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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 MARCH 2005

NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

(NEWS #1:) EQUALITY MAINE WRITES: The governor's non-discrimination bill is suddenly on a fast track! Time is of the essence! **The bill is LD 1196, An Act to Extend Civil Rights Protection to All People Regardless of Sexual Orientation.** The public hearing has been set for WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1:00pm, in Room 208 of the State House Office Building. Please mark your calendar now....we need a big turnout! **The most important thing that supporters of equality can do is to contact their legislators. By clicking on the link below, you can send a letter to both of your legislators in about 90 seconds.** Click here to contact your legislators http://tinyurl.com/6nyol This bill does not contain a referendum provision but there is now concern that the Legislature may attach one. To help us prevent this, please read more and act at http://tinyurl.com/6nyol

Upcoming actions: LOBBY DAY for LD 1196, the non-discrimination bill, will be TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 8:30am - 12:30pm, in the State House. Please mark your calendars. Ongoing lobbying by individual citizen activists. Please contact Betsy Smith for more information, bsmith@equalitymaine.org.

(NEWS #2:) In case anyone isn't yet aware of it, The Spectrum, Bangor's only GLBT bar, has closed down. The space is now being renovated into a hip-hop venue for the 20-40 year old heterosexual crowd. No word on what adventures Mike and Dave (The Spectrum owners) have planned next.

(NOTES #1:) Dancer, teacher, and FAN subscriber Aziza (aka Donna), will begin offering **classes in Belly Dance** beginning March 21st. Classes are scheduled for Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays in the general Ellsworth area. FMI contact Aziza at aziza@midmaine.com or by phone at 207-667-1157.

(NOTES #2:) Tiffany Club of New England, 25th Anniversary Spring Fling for the transgender community, Provincetown, Ma., May 6-8, at the Provincetown Inn. The weekend is mostly non-structured and is perfect for couples or singles. FMI check the web site at www.tcne.org or call the club at 781-891-9325 on Tuesday nights from 7-11 pm.

(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, shows, etc.

The award recipients at the 2005 Equality Maine banquet were:
Mary Bonauto = Great Pioneer Award
Rep. Benjamin Dudley = Larry Connolly Award
Paul Fuller = Community Service Award
Jamie Gibson = Community Service Award
David Hilton = F.E. Pentlarge Award
Gloria Leach = Cameron Duncan Award

Maine Jewish Film Festival = Media Award
Youth Leadership Advisory Team (YLAT) = Youth in Leadership Award

Artist and FAN subscriber Tom Hudgins will be having a **Solo Art Show** from April 1st - May 31st, 2005 at the Bangor Theological Semninary in Bangor. The show will be displayed in the Wellman Commons Gallery, on the second floor of the Ruth Rich Hutchins Center. The address is 300 Union St in Bangor. The gallery hours are Mon-Fri from 8am - 8pm. The gala show opening will be on Friday, April 1st, from 6 - 8 pm.

Dan Williams, Executive Director of the Charles O. Howard Memorial Foundation writes: "I would like to make a public Thank You to Jean Vermette for her assistance with the Benefit Auction #3 for the Charles O. Howard Memorial Foundation on Feb. 26, 2005. This auction was a success in every way possible: highest money raised, most attended and everyone was pleased with the meal and the evening itself. Thank you Jean very much and it was a pleasure to have you join us."

EVENTS:

* **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 (near 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),** Ellsworth, Harney's Blarney's, an evening of **Irish/Scots/Celtic music and dance**, 7 pm, at The Grand, all tickets $15. This is an annual fundraiser for the Down East AIDS Network and will feature Kate Wegner, Chuck Donnelly, The Blue Hill Step Dancers, and more. Tickets at the door.

* **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 18 (Friday),** Ellsworth, Girlz Just Wanna Have Fun - **Drag Queens Show to benefit the Down East AIDS Network**. Hosted by the White Birches Restaurant & Motel, Thorsen Rd, Ellsworth... located just east of Ellsworth at the city limits on US Rt. 1. Doors open at 8 pm, show starts at 10 pm. The general admission fee is $5.00 to support D.E.A.N. This is an all ages show. There will also be a 50/50 cash raffle for those interested, and door prizes donated by various supporting business organizations. FMI contact D.E.A.N. at 667-3506

* **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! Reservations are requested. FMI, to reserve, 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

* **APR 1 (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

* **APR 1 (Friday),** Brewer, 8 pm, **Aprils' Fool, A Night of Smiles, Laughter & Wonder** (stories and monologues by Chris Newcomb). Suggested donation is $3. An accomplished actor and storyteller, Newcomb has appeared in a variety of plays, commercials and independent movies. He is host and producer of OFF CENTER WITH CHRIS NEWCOMB, an award winning public access TV show airing in Portland, ME. Chris lives in Orono and is a teacher of the Gifted & Talended for the Brewer School District. Newcomb's stories contain interesting characters who bring unique twists to long-held notions. Come smile, laugh, and wonder as Chris is joined by students from Brewer Middle School to tell these fantastic tales. A portion of the proceeds will go to Brewer Middle School Robotics Team. FMI call 866-4866 or email newk@gwi.net

* **APR 3 (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

* **APR 3 (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

* **APR 3 (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.

* **APR 4 (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

* **APR 4 (Monday),** Bangor, **Bangor Outright** meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network, 6-8 pm. (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) FMI Jamie at 990-3626.

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

* **APR 7 (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.

* **APR 8 (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

* **APR 10 (Sunday)** 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 April video will be the Cirque Du Soleil production of VAREKAI. For directions contact Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net

* **APR 10 (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

* **APR 11 (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

* **APR 13 (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

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 June 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 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, 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.