

forefront of countless Gay Pride parades, using the power of collective human voices to celebrate and affirm our joy at who we are, and to impart this sense of joy and fun to others.

In order that our new chorus may more fully take advantage of this

p.m. Anyone interested in joining the Board or offering input is welcome to attend. Those wishing to be considered as performing members of the chorus are asked to be prepared for private auditions with the Director. The choice of audition music is up to the participant.

The gathering will also include an opportunity for group singing. Accompaniment and sheet music will be provided. Attendees are encouraged to bring along music and/or suggestions for the group-sing portion of this gathering as well.

The organizers welcome additional input from all comers (even non-singers, since there are a lot of tasks off-stage as well, including fundraising, scheduling, etc.). For those unable to attend this meeting, future auditions are planned which will be announced in these pages. It is anticipated that future auditions will take place in various areas of Vermont, to accommodate as many prospective member as possible, times/places to be announced.

To participate in the performing arm of the Chorus, individuals will be required to demonstrate a degree of musical/vocal talent, however, no formal musical training is required. Some musical notation skills will be expected on the part of members as the Chorus grows in size and repertoire, but those with even rudimentary musical notation skills will not be excluded. The organizers plan to provide some remedial and basic training in this area as needed.

*For further information or to offer input/suggestions/donations, interested parties can either phone us at 802-229-2160 (Tim Tavcar, Director), or contact us via email at robynyves@together.net or, if preferred, via snail mail: Tim Menk, PO Box 69, South Ryegate, VT 05069-0069*

## "Hallelujah! Vermont finally has enough harmonious homos to start a chorus."

strong world-wide movement, the Board of Directors has voted to apply for membership in GALA Choruses, Inc., located in Washington, DC. This organization provides excellent resources and opportunities for networking among its over 170 member-choruses, which consist of over 10,000 gay and lesbian singers. The current member-choruses range from a five-voice group to a 252 member chorus.

The motto of GALA Choruses is "Our Voices Win Freedom". For anyone who's interested, mark your calendars for the week-long Festival 2000, to be held July 22-30, 2000 in San Jose, California, it will be the largest gathering (and group sing—6,000+ voices) in the history of gay and lesbian choruses. If prior GALA events are any indication, this one's going to be extraordinary.

On Sunday, September 13, at the UU Church at 134 Main St. in Montpelier, the first general meeting of The Vocal Minority will be held from 4 to 7 p.m.. All interested parties are cordially invited to attend. The general meeting will be preceded by an open Board meeting to be held at 3:30

**DON'T FORGET:  
Saturday, October 17th at  
Lyndon State College  
NOËL AND YOLANDA will  
team up for a special show  
benefitting OITM. See  
October OITM for more  
details.**

## Umbrella Benefit A Success

In a concert benefiting Umbrella, Noël and The Bad Puppy Trio (Becky Canedy, Cathy Sargent & Pat Webster) performed to an enthusiastic and appreciative audience on Saturday, August 1st, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Johnsbury Academy's Fuller Hall. The Academy graciously waived its usual fee for the use of Fuller Hall, St. Johnsbury's most popular venue, as a gesture of support for the event.

Noël embraced the crowd with a fine voice, hearty humor and a glamorous look. His appearance bore witness to what can only be



described as pure gender illusion. And to top it off was the fabulous blend of voices created by the Trio. To quote a first-time audience member: "Marvelous! I thoroughly enjoyed the show! Noël's voice is superb, his backup singers angelic, and the whole package was tantamount to anything presented on any stage anywhere. Thank you for telling me about this event, and I am extremely glad I came."

To date the net proceeds, after expenses, from this benefit total well over \$500. Even though the fund raiser has come and gone, it's

not too late to watch what happened. Kingdom Access Television (KATV) was on hand to film the show and is currently airing it on Helicon Cablevision's public access channel 2. Check the viewing schedule listed regularly on channel 2 and in the Caledonian Record. If you are not in this viewing area, write or call KATV and request it be shown on your local cable system. If you'd like to make a donation to Umbrella you may do so by sending it directly to them at 16 Main St., St. Johnsbury, VT 05819. For bookkeeping purposes, please mention you saw the show.

## Celebration of Mutual Aid Set for September 26th

BY NEIL HEIMS

In a time when most social, sexual, economic, political and moral thought is shaped in terms established by a conservative agenda, it is essential for all of us who long for and are working towards a life governed by voluntary cooperation and dedicated to human liberation to gather ourselves together to inspire each other by our strength and vitality, by the breadth of our thought and the depth of our vision and by the authenticity of our dedication.

The Institute for the Development of Cultural Awareness and Change, — an activist organization

dedicated to reconceptualizing our social, sexual, institutional, moral and economic axioms for the purpose of creating a society governed by Mutual Aid rather than Coercion, Punishment and Competition — is organizing a Festival to mark this time for rededication and a new beginning with a Festive Celebration, Saturday, September 26, 1998, in Burlington, Vt.

The Festival will start at one in the afternoon in Burlington City Hall Park. There will be live music and panels focusing on issues of control and liberation. Panelists will include Grace Paley, Will Miller, Iren Smolarski, Chris Moes, Orin Langel, Peggy Luhrs, Marc Estrin Oak

LoGalbo and John Douglas. The evening program, beginning at seven forty-five in Contois Auditorium, will include a performance piece by Steve Ben Israel, whose show non-violent executions recently played at The Theater for the New City in Manhattan. Following him Judith Malina, co-founder, with the late Julian Beck, of The Living Theater will speak. There will be a break between afternoon and evening events for a community meal at the Food Shelf at 228 North Winooski Avenue at five thirty.

Admission to all events is free. For further information, please call 802.658.6862 or e-mail idcac@together.net.

### 23 WEDNESDAY

**Montpelier** - Central Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force meeting on Sept. 23, 7 p.m., VT CARES office, 73 Main St.

### 24 THURSDAY

**Middlebury** - Food and fun at Neil and Otto's Pizza Cellar, Merchant's Row, 6:30pm. Everyone welcome. Board games kids of all ages and the chance to just hang out for those who can't take the competition. FMI: Barb - 388-8298 or wordsrus@together.net

### 25 FRIDAY

**Montpelier** - Harm Reduction Overview Course: Taking Drug Users Se-

riously. 9am-4pm (will begin PROMPTLY at 9am). Registration will begin at 8am Capitol Plaza Conference Center, State Street, Cost: \$25, includes lunch and CEUs. Featured speaker Edith Springer is a nationally known speaker and trainer from the New York-based Harm Reduction Training Institute and has spent her career working with marginalized populations in the areas of drug treatment, HIV prevention and care, and harm reduction. For more information: Contact Rachel Lurie at 1-800-244-7639 or 651-1534. Email: rlurie@vdh.state.vt.us

### 26 SATURDAY

**Albany, NY** - Albany Pride Event: 5-8 pm, A family potluck for parents and children sponsored by Lambda Family Circle. FMI CDGLCC, PO Box 131, Albany, NY 12201 516-462-6138, ext. 32.

**Burlington** - OITM stuffing, 10 am. Come help mail out your community paper, some socializing is allowed. Outright Office, Corner of Winooski Ave. and College St. above Nan Patrick.

**Burlington** - Mountain Pride Media Board Meeting, 1 pm. Open to the public. FMI: 865-294

**Burlington** - The Institute for the Development of Cultural Awareness and Change presents A Celebration of Mutual Aid. Afternoon in City Hall Park from 1 to 4:45, live music; Panels on the drug war, ecology, pacifism, media, anger and depression. Evening from 7:45 to 11:30, in Contois Auditorium Katherine Quinn, folk singer, Steve Ben Israel, NYC performing artist, Judith Malina, co-founder of The Living Theater. A community meal from 5:30 to 7:00 at the Food Shelf at

228 North Winooski Ave. Admission to all events is free. For further info call 802.658.6862 or e-mail idcac@together.net.

**St Johnsbury** - 12:30pm, AIDS Walk. Starts and ends at Courthouse Park. FMI: <http://homepages.together.net/~rwold/AIDSWalk98.htm>

### 27 SUNDAY

**Albany, NY** - Albany Pride Event: 6-8 pm, Cabaret Show. FMI: CDGLCC, PO Box 131, Albany, NY 12201 516-462-6138, ext. 32.

**Burlington** - The First Congregational Church, 11am, Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force representatives will be speaking following the Church's regular service. FMI Wendy Beinert 802 652-0723

### 28 MONDAY

**Albany, NY** - Albany Pride Event: Gay Teens Straight From the Heart: a panel discussion on teen suicide. FMI: CDGLCC, PO Box 131, Albany, NY 12201 516-462-6138, ext. 32.

**Albany, NY** - Albany Pride Event: 7 pm, Healing celebration at Emmanuel Baptist Church Social Hall. FMI: CDGLCC, PO Box 131, Albany, NY 12201 516-462-6138, ext. 32.

## CALENDAR

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