

Milwaukee Update: February 1980.

[Milwaukee, Wis.: GPU], 1980-02

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/VAZCJIMCVLTXB8V>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.



MILWAUKEE UPDATE

A Monthly Publication of Gay People's Union, Inc.

FEBRUARY 1980

GAY PEOPLES UNION is on the move. With our second issue of Milwaukee Update, we are introducing new programs, new officers and a new spirit of togetherness in the gay community in Milwaukee. This issue of MILWAUKEE UPDATE is being mailed to over 700 people on our confidential mailing list (never given, sold, or rented to any other organization or publication). If you would like to have your name placed on our mailing list for regular monthly mailings, fill out the coupon on the last page of this newsletter and return it to G.P.U. MILWAUKEE UPDATE, P.O. Box 208, Milwaukee, WI 53201. MILWAUKEE UPDATE is distributed free, however, a small donation to cover the printing and mailing costs would be appreciated.

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED: The results of the annual election of officers of G.P.U. which was held at the January 7th business meeting are: Paul DeMarco, President; Miki Doxtator, Vice President; Jan Revolinski, Treasurer; and Tamara McIlquham, Secretary. An official letter of thanks to outgoing officers Bob Moore and Nancy Deutsch was requested by a unanimous vote of the membership.

SPECIAL ELECTION: As a result of the resignation of Roger Durand from the organization, and thus the Board of Directors, a special election was held on Monday February 4th to fill the vacancy on the Board. Nominees for the position were Alyn Hess, Miriam ben Shalom and Bill Meurnier. Ms. ben Shalom was elected in the written ballot and joins other Board members Michael Mitchell, Pat McIlquham, Bruce Roger Davies and Karla Lawatsch. The G.P.U. Board of Directors and Officers meets every third Thursday of the month at 8:00pm at the Farwell Community Center.

LESBIANS AND GAYS WANTED FOR 1980 CENSUS WORK: "At the suggestion of the President, I am writing to you to ask your help in recruiting people for census jobs" wrote Census Bureau Recruiting Director Mikel Miller in a letter to the National Gay Task Force.

These temporary positions range from Crew Leader (\$4.50 hour) to Enumerator (\$4.20 hour) to Clerk (\$4.00 hour). Detailed job descriptions are available at the Census District Office, 3121 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Phone 291-3755.

The Decennial Census will take place in April 1980. The results will form the basis for reapportionment of the Congress and State Legislatures, as well as determining allocation formulas for more than 100 federally funded programs.

PROGRAM FOR GAY TEENAGERS: Under the supervision of the UWM Dean of Students, the Gay Community at UWM is sponsoring an outreach program to lesbian and gay teenagers (under 18 years) in the Milwaukee area. Recognizing the limited support system available for these teenagers, the group will offer a supportive atmosphere to discuss and examine the gay satellite culture and how this relates to the development of one's personhood.

Milwaukee area gay teens are presently meeting on the first and third Saturdays from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the UWM Student Union Room E.301.

More information may be obtained by phoning the facilitators Greg Ward (962-1978) and Joan Yelanjian (277-7857).

GAY PEOPLES UNION TO MEET ON SATURDAY EVENINGS: Responding to an informal and unscientific survey of the gay community, Paul DeMarco President of Gay Peoples Union has announced plans for a series of Saturday evening rap/support groups, lectures and other social activities. The Saturday sessions will be in addition to the regular Monday evening programs. The first in the series will be held on Saturday February 23 at 8:00pm and will feature a discussion of the topic "Sexual Function or Dysfunction?" Men and women will be segregated, the men's group led by Alyn Hess and John Kujawski and the women's group by Miriam ben Shalom. After individual sessions the groups will meet together for general discussion. Refreshments will be available. A "free will" donation of \$1.00 for members and \$2.00 for non-members is suggested. Check the G.P.U. Calendar of Events for other Saturday programs.

GAY SKATES: DIGNITY-MILWAUKEE has announced monthly gay roller skating parties at the St. Pius X Rink, 7500 W. Wright. The next skate party will be on Saturday February 16th at 7:30pm. The \$4.00 admission includes skate rental. Tickets available at the door. Soda, beer and snacks are also available. See you there!

GAY PEOPLES UNION--CALENDAR OF EVENTS: We're on the move with interesting and informative programs and discussion groups. Why not plan to attend a meeting of G.P.U. soon!

- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11 (8:00pm): Guest Speaker - Ms. Avi Scher from the League of Women Voters. "DID YOU VOTE IN THE LAST ELECTION?"
- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16 (7:30): DIGNITY-MILWAUKEE ROLLER SKATING PARTY, St. Pius X Rink, 7500 W. Wright St. Tickets \$4.00 at the door.
- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18 (7:30pm): LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE COMMITTEE Meeting at the Farwell Community Center, 1568 N. Farwell.
- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18 (9:00pm): POSITIVELY GAY DISCUSSION GROUP: "Improving Family Relationships". Free Will Donation.
- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23 (8pm): "SEXUAL FUNCTION OR DYSFUNCTION?" Separate men's and women's discussion groups led by Alyn Hess and John Kujawski (men's) and Miriam ben Shalom (women's). After individual sessions the groups will meet together for general discussion. Refreshments. Free will donation.
- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25 (8:00pm): Guest Speaker - Barbara Lightner from the Wisconsin Privacy Coalition. Topic will be "SEXUAL PRIVACY AND THE CONSENTING ADULTS BILL". Refreshments. Free will donation.
- SATURDAY, MARCH 1st (8:00pm): Group Discussion topic: "DEVELOPING A POSITIVE GAY IDENTITY". Paul DeMarco, facilitator. Refreshments. Free will donation.
- MONDAY, MARCH 3rd (7:00pm): "POT LUCK DINNER" preceding the Monthly G.P.U. Business meeting. Free will donation.
- MONDAY, MARCH 3rd (8:00pm): GAY PEOPLES UNION Monthly Business Meeting
- SATURDAY, MARCH 8 (7:30pm): DIGNITY-MILWAUKEE ROLLER SKATING PARTY, St. Pius X Rink, 7500 W. Wright St. Tickets \$4.00 at the door.
- MONDAY, MARCH 10th (8:00pm): GUEST SPEAKERS - Bill Meurnier from Cooperation West Side Association and Mike Kaplan former Executive Director of the Sherman Park Community Association. Topic: "GAY INVOLVEMENT IN NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY GROUPS." Refreshments. Free Will donation.
- SATURDAY, MARCH 15 (8:00pm): "THE ALTERNATIVE". G.P.U. Sponsored Coffeehouse. Games, entertainment, discussion, refreshments. Free will donation.

SOUND OFF! As the Wisconsin State Legislature resumes its session, you might want to gear up your personal lobbying effort. Our suggestion: Post near your phone the number of the toll-free legislative hot-line. Then when you get fired up about a piece of legislation, you can let your elected officials know. The number (in operation 8:30am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday) is 1-800-362-9696.

You can be sure that other special interest groups will be using this device to get their anti-gay message across. We think that keeping elected representatives informed of individual concerns should be a special interest and a high priority of every gay voter. If you don't know who your legislators are, the people on the end of the hotline will give you that info too. It's a start.

SEXUAL PRIVACY AND THE CONSENTING ADULTS BILL: Should the State attempt to legislate morality? Should there be laws governing the sexual behavior of consenting adults in private? What is the status of the movement to reform the "Sexual Morality" statutes in the state of Wisconsin? These questions and others will be answered by our Guest Speaker Ms. Barbara Lightner of the Wisconsin Privacy Coalition at the February 25th meeting of Gay Peoples Union. The meeting will start at 8:00pm at the Farwell Community Center, and is open to the public. Refreshments will be available.

BI-SEXUAL MEN'S GROUP: A support and consciousness raising group for bi-sexual men meets the 2nd and 4th Fridays of every month from 8-10pm at the Farwell Community Center.

LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE COMMITTEE (LGPC): The next meeting of the Lesbian and Gay Pride Week Planning committee will be held at the Farwell Community Center at 7:30pm on Monday February 18, 1980. Plans are being made for a variety of events from June 21-29 including (but not limited to): a street festival and outdoor show, a lakefront Ecumenical Service, an amateur talent show, a bowling tournament, a softball tournament and picnic, a candle-light march and vigil commemorating the gay holocaust, a gay film festival, a gay graphic arts show at UWM Union Gallery, a performing arts show, speaking engagements by nationally prominent gay leaders, and a charter bus trip from Milwaukee to participate in the Chicago Lesbian and Gay Pride Day Parade. In addition, the Management of the Club Baths of Milwaukee has announced a \$200 grant to Gay Peoples Union for the purpose of funding a gay theatre group in Milwaukee. Individuals and gay organizations interested in working on the Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee and accepting responsibility for an event during Lesbian and Gay Pride Week should attend the meeting on February 18th.

GAY PEOPLES UNION VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC--SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY: Operating on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings from 7:00pm until 10:00pm and Saturdays from 11:00am until 2:00pm, the G.P.U. Venereal Disease Clinic is provided by gay people for gay people. On Wednesday evenings we offer blood pressure testing and treatment of V.D. by a physician. A small donation is encouraged in order for us to continue this vital testing and control program. Complete confidentiality is guaranteed. The V.D. Clinic is located in the Farwell Community Center. For more info about V.D. call 347-1222 during clinic hours, or call the Milwaukee Social Hygiene Clinic at 278-3631.

CONTA ISSUES STATEMENT: The following non-discrimination statement has been issued by Dennis J. Conta, candidate for Mayor of Milwaukee: "In recent years, 'human rights' have become both the symbol and the guiding principle of this nation's foreign policy. It is my belief, however, that the quest for human rights begins at home. Governments (both local and national), as well as individuals, must have their own houses in order before they criticize others--lest they be accused of hypocrisy.

"Local governments must firmly endorse a policy of non-discrimination and the principles of affirmative action (where applicable) in employment practices - and must include the criterion of age, sex, race, religion, and sexual preference. Where no ordinances exist to enforce those principles, executive orders must be issued to do so.

"Local Police Departments must never harass individuals or groups because of minority status or life-style differences. The community is far better served when police resources are applied to fighting violent crime.

"As mayor of this city, I will do my best to assure that the human rights of every Milwaukeean are protected and that firm steps are taken to correct injustices when they discovered."

PRIMARY ELECTIONS FEBRUARY 19: Voters in Milwaukee will go to the polls on Tuesday February 19 to narrow the field of candidates for the General elections on April 1, 1980. Gays are urged to get out the vote in the primary which will decide who the candidates will be for alderman, Mayor, County Supervisors, and County Executive. A meeting of a new political action group (Gay Political Caucus) will be held on Wednesday February 13th beginning at 7:00pm at the home of Paul DeMarco, 1353 N. 40th St. The purpose of the meeting will be to plan a strategy for the National Convention Project "GayVote 1980". If interested, call Alyn Hess (449-2454) or Paul DeMarco (276-0246 or 342-9955) for more information.

JAY GARLAND MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED: At the Board of Directors meeting of Gay Peoples Union on January 17, 1980, Mr. Bruce Roger Davies was awarded the \$75.00 Jay Garland Memorial Scholarship for the present semester. Mr. Davies is active in Gay Peoples Union and Agape Metro Christian Church. Selection of the winner of the scholarship was made easy, as Mr. Davies was the only applicant.

GAY RIGHTS NATIONAL LOBBY: Whether you must play a "low visibility" role or are an activist, you can help end unjust discrimination against gay people. The Gay Rights National Lobby is the only full-time lobby at Congress for gay civil rights. In addition to it's goal of national civil rights legislation, GRNL also works to defeat anti-gay bills and amendments such as the "Family Protection Act of 1979" recently introduced in the United States Senate by Senator Paul Laxalt (R-Nev) (see GPU NEWS, FEBRUARY 1980). This type of legislation would turn back the clock on our progress if passed. To maintain such a professional lobby in Washington requires EVERYONE'S help! While some persons do not feel able to be publicly active in the effort for gay civil rights, contributing to "the Lobby" provides an excellent opportunity for all persons to contribute significantly. For more information write (and make your check payable to) GRNL, 1606 17th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL LOBBYING EFFORT? Becoming a member of a gay organization may keep you informed about important issues, but there is much that you can do that is just (if not MORE) important. We suggest taking the time to write a letter to to the following elected representatives:

WIS. STATE ASSEMBLYPERSON: Urging them to support Assembly Bill 514 (Consenting Adults Bill).

WIS. STATE SENATOR: Request they introduce in the State Senate companion legislation to AB 514.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE: Urging their support of HR 2074 (Federal Gay Civil Rights Bill).

U.S. SENATORS: Urging their support for S.2081 the first bill in Senate history to prohibit discrimination against lesbians and gay men (introduced recently by Senator Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.).

If you'd like to write to your elected representatives, but don't know their names, call the County Election Commission (278-4060) and they can give you that information.

GAY PEOPLES UNION REQUESTS FILES: In a letter dated February 1, 1980 to Milwaukee Police Chief Harold Breier, Gay Peoples Union requested "access to, for inspection and duplication, all records, files, and/or documents pertaining in any way to Gay Peoples Union, Inc." The action was unanimously approved at the Jan. 17, 1980 meeting of the G.P.U. Board of Directors and was spurred by Chief Breier's failure to respond at all to the organization's Nov. 1, 1979 request to meet with representatives of the Milwaukee Police Department to discuss problems and issues of vital concern to the gay community of Milwaukee.

FARWELL COMMUNITY CENTER OFFERS "GAY SPACE" Maintained entirely through donations to and memberships in Gay Peoples Union, the Farwell Community Center at 1568 N. Farwell on Milwaukee's east side offers meeting facilities for other gay groups and organizations. Your group can make arrangements to meet here by calling the G.P.U. HOTLINE 271-5273.

GAY AA & AL-ANON: Support groups for recovering alcoholics (Gay AA) and for friends and relatives of alcoholics (Al-Anon) meet every Sunday at 6:00pm at the Farwell Community Center. Gay people helping each other in a supportive environment which increases self respect and respect for others is the purpose of these support groups. For more info call "Group 94" at 272-3081 or attend one of the Sunday evening meetings.

CLIP AND MAIL TO: G.P.U., INC., P.O. BOX 208, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201

YES, I'D LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF GAY PEOPLES UNION. Enclosed is my contribution for:

_____ \$12 BASIC MEMBERSHIP _____ \$100 SUSTAINING MEMBER

_____ \$20 HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP (FOR TWO) _____ \$500 SUPPORTING MEMBER

_____ \$50 CONTRIBUTING MEMBER _____ \$6 LOW INCOME MEMBER

_____ PUT MY NAME ON THE MAILING LIST FOR G.P.U. REPORTS AND MILWAUKEE UPDATE MAILINGS.

_____ I GIVE MY PERMISSION TO HAVE A MEMBER OF G.P.U. WRITE A LETTER FOR ME TO MY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE URGING SUPPORT FOR GAY CIVIL RIGHTS AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

_____ I AM INTERESTED IN DOING VOLUNTEER WORK FOR G.P.U.

Please have a representative contact me. Phone: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO G.P.U., INC. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE UNDER SECTION 501 (c) (3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.