered to have its phone listed as the contact number for information and directions and the Lesbian Social Club was born.

Once things got rolling, a schedule of sorts evolved. A planning session was held once every four months. The women in attendance developed a calendar of events for the following three months. Activities as diverse as the group's membership were held in locations from Tunbridge to Burlington (with an occasional field trip to places like Gloucester, MA, for whale watching.)

Many brunches later (the goddess of potluck attends many events), the group's name was changed to WOW (Women of the Woods). Some women wanted to be assured of discreet mailings and some just felt that LSC was uninspired. Since then, barbecues, video nights, bike rides, cross country ski outings, and whale watches have been among the activities planned. Recently, the new owners of the Autumn Crest Inn in Williamstown reserved their dining room for a WOW group. About forty lesbians enjoyed fine dining, privacy, and each other's company in a beautiful spot.

At the last planning session, the main topic of discussion was whether or not to continue WOW. After an enthusiastic "YES!", discussion focused on the changes to be made. Limited time, energy, and money dictated the need for some change. Although attendance varies from one WOW event to the next, the responsibilities of planning and organizing kept falling on the same women who understandably got tired. WOW's annual dues (which cover copying and mailing) have remained at \$5.00; the mailing list has grown to about 150 women, some of whom (this reporter included) keep meaning to send in that \$5.00. In response to these constraints, the following changes were made.

Here's what will happen. WOW will continue, but in a slightly different format. On the second Sunday afternoon of every month, beginning on July 12, meetings will be held at rotating locations. The meetings will be an enjoyable opportunity to spend time with women you know and meet those you don't. All lesbians are welcome. At the monthly get together, we will plan events for the next six weeks or so. If you're looking for people to bike, hike, or discuss books with, or are uberinterested in other types of social events, come to a Sunday afternoon social. If you can't make it but want to find out what's on the agenda, or if you want directions or further information, call (802) 229-0109.

Hope to see you sometime soon. ▼