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Family Affairs Newsletter 2008-02-15

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THE (F)AMILY (A)FFAIRS (N)EWSLETTER

FORWARD THIS OR PASS IT AROUND
TO AS MANY GLBTI-FAMILY MEMBERS AS POSSIBLE.
THE MORE FOLKS WHO TAKE PART, THE BETTER.

15 FEBRUARY 2008

NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

(NEWS #1:) I've become aware of a new (to me) web site: www.gaymaine.com. It bills itself as the lesbian and gay directory for gay-owned and gay-friendly places in Maine: Bars, clubs, hotels, guesthouses, restaurants, and more!

(NEWS #2:) Word comes to me that Central Maine Outright (which had been connected with Dayspring in Augusta), is now defunct.

(NEWS #3:) **First Annual Rainbow Ball** ... a formal prom event Down East for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Allied students of Maine (and non-student community members as well?)... see the ANNOUNCEMENTS category.

(REMINDERS #1:) **RBPA Scholarship Fund Seeks Applicants.** The Rainbow Business and Professional Association (RBPA) Scholarship Fund will grant scholarships for the eleventh year in May 2008. The mission of the Scholarship Fund is to promote positive role models for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals in an academic environment and community at large, to recognize and foster diversity and to reward and support sensitivity to human rights. The scholarship is granted to deserving Maine individuals who are planning to further their education in a four-year college, two-year college or trade school.

The RBPA Scholarship Fund was established in 1997. From the first award of \$500 in 1998, the Scholarship Fund has grown steadily, and in 2007 granted two students scholarships of \$3000 each. In 2005, the Scholarship Fund achieved a long sought after goal by establishing an endowment fund with an initial deposit of \$10,000 and an additional deposit of \$10,000 added in 2007. This endowment fund will enable Scholarships to be awarded to worthy students for years to come. It is a tribute to the support received from the RBPA membership and the LGBT Community.

The Scholarship Committee of RBPA will be accepting applications through March 15, 2008. Recipients are selected by the committee who review the essay applications. The awards banquet will be held on May 14, 2008 at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland. Application forms may be downloaded or completed online at www.rbpa.org. Any questions regarding the application process, contact Chairperson Sue Davis at shdavis1953@aol.com or 883-0227.

(REMINDERS #2:) Family member Medea Steinman is on the "Cool Bangor Coalition" and is hoping that GLBT businesses that provide smart energy solutions will take part in and display their products and/or services at the 14th annual HOPE Festival sponsored by the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine. This year the Festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 19, in the Field House at the University of Maine in Orono, and will feature a Green Expo. Since hundreds of people attend to enjoy the children's programs, live music and dance performances, the Festival is a good opportunity to showcase your enterprise. For information and application forms, contact info@peacectr.org or cpdiebold@yahoo.com. Early registration is recommended.

(REMINDERS #3:) **It Takes a Community to Place a Memorial.** The Bangor City Council unanimously approved the placement of a memorial for Charlie Howard near the Kenduskeag Stream. The memorial will be contemplative in nature with flowers and a bench facing down stream. All the plans have been approved by the city engineer and the Arts and Cultural

Council. A professional architect did work pro bono. In a month you will be able to access pictures and plans of the Charlie Howard Memorial. The inscription on the memorial will read as follows:

" May we, the citizens of Bangor, continue to change the world around us until hatred becomes peacemaking and ignorance becomes understanding. Charlie Howard, an openly gay man, died here at the hands of hatred and ignorance on July 7, 1984."

In the near future, the Charlie Howard Foundation, not to be confused with groups with similar names, will be asking the community to help make this memorial a reality. You will be asked to help with money, plantings, weeding and other odd jobs. We have told the city we will maintain this site. This project truly will take a community to erect, make beautiful and maintain. If you have any questions or would like to start donating money and or time, please contact Sue at sdavies@bts.edu or Deb at dcarney3@roadrunner.com.

(REMINDERS #4:) 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. Job Opening. The THRIVE program of the City of Portland, HHSD, Public Health Division has a job opening for "Community Health Promotion Specialist". The position is part of the HIV/STD Prevention Program. The individual will provide education and social marketing services to members of Portland's Gay male community. FMI about the opening and how to apply, check the web site: <http://www.portlandmaine.gov/jobs.asp#Job%20Opportunities>

2. First Annual Rainbow Ball ... a formal prom event for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Allied students of Maine.

The 100% Society of the University of Maine at Machias will be hosting its First Annual Rainbow Ball on Saturday evening, April 12, 2008. The Rainbow Ball is a formal prom event for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Allied students of Maine. All associated High School and College students are invited to attend this event, which we hope will become a yearly tradition of fun and inclusion. **We are also extending the invitation to any community members who wish to attend a prom.** Ticket prices are as follows:

High School students will pay \$10.00 per person, which includes dorm housing for students and their chaperone on the night of the prom. All others will pay \$15.00 per person or \$20.00 per couple for advanced tickets, or \$20.00 per person, \$25.00 per couple at the door. Dorm housing is also available for college students for an additional fee of \$10.00.

Ticket prices include the Dance, Prom Photos, "Mocktails" (non alcoholic beverages) and Hors D'oeuvres.

Please RSVP any interest in this event by February 24, 2008 in order for us to plan accordingly, with the number of interested students if possible. Send RSVP, Interest and/or Questions to Lois-Ann Kuntz, faculty advisor: lkuntz@maine.edu - please include "Rainbow Ball" in the subject line.

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.*

No one has any opinions this issue.

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.

No one submitted any reports this issue.

EVENTS (CHANGING):

* **FEB 16 (Saturday)** Bangor, **Le Salon Du Somerset**, 5:00 - 9:00 pm, Chris & Jean's, 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 February Salon will be a potluck dinner and a showing of the BBC TV mini-series: **FINGERSMITH**. Plot: Raised in a den of petty thieves, plucky orphan Sue agrees to help a con man defraud and betray an heiress. Plans change when the two women fall in love with each other. Adapted from the novel by Sarah Waters (*Tipping the Velvet*), this is "a tightly plotted tale of lust, deception, and intrigue" - *The Guardian* (U.K.) approx. 180 minutes. Dinner will be from 5 - 6 pm and the movie (with a few breaks) will be from 6 - 9 pm. **Reservations are needed and will be limited to 10 people.** FMI and/or to reserve, contact Jean at 862-2063 or at megress@gwi.net

* **FEB 21 (Thursday)**, Brunswick, 7:00 pm, **Lynn Deeves and Kate Schrock together/one night**. A rare double bill concert opportunity with two veteran Maine songwriters: Kate Schrock and Lynn Deeves. They will be at the Frontier Cafe, Theatre and Gallery, 14 Maine Street (Fort Andross Mill #3). Tickets are \$10 (Limited seating-advance purchase recommended). FMI and/or to reserve call 725-5222. www.lynndeeves.com, www.kateschrock.com

* **FEB 22 - 23 (Friday-Saturday)**, Orono, **The Vagina Monologues**. The University of Maine will be producing the play *The Vagina Monologues* with two shows (Friday and Saturday evenings) at the UMaine Donald P. Corbett building, room 100. Doors open at 7pm each night with the show starting at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$6 for students with an ID and \$8 for non-students. Tickets will be on sale in advance (starting Feb 11th) at the UMaine Student Union as well as at the door the night of the productions. For those who don't know about the *Vagina Monologues*: Eve Ensler traveled the world talking with women about their experiences as women. The result was the *Vagina Monologues* - a play of sorts. "I say vagina because I want people to respond," says Eve. And respond they do—with horror, anger, censure, and sparks of wonder and pleasure. Ensler is on a fervent mission to elevate and celebrate this much mumbled-about body part. She asked hundreds of women of all ages a series of questions about their vaginas (What do you call it? How would you dress it?) that prompt some wondrous answers. Outrageous, funny, poignant, and never dull—you'll be amazed at how much there is to say about this one topic, but then when was the last time anyone had a chance? This is a complete and utter celebration of being female and of female sexuality, as well as a plea to stop violence against women.

* **FEB 23 (Saturday)**, Ellsworth, family member **Chris Rutecki, singer/songwriter**, Guitar/Vocals, will be performing at Calypso's Restaurant (156 Main St) starting at 6:00 pm. Come listen to the acoustic sound with a touch of soul. FMI about the gig call Calypso's at 667-6554. FMI about Chris check out www.myspace.com/chrisrutecki

* **FEB 24 (Sunday)**, Portland, 2 pm. **MaineTransNet is having a meeting** at the Glickman Family Library (USM library) in Portland. We will be discussing our priorities for the year and and sharing ideas for what we can do (and how) to move towards greater gender inclusivity in Maine. (If you've ever bemoaned the lack of trans "resources" in Maine — I have! — this is your chance to discuss what you'd like to see. The more people who get involved, the better chance we have to raise awareness about trans issues in our great state and form a supportive community. FMI about the meeting contact Alex at alex@mainetransnet.org . FMI about Maine TransNet you can check the web site at www.mainetransnet.org .

safe space to share, compare ideas, obtain answers
get support for your concerns, needs, fears and frustrations

just the opposite...

...for negative guys who partner positive guys,
or guys who are considering it.

1st meeting
Tuesday March 4, 2008
7 - 9 PM 9 Green St, Augusta
call 621-3794 for more information

www.justguys.info

* **MAR 8 (Saturday)**, Portland, 8:00 pm, **Singer/Songwriter Jessi Mallory** will be performing live at the Port of Call Lounge, Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland for the Equality Banquet. She will be opening the night for some great comedians! Don't miss this! FMI about Jessi check her web site at www.myspace.com/jessimallory . FMI about the banquet check the Equality Maine web site at www.equalitymaine.org

* **MAR 8 (Saturday)**, Portland, **EqualityMaine Foundation 24th Annual Awards Dinner**, Holiday Inn By The Bay. Cocktail Hour With Music From **Sara Goldenthal & David Clark** 5:30pm - 6:30pm. Dinner & Awards Presentation 6:30pm - 9:00pm. Tickets are \$60.00 (sliding scale of \$30.00 ... at cost ... to \$59.00). To purchase tickets go to www.equalitymaine.org or call us at (207) 761-3732

* **MAR 12 (Wednesday)** Bangor, **Maine Eat-Out Project**, 6:30 pm. Join our group for dinner at different area restaurants. The March Eat-Out will be at Captain Nick's (1165 Union St ... on the right, soon after the airport entrance.) Reservations are needed. FMI and/or to reserve contact Jean at 862-2063 or email megress@gwi.net no later than Tuesday March 11.

EVENTS (ONGOING):

FIRST FRIDAY LESBIAN POTLUCK. First Friday of every month. Belfast, Starts around 6 pm. FMI and/or directions, contact Annie at a.doherty1@verizon.net or call 338-6347.

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

OUTRAGEOUSLY SUPPORTIVE. Every other Thursday. 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. For more information contact Sharon at 207-990-3626 or emanpeer@gwi.net or go to <http://www.outright-bangor.org>.

RAINBOW FELLOWSHIP. Third Saturday of each month. Bangor, This gathering is open to the GLBTI community and straight allies. It is under the auspices 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 Tuesday, meetings held in Bangor, for any high school student from the ages of 14 to 18 yrs. old with questions about HIV/AIDS and/or an interest in peer-education. We have group check-ins, group discussion, watch movies, snacks. GLBTQ friendly. Meets from 3:30 - 5:30pm at Eastern Maine AIDS Network, 370 Harlow St. For more information, contact Joe at 207-990-3626 or jsargent@gwi.net or go to <http://www.outright-bangor.org>

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 March 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.

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Shutter Images

65 Main St

PO Box 1853

Bucksport, ME 04416

ph: 207-469-7741

email: shutterimages@aol.com

web: www.shutterimagesbydan.com

www.danielwatt.net

proprietors: Dan Watt & James Britton

We do Weddings, Portraits, Parties, Special Events and much more. Our Motto is: (More than just saying "Cheese"). Studio-Gallery- Passport Photos

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@zwi.net

Bangor, apartment sharing available. I have an extra room in my Bangor apt. that I'm looking to rent out. Rent is \$ 350.00 a month plus half of electric. FMI call Tom at 207-570-3554.

Brewer House Mate Wanted: Looking for mature, responsible M/F to share 3 BR/2 BA home in a great neighborhood. \$500 per month includes everything. Prefer someone with a quiet life style and a sense of humor. Call Angel at 942-5216 or email reangel@tcreal.com.

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 Area, rental wanted. My partner and I are looking for a two bedroom apartment/house to rent. We are part-time Daddies to a 4 year old well-mannered boy who stays with us 6 months of the year, alternating months. Our lease is up March 31st and we'd prefer to be closer to our son's mother for travel purposes. We are looking for a place in the Ellsworth area, definitely willing to look into surrounding areas. Non-smokers, non-partyers. Pet-friendly a must, I have an 8 year old well-behaved springer mix who can't be separated from his family, ready to pay a pet deposit. Reliable work with the Jackson Laboratory for my partner and I recently got my teacher certification. References available. Our cell number is (207) 610-2340, our Skype number is (631) 619-5169. Toby or Scott. Hope to hear from someone soon!

Hampden, townhouses for rent. Beautiful, brand new, affordable two bedroom 1.5 bath townhouses with full basements conveniently located 1.5 miles outside of Bangor in Hampden. Heat, HW, lawn care, plowing, trash removal included. No smoking/No dogs. \$880.00 per month, lease, deposit. Call Erlene at 949-4577.

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

Newport, house mate wanted. Gay non-smoking male building a house in Newport and would like to find a house mate. Pay rent or in exchange for painting and helping me do some light carpentry. Contact Marc at adventurechallenge@msn.com or 890-7133.

Otis, Roomate Wanted. Female seeking same for roommate. 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

GLBTI COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS:

AA Meeting for people living with HIV/AIDS. Meets on Thursday Evenings from 6:30 - 7:30 at 49 Oak Street in Portland. FMI contact Scott at ScottTopsum@hotmail.com

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 don't 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 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 email downeastglsen@roadrunner.com You can also 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 inspirational speakers. People interested in being on the Planning Committee, or being involved in any way, can contact Dan Williams at 942-9319 or at knead24u@yahoo.com. You can also check the web site at www.howardfoundation07.org

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.mainlybears.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, 973-3586 or 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.

MaineTransNet (Maine Transgender Network, Inc.) is an organization dedicated to educating the public about gender identity and raising awareness of the varied forms of gender expression. We provide support and consultation to health and social service professionals, transgender individuals, their families, and interested others. FMI email Alex at alex@mainetransnet.org or check the web site at www.mainetransnet.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 mdpalmers@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 email info@tgfund.org OR check the web site at www.tgfund.org

SOCIAL GROUPS (MORE THAN 50 MILES FROM BANGOR):

Clay Hill Farm Restaurant (OGUNQUIT) hosts a variety of women-only events during the year. Among them are a Christmas Season dinner-dance, a women's Valentine's Day dinner-dance (for both couples AND singles), and a Spring Soiree in June. You can check out the web site at www.clayhillfarm.com. To get on the e-mail list for their Events For Women, send your request to Jackie at Lmsmarketing@yahoo.com

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

Maine Street Bar (OGUNQUIT) hosts monthly women-only T-dances. For more info about them check the web site at <http://www.mainestreetogunquit.com/women.php>

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 Northern Lambda Nord at 425-4088 or email northernlambdanord@verizon.net. You can also ask to get on their e-newsletter mailing list by going to www.northernlambdanord.com

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.outmaine.org or the mspace posting at www.myspace.com/outasiwanttobe

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 Peg at chickp3@gmail.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 discretion. 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, in Portland ME. Call 207-233-8157 on Saturdays (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

WAYVES (Canadian Maritimes) For those FAN readers who are near the Canadian maritime provinces there is a monthly newspaper, called **WAYVES**, which is put out by the maritime GLBT community. It's put out in print copy only, covers all the maritime provinces, and contains feature articles, regular columns, listings of groups and services, listings of GLBT events coming up, and business ads. A subscription sent to the U.S. is \$30/year CDN. FMI about subscribing contact Jim McMillan at 902-826-7356, email submissions@wayves.ca, or write to Wayves, PO Box 34090, Scotia Square, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, B3J 3S1. You can also check their web site at www.wayves.ca

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

Gay Maine. www.gaymaine.com . The lesbian and gay directory for gay-owned and gay-friendly places in Maine: Bars, clubs, hotels, guesthouses, restaurants, and more!

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=src> FMI contact Vicky at vroommaine@gmail.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 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@zwi.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.