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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.

15 FEBRUARY 2005

NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

(NEWS #1:) Northern Maine Pride needs volunteers and ideas to help plan the 2005 Diversity Day which will be held on June 4th. To join in on the fun of planning and contribute your energy contact Dave at northernmainepride@earthlink.net or by phone at 207-745-4678. To get information on vendor tables, applications to provide entertainment to the throngs, or just plain general information about Diversity Day, you can email or phone or snail-mail to Norther Maine PRIDE, PO Box 801, Bangor, ME 04402.

(NEWS #2:) I am interested in getting together a very low-key very non-expert Contract Bridge, other cards, trivial pursuit, etc. social group for middle-age/older gay men in the greater Bangor area. If you'd like to join in, please contact edelmannn@aol.com
(ed. note: Hmmmm...maybe a gay poker night?)

(NEWS #3:) The Lesbian Happy Hour set for February 25th in Bangor has been cancelled due to a scheduling conflict. Next one is March 11th (see below).

(NOTES #1:) For everyone's information: I (The FAN editor) have been hearing from some FAN subscribers who are telling me they're not getting the newletter. It turns out that EITHER the subscriber has installed new SPAM protection software and forgotten to include The FAN on their "white list" (which results in The FAN being filtered out) OR the subscriber's ISP has installed such software without informing them. In one case, the ISP didn't bother to tell me that the newsletters weren't being delivered, and didn't bother to tell the subscriber that The FAN was being denied....they just quietly dumped it...refused to deliver. So if you WANT to receive The FAN and you ever suddenly notice that you haven't seen it for a while, please check those two things and also get in touch with me. I'm Jean at megress@tds.net or at 207-862-2063.

(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:

This category is for non-social notices about GLBTI community members that you think other GLBTI community members might like to know about...things like: births, deaths, adoptions, committments, graduations, promotions, new jobs, awards, etc.

no announcements this issue

EVENTS:

* **FEB 15 (Tuesday)** Belfast, **GBTI Men's Support Group**. Sponsored by MEN'S RESOURCES of the Coastal AIDS Network. FMI call 273-3444.

* **FEB 15 (Tuesday)** Belfast, **Belfast Outright** meets from 4 - 6 pm. (For GLBTQI youths and allies ages 15-22). FMI call 273-3444.

* **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. 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 273-3444.

* **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 26 (Saturday)** Bangor, 6:30-9:00 pm, at the Hammond St Congregational Church (28 High St). The Charles O. Howard Memorial Foundation hosts its **third annual benefit dinner/auction**. 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

* **MAR 1 (Tuesday)** Belfast, **GBTI Men's Support Group**. Sponsored by MEN'S RESOURCES of the Coastal AIDS Network. FMI call 273-3444.

* **MAR 1 (Tuesday)** Belfast, **Belfast Outright** meets from 4 - 6 pm. (For GLBTQI youths and allies ages 15-22). FMI call 273-3444.

* **MAR 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.

* **MAR 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

* **MAR 5 (Saturday),** Portland, 6:00 - 9:00 pm, **Equality Maine's 21st Annual Awards Banquet** at the Holiday Inn by the Bay. There will be a silent auction & social hour, gourmet dinner, awards program, and post-banquet dancing just down the street at STYXX (formerly THE UNDERGROUND). FMI and/or to reserve see the web site at www.equalitymaine.org or call 207-761-3732. Reservation deadline is March 1st.

* **MAR 6 (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

* **MAR 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 martymc@earthlink.net

* **MAR 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.

* **MAR 8 (Tuesday)** Waldoboro, **GBTI Men's Support Group.** Sponsored by MEN'S RESOURCES of the Coastal AIDS Network. FMI call 273-3444.

* **MAR 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

* **MAR 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

* **MAR 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

* **MAR 12 (Saturday)** Bangor, the monthly **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 March video will be Cirque Du Soleil's production of DRALION. For directions contact Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net

* **MAR 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

* **MAR 14 (Monday),** Bangor, **Bangor Outright** meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network, 6-8 pm. (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) FMI Jamie at 990-3626.

* **MAR 15 (Tuesday)** Belfast, **GBTI Men's Support Group**. Sponsored by MEN'S RESOURCES of the Coastal AIDS Network. FMI call 273-3444.

* **MAR 15 (Tuesday)** Belfast, **Belfast Outright** meets from 4 - 6 pm. (For GLBTQI youths and allies ages 15-22). FMI call 273-3444.

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.

COMPUTER CONSULTING:

Astarte Associates
3 Poplar St
Bangor, ME 04401
ph: 207-945-3811
email: vblanchette@adelphia.net
web: www.astarteassociates.com
proprietor: Vicky Blanchette
Lesbian owned and operated web design, re-designs, and management services.

HOME MAINTENANCE:

'Round The House Maintenance
1277 Canaan Rd
Hartland, ME 04943
ph: 207-938-4922
cell: 207-215-9687
email: yankeedragon@earthlink.net
web: www.roundthehousemaintenance.com
proprietor: Lisa Field
Maintenance, cleaning, painting, light carpentry and repair. I have over a decade of experience, have references, and am insured. No job too small.

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 884-4274, or 745-4678, 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.