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Family Affairs Newsletter 2011-01-15

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THE (F)AMILY (A)FFAIRS (N)EWSLETTER

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER,
QUEER, AND INTERSEX COMMUNITY

FOLLOW YOUR HEART - DO YOUR PART - CHERISH OUR FAMILY

JANUARY 15, 2011

NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

No news this issue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This category is for non-social notices about GLBTQI community members that you think other GLBTQI community members might like to know about...things like: births, deaths, adoptions, commitments, graduations, promotions, awards, shows, ongoing classes, trying-to-start-a-group, etc.

Announcement #1: Machias PFLAG Meeting date changed for January only. The January meeting has been moved temporarily from the 2nd Wednesday of the month. We will meet on Wednesday January 19th 6:30pm - 9:30pm to check in with members after their holiday break and to begin planning the GSA course of action for a local school.

Announcement #2: Posted on behalf of GLAD: Maine Speakers Bureau for Equality: Sign up to volunteer and notice of Upcoming Speakers Trainings:

Dear friends,

As the new Speakers Bureau Manager for GLAD and a member of the Maine Freedom to Marriage Coalition, I am creating The Maine Speakers Bureau for Equality. My task is to set up community Speakers Bureaus and speaking teams throughout the State. We are looking for GLBT families, couples, and young people, as well as children of GLBT parents and other straight allies to join us in creating these teams. We know that the best way to change people's opinion about marriage equality is for them to hear personal stories from their neighbors. We will do this by speaking out in venues throughout our communities and having 1-1 conversations with our neighbors. My job is to create a program that trains and supports all volunteers. I will provide support every step of the way!

Our belief is that by telling personal stories we change hearts, and then minds. Participating in this process can be life changing.

I hope you will join us.

If you are interested in supporting this effort, simply click the link below to sign up, or call me to request more information.

Note: You do not need to become a speaker to support this effort. There are many opportunities to help. These include: finding speaking venues, supporting speaking teams in non-speaking roles, leading teams, data entry, and more.

I look forward to meeting with and greeting each and every one of you.

Click here to sign up:

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dHh6a1h1eV9wZnVHSIIIIVHBSMDdCZkE6MQ>

If you would like to become a speaker, we are offering the following Speakers trainings:

All Training sessions are from 9-4 and require a full day commitment. If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the appropriate link below, AND send an e-mail to Diane Gilman at dgilman@glad.org

York County: 2/1 at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Saco 2/12 at the First Parish United Church of Christ on Beach St. in Saco Link: <http://doodle.com/icyfk5wb6yxwppdr>

Androscoggin County: 3/5 at the United Church of Christ in Auburn

Link: <http://doodle.com/kiwr8cps92qcntw6>

Penobscot County: 3/1 and 3/5 in Bangor, Place TBD To sign up, contact Sue Estler sestler1@me.com or 866-3095

Thanks for your support,

Diane G. Gilman

Call Diane Gilman at 272-2658 if you need or want more information, or contact her at dgilman@glad.org

OP/EDs:

This is your chance to spout off (or offer your insightful thoughts and opinions) about ANYTHING related to the GLBTQI community. Any subscriber is welcomed to submit. Please keep your thoughts as succinct (and civilized) as possible. Subscribers should be willing to allow at least their first name and an email address to be listed with the posting.

No one had any opinions this issue that they wanted to have published.

EVENTS (CHANGING):

JANUARY

January 22-23 (Saturday and Sunday). **Portland. Concert: Women in Harmony.** "Best of Women in Harmony" performances will be at 7 p.m. on Jan. 22 and 4 p.m. on Jan. 23 at Woodfords Congregational Church. The program will feature songs honoring women's experience and inspired efforts for social justice, including "Change of Heart," "Bound for Freedom" and "Song for Peace." A highlight will be "1000 Grandmothers," a powerful song about women's wisdom and devotion to disarming all forms of aggression. This spring, the chorus will record the songs from the "Best of Women in Harmony" program; CDs will be available late next year. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door; \$10 for seniors and students; children under 12 admitted free. Tickets are available at Longfellow Books and Starbird Music, at Nonesuch Books in South Portland and at www.wihmaine.org.

January 25 (Tuesday). **Portland. DownEast Pride Alliance (DEPA) Business After Hours Networking Event.** The next monthly networking event will be between 5:30pm-7:30pm for bowling fun at YANKEE LANES on 867 Riverside Street in Portland. (207)878-2695. Snacks, cash bar & reserved bowling lanes provided. This was fun last year!

January 27 (Thursday). **Portland. GLBT Focus Group with the Portland Police Department.** 6:00 – 7:00 P.M. University of Southern Maine at Portland. Abromson Community Education Center (88 Bedford Street), Room 213. Please join us for the third GLBT Focus Group. We'd like to hear from you and hear how the Portland Police Department can better serve your community. Ask questions. Make comments. Or just come meet us! Date subject to change (if USM is closed due to snow, the Focus Group will be rescheduled). Questions? Call (207) 874-8601 Hosted by the USM Center for Sexualities and Gender Diversity. www.usm.maine.edu/glbqtqa. For more information, contact sholmes@usm.maine.edu

Visitor parking is 50 cents per hour in the USM parking garage attached to the Abromson Center.

January 28-30 (Friday – Sunday). **Bangor. SNO BEAR.** Frolic with “Mainedenmen” – hairy minded men & their admirers (GLBTA-allied- men & women) at our community inclusive weekend. Come join in FUN opportunities to connect, socialize, chill, dance, eat & party in central Maine. Activities include Meet & Greet, Bearaoke, pajama brunch, line dancing, Flannel contest and even a bear movie – so don’t forget your flannel! There will be lots of prizes and giveaways at our inaugural event! Register early as occupancy is limited. Contact Mainedenmen@yahoo.com for registration and for more information. Look for details at the “mainedenmen bangor” page on facebook – You’ll be glad you did!

FEBRUARY

February 1 (Tuesday). **Saco. Maine Speakers Bureau for Equality Training.** Training is at the Unitarian Universalist church from 9-4 and requires a full day commitment If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the appropriate link below, AND send an e-mail to Diane Gilman at dgilman@glad.org. Link: <http://doodle.com/icyfk5wb6yxwpxdrr> Please see Announcement #2 above for more information.

February 9 (Wednesday). **Portland. Courage in the Hallways - An Evening with GLSEN-Southern Maine. RBPA Event RESCHEDULED FROM JANUARY.** Join Us for an Evening with the southern Maine Gay-Straight Alliances. Feeling discouraged about the changes in Augusta? Tired of the long haul? Come hear the Gay-Straight Alliances, youth—LGBT and straight together—who are creating the next wave of our movement for equality. On January 12, RBPA will host GLSEN-Southern Maine (the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) and several current GSA youth leaders who will share images and stories of their inspiring work in our schools. RBPA has been proud to support the development and networking of Gay-Straight Alliances as they work to reduce anti-LGBT hate language and harassment in southern Maine high schools. Several RBPA Scholarship winners have been GSA leaders who have shown remarkable courage and commitment in making their schools safer for all. You don’t want to miss meeting these committed young activists. See <http://rbpa.org/events/calendar> for more information.

February 12 (Saturday). **Saco. Maine Speakers Bureau for Equality Training.** Training is at the First Parish United Church of Christ on Beach St. from 9-4 and requires a full day commitment If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the link below, AND send an e-mail to Diane Gilman at dgilman@glad.org. Link: <http://doodle.com/icyfk5wb6yxwpxdrr> Please see Announcement #2 above for more information.

MARCH

March 1 (Tuesday). **Bangor. Maine Speakers Bureau for Equality Training.** Training is at a location to be determined from 9-4 and requires a full day commitment. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sue Estler at sestler1@me.com or call 866-3095. Please see Announcement #2 above for more information.

March 5 (Saturday). **Auburn. Maine Speakers Bureau for Equality Training.** Training is at the United Church of Christ from 9-4 and requires a full day commitment If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the link below, AND send an e-mail to Diane Gilman at dgilman@glad.org. Link: <http://doodle.com/kiwr8cps92qcntw6> Please see Announcement #2 above for more information.

March 5 (Saturday). **Bangor. Maine Speakers Bureau for Equality Training.** Training is at a location to be determined from 9-4 and requires a full day commitment. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sue Estler at sestler1@me.com or call 866-3095. Please see Announcement #2 above for more information.

March 25 (Friday). **Portland. Second Annual TRANSforming Health and Wellness Conference.** Luther Bonney Hall, Portland Campus, University of Southern Maine. 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. The purpose of the Transforming Health and Wellness conference is to raise awareness about health and wellness-related needs of the transgender community, and to address how the many areas of life that affect wellness may be influenced by gender non-conforming experiences. The Transforming Health and Wellness Conference will have workshops geared towards medical and mental health professionals as well

as the transgender/genderqueer/gender-fluid community. This year, we are expanding the number of workshops intended for community members, and adding workshops relevant to health providers already familiar with transgender topics. Like last year, we will also have several introductory workshops for health providers looking to gain a better understanding of a range of transgender-related topics. The Transforming Health and Wellness conference is organized by [MaineTransNet](#) (Maine Transgender Network, Inc.) in collaboration with the [USM Center for Sexualities and Gender Diversity](#) and the [Trans Youth Equality Foundation](#). Please see <http://www.mainetransnet.org/2011conference.html> for more information about the conference.

March 26 (Saturday). **Portland. Annual Equality Maine Awards Dinner.** Holiday Inn by the Bay. More details available soon.

EVENTS (ONGOING):

Androscoggin County

GUY2GUY. Lewiston/Auburn meeting on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. Saturday night movie on the fourth Saturday of every month. We invite you to come and join us in a friendly, open and non-judgmental environment. Check the web site for more information at <http://www.guy2guy.org/> See full listing below for more details.

OUTRIGHT L/A. UU Church, corner of Spring and Pleasant Street, Auburn. Weekly drop-in for youth age 22 and under every Friday from 6:00 - 8:30pm. FMI call 207-795-8956 or email info@outrightla.org or check the web site at www.outrightla.org See full listing below for more details.

YANKEE BOYZ. UU Church, Auburn. Monthly social/support group meeting Sept - June (1st or 2nd Sunday of the month...check the mailing list to verify) for those born female, or intersex, and which female and/or "woman" as an identity does not fit. FMI please see <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/YankeeBoyz/>

Aroostook County

NORTHERN LAMBDA. Monthly meeting or gathering on the 4th Saturday of each month. Location varies within Aroostook County. FMI and/or directions contact Tess at 694-2639 or Kent at 538-7630 or email northernlambda@gmail.com. See full listing below for more details.

Cumberland County

AA MEETING - GLBT, Portland, 6:30pm, at Dana Center at Maine Medical Center, 22 Bramhall Street. More info: <http://www.csoamaine.org/>

DEMAND EQUALITY NOW PROTESTS. Sundays from 9:00 am to 11:15 a.m. Portland, Immaculate Conception Church, 302 Congress St. Group statement: "We protest at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception because it is the home church of Bishop Malone, who helped direct over \$500,000.00 in church funds and donations to help REPEAL equal marriage rights in Maine. We protest to send the message that the vote may be over, but we won't "get over it". We're not going anywhere. Everyone is welcome, any orientation, any height, any weight, lol. For more information, please see the group's facebook site at: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?v=wall&gid=176167710924>

MAINETRANSNET Portland, 640 Brighton Ave. Peer support meeting on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 7-8:30 P.M. Orono meetings are on the 4th Monday of every month. MaineTransNet's peer support meetings are limited to people who identify as transgender/genderqueer/gender-variant or are questioning their gender identity. Open support meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 7-8:30 P.M. MaineTransNet's open support meetings are limited to allies, family members or acquaintances, accompanied by the trans person of their acquaintance. E-mail Alex at alex@mainetransnet.org for more information.

(PFLAG) PARENTS, FAMILY, & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS, Portland. Meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodford St, in Portland. ALL are welcomed, not just parents. FMI call 207-831-3015 or email mdpalmer@gwi.net

PORTLAND FRONT RUNNERS. Portland, Back Cove Parking Lot. Meets every Saturday at 9:05 AM in the middle of the Back Cove parking lot for a run/walk around the cove. Brunch afterwards at Whole Foods around 10 AM. FMI contact Bruce Fithian at (207) 831-7113. Please see full listing below.

TRANS YOUTH EQUALITY FOUNDATION. New England Parent Support Group. Meets every first Sunday of the month. All parents are welcome. Join us for sharing thoughts, dreams ,goals and resources in a warm and safe environment. Support other parents, get the support you need, share your story. Safe space for children under 18 provided during group. Children and siblings welcome for chat and free time together. Confidentiality emphasized. This group is for all parents or closest care givers of transgender, transsexual and gender non-conforming children of all ages. <http://www.transyouthequality.org> On [facebook](#). Contact us to register to join us and learn when and where. Downtown Portland. contact@transyouthequality.org and 207-478-4087

Hancock County

AA MEETING - GLBT, Ellsworth, Friday evenings at 6:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 121 Bucksport Rd. More information can be found on the Central Maine AA meeting site: www.aamaine.org

GAY GUYS GROUP (GGG) POTLUCK DINNER. Ellsworth Area. Every 2nd Wednesday of the month. 6-9 pm-ish at various locations in the greater Ellsworth Area. FMI and to get directions and time contact Wayne at wayne@maineguyz.org You can also check the web site and get on their mailing list at www.maineguyz.org See full listing below for more details.

(GLSEN) Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network. For meeting time and place please call 667-2358 or e-mail downeastme@chapters.glsen.org. FMI about the group, contact the Downeast Maine Chapter at PO Box 373, Ellsworth, ME 04605. OR phone 667-2358 or 244-3837. OR email downeastglsen@roadrunner.com . You can check the resource-rich national web site at <http://www.glsen.org> and find our chapter page at www.glsen.org/downeastme.

Kennebec County

JUST GUYS. Augusta, 9 Green St. Regular weekly meeting meets every Wednesday 7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. See full listing below for more details.

Knox County

OUT!...AS I WANT TO BE. Lincoln Street Center for the Arts and Education, Rockland. GLBTQ youth, ages 14 to 22, meetings every Wed.5-8pm, and Fri. evenings/6-9pm, FMI, contact Lis at 632-4797 or email outmaine@yahoo.com . Check the web site at <http://www.outmaine.org> or the myspace posting at www.myspace.com/outasiwanttobe See full listing below for more details.

RADIO SHOW: OUT! ON THE AIR. From 5 - 6 pm on Wednesday nights, Midcoast residents can tune their dials to WRFR - 93.3 (Rockland) or 93.9 (Camden) - for a unique portrait of area youth. "Out! On the Air" is created and organized by host Starcia Willey and Rockland's very own youth group - Out! As I Want to Be - supporting gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, queer, questioning, allied, and intersexed (GLBTQQAI) young people aged 14-22 in the Midcoast area.

Penobscot County

10% SOLUTIONS. Bangor, Rm. 215 of The Commons, Husson University. A GLBTIQ support group which is held on Monday nights. The meetings are open to all students, staff or faculty at either Husson University or The New England School of Communications. FMI contact Alex Patel at patela@husson.edu or by phone at 941-7990.

GLBT ON RYE (Gays, Bisexuals, Lesbians and Transgenders on Real Youth Education). Bangor, Rm. 127 of Peabody Hall, Husson University. Weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 7:30. The meetings are open to all students, staff or faculty at either Husson University or The New England School of Communications. FMI contact Alex Patel at patela@husson.edu or by phone at 941-7990.

MAINETRANSNET Office located at Portland, 640 Brighton Ave. Peer support meeting on the 4th Monday of the month in Bangor. MaineTransNet's peer support meetings are limited to people who identify as transgender/genderqueer/gender-variant or are questioning their gender identity. MaineTransNet's open support meetings are limited to allies, family members or acquaintances, accompanied by the trans person of their acquaintance. E-mail Alex at alex@mainetransnet.org for more information.

RAINBOW FELLOWSHIP. Bangor, Hammond St. Congregational Church. Third Saturday of each month. This gathering is open to the GLBTQI community and straight allies. It is under the auspices of the very GLBT-welcoming Hammond Street Congregational Church. While it usually consists of a potluck dinner at someone's home, there have also been gaming nights and other activities. Persons who are interested should call the church at 942-4381 for details of time and place.

THE BRIDGE ALLIANCE. Bangor. Holds regular GLBTIQ support group which is held on Monday nights. See <http://thebridgealliance.org/> for a calendar, a full events listing, and more information.

Sagadahoc County

GUY2GUY. Brunswick meeting on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Saturday night movie on the second Saturday of every month. We invite you to come and join us in a friendly, open and non-judgmental environment. Check the web site for more information at <http://www.guy2guy.org/> See full listing below for more details.

York County

GO OGUNQUIT. Get Out hosts a men's group every Monday night from 7:00 P.M.– 9:00 P.M. at the Ogunquit Chamber of Commerce, 36 Main St. OGT. FMI, Contact: Jimmy Lucibello, York County Men's Health Outreach Specialist, 207-363-3558 x104 or jlucibello@peabodycenter.org

Washington County

PFLAG MACHIAS meets every second Wednesday of the month. Any LGBTQIA persons, family members and friends are welcome. Meetings are held at 6:30pm in the downstairs vestry at the Centre Street Congregational Church on 9 Center Street, Machias. For more information please contact: Shallee Page at 207-255-1288; or email downeastpflag@gmail.com and request to join our facebook page: Machias PFLAG Group.

THE 100% SOCIETY meets Wednesdays at 5:00pm in Portside located in Kimball Hall at the University of Maine at Machias. This student run organization advocates awareness and acceptance of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, queer, intersex, and ally issues. For more information please see the webpage, <http://www.umm.maine.edu/100percent.html>, or contact Faculty Advisor, Lois-Ann Kuntz at lkuntz@maine.edu or 207-255-1244.

BUSINESSES:

NEW LISTINGS OF GLBTQI-OWNED BUSINESSES AND GLBTQI BUSINESS INDIVIDUALS:

The complete directory-to-date of folks who have asked to be listed is available on request. Also, it will be emailed to everyone every three months. If you are a GLBTQI business owner, an "out" GLBTQI business person associating with a non-GLBTQI-owned business, or a straight-owned supportive ally who wants a free listing, then contact me. I'm Zack at zack@familyaffairsnewsletter.org or at 518-8663. I do not promise to answer the phone, but I do promise to listen to the voicemail and call you back, if requested.

JOB POSTINGS:

Posting #1:

What would you do with an extra \$100, \$500 or even \$1,000 a month? I am currently looking for men and women who would like to start their own business with a well established company. Athena's offers great incentives, bonuses and contests to each and every one of us. We have FREE, extensive, ongoing training; Fabulous, quality products; a wonderful group of knowledgeable men and women and much more. For further information, please contact me or click on Become A Goddess on my website. Gentlemen, you are welcome to join our growing family of Adonis too!

Athena's By Michele
Michele Forviere, Goddess #2855, Team Leader of Afternoon Delight
Houlton, Maine
Phone: 207/694-5157
Email: Michele@mytoyzbuzz.com
Web: www.mytoyzbuzz.com – 18 and over please

PERSONALS:

No postings this issue.

SELL/BUY/TRADE/GIVE:

If you're a FAN subscriber trying to sell/buy something, want to trade for something else, or have something to give away, this is the category to post to. The FAN makes no guarantees about anything listed here, we simply provide the free listing as a service.

OLD TOWN: Home Repair Help Needed. Fan subscriber needs some help in renovating a bathroom. I need someone who knows how to redo a bathtub and shower area around a large window. Vanity and floor already done. Please e-mail cbgadsu@gmail.com for more information.

LIVING SPACE RENTALS or SEEKING LIVING SPACE:

If you are FAN subscriber with a living space (room, apartment, house/apartment sharing) to rent to someone, or if you are looking for a living space to rent from someone, then this is the category to post to. Postings run for four (4) consecutive issues and may be renewed for additional 4-issue runs if you wish. Send your listings to me, Zack, at zack@familyaffairsnewsletter.org.

DURHAM Country Setting, one 1) Bedrm Garage-in-law apt.(800sqft).Lg (10x12) back porch, lots of storage, cable ready, Private parking, snow removal, gas heat/hot water & electricity included. close to Topsham/Brunswick,Freeport,Lewiston/Auburn & 95.NO Dogs/Smoking \$800 plus security 207-353-6536 / 577-6451

BELFAST: Offering downtown apartments for rent. One and two bedroom units occasionally available. We offer great light, heat and hot water, parking downtown, laundry facility and trash removal. For more information on availability contact: abelfastrental@gmail.com

GLBTQI COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS and RESOURCES:

The Bridge Alliance is a registered non profit organization whose primary goal is to connect the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied (GLBTA) community in Aroostook, Hancock, Washington, Piscataquis, and Penobscot counties accomplishing the following: To facilitate the development of a GLBTA community which promotes and embraces diversity; To promote and encourage the understanding that the GLBTA community plays an important role in Maine's cultural, social and economic landscape;

To give back to the GLBTA community through charitable donations or in-kind services; To produce annual events that will assemble the GLBTA community in Northern Maine. See <http://thebridgealliance.org/> for more information.

Bridging The Gap provides no-cost clinical breast exams, mammograms, breast ultrasounds, and other breast health services to women (including lesbian, bi, and trans women) age 20 to 29 who have a symptom of concern and age 30 to 39 who have a symptom of concern or a family history of breast cancer. FMI and to see if you qualify contact Robin at Bridging The Gap at 941-2808.

Caring Connections provides no-cost mammograms and Pap tests to women (including lesbian, bi, and trans women) age 40 to 64 who meet income guidelines and don't have insurance to cover breast and cervical health services. FMI contact Robin at Caring Connections at 941-2808.

Center for Sexualities and Gender Diversity, University of Southern Maine, Portland. Education, Support, and Advocacy for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Questioning, Queer, and Allied community at USM. See <http://www.usm.maine.edu/glbta/> for more information.

Connections! Gay or Bisexual male in Maine? On your own and not getting any younger? Want to be connected by phone with other mature gay men in Maine? Network for conversation, companionship, connections for support, help in recovery from medical treatment, ice storms or accidents. Call or be called or both. If you know of anyone who may not see this message, for the sake of community pass this information on. Even slight connections among people raise our spirits. To find out more call Peter (in confidence) at 207-348-2212 between 9AM and 8PM.

Downeast (GLSEN) Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network. For meeting time and place please call 667-2358 or e-mail downeastglsen@roadrunner.com. We eat together (usually pizza) and ask participants to pitch in for the cost (usually about \$5). New members always welcome. Our work is focused on making schools safer and more respectful for all students and staff regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. We do staff trainings, workshops at other events, and advocate for student needs. Recently we have begun to work with and encourage several gay-straight alliances (GSA's) in local high schools. We are teachers, parents, school administrators, counselors, and other interested citizens; men and women, gay and straight, working together. FMI contact the Downeast Maine Chapter at PO Box 373, Ellsworth, ME 04605. OR phone 667-2358 or 244-3837. OR email mdowneastme@chapters.glsen.org. You can check the resource-rich national web site at www.glsen.org and find our chapter page at www.glsen.org/downeastme.

Gay-Lesbian Phone Line of Maine. PO Box 1116, Presque Isle, ME 04769, 800-468-2088; 498-2088 Hotline for GLBTQ people, friends and family members. We offer information and support by trained volunteer staff or answering service. We also offer HIV/AIDS information with Health First.

Get Out (GO) Ogunquit Get Out connects and supports gay, bisexual & questioning men through educational and community activities. This diverse mix of activities provides alternatives to bars and on-line hook up sites by drawing attention to the rise in HIV & STD infections, and the importance of establishing and maintaining a visible community. It's a safe and non-judgmental environment for the comfortable exploration of sexual identities. See <http://www.googunquit.net/> for more information.

Equality Maine, has been providing education and legislative advocacy for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1984. It sponsors a variety of social and legislative educational events each year and is always looking for volunteers and new members. If you're not a member, you should be. FMI contact Equality Maine at 207-761-3732 or toll free at 1-800-556-5472. Their email address is info@equalitymaine.org and the web site is www.equalitymaine.org

(GLAD) Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders. To learn about and protect your rights under Maine's anti-discrimination law, visit GLAD's website at www.glad.org or call the free legal hotline at 1-800-455-GLAD (1-800-455-4523). GLAD is New England's legal rights organization dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV status and gender identity and expression. GLAD's legal victories in Maine have addressed HIV discrimination, harassment of gay students, co-guardianship rights for same-sex parents, domestic partner benefits and more.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Collection at the University of Southern Maine is working to capture the history of Maine's LGBT community. We collect papers of individuals and the records of organizations active in the community. Although we mostly collect print material (books, serials, written documents) we collect almost any object that documents the life and experience of the LGBT community (photographs, books, newsletters, objects, posters, T-shirts, buttons, etc). Following professional standards, we are careful to guard the privacy of individuals involved with the collections and will work with donors who choose anonymity. For information on the collection and donating material please contact Susie Bock, 207-780-4269 or bocks@usm.maine.edu.

Lesbian Health Project. Initiated in 1992, the Lesbian Health Project of the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center seeks to promote non-homophobic health services which will provide lesbians with the ability to make the best health decisions possible based on accurate knowledge. The focus of the project is on developing educational materials for lesbians and trainings for health and social service professionals. In addition, the project sponsors a Lesbian Health Clinic at the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center which provides low-cost, woman positive, lesbian-centered health care including: pelvic exams, breast exams, health education, instruction in breast self-exam, pap smears, mammography referrals, health advocacy, screening and treatment of STD's. For more information or to become involved in the work of the project contact the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center at 947-5337

Lesbian Radio is on the air Wednesday afternoons from 1 until 1:30 pm. Listen in at 90.9 and 104.1FM and online at www.wmpg.org to politics, news, arts, business, music, poetry--all things Lesbian-y. Deb Gallagher hosts the show live each week. ourlesbianradioshow@yahoo.com

Living Queer Here! A locally-produced radio show aired on station WERU. An exploration into the full range of life created and experienced by the queer community in Maine. Hosted by Gail Mackinson & Cindy Montgomery. The show airs on the 4th Thursday of each month 10-11 am. WERU broadcasts in the greater Blue Hill area on frequency 89.9 FM, in the Bangor area on frequency 102.9 FM, and streams on the web at www.weru.org . WERU also broadcasts the nationally syndicated GLBTI show: **This Way Out** every Wednesday afternoon from 4 - 4:30 pm.

Maine Breast and Cervical Health Program, offers no-cost mammograms, pap tests, and gynecological exams to qualifying Maine women (regardless of sexual orientation). If you are a woman in Maine and you are due for a Pap test or mammogram, help is just a phone call away. The Maine Breast and Cervical Health Program can help you get the health care you deserve. If you are a Maine woman over 40, have little or no insurance and meet certain income guidelines then you may be eligible for no-cost mammograms, Pap tests, and gynecological exams at your choice of participating area providers. Call today to see if you qualify, 973-3646 or 1-800-350-5180. (TTY 1-800-438-5514) The best protection is early detection! (Jessica Thompson - contact)

Maine Equity Fund. Part of the Maine Community Foundation, The Maine Equity Fund's mission is to strengthen GLBT organizations in Maine and support community-based initiatives that address GLBT issues and needs through grant making. The vision driving the fund is one of inclusive, diverse, prejudice-free communities for the GLBT population and for all people in Maine. Detailed grant information is available on the web and the annual proposal deadline is in September. <http://www.mainecef.org/grants/availablegrants/equityfund.aspx>

MaineTransNet (Maine Transgender Network, Inc.) is an organization dedicated to educating the public about gender identity and raising awareness of the varied forms of gender expression. We provide support and consultation to health and social service professionals, transgender individuals, their families, and interested others. MTN also sponsors transgender peer support groups in various parts of the state and a separate group for partners of trans/genderqueer/questioning individuals. FMI email Alex at alex@mainetransnet.org or check the web site at www.mainetransnet.org. You could also leave a message at 207-408-1685.

National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues meets monthly in Portland. Membership on the NASW LGBT Committee is open to social workers in Maine who are interested in LGBT issues in general and improving social work services to LGBT populations in particular. Please join us. Contact Frank Brooks at fbrooks1@maine.rr.com for meeting place, dates, and times.

The Naughty North Collective is a state wide radical queer direct action (dis)organization. We are committed to celebrating our queerest selves while resisting the devastating violence inherent in the consumer driven assimilationist gaystream. We will defend ourselves against the brutal silence of isolation thru a diverse and dedicated network of action oriented friends and lovers. We will not deny our anger or fail to recognize the links between queer struggle and challenging power. Naughty North is a defiant orgasm in the face of oppression: all are welcome to get off with us!
<http://www.thenaughtynorth.blogspot.com>

Trans Care Collaborative. Mission: To improve the medical and mental health care available to the transgender and gender-diverse population in Maine. To foster a network of medical care, mental health and other support services treating the transgender and gender-diverse community in Maine. To advocate for the needs of transgender and gender-diverse individuals. This is a Portland-based group *for medical and mental health professionals only*. We meet monthly to discuss trans-related healthcare and occasionally offer events that raise awareness about trans issues. FMI contact: Rick Bouchard, LCSW at 207-650-6450 ... email CONSTL8@maine.rr.com OR Wayne Bachner, LCSW at 207-662-4872 ... email BACHNW@mmc.org

The Transgender Fund. With offices in Freeport, Maine, The Transgender Fund is a national, completely independent, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public charitable foundation. It has been created by and for transgendered individuals. Our funding is derived from contributions by caring individuals of all levels of means. Our strength and independence come from the fact that there is no single benefactor who has seeded the Fund with a large amount of capital. Contributions you make are added to those of your sisters and brothers. Individually, they may seem modest, but collectively they add up to a powerful force that is reinvested in the support of projects fostering the well-being of all our gender variant minorities. FMI email info@tgfund.org OR check the web site at www.tgfund.org

Trans Youth Equality Foundation. Trans Youth Equality Foundation provides education, advocacy and support for transgender and gender-non-conforming children and youth and their families. Our mission is to share information about the unique needs of this community, partnering with families, educators, and service providers to help foster a healthy, caring and safe environment for all transgender children. We are located in Portland Maine but are available to all. We have a social/support group for children that meets once a month. We have a summer zine workshop for youth and any trans youth 18 and under can join. To learn more look at <http://www.transyouthequality.org> and friend us on facebook. 207-478-4087. Susan Maasch/Director

SOCIAL GROUPS:

Buddy Bikers, Gay Motorcycle Group (PORTLAND) Guys who are gay/gay friendly who enjoy group rides. Based in the Portland area, but rides are not limited to Southern Maine. Harleys to Hondas, Choppers to Rice Rockets. SORRY, NO SCOOTERS ALLOWED. Annual event; Biker Boy Brunch, third Sunday of August to Amore's in Ogunquit. EMAIL buddybikers@yahoo.com Website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/buddybikers>

Clay Hill Farm Restaurant (OGUNQUIT) hosts a variety of women-only events during the year. Among them are a Christmas Season dinner-dance, a women's Valentine's Day dinner-dance (for both couples AND singles), and a Spring Soiree in June. You can check out the web site at www.clayhillfarm.com . To get on the e-mail list for their Events For Women, send your request to Jackie at Lmsmarketing@yahoo.com

DEPA (DownEast Pride Alliance). (PORTLAND) DEPA's mission is to grow, promote and increase the visibility of GLBT businesses, their owners, and their allies in the communities that support them. Sid Tripp with Proactive Resources Design and Leah Bartley of Smith Barney have teamed-up to co-sponsor a monthly after-hours gay business network called The DownEast Pride Alliance (DEPA). We hope to fill the need for a comprehensive business network geared specifically for gay & gay friendly businesses throughout Southern & Coastal Maine. FMI contact Sid Tripp at 772-3599 or Leah Bartley at 771-0854 or check the web site at www.depabusiness.com

GetOut (PORTLAND and OGUNQUIT) is committed to serving as a bridge connecting and supporting men who have sex with men (MSM), gay men, bisexual men, and questioning men through educational and community activities. This diverse mix of activities will provide these men with alternatives to the gay bars and on-line hook up sites by drawing attention to the rise in STD infections, the steady number of HIV infections among the gay male population, and the importance of establishing and maintaining a visible community. It is the hope of all participants and supporters that a safe and non-judgmental environment be created to allow for the comfortable exploration of sexual identities. Group Happenings Include: Volleyball, Men's Discussion Group, Book Club, Coffeehouse, Men's Health, Movie Night, and Lending Library. There is a GetOut group in Portland/GoPortland <http://www.goportland.net/> There is also a GetOut group in Ogunquit/GoOgunquit <http://www.googunquit.net/>

Guy2Guy (BRUNSWICK and LEWISTON/AUBURN) is a group of guys (gay, straight, bi, questioning, trans) building community together. We have regular discussions, workshops, movie nights, and social activities. We acknowledge the need for guys to get together in a healthy and safe environment to talk about issues important to them and to build community. Guy2Guy meets in Lewiston/Auburn on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month and meets in Brunswick on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Please visit our calendar for more information. We invite you to come and join us in a friendly, open and non-judgmental environment. Check the web site at <http://www.guy2guy.org/>

just guys. (AUGUSTA) A social group for men who have sex with men meets every Wednesday at the just guys 1950's library café, second floor, 9 Green St, in Augusta. We work to create a safe, welcoming space free of attitude, ego, gossip, labels, or judgment. Drop in for casual chat, cookies, and coffee Wednesday any time from 5:30 to 7:00. The regular weekly meetings are 7-8:30. The night's activities can include discussions, games, guest speakers, or movies, and always fun snacks. Join us, bring a friend, come share! Free, anonymous, 20-minute rapid oral test is available with appointment anytime. FMI contact Lew at 621-3794. More information, weekly updates at www.justguys.info

just friends (AUGUSTA BASED BUT STATEWIDE) A just-started group of folk, male and female, who have offered an ear, a shoulder, a hand, and friendship on a one-to-one, peer basis. Lonely? Lost? Just down? Just need to share some stuff? When you need a friend and friends just pass you by, give Lew a shout, and you can be connected to someone who cares. For those of you who cannot make meetings, but have access to the net, this could be your touch with someone who would be glad to connect with you. You can decide if you want to share your name, your problems, your bad jokes, emails, or just a cup of coffee. The people are not counselors, docs or therapists, they're just friends. 621-3794 or the cell (with poor reception, sorry): 215-4594 or check out www.justguys.info

Maine Street Bar (OGUNQUIT) hosts monthly women-only T-dances. For more info about them check the web site at <http://www.mainestreetogunquit.com/women.php>

Northern Lambda. (AROOSTOOK COUNTY) A GLBTQ social group that hosts monthly meetings/gatherings on the 4th Saturday of each month. Location varies within Aroostook County. Open to all gay, lesbian, bi, trans and questioning folks (and their friends & supporters). FMI and/or directions contact Tess at 694-2639 or Kent at 538-7630 or email northernlambda@gmail.com . You can also ask to join their YahooGroup and keep informed on all the doing's via email. <http://www.northernlambda.org>

Out!...As I Want To Be. (ROCKLAND) An organization for all GLBTQQ youth, ages 14 to 22, as well as straight allies. We are an all-volunteer, youth-driven organization. We seek to provide outreach, affirmation, support, and education in a safe space for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning youth in Lincoln, Knox, and Waldo counties and their offshore islands. We meet in Rockland at the Lincoln Street Center for the Arts and Education every Wed.5-8pm, and Fri. evenings/6-9pm, FMI, contact Lis at 632-4797 or email outmaine@yahoo.com . Check the web site at www.outmaine.org or the myspace posting at www.myspace.com/outasiwanttobe

Outright L/A. (ANDROSCOGGIN / OXFORD / FRANKLIN COUNTIES) Outright Lewiston/Auburn creates safe and affirming environments for youth age 22 and under who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and/or questioning. Outright L/A hosts a weekly drop-in, a place for youth age 22 and under to meet other youth, talk, plan events, play games, watch movies, get information on HIV prevention, and much more! Outright L/A meets every Friday from 6:00 - 8:30pm at the UU Church on the corner of

Spring and Pleasant streets in Auburn. FMI call 207-795-8956 or email info@outrightla.org or check the web site at www.outrightla.org

Portland Front Runners (PORTLAND), The Portland Front Runners, a GLBT running/walking group, meets every Saturday at 9:05 AM in the middle of the Back Cove parking lot for a run/walk around the cove. Brunch afterwards at Whole Foods around 10 AM. A great way to keep healthy and make new friends. FMI contact Bruce Fithian at (207) 831-7113

Portland Lesbian Coffee House. (PORTLAND) Join our community of women to talk about books, politics, music, raising children or the wacky thing that happened on the latest episode of The L Word. All stripes of the tribe welcome. This is a social group that includes women of all ages and statuses. You can check it out on the web at <http://lgbtfriends.meetup.com/78/> . FMI about dates, times, location, contact Mary at laughingmary@hotmail.com

PRYSM (Proud Rainbow Youth Of Southern Maine) (PORTLAND) An organization that provides safe and supportive community for youth 22 and under who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and their allies (LGBTQA). Drop-in groups are every Wednesday from 5-7:30 pm. Located at 343 Forest Avenue, rear entrance. Also provide outreach, phone & email support; community education, leadership development, safer-sex/HIV prevention education, and connections to community resources. Volunteer opportunities available! FMI call 874-1022 or email prysm@commcc.org

Rainbow Business & Professional Association (RBPA) (PORTLAND) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the vitality, productivity and growth of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender business and professional community throughout the State of Maine. Since 1992, our aim has been to promote and support the LGBT business and professional community in Maine. RBPA is a rapidly growing organization with a membership that boasts business leaders, entrepreneurs, the self-employed, individuals from the corporate community and non-profit organizations. Check the web site at www.rbpa.org

Saco Bay Gay Men (BIDDEFORD/SACO), A gay men's support group has been started in Saco. We meet at the UU Church of Saco & Biddeford, every Thursday evening. We started out meeting on November 6th and are growing. FMI contact Tom Muise at sbgm@verizon.net

Seacoast Outright. (PORTSMOUTH, NH) but available to GLBTI youth from York county and southern Maine. A peer support group/organization for GLBTI youths. FMI contact Tawnee Walling, Executive Director at 603-431-1013 or check the web site at www.seacoastoutright.org

Seacoast Sapphos (PORTLAND TO PORTSMOUTH) A women's social group that sponsors dances, BBQs, potlucks, concerts, etc. FMI and to get on the mailing list contact Cherie at seacoastsapphos@yahoo.com or check the web site at www.seacoastsapphos.org

Thrive (PORTLAND AREA). Thrive offers gay, bi and questioning guys social and community building opportunities. Thrive coordinates social events like coffee houses, movie nights, and dinners. Thrive also provides wellness programming, information and advocacy for health issues and responsibilities unique to our community. FMI call 207-756-8071, email thrive@portlandmaine.gov or check the website at www.thrivemaine.com .

Trans_Port_Me (PORTLAND) This is a trans support group located in Portland, Maine for people who identify as transgender. Both M2F and F2M are welcome. We are located in downtown Portland and meet on a monthly basis in a safe location. A screening and interview process is in place to insure security and discretion. Admission to this group is by invitation only. My name is Gail and I am your host and moderator, but this is YOUR support group so the more input involvement and participation you provide the better. Internet support is fine, but person to person support, validation and interaction with people who are like us can have a profound effect on our overall well-being and sense of self. Send an e-mail to mailto:g_g_moreau@yahoo.com to join the online support group.

Twin Ponds Lodge (WATERVILLE-AUGUSTA AREA) is a private social club in Maine for adult male naturists and men who are comfortable with naturists. This private social club fills a niche for men seeking a comfortable and welcoming setting surrounded by nature on 75 acres of fields and woods. As a members-only club, we welcome you into a clothing-optional country setting to enjoy relaxation, recreation, and

socializing. Passing through the gated entrance, you are greeted by two ponds surrounded by the lodge, lawns, cabins, and tenting areas. There are also areas for RVs with full hookups, including sewer. The lodge also welcomes member day visitors to enjoy the surroundings and recreational opportunities, and to explore the trails that wind through the woods. The Lodge is open year-round and features a large indoor heated pool, hot tub, sauna, and (coming soon) a steam room. The large great room provides seating for socializing, eating, or enjoying the large screen satellite television. The recreation room has a ping-pong and billiard table. (The gym/exercise room is coming soon!) We welcome all men, whether gay, straight, or bisexual. FMI, check the web site at www.twinpondslodge.com or email them at stay@twinpondslodge.com or call John at 207-437-2200.

WAYVES (CANADIAN MARITIMES) For those FAN readers who are near the Canadian maritime provinces there is a monthly newspaper, called WAYVES, which is put out by the maritime GLBT community. It's put out in print copy only, covers all the maritime provinces, and contains feature articles, regular columns, listings of groups and services, listings of GLBT events coming up, and business ads. A subscription sent to the U.S. is \$30/year CDN. FMI about subscribing contact Jim McMillan at 902-826-7356, email submissions@wayves.ca, or write to Wayves, PO Box 34090, Scotia Square, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, B3J 3S1. You can also check their web site at www.wayves.ca

Yankee Boyz. (AUBURN) A social/support group for those born female, or intersex, and which female and/or "woman" as an identity does not fit. Female-to-male Transsexuals, Transgenderists, Crossdressers, TG Butches, Stonebutches and otherwise very masculine identified female "guys" and their SOFFA'S (significant other, friend, family, allies) are welcome. All sexual orientations are welcome. A place to share ideas and experiences in an atmosphere where we do not have to fight for validation. Meets monthly Sept - June (1st or 2nd Sunday of the month...call ahead to verify). Meetings are held at the U.U. Church in Auburn. FMI see the list website at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/YankeeBoyz/>.

WEB-BASED MAINE GLBTQI LISTSERVES AND E-MAIL LISTS:

Bisexual Group Online. Bisexuals in Maine and other points north (BINNE). This is a discussion group, NOT a dating group. Located in Yahoo! groups at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/binne>.

Coastal Women's Connection. A women's social group providing connections for LBT women in the Brunswick to Portland area. softball, camping, potlucks, etc. FMI about their activities you can join their yahoo group site (they have an events calendar) at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/coastalwomensconnection>.

Deserve to Know. A web site sponsored by The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention which features community resources for men who have sex with men (MSM) and all who are working to prevent the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STD) in Maine. This interactive Web site features a community calendar, HIV testing sites, and other helpful information. D2K will provides an anonymous and friendly place to browse information about HIV, HIV testing and men's health issues. It also features local and national news and information geared toward the MSM community. Check it out at www.deservetoknowme.org

Gay Maine. www.gaymaine.com. The lesbian and gay directory for gay-owned and gay-friendly places in Maine: Bars, clubs, hotels, guesthouses, restaurants, and more!

Gay Ogunquit. A web resource for LGBTQI residents of or visitors to the Ogunquit area. <http://www.gayogunquit.com/index.php>

Laura's Playground. Transgender Suicide Prevention and Support Site. Jessica writes: I'm a moderator at a transgender suicide prevention and support site. It's a wonderful place with a live chat and lots of information. The chat runs 24 hours a day and I don't remember the last time there wasn't a moderator present. We screen the chatters to make sure we keep out 'admirers' and anyone who might harass. All moderators go thru suicide prevention training thru <http://training.sprc.org> as well as training from the administrators and supervisors. And it isn't only for suicidal individuals, a lot of TGs just go there to chat with people who understand their situation. I personally have found lots of support there and made some great friends. The people there are always willing to help answer any questions someone might have.

Maine doesn't have much support to offer to TGs north of Bangor, or even much in Bangor. I just want to make sure that people know that Laura's Playground is around to offer support, answer questions, and help people find the resources they need. You can find it at: www.lauras-playground.com

Maine Gay Men's Weekly News Letter is an email newsletter focusing on organizations and activities in southern Maine. It is primarily for gay men, but they do include some general GLBT activities info and links to various GLBT organizations around the state. FMI, to see a sample copy, or to be added to their mailing list, send Joe an email at cascogays@gmail.com with your request.

Maine GayNet Listserve. A long-running listserv for the Maine GLBTQ community which allows members to post notices, opinions, etc. (in a broadcast manner) to everyone else on the listserv. To join the Maine GayNet listserv, send the following command in the body of a message to majordomo@groups.queernet.org: subscribe me-gaynet youremailaddress.

Maine Gay Outdoor Network Events (MEGONE) is a yahoo group site/email list for Maine's GLBT? folks (& friends) for posting announcements of outdoor related events. It's not a formal club or organization--just an informal way to let folks know about outdoor activities that they might like to participate in--whether it's a hike, a paddle, camping trip, nature walk, or even a downtown shopping walk--it's up to you. This is not meant to compete with other groups such as the Chiltern Club--it's just an idea that some of us came up with on a recent trip to Baxter State Park :-). So, if you'd like some company the next time you take a hike, go on a bike ride, paddle, etc., just send an email to megone@yahoogroups.com to let members know the details. To join the group, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/megone/> Please pass the word along to other gay-related lists/groups--the more people who join, the more opportunities there will be for connecting with like-minded folks for some great outdoor fun. Right now, the membership is "open" to anyone who would like to join....however, if we have any problems with folks who are not gay-friendly, I may change it to a process requiring membership approval. Also, people posting should use discretion regarding publicly posting time/place to meet--you may want to simply say "anyone interested in details, please email me at _____, or call me at _____ " Any questions? let me know! (mikeondavispond@yahoo.com)

Maine GLBT Community is your "Maine" source for information on LGBT issues, events and news. A virtual community center for bisexuals, lesbians, gay men, and transgender persons in the State of Maine.: <http://grou.ps/MAINEGLBTCOMMUNITY>

Maine Lesbians Listserv Anyone who identifies as a lesbian is welcome to join. The website address is: <http://groups.google.com/group/maine-lesbians> Women can request to join from the website or email me: patput@midcoast.com

Proud Lesbians of Poverty We seek people to join the group as we explore ways to improve the civil rights of GLBTQ's of poverty who cannot afford a lawyer to enforce their Gay Civil Rights, or their original Human Rights as a person. We are open to all people of any background. FMI contact Jan at janshouse@yahoo.com or phone 207-453-2353 or join the yahoo group at <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/ProudLesbians/>

Rubyfruit Cafe. A Maine-based, on-line, lesbian virtual community. Rubyfruit Cafe is a lesbian community magazine designed to showcase our lives, creativity, spirituality, politics, and much more. It is a website that will be driven by your submissions, your music, poetry, videos, photos, and stories. Show us where and how you live (show us your "crib") ... Tell us about your spirituality ... what you think politically and poetically ... sing your song or show us your garden ... share your lives, ideas and hopes with each other. If you find an interesting article, website, product, or new talent, let us hear about it. I want to create a fun, creative, supportive, environment for everyone to relax and just enjoy each other ... to take pleasure in our diversity and talents ... a place of tolerance and celebration. www.rubyfruitcafe.com

THE WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, AND HOW OF THE FAMILY AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER:

All communications to FAMILY AFFAIRS should be sent to zack@familyaffairsnewsletter.org (Be sure to include the words "family affairs" or "The FAN" in the subject line). Note that FAN issues often show up in your inbox from thefan@maine.rr.com due to technicalities of the internet.

WHAT IS "FAMILY AFFAIRS" ?

FAMILY AFFAIRS is a free, twice-a-month, social activities newsletter for the GLBTQI (gay/lesbian/bisexual/trans/queer/intersex) community, sent out on the 1st and 15th of each month. It covers the State of Maine only. The list was graciously begun and maintained for many years by Jean Vermette in Bangor. It is now operated by Zack Paakkonen of Portland. It's crept somewhat beyond a social activities newsletter into a business directory, classified ad service, and community bulletin board.

WHO CAN SUBMIT NOTICES TO "FAMILY AFFAIRS" ?

Anyone! This is your chance to organize your own activities and get some GLBTQI-family company for those fun and interesting things you'd like to do. Do you want to host a potluck, attend a concert, or have someone to join you on that bus tour to Boston? Are you looking for someone to join you at the hockey or baseball games, for hiking, or to go to that special art exhibit? Are you looking for canoeing, golfing, camping, or fishing partners? This is the best place to look. Think up something fun to do, organize it, and let us know about it....it's easy!

CAN I ORGANIZE AN ACTIVITY THAT DOESN'T INCLUDE "EVERYONE" ?

Yes. People who want to organize an activity for the GLBTQ and/or I community are free to set whatever requirements or restrictions they want to on the activity they're organizing. If you want to organize a "women only" camping trip, a "men only" drumming night, a "youth from age 18-24 only" dance, or a day trip to a water park for GLBTQI "couples with children", that would be fine.

CAN I POST A SOCIAL ITEM THAT'S NOT GLBTQI FOCUSED?

But of course! Not everyone who watches women's basketball is a lesbian! If **you** want to organize an activity around something that is "mostly-straight-but-GLBTQI-friendly," then do it! However, outside events (such as holiday fairs, festivals, the local chamber of commerce, etc.) that are not focused on the GLBTQI community and do not have a significant GLBTQI component will not be listed in the FAN.

ARE THERE ANY DEADLINES OR REQUIREMENTS FOR POSTING?

If you want to be sure that your posting will make it into the next issue, please send it to zack@familyaffairsnewsletter.org no later than four days prior to when the next issue comes out (in other words – three days before either the 1st or the 15th of the month). Although I can try to get a last-minute post into the next issue if you mail it later than my deadline, I can't guarantee it will make it. I accept postings from FAN subscribers only, and no obscenity is allowed.

HOW DO I GET ONTO OR OFF THE MAILING LIST ?

Just email me and ask to be put on (or taken off) the list: zack@familyaffairsnewsletter.org

CAVEATS:

All newsletters are emailed BCC, and the email list is not given out to anyone. Still, keep in mind that while this newsletter is for the GLBTQI community, not everyone on the mailing list may be a "family" member. People ask to be put on the list and I put them on. There is no interview process or attempt to verify LGBTQI status. It's up to you to behave appropriately for whatever level of anonymity/security you feel you need. Please note also that FAN issues may show up in your inbox as coming from thefan@maine.rr.com instead of from zack@familyaffairsnewsletter.org due to technicalities of the internet and the vagaries of your ISP and e-mail program. It's still the same FAN from the same sender.