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Family Affairs Newsletter 2008-03-15

Jean Vermette

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NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

(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 medress@gwi.net

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.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Collection at the University of Southern Maine is working to capture the history of Maine's LGBT community. We collect papers of individuals and the records of organizations active in the community. Although we mostly collect print material (books, serials, written documents) we collect almost any object that documents the life and experience of the LGBT community (photographs, books, newsletters, objects, posters, T-shirts, buttons, etc). Following professional standards, we are careful to guard the privacy of individuals involved with the collections and will work with donors who choose anonymity. For information on the collection and donating material please contact Susie Bock, 207-780-4269 or books@usm.maine.edu

I am publishing a book of short stories and novellas, *The Godmothers and Other Lesbian Fairy Tales*. One of the stories is a fairy tale, "Becca and the Woman Prince" – about an interracial, teenaged, lesbian romance between a princess from medieval France and a woman prince from the ancient kingdom of Mali in Africa. What I am wanting for the cover is an illustration of Becca and the Woman Prince, and I would like to communicate with artists who might be interested in the project. This would be a volunteer art project. I can offer the illustrator two copies of the book when it's published, and, of course, the artist retains copyright of her art. This is my sixth book. There's more information about my work at www.carolyngage.com. If interested, please contact me, Carolyn Gage, at carolyn@carolyngage.com.

3. Auditions For A Play Reading.

Sunday, April 6 at 4 pm. Auditions for *THE COUNTESS AND THE LESBIANS* written and directed by Carolyn Gage. A new play about Countess Markiewicz, the Easter Rising, and lesbians in love. Seeking three female actors, 30's, for performance at the Maine Association of Community Theatres Conference on Saturday, April 26 in Dover-Foxcroft and on April 27 in Portland (venue to be announced).

Also for reading scenes from Gage's new book *NINE SHORT PLAYS* at book signings on April 24 at Longfellow Books in Portland and on May 3 at Gulf of Maine Books in Brunswick.

Lesbians are especially encouraged to audition. Email for directions: carolyn@carolyngage.com or call 774-4231.

4. PRYSM is looking for new advisors

PRYSM, or Proud Rainbow Youth of Southern Maine, is a community program of Community Counseling Center in Portland. We hold Drop-Ins for LGBTQA youth ages 22 and under every Tuesday night and the 1st and 3rd Fridays of every month. The purpose of the Drop-Ins is to create safe and supportive community for young Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Allied people through a collaborative effort of youth and adults. This mission is accomplished by providing social support, leadership development, community education and connections to community resources. We usually have between 10 and 20 youth at each Drop-In, and we have a staff of culturally competent volunteers who help facilitate the Drop-Ins. Our monthly events calendars are posted online at www.commcc.org.

In addition, we host an annual LGBTQA Prom each spring at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, and each year between 250 and 300 youth attend from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and even Canada. This year's LGBTQA Prom is scheduled for Friday, May 9th, at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, and the theme is OUT Through the Decades, as decided on by the Youth Prom Committee.

Those age 25 or older interested in the application process to become a PRYSM Advisor should pay attention to the dates and contact info. listed below. Paper applications due: Friday, March 21st, 2008 (All applicants will be interviewed by a team of youth, Advisors, and the Program Coordinator. The team will decide which applicants would make appropriate PRYSM Advisors, and those individuals will be invited to attend an all-day training).

All-day training: Saturday, April 12th, at 9:30 AM at the PRYSM Drop-In space at Community Counseling Center

For questions or to request an application, please contact Joanna Testa, Program Coordinator, at (207)874-1022 or prysm@commcc.org

5. Maine SpeakOut Volunteer Trainings: Learning to Tell Your Story

Maine SpeakOut Project is looking for people who are interested in using their personal experience to provide educational opportunities for people all over the state, and for volunteers who would like to further SpeakOuts mission to create a society that is inclusive and respectful of people of different sexual and gender orientations by providing opportunities for dialogue. SpeakOut works because open dialogue creates shifts in perception that lead to lasting change. By giving Maine people an opportunity to hear about daily experiences with prejudice and discrimination, MSOP volunteers provide a very effective way for communities to hear and begin to understand how prejudice and discrimination hurt us all. There are several MSOP Volunteer Trainings scheduled for Spring 2008.

Saturday, April 12: Orono
Saturday, April 19: Ellsworth
Saturday, May 3: Wiscasset

Training covers a variety of topics that will help to prepare you for volunteering with Maine SpeakOut Project:

- * Developing and telling a personal story
- * Speaking and working with a co-speaker
- * Non-divisive dialogue and responses
- * Responding to difficult or hostile questions and comments
- * How to refer and recommend community resources for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons

This training free, and is also open to people who do not wish to become members of the Speakers Bureau but would like to learn these skills. Pre-registration is required; lunch and snacks are provided. To register, or for more information, contact Program Coordinator Jen Hodsdon at 207-874-1030 or speakout@commcc.org

6. Eighth Annual: Youth Activism Gathering,

April 19-21, 2008 at Turner Grange, Route 117, Turner, ME (near Leavitt HS). This is a chance for youth to come together, organize, & share ideas. Meet people from around the state; have a voice in our communities; share skills and information to empower ourselves. Come to workshops & discussions on: *Youth Empowerment *DIY Health and Reproductive Health *Direct Action *Political Prisoners *ConsentHerbal Healing *Know Your Rights *Atlantica Teach-in And much more..... Everyone is encouraged to bring their own ideas for workshops or discussions.

ALSO: #Movies #Cook/Bake-off #DIY music and entertainment #Punk Show on Sunday evening #Icebreakers and time to hang out and meet activist youth from around Maine

All meals and lodging will be provided.

Who is the Youth Activism Gathering for? We welcome people of all ages. People at the last seven gatherings have been mostly people in their teens, with others in their twenties and a little older attending too. The gathering is on a weekend in the hopes that more people who are busy during the week can make it. Diversity of opinions and backgrounds (including GLBTI youth) is welcome! Come with an open mind to share ideas and meet great people. The Gathering is a place to learn and teach about activism and organizing! And have fun! This is an open, participatory gathering—we'd love to have you lead a workshop.

Please try to register by April 15. FMI Contact Info: Ariel, (207) 774-9979 or arielhp@riseup.net to register or Larry, rosc@psouth.net or (207) 525-7776 for general questions and more details. Also, see our page at www.myspace.com/youthactivismgathering

When youth get together, there is ENERGY, there is CREATIVITY, there is INSPIRATION, and there is POWER.

7. Make Beautiful Tribe Gathering: April 24-27 2008

This is 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 wonderful place for us to hold our gathering! The lodge we utilize is a wonderful single great room with a huge fieldstone fireplace and a brand new restaurant kitchen off to one side. There are various large and small cabins throughout the camp numbering more than a dozen. There is even a wood-fired sauna available for relaxation along with acres of wooded trails for hiking.

Our gathering weekend format is open, which means you pick and choose what you would like to do - attend a workshop, go for a hike, play cards or just sit by a roaring fire at the main lodge. We have a talent show on Saturday evening. So come sing, perform, dance, lip-sync, read poetry, tell stories & just come perform and show off! Have fun celebrating our diversity. Bring your own costumes, accessories and music.

For more information and to be added to the mailing list, please contact Jim at bangoremail@yahoo.com

8. Gay Men Together: May 1-4, 2008

GMT is held twice a year, in May, and in October, with this May being our 24th WEEKEND. 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. There are up to 5 different workshops for each time period. The food, prepared by volunteer participants under the direction of our chef is fabulous. We have a dance and talent show on Saturday evening. The lodge where this event is held is a wonderful turn of the century lodge, located in W. Gardiner, Me., connected by a boardwalk on the lake's edge to twenty different cabins. There are fieldstone fireplaces, loons calling in the morning (for real) and over a hundred acres of land. The lodge offers a wonderful place for us to hold our week-end! Canoeing, swimming, hiking and much more is offered as things to do, in addition to the workshops that GMT has. We do fill very quickly, and you must be pre-registered to attend. FMI and/or to register, see the web site at www.gaymentogether.net

9. We've Saved You A Seat at the Maine LGBTI Health Summit: Challenges/Opportunities/Changes.

In Healthy Maine 2010: Opportunities for All, sexual orientation and sexual minority status are factors that can lead to health disparities. These health disparities are intensified by a lack of population based data on the LGBTI community resulting in a scarcity of information on the health of LGBTI Mainers.

That's why the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (ME CDC) will be hosting its first LGBTI Health Summit - Challenges, Opportunities, Change on Thursday May 29th, 2008 at the Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, Maine, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Through a combination of educational sessions and workshops the 2008 Summit will focus on increasing awareness of health disparities, advocacy for consumers, and the collection of health related data in LGBTI communities.

Registration fee \$25. To register: visit www.neias.org/mecdc/lgbti08.html or call 207-626-3615

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):

*** MAR 21 (Friday), Blue Hill, "8,000 DRUMS"—A GLOBAL EVENT.** Noon to 2 PM. Location TBA.

"When 8,000 sacred drums play together, an intense healing of Mother Earth will commence."
~from a 500 year-old Otomi Prophecy

On March 21 at noon, native peoples and tribal people worldwide will join together by drumming (in groups or as individuals with hand drums) and pray for healing our Mother Earth. In the Eastern time zone, we drum at 12:00 noon, while people in the Western time zone will drum at 10:00 a.m. The event is called 8,000 Drums. The full moon is on March 21 and the spring equinox, March 20. The purpose is to fulfill the 500-year-old Otomi Prophecy, which was written on a rock within a sacred cave in Mexico. The Otomi are Mayan Olmec and Toltec descendants. A huge group gathers in Mexico/Mayan ruins for this event. Two Huron Clan Grandmothers, who will pray and drum from their part of Canada, send this call-to-drum message. Please join us in Blue Hill to send out our healing intentions through the drum. Extra hand drums will be available. Stop in for a bit during your lunch break—or stay for the whole two hours. If you can't make it at that time, offering a silent prayer or chant will connect you to the more than 8,000 drums around the world and will give the effort more strength. Everyone is welcome to participate! A'ho (It has been spoken) FMI, please contact Eileen at 667-2019 or via e-mail: hearme@natisp.com

*** MAR 22 (Saturday), Bangor, Easter Egg Hunt**

**GLBTA families and Friends
Come join the Hunt!**

The Bridge Alliance is teaming up once again with The Maine Discovery Museum to provide some holiday cheer for GLBTA parents and their children of all ages. Please join us our first annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 22, 2007 from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM at The Maine Discovery Museum, 74 Main Street, Bangor, Maine. Free and welcoming to all LGBTQ families & friends. Easter eggs will be hidden for children to find and The Easter Bunny will be on hand to liven up the festivities. And of course there are 3 floors of interactive exhibits for all ages. A great time is certain to be had by all. FMI contact John Costello at 945-5925 or The Maine Discovery Museum at 262-7200. You can also check their web site at www.mainediscoverymuseum.org

*** MAR 29 (Saturday), Portland, SWAN DAY !!** SWAN Day is an idea whose time has come! Sponsored by the Fund for Women Artists, it is a new initiative to encourage communities around the world to celebrate women in the arts. SWAN stands for "Support Women Artists Now!" and SWAN Day has been designated as the last Saturday of March, which is Women's History Month. Portland's first-ever SWAN Day event, organized by Laura Emack is going to be a reading of short works by women playwrights at the University of New England Art Gallery, 716 Stevens Avenue, 4-6:30 PM. It's co-sponsored by the International Center for

Women Playwrights and the Maine Women Writers Collection at UNE. Family member Carolyn Gage will be presenting *Calamity Jane Sends a Message to Her Daughter*. The other writers include Laura Emack, Danie Connolly, Joye Cook-Levy, Cynthia Thayer, Karmo Sanders, Kimberly Grindle, Julia Clapp, and Robin Byrd. FMI can contact Laura Emack LKECPA@prexar.com or (207) 567-3437.

* **MAR 31 (Monday)**, Portland, **screening of the film KEEP NOT SILENT: ORTHO-DYKES**, two showings at 5:30 and at 8:00 pm. The Maine Jewish Film Festival's Annual LGBT Film Project. The Director of the film, Ilil Alexander, will be visiting from Israel to participate in a forum after each screening and the 7:00 PM reception. This event will be held at SPACE at 538 Congress St. in Portland, ME. To learn more information or purchase tickets, visit www.mjff.org or call (207)831-7495. The price of the tickets is \$7, \$5 for youth 18 and under and adults over 65.

Director Ilil Alexander's debut film boldly documents the clandestine struggle of three remarkable lesbians within their beloved Orthodox Jewish communities in Jerusalem. All three women are piously committed to their faith and their families. Instead of walking away from a religious community, whose leaders insist that God did not create people with homosexual "tendencies" that cannot be overcome, each of these women choose a unique approach to express both her sexual and religious identities.

* **APR 4 (Friday)**, Ellsworth, **Drag Show with Lady Valrie and Madame Katrina**, at the White Birches Motel, 8 pm, to benefit Down East AIDS Network.

* **APR 10 (Thursday)**, Machias, **Singer/Songwriter Jessi Mallory** will be performing live at UMaine Machias. Portside Hall at UMaine Machias Will Be Rockin' again this year with Jessi and a great bunch of female performers for Chicks With Picks!

* **APR 12 (Saturday)**, Machias, **UMaine Machias Rainbow Ball**. 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. 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. FMI contact Lois-Ann Kuntz, faculty advisor: lkuntz@maine.edu - please include "Rainbow Ball" in the subject line.

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@qwi.net or go to <http://www.maineaidsnetwork.com/groups.html>

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@qwi.net or go to <http://www.maineaidsnetwork.com/groups.html>

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@qwi.net or at 862-2063.

no listings this issue

PERSONALS:

Bangor area, woman seeking other women. Single, 45 years old, active & healthy, optimistic & upbeat. Exercise regularly, eat fairly healthy, but have the occasional treat. I try to keep my life simple/stress-free. I'd like to meet some nice, got-it-together femmes in the Bangor area, friends and/or dating. Would like to get out and have some fun - dinner, movies, concerts, etc! Email me at Kelly.thompson@maine.edu if you'd like to make a new friend.

50 yr old transgendered lesbian seeks a partner for companionship and a little more. I like to cook and between the both of us we could help each other out. Reply at mellanie462004@yahoo.com. All replies will be answered in a timely fashion.

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.

FOR SALE. Sangerville - 2 Bedroom 2 Bath Mobile home with 24x36 Garage on 3+ acres. Large lawn, close to town and amenities with quiet countryside living. Garage was built in 2005, Mobile home is a 1991 Imperial Regal. Motivated seller. For more information email Rob at rhc77@hotmail.com or check out the MLS # 862852.

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

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 everything. 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!

Lincolntown, house for rent. Weekly or monthly summer rental of a beautiful, three bedroom, restored cape located in Lincolntown near public ocean beaches. Check out the house at www.lincolntownrealestate.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, Roommate 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 ucky62365@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. Meets fourth Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM at the UU Church in Ellsworth. We eat together (usually pizza) and ask participants to pitch in for the cost (usually about \$5). New members always welcome. Our work is focused on making schools safer and more respectful for all students and staff regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. We do staff trainings, workshops at other events, and advocate for student needs. Recently we have begun to work with and encourage several gay-straight alliances (GSA's) in local high schools. 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 667-2358 or 244-3837. OR email downeastqlsen@roadrunner.com. You can check the resource-rich national web site at www.glsen.org and find our chapter page at www.glsen.org/downeastme.

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

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Collection at the University of Southern Maine is working to capture the history of Maine's LGBT community. We collect papers of individuals and the records of organizations active in the community. Although we mostly collect print material (books, serials, written documents) we collect almost any object that documents the life and experience of the LGBT community (photographs, books, newsletters, objects, posters, T-shirts, buttons, etc). Following professional standards, we are careful to guard the privacy of individuals involved with the collections and will work with donors who choose anonymity. For information on the collection and donating material please contact Susie Bock, 207-780-4269 or bocks@usm.maine.edu.

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.
JenHodsdonKateClintonStephBarrettDoryCoteHardyGirlsandHealthyWomenEqualityMaineMaryDailyUglyDucklingsFeministMajorityNewsWomen'sSpaceFeministing
HumorAnnouncementsandConnectionsGLBTMichiganWomen'sFestivalLesbianChefCookingClassChoiceAgainstViolenceAgainstWomenandmore.

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, 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 mdpalmier@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 marty@mc@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 myspace 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 Outright. Located in Portsmouth, NH, but available to GLBTI youth from York county and southern Maine. A peer support group/organization for GLBTI youths. FMI contact Tawnee Walling, Executive Director at 603-431-1013 or check the web site at www.seacoastoutright.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_q_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 pjmeares@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 provide 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@yahoo.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 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 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.