SAN FRANCISCO AREA COUNCIL

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 3: PUBLIC DISCUSSION MEETING
1830 Sutter Street - 8:00 PM
Dr. Henri Lormier, Lecturing

July 11: KOFFEE KLATCH
"Moderated Discussion Group" - 8:00 PM
693 Mission - Area Council Lounge

July 18: MUSIC KLATCH
582 Grove St., Apt # 9
8:00 PM

July 20: LITERARY CHAPTER
582 Grove St., Apt # 9
4:00 PM

July 25: WORK PARTY
693 Mission - Area Council Lounge
8:00 PM

JULY 1958
JULY PUBLIC DISCUSSION

The speaker for the Public Discussion Meeting on Thursday July 3rd, will be Dr. Henri Lormler, who will give an introduction on the subject:

"KNOW THYSELF: THE ONLY WAY TO COMPREHEND LIFE."

Dr. Lormler holds a PhD from a European University, has been a Judge and International Counsellor in Europe and has given lectures and conducted courses on Philosophical and Theological subjects.

The introduction will primarily develop the comprehension of the idea of the personality as the synthesis of the individuality and community, and will present besides a resume of the different developments in the United States and Europe. It will also include an expose of the one-sidedness and insufficiency of rational (i.e., scientific) thinking.

The Meeting will be at the American Friends Service Committee Building at 1830 Sutter Street at 8:00 PM.

KAFFEE KLATCH REPORT

The June 6th Koffee Klatch started with several persons expressing objections to women being present in the meeting because they felt they could not talk as freely as among men only. The discussion then turned to thoughts of equality of homosexuals in a heterosexual society. The first question raised concerned discrimination. Someone asked why homosexuals must be discriminated against. This brought a discussion of discrimination in the employment field. Several members expressed personal experiences where an employee had been dismissed from a job when it was discovered their emotional inclinations were directed towards their own sex. Some brought up the idea of the difficulty in obtaining housing when sexual preferences were disclosed. One landlady in showing an apartment asked outright whether the individual would live 'alone' or would he have 'another man' living with him, indicating immediately that she didn't want 'that kind' of people living in her place.

Next, the topic of gay couples came up. Such questions arose as: "What constitutes a gay union?", "Why are some unions so short in duration?", "Is a strong friendship enough for two men to live together?". Needless to say, there were many divergent opinions expressed.

The conflict of sex and religion was discussed. Someone expressed the idea that there seemed to be more conflict in the lives of those who had been reared in a puritanical family background. Another expression suggested that difficulty arises when the individual cannot confide his sexual acts to his spiritual minister. And yet another view was that those who accept the Bible as verbally inspired, find that their sexual preferences are condemned in the Scriptures in certain translations.

As usual, the meeting was full of lively interest. None of the above questions were really answered, but we felt that the exchange of ideas was very profitable.

Warren Jensen

*** SPEAK UP FOR MATTACHINE ***
At its May meeting, the Literary Chapter continued to discuss Quatrefoil. It was suggested by one of the persons attending that what gives the novel its special value for the homophile and sets it apart from the general body of homophile novels, is its ethical quality.

He pointed out that what first brings its two central characters together is that one of them sees that the other needs help and tries to give it, not with the idea of getting anything out of it for himself, nor with the thought of establishing a liaison, but simply with the aim of helping a fellow human being who needs it.

"It seems to me," he said, "that this is what we need more of in our behavior as a group. As a breed, we homophiles tend to be over-absorbed with our personal problems, with little concern about those of others. It's perfectly understandable why it happens; all too often you learn that you must hide your tendencies from everyone at the same time that you first become aware of them, and it becomes instinctive to retreat far inside yourself from any real involvement with anyone or anything. But it's an essentially unhealthy response, one to be outgrown as soon as possible, and the older of the two men, the one who tried to help the other, is an example of the ideal that we can grow into."

"Barr is not really an especially intelligent person," commented another member. "He's written a few good stories, and writes pleasant, readable essays but when you examine them closely you realize that he's not too good at thinking things out logically. Yet somehow, some way, he cracked through to a level of fundamental sincerity and idealism in this one book, possibly because of some personal experience in his own life. And it's because of this that the book has a depth to it that practically no other homophile publication has, despite certain flaws in the dialogue and writing."

"A thing that impressed me," said another person, "was when the older man told the younger one that just because he was a homophile didn't mean that he had to have only homophiles as friends. Haven't you noticed how some of us are frightened and seem to drift into circles of other frightened people who are always restless and unhappy?"

This, he thought, was unwise illogical and limited your chances of out-growing your fears. "It seems to me," he said, "that when we discriminate in our friendships and relationships on the grounds of whether or not someone is 'gay' we are making the same error that our society as a whole makes, we're regarding the minor fact of one's sexual tendency as being more important than what one is as a person. Instead of identifying ourselves with one little group, we should try to identify ourselves with humanity."

Following along the same lines, the group then discussed the fact that our own problems sometimes seem so large to us that we forget that heterophiles experience painfully difficult ones too. Speaking on the strength of his own professional experience, one of the persons present who had at one time been a marriage counselor said that the average unmarried person has no idea of the amount of suffering encountered by married people.

The meeting closed with the decision to discuss The Last of the Wine, by Mary Renault at the July meeting.

Jack Parrish

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A sex offender who has been granted probation in California cannot be tried for subsequent failure to register an address change, the State District Court of Appeal ruled recently in an important decision for Californians. The case, an appeal handled by Attorney Kenneth Zwerin of San Francisco, is treated in a lengthy opinion published in full in the July issue of Mattachine Review. Many newsletter readers will desire extra copies of the issue of the magazine in order to present this information to attorneys and others interested in the constitutionality of the state requirements for registration of sex offenders. These extra copies are available at 50c each.

BOB FOSTER, San Francisco Area Council Chairman, received a facial cut, several bruises and a facial cut in an auto accident in Northern California during the Memorial Day week-end. Other complications have been detected by physicians and he has been admitted to County Hospital, 22nd and Potrero, Ward C, where he may be visited 7-7:30 PM. If you can't visit him, send a "get-well" card. Bob has been one of our best "go-getter" members and is certainly going to be missed at all activities till he gets well again.

AT A SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING on May 22nd, Roy Hooper was elected SPAC vice chairman. Roy recently came to our city from Los Angeles where he worked with the Society for the past year.

JUNE PARTY MONETARY SUCCESS

The party held on June 21st cleared about $250.00, and will permit the SPAC to make most of the payment on the special emergency assessment levied by the EX. SEC. to underwrite NHQ expenses which the REVIEW and other Income have not met. The enthusiastic response to these social events seems to warrant making them a frequent affair. Watch the next edition of the NEWSLETTER for the next date.

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CONVENTION NEWS

If you plan to be in New York during the latter part of August, why not include the 6th Annual Convention of the Mattachine Society, Inc. in your program? A day-long calendar of important addresses on various aspects of human sex behavior problems by experts in their fields will be given. Reviewers everywhere are invited to be present for this annual public education presentation. Dates are August 30 - September 1, inclusive.

For specific information about the convention program and those sessions open to the public, write directly to the New York Area Council, Mattachine Society, Inc., 1183 Avenue of the Americas, New York 36, N.Y., or to the Society's national headquarters in San Francisco. This information will be mailed as soon as plans are completed.

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CONSTITUTION CHANGES

Remember that suggestions for revision of the Constitution and By-Laws must be submitted to NHQ before July 15th. Write your suggestions and send them to the SPAC office very soon. It's YOUR organization. Protect your privilege to vote by sensible and worthwhile suggestions.

MORE ABOUT K-P-P-A

The Society has been advised that the program which Mattachine taped on May 7th will be held up until after Mid-September. The program chairman of KPPA stated that he plans to have our program run in conjunction with some material on the subject which will be presented by one of the leading Sex Research Scientists of the Bay Area. This phase of the series cannot be completed until he returns from the Orient. We agree with the station that a series of programs, with ours preceded by a recognized professional authority in the field of Sex Behavior will be of greater value toward informing the public. We look forward to working with the station on other programs, once the series gets underway. Watch for further news in the September NEWSLETTER.

NEW SOCIETY "YELLOW BOOK" SOON AVAILABLE

A revised edition of the "Yellow Book" — an information manual of the Society -- will be off the press the latter part of this month. The revised booklet will contain much new information which will help you to better understand the work and aims of the Society. Also useful to hand to your friends when they ask about Mattachine. Copies still sell for 25¢ each.

NEW BOOKS

Pan-Graphic Press announces the following new titles which are now available for purchase:

- THE IMMORTAL, Walter Ross
- THE PROBLEM OF HOMOSEXUALITY, Berg and Allen
- THE SERGEANT, Dennis Murphy
- COSMETION, Glide, (a hard-to-get oldie)
- SEX WITHOUT GUILT, Albert Ellis
- DERRICKS, James Barr, (a reprint)

DENVER AREA GETS NEW BOOKS

Twenty-six volumes from the SPAC library, which were extras or duplicates of titles remaining on hand, were packed and shipped to the Denver Chapter Library recently. If you have useful books at home that aren't being used, why not donate them to the library to share them with others? By passing on a good book, you may give needed information to some earnest searcher.

Mrs. Gailey Resigns

A new, streamlined system for book check-outs was set in order by Mrs. Lorette Galley, just before her temporary resignation. We hate to lose her valuable aid in the library, but she will be replaced by Dr. Lormier during her five-month absence.

NEED A TV MAN ???

The San Francisco Area Council would like to thank the SEVEN HILLS TELEVISION SERVICE, 240 Scott Street, San Francisco, for furnishing the sound amplifying equipment at the June 21 social event. This firm, an authorized TV Sales & Service Dealer, can be reached at Klondike 2-0139. Its owners assure TV owners prompt and reasonably priced attention on all service calls.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION REPORT

The June 5th Public Discussion Meeting was a joint-moderated program on the subjects of Self-Acceptance and Self-Understanding. After an introduction of the topic, many individuals expressed their thoughts on the subject. Ideas presented included the necessity to recognize feelings of guilt, fear, hate, love, acceptance of responsibility, and concern for others. The moderators, in answering the question, "What is The Self?", proposed that we are all composites of feeling (the emotional self), rational thinking (the aware self), and the soul (or the spiritual self), and that the true "Self" is the interaction of all.

One person drew attention to the fact that the problem of self-acceptance is stressed more where the community as such, plays an important role as in America, for example. The psyche or soul is only a phase in the development of mind. He pointed out that individual difficulties can only be solved by comprehension of the relation between individuality, community and personality.

SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER

Membership in the local area of the Mattachine Society totaled 31 (paid for '58) at the end of June. Of these, 25 are carry-over or renewal memberships. At the end of '57, the membership reached 46. The above figures indicate a project of utmost importance in this area — memberships must be increased. Every member of the Society in San Francisco should consider himself an active worker on his area's membership committee. The organization grows, leadership is developed, and projects accomplished only in proportion to the growth of organizational membership, here and elsewhere. Every present member in the local area should enlist at least two more friends who are prospects into active membership this year.

How well will you serve the Society in this respect during 1958?

SUPPORT NHQ

In response to suggestions from the Executive Secretary, the June Business Meeting Council voted to send a check for $100.00 to NHQ immediately. This will leave a balance of $141.00 of the $300.00 assessment, which must be raised by August 15th.

*** Support Mattachine ***

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Here's a Summer Special that will permit you to extend the work of the MATTACHINE SOCIETY and enable your friends to increase their knowledge of the homosexual subject. For a limited time MATTACHINE REVIEW will accept "club subscriptions" at the rate of 3 for $10. This offer applies to NEW subscribers only. Your own subscription may be one of them if you aren't now a regular subscriber.

This offer represents a saving of $2 over the total cost of three single subscriptions. But of greatest importance is the enlistment of MORE REVIEW READERS who will be learning about true aspects of human sex behavior. This means that you will be aiding the MATTACHINE program in two ways—through the spread of knowledge and through vital financial support.

Won't you sell at least one block of club subscriptions "right away"? for

mattachine review

693 Mission Street
San Francisco 5, Calif.

August 1st is the date when first class postage rates are advanced from 3¢ to 4¢ per ounce in the U.S. This 33¢ increase over present rates will create a burden for the San Francisco Area Council unless more newsletter readers now currently unpaid send us the nominal $1.00 subscription fee established to cover cost of mailing and postage.

The postal increase will mean $25 additional must be paid in postage annually for mailing the 12 issues of approximately 200 copies each. Present budget set-up of SFAC cannot provide this additional amount, — it must come from our subscribers and readers. Please return the enclosed form with your payment, verifying your present correct address. (Newsletter fees are included in local membership dues.)

Editor, SFAC Newsletter: Here is my dollar for the next 12 issues of the local Mattachine Newsletter. My correct address is:

NAME

STREET & NO. ____________________________________________

CITY ________________________________ ZONE __________ STATE

WHY NOT SEND THE NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND OR RELATIVE?

I have enclosed additional dollars at the rate of one for each name and address on the reverse side of this card. Please send the newsletter as indicated, and you may notify these addressees that the subscription was a gift from me.

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