

MATTACHINE NEWSLETTER

11th. ISSUE

APRIL 1957

Published by the Publications Chapter of the New York Area Council of the Mattachine Society, Inc., Post Office Box 194, Murray Hill Station, New York 16, New York

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All meetings take place at 8:30 p. m. at the AVLON STUDIOS, 220 West 43rd. Street, New York, unless otherwise specified.

Wednesday, March 27 - Public Relations Chapter meeting.

Tuesday, April 2 - General monthly meeting. Playback of tape of telecast of CONFLICT series devoted to homosexuality. Speaker: Dr. NORMAN LEVI, eminent psychiatrist.

Tuesday, April 9 - Research-Educational Chapter meeting. Talk and discussion: "Attitudes of the Homosexual Toward Other Homosexuals," and a demonstration of group dynamics.

Monday, April 15 - New York Area Council business meeting. NOT AT THE AVLON STUDIOS. ALL MEMBERS URGED TO ATTEND.

Tuesday, April 16 - Publications Chapter meeting.

Wednesday, April 24 - Public Relations Chapter meeting.

GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

Although we had all worked very hard at it and expected a fair turnout, the success of the General Monthly Meeting took us all by surprise. We did not have the foresight to count the attendance, but the estimates made by several individuals agree fairly closely - about 120.

The program began with a play-back of a tape of third telecast of the OPEN MIND series devoted to homosexuality, with two eminent panelists: Dr. Margaret Mead and Max Lerner. The excellence of the program may be judged from the fact that the audience broke into spontaneous and prolonged applause at the end, even though as rule a disembodied voice coming out of a tape player does not elicit that sort of enthusiastic response.

It was pointed out by the Chairman that we all owe a debt of the most profound gratitude to those responsible for this significant series of telecasts, for their courage, and their choice of panelists - and to the panelists themselves for their courage to appear in such a program and to speak frankly and openly.

This was followed by a scene from THE GREEN BAY TREE, a play which has enjoyed successful runs on Broadway on two different occasions. The parts of Mr. Dulcimer and his protegee were played by the well-known actor Edgar Franken and Anthony Cox. The success of this part of the program may have a greater influence on the future of the Mattachine Society than any of us visualized. Several of those attending have thought that the time is ripe to start organizing a theatrical group to produce significant plays - it has even been suggested that a regular series of productions could be started. Whether such a program could materialize within the next few months or not will depend on many factors - we hope that it will be possible to investigate the situation within the next month or so, and that we will have some sort of a report on this in the next Newsletter.

PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAPTER

The Legal Committee appointed at the February meeting quickly discovered that its task was one of a greater magnitude than expected, and were unable to report at this meeting of the Public Relations Chapter. As a matter of fact, its work program might be done better if organized as a separate chapter. Further details are given below.

In the absence of the Legal Committee report, the meeting was given over to a large number of small, but extremely important items - organizing the correspondence, arranging for personal contacts with other organizations that might be interested in our work, getting volunteers for the various social activities planned, arranging for volunteers to mail the Newsletter, etc.

The meetings scheduled for Wednesday March 27 and Wednesday April 24 will probably be concerned largely with continuation of the work already outlined - contacting outside individuals and organizations, a more active social program, etc. - and with organizing all the various tasks along more efficient lines. Specifically, the jobs to be given the typists will be clarified, a full program of social activities will be worked out, including the coffee-and-cake after meetings, theater parties, outings during the warm spring and summer months, etc. The work on prospective chapters in other cities will also be further defined, and specific areas assigned to those interested in this.

Chapter meetings, of the Public Relations Chapter as well as of all the others, are not planned as entertainment - they are meant to be working meetings. Visitors are cordially invited to attend all meetings of the Public Relations Chapter, but they must be warned that if they have no interest in these activities, they will be bored. We hope that we will have a large attendance at both of these meetings, and that our visitors, including those attending for the first time, will contribute freely of their ideas as to how to make our public relations work more effective.

PUBLICATIONS CHAPTER

The most interesting item at the March meeting of the Publications Chapter was the reading of a poem that has since been accepted for publication by Der Kreis, the trilingual (German, French, and English) Swiss publication.

A monumental historical work in which erudition is clothed in a smooth and readable style has just come to the attention of the chapter. This is a work that deals with the subject of homosexuality from the historical and humanistic point of view, and covers in detail Greece and Rome, ancient Israel, Egypt, Babylonia, and the other ancient civilizations of Europe and the near east, then moves to Medieval Europe, then on to the Renaissance, to Napoleon, and on to the present. It has been twelve years in the writing, or, rather, twelve years in the making, since most of the time has been required for the research needed. The author hopes to have the second volume finished before the year is out, and will then see about publishing these first two volumes - and proceed with the others. We have been most fortunate indeed in that the author has consented to let us publish a number of chapters of this great and scholarly work. A chapter will be read at the Tuesday, April 16 meeting of the Publications Chapter.

The Publications Chapter would like to emphasize that its meetings are definitely working meetings. Its two main points of interest are obtaining manuscripts suitable for the *Mattachine* Review and preparing the monthly News York Area Council Newsletter. All those who would like to write articles for the Review, or who think that a certain article "ought to be written," or who know someone who could write something of interest, please contact the Chapter Chairman. However, the meetings themselves should be for those who have a definite interest in the matter of publications. We should mention here that we still need a great of help in this work - we never have too much material; we often do not have quite enough. In addition, the Newsletter needs a steady supply of volunteers for all its work.

One of the problems is the matter of suitable plays. Actually there are quite a few, ranging from Marlowe's EDWARD II to recent Broadway successes, not to mention works by French and Spanish authors which have never been done in this country. We are particularly interested at this time in short plays that do not require huge casts, and we wonder if among our readers we do not have a few who have written, or would like to write, plays on the subject of homosexuality that we could use. We shall be delighted to give any material sent in the fullest consideration, and if suitable, to give it the finest performance possible.

Those who were present at the March 5th. meeting expressed to Mr. Franken and Mr. Cox their appreciation through enthusiastic applause. We now would like to take this opportunity to thank them publicly and officially in the name of the MATTACHINE SOCIETY for having helped make this meeting a memorable one.

The meeting was followed by the serving of coffee and cakes. It was here that one of our most pressing problems became acute - that of trying to let our guests know that we are very happy to have them attend our meetings. The source of the difficulty lies in the fact that we are still too few, that many of our members find it impossible to attend this or that meeting - and that too many of us are still too shy. The coffee-and-cake session was "hosted" by only 17 members, so that many visitors were not able to meet any members at all. To those who may have felt neglected we would like to say: please give another chance to tell you how grateful we are for your support.

Three new members took the pledge at this meeting. Particularly gratifying was the fact that two of them were girls. One item that should have been announced was that they had baked some of the cakes.

The next general monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2nd., at the Avlon Studios. The main item on the agenda

will be a playback of the first discussion of homosexuality on a television program on the East Coast. This program took place last May in the CONFLICT series. The speaker was the eminent New York psychiatrist Dr. NORMAN LEVI. This will be of particular interest to those who attended the March general meeting, for they will now be able to compare the sociological approach shown by Dr. Mead with the psychological approach of Dr. Levi. Those who, overly aware of the Berglers, despair of having the psychiatric profession approach the subject of homosexuality in the scientific spirit will receive Dr. Levi's talk like a breath of fresh air.

This April 2nd. meeting will preceded by the usual informal dinner at a nearby restaurant, where the food is both good and inexpensive. We urge you all to attend - if you have never joined us in these dinners, ask any member for details, or drop us a post card. If possible, we would like to have a fair idea of the number who plan to attend this dinner - MEMBERS AND REGULAR VISITORS PLEASE NOTE. The Society itself does not need this information, but the waiters appreciate having an idea of how many to attend so that they may make suitable arrangements, get the tables ready and sit the entire group together. This is NOT a requirement - you may drop in unannounced, and will be just as welcome as if you had notified us a year in advance, but, we repeat, the waiters do hope that they will know about how many to expect.

QUARTERLY MEETING

The Spring Quarterly Meeting has been set tentatively for Saturday, May 4th. A program of unusual interest is being prepared, and we hope that many of out-of-town friends will be able to attend. The full details will be given in the next Newsletter, which you should receive toward the end of April. However, do not wait until then to make your plans - make them right now, and let us know if we can be of any service in obtaining hotel or "Y" reservations. We repeat - it will be a program of unusual interest.

LEGAL - LEGISLATIVE CHAPTER FORMED

A separate Chapter to deal with matters related to legal and legislative problems has been formed. The work will be under the direction of two lawyers members of the society. Those interested in participating in this work should contact it in writing addressed to the Post Office Box 194 address.

NEW YORK AREA COUNCIL MEETINGS

A number of important organizational items were discussed and acted upon at the business meeting of March 11. This included the formal formation of the Legal-Legislative Chapter and the appointment of a membership committee of three to interview all future applicants for membership. The need for larger meeting quarters was again discussed, and a committee appointed to investigate a suggestion made by a member.

All members are urged to attend the business meeting scheduled for Monday, April 15.

BOOK SERVICES

Five members of the New York chapters went to Hempsted to help Leslie Winston with the first mailing for the reactivated book service originally founded by Donald Webster Cory. Although there is no connection whatever between the Winston Book Service and the Mattachine Society, we believe that we can be of great service to one another. Its first main selection is Renault's great "The Last of the Wine." In addition, the Winston book Service (250 Fulton Avenue, Hempstead, Long Island) also offers a number of other interesting items.

We have just received a notice from the Village Theater Center, 116 Christopher St., New York. Its book service includes a large number of very interesting selections, from Proust to Jean Genet. Further details about both services in next Newsletter.

RESEARCH-EDUCATIONAL CHAPTER

No meeting was scheduled for the Research-Educational chapter for the month of March. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9. The first item on the agenda will be a talk on the attitudes of homosexuals toward other homosexuals, a topic of great interest and importance, particularly within the framework of the Mattachine Society. This is a matter that continues to appear, informally in a group of friends engaging in a "bull session," at Mattachine meetings, and in the pages of the various homophile publications. The vigorous discussion that is certain to ensue should do a great deal to clarify many attitudes, and we hope that one, or maybe several, articles for publication in the Mattachine Review will come as a result of this program.

At this meeting we will also have a demonstration of group dynamics by a specialist in this technique. Those who are acquainted with it undoubtedly know just what we are talking about - WE, however, have no idea at all, except that, as outlined to us, it sounded fascinating.

Within recent weeks we have had several members and friends speak of starting various sorts of research programs. This is a matter of great interest and importance to the Mattachine Society, but one to which we have not been able to devote much time so far. As of the moment we probably do not have the talent and facilities needed to do much research ourselves, particularly on matters of psychology and ethics. However, it has been suggested that we could interest professionals into undertaking such research programs, and that these could be financed through the many foundations who have money available for research purposes. We would like for those who would be particularly interested in this to contact the Society.

For quite a while some members have expressed interest in the formation of psychotherapy groups. To date we have not been able to proceed on this, but hope to do so in the not-too-far-future.

Dear Art -

The info should be in Newslet., I hereby make sure:

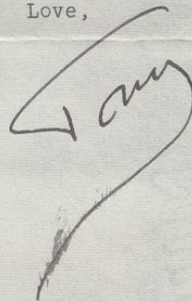
Gen. meet. this coming Tues. at Avlon. Usual dinner before at NYTimes.

Special meet. to discuss organizational matters on 11th. at Joe's. Very important for all members to attend.

Pub. Rels. schedld for March 25 at Howard's.

See you Tues.

Love,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. Am', written in a cursive style. The signature is located below the typed word 'Love,' and is partially enclosed by a large, sweeping, handwritten flourish that extends downwards and to the left.