**The Gay Liberation Front/ Bloomington Gay Alliance/**

**Bloomington Gay and Lesbian Alliance**

In 1970, a group of Bloomington gay and lesbian activists were inspired by the Stonewall uprising to form a local group to promote activism and awareness in the Bloomington community. What started as a “radical” political organization called the Gay Liberation Front (GLF), over the years become a more socially centered group called the Bloomington Gay Alliance (BGA). The group had an office and charter as an official university student group, but also interacted with the local LGBTQ community beyond campus.

Sometimes characterized as an “umbrella group” to other LGBTQ organizations, the BGA facilitated connection between its members, organized local protests and boycotts, and provided a switchboard that could be called for “general rapping” and to get recomendations for LGBTQ-friendly services. The BGA also released a regular newsletter that advertised social groups and friendly local businesses, informed readers of news regarding the BGA and other events concerning the community, and provided relevant opinion articles.

In 1981, the BGA reorganized. After criticism that the group centered male voices too much, it was restructured to have two co-chairpersons (rather than the single one it previously had) – one male and the other female. The name of the group was also changed to the Bloomington Gay and Lesbian Alliance (BGLA) and the newsletter was renamed *Lesbian and Gay News*. While the group continued to serve its many previous functions, it also began to organize members to run for local offices, such as in the student government. It was also in this year that the twelfth anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall uprising was first commemorated with a “rally and march” - an event that today we would recognize as the forerunner to a “Pride Parade.”