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Family Affairs Newsletter 2006-07-01

Jean Vermette

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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 JULY 2006

NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

(NEWS #1:) Remember, there will soon be a new email address for The FAN. Beginning with the July 15th issue, the new FAN mailing address will be megress@gwi.net and the old address of megress@tds.net will be discontinued. That means that you need to change your address books to insert the new address BEFORE July 15th; and you also need to make sure that the new address is cleared with any spam-blocking software you might have so that the newsletters will still get to you.

(NOTES #1:) NORTHERN MAINE PRIDE ANNUAL ELECTIONS – In accordance with organization By-laws, The Executive Committee of Northern Maine Pride has scheduled the annual election of officers for Monday, July 3, 2006, 7:00 PM at The Universalist Unitarian Church, 120 Park Street, Bangor, Maine. All members please plan to attend and be reminded: First, only members in good standing may nominate or vote. Second, only members who have maintained membership in good standing for at least one year prior to elections may be nominated for an office. AND IF YOU'RE NOT YET A MEMBER OF NORTHERN MAINE PRIDE, THEN YOU SHOULD THINK OF JOINING. Check the web site at www.northernmainepride.org for details and contact info.

(NOTES #2:) Are you outside the "greater Bangor" area, and would you like to start a FAN-style newsletter where you are? Trust me, it's not rocket science, and it's easy to do. The time commitment is about 2-3 hours per issue. I can help you get going if you want to give it a shot. Contact me, Jean, at megress@gwi.net or phone 207-862-2063 and we can chat.

(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@gwi.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.

EVENTS:

* **JUL 2 (Sunday)** Auburn, 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. FMI contact Marty at 582-8779 or at martyrnc@adelphia.net

* **JUL 2 (Sunday)**, Belfast, 1-3:00 pm, 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 or email Virginia at vabay@verizon.net

* **JUL 3 (Monday)**, Bangor, **Northern Maine Pride organizational meeting**, 7 - 8:30 pm, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 120 Park St. FMI call 947-1081 or email info@northernmainepride.org. Everyone is welcome!

* **JUL 5 (Wednesday)**, Augusta, **JUST GUYS**, a men's social group for men who have sex with men, meets every Wednesday at the Dayspring Offices, 9 Green St, in Augusta, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. We provide a space free of attitude, ego, gossip, labels, or judgment. The night's activities can include discussions, games, guest speakers, or movies, and always fun snacks. Join us, bring a friend, come share! FMI contact Lew at 621-3794. More information, weekly updates at www.justguys.info

* **JUL 5 (Wednesday)**, Bangor, **Native American GLBTI support/friendship group**, 6-8 pm, at the Hammond St Congregational Church, 28 High St. This group is open to all GLBTI native Americans AND their friends (whether Native American or not). Our mission is to provide a vibrant and healthful community for GLBTIs by offering them social opportunities, health education, and alternatives to the bar-scene. By directly meeting their needs, Native GLBTI will give glbti individuals a community where they will be more connected, less isolated, supported, and accepted. Meets every Wednesday. FMI contact Rob at 327-1009 OR email nativeglbti@wmconnect.com

* **JUL 7 (Friday)**, Hallowell, **The Augusta Area Lesbian Happy Hour**, 6:30 - 8:30, at the Higher Grounds cafe, located on Water Street in Hallowell (next to the Liberal Cup). Come join us and have a great time! FMI contact Kathy at tessallate@gmail.com

* **JUL 7 (Friday)**, Bangor, **Charlie Howard Memorial Walk** sponsored by the Howard Foundation: 6:30 pm = Church service at Hammond St Congregational Church (corner of High and Hammond Streets). 7:15 pm = walk starts in front of Hammond St Congregational Church. 7:30 pm = brief gathering at State Street Bridge. FMI contact Dan at 942-9319 or at knead24u@yahoo.com

* **JUL 8 (Saturday)**, Bangor, the **Reading-Aloud-Potluck**, 6:00 - 9:00 pm, at Jean's apartment. The format is: dinner from 6 - 7 pm. and then reading aloud from 7 - 9 pm. Each person attending is asked to bring something to eat, and at least 2 reading selections. Your reading selections can be poetry or prose, something you've read or something you've written, fiction or non-fiction, short stories, book chapters, magazine articles, essays, etc. The time is intended solely for the enjoyment of reading and listening to stories being read aloud. Each "reading" can last a maximum of 20 minutes...no minimum. If you feel uncomfortable actually reading aloud, you are still expected to bring your two contributions and I expect we can find someone who will be willing to read for you. An RSVP that you will be attending is not required, but would be appreciated. FMI and/or directions contact Jean at megress@gwi.net or at 862-2063.

* **JUL 10 (Monday)** Bangor, **Bangor Outright** meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network, 6-8 pm. (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) FMI Jamie at 990-3626.

* **JUL 12 (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

* **JUL 12 (Wednesday)**, Augusta, **JUST GUYS**, a men's social group for men who have sex with men, meets every Wednesday at the Dayspring Offices, 9 Green St, in Augusta, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. We provide a space free of attitude, ego, gossip, labels, or judgment. The night's activities can include discussions, games, guest speakers, or movies, and always fun snacks. Join us, bring a friend, come share! FMI contact Lew at 621-3794. More information, weekly updates at www.justguys.info

* **JUL 12 (Wednesday)** Bangor, **Maine Eat-Out Project**, 6:30 pm. Join our group for dinner at different area restaurants. The July MEOP will be held at the Sea Dog Restaurant (26 Front St - on the Bangor waterfront). **Reservations are needed.** FMI and/or to reserve, contact Jean at 862-2063 or email megress@gwi.net no later than Tuesday July 11th.

* **JUL 12 (Wednesday)**, Bangor, **Native American GLBTI support/friendship group**, 6-8 pm, at the Hammond St Congregational Church, 28 High St. This group is open to all GLBTI native Americans AND their friends (whether Native American or not). Our mission is to provide a vibrant and healthful community for GLBTIs by offering them social opportunities, health education, and alternatives to the bar-scene. By directly meeting their needs, Native GLBTI will give glbti individuals a community where they will be more connected, less isolated, supported, and accepted. Meets every Wednesday. FMI contact Rob at 327-1009 OR email nativeglbti@wmconnect.com

* **JUL 17 (Monday)** Bangor, **Bangor Outright** meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network, 6-8 pm. (For GLBTQI youths ages 15-22) FMI Jamie at 990-3626.

* **JUL 19 (Wednesday)**, Augusta, **JUST GUYS**, a men's social group for men who have sex with men, meets every Wednesday at the Dayspring Offices, 9 Green St, in Augusta, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. We provide a space free of attitude, ego,

gossip, labels, or judgment. The night's activities can include discussions, games, guest speakers, or movies, and always fun snacks. Join us, bring a friend, come share! FMI contact Lew at 621-3794. More information, weekly updates at www.justguys.info

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* **JUL 21 (Friday)**, Hallowell, The **Augusta Area Lesbian Happy Hour**, 6:30 - 8:30, at the Higher Grounds cafe, located on Water Street in Hallowell (next to the Liberal Cup). Come join us and have a great time! FMI contact Kathy at tessallate@gmail.com

* **JUL 26 (Wednesday)**, Bangor, **Native American GLBTI support/friendship group**, 6-8 pm, at the Hammond St Congregational Church, 28 High St. This group is open to all GLBTI native Americans AND their friends (whether Native American or not). Our mission is to provide a vibrant and healthful community for GLBTIs by offering them social opportunities, health education, and alternatives to the bar-scene. By directly meeting their needs, Native GLBTI will give glbti individuals a community where they will be more connected, less isolated, supported, and accepted. Meets every Wednesday. FMI contact Rob at 327-1009 OR email nativeglbti@wmconnect.com

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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@gwi.net or at 862-2063.

COUNSELING:

Christopher S. McLaughlin, LCSW
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
96 Harlow Street, Suite 223
Bangor, Me 04401
ph: 478-0884
ChrisMSW01@aol.com

Psychotherapy for adults, children/adolescents, couples and families. Focus working with GLBTQ issues. MaineCare accepted.

BODY/ENERGY WORK: MASSAGE THERAPISTS:

Todd Ingram
Mysticbear Holistic Health
78 Summer Street
Hamden, ME 04444
ph: 207-561-0691
email: todd@mysticbear.net
web: www.mysticbear.net

MYSTICBEAR HOLISTIC HEALTH places a priority on the balance of body, mind and spirit. To this end, I offer Reiki, Sound Therapy and Massage services to aid you in finding a sense of peace, well being and balance. Services are provided in Bangor, Hampden and other locations as needed

PERSONALS:

Mature Lesbian. Personal: attractive, educated & intelligent, enthusiastic but sensitive, healthy, energetic & active, well-groomed, friendly, well-traveled, romantic. Professional: marketing-specialist, designer/artist, photographer. Interests & favorite things: good music, dancing, art, theatre, literature, worship, the great outdoors, cooking, travel, animals, gardening, beach walking, candlelit dinners & good wine, fireside & champagne, and friendships. Concerns: ecology, preservation & conservation, environmental beautification, good government, equal rights. Homes: Maine and Texas. Seeks companionship w/a woman 45 or over, of similar tastes and interests. dancinbarb34@yahoo.com

SELL/BUY/TRADE/GIVE:

If you're a FAN subscriber 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.

Free For The Taking:

One ethernet card (for high-speed DSL connecting). Brand new, never used. I couldn't figure out how to get the software for it installed in my computer.

FMI or to pick up contact Jean at megress@gwi.net or call her at 862-2063.

LIVING SPACE RENTALS:

If you are FAN subscriber with a living space (room, apartment, house/apartment sharing) to rent to someone, or if you are looking for a living space to rent from someone, then this is the category to post to. Send your listings to me, Jean, at megress@gwi.net

Augusta, apartment for rent. 2 BR, second floor, private patio, gay building, \$550/month, pets welcome. FMI call Natty at 207-623-8148 or cell at 441-7701.

Belfast, a variety of downtown offerings to rent. Contact Virginia at vabay@verizon.net OR at 338-1729.

Eddington, housemates wanted. Looking for professional and/or graduate students 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 \$400/month plus utilities. Security deposit, lease, and references from the last place you lived. FMI contact Scott at chefguy@adelphia.net

Gardiner, roommate desired. Lesbian with two dogs seeking clean, responsible, non-smoker to share large 2nd floor apartment. Please call Eileen at 441-2785 or email hearme@natisp.com

Levant, house for rent. Charming 1900's farmhouse. Three bedrooms, one bathroom with large jacuzzi tub, nice large porch and gardening options. It has been partially remodeled, hardwood floors throughout and will/can come with a couch, table and a few chairs. Washer and dryer available. 30 minutes from Bangor, approx. 45mins from Orono. Pet friendly. \$960.00 a month, no utilities, plowing free. If interested please email Beth at beth_stepone@hotmail.com

Orono, room for rent beginning mid-August. Looking for a graduate student or non-traditional age undergraduate student to share our 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. Lesbian Mom/University professor and twin 5 year old boys. The room for rent is furnished, but can also be rented empty. The rent is \$400/month. No smoking and no dogs. Contact Laurie at laurie@maine.edu

Southwest Harbor, house for rent. On the water, 2BR, 2 decks, 1 full bath, 2 half baths, W/D, fully furnished. 1st, last, & security. Available now through May. No smoking. Pets allowed. \$650/month. FMI call Mary Jo or Rhonda at 207-989-2099 or email lawlerlane@aol.com

GLBTI COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS:

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 national web site at www.glsen.org

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD). On November 8th, Maine's voters embraced fairness for all its citizens by voting overwhelmingly to retain its anti-discrimination law. To learn about and protect your rights under this law, visit GLAD's website at www.glad.org or call the free legal hotline at 1-800-455-GLAD (1-800-455-4523). GLAD is New England's 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.

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 knead24u@yahoo.com

Lesbian Health Project. Initiated in 1992, the Lesbian Health Project of the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center seeks to promote non-homophobic health services which will provide lesbians with the ability to make the best health decisions possible based on accurate knowledge. The focus of the project is on developing educational materials for lesbians and trainings for health and social service professionals. In addition, the project sponsors a Lesbian Health Clinic at the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center which provides low-cost, woman positive, lesbian-centered health care including: pelvic exams, breast exams, health education, instruction in breast self-exam, pap smears, mammography referrals, health advocacy, screening and treatment of STD's. For more information or to become involved in the work of the project contact the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center at 947-5337

Mainely Bears is a social group in the State of Maine. We are a gay mens group open to gay, bisexual, and men who are not sure. We have events all over the state of Maine. FMI regarding Mainely Bears, contact Wayne at mainelybears@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.

Maine SpeakOut Project. SpeakOut's mission and philosophy is to actively work towards the creation of a society that is inclusive, respectful, and safe for gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgender people. Volunteers educate their community by sharing the truth of their lives. SpeakOut provides schools, business, and churches with opportunities to engage in open dialogue that is non-confrontational and non-divisive. SpeakOut's community programming efforts include: SpeakOuts, Everybody Counts in the Workplace, Walk with the One You Love, and the Charlie Howard Memorial Library. To arrange a speaker training or schedule a speaker contact Pam McCann at speakout@commcc.org or phone 874-1030.

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 on various Monday evenings from 7 - 8:30 pm. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 120 Park St in Bangor. (See listings above for actual dates.) FMI write Northern Maine Pride, PO Box 2815, Bangor, ME 04402-2815 or visit the web site at www.northernmainepride.org or email them at info@northernmainepride.org

Parent's, Family, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodford St, in Portland. ALL are welcomed, not just parents. FMI call 207-831-3015 or email mdpalmer@gwi.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@adelphia.net OR at 582-8779 OR check the web site at <http://www.transcare2000.com>

The Transgender Fund. With offices in Freeport, Maine, The Transgender Fund is a national, completely independent, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public charitable foundation. It has been created by and for transgendered individuals. Our funding is derived from contributions by caring individuals of all levels of means. Our strength and independence come from the fact that there is no single benefactor who has seeded the Fund with a large amount of capital. Contributions you make are added to those of your sisters and brothers. Individually, they may seem modest, but collectively they add up to a powerful force that is reinvested in the support of projects fostering the well-being of all our gender variant minorities. FMI write The Transgender Fund, PO Box 50, Freeport,

Maine 04032 OR phone 207-846-7997 OR email info@tgfund.org OR check the web site at www.tgfund.org

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

CENTRAL MAINE OUTRIGHT. An organization, in Augusta, that supports youth 22 and under who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and their heterosexual allies (GLBTQA). This group is sponsored by Dayspring. Our drop-in groups are every Thursday evening from 7 - 9 pm. We are located at 9 Green St, in Augusta. FMI contact Faith at 621-3785 or email dayspring@mainegeneral.org

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 Morgan at coastalwomensconnection@yahoo.com OR Betsy at giftedhantz@hotmail.com OR you can check the web site at <http://www.geocities.com/coastalwomensconnection>

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

OUTI...As I Want to Be. An organization, located in Rockland, for all GLBTQQ youth, ages 14 to 22, as well as straight allies. We are an all-volunteer, youth-driven organization. We seek to provide outreach, affirmation, support, and education in a safe space for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, queer, and questioning youth in Lincoln, Knox, and Waldo counties and their offshore islands. We meet in Rockland every Friday evening from 7 - 9 pm. FMI and/or directions, contact Lis at 632-4797 or email outasiwanttobe@aol.com. Check the web site at www.outasiwanttobe.org

PRYSM (PROUD RAINBOW YOUTH OF SOUTHERN MAINE)formerly OUTRIGHT-PORTLAND. An organization, in Portland, that supports youth 22 and under who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and their heterosexual allies (GLBTQA). This group is sponsored by Community Counseling Center. Our drop-in groups are every Tuesday evening from 6 - 9 pm. We are located at 43 Baxter Blvd on the 2nd floor. FMI contact Andrew or Pam at 874-1030 or email prysm@commcc.org

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 WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, AND HOW OF THE FAMILY AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER.

All communications to FAMILY AFFAIRS should be sent to megress@ghi.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@gwi.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.