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Family Affairs Newsletter 2008-08-01

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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 AUGUST 2008

NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

(NEWS #1:) MOTTO CONTEST SUBMISSIONS: Well folks, these are the motto suggestions that came in over the past two weeks.

It could be worse; you could be Queer and play the accordion!
It's just a Tertiary Conundrum.
Light through a prism is diverse.
Clear, white light has many colors.
A river is many waters but one voice.
We are many; We are one.
Unified in Diversity.
Refracted into many colors, yet one light.
Courage, Integrity, Perseverance.
Drive fast and take chances.
Follow Your Heart - Do Your Part - Cherish Our Family.

These are my three favorites:

It could be worse; you could be Queer and play the accordion!
Clear, white light has many colors.
Follow Your Heart - Do Your Part - Cherish Our Family.

In the next few days I'll send out a survey to everyone to see which of the three everyone would like to see as the motto for The FAN, and I'll announce the winner in the next issue.

(NEWS #2:) RESULTS OF THE COMPUTER QUESTION. I also sent to the readership a question about fixing people's screens so that they don't have to scroll left and right as well as up and down in order to read The FAN. Lots of people responded with a variety of possible causes for the trouble and possible fixes. It's mostly Greek to me. I have printed those responses below in the ANNOUNCEMENTS category for anyone who is interested in seeing them. About the only thing respondents seem to agree on is that if I sent The FAN as a PDF attachment it would look the same to everyone. But I have no idea if all the subscribers can read PDF attachments. If I can come up with the time I may give it a try to see how difficult it is on my side and whether folks can actually read it on your side. More anon.

(NOTES #1:) The Maine Community Foundation has grants available (up to \$ 7500) for GLBT organizations through their EQUITY FUND. The Equity Fund's mission is to strengthen gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) organizations in Maine and support community-based initiatives that address GLBT issues and needs. The vision driving the fund is one of inclusive, diverse, prejudice-free communities for the GLBT population and for all people in Maine. The deadline for submitting requests is September 15, 2008. FMI check the web site at <http://www.mainecef.org/grants/availablegrants/equityfund.aspx>

(NOTES #2:) 25th Anniversary Weekend of GAY MEN TOGETHER. September 25-28 (Thursday - Sunday), West Gardner. GAY MEN TOGETHER (GMT) is held twice a year, in May and in October, with this fall being our 25th Weekend. GMT was formed by a group of gay men, feeling a need to do "community" work, moving into the 21st century having dealt with such a devastating disease as AIDS for fifteen years which took all, and even more of our

energy. GMT has been very successful. We hold approximately twenty different workshops at each retreat, some with laughter, some with tears and all are led by participants. The GMT weekend is an open format, which means you pick and choose what you would like to do. There are up to 5 different workshops for each time period. The food, prepared by volunteer participants under the direction of our chef is fabulous. We have a dance and talent show on Saturday evening. We would like you to attend opening and closing circle and to try to be at meals on time. Opening-Closing circle and meal times are the only structured part of the weekend. All work is done by participant volunteers. We ask each participant for at least one work assignment for the weekend. We recognize that we are all sexual beings, but to respect boundaries of other and be aware that not everyone is at the same place when it comes to what is and is not appropriate sexual behavior for us. It all comes down to respect and communication. PLEASE - NO PETS, BOOZE, OR ILLEGAL DRUGS. FMI and/or for early registration (which is suggested), check the web site at www.gaymenttogether.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. Volunteers Sought for United World Citizens. Family member Bobbie Lynn is looking for some folks who might be able to help her with some easy and fun fundraising for her organization: United World Citizens. The United World Citizens is a non profit, based in Bar Harbor, dedicated to promoting the concept and practice of humanitarianism to an ever widening audience. She writes:

"This summer we are focusing primarily (though not exclusively) on raising money for two orphanages. One is an AIDS orphanage in Cambodia called Wat Opot. The other is an orphanage in Ghana. We raise money for the orphanages by selling jewelry and hand batiked clothing from West Africa at local (and sometimes not quite so local) craft fairs and festivals. It's lots of fun and very rewarding! We are always looking for new volunteers.

"We are also doing a raffle to raise money for Doctors without Borders (funds will be earmarked for Darfur and also Earthquake victims in China).

"If potential volunteers have a specific cause they are devoted to, we are happy to consider donating a portion of our (craft) profits to that cause, providing it is in keeping with United World Citizens goals and objectives.

"Is there any chance folks might be available to volunteer at one of the upcoming craft fairs/festivals we (the United World Citizens) have scheduled? ... (a four hour volunteer shift followed by fun at the various locations would make for a lovely outing.)"

The next fair United World Citizens will be at is: **September 19, 20, 21 Common Ground Fair, Unity Maine**

FMI contact Bobbie Lynn at blhutchins@verizon.net or by phone at 669 4275 OR 266 0674.

2. NEW GLBTI-FRIENDLY PUB IN GARDNER. Marjorie, from the Portland area, sends this clipping along about a new pub that friends of hers have opened in Gardner. The clipping apparently was written by Mechele Cooper for the Kennebec Journal. (ed note: My apologies for slaughtering the original formatting of this news piece.)

GARDINER: A Mad Dog on Water Street

In jolly ol' England, pubs are the core of life in communities.

An alehouse with quality beers and good food is an integral part of the community.

Marianne Roth and Auta Main, co-owners of The Mad Dog pub at 259 Water St., wanted to bring a tiny bit of the real England to Gardiner.

Both live in the city and volunteer in the community. Main is the president of the Gardiner Main Street Board of Directors, a nonprofit group that encourages downtown economic and cultural vitality.

In England, Roth said pubs are a family gathering place. A town without a focal point becomes a collection of dwellings -- a location, she said.

"We really felt Gardiner needed something," Roth said Friday. "We only have a few restaurants and the only one downtown is A-1 (Diner). We've traveled to England many, many times and liked the English pub setting. It's all about community. And it was something people really wanted. So we went for it."

Mad Dog, with fine wine, spirits and ale, opened last week in a 150-year-old Water Street building.

Roth and Main purchased the building last October and did some extensive renovation. They knocked out ceilings and erected walls and installed a new electrical system. They also had a small kitchen built at the back of the restaurant and added a fire escape.

On the second floor is a nonprofit, Boreal Songbird Initiative, and on the third floor is a loft apartment. The pub looks authentic with prints of hunting scenes and brass and pewter accent pieces.

Roth found the sideboard behind the bar in an antique shop in Portland. It is handcrafted out of woodwork that came from an old estate, she said. They also bought the pub's maple wrap-around bar from an antiques dealer.

Stairs lead from the pub to a basement that has been transformed into a cozy dining area for intimate meals.

Ray Eugley, head chef, said the downstairs is similar to old-world upscale clubs. The menu includes English style fare such as roast turkey and prime rib with Yorkshire pudding, served on weekends. They also offer a vegetarian meal, roasted root vegetables with parmesan and Romano drizzle.

He said the restaurant can seat 20 to 25 downstairs and 20 upstairs.

At 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, they serve a traditional high tea, same as an afternoon tea, with cookies and cakes and popovers. The tea comes from the Baxter Tea Co. in Gardiner where 10 percent of the profit goes to Baxter State Park.

Mad Dog only opens in the evenings.

Hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from 4:30-9 p.m.; Thursday from 4:30-10 p.m.; and on Friday and Saturday, 4:30-11 p.m. It's closed Sunday and Monday.

"Our food is all organic, we're buying from local growers," Eugley said. "And our meats come from Wolf's Neck Farm."

Roth, who also will be preparing meals, attended Dumas Pere L'ecole de la Cuisine Francaise, a cooking school in Chicago. Eugley is a recent graduate of Washington County Community College's culinary program.

Katie Spencer, a server who said she had opening day jitters, agreed that Gardiner needed another downtown restaurant. Something with style.

"It's something different," Spencer said. "All we have here is pizza. We needed a place where you could get dressed up to go out to dinner."

Roth said business has been good even though she only advertised in the dining guide. She said customers are drawn to the cozy atmosphere of her tiny alehouse.

"We've been well received, so we're quite happy," Roth said. "Our slogan is you'll be a stranger here but once."

FMI www.maddoggardinermaine.com

3. RESULTS OF THE COMPUTER QUESTION.

Should be a setting for text wrap that I think will take care of this. Pat

*****

Check in the mail program and see if there are any settings related to the width or what is called the "wrap" of messages - if the wrap is set to greater than 72 characters, it can cause problems. If *that* doesn't work, I might try composing the message as a PDF or Word doc and sending it as an attachment, as that is pretty much guaranteed to be fine, if people have that program (a PDF reader is free). Zack

*****

I believe it has to do with the size of his browser's "reading" window. Once he opens up the Newsletter email, if he clicks on the box in the upper right-hand corner of his browser (between the _ and x), it will maximize this window. This should open up the entire newsletter so he doesn't have to scroll from left to right. He will only have to scroll up and down.

I would try this simple solution first. My other thought is he may have the entire screen display's resolution enlarged to aid in reading...I don't want to go there yet as to how to play with those settings.

The above will not work for Yahoo accounts. Their email does not open in a separate browser window. Therefore, he should follow the steps below:

1. Maximize the entire browser window first (same process as below).
2. Click on the email he wants to read. The email will appear in the same browser window.
3. Scroll the bottom left/right bar to the far right hand side.
4. This should center the email in their window browser and enable him to read the Newsletter by using the up/down scroll bar.
5. He will need to scroll the bar back to the left in order to see his "folders".

This is based upon his using the Yahoo Mail Classic view. Lew

*****

There are a couple of reasons why this might be happening:

1. You have an image banner that is wider than some people's screens. I believe this would be pretty unlikely, given that most monitors today are at least 1024 pixels (about 12 inches) wide.
2. People are reading the newsletter in a window narrower than the table you have constructed for the newsletter. If you have the newsletter in HTML and it's set in a table, that table may be set to a fixed width (say, 1000 pixels). If you change this absolute pixel width to a percentage (say, 100% or 90%), the newsletter will fit properly in everybody's e-mail.
3. If people are receiving the e-mail in plain text, or if you have long HTML links, those links can affect the length of the text lines. For example, if your link is 400 characters long, it's going to blow out any table or text e-mail. Ask the people having trouble if they're viewing the newsletter in plain text or HTML.
Hope this helps, JaneA

*****

I wonder if these people can change the size of their font so it fits in on the screen better..another idea is to copy and paste the newsletter onto a document in the word processor program they use and read it from there? Marcy

*****

It all depends on the graphic resolution one's pc or mac is set to and the email application one is using to read the newsletter. If the email application is viewing the newsletter on a web page style, it may not be able to show the whole line on a resolution of 800x600 without using the scrollbar. If the email application is set to view the newsletter as a text only document, the application maybe able to show the whole line if the resolution of the monitor is set higher than 800x600. In my case, I have my email program convert all incoming emails to text only so I don't have to scroll but down. Chris

*****

I hope some one has a solution. I can eventually get a readable copy by forwarding to another e-mail account I have. and then forwarding again to a third account. Then it fits fine in the third account. But must do it in these many steps or it doesn't work. Bob

*****

If you have the umption you could create your document in Word and save it as a PDF file and send it as an attachment. PDF's are universally understood by both Mac and PC. Other than that I am not sure! It appears fine on both my machines. DAVE

*****

I have found that when this happens on my PC or laptop, if I just expand the window fully to fit the whole screen, I can then read the entire page. Chase

*****

This problem usually occurs in the html coding. Instead of setting hard numbers like 800px, use percentages. That way the content will adjust to any sized screen. Kay

*****

Those folks may just simply have to lower the font size. Tell them to "select all" which on a windows PC can be obtained by the shortcut Ctrl+letter "A" then select font and change the size to a smaller number and it should then fit in one plane. Try it, it may work, worked for me. I have Windows XP Professional. Sean

*****

Not sure I am of any help but as I understand it, if you select 'word wrap' under options, you can choose to have all text on one screen as opposed to text going all the way over to the right as some screens are bigger and others smaller which I am told is the issue. My son is a computer technician so I hope this helps. Kasey

*****

I'm seeing the newsletter just fine. I don't think there is necessarily anything you can do about this... Your only choices are to send email as "Plain Text" or as "Rich Text." It's long been thought that Rich Text and HTML emails are not a good thing, and that formatting and color should be left to PDF's and websites. There's never been great support for sending colorful emails.

If the reactions you've gotten aren't too bad and you want to continue doing what you're doing, I think that's fine. Otherwise, I'd suggest either changing the email to just a Plain Text message, or create it in Word or Pages with color and formatting, then send it as a PDF. These two ways would guarantee a clean read for all recipients.

Sorry I couldn't be of more help, but I think these are your only options. Roger

*****

I have no problem reading the newsletter. The text looks fine on my PC. Do you compose the news letter in a software program or cut and paste it into an email? It could be the individual person's email settings (Text versus HTML). Tom

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.*

BAREBACKING IN THE PORN INDUSTRY. (ed note: I am putting this info and link ... sent to me from the folks at Thrive, in Portland ... in the OP/EDS category because I thought it should be seen and that this was be best category for it.)

Well known gay porn director, Chi Chi LaRue, has been bombarded with interview requests to comment on "barebacking in the porn industry." A great message that not only comments on the implications of glamorizing sex without condoms, but also the fact that it is putting the models at risk and whether this type of entertainment should be supported. Plus, there's some really hot clips mixed in!

Online Video: <http://www.safesexishotsex.com/>

Message From Chi Chi: <http://www.safesexishotsex.com/message.php>

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.

Face-to-Face on MDI (thanks to Dawn for this report)

The Big Gay Weekend is over, and it seems like everyone had a good time.

Friday night was spectacular - we had maybe two dozen people at the ice cream social, which was hosted by the fearless and funny Lib. Maine Gaynet's moderator Nanci said a few words of welcome and also performed a song with Sue and Ruth. Mike sang acapella in amazing style, and lots of people told stories. One of our most sane and sensible list members told a story of (nearly) robbing a bank with the granddaughter of Pretty Boy Floyd. We were in awe. And such storytelling talent! I was amazed. There is an art to telling stories - there is skill involved in the timing and reading the audience and getting the delivery to work, and this crowd had it in spades. The tellers were very good and the audience was appreciative. I was mightily impressed. It could not have worked out any better.

Saturday's noontime picnic was a hit! We had over 30 people at the picnic, and burgers and hot dogs enough for everyone. Someone even brought SPAM, which I dutifully sliced and grilled. It was horrifying, but I did it. What's worse, people ate it. I did not watch.

I have no pictures of the picnic, but gaynet member Pat took these and has graciously allowed me to link to them.

Saturday afternoon had a batch of people wandering around Northeast Harbor on a tour of historical lesbian places and then there was a reading of some kind. Not being artistically inclined, I have no idea now exactly what it was about, but it got good reviews.

Saturday evening had a gaggle of us attending the Theater of Marvels show in Otter Creek. Rusty and Mike got to chain up a guy and secure him with bunches of padlocks from which he escaped. I think we must have had close to 20 of our people there, and the tiny little hall was packed. Rusty/Geoff is a marvel with the Chinese linking rings and he did a particularly fun (and campy) series of tricks involving what looked like miles of silk scarves and bunches of parasols. In the humidity, I can only imagine how difficult it must have been to get that stuff to behave.

Sunday morning we all (mostly) met early for breakfast at my favorite place in Bar Harbor: Cafe This Way. We ended up with 15 people from the weekend in attendance, not bad considering that some had to leave for very long drives home.

If you're interested in the pictures and full account of this telling, check out the blog at www.weldablecookies.blogspot.com

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 # 6

BECAUSE MY AMERICAN FRIEND FAILED TO COMPREHEND THE JAPANESE STAGE DRAMA, I ASKED HIM:
"WHAT PART OF NOH DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?"

Cyber-Quip # 7

BAJ WESJBWESY PMMYKJ AEN BM AKWJ E "SMUUJSBMW" RMW BAMVJ
MR AKV SUKJLBV DAM DMZUNL'B FMLO ZF.

CLUE: A = H

EVENTS (CHANGING):

* **AUG 16 (Saturday)**, Portland, **singer-songwriter Jessi Mallory** will be performing live at Thomas Knight Park in Portland for the New England Sound Summer Concert Series. Thomas Knight Park is under the Casco Bay Bridge in

South Portland. Jessi performs from 11am-12pm. Sarah Cox performs from 12pm-1pm. FMI check these web sites: www.ne-sound.com www.myspace.com/jessimallory www.myspace.com/sarahcoxmusic

* **AUG 16 (Saturday)**, Kennebunk, **Family member and playwright Carolyn Gage** will have a showing of one of her plays. An Evening of Norman Rockwell's Famous Saturday Evening Post Illustrations will be brought to life in six 15 minute plays written by Maine playwrights. As part of this evening, Carolyn's play "Blackeye", which deals with homophobia and gender roles in the 1950's, will be shown. The play is based on Rockwell's painting "The Girl with the Blackeye." FMI check the web site at www.artoftheplay.com

* **AUG 21 (Thursday)**, Bar Harbor, **Drag Show hosted by Katya and Paris** to help benefit The Miss Gay Northern Maine Pageant. The shows are at Carmen Verandah/Rupununi ... 119 Main St in Bar Harbor. Doors open at 9pm. \$5 to get in. Great drinks and lots of fun. FMI call Carmen Veranda's at 288-2766

* **AUG 23 (Saturday)**, Eddington, **Bridge Alliance Dance Party**, 9:00 pm - 12:00 am. 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

* **AUG 30 (Saturday)**, Mount Desert Island, **Potluck gathering at Lin's house in Pretty Marsh**, 5:00 pm - ?. We will visit and play croquet, then eat around 6:30 pm. There is a gas grill in case you would like to grill goodies. The location is right in the middle of Pretty Marsh, 911 Indian Point Road. There will be a rainbow flag on the mailbox so you can't miss it! FMI and/or more detailed directions, phone Lin at 244-3837.

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 sharon@maineaidnetwork.com or go to <http://www.maineaidnetwork.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 GLBTI-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.

BUSINESSES

(NEW LISTINGS OF GLBTI-OWNED BUSINESS and GLBTI BUSINESS INDIVIDUALS):

The complete directory-to-date of folks who have asked to be listed is available on request. Also, it will be emailed to everyone next on September 15. If you are a GLBTI business owner, 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.

HAIR STYLING:

AK Haircolor & Design
798 Main Rd North
Hampden, ME 04444
Ph: 207-992-9049
email: stylesbychase@aol.com
Contact: Chase Blanchard

This is the areas only American Board Certified Haircolorist shop, offering complete hair coloring, cutting and styling services. We also offer Norvell Airbrush Tanning; waxing services, wedding party services and more.

LAWYERS:

West End Legal, LLC

P.O. Box 21

Portland ME 04112

Ph: (207) 321-8419

email: info@westendlegal.com

web: www.westendlegal.com

We are a full-service law firm that can handle most legal matters. FTM and lesbian owned and operated.

PERSONALS:

Single 50 year old lesbian seeks companionship which may evolve into more. I am an open-minded artist who seeks another lesbian, lesbian-identified trans person, or intersexed person. My interests include horses, nature, art, dancing, and GLBT legal issues. Non-cigarette smoker preferred. Contact Jean in the Bangor/Belfast area at jeanhorsewoman@yahoo.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.

FREE FOR THE TAKING. Three large panes of plate glass (possibly more in the near future). Each pane is about 45" x 71". Contact Jean at megress@gwi.net or by phone at 862-2063

FOR SALE, Sangerville - 2 Bedroom 2 Bath Mobile home with 24x36 Garage on 3+ acres. Large lawn, close to town and amenities with quiet countryside living. Garage was built in 2005, Mobile home is a 1991 Imperial Regal. Motivated seller. For more information email Rob at rhc77@hotmail.com or check out the MLS # 894214

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, studio apt for rent. Small kitchen, fully furnished, yard, laundry, very nice, not fancy but on great property near parks and town. \$700/month. 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 applaned, 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

Freeport, house-sharing available. I'm looking for a chill, mature, non-smoking woman or GM to share home on a cove, literally a 2 minute walk from Winslow Park in Freeport. Just minutes from the highway, you can find yourself in

downtown Portland or Brunswick in 15 minutes or less. Fairly well equipped home with most of the amenities (currently working on a hot-tub). Bring your stuff, hang up your clothes, and enjoy your breakfast watching the sun rise over the cove. Amenities include washer/dryer & dishwasher, phone service, cable and Internet, and use of my PDA membership. Rent is \$450 plus 1/2 of some utilities. This is a substance abuse and drama free environment! AVAILABLE now. FMI call Dal at 207-838-6646.

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

Newport, 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.

Orono, apartment for rent. Three bedroom apartment in Orono, close to Veazie, short distance from UMO, quiet, nonsmoking, pets ok. W/D on site heat, electric included; \$1000. Contact Mary at ballgirlmom@aol.com

Otis, Roommate Wanted. Female seeking same for roommate. Room is very small but very affordable. The room is furnished, with only a twin bed, and storage for clothing. There is only room for perhaps your TV and computer. The place is cozy in a campy kind of way, near Beech Hill Pond. Located in a quiet rural area 20 minutes to Ellsworth, 25 minutes to Bangor. There's a small circle of gay women in the neighborhood. \$300/month includes everything. Perfect for someone in transition. So, If you're looking for affordable, give me a call. Lynn at 537-3366 or at 460-1376 or by email at 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.

Portland, housemate wanted. Looking for female housemate to share large, sunny, Victorian apartment near USM. Share with 56-year-old lesbian author. Large yard, clawfoot tub, hardwood floors, huge kitchen with walk-in pantry, basement storage, garage, off-street parking. \$475/month. No pets, no smokers. References required. FMI contact Carolyn at 774-4231.

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/glbtc.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 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 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.
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.

Maine Breast and Cervical Health Program, offers no-cost mammograms, pap tests, and gynecological exams to qualifying Maine women (regardless of sexual orientation). If you are a woman in Maine and you are due for a Pap test or mammogram, help is just a phone call away. The Maine Breast and Cervical Health Program can help you get the health care you deserve. If you are a Maine woman over 40, have little or no insurance and meet certain income guidelines then you may be eligible for no-cost mammograms, Pap tests, and gynecological exams at your choice of participating area providers. Call today to see if you qualify, 973-3586 or 1-800-350-5180. (TTY 1-800-438-5514)
The best protection is early detection!

Maine SpeakOut Project. SpeakOut's mission and philosophy is to actively work towards the creation of a society that is inclusive, respectful, and safe for gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgender people. Volunteers educate their community by sharing the truth of their lives. SpeakOut provides schools, business, and churches with opportunities to engage in open dialogue that is non-confrontational and non-divisive. SpeakOut's community programming efforts include: SpeakOuts, Everybody Counts in the Workplace, Walk with the One You Love, and the Charlie Howard Memorial Library. To schedule a speaker or to arrange a volunteer training, contact Jen Hodsdon at speakout@commcc.org or phone 874.1030.

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

(PFLAG) Parent's, Family, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodford St, in Portland. ALL are welcomed, not just parents. FMI call 207-831-3015 or email mdpalmier@gwi.net

Transcare 2000 provides transsexual education, professional educational seminars, group moderation, counseling, and referrals for the trans community. Private duty nursing care and consultations by a registered nurse for post-operative transsexuals. Presentations on "Post Operative Transsexuals, a Study of Integration." FMI contact Marty at marty@mc@roadrunner.com OR at 582-8779 OR check the web site at <http://www.transcare2000.com>

The Transgender Fund. With offices in Freeport, Maine, The Transgender Fund is a national, completely independent, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public charitable foundation. It has been created by and for transgendered individuals. Our funding is derived from contributions by caring individuals of all levels of means. Our strength and independence come from the fact that there is no single benefactor who has seeded the Fund with a large amount of

capital. Contributions you make are added to those of your sisters and brothers. Individually, they may seem modest, but collectively they add up to a powerful force that is reinvested in the support of projects fostering the well-being of all our gender variant minorities. FMI email info@tgfund.org OR check the web site at www.tgfund.org

SOCIAL GROUPS (MORE THAN 50 MILES FROM BANGOR):

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

Coastal Women's Connection. (BRUNSWICK TO PORTLAND COASTAL AREA) A women's social group that holds dances, BBQs, softball, camping, potlucks, etc. FMI about their activities you can join their yahoo group site (they have an events calendar) at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/coastalwomensconnection>. Click on request to join and mention that you are a lesbian and would like to join. Request will be approved as soon as a moderator gets it. You can also see their web site at www.coastalwomensconnection.com

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

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 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 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 interested 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.