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Family Affairs Newsletter 2009-01-01

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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 JANUARY 2009

NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

(NEWS #1:) There will be no FEB 15 issue of The FAN because I will be away on my first ever mid-winter vacation (courtesy of my parents ... God bless 'em). If you have any events taking place between FEB 15th and MAR 15th, you should get me those notices ASAP so they can be posted to get you as much publicity as possible.

(NEWS #2:) **Trans Youth Equality Project.** A new foundation established to support transgender and transexual youth (ages 2-22). We are a resource for information and support to parents of trans youths, advocates, allies, and the youths themselves. We are here to listen, advocate, etc. We have a lending library and a zine and a poetry contest for trans folks, youth and their allies. Located in Portland but available to all. Please reach out. FMI contact Susan Maasch, director at contact@transyouthequality.org and check the web site at www.transyouthequality.org

(NEWS #3:) **Tickets for the 25th Annual Equality Maine Awards Banquet** are now on sale. The banquet will be on Saturday, March 21st. Get your tickets online at www.equalitymaine.org

(NOTES #1:) Eastern Maine AIDS Network (EMAN) will be hosting the **Third Annual Red Ribbon Ball** on Saturday, February 7, 2009, from 7:00pm-midnight at the Spectacular Events Center in Bangor. This is EMAN's biggest fundraiser of the year, and in light of the current economy, the money raised is even more crucial than ever. Come support a great cause and have fun at the same time! There will be dancing to the music of the Brian Catell Band, hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and a silent auction. Black tie optional. Tickets will be available from EMAN starting January 5th, at a price of \$40.00 per person through January 23rd (at which time the price will go up). If you would like to purchase tickets or to get more information, please contact the EMAN office at 207-990-3626 or rrb@maineaidnetwork.com.

(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. Family member Bobbie Lynn is offering a special Closing-for-the-season special at the Cafe Bluefish (122 Cottage St) in Bar Harbor. On Friday, Jan 2nd and Saturday, Jan 3rd, **75% of all food sales will go to charity!** Choose your cause: Maine Seacoast Mission, Hancock County Medical Mission, MDI Community Campfire Coalition, or offer a charity suggestion. The Cafe opens at 5:30 pm on Friday and Saturday. FMI or to make reservations call 288-3696.

2. Job Announcement: Field Organizer / Senior Field Organizer

EqualityMaine has several immediate, full-time job openings for organizers. We are looking for energetic and self-motivated individuals to join our existing team of organizers focused on winning full equality for LGBT people in Maine. These positions will involve recruiting and motivating large teams of volunteers to work on activities designed to win equality in the legislature and at the ballot box. We are hiring both Field Organizers and Senior Field Organizers; **the difference in title and salary is related to an applicant's experience.** The start date is January 12, 2009 and all positions are based in Portland.

The Field Organizer/Senior Field Organizer will work as part of a dynamic field team on issues of importance to the LGBT community. Our current focus is identifying and mobilizing thousands of constituents who support marriage equality. We have an ambitious goal to identify 20,000 pro-marriage voters in the next three months, building on the momentum of our most recent action at the polls where we identified over 33,000 pro-marriage voters. As part of this plan, the Field Organizer/Senior Field Organizer will be responsible for ramping up a series of volunteer recruitment initiatives already under way. The Field Organizer/Senior Field Organizer also will be responsible for thinking creatively about additional opportunities to build the volunteer team we need to succeed. Organizers will work under the supervision of the Statewide Field Director.

Qualifications: Demonstrated experience in recruiting, motivating, and training volunteers. Experience in grassroots organizing, including direct voter contact through door-to-door canvassing and phone banking. Experience organizing house parties a plus. Self-motivated and the desire to excel as an organizer. Attention to measurable results. Ability to be a team player and work in a highly collaborative, fast-paced environment. Strong work ethic. Willingness to travel, and work evenings and weekends. Curiosity about all aspects of the LGBT community. Prior experience working in LGBT community is strongly desired.

Send cover letter, resume, and three references to:
Betsy Smith, Executive Director, EqualityMaine
bsmith@equalitymaine.org
PO Box 1951, Portland, ME 04104

EqualityMaine does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or marital status. Transgender and people of color are especially encouraged to apply.

3. 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.

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.*

An Open Letter to the GLBT Community RE: Rick Warren

I'm about to do something that could open me to a lot of ridicule in the GLBT community. I'm going to support President Elect Obama's choice of Rick Warren to give the invocation at his inauguration.

I do not support that choice because I like Rick Warren ... I support it because I dislike Rick Warren. Here is my reasoning:

In the past weeks since the election I've chatted with many people, as I'm sure all of you have done as well. What I have heard, and what I have felt in my own heart, is that the people are tired. They're tired of the polarization. They're tired of the "them-against-us" mentality. They're tired of a government that spends more time fighting within and between the various branches than it does in doing "the people's business". They're tired of not being able to carry on a friendly political conversation with their neighbors for fear of creating enemies. They're tired of having vested interest groups (on both the right and the left) screaming about the sky falling and threatening imminent disaster if they ... the people ... don't empty their wallets into the groups' coffers. They're tired of living in the atmosphere of negativity, lies, and deceit that is the inevitable result of all the things I've just listed.

There are certainly folks on both the far right and the far left who are not tired of all of this. They revel in keeping the pot stirred, want to convince all of us that they are our saviors, and relish the power or notoriety or just plain adrenalin rush that they get from having people listen to them and follow them. Some people *will* follow them ... some people will always follow them ... but my sense is that most of "the people" are tired of them too.

I think that *most* of us, we who are not on the outer fringes, whether we be republican, democrat, independent, gay, straight, or whatever, *want* to do better, and know that we *can* do better. I think President Elect Obama has given all of us a wonderful opportunity to begin to change our nation, and our world, for the better, if only we recognize the opportunity and grasp it.

Democracy is not, after all, a matter of coming "into power" and immediately sweeping away all that has come before, replacing it, in toto, with one's own world view. That is what happened in Russia, China, Cambodia, Chile, Afghanistan, Iran, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, etc. That is what extremists, of all stripes, want to happen; but look what the results have been. Some folks (myself included) may feel that we got a taste of that here in the U.S. in the last eight years, but history will be the ultimate judge of whether or not that is true. No ... Democracy means working with, not eliminating, the people you don't like.

I have never met anyone with whom I disagree about *everything*, and I'd be willing to bet that you haven't either. That means that most of us have the ability to work with almost everyone, in some way or other, to "do better". If you are one of the folks who is tired of the way things have been, then Obama is giving you a chance to change it; but as Gandhi said: "You must be the change you want to see in the world."

I don't particularly care for all of Rick Warren's ideas, but I have heard Rick Warren speak, and he said a few things I happen to agree with. Obama did not tap him to be the head of any department that will negatively affect women's or GLBT rights. Obama only asked him to give an invocation at the inauguration. The sky is *not* falling, and I am tired. If *you* want to continue the "them-against-us" mentality, and if *you* want to be no better than the folks who have been leading our country for the last eight years, you are free to do so. I will not, and I welcome Mr. Warren's participation at the inauguration.

Jean Vermette
megress@zwi.net

COMMUNITY REPORTERS:

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

Thanks for Jon for Filing This Report.

Northern Lambda's Benefit Dance. A HUGE hearty thanks going out to everyone who braved the weather and came out to support the first annual Red Ribbons and Snowflakes benefit dance! While the turnout wasn't as large as we were expecting, there was no shortage of energy or enthusiasm from those there! A special shout-out to the guys from Bridge Alliance who came up from Bangor and supported this event not just by partying with us, but in many other ways as well.. To Kent and Tess for busting their asses putting together the event in the eleventh hour.. to the people who enjoyed my music selection.. and to our sponsors who offered up some great raffle prizes. We promise the next event will be a little more organized and everyone will have a lot more notice (we're talking about maybe a group pot-luck social next month, and a valentine's dance.. yes, we like dancing), as well as supporting our Bridge Alliance friends at their upcoming events as well.

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 # 15

WHAT THE FLOCK SAID WHEN THEY DISCOVERED THE WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING: "EWE IMPOSTER!"

Cyber-Quip # 16

GBIQI DOZ O JQMIYPWK FOSIQ DBT DOZ DTQQMIP OFTHG
GBI IYRMQTYNIYG. DBIY BI YIIPIP O YID LOQ, YOGHQOWWK
BI FTHABG O "BM-FQIOP."

CLUE: D = W

EVENTS (CHANGING):

* **JAN 2&3 (Friday & Saturday)**, Portland, 8:00 pm, **Kings of the Hill Drag Show - ALL NEW**, (no...not all "nude"- you dirty biscuit) with the Phenomenal **LESLIE DOWNES!!!** The bad news...tickets are going fast. The good news...there are quite a few left!!! **Tickets: \$12**, <http://www.stlawrencearts.org>, 207-775-5568 **Location:** St. Lawrence Arts & Community Center, 76 Congress Street, Portland. Doors open 7:15pm, general admission, comfy chairs, open bar, all ages.

* **JAN 3 (Saturday)**, Hancock. **Out On MDI Potluck**, from 6:00 pm - ?? Once again, the incomparable hostess Anne has invited our group to her beautiful digs by the sea in Hancock. Sunday is the "snow day" in the event of a storm on Saturday. If snow completely wipes out the entire weekend, we'll do it the

following one. Looking forward to seeing you all at Anne's in January. Folks who need directions can get them from Ann at alfhildanda@mac.com

*** JAN 8 (Thursday), Portland, 7:00 pm, lecture: *Let's Give this Guy a Hand: The (Un)natural History of Masturbation - An illustrated history of masturbation, from ancient Egypt to the Internet.***

Howard Solomon taught the history of sexuality at Tufts and, more recently, at USM, where he helped develop the LGBT Collection in the Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine. This is not your Grandmother's history lecture -- expect a stimulating and fun evening! Please RSVP, so we can be sure to have plenty of room for everyone. **RSVP:** Andrew, 756-8071 or thrive@portlandmaine.gov

Location: Portland City Hall, State of Maine Room

*** JAN 24 (Saturday), Eddington, Bridge Alliance Dance Party.** 9:00 pm - 12:00 am. Come 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 email info@thebridgealliance.org or check the Bridge Alliance web site at www.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@maineguyz.org You can also check the web site and get on their mailing list at www.maineguyz.org

OUTRAGEOUSLY SUPPORTIVE. Every other Wednesday. Bangor, for GLBTQ youth (age 18 - 25) and their friends. Meets from 5:30 - 7:30 pm, at Eastern Maine AIDS Network at 370 Harlow St. For more information contact Joy at 207-990-3626 or joy@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 GLBT community and straight allies. It is under the auspices of the very GLBT-welcoming Hammond St Congregational Church. While it usually consists of a potluck dinner at someone's home, there have also been gaming nights and other activities. Persons who are interested should call the church at 942-4381 for details of time and place.

STUDENTS FOR AIDS FACTS AND EDUCATION RESOURCES (SAFER). Every Other Wednesday. 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 Joy at 207-990-3626 or joy@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 March 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.

GLBT CLERGY:

Rev. Charles Grindle (Interfaith)
88 Gilman Street #406
Portland, ME 04012
ph: 207-650-6573
email: mrkeysnorth@yahoo.com

Services for rites of passage, transitions, and commitment ceremonies. Services designed for you, with you.

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 By Owner: Apartment home in Franklin, ME. One acre of land that backs onto woods; including stately New Englander containing two large apartments. Each has two bedrooms, LR, large kitchen and bath. Upstairs apt. has new oil-fired hot water baseboard furnace. First floor has oil forced-air heat. Ell contains art studio space and 1/2 bath with large loft space - a potential for third apt. Total yearly income has produced \$13,500. Located on lane that leads to the Bay. Wonderful neighbors. Easily reconvered to single family home if desired. In the midst of many ponds and lakes. 1/2 hr. from Bar Harbor and Schoodic Point. Sacrificed at \$168,000. Please call and leave message for Francine at 207-565-0984

For Sale. Guitar: 12 string Martin J12-15, Solid Mahogany body. Show room condition. Listed at \$1,200, Asking \$750. Call Francine at 207-565-0984

For Sale. 14x14 2 Room Cabin tent. Used on camping trip. Like new. Comes in carrier. Screened porch area, privacy curtain and corner sheer units. Paid about \$200 for it, will sell for \$100 or best offer. Email Rob at rainbowboi25@hotmail.com or call 207-343-0100.

For Sale. 2000 Chevy Silverado 4x4 w/ 7 1/2 ft Blizzard Plow. 115,000 miles, Base model truck w/ V6 4.3 Liter Engine. A/C. AM/FM Radio. Tow Package, bedliner, tool box, NEW TIRES. Serviced about every 3,000 miles. Asking \$6,000 Firm. Email Rob at rainbowboi25@hotmail.com or call 207-343-0100.

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, L.A. 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.

**DOMESTIC PARTNERS
(COUPLES WHO LIVE TOGETHER)**

ITEMIZED DEDUCTIONS

Basic Requirements

IRC §163 has two basic requirements:

1. The expense must be *incurred* by the taxpayer; and
2. The taxpayer taking the deduction must *pay* the expense.

The correct way to prepare Schedule A deductions, particularly for mortgage interest and property tax, is to have each person take his or her percentage of the deduction based on the percentage of income contributed to the household.

Example: John and Mary live together. She earns 60% of the household income, and John earns 40% of the income, which they deposit into a joint account. In this case, she should deduct 60% of the interest and he should deduct 40% (providing they are both on title and both pay into the household funds accordingly).

Writing legal agreements as to ownership and payment of assets and expenses can circumvent this, but if both parties are on title, and both pay in to the household expenses, it would easily be implied that both are making at least a portion of the mortgage payment.

This situation comes up frequently in alternative households – one person owns a house, but doesn't have a lot of income; his or her partner moves in, and takes over paying the mortgage. In this case, neither of the people in the house may take the mortgage interest. One person *owes* the interest but doesn't *pay* it; the other person *pays* the interest but doesn't *owe* it. Under §163, there is **no deduction**.

In this case, an individual was allowed interest payments he made on his sister's mortgage because he acquired a one-half equitable interest in the residence when he agreed to *assume his sister's indebtedness to the lender*. **B.D. Amundson, 60 TCM 39, Dec. 46,697(M), TC Memo. 1990-337.**

An individual could not deduct mortgage interest that she paid on a debt that was the obligation of her brother. Her brother was the legal owner of the property at issue and was indebted on the mortgage loan. Although an alleged trust agreement stated that the taxpayer was responsible for paying the mortgage interest, the court did not consider her to be the equitable owner of the property. **J. Song, 70 TCM 745, Dec. 50,897(M), TC Memo. 1995-446.**

The taxpayer was not allowed deductions for interest on a mortgage loan on her residence because *her name did not appear on any year-end mortgage statements and she failed to prove that she was liable for the loan in question*. **T. Washington-Oglesby, 66 TCM 365, Dec. 49,209(M), TC Memo. 1993-357.**

The courts have steadily agreed that without being *on the title* and *on the loan*, taxpayers may not deduct mortgage interest paid. There must be a legal obligation to deduct the interest.

To find good forms ready-to-use:

The Living Together Kit, Nolo Press. More boilerplate forms and information for unmarried couples.

www.nolo.com

An excellent case for estate purposes is **Scott v. Commr.**, No. 99-3216. Seventh Circuit (9/8/00). Previous: **Estate of Lucille M. Horstmeier v. Commissioner**, T.C. Memo. 1999-145. (April 30, 1999).

In the next issue of The FAN: **WHY WE NEED BASIC PLANNING FOR DOMESTIC PARTNERS**

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, Roomate Wanted. Female seeking same for roommate. Room is very small but very affordable. The room is furnished, with only a twin bed, and storage for clothing. There is only room for perhaps your TV and computer. The place is cozy in a campy kind of way, near Beech Hill Pond. Located in a quiet rural area 20 minutes to Ellsworth, 25 minutes to Bangor. There's a small circle of gay women in the neighborhood. \$300/month includes everything. Perfect for someone in transition. So, If you're looking for affordable, give me a call. Lynn at 537-3366 or at 460-1376 or by email at lucky62365@aol.com

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 Radiant 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 TVHave 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/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 mdpalmers@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

Trans Youth Equality Project. A new foundation established to support transgender and transsexual youth (ages 2-22). We are a resource for information and support to parents of trans youths, advocates, allies, and the youths themselves. We are here to listen, advocate, etc. We have a lending library and a zine and a poetry contest for trans folks, youth and their allies. Located in Portland but available to all. Please reach out. FMI contact Susan Maasch, director at contact@transyouthequality.org and check the web site at www.transyouthequality.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. <http://www.northernlambda.org>

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 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 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.