



Susan Arnoff at 1997 "Swim for Life", Provincetown, MA

A Vermont Swim for Life?

BY BENNETT LAW

A full 225 swimmers joined the 1997 Swim for Life in Provincetown, 50 more than last year. The response was so unexpected that organizers ran out of wet suits and bathing caps. Even in its 10th year, the Swim for Life keeps growing.

More and more, Vermonters seem to want their own version of this AIDS fundraising event. Initiation of a Vermont Swim for Life on Lake Champlain, or Lake Elmore has captured the imaginations of a handful of Vermont swimmers. Susan Aranoff, a two-time participant in the Provincetown event, believes this idea "is tremendously viable. There are so many Vermont swimmers who have done other swims and raised funds through their participation - this tells me that there is a huge potential here."

Aranoff has discussed this possibility with Swim for Life coordinator, Jay Critchley. Critchley has already spun off his event to a half-dozen other locales, including a swim in Chesapeake Bay, and is even working internationally now, having founded 'I Swim,' the International Swim for Life.

In exchange for his technical assistance, which includes the names and addresses of regional swimmers, help with the timing mechanisms, provisions for safety of the swimmers, measuring distances, and securing the sanction of the US Masters Swimmers Association, Critchley requires a percentage of the gross funds raised or, alternatively, a flat fee. Aranoff's early budget projections suggest that Critchley's compensation would be the largest up front cost, perhaps as high as half of the total budget. Ironically enough, payment of this fee represents another instance of fundraising dollars flowing out of state.

Anyone with an interest in participating in the organizing of a Vermont Swim for Life may contact Bennett Law in care of this paper, or at (802) 234-9344. All interested will be heartily welcomed to participate in a planning session later this fall!

COALITION NOTES:

Can we talk? - it's been ages!

Coming together is something we rarely get a chance to do in the Vermont GLBT community. For those who were able to make it to Burlington Pride this year, walking together with friends, kids, parents, scheming and screaming with pride about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender lives, lives of women and men, differently-abled lives, white lives, Dominican lives, French-Canadian lives, feminist lives, Black American lives, and Jewish lives, we were reminded of what it is to be together. In most every sense of the experience, it was worth the trip.

On November 8th, the annual statewide VCLGR conference will be another of these shared locations among us. Veteran queers, gay men, bisexuals, transpeople, queer youth, lesbians, parents, college queers are all where this thing is at. Our Family Reunion: Embracing all Shades of Lavender extends an invitation to your life, your family, your needs, and yes, your politics.

Be with us for nationally-known lesbian and African-American comedian Karen William's keynote presentation on sex awareness, humor, and social justice. Throughout the day of the conference, local healers, vendors, craftspeople, and community non-profits will have tables for folks to explore and connect with. The range of workshops will include the following subjects, and more: Let's laugh about sex, Queer youth speak-out, the Freedom to Marry in Vermont, obtaining domestic partner benefits in your company, adoption, building a queer community, revolution and relaxation, gays in the Holocaust, OITM's role in the gay community, second-hand religion to first-hand spirituality, Radical Faeries, gay activism and AIDS activism, and healing in lesbian relationships. Karen William's first VCLGR appearance will take place the evening before the conference, on-stage at Middlebury College, half-way between Burlington and Rutland. (FMI, call David, 388-0750)

The afternoon Town Meeting will reintroduce the work of the VCLGR and its Board of Directors for 1996-1997. Also at this time, the one- and two- year terms of service on the Board will be open for nomination and election. Please consider nominating yourself or a friend (18 years of age or older) to be a Boardmember for 1997-1998, and be a part of VCLGR's continuing missions and changing visions. Nominations for the Board, as well as nominations for the VCLGR courage, leadership, and volunteer of the year awards are welcome at 623-6131.

Coffee and muffins will be served at 8:30 am on the 8th. We realize the significant travel involved for many Vermonters in attending the conference, and we would like to make mention of the special conference-rate of \$49/night at the Rutland Holiday Inn. For people coming to Karen William's pre-conference comedy show at Middlebury College on Friday evening, the Holiday Inn (802-775-0113) might be a good place to catch a full nine hours of sleep.

The VCLGR would like to express its gratitude to the people and organizations who have supported us in preparation for the 5th annual statewide conference. We're looking forward to seeing you.

COME EARLY, GAY, ALONE, AND TOGETHER.

Please pre-register with Charlotte Gladding. (438-2023)

In Pride,
Vermont Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights

One way to facilitate the involvement of a broader population of Vermonters in community fundraising is to create opportunities for individuals to engage their personal interests, talents, and enthusiasm; the importance of developing fundraising events that spark real interest in its participants is crucial to their success. As the AIDS Rides have demonstrated, there is a population likely to be intensely interested in undertaking a border-to-border bike ride, say from Canada to Massachusetts. Are there folks interested in developing this as a community fund-raiser, perhaps as a PRIDE event, or to benefit Out in the Mountains or Outright Vermont? Let us know here at OITM, and we will help connect interested parties.

Eagle Group Soars at IBM

continued from front page

EAGLE hopes to promote a sense of community among members, to serve as an information resource on lesbian and gay issues, and to recognize and communicate contributions made by and/or for lesbian and gay employees. Other goals of EAGLE are to be a resource for IBM in identifying and maximizing business relationships in gay and lesbian markets and participate in corporate, location, and community projects. The Burlington Chapter was formed in July. The question of who can be a member of is best expressed in the first article of the by-laws:

"Membership in the EAGLE for IBM Employees - Burlington Chapter shall be defined as those members of EAGLE for IBM Employees working in the Burlington area, as well as those working in nearby areas that do not have their own local Chapter. Regular members include IBM US employees who are full-time, part-time, on a flexible work leave of absence, supplemental, or retired and vendors or subcontractors who work for IBM US. Guest members include community constituents, IBM customers, the partners and family members of regular members, and other guests.

IBM employees interested in becoming a member of EAGLE may contact one of the group representatives listed here.

For EAGLE information, contact either Mary Alice Schatzle at (802) 769-4835 (maschatz@us.ibm.com), or Jim Leavens at (802) 769-4413 (jleavens@us.ibm.com). For IBM employees with intranet web access, check out the EAGLE web site (<http://pdcarey.pok.ibm.com/EAGLE/eagle.html>).



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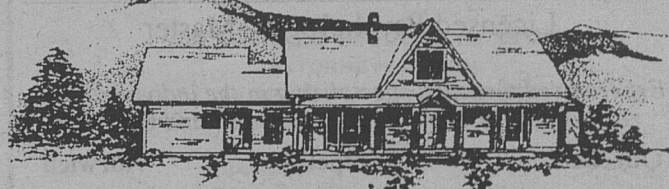


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