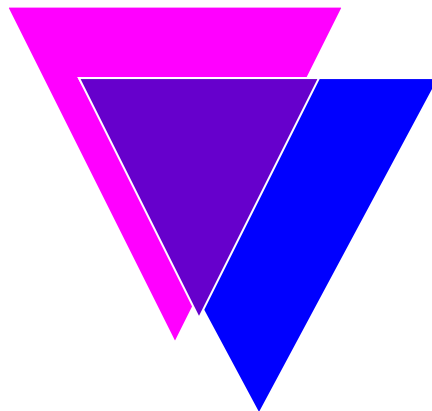


BISEXUAL RESOURCE CENTER
2007 Annual Report



Bisexual Resource Center
P.O. Box 1026
Boston, MA 02117
617-424-9595
brc@biresource.org
www.biresource.org

What do we mean by bisexual?

The BRC uses bisexual as an umbrella term for people who recognize and honor their potential for sexual and emotional attraction to more than one gender. We celebrate and affirm the diversity of identity and expression regardless of labels.

The **Bisexual Resource Center** envisions a world where love is celebrated, regardless of sexual orientation or gender expression. Because bisexuals today are still misunderstood, marginalized and discriminated against, the BRC is committed to providing support to the bisexual community and raising public awareness about bisexuality and bisexual people.

The BRC's Goals and Objectives:

- To educate the general public as well as civic and professional organizations on bisexuality and the concerns of bisexual people.
- To further a better understanding of bisexuals, help build community, and eliminate social isolation by organizing public forums, panels, discussion groups, and social and cultural activities.
- To build bisexual community by providing a gathering place for the bisexual community, both in real and virtual spaces.
- To work for social and economic justice and the elimination of prejudice and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- To provide technical assistance and support for local bisexual leaders and organizations, connect them to the national bisexual movement, and help articulate a clear national agenda.

The Bisexual Resource Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

2007 BRC Board Members

Officers:

Ellyn Ruthstrom, President

Arthur Cohen

Linda Blair, Treasurer

Ron Suresha

Luigi Ferrer, Clerk

Laurie Wolfe

What did the Bisexual Resource Center do in 2007?

BRC Events

Kicking off the year, we continued our connection to the BDSM community with board member Ron Suresha staffing a table at the January **Fetish Fair Fleamarket**.

In March, the BRC again teamed up with Fenway Community's Boundless program for an event at Club Café called **How's Your Bi/Queer Love Life?** With a panel of bi, queer, and trans community members, plus therapist Monique Noelle, a full house of people discussed their concerns about navigating bi and queer relationships (both monogamous and polyamorous).

The **Bayard Rustin Community Breakfast** is a highlight of the year for many in our community. Honoring the civil rights leader, Bayard Rustin, the annual event at the JFK Library in Boston centers on raising awareness about HIV/AIDS issues, particularly as they affect communities of color. The BRC supported the event again with an ad in the program book and many community members attended including Wesley Taylor, Robyn Ochs, Carla Imperial, Megan Jewett, and Deb Morley.



The bi community was well represented at the annual Bayard Rustin Community Breakfast at the JFK Library in Boston.

The **Annual BRC House Party**, hosted by BRC supporter Delwood Richardson in his Watertown home in May, drew about 40 people. Along with hearing about plans for the year, the BRC honored Colleen Harrington for her work on *Transcending Boundaries* in 2006 and for coordinating the bi group in Worcester. Fabulous food, dancing, and a fun array of raffle prizes gathered by Polly Laurelchild Hertig helped raise over \$2000 for the continuing work of the BRC.



Board members Laurie Wolfe and Luigi Ferrer were some of the volunteers who staffed the BRC Pride table.

The Pride Season was kicked off on May 5 in **Northampton** with board members Ron Suresha and Arthur Cohen and BRC supporter Jim Fenter staffing a bi pride table at New England's earliest pride celebration of the year.

For the first time in many years, **Boston Pride** had a different march route, ending in *Government Center*. The BRC Pride booth team passed out literature, sold merchandise, gathered contact info, and had some great one-on-one conversations with visitors. Kudos to board member Linda Blair for coordinating the team, and many thanks to Arthur Cohen, Luigi Ferrer, Delwood Richardson, Ron Suresha, and Laurie Wolfe for help setting up,

running the table, and breaking it down at the end of the day.

Providence was the next stop for board members Ron Suresha, Linda Blair, and Laurie Wolfe to meet and greet the LGBT community at **Rhode Island Pride** on June 16. And, finally, Board President Ellyn Ruthstrom spoke at **Connecticut Pride** and shared a table with Conn-Bi-Nation in Hartford on June 30.

With the help of board member Luigi Ferrer and new community member Art Friedrich, the BRC co-sponsored **The Lavender Salon** with the First Parish Church of Cambridge on July 27. Bi singer-songwriter Robin Renée performed on a very hot summer's night in a non-air conditioned space, but the audience was appreciative. DJ Alkemi provided some great tunes for those who stayed to dance.



BRC Board President Ellyn Ruthstrom and board member Ron Suresha staffed a table with Conn-Bi-Nation and spoke at Connecticut Pride.

Making Connections

The BRC continued to **respond to hundreds of phone calls and e-mails** requesting information, speakers, and media contacts. Individuals across the U.S. and in many other countries continued to access the BRC's global listings of bi and bi-friendly organizations, books, literature, and many other resources through the BRC's web site at www.biresource.org. Unfortunately, the website is in need of updating and some of the information on the site is out-of-date. This is an area that the board is intent on addressing in 2008.

Getting Bi: Voices from Bisexuals Around the World continues to sell through the BRC website, bookstores, and at speaking engagements of the editor Robyn Ochs. The book shares the life experiences of hundreds of bi people from all over the world. A revised version of *Getting Bi* is planned for 2009, including even more international voices.

The BRC also has an **active yahoogroup** that helps to publicize various bi events and information to interested members across the country. To join, visit yahoogroups.com and search for [biresourcecenter](http://biresourcecenter.com).

The BRC continues to be an active coalition member of **Mass Equality**, with Robyn Ochs representing the organization on their board. Community members came out to support Mass Equality at their end-of-year gala at the BCA's Cyclorama and several participated in focus groups concerning the direction of the organization now that marriage equality is secure.

The BRC signed on as a partner with the **Massachusetts Transgender Political Caucus (MTPC)** as part of a statewide coalition of organizations to help push the adoption of H.R.1722, which outlaws gender-based discrimination and hate crimes.



BRC's representative to Mass Equality, Robyn Ochs (at left holding up sign), spent many hours demonstrating for marriage equality at the State House.

On the national front, the BRC joined an **NGLTF-coordinated coalition** of over 360 groups from across the U.S. to pressure Congress to pass a trans and gender expression inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Unfortunately, the ENDA that the House eventually approved was not inclusive and that version may be the one that goes to the Senate in 2008. The BRC will continue to work with other groups to keep the pressure on Congress to pass a fully inclusive ENDA.

The BRC joined the **National Coalition for LGBT Health** in 2007, becoming the only bisexual organization in the coalition. Board member Luigi Ferrer and Julie Ebin attended the LGBTI Health Summit "Beyond Boundaries: A Blueprint for LGBTI Healthcare Equality" in Philadelphia. And in September, Luigi Ferrer and Art Friedrich joined Lani Ka'ahumanu, Loraine Hutchins, and Jessica Xavier in Washington, DC for the Coalition's 4th annual fall meeting.

Board Members Out and About in the Community

Luigi Ferrer and Ellyn Ruthstrom served on the Massachusetts Commission on GLBT Youth in 2007 and in that role participated in forums with high school GLBTQS alliances across the state.

Ron Suresha wore his other hat of "noted bi author" when he participated in the New York reading by the Lambda Literary Awards finalists in the bisexual category at the Manhattan LGBT Center in May—the first time bi authors have had their own distinct category! Ron's books, *Bi Men: Coming Out Every Which Way* and *Bi Guys: Firsthand Fiction for Bisexual Men and Their Admirers* were both nominated for the new award.

Board members were interviewed on various topics throughout the year. Luigi Ferrer appeared in August on Sirius Radio's "Sex with Marilyn," hosted by noted South Florida sexologist Dr Marilyn Volker, to talk about bisexuality, human sexual identity development, and the needs and concerns of bisexual people. Ron Suresha was interviewed by Pacifica Radio in June and was quoted in a *San Francisco Bay Area Reporter* article, "Bisexuals show increased visibility."

In May, New Jersey's *Star-Ledger* contacted the BRC for comment when Dina Matos McGreevey, the former wife of New Jersey's governor, described her husband as bisexual—something he himself protested. Ellyn Ruthstrom provided a response and was quoted in the piece, "She may be feeling their relationship is being negated, but the ex-husband has the right to define his sexuality."

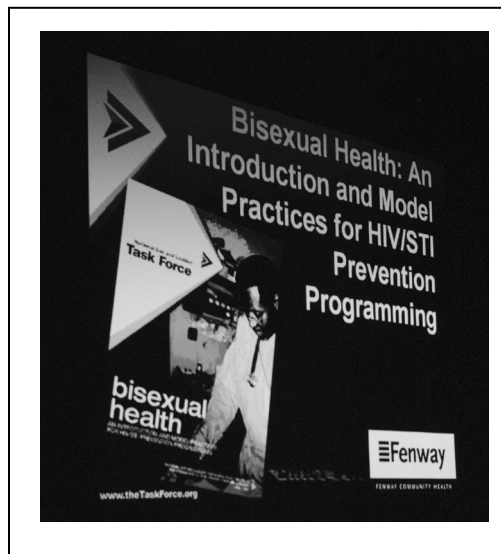
As part of the Sexual Health Summit, Ron Suresha spent several days at the renowned Kinsey Institute in Bloomington, Indiana, conducting research for his new anthology, *Kinsey Zero Through Sixty: Bisexual Perspectives on Kinsey*, in honor of the sexegennial (60th) anniversary of the Kinsey Male Report. The anthology will be published in 2008 as a double issue of the *Journal of Bisexuality*.

Luigi Ferrer also spoke to local student groups at Wheaton College and Brandeis University in the fall. And in December, Laurie Wolfe represented the BRC and SpeakOut at a Newton South High School assembly.

Celebrate Bisexuality Day!

The 9th annual **Celebrate Bisexuality Day (CBD)** brought the BRC and Fenway's Boundless program together to co-sponsor an educational and fun evening on September 20 at Tavern on the Square in Cambridge.

Fenway's Julie Ebin presented highlights of the Bisexual Health Report published by NGLTF in 2007. Ebin was co-author of the report along with Amy Andre, Leona Bessonova of The Task Force, and Marshall Miller, who was the original director of Fenway's Bi Health Program. Luigi Ferrer, former BiNet President and current BRC board member, wrote the introduction. The report addresses critical health needs, dispels myths, and answers frequently asked questions concerning bi health issues.



Board President Ellyn Ruthstrom welcomed the crowd and noted some great bi achievements of 2007: the first time the Lambda Literary Awards had a bisexual category (including two books edited by BRC board member Ron Suresha), BRC's coalition work with Mass Equality, and the re-energized BliSS group among them.



The yearly **Unsung Hero Awards**, given to recognize local community members who have gone beyond the call of duty, were presented to Wayne Bryant (front row, far left) and Denise Garrow-Pruitt (front row, middle). Wayne was honored for being an active community member for over 20 years, a former BRC board member and board president, and the long-time and current organizer of

Biversity Boston and the annual Bi Camp. Denise Garrow-Pruitt was the facilitator for the Cambridge Women's Center Bi Rap for several years, an active member of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network, and until recently was facilitating two groups for queer married women in Cambridge and west of Boston.

The Local Bi Community

The **Bisexual Social and Support Group (BlISS)** is an informal mixed-gender group providing a safe coming out space as well as fun social time for the local community. The group meets twice a month (1st Wednesdays, 3rd Thursdays, 7-8:45) at the BRC, 29 Stanhope Street, Boston. Wednesdays are more focused on support check-ins, and Thursdays offer an opportunity to check-in then go out to a local eatery to socialize. Special guests have included Alan Hamilton and BobBI Keppel who led a Bi 101 workshop to a large gathering.

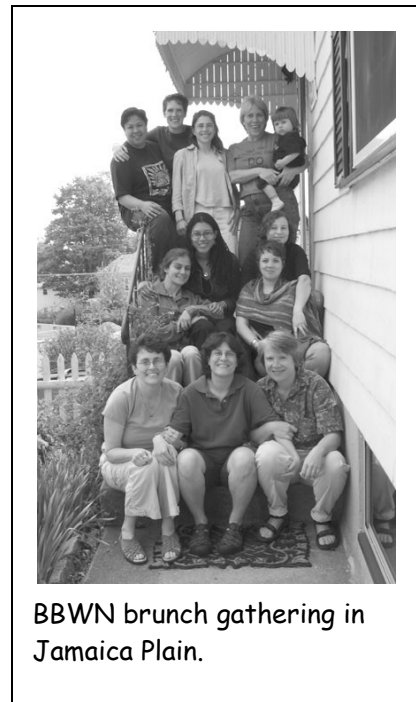
Biversity Boston distributes a print and email calendar of bi-friendly events in the Boston area and hosts a monthly brunch (1st Saturday) at Johnny D's in Somerville's Davis Square. To sign up for the calendar, send a message to <biversity-subscribe@biversity.org>. For the Biversity chat list, send a message to <biversity-chat-subscribe@biversity.org>

Boston Bisexual Women's Network (BBWN) is a feminist collective organization whose purpose is to bring bi women together for support and validation. BBWN publishes a national quarterly newsletter on topics important to bi women. The group hosts brunches in members' homes, social events, and an annual pre-pride brunch for the community. 617-424-9595, biwomeneditor@gmail.com, www.biresource.org/bbwn.

The Bisexual People of Color Group is an occasional potluck and discussion group for bisexual people of color. Check the Biversity calendar to see if an upcoming gathering is scheduled.

Bi Women's Rap is a once a month (last Fridays at 7 pm) discussion group at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge, 617-354-8807. The group has an active email list-serv that circulates information about events of interest in the area.

Bisexual and Bi-Curious Men's Group is a free, confidential discussion group for men who are bi-curious, bisexual, or think they may be bisexual. Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7-9 pm at Fenway Community Health, 7 Haviland Street, Boston. 617-927-6032, bihealth@fenwayhealth.org.



BBWN brunch gathering in Jamaica Plain.

Ways YOU Can Get Involved With the BRC

Each year the BRC has three main events that volunteers are needed to help organize and complete. These three events are:

- BRC Annual House Party, late winter/early spring
- Boston Pride, second Saturday in June
- Celebrate Bisexuality Day, September 23 (or thereabouts)



But the fun doesn't stop there. At various times of the year there are other opportunities to help plan a bi book reading, organize a co-sponsored event with Fenway's Boundless Project, staff a booth at New England Pride events, initiate a movie and dinner outing, plan a theater outing or other educational and social events.

Other volunteer projects include:

- Update resource guide information by getting information from active bi groups.
- Maintain inventory of office materials such as envelopes, packing material, labels, etc.
- Help to coordinate and stuff fundraising mailings.
- Outreach to local colleges and universities with information about BRC resources and events.

Contact the BRC at 617-424-9595 or brc@biresource.org to become active in these and other BRC activities.

2007 BRC Donors—Thank You!

You are the people that help the BRC continue its important work and we thank you tremendously for your support.

\$500 +

Anonymous

\$250 - \$499

Troy Daniels
David Drinkwater
Luigi Ferrer
Ellyn Ruthstrom

\$100 - \$249

Anonymous
Maura Albert
Linda Blair
Debbie and Kevin Block-Schwenk
Arthur Cohen
Brian Cronwall
Julie Ebin
Denise Garrow-Pruitt
Lucy Gibson
Carolyn and Roland Glenn
Michael Leibensperger
Marshall Miller and Dorian Solot
Robyn Ochs
John Rosin
Rocco Russo and Ron Suresha
Laurie Wolfe

\$25 - \$99

Julie Asch
Sheila Boothby
Timothy and Leslie Crane
Robin Einbinder
Albert Gentle, Jr.
Barbara Gibson
Alan Hamilton
Joy Heising
Loraine Hutchins
Jerry Lama
Jasper Lawson
Lani Ka'ahumanu
Virginia Mollenkott
Jesse Pack
Marjorie Salvodon
Thomas Snelham
Kimberly Steele
Wesley Taylor

2007 Financial Report

(unaudited)

Income

Individual Donations	5,197
Events	954
Getting Bi Sales	2,071
Merchandise Sales	772
Interest	466
Other	230

Total Income **\$9,690**

Expense

Getting Bi Expenses	47
Board Expenses	57
Operating Expenses	6,156
Community Events	787
Fee for Service	30
Fundraising Expenses	403
Management Expenses	465
Merchandise Expenses	520

Total Expenses **\$8,465**

Net Income **\$1,255**