

NALGAP *Reporter*

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LESBIAN AND GAY ADDICTION PROFESSIONALS

SERVING THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER COMMUNITIES SINCE 1979

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COME TO BOSTON

for

NALGAP'S Conference within a Conference

July 5th 2002

Come to NALGAP's 5th of July Conference!!!

Let the fireworks begin! On Friday, July 5th, NALGAP is presenting its annual one-day Conference within a Conference at the Boston NAADAC Conference at the Marriott Copley Place Hotel, within walking distance of the center of the historic city and near the Boston Pops' annual July 4th concert and fireworks.

From 11AM to 12 noon, NALGAP and NAADAC will present a General Session, **Before There Were Counselors: Marty Mann and the Alcoholism Movement in America**. Moderated by George Marcelle, the session will present Sally and David Brown, co-authors of the exciting new book, *A Biography of Mrs. Marty Mann: The First Lady of Alcoholics Anonymous*, discussing their pioneering biography of this giant in the alcoholism movement in America.

Marty Mann is a legend in the alcoholism movement in America. Starting in 1939, she was the first woman to pursue recovery from alcoholism in Alcoholics Anonymous. In 1946, she founded the National Council on Alcoholism and was one of the very earliest alcoholism counselors. She was also a lesbian, a fact not widely known during her lifetime because of the powerful homophobia surrounding her.

Sally and David Brown have done extensive research on Marty's life and work and have written a book that does credit to her life, her lifework, and her memory. Interviewed by Dana Finnegan, they will discuss their research and their findings and will share with the audience their experiences, both encouraging and challenging, as they researched and wrote about this remarkable woman.

After the General Session, there will be a **NALGAP luncheon** featuring Robyn Ochs, EdM, who is editor of the *Bisexual Resource Guide* and a well-known speaker on bisexuality. The title of her speech is *Bisexuality: Having a Both/And Identity in an Either/or World*.

In addition to these special events, there will be three cutting edge workshops throughout the day. From 8:45 AM to 10:45 AM, there will be a timely workshop on **Party Drugs in the LGBT Population: Implications for Health** which will explore some of the psychological and social aspects of the use of party drugs in LGBT communities and discuss some assessment and treatment methods. The presenters are: Dr. Marshall Forstein, Medical Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Fenway Community Health, Boston; and Dr. James Montgomery, Unit Director, Pride Institute, Dallas. Both are experts on party drug use among LGBT people.

Following the luncheon, there will be two workshops. The first, from 2:00PM to 3:45PM, is **Writers and Editors Speak Out: A Discussion of How Writing about LGBT Substance Abuse Affects Prevention and Treatment**. The speakers are Joe Neisen, PhD; Emilia Lombardi, PhD; Robyn Ochs, EdM; Emily McNally, PhD, and Dana Finnegan, PhD, authors of LGBT substance abuse articles and books, who will discuss their findings, their struggles, and the ways their writings affect LGBT substance abuse prevention and treatment.

The second workshop is from 4:00PM to 6:00PM and will feature speakers from different gender identities and sexual orientations and racial/ethnic backgrounds to discuss **The Richness of Diversity: Interactions among Race, Ethnicity, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Substance Abuse**. Michael Browning, an African-American gay man; Candace Shelton, MS, CAC, a lesbian Native American; Denise Pruitt-Pope, an African-American bisexual woman; and Billie Nelson, CASAC, an African-American trans woman are the speakers who will draw upon both their professional and their personal experiences.

To cap off the day's activities, NALGAP will host a **President's Reception Buffet** from 7:00PM to 8:30 p.m. This gathering is an event NALGAP traditionally provides for people to meet, network, and relax.

We invite you to attend our workshops, our general session, our luncheon, and our reception. We look forward to seeing you at our Conference within a Conference and to meeting you at our social event. Come to Boston and celebrate with us!

There is a special one-day registration fee of \$100 for attendees at the NALGAP one-day conference. For information about hotel reservations and conference registration, go to: naadac.org or call: 1/800/548-0497.

President's Letter

Five years ago this summer I agreed to become the President of NALGAP. What an honor and daunting task to have the opportunity to provide a vision. "How far can you see?" "I can see forever." "If that's how far you can see, then that's how far you can go." If your imagination knows no boundaries, neither will your future.

The long term vision of our mission statement has not wavered in over twenty years. NALGAP's mission is to confront homophobia and heterosexism in the delivery of services to LGBT people and to advocate for LGBT-affirming programs and services. NALGAP also provides information, training, networking and advocacy, and support for addiction professionals, individuals in recovery, and others concerned about LGBT health. Like the North Star it provides us with direction, something to strive for.

NALGAP has had many great accomplishments over the past several years. Naturally, it goes without saying, that none of this has occurred in isolation. NALGAP has always had an extremely dedicated and hard working Board as well as a supportive membership and affiliated organizations.

In this time frame NALGAP membership has quadrupled and the treasury has grown seven fold. We now have established ourselves on the Internet with our <http://www.nalgap.org/> Web Site. Both of these endeavors have primarily been the result of strong support of both training and seed funds from the Gill Foundation. The Board has become more diverse in both racial/ethnic categories as well as more fully representing the spectrum of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. The OutGiving Project of the Gill Foundation has helped the Board with strategic visioning providing us goals for a solid and sustained future.

NALGAP affiliated and joined as an organization with NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Coun-

selors. This has created a base for communications, potential office space, as well as fiscal and membership accounting. Most important this hard working board has been able to create part time administrative support for the first time in years.

NALGAP was represented at the seminal meeting of the National Coalition for LGBT Health and subsequently has become an organizational member. NALGAP was instrumental in writing the Substance Abuse Chapter of the Healthy People 2010: Companion Document for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Health. This important document establishes national and local funding and research goals for the next decade. NALGAP was active in the creation of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, SAMHSA/CSAT's publication A Provider's Introduction to Substance Abuse Treatment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals. This manual has been widely distributed and used for training of both clinical personnel as well as administrators of substance abuse treatment programs. H. Westley Clark, Director of the Center was honored for his unconditional support in the development of this document at the 2001 NALGAP President's Reception. NALGAP was at the table with the American Legacy Foundation's "Voices from the Community: Legacy's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Forum" on tobacco and nicotine addiction.

Founding members Dana G. Finnegan, PhD, CAC and Emily B. McNally, PhD, CAC have updated their 1987 book, Dual Identities. The newly titled book, Counseling Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Substance Abusers: Dual Identities, will be published by Haworth Press, Inc. in June of this year. I continue my work with LGBT substance abuse research at the new Center for Research on Health and Sexual Orientation, within the Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology at the University of Pittsburgh.

NALGAP's annual meeting and conference will take place in conjunction with the NAADAC conference in Boston 3-6 July. NALGAP Day is Friday 5 July with four exciting sessions (see related article in this newsletter) as well as a general session supported by the Hazelden Foundation, *Before they were counsel-*

ors: Marty Mann and the alcoholism movement in America. NALGAP Day concludes Friday evening with the President's Reception robustly supported by our many friends at Alternatives, Incorporated LGBT Chemical Dependency and Mental Health Treatment. We strongly encourage NALGAP members to fully participate in the NAADAC/NALGAP conference. There is however, a one day special registration fee for \$100 for the NALGAP Conference. Please check our Web Site for further information.

One of the greatest sustainers of NALGAP over the past few years has been our matching grant from the Gill Foundation. Through mid August of this year they will match all memberships and donations dollar for dollar. Please renew your membership and encourage others to join the stimulating work of NALGAP. We are a membership organization serving the LGBT communities since 1979. Your membership, contributions, and donations within this time frame will double our efforts and capacity.

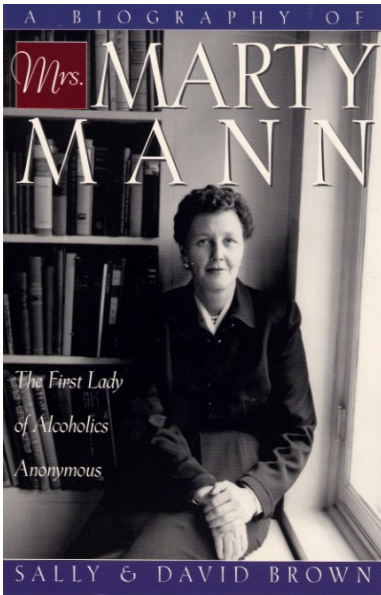
Kind regards,
Rodger L. Beatty, PhD, LSW, NALGAP President

A Reminder: Get the Latest News & Info at www.nalgap.org

NALGAP's website now offers daily summaries of news articles relating to substance abuse. Each summary includes a link to more detailed reports of the headline and each day's latest news is archived for future retrieval and viewing. We are very grateful to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's *Join Together Online* JTO Direct program for making it possible for NALGAP to deliver the day's news about tobacco, alcohol, other drugs from mainstream media sources and from agencies and institutions involved in substance abuse prevention and treatment. Selecting the 'Substance Abuse News & Resource Center' option at www.nalgap.org leads to the latest news section, plus tabs taking users to a wealth of other JTO resources, including substance abuse funding news, links, etc.

Keep current. Take full advantage of this new NALGAP information resource by bookmarking www.nalgap.org today and visiting the NALGAP site every day!

REVIEW: *A Biography of Mrs. Marty Mann: The First Lady of Alcoholics Anonymous*. Sally Brown & David R. Brown (2001). Center City, MN: Hazelden. **By: Dana G. Finnegan**



It is a privilege and an honor to review this book about the life of a woman whose struggles and valiant pioneering work helped make both my recovering life and my professional life possible.

A few years after I got sober, I started working in the newly developing alcoholism field in 1976. The National Council on Alcoholism (NCA) was already a stable, successful organization devoted to educating the public about alcoholism prevention and treatment. Although I knew it existed, I had little appreciation of how powerful and influential NCA really was.

Then, in 1979, I began to understand. In July of that year, Emily McNally and I and thirteen other lesbians and gay men had just formed the National Association of Gay Alcoholism Professionals (NAGAP—later to become NALGAP). One month later, through George Marcelle's good offices, NCA offered NALGAP the opportunity to present a one and a half day track of workshops on lesbian and gay alcoholism issues and treatment at the NCA Annual Conference in Seattle in May, 1980. This track was the first of its kind in the country, and the proceedings from it ultimately formed the nucleus of the first articles on treatment issues of lesbian and gay alcoholics.

This historic event fostered by NCA helped the growth of the newly-formed NALGAP and contributed to the ongoing development of its educational and advocacy efforts. So it is with this debt of gratitude in mind that I write this review.

In writing a biography, it is always a challenge to gather the facts about someone and transmute them into a living, breathing life. But that is exactly what Sally and David Brown have managed to do.

They describe Marty Mann's life in chronological order, an approach which has both strengths and weaknesses. The major problem with this chronological organization is that sometimes it presents the reader with too much detail, not all of which seems relevant.

On the other hand, this chronological order allows the Browns to make Marty Mann come alive and develop before our eyes. Thus we can see the forces shaping Marty's character—her strong will, her determination, her commitment to others, her honesty and forthrightness. It also helps explain how because of her character she was able to withstand the ravages first of TB and later of alcoholism and to push past many obstacles and carry out her life's work of educating the public about alcoholism. She had a single-minded devotion to the cause of educating the public in order to reduce the devastating stigma of alcoholism. The sources of her devotion become clear as the Browns trace her early life and dreams and her later struggles with alcoholism and recovery.

After describing Marty's childhood, the Browns focus on her falling prey at the age of 14 to tuberculosis. "In 1918, TB was America's greatest killer" (p. 28). TB was also surrounded by a dark cloud of stigma which prevented many families from seeking help for the disease. Fortunately, Marty's family supported her treatment, but a young friend of Marty's died because her family kept her at home, rather than expose themselves to the stigma. As Marty later commented, "All my life I have felt that stigma killed Catherine. And it nearly killed me. So I have a strong feeling about the elimination of stigma on illness" (p. 32). This is one example of how the Browns use Marty's life experiences to explain her later motivations and actions.

Soon after Marty recovered from TB at the age of 17, she began drinking to help her feel less awkward socially (an old, old story!) and drank heavily for the next ten years. She was known as a drinker who had a hollow leg, able to drink most others under the table. During this time she married John Blakemore, then divorced him within a year, moved to New York in 1928 and began writing for an art magazine. From then on she considered herself a journalist and public relations person. It was at this time that she came to realize that she was a lesbian. In 1930, she moved to London, entered the social whirl (which included, for example, the Bloomsbury group, Natalie Barney, Gertrude Stein). She was successful both in business and her social life until 1932 when she crossed over the “invisible line” into alcoholism.

Filled with self-loathing, she struggled to understand and find her way. Her description of her feelings and actions during this time do much to explain her tremendous drive to give alcoholism a name and to destigmatize it.

I was in complete darkness as to what was happening to me, and I spent five years. . . desperately trying to find out what was wrong. . . .No one could tell me. And no none could help me. I thought I had a severe mental illness, but I couldn't get such a diagnosis, and I couldn't get any name to put to it. I merely knew that I was behaving as if I were insane and that I was going headlong toward death and destruction. This was in the 1930s. The stigma on alcoholism then, and even now, lay as heavy, and as destructively, as it had on tuberculosis fifteen or twenty years before.

By quoting Marty and by drawing on others' descriptions and perceptions, the Browns are able to capture the pain and horror of Marty's active addiction and show how those feelings and experiences motivated her. In this way, the Browns are able to present her story in such a way that it's not just a “horror story” but is an explanation of a driving force in her life.

The Browns trace Marty's struggle to understand what was happening to her and to get sober, including her resistance to Dr. Harry Tiebout's contention that abstinence was the only way. They also describe the miracle of Dr. Tiebout's reading the Big Book in

manuscript and his passing it on to Marty. She later described this chain of events as God's will working in her life.

It was through links like these that Marty met Bill and Lois Wilson and, after three relapses, was able to get and stay sober. Because there were no other women getting sober at the time, Lois Wilson became a powerful ally to Marty in her struggle to withstand the bias of early AA men about women drunks.

The major themes that run through this biography are the network of connections that helped Marty and other early alcoholics find their way and Marty Mann's genius that guided her vision and her course of action. The network of connections surrounding Marty reads like an alcoholism Hall of Fame—Dr. Tiebout, Bill Wilson, Dr. Bob, Lois Wilson, E. M. Jellinek, Brinkley Smithers, Selden Bacon, Dr. Karl Menninger, Dr. Stanley Gitlow—all of whom contributed in some way either to Marty's recovery and/or to her development of the National Council on Alcoholism (NCA). In addition, she had connections with powerful women—e.g., Mary Pickford, Dorothy Parker, Katherine Pike, Eleanor Roosevelt—who supported her efforts and helped her by serving on the NCA Board.

The Browns talk at some length about Marty Mann's genius—how she applied her expertise in public relations to the fight against stigma and how she saw the need for education of the public as central to the fight against alcoholism. In particular, “Marty's visionary and organizational genius lay in her sense of how to accomplish this goal of community education and sensitization” (p. 168). She followed two courses of action: one was proactive—working “to instigate systemic change at the community level” (p. 168). As the Browns note, “She saw clearly that if the stigma of alcoholism were to be mitigated so that individual alcoholics would seek help, whole systems would have to change their attitudes and actions regarding the disease” (p. 168). The other course of action was to adopt a watch and wait strategy, always looking for ways to implement change in systems through other people.

Much of this book is a testament to the strength and determination exercised by Marty Mann in pursuit of her dream of educating the public and thereby lessen-

ing stigma. But the book does not neglect the personal side of Marty's story. The Browns present a really clear and sensitive description of the love relationship between Marty and Priscilla. For example, the Browns comment that "their loving union almost certainly provided the stimulus and nurture that enabled and enhanced their future great accomplishments" (pp. 138-139).

The Browns do a good job of explaining why Marty stayed in the closet—by describing the homophobia of that time and that culture. As they state, Marty "already had two huge stigmas to overcome in the public mind. She was a woman (and in a highly visible leadership position of power) and an alcoholic. Homosexuality was a third stigma she didn't need" (pp. 146-147). They contend that had she come out she would have jeopardized all that she was trying to (and did) accomplish.

But the Browns don't shy away from truths that are not always flattering, such as Marty's affairs and her relapses after she first went to AA and about the controversy with some AA members regarding her prominence as a speaker about alcoholism. The Browns don't back away from describing the ego clashes between Marty and other powerful people such as Brinkley Smithers, the single greatest benefactor of NCA. Interestingly, though they clashed, they were friends. Brink described their relationship in these words: "'She's the queen, and I'm the king. So I won half the time'" (p. 238).

But all this pales in the face of Marty Mann's tremendous accomplishments. Primarily because of her we have the concept of alcoholism as a disease, we have the words *alcoholic* and *alcoholism*, and we have a powerful organization dedicated to educating the public about alcoholism, thereby decreasing the stigma attached to it. As Bill Wilson wrote in a [Grapevine](#) article, "I cannot detail in this space the great accomplishments of Marty and her associates in the present-day National Council on Alcoholism. But I can speak my conviction that no other single agency has done more to educate the public, to open up hospitalization and to set in motion all manner of constructive projects than this one" (pp. 185-186).

Since this is a review, some comments on whatever weaknesses exist in the book are in order. Some of the

writing is choppy such as short sentences and lists of details, some of which don't seem relevant. Sometimes the relationships between/among people and some of the internal conflicts in NCA are unclear, so I can't always tell what the dynamics or issues are.

But the strengths far outweigh the weaknesses. I've worked in this field a long time and thought I knew a fair amount about its history—but I learned all kinds of information that I didn't know.

Reading this book is like reading an "honor roll" of people who created and shaped and made possible the recovery movement in America. And the book is written in such a way that I kept feeling I was right there, as though I was standing alongside these people as they experienced their lives and the events in them.

It is humbling to learn how much we all owe to Marty Mann. And this debt is captured by the clarity and vividness of the Browns' descriptions of what a remarkable person she was. The list of her effects on the state of alcoholism education is staggering.

They also present a really good description of the love relationship between Marty and Priscilla. They handle their discussion with clarity and sensitivity. For example, the Browns comment that "their loving union almost certainly provided the stimulus and nurture that enabled and enhanced their future great accomplishments" (pp. 138-139).

In addition, the Browns do a good job of explaining why Marty stayed in the closet—by describing the homophobia of that time and that culture. As they state, Marty "already had two huge stigmas to overcome in the public mind. She was a woman (and in a highly visible leadership position of power) and an alcoholic. Homosexuality was a third stigma she didn't need" (pp. 146-147). They contend that had she come out she would have jeopardized all that she was trying to (and did) accomplish.

One other great strength of this book is that the Browns are able to present Marty and her life in such a way that readers are able to view her accomplishments through her eyes. By quoting Marty directly, the Browns take readers right there in the experience. For example, they let Marty speak for herself as she describes her spiritual awakening:

“The walls crumpled and the light streamed in. I wasn’t trapped. I wasn’t helpless. I was free, totally and completely free! And I didn’t have to drink to ‘show them.’ This wasn’t religion, this was freedom! Freedom from anger and fear, freedom to know happiness and love” (p. 108).

I highly recommend this book.

Largest-Ever Study Examines Priorities and Demographics of Black Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender People

[Press Release from the NGLTF Communications Department: ngltf@ngltf.org--A national, multi-city study of Black gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people released today, Monday, March 25, 2002, documents. . . widespread experiences of racism and homophobia.]

Say It Loud: I’m Black and I’m Proud is a collaboration among nine Black GLBT Pride organizations, a team of Black researchers, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Representing the largest national, multi-city sample of Black GLBT people ever surveyed on such a wide array of topics, the study also found HIV/AIDS, hate violence, and recognition of same-sex relationships to be the top policy priorities of Black GLBT people.

"This report provides a first-time comprehensive look at the demographics, experiences, and priorities of Black gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people," said Dr. Juan Battle and Dr. Cathy J. Cohen, the study's lead researchers and primary authors. "It contains significant policy implications for the predominantly White GLBT community, and for the predominantly straight African American community. This report also provides much-needed data on an underserved and understudied population which is an integral part of both the Black community and the GLBT community." Joining Dr. Battle and Dr. Cohen as authors of the report are Dorian Warren, Dr. Gerard Ferguson, and Suzette Audam.

The data was collected as part of the Black Pride Survey 2000, a research collaboration between NGLTF's Policy Institute and nine U.S. Black GLBT Pride

celebrations during the summer of 2000. A total of 2,645 participants were surveyed at Philadelphia Black Pride, Houston Splash, Washington, D.C. Black Pride, Oakland Black Pride, Chicago Black Pride, Los Angeles's At the Beach, Detroit's Hotter Than July, New York Black Pride, and Atlanta's In the Life.

Among the key findings of the report:

- Respondents identify the most important issues facing Black GLBT people as: HIV/AIDS, hate violence, and marriage/domestic partnership;
- A high prevalence of parenting is revealed: 40 percent of women, 18 percent of men, and 15 percent of transgender people reported having at least one child;
- Half of the respondents say racism is a problem in the White GLBT community;
- Two-thirds report that homophobia is a problem within the Black community;
- In terms of sexual identity, three quarters identify as "gay" or "lesbian," 11 percent "bisexual," and one percent "transgender";
- More than half say their church or religion view homosexuality as "wrong and sinful";
- The Black Pride sample is slightly less Democratic, and more Republican, than the Black population as a whole. At the same time, the Black Pride sample is more liberal than the Black population as a whole, with 47 percent identifying as liberal versus only 31 percent of respondents in the 1993 National Black Politics Study.

"It is important to build a national movement where the experiences of every person are understood and valued. This report provides important insights and recommendations for organizations committed to ensuring that the priorities of Black GLBT people are the priorities of the entire GLBT movement," said Lorri L. Jean, executive director of NGLTF. "The Task Force is proud to continue its commitment to these and other issues of racial and economic justice."

Say It Loud: I’m Black and I’m Proud is the third report released by NGLTF's Policy Institute in the last year that examines issues of concern to GLBT people

of color and low-income people of all backgrounds. The previous two studies examined the effects of welfare reform on GLBT families and the impact of social discrimination on HIV risk among Latino gay men. All three reports are available at <http://www.ngltf.org/library>.

Concurrent Meeting of CSAT's Cultural Competency and Diversity Network (CCDN) Work Groups

On November 26-28th, 2001, there was an historic meeting in Washington, DC, between the CSAT Cultural Competency and Diversity Network (CCDN) Work Groups. For the first time ever, these two important groups joined together to work on the overall task of making administrative and treatment programs culturally sensitive and competent.

This meeting was supported and guided by various groups—the Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) Staff; the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) Staff; and the Knowledge Application Program Staff (from Johnson, Bassin, & Shaw Staff and the CDM Group Staff).

The Cultural Competency Group is made up of the African American Work Group, the Asian/Pacific Islander Work Group, the Hispano/Latino Work Group, and the Native American Work Group. The Diversity Network is comprised of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Work Group.

The Opening Session on Monday evening included a Welcome by Karl D. White, EdD, Project Officer, Knowledge Application Program (KAP) of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT). After that, H. Westley Clark, MD, JD, MPH, CAS, FASAM, the Director of CSAT, gave the Opening Address in which he talked about the need for cultural competency and the need for the acceptance of diversity.

After that, Ednita Wright, PhD, MSW, CSW, Facilitator, made the Participant Introductions. Following this there was a Networking Session where participants could meet and talk.

The next day, Tuesday, the Individual Work Groups met before the Opening Ceremony and Address,

“Many Tongues, One Heart,” given by Terry Tafoya, PhD, Native American speaker. After this, the whole group began preparations to carry out the central task of the meeting—to develop ten mini-manuals to be assembled in *10 Low-Cost Actions Your Program Can Undertake to Improve Cultural Competency and Strengthen Sensitivity to Diversity Issues*. This product will comprise 10 mini-manuals that provide step-by-step directions on implementing the 10 separate actions.

These mini-manuals addressed such topics as *How to Arrange Diversity Training for Staff* and *How to Develop Culturally Appropriate Programming: Needs Assessment and Program Adaptation for Target Populations*.

Action groups consisting of members from each of the five distinct groups then formed and chose which topic they would focus on. For the rest of the time, these action groups worked on the ten mini-manuals. The individual groups met one last time, then attended a short closing ceremony.

This was a groundbreaking meeting, bringing together cultural groups and the LGBT group to work with one another. It was the beginning of a process that will no doubt need time and further meetings to ensure the coalition necessary to move forward. As it was, this was a meeting in which the cultural groups and the LGBT group struggled to deal with and work through their biases. We hope that there will be other meetings that bring these two groups together because only by getting to know one another can we dispel our prejudices.



Dear Abby

Monday, April 29, 2002

DEAR ABBY: "Hurt and Mad in Okemos, Mich." asked you about taking legal action against a former boyfriend who had given her a sexually transmitted disease (STD). Her gynecologist had told her that the STD could cause cancer. You advised her to see an attorney.

Here's another piece of advice: She and her ex-boyfriend should have their heads examined! Twenty years into the AIDS pandemic, people engaging in unprotected sex with someone whose sexual history and health status they do not know as well as their own risk far more than an infection that might lead to cancer. And yes, that applies equally to those who engage in "serial monogamy" (being faithful to a series of partners, one at a time).

Although "Hurt and Mad" did not say whether she and her ex had engaged in sex under the influence of alcohol or drugs, too many people still do. Abby, PLEASE remind your readers that this practice increases risks for unplanned and unprotected sex, unwanted pregnancy, hepatitis, HIV/AIDS and other STDs. -- *RODGER L. BEATTY, Ph.D., PRESIDENT, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LESBIAN AND GAY ADDICTION PROFESSIONALS*

DEAR DR. BEATTY: You're right. You put it short and sweet, and that's why I'm printing your letter.

As seen in DEAR ABBY by Abigail Van Buren a.k.a. Jeanne Phillips and founded by her mother Pauline Phillips. © Universal Press Syndicate. Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/MEMBER NEWS

Haworth Press announces June, 2002 publication of Counseling Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Substance Abusers: Dual Identities—by Dana G. Finnegan, PhD & Emily B. McNally, PhD

Haworth Press writes: "This completely revised edition of the groundbreaking 1987 volume is about what it means to have dual identities: to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender and to be a substance abuser in a hostile world. Written with a minimum of jargon so as to be understandable to beginners, this vital book contains information that will be extremely valuable to experts as well. *Counseling Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Substance Abusers: Dual Identities* is the only book that deals specifically with the interface between being LGBT and substance abuse. It examines ways to help this population, including special treatment issues, stages of identity transformation, counseling approaches, and resources."

THE BISEXUAL RESOURCE CENTER ANNOUNCES PUBLICATION OF THE NEW BISEXUAL RESOURCE GUIDE!

- **UPDATED LISTINGS!**
- **NEW ARTICLES!**
- **49 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED!**
- **AN EXPANDED BI-BIBLIOGRAPHY!**
- **BI RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET!**
- **UPDATED BI FILM GUIDE!**

The Bisexual Resource Center presents the 4TH EDITION of the *Bisexual Resource Guide*, the most comprehensive international bi directory ever published. Every kind of bisexual and bi-inclusive organization in the world is in here—youth groups and media, bi People of Color coalitions and cross-cultural alliances, political groups and social gatherings, universities, religious centers, bookstores, HIV/AIDS support, places to dance and sing, and much, much more.

TO ORDER: Send check or money order (payable to Bisexual Resource Center) in the amount of \$13.95 plus Your Name, address, email address TO: The Bisexual Resource Center, Dept. HAY, P.O.Box 1026, Boston, MA 02117-1026.

FOR INFORMATION: Visit the BRC and the Guide at www.biresource.org; send an email at brc@biresource.org or call 617/424-9595.

Stonewall Resignation

Kim Murillo has left her position as executive director of Stonewall Recovery Services, in Seattle. The organization's board of directors is expected to announce a search for her replacement soon.

NALGAP Board Member Hosts Radio Talk Show

From June 2001-April 2002, Joe Amico hosted a radio talk show called "Talk About Recovery." Guests on the show included noted authors and experts in the field of addictions and mental health. The show is archived on the Meadows website and can be heard there: www.themeadows.org.

Due to the popularity of his recovery show, Joe has been asked to host a Phoenix show on gay and lesbian issues, sponsored by Echo Magazine and The Meadows. The show is aired live every Thursday at 10 PM (Phoenix time). It can also be heard live over the Internet via audiostream. Go to www.nabcinc.com and click on KFNX LIVE. Call-ins are welcome on the toll free number.

Review of Laura Davis' book, I Thought We'd Never Speak Again: The Road from Estrangement to Reconciliation. By Joe Amico.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Laura Davis on my radio show recently. Many of you will recognize her as the coauthor of Courage to Heal. Her latest book, I Thought We'd Never Speak Again, was just released this Spring.

Many of us in the GLBT Community have had strained relationships with our families. Perhaps they

disowned us or we divorced them as a result of reactions to our coming out or non resolution of incest or other abuse issues. We counselors may have even advocated such separations from family members. However, at some point, Laura contends, there comes a time and need for reconciliation.

Laura has collected stories from various folks on a variety of issues that have caused estrangement in families, including her own personal story. Laura was open in my interview about her sexual orientation and the need for dealing with these issues in our community. She is to be commended for her courage in taking on this issue and providing a resource for us to share with others.

Treating Addictions In Special Populations: Research Confronts Reality

At the APHA Conference on October 7-8, 2002, NALGAP members Irene Jillson, Ph.D.; Nancy Kennedy, Ph.D.; Rodger Beatty, Ph.D.; along with Frank Wong, Ph.D., will present a workshop entitled, *Meeting the Needs of LGBT Populations in the Context of Data and Treatment Gaps*.

A particular focus of this workshop will be on the impact on the ability of practitioners, planners, and policy makers to develop practices and policies based on the paucity of data and information available regarding substance abuse treatment for LGBT populations, and the paucity of related data and information; the multiple stigmas attached to LGBT addicted populations, and in particular those of color and those with disabilities, which impede both equitable and appropriate policies and effective service delivery; and recommendations regarding research needed to inform policies and practices (derived partly from the Healthy People 2010 Companion Document for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Health; and effective public and private sector policies and practices at the community, state, and national levels, based on current research findings.

PLEASE NOTE: We urge ALL members of NALGAP to send information about their activities so that everyone can know what NALGAP members are doing

The Journal Of Gay and Lesbian Psychotherapy, the Official Journal of the Association of Gay And Lesbian Psychiatrists Announces a Special Issue on Sexual Conversion Therapies: Ethical, Clinical, and Research Perspectives: Volume 5, Number 3/4.

Guest Edited by Ariel Shidlo, Ph.D. & Michael Schroeder, Psy.D.
Editor-in-Chief: Jack Drescher, M.D.

There has been much recent press attention given to claims that some people can change their sexual orientation through so called reparative or sexual conversion therapies. However, even the most devoted advocates of these treatments admit that the majority of patients do not change. What happens to them?

Some of the answers can be found in this volume which presents current perspectives, both from patients and clinicians, on the harmful impact of sexual orientation conversion interventions. It is the first time that such a wide range of papers on this issue have been gathered together in one volume.

This volume's purpose is to allow the accumulation of social scientific data to go beyond reductionist questions about whether people can change and to shed light on what exactly is involved in trying to fight against one's homosexual orientation.

Homosexuality is Not a Disorder: Statement from the American Psychiatric Association: April 28, 2002 in response to recent public statements made about homosexuality being a "disorder."

In the past, defining homosexuality as an illness or disorder reinforced society's moral disapproval of same-sex relationships...and efforts to discredit the growing social acceptance of homosexuality as a normal variant of human sexuality. The integration of gays and lesbians into the mainstream of American society is opposed by those who fear that such an integration is morally wrong and harmful to the social fabric.

APA disagrees with this position now as it did in 1973 when, after a careful review of the scientific literature, APA removed homosexuality from the list of mental disorders. Since that time, it has been the

position of the APA that homosexuality per se implies no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability, or general social or vocational capabilities.

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