
**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 DECEMBER 2004

NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

(NOTES #1:) The potluck dinner and house concert scheduled for December 11th at Jean's house in Bangor has been rescheduled for Saturday, January 8th. More notices about this concert will appear later. The rescheduling was done in order "lighten the load" of dinners and potlucks that were scheduled for the Dec 8-11 period and to give more people the incentive to join in on the GLBTI potluck dinner that will be held in Surry on December 10th (see below).

(NOTES #2:) Consider giving the gift of "connection" to some of your GLBTI friends this year. It's not at all unusual for me to accidentally make contact with a GLBTI person who is not on The FAN mailing list, and who has never even *heard* of The FAN, but who has several friends who ARE on the mailing list. How can this be, I wonder? Remember, not everyone knows about The FAN, so don't be afraid to "talk it up" and mention it to your friends. They can be getting it too, you know.

(REMINDERS #1:) 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:

No announcements this issue.

EVENTS:

* **DEC 2 (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.

* **DEC 3 (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

* **DEC 3 (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

* **DEC 3-5 (Fri/Sat/Sun)**, 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.

* **DEC 4 (Saturday)**, Bar Harbor, 6-9 pm, **GLBTI community dinner at the Cafe Bluefish**. Cafe Bluefish will be holding an Out-On-MDI-Affiliated dinner for the GLBTI community. Cocktails and conversation to begin at 6 pm. Dinner and more conversation from 6:30 till 8 pm. Christmas caroling from 8-9 pm-ish. ALL proceeds will be allocated to charity, not just all profit, but EVERY PENNY YOU SPEND ON FOOD AND DRINK!! In order to accomplish this, this event will be CASH ONLY and by advance reservation only. We are a very small restaurant and this time of year have reduced numbers of staff. If there are lots of reservations, I can call in more staff...so please, let us

know as soon as you can. I will have information on several of my favorite charities and Lin Gould has been working on some terrific projects at her church. After dinner, we can have a brief discussion on some of the possibilities and perhaps vote on how to allocate the funds. I hope it will be interesting, fun and rewarding to explore and decide these matters during this holiday season of giving. PS: Copies of carols with their extra verses would be most welcome...the more copies the merrier! FMI and/or to reserve, contact Bobbie Lynn by phone or email: blh@prexar.com or Cafe Bluefish 207-288-3696

* **DEC 5 (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

* **DEC 5 (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 martymc@earthlink.net

* **DEC 5 (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.

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

* **DEC 7 (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.

* **DEC 7 (Tuesday)**, Belfast, **Belfast Outright** meets from 4 - 6 pm. (For GLBTQI youths and allies ages 15-22). FMI call Paul at 338-6330.

* **DEC 8, (Wednesday)**, Greater Ellsworth Area, **Gay Guyz Group Potluck Dinner**, 6-9 pm-ish at various locations in the greater Ellsworth Area. This month's dinner will be at Ron's home in Penobscot (over by Blue Hill). We're especially trying to reach out this month to contact as many members of the gay men's community as possible and get them to show up, *so pass the word around*. FMI and to get directions contact Wayne at wayne@mrlanguage.com

* **DEC 10 (Friday)**, Surry, **Out On MDI Potluck Dinner**, 6:30 pm. This is a social potluck drop-in open to anyone lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning. This month's gathering will be held at the school space of Learning Unlimited Language School in Surry, and we are expecting to see a larger-than-usual crowd as Wayne and Harry are making a concerted effort to pull in a number of their male friends to help balance the many lesbian regulars who show up. *ed. note: Does that mean that the many lesbian regulars are somehow 'unbalanced' ;-) ?* FMI and/or directions email Ann at alfhildanda@mac.com or Wayne at wayne@mrlanguage.com Directions can also be found on the Learning Unlimited web site at www.mrlanguage.com We hope to see lots and lots of folks there.

* **DEC 10-12 (Fri-Sun)**, Portland, the **Maine Gay Mens Chorus annual winter concert "December Traditions"** at St Lukes Church. FMI contact MGMC at 772-1384 or check the web site at www.maine-gay-mens-chorus.org

* **DEC 10 (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.

* **DEC 12 (Sunday)**, 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 kids...a great chance to make some Christmas gifts! FMI Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net.

* **DEC 12 (Sunday)**, MDI, **New Moon Night Hike on the carriage trails of Acadia National Park**. Hike starts at 5 pm. After the hike we'll head to Geddy's in Bar Harbor for dinner, hot chocolate, desserts, etc. FMI contact Jean at 862-2063 OR at megress@tds.net

* **DEC 14 (Tuesday)**, Waldoboro, **GBTI Men's Support Group**. Sponsored by MEN'S RESOURCES of the Coastal AIDS Network. FMI call Paul at 338-6330.

* **DEC 16 (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.

* **DEC 17 (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

* **DEC 18 (Saturday)**, Ellsworth, 6 p.m. **PIGS (Pride In Gastronomy Social) dinner**. Join other GLBTI family members for a fun evening at one of the local restaurants to hob-nob and visit with old and new friends. This month's gathering will be at China Hill, on the Bar Harbor road in Ellsworth. Reservations are needed. FMI and/or to reserve contact Jean (no later than Friday, December 17th) at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net

* **DEC 18 (Saturday)**, Portland, 4-8 pm, at STYXX (formerly The Underground, located at 3 Spring St), a **women's only Tea Dance**, there is an admission fee.

* **DEC 20 (Monday)**, Bangor, **Bangor Outright** meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network, 6-8 pm. (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) FMI Jamie at 990-3626.

* **DEC 21 (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.

* **DEC 21 (Tuesday)**, Belfast, **Belfast Outright** meets from 4 - 6 pm. (For GLBTQI youths and allies ages 15-22). FMI call Paul at 338-6330.

* **DEC 24 (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.

* **DEC 28 (Tuesday)**, Waldoboro, **GBTI Men's Support Group**. Sponsored by MEN'S RESOURCES of the Coastal AIDS Network. FMI call Paul at 338-6330.

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.

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 bgrbear@hotmail.com OR write to us at Mainely Bears, PO Box 8318, Bangor, ME 04402-8318 OR check the web site at www.mainelybears.com 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 marty@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. Contact Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net

PERSONALS:

No personals this issue.

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.