



JULY 1957

50th ISSUE

**mattachine
newsletter**



They See How Mattachine Works

The Mattachine Society, Mattachine Review, Daughters of Bilitis and Pan-Graphic Press were all "investigated" on Sunday afternoon, June 9, by the Professional Group organization under the sponsorship of Blanche M. Baker, M.D., San Francisco psychiatrist.

Officers of the two chartered organizations and staff members of the publication and printing firm described and demonstrated their respective projects. D. Stewart Lucas told the history of Mattachine; Del Martin and Helen Sanders told about the parallel women's organization. Ray Frisby described Mattachine group therapy projects in San Francisco. Hal Call discussed the way in which Mattachine Review was converted from an idea into a national magazine. Jim Fooks, San Francisco Area Council chairman, welcomed the group on behalf of the area council.

Following refreshments of sandwiches, salad and coffee, the 25 professional men and women present asked questions, took a tour of the office and printing facilities at the headquarters.

The entire group appeared impressed at what laymen have done in attempting to call attention of the public to a serious social problem, and the work done so far in education and social service among homosexuals and society at large.

The group was representative of several professional fields, including medicine, sociology, penology, education, journalism, etc. It meets once each month to tour and observe at close range the organization and operation of some public service facility, organization or institution. Many members of the group announced after the discussion that they had no idea of the extent and importance of education, research and social service in the homosexual field, nor did they realize the extent of homosexuality in modern cultures.

SAN FRANCISCO AREA NEWSLETTER

50th Issue ----- July, 1957

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 5 - Coffee Klatch, Moderated Discussion Group,
465 Duboce Street, 7:30 p.m.
- 12 - Public Discussion Meeting, Friend's Center,
1830 Sutter Street, 8 p.m., Speaker: William
Baker, National President of the American
Graphological Society, handwriting expert
and counselor with a background of several
years experience in clinical analysis of
emotionally disturbed persons, "Handwriting
Analysis and the Homophile"
- 23 - Dr. Carlo Lastrucci, social psychologist from
San Francisco State College, will speak on
"The Sexual Impulse" 465 Geary Street, Studio
51 (5th Floor), 8:15 p.m.
- 25 - July Business Meeting, Area Council Office,
693 Mission, Room 305

AUGUST

- 1 - Public Discussion Meeting (as above), a
roundtable discussion between the Daughters
of Bilitis and the Mattachine Society.

"no friendly reader; try not to spend
your life hating and being afraid." Stendahl,
Introduction to Lucien Laquer

THE MAY LECTURE

The May lecture, delivered jointly by Julia W. Coleman, M.S.W., and William M. Baker, M.S.W., was a discussion of group therapy on the basis of their own training and experience.

Mr. Baker described the nature and structure of the group handled by Miss Coleman and himself. He said that it was a small, heterogeneous one of eight to ten persons, all of whom are carefully screened by Miss Coleman and himself prior to becoming part of the group. The discussion is spontaneous and on a non-directed basis. One thing on which great stress is laid is assisting the various individuals to find out why they react to the statements and behavior of other members of the group the way they do.

The aim of this therapy is, of course, to assist the persons attending to clear up emotional problems and achieve insight and self-understanding. Some of the people who come to their agency benefit the most from individual therapy, some from group treatment and some from a combination of both. The means cannot be too explicitly prescribed beforehand; it is primarily a matter of working out a plan of treatment in terms of the needs of the individual.

Miss Coleman commented that while there has been very little material published on group therapy, the practice itself, if it is defined as talking over your problems with other people, is as old as mankind. She also said that there was even less, in fact, practically nothing, on group therapy for homophiles.

About the only statement on the subject is the comment made by Dr. Donald West in his The Other Man that group therapy in a group comprised solely of homophiles and moderated by a man would probably

be of benefit to them. She had written to Dr. Westcott to obtain any further information possible from him, and had been told by him that he had left his practice and was starting to do research in a major English hospital where they are doing a great deal of experimentation with therapy techniques. At present he knew of no work being done with homophiles, but possibly something might come of what was being done in the hospital.

Both of the social workers commented on the differences between their method of approach and that used in the recent Mattachine group sessions in the Bay area. One major difference, they pointed out, was that theirs is a closed group, with everyone screened beforehand, whereas ours is an open one, in which people attend, visit and drop out, or stay, as they will. In some ways, considering the difficulties we would have in installing their type of group this was a good thing, in some ways it is a bad one, since the discussion could not always pry as intensively into personal problems as theirs.

FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO AREA CHAIRMAN

Dear Members and Friends:

When the Mattachine Review was organized the San Francisco Area Council pledged itself to the responsibility of accomplishing certain parts in the production of the magazine for the Society, such as assembling, folding, stapling, addressing, and mailing.

Following a discussion of this problem at the last San Francisco Area Council Business Meeting it was felt by the members present that the membership at large should be reminded that annual dues and the small collections at

the other meetings do not cover all the running expenses of the organization and so it is impossible to pay the Pan-Graphic Press the full commercial rates for production of the magazine. It is therefore the responsibility of every member to assist on the above-mentioned jobs for an evening or two each month. Plans for contacting members by telephone to schedule these work parties are being made. We sincerely hope that each member will be able to do his share.

STREET ADDRESS FOR NEW YORK OFFICE

In mid-June, New York chapters of the Mattachine Society announced the acquisition of office space on the 3rd floor at 1183 Avenue of the Americas (Sixth Avenue), Zone 36. A telephone will be installed there in the near future and the number will be announced in other Mattachine publications. Gonzalo Segura, Jr., Publications Editor of the Mattachine Society, is the representative of the Board of Directors in the Area.

In the meantime, Sam Morford, Research Director of the Society, moved from New York to the West Coast recently. Morford expects to reside in either San Francisco or San Jose, Calif. He will aid in planning the forthcoming Mattachine Society Convention to be held in the Sheraton-Palace Hotel, San Francisco, August 30-Sept. 2.

BIBLIOGRAPHY PUBLICATION TO START

In the August issue of the Mattachine Review, publication of an extensive bibliography of books on the subject of homophilia will begin. The feature will require installments in several issues to complete, and before the final presentation

additional titles contributed by discerning readers will also be published. This list is in answer to many requests, states Hal Call, editor of the Review. The magazine recognizes, however, that the list of titles in fiction and non-fictional works is incomplete, and readers everywhere are urged to send in additional listings which will be incorporated in the compilation.

NEW FOLDER FINALLY GOES TO PRESS

Announced several times, but not until this week a reality, a new information folder has been produced for the Society by the Publications Department. This leaflet will tell what Mattachine has done in its operation to promote understanding and acceptance for the homophile since the organization became a chartered non-profit educational and research corporation several years ago. Quantity prices will be announced on this folder in the July issue of Mattachine Review.

A NEW BOOK

Pan-Graphic Press, printing firm which produces the Mattachine Review and other printed materials for the Society, announces the publication of a non-fiction book on the homosexual subject Gay Bar. This clothbound book will appear on or before the first of October, 1957.

Author of the book, Mrs. Helen P. Branson, operates a bar and has made her place a club where many of her customers may be assumed to be "different," to say the least. However, she operates her bar with a stern authority which serves to promote pleasant relaxation for all without the threat of illegal behavior - on the

part of the customers - of the "law."

This is the situation and the story told in the book, which readers will at once recognize as one that is interesting, informative, and entertaining. Woven throughout the series of narrated episodes is the philosophy of the author herself. Few readers will mistake or misinterpret the sincerity and truth of what she tells, even from the outset, when she admonishes her readers from the very beginning, "Listen to your mother. . ."

This initial publishing venture of Pan-Graphic Press will be sold for \$3.00 per copy, plus tax in California. Orders received before publication date will be autographed by the author whose photograph will appear on a colorful dust jacket which will wrap what homophiles will welcome as a distinct contribution to the literature of their facet of the evolving world.

HELP NEEDED

As readers of the Newsletter have probably noticed, for the past few issues we haven't given any dates or times for the monthly dinner. The reason is quite simple.

The two different Area officers who have usually provided their homes in the past have both moved to new and smaller locations. At the present date, we seem to have no members in this Area with homes large enough for a group of twelve to twenty people.

Is there any person in the Bay area who would be willing to help out in the matter? The monthly dinner and the lecture are our two main means of raising money to pay for the expense of renting the office, paying the telephone bill, etc. Incidentally, we would like to take time out

to quote a very important statement from the last issue of Interim, namely, that: ". . . we do NOT spend membership funds for these items:

1. Salaries for officers.
2. Traveling expenses for officers or members.
3. Parties, liquor or social events.
4. Furnishings for the office and Library-Lounge rooms at 693 Mission Street, San Francisco. (The lounge was furnished by the San Francisco Area Council, and from the contributions of drapes, carpeting, lamps, etc., of members and friends of both Mattachine and Daughters of Bilitis.

We bring up this point because it's come to our ears that we're supposed to spend all of our time and the Society's money in an endless, mad round of pleasure. How we wish it were so!

Actually, all funds contributed to the Area are used for necessities for the Society and nothing else. Most of our members, and all of our officers, are kept too busy with getting out the Review and taking care of the Area activities to indulge in any wild, dissipated pleasures beyond those of never getting enough rest and getting old prematurely because of having too much work to handle. All members and friends of Mattachine should immediately disprove any statements that they know are untrue about the Society whenever they encounter them.

To return to the subject with which we commenced, we would greatly appreciate the help of any person interested in Mattachine and its work who would have space for a dinner. The space is all we need, we provide the food and the cooks, and can supply the utensils, if necessary.

LIBRARY NOTES

A very important recent addition is The Trouble with Cops by Albert Deutsch. After going through the book the reaction is not of astonishment that there are so few honest police, but rather that there are as many as there are.

At the present date, as he points out, policemen in most areas are grossly underpaid. Their morale is not high, partially because the general public attitude toward them, and partially because in all too many cities they become bitterly cynical as a result of so often seeing political pressure exerted to limit the enforcement of the law, and of seeing so many of their fellow cops getting large pay-offs in graft. Also, no real attempt is made in more than a few cities to attempt to exercise high standards in the quality of new recruits. Owing to the low morale, the poor salary, and the lack of prestige there are only a limited number of applicants. Most police forces are greatly understaffed, and so only a limited amount of care is taken in weeding out undesirables and men who are emotionally as well as physically, unfit for such work.

There is also a brief discussion of the homosexual and the law and a quote from Kinsey that the "capricious" enforcement of our sex laws "offers an opportunity for maladministration, for police and political graft, and blackmail which is regularly imposed by both underworld groups and by police themselves." One factor in this situation which is only momentarily gone into is that there is public indifference and sometimes reluctance, towards the enforcement of many laws on the books. The result of this is that these laws are periodically enforced, primarily at the behest of self-seeking demagogues and various pressure groups and then allowed to lapse into inactivity again. This in turn creates a highly uncertain and ambivalent situation for everyone involved.

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coming in October

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