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Family Affairs Newsletter 2005-02-01

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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 FEBRUARY 2005

NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

(NEWS #1:) The meetings for DOWNEAST OUTRIGHT have been temporarily suspended until further notice. If any GLBTI adults would like to think about becoming youth advisors for Downeast Outright, please contact Mike at 667-3506 or at downeast_outright@yahoo.com

(REMINDERS #1:) I automatically remove people from The FAN mailing list if an issue bounces back to me with a note such as: "Account Closed", "Address Unknown", "No Such Account", etc. So, if you are closing the email account/name to which I am sending The FAN, and you do not let me know your new address ahead of time, then you'll be off the list. Once that happens, it is your responsibility to re-contact me and ask to be re-subscribed. I don't take time to go looking for people.

(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:

Have you ever thought you'd like to learn about electronics. Well this is your lucky day! Jean has a complete, used, home-study electronics course (books, materials, testers, project board, etc....even the tests WITH the answers!). This is free for the asking for anyone who would like it. First come, first served. You just have to come pick it up. FMI contact Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net

EVENTS:

* **FEB 1 (Tuesday)** Orono, 4 pm. **Jenny Boylan, transgender author** of She's Not There will speak in the Bangor Lounge of Memorial Union. Sponsored by the Wilde Stein Alliance. FREE ADMISSION.

* **FEB 1 (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.

* **FEB 1 (Tuesday)** Belfast, **Belfast Outright** meets from 4 - 6 pm. (For GLBTQI youths and allies ages 15-22). FMI call Paul at 338-6330.

* **FEB 3 (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.

* **FEB 4 (Friday)** Bangor, **Video And Potluck Dinner Night**, 6 pm at Jean's place. Potluck starts at 6 pm, video starts at 7 pm. Come for both or either. The February video will be the Cirque Du Soleil's production of **QUIDAM**. For directions contact Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net

* **FEB 4 (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

* **FEB 6 (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.

* **FEB 6 (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

* **FEB 6 (Sunday),** Augusta, 12pm - 4 pm, (location TBA). **Second meeting of the Maine Youth Summit planning committee**. The January meeting went very well, and we have a great group of youth from across the state working hard to create this year's Maine Youth Summit. **We are still looking for more 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 gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning youth. This meeting will be the last meeting for new youth to join the Planning Committee. There will be some reimbursement for travel. If you or someone you know is interested in being on the Planning Committee or looking for more information (including location of the February 6th meeting), please contact Lyndon at 1-888-567-7600 or lyndon@outright.org

* **FEB 6 (Sunday),** Blue Hill, 1:00 - 3:30 pm, group **planning meeting for the lesbian retirement home**. Group will meet at Caren & Gabrielle's place in Blue Hill. FMI/directions etc. contact Gabrielle at gabrielle@prexar.com

* **FEB 7 (Monday),** Bangor, **Bangor Outright** meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network, 6-8 pm. (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) FMI Jamie at 990-3626.

* **FEB 8 (Tuesday)** Waldoboro, **GBTI Men's Support Group**. Sponsored by MEN'S RESOURCES of the Coastal AIDS Network. FMI call Paul at 338-6330.

* **FEB 9 (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

* **FEB 11 (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

* **FEB 11 (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

* **FEB 12 (Saturday),** Bangor, 5 - 7:30 pm. **GLBT & Friends Winter/Valentine's Soup Supper**. This will be at the Unitarian-Universalist Church at 120 Park St. This is a 'pot luck' event. Bring soup and/or bread to share. Limited stovetop space, so crock-pots would be ideal for bringing your soup in. No fee, but any donations received will be given to the Charles O. Howard Memorial Foundation. FMI contact Mike at polarpops@verizon.net

* **FEB 12 (Saturday),** Portland, 5 pm. **The Maine Gay Men's Chorus annual winter cabaret concert and dinner**: DAMES, DOLLS, AND DIVAS at the Holiday Inn By The Bay. Tickets available on line at their web site or at Drop-Me-A-Line in Portland at 773-5547. Cash bar at 5 pm, dinner at 6 pm, show at 8 pm. Dinner and show - $45. Show only - $20 in advance, $25 at the door. FMI or to buy tickets see www.mainegaymenschorus.org or call the office at 772-1384

* **FEB 13 (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

* **FEB 15 (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.

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

* **FEB 17 (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.

* **FEB 18 (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

* **FEB 19 (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. The February gathering will be held at THE MEX on Main St. **RESERVATIONS ARE NEEDED**. FMI and/or to reserve contact Jean (no later than Friday, February 18) at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net

* **FEB 21 (Monday),** Bangor, **Bangor Outright** meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network, 6-8 pm. (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) FMI Jamie at 990-3626.

* **FEB 22 (Tuesday)** Waldoboro, **GBTI Men's Support Group**. Sponsored by MEN'S RESOURCES of the Coastal AIDS Network. FMI call

Paul at 338-6330.

* **FEB 25 (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

* **FEB 25 (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

* **FEB 26 (Saturday)** Bangor, 6:30-9:00 pm. **The Charles O. Howard Memorial Foundation Third Annual Benefit Dinner and Auction** at the Hammond St Congregational Church (28 High St). There will be a silent auction, dinner, and bidding auction. Dinner starts at 6:30 pm. *Auction starts at 7:30 pm. Seating is limited. Tickets are $10/each. FMI and/or to reserve contact Dan at 942-9319 or at* knead2@netscape.com

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 info@equalitymaine.org and the web site is www.equalitymaine.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 martymc@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, apartments for rent. Great location, gay manager, pet friendly, 2 or 3 bedroom apartments in very quiet building. Get a $100 discount on your first month's rent. FMI call Natty at 207-623-5090 or cell at 441-6853.

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

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.