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NEWSLETTER - VOLUME IX- No. I - September 2007

SEX, SEX, SEX, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, AND OTHER EXISTENTIAL QUESTIONS *By Ariane Bertouille, LMA member*

In the beginning it was just a conversation with my lover. Virgin ears, beware!

“ You have to write a snappy text to shake up those LMA members, so that they know all about what the LMA is doing for their kids...”

“ Okay, ummm, what is it you want exactly and why me?”

“ Well you know, you’re a really good writer.... so we thought of you.”

“ Well thanks, but...”

“ We absolutely have to get their attention. It’s really been going badly! Maybe if we use the title “Sex, Sex, Sex”

“Are you kidding???”

“Anyway, do as you like.”

As I like. As I like. Easier said than done! Everyone is bombarded with information and requests of all kinds nowadays. And this text isn’t an exception: I have information to pass along to you and some very concrete requests.

I want. I want. I want: Have your kids caught that one too?

“ Please mom, can I have some....” How many times did I hear that this summer? Summer! Almost over. Time really flies. The kids are growing so quickly, don’t you find? Why did I accept to write this text rather than taking advantage of those last sunny days? Anyway who am I to be asking something of you?

I’m a mother of two and the author of a book. You see how easy it was to trap me by flattering my writer’s ego?

So I wrote a first text. My efficient lover’s verdict: *“ Too poetic! “*

And so I wrote a second text. My practical lover’s comment: *“Too long.”*

And finally a third text. My clever lover’s remark: *“Too general.”*

There are so many causes to get involved in and concerned about these days: AIDS, poverty, global warming, human rights, etc. But as lesbian mothers, our children’s daily lives are our highest priority. And like it or not they will encounter homophobia. The LMA is working to change that: Okay, that’s the main point.

Okay so you've figured it out, this is the fourth and last text, I've warned my insistent lover, even my ego has its limits!

"So tell me, what are the essential points that you want me to get across?" asks the author.

"Cibole de merde ! We have someone (Mona, for those of you who don't know her) who is capable and is volunteering full-time for our families and our children, who is about to burn out because she's fed up of chasing after money to accomplish LMA projects. She's not even looking to get a salary for herself..."

It's really not just to pique your interest, she's really amusingly sexy, my lover, when she gets worked up about a cause, with those "colourful" expressions of hers!

"So then what can we do?"

"Make them understand that everything the LMA does is so that our kids will encounter less problems. That it's the LMA that can make the difference, that can help to fight homophobia against our families."

The testimonies are clear: Often starting in primary school our kids will confront homophobic gestures, taunts and attitudes because their moms are lesbians. They will have to, with your help, figure out what to say, how to say it and whom to say it to.

Up until now all is well with our two children. They're still very young. Must we wait until they have been hurt to feel concerned?

Information, sensitization, demystification, working in solidarity with others: This is what the association has done, is doing and will do to change mentalities.

There's still a lot to do. It's urgent. Time is passing so quickly and our kids are growing so much! Especially in the summer. Too often funds are missing that are needed to carry out LMA projects. It's absurd and frustrating when urgent needs are identified, good solutions are found and all stagnates because of lack of funds.

Are you ready to do more, according to what is possible for you, to get around this absurdity?

"So, do you like it?"

"Not bad, better like this," comments my demanding lover.

Deep down, she's an idealist, my lover: She's convinced that if it's explained clearly about all that the LMA does for us and our children, that you'll understand the extent to which it's in your own interest that the LMA continues and multiplies its actions. And so, **Q.E.D.** ("which was to be demonstrated"), you will help to support the LMA.

"Okay, spell it out! What is it that you want?" concludes the author, a bit frustrated.

"That according to their means, lesbian mothers and future parents will donate generously and send money to the association. That those who are not members but come to the activities will at least pay their memberships. And that those who have some free time will devote a bit of their energy to the LMA."

It would be good if my lover doesn't become disillusioned about the power of words, it seems that disillusionment sometimes has a negative impact on the libido ;-))

Interested in writing for our newsletter? Send your articles at any time to info@aml-lma.org or by post to AML, 2401 Coursol, Montreal, Quebec, H3J 1C8

News Briefs: June - September 2007

Montreal and Quebec News

July 23 (United Nations, Geneva) In a vote that recognized the importance of including the voices of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) human rights groups at the United Nations, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) granted consultative status to two nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that address human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The two groups, **Coalition gaie et lesbienne du Québec (CGLQ)** and the **Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights (RFSL)**, will be able to use their new consultative status at the UN to work directly on human rights and other issues of importance to the LGBT community by ensuring access to UN meetings, delivery of oral and written reports, and organizing events to facilitate understanding of the abuse and discrimination that LGBT people face around the world.

John Fisher from ARC International, which coordinated State lobbying and monitored the vote in Geneva, said, "The ECOSOC today affirmed the place of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people in the work of the United Nations. We are delighted that support for NGOs working to address human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity continues to increase. From every region in the world, States have sent a clear message that discrimination has no place in the UN system, and that sexual orientation and gender identity issues can, and must, be addressed."

July 26 (Quebec City) Quebec LGBT rights groups have stepped up the fight against homophobia after a gay man recently was severely beaten in the provincial capital. Philippe, who did not release his last name, says four men with shaved heads followed him after he left the *Le Dragage* gay bar in downtown Quebec City on July 1.

After calling the 24-year-old man derogatory names, the assailants knocked him to the ground. In a melee lasting less than 60 seconds, the men punched and kicked him repeatedly. The victim spent two days in hospital and doctors needed eight screws to reassemble his jaw.

Several gay-rights groups will hold a brunch to condemn homophobia during the city's Labor Day weekend gay pride festival. The event will be held at Place d'Youville, the site of the assault.

August 1 (Montreal, Quebec) A Quebec human rights group has ordered that a gay couple be awarded \$10,000 for being harassed by young people in their neighborhood. Theo Wouters and Roger Thibault said four youths targeted them because of their sexual orientation.

The Quebec Human Rights and Youth Rights Commission says the parents of one of the youths must pay the two men \$10,000. Three other adolescents who were mentioned in the case now live in Calgary and are not targeted by the ruling of the human rights group.

Wouters and Thibault have lived together for more than 30 years and got married a few years ago.

Canadian News

July 13 (Edmonton, Alberta) Legal wrangling over whether a Calgary man should be allowed to opt out of being a father highlights the evolving definition of family in Canada, says a family law expert. The Supreme Court has said that a woman cannot appeal a ruling against her request to absolve her common-law husband of responsibility for a child she had through artificial insemination.

The couple, identified only as John and Jane Doe, signed a pre-parenting agreement stating John Doe would not be considered the child's father. The couple took the agreement to court seeking legal validation. Last February, the Alberta Court of Appeal ruled against the agreement, saying the common-law husband will inevitably act in the role of father because he lives with the woman and her child.

“Can it be seriously contended that he will ignore the child when it cries? When it needs to be fed? When it stumbles? When the soother needs to be replaced? When the diaper needs to be changed?” Justice Ronald Berger wrote in that decision.

Jane Doe contended that the Appeal Court's decision failed to recognize her charter rights to make fundamental choices on behalf of her child. As is its usual practice, the Supreme Court did not give reasons for its decision not to hear the appeal.

“Many of the social parents would be people who are step-parents, and I think that this decision clearly has implications for step-parents,” said Nicholas Bala, a family law professor at Queen's University. “Some of them are people, both gays and lesbians and heterosexuals, who are involved in situations with artificial insemination, potentially grandparents. We're seeing changes in familial relationships, changes in attitudes to what is a family. And this is an illustration of an ongoing evolution in Canada of what is a family.”

Bala said that in refusing to allow the contract, the court didn't keep the couple from parenting the way they originally planned. The decision simply means that a decision on a child's future cannot be made in advance.

As a result of the decision, if the couple were to split, Jane Doe would have the right to change her mind and seek financial support, while John Doe could change his mind and seek contact with the child. And the child himself could also potentially seek support from the non-custodial parent.

The adults could both waive those rights, however, if they wanted to stick with their contract.

University of Toronto law professor Brenda Cossman provided an affidavit for Jane Doe's request that the Supreme Court hear the appeal. She argued that there were a number of “issues of national public importance” in the case. She raised issues ranging from three-parent scenarios to women's autonomy and whether a person has the choice to retain the tag of “single parent.”

GAY MARRIAGE- A TIME LINE

(Skip over this section if you've had enough on marriage)

Please note: In the United States the marriage debate has gone completely out of control!!! There are initiatives for and against marriage in almost every state. Because of this it would be impossible to cover it all in the context of a newsletter. An excellent coverage of the news in the States, however, is available on the web site of the *Human Rights Campaign* in their marriage center: www.hrc.org/marriage/

A well-organized table of the state-by-state progress can be found if you click on “States with Anti-Gay marriage laws” within this site.

We will still continue to cover general American stories related to the debate.

May 16 (New York City) In a court decision estimated to affect hundreds, same-sex couples from New York State who were married in Massachusetts between May 17, 2004 and July 6, 2006, now have those marriages declared legal.

May 23 (Barcelona, Spain) The first gay bridal shop opens in Barcelona. It aims to give same-sex couples “a special place to purchase outfits and accessories for their big day”.

June 11 (Stockholm, Sweden) The coalition government of Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt is in danger of collapse over the issue of same-sex marriage. Eight Members of Parliament from Reinfeldt's own Conservative Moderate

Party threaten to revolt if the party does not officially support gay marriage legislation. Two of Reinfeldt's coalition partners, the Center and Liberal parties, already have announced their support for the bill. A third party, the Christian Democrats are opposed to same-sex marriage and have indicated they would veto the legislation.

June 12 (Washington) LGBT civil rights groups mark the 40th anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling that struck down state laws banning interracial marriage saying that ultimately bans on same-sex marriage also will be ruled unconstitutional.

The case, called *Loving v. Virginia*, began when Richard and Mildred Loving, an interracial couple, were arrested in Virginia after they returned from their wedding in Washington, DC. They were sentenced to one year in prison. The Lovings appealed the conviction all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which struck down restrictions on who could marry whom.

June 14 - In a 45-151 victory, **Massachusetts** lawmakers keep a proposed constitutional ban on gay marriage from going to voters.

June 15 (Bogota) Colombia's Congress passes legislation giving same-sex couples most of the same rights as opposite-sex married couples. President Alvaro Uribe says he will sign the bill into law.

June 16 (Rome) Tens of thousands of gay rights activists march through the streets of Rome marking gay pride and demanding legal rights for same-sex couples. Carrying rainbow-colored flags, the demonstrators hold banners criticizing the Vatican, which under Pope Benedict has been conducting a fierce campaign to protect traditional marriage.

June 20 (Bogota) Less than a week after **Colombia's** Congress passed legislation giving same-sex couples most of the same rights as opposite-sex married couples the bill dies in a procedural move by conservative senators.

June 21 - Australian Prime Minister John Howard stands firm against marriage as a new poll reveals that 71 percent of Australians believe gay partners should have equal rights.

June 21 - Costa Rica lawmakers mull civil unions. The legislation, likely to meet heavy Catholic opposition, would grant bereavement leave, inheritance and medical decision-making rights.

June 24 (Winnipeg, Manitoba) In a 21-19 vote Anglican bishops stop short of giving priests the power to bless same-sex marriage ceremonies. They agree however that same sex blessings do not conflict with the core doctrine of the church, a decision that paves the way for the practice.

July 2 (Toronto, Ontario) The Rev. Brent Hawkes, who conducted a double wedding for two same-sex couples at his Metropolitan Community Church in 2001 and then went to court when Ontario refused to register the marriages in a case that resulted in marriage equality across Canada, is named to the Order of Canada.

July 19 - A "lesbian" couple make symbolic marriage vows in **Budapest**, defying threats of violence from neo-Nazis. Eva Moor and Reka Kinga Papp kiss in front of the cameras with **Hungary's** parliament as the backdrop, as they accept one another's hand in marriage. Both Moor and Papp are heterosexual – the event was organized by Hungary's Humanist Party as a reaction to assaults on gays and lesbians during Budapest's June Pride celebration.

July 25 (Dublin) Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern announces that his government will bring in legislation giving same-sex couples the same rights as married pairs.

July 26 - Legislative leaders in **Vermont**, home of the first U.S. gay civil unions, launch a commission to study if they should allow gay couples to marry.

August 10 (Nigeria) Eighteen men are arrested as they prepare to take part in a gay marriage. They face sodomy charges in an Islamic court and a possible death sentence.

International News

June 7, 2007 (365 Gay.com) At least 16 of the 17 men arrested on May 10 at a private party in the central **Iranian province of Esfahan** have now been released says *Amnesty International*. Twelve were reportedly released in the weeks following their arrest while four of the remaining five were released on May 29 the rights group said.

All of these men were required to post bail and will reportedly face a trial. There are conflicting reports as to whether the fifth man has been released. They were among 87 people reportedly arrested at the party. Of these, 60 have been released unconditionally, while 26, including those referred to above, were released on bail, *Amnesty* said.

News of the arrests first came from the Toronto-based Iranian Queer Organization, IRQO. The organisation said that police converged on the house where a man identified only as Farhad was celebrating his birthday. The report said that police brutally assaulted the man and others, including his parents, on May 10. Everyone at the party were arrested on the spot said IRQO.

Amnesty said that those arrested are not believed to have had access to lawyers or their families, and a judge has reportedly said that those detained following the private party will be charged with consumption of alcohol and "homosexual conduct".

During the arrests, those attending the party were said to have been dragged into the street by police and members of the Basij force (volunteer paramilitary units attached to the Revolutionary Guards Corps), who beat them severely, causing bruising and, in some cases, broken bones. It remains unclear if those detained were allowed access to medical treatment.

Amnesty said it will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Homosexuality is a capital crime under Sharia, or Islamic, law. Some international gay rights groups believe that more than 4,000 lesbians and gay men have been executed since the Ayatollahs seized power in 1979.

June 10, 2007 (365 Gay.com) (Bucharest) Police used tear gas against protesters who hurled stones at the annual gay rights parade in the Romanian capital, officials said. About 100 people were detained for throwing stones and fireworks at police and about 400 participants in the gay rights march, said Christian Ciocan, a police spokesman. Police responded with tear gas. Nobody was injured, he said.

"We regret that our opponents use violence ... Police only did their job to protect an authorized march," said Florin Buhuceanu, one of the organizers of the gay rights march. "It is our right to express our beliefs and we will not renounce in the face of violence."

Romania decriminalized homosexuality in 2001.

June 22, 2007 (IGLHRC news) This year, for the second year in a row, the authorities in **Moscow** refused to issue permission to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) groups to hold a pride event. To protest this decision and to mark the occasion, activists decided to gather outside Moscow City Hall on May 27th to present a

letter, signed by dozens of European MPs, supporting their right to peaceful assembly to the Mayor's office. Activists started gathering before noon. Within half an hour, Moscow police were making mass arrests, detaining at least 31 people, including the Italian MEP Marco Cappato and German MP Volker Beck. Most of the organizers, including Nikolai Alekseyev and Alexey Davidov, from the Pride Committee, were arrested on the way to the event.

As Orthodox Christian and Neo-Nazi groups threw eggs, punched, and beat up demonstrators, Moscow police were simultaneously harassing and arresting peaceful demonstrators. Ultimately, everyone was released. However, Nikolai Alekseyev was charged with disobeying police orders.

Paula Ettlbrick, IGLHRC's Executive Director said, "The behavior of Moscow authorities is an outrage, not to mention a clear violation of the international covenants protecting speech and assembly." She further pointed out, "Gay pride-related rallies are a core vehicle for social change in many parts of the world for LGBT people. Without the right to public speech, we can not challenge the discrimination we face."

On June 22 Russia's Supreme Court ruled that Moscow was justified in banning a gay pride parade in the city in 2006. The court upheld an appeals court ruling that found Moscow was acting to preserve the peace when it refused to grant a parade license to pride organizers.

"The Moscow government reckoned it had few means to guarantee the security of the participants in the action and prevent rioting. The ban did not violate the applicant's rights and interests protected by the law," the Supreme Court ruling said. The decision is the final Russian decision on a lawsuit brought by pride organizers and paves the way for the case to go to the European Human Rights Court in Strasbourg.

"Now it is clear that the European court in Strasbourg will finally close this lengthy case," pride organizer Nikolay Alexeyev told the Interfax news agency. "We made all attempts to settle the case within the framework of the Russian justice system and we viewed the Strasbourg court as an means of last resort," Alexeyev said. "However, the Russian authorities did not want to settle the issue in Russia," he said, adding that the European court is expected to rule on the case before May 31, 2008, the tentative date for holding the third gay parade."

July 9, 2007 (*Positive Women's Network*) The South African lesbian and gay communities through the Joint Working Group and partner organisations STRONGLY CONDEMN the killing of Sizakele Sigasa (34) and Salome Masooa (23) from a township in Johannesburg. They were found (Sunday 8th July) murdered, execution style, in a nearby field in Meadowlands; a shocking image that is not so new in South Africa in the light of the recent increase in violence and rape against women either identified as, suspected of or supporting lesbian and gay rights.

July 12, 2007 (*365 Gay.com*) (**Istanbul, Turkey**) Lambda Istanbul has been ordered to appear before a judge next week to face charges it is violating Turkish law by stating it represents gays, lesbians, and transsexuals. The group was notified by the public prosecutor that the governor of Istanbul had requested the charges be laid under the Turkish Civil Code. The law states that associations against law and morality cannot be established. If found guilty Lambda could be closed and its officers fined.

In 2005 a judge in Ankara refused to ban another LGBT civil rights group facing a similar charge. The Ankara city government had petitioned a court to rule that Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Research and Solidarity Organization was breaking the morality laws. In the Ankara case the judge noted that the American Psychiatric Association does not consider homosexuality as a disorder and said that the words "gay" and "lesbian" were widely used in daily life and scientific research. The ruling was the first civil rights victory for gays and lesbians in Turkey.

Homosexuality has never been illegal in Turkey, but the government has refused to grant specific rights to gays. An attempt was made in 2004 to introduce an anti-discrimination bill in the Parliament, but it was later dropped by

the government. Turkey has been under increasing pressure from the EU to offer protections for its LGBT citizens if it wants membership in the European Union.

July 17 (AP) Hong Kong's top court has rejected a ban on public gay sodomy, another victory for the Chinese territory's gay rights movement. The case stemmed from the prosecution of two men who acknowledged committing sodomy in a car parked on an isolated road at night, the ruling said. Public gay sex was a crime with a maximum penalty of five years in prison.

After the two men challenged the charges, lower courts ruled in their favor, but the government appealed to Hong Kong's Court of Final Appeal. A panel of five top judges unanimously dismissed the government's appeal. Chief Justice Andrew Li said in the ruling that the law targets homosexuals and "does not criminalize heterosexuals for the same or comparable conduct."

News from the Lesbian Mothers Association UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 2007 :

◆ SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 29 from 1-5 p.m. KIDS, PARENTS AND ALL OUR FRIENDS T-DANCE

The Lesbian Mothers Association and the Papa-Daddy Group are proud to invite you to our 1st "Families Love Disco" Party

**Where: Café République 1200 Peel St.
When: Saturday September 29th from 1-5 p.m.
Music By: DJ SYLOSURF
Cost: \$5/ child, \$10/ adult**

October 2007:

◆ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11 at 7:30 p.m. PART 1: PARENTING COURSE: MAKING DECISIONS

Insemination? Adoption? Who carries the baby? What type of donor? Now or later? What legal rights and responsibilities do we have? There are so many choices to be made... An open discussion to explore the social and legal aspects of our various choices.

See attached flier for details on this series for future parents and parents with young children

◆ SUNDAY OCTOBER 28th from 2-5 p.m. HALLOWEEN PARTY : MONSTERS AND CREATURES

Kids and Adults: What to wear: A Halloween costume! The theme is Monsters and Creatures!
Activities: *Theatre la Simagrée* will be performing their puppet show "*Le monstre et les 5 oursons*" (for kids ages 3-8) at 3 p.m. There will also be Halloween crafts, pumpkin decorating, snacks and a big gym to run around in, play basketball or hang out at the toddler's corner. If you can, please bring a snack (remember: no peanut products because of allergies).

Location: Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave (Metro Atwater, Greene Avenue is a few blocks west of Atwater. The centre is south of Dorchester (René Levesque)

Continued on the next page.....

November 2007:

◆ **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15th at 7 :00 p.m.**

PART 2: PARENTING COURSE: AVOIDING THE RISK: HOW TO REDUCE YOUR BABY'S EXPOSURE TO TOXIC CHEMICALS IN THE HOME

Did you know that some consumer products used on or around babies contain toxic chemicals? Find out about which products to avoid, learn about safer alternatives and much more in this interactive workshop.

See attached flier for details on this series for future parents and parents with young children

◆ **SATURDAY NOVEMBER 17th from 1-6 p.m.**

AUCTION FUNDRAISER

Come out and support The Lesbian Mothers Association, the Papa-Daddy Group and the LGBT Family Coalition and help fight homophobia.

Location: CCGLM – 2075 rue Plessis (metro Papineau)

See attached flier for more details.

BULLETIN BOARD:

◆ Bonjour, J'ai 43 ans. Je veux rencontrer quelqu'une sérieuse-d'amour. J'ai un garçon de 7 ans. **Line 514-678-8935**

◆ **L'association des lesbiennes aux femin'elles:** L'Association lesbienne vous invite à ses soirées le premier et le troisième mardi du mois, de 19h à 21h30 au CLSC situé au 411 Hotel Dieu à **Chicoutimi**. Ces rencontres ont comme but de briser l'isolement et s'adressent aux femmes lesbiennes qui désiraient socialiser en compagnie d'autres femmes lesbiennes, afin de permettre un échange positif. Au plaisir de vous rencontrer! Informations: **418-550-2259**.

◆ **L'Écho des femmes de la Petite Patrie** est un centre de femmes qui offre des rencontres pour lesbiennes. Ces rencontres ont lieu les lundis soirs aux deux semaines de 19h00 à 21h30, et sont animées par une personne ressource. Ces rencontres, qui se veulent un lieu d'échange, de ressourcement et d'information, s'intéressent aux réalités et aux conditions de vie des lesbiennes. Les rencontres sont en français. Un service de halte-garderie est disponible avec réservation faite une semaine à l'avance. Le centre est situé au **6032 St-Hubert (métro Beaubien)**. Téléphone (514)277-7445, télécopieur (514)277-1689

◆ **OUTSPOKEN!** is an emerging group who's mission is to create a venue that will enable lesbians in the Montreal area to get together for business and social networking, as well as educational and inspiring events. Our initial focus will be monthly coffee meetings, and once the membership expands, we will add workshops, supper events and more. Come to our website to get more information. Join our mailing list, and be the first to find out when our first coffee meeting will be. www.outspokenmtl.com <<http://www.outspokenmtl.com/>>

ADOPTIONS AND BIRTHS

◆ Announcing the birth of **Elias Russell Clowes Chehade**, son of **Rita Chehade** and **Cynthia Clowes**. We became the proud parents of this amazing child on **March 6th, 2007**, weighing in at 10 lbs 4 oz, 22" long at 08:51 at the Royal Victoria Hospital. Elias is our own personal miracle! He is surrounded by family and friends who love him and are ecstatic about his arrival. Elias has existed in our hearts for many years and he is finally here! We can't wait to accompany him on this journey of life as his parents!

MISCELLANEOUS

♦ **Traductrices, redactrices, etc:** We are looking for volunteers to help translate this newsletter from English to French. Any contribution (even 1-2 pages a month) would be appreciated. If you are available and willing, **please contact us at: info@aml-lma.org**

♦ **Batshaw Youth and Family Centres** is encouraging English speaking and bilingual lesbian couples, and singles, to consider becoming **foster parents**. There are babies, pre-schoolers and older children who are waiting for a foster home. For some the plan will be to help them return to their families. For other children, the plan will be to work toward **adoption**. What a remarkable feeling it is to know you have made a difference in the life of a child by providing a stable, safe and loving environment. For more information, please call, **Rena Rubin, Foster Care Recruiter, at 932-7161, local 416, or send an e-mail to rena_rubin@ssss.gouv.qc.ca.**

♦ The **Open Book Library's** collection includes over 5500 books written by glbt authors or by authors who write about our communities. Some of these books are for children and adolescents. We are very proud that approximately half of our collection is in French. Much more information as well as online consultation of the book collection is available at our Web site www.ccglm.org/en-b. We are located at **2075 Plessis (CCGLM)** in the Village. Come visit us! Open Wednesdays and Fridays from 1-8 p.m. (514) 528-8424.

The bulletin board is a free forum for members to communicate amongst each other. If you want to post an announcement in the next issue please send it to us at any time to info@aml-lma.org or by post to AML, 2401 Coursol, Montreal, Quebec, H3J 1C8. If you have something to advertise, sell, rent or buy...anything where money must change hands, you can place an ad in the newsletter. Ads cost 20 cents per word.

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♦ **THERE IS NO FREEDOM WITHOUT FINANCIAL FREEDOM - LA LIBERTÉ PERSONNELLE PASSE PAR LA LIBERTÉ FINANCIÈRE.** Financial services for individuals and small businesses: budgeting, debt management, investments, future planning, personal taxes, wealth enhancement strategies. 20% of all subsequent fees will be donated to the LMA. **J. Freed, (514) 489-8633, www.jfreed.ca**

♦ **Furniture Restoration - Lise Kuhn Studio**
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