



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

**SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER
AND INTERSEX COMMUNITY**

FOLLOW YOUR HEART - DO YOUR PART - CHERISH OUR FAMILY

1 DECEMBER 2008

NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

(NEWS #1:) SAVE THE DATE! The **Third Annual Red Ribbon Ball** will be on February 7, 2009. Lights! Camera! Action! The Red Ribbon Ball is Eastern Maine AIDS Network's biggest fundraiser, and this year's theme is "The Red Ribbon Meets the Red Carpet". So don your finest duds, prepare for the paparazzi, and plan to join us for a glitzy evening of dancing and entertainment for a very worthy cause at the Spectacular Events Center. Tickets will be available soon!

(NEWS #2:) Today we start a new category in The FAN: TAX TIPS FOR THE GLBTI COMMUNITY, see the new category below.

(NEWS #3:) Lesbian author, Carolyn Gage of Portland, has a new book in print, a collection of her one- and two-woman plays, titled: **The Second Coming of Joan of Arc and Selected Plays**. These plays are great reads, fabulous work for actors, and award-winning drama. Included in the collection are: **The Second Coming of Joan of Arc; Harriet Tubman Visits a Therapist; The Last Reading of Charlotte Cushman; Calamity Jane Send a Message to Her Daughter; Cookin' with Typhoid Mary; The Parmachene Belle; and Artemisia and Hildegard**. FMI about ordering this book go to Carolyn's web site at www.carolyngage.com and click on the "catalog of plays" icon.

(NEWS #4:) Two New Groups in the **SOCIAL GROUPS (MORE THAN 50 MILES FROM BANGOR)** category. Check out **Saco Bay Gay Men** and also **Portland Front Runners**.

(NOTES #1:) World AIDS Day Activities. On Monday, **December 1st**, In observance of World AIDS Day, **Eastern Maine AIDS Network (EMAN)** and **Wabanaki Mental Health** are teaming up to participate in day-long regional events to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS, and ask members of the community to join them in a day of remembrance and reflection.

Over the 20 years since World AIDS Day was first honored, significant advances in response to HIV have been achieved when there is strong and committed leadership. In response, the theme for World AIDS Day 2008 is "Leadership", to be encouraged at every level. Families, communities, states and nations must step up if we are to get ahead of this disease. In Maine, more people than ever are living with HIV/AIDS and with new diagnoses on the rise, we face even greater challenges in prevention, education, care and treatment.

Please join EMAN and Wabanaki in recognizing those who have been affected, and unite to put a stop to the havoc it wreaks in our local and global community. The World AIDS Day events include:

10:00 am to 4:00 pm, University of Maine, Student Union, Orono: Panels from The Names Project Northern New England Chapter will be on display to the public.

10:00 am to 4:00 pm, University of Maine, Wabanaki Center, Orono: Allen Sockabasin from Wabanaki will be offering free HIV testing for the Native American population at the University.

9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Pleasant Point Health Center, Pleasant Point: Staff from Pleasant Point Health Center and from Wabanaki will be offering information and testing to the community at Pleasant Point. Tribal TV will air the video, "Our Story," produced by native youth.

6:30 to 8:00 pm, Hammond St. Congregational Church, 28 High Street, Bangor: An open house will feature quilt panels from The Names Project's Northern New England Chapter, a timeline of HIV, information about HIV/AIDS, and red ribbons for the public. Rev. Mark Doty will speak about the meaning of World AIDS Day, the red ribbon, and the importance of community support and leadership. Ja'Nette Converse, sister of Autumn Aquino, will then be the keynote speaker. She will discuss her experience growing up with a mother and sister infected with HIV, who both later died of complications from the disease.

7:00 to 8:00 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 6 Easy Street, Pittsfield: As part of a service led by Rev. Margaret Beckman, Jean Lavigne, Ph.D., an AIDS activist who has been living with HIV/AIDS for over twenty years, will speak about the importance of leadership and how leadership matters in making a difference in the lives of those living with HIV/AIDS. There is a role for everyone to play in raising awareness about HIV.

(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. We at the Charlie Howard Memorial Foundation find ourselves in a bit of a financial bind. The memorial is now in place by the Kenduskeag Stream in Bangor, and the Bridge Alliance will do plantings in the spring. The monument will be dedicated on July 7, 2009 in the evening as part of the 25th anniversary events. However, much to my surprise, the installation costs along with the costs for a slightly larger bowl amount to \$3611.88. I've paid the last \$400 available from the Charlie Howard Memorial Foundation account, and we now find ourselves with a bill of \$3211.88. I'll negotiate with Rogan's Memorials about a payment scheme, but would surely appreciate any tax-deductible contributions anyone might make. Those willing could send a check to the Charles O. Howard Memorial Foundation, 1442 State Street, Veazie, ME 04401.

2. Five Years After Goodridge, GLAD Announces "6 x 12" ... Marriage Is Possible in All Six New England States by 2012, says GLAD

Five years ago today, the world changed for the better when the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court issued its decision in GLAD's marriage equality case, *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*. Six months later, same-sex couples started marrying, strengthening families, communities, and the Commonwealth itself.

And on October 10, 2008, GLAD won the right of same-sex couples in Connecticut to marry when the state's highest court ruled in *Kerrigan & Mock v. Department of Public Health*. Couples started marrying in that state last Wednesday, November 12.

Today on the fifth anniversary of the *Goodridge* decision, GLAD announces the goal of "Six by Twelve": ensuring that same-sex couples in all six New England states will be able to marry in their home state by 2012.

"We can make New England a marriage equality zone by strategically combining existing legal, electoral, and on-the-ground know-how to fast-track marriage in every New England state," said GLAD Executive Director Lee Swislow. "By 2012 we not only can have marriage equality throughout New England, we can have a road map for the rest of the country."

GLAD will achieve this goal through litigation and by working with statewide equality groups and with MassEquality. MassEquality defended the *Goodridge* decision with electoral, political, and lobbying work through three years of election cycles, constitutional conventions, and legislative sessions.

"The route to marriage equality looks different in each state—not every state is ripe for a marriage lawsuit like Massachusetts and Connecticut," said Swislow. "Through our collaboration with MassEquality we can add value to the state equality groups. To the state groups' local knowledge, grassroots experience and organizing strength, GLAD brings legal and communications expertise and MassEquality brings proven experience in legislative, political, and electoral strategy. This combination will accelerate the pace to marriage equality."

3. Lesbian author, Carolyn Gage of Portland, will have her play *The Anastasia Trials in the Court of Women*, produced by The Emma Goldman Theatre Brigade at the Off Off Broadway Playhouse in New York City. The show will run December 3rd - 7th and 10th - 14th.

4. Call for Submissions About Queer Relationships. Family member and activist, Jo, writes: I'm currently working on a project/publication/zine and would like your help! I'm collecting submissions that focus on queer relationships and/or on relationships outside of the traditional one-man-one-woman model. The idea is to present some of the evolution of how queer folk relate to each other (specifically within intimate relationships for this go-round). Essays, thoughts, stories, experiences, rants, etc are all welcome!! Artwork, poems, pictures, etc. are great too. (Some works may be edited for length/content. All contributors will be acknowledged for their submission.) The working title for the project is "Transrelating: A Memoir on Creating Queer Relationships". The initial thought behind it was about how we are redefining and retranslating the old ideas to suit our needs. I plan on putting the zine everywhere and anywhere that I can in as many formats as I can, though there's still a bit that hasn't been worked out yet as it's still in the early stages. FMI and/or to submit entries, email me at amari.jo.s@gmail.com (NOTE: If you don't want to contribute but would like to be kept in the loop on future go-rounds or want to know when this one is done and how to view it, let me know!)

5. Seeking Nominations, 2009 Catalyst for Change Award. The Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine is seeking nominations for its 2009 Catalyst for Change Award. The award acknowledges individuals who have been catalysts for change regarding diversity, equality, human and civil rights in Maine, particularly (but not exclusively) as it relates to the Sampson Collection populations (African American; Jewish; and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender), and to commemorate the life, work, and values of Jean Byers Sampson. Previous award winners are Rabbi Harry Sky and Dale McCormick. You can read details of the award and fill out an online application at: <http://library.usm.maine.edu/specialcollections/catalystforchangeaward.html> Only completed applications will be considered. **The deadline is January 31, 2009.** If you have questions, please contact: Susie Bock at 207-780-4269.

OP/EDS:

This is your chance to spout off (or offer your insightful thoughts and opinions) about ANYTHING related to the GLBTI community. Any subscriber is welcomed to submit. Please keep your thoughts as succinct

(and civilized) as possible. Subscribers should be willing to allow at least their first name and an email address to be listed with the posting.

no one has any opinions this issue

COMMUNITY REPORTERS:

We'd all love to hear how your event, activity, gathering, show, wedding, project, etc went. Any subscriber is welcomed to submit news reports about the going's on in their geographical area (or about GLBTI community events that they have participated in elsewhere). Please keep your reports as concise as possible. Let's keep everyone "in the loop"! The Maine areas we're presently covering in this category are: Aroostook County, Washington County, Ellsworth/MDI, Bangor, Belfast/Camden, Waterville/Skowhegan, and Dover-Foxcroft.

(Thanks for Lois-Ann for filing this report)

1. U. Maine, Machias, The 100% Society's observance of the Transgender Day of

Remembrance. The Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice and the memorial event is now observed in dozens of cities across the world. Machias, ME was one of those cities. The 100% Society originally planned a candle light vigil and we attempted to light the labyrinth in front of campus, but as it was too windy for the sheltered candles to stay lit, the observance was held inside. Twenty-six people were in attendance to memorialize transgendered individuals and to think of their loved ones. We took turns reading listed names and the causes of death and afterward we discussed these sad and violent acts and reflected on how to be supportive.

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 # 13

AFTER THE MILLIONAIRE'S DOCTOR TOLD HER THAT SHE NEEDED TO GET A RELAXING DIVERSION, SHE BOUGHT A STABLE OF THOROUGHBREDS. SHE LIKED TO CALL THEM HER HOBBY HORSES.

Cyber-Quip # 14

VCZH UXH LEYNANHCCH ZXHT XES ZIHECHS UXH WHEU VTT
UXH IHK VT WQUUVC XH XES LYHLEYHS, XH KEBH UXH YHAU
VT NU UV XNA LVVSIH AEFNCK: "JVCH ELLHUNU!"

CLUE: H = E

EVENTS (CHANGING):

* **DEC 1 (Monday), Bangor, World AIDS Day Activities.** In observance of World AIDS Day, **Eastern Maine AIDS Network (EMAN)** and **Wabanaki Mental Health** are teaming up to participate in day-long regional events to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS, and ask members of the community to join them in a day of remembrance and reflection. See the NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES, AND REMINDERS category at the top of the Newsletter for details.

* **DEC 1 (Monday)**, Portland, **World AIDS Day Free HIV Testing Event**, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Portland Public Health will be providing FREE, confidential HIV and syphilis testing to the public at the Maine College of Art. Student art will be on display, winning films from the Portland Phoenix Short Film Festival will be screened, and refreshments will be provided. Know your status, come get tested, plus be given the opportunity to go get a complete STD screening. Location: Maine College of Art, 522 Congress Street, Portland.

* **DEC 6 (Saturday)**, Portland, 8 pm, **Second Annual Lesbian All-Star Review**. This year we are expecting nearly 200 women to gather at One Longfellow Square to attend the Second Annual Lesbian All-Star Revue, our annual highly anticipated alternative variety show, presented by WMPG's Lesbian Radio! This year's event features Jessi Mallory, Chris Rutecki, Lib Jamison, Denise Dill, Giorgi, Downeast Dykes, Jo Moser, Lady Zen, Katie Diamond and Goldie Peacock, Vanessa Torres and Touching Ground, as well as emcees Jill Barkley and Darlene Huntress! Tickets (\$15/each) are almost gone, so if you want to see the show, order them NOW! Phone 207-761-1757 or online at www.onelongfellowsquare.com . The after party will be at White Heart with H++L.

* **DEC 11-13 (Thursday - Saturday)**, Portland, **The Maine Gay Men's Chorus Annual Christmas Concerts**. The concerts will be held at the Williston West Church, 32 Thomas St, in Portland. All concerts begin at 8:00 pm. FMI and/or to purchase tickets call the MGMC office at 207-772-1384. You can also check their web sit at www.maineaymenschorus.org

* **DEC 13-14 (Saturday-Sunday)**, Bar Harbor, "**Light A Candle**" **Holiday Festival '08**. United World Citizens, run by family member Bobbie Lynn, together with ROOTS, a local organization dedicated to raising awareness of local and global environmental issues, will be holding this Holiday Festival. The events will take place at the Bar Harbor Municipal Building on Dec 13th (from 10 am - 8 pm) and on Dec 14th (from 11 am - to 7 pm). There will be live music all day, lots and lots of food (including a chowder/soup/stew contest), fun stuff for kids to do (including a magician on Saturday at 1 pm), many many crafts for sale, a silent auction, a gift wrapping table, eco-friendly ideas and information, and more. Proceeds will sponsor: Island Connections, Hancock County Medical Mission, Doctors Without Borders, Washington-Hancock County Agency, United World Citizens, and ROOTS. FMI call 266-0674. We hope to see you there !!

* **DEC 20 (Saturday)**, Bangor, **Family Christmas at the Maine Discovery Museum**, 5:30 - 8:30 pm. The Bridge Alliance is once again sponsoring an afternoon Christmas event for kids at the Maine Discovery Museum (74 Main St). This event is open to all GLBTI folks (and straight allies) and especially their children and grandchildren! The entire museum is ours for the three-hour time slot. Santa will be there with gifts for the kids, there will be caroling and refreshments available and, of course, the kids get the run of the museum for playing, exploring, and having loads of fun. AND IT'S ALL FREE!! Just show up and enjoy! FMI contact Jean at 827-2123 or email info@thebridgealliance.org

EVENTS (ONGOING):

GAY GUYS GROUP (GGG) POTLUCK DINNER. Every 2nd Wednesday of the month. Ellsworth Area, 6-9 pm-ish at various locations in the greater Ellsworth Area. FMI and to get directions and time contact Wayne at wayne@mrlanguage.com You can also check the web site and get on their mailing list at www.mainequyz.org

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 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 Sharon at 207-990-3626 or sharon@maineaidnetwork.com or go to <http://www.maineaidnetwork.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 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.

TAX PREPARATION:

Carol W. Thompson, EA
469 Main St., Suite 204
Springvale, ME 04083
Portland appointments available.
ph: 207-324-4011
fax: 207-324-1538
email: cwteame@msn.com

Carol has been providing tax services since 1979. She is an Enrolled Agent (EA), the only federally licensed tax professionals. EA's must take a 2 day exam in tax law in order to become licensed to practice before the Internal Revenue Service. Carol has appeared on TV and radio, and has been interviewed for dozens of articles in print media, including *Good Morning America*, *Newsweek*, *Worth*, *Money*, *Working Women*, and numerous others. She has been teaching continuing education seminars for other tax practitioners for over 20 years, including producing the first seminar on gay tax issues in the United States in the early 1990's. Carol specializes in domestic partner tax issues, small business owners, individuals, and real estate issues. She is well versed in most occupations, especially teachers, park rangers, military, real estate, and consulting. Appointments are available in Springvale or Portland, and work can be done in person, by mail, email, fax, or .pdf. Carol came out in 1972 at Brockport College in upstate NY, and spent many years working in the women's community in Rochester, NY; San Francisco, CA and Monterey, CA, where she lived from 1980 until moving to Maine in 2002 (to be back in the seasons, especially winter.)

PERSONALS:

I would like to meet some musicians who would have fun backing up my music. Cathy Worthley cathy@cathyworthley.com <http://www.cathyworthley.com>

I am a 53 year young spiritually-minded lesbian. I am seeking friendship, companionship and perhaps beyond. I enjoy the arts (movies, theatre, concerts and the like). Dining out and nature are other interests. I am passionate about animals and dogs in particular. I live in the Mid-Coast area. Contact Diane at bswearehappy@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. I have a fly-tying desk, with vice, lamp, and at least \$100 worth of materials for sale; I can email a picture upon request. Selling for \$350. Mikeondavispond@yahoo.com or leave message on cell: 207-266-8515.

For Sale. Gary Fisher Tassajara mountain bike, 24-speed, medium frame, color silver, \$250.00. Can email a photo. FMI contact Chris at carterch@hotmail.com

TAX TIPS FOR THE GLBTI COMMUNITY:

Each month we'll have here a little nugget of advice regarding tax preparation for the GLBTI community. This is provided to us courtesy of Carol Thompson, EA, a family member and federally licensed tax preparation specialist who has graciously volunteered her time for this project. This issue is just a little introduction to get us going, but I've asked Carol if, in her advice, she could put a bit more emphasis on the area of tax preparation for domestic partners. If anyone would like to see some info regarding something specific, let me know and I'll see if Carol can oblige.

SOME OF THE THE ITEMS OF INFORMATION MOST OFTEN FORGOTTEN BY TAXPAYERS WHEN THEY HAVE THEIR TAXES PREPARED

- 1. Childcare Provider.** Do you know where you drop your children off? One of the most often forgotten items by taxpayers is the *name, ID number, and address* of the person who takes care of their children.
- 2. Excise Taxes.** The amount you pay your town for your excise taxes on vehicles is deductible (if you itemize deductions).
- 3. Purchase or Refinance of a Home.** The HUD statement from a purchase, sale, or refinance of a home is an essential part of your tax preparation.
- 4. Stock Sales.** You need to provide both the *purchase information* and the *sale information* for any sales of stocks or mutual funds.
- 5. Unemployment Insurance and Unemployment Disability.** If you received funds for being laid off or for being unable to look for work due to an illness or disability, your state unemployment benefits are taxable. Be sure to bring the form with you to your tax appointment.

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. Postings run for four (4) consecutive issues and may be renewed for additional 4-issue runs if you wish. Send your listings to me, Jean, at megress@gwi.net

Fairfield, Room to Let. Male couple is looking to rent out a bedroom in our home, furnished. Full use of house also, and has a second bathroom for use and a second living room area downstairs. Monthly rent is \$600. We have a cat and a small dog, so, prefer no other animals. Our home is situated in a nice clean rural area with well landscaped homes, and great neighbors. Another male is preferred, who is clean, and responsible to share our home in a drug and alcohol free environment. Please contact Steve for more info or for interview at 314-1487

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, Townhouse For Rent. Desirable West End/Waynflete 2 Bedroom Victorian Townhouse. **AVAILABLE January 1st.** Top Floor Apartment, 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, three enormous skylights, french double doors, double living room, outside mahogany deck, blond hardwood floors, newly renovated bathroom, designer kitchen with cherry cabinets, new full size gas range & refrigerator, office, off street parking, designer light fixtures, basement storage, owner occupied quiet building - meticulously maintained, onsite coin-op laundry. Non-smokers, small dogs considered. Brand new economical natural gas Reni heaters. Cleaning service available. \$1395/month. Utilities not included. First month, last month & security deposited required. 12-month lease. Please call: 207-831-2839

Portland, GF looking for House Share - Live in West End in Portland. Would like to stay in Portland, share expenses and save more money! I am 46, social but not into partying. Have TV-Like TV ...Have 2 friendly Cats. FMI email Karen at sendksmail@yahoo.com and please put "House Share" in the subject line. Thank You!

Portland, Seeking quiet, female housemate ... Lesbian author, 56, seeks quiet, female housemate to share large Victorian apartment in USM neighborhood. Hardwood floors, two porches, yard, clawfoot bathtub, huge kitchen with walk-in pantry, dining room, living room ... Lots of plants, "voluntary simplicity." Great upstairs neighbors, all-female building, great landlord ... Off-street parking, garage and basement for storage. \$475, includes heat and hot water, wireless. No pets, no smokers, references. Available January 1. Carolyn, 774-4231

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/glbqt.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 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 martyrnc@roadrunner.com OR at 582-8779 OR check the web site at <http://www.transcare2000.com>

The Transgender Fund. With offices in Freeport, Maine, The Transgender Fund is a national, completely independent, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public charitable foundation. It has been created by and for

transgendered individuals. Our funding is derived from contributions by caring individuals of all levels of means. Our strength and independence come from the fact that there is no single benefactor who has seeded the Fund with a large amount of capital. Contributions you make are added to those of your sisters and brothers. Individually, they may seem modest, but collectively they add up to a powerful force that is reinvested in the support of projects fostering the well-being of all our gender variant minorities. FMI email info@tgfund.org OR check the web site at www.tgfund.org

SOCIAL GROUPS (MORE THAN 50 MILES FROM BANGOR):

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

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

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, dances, and other events. 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 northernlambda@gmail.com. You can also ask to join their YahooGroup and keep informed on all the doing's via email.

Out!...As I Want To Be. (ROCKLAND) An organization for all GLBTQQ youth, ages 14 to 22, as well as straight allies. We are an all-volunteer, youth-driven organization. We seek to provide outreach, affirmation, support, and education in a safe space for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning youth in Lincoln, Knox, and Waldo counties and their offshore islands. We meet in Rockland at 501 Main Street (the building just before the Ferry Terminal), suite #3 (2nd floor) every Wed.5-8pm, and Fri. evenings/6-9pm, FMI, contact Lis at 632-4797 or email outmaine@yahoo.com. Check the web site at www.outmaine.org or the mspace posting at www.mspace.com/outasiwanttobe

Portland Front Runners (PORTLAND), The Portland Front Runners, a GLBT running/walking group, meets every Saturday at 9:05 AM in the middle of the Back Cove parking lot for a run/walk around the cove. Brunch afterwards at Whole Foods around 10 AM. A great way to keep healthy and make new friends. FMI contact Bruce Fithian at (207) 831-7113

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

Rainbow Business & Professional Association (RBPA) (PORTLAND) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the vitality, productivity and growth of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender business and professional community throughout the State of Maine. Since 1992, our aim has been to promote and support the LGBT business and professional community in Maine. RBPA is a rapidly growing organization with a membership that boasts business leaders, entrepreneurs, the self-employed, individuals from the corporate community and non-profit organizations. Check the web site at www.rbpa.org

Saco Bay Gay Men (PORTLAND), A gay men's support group has been started in Saco. We meet at the UU Church of Saco & Biddeford, every Thursday evening. We started out meeting on November 6th and are growing. FMI contact Tom Muise at sbgm@verizon.net

Seacoast Outright. (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.

Twin Ponds Lodge (WATERVILLE-AUGUSTA AREA) is a private social club in Maine for adult male naturists and men who are comfortable with naturists. This private social club fills a niche for men seeking a comfortable and welcoming setting surrounded by nature on 75 acres of fields and woods. As a members-only club, we welcome you into a clothing-optional country setting to enjoy relaxation, recreation, and socializing. Passing through the gated entrance, you are greeted by two ponds surrounded by the lodge, lawns, cabins, and tenting areas. There are also areas for RVs with full hookups, including sewer. The lodge also welcomes member day visitors to enjoy the surroundings and recreational opportunities, and to explore the trails that wind through the woods. The Lodge is open year-round and features a large indoor heated pool, hot tub, sauna, and (coming soon) a steam room. The large great room provides seating for socializing, eating, or enjoying the large screen satellite television. The recreation room has a ping-pong and billiard table. (The gym/exercise room is coming soon!) *We welcome all men, whether gay, straight, or bisexual.* FMI, check the web site at www.twinpondslodge.com or email them at stay@twinpondslodge.com or call John at 207-437-2200.

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

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

WEB BASED MAINE GLBT LISTSERVES & EMAIL LISTS:

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

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

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 casco gays@gmail.com with your request.

Maine GayNet Listserve. A long-running listserv for the Maine GLBTQ community which allows members to post notices, opinions, etc. (in a broadcast manner) to everyone else on the listserv. To join the Maine GayNet listserv, 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 listserv 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.