

# **BAGMAL NEWSLETTER**

Number 1, February 1987

**BAGMAL is the Boston Asian Gay Men and Lesbians. Our mailing address is c/o Glad Day Bookshop 43 Winter St. Boston MA 02108. Messages for BAGMAL can be left with the Glad Day staff at (617)-542-0144 during their store hours.**

**The BAGMAL newsletter is published by the Publications Committee of BAGMAL which is solely responsible for its contents.**

**The Publications Committee now comprises Siong-huat Chua. Other BAGMAL members who are interested can contact Siong-huat at 536-9309.**

## FOR THE RECORD:

This is the first newsletter of **BAGMAL** since the end of 1984 and represents the rejuvenation of the organization with the influx of new numbers and renewed energy. Through the quiet years of 1985 and 1986 we have maintained a certain amount of visibility, through our mailing address and telephone number at **Glad Day Bookshop** and have continued to receive mail and inquiries about our group from both individuals and organizations. Of the latter we have maintained ties and correspondence with particularly the **Gay Asians of Toronto** and **Asians and Friends of Chicago**, both of which put out excellent newsletters which we receive regularly. We are in the happy position now of being able to exchange publications with them.

Also of note is the warm reception we afforded Canadian videomaker **Richard Fung** in May 1986 when we arranged for him to introduce his videos *Orientations* and *Chinese Characters* in their premiere showings in Boston. During the same time we also showed video excerpts from *CelebrAsian '85*, a variety show by the Gay Asians of Toronto.

The momentum for the current revival was begun with our **Fall Party** in October '86 and continued with our **Chinese/Vietnamese New Year Party** in January '87. More outreach is possible especially to Asian

lesbians in the area but with the interest that has been generated so far it is clear that the quiet years are over.

## EDITORIAL:

We seldom think of ourselves as pioneers but by merely living our lives as gay and Asian people we have assumed that status. While it is true that there are many instances of homosexuals and homosexuality in the various Asian cultures from which we descend none have had the startling audacity implicit in our chosen "lifestyle" - that we live **honestly** as our need for same-gender sex, love, companionship demands. That is to say we have done away with the "traditional" facade of wives or husbands, of offsprings and a family to cover-up the non-conformity of our sexual desires. Without this social hypocrisy and traditional baggage of heterosexual-centered families as a cover-up we have truly become rebels pioneering new ways of living and being.

As many of us have already found out deviating from traditional ways of being is often confusing and unnerving. Where are the role models? Who else does it this way? Is what I am doing or feeling off-the-wall, unrealistic? Every step of the way these questions confront us whether we are dealing with work, play, our biological families, our lovers.... As most of us already

know there are no role models. We create and invent the answers to our own questions as we deal and exist from day to day. While the gay liberation movement has opened up an area for the dissemination of information and the exchange of ideas and opinions much that is relevant and particular to us still rest with our own ingenuity and creativity.

But we can share our individual solutions, our individual ideas and opinions with one another. In a culture that denies homosexuality and even in a mainstream gay/lesbian culture that presumes only young, middle-class white consumer-ing gays, the only answers to those burning questions - what to wear, who to love, what to tell our parents... - lie with us. We are the pioneers. Individually we are creating our own gay and Asian role models, our own gay/lesbian and Asian culture as we live from day to day. And in the pages of this newsletter and others like it, we can, as a community record, preserve, exchange and encourage our creativity in this exciting time of our lives. Let a hundred pink blossoms bloom.

#### **CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS:**

This is your newsletter. We welcome contributions of any length - artwork, fiction, personal opinions. We are especially interested in coming our stories. Please submit to BAGMAL c/o Glad

Day Bookshop 43 Winter St. Boston MA 02108. Those interested in working on the newsletter call Siong Huat 536-9309.

#### **MEMBERSHIP DUES:**

The annual dues to cover mailing and other incidental costs is \$5. Please send checks to our mailing address or bring cash to next meeting.

#### **VOLLEYBALL**

Plans are underway to organize a volleybal team. Friendship first, competition second is the motto. Call Jing 262-1997.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Place: Jing Achacoso's  
147 W. Concord St. Boston  
MA 02118 262-1997  
Time: 2 pm. Sunday March 15 '87  
Bring food to share for  
brunch.

#### **IMMIGRATION LAW WORKSHOP**

Place: University of Mass., Boston  
downtown campus. 250  
Stuart St., Room 222  
Time: 7:30 pm. Friday April 3, '87.  
Topics: Basic information on how to  
apply for a Green Card.  
Regulations affecting gay  
immigrants including  
changes under new  
Immigration Reform Law.  
Speakers: Richard Iandoli, Regina  
Lee, Iris Gomez  
Sponsored by: Gay and Lesbian  
Advocates and Defenders  
and BAGMAL.

## BAGMAL MINUTES

Time: 22 February 1987

Place: at Siong-huat Chua's

Chaired by: Jack Lo

1. Potluck brunch

2. Purpose of the group

No agreement on purpose (political, social, etc.), but it was agreed that we should meet regularly so that we can get to know each other, especially since there are so many new members.

3. Executive positions

The following positions were filled:

Co-chairs: Jack Lo and Vickie Lew. They will coordinate activities, oversee outreach, and represent the group to the world at large.

Secretary: Jeffrey Nguyen. For the moment he will pick up the mail every week at Glad Day.

Publications

coordinator: Siong-huat Chua. He will produce the monthly newsletter and revise our pamphlet and translate it into other languages (Vietnamese, Thai, Chinese, etc.). He will have the help of others who have yet to volunteer.

Social activities coordinator: Lester Wong.

He will oversee the work of the monthly committees.

Treasurer: Andrew Li.

He will collect fees and generally look after our money.

4. Financial report from Andrew Li

We have about \$55 in the bank, and received \$75 in donations at our last party at Jing's (30 Jan.). We decided to institute a \$5 annual membership fee to cover basic overhead (mainly mailings), with additional levies as necessary to pay for special events. We will be collecting this \$5 in the next month or two; those who do not respond to personal telephonic solicitation from Jack and Vickie will be dropped from the mailing list. Updated mailing lists will be given to those who come to meetings.

5. Immigration workshop

We will be co-sponsoring with GLAD (Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders) an immigration workshop at 7.30 pm, Fri. 3 April 1987, at UMass/Boston.

6. Outreach

The subject is a big one and will be discussed

further in future meetings. We hope all members will approach Asians they see in bars or at gay events.

7. Volleyball

Jing Achacoso is the coordinator of our volleyball team. Danny Barreta and Dan Luria are helping. This team is for us, so don't be afraid to join; just call Jing (262-1997). We will get more ambitious (and competitive) later.

8. Women in Two Worlds

This is a conference being held at MIT. Two of Carolyn Ing, Cindy Chin, and Vickie Lew will be speaking at the workshop Families, Sexuality, and Reproductive Rights, 7.30-9.30 pm, Thursday 5 March 1987, MIT Room 9-150.

9. Monthly committees

Each monthly committee will organize a meeting (in cooperation with the co-chairs) and possibly a social event (in cooperation with the social coordinator).

March: Jack Lo, Jonathan Worth

April: Jeffrey Nguyen, Siong-huat Chua, Timmy Pham

May: Andrew Li, Wen-chi Chou

June (Gay Pride Month): TBA

July: Danny Barreta, Dan Luria

August: Arthur Carbonel, Ray Wong

10. Future meetings

2 pm, Sunday 15 March at Jonathan Worth's  
Sunday 5 April at Timmy Pham's  
first Sunday afternoon of each succeeding month

11. Etc.

For further consideration: a screening of Niezi, a film based on the novel of the same name by Pai Hsien Yung. The novel is about gay hustlers in Taipei. Prof. Pai, who teaches in California, has agreed to our invitation to introduce the film at such a screening.

For discussion: Being Asian in bars, or anywhere, for that matter. Why do some people feel they have a hard time and what can they do about it?

Recorded by Andrew Li