San Francisco

mattachine newsletter

Calendar of events

NOVEMBER 1959

5-- Thursday--Monthly Public Discussion Forum: Walter Winter, attorney for the mattachine Society, will lead a discussion on topics of current interest. Friends Center, 1830 Sutter 8 PM.

18--Wednesday--Regular Monthly Business Meeting SFAC office, 693 Mission Street, 8 PM.

DECEMBER 1959

5--Saturday--All Day, 693 Mission Street: Second Annual Publications Day Seminar. Topic: "Should Americans read about Homosexuality ?" Panel discussion with experienced moderator, display of sexological literature (open to Society members, public officials, press representatives, and professional guests only) and evening banquet with featured speaker from the sexological field.
Price for all events, including dinner: approx. $6.50.
Details will be announced.

16-Wednesday-- Regular Monthly Business Meeting SFAC office, 693 Mission Street, 8 PM.

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SAN FRANCISCO AREA COUNCIL NEWSLETTER--78th Issue--Nov. 1959
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The second annual Publications Day Seminar on December 5 will carry on the Mattachine Seminar Series and set the pattern for others planned for 1960. Each seminar is conceived as a day-long event with a panel of experts coping with some single problem of each department of the Society. It is hoped that a "seminar series" day can be planned for each department at least once a year.

Many details still need to be worked out for next year's series, but so far the SFAC members have responded with enthusiasm. The plans for the Publications Day Seminar are well under way and a large number of prominent professional people and civic leaders have shown interest. We hope that the other seminars of the series will continue to elicit the support of the members and the copperation of the community.

HAL CALL TO ADDRESS DENVER AREA COUNCIL NOVEMBER 21

Combining a brief vacation with a business trip to Denver, Hal Call will spend about five days in that city in late November and will address the members of the Denver Area Council on November 21. His subject has been announced as "Who is afraid of what ?" Hal plans to remain in Denver for the area council business meeting and hopes to be able to talk with all Mattachine members and friends personally.

ELECTION PARTY HELD AT AREA COUNCIL OFFICE

Almost 25 men and women attended the Area Council's impromptu "Election Party" on the evening of Tuesday, November 3. They heard returns on the San Francisco municipal election over TV and radio, and by 11 p.m., it was all over because Incumbent Mayor Christopher had decisively defeated Assessor Russell Wolden. Wolden never was ahead of Christopher in any reported returns.

Next day the newspapers scored Wolden's "dumping" by voters because of his introduction of the "sex deviate" issue which disgusted the electorate, and cost him many votes. The CHRONICLE reported a conversation of blame among Wolden backers and his campaign manager, Publicist Harry Lerner. Typical of the aftermath is the expression contained in the following editorial which appeared in the CHRONICLE on Thursday, November 5th.

What the Vote Means

THE CONVINCING 50,000 plurality by which the voters returned Mayor Christopher to office on Tuesday says plainly that the people of San Francisco are abundantly satisfied with his administration.

It says, emphatically, that they appreciate the diligence and vigor with which he conducted their city's affairs in the last four years — a period marked notably by a vast improvement in the efficiency and morale of the Police Department.

It seems also to say that voters are neither so gullible as some professional campaign managers appear to believe nor so indifferent to the principles that by tradition and charter govern the municipal elections. Assessor Wolden chose to put his campaign on a partisan basis and run for this nonpartisan office as a Democrat. The strategy, aimed at the two-to-one Democratic majority in registration, failed so signally that he received less than 40 per cent of the vote. As for the misguided attempt to bring sex deviation forward as a campaign issue—this did not deceive the electorate but was rather a cause of disgust and anger that alienated many a potential Wolden supporter.

The unsuccessful candidate then fell back upon the tired device of accusing the press that reported and commented adversely upon this maneuver. He cried out that the newspapers were in a conspiracy against him—a cry that could not fail to amuse those familiar with the history of the local press and its chronic disability to agree on political issues or candidates. In this respect, Tuesday's balloting must have been as illuminating to the candidate as it was chastening to us. The two incumbent Supervisors who did not have unanimous newspaper support led the ticket.

PUBLIC FORUMS PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

The November public forum discussion group will be the last held at the Friends Center, 1830 Sutter Street, and will feature a discussion led by Walter Winter on topics of current interest to us all. Mr. Winter is the attorney for the Mattachine Society and is representing our interests in the recent campaign issue and its aftermath.

In December, the Annual Publications Day Seminar will take the place of the usual monthly public discussion forum. This event is scheduled for Saturday, December 5 and will include a full-day of seminars, discussions, diplays of publications and other affairs. The topic for this year's event is: "Should Americans read about Homosexuality ?". The three part program will feature a panel discussion with four professional people and an experienced moderator (this will be open to the general public); a display of literature and periodicals (closed to the public, but open to members, public officials, press representatives and professional guests); and an evening dinner with a speaker prominent in the field of sexological research. Anticipated price for the event, including dinner, will be approximately $6.50.

DR. HOOKER A VISITOR

Dr. Evelyn Hooker, research psychologist from UCLA, was a visitor in San Francisco and met with Mattachine officers and members several times. In an informal session on October 24, Dr. Hooker conferred with the doctors Kronhausen, Dr. Wallace Maxey, Dr. Henri Lormier and members of the society. Among those present were: McDonald Sardeson, Hal Call, Don Lucas, H. Foster Jr and Steve Kellogg.

After an afternoon of city sight-seeing and a dinner at Koe's Auberge restaurant, Dr. Hooker attended the SFAC Hallowe'en party. On the evening of October 26, Dr. Hooker met again with officers of Mattachine and the Daughters of Bilitis in a discussion of future plans, including the proposed seminar series.

"LEDA AND THE SWAN" FLYING TO NEW YORK

The Drs. Kronhausen are flying to New York on American Airline's inaugural jet flight to attend meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex and to attend to some business connected with the recent publication of their book: "Pornography and the Law". They have also been invited to appear on some television programs on National networks.

The Kronhausens are taking with them their much publicized painting of "Leda and the Swan" to have it examined and appraised by art experts. The painting caused quite a sensation when it was examined by a west coast art dealer and valued at a figure that ranged into the tens of thousands. A painting from an Italian school, it is quite possible that it may prove to be a masterpiece of Renaissance art.

HAL CALL SPEAKS AT SAN JOSE STATE COLLEGE

October 14 was the date of a speech by Hal Call before the Spartan YMCA group at San Jose State College. This was the final session in a series of panel discussions on the subject "Sex and Moral Values". Other speakers were Dr. Frances Underwood, anthropologist at Stanford University, and Dr. Arturo Fallico, Professor of Philosophy at San Jose State. Mr. Call, who is publications director for the Mattachine Society, siad that although intercourse between married couples and autoeroticism are (legally) accepted, almost any other sex act if considered a legal and moral deviation by our society. More than 100 young men and women attended the discussion. The San Jose Mercury gave the event good newspaper coverage and also printed an interview with Mr. Call.

DON LUCAS TO SPEAK IN LOS ANGELES AND PHOENIX

Don Lucas, Mattachine's secretary general, will visit Los Angeles November 6 thru November 9 and then go on to Phoenix, Arizona for a five day visit. He will meet with members of the Los Angeles area council and with members and friends in Phoenix to discuss the plans of Mattachine for the coming year and to report on the activities under way.

SECOND PRINTING OF "GAY BAR"

Helen P. Branson's perrenially popular book "Gay Bar" has gone into a second printing and should be off the press on October 27. The first edition, printed by Pan Graphic Press in 1957, has been a collector's item for some time and this second printing will fill the needs of the many people who have requested copies. Mrs. Branson's sprightly style, warm humanity and penetrating insight will continue to delight readers for years to come, and Dr. Blanche Baker's informative introduction is a consice vignette in itself.

MATTACHINE SEMINAR SERIES PLAN APPROVED BY SFAC

At its business session on October 21, the SF Area Council approved a plan for a series of semirars to be held during the coming year. Retroactively, the address on September 28 by Floris van Mechlen of Amsterdam has been listed as the first in the series originating from the West Coast.. Mr. van Mechlen is president of the Foundation International Committee for Sexual Equality.

"PSYCHODYNAMICS" DISCUSSION CREATES LIVELY GROUP

John Gaston, counselor on the staff of Accredited Counseling Service, San Francisco, was speaker at the October 1 Public Discussion Forum of the San Francisco Area Council at the Friends Center. The meeting, announced to be the last to be held at that location, was actually next to the last as the November 5 forum will also be held there before the Friends move from that location on November 15. (See calendar.)

Gaston's topic, "Psychodynamics of Group Processes", was more of a discussion free-for-all with all but 2 of the 21 persons present coming forth with questions of comments. Gaston guided the discussion and vividly illustrated how the individual reacts within a group. He kept the comment along lines of personal adjustment, self-acceptance and tolerance for those who may be different within the framework of a single minority.

The Area Council is grateful for Gaston's appearance, and appreciates his interest in our projects. The firm he represents specializes in counseling on personal problems, vocational guidance and aptitude testing.

FIFTY PERSONS PRESENT AT AUTOGRAPH PARTY

Autographs by authors Eberhard and Phyllis Kronhausen were written in 44 copies of "Pornography and the Law" on October 18 at Dorian Book Service when the book was presented in a pre-publication autograph party. The book is a new release from Ballantine in New York and went on general sale in the San Francisco Bay Area on October 26.

Within the first week, Dorain Books had mailed out or sold more than 200 copies of the edition, largely in response to an extensive direct-mail campaign. By the end of October, mail orders were still coming in at the rate of about 100 daily.

SAN FRANCISCO AREA MEMBERSHIP IS NOW OVER 100

The first member to break the "over 100" mark signed his application for membership at the Area Council Hallowe'en Party on October 24. Since then other new members have brought the SFAC membership up to 104.

AREA COUNCIL HALLOWE'EN PARTY A SUCCESS

An Hallowe'en fund raising party held October 24 at the home of the SFAC chairman drew a crowd of 65 members and guests and raised a net sum of $100 to aid in covering area expenses. Many distinguished visitors attended including Dr. Hooker from Los Angeles. Many of the Daughters of Bilitis attended . The evening was devoted to conversation and dancing; refreshments were served and there were many excellent opportunities for the exchange of ideas. The SFAC plans to hold these social gathering regularly in the future, as they provide an informal setting for members of Mattachine, the Daughters of Bilitis and their friends to get acquainted and discuss topics of interest.

MATTACHINE SOCIETY IN THE NEWS

The Mattachine Society came in for some unexpected publicity when Russell Wolden, last-minute-Democrat candidate for mayor in the SF mayoralty race, accused incumbent Mayor George Christopher of providing an hospitable atmosphere for homosexuals in San Francisco, and of allowing the Mattachine Society (which Wolden termed "the national organization of homosexuals in this country") to make San Francisco its national headquarters.

The response of the three major daily newspapers of SF was fast and indignant that such an issue should be brought into the campaign. In general, newspaper coverage of Mattachine was accurate and fair, and contact between the press and officers of Mattachine was, as always, very cordial and informative to both parties.

As a result of this publicity, the Mattachine offices in San Francisco have been deluged with telephone calls and visits from friends, well-wishers, curiosity seekers and others. Most of the comment so far (including several letters-from-readers in the press) has expressed support of the Mattachine's aims, appreciation for its efforts and accomplishments and interest in its future.

JANUARY SFAC MEETINGS AND FORUMS TO BE ON FRIDAYS

At the October 21 business meeting of the SFAC, it was voted to change the business meetings from Wednesday nights to Friday nights, and the Public Discussion Forums from Thursday Nights to Fridays. It was hoped that Friday might prove to be more convenient for all members of the area, especially those living out of San Francisco, and that the new "Mattachine night" will draw more participation in the public discussion forums.

MANY SAN FRANCISCO VISITORS

Mattachine has had many visitors recently including Jim Kepner of ONE, Dr. Evelyn Hooker, research psychologist from UCLA, Ken Burns of Los Angeles (Mattachine chairman from 1953 to 1956), Dal McIntire of ONE, Dr. Wallace Maxey, Mattachine director of research from Fresno, and a number of other out-of-town members or friends.

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