



GREEN LIGHT

Newsletter of the Dartmouth Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Alumni/ae Association

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STUDENTS ESTABLISH MENTORING PROGRAM, SEEK ALUM INVOLVEMENT

At the beginning of this year, LGBT students on campus established the College's first formal peer mentoring program. The program, LGBTQ Peer Mentors, currently has two components, and the students are working with DGALA to establish a third aspect that would involve interested alums. The presently existing OUTreach component links both incoming and current students with a mentor based upon similar academic interests, extracurricular activities and geographic location. Also up and running is the Questioning and Curious (Q&C) component, for students not comfortable as

Mentoring, continued on page 2

JOIN US ON CAMPUS IN JUNE! DGALA ALL-CLASS MINI REUNION June 18 -19, 2009

FRIDAY, JUNE 18TH

10 PM-Midnight: DGALA Reception with Open Bar at the Canoe Club on Main Street

Saturday, June 19th

8:30 AM: DGALA Reunions Breakfast with Remarks by President Kim Hinman Lounge, Rockefeller Center

2:30 PM: "Shakespeare, Alan Bennett and Teaching at Dartmouth" with Peter Saccio Moore Theater, Hopkins Center

4:00 PM: Affiliated Group Reception Zahm Courtyard, Hopkins Center

DGALA Dorm Housing Available; For More Information: e-mail DartGALA@gmail.com

PRIDE GROWS ON CAMPUS

Reporting by Anna Roth '11, Rigel Cable '10, Jamal Brown '08, and Nick Chamousis '73

The fourth annual PRIDE celebration on campus this year featured a gathering emblematic of the growing visibility and integration of LGBT students throughout the College community. On Friday afternoon (April 30th) dozens of students, faculty, staff and returning alums, many sporting Pride T-shirts, congregated on the Green to form a human "PRIDE," with arms outstretched, as they were photographed by College photographer Joseph Mehling '69. Exclaimed Matt Schwartz '06: "This photo makes me so happy... and so proud to be a



Aerial Photo of Students Showing PRIDE on Green

Dartmouth alum. Thanks to everyone who helped. I had a great time at PRIDE 2010!"

PRIDE this year was a kaleidoscope of varied and exciting events. PRIDE co-chair Rigel Cable '10 observed that the PRIDE committee partnered with many campus organizations that were anxious to collaborate on events. Thus, a partnership with the Tucker Foundation brought renowned Bishop Eugene Robinson for a discussion of Faith & Sexuality. The Nelson

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Mentoring, continued from page 1

openly identifying as LGBT. Q&C provides resources confidentially (e.g., a mentor, and anonymous hotline and correspondence) that allow students to positively explore their own sexual and/or gender identity.

The College, in conjunction with the students, is providing a formal training program for student mentors. Training so far has included presentations regarding the College's efforts to attract students of all sexual orientations; a presentation by Dean of the College Sylvia Spears about ways mentors can listen to and gain the trust of those they advise; and how to mentor regarding coming out, safe sex, substance abuse and the connection between faith and sexuality. Approximately twenty students have completed the first round of mentor training, and another ten have expressed interest in training in the fall. The program was presented to prospective '14s during the recent Dimensions weekend for admitted students, and it will be in full operation for the fall term.

Program co-founders Rob Avruch '11 and Chris Fletcher '11 told *Green Light*: "There is a huge demand for this type of organization in the LGBTQ community. Students on campus are already using us as a resource to help them explore their sexual identities. We are really excited to see what the future holds when the '14s arrive on campus."



Mentors in front of Collis Hall after a Training Session

Avruch also expressed great student interest in having alumni/ae involvement in an alum mentoring program. "A big concern for a lot of students struggling with their sexual identity is success post-Dartmouth. 'If I come out during college, am I going to hurt my chances of being successful after I graduate?'" Thus, Avruch stated that the Mentors program would like to compile a list of alums who are interested in communicating with a mentee about life after Dartmouth. The list would be organized by profession and geography. If you are potentially interested in serving as an alum mentor, please e-mail both the Mentors program at lgbtq@dartmouth.edu and DGALA director Nick Chamousis '73 at nchamousis@cs.com. Nick is chairman of DGALA's new Networking committee, which includes student and young alum mentoring among its undertakings (see story, page 6). ♦

ADMISSIONS OFFICE CONTINUES OUTREACH TO LGBT APPLICANTS

*By Caroline Kerr '05, Senior
Assistant Director of Admissions*

For the second year, the Admissions Office has provided applicants the opportunity to identify an interest in LGBT community on their First-Year Supplement Form, which allows us to reach out to these students and provide them with additional information and access to resources. Our outreach to this group of '14s included a welcome message from the Advisor to LGBT Students, Pam Misener; the opportunity to participate in a live video and chat discussion with two of our current students (chairs of the student organization, Gender Sexuality XYZ) that provided an overview of LGBTQA life at Dartmouth; and information about LGBTQA programming during the Dimensions program for admitted students. Prospective '14s who came to campus as part of the Dimensions weekend were able to request LGBT-friendly hosts, and many came to the LGBTQA Welcome event on Friday, April 23. They were greeted by current students, faculty, and staff from across the College.

Hundreds of applicants to the Class of 2014 elected to identify an interest in LGBT community on their applications, and many more discussed their activism, involvement and leadership in Gay-Straight Alliance organizations, or shared their coming out stories. This continues to be an important part of our admissions work as we seek to enroll future classes at Dartmouth that represent some of the most talented and diverse students from around the globe. ♦

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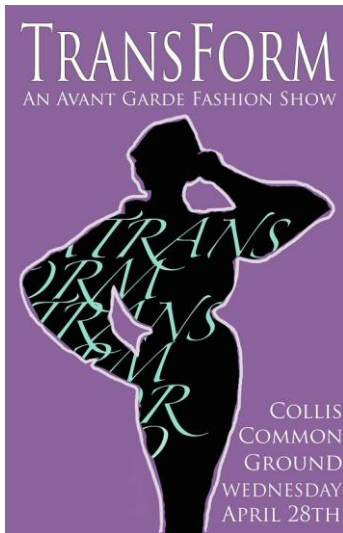
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Edited by Pete Williams '76

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A. Rockefeller Center for Public Policy also partnered with PRIDE to bring keynote speaker Denis Dison, VP of External Affairs at the Victory Fund. Acting Dean of the College, Sylvia Spears, passionately supported PRIDE, even performing a lead role in PRIDE Week theater festival's production of "The Laramie Project." PRIDE's cornerstone event, TransForm, drew over 250 people and raised money for a local AIDS service organization. Another notable "first" was the particularly well-attended PRIDE week dance party held at Theta Delta Chi fraternity. Cable noted that "Theta Delt" fervently supported the event, and he is confident that "the house made huge strides for their fraternity and gender-segregated Greek houses across campus." In general, Rigel said, "The campus has begun to understand that PRIDE week is for everyone!"



Campus Poster for TransForm

PRIDE week began with a festive CookOUT on Collis Patio overlooking the Green, at which hundreds of PRIDE T-shirts, bracelets and removable tattoos were given away. The jam-packed week culminated with the Friday evening Reception and Dinner hosted by the Dean of the College and the President's Office. About 100 attendees enjoyed refreshments and hors d'oeuvres on the Hanover Inn terrace before adjourning to dinner in the Daniel Webster Room. Keynote speaker Beth Robinson '86, who spearheaded the successful initiatives both in the Vermont courts, for civil unions, and in the Vermont legislature, for marriage equality, used the personal heartache and elation that she

experienced in those struggles as a platform to exhort students to persevere in order to effect the societal changes that she believes that can be made. Robinson reflected on her participation in the event, "It was amazing. I'm so inspired by the vision, passion and energy of these young folks at Dartmouth. They've got so much going on, and they do it all so well! They've done amazing things to make Dartmouth a better place, and we can rest assured that we're passing the baton to a group of people who have what it takes to meet the countless challenges we're passing them!"

The dinner featured awards and special recognition for some 25 graduating seniors. Cody Lavender '11 received, posthumously, the Ezekiel Webber '00 Award for his extraordinary activism, advocacy and passion for LGBT inclusion (see page 4). Anna Roth '13 was given a new award, the Beth Robinson '86 Emerging Leader Award. In presenting Anna with her award, DGALA director Caroline Kerr '05 noted that Anna had served as chair of the GSX student group and as a student representative on the Admissions Office LGBTQA Advisory.

The Henry Weiss '60 Award was presented to Rigel Cable '10 for his commitment to extra-curricular and co-curricular activities at the College that improve the lives of LGBT students and enhance the understanding of LGBT persons within the Dartmouth community. (It was noted that Anna and Rigel had participated in an online chat this year with prospective LGBT '14s posted on the Admissions Office website.) Victoria Stockman '10, who co-chaired the TransForm event with Rigel Cable, was awarded an Honorable Mention for the Henry Weiss '60 Award for advocacy and contributions as an LGBT ally. And keeping in line with Dartmouth tradition, Jamal Brown '08 and Raymond Rodriguez '09 joined Rigel Cable on stage to pass the crown of "Queen of Dartmouth" to Rob Avruch '11. They advised the group to look for big things from Rob next year! ❖



Bishop Gene Robinson with PRIDE celebrants outside Rollins Chapel

REFLECTIONS FROM PRIDE 2010

Rigel Cable '10:

I was (and still am) so humbled and overjoyed to receive the Weiss award at the Gala dinner on Friday, April 30th, 2010. Raymond [Rodriguez '09] introduced the award, and I was immediately brought to tears by the moment – my parents, my boyfriend, my two best friends, and Nick Chamousis D'73 were sitting at a table together, and I feel very fortunate to have such a loving group of people that support me. Beth Robinson D'86 spoke just before the awards were announced, and her accomplishments over the years in fighting for Vermont marriage equality serve as evidence of the potential we all have to make changes for the better in the communities around us.

After I collected myself, I reminded those sitting in the Daniel Webster room that our work at the College is far from done, and that we should not stop pushing to make Dartmouth a better place for LGBTQA students. We must remember that even the most "public" or "open" social spaces are still uncomfortable and unwelcoming for many members of our community. We find ourselves in the unique moment where a new President, Dean of the College, and Dean of Faculty actively support our community. I believe we have the opportunity to make significant strides in the coming years, and I am confident that the future classes of Dartmouth will continue this work that began so many years ago. My interest in progress for the LGBTQA community has followed in the footsteps of many campus leaders before me, and the small effort I made arose from personal passion and belief in people.

Nick Chamousis '73:

Although I am aware of many of the changes on campus in my capacity as a DGALA Board member, it is gratifying, and certainly moving, to watch the College as it transforms. The Admissions Office online chat was a first this year; the students have begun an LGBT peer mentoring program; and during PRIDE week a large rainbow flag hung above the entrance to Casque & Gauntlet, a student organization; students of all backgrounds (and varying levels of athletic prowess!) strutted down the runway at Transform; and the Pride Dance Party on Friday night was hosted by the brothers of Theta Delt. And it was

wonderful to see Rigel Cable '10 welcome his boyfriend and parents at the LGBT graduation and awards ceremony on Friday evening. Particularly for older alums such sights and events would be unthinkable. But there remains an underside; last weekend students told me about specific homophobic incidents. I learned that there are some fraternities into which at least some LGBT students will not venture. I also heard the familiar "there is still a lot of work to be done." That is true. But each year does in fact bring a step forward for LGBT students. And each year Pride seems to become more and more a Dartmouth Tradition.

Ben Solomon '10 (presenter of the Ezekiel Webber '00 Award posthumously to Cody Lavender '11):

Cody was often described as "radical" and "loud," but no one could say he was ineffective. His passion for LGBT activism was and continues to be felt by many in the class of 2010 at Dartmouth and in the broader LGBT community. Cody had been involved in GSA/GSX since he set foot on campus



as a freshman and was co-chair for three terms. He fiercely advocated for trans inclusivity at Dartmouth and was the driving force behind changing GSX's name and mission to reflect this progressive (even for many LGBT people) attitude. He was a major player in ensuring that trans issues would be discussed where they had previously been taboo. He made sure the rest of campus heard us, organizing two full busloads of people, many from outside of the LGBTQA community, to go to Montreal Pride.

He was outraged at the passage of Prop 8 during the 2008 election and led a protest at the U.S. consulate in Edinburgh to protest it.

One of Cody's greatest strengths was his ability to lead and inspire others, as evidenced by the personal stories of many in the class of 2010 who cite his ever-present influence in their continued activism. ❖

LGBT STUDENTS MEET WITH PRESIDENT KIM

Pursuant to an initiative by President Kim to reach out to various groups on campus, the new College President met on February 9 with a group of about ten LGBT student leaders. The meeting lasted about an hour and was educational for President Kim, who asked good questions. The students were a diverse bunch, and the group included a strong number of first-year students. Each student introduced him or herself, including a description of a variety of their involvements on campus.

In anticipation of the meeting, the students prepared and delivered to President Kim a detailed 11-page letter. The letter analyzed the current campus climate for LGBT students, and it set forth both near and long-term goals of the LGBT student community.

The students' analysis of the current campus climate was based upon the LGBT-Friendly Campus Climate Index, a tool developed by a team of national LGBT researchers. The index contains eight factors based upon which an LGBT campus climate is measured. Although Dartmouth scored well under the Climate Index when the College was surveyed in 2006, the students' 2010 letter identified "several areas where Dartmouth ... still has room for significant growth [under] the specific criterion of the rating system." In support of their position, the students presented results of their own "Dartmouth LGBTQA Climate Survey," taken in January 2010 and completed by 54 Dartmouth LGBT community members using surveymonkey.com.

In their analysis of the "Campus Life" factor, the students wrote:

[A] 30% plurality [in the Dartmouth Climate Survey] said in the 2010 LGBTQA Survey that reforming the Greek System is the most important issue for our community to address. Dartmouth, from our perspective, is an institution centered on gender-segregated, heteronormative social spaces. This aspect of Dartmouth's social landscape rests at the core of most struggles our community has voiced. We therefore find it imperative that the Administration continue its labor in increasing and sustaining the gender-neutral and alternative social space options on campus.

In this regard, the students noted:

The LGBT community also lacks its own "house", something enjoyed by all other minority communities on campus, and which has restricted the further interaction

among our community members. Additionally, many of our peer institutions, including Tufts and Vassar have centers dedicated to LGBT student life. A gender-neutral, safe space on campus not only would provide LGBT students a social and/or living space to call our own, but also an interactive academic center that enhances the learning of the issues that impact us, as most other affinity houses on campus already enjoy.

Thus, social space and housing issues were among the short and long-term goals cited by the students. The students' full list of goals was:

Short-term:

- Maintenance of current levels of progress
- Expansion of the Gender Neutral housing options on campus
- Increased institutional support for LGBT specific mental health counseling
- New student diversity programs: admissions, orientation, and
- Increased alternative, LGBT-friendly social spaces

Long-term:

- LGBT House
- LGBT Studies Program, and conversion of Women and Gender Studies into full department
- Reform of the Greek System

The students were pleased with President Kim's attitudes and reactions at the meeting. Rigel Cable '10, who served as co-chair of GSX during the fall and winter terms, told *Green Light*:

Our meeting with President Kim represented a solid beginning to what we hope will be a long-lasting relationship with the new Administration. He was open to our ideas, he carefully considered our thorough research, and he promised to address several of them, including the potential of a new LGBT Affinity house. He also plans to meet with us again in this term to follow up and continue our discussion. We're very pleased with the level of commitment to improving student life and inclusivity at the College.

Similarly, Anna Roth '13, who also signed the letter and attended the meeting, said, "This is a very receptive administration that is open to discussing and supporting our community's goals."

The students' full letter to President Kim, together with a detailed Appendix that surveys LGBT climate on campus, is on our website (www.DGALA.org). ❖

JOIN A DGALA COMMITTEE!

In response to requests from our members, and to help DGALA to move ahead in the future, the DGALA Board has established committees focusing on various key functions of DGALA. We hope that you will join one (or at least contact us to request more information). The committees, a short summary of their mission, and the DGALA contact person are:

College Relations

The College Relations Committee focuses on establishing and maintaining rapport with the President of the College, the Board of Trustees, College administration, faculty and staff, and other College entities so that DGALA's interests can be communicated to and reflected in the College's decision-making processes. Contact Mikee Guzman '06 at mikee.guzman@gmail.com

Communications

The Communications Committee will facilitate communications between the DGALA Board and DGALA members, and inform the College community and general public about DGALA-related news and activities. Activities will include email communications, social networking, maintaining and developing the DGALA website, and blogging and acting as liaison with college resources such as the Dartmouth Alumni Magazine and the public affairs office. Contact Susi Kandel '00 at susi@alum.dartmouth.org.

Development and Finance

The Development and Finance Committee seeks to help DGALA (1) develop and manage its membership, (2) raise funds, and (3) oversee its funds and expenditures, including setting an annual budget. Contact Pete Williams '76 at dartgala@gmail.com.

Governance

The Governance Committee ensures that DGALA's organizational structure is as effective as possible to best support the needs of our members. The committee is responsible for overseeing board member elections, Alumni Council representative selection, and elections of DGALA officer positions. Contact David Hankins '05 at hankinsdg@gmail.com.

History

The History Committee collaborates alongside Rauner Special Collections Library to collect and

care for material bearing on the rich history of the LGBTQ community at Dartmouth, the alumni/ae and DGALA. Contact Jamal Brown '08 at jamal.t.o.brown@gmail.com.

Networking

The purpose of the Networking Committee of DGALA is to establish, develop and maintain, in conjunction with the student LGBT Peer Mentoring Program and the College's Advisor to LGBT students, a mentoring program for young LGBT alumni/ae and students that seeks to address such diverse needs as academic and career advice, securing off-term internships and permanent employment and adjusting to new geographical locations. Contact Nick Chamousis '73 at nchamousis@cs.com.

Programming

The DGALA Programming Committee, in line with the organization's mission and financial position, plans and executes a broad spectrum of programming and special events for the support, education, advancement and benefit of our membership. Examples of past and proposed Programming include regional outreach mixers, networking and career development events, museum programs, movie screenings, sports outings, educational panels, joint events with fellow LGBTQA alumni/ae organizations, mini-reunions and all-class reunions. Contact Kamil Walji '03 at kamil.walji@gmail.com. ❖

DGALA-ENDORSED TRUSTEE CANDIDATES VICTORIOUS

The recent alumni balloting for two open seats on the College Board of Trustees has resulted in the election of the two candidates endorsed by DGALA, Morton Kondracke '60 and John Replogle '88. Kondracke ran unopposed, but petition candidate Joseph Asch '79 contested Replogle's candidacy. Professor Peter Saccio, in an open letter to his former students, described Asch as "one of the gadflies who have been troubling the College in recent years ... nominated by the signatures of the usual group that supports petition candidates." Thirty-two percent of alums (20,790 voters) cast ballots in the election, which ran from March 10 through April 7. Replogle received 14,176 votes to Asch's 5,823.

DGALA's endorsement of Replogle and Kondracke was communicated directly to DGALA members, and was cited by Replogle on his campaign website. Replogle wrote to DGALA, thanking it for its endorsement. After the election, Replogle again thanked DGALA for its endorsement saying, "It was a team victory all around and DGALA was a key player on that team. Many thanks for that." DGALA's endorsement noted that it was based upon the Alumni Council's extensive vetting process as well as responses to a questionnaire provided to all three trustee candidates on behalf of the Affiliated Groups (DGALA, the Dartmouth Association of Latino Alumni, the Black Alumni of Dartmouth Association, the Native American Alumni Association of Dartmouth and the Dartmouth Asian Pacific American Alumni Association). DGALA provided the candidates' questionnaire answers on the DGALA website.

Replogle and Kondracke had been nominated by the Dartmouth Alumni Council under an amended Association of Alumni (AofA) constitution that was approved by alumni in the spring of 2009 following a hotly contested AofA leadership election in the spring of 2008. DGALA had supported both the "Unity Slate" that won the 2008 election and the amendments to the AofA constitution. The amendments simplified the trustee election process, no longer requiring the Alumni Council to nominate three candidates for each trustee vacancy. The effect of the amendments was to reform an election system that conservative alumni had been able to "game" by pitting a single heavily funded petition candidate against the three Council-nominated candidates, thereby splitting the votes of the moderate alumni. As a result, conservative petition candidates had won four consecutive trustee elections from 2004 through 2007.

Kondracke and Replogle will fill two vacant trustee seats previously held by Michael Chu '68 and Todd Zywicki '88. Chu had completed his second and final 5-year term on the Board. Zywicki, a petition trustee who had been elected in 2005, was not re-elected by the Board, a break from precedent when re-elections previously had been routine. Zywicki had publicly labeled the late Dartmouth president James Freedman a "truly evil

man" and had called for "long and vicious trench warfare" against the College.

The recent election also included voting for leadership of the AofA. There too, the DGALA-endorsed slate, led by John Mathias '69 was victorious. Kondracke is a distinguished journalist who has covered Washington for many years. Replogle is the CEO of Burt's Bees, a personal care company. Mathias is a well-known lawyer at Jenner & Block in Chicago. ❖

JORDAN OSSERMAN '11 IN WHITE HOUSE INTERNSHIP

As a result of contacts from his summer 2008 internship at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington, Jordan Osserman '11 gained an even more memorable internship during the fall term of 2009 – a four-month stint at the White House. (Jordan's contact came as a result of the Obama White House reaching out to various minority group organizations in an effort to recruit a diverse group of interns, and it had contacted the NGLTF in that quest.)

Jordan was posted to the White House's Media Affairs Office, where he helped to set up interviews with cabinet members and other White House officials. Directly across from Jordan's office was the office of Shin Inouye, the openly gay White



Jordan (far right) poses with Michelle Obama and fellow interns

House Director of Special Media.

Jordan's internship had a variety of LGBT-relevant aspects;

among them, he was able

to attend President Obama's signing of the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act and a following reception for LGBT leaders. Finally, Jordan had several meetings with the President! Jordan's long-term interests include a career in non-profit or public interest law. ❖

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One resounding message repeated by DGALA members at the DGALA 25th Anniversary All-Class Reunion was that you wanted the opportunity to become more involved with the organization. Well, we heard you. This winter, the DGALA Board worked hard to identify ways in which DGALA members could take on leadership roles within DGALA. After months of discussions and planning, we were pleased to launch the DGALA Committees in April.



Susi Kandel '00

The new DGALA Committees are: College Relations, Communications, Development & Finance, Governance, History, Networking, and Programming (each described in more detail on page 6). We sincerely hope that you will get involved and help make DGALA the organization that you want it to be.

In addition to getting current DGALA members more invested in DGALA, we've also been working to bring new members into the fold. At the PRIDE 2010 Gala Dinner held at the Hanover Inn held in April, DGALA welcomed approximately 25 soon-to-be graduates into the DGALA family. The dinner included a keynote address by Beth Robinson '86. DGALA Board member Caroline Kerr '05 informed our newest members that they each will receive a DGALA t-shirt as a graduation gift from DGALA.

Looking ahead, we're getting ready for our DGALA mini-reunion this June 18-20 in Hanover. Festivities will include a Friday night open bar cocktail party at the Canoe Club, our annual DGALA breakfast on Saturday morning, which will include our first breakfast visit from President Jim Yong Kim, and a lecture by Peter Saccio. DGALA dorm housing is available.

As always, I'd love to hear from you. Email me at susi@alum.dartmouth.org. ❖

ALUM NOTE

The Lavender Menace: Chicago's Lesbian Blog

Chicago is a phenomenal city for being gay, according to **Kate Carolan '05**, who moved there shortly after graduating from Dartmouth for her Teach For America assignment. But as much as Carolan loves Chicago, she believes lesbians are losing their foothold in historically identified lesbian neighborhoods and are fighting for their niche. Carolan's response? The Lavender Menace: Chicago's Lesbian Blog. Carolan has always enjoyed building community and is quick to speak her mind; "The Lavender Menace" allows her to do just this as she blogs to unite Chicago's lesbian community, spread the word on local events, and bring to light issues of local and national significance.

The term "Lavender Menace" was first used in 1969 by Betty Friedan, president of the National Organization for Women, to warn against the threat lesbianism posed to the emerging women's movement. In the 1970s, radical feminists adopted the term as a name for their informal group that was formed to protest the exclusion of lesbians in the feminist movement. Carolan adopted the term for her blog, which serves as a platform to maintain and create space for lesbians in Chicago's neighborhoods.

Check out the blog at:

www.chicagonow.com/lavendermenace ❖

DGALA NOTE

Support DGALA! We've had a great response in membership renewals for our current fiscal year that ends on June 30, but if you've not yet given, it's easy to do so on our website (www.DGALA.org). DGALA operates almost entirely on the generosity of our supporters, and we put your contributions to good use through funding our All-Class Reunions, our annual June mini-reunion gatherings, various regional events, on-campus events with alums and students, supporting LGBT issues and events at Dartmouth, gifts for LGBT grads, and, of course, this newsletter! We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, and so your contribution can be tax deductible. ❖