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Family Affairs Newsletter 2004-10-01

Jean Vermette

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

**FORWARD THIS OR PASS IT AROUND
TO AS MANY GLBTI-FAMILY MEMBERS AS POSSIBLE.
THE MORE FOLKS WHO TAKE PART, THE BETTER.**

1 OCTOBER 2004

NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

(NEWS #1:) I've decided to institute a new category which will be called **ANNOUNCEMENTS** and which will be for all those "semi-personal" notices that GLBTI subscribers to The FAN might want to share with the greater GLBTI community but which are not really "social" activities. This will include such things as births, deaths, commitment ceremonies, graduations, retirements, awards, promotions, moves, etc. etc.

(NEWS #2:) The **GUYS LIKE US RETREAT** will be held December 3-5. It is a retreat for young gay and bi men ages 16-22. The weekend includes workshops, activities, and a Saturday night event. FMI or to request a pamphlet contact maine_guyslikeus@yahoo.com or call Michael Mayer at the Down East AIDS Network, 667-3506.

(NOTES #1:) , **Volunteer Training for Election Day Voter ID in Bangor**, October 27th. If you want to take part and help, get the info in the listing below on October 27th.

(REMINDERS #1:) There will be no Oct 15th issue of The FAN because Jean will be on vacation. The next issue of The FAN will be November 1st.

(REMINDERS #2:) You can help the newsletter by sending me notices of upcoming GLBTI-related activities that you hear about in your area. Trust me, I would rather receive the same notice from 8 people than have everyone assume that I know about it and miss the chance to tell other GLBTI family members. Email megress@tds.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

* Family member Bobbie Lynn Hutchins will have her restaurant (**Cafe Bluefish**) **featured on TV!!** The segment will appear on the food network on Tuesday October 19th at 12 noon as part of the show "Roker on the Road". The segment of the show with Bobbie (and her restaurant) is called "Let's do lunch".

EVENTS:

* **OCT 1 (Friday)**, Ellsworth, **Downeast Outright** (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) meets at 6 pm at the Downeast AIDS Network offices in Ellsworth. FMI Mike at 667-3506 or at downeast_outright@yahoo.com

* **OCT 1 (Friday)**, Rockport, Greater Belfast/Camden/Rockland Area **social/support group for lesbians over 40**. From 6:30-8:30 pm at the By-Water Cafe in Rockport. Coffee and pastries are available for purchase. FMI contact Pat at 763-3115 or at patout@midcoast.com

* **OCT 3 (Sunday)**, MDI, **daytime hike** on the trails of Acadia National Park. FMI contact Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net

* **OCT 3 (Sunday)**, Ellsworth, **GLBTI Volunteer Night** at Hancock County Democratic Headquarters, 5:00 - 8:30 pm. We'll be doing a voter ID phone book, other useful activities, meeting with Senator Dennis Damon, eating, drinking, lots of laughs as well as important work. Look for a rainbow flag on Water Street, Ellsworth, next to George's Java. FMI call Kay Wilkins at 667-2901.

* **OCT 3 (Sunday)**, Bangor, **Native American GLBTI support/friendship group**, 5-7 pm, at the Unitarian Church, 120 Park St. This group is open to all GLBTI Native Americans AND their friends and supporters (whether Native American or not). Individuals are encouraged to

bring a snack or drink. One of our goals is to create a circle of friends to share stories, snacks, etc. within a Native American context. FMI contact Sharon at 990-0605.

* **OCT 3 (Sunday)**, Augusta, 4 - 6 p.m., **Transcare2000 Social Support Group, for transgendered individuals**, their families, friends, partners and interested professionals age 18 or older. This is a moderated group to provide non-sexual social time to explore gender in a safe environment. Donations asked to help defray the cost of room rental. FMI contact Marty at 582-8779 or at martyrnc@earthlink.net

* **OCT 3 (Sunday)**, Belfast, 1:00 - 3:30 pm, **group planning meeting for the lesbian retirement home**. Group will meet at Virginia's place in downtown Belfast. FMI/location/directions/etc. contact Gabrielle at gabrielle@prexar.com or call Virginia at 338-1729

* **OCT 4 (Monday)**, Bangor, **Bangor Outright** meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network, 6-8 pm. (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) FMI Jamie at 990-3626.

* **OCT 5 (Tuesday)**, Belfast, **Belfast Outright** meets from 4 - 6 pm. (For GLBTQI youths and allies ages 15-22). FMI call Paul at 338-6330.

* **OCT 5 (Tuesday)**, Belfast, **GBTI Men's Support Group**. Sponsored by MEN'S RESOURCES of the Coastal AIDS Network. Meets at Belfast Center, 9 Field St. FMI call Paul at 338-6330.

* **OCT 6 (Wednesday)**, Bangor, 7 p.m., **Democracy For America Meet-Up**. The Howard Dean campaign is alive and well. There is a new organization, Democracy For America, web site is www.democracyforamerica.com. This organization is a new group formed by Dr. Dean and is aligned with The 21st Century Democrats. The new organization, a/k/a/ DFA, has the goal of recruiting, nominating and electing Progressive Democrats at local, regional, and national levels. DFA holds regular monthly Meet-Ups around the world the first Wednesday of every month at 7 pm local time. Please check the DFA home page for more information, or Gary Watson at: wg35@earthlink.net

* **OCT 7 (Thursday)**, Bangor, **Man2Man**, 6-8 p.m., (for gay/bi/trans men) meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network at 370 Harlow St. This is a chance to meet and socialize with other like-minded individuals from the area and guests from all over. Occasional discussions include dating issues, relationships, eroticizing sex, and other topics relevant to mens' health. Meetings, calls, etc are completely confidential. Names and other information are not kept or given out. FMI Jason at 990-3626.

* **OCT 8 (Friday)**, Rockland, **Coastal Outright** (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) meets at Youthlinks Building on Broadway St (next to Rockland HS), 7 - 9:30 p.m., FMI contact Carolyn coastaloutright@coastalaidnetwork.org or at 338-6330.

* **OCT 12 (Tuesday)**, Waldoboro, **GBTI Men's Support Group**. Sponsored by MEN'S RESOURCES of the Coastal AIDS Network. FMI call Paul at 338-6330.

* **OCT 13, (Wednesday)**, Ellsworth Area, **Gay/Bi/Trans/Intersex Men's Potluck Dinner**, 6-9 pm-ish at various locations in the greater Ellsworth Area. FMI and to get directions and time call Mike at 667-3506 or email Wayne at wayne@mrlanguage.com

* **OCT 14 (Thursday)**, Ellsworth, 1-4 pm, **HELPING STUDENTS WHO MIGHT BE GAY: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**. The Downeast chapter of GLSEN (Gay, lesbian & Straight Education Network) is sponsoring an afternoon training event for school nurses, school counselors, school librarians, and health educators. At the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Ellsworth. Invitations will be sent to specialists in schools in Hancock county and nearby parts of Washington county, but school nurses, librarians, counselors, and health educators from ANYWHERE are welcome. G and L and B and T issues will be addressed. FMI contact the Downeast Maine Chapter at PO Box 373, Ellsworth, ME 04605. OR phone 244-3837 or 667-2358.

* **OCT 15 (Friday)**, Rockport, Greater Belfast/Camden/Rockland Area **social/support group for lesbians over 40**. From 6:30-8:30 pm at the By-Water Cafe in Rockport. Coffee and pastries are available for purchase. FMI contact Pat at 763-3115 or at patput@midcoast.com

* **OCT 15 (Friday)**, Ellsworth, **Downeast Outright** (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) meets at 6 pm at the Downeast AIDS Network offices in Ellsworth. FMI Mike at 667-3506 or at downeast_outright@yahoo.com

* **OCT 18 (Monday)**, Bangor, **Bangor Outright** meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network, 6-8 pm. (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) FMI Jamie at 990-3626.

* **OCT 19 (Tuesday)**, Belfast, **GBTI Men's Support Group**. Sponsored by MEN'S RESOURCES of the Coastal AIDS Network. Meets at Belfast Center, 9 Field St. FMI call Paul at 338-6330.

* **OCT 19 (Tuesday)**, Belfast, **Belfast Outright** meets from 4 - 6 pm. (For GLBTQI youths and allies ages 15-22). FMI call Paul at 338-6330.

* **OCT 21 (Thursday)**, Bangor, **Man2Man**, 6-8 p.m., (for gay/bi/trans men) meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network at 370 Harlow St. This is a chance to meet and socialize with other like-minded individuals from the area and guests from all over. Occasional discussions include dating issues, relationships, eroticizing sex, and other topics relevant to mens' health. Meetings, calls, etc are completely confidential. Names and other information are not kept or given out. FMI Jason at 990-3626.

* **OCT 22 (Friday)**, Seal Cove, 6:30 pm, **Out On MDI Potluck Dinner**. This is a social potluck drop-in open to anyone lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning. This month's gathering will be held at Tracy's place in Seal Cove. FMI and/or directions email Ann at alfhildanda@mac.com or call Tracy at 244-9790

* **OCT 22 (Friday)**, Rockland, **Coastal Outright** (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) meets at Youthlinks Building on Broadway St (next to Rockland HS), 7 - 9:30 p.m., FMI contact Carolyn coastaloutright@coastalaidnetwork.org or at 338-6330.

* **OCT 24 (Sunday)**, Mount Desert Island carriage trails, **Dyke-A-Thon** (yes ANYONE is welcomed), Jean is looking for other folks who would like to join her on her favorite 20 mile bike loop on MDI. It's four hours of easy-to-moderate cycling, with a rest/snack break at the Jordan Pond House. Contact Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net to join in.

* **OCT 26 (Tuesday)**, Waldoboro, **GBTI Men's Support Group**. Sponsored by MEN'S RESOURCES of the Coastal AIDS Network. FMI call Paul at 338-6330.

* **OCT 27 (Wednesday)**, Bangor, **Volunteer Training for Election Day Voter ID in Bangor**, sponsored by Equality Maine. With huge challenges to confront during the next legislative session -- including passing statewide civil rights legislation and defeating an effort to amend the state Constitution to prohibit same-sex marriage -- Equality Maine is building support one voter at a time. Across the state, we're talking to voters and recruiting volunteers to develop a strong base of support for LGBT equality BEFORE our issues get to the polls (which could happen as early as 2005). We're aiming to identify 50,000 pro-LGBT voters in Maine before the next referendum, so we can render the Christian Civic League's tired referendum tactics obsolete. With a fantastic team of local leaders in place across the state, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved. Join a canvass in your town....help in the Equality Maine office, cutting turf or updating voter lists....host a local training with project coordinator Darlene Huntress to introduce your friends to the project.....if you want to get involved, we have a place for you! Upcoming actions include:

Wednesday 10/27: Volunteer training for Election Day Voter ID, Bangor

Tuesday 11/2: Voter ID at the polls on Election Day (Portland, Augusta, Bangor, Lewiston & other areas)

Our current county team leaders include Kevin Gilgan & Elaine Peresluha (in Penobscot County). We are always looking for more volunteers to help coordinate actions in YOUR local area, so please get in touch if you want to join an existing team or get things started in your neighborhood. We have much work to do, and we need your help! To get involved, contact Equality Knocks Coordinator Darlene Huntress at 761-0110 (office phone) or 749-4628 (cell phone) or by email at mlgpa@mlgpa.org.

* **NOV 1 (Monday)**, Bangor, **Bangor Outright** meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network, 6-8 pm. (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) FMI Jamie at 990-3626.

* **NOV 2 (Tuesday)**, Belfast, **Belfast Outright** meets from 4 - 6 pm. (For GLBTQI youths and allies ages 15-22). FMI call Paul at 338-6330.

* **NOV 2 (Tuesday)**, Belfast, **GBTI Men's Support Group**. Sponsored by MEN'S RESOURCES of the Coastal AIDS Network. Meets at Belfast Center, 9 Field St. FMI call Paul at 338-6330.

* **NOV 4 (Thursday)**, Bangor, **Man2Man**, 6-8 p.m., (for gay/bi/trans men) meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network at 370 Harlow St. This is a chance to meet and socialize with other like-minded individuals from the area and guests from all over. Occasional discussions include dating issues, relationships, eroticizing sex, and other topics relevant to mens' health. Meetings, calls, etc are completely confidential. Names and other information are not kept or given out. FMI Jason at 990-3626.

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* **NOV 5 (Friday)**, Rockport, Greater Belfast/Camden/Rockland Area **social/support group for lesbians over 40**. From 6:30-8:30 pm at the By-Water Cafe in Rockport. Coffee and pastries are available for purchase. FMI contact Pat at 763-3115 or at patput@midcoast.com

* **NOV 6 (Saturday)**, MDI, **daytime hike on the trails of Acadia National Park**. FMI contact Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net

* **NOV 7 (Sunday)**, Augusta, 4 - 6 p.m., Transcare2000 **Social Support Group, for transgendered individuals**, their families, friends, partners and interested professionals age 18 or older. This is a moderated group to provide non-sexual social time to explore gender in a safe environment. Donations asked to help defray the cost of room rental. FMI contact Marty at 582-8779 or at martyrnc@earthlink.net

* **NOV 7 (Sunday)**, Bangor, **Native American GLBTI support/friendship group**, 5-7 pm, at the Unitarian Church, 120 Park St. This group is open to all GLBTI Native Americans AND their friends and supporters (whether Native American or not). Individuals are encouraged to bring a snack or drink. One of our goals is to create a circle of friends to share stories, snacks, etc. within a Native American context. FMI contact Sharon at 990-0605.

* **NOV 9 (Tuesday)**, Waldoboro, **GBTI Men's Support Group**. Sponsored by MEN'S RESOURCES of the Coastal AIDS Network. FMI call Paul at 338-6330.

* **NOV 10, (Wednesday)**, Ellsworth Area, **Gay/Bi/Trans/Intersex Men's Potluck Dinner**, 6-9 pm-ish at various locations in the greater Ellsworth Area. FMI and to get directions and time call Mike at 667-3506 or email Wayne at wayne@mrlanguage.com

* **NOV 12 (Friday)**, MDI, **New Moon Star-Gazing Night Hike** on the carriage trails of Acadia National Park. Sunset is at 4:08. Twilight ends at 4:39. For those who are interested, we can do dinner in Bar Harbor before the walk. FMI contact Jean at 862-2063 OR at megress@tds.net

* **NOV 12 (Friday)**, Rockland, **Coastal Outright** (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) meets at Youthlinks Building on Broadway St (next to Rockland HS), 7 - 9:30 p.m., FMI contact Carolyn coastaloutright@coastalaidnetwork.org or at 338-6330.

* **NOV 13 (Saturday)**, Bar Harbor, 1 pm, **Pottery Party Day**. Meet at "All Fired Up" on Cottage St in Bar Harbor (not far from the Shop-N-Save). You purchase one (or more) blank pieces of bisque pottery (about 300 designs to choose from), pay a \$10 fee for all your paints and the firing, and then paint/glaze your pottery however you want. Make something for yourself or gifts for others! This is fun for both GLBTI adults AND their children! Kids will be welcomed! FMI Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net

* **NOV 15 (Monday)**, Bangor, **Bangor Outright** meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network, 6-8 pm. (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) FMI Jamie at 990-3626.

BUSINESSES**(NEW LISTINGS OF GLBTI-OWNED BUSINESS and GLBTI 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 next on December 15. If you are a GLBTI business owner or an "out" GLBTI business person associating with a non-GLBTI-owned business (within a 50 mile radius of Bangor) who wants a free listing, then contact me. I'm Jean at megress@tds.net or at 862-2063.

COUNSELING

Peter Rees, EdD
909 Oak Point Rd.
Trenton, ME 04605
ph: 207-667-2358
email: rees909@midmaine.com
Licensed Psychologist

GLBTI COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS:

The Charles O. Howard Foundation promotes education about diversity, acceptance, and tolerance. The foundation organizes a number of social events throughout the year to help raise funds for its work. Friendly volunteers are always needed. FMI contact Dan at 942-9319 or Gary at 299-0720. Or check the web sites at www.charlesohoward.org or at www.mainevoices.org

Equality Maine (formerly MLGPA), 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 mlgpa@mlgpa.org and the web site is www.mlgpa.org

Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN). To promote the safety and well-being of all students and teachers in our schools, without regard to sexual orientation. We undertake to educate and train school personnel, and to reach out to students who may be questioning their sexual orientation or who know that they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. 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 244-3837 or 667-2358. OR check the local web site at www.bridgesofrespect.net. OR check the national web site at www.glsen.org

Gays And Lesbians Adopting (GALA), a support group and resource exchange for LGBTI foster and adoptive families in Maine. Monthly family-friendly potlucks (usually the third Saturday of the month) in Portland or Lewiston area, open to meeting in other areas if local hosts are available. FMI and to be informed of upcoming events, email mainegala@hotmail.com or call Kate or Erica at 773-3023.

Mainely Bears is a social group in Maine for gay bears and their admirers. Most of our events are held in the Mid-Coast and Downeast areas from Brunswick to Camden, Belfast, Waterville, Bangor, Ellsworth, Bar Harbor, to Machias. FMI regarding Mainely Bears, contact Rick at mainelybears@hotmail.com OR write to us at Mainely Bears, PO Box 8318, Bangor, ME 04402-8318 OR check the web site at www.mainelybears.org for upcoming activities.

Northern Maine Pride works to promote pride within our community and diversity and acceptance outside our community. They sponsor a variety of social and pride events during the year and are always looking for new members and volunteers to help with planning and organizing. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 4 pm. FMI call Dave at 884-4272, or 1-866-868-glb. www.northernmainepride.com OR email: northernmainepride@earthlink.net

Transcare 2000 provides transsexual education, professional educational seminars, group moderation, counseling, and referrals for the trans community. Private duty nursing care and consultations by a registered nurse for post-operative transsexuals. Presentations on "Post Operative Transsexuals, a Study of Integration." FMI contact Marty at martyrnc@earthlink.net OR at 582-8779 OR check the web site at <http://www.transcare2000.com>

LIVING SPACE RENTALS:

If you are a GLBTI family member who has a living space (room, apartment, house/apartment sharing) that you would like to rent to another GLBTI family member, OR if you are a GLBTI family member looking for a living space to rent from another GLBTI family member, then this is the category to post to. Send your listings to me, Jean, at megress@tds.net

Augusta, apartment for rent. Two bedrooms, secluded patio, off street parking for one car, heat and hot water included, downstairs. No dogs allowed. On Jefferson Street. New owner and management. Very quiet. Rent \$525. Deposit \$495. FMI call Natty at 207-621-0554 any time.

Bangor, house rental wanted. I am looking to rent a house somewhere in Bangor. I have 2 cats who are housebroken and very clean. Minimum requirements: two bedroom, price range \$550.00 - \$750.00. Contact Gary at gm1956@adelphia.net

Bangor, apartment for rent. First floor. Bedroom, office, living room, dining room, bath, kitchen. Washer/dryer hookup. Close to downtown and bus line. One off-street parking space. New, zoned, hot water baseboard heat. Cat acceptable. Non-smoking. References needed. One year lease. \$550/month plus utilities. Available early October. Contact Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net

Bangor, apartment to share. I'm in a small 2 bedroom apartment very close to downtown Bangor. Basic cable and all utilities included...great neighborhood...older neighbors. References needed. If interested call 947-3824 and ask for Cole, or email me at cole86this@yahoo.com

PERSONALS:

We are an older lesbian couple in the Belfast area. My partner has progressive MS and I am her caregiver. We would be very interested in hearing from other older lesbians who are in a similar disability/caregiver situation for mutual friendship and support. Contact Sylvia at sylviaann32@prexar.com

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

All communications to FAMILY AFFAIRS should be sent to megress@tds.net (Be sure to include the words "family affairs" in the subject line).

WHAT IS "FAMILY AFFAIRS" ?

FAMILY AFFAIRS is a free, twice-a-month, social activities newsletter for the GLBTI (gay/les/bi/trans/intersexed) community. It is sent out on the 1st and 15th of each month. It is centered in Bangor and covers a 50 mile radius around the city.

WHO CAN SUBMIT NOTICES TO "FAMILY AFFAIRS" ?

Anyone! This is your chance to organize your own activities and get some GLBTI-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 GLBT 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 GLBTI "couples with children", that would be fine.

CAN I POST A SOCIAL ITEM THAT'S NOT GLBTI 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-GLBTI-friendly", then do it!

HOW DO I GET ONTO OR OFF THE MAILING LIST ?

Just email me and ask to be put on (or taken off) the list: megress@tds.net.

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 GLBTI 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 "queer" status. It's up to you to behave appropriately for whatever level of anonymity/security you feel you need.