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COALITION NOTES:

BY DAVID GRAMLING

The 5th annual VCLGR conference, **Our Family Reunion: Embracing All Shades of Lavender** will take place on Saturday, November 8th at Rutland High School. This year's Keynote presenter is Karen Williams, nationally known lesbian African-American comedian and educator. Ms. Williams' fabulous presentations combine sex awareness, sexual difference, anti-racism, and social justice in a comic brew which is certain to be a long-remembered event of growth and connection in gay Vermont.

Workshops will include Ms. Williams' "Let's Laugh About Sex", as well as workshops on social justice, second-parent adoption, the current

The Conference is Coming

dynamics of the Vermont Freedom to Marry process, queer youth voices, challenges in glbtq youth service providing, issues in the national media, and Vermont regional and local gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues. The Conference Committee invites any and all to propose workshops or caucuses which work with themes of importance to glbtq people, values, spirits, pets, foods, cultures, identities, futures, and pasts. If you and a friend would like to lead a workshop presentation or facilitate a caucus group discussion, please call David in the next few days at 388-0750. We won't FedEx a proposal form to you, but we'll get one out as quick as possible. Act now, or forever hold your workshop—at least till next year. For those

who've already proposed workshops or caucuses, we will be contacting you by September 25th.

On the day of the conference, elections will be held to create next years VCLGR Board of Directors. Elected one- and two- year positions as well as two Chair positions will be filled at that time. Please consider nominating yourself or a friend for these positions. Please call Judith Lashof at 623-6131 with nominations.

The following is a survey which VCLGR will use to choose new and/or tradition-based directions for the next year. It should take only as long as it takes to drink a hot bev. Please help us out to shape and renew our Coalition vision for 1997-1998.

1. How much do you know about the Vermont Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights?

just a little <-----> quite a lot

2. Would you like to work as a volunteer with the Coalition in any of the following areas:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> planning a spring community event | <input type="checkbox"/> conference planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> political action, lobbying, media work | <input type="checkbox"/> attending board meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> administrative, book-keeping, financial coordination | <input type="checkbox"/> membership campaigns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> liaison with other community or state-wide organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> educational outreach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> If so, which? _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> diversity committee |

- outreach in a particular area or part of the Vermont glbtq community
 coalition with other states' and national gay/lesbian/trans/bi rights organizations

3. Do you feel that the VCLGR's work benefits you or your community? Yes No

If so, what aspects of the VCLGR's work has affected you most positively?

If not, what would you like to see more of?

4. Do you support same-gender marriage? yes no

Explanation?

5. In what ways would you like more contact with the Vermont Coalition?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> coming to board meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> legislative update | <input type="checkbox"/> county or regional community forums |
| <input type="checkbox"/> notice about special events | |

6. Would you like to become a MEMBER of the VCLGR?

- one year (\$15)
 two years (\$25)

7. The VCLGR will present its annual community awards to those folks who've worked with courage, leadership, integrity, and/or sass to pursue rights and freedoms for people in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. Is there someone you have in mind that you'd like to nominate for this honor?

8. Your name, address, phone and/or email:

Please fold this page of *Out in the Mountains* into an envelope and send it on its way to PO Box 1125, Montpelier VT 05602. We thank you very much.

With pride,
VCLGR

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is on the
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