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Family Affairs Newsletter 2009-03-01

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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 MARCH 2009

NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

(NEWS #1:) COASTAL WOMEN'S CONNECTION HAS BEEN DISBANDED

(NEWS #2:) WORD COMES TO ME THAT THE MAINE SPEAK-OUT PROJECT HAS BEEN
"TEMPORARILY" SUSPENDED.

(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. Equity Fund Awards \$40,000 in Grants to Support Maine-Based GLBT Organizations. The Equity Fund of the Maine Community Foundation recently awarded \$40,000 in grants to 10 nonprofits supporting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) programs in Maine, including the Southern Maine Chapter of the Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network, which will use its grant to expand gay-straight alliances (GSAs) in rural Maine high schools. Grant awards were also made to:

- **Add Verb Productions Arts & Education, Portland,** for the Queer and Allied Writing Project addressing what it means to be an ally for the GLBT community
- **Center for the Prevention of Hate Violence, Portland,** for support and assistance in making schools safe for GLBT students
- **Community Counseling Center, Portland,** to extend training to more service providers and identify the needs of elder GLBT Mainers
- **Maine Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Portland,** to use online networking sites, blogs and streaming web video to engage adults under 35 around the freedom to marry initiative
- **Operation Breaking Stereotypes, Orono,** for students from two Operation Breaking Stereotypes partner schools to present *The Laramie Project*
- **Outright/Lewiston-Auburn, Auburn,** to create connections with educational, cultural, and recreational organizations in the community

- **Pine Tree Performing Arts, Portland**, for the Maine Gay Men's Chorus's musical celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall riots
- **Wilde Stein Alliance for Sexual Diversity, Orono**, to host two social events on campus: Coming Out Week and Pride Week
- **University of Southern Maine, Portland**, to collect material documenting the histories of diverse communities, and to advocate for diversity and civil rights.

The mission of the Equity Fund is to strengthen Maine-based GLBT organizations and promote community-based initiatives that address GLBT issues and needs. **The next proposal deadline is September 15, 2009.** Application and guidelines can be found at www.maineef.org. For more information about the Equity Fund, contact Lelia DeAndrade at the Maine Community Foundation toll-free at (877) 700-6800 or by e-mail at leandrade@mainecf.org

2. Second Annual Rainbow Ball in Machias.

We are students from the University of Maine at Machias' 100% Society!! We are a GLBTQA organization committed to providing not only education and support for our community, but fun and fabulous times as well!!

We would like to cordially invite you to the **Second Annual Rainbow Ball** on Saturday evening, April 11, 2009. The Rainbow Ball is an open and affirming Prom evening that includes dancing, pictures, food and friends. This year we are working hard to make this event even bigger and better than last year. This year's Rainbow Ball will have a **Life is a Cabaret** theme! We will have mask decorating, contests, belly dancers, and live musical performances throughout the evening along with a DJ!! All associated High School, College, and Youth groups and community members are invited to attend this event. You can wear anything you want to this event, but please be appropriate (i.e. no nudity). Although people do have a tendency to lean more towards the semi formal-to-formal dress, we encourage you to have fun, be yourself, and be fabulous!

We will also have west-coast comic, **Sabrina Matthews**, performing on Friday, April 10th at 8:00 pm!! If you would like, feel free to come a night early and enjoy the free show on campus!! We have events planned all day for Saturday, everything from movies and games, to karaoke, poi twirling, crafts, and a leadership luncheon for both high school and college students. For those wishing to attend Easter Services on Sunday, the Centre Street Congregational Church is close to campus and is open and affirming and has its service at 10:30 am. Also on Sunday, there will be planning sessions for High School/Youth GSA-College Alliances as well as for an all-inclusive GLBTQA college fraternity. If you have any ideas for additional weekend events, please let us know!!

Rainbow Ball tickets* for college students and community members cost \$15 for one and \$20 for two! Please RSVP any interest in this event by March 24, 2009 in order for us to plan accordingly, with the number of interested students. Admission for high school students, youth groups and their chaperones is **FREE**. This includes room fees if you choose to stay one or both nights (Friday/Saturday), prom tickets and all meals. We can also provide some assistance with transportation to the Rainbow Ball itself, for more information, please contact us!

If you are interested in attending, PLEASE LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! We need to know how many students and chaperones are planning on attending (all high school and/or Youth groups MUST be accompanied by at least one adult). We have housing available for 60, including chaperones, high school students get first dibs on housing, but there may be rooms available for college students as well for \$10/night.

To RSVP or to find out more information, please contact Betty Kelley, UMM Assistant to our President, with "Rainbow Ball" in the subject line to: bkelly@maine.edu or call between 1:00 and 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday at 255-1211.

We hope to hear from you soon!!! Please help spread the word!!! Yours in PRIDE, 100% Society, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Allied Student Support Organization, University of Maine at Machias

(*All ticket proceeds and donations will be used to support next year's Rainbow Ball. The Rainbow Ball is sponsored by: The 100% Society, The Bridge Alliance, UMM Diversity Committee, Omicron Delta Pi ... New England's only all-inclusive GLBTQ fraternity, UMM President Dr. Cynthia Huggins, UMM Residence Life, Joe Higdon & Ellen Sudow, and The Maine Community Foundation)

3. JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS City of Portland - Health & Human Services - Public Health Division has two job openings available:

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION SPECIALIST - Disease Intervention

Seeking qualified individual to conduct disease investigations by reviewing individual reports of sexually transmitted diseases, interviewing patients, and ensuring persons diagnosed with or exposed to sexually transmitted diseases obtain medical evaluation and treatment. Position will entail working within the context of a multi-disciplinary team to provide community outreach, individual case management, and health education. Experience with STDs, HIV and viral hepatitis as well as a good working knowledge of issues related to mental illness and chemical dependency desired. Must have excellent communication skills, ability to implement and evaluate program objectives, and work independently in the field. BA degree in public health, nursing, health education or related field. Must possess Maine Class C driver's license and have personal vehicle available for work use. This is a 37.5 hours per week position.

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION SPECIALIST - HIV and TB Prevention

Seeking a qualified individual to conduct outreach, education, and case management services to members of Portland's racial and ethnic minority communities. Knowledge of HIV, STD and TB prevention, risk factors and Portland area care systems is desirable. Experience with HIV counseling and testing, harm reduction, social marketing and knowledge of issues related to health care needs of secondary migrants is also highly desirable. Must have a command of the Spanish and English languages; strong communication, documentation and information management skills; the ability to implement and evaluate program objectives, and work independently in the field. Bachelor's degree in public health, health education or related field or equivalent combination of experience and education is required. Must possess Maine Class C driver's license and have personal vehicle available for work use. This is a 37.5 hour per week position.

For both positions, submit cover letter and resume to:

Human Resources Department
City of Portland
389 Congress St.
Portland, ME 04101

For more information, contact:

Katie Thurman
HIV/STD Prevention Program Coordinator
207-756-8024
kthurman@portlandmaine.gov

4. ELVIS IS BACK! ... in the form of "JELVIS" Maine's newest Elvis Drag King!

Book **JELVIS** for any event! Specializing in the Elvis of the 1950s, **JELVIS** will bring *fun, laughter*, and an *uncanny* musical performance that will have you screaming for more. (No lip syncing here.) With more costumes and more sideburns than ever, you'll want **JELVIS** to entertain for you!

JELVIS will appear for most any function. Pride Events, Party's, Private Functions, Drag Shows, you name it! Add that special rock n' roll rebel to your event, today! *Affordable prices, and no charge for certain fundraisers, and charity benefits.*

You can see & hear JELVIS by clicking this link: www.myspace.com/jelvispresley
Contact jelvispresleyinc@gmail.com for booking!

Let JELVIS take you back in time...

5. Did you know Charlie Howard? My name is Penny Davis-Dublin, and I am the Interim Scholar-in-Residence of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Collection of the Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity at USM's Glickman Library. I am currently working on a digital presentation about the life of Charlie Howard, a young gay man who drowned after being thrown from a bridge in Bangor in 1984. July 7, 2009 will mark the twentieth-fifth anniversary of his death. To commemorate this tragic occasion as well as to celebrate Charlie Howard's life, I would like to interview people who knew him. My goal is to bring Charlie to life metaphorically as the multi-dimensional person that he really was. If you are interested in participating in this effort, please contact me at pdavisdublin@usm.maine.edu or at 780-4003 or 751-7447.

6. RELIABLE GIRL DRIVER WANTED, part-time (up to 10 hours/month). Must have own car and a phone. Duties will be pick-ups/deliveries, and driving me to appointments and/or around town (Portland & vicinity). Must be available a few mornings a week. Salary is minimum wage plus gas. Please contact Denise at 878-0819.

7. GUIDELINES FOR "MARRIAGE EQUALITY" POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE FAN: As a result of the most recent poll, political announcements related to the present efforts for "marital equality" here in Maine **will** be allowed in The FAN. Here are the guidelines:

(A) I would **prefer** that political announcements posted in The FAN should have a social component to them ... something that is happening where people will actually get together and interact. (e.g. envelope stuffing parties = OK, rallies = OK, debates about the issue or meetings for whatever = OK, simple requests to vote for the issue = not OK, requests for donations = not OK).

(B) In this particular "issue" campaign, I will allow requests that people write to a legislator(s), newspaper, or to someone else about the issue.

(C) If someone simply wants to offer some kind of "opinion" or "editorial" or "pep talk" about the issue, the proper place to do that is in the OP/ED category of the fan ... not in a special mailing sent to the subscribers.

(D) Announcements will normally be placed in the next issue of The FAN following its submission (assuming the event date happens after next issue comes out). HOWEVER, because political "events" sometimes happen on short notice (especially as voting day gets closer), I will send out such last-minute or unanticipated event postings in special emails.

(E) ALL special emails about short-notice political events will contain the words: **THIS IS A FAN POLITICAL NOTICE** in the Subject line. Folks who are uninterested can simply delete them without bothering to read ... the other folks can open them up and see what's happening.

(F) I reserve the right not to post a political notice, or to request changes in the wording, if I don't feel it meets the guidelines or is of questionable content. So far, that's never happened ... but I still reserve the right.

8. This year's Gay Men Together retreat will be APR 30 - MAY 3 (Thursday - Sunday). Gay Men Together (GMT) is a group of men who meet twice a year, in spring and fall. GMT was formed by a group of gay men who desired to build "community" looking into the 21st century. Looking back at the last 20 years and dealing with such a devastating disease as AIDS which took all of our energy and many

friends, our retreats and community building have been very successful. We gather as gay and/or questioning men in a non-threatening environment where we each are free to be and celebrate ourselves.

GMT is held at a wonderful turn of the century lodge on a forested hillside overlooking a crystal clear lake in West Gardiner, Maine. Twenty cabins at lakes edge are connected by a boardwalk to the main lodge. With a fieldstone fireplace in the Main Lodge, and rocking chairs on the front porch, our gathering spot for the weekend is warm and welcoming.

During each weekend we have space to hold about twenty workshops, some with laughter, some with tears, always with fun and each is lead by a retreat participant. GMT retreats are an open format, which means that you can pick and choose what you would like to do: attending workshops, hiking the trails, canoeing on the lake, quiet conversations in front of the fire, games in the lodge, or a nap in the cabin, it's up to you. FMI and/or to register for the Gay Men Together gathering, check the web site at www.gaymentogether.net

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.

1. THIRD ANNUAL RED RIBBON BALL IN BANGOR A HUGE SUCCESS! The Board of Directors, staff and clients of **Eastern Maine AIDS Network (EMAN)** in Bangor would like to thank everyone who donated to and/or attended the **Third Annual Red Ribbon Ball on Saturday, February 7, 2009**. As a result of your generosity, this year EMAN was able to raise almost **\$12,000**, which will allow us to continue to meet the vital needs of people with HIV/AIDS in Penobscot, Piscataquis, and Aroostook counties, as well as actively promote prevention education and harm reduction, and advocate for fair, effective programs and policies.

Despite the difficult economic times, EMAN is thrilled to have achieved a 9% increase in funds from last year's Red Ribbon Ball, as well as a huge increase in attendees (almost double!), which is a testament to the commitment and support of our community. In an era of decreased funding for AIDS Service Organizations, community support is vital. EMAN plays a critical role in educating citizens on the risks and realities of living with the disease, combating prejudice, testing for HIV, providing prevention services, counseling, and helping people and families living with HIV/AIDS to gain medical care, housing, food, and nutritional support.

EMAN would also like to offer a hearty thank you to **Spectacular Event Center** for providing the fabulous location for this year's Ball, as well as **Brian Catell and the Jump City Jazz Band** for their enthusiasm and keeping us dancing all night.

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 # 18

WHEN THE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW PROFESSOR TRIED TO FIGURE OUT HIS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, HE WAS ALWAYS MOST INTERESTED IN THE CHECKS AND BALANCES.

Cyber-Quip # 19

YRC OGTKCHPT PQ INDYCT GDMCTAZTLC DYE NDENEYCM PD F
CNDA OZNM INYR JPNDE. RNE QCSSPI LCTJRZDYE

DNJV-DZLCM RNL "SPDA XPRD ENSKCT."

CLUE: N = I

EVENTS (CHANGING):

* **MAR 3 (Tuesday)**, Portland, **Gay Hate Crime Survivor Shares His Story**, Portland City Hall, 2nd Floor, State of Maine Room, 7:00 - 9:00 pm. On September 6th, 2008, "B" was violently attacked in downtown Portland. A month after, this person identified himself as Byron at a Monument Square rally. Six months later, Byron will be sharing his experience with Thrive. He welcomes questions, invites others to share their own experiences and have a dialog. Come join us for this important discussion. **Please RSVP** to Andrew at 207-756-8071 or by email at thrive@portlandmaine.gov

* **MAR 6 (Friday)**, Portland, **Add Verb's Queer & Allied Writing Project** will present a performance of new works by GLBTA youth (and young at heart). This will be presented as part of the series of FrostbiteME 2009 events in Portland. It will feature spoken word poetry, monologues, and short plays. Admission is FREE! This performance is hosted by Add Verb Productions and by the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies. The show is from 8:15 pm - 9:15 pm at the Salt Institute (561 Congress St, Portland).

* **MAR 6 (Friday)**, Portland, **The Femme Show**, at the St. Lawrence Theatre (76 Congress St), shows at 7:00 pm and at 9:30 pm. That's right folks, The Femme Show is back in Portland with all new acts! The Femme Show is a revue of smart, sexy, interactive performance about queer femme identity that features film, dance, literary readings, burlesque, drag, and performance art from award winning artists. Come & enjoy us! Official Femme Show Afterparty at: Northstar Music Cafe! www.northstarmusiccafe.com For more description of The Femme Show see www.thefemmeshow.com Tickets (\$15/person) are on sale now at Bullmoose Music or www.stlawrencearts.org. Get your tickets early. Last time, we sold out! (Contact info: Amy Rain Adams, 207-632-5511, wicadword@gmail.com)

* **MAR12 (Thursday)**, Farmington, **The Second Coming Of Joan Of Arc**, the award-winning one-woman play written and performed by family member, Carolyn Gage, will be presented at UMF's Lincoln Auditorium at 7:30 pm. This production, part of Women's History Month, is FREE and open to the public. FMI contact UMF professor Gretchen Legler at 778-7182 or at gretchen.legler@maine.edu

* **MAR 21 (Saturday)**, Portland, **25th Annual Equality Maine Awards Banquet**. This will be at the Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring St, from 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm. Tickets are now available online at the EQME web site www.equalitymaine.org In the first weeks of 2009 EqualityMaine, in partnership with the Maine Freedom to Marry Coalition, launched our campaign for civil marriage equality -- but there's one more reason we're celebrating this year. It's our 25th anniversary, and we're getting ready for a fabulous celebration dinner on **Saturday, March 21** in Portland. Click here to reserve your tickets now -- don't wait, they're going fast. In addition to our awards program, this year's dinner will include a special retrospective on our first quarter-century of progress. We'll also be talking about the campaign for

marriage, and all the work that's led up to this historic moment. You won't want to miss this inspiring celebration of our community! See how far we've come since 1984, and join us as we build excitement for the work that lies ahead!

* **MAR 21 (Saturday)**, Bangor, **Bridge Alliance Dance Party**. 8:30 pm - 12:00 am. Come join us for the monthly dance party sponsored by The Bridge Alliance and hosted by Paddy Murphy's Irish Pub (26 Main Street, in Bangor ... across from the pretzel sculpture in West Market Square). 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. Credit cards are accepted. Please come and join us !!! FMI email info@thebridgealliance.org or check the Bridge Alliance web site at www.thebridgealliance.org

* **MAR 27 - APR 5 (Friday - Sunday)**, Portland, Maine Playwrights Festival (sponsored by Acorn Productions) will feature the play **THE GODDESS TOUR** by family playwright Carolyn Gage. This is a good, old-fashioned murder mystery that packs a feminist punch. FMI see <http://www.stlawrencearts.org/> and/or <http://www.acorn-productions.org/>

* **MAR 28 (Saturday)**, Biddeford, **Carolyn Gage in her award-winning play, The Parmachene Belle**, 7:30 pm. In celebration of National Women's History month the Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco and Biddeford (60 School Street in Saco) will host Carolyn's show. The Parmachene Belle is an original play about Maine's first licensed hunting guide, Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby. A discussion will follow the play. Tickets are \$12 at the door, \$10 in advance, and \$8 for seniors and teens. FMI and/or reservations call 207 282-0062.

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

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

ARTISTS:

JELVIS Presley / Elvis Tribute Artist / Drag King

Bangor Maine, 04401

ph: 207-659-1347

email: jelvispresleyinc@gmail.com

web: <http://myspace.com/jelvispresley>

Ladies & Gentlemen ... Elvis is back in the building! Why not add a performance by the King of rock to your next event?! JELVIS specializes in the 1950s era of the first rebel of rock, singing live for your event. JELVIS performs for private parties, drag shows, pride events, charities, benefits, and fundraisers. This action packed show will bring you to your feet! A fun, funny, and rockin' good time is to be had by all at any JELVIS show. JELVIS dances, sings, plays guitar and comes custom with an authentic 1950s outfit and backing tracks to give you that 50s feel! (He might even give out a hawaiian lei or two.)

Contact: jelvispresleyinc@gmail.com for reasonable rates and availability. (*charities, benefits & most fundraisers are free*)

PERSONALS:

54 year-young lesbian wishes to meet other lesbians for friendship and possibly more. I'm interested in: Dogs, nature, crafts, movies, music and more. I live in Rockland. If interested please email: 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 reconverted 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.

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.

An informative exchange:

Family member, and lawyer, Roberta Kuriloff roberta@KuriloffLaw.com wrote concerning part of Carol Thompson's **TAX TIPS FOR THE GLBTI COMMUNITY:**

"I just read your newsletter and Carol Thompson's article on estate planning. I just want to point out that couples who register in Maine under the domestic partnership law do have rights of inheritance equal to a spouse, as well as equal rights to a spouse to be a guardian/conservator, and personal representative if there is no Will."

Carol Thompson cwteame@msn.com responds:

"I apologize for any confusion my check list may have caused. The information I have on the domestic partner check list is very general and doesn't cover the specifics of states that allow limited estate rights for partners (it is from an income tax class on domestic partners used in many different states). It may be overly simplistic with all the differences in state laws today. Personally, I use it as a check list to send my tax clients to an attorney who is up on specific state law regarding domestic partner rights for inheritance.

I want to make sure people know that no matter how liberal the state laws are for domestic partner estates, under federal tax law, there is no unlimited gift transfers between "unrelated" partners. Wills and trusts are the first line of defense, but can create a false sense of security to couples who do their own paperwork, or do not understand the law, that Maine allows the same treatment as the federal government. It is important that domestic partners understand local *and* federal law, and even more importantly, see a qualified attorney to set up the necessary paperwork. If nothing else, it is yet another reason we need to keep up the fight for full marital equality nationally to have the same rights as all married couples. Again, I'm sorry if the list caused any confusion. Thanks for the clarification.

You can check this web site for some background on the domestic partnership law: <http://equalitymaine.org/domestic-partnerships/domestic-partnerships-information>"

And Roberta Replied:

"There is no confusion or need to apologize. I think you are correct in your second paragraph that couples should know that state benefits under the domestic partnership act are not carried over under federal law."

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

no listings this issue

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/glbtiq.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 don't have insurance to cover breast and cervical health services. FMI contact Robin at Caring Connections at 941-2808.

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

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

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

(GLSEN) Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network. Meets fourth Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM at the UU Church in Ellsworth. We eat together (usually pizza) and ask participants to pitch in for the cost (usually about \$5). New members always welcome. Our work is focused on making schools safer and more respectful for all students and staff regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. We do staff trainings, workshops at other events, and advocate for student needs. Recently we have begun to work with and encourage several gay-straight alliances (GSA's) in local high schools. We are teachers, parents, school administrators, counselors, and other interested citizens; men and women, gay and straight, working together. FMI contact the Downeast Maine Chapter at PO Box 373, Ellsworth, ME 04605. OR phone 667-2358 or 244-3837. OR email downeastglsen@roadrunner.com. You can check the resource-rich national web site at www.glsen.org and find our chapter page at www.glsen.org/downeastme.

Howard Foundation. This is a foundation dedicated to building a permanent scholarship endowment for high school seniors and post secondary students. The foundation focuses on students who are entering any profession that promotes diversity and a better understanding of differences in people within our communities. Guidelines for allotting the scholarships are presently being formulated. A second goal for the foundation is to establish a 3-day festival called "Multi-Cultural Days - Bangor" which will be open to every ethnic/cultural group in Maine with a focus on education, food, music/entertainment, dancing, and inspirational speakers. People interested in being on the Planning Committee, or being involved in any way, can contact Dan Williams at 942-9319 or at knead24u@yahoo.com. You can also check the web site at www.howardfoundation07.org

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Collection at the University of Southern Maine is working to capture the history of Maine's LGBT community. We collect papers of individuals and the records of organizations active in the community. Although we mostly collect print material (books, serials, written documents) we collect almost any object that documents the life and experience of the LGBT community (photographs, books, newsletters, objects, posters, T-shirts, buttons, etc). Following professional standards, we are careful to guard the privacy of individuals involved with the collections and will work with donors who choose anonymity. For information on the collection and donating material please contact Susie Bock, 207-780-4269 or bocks@usm.maine.edu.

Lesbian Health Project. Initiated in 1992, the Lesbian Health Project of the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center seeks to promote non-homophobic health services which will provide lesbians with the ability to make the best health decisions possible based on accurate knowledge. The focus of the project is on developing educational materials for lesbians and trainings for health and social service professionals. In addition, the project sponsors a Lesbian Health Clinic at the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center which provides low-cost, woman positive, lesbian-centered health care including: pelvic exams, breast exams, health education, instruction in breast self-exam, pap smears, mammography referrals, health advocacy, screening and treatment of STD's. For more information or to become involved in the work of the project contact the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center at 947-5337

Lesbian Radio is on the air Wednesday afternoons from 1 until 1:30 pm. Listen in at 90.9 and 104.1FM and online at www.wmpg.org to politics, news, arts, business, music, poetry—all things Lesbian-y. Deb Gallagher hosts the show live each week. ourlesbianradioshow@yahoo.com

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!

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

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

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

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 monthly meetings/gatherings on the 4th Saturday of each month. Location varies within Aroostook County. 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 intersted in details, please email me at _____, or call me at _____". Any questions? let me know! (mikeondavispond@yahoo.com)

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

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

Proud Lesbians of Poverty We seek people to join the group as we explore ways to improve the civil rights of GLBTQ's of poverty who cannot afford a lawyer to enforce their Gay Civil Rights, or their original Human Rights as a person. We are open to all people of any background. FMI contact Jan at janshouse@yahoo.com or phone 207-453-2353 or join the yahoo group at <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/ProudLesbians/>

Rubyfruit Cafe. A Maine-based, on-line, lesbian virtual community. Rubyfruit Cafe is a lesbian community magazine designed to showcase our lives, creativity, spirituality, politics, and much more. It is a website that will be driven by your submissions, your music, poetry, videos, photos, and stories. Show us where and how you live (show us your "crib") ... Tell us about your spirituality ... what you think politically and poetically ... sing your song or show us your garden ... share your lives, ideas and hopes with each other. If you find an interesting article, website, product, or new talent, let us hear about it. I want to create a fun, creative, supportive, environment for everyone to relax and just enjoy each other ... to take pleasure in our diversity and talents ... a place of tolerance and celebration. www.rubyfruitcafe.com

THE WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, AND HOW OF THE FAMILY AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER.

All communications to FAMILY AFFAIRS should be sent to megress@zwi.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@zwi.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.