

CGLA Hosts Southeastern Conference

April 11 - 14, 1985

Four days filled with workshops, panel discussions, major speeches by regional and national leaders, concerts by lesbian and gay musicians, theatre, book and craft displays, professional and political caucuses, a gay film festival, a Passover seder, and hundreds of us from Louisiana to Tennessee, Florida, the Carolinas, and Washington, DC -- that's the 10th Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men, which CGLA will host April 11-14.

The Conference began in Chapel Hill in April 1976. CGLA voted last May to bid on hosting the tenth year gathering and helped organize a steering committee that includes representatives from across North Carolina. This committee and various subcommittees have been meeting regularly since October to organize the confab.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Conference events will begin on Thursday with the lesbian slideshow, a traveling collection of slides submitted for competition by lesbians throughout the U.S., and a meeting of the Southeast Region of the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs. A Passover seder is planned, and the day will conclude with a Unity Party.

Friday is slated as a workshop day, with six workshop periods scheduled throughout. General subject areas include politics and activism; the law and legal issues; health issues; feminism; social issues, including pornography; business and work; "coming out"; student organizing; history, art, and literature; religion; and relationships.

The Workshop Subcommittee has distributed letters asking for suggestions of workshop topics and facilitators and are receiving suggestions from people throughout the region.

Friday's speaker is Deacon Maccubbin, founder and operator of the world's largest lesbian/gay bookstore, Lambda Rising in Washington, DC, and an articulate and respected activist in the District.

Plans for Friday evening include the staging of the Jane Chambers' play "Last Summer at Bluefish Cove."

And later Friday evening, the male duo of Phillips and Romanovsky will perform in concert. Their 1984 album (on the Fresh Fruit Records label) includes selections like "The Prince Charming Tango" and "Womb Envy." The Entertainment Subcommittee hailed them as the best of the gay male vocal groups they had heard and think they'll be a hit at the Conference.

A panel discussion is slated for Saturday morning to present information about and analyses of some of the important issues confronting our communities. A staff member of the Gay Rights National Lobby will discuss legislative issues, gay writer Richard Goldstein will speak on sexual politics and the "new right," and writer/activist Minnie Bruce Pratt will discuss divisions in our communities. A fourth panelist will discuss AIDS and the politics of AIDS.

A plenary session of the Southeastern Conference will follow the panel. And Judy Goldsmith, president of the National Organization for Women, will be a noontime speaker.

Saturday afternoon is slated for workshops, especially those which focus on building skills to help us effectively deal with issues presented in the morning panel discussion. Some of the "how to" topics to be offered include media work, fundraising, coalition building, legislative and electoral process work, community networking, and social action.

Speaker Gil Gerald, executive director of the National Coalition of Black Gays, will conclude the afternoon session.

Events for Saturday evening include a concert by lesbian singers Diane Lindsay and Sue Fink. Fink is known for her lyrics to "Leaping Lesbians," and has performed often with Meg Christian. Planners are also hoping to revive the "Her Singing Chorus" for a grand finale. This chorus, composed of Triangle Area lesbians, appeared at previous Chapel Hill and Tidewater (VA) conferences with a rousing rendition of an old fashioned religious revival, complete with testimonials and hymn singing.

(see CONFERENCE on page 6)

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