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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 SEPTEMBER 2007

NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

(NEWS #1:) There will be no Oct 15 issue of The FAN. I will be on my annual vacation at that time. So, if you have any notices or announcements for events that will be taking place between October 1st and November 15th, you should get those to me no later than September 29th in order to get them into the Oct 1 issue.

(NEWS #2:) Results of the most recent FAN poll and **news of an experiment** I'm going to try with The FAN. See the ANNOUNCEMENTS category below.

(NEWS #3:) The very long-running web sites **Maine GayNet** and **Gay In Maine** have recently closed down. I, personally, would like to thank Paula for the many years she spent voluntarily maintaining those sites and the Maine GayNet listserve for the community. I am told that the Maine GayNet email listserve is still up and running (with a new moderator). To join the Maine GayNet listserve, send the following command in the body of a message to majordomo@groups.queernet.org: subscribe me-gaynet youremailaddress

(NEWS #4:) OCT 25-28 (Thursday-Sunday), Lincolnville, **MAKE BEAUTIFUL TRIBE**. A weekend retreat offering the opportunity to live in an intentional gay male community produced by, and for, participants to celebrate our unique wisdom and diversity. It's an event for men to get to know each other, have fun, build community, hang out, network, and explore being gay or bi in an attitude-free safe space. Situated in a wooded, rustic setting, the Tanglewood 4-H Camp provides a wonderful place for us to hold our gathering! Our gathering weekend format is open, which means you pick and choose what you would like to do. Have fun celebrating our diversity. For more information and to be added to the mailing list, please contact Jim at bangoremail@yahoo.com

(NOTES #1:) Gay Men Together (GMT), Sept 27 - 30. A twice-a-year gathering of gay men at a wonderful turn-of-the-century lodge, located in W Gardiner. GMT was formed by a group of gay men, feeling a need to do "community" work, moving into the 21st century having dealt with such a devastating disease as AIDS for fifteen years which took all, and even more of our energy. GMT has been very successful. We hold approximately twenty different workshops at each retreat, some with laughter, some with tears and all are led by participants. The GMT week-end is an open format, which means you pick and choose what you would like to do for the week-end. All work is done by participant-volunteers. We ask each participant to volunteer for at least one work assignment for the weekend. Numbers are limited. FMI check the web site at www.gaymentogether.net

(NOTES #2:) The Howard Foundation will hold a benefit Harvest Dinner on Sunday, OCT 21 at the Clewley Farm & Restaurant on Rt. 9 in Eddington. There will be two seatings for this semi-formal event: 5:00 PM and 7:30 PM (Please allow 2 hours per seating). The event will include live music and a 5 course dinner. Non-alcoholic drink options are available, and their new bar will be open for cocktails. Meal Choices will be: 1. Roast Prime Rib of Beef with Popover 2. Baked Half Chicken with Herb Dressing 3. Roast Pork with Apple Rings 4. Vegetarian Lasagna. Dessert will be a choice of seasonal pies with cinnamon ice cream. **This event is by reservation only** (sorry, no tickets available at the door), and seating is limited, so reserve early. You can reserve your seating by a credit card or check paid in full by October 15th. All "no shows" will forfeit their ticket. Price is $35.00 per person (A 7% tax and 18% service charge not included) FMI or to reserve, call Dan at 942-9319 or 461-2213.

(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. Results of the most recent FAN poll. I know I told folks you'd have until SEP 9 to respond to the poll question: *" Do you want me to forward to you the notices about events just as they are sent to me from the various GLBT organizations? "*, but to be honest with you, responses have now trickled down to nothing and the results are so clear that I'm going to cut it off and report to you now. By a margin of 3.5 to 1 you said "no" to receiving forwarded event notices in between the regularly-scheduled issues of The FAN. So, I will not be sending them.

2. Now for the experiment I'm going to try. It has been pointed out to me by more than one individual and more than one organization that, as nice as The FAN is, its appearance lacks a certain panache and is, quite frankly, a little stodgy. I agree. Unfortunately, I don't have the time and energy to try to "liven-up" its appearance. So, after chatting with some folks about possible ways to attack the problem, we came up with an idea for an experiment. This is how the experiment will work: For the next four issues of The FAN (SEP 15, OCT 1, NOV 1 & 15) I will allow folks who want to "enhance" the notices that they post to do so.

"Enhancement" can take the form of different fonts, different colors, graphics, and/or different spacing. If you wish to do an enhanced posting, it must meet the following requirements:
1. No video, audio, photographs, or animation will be allowed.
2. If printed out, it must not take up more than a single 8.5 by 11 inch sheet of paper. (although, for best results, my suggestion would be that it ought not to take up more than a single computer screen)
3. I must get it in a format that I can simply cut and paste into the newsletter ... if it takes more than 5 clicks for me to put it where it needs to go, it will not be put in. (So it would be best to send your posting in the body of an email, not as an attachment.)

After we have experimented with this potential format change for the next four issues of The FAN, I will then do another poll of the readership to see how everyone feels about it. If you all like it, we'll keep it. If you don't like it, it will go. So now folks, be creative and show us what you're made of. :-)

3. LGBTQ Symposium 2007. The Maine Community Foundation - Equity Fund is pleased to announce plans for the LGBTQ Symposium 2007: Strengthening Community, Building Alliances. The Symposium will be held at the Samoset Resort in Rockport, Maine on November 17, 2007 (8:45 am - 4:30 pm).

The 2007 Symposium design is based on feedback received during outreach sessions conducted across Maine in the spring of 2007. The outreach sessions indicated that there is a strong desire to strengthen connections within the statewide LGBTQ community, to strengthen connections between LGBTQ citizens and those outside the LGBTQ community and finally to strengthen connections and create greater safety for LGBTQ youth. Specific themes being addressed in workshop discussions will be Youth, Aging, Health Care, Safety, Family Issues and Transgender Issues. FMI or to add your name to our distribution list, please contact Helen McCain (207) 761-2440 or hmccain@mainecf.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.*

RE: The Supreme Court Ruling in Favor of Maine's GLBT Families

As most of you know by now, yesterday was an amazing day for LGBT families here in Maine. Thursday's ruling by the Maine Law Court that Ann Courtney and Marilyn Kirby, as a couple, can legally provide a permanent home to two children they have cared for and nurtured the last six years, is truly a cause for celebration. Maine's Law Court ruled that Ann and Marilyn may jointly adopt "M" and "R" because it is in the best interest of the children to remain in the only secure and stable home they have ever known.

This was a beautifully child-focused decision that unequivocally stated what we have always known: that what matters most to children is having parents who are devoted to them and their welfare. **Amazingly, this was decision was unanimous...7-0!!** That's a resoundingly strong statement about a simple but important fact: children in LGBT families deserve the same security, the same care, the same rights as children in non-gay families. LGBT families now have a legal route to establish a legal relationship with both of their children. Remarkably, this ruling marks the first time in Maine's history that a same-sex couple can adopt a child.
Wow. It's a great day, don't you think?

We celebrate this day. And we should be talking about it. And we should be writing about it.

This is a critical opportunity for us to write letters to our local papers, applauding the ruling. Taking a moment to voice our support will send a message to voters, to legislators, to all those who participate in making decisions about our everyday lives. It will send the message that the Maine Law Court did the right, and that it is a cause for celebration. And that we support it, with our whole hearts.

So yeah...it's a holiday weekend. And lots of people will be spending time with our families. Take a moment this weekend to look around at all the different kinds of families you'll bump into. And think about how much better off many of those families are, particularly the children, because of this historic ruling. Think about how that makes you feel. And then find 30 minutes somewhere in your weekend to write it all down. And send those thoughts to your local newspaper. The Maine Court Law deserves to be thanked. The attorneys who worked so hard on this case deserve to be recognized. The family whose case they argued deserve to be congratulated. Write the letter. Send it out. I've even made it easy by posting the links to the major newspapers in the state. (see below) Celebrate what was a truly extraordinary day yesterday. Happy Holidays everyone.

Links to major daily newspaper letters-to-the-editor sections:

Portland Press Herald: http://pressherald.mainetoday.com/pop_contact.html?user=letterstotheeditor&domain=2
Bangor Daily News: letters@bangordailynews.net
Lewiston Sun Journal: http://www.sunjournal.com/contact/lettertoeditor.php
Kennebec Journal/ Morning Sentinel: http://centralmaine.mainetoday.com/readerservices/lettertotheeditor.html
The Times Record (Brunswick): letters@timesrecord.com

Darlene Huntress
Equality Maine
dhuntress@equalitymaine.org

COMMUNITY REPORTERS:

We'd all love to hear how your event, activity, gathering, show, wedding, project, etc went. Any subscriber is welcomed to submit news reports about the going's on in their geographical area (or about GLBTI community events that they have participated in elsewhere). Please keep your reports as concise as possible. Let's keep everyone "in the loop" ! The Maine areas we're presently covering in this category are: Aroostook County, Washington County, Ellsworth/MDI, Bangor, Belfast/Camden, Waterville/Skowhegan, and Dover-Foxcroft.

National Theatre Workshop of the Handicapped Performance Company. (courtesy of Avery) I just wanted to let you know that the NTWH Belfast show (ed note: the "Canteen Show" that was posted in the previous issue of The FAN) went extremely well and we had a great crowd!

Rockland Birthday Party. (courtesy of Frank) On Sunday the 19th of August in Rockland a BBQ birthday party for a friend from Portland was enjoyed . There were 8 members of the local area and a female guest also attend and had a great afternoon of talking and getting reacquainted in each other life. We enjoy life as it is with out all the drama that some add to it.

EVENTS (CHANGING):

* **SEP 15 (Saturday),** Belfast, at 7:00 pm. **A Fabulous Evening with Three Singer/Songwriters.** Join us for a great time with Lynn Deeves, Trina Hamlin, and Martine Lock. This event will be held at the Unitarian Church in Belfast, 37 Miller Street. The doors open at 6:30 pm. Price is $15.00 at the door, no advance sales. Lynn Deeves: Maine-based, Deeves started in rock bands in the 80's and has released 3 solo cds. Lynn has shared stages with Janis Ian, Ferron, Cheryl Wheeler .... "five start stage presence .... this gal's got a set of pipes. Trina Hamlin: soulful harmonica wailings and warm, sultry vocal combined with her native Minnesotan humor and charm. Hamlin tours nationally and has opened for Rickie Lee

Jones and John Hiatt. Martine is an Australian performer who plays solo with enough energy, enthusiasm and talent for a whole band. She has toured with Ani Difranco, Cowboy Junkies and Arlo Gunthrie. FMI and/or directions call Virginia at 338-1729.

* **SEP 18 (Tuesday),** Bangor, **Marriage in Maine: The Way Life Should Be.** 7:00 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church of Bangor, 120 Park Street. Please join the UUSB Welcoming Congregation Committee for a special screening of "The Way Life Should Be: Marriage in Maine" THREE SAME-SEX COUPLES TELL THEIR STORIES In the new video, six born-and-bred Mainers tell the stories of their lives and relationships, and why they want to marry in Maine. They discuss everything from parenting to aging, and how their exclusion from marriage affects their lives legally, emotionally, and socially. Joining us for the evening will be Steve and Jim, one of the couples featured in the video. Following the video there will be a discussion facilitated by Darlene Huntress, Public Policy Director of EqualityMaine. The video is a production of Equality Maine, the Maine Civil Liberties Union, and Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), who worked with Molly O'Neill of Moped Productions. It will be shown throughout the state at churches, college campuses, and house parties. For more information on the DVD, please click here.

* **SEP 19 (Wednesday)** Bangor, **Maine Eat-Out Project**, 6:30 pm. Join our group for dinner at different area restaurants. Reservations are needed. The September MEOP will be at Paddy Murphy's Irish Restaurant (in Market Square in downtown Bangor ... just across the street from the "pretzel fountain"). FMI and/or to reserve, contact Jean at 862-2063 or email megress@gwi.net no later than Tuesday Sept 18.

* **SEP 24 (Monday),** Lincoln, **No-Cost Women's Health Screening Day,** Free health care is available to women who are between the ages of 40-64, have no or limited health insurance and who meet certain income guidelines (regardless of sexual orientation). Health screenings will include a mammogram, Pap test and clinical breast exam. Pre-registration is required. Please call 1-800-350-5180. Funded by the Maine Breast and Cervical Health Program.

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

LESBIAN RETIREMENT HOME PLANNING MEETING. First Sunday of each month. Belfast, 9 - 11 a.m., Group will meet at Virginia's place in downtown Belfast. FMI and/or directions call 338-1729 or email Gabrielle at gabrielle@prexar.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 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.

no listings this issue

PERSONALS:

no listings this issue

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.

no listings this issue

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

Ellsworth, house-Sharing. I am looking for four amiable men to share a beautiful Federal-style house in Ellsworth. There are four bedrooms, two and a half baths, four fireplaces, a four man hot tub, and lots of driveway and gardening space. From the front door one can easily walk to restaurants, galleries, theater etc. The back door leads to the woods. In addition to the living room, dining room and kitchen, there is a first floor fireplaced bed /sitting room that can be used as common area when I am not in residence (most of the time these days). Rooms, available from August 15th, are $500 including utilities. Leases are month to month , renewable if everyone gets along. If you'd like to see photos of the place, email me and I'll send them along. Please call Woody at (401) 533-4772 or email jw.woodworth@gmail.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.

Orono, Room for rent. Family home with one adult and two elementary school age children. The house is a short walk to Main Street bus stop. Quarter mile from Mills Street and a half mile from UM campus. Renter shares bathroom with children. $400/month, utilities included. FMI call Laurie at 866-7008 or email laurie@maine.edu

Otis, Roomate Wanted. Female seeking same for roomate. Room is very small but very affordable. The room is furnished, with only a twin bed, and storage for clothing. There is only room for perhaps your TV and computer. The place is cozy in a campy kind of way, near Beech Hill Pond. Located in a quiet rural area 20 minutes to Ellsworth, 25 minutes to Bangor.

There's a small circle of gay women in the neighborhood. $300/month includes everything. Perfect for someone in transition. So, If you're looking for affordable, give me a call. Lynn at 537-3366 or at 460-1376 or by email at lucky62365@aol.com

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.

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.

(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@roadrunner.com 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 social group for men who have sex with men meets every Wednesday at the **just guys** 1950's library café, second floor, 9 Green St, in Augusta. We work to create a safe, welcoming space free of attitude, ego, gossip, labels, or judgment. Drop in for casual chat, cookies, and coffee Wednesday any time from 5:30 to 7:00. The regular weekly meetings are 7-8:30. The night's activities can include discussions, games, guest speakers, or movies, and always fun snacks. Join us, bring a friend, come share! Free, anonymous, 20-minute rapid oral test is available with appointment anytime. 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/

Thrive (PORTLAND AREA). Our mission is to provide a vibrant and healthful community for gay-identified men and MSM by offering them social opportunities, health education and alternatives to the bar-scene and on-line hook-ups. Thrive sponsors a variety of low-key social events like coffee houses and movie nights. By directly meeting their needs, Thrive gives gay men a community where they will be more connected, less isolated, supported and accepted. Our goal is to make Portland, ME a great place to thrive. FMI call 233-9364 or email thrive@portlandmaine.gov or check the web site at www.thrivemaine.com .

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@roadrunner.com or call 783-4630.

WEB BASED MAINE GLBT LISTSERVES & EMAIL LISTS:

Deserve to Know. A web site sponsored by The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention which features community resources for men who have sex with men (MSM) and all who are working to prevent the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STD) in Maine. This interactive Web site features a community calendar, HIV testing sites, and other helpful information. D2K will provides an anonymous and friendly place to browse information about HIV, HIV testing and men's health issues. It also features local and national news and information geared toward the MSM community. Check it out at www.deservetoknowme.org

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 Listserve. A long-running listserve for the Maine GLBTQ community which allows members to post notices, opinions, etc. (in a broadcast manner) to everyone else on the listserve. To join the Maine GayNet listserve, send the following command in the body of a message to majordomo@groups.queernet.org: subscribe me-gaynet youremailaddress

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

Maine-Motorcycle-Women. Family member Vicky has set up a group on Google for women motorcyclists. Check it out at: http://groups.google.com/group/maine-motorcycle-women?lnk=srg FMI contact Vicky at vrooommaine@yahoo.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.