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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 2007

NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

(NEWS #1:) Please Note: There will be no Native Two-Spirit Group meetings on July 4th and July 18th.

(NEWS #2:) EqualityFolk: A Community Social. PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR! This year Equality Maine will be at the American Folk Festival in Bangor for an Old Fashioned Community Social. Come to Bangor to enjoy the festival, and join us for appetizers, drinks (cash bar), friends, and music at Carolina Sports and Spirits on Saturday, August 25th from 4-7pm. No admission, no tickets, no worries – just new friends and fun. To learn more about the festival, check the web site at www.americanfolkfestival.com. It looks like a great lineup! Come see some shows then join us for food and fun! (And if you'd like to join the host committee or to help sponsor: contact Brian Sandberg, our Development Director, at 207.761.3732 ext. 4 or brian@equalitymaine.org)

(NEWS #3:) Results of the most recent FAN Poll: RURAL PRIDE. See the OP/EDS: category below for details.

(NOTES #1:) GLBTQA Youth Summer Writing Project. Check the ANNOUNCEMENTS category.

(NOTES #2:) The Maine Equity Fund of the Maine Community Foundation has money available for grants to GLBTI organizations. Deadline for applications is September 15. **http://www.mainecf.org/grants/availablegrants/equityfund.aspx**

(NOTES #3:) A poll from one of The FAN subscribers. See "Thoughts and Opinions needed" in the ANNOUNCEMENTS category below.

(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.

1. INFO NEEDED: Gay Guyz Retirment Community Our objective is to develop a retirement village for gay guys only. Criteria will be not only being gay, but also age, at least 55 y.o., and others to be determined. It will be located as close to Bangor as possible for future medical needs as we age. We would like to ask the gay guys what they would like to see in a gay retirement community. We are thinking of a community building for multi-purpose, a fitness center or rooms, the possibility of an extended care facility for when in-home care is no longer a posibility, and a small nursing home for the last days. The homes we are thinking will be small, universal design, etc. What would you like to see in such a place? Detached homes? Condos? Apartments? How much would you be willing to spend to buy your home? This the type of information we are looking for. Please

email all responses to Gary at wg35@verizon.net

2. GLBTQA Youth Summer Writing Project. Add Verb Productions (in Portland) is seeking writers, poets, and composers for a summer writing project for GLBTQA Youth (ages 12 to 24).

Want to have your writing or music be performed and make a difference in the world? Can you help people to understand how they might help to change things for the better for GLBTQ youth? Do you think you can harness the power of performance? Do you believe that people should know who they are and that it is wonderful to simply be accepted for just being yourself? Live in the middle of Can't-Get-There-From-Here? Hey! No problem! As long as you have access to a computer and email, we can make this work. Add Verb Productions is seeking two levels of involvement:

1. Young People interested in submitting creative writing or music for an anti-bias, anti-violence, pro-support, pro-peace creative performance* project that is intended to be put in the hands of youth and youth activists in Maine and around the country. (*We are looking for pieces that can be performed, but not looking for performers at this time.)

2. Young People interested in being on the editing team for this project (you can still submit your own stuff, but you'll play a much bigger role!).

FMI Contact ADD VERB PRODUCTIONS now! You can email them at info@addverbproductions.com, or you can phone them at 207-772-1167, OFFICE (Tess or Cathy). You can also check out their web site at www.addverbproductions.com

3. Thoughts and opinions needed for potential new GLBTI business in Bangor. Someone in the Bangor area is considering opening a small business slanted towards the GLBTI community and is looking for ideas and input about what kind of place it should be. He asked me to post this to try to get feedback from the readership (that means YOU). Here's what he says:

I'm looking to open a new place in town that will offer us a friendly atmosphere to meet. Now's your chance to put your input in and help make it your place too.

1. Would you like to see another bar in town (a small neighborhood style with a juke box--not a dance club), a coffee shop, or perhaps a bookstore that specializes in gay themed novels and points of interest such as t-shirts and greeting cards (you tell me), that would also serve coffee and fresh pastry.

2.What area of town would you prefer it to be in? Mainly I'm thinking Bangor or Brewer. The exact location will depend upon lease rent, but you can give me some idea.

3.What time of day would you most likely stop by:
   a. 12noon-5pm
   b. 5pm-9pm
   c. 8pm-12mid

Please email me at newplaceinbangor@yahoo.com and let me know what type of place you'd be more likely to patronize. And thank you for your input!

4. GAYLA XXIX. The 29th annual gathering of Gay men at Ferry Beach (near Old Orchard Beach, Maine) will be taking place July 14 - 20, 2007. To learn more about GAYLA and/or to register for the event, check the web site at www.ferrybeach.org/summercon/gayla.html or the GAYLA web site at www.gayla.org

OP/EDS:

*This is your chance to spout off (or offer your insightful thoughts and opinions) about **ANYTHING** related to the GLBTI community. Any subscriber is welcomed to submit. Please keep your thoughts as succinct (and civilized) as possible. Subscribers should be willing to allow at least their first name and an email address to be listed with the posting.*

RURAL PRIDE

The result of the most recent FAN poll: **.... why do you (or why do you not) attend the PRIDE events in the Bangor area?** was *very* interesting! I got a response rate of about 12% of the readership, which may seem low, but which for anyone's poll is actually quite good. In my naivety, I thought there would be a simple answer to the question. Instead, there was LOTS of complexity and multiple-reasoning ... too much complexity to really state it simply. So here is *my* analysis of things, and I will concentrate only on the reasons folks gave for not attending since those made up the vast majority of responses. Those reasons seemed to fall into four broad categories, with some inter-connectedness between them.

The smallest category I'll call: **"logistical problems of folks attending"**. In this category were all the folks who had to work when events were happening, who couldn't get to events for lack of transport, who simply had other things already planned during

PRIDE week, or who thought it was too far to travel to Bangor.

The next most frequently cited category I'll call: **"troubles with Northern Maine PRIDE"**. A few of the complaints here said that NMP was poorly organized, but most of the complaints in this category said simply that there was not enough advertising ... that folks simply didn't know what, where, or when things were going on. The FAN was not enough, they thought. They wanted to see detailed ads in the papers, hear detailed ads on the radio, and see fliers and posters ... and lots of them.

The second largest category is what I'll call: **"homophobia and non-acceptance"**. In this category are all the folks who either felt that Bangor was an unfriendly and unaccepting place for GLBT people and/or who felt that Portland was more friendly and accepting. Most folks in this category (even some of those who professed to be "out") were fearful, to at least some degree, of publicly presenting their queer status. Some folks mentioned internalized-homophobia in the local GLBT community and a perceived lack of acceptance of the diversity within the GLBT community. There was also a perception that straight allies were not appreciated and welcomed.

The largest category I'll call: **"it doesn't meet my needs."** In this category were all the folks who (mostly based on attending past Northern Maine PRIDE events) felt the events would be unappealing because of low attendance, who felt the events would not be "entertaining" enough, who wanted to meet new people, who felt that those people who did show up were unfriendly, or who thought the whole PRIDE thing had become too political. All these folks either stated that Bangor did not have enough appeal or that Portland had more appeal.

I realize that as you read this you haven't seen the actual responses, so you can't have a feel for all the nuances contained in them; but can we gather anything from all of this? Well, after some thought, this is what **I** gather: that being an "out and proud" rural GLBT person is fundamentally different from being an "out and proud" urban GLBT person.

First of all, it seems clear that being "out" is a relative thing. Most folks who consider themselves "out" are usually not actually out to everyone. Their parents or family may not know, they may be out to everyone except their co-workers, or they may even be openly sharing a house and a life with a same-sex partner and yet never utter the words "I am gay" or "I am lesbian" to any of their straight friends. Even those folks who claim to be completely out (myself included), still usually don't introduce themselves to strangers by saying: "Hi, I'm Paul, and I'm gay."

Being "proud" is also relative. Some GLBT folks may think that they have more pride than others because they walk in a large, public parade and carry a sign once each year announcing to the world what their sexual orientation is. But who will argue that that action, done in the safety of large numbers and in a place where one can afterwards melt anonymously back into the population of the city, is more proud than the individuals or same-sex couples who quietly (but authentically and openly) live their GLBT lives 365 days a year in Maine's many small towns, where everyone knows them and knows where they are?

I think the word "anonymity" here is very important and meaningful because *my* perception is that what generally makes the big city more accepting of most minorities, including the GLBT community, is the very real sense of anonymity that a large population provides. In most instances, even if you are completely out to all your friends, neighbors, and co-workers in a city, you are still anonymous to the rest of the city's population, including those city folks (and we know they exist) who are homophobic and non-accepting of GLBT individuals. Remember, "out" is a relative thing. Even those city-dwellers who are completely out to their circle of 100 or 200 or even 300 friends, seldom purchase a full-page ad in the city newspaper with their photo, name, and address announcing "I AM GAY" or "I AM LESBIAN".

Is that generalization absolute? Of course not. There are still GLBT individuals in the cities who get themselves into trouble, and we read about them in the newspapers. And there are also the well-known GLBT "celebrities" whose money (in many cases) allows them to provide themselves with substitute safety buffers when the buffer of anonymity falls aside.

Being a rural, small-town person, on the other hand, is a little like living on a submarine. You live in a small area where everyone knows you and everyone knows where you are, and it's not unusual for everyone to know a variety of details about your personal life. I don't think I know any rural, small-town people (of any persuasion) who live rural lives because they have to ... they live where they live because they want to. Like all the sailors who sign-on to live on a submarine, rural folks know that certain adjustments and allowances and protocols have to be made so that everyone can get along together and so that the crew doesn't go stir-crazy. Even if you hate guns and snowmobiles, you allow your neighbors to hunt once-a-year on your property (as long as they do it safely) and you allow them to run their sleds on your land (as long as they stay within certain boundaries). Your neighbors do the same for you. Your born-again Christian neighbor will probably still accept a jump-start from GLBT-you when it's 20-below and he (or she) can't get the car started. And you'll probably still accept the same from them.

Every rural, small-town person (and that includes GLBT persons) needs to "accommodate" in some ways. Those ways will vary from town to town, and each local GLBT person should have a feel for what the local needs are; but if someone is really a part of their community (and not just a misanthrope hiding out in the woods), then those local protocols will usually allow you to lead your GLBT life in an authentic, out, and proud manner.

Would it be out and proud the way the city thinks is out and proud? Of course not, and I believe *that's* where we really have the seat of our problem. Someone somewhere (probably in a city) decided that everyone's PRIDE celebration should look basically

the same, and that everyone should be "out" in the same way. But the city version of PRIDE is simply not going to work in rural areas. Asking rural, small-town folks to produce a "city" PRIDE would be akin to asking American Jews to show their patriotism by celebrating Christmas. What we rural folks haven't realized is that we need something different because our experience of PRIDE is something different. We've just been trying to copy Portland, or Boston, or New York, and then we can't understand why no one shows up ... or why many who do show up end up feeling uncomfortable about the whole thing. I don't think it's who we are. I think we need something completely different, something crafted to our needs, and something which takes into account the "accommodations" that we, as rural people (who just happen to be GLBT) are familiar and comfortable with.

Those are *my* thoughts anyway, now how about some feedback. Am I on the mark, or am I just plain crazy? What do you think? Send me your responses and I'll put them all in the next FAN.

And if you want to see what everyone actually said in response to the poll, email me and ask for a copy of the responses. I've removed all personally-identifying info from them, so you won't know who said what, but you can still see for yourself what was said.

Jean Vermette
megress@gwi.net

EVENTS (CHANGING):

* **JUL 7 (Saturday),** Bangor. **Memorial Walk for Charlie Howard**. The event starts with a church service at Hammond St. Congregational Church on the corner of Hammond and High Streets. The service will begin at 6:30 pm and the walk will commence around 7:15 pm down Hammond St. to State Street Bridge. Please bring a flower to this event if you can. Important news regarding the Charlie Howard monument will be announced. FMI contact Dan at knead24u@yahoo.com .

* **JUL 8 (Sunday),** Bangor, **Charlie Howard Memorial Service**. The Unitarian-Universalist Church service at 9:00am will be a Charlie Howard memorial service, followed by a march down to the bridge. The UU Church is at 120 Park St, Bangor.

* **JUL 11 (Wednesday),** Bangor, **Gay Guys Group Potluck**, 6:30 pm. This month's potluck will be hosted by Mark and Roger at their beautiful home in Bangor (166 Webster Ave). FMI email Wayne at wayne@mrlanguage.com or phone Roger at 907-0224.

* **JUL 11 (Wednesday)** Bangor, **Maine Eat-Out Project**, 6:30 pm. Join our group for dinner at different area restaurants. Reservations are needed. The July MEOP will be held at UNO's Chicago Grill (near the Bangor Mall...within view of Sears and Borders). FMI and/or to reserve contact Jean at 862-2063 or email megress@gwi.net no later than Tuesday July 10th.

* **JUL 15 (Sunday)** Bangor, **Le Salon Du Somerset**, 4 - 6 pm, Chris & Jean's monthly, ever-changing event. It ranges from the silly to the serious, the arts to the sciences, politics to philosophy, history to histrionics, and all areas in between. The July Salon will be our second annual ice cream social on the porch. Reservations are needed and will be limited to 10 people. We will supply the bowls, spoons, chairs, and ICE CREAM. Each guest brings some of their favorite ice cream topping. FMI and/or to reserve, contact Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@gwi.net

* **JUL 26-29 (Thursday-Sunday),** Baxter State Park, **GLBTI mid-summer camping trip**. Come to Maine's primitive and pristine Baxter State Park for this mid-summer trip. Tent sites have been reserved for July 26-29 (3 nights) at South Branch Campgound in the northern end of the Park. From this campground, there are opportunities for easy/moderate hikes (Howe Brook Trail, South Branch Mountain, Pogy Notch Trail) as well as more strenuous hikes (North Traveler, Center Ridge, or the new Traveler Loop, a 10+ mile hike with awesome views –every bit as challenging as climbing Mt. Katahdin, further to the south), as well as canoeing and/or kayaking on South Branch Ponds. Canoes are available to rent for $1.00/hour or $8.00/day. There are 3 tent sites available, and there can be 2 tents per site. (Total capacity for the 3 sites: up to 12 people, maximum 6 tents.) Space at Baxter State Park is at a premium, so please try to "tent-pool" to maximize the number to people to enjoy this trip! Fee: $30 per person. I will keep a waiting list after this trip fills up. I need to receive your fee to hold your spot. Fore more information contact Mike at: mikeondavispond@yahoo.com

EVENTS (ONGOING):

BANGOR OUTRIGHT. Every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month. Bangor, meets at Eastern Maine AIDS Network, 6-8 pm. (For GLBTQI youths ages 22 and under and allies.) FMI call Mark at 990-3626 or check the web site at http://outright-bangor.org/default.aspx

FIRST FRIDAY LESBIAN POTLUCK. First Friday of every month. Belfast, Starts around 6 pm at Virginia's place in downtown Belfast. FMI and/or directions contact Virginia at 322-5308 or email her at vathrockmorton@mac.com

GAY GUYS GROUP (GGG) POTLUCK DINNER. Every 2nd Wednesday of the month. Ellsworth Area, 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

NATIVE AMERICAN TWO SPIRITED SUPPORT/FRIENDSHIP GROUP. Every Wednesday. Bangor, 6-8 PM, at the Hammond St. Congregational Church, 28 High St. This group is open to all of the Two Spirited community. Our mission is to provide a vibrant and healthful community for Two Spirited by offering them social opportunities, health education, and alternatives to the bar-scene. We **Also do confidential free HIV testing.** Native American Two Spirited will give Two Spirited individuals a community where they will be more connected, less isolated, supported, and accepted. Meets every Wednesday. so why not stop by and say hi. we have potluck dinners, movie nights, discussion, etc. the list goes on. FMI contact Rob at 990-0605 Ext. 5510 OR 1-877-776-8322 ext. 5510. Or you can e-mail nativeglbti@wmconnect.com

OUTRAGEOUSLY SUPPORTIVE. Every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Bangor, for GLBTQ youth (age 18 - 25) and their friends. Meets from 6:00 - 8:00 pm, at Eastern Maine AIDS Network at 370 Harlow St. FMI contact Mark at 990-3626 or check the web site at http://outright-bangor.org/default.aspx

RAINBOW FELLOWSHIP. Third Saturday of each month. Bangor, This gathering is open to the GLBTI community and straight allies. It is under the aupices of the very GLBT-welcoming Hammond St Congregational Church. While it usually consists of a potluck dinner at someone's home, there have also been gaming nights and other activities. Persons who are interested should call the church at 942-4381 for details of time and place.

STUDENTS FOR AIDS FACTS AND EDUCATION RESOURCES (SAFER). Every Thursday. Bangor, meets from 3 - 5 p.m. at the Eastern Maine AIDS Network (EMAN) on Harlow St. The group is for any high school student from the ages of 14 to 18 yrs. old with questions about HIV/AIDS. We have group check ins, group discussion, watch movies, snacks. GLBT friendly. FMI and any questions call 990-3626 and ask for Mark.

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@gwi.net or at 862-2063.

DOLLS:

Santa Andujar
Santa's Boriqua Dolls
Brewer, ME 04412
ph: 207-989-3465
email: owlz_moon@yahoo.com
web: http://myweb.ecomplanet.com/SABD1383/
I make traditionally dressed (circa 17-18th century) Puerto Rican dolls. Originally designed and sewn.

GLBT CLERGY:

Rev. Al Boyce
370 Harlow St
Bangor, Maine 04402
ph: 207-990-3626
email: revalb@yahoo.com
I am an openly gay Unitarian Universalist minister available to perform commitment ceremonies for members of the LGBT community. I currently work as Clinical Director at Eastern Maine AIDS Network and maintain my clergy credentials while speaking frequently for parishes across the state. I have twenty years experience in helping LGBT couples create that unique ceremony that reflects their personalities and relationship. Just call for free consult regarding your ceremony.

(information change for this listing)
HOME SERVICES:
PET SERVICES:

Amy Damboise
Pet & House Sitter
PO Box 1191
Southwest Harbor, ME 04679
ph: 207-356-0289 = cell
email: adamboise34@hotmail.com

I want to provide you with someone to watch your animals and home while you are out of town, leaving you with no worries. Normally, I only watch cats and dogs....but I'm very open to caring for birds, gerbils, hamsters and more. I can also take care of plants, mail, trash, and other daily activities in your home. Prices vary depending on animals and length of time. Give me a call and we can discuss what is going to be best for you and your animals.

PERSONALS:

Could I be that special and unique person you're seeking? I'm a 25-year-old, long blonde-hair/blue-eyed, slim/athletic, openminded, intelligent, affectionate attractive mtf feminine transgendered lesbian in the southern Maine area seeking an openminded feminine lesbian or bisexual female. I'm currently professionally employed as an engineer. I plan to start Graduate School in the Fall for engineering. I'm into martial arts, staying fit, watching movies, going out dancing, cuddling with someone special, outdoor activities, and trying new things. So if you're looking for someone a little different, feel free to send me a message! Email gender_blender@excite.com

50 yr old transgendered M2F looking for that special someone to hang with, go shopping with, and just have fun with. Must like children as I have a daughter that lives with me. If interested, please email me at mellanie462004@yahoo.com. I will answer all inquiries.

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.

TREADMILL FOR SALE. NordicTrack C2200 spacesaver treadmill. Multiple speeds/programs, 2 speed fan, iFIT compatible, soft step, wide belt, cardio grips, safety key. Excellent machine in great condition. $450 Call Maggie at 338-2439 Belfast.

FOR SALE, Digital Photo Printer, with software and cable. $10. FMI contact Stephanie at sreiser@tds.net

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

House-share or house-sitting situation wanted. Somewhere between Belfast and Machias. Nature-loving lesbian with two older dogs would like to be closer to the ocean. We are all very sweet, clean, and well-behaved! Seeking an affordable place to be my sacred space. Excellent references. Contact Eileen at (207) 441-2785 or hearme@natisp.com

Belfast, a variety of downtown offerings to rent. Contact Virginia at vathrockmorton@mac.com OR at 338-1729.

Dexter, house share. Lesbian homeowner mid 40's looking for the right person for a house share. Two story, 2-bedroom, full basement, large front porch, backyard, in-town. Rent negotiable for help with minor cosmetic home improvements. Smoker ok, pets ?, no cats as a parrot rules the roost, therefore must like birds. e-mail Lauri xgdd@earthlink.net, be sure to put "rental" in the subject line as I have High security spam block.

Durham, house mate wanted (close to Freeport). M/F House mate wanted...basement apartment...have your OWN private (semi-furnished) bedroom, large living space (cable TV), & bathroom...share kitchen....No dogs...cats OK. $600/month...includes every thing. Call Lou at 353-6536 or irishgreen4222@yahoo.com

Lincolnville, house for rent. Weekly or monthly summer rental of a beautiful, three bedroom, restored cape located in Lincolnville near public ocean beaches. Check out the house at www.lincolnvillerealestate.net (click on the "vacation rental" icon). FMI contact Dwight at campmee@yahoo.com or by phone at 207-763-4849.

Portland, house for rent. Clean, bright cape wth 2 bedrooms and 1 bath upstairs; living room, kitchen, and dining room (complete with upright piano) downstairs; and full basement with washer/dryer. One-car garage and huge yard just ready for your green thumb complete the picture. House is on a dirt road off of outer Brighton Avenue in Portland, so you're close to everything and right on the bus line, but feels like you're in rural Maine. Pets welcome, and there's even a dog run in the backyard. $1350/month, price negotiable to the right responsible tenant. Photos available. Email Erica at quineast@hotmail.com or call 773-3023 for more information. (Erica Quin-Easter)

Rockland, one-bedroom apt/Professional space for rent. Main Street/downtown. 2nd floor/rear, quiet, one bedroom apartment. Would also make an excellent design studio/professional space--great North light. Located on the harbor side of Main

Street, next to the ferry terminal. This is a GLBTIA-friendly arts-focused building (our gallery and studio are in the building). Apartment just completely repainted, new windows, hardwood floors, two large closets, claw-foot soaking tub(w/shower), new kitchen range. High-speed internet is available at a reduced rate for our tenants. Apartment has direct access to a new, spacious, 12'x35' deck overlooking Lermond Cove (five historic schooners are scheduled to be berthed there in the Spring) and the marinas. Rear entrance w/hallway off deck (in addition to Main St. entrance). No-smoking. No dogs. Well behaved cat welcomed. Off-street parking, rubbish service, heat/water/sewer included. Lease/security/references. $675 month. FMI contact Virginia at vslawson@midcoast.com

GLBTI COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS:

Bridging The Gap provides no-cost clinical breast exams, mammograms, breast ultrasounds, and other breast health services to women (including lesbian, bi, and trans women) age 20 to 29 who have a symptom of concern and age 30 to 39 who have a symptom of concern or a family history of breast cancer. FMI and to see if you qualify contact Robin at Bridging The Gap at 941-2808.

Caring Connections provides no-cost mammograms and Pap tests to women (including lesbian, bi, and trans women) age 40 to 64 who meet income guidelines and dont have insurance to cover breast and cervical health services. FMI contact Robin at Caring Connections at 941-2808.

Connections! Gay or Bisexual male in Maine? On your own and not getting any younger? Want to be connected by phone with other mature gay men in Maine? Network for conversation, companionship, connections for support, help in recovery from medical treatment, ice storms or accidents. Call or be called or both. If you know of anyone who may not see this message, for the sake of community pass this information on. Even slight connections among people raise our spirits. To find out more call Peter (in confidence) at 207-348-2212 between 9AM and 8PM.

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

(GLAD) Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders. To learn about and protect your rights under Maine's anti-discrimination law, visit GLAD's website at www.glad.org or call the free legal hotline at 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.

(GLSEN) Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network. 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

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 inspriational 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

Lesbian Radio. A feminist weekly hour and a half-hour radio magazine show with music, news, creative explorations, humor and interviews for women and lesbians. With a focus on local and regional lesbian and women's issues, lesbian radio also brings you national and international people and issues of interest. Hosts Virginia Throckmorton, Jen Hodsdon and Katie Diamond talk with intriguing Maine lesbians, take on political topics, and provide a forum for area activists, writers and artists while offering the best

in women's music. Thursday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:00 PM on Portland radio station WMPG 90.9 FM and at 104.1 FM or listen online at www.wmpg.org.
JenHodsdonKateClintonStephBarrettDoryCoteHardyGirlsandHealthyWomenEqualityMaineMaryDailyUglyDucklings FeministMajorityNewsWomen'sSpaceFeministingHumorAnnouncementsandConnectionsGLBTMichiganWomen'sFestival LesbianChefCookingClassChoiceAgainstViolenceAgainstWomenandmore.

Living Queer Here! A locally-produced radio show aired on station WERU. An exploration into the full range of life created and experienced by the queer community in Maine. Hosted by Gail Mackinson & Cindy Montgomery. The show airs on the 4th Thursday of each month 10-11 am. WERU broadcasts in the greater Blue Hill area on frequency 89.9 FM, in the Bangor area on frequency 102.9 FM, and streams on the web at www.weru.org . WERU also broadcasts the nationally syndicated GLBTI show: **This Way Out** every Wednesday afternoon from 4 - 4:30 pm.

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 Breast and Cervical Health Program, offers no-cost mammograms, pap tests, and gynecological exams to qualifying Maine women (regardless of sexual orientation). If you are a woman in Maine and you are due for a Pap test or mammogram, help is just a phone call away. The Maine Breast and Cervical Health Program can help you get the health care you deserve. If you are a Maine woman over 40, have little or no insurance and meet certain income guidelines then you may be eligible for no-cost mammograms, Pap tests, and gynecological exams at your choice of participating area providers. Call today to see if you qualify, 1-800-350-5180. (TTY 1-800-438-5514) The best protection is early detection!

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 schedule a speaker or to arrange a volunteer training, contact Jen Hodsdon 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. 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

(PFLAG) Parent's, Family, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 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 martyrnc@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. (AUGUSTA) An organization 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. (BRUNSWICK TO PORTLAND COASTAL AREA) A women's social group that holds dances, BBQs, softball, camping, potlucks, etc. FMI about their activities you can join their yahoo group site (they have an events calendar) at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/coastalwomensconnection . Click on request to join and mention that you are a lesbian and would like to join. Request will be approved as soon as a moderator gets it. You can also see their web site at

www.coastalwomensconnection.com

Just Guys. (AUGUSTA) 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 judgement. 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

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

Northern Lambda Nord. (AROOSTOOK COUNTY) A GLBTQ social group that hosts a monthly BBQ or potluck gathering. Location varies within the central Aroostook County area. Open to all gay, lesbian, bi, trans and questioning folks (and their friends & supporters). FMI and/or directions contact Kent at 538-7630 or Northen Lambda Nord at 425-4088 or email northernlambdanord@verizon.net . You can also ask to get on their e-newsletter mailing list.

Out!...As I Want To Be. (ROCKLAND) An organization 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, transgender, queer, and questioning youth in Lincoln, Knox, and Waldo counties and their offshore islands. We meet in Rockland at 501 Main Street (the building just before the Ferry Terminal), suite #3 (2nd floor) every Wed.5-8pm, and Fri. evenings/6-9pm, FMI, contact Lis at 632-4797 or email outmaine@yahoo.com . Check the web site at www.outasiwanttobe.org

Portland Lesbian Coffee House. (PORTLAND) Join our community of women to talk about books, politics, music, raising children or the wacky thing that happened on the latest episode of The L Word. All stripes of the tribe welcome. This is a social group that includes women of all ages and statuses. You can check it out on the web at http://lgbtfriends.meetup.com/78/ . FMI about dates, times, location contact Maura at mmckenney2@maine.rr.com

PRYSM (Proud Rainbow Youth Of Southern Maine) (PORTLAND) An organization that provides safe and supportive community for youth 22 and under who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and their allies (LGBTQA). Drop-in groups are every Tuesday from 6-9 pm, and the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month from 6-9pm. Located at 43 Baxter Blvd., 2nd floor. Also provide outreach, phone & email support; community education, leadership development, safer-sex/HIV prevention education, and connections to community resources and LGBTQ youth case management. Volunteer opportunities available! FMI call 874-1022 or email prysm@commcc.org

Seacoast Sapphos (PORTLAND TO PORTSMOUTH) A women's social group that sponsors 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

SOLO-n-Friends. (BATH TO DAMARISCOTTA AREA) 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. 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/

Trans_Port_Me (PORTLAND) This is a Trans-support group for people who identify transgender. Both M2F and F2M are welcome. We are located in downtown Portland and meet on a monthly basis in a safe location. A screening and interview process is in place to insure security and descretion. Admission to this group is by invitation only. The group host and moderator is Gail, but this is YOUR support group so the more input, involvement, and participation you provide the better. Internet support is fine but person to person support, validation and interaction with people who are like us can have a profound affect on our overall wellbeing and sense of self. Meetings are held the 4th Saturday of the Month, at 1 Pleasant St in Portland, ME. Call 207-233-8157 on meeting days (between 12 noon and 5 pm) for details. FMI and/or to join the online information group contact Gail at g_g_moreau@yahoo.com

Yankee Boyz. (AUBURN) A social/support group for those born female, or intersex, and which female and/or "woman" as an identity does not fit. Female-to-male Transsexuals, Transgenderists, Crossdressers, TG Butches, Stonebutches and otherwise very masculine identified female "guys" and their SOFFA'S (significant other, friend, family, allies) are welcome. All sexual orientations are welcome. A place to share ideas and experiences in an atmosphere where we do not have to fight for validation. Meets monthly Sept - June (1st or 2nd Sunday of the month...call ahead to verify). Meetings are held at the U.U. Church in Auburn. FMI contact PJ at pjmears@megalink.net or call 783-4630.

WEB BASED MAINE GLBT LISTSERVES & EMAIL LISTS:

Gay in Maine. An interesting little web site with separate chat rooms for men and women. Some parts seem to be updated daily, other parts (some of the links) not for years. www.gayinmaine.com

Maine Gay Men's Weekly News Letter is an email newsletter focusing on organizations and activities in southern Maine. It is primarily for gay men, but they do include some general GLBT activities info and links to various GLBT organizations around the state. FMI, to see a sample copy, or to be added to their mailing list, send Joe an email at cascogays@gmail.com with your request.

Maine Gaynet. One of Maine's longest running listserves for the GLBT community. Get all the info and/or join by going to www.mainegaynet.com

Maine Gay Outdoor Network Events (MEGONE) is a yahoo group site/email list for Maine's GLBT? folks (& friends) for posting announcements of outdoor related events. It's not a formal club or organization–just an informal way to let folks know about outdoor activities that they might like to participate in–whether it's a hike, a paddle, camping trip, nature walk, or even a downtown shopping walk—it's up to you. This is not meant to compete with other groups such as the Chiltern Club–it's just an idea that some of us came up with on a recent trip to Baxter State Park :-) So, if you'd like some company the next time you take a hike, go on a bike ride, paddle, etc., just send an email to megone@yahoogroups.com to let members know the details. To join the group, go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/megone/ Please pass the word along to other gay-related lists/groups–the more people who join, the more opportunities there will be for connecting with like-minded folks for some great outdoor fun. Right now, the membership is "open" to anyone who would like to join....however, if we have any problems with folks who are not gay-friendly, I may change it to a process requiring membership approval. Also, people posting should use discretion regarding publicly posting time/place to meet–you may want to simply say "anyone intersted in details, please email me at _____, or call me at _____ " Any questions? let me know! (mikeondavispond@yahoo.com)

Maine Lesbians listserve Anyone who identifies as a lesbian is welcome to join. The website address is: http://groups.google.com/group/maine-lesbians Women can request to join from the website or email me: patput@midcoast.com

Proud Lesbians of Poverty We seek people to join the group as we explore ways to improve the civil rights of GLBTQ's of poverty who cannot afford a lawyer to enforce their Gay Civil Rights, or their orginial Human Rights as a person. We are open to all people of any background. FMI contact Jan at janshouse@yahoo.com or phone 207-453-2353 or join the yahoo group at http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/ProudLesbians/

Rubyfruit Cafe. A Maine-based, on-line, lesbian virtual community. Rubyfruit Cafe is a lesbian community magazine designed to showcase our lives, creativity, spirituality, politics, and much more. It is a website that will be driven by your submissions, your music, poetry, videos, photos, and stories. Show us where and how you live (show us your "crib") ... Tell us about your spirituality ... what you think politically and poetically ... sing your song or show us your garden ... share your lives, ideas and hopes with each other. If you find an interesting article, website, product, or new talent, let us hear about it. I want to create a fun, creative, supportive, environment for everyone to relax and just enjoy each other ... to take pleasure in our diversity and talents ... a place of tolerance and celebration. www.rubyfruitcafe.com

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

All communications to FAMILY AFFAIRS should be sent to megress@gwi.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, sent out on the 1st and 15th of each month. It is covers a 50 mile radius around Bangor and also Aroostook and Washington counties.

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.