

6-1-2008

Family Affairs Newsletter 2008-06-01

Jean Vermette

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

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

1 JUNE 2008

NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

(NEWS #1:) Bridge Alliance PRIDE Week Celebrations. See the listings below at JUN 14, JUN 19, and JUN 20

(NEWS #1:) DYKE MARCH in Portland. I am told that in the last issue of The FAN I got the info incorrect about the Dyke March in Portland. The new and improved and updated info is listed below at JUN 20.

(NEWS #2:) First Friday Lesbian Potlucks in the Belfast area is now defunct. :-(If anyone in the Belfast area wants to get a regular lesbian gathering going, now would be a good time to try it.

(NOTES #1:) Wildlife Backpacking/Camping Trip in Baxter State Park. Mike G and some of the members of the Chiltem Mountain Club (from Massachusetts) will be doing a 4-day, 3-night hiking trip into Chimney Pond in Baxter State Park on July 17 - 20. The bunkhouse and a lean-to have been reserved and he presently has room for 6 more folks. The cost is \$33 per person for the 3 nights. It is a true backpack hike—you have to backpack in about 2-3 hours from where you park to get to Chimney Pond campsite. True beauty and a true wildlife experience. If anyone is interested in joining in or wants more info, please contact Mike at Mikeondavispond@yahoo.com

(REMINDERS #1:) Southern Maine Pride. This year's Southern Maine Pride events will be held on Saturday, June 21, and will include the annual PRIDE Parade, PRIDE Festival, and PRIDE Pier Dance. FMI check the web site at www.southernmainepride.org

(REMINDERS #2:) Thirtieth Annual GAYLA gay men's conference in Saco, will be held at Ferry Beach on July 12 - 19 (Saturday - Saturday)

For gay or bisexual men, fighting to make our way in the "straight man's world" can sometimes be a very lonely and often perilous journey. As we have discovered in our "coming out" process, there is no ready-made role model or single template for us to follow as we strive to make progress in our life-long journey toward becoming the best gay or bi man we can possibly be—spiritually, sexually, emotionally, and physically. In an effort to be successful and safe in our quest, many thoughtful gay and bisexual men have realized that we can maximize our personal, as well as collective growth, by forming a community or a brotherhood of men expressly designed to provide mutual support, nurturance, friendship, loving, and mentoring of one another.

Thirty years ago the GAYLA Conference was established at Ferry Beach as one of the earliest communities of gay brotherhood in the United States. During the week of July 12-19, 2008 more than 100 diverse gay and bisexual men will celebrate the spirit of 30 years of brotherhood, as they reunite in GAYLA's intentional community. Over the years hundreds of men from Maine to Texas, Florida to Canada, and from Scotland to Hong Kong have come to the Beach to rekindle friendships, renew their gay spirituality, find

love, and experience the re-creation of a community of purpose and brotherhood. For thirty years, the spirit of GAYLA brotherhood has continued to be a very important personal touchstone in the growth of all the men who have attended. Sustaining the spirit of this far-flung brotherhood developed during GAYLA week throughout the year has also become very important to GAYLA brothers.

Single and partnered gay and bisexual men ages 18 and up are invited to come to GAYLA XXX for an all-inclusive, affordable vacation alternative that could potentially change their lives. Help celebrate our past, present, and future. FMI and/or to register, check the web site at www.ferrybeach.org/summercon/gayla.html

(REMINDERS #3:) 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. Primary Day Action: The June primaries are less than two months away, and EqualityMaine will be out on Primary Day talking to voters about LGBT equality. With the ever-increasing possibility of anti-LGBT petitions circulating at the polling places on June 10th, it's even more critical that we show up in full force to spread this message: **Maine is not interested in discriminating against LGBT citizens.** This is an incredible opportunity for us to unite, to make our voices heard, and to out-organize our opposition. Here are two things you can do **right now**:

- Sign up to volunteer in your town for Primary Day, June 10th
- Help us recruit more volunteers for other polling places around the state. We'll be calling supporters from now until Primary Day, Monday through Thursday, 5:30-8:30, at our office in Portland.

Please email Matt Moonen for more info or call him at 207-761-3732 if you can help!

2. Family member Carolyn Gage will be a guest artist at this year's National Women's Music Festival (June 19-22 in Madison, WI) ... performing as the irreverent "Sister Carolyn" as she presides over her notorious Lesbian Tent Revival on Friday and Sunday mornings. Two of her plays (Entr'acte and The Obligatory Scene) are being read on Saturday by Madison's own GBLT theatre, Stage Q, under the artistic direction of Tara Ayres. Gage will also be on hand to sign copies of her most recent book, *Nine Short Plays*.

3. Participants needed for training video.

I need participants for a mental health/social service "Trans 101" training video!

I was recently reading a textbook used in a graduate-level counseling at a Maine university, and was disappointed—but not surprised—when I read the book's chapter on trans issues.

Deciding that I needed to do something about this, I thought that there would be no better way for these future counselors (and other mental health and social service professionals) to learn about what it's really like to be trans in Maine than from hearing directly from transgender folks themselves! I am looking for volunteers to be interviewed for this video, which I plan to use in trainings and presentations on trans issues. If you are a transgender/transsexual/gender variant person or a family member or partner of a trans person, I need your input!

The interviews can be as short as 15 minutes if you're pressed for time, and I'm willing to travel anywhere you'd like to meet (as long as you're in Maine). If you're nervous about meeting someone you don't know, I'd be glad to provide references or talk to you on the phone. I am hoping to get started on this as soon as possible! Contact me if you're willing to participate!

(If anyone is wondering, I am also transgender as well as a mental health counselor.) Alex Roan, alex@mainetransnet.org 207-423-2316

4. Add Verb Productions (based in Portland, Maine) is sponsoring a **"Queer & Allied Youth Writing Project"**. Add Verb Productions is compiling an Anthology of Queer Youth Performance Texts. We seek performance texts written by and for queer youth. Through our Playwriting as Activism program, Add Verb develops, produces, publishes and distributes issue-based scripts and theater productions with high artistic and activist merits. They are looking for actors and performance texts from GLBTQA youths age 12 - 24. Short plays, monologues, scenes, spoken word poetry, songs, stories, etc. Submissions will be reviewed by a Youth Editorial Team under the guidance of Add Verb staff and artists and may receive feedback for further development before put into final script. All texts created to be performed. FMI call Tess at Add Verb Productions: 207-772-1167 or email vista@addverbproductions.com. You can also check the web site at www.addverbproductions.com and myspace.com/addverbproductions.

5. SHARE YOUR STORY - DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JUNE 21 !

What do same-sex relationships in Maine really look like? **You and I know they look a lot like any other relationship:** we have jobs, families, friends, spiritual communities, pets, homes, and hobbies. We have ups and downs, and love that helps us through.

But as the recent anti-gay referendum proposal has shown, some people in Maine are still struggling with misperceptions and misunderstandings of our lives. **There's a simple way for you to help spread the truth: share your story at ourstoriesme.org.**

Click here - we've extended the submission deadline to June 21!

To build this storybook, EqualityMaine and GLAD want to hear from Mainers from all walks of life, from Fort Kent to Kittery to Machias and all points in between. **Who has a story to tell?**

- A committed same-sex couple who's facing life's joys and sorrows together, for better or for worse.
- A parent, grandparent, sibling, or relative who has a family member in a same-sex relationship.
- A straight ally who has stood by friends in same-sex relationships.
- A religious leader who feels called to support same-sex couples.
- **You!**

In order to give more people a chance to tell their stories, **we've pushed the deadline back to June 21**. When it's complete, "Our Stories: Profiles of Same-Sex Couples in Maine" will be a dynamic, inspiring portrait of our community.

Be a part of it. Share your story before June 21.

If you've already submitted your story, **thank you!** Be sure to let your friends and family know they still have time to share theirs.

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.*

Just One More Study

On Thursday, May 29th, the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention hosted its first LGBTI Health Summit - Challenges, Opportunities, Change. Part of their advertising for the event said: "... 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." The notice then went on to add that the "... Summit will focus on increasing awareness of health disparities, advocacy for consumers, and the collection of health related data in LGBTI communities."

I did not attend. As a transsexual woman, as a lesbian, and as a member of the LGBTI community ... I'M TIRED OF BEING STUDIED.

I haven't always been tired of being studied. For many years I willingly and happily took part in lots of sociological studies that were conducted by undergrads and post-grads and licensed professionals in a number of different fields. Each time I was told that these were important studies that would shed real light on the plight and problems of the LGBTI community and that they would help lead to real social change. Each time, the person doing the study got their degree or professional advancement from their thesis, the

study got a perfunctory airing, and then it was all put on a shelf somewhere and ignored.

In the past year or so that has begun to bother me ... a lot. I've never read or heard of a single reputable sociological study of LGBTI folks that did not basically show that members of the LGBTI community are treated with second-class status (at best) or with downright hostility and violence (at worst) ... no matter what area of life was studied. That basic inequality affects all our lives negatively, and hidden away in the recesses of academia and government policy offices across the country are hundreds (maybe thousands) of studies written by folks most of us have never heard of. Many of those folks probably had a very genuine desire to advance the betterment of the LGBTI community by providing solid, academic proof that society does not treat us equally in many, many ways and by showing society what those ways are.

The folks who did those studies were trying to do good things for us, and I don't have any quarrel with them. But there must come a time in the struggle for equality that every minority group grows through (and the LGBTI community is by no means the first, or even the most put-upon minority group to do so) when it simply has to stand up and say: "The evidence is there, the evidence is overwhelming, and now it's time to DO something about it."

I think that time has come. I disagree strongly with the Maine CDC assertion that there is a " ... lack of population based data on the LGBTI community resulting in a scarcity of information on health of LGBTI Mainers." That assumes that Maine's LGBTI community is somehow intrinsically different from LGBTI communities in New Mexico, Iowa, New York, California, Michigan, Florida, or any other place ... different enough that any similar studies done in ANY of those other states would show wildly different results that would not be applicable to Maine. Instead, what I suspect, is that all similar studies would show strikingly similar results.

At some point, more studies about us stop serving the goal of fulfilling our desire for equal rights and serve instead to lull us into compliance and complacency with the false perception that "being paid attention to" is the same thing as "advancing". It's not. And it bothers me that many social services and political people within the LGBTI community don't realize that.

Now, when an undergrad or grad student, professor or professional, public policy or political person contacts me and asks me to help them drum up LGBTI folks to take part in "an important study", I tell them "no". If they have to do a study, I tell them, why don't they do a meta-study of all the other studies that have been done to see if the results are as consistent and universal as I suspect they are? Then I tell them that if they really want to do a study to help the LGBTI community, they should do a study of the straight community to try to figure out why, in the face of such consistent evidence of our (and other minority groups') second-class treatment, there are still large numbers of folks who seem so incapable of opening their hearts and minds and extending to us the same equal rights that they claim for themselves.

If we understood *THAT*, then we might be able to make some real progress.

Jean Vermette
megress@ghi.net

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.

CYBER-QUIPS:

The cyber-quip is a simple letter-for-letter substitution puzzle which, when properly "decoded", gives you a funny little quip (OK, so at least I think it's funny). A clue is included to get you started.

Solution to cyber-quip # 2

WHEN THE CELEBRITY PHOTOGRAPHER TRAINED HIS DOGS TO TAKE PICTURES, ALL THE STARS CALLED THEM THE "PUP-ARAZZI".

Cyber-Quip # 3

F IVYRN I OGTYVDFWA HAG IOHISV UITIWFGJRN FJ MOGEFNI HARER AR KE
RMREERN WG CG. AR

WGON DR WAIW AR OFYRN WG VKRJN AFV WFDR FJ WAR YRSV.

CLUE: O = L

EVENTS (CHANGING):

* **JUN 5 (Thursday)**, Ellsworth, **benefit performance for C.A.R.E.** by **Chris Rutecki**, singer/songwriter, Guitar/Vocals will be performing at Calypso's Restaurant (156 Main St) starting at 5:00 pm. Come listen to the acoustic sound with a touch of soul. FMI about the gig at Calypso's call 667-6554. FMI about Chris check out www.myspace.com/chrisrutecki

* **JUN 14 (Saturday)**, Mount Desert Island, 9:30 am, **Gay Men's Hike** of Penobscot Mountain and Sargent Mountain (near Jordan Pond) ... weather permitting. We plan to meet at Jodan Pond House Restaurant in Acadia National Park at 9:30 am. Hike will commence at 10:00 am. Bring a lunch and water. Hike will last approx 4 hours or so. Rain cancels. FMI or questions contact Mike at mikeondavispond@yahoo.com

* **JUN 14 (Saturday)**, Eddington, **Bridge Alliance PRIDE Week Dance Party**, 9:00 pm - 12:00 am. Come celebrate PRIDE week and summer with us! Wear your craziest summer duds and join us for the monthly dance party sponsored by The Bridge Alliance and hosted by Clewley Farm Restaurant. These dances are designed to benefit future Bridge Alliance projects such as: Pride Dance In Portland, Red Ribbon Ball, Coming Out Halloween Party, Santa At The Museum, GLBTA Family Picnic, and many more. Come hang with friends, dance, and enjoy the music provided by DJ Terrie. There is a modest cover charge of \$5 at the door. Beer, wine, and mixed drinks will be available from the bar, and Clewley Farms will also be serving a limited menu. Credit cards are accepted. Clewley Farm Restaurant is at 999 Main Rd in Eddington (just 8.7 miles out Route 9 from the Muddy Rudder Restaurant in Brewer ... on the right, just past the fire station). Please Come And Join Us !!! FMI check the Bridge Alliance web site at www.thebridgealliance.org and click on the events page for our calendar.

* **JUN 14 (Saturday)**, Ellsworth, family member , **Chris Rutecki**, singer/songwriter, Guitar/Vocals will be performing at Calypso's Restaurant (156 Main St) starting at 7:00. Come listen to the acoustic sound with a touch of soul. FMI about the gig at Calypso's call 667-6554. FMI about Chris check out www.myspace.com/chrisrutecki

* **JUN 15 (Sunday)**, Portland / Auburn / Bangor, **The 10th Annual Christian Chenard Walk with the Ones You Love.** This is a statewide action wherein people walk together to promote the vision of a Maine where all families and all couples -- regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity -- are equally safe in public. This is a family-friendly event. Bring a picnic lunch! In Portland: Deering Oaks Park, 1-3 pm. In Auburn: Festival Plaza, 1-3 pm. In Bangor: Pickering Square, 12:30-2:30 pm. More information is available at www.mainespeakout.org or by contacting Program Coordinator Jen Hodsdon at 207-874-1030 or emailing speakout@commcc.org.

* **JUN 19 (Thursday)**, Bangor, 7:30 pm, **Bridge Alliance PRIDE Week A production of the play *Soul On Fire*** will be shown at the Penobscot Theatre Company. Mark Nutt and The Bridge Alliance are working together to produce a staging of *Soul on Fire*, a new play by Jack Marshall, directed by Adam Küykendall, that tells the enlightening, though disturbing, story of two men burned at the stake in 14th century Venice. This provocative show provides an honest look at the early Christian Church and its views on sexuality based on historical events. It's amazing how little is new or has changed in 750 years. The Bridge Alliance is a non profit organization connecting & promoting gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied (GLBTA) community in Northern Maine through monthly events. In addition to producing this play, Mark will lend his scenic artistry and play one of the characters. Join us in celebrating a Night of GLBTA Arts ~ Theatre, Art & Music! One Night only! At the Penobscot Theatre Company, 131 Main St, Bangor, Maine. FMI contact the theatre at 942-3333.

* **JUN 19-21 (Thursday - Saturday)**, Portland, **Maine Gay Men's Chorus 16th Annual Pride Concert: "A Hundred Million Memory Boxes"**. All performances will be at 8:00 pm at the Portland Stage Company's theatre, 25-A Forest Avenue in Portland. You can purchase tickets online at www.maine-gay-mens-chorus.org

* **JUN 20 (Friday)**, Hudson, 5:00 pm, **Bridge Alliance PRIDE Week Family Potluck Dinner** at George Brissette's house. Food, Fun, Music, and more! FMI and/or to get directions contact info@thebridgealliance.org

* **JUN 20 (Friday)**, Portland, **The Kings Of The Hill**, 9:00 pm at One Longfellow Square. As part of PRIDE week, Portland's own lesbian choral group will perform a concert of songs from the 1950's to today.

* **JUN 20 (Saturday)**, Portland, **3rd Annual Dyke March**. Pre-show gathering is at 6:30 pm, the March at 7:30 pm. The all-ages afterparty at the North Star Cafe at 9:00 pm. The March is leaving from Congress Square and marching to Monument Square. We

also have a new website, www.mainedykemarch.com. The email address portlanddykemarch@gmail.com is the same. Performers at the March and afterparty include Vanessa Torres and Touching Ground, drag by Bunny Wonderland and Goldie Peacock, the Maine Roller Derby, Hurricane Bertha, G'gann and the Smokes, and DJ Kate.

* **JUN 21 (Saturday), Portland, Southern Maine Pride.** This year's Southern Maine Pride events will include the annual PRIDE Parade, PRIDE Festival, and PRIDE Pier Dance. FMI check the web site at www.southernmainepride.org

EVENTS (ONGOING):

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.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@gwi.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 June 15. If you are a GLBTI business owner, an "out" GLBTI business person associating with a non-GLBTI-owned business, or a straight-owned supportive ally who wants a free listing, then contact me. I'm Jean at megress@gwi.net or at 862-2063.

COUNSELING:

Rick Bouchard, LCSW
Private Practitioner
222 St. John Street Suite 246
Portland, Maine 04102
Ph. 207-650-6450
Fax: 207-347-3510
E-mail: CONSTL8@aol.com

A Portland-based private practice serving the GLBT community. Jungian-based psychotherapy, currently working with adolescents, families/couples, and adults. Also works with gender, transgender and transsexual issues. He accepts most insurances, self-pay, and MaineCare and works with a variety of mental health and substance abuse issues. Feel free to call for more information. Referrals can be made by phoning or emailing. Rick will also soon be starting a closed, ongoing Dream Group.

PARTY/EVENT PLANNING:

Awesome Events
993 Acadia Highway
Orland, ME 04472
ph: 941-2326 or 479-3219
email: awesomeevents@hotmail.com
web: www.myspace.com/awesomeevents2008

proprietor: Liza Haskell and Crista Jakacky

Planning, decorating and simple catering for all your events big or small. We handle any special occasion from a child's birthday party to a graduation or commitment celebration.

**GLBTI SUPPORTIVE ALLIES:
COMPUTER CONSULTING:**

Maine Bytes Computer Repair/Web Design
Winterport and Bucksport Maine
ph: 1-866-632-9837
email: deb@mainebytes.net
web: www.mainebytes.net
proprietor: Robert & Deborah Newman
description: computer repair, web design, and web hosting

**GLBTI SUPPORTIVE ALLIES:
SPIRITUALITY, CREATIVITY, PERSONAL GROWTH**

Soul Rituals
Bucksport, ME 04416
ph: 206-469-2222
email: penbayinc@aol.com
web: www.soulrituals.com
Proprietor: Kasey Smith
My company offers courses on subjects such as spiritual growth. We sell metaphysical items such as rare crystals. We also custom cut precious gemstones for sale alone or set in jewelry. In addition, we give private and confidential psychic readings. All lifestyles welcome.

PERSONALS:

Looking to meet other women. Hi, I'm rather new to the area. Looking to meet other women to do things with. Lunch, movies, just taking a walk etc.. You can never have too many friends. And if something more develops it is just an added plus. I am very easy going and enjoy doing many different things. If interested in knowing more about me you may contact Sandy at Bebop65849@aol.com

SELL/BUY/TRADE/GIVE:

If you're a FAN subscriber trying to sell/buy something, want to trade for something else, or have something to give away, this is the category to post to. The FAN makes no guarantees about anything listed here, we simply provide the free listing as a service.

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@qwi.net

Bangor, apartment sharing available (beginning on or before August 1st). \$ 350/month plus half of lights and internet plus deposit of \$ 350. Located on Union St, close to downtown and interstate, on bus route, washer and dryer included. NO PARTYING - NO PETS. If interested call Tom at 570-3554 anytime.

Bangor, House For Rent. Large Victorian house partially furnished available for year lease - possibly 2 - great neighborhood, beautiful house, hardwood floors, yard, 4 bedrooms, etc etc. Rent is \$2000/month but will consider offer for right person(s) with references and lease. FMI contact Susan at susan@susanmaaschfineart.com

Bangor, small studio apt for rent. Small kitchen, fully furnished, yard, laundry, very nice, not fancy but on great property near parks and town. \$700/month includes all utilities. FMI contact Susan at susan@susanmaaschfineart.com

Bangor Area, Seeking house to rent with option to buy (apt house is great too). Professional seeks 2-3 bedroom home with Kitchen, DR, LR in the Bangor area area. An older home that needs some updating is workable as well. Please call Al @ 947-0676 or email (pictures would be great) at: revalb@yahoo.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, house sharing. 4 bedroom, 2 & 1/2 bath, hot tub, four fireplace federal in walking distance to downtown. In nice condition, fully applianced, currently under used. Gay male owners would love to get some roommates together. Contact Woody at jw.woodworth@gmail.com

Franklin upstairs, spacious two bedroom apartment for rent. Walk to the bay and many lakes. Lovely neighborhood. Only 1/2 hour from Mt. Desert Island and Schoodic Point. Non-smokers and no pets please. Not available to see until second week in June. \$475 month plus utilities. Contact Francine at 207-664-3692

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

Newport, roommate wanted, to share house in Newport area, 25 minutes to Bangor, 10 minutes to Newport. Basement bedroom with own area to make into living area space, sharing the laundry facilities space. Looking for someone who is open minded to my busy schedule, family and possible get togethers. Busy, hard working student who would enjoy sharing her home with someone who is upbeat and non-judgmental, as the right person would have open invitation to join in family functions. Asking \$350 per month with help with utilities and heat. This home is in the country with access to ATV and Snowmobile trails without trailering. Please be prepared to provide at least 3 references, payment of first months rent and security deposit along with signing a 6 month lease. If interested, please call Lorrie at 461-2128.

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

Rockland - apartment for rent. Third floor, large, light-filled apartment in Rockland's historic downtown. Large, covered deck overlooking Lemond Cove. Two bedrooms, tiled bath with a claw-foot soaking tub with shower. Newly renovated. Walk to the Farnsworth Art Museum, restaurants, galleries, nice shops, and the harbor. Quiet building. No smoking. We are on-premise landlords—our gallery/studio is on the first floor and lower level of the building. High speed RF internet available to our tenants at \$29-/mnth (half their reg. rate.) \$860-month — everything (heat, water, sewer, trash removal) is included except elec (approx \$15-20 month). Available on or about June 1. FMI contact Virginia at 594-7805.

GLBTI COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS:

AA Meeting - GLBT, Ellsworth, Friday evenings at 6:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 121 Bucksport Rd. More information can be found on the Central Maine AA meeting site: www.aamaine.org

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

Bridge Alliance is a registered non profit organization connecting the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied (GLBTA) community in Aroostook, Hancock, Washington, Piscataquis, and Penobscot counties. Our primary goal is to accomplish the following: facilitate the development of a GLBTA community which promotes and embraces diversity; to promote and encourage the understanding that the GLBTA community plays an important role in Maine's cultural, social and economic landscape; to give back to the GLBTA community through charitable donations or in-kind services; to produce annual events that will assemble the GLBTA community in Northern Maine. We look forward to having you as a partner in our many endeavors. The web site for the Bridge Alliance is www.thebridgealliance.org. The email address is info@thebridgealliance.org. The events calendar is at www.thebridgealliance.org/events.html

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 downeastglsen@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.

JenHodsdonKateClintonStephBarrettDoryCoteHardyGirlsandHealthyWomenEqualityMaineMaryDailyUglyDucklingsFeministMajorityN

ewsWomen'sSpaceFeministingHumorAnnouncementsandConnectionsGLBTMichiganWomen'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 martymc@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

GetOut (PORTLAND and OGUNQUIT) is committed to serving as a bridge connecting and supporting men who have sex with men (MSM), gay men, bisexual men, and questioning men through educational and community activities. This diverse mix of activities will provide these men with alternatives to the gay bars and on-line hook up sites by drawing attention to the rise in STD infections, the steady number of HIV infections among the gay male population, and the importance of establishing and maintaining a visible community. It is the hope of all participants and supporters that a safe and non-judgmental environment be created to allow for the comfortable exploration of sexual identities. Group Happenings Include: Volleyball, Men's Discussion Group, Book Club, Coffeehouse, Men's Health, Movie Night, and Lending Library. There is a GetOut group in Portland/GoPortland <http://www.goportland.net/> There is also a GetOut group in Ogunquit/GoOgunquit <http://www.googunquit.net/>

Guy2Guy (BRUNSWICK and LEWISTON/AUBURN) is a group of guys (gay, straight, bi, questioning, trans) building community together. We have regular discussions, workshops, movie nights, and social activities. We acknowledge the need for guys to get together in a healthy and safe environment to talk about issues important to them and to build community. Guy2Guy meets in Lewiston/Auburn on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month and meets in Brunswick on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Please visit our [CALENDAR](#) for more information. We invite you to come and join us in a friendly, open and non-judgemental environment. Check the web site at <http://www.guy2guy.org/>

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

just friends (AUGUSTA BASED BUT STATEWIDE) A just-started group of folk, male and female, who have offered an ear, a shoulder, a hand, and friendship on a one-to-one, peer basis. Lonely? Lost? Just down? Just need to share some stuff? When you need a friend and friends just pass you by, give Lew a shout, and you can be connected to someone who cares. For those of you who cannot make meetings, but have access to the net, this could be your touch with someone who would be glad to connect with you. You can decide if you want to share your name, your problems, your bad jokes, emails, or just a cup of coffee. The people are not counselors, docs or therapists, they're *just friends*. 621-3794 or the cell (with poor reception, sorry): 215-4594 or check out www.justguys.info (Genia Graham)

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. (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 Tess at 694-2639 or Kent at 538-7630 or email info@northernlambda.org. You can also ask to get on their e-newsletter mailing list by going to www.northernlambda.org or check my space at <http://www.myspace.com/northernlambda>

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). Thrive offers gay, bi and questioning guys social and community building opportunities. Thrive coordinates social events like coffee houses, movie nights, and dinners. Thrive also provides wellness programming, information and advocacy for health issues and responsibilities unique to our community. FMI call 207-756-8071, email thrive@portlandmaine.gov or check the website at www.thrivemaine.com.

Trans_Port_Me (PORTLAND) This is a trans support group located in Portland, Maine 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. My name is Gail and I am your host and moderator, 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 effect on our overall well-being and sense of self. Meetings are held the fourth Saturday of the month from 6:00 to 9:00pm, in downtown Portland, ME. Send an e-mail to g_g_moreau@yahoo.com to join the online support group to set up a screening interview for the monthly group.

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 pimears@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!

Laura's Playground. Transgender Suicide Prevention and Support Site. Jessica writes: I'm a moderator at a transgender suicide prevention and support site. It's a wonderful place with a live chat and lots of information. The chat runs 24 hours a day and I don't remember the last time there wasn't a moderator present. We screen the chatters to make sure we keep out 'admirers' and

anyone who might harass. All moderators go thru suicide prevention training thru <http://training.sprc.org> as well as training from the administrators and supervisors. And it isn't only for suicidal individuals, a lot of TGs just go there to chat with people who understand their situation. I personally have found lots of support there and made some great friends. The people there are always willing to help answer any questions someone might have. Maine doesn't have much support to offer to TGs north of Bangor, or even much in Bangor. I just want to make sure that people know that Laura's Playground is around to offer support, answer questions, and help people find the resources they need. You can find it at: www.lauras-playground.com

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

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

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

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

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