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Family Affairs Newsletter 2005-03-01

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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 MARCH 2005

NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

(NEWS #1:) Governor Baldacci has submitted a non-discrimination bill for LGBT people: "An Act to Prevent Discrimination", LR128. With your help, discrimination against LGBT people will become illegal in the state of Maine. The governor's bill makes it illegal to discriminate in employment, housing, credit, public accommodations and educational opportunities based on sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. The bill will have a public hearing in early March (no date has been set yet). Equality Maine is still seeking people who have experienced discrimination to testify. If you or someone you know has experienced discrimination, please contact them. **One of the greatest influences on legislators are letters from their constituents. Please take a moment now to contact your legislators in support of the Governor's non-discrimination bill.** Don't know your legislators? No problem. Equality Maine's web page will still allow you to email a quick, easy letter of support and encouragement for the bill to him/her. To learn more about the bill and/or to contact your Legislators, check the web site at http://tinyurl.com/48pjl If you prefer the "old fashioned" method of snail-mail and/or phone calls to your legislators, you can find out who they are and how to contact them by going to http://janus.state.me.us/house/townlist.htm Take some action, and do it now. It can only help. (ed note: It only took me 15 minutes to dash off a couple of snail-mail letters to my reps. Certainly, you can spare 15 minutes or less.)

(NEWS #2:) Attention! The Maine Youth Summit Planning Committee is sending out a Request for Workshops for the Youth Summit, June 25 and 26, 2005 (location in Maine to be determined soon). This year's theme is: Busy Becoming. Maine's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersexed, and allied youth are Busy Becoming Healthy. Do you have a workshop idea that supports positive growth in the areas of emotional, spiritual, sexual, physical, and/or mental health? The Maine Youth Summit Planning Committee wants your workshop proposals. FMI or to request a copy of the "Request for Workshops" form, Contact Lyndon at Outright at 207.828.6560 or lyndon@outright.org

(NOTES #1:) 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

(NOTES #2:) 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.

(REMINDERS #1:) The reservation deadline for the 21st Annual Equality Maine Awards Banquet is March 1st. Check the event listing on March 5 below for more details.

(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:

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:

* **MAR 2 (Wednesday)** Belfast, **Belfast Outright** meets from 4 - 6 pm. (For GLBTQI youths and allies ages 15-22). FMI call Carolyn at 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 martyrnc@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 7 (Monday)** Rockland Area, **Coastal Outright** (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22), meets Mondays at the Coastal AIDS Network Warren office, 7 pm. FMI contact Carolyn at 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 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)** Rockland Area, **Coastal Outright** (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22), meets Mondays at the Coastal AIDS Network Warren office, 7 pm. FMI contact Carolyn at 273-3444

* **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 16 (Wednesday)** Bangor, **Maine Eat-Out Project**, 6 pm. Join our group every other month for dinner at different area restaurants. The March MEOP will be held at the Oriental Jade, (by the Bangor Mall...behind the Hoyts Cinema Complex). **Reservations are needed**. FMI or to reserve contact Jean at 862-2063 or email megress@tds.net no later than Tuesday, March 15th.

* **MAR 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.

* **MAR 19 (Saturday),** Augusta, 6 pm, **House Concert** to benefit the Maine AIDS Alliance, featuring singer/songwriter Martin Swinger. A very special Cafe Noir House Concert. It's a potluck! It's a concert! It's a CD release party! FMI, to RSVP, and/or for directions, email Martin at mrtinswnger@aol.com OR Brian at bjkpma@aol.com OR phone 207-626-0165.

* **MAR 21 (Monday)** Rockland Area, **Coastal Outright** (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22), meets Mondays at the Coastal AIDS Network Warren office, 7 pm. FMI contact Carolyn at 273-3444

* **MAR 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.

* **MAR 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

* **MAR 25 (Friday)** Rockland, **Rainbow Family Potlucks**, 6 pm, at the First Universalist Church at 345 Broadway in Rockland. The Rainbow Family includes LGBTIQ people and their family, friends, and allies. These gatherings provide the opportunity for us to gather as a community, to enjoy each other's company over a great meal, and to share information. Please come and bring a friend. If you would like to be on our email list to be notified of future events, or if you have questions, email Annie and Lucie at lbak@att.net See you there!

* **MAR 28 (Monday)** Rockland Area, **Coastal Outright** (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22), meets Mondays at the Coastal AIDS Network Warren office, 7 pm. FMI contact Carolyn at 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.

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

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.

Fairfield, house sharing available. Professional male seeks same to help me with expenses by sharing my home in Fairfield. Must love my 3 small dogs! Call Steve at 453-7401 for details or interviews.

Portland, apartment sharing available. Simple...quiet...sunny... Female housemate wanted to share three-bedroom, first-floor apartment in USM neighborhood. Old victorian, GREAT neighbors, FABULOUS landlord, off-street parking wood floors, huge walk-in pantry and newly remodeled kitchen, front and back porches, clawfoot tub, yard, charming garden, garage, basement storage. Share with funny, respectful, professional writer (woman 53). No pets, no smoking, rent includes heat/hot water.... Occupy now or April 1. FMI contact Carolyn at 207-774-4231.

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 "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.