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Family Affairs Newsletter 2008-06-15

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.

15 JUNE 2008

NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

(NEWS #1:) Notice From the Bridge Alliance: Due to circumstances beyond our control, the playwright for *Soul on Fire* (which was scheduled for June 19th) has withdrawn his permission for the production of his play by the Bridge Alliance. The cast was very excited about being a part of this moving story and regret that we will not be able to bring it forward at this time. Our hope is that if the play is offered in the future you would again consider attending and taking part. If you shared the flyer with others or know of people planning to attend please share this information with them.

(NEWS #2:) HELP WANTED. Home health care worker to help care for my partner who is terminal. Some light house keeping. Salary negotiable. Call David at 460-8929

(NEWS #3:) Maine TransNet taking part in Southern Maine PRIDE Parade. MaineTransNet would like to get a group together to participate in the Southern Maine Pride Parade on Saturday, June 21. It would be great to have a large group in order to increase transgender visibility both in the state of Maine and within the LGBT community. One of the reasons protections for transgender people was dropped from the national ENDA legislation was that legislators believe that there aren't enough trans people who are organized, involved, and politically active. Let's prove them wrong! SO, if you have a gender (traditional or non) and want to be in a parade, we need YOU!

The parade check in spot is on Preble Street in Portland, between Cumberland Avenue and Congress Street, under the Bonney Staffing Burgundy Awning across from Maine Bank's Drive-thru. We'll be meeting at 10:45am on Saturday 6/21. Look for people with a MaineTransNet banner. If you can't find us, feel free to call Ali's cell phone at (207) 632-6583. Let us know if you have questions or plan on walking with us! (mtn@mainetransnet.org)

(NOTES #1:) Looking for a book transporter. A GLBTI family member (who lives in Sebec ... near Dover Foxcroft) has a collection of Gay/Les educational books that she would like to donate to a Bangor area agency. Unfortunately, neither the agency nor the donator has the funds to pay for shipping them. If you live or travel near the Sebec area and would be willing to transport the books while making a planned trip to the Bangor area, please contact me and we'll see if we can arrange to connect everyone and get them moved. Email Jean at megress@gwi.net

(REMINDERS #1:) You can help the newsletter by sending me notices of upcoming GLBTI-related activities that you hear about in your area. Trust me, I would rather receive the same notice from 8 people than have everyone assume that I know about it and miss the chance to tell other GLBTI family members. Email megress@gwi.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This category is for non-social notices about GLBTI community members that you think other GLBTI community members might like to know about...things like: births, deaths, adoptions, commitments, graduations, promotions, new jobs, awards, shows, ongoing classes, trying-to-start-a-group, etc.

1. HELP WANTED. Home health care worker to help care for my partner who is terminal. Some light house keeping. Salary negotiable. Call David at 460-8929

2. 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

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. The DownEast Pride Alliance (DEPA). Sid Tripp with Proactive Resources Design and Leah Bartley of Merrill Lynch have teamed-up to co-sponsor a monthly after-hours gay business network called The DownEast Pride Alliance (DEPA). We hope to fill the need for a comprehensive business network geared specifically for gay & gay friendly businesses throughout Southern & Coastal Maine. DEPA's mission is to grow, promote and increase the visibility of GLBT businesses, their owners, and their allies in the communities that support them. The Bar of Chocolate at 38 Wharf Street, (207)773-6667 (in the heart of the Old Port, near Street & Co. Restaurant) has graciously offered to host our first After-Hours Business Mixer, on Thursday, June 19, 2008, 5:30pm-7:30pm. We chose this date to coincide with the Southern Maine Pride 2008 festivities on Saturday June 21, 2008. Please join us for our first monthly after-hours. A cash bar with drink specials and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Please come check out DEPA at this great networking event and bring lots of business cards. FMI contact Sid Tripp at 772-3599 or Leah Bartley at 871-1942.

OP/EDS:

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

Re: Just One More Study

All I have to say is "amen." Thank you for writing that. :)
Zachary
zpaakkonen@gmail.com

IT'S TIME TO ACT

Concerning your op-ed on "no more studies" I can only say, Amen. You hit that nail right on the head.

I am TG and in the final stage of my transition. Over the past 1-1/2 years I have come to realize that all this commotion about getting more legislation passed and conducting more studies (I myself have volunteered for a couple) is essentially doing very little if anything for the TG community here in Maine.

I could not agree more when you said, "But there must come a time in the struggle for equality that every minority group goes through… when it simply has to stand up and say the evidence is there, it is overwhelming, and now it's time to do something about it." Along those same lines, it is my opinion that what is truly needed at this time is what I refer to as "feet on the street". What do I mean by that? Simply that we need to be seen by John Q. Public in his supermarkets, malls, theaters, restaurants, and all other venues of public life and we need to be seen in large numbers. The fact that there are most likely thousands of us needs to be driven home. We are here, we have always been here, and it's time to openly claim our place in society.

It is one thing to read about someone who is transgendered in the newspaper or see a video clip on television. If one finds the subject unpleasant then all one has to do is just skip to the next article or change the channel. It's different though when it's a co-worker, a neighbor, or a fellow student in your class who is openly TG. Then it is personal and very hard to ignore, especially when all of a sudden they are popping up everywhere, like dandelions on a spring lawn.

Many of you may remember the 80's and 90's when the Gay community decided to finally take matters into their own hands and staged Gay Pride parades in several major cities. Yes, they were gaudy and lewd but those parades achieved two important objectives for them. The first was national television coverage and with that came the second more important thing, public awareness that there were not just a few Gays as was previously believed but thousands and thousands of them and they were everywhere. Now it was no longer impersonal and easy to ignore, gays were out in large numbers and suddenly, almost everyone knew someone or heaven forbid, had a family member who was gay. As a result of that, look how far the Gay community has come in being accepted into our society since then. They may have a long way to go still, but they are way ahead of us.

Now, I am not advocating anything such as a parade by transgendered people. I don't think that concept would work for us. On the other hand, I am getting a little tired of going to meetings, support groups, and other events where I hear Transfolk going on about "Why can't we just be accepted or wouldn't it be so nice just to go out in public anytime and anywhere you want." Well brace yourself because, if you really want it, you can. The only catch is that just as Dr. Cox on the television show Scrubs is so fond of saying, "You've got to have the stones Alice".

I know, I know, we've all heard the horror stories about being read or caught in public. I myself fell prey to the fear they generate for a very long time and even delayed starting my transition because of them. But don't you see, by staying in hiding we are playing

into the hands of our detractors. We are empowering their sick ideas and allowing them to inhibit, isolate, and harm us; even worse, by doing so we validate their outlandish accusations in the eyes of the public. More studies or scholarly dissertations in ivy covered halls will not do a darn thing for us. We need to been seen in numbers, we need the general public to realize how many of us there really are, and we need John Q. Public to see us as a co-worker, a neighbor, or a fellow student in his class. Only then will we begin to be accepted into our society.

I realize it is a scary step to take and many may never be capable of such action for whatever their reasons but if those who can, do so, then conditions could conceivably be changed so that they no longer are so frightening. I'm sure you're all familiar with the snowball rolling down the hill scenario? It's small at first but it just keeps getting bigger and bigger.

I must be honest with you and say that in the 1-1/2 years I have been living full time as Joan I have had a couple of bad experiences, but they have been far outweighed by positive ones. Whenever I am read by someone I do not flee in panic but instead use it as an opportunity to engage that person in ordinary conversation. I don't push the fact that I am TG on them but if they ask I am more than willing to discuss the subject without fear, shame, or embarrassment. Almost without exception, every person I have had such a conversation with has had some previous exposure to the concept of transgenderism either through newspaper or magazine articles, specials on cable networks such as Discovery Health, or shows like Oprah. These venues have given us visibility, a sort of legitimacy and because of that, people are now curious to learn more. I feel now is the time that we need to capitalize on this situation and add to its momentum. It has been my experience that a large segment of the public is ready and willing to learn about and accept us.

That acceptance comes with conditions though, and probably the most important condition is that of our public relations image. Where the Gay community many times used "shock and awe" in their parades to get the public's attention, we can't. If we want to be accepted as the girl or guy next door and be allowed to live our lives as such, then we have to dress and act the part. Six inch stilettos, net stockings, and a vinyl mini-skirt in the local supermarket are not going to help the cause, if you must dress that way then save it for when you go night clubbing.

Can we ever be accepted into mainstream society? I may be a dreamer, but I would like to think that the answer is yes. When the average citizen becomes accustomed to seeing us on a daily basis and is no longer threatened by our presence, then and only then will it happen. Until that day, all the conferences, studies, and legislation in the world will not do us much good.

Many of you may disagree with my point of view but after all, this is an op-ed isn't it? But ask yourself, "Is the writer wrong or is my reluctance motivated by some deep rooted fear"? Each time I leave my house now, I do it as Joan. Many people I have daily dealings with know I'm TG and it doesn't seem to matter one bit to them. I cannot begin to tell you what a wonderful feeling it is to go about my day as my true self and that has only come about because, and I'm speaking very figuratively here, I had "the stones" to do it. My dream is for every TG person to experience this life too. Acceptance is out there, all that needs to be done is seize the moment and live the part. That's my opinion and I'm sticking to it. I'll be looking for you.

Joan
geisler@suscom-maine.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 in included to get you started.

Solution to cyber-quip # 3

I ASKED A LOCKSMITH WHO ALWAYS VACATIONED IN FLORIDA WHERE HE PREFERRED TO GO. HE TOLD ME THAT HE LIKED TO SPEND HIS TIME IN THE KEYS.

Cyber-Quip # 4

W D C S W I I R W I I G C K K W B X H J C I I G D W T X B S W N T W D I X C J C N K F J N V C H ' N K I F J S X N I W H X, B F G F E J S W H P S X V W M S J

L F P W H M I G N C G : " W P W I J C P W I J " ?

CLUE: I = L

EVENTS (CHANGING):

* **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 18 (Wednesday)**, Portland, **LGBT Collection Open House**, 5:00 - 6:30 pm, Glickman Library, 6th floor lobby, University of Southern Maine, Portland Campus.
As part of the Southern Maine Pride Week, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Collection of the Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine, will be holding its annual open house. This year we celebrate our first Scholar-in-Residence, Howard Solomon, with a display focusing on how he built the LGBT Collection and his role in the community. Come enjoy light refreshments, visit the Special Collections facility (home to the LGBT Collection), and reminisce with Howard over past events, and witness how that history is being saved through the LGBT Collection. Free and open to the public. FMI call 780-4275.

* **JUN 19 (Thursday)**, Portland, **DEPA's After-Hours Business Mixer**, 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Sid Tripp with Proactive Resources Design and Leah Bartley of Merrill Lynch have teamed-up to co-sponsor a monthly after-hours gay business network called The DownEast Pride Alliance (DEPA). We hope to fill the need for a comprehensive business network geared specifically for gay & gay friendly businesses throughout Southern & Coastal Maine. DEPA's mission is to grow, promote and increase the visibility of GLBT businesses, their owners, and their allies in the communities that support them. The Bar of Chocolate at 38 Wharf Street has graciously offered to host our first After-Hours Business Mixer. Please join us for our first monthly after-hours. A cash bar with drink specials and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Please come check out DEPA at this great networking event and bring lots of business cards. FMI contact Sid Tripp at 772-3599 or Leah Bartley at 871-1942.

* **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.mainegaymenschorus.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** present: "PASS THE MIC", a rockin' mix of performances by us (the Kings of the Hill) and several other of Portland's sexy, struttin', and probably packin' drag kings!!!!! (We bet you'll know at least a few...). And oh yeah - maybe even a hoppin' little Bunny. The show will be at One Longfellow Square (the corner of State and Congress Streets in Portland). This is an "over 18" show with a full bar available. Doors open at 8 pm and the show starts at 9 pm. Tickets are $8 in advance (recommended) or $10 at the door. You can purchase tickets online at http://onelongfellowsquare.com OR by phone at 207-761-1757 OR at the box office at 181 State St, Suite 304

* **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

* **JUN 22 (Sunday)**, Portland, family member and **musician Cathy Worthley** will be performing at the First Parish in Portland Unitarian Universalist (425 Congress St) for their PRIDE Sunday Service. FMI check her web site at http://www.cathyworthley.com

* **JUL 17 - 20 (Thursday - Sunday), backpacking trip to Chimney Pond in Baxter State Park.** Mike G and some of the members of the Chiltern Mountain Club (from Massachusetts) will be doing a 4-day, 3-night hiking trip. 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

* **JUL 18 - 20 (Friday - Sunday),** Bar Harbor and Mt. Desert Island. **2008 Summer Face to Face - a GLBTI Community Weekend**. Some of the folks on Maine Gay Net are organizing a great summer GLBTI community weekend: 2008 Summer Face to Face. The weekend will consist of a variety of fun, indoor and outdoor activities that **all GLBTQI folks and allies are welcome to take part** in. Get OUT, get to the island, and enjoy some of the great Maine summer !! If you plan to attend, please contact Dawn at bbginANP@roadrunner.com to sign up for the events you plan to attend. In some cases, space is limited, and there may be some fees involved, so please make your plans early!

Friday Evening:

--- Open Mic Comedy (come hear the pantyhose story!) , talent show, and improv plus an Ice Cream Social featuring Dawn F's Hot Fudge Sauce. This will be at the Otter Creek Hall. Admission is free, donations accepted. Performers and storytellers welcome! Ellsworth area musician Chris Rutecki has graciously agreed to host, coordinate and MC the open mic portion of the Friday night ice cream social and storytelling extravaganza. If you've got a talent that you can share in a public, family-oriented forum, then drop her a note and she'll work out the details. You can reach her at: chrisrutecki@hotmail.com

Saturday Day:

--- Photography hike around Upper Hadlock Loop in Acadia National Park
--- Golfing at the Southwest Harbor Causeway Club
--- Brook fishing
--- Carriage rides through the park
--- Big potluck cookout/picnic at noon. This will be at Suminsby Park in Mount Desert. It is located on Somes Sound on Sargent Drive. Sargent Drive is closed to most motor homes, but I know we've got a couple of folks who have the little ones that mount onto a pick-up. Those should be ok. I will send out very specific directions as July approaches. The important thing to know is that while it does not have flush toilets, it does have portable toilet facilities, picnic tables and hibachis, a volleyball court, a nice big lawn, a fair amount of parking, and the greatest view you've ever seen. It is where I held my 40th birthday party (my friend Swimmer calls it his favorite place on earth). People should probably bring folding chairs.

Saturday Evening:

--- Theatre of Marvels Magic Show featuring Dr. Miller (aka Rusty), at the Otter Creek Hall, 7:00 pm, Admission $5 at the door. (Please note this is not an exclusively queer event, but a public show.)

Sunday Day:

--- Sunrise coffee and muffins atop Cadillac Mountain
--- Gentle bike ride on Acadia's carriage trails (perhaps with a lunch stop at the Jordan Pond House)
--- Men's hikes led by Sturgis and/or Mike G., followed by tea and popovers at the Jordan Pond House
--- More golf, fishing, and photo hikes
--- Anything from Saturday that didn't happen but that you still want to try.

Things To Note:

--- We are looking for local people, or people who are familiar to the island, to help host informal groups to go for bike rides on the carriage roads, a photographer's hike, golf at Southwest Harbor, and whatever else might be of interest. We have people coming to the island over the course of Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 18, 19, and 20, and we need interesting things for them to do on all three days. You don't have to be a professional tour guide, just willing to go with a small group for an hour or two's adventure.

--- Some events may incur a small fee, contact us to sign up and for more information.

--- LODGING: Many options are available, from camping to chain motels, posh hotels, cozy B&Bs, and people's couches. We're also looking for folks who might be willing to offer a spare bedroom or fold-out couch to some of our out of town guests. We'll try to help hook you up; let us know what you need.

--- PARK PASSES: Are a must for events in the park. They cost $20, are good for a week, and 80% of the money stays local to help support services at Acadia National Park. Discounts are available for seniors and for people with disabilities. Information

about passes and discounts is available at the Hull's Cove Visitor's Center of Acadia National Park or by visiting the website: http://www.nps.gov/acad/ and following the links for fees & reservations.

--- Also, this thing is incurring some expenses along the way. While the picnic will be pot-luck, there are some things that need to be provided (burgers, dogs, plates, forks, etc) and things need to be purchased for the Friday night event as well. Here is the website where you can make a pay pal donation to the cause. One person has suggested a $10 per person gift would be appropriate, but by all means, please give what you are able and comfortable doing. Thank you. http://mainegaynetface2face2008.blogspot.com/

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 aupices of the very GLBT-welcoming Hammond St Congregational Church. While it usually consists of a potluck dinner at someone's home, there have also been gaming nights and other activities. Persons who are interested should call the church at 942-4381 for details of time and place.

STUDENTS FOR AIDS FACTS AND EDUCATION RESOURCES (SAFER). Every 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.

HOME REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT:

MDI Home Project Solvers
Otter Creek, Maine 04660
ph: 207-288-3672
email: bbginANP@roadrunner.com
proprietor: Dawn Fortune
No longer comfortable climbing a ladder to clean the gutters? Seasonal yard chores seem bigger than they once were? Guests coming and the spare room needs a coat of paint and some wallpaper? Kitchen floor need replacing? Too busy to fix this, paint that, weather-proof something else? Let me help. Located on MDI and serving Hancock County, I can take care of those jobs so that you can get on with living life. E-mail me for rates and services. I can do all kinds of things from basic home repair (squeaky hinges) to building a deck or garage. Reasonable rates. Insured.

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 to many friends. And if something more developes 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.

For Sale, 1894 Epworth pump organ in working condition and that still looks good that needs a home. Two people can comfortably walk away with it, it is so light. Located in Bradley. I would like to get a few $$ for it. Make an offer. Please call Dawn at 207-944-9773 or email me at dv53@yahoo.com

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 (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 utilites. Contact Francine at 207-664-3692

Kingman, house for rent (or sale). I have a 4 bedroom victorian fixer-upper that is deteriorating the longer it sits empty in Kingman, about 2 hours north of Bangor. Will work with people who want to fix it up and rent it or help with some of the financing. Please call Dawn at 207-944-9773 or email me at dv53@yahoo.com.

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

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 roomate. Room is very small but very affordable. The room is furnished, with only a twin bed, and storage for clothing. There is only room for perhaps your TV and computer. The place is cozy in a campy kind of way, near Beech Hill Pond. Located in a quiet rural area 20 minutes to Ellsworth, 25 minutes to Bangor. There's a small circle of gay women in the neighborhood. $300/month includes everything. Perfect for someone in transition. So, If you're looking for

affordable, give me a call. Lynn at 537-3366 or at 460-1376 or by email at lucky62365@aol.com

Portland, 2nd Floor Apartment for rent. Available July 1st. Spectacular Victorian – Freshly painted, 2 bedroom apartment in Portland's historic West End at 39 Neal Street, Five Blocks From Maine Medical Center. Original plaster ceilings & walls, 2 sets of french double doors, double living room, working fireplace, sunroom, blond hardwood floors, new bathroom, designer kitchen, pantry, office, off street parking, designer light fixtures, basement storage, owner occupied quiet building - meticulously maintained, onsite coin-op laundry. Non-smokers, no dogs. Brand new economical oil furnace. Cleaning service available. Utilities not included. $1650/month. First month's, last month's & security deposited required. Call Sid: Days 772-3599. Nights 774-6617. Mobile 831-2839.

Rockland - apartment for rent. Third floor, large, light-filled apartment in Rockland's historic downtown. Large, covered deck overlooking Lermond 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 - GLBT, Portland, Sunday evenings, 6:30pm, at Williston West Church, 32 Thomas Street. More info: http://www.aamaine.org/groups/1/glbtq.htm

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 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 dont have insurance to cover breast and cervical health services. FMI contact Robin at Caring Connections at 941-2808.

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

Equality Maine, has been providing education and legislative advocacy for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1984. It sponsors a variety of social and legislative educational events each year and is always looking for volunteers and new members. If you're not a member, you should be. FMI contact Equality Maine at 207-761-3732 or toll free at 1-800-556-5472. Their email address is info@equalitymaine.org and the web site is www.equalitymaine.org

(GLAD) Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders. To learn about and protect your rights under Maine's anti-discrimination law, visit GLAD's website at www.glad.org or call the free legal hotline at at 1-800-455-GLAD (1-800-455-4523). GLAD is New England's legal rights organization dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV status and gender identity and expression. GLAD's legal victories in Maine have addressed HIV discrimination, harassment of gay students, co-guardianship

rights for same-sex parents, domestic partner benefits and more.

(GLSEN) Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network. 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 inspriational speakers. People interested in being on the Planning Committee, or being involved in any way, can contact Dan Williams at 942-9319 or at knead24u@yahoo.com . 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'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 organizaton 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 mdpalmer@gwi.net

Transcare 2000 provides transsexual education, professional educational seminars, group moderation, counseling, and referrals for the trans community. Private duty nursing care and consultations by a registered nurse for post-operative transsexuals. Presentations on "Post Operative Transsexuals, a Study of Integration." FMI contact Marty at 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

DEPA (DownEast Pride Alliance). (PORTLAND) DEPA's mission is to grow, promote and increase the visibility of GLBT businesses, their owners, and their allies in the communities that support them. Sid Tripp with Proactive Resources Design and Leah Bartley of Merrill Lynch have teamed-up to co-sponsor a monthly after-hours gay business network called The DownEast Pride Alliance (DEPA). We hope to fill the need for a comprehensive business network geared specifically for gay & gay friendly businesses throughout Southern & Coastal Maine. FMI contact Sid Tripp at 772-3599 or Leah Bartley at 871-1942 or check the web site at www.depabusiness.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 imput 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 maritme GLBT community. It's put out in print copy only, covers all the maritime provinces, and contains feature articles, regular columns, listings of groups and services, listings of GLBT events coming up, and business ads. A subscription sent to the U.S. is $30/year CDN. FMI about subscribing contact Jim McMillan at 902-826-7356, email submissions@wayves.ca , or write to Wayves, PO Box 34090, Scotia Square, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, B3J 3S1. You can also check their web site at www.wayves.ca

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

WEB BASED MAINE GLBT LISTSERVES & EMAIL LISTS:

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

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

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 vrooommaine@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.