

My Experience At The National Equality March

By Maria, a.k.a. Mizz M

So many things had been speculated about the National Equality March that took place on October 11, and there had been so much controversy and hastiness in throwing it together that no one was sure how well it would go. Well, despite all the trouble leading up to it, the march went off amazingly well, and I had a blast.

On Sunday morning, I was supposed to meet the bisexual groups that were marching at a coffee shop not far from where the march was supposed to start. I took the subway into town with another bi friend, and on the way in we ran into two guys who were together and also were going to the march. They saw our bi flags and asked what they stood for. We told them, and they responded that it made sense and they



were glad to see us out. I had also heard on the radio an announcer had been interviewing one of the organizers of the march, and the announcer had called it the “gay and lesbian march” and the organizer had corrected him “gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender” march. I was amazed, and I hoped these were good omens!

We met at the coffee house. There were four official bisexual groups: BinetUSA, the New York Area Bisexual Network, the DC Bi Women, and BIMA DC, and three of them brought banners. Overall, there were about 25 of us total that showed up there. I had hoped there would be a bigger turnout, but I

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Bi-Inclusion in the Boundless Program at Fenway Health

By Julie Ebin

Boundless: Events promoting holistically healthy lesbian and bisexual women's communities. Transgender-friendly. Unless otherwise stated, all events are for lesbians, dykes, bisexual and pansexual women, MtFs, genderqueer folks, and same-gender-loving women but people of all genders and orientations are invited to attend. All Boundless events are FREE.

When I started the Boundless queer women's wellness series in 2004, I wanted to make sure that Boundless would be bi-inclusive, meaning not only explicitly welcoming bisexual women in name as part of the intended audience, but also trying to walk the fine line of making the content and format inclusive of bi women, while still being queer-focused in content (i.e. info that queer women could not get elsewhere, or topics that they would feel more comfortable discussing in a queer women's workshop or event). The approach I took was to both have queer-women focused events that included information relevant to bi women (e.g. our HPV event a few years ago included information about sexual transmission and prevention of HPV between women, and also between women and men), and also having some multi-gendered bi events, because many bi folks enjoy

or prefer socializing in mixed-gender bi/queer environments. Our initial series consisted of four trans-friendly, women-focused events per year, with the occasional “open to all” event thrown in, and later when we were able to collaborate more with Fenway's men's wellness series, Living Well, we were able to have two gender-free, bi-focused events per year.

Boundless event topics, which have often come from community members, have ranged from physical well-being (“HPV from Woman to Woman: The 411 on the Vaccine and More;” “Getting Flashed: The Before, During, and After of Menopause), to mental health and bi community support (“Fighting Biphobia: What You Can Do [for bi folks and allies];” “Home for the Holidays: A One-Time Support Group”), to relationship and dating concerns (“Getting the Queer Sex You Want [And Not the Sex You Don't Want];” “Women – Is Your Partner/Boyfriend/Girlfriend Trans? A One-Time Support Group”).

Other bi-specific events have included the first-ever Boundless event (before Boundless even got its name): “Bisexuality. Feminism. Heterosexual Privilege. Our Bodies.” (with Robyn Ochs – this was a powerhouse kick-off event with over 50 people attending), and later, “So How's

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HONOR ROLL

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Sarah Prager
Sarah Viera
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And many more
fabulous people!
You know who
you are!

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From your editor

The theme of this issue is "Bi Health." Related to this theme, we offer essays by Jen Bonardi, Julie Ebin, Paige Listrud, Neelima Prabhala and Mike Szymanski.

In addition, Mizz M, a.k.a. Maria, offers a bi perspective on the National Equality March, Sarah E. Rowley reviews M+04EVR, and Martina Robinson shares a poem with us.

Our "Bis Around the World" feature takes us to Portugal, our Bi of the Month is the amazing Deb Morley, and of course, we offer our fabulous calendar of events in the Boston area.

**Remember, fabulous women:
this is YOUR newsletter. Please
consider supporting us with
your dollars (if you have any).**

**Please read the important
announcement on page 16.**

And please consider writing something for
the next issue!

Bi for now,
Robyn



Bi brunch at Lucy's

Next in Bi Women

The theme for the Spring '10 issue:

Bi Youth

If you are a young bi person, 25 or under, tell us your story. What is it like to be you? How did you come to identify as bisexual? Where did you learn about bisexuality? Was there a Gay/Straight Alliance in your high school? Are your friends accepting of your bisexuality? What about your family? Do you have any bi role models? Where do you get support? What advice would you give to other young people who think they might be bi?

**Submissions to the next issue
are due by February 5th.**

*Send your submissions and
suggestions for future topics to biwomeneditor@gmail.com*

Upcoming themes will include:

Trans/Gender; Fantasy; Choice; Out at
Work; Faith & Religion; Intersectionality;
and more.

Submit to Bi Women!

Send articles, calendar entries, letters,
poems, black-and-white art, news,
and views to:

Bi Women:
biwomeneditor@gmail.com

If you do not want your name published, or
wish to use a pseudonym, please tell us.

**Bi Women can be found online
at biwomenboston.org.**

The Boston Bisexual Women's Network is a feminist, not-for-profit collective organization whose purpose is to bring women together for support and validation. It is meant to be a safe environment in which women of all sexual self-identities, class backgrounds, racial, ethnic and religious groups, ages, abilities and disabilities are welcome. Through the vehicles of discussion, support, education, outreach, political action and social groups related to bisexuality, we are committed to the goals of full acceptance as bisexuals within the gay and lesbian community, and to full acceptance of bisexuality and the liberation of all gay and transgender people within the larger society.

Bis Around the World: "Paula": the Portuguese Word for Bi Activist?

By Robyn Ochs

From July 16 through August 4, 2009, I did a European book tour to promote the new second edition of *Getting Bi*. In Oporto, Portugal, I was warmly welcomed into the home of Paula Antunes, Sofia Fonseca and their daughter Mariana. Of the first three Portuguese bi activists I had met, two were named "Paula." This led me to wonder for a moment: are *all* bi activists in Portugal named "Paula"? The answer is obviously, "no." But Paula Valenca, who has an essay in *Getting Bi*, and Paula Antunes, interviewed below, are the most prominent bi activists in Portugal. Here is an interview with Paula Antunes:

Robyn Ochs: Paula, please tell us about yourself.

Paula Antunes: I was born 33 years ago in a small town in Portugal. I love my country, bikes, reading and could spend all day long getting to know someone or something new.

RO: How did you come to identify as bi? How old were you? Who did you tell?

PA: My coming out happened quite late. I was 20 when I realized that women attracted me. For some time – a couple of years – I identified myself as a lesbian, before I realized that I was actually a bisexual woman. That was quite hard because – and I have to admit this – I had problems with the idea of not being straight or gay. At the time, the idea of being "in between" was really difficult. Over time I ended up realizing that bisexuality is a sexual orientation as valid as any other. Talking with my best friends helped me in dealing with this question, as their reaction was actually better than mine. (smiles)

RO: What is your religious background, and what impact did this have on your

coming out? Did it make it harder or easier? In what ways?

PA: I studied twelve years in catechesis in order to become a catechist. I sang in the church and I was responsible for one of the groups in MCE (Catholic Student's Movement) – a large organization of Catholic youth, so, yes I have to say that I had a religious background. Strangely enough this did not have a negative effect on my coming out. Maybe because at MCE we had Christ's philosophy, "love one another, no matter what," and that was much stronger than the church's point of view on homosexuality.



RO: You are a key activist in Portugal's LGBT movement. How did you become an activist? How did you first get involved in activism?

PA: My parents always told me, since I was five or six years old, that I was an activist. Apparently I fought racism and sexism since I was little, so growing up it was natural for me to continue to fight and change what is wrong in causes in which I believe. Homophobia is just one more wrong in my path. About 10 years ago, shortly after the first LGBT organizations appeared in Portugal, I started working with them, and I still do. (smiles)

RO: Are there bi organizations in Portugal?

PA: There is currently only one Bi organization in Portugal, which is PontoBi, with a website at www.pontobi.org. It started about four years ago in Braga and Oporto, with monthly meetings. It took a while for people to show up. Today Braga's group is "on pause" and Oporto meetings have usually 10-15 persons.

RO: You have been an activist for several years. What motivates you to stay involved?

PA: Simple. I cannot stand being part of a society that is not fair and do nothing about it. I believe that every citizen has not only the right, but also the duty to fight for a better world. When I was young, I had no chance of being fully me, since my sexual orientation was "taboo." This is something I do not want my daughter – or your children – to have to endure.

RO: As a bi woman, do you feel fully accepted by your fellow activists?

PA: Most of the time, yes. But there is clearly biphobia even amongst activists, and – I hate to have to say this – mostly homosexual ones. I don't quite understand why, but bisexuality is not yet well understood. The Portuguese LGBT movement is small, and bisexuals are an integral part of the movement, but as a bi activist, I have to say that there is much room for improvement.

RO: Why are you and Sofia being such wonderful, amazing, fabulous, excellent hosts to me as I sit here in your living room?

PA: (laughs) That's just you being nice to me. But, I have to agree with you about Sofia. She is clearly an excellent host.

Paula, continues on next page

Bis Around the World, continued from p. 3

RO: *What good things do you have to say about Sofia?*

PA: She was my wife, and I love her deeply. We are no longer a couple, and our love is no longer romantic love, but nonetheless we share a home and a deep, strong, lifelong love. Just don't let her know this. *(smiles)*

RO: *I will be sure to send her a copy of this interview! Do you have contacts with bi and/or LGT activists in other countries? Does your knowledge of or contacts with bi or LGBT activism in other countries influence your activism here?*

PA: Some contacts, yes. From UK, France, USA and mostly Galicia, Spain [the region of Spain closest to Oporto]. It has influenced my activism here because every time I have the chance to get to know someone new, or share information



LGBT activists in Portugal. Paula Valenca is far left, and Paula Antunes center.

with the ones I already know, I learn something new that can be used in Portuguese LGBT activism, and vice-versa. This is of course a huge advantage.

HELP WANTED

BBWN is an all-volunteer organization. Below is a list of volunteer opportunities. If there is one that interests you, please contact Robyn (biwomeneditor@gmail.com) for more information.

STUDENTS:

Are You Looking for an Internship?

Are you looking for an internship during the school year or over the summer? BBWN and the Bisexual Resource Center may have something for you! Contact president@biresource.net.

Host a Brunch

BBWN potluck brunches are a great way to meet other bi women in the Boston area. We try to hold a brunch in a member's home each month so that people can relax and share food and experiences in a safe space.

Be Our Brunch Diva

Take responsibility for scheduling and serving as point person for our monthly potluck brunches. We schedule brunches 3 months in advance, and we already have brunches lined up through June. This is a very easy -- but important! -- job.

Want to Get Involved With Bi Women?

I'm looking for someone to help produce Bi Women. Possible roles include: Arts & Culture editor, Guest Editor for an issue on a specific theme, or Assistant Editor (if you want to learn the ropes). Thanks to the miracles of modern technology, you do not have to live in Boston.

Be Our Mailing Diva

Take responsibility for scheduling and coordinating our quarterly newsletter stuffings.

... Or Just Show Up to a Mailing

Have fun. Stuff newsletters. Socialize and chat. Get fed.

Do You Know Web Design?

We're looking for someone to maintain biwomenboston.org, our new website, which uses WordPress. It's the perfect volunteer job, as you can do it from home, in your pajamas, or even in your birthday suit.

Pre-Pride Brunch

Most years, BBWN hosts a brunch on the morning of Boston's LGBT Pride Day (June 12th, this year). We're looking for a woman or three to coordinate this event.

And finally (this will be fun!):

Next year is the BRC's 25th anniversary and we're gearing up to build a killer float for 2010's Boston Pride Parade in honor of this auspicious milestone. If you're interested in being a part of the float committee, or if you have an idea for a float concept, please contact Carla at carla@imperial-jewett.com. We will be holding several planning sessions starting in December or January."

Our goal: instead of 2 or 3 women doing 100 hours of work each, is to have 100 women doing 2 or 3 hours each.

The Bi Health Summit

By Julie Ebin

The 2009 Bi Health Summit was a one-day pre-conference institute (and preceding evening reception) to the 2009 National LGBTI Health Summit, which addressed bisexual health concerns and those of non-bi-identified multi-sexual women and men. It was held in Chicago, IL on August 13 and 14, and attended by about 65 people.

The organizing committee included two Boston bi women: Jen Bonardi (Co-Chair) and Julie Ebin (Co-Chair), and three others: Luigi Ferrer (Miami, FL/Co-Chair), Stewart Landers (Boston, MA) and Ed Negrón (Chicago, IL).

Our activities included bisexual and bi ally visibility efforts at the Bi Health Summit and the LGBTI Health Summit, including a reporting-back on the Bi Health Summit at one of the LGBTI Health Summit plenaries, the self-selecting use of “Bi” and “Bi Ally” stickers on registrants’ name tags, educational materials about recognizing and reducing biphobia and about the bisexual flag, and the noticeable presence of Bi Health Summit tee-shirts at the LGBTI Health Summit.

I opened the Bi Health Summit by thanking the organizers of the Bi Health Summit and the organizers of the LGBTI Summit for helping to make this happen. Cheryl Dobinson delivered her keynote address “Top Ten Bisexual Health Issues: What Current Research Tells Us.” Stewart Landers also presented data on bisexuality and health in Massachusetts. A key point is that we now know more about our community through population-based surveys, including the fact that among lesbians, gay men and bisexuals, there are as many people who identify as bisexual as there are people who identify as lesbian and gay combined. Put another way, of those who identify as lesbian, gay or bi, 50% identify as bi. Further, among bisexuals, this is roughly 2/3 female and 1/3 male and among lesbians/gay men the ratio is reversed – 2/3 male and 1/3 female. (Apologies to transgender people who identify outside of a gender binary and to people who use other sexual identity terms, such as queer. The research producing these statistics looks only at four common sexual identity terms [straight, bisexual, gay and lesbian], and summarizes findings based on female and male genders). This 50%

statistic is an important piece of information that is now becoming more commonly acknowledged among researchers and needs to be disseminated more widely.

A small but growing body of research comparing the health of bisexuals, lesbians and gays, and heterosexuals suggests that bisexuals have worse outcomes than monosexual groups in several areas including alcoholism, drug use, depression and other mental illness, smoking, suicide ideation and violence victimization. The important take-home message is that researchers should do all they can to consider bisexuals as distinct from lesbians/gays in their analyses, so we can continue to learn more about differences among the sexual orientations.

Presentation topics ranged from bisexual health disparities, educating health providers about bisexual health, the need for bi-inclusive HIV awareness campaigns, bisexual inclusion in student LGBT groups at a health professions school, bisexual mental health and stigma in women and in African American men, a performance piece and training on bisexual men of color, and a train-the-trainer session on a curriculum-based bisexual support group.

At the end of the Summit and via the bisexual caucus, there were several individuals and group commitments to next steps. One goal is to establish a definition of Bisexual Health. Another committed to continue her work as a trainer and public speaker on Bisexual Health. A third was to have as many of us as possible sign up for the Bi Health Group on Yahoo. To sign up, go to Yahoo groups and search for “BiHealth,” or send an email to BiHealth@yahoo.com.

Finally there was discussion about including the next Bi Health Summit as part of the next LGBTI Health Summit in 2011. People agreed with this. It was also suggested that more lesbian and gay health events be infused with substantial bisexual content. There was also a strong voice in the final session to make the Bi Health Summit more trans-inclusive. One suggestion, to address and treat people holistically, may be what is needed to improve awareness of bisexual health issues and be respectful of each person’s identity. As a result of the LGBTI Summit plenary report-back, there was a suggestion to include in future efforts more discussion of bisexual community strengths and positive health actions instead of focusing only on problems and deficits.



Presentations, bios, the Summit schedule, videos and pictures can be accessed at: www.2009lgbtihealth.org/content/page/bi-health-summit. Many of the materials from the Bi Health Summit are also archived on the BiHealth yahoogroup.

Folks who are interested in working on a future bisexual health summit may want to start preliminary work with the 2011 LGBTI Health Summit (Portland, OR) as a possible vehicle for collaboration. Information about the 2011 LGBTI Health Summit is available at www.2009lgbtihealth.org/content/page/2009-national-lgbti-health-summit.

Highlights of the Bi Health Summit

By Jennifer Bonardi

As a co-chair of the Bi Health Summit, I was both recharged and relieved in attending this incredible event that was 18 months in the making. To assemble in the beautiful city of Chicago and put words to power regarding our health needs was a rare and edifying experience. For those who didn't have the pleasure of joining us at this one-day summit in the summer, here are what I consider the three highlights...and they aren't what you might expect.

Proving Our Worth

You couldn't deny that the Bi Health Summit was interesting, empowering, and chock full of facts and opinions regarding all aspects of bisexuality and health. But still, some asked: what was the point? Why did we need this conference? Specifically, why should we focus on bi health? Why can't we lump it in with either straight health or gay health depending on the actions of the people at hand?

From the summit came the answer: researchers presented findings that showed bisexuals having worse outcomes than straights *and gays/lesbians* in areas of smoking/alcohol/drug use, depression and suicide ideation, and violence victimization. Some presenters indicated that



they were actively discouraged from conducting research on bisexuals; ironically, the work they were able to do indicated that even more research specific to bisexuals is needed. The summit successfully conveyed the idea that, however counterintuitive it may seem initially, focusing on sexual identity instead of activity when analyzing health issues yields critical data.

Minorities of a Minority Within a Minority

In my senior year at Tufts, I remember walking into the first TLGBC meeting of the semester, surveying the room full of new faces, and looking at the two other coordinators with glee. They returned my look with the same silent message: "Hallelujah – we finally have some queer people *who aren't white!*" That familiar feeling washed over me again as I took my place at the Bi Health Summit.

It was a pleasure to see a great representation of people of color both attending and presenting at the Bi Health Summit. Their points of view undoubtedly enriched the exchange of information that day, reminding us that one's experience as a bisexual can differ according to culture. I find that when minorities within a community don't come to the table, it's often because they haven't been invited. The fact that we saw such diversity among our ranks that day makes me optimistic that much more of our community feels welcome to be there.

Sticking with Our Allies

One of our co-chairs had the great idea of providing stickers at registration that said "Bi" or "Bi Ally" and featured the bi flag. Attendees not only stuck them on their plastic name tags during the Bi Health Summit but also proudly wore them throughout the rest of the LGBTI Health Summit. The stickers were a big hit, and the visual representation of bi people at the larger summit made a real statement.

But I found the most inspiring aspect of the sticker-wearing to be the number of folks who wore the "Bi Ally" stickers. I hadn't realized how validating it would be to see so many people who, although not bisexual themselves, were squarely and openly in our corner. You *hope* that there are bi allies out there, particularly among our LGTI friends, but to see that confirmed through a sea of supporters was truly fulfilling.

The above highlights of the Bi Health Summit may be interesting but reading them pales in comparison to actually participating in the event. If you couldn't make it to this year's summit, I urge you to attend the next one which will likely be in 2011.

Jen Bonardi is a Board Member of the Bisexual Resource Center.



Julie Ebin, Brother Michael (Chicago), Ed Negrón (Chicago), Jen Bonardi



Julie Ebin, Cheryl Dobinson (Toronto), Stewart Landers (Boston)

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Your Bi/QueerLove Life? An Exploration of Dating and Relationships;” “Celebrate Bisexuality Day: Celebrating our Health;” a bi double header – “Bi Stress Busters” discussion and “Putting the Bi in Bicycle – A Bike Repair Workshop;” and various Celebrate Bisexuality Day events. Robyn also generously donated her time to present many bi awareness workshops as part of the series (“Creating a Both-And Identity in an Either-Or World;” “Bisexuality, Strength and Courage”).

One of my favorite events, “Breasts, Boobies, and Bosoms, Oh My!” featured Kim Airs of Grand Opening, who took the audience through a romp of appropriate breast supports (right bra size, anyone?), mammograms demystified (and appointments sign-up), Kim Airs’ personal stories and gossip, and a fabulously witty demo

of how to do a breast self-exam. We even had a raffle of breast art, and a delicious breast cake for dessert.

I, and more recently, Gillian Connolly and Katie Stetler, could not have created the series we did without many people’s support of leading workshops, collaborating, co-hosting, and just plain spreading the word. I was also privileged to work with various interns and volunteers throughout the years, some queer, some straight, some seeking undergraduate or graduate class credit, and some who just wanted to help out. These folks were instrumental in organizing Boundless events over the years. Thank you to all of the Boundless supporters so far, and all of those to come!

I have especially enjoyed collaborating on events. At times these have been in-depth partnerships where we have worked with organizations to find out what their members or

communities want, and how we can serve them. A great example of was an event that I guest-facilitated in collaboration with hosts Mad Femme Pride, “Asking for What You Want: Queer Women Doing Safer Sex for Themselves!” held on November 18th. Based on discussions with Mad Femme Priders, the workshop was for queer/bi/lesbian women, and the focus was on safer sex (primarily between women) including: why have it, how to do it, and how to talk about it.

To get added to the Boundless mailing list, contact Katie Stetler, current Boundless Coordinator at (617) 927-6028 or boundless@fenwayhealth.org.

The next Boundless event is the Fighting Biphobia, Part 2 program on January 28th. Free and open to all. Contact Katie to register.

Bisexuality 101: Are there health issues specific to bisexuality?

By Mike Szymanski

Do bisexuals have health concerns that are different from everyone else, or ignored by the overall mainstream and gay and lesbian communities?

The quick answer is a resounding “yes.”

And certainly these issues are not so very obvious to the mainstream health practitioners, or the experts who handle only gay, lesbian and trans issues.

There are 10 major health concerns that are particular to bisexuals, as detailed in a National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Report.

* Some statistics show that bisexual youth in particular have more attempts at suicide and feel more alienated than even their gay and lesbian counterparts who have a growing social and support network around them. A suicide prevention study in Australia found that bi women and bi men have the highest percentages of suicide attempts (35 and 29 percents). Bi youth between 14 and 21, in a University of Minnesota study, were more likely to be suicidal than any other group.

* Because of the complex relationship between self-identity and behavior, studies intended to address the health needs of MSMW and WSMW do not always properly reach their targets.

* Bisexual women have higher rates of breast cancer, and bi women have the highest rate of never having a PAP test to screen for cervical cancer.

* Bisexual men who are in partnerships with women may tend to avoid the “bisexual” label and be more closeted, which could subject them to more unsafe sexual practices, dangerous situations and mental stresses that their heterosexual counterparts do not face.

* Bisexual women in clinical and community samplings have received lower standards of mental and health care.

* Bisexuals of any gender skew high on some studies for drug use, tobacco use, alcohol abuse and illegal drug activity. Bisexual women report the highest use of alcohol compared to hetero or lesbian women. Bi women also are shown to smoke cigarettes more.

* Questionable conversion or reparative therapies that supposedly

convert people from same-sex attraction to opposite-sex attractions often ignore the possibility of bisexuality.

* Bisexual women are known to have a higher rate of eating disorders, and more of them are overweight and underweight in comparison to their hetero and lesbian counterparts.

* Bisexuals are generally an invisible group, forgotten, ignored or deliberately left out of studies, polls or medical questionnaires because it is more complicated or muddies the studies.

* Bisexual women have a higher likelihood of developing heart disease and greater risk factors for heart ailments.

* Closeted bisexual men could be more susceptible to Hepatitis, crystal meth use, HIV infection, sexually transmitted diseases and other concerns. A University of California, San Francisco study found that bi men are five times more likely to have used crystal meth than the general population.

* Bisexual women choosing to get pregnant, or seeking prenatal

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was glad to see the people that came. I heard later that there were other bisexual people marching with other groups, so I'm guessing that there were probably quite a few of us overall.

We gathered together with the rest of the crowd – I looked around, and in every direction I had never seen so many people! There were all kinds of neat signs, outfits, and flags. We got our banners ready, tried to line up as best as we could (there was no official order for the groups to line up in) and waited. We waited for about an hour before things started, by which point it was getting hot and we were ready to go!

Around one o'clock, we started to march. It was quite fun, people came up with all kinds of chants, and as we walked, people came out of office buildings and stood on the sidewalks and cheered us on. There were press and camera people all over filming us and taking pictures – I don't think I've ever seen so many in one place! There was only one heckler – and he didn't get too far. Other groups started marching with us, one example being a group that was marching for breast cancer awareness. It was really great to march – the only thing that got annoying was that there was no official order for how the groups were supposed to organize. Although everyone was marching however best they could, groups kept getting separated. Our own groups got separated several times.

Some people found a “shortcut” through the white house lawn! So we walked through there and took some great pictures of people standing in front of the White House holding their banners. Then we marched on, until we hit the west lawn of the Capitol, tired and thirsty! Everyone tried to get as close as they could to where the speeches were going to be, and people found places to sit. We sat pretty far up, but still not close enough to actually see the speakers, although we could hear them. The speeches were moving and inspiring, and they energized the crowd, even though people were tired from marching. In the opening convocation, several GLBT pioneers were mentioned, and to my pleasant surprise, they mentioned a bisexual one. Pretty much all of the speakers said GLBT, some even going so far as to say all four words.

Marchers at the Capitol

There were four bisexual speakers – Penelope Williams, Lady Gaga, Michael Huffington, and Chloe Noble. Except for Lady Gaga (who I already knew to be bisexual), each one of the speakers used the word bisexual and conveyed that they were proud to be part of the bisexual community. It was great to hear the thunderous applause after they said it. They all did wonderfully well and I am so proud of them and honored that they represented us. I actually felt well-represented and acknowledged as a bisexual for once.

What was truly amazing about this

day was all the energy of the crowd – I could literally feel it – and it energized and motivated me as well. Near the end of the march my feet were killing me, but I marched on because I really believed in what I was marching for. The best part was, I felt totally included that day. Everyone who saw our bi groups was friendly and welcoming, and one of the groups even got interviewed for GLBT.TV.com! It was a great opportunity to come together and focus on the positive and what is best about your community instead of our divisions.

The march seems to have made a real impact – several media outlets have been talking about it. I hope that people can take the positives from it and use it for local activism. Most importantly, I hope that the message of inclusion will bring equality for the BLGT community, and will also inspire more inclusion in the BLGT community itself, especially towards the B and the T.

Video of the speeches is available at <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/289403-1>. (bisexual speakers are at 1:39:10, 1:42:42, 3:04:22, and 3:45:25).

NOTE: This article is excerpted, with permission and minor edits, from an article on bisocialnews.com. Visit this site for more excellent articles!

Long-time Bi Activist Loraine Hutchins Honored

Bi activist and academic Loraine Hutchins was honored on October 21st as Washington, D.C.'s Community Pioneers as one of 20 honorees (and the only out bisexual) honored this year. The Rainbow History Archive, (rainbowhistory.org) which conferred the award, has honored pioneers every two years since 2003. “Not many out bi's have been honored,” says Loraine. “I think only me and Billy Jones (in a past year) – but there may have been one or two other folks who identified quietly as bi, just not as a major aspect of their work/identity.”

A fourth-generation D.C. native, Loraine is a tireless activist who has worked as a sex educator and helped kick-off important bisexual organizations such as the Washington, D.C. based Alliance of Multi-Cultural Bisexuals (not currently active) and BiNet USA. Loraine co-edited *Bi Any Other Name: Bisexuals Speak Out*, which was named among the 100 most influential LGTB books of the 20th Century. She teaches in the Washington, D.C. area and has an essay in *Getting Bi*. Congratulations, Loraine!

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care have faced discrimination and outright rejection from the medical establishment.

* Bisexual men and women have higher levels of depression and anxiety than heterosexuals, and in some levels similar to or higher than lesbians and gay men.

To access the entire Bisexual Health Report, visit www.thetaskforce.org/reports_and_research/bisexual_health.

Excerpted with minor edits with author's permission from an August 11, 2009 article in the Bisexuality Examiner. Mike's articles can be found at: www.Examiner.com/x-3366-Bisexuality-Examiner.



Bisexuals and Mental Health

By Neelima Prabhala

Until fairly recently, mental health and mental problems were not viewed as legitimate health concerns, but rather were seen as a lack of will on the part of the sufferer to get over something. Science has taught us better: we know that illnesses such as depression and anxiety are often caused by chemical imbalances and *can* be treated. Although brain chemistry likely plays a role in mental illnesses like anxiety and depression, it is essential to recognize the social factors that affect mental health. Your sexual orientation is a part of who you are and affects your needs.

These issues are real and affect the bisexual community severely. Bisexuals face the challenges of our society's insistence on a binary system: gay or straight. Many people simply do not believe in bisexuality. Being told you do not exist does not help anyone's mental state, and is especially difficult for people who are questioning or having difficulties with their sexuality.

Lack of support is a major cause of depression and other mental health problems. In this binary world, bisexuals are often rejected from both straight and gay communities. Some straight people cannot accept or deal with the 'gay' side or will pretend you are straight and perhaps experimenting

or confused or, heaven forbid, 'going through a phase.' Some gays and lesbians suspect that your same-sex attractions are not genuine, or that you are in denial about your "true" gay or lesbian identity. This lack of acceptance makes it very difficult to get necessary support. We all need support for problems and obstacles not related to our sexuality, but when our sexual identities are denied by others it is difficult to trust them with other parts of our identities. Bi support groups can provide a group of people who will accept you whether you are a two or a five on the Kinsey Scale. A bi support group – as opposed to a general support group or just an TBGL support group – can help support you during hard times and understand your specific experiences as a bisexual person.

Finding a bi support group is not as easy as it may sound. In big cities there are more likely to be resources. But smaller communities may only have a queer support group – if even that. But there *are* resources out there for bisexuals, whether they be online communities or meetings that you have to travel to attend. And it is worth it for your mental health to find a place where you can know, not hope, that you'll be accepted as a bisexual.

Biphobia may also pose challenges for people seeking support from a therapist. Many therapists, even ones specializing in queer patients and issues, do not understand bisexuality or issues regarding the community, and it would be difficult to come out to your therapist and be met with rejection or misunderstanding. But studies have shown that closetedness with one's therapist is extremely detrimental to one's mental health.

Finding support is imperative to your health, whether it comes from friends, family members, a group, and/or a therapist. Support tailored to your sexuality could be a positive part of your life. It is not always easy to find that bi-safe space, but it is well worth the trouble.

Note: One place to look for resources about bisexual mental health is: <http://www.bisexual.org/resources.html#bicounseling>

Neelima is from Boston and is a freshman at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. Her hobbies include photography, martial arts and sports.

Ghost Girls: A Review of Tonya Cherie Hegamin's *M+O4EVR*

Reviewed by Sarah E. Rowley

For decades, the American publishing industry has been notoriously hostile to lesbian and bisexual women writing fiction about lesbian and bisexual characters, in a striking contrast to its treatment of gay male authors. Despite more than a decade of public conversation, most high-profile novels by and about queer women published in the US still come from the UK or Canada, from the pens of white authors Jeanette Winterson, Sarah Waters, Emma Donoghue, Helen Humphreys, and the like.

The one exception has been Young Adult (YA) literature, which has experienced a great boon since the Harry Potter books proved not only that adults would openly read it, but also that it could immensely profit publishers. Simultaneous with the general rise of YA's profile has been growing concern with queer youth, leading to an explosion of novels about LGBT teens. While boys' stories still outnumber girls' and the very occasional trans teen tale, the YA aisle has become one of the best places to find LGBT fiction.

But these LGBT novels, like YA lit in general, have remained overpoweringly white. I know of only two YA novels about queer African-American girls—Rosa Guy's *Ruby*, probably the only black nationalist lesbian YA novel, and Jacqueline Woodson's slender but poetic *The House You Pass on the Way*. *Ruby*, published in 1976, has all of its era's negative stereotypes about same-sex relationships (including a suicide attempt and the idea that the heroine can be romantically redeemed by a man), but remains fascinating for its politics and portrayal of 1970s New York City. *The House You Pass on the Way*, from African-American YA powerhouse Woodson, has a quietly affecting story and achingly beautiful writing, but ends abruptly after only 90 pages.

In this context, it's a real pleasure to discover a third novel about a queer African-American girl, especially one as moving and skillfully written as Tonya Cherie Hegamin's *M+O4EVR*.

M+O4EVR shares a number of similarities with *The House You Pass on the Way*. Both novels are concerned with rural African-Americans—another under-represented group—and family legacies (the protagonist of *The House You Pass on the Way* suffers more socially in her black town from being the granddaughter of two Civil Rights martyrs than she does from her crush on another girl). They share, too, the distinction of being uncommonly well-written, every word as precisely chosen as poetry.

But *M+O4EVR* stands on its own. Its heroine and narrator, Opal or O, has been in love with her best friend, Marianne or M, all her life. The daughter of loving but absent parents, O has been raised by her grandmother, Gran, who has also embraced

Marianne, a biracial girl living with her troubled white relatives. Together the girls have rambled (“my brown hand in her yellow one”) through the fields and woods of their rural Pennsylvania town, pretending to be the African goddesses Mlapo and Omali and trying to catch sight of Hannah, the ghost of an escaped slave who haunts a nearby ravine.

But in high school Marianne has tried to find popularity by ditching the tomboyish O, who has clearly built her life around M, sacrificing her own dreams at the altar of her love for her self-destructing friend. When Marianne breezes back into her life the day after becoming the town's first black homecoming queen, O, drowning in her unrequited passion, can't help but follow along.

Hegamin drops us into the middle of the girls' complicated relationship and lets the layers of personal and family history unfold slowly, one by one. From the moment the vivacious but insecure Marianne burst onto the page we the readers know she's headed for trouble, but we're as shocked as Opal when she dies unexpectedly, in the same ravine Hannah did, at the end of chapter two.

The rest of the book traces O's struggle to grieve, make sense of Marianne's demons, and regain a sense of who she is without her beloved obsession. In this she has the help of her family, particularly her Gran, who tells her, “Black folks got enough ghosts in this country to be haunted until the end of time. Why you want to haunt yourself with the one ghost that's trying to leave you in peace?”

Another ghost, that of Hannah the escaped slave, also appears in the novel, and O & M's story is interwoven with hers, a tale that Gran has told so many times Opal knows it by heart. In it Hannah finds passion and a new beginning with a black Nanticoke man, and her sections of the book echo the themes of love and the need for freedom.

While the ghost story pales beside the more vivid present-day action, it does provide a sense of history and community, which is perhaps exactly what Opal needs. It's strongly implied that Marianne's tragedy comes in large part from the harassment she has received from whites for not fitting neat racial categories, and her family's inability to provide protection and a sense of history. Opal, in coming to understand why M could not accept her love, find her own new beginning.

Though sad in places, *M+O4EVR* is deeply moving. While Hegamin makes you feel the ugliness of racism in M & O's world—for example, in O's abiding disgust for Walmart, the giant chain store where a pair of white girls taunted



Ghost Girls, continues on next page

Ghost Girls, continued from previous page

M as a child—she's equally gifted at communicating love, as in the scene in which O's quiet father uses a story about constellations to tell her a truth she doesn't know she needs to hear. I'm afraid that readers will be scared off by the death in this book and miss out on a lovely reading experience.

All of the characters, from the wild Marianne to the self-effacing O to all their associated relatives are vividly drawn. And Tonya Cherie Hegamin's language—clear,

precise, and beautiful without ever distracting from the primacy of the story—is a pleasure to read. This is her first novel. I certainly hope it won't be her last.

Sarah is (with Robyn Ochs) editor of Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World and current board chair of The Network/La Red, which works to end abuse in lesbian, bisexual women's, and transgender communities.

2009 Bi Health Summit: Top Ten Things To Do for Bi Health

By Paige Listrud

I see the world through an activist lens. Give me facts, give me info, but above all, give me ideas on what to do next. By the end of the Bi Health Summit, the last hour and a half of programming, you could feel the brain death. Everyone was wiped, probably experiencing information overload, and finding focus for creating a bisexual health agenda became difficult.

How grateful was I, then, when Stephen Simon, AIDS Co-ordinator for the City of Los Angeles, pulled off a BiHealth Top Ten list, drawn from the 25 recommendations crafted by Julie Ebin, Marshal Miller, Amy Andre, and Leona Bessonova in their groundbreaking bisexual health report. Yes, Stephen, I still owe you.

Top Ten Things To Do For Bisexual Health Advocacy

Take non-programmatic steps to make your agency or practice as a whole more inclusive of bisexual people by having posters and pamphlets with “bisexual” or “LGBT” prominently mentioned (rather than just “gay and lesbian”) in your waiting area. Use these terms in advertising and outreach materials.

Fund programs! Recognize that there are significant health disparities and that traditional gay or lesbian-focused programs and services do not necessarily address the needs of MSMW/WSMW* of any identity.

Create programs that specifically target bisexual people, tailoring them according to the needs of your community. If it's not feasible to replicate these programs at this time, you can still revise existing programs to be more inclusive.

Understand the difference between sexual identity and sexual behavior. Promote this understanding to your colleagues, staff and boss.

Increase research that targets bisexual people specifically, asking both behavioral and identity-based questions. The research is fundamental, as funders and practitioners need it to be able to fund and create programs and services.

Recruit MSMW/WSMW* and bisexually-identified individuals for policy and/or funding advisory groups and grant/proposal readers.

Work together to provide training on bisexuality for local health groups. Distribute information on bisexuality to your own and other area health providers. Ask your own and other doctors/counselors/therapists to have the materials available for their colleagues, in their waiting rooms and anywhere that bisexuals might need to be welcomed.

In the general health arena, attend professional and grassroots national health conferences and speak out on issues that affect MSMW, WSMW, and bisexuals.

In the bisexual arena, support health organizing and educational efforts at national and international bisexual or bisexually-inclusive conferences.

Help the Bisexual Health Summits to go forward.

While the list clearly targets healthcare professionals and people working in larger mainstream agencies, a street-level activist can get a lot of mileage by just promoting a few things on this list. The Fenway Health Institute has bi-specific safer sex pamphlets and safer sex pamphlets that integrate safer sex for WSMW and MSMW, whatever their identity.

Julie Ebin has helped to develop at Fenway bisexual health clinical education modules that are designed to assist training of healthcare providers to be culturally competent with their sexually fluid clients. The modules can be used in

*men & women who have sex with men and women

Bi Woman of the Month: An Interview with Deb Morley

By Malkah Feldman

Malkah Feldman: When did you discover you were bisexual?

Deb Morley: I discovered I was bisexual when I was 31. In hindsight, there was a lot of information along the way that could have led me to discovering my bisexuality much earlier, but when I came out as a lesbian at age 15, I was exposed to a very binary (gay or straight) queer community that included much bias against bisexuality.

MF: How and when did you come out to friends, family and co-workers?

DM: Coming out to my lesbian friends as bisexual was scary as I feared rejection. I was fortunate that I had recently started a graduate program that was already introducing me to many new beginnings. A woman from my program posted a query to our class email list asking if anyone was doing research on the information needs of the gay, lesbian, bisexual community. I emailed her back saying, "No I'm not, but yes I am!" This woman became my first bi friend. It was like the Universe sending me an angel to help me during this challenging and sometimes confusing transition of my identity. I told my close friends and family very early in my "coming out as bi" process. I explained that I had fallen for a guy, that it was more than just sexual exploration, and that I had feelings for him. At the time I chose not to share this news with co-workers as the man I was involved with was a co-worker! Note to self, going forward: "Don't date people from your workplace!" Since then, coming out to co-workers as bisexual has been a tricky thing. I have chosen to maintain certain boundaries between my personal life and my professional life. While many co-workers know that I am queer, as I speak openly about my same-sex partner in the work place, I would guess that most assume I am lesbian and don't even think about bisexuality. I have had a few opportunities to mention to a co-worker when I have attended a conference on bisexuality, but for the most part I haven't felt that there have been many appropriate moments to talk about my sexuality independently from my relationship. So while my relationship provides me the opportunity to come out as being in a same-sex relationship, it also masks my bi identity. Overall I'm OK with this because I don't have close relationships with my co-workers, and at least they know I'm queer!

MF: What helped you to develop a positive self-image?

DM: Having a bi friend, attending bi support groups, learning to love and accept myself, and going to conferences



on bisexuality are some of the many things I have done to develop a positive self-image. I have also read about bisexuality, become friends with more bi people, marched with the bi contingent in Gay Pride marches. I have also been involved with BBWN and the Bisexual Resource Center.

MF: You have done an enormous amount of work for BBWN. What have you done and how has it been for you?

DM: I have written and participated in *Bi Women* mailings of for over eight years now and co-coordinated the mailing for about four years. I have helped to organize the BBWN brunches that many fabulous women have hosted in their homes over the last eight years. Some years I have helped with the setup and cleanup of the pre-Pride brunch that BBWN hosts. I have had the opportunity to speak on a bi panel out in western Mass where I represented BBWN. I also attend other BBWN events that others organize, i.e. a movie night, dinner out or bowling. I love bi bowling! Compared to the work done by some others, I feel my contributions have been modest.

MF: What does it mean to you to be bisexual? Does it have spiritual and/or creative energy to it?

DM: For me, being bisexual means that my heart is open to all genders. It does have a spiritual essence for me because it is a part of who I am.

MF: Deb, do you feel that there are links between the struggles to free ourselves to be bisexual and other movements like the struggles against racism and poverty?

DM: Yes. I think there are commonalities between all groups who experience oppression. Sometimes oppression is imposed upon us by others, and sometimes it comes from within ourselves. I feel that our internalized fears are most important to address. I see self-hatred and self-loathing eat away at so many people. We may look outside of ourselves for validation, and it's great when we receive it, but at the end of the day I believe it is the love looking back from the mirror that sustains one's wholeness.

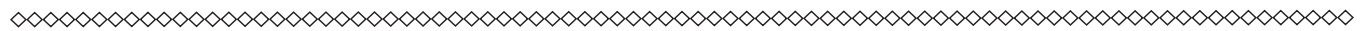
MF: Are you single or are you in a relationship? How does your partner accept your bisexual identification?

DM: I am in a relationship. My partner completely accepts me as bi. As an undergraduate student (years ago) she supported the name change of her campus's gay and lesbian student group to include "bisexual." She gets it, and I deeply appreciate that she gets it.

MF: Despite being in a committed relationship, could you talk about how your spirit, as they say in Native American communities, is "two spirited," as fully capable of bonding with either sex. Do you relate to this question, and if so, could you discuss what that special two spirit openness means to you?

DM: I do relate to this question. I feel that the "two spirited openness" that you speak of is a gift. It's a gift of potential to love and be loved on many different levels. I had two significant realizations when I came out as bi. One was that my sexual attraction and interest in men did not lessen those same feelings that I have towards women. Now it sounds odd to me, but I can remember really struggling with this concept and wondering (because I had identified as lesbian for so many years) how could I now be interested in a male lover? Had my life up until this point been a lie? The other significant realization was that I no longer needed to carry around the weight of the anger and resentment towards men that I had felt, or at least thought I should feel. Some of the lesbian-separatist spaces in which I had spent time had influenced my attitudes towards men. Although I am still a strong feminist, the feelings of pitting men as the enemy completely evaporated when I allowed my "two spirited" self to be. I hadn't even realized what a weight and limitation these false beliefs had been for me.

I remember going to hear Maya Angelou speak a couple of years ago and her saying, "we are born to become exactly who we are." I think this is so profound. It seems so obvious, and deceptively simple! Who knew it would be a life long journey?



Getting Bi for the Holidays...

"Getting Bi is a stunning collection of first-person narratives by bisexuals from around the world. The term bisexual functions as a useful shorthand for a broad spectrum of sexualities: as the editors note in the Introduction, some contributors self-identify as queer, pansexual, omnisexual, or labelless, while others acknowledge attractions to multiple genders while identifying as lesbian, gay, or heterosexual. This complexity infuses the book at every level, as writers differ not only in their definitions of bisexuality, but also in their politics, spiritualities, sexual practices, and patterns of daily life. ... Most of the essays are conversational in tone and personal in content, as the writers discuss coming out, the choice to identify (or not) as bisexual, life experiences, sexual desire, bi community, and political activism.

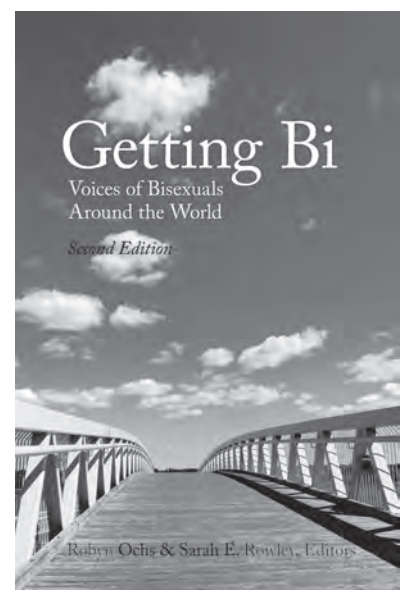
Many anthologies aspire to be international in scope, but few achieve that vision. ... *Getting Bi* is an astounding achievement."

—Robin Bernstein, Assistant Professor of Women, Gender & Sexuality, Harvard University

This book would make a great holiday gift:
**** to show your support for a bisexual friend or family member**
**** to help a friend or family member understand YOU**

Order *Getting Bi* today from Biresource.net.

All proceeds go directly to the Bisexual Resource Center.



Emergence

My own coming out poem, written in part to celebrate National Coming Out Day!

By Martina Robinson

My mother blamed women's studies coursework, badly behaved men, and the self-loathing she assumed existed within my personal psyche for the bisexuality I confessed that summer evening on Sasha's borrowed cell in Jana's house a baker's dozen summers ago.

I remember hiding afterwards unable to answer phone for three months solid for fear of being found.

I remember moving from friend's house to friend's house and new assistant to new assistant. One big ball of perpetual motion.

I remember thinking it would be so much easier to surrender to my mother's will than trying to survive this way, but deciding I was simply too proud to resubmit soul to someone else's decision making power.

Despite the hardship, that particular summer was I remember absolute joy at never having to unqueen my house, bookshelf, life again merely because the 'rents were visiting.



Martina is a 32-year-old disabled, bisexual woman, person of faith and multi-issue activist who ran for Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts on the Green-Rainbow Party in 2006.

Top Ten Things, *continued from p. 11*

tandem with the institute's book, *The Fenway Guide to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health*. The modules can be downloaded from Fenway's website, and are free. Hear that, administrators? Free, free, free!

It looks like Portland will be the next spot for the 2011 Bi Health Summit. Stay tuned.

Reprinted with the author's permission, with minor edits, from her blog at opensalon.com.

Calendar, *continued from page 16*

acknowledge the work of the past year, vote on the board members for next year, and start planning ahead for 2010. Dinner and socializing 6-7:00 pm, meeting 7-9:00 pm. Email Ellyn at president@biresource.net for more info. At the Boston Living Center.

Monday, December 14, 7 p.m. Straight Marriage, Still Questioning. A peer-led support group for women in a straight marriage/relationship struggling with sexual orientation or coming out. Info: kate.e.flynn@gmail.com.

Thursday, December 17, 7 p.m. Bisexual Social and Support Group (BliSS). Third Thursday meetings are 7-8 p.m. check-ins, discussion, and announcements followed by social time at a nearby restaurant. Only want to socialize? Meet the group at or shortly after 8 p.m. in the lobby of the Boston Living Center.

Saturday, December 19, 11:30am. Bi Brunch. This mixed gender bi group meets 3rd Saturday of the month at Johnny D's on Holland St. in Davis Sq. in Somerville. The Davis stop on the Red Line is just across the street.

JANUARY

Wednesday, January 6, 6:30-9pm. Bisexual Social & Support Group. (See 12/2)

Sunday, January 10, noon. Join us for BBWN's **4th Annual Poetry Brunch** hosted by Fennel in Watertown. Please bring a potluck dish or drinks to share, and a poem (written by you or someone else) that you have enjoyed and would like to read aloud. Contact Fennel at 617-744-0346 or resourcegoddess@comcast.net for directions and to let her know you are coming & what dish you plan to bring. Plenty of street parking, and on the bus line. RSVP by January 8 for directions/contact info.

Tuesday, January 12, 7-9 p.m. BRC Board Meeting. (See December 8th)

Saturday, January 16, 11:30 a.m. Saturday Bi Brunch. (See December 19th)

Thursday, January 21, 7 p.m. Bisexual Social and Support Group (BliSS). (See December 17th)

Thursday, January 28, 6:30. Fighting Biphobia, Part 2. Facilitated by Robyn Ochs and Cosponsored BBWN, BRC and Fenway's Boundless Program. Free. All are welcome. For info/RSVP: contact Katie at 617-927-6028 or boundless@fenwayhealth.org.

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, February 3-Sunday, February 7, Creating Change Conference, Dallas, Texas. The Task Force produces the nation's preeminent political, leadership and skills-building conference for the LGBT social justice movement. Special all-day Bi Institute on Thursday! Visit www.creatingchange.org to find out how you can join hundreds of other queer activists to help change the world.

Wednesday, February 3, 7 p.m. Bisexual Social and Support Group (BliSS). (See December 2nd)

Monday, February 8, 7 p.m. Straight Marriage, Still Questioning. (See December 14th)

Tuesday, February 9, 7-9 p.m. BRC Board Meeting. (See December 8th)

Sunday, February 14, 12-3 pm, BBWN Brunch in Cambridge at Jen's. Contact Jen at jbonardi@hotmail.com to let her know that you'll be attending and what food you'll bring (Valentine's-themed food encouraged). We will, of course, be chatting about our most romantic and most horrifying Valentine's Days!

Thursday, February 18, 7 p.m. Bisexual Social and Support Group (BliSS). (See December 17th)

Saturday, February 20, 11:30 a.m. Saturday Bi Brunch. (See December 19th)

Join us at one of BBWN's fabulous potluck brunches for bi women and our friends. Our brunches are held in women's homes, and ALL women are welcome. See our calendar (pp. 15 and 16) for details.



The "Bi Office"

is the Bisexual Resource Center, located at 29 Stanhope Street, behind Club Cafe. For info call 617-424-9595.

Ongoing Events

Last Fridays:

Bi Women's Rap. 7:30-9pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. For info and discussion topics call 617-354-8807.

2nd Mondays:

Straight Marriage, Still Questioning. 7pm. Email kate.e.flynn@gmail.com for more info.

1st Wednesdays, 3rd Thursdays:

BLISS: Bisexual Support & Social Group, 7-8:45pm. Meets at the Bisexual Resource Center at 29 Stanhope St. in Boston. Call 617-424-9595 for info.

3rd Saturdays:

Biversity Bi Brunch, 11:30am at Johnny D's, Davis Square, Somerville.

Sign up for our new email list! Send an email to: biwomenboston-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



Ask not what Bi Women can do for you ...

Exhausted by the torrents of biphobia and bi-invisibility heaped upon her, Sara was at the end of her rope. She needed support. She needed affirmation. She struggled to hold back another round of tears. But where to turn? Poor Sara didn't know about Bi Women.

But fortunately, you do.

We're begging you, as we're sure Sara would have begged had she known of the existence of this important lifeline, to donate at least twenty dollars to help keep Bi Women alive. The need is real and we need your help because we never want another woman to suffer the same fate as poor Sara.

Help us send *Bi Women* to you, to other women, and also to community centers, youth and campus LGBT groups. Think of the support that *Bi Women* has provided to you, and give generously because your contribution will indeed make a difference in many, many lives. It will only take a minute and you will make a difference.

So far, we have raised \$1081 toward our annual goal of \$5000. No amount is too small (and no amount is too large).

Make your checks payable to BBWN, PO Box 301727, Jamaica Plain MA 02130. Or you can donate on line via paypal to biwomenboston@gmail.com. For more information, visit our website: biwomenboston.org.

Remember: YOU can make a difference.

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Wednesday, December 2, 7-8:45 p.m. Bisexual Social and Support Group (BiSS) meets on the 1st Wednesday and 3rd Thursday of each month at the Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope Street, Boston. All bi and bi-friendly people of all genders and orientations are welcome to attend. 1st Wednesday meetings are peer facilitated discussion groups, sometimes with a pre-selected topic or presenter. Contact brc@biresource.net for more info.

Friday, December 4-Sunday, December 6, Holly Folly Weekend in Provincetown. A perfect weekend to get away and enjoy pre-holiday shopping, a walk on the beach, a raucous sing-along at the Crown & Anchor, the Gay Men's Chorus concert and much more. Info: www.HollyFolly.com.

Saturday, December 5, 7 p.m. madFemmePride presents: An UnLadyLike Party: a dress up / dress down / mingle / dance party at Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston. Dress = drag it up (whatever's drag for you). Wear your Saturday best (or vest). Come in costume, flaunt 6" heels, stroll over in street clothes, go glitter-crazy, pop your collar, rock a tie, defy dress codes, defy your gender...there'll be a crowd bright n' early with mingling activities & then dancing into the night with the Club Cafe crowd! 21+/cover will be a small donation to cover expenses. Info: madfemmepride@yahoo.com.

Tuesday, December 8, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Bisexual Resource Center Board Meeting. The December board meeting is the annual meeting of the BRC. All bi and bi-friendly community members invited. We'll

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