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Family Affairs Newsletter 2005-08-01

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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 AUGUST 2005

NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

(NEWS #1:) Can you take part in a study about anti-GLBT discrimination in Maine? See the ANNOUNCEMENTS category.

(NEWS #2:) Eat and "raise dough", a fundraiser for Eastern Maine AIDS Network. See AUG 9 below.

(NEWS #3:) For the Gay Newgenex youth dances, the maximum age has been lowered to age 21, and the admission price has been lowered to \$2. For complete details see the Gay Newgenex Dance listings on Aug 14 and Aug 28 below.

(NEWS #4:) The results of the most recent FAN poll was very interesting. **Everyone** who had a pro/con response to the question said "yes", some quite emphatically. I've never seen a unanimous response before! The new FAN category will be called **THE THINKING CAP**. You'll find it below along with the guidelines and the first question. Please keep in mind that this category will exist only as long as people contribute to it. If I ever get no response to a question, then the category will be gone. Let's see where this takes us.

(NEWS #5:) There is a new organization starting called the HOWARD FOUNDATION. See the ANNOUNCEMENTS category for more details.

(NOTES #1:) Co-ed Flag Football? See the ANNOUNCEMENTS category.

(NOTES #2:) The semi-annual Gay Men Together (GMT) gathering is now taking registrations for the GMT Fall 2005 event. See the ANNOUNCEMENTS category.

(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, commitments, graduations, promotions, new jobs, awards, shows, ongoing classes, trying-to-start-a-group, etc.

Howard Foundation. There is a new foundation dedicated to building a permanent scholarship endowment for high school seniors and post secondary students and the name of this foundation is the Howard Foundation. This foundation is focusing on students who are entering any profession that promotes diversity and a better understanding of differences in people within our communities. Guidelines for allotting the scholarships are presently being formulated. A second goal for the foundation is to establish a 3-day festival called "Multi-Cultural Days - Bangor" which will be open to every ethnic/cultural group in Maine with a focus on education, food, music/entertainment, dancing, and inspirational speakers. Anyone interested in being on the Planning Committee, or being involved in any way, can contact Dan Williams at 942-9319 or at knead2@netscape.com.

Study of anti-GLBT discrimination.

The Center for the Prevention of Hate Violence (CPHV) is launching a statewide study to obtain information on the extent and impact of discrimination against members of Maine's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender communities. CPHV intends to collect this critical data

228-8219

by interviewing scores of GLBT individuals across the state, from York to Aroostook County.

This information is so critical because of the many Mainers who believe GLBT individuals should be treated fairly, but who do not believe that discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity is a real problem. CPHV hopes to provide Maine with a realistic understanding of anti-GLBT discrimination. In light of the upcoming November referendum, this project is of even greater importance.

We are currently interviewing individuals and intend to finalize data collection by mid-September. However, only with your assistance can we succeed in this much needed study.

We are looking for names, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers of individuals who have experienced discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

PLEASE HELP US by emailing or calling us to set up an interview, or by providing us with names and contact information of individuals who you believe would be willing to be interviewed. (Note: We will be using your name as a referral source.) These interviews will likely last between 1/2 hour to an hour, depending on the nature of your experiences. All interviews are voluntary and confidential. No names or identifying information will be used in materials or efforts resulting from this study or shared outside of our organization unless explicitly agreed to by the participant. Interviews can be conducted by phone if necessary.

FMI or to arrange an interview, contact the Center for the Prevention of Hate Violence, GLBT Project Staff, at 207-780-4378 or email them at glbtproject@preventinghate.org

Co-ed Flag Football. I will preface this by saying I love to watch football. I will admit I know some of the rules, but I am not a football expert! However, I have always wanted to get a group of people together in the Bangor Area to play flag football. I would like to play once a week, maybe Saturday, but that is subject to negotiation. If you are interested please call Jen at 990-3731. I am looking for a group of people who want to have fun, learn the game, and not take themselves too seriously. By the way, if there is anyone who knows most of the rules and would be willing and patient enough to teach a group, that would be awesome.

Gay Men Together (GMT) gathering. Every spring and fall GMT hosts about 80 guys in central Maine, creating an opportunity for men to come together and celebrate being gay, unfettered, alive, and without shame. This fall's event will be SEP 30 - OCT 2 (Friday-Sunday), in the Augusta area. Registrations are now being accepted for GMT Fall 2005. If you register (and pay) by August 1st, there is a discount on the registration fee. FMI check the web site at <http://www.gaymentogogether.net> or email Mark at gaymentogogether@comcast.net

EVENTS:

* **AUG 1 (Monday)**, Bangor, **Bangor Outright** meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network, 6-8 pm. (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) FMI Jamie at 990-3626.

* **AUG 1 (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

* **AUG 3 (Wednesday)** Belfast, **Belfast Outright** meets from 4 - 6 pm. (For GLBTQI youths and allies ages 15-22). FMI call Carolyn at 273-3444.

* **AUG 4 (Thursday)**, Bangor, **Native American GLBTI support/friendship group**, 6-8 pm, at the Hammond Street Congregational Church, 28 High St. This group is open to all GLBTI native Americans AND their friends (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, snack, etc. within a Native American context. We meet every Wednesday to help one another explore our goals, fears or just to sit around the circle and make new friends. FMI contact Rob at 327-1009 OR email nativeglbti@wmconnect.com

* **AUG 4 (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.

* **AUG 5 (Friday)**, Bangor, 9:30 pm, Club Karma, 123 Franklin St (under the Panda Garden restaurant), **the Queen City Drags**, a drag show to benefit Northern Maine Pride and Eastern Maine AIDS Network. FMI contact Rob at robnmp@wmconnect.com or by phone at 327-1009.

* **AUG 5 (Friday)**, Rockport, Greater Belfast/Camden/Rockland Area **social/support group for lesbians over 40**. From 6:30-8:30 pm FMI and meeting place contact Pat at 763-3115 or at patput@midcoast.com

* **AUG 6 (Saturday)**, Acadia National Park, **new-moon star-gazing hike around Witch Hole Pond**. Folks who want to can meet in Bar Harbor beforehand to grab a bite to eat. Then, we will get on the trail for a nice easy 3-mile walk along one of the carriage trails to chat and star gaze. Twilight ends at 8:23 pm. FMI contact Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net

* **AUG 7 (Sunday)**, Belfast, 9:00 - 11:00 am, group **planning meeting for the lesbian retirement home**. Group will meet at Virginia's place in downtown Belfast. FMI/location/directions etc. contact Gabrielle at gabrielle@prexar.com or call Virginia at 338-1729

* **AUG 7 (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

* **AUG 8 (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

* **AUG 9 (Tuesday)**, Bangor, **fundraiser for Eastern Maine AIDS Network**, all day long at PIZZERIA UNO at the Bangor Mall. All day long, 20% of all drinks, pizza, and everything else on the menu will be donated to Eastern Maine AIDS Network (EMAN). It's a tasty way to "raise dough" - 20% of your check will be donated to EMAN when you hand in a coupon. Coupons are available online at www.maineaidsnetwork.com, at the EMAN office at 370 Harlow St (the Intown Plaza), or by calling Roxsant at the EMAN offices at 990-

3626. Everyone participating will also be eligible for four door prizes (One \$50 Pizza Uno gift certificates and three \$25 gift certificates. See you there!

* **AUG 10 (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

* **AUG 11 (Thursday)**, Bangor, **Native American GLBTI support/friendship group**, 6-8 pm, at the Hammond Street Congregational Church, 28 High St. This group is open to all GLBTI native Americans AND their friends (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, snack, etc. within a Native American context. We meet every Wednesday to help one another explore our goals, fears or just to sit around the circle and make new friends. FMI contact Rob at 327-1009 OR email nativeglbti@wmconnect.com

* **AUG 12 (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 Points Sheraton 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

* **AUG 12 (Friday)**, Bangor, **Lesbian Writer's Group**, meets at Borders on the 2nd and 4th Friday night of each month at 6:30 pm. Novels, short stories, poetry, or whatever. Go upstairs, then turn right, and we meet at the oak table. FMI please email Stephanie at sreiser@tds.net

* **AUG 12 (Friday)** Dedham, after 5:30 pm. **Out On MDI Potluck Dinner**. This is a social potluck drop-in open to anyone lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning. This month's gathering will be held at Peg & Kate's house in Dedham. FMI and/or directions email Ann at alfhildanda@mac.com

* **AUG 13 (Saturday)**, Belfast, 6:00-ish to 8:30-ish, **lesbian potluck**. Join us for the Second Saturday Supper Gatherings 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

* **AUG 13 (Saturday)**, Acadia National Park, **day hike with a picnic and swim**. This will be an easy 3-4 mile hike total with a picnic and swim break at the half-way point. Dogs are welcome. FMI contact Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net

* **August 14 (Sunday)**, Bangor, **Gay Newgenex Dance**, 8-11 pm, Karma club, 123 Franklin St (under the Panda Garden Restaurant). This is a chemical-free dance (no smoking, alcohol, drugs) for GLBTIQA youth ages 16-21. It provides a safe and harassment-free environment, so come join us for a fun time. Refreshments and snacks will be for sale. Admission will be \$2 at the door. FMI contact Rob at gaynewgenex@wmconnect.com or phone 207-327-1009.

* **AUG 15 (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

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

* **AUG 18 (Thursday)**, Bangor, **Native American GLBTI support/friendship group**, 6-8 pm, at the Hammond Street Congregational Church, 28 High St. This group is open to all GLBTI native Americans AND their friends (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, snack, etc. within a Native American context. We meet every Wednesday to help one another explore our goals, fears or just to sit around the circle and make new friends. FMI contact Rob at 327-1009 OR email nativeglbti@wmconnect.com

* **AUG 18 (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.

* **AUG 21 (Sunday)**, Mt. Desert Island, join us for an afternoon of **cycling in Acadia National Park**, followed by dinner at a restaurant in Bar Harbor for those folks who want to partake. Ride will start at noon. FMI contact Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net

* **AUG 22 (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

* **AUG 25 (Thursday)**, Bangor, **Native American GLBTI support/friendship group**, 6-8 pm, at the Hammond Street Congregational Church, 28 High St. This group is open to all GLBTI native Americans AND their friends (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, snack, etc. within a Native American context. We meet every Wednesday to help one another explore our goals, fears or just to sit around the circle and make new friends. FMI contact Rob at 327-1009 OR email nativeglbti@wmconnect.com

* **AUG 26 (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 Points Sheraton 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

* **AUG 26 (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!

* **August 28 (Sunday)**, Bangor, **Gay Newgenex Dance**, 8-11 pm, Karma club, 123 Franklin St (under the Panda Garden Restaurant). This

is a chemical-free dance (no smoking, alcohol, drugs) for GLBTIQA youth ages 16-21. It provides a safe and harassment-free environment, so come join us for a fun time. Refreshments and snacks will be for sale. Admission will be \$2 at the door. FMI contact Rob at gaynewgenex@wmconnect.com or phone 207-327-1009.

* **AUG 29 (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 September 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.

REAL ESTATE:

Angel Carey, realtor
c/o Town & Country Realtors
1162 Union Street
Bangor, ME 04401
ph: 207-942-6711
email: reangel@tcreal.com
fax: 207-941-9870
web: www.town-countryrealtors.com
Representing both buyers and sellers of residential, multi-family, and waterfront properties.

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 check the web sites at www.charlesohoward.org or at www.mainevoices.org

Equality Maine 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

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD). Based in Boston, GLAD is New England's leading legal rights organization dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV status and gender identity and expression. GLAD's legal victories in Maine have addressed HIV discrimination, harassment of gay students, co-guardianship rights for same-sex parents, domestic partner benefits and more. Mainers can call GLAD's free, confidential hotline from 1:30 - 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday, at 1-800-455-4523 to receive legal information, resources, and referrals to lawyers in Maine. Mainers can also visit GLAD's website to read more about the law in Maine and to download publications about your rights at <http://me.glad.org> FMI contact GLAD's Maine Outreach Coordinator, Stephen Farrand, at sfarrand@glad.org or at 899-9488.

Howard Foundation. This is a foundation dedicated to building a permanent scholarship endowment for high school seniors and post secondary students. The foundation focuses on students who are entering any profession that promotes diversity and a better understanding of differences in people within our communities. Guidelines for allotting the scholarships are presently being formulated. A second goal for the foundation is to establish a 3-day festival called "Multi-Cultural Days - Bangor" which will be open to every ethnic/cultural group in Maine with a focus on education, food, music/entertainment, dancing, and inspirational speakers. People interested in being on the Planning Committee, or being involved in any way, can contact Dan Williams at 942-9319 or at knead2@netscape.com

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 Monday at 7 pm. FMI call Rob at 327-1009 OR www.northernmainepride.com OR email robnmp@wmconnect.com

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 martyinc@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, rooms for rent in private home. Private 2nd floor bedroom & living room (furnished) in a quiet West End neighborhood. Rent includes heat, hot water, electricity, TV, cable, high speed internet, semi-shared bathroom, full use of kitchen, use of porch and fenced yard, off street parking, easy access to highway. No pets, no smoking. We are a lesbian couple looking to rent to one quiet, clean lesbian. Rent is \$550/month with a \$550 deposit and a negotiable 12-month lease. Space is available on 08/15/05. FMI contact Connie at conniep@adelphia.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 441-7701.

Bangor, apartment for rent. 1 bedroom, living room, dining room, kitchen, small office, bath. Mid-town, first floor, near bus route. No smoking, no dogs. References and lease needed. Rent is \$550/month plus utilities. Available September 1st. FMI contact Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@tds.net

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.

Bridgton, apartment for rent. One bedroom, kitchen, bath, living room (with fieldstone fireplace), off-street parking, close to town. 45 minutes to Portland, 25 minutes to Windham. No pets, no smokers. Rent \$800/month includes heat, hot water, electricity. FMI contact Merle at wailmerle@verizon.net

Eddington, housemates wanted. Looking for gay, bi, gay-friendly professional and/or graduate students only to share large, furnished home in Eddington. Wide pine floors, living room, dining room, large kitchen, fireplaces, storage, and enough other rooms for each of 3 tenants to have two private rooms each. Very comfortable. No pets, drugs, or heavy drinking. Smokers OK if you smoke outside. Free use of hot tub, ping pong table, washer and dryer, 36 inch cable TV. Only 20-25 minutes to the UMaine campus. The rent for each person would be \$425/month plus utilities. Security deposit, lease, and references from the last place you lived. Available June 15th, 2005. FMI contact Scott at chefguy@adelphia.net

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.

Lincolntonville, house for rent. On Levenseller Pond. One bedroom downstairs. Open loft. Wood stove and gas monitor heater. Large porch. Screen house down by the pond. New dock. Plenty of space to garden. Twelve minutes to Camden or Belfast. \$600/month plus utilities. FMI contact Pat at 763-3115.

Portland, room for rent. Bedroom in large 3-bedroom Victorian apartment in USM neighborhood. Share apartment with lesbian-feminist author. Quiet house, great neighbors, fab landlord. \$400 includes heat and hot water. Basement, two porches. No pets, no drugs, no smoking. References. Available in August. FMI contact Carolyn at 774-4231.

PERSONALS:

Looking for love. Male seeking a qualified individual for the position of Boyfriend, with possibility of advancement to Significant Other and/or Life Partner. Qualifications: ideal candidate must be caring, loving, sensitive, honest, good communicator. Sense of humor a BIG plus. Responsibilities: going out to dinner, going to the movies, talking, listening, laughing hysterically, renting DVDs, going camping, going on road trips, and many other mutually enjoyable activities. About the employer: he is charming, sweet, funny, witty, and loyal. Location: Maine. To apply, email Rob at robnmp@wmconnect.com. Equal opportunity employer.

SELL/BUY/TRADE/GIVE:

If you're trying to sell/buy something, want to trade for something else, or have something to give away, this is the category to post to. The FAN makes no guarantees about anything listed here, we simply provide the free listing as a service.

House for sale - Liberty, Maine. 2 BR ranch on one acre within walking distance of Lake St. George. New roof, new septic. \$104,500. Contact Wayne at 356-8724.

SOCIAL GROUPS (MORE THAN 50-MILES FROM BANGOR):

COASTAL WOMEN'S CONNECTION. A women's social group that covers the coastal area from about Brunswick to Portland. Dances, BBQs, softball, camping, potlucks, etc. FMI and to get on mailing list contact Betsy at giftedhantz@hotmail.com

LAVENDER LETTERS. A snail mail newsletter for lesbian-identified women in the Washington County (Machias) area. FMI and to get on the mailing list contact Gillyin at Lavender Letters, 9 Bobcat Path, Machias, ME 04654

SEACOAST SAPPHOS. A women's social group that covers the area from about Portland to Portsmouth. Dances, BBQs, potlucks, concerts, etc. FMI and to get on the mailing list contact Cherie at seacoastsapphos@yahoo.com or check the web site at www.seacoastsapphos.org

SINGLE OLDER LESBIAN ORGANIZATION (SOLO). A group for single, older (45 years and up), lesbian-identified women, in the general midcoast Maine area (Bath to Damariscotta). FMI and to get on the mailing list contact Kathy at naturalpet@suscom-maine.net or check the web site at <http://www.geocities.com/sololesbians/>

SOLO-N-FRIENDS. A loosely organized women's group which often meets for restaurant meals and social conversation. We also do a variety of different activities that are of interest to those who attend. Solo-N-Friends is made up of the members of SOLO and women-loving-women (lesbian, bi, trans) of any age, whether single or partnered. We serve the general midcoast Maine area (Bath to Damariscotta). FMI and to get on the mailing list contact Janet at janet@4footloose.com or check the web site at <http://www.geocities.com/lesbians04/>

THE THINKING CAP:

In each issue of The FAN the editor questions the readers about a particular GLBTI "issue", asks them to consider their beliefs and perceptions about that issue, and allows them to respond in an essay format. The responses can be of any length. In each subsequent issue of The FAN the responses to the previous question will be summarized (so folks will know what the general consensus is). I will also provide a link so that anyone who wants to can read all of the responses in their entirety (I will only give authors' initials for privacy reasons, but responses will otherwise be unedited in any way). Finally, the next question will be posed. This category of The FAN will continue only as long as readers participate. You will have just under two weeks to respond to each question. Send all responses via email to megress@tds.net

QUESTION #1: I have heard some people argue that the GLBTI population in Maine is really not a community. Define "community", and tell us why you think the GLBTI population in Maine is or is not a community.

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 "FAMILY 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 exhibit? 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.