

## Lesbian Community Project Update

*April is the kick-off month for LCP's membership drive. It's official. The by-laws (rules governing and structuring the organization) have been approved.*

The process for developing the by-laws involved many open community meetings at which a wide variety of women contributed their ideas. The goal of this process was to design an organization that will be responsive to as many women's needs and visions as possible. Heartfelt thanks go to everyone who participated.

It's easy to become a member. After paying a modest fee you'll be eligible to vote and run for the board of directors. Campaigning and elections will happen throughout May. As a member, you'll receive the newsletter, special discounts, and invitations to member-only events. For more information call 233-9079.

LCP has attracted the participation and energy of many Lesbians. Women from very different backgrounds and perspectives are joining together to create a truly broad-based, multi-cultural organization that is representative of many segments in the Lesbian Community.

Every woman finds her own reason for getting involved; below, three LCP'ers share their answer to the question, "Why did you get involved in LCP?"

I became involved with LCP as a direct consequence of the first Lesbian conference.

I moved out here from NYC four years ago and settled in the SW suburbs. I had

been very active in NY's political community for several years and our move out here was a welcome quiet change at first. As time went on, both I and my lover felt the disquieting absence of political awareness among our new friends.

I think I'm homesick the most during Lesbian/Gay Pride Week as none of our friends here have been interested in "going to the parade" and I often remember all of my friends back in NY saying, "See ya at the march." Lesbian Pride Week was always an uplifting, energizing experience. The week was packed with evening activities all over the city, with a huge Lesbian dance held the night before the march.

At any rate, we sort of settled into non-political activity over the last two years and suddenly there was news of a lesbian conference in Portland (we read about it in *Just Out*). We were so impressed with all of the work that was put into it, the women involved, the speakers and those who attended, it was just what we both needed and at the right time. So here I am! (RG)

Hi, my name's Sallee Huber, and I'm one of LCP's token perverts. Originally an almost innocent refugee from Montana, I am now heavily involved in both the political and social aspects of the leather community, as well as many other Lesbian/Gay activities and organizations. I'm an almost 29-year-old pagan/Jewish Aries

who sometimes wishes that about half of what is attributed to my reputation was actually true and that the other half would get grounded in some reality.

I initially became involved with the LCP on an informal basis as a writer for the Gay/Lesbian press, and a facilitator for the S/M workshop held during the LCP's first Lesbian conference in November. I entered with some amount of hesitation and suspicion as I'd felt disenfranchised and ostracized by the "politically correct" feminist community for a long time.

Though there are still some occasional attitude problems, I found to my pleasant surprise that this particular group was truly willing to work with Lesbians of widely diverse backgrounds and beliefs. After feeling cut off from mainstream feminist efforts for so long, I found that I really missed working with other Lesbians on our own issues and concerns. Doing it by ourselves, for ourselves, was a special feeling and I was glad to be involved again. (Sallee Huber)

As a woman of color and a lesbian in Portland's community for the last ten years, I had often felt a disconnection from "mainstream" lesbian-feminist politics and organizations. I began to feel I didn't "belong" or "fit in" and conformity was necessary if I wanted to belong.

Struggles around racism in the "community" (community is a term I use loosely because no real community existed; it was so fragmented) had been divisive, explosive — resulting in regressive behavior. My sporadic involvement in the community was unsatisfying and unfulfilling and eventually I became totally uninvolved and moved to a little house in far Northeast

Portland with my cats. I was burned out. I put my Sappho Slugger tee shirts away, retired my mitt and felt I was saved from ever having to reach consensus again.

Well, I was "fired up" again at the Lesbian Community Conference in November of '86 and felt that the potential for a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, truly diverse community actually existed. A woman of color caucus formed at the conference and for the first time in years I felt a strong connection with other lesbian women of color who supported and respected one another. We have collectively and individually taken an active role in LCP committees and activities.

It's exciting, exhausting and ultimately satisfying for me — we are making history and I want to be a part of it. I feel LCP is an organization that is taking form, shape and direction and I want to use my talents, abilities and energies to help make it happen. (Anita Quiton)

YES! WE GIVE YOU THE BEST OF WHAT WE KNOW

- Wardrobe Color Analysis and Consultation
- Half & Full Hour Therapeutic Massage Sessions
- A Full Range of Natural & Chemical Hair Design Possibilities



For an Appointment  
Call 236-1607  
8707 SE 17th  
Open Tuesday-Saturday  
Gift Certificates Available

**Cotton Cloud Futon Co.**

- All cotton futons
- Futon covers, pillows, accessories
- Custom built frames, and furniture

Come by or call  
Terri 234-6567  
3125 E. Burnside

**Unique, original gifts in our gallery**

- fabric art & toys
- ceramic sculpture

### PEOPLE'S



A NATURAL FOOD STORE.

3029 S.E. 21st  
Portland, Oregon 97202  
(1 block north of Powell Blvd.)  
Tri-Met bus #9  
phone 232-9051

Open 10-8, Monday to Saturday  
12-7, Sunday



**1/2 ACRE + Custom Built \$75,000**  
Panoramic View of Wash. hills.  
2 bdrm, 1-2/3 bath, 1844 sq. ft.  
with finished lower level. Private  
backyard with extra gardening  
income potential.

#### French Parlour, \$38,950

Quiet corner lot. Good floor plan.  
Woodstove. Charming and efficient.  
3 bdrm, 1 bath. Fenced backyard with shop  
or outbuilding.

2305 NE Broadway Portland, OR 97232



**BRIDGETOWN  
REALTY**  
287-9370

**We celebrate International Womens Day every day of the year.**



"In search of our mother's gardens we find our own."

Alice Walker

**A Woman's Place**  
*Feminist bookstore and more*

1431 NE BROADWAY  
284-1110