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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 JANUARY 2005

NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

(NEWS #1:) YOUTH INPUT NEEDED FOR THE ANNUAL MAINE YOUTH SUMMIT.

The Maine Youth Summit is an event that takes place in June and has historically been held for two days at Unity College and other locations. Portland
Outright receives funding from the Bureau of Health to plan this event in collaboration with other Maine Outrights and additional organizations. You may visit Portland Outright's website at http://outright.gwi.net

The Maine Youth Summit is a place for youth 22 and under to come together for a weekend of community organizing and education to address health issues of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (GLBTQ) young people. While the focus of the Summit will continue to be on GLBTQ youth health issues, this year we would like to make a commitment to incorporate more issues of race, religion, class, ability, etc. and address oppression as a whole. This is because we recognize that all oppressions and health are connected and that people must work together for social change.

Here's where you come in!!! It's time to start planning this year's Youth Summit, and we'd like your help. We are looking for youth 22 and under from around the state to be on the 2005 Planning Committee. We welcome youth of all sexual orientations, gender identities, races, classes, abilities, political affiliations, religious or spiritual beliefs, health statuses, etc. who have a commitment to creating a fabulous Youth Summit that addresses health issues for GLBTQ youth. The Planning Committee will be a space for youth to plan the Summit with their ideas, skills and voices. We encourage adults (23 and over) to support the youth involved.

The first meeting is: Sunday, January 2, 1pm-4pm, at Portland Outright.

Future meeting times and locations will be discussed at the first meeting. We would like to make meetings as accessible to as many youth as possible.
In past years, travel expenses for the planning committee have not been reimbursed. But we want as many youth as possible to be a part of the planning meetings, so we will begin reimbursing for travel; however, because our budget is VERY tight, we can only reimburse at 16 cents per mile (rather than the state standard of 32 cents/mile). If additional funding is secured, this may change. Please keep track of your mileage; the process to be reimbursed will be covered at the first meeting.

For dates and times of future meetings and/or to be included in the mailing list and/or if you have any questions, please contact Lyndon at 207.828.6560 or lyndon@outright.org

(REMINDERS #1:) The Charles O. Howard Memorial Foundation will be having its third benefit dinner/auction on Saturday, February 26th and is presently looking for donations of goods and services to auction off after the dinner. To discuss donations, contact Dan at 299-0720 or at knead2@netscape.com

(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:

no announcements this issue

EVENTS:

* **JAN 2 (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.

* **JAN 2 (Sunday),** Belfast, 1:00 - 3:30 pm, group **planning meeting for the lesbian retirement home**. Group will meet at Viginia's place in downtown Belfast. FMI/location/directions etc. contact Gabrielle at gabrielle@prexar.com or call Virginia at 338-1729

* **JAN 2 (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

* **JAN 3 (Monday),** Bangor, **Bangor Outright** meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network, 6-8 pm. (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) FMI Jamie at 990-3626.

* **JAN 4 (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.

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

* **JAN 6 (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.

* **JAN 7 (Friday)** Ellsworth, **Downeast Outright** (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) at 6 pm at the Downeast AIDS Network offices in Ellsworth. FMI Mike at 667-3506 or at downeast_outright@yahoo.com

* **JAN 7 (Friday),** Hancock Point in Hancock, 6:30 pm, **Out On MDI Potluck Dinner**. (JAN 8 - Saturday is set as the 'snow date') This is a social potluck drop-in open to anyone lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning. This month's gathering will be held at Anne K's place in Hancock. FMI and/or directions email Ann at alfhildanda@mac.com

* **JAN 7 (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

* **JAN 8 (Saturday),** Bangor, 5 pm, **house concert with singer/songwriter Jessie Mallory**. This is how a house concert works: You show up at the house with a potluck food offering. You make a donation for the artist (suggested donation is $10/person, ALL donations go directly to the artist). You and the other guests eat a great potluck dinner and get to hob-nob with the artist. After dinner you are entertained with a close-up and cosy performance by the guest artist. The maximum number of guests for this performance is 14 and there are still spaces available. **Reservations are needed**. Dinner will be from 5:00 - 7:00 pm, concert will be from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. FMI and/or to reserve contact Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net

* **JAN 9 (Sunday),** Belfast, 1:00-3:00 pm (or a little longer), **Lesbian Brunch**. This is a potluck, bring 'something' to share: art, food, an issue or topic, poem, book, etc. This will be at Virginia's place, a third floor walkup in downtown Belfast. FMI and/or directions call Virginia at 338-1729 or email atbay@midmaine.com

* **JAN 11 (Tuesday)** Waldoboro, **GBTI Men's Support Group**. Sponsored by MEN'S RESOURCES of the Coastal AIDS Network. FMI call Paul at 338-6330.

* **JAN 12 (Wednesday)** Bangor, **Maine Eat-Out Project**, 6 pm. Join our group every other month for dinner at different area restaurants. The January MEOP will be held at the OLIVE GARDEN RESTAURANT on the Hogan Rd in Bangor. **Reservations are needed**. FMI or to reserve contact Jean at 862-2063 or email megress@tds.net no later than Tuesday, January 11th.

* **JAN 12 (Wednesday)** Ellsworth Area, **Gay Guyz Group (GGG)** Potluck Dinner, 6-9 pm-ish at various locations in the greater Ellsworth Area. FMI and to get directions and time contact Wayne at wayne@mrlanguage.com

* **JAN 14 (Friday)** Bangor, **Lesbians Over 40 Happy Hour**. 5-7 pm. Interested in meeting other lesbians over 40? Let's meet for happy hour at the Lounge in the Four Season's Hotel at the Bangor Airport. Parking is free with validation at the lounge. Nice lounge, quiet atmosphere, not too many people, and there is a pool table. What do you have to lose? Meet new friends. Hope to see you there. FMI contact Linda at 827-0061 or email linjoy4joy@yahoo.com

* **JAN 14 (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 at 338-6330 or at coastaloutright@coastalaidsnetwork.org

* **JAN 17 (Monday),** Bangor, **Bangor Outright** meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network, 6-8 pm. (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) FMI Jamie at 990-3626.

* **JAN 18 (Tuesday)** Belfast, **Belfast Outright** meets from 4 - 6 pm. (For GLBTQI youths and allies ages 15-22). FMI call Paul at 338-6330.

* **JAN 18 (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.

* **JAN 20 (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.

* **JAN 21 (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

* **JAN 21 (Friday)** Ellsworth, **Downeast Outright** (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) at 6 pm at the Downeast AIDS Network offices in Ellsworth. FMI Mike at 667-3506 or at downeast_outright@yahoo.com

* **JAN 25 (Tuesday)** Waldoboro, **GBTI Men's Support Group**. Sponsored by MEN'S RESOURCES of the Coastal AIDS Network. FMI call Paul at 338-6330.

* **JAN 28 (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 at 338-6330 or at coastaloutright@coastalaidsnetwork.org

* **JAN 28-30 (Friday-Sunday)** The Boston GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network) chapter will be holding its **Educator Retreat** on January 28-30, 2005 in Provincetown, Massachusetts. All gay/les/bi/trans/intersex/questioning educators and straight educator allies should take advantage of this invaluable opportunity to meet other GLBTI educators, discuss what it's like to be out, or not, in your schools, learn how to be an agent of change, and how to incorporate gay and lesbian themes into your curriculum and culture of your school. FMI contact EducatorRetreat@glsenboston.org

* **JAN 30 (Sunday)** Eddington, 3:00 - 8:00 pm, Come Out To **Eat For Equality!! Italian Pasta Night** at Clewley Farm Restaurant. Suggested donation is $10/person; all proceeds to benefit Equality Maine. The Clewley Farm Restaurant is located right on Rt 9 (the Airline Route) in Eddington. The snow date for this event is Sunday, February 6th. What better way to warm up those winter nights and connect with others who support equality! Join Equality Maine for an evening of good food and great company at Clewley Farm Restaurant. Bob and Lonnie of Clewley Farm will provide a full buffet of pasta (spaghetti, ziti, and lasagna), salad, garlic bread, dessert, and more. Entertainment will be provided by Brett & Randy (aka Late Bloomers) who some of you will remember from the house concert that they performed at last winter. And local Equality Maine volunteers will share the work being done in the Bangor area and around the state. RSVP to Erica Quin-Easter at 207-761-3732 or email quineast@equalitymaine.org For directions or more details, contact Bob or Lonnie at Clewley Farm at 843-7446.

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 March 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 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-glbt. 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. Contact Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net

Belfast, a variety of downtown offerings to rent. Contact Virginia at atbay@midmaine.com OR at 338-1729.

PERSONALS:

Woman, 52, interested in meeting other women for friendship and more. I am intelligent, overly educated but humble. I love the out of doors i.e. kayaking, hiking, snow showing, biking. Looking for a self-confident, feminine woman with like interests for good conversations, fun, and whatever in between. Open, honest, heartfelt communications important. Email Linda at linjoy4joy@yahoo.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 "FAMILIY 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 exibit? 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.