LGBTQA Life at MIDD!

Welcome to Middlebury!
We hope you’re settling into your new life here and looking forward to the next four years. At Middlebury there are many resources for students identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, allies, or otherwise. Listed below is detailed info about the college’s two main institutionalized organizations for LGBTQ life, as well as other useful resources.

What is MOQA?
MOQA is a student organization that plans activities and events that raise awareness of LGBTQ issues and holds discussions about LGBTQ identities and all things that intersect with them (race, ethnicity, disability, class, nationality, spirituality, etc.). We also hold major events throughout the year, including Coming Out Week in fall and Gaypril in spring. MOQA is a diverse community whose members hold a variety of opinions on all sorts of issues. All are welcome!

MEETINGS
Sundays, 8 PM, Chellis House
(the white house behind Proctor, next to the parking lot)

Primary Goals
1) Pursue education and activism around LGBTQ issues
2) Provide a safe space for LGBTQ individuals and allies
3) Coordinate support resources for questioning and closeted students
4) Organize social events for the college’s LGBTQ and ally communities
5) Be open to students of ALL genders and sexualities!

More INFO
Email moqa@middlebury.edu or contact the co-chairs directly for further information:
Emma Ashby: eashby@middlebury.edu
Petr Knor: pknor@middlebury.edu
Steven Dunmire: sdunmire@middlebury.edu
Confidential meetings can also be set up with MOQA members for questioning students that would like a safe, non-judgmental place to discuss issues related to sexuality, gender, and coming out.
QUEER STUDIES HOUSE

WHAT IS QSH?
QSH is an academic interest house with the mission of promoting the academic pursuit of queer studies and creating a safe space for students of all sexual and gender identities. Established in the spring of 2008, the house serves as a living space dedicated to the principle that the study of sexuality and gender identity is integral to the promotion of diversity and a necessary portion of a complete academic, social, and residential college experience.

QSH
Pronounced “kwish”

SAFER SEX
Part of creating a safe campus for LGBTQ students is ensuring that protection for safe sex is available. Condoms, dental dams, latex gloves, and other safe sex supplies are located on the bookshelf in QSH’s front room, available 24/7.

EVENTS
QSH hosts social and academic teas, parties, workshops, and film screenings. Residents are also involved in numerous queer-related activities on campus.

LOCATION
70 Hillcrest, behind Proctor Dining Hall, between the Chellis House and Italian House.
Our door is always open!

LIBRARY
The QSH has a growing library of books, zines, and other publications related to queer studies, gay and lesbian studies, and gender studies. Located in the dining room of the house, these materials are available to be borrowed. 😊

MORE INFO?
Email queerstudieshouse@middlebury.edu for more info or to get on our mailing list!
QSH has space for 5 residents; applications for the coming year are due in spring and chosen by the house’s faculty board of advisors.

A Note on Lingo…
PREFERRED GENDER PRONOUNS
Language can be difficult to navigate when discussing topics related to sexuality and gender. In order for individuals decide how they want to be addressed and how to define themselves (or choose not to), we often ask attendees at events or meetings to share their preferred gender pronouns. Just because someone looks like a “she” or a “him” doesn’t mean that that person identifies as such, so it’s important to know which pronouns people use to refer to themselves. As you meet other students during your days at Middlebury, be sensitive to how people would like to be addressed and specify how you would like people to address you.

Gender pronouns refer to how you are addressed in the third person. She/her and he/him are both options associated with a specific gender. Some individuals prefer gender-neutral pronouns, such as they/them or ze/hir (pronounced “zee” and “hear”).
Other Campus Resources

PGCOM

The People’s Gender Council of Middlebury is a grassroots group of Middlebury students, staff, and faculty harnessing the passion of anti-oppression activists and experts to affect broad, systemic, policy-oriented change. It practices coalitional politics in bringing together various groups to pursue issues through a gendered lens: all are highly encouraged to get involved by bringing their ideas to the Council, which seeks to cut through red tape by reaching directly to policymakers.

GLEAM

Gay and Lesbian Employees at Middlebury is an informal social and resource group for faculty and staff employees of Middlebury College. GLEAM’s mission is to promote understanding and acceptance of all LGBTQ members of the Middlebury community.

Outright Vermont

Outright Vermont is a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQQ) youth center and state-wide advocacy organization. The mission of Outright is to build safe, healthy, and supportive environments for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning youth (ages 13-22). Our goal is to make Vermont the safest, most supportive and empowering state for queer youth in the United States of America.

WAGS PROGRAM

Students interested in studying sexuality, gender, and gender orientation from an academic perspective are encouraged to take classes in the Program in Women’s and Gender Studies. This program offers a major and minor (not to mention courses every semester!) and is located in Chellis House. See go/wags for more info.

Counseling Center

The Center for Counseling and Human Relations “is dedicated to providing excellent mental health services to Middlebury students.” While all their counselors excel at their work in different ways, their website describes Ximena Mejia as having “counseling interests focus[ing] around the intersections of cultural identity, multiculturalism, gender, and sexuality issues.”

RU12?

RU12? Community Center celebrates, educates, and advocates with and for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer Vermonters.
**Last Words...**

This informational packet was designed and written by MOQA members and QSH residents. We hope that we are able to serve as a useful resource during your time at Middlebury.