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Family Affairs Newsletter 2009-05-15

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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

15 MAY 2009

NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

(NEWS #1:) CHANGES IN THE FAN. With this issue, The FAN is now 7 years old!! I told you all in the last issue that I've been feeling "static and bored" with it all and sense that it's time for some changes. In order for me to continue working on The FAN (in order for me to feel excited and energized about putting in all this work) I want to see at least these three changes:

1. The FAN should regularly list events from around the whole state. In spite of my efforts to keep it 'northern', it seems to want to move in that direction anyway. Fighting that flow is taking a lot of psychological energy. I'd rather just enjoy the current.
2. In order to cover the whole state, The FAN will have to have fewer (and re-organized) categories. I can't possibly include for the whole state all the things I'm including now and still have time to live my life.
3. I would want The FAN to change from being a regional "newsletter" to actually become a communications hub for the state's GLBT community. That would require *active* input from *MOST* of the state's GLBT organizations.

Number 3 is the kicker. Do you remember in the MAY 1 issue that I said it would require each of you to do a little bit to help me make it work ... that it would require a more active and inter-active readership? Number 3 is the one that I'm not sure we can accomplish because I don't know if there is enough willingness within each of the state's GLBT organizations (and their individual members) to extend themselves just a little bit more to make sure that happens.

In the next issue I'll elaborate on that thought some more so that you can better understand where I'm coming from. But before I do that I'm going to ask each of you to do me a favor. Before the June 1 issue of The FAN comes out, I want you to watch a short video for me. This video is fun, it's easy, it's only 17 minutes long and (while it has nothing to do with GLBT issues) it explains the under-lying principle that I'm working on here as I'm thinking about these changes. Once you've seen it, I think you'll better be able to understand how and why I want to move in the direction I'm moving. The video is titled *What We Can Learn From Spaghetti Sauce*. Here it is: http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/malcolm_gladwell_on_spaghetti_sauce.html Take a look at it and I'll see you in the June 1 issue.

(NEWS #2:) LGBTQA Youth Prom. MAY 29 in Portland. See the listing below.

(NEWS #3:) Bangor's First Bridge Alliance Pride Event ~ Celebrating 40 years of Gay Pride! See the events listed below: Bangor Bridge Alliance PRIDE on June 11th - June 14. This event will be FREE and open to all members of the GLBT community and their straight allies! If your group would like to be part of this historic event, please email our event coordinators, Greg Music & Gene Beck

at info@thebridgealliance.org ~ We're also looking for volunteers to help us with the event throughout the day. If you would like to volunteer to be part of this historical event please contact our volunteer coordinator Jeannine MacDonald at jeanninec63@yahoo.com For updated information please visit us online at www.thebridgealliance.org/ or visit us on Facebook at Friends of Bridge Alliance.

(NOTES #1:) Thanks to David for sending the link to this YouTube video on Gay Pride 2009 ... very cool! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEpqTlollPs>

(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. NEW BANGOR AREA SUPPORT GROUP ... GLBTQ.

Feeling like you live on the edge of the known universe?

Wish your alternative bar were ... well ... alternative? Want a little dance with your community who-ha's?

My partner and I have decided, although Portland, Lewiston, etc. are lovely destinations, It's a bit of a drive home after a hearty celebration.

Let's Create ... Your very own GLBTQ speakeasy, operated by local lesbian transgender couple and friends, For GLBTQ and straight but not narrow friends.

Come on out and play ... Or dance ... Or just make some new friends.

Once a month my kitchen will magically transform into a dance floor, & my living room a lounge that accommodates a goodly number of lizards for schmoozing the night away.

I'm tired of complaining about a lack of community. So lets get started.

Help plan? Interested, suggestions??? E-mail wiserube1@yahoo.com Or call Ann at 827-4920.

2. FIRST FRIDAY EXHIBITION OPENING, June 5th, 7:00 pm at the Maine College of Art in Portland.

Future of the Past: Reviving our Queer Archives is an exhibition of Annette Dragon's photographs of early queer activism in the 80's and 90's. The exhibition features nearly 100 photographs and will be on display from June 5th - July 3rd on the first floor of MECA, 522 Congress Street in Portland.

3. MAINE TRANS NET (www.mainetransnet.org) IS EXCITED TO NOW HAVE OUR OWN

SPACE located in Portland at 640 Brighton Ave (West entrance, top floor). We are planning several events in the upcoming months. Please join us – email Alex (alex@mainetransnet.org for more information).

MTN business meeting: On Monday May 4 at 7pm, we will be meeting in the MTN office to discuss progress on various projects, plan upcoming events, and talk about possibilities for MTN's future. If you want to be a leader/planner/helper/suggestion-maker with MaineTransNet, we could really use you! (And we promise not to pressure anyone to take on unwanted work!)

New Group Starting: We are starting a peer support group for any person who is trans-identified, genderqueer, or questioning. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, May 6 at 7:00-8:30pm, where we will discuss what people are looking for in a group. If you are interested in attending, please email me first (alex@mainetransnet.org) for more information and directions. You could also leave me a message at 207-408-1685. If you cannot attend this meeting but are interested in being part of the group, or similar groups sometime in the future, please also let me know.

Group for Partners: This group is for partners of trans/genderqueer/questioning individuals. (For the sake of making this a confidential and comfortable place to talk, this group is open to partners ONLY.) The group will meet at the MTN office in Portland. This should be happening within the next month, but the date and time have not yet been set. If you are interested in attending or know someone who may be, please contact Ali (ali@mainetransnet.org).

Discussion on Gender Identity "Openness": How important is it to you that people know that you're trans (or genderqueer, or the partner of a trans person, etc.)? If you don't necessarily "look trans" (whatever that means), how do you navigate this aspect of your identity with others, be it people from work, friends, potential partners, or casual acquaintances? Is being trans a private part of your life you've already dealt with, or is it an important part of your identity that you want people to know about? There are many points of view on this issue. This is a one-time discussion group to share your own or listen to others' viewpoints. (This is a FRIENDLY discussion with no "right" answers—no one will be pressured to take on someone else's point of view.) WHO: open to anyone under the trans umbrella and SOFFAs WHEN: Wed. May 20th, 7-8:30pm WHERE: the MTN office, Portland Please let me know if you plan on attending. (alex@mainetransnet.org)

MTN office hours: If you or someone you know want to drop in and "ask the trans person a question," see our new space, read a good trans-related book, or just say hi, these are our drop-in office hours beginning the week of 4/29: When: Wed: 5-7pm or Thurs: 12-2pm Where: the MTN office, Portland. Anyone is welcome—feel free to send any bewildered family members just learning about trans issues who have questions they may be too uncomfortable to ask you! Any possible cancellations will be posted on the MaineTransNet website, www.mainetransnet.org.

4. CALL FOR LGBTQA YOUTH LED WORKSHOPS. CampOUT 2009 is a social and educational retreat for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, and Allied Youth ages 14 - 22 years old. It's a space designed for LGBTQA youth to connect, learn, and share ideas. At CampOUT, LGBTQA youth will not only learn about how to build a strong LGBTQA youth community, but also how to become powerful youth leaders. **This year's CampOUT will be held in the Lovell area on August 14 - 16 (Friday - Sunday).** If you are you a youth 14-22 years old with an idea for a workshop that inspires, supports, and strengthens LGBTQA youth, then CampOUT is looking for you! Possible workshop ideas include (but are not limited to): Activity-Based (art, music, theatre, etc); Media Impact; Activism; Safer Sex and Abstinence Negotiation; Addressing Homophobia/Heterosexism; Starting and Maintaining Gay/Straight Alliances; Body Image; Transgender 101; Healthy Relationships; Queer Spirituality. To find out more about CampOUT check the website at www.katiediamond.com/campout or email them at campoutmaine@gmail.com. **To Propose a Workshop for CampOUT 2009: Go to www.katiediamond.com/campout_workshops.html Deadline for proposals is Saturday, May 16.**

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.*

The Following OP/ED piece was written by Maine's own Jenny Boylan and was taken from the on-line version of The New York Times.

IS MY MARRIAGE GAY?

By JENNIFER FINNEY BOYLAN, Belgrade Lakes, Me.

As many Americans know, last week Gov. John Baldacci of Maine signed a law that made this state the fifth in the nation to legalize gay marriage. It's worth pointing out, however, that there were some legal same-sex marriages in Maine already, just as there probably are in all 50 states. These are marriages in which at least one member of the couple has changed genders since the wedding.

I'm in such a marriage myself and, quite frankly, my spouse and I forget most of the time that there is anything particularly unique about our family, even if we are — what is the phrase? — “differently married.”

Deirdre Finney and I were wed in 1988 at the National Cathedral in Washington. In 2000, I started the long and complex process of changing from male to female. Deedie stood by me, deciding that her life was better with me than without me. Maybe she was crazy for doing so; lots of people have generously offered her this unsolicited opinion over the years. But what she would tell you, were you to ask, is that the things that she loved in me have mostly remained the same, and that our marriage, in the end, is about a lot more than what genders we are, or were.

Deirdre is far from the only spouse to find herself in this situation; each week we hear from wives and husbands going through similar experiences together. Reliable statistics on transgendered people always prove elusive, but just judging from my e-mail, it seems as if there are a whole lot more transsexuals — and people who love them — in New England than say, Republicans. Or Yankees fans.

I've been legally female since 2002, although the definition of what makes someone “legally” male or female is part of what makes this issue so unwieldy. How do we define legal gender? By chromosomes? By genitalia? By spirit? By whether one asks directions when lost?

We accept as a basic truth the idea that everyone has the right to marry somebody. Just as fundamental is the belief that no couple should be divorced against their will.

For our part, Deirdre and I remain legally married, even though we're both legally female. If we had divorced last month, before Governor Baldacci's signature, I would have been allowed on the following day to marry a man only. There are states, however, that do not recognize sex changes. If I were to attempt to remarry in Ohio, for instance, I would be allowed to wed a woman only.

Gender involves a lot of gray area. And efforts to legislate a binary truth upon the wide spectrum of gender have proven only how elusive sexual identity can be. The case of J'noel Gardiner, in Kansas, provides a telling example. Ms. Gardiner, a postoperative transsexual woman, married her husband, Marshall Gardiner, in 1998. When he died in 1999, she was denied her half of his \$2.5 million estate by the Kansas Supreme Court on the ground that her marriage was invalid. Thus in Kansas, any transgendered person who is anatomically female is now allowed to marry only another woman.

Similar rulings have left couples in similar situations in Florida, Ohio and Texas. A 1999 ruling in San Antonio, in *Littleton v. Prange*, determined that marriage could be only between people with different chromosomes. The result, of course, was that lesbian couples in that jurisdiction were then allowed to wed as long as one member of the couple had a Y chromosome, which is the case with both transgendered male-to-females and people born with conditions like androgen insensitivity syndrome. This ruling made Texas, paradoxically, one of the first states in which gay marriage was legal.

A lawyer for the transgendered plaintiff in the *Littleton* case noted the absurdity of the country's gender laws as they pertain to marriage: “Taking this situation to its logical conclusion, Mrs. Littleton, while in San Antonio, Tex., is a male and has a void marriage; as she travels to Houston, Tex., and enters federal property, she is female and a widow; upon traveling to Kentucky she is female and a widow; but, upon entering Ohio, she is once again male and prohibited from marriage; entering Connecticut, she is again female and may marry; if her travel takes her north to Vermont, she is male and may marry a female; if instead she travels south to New Jersey, she may marry a male.”

Legal scholars can (and have) devoted themselves to the ultimately frustrating task of defining “male” and “female” as entities fixed and unmoving. A better use of their time, however, might be to focus on accepting the elusiveness of gender — and to celebrate it. Whether a marriage like mine is a same-sex marriage or some other kind is hardly the point. What matters is that my spouse and I love each other, and that our legal union has been a good thing — for us, for our children and for our community.

It's my hope that people who are reluctant to embrace same-sex marriage will see that it has been with us, albeit in this one unusual circumstance, for years. Can we have a future in which we are more concerned with the love a family has than with the sometimes unanswerable questions of gender and identity? As of last week, it no longer seems so unthinkable. As we say in Maine, you *can* get there from here.

Jennifer Finney Boylan is a professor of English at Colby College and the author of the memoir "I'm Looking Through You: Growing Up Haunted."

A version of this article appeared in print on May 12, 2009, on page A27 of the New York edition.

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.

Report on PRIDE WEEK at U. Maine Machias in April (Thanks to Lois-Ann for this report). The Pride Week Events were hosted by the UMM 100% Society.

Pride week kicked off with the movie "MILK" about gay activist Harvey Milk. About 25 people came out to see this wonderful film.

"Chicks with Picks" showcased lesbian and straight guitar-playing singing women from near and a little bit away. We had a wonderful time with all the chicks!! About 90 people showed up for an amazing show! Jessi Mallory, Bangor's own singer/songwriter, rocked the house and kept up her witty dialogue with the audience; Winner of UMM's Battle of the Bands 2009 - Hurricane Bertha with band members Jenny Garguilo, Loie Mellerup, Nichole Cote, & Amy Dolloff of course was a crowd pleaser with favorites like "Sit on My Face" and "Trailer Trash Girl"; Mona Rae serenaded us with her angelic voice and had the crowd singing with her on Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah"; Kara McCrimmon & Penny Guisinger – the only couple – were a fabulous duet; Lauren Koss sang a mean (and we mean stunning) rendition of Tracy Chapman's "Fast Car", Anna Adams is a serious voice and sound to be reckoned with whether two chord pieces or those more complicated, and Noach Tangeras play audience favorites of her own songs and did blow us away with her version of "What's Up" by 4 Non Blondes and we're pretty darn picky about our "What's Up"!!

"UMM's Bad Little Drag Show" showcased talented students in their cross-dressed glory. More than 100 people showed up for this extremely popular event on our campus. Our host included "Brett Michaels" stopping by on the Rock of Love Bust Tour with some of his contestants. The top winners for the Drag Kings were a duo (actually a trio if you include the devil) performed and acted out the last scene of Tenacious D (Jack Black and Kyle Gass) in the Pick of Destiny. The Drag Queen winner passed remarkably and for her talent, wowed the crowd with "Love Story" by Taylor Swift. Contestants competed in talent, evening wear, and a question period. Top winners in King and Queen received \$100, 2nd place \$50, and 3rd place \$25.

Nationally recognized comic, Sabrina Matthews, really gave the 70+ crowd reason to laugh. The twelve youth from OUT! As I Want to Be, Rockland especially loved the show and one response was, "The comedian was amazing! She was hilarious and I loved the fact that she went into the gutter."

Rainbow Ball was the state-wide, open and affirming prom event for GLBTQA youth and was open to all, attendance was about 75. This year's ball was supported by a generous donation of \$7,500 from Joe Higdon and Ellen Sudow in conjunction with the Maine Community Foundation's Equity Fund. While we're still in our training ruby slippers, the ball was a wonderful success. Of course we want to do better and hope to work with Wilde-Stein of the University of Maine for next year's ball. We were so fortunate to have a wonderful group of very lovely and entertaining professional Drag Queens host and perform. We

were so happy to have Chanel Honeywell (head of the Honeywell House), Katrina Dupree (former winner of Ms. Northern Maine Pride 2006), Topaz, and Lady Valarie Honeywell (reigning Princess of Ms. Grand Diva 2008) in the house!! Other entertainment included our Downeast DJ, UMM's Dancing Divas (bellydancers), and the all lesbian band, Hurricane Berth for the theme of "Cabaret". Prom photos were provided, mocktails, mask decorating, snacks, etc. There were many, many positive comments made about the Rainbow Ball and all the performers.

Based on feedback from attendees last year, a number of new programming efforts were included for the youth guests staying at UMM.

1. All-expense paid weekend funded by the grant (expanded from one night and one meal provided) to two nights, all meals, and events. There were 24 guests (youth groups and individuals including students from UMaine).
2. Saturday luncheon with invited guests to discuss educational issues of GLBTQA youth. Invited guests included Zack Wright of Ellsworth's Gay Lesbian Straight Educational Network (GLSEN); Alex Patel (Campus Counselor), and Cindy Huggins (UMM's President). The youth had a great deal to say about issues in schools and Zack gave lots of information on events, GSA's, and is a gifted facilitator!
3. Saturday Gaymes were co-sponsored with UMM's Recreational Management Event Planning course. Activities included "drag races", t-shirt design, poi twirling, and gay jeopardy and prizes were also provided. The tie-dye t-shirt design and the game room in general were really well-received by the youth.
4. There was a final luncheon on Sunday to discuss Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) planning and what support college GSAs could provide; for visiting college students information was provided about becoming a chapter of Omicron Delta Pi, New England's only all-inclusive fraternity; and feedback was recorded for future planning for the rainbow ball.

Lobbyist Training for the State Legislature

About 20 students turned out for The 100% Society sponsored lobbyist training provided by the Maine Civil Liberties Union in relation to Senator Dennis Damon's LD 1020 bill supporting same-sex marriage rights and religious freedom before the state legislature. Seven student members were able to attend the judiciary committee's hearing at the Augusta Civic Center and had transformative experiences. More students may attend and are ready for a TBA college day at the legislature for lobbying for the bill.

EVENTS (CHANGING):

* **MAY 16 (Saturday)**, Bangor, **Bridge Alliance Dance Party**. 8:30 - 12:30 am. Come join us for the monthly dance party sponsored by The Bridge Alliance and hosted this month by Carolina Sports and Spirits (16 Union Street, under the "middle bridge"). 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, the full menu will be available until 11 pm. Cash/Debit/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

* **MAY 22 (Friday)**, Auburn, **Outright L/A Gender Bender Dance Party**. The dance will be from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the UU Church (169 Pleasant St). FMI email info@outrightla.org, phone 207-795-8956, or check the web site at www.outrightla.org

* **MAY 29 (Friday)**, Portland, **GLBTQA Youth Prom**. Community Counseling Center's Proud Rainbow Youth of Southern Maine (PRYSM) hosts its annual youth prom. The theme for this year's prom is "Out & About in Costume", and will provide a fun, safe space for GLBTQA youth ages 22 and under to gather and celebrate. The event will feature drag performers, opportunities for couples and groups to be photographed, refreshments and a DJ. Youth will have the opportunity to enter a costume contest. The prom is sponsored in part by the Rainbow Business Professionals Association and the Trans Youth Equality Project. Tickets are \$15 per person and are available by calling Joanna Testa at 207-874-1030 ext 235 or by emailing jtesta@commcc.org. Limited discounted and sponsored tickets are available, please call for more information.

* **JUN 5 (Friday)**, Portland, grand opening of the **Photo-exhibit: Future of the Past: Reviving our Queer Archives**. 7:00 pm. This exhibit is being hosted by the Maine College of Art (522 Congress St) and contains Annette Dragon's photographs of early queer activism in the 80's and 90's. The exhibition features nearly 100 photographs and will be on display from June 5th - July 3rd on the first floor of MECA. More information about the exhibition is available online at www.futureofthepast.wordpress.com.

Support for this project has been provided by the University of Southern Maine Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine, Maine College of Art Graduate Studies Program, Moth Press, The Naughty North! Collective, Resources For Organizing & Social Change and the Maine Community Foundation's Equity Fund.

* **JUN 5 & 6 (Friday & Saturday)**, Brewer, **A Signed Journey**. This performance piece is a musical autobiography of a sign language interpreter who experienced a deadly heart attack and has a story to tell. The performance style will be the first of its kind in the area, blending music and sign language together. The story (and the songs) will be performed in American Sign Language by family member Dan Williams and will be interpreted into English by Dan Deluca and Pat Heitmann. This performance is a benefit for the Howard Foundation and the American Heart Association. Both performances will be held at Between Friends Gift Shop, 39 Center St, in Brewer, and start at 7:00 pm on each day. Tickets can be purchased at Between Friends for \$10 each (cash or check only ... sorry, no credit cards). FMI call 989-7100.

* **JUN 11 (Thursday)**, Bangor Bridge Alliance PRIDE. We are kicking off Pride Weekend with a **free film, The Celluloid Closet**, starring Lily Tomlin, Whoopie Goldberg and Tony Curtis, a 1995 documentary surveying the various Hollywood screen depictions of homosexuals and the attitudes behind them throughout the history of North American film. Time and Place To Be Announced.

* **JUN 12 (Friday)**, Bangor Bridge Alliance PRIDE. Join us for **dinner downtown** and have a chance to meet and greet the Bridge Alliance folks as well as some of our guests for our featured events on Saturday. Time & place to be announced.

* **JUN 13 (Saturday)**, Bangor Bridge Alliance PRIDE. **Bridge Alliance Gay Pride Block Party** in West Market Square, 3 pm - 8 pm. This will be a family friendly event and will feature several local speakers including Rep. Adam Good (D), Rep. Sara Stevens (D) & more. Local GLBT non-profit organizations will have booths and will be providing information throughout the day. Local restaurants will be open and participating in the event. The Charles Inn will be holding an Art Diversity Celebration featuring local artists Harrison Ankers, Thomas Hudgins, Chip Carty and our own Bridge Alliance member Mark Nutt.

Music will be provided in the square throughout the day. Performers will include: Voices for Peace, The Killer Bees (classic rock & oldies), Jessi Mallory (rock/alternative) www.myspace.com/jessimallory, Local Legend Lauri Jones (acoustic indie rock) www.myspace.com/lauriejonesband.

We'll end the evening with an Adult After Party ... AND ... a Chem Free Under 21 Teen Dance! Popular local musicians Sam and Yuri will be playing at our Teen Dance. Check out their music at - www.myspace.com/samandyuri. Times and Places To Be Announced.

* **JUN 14 (Sunday)**, Bangor Bridge Alliance PRIDE. To end a fabulous weekend, we invite folks to **join us at one of several local GLBT friendly churches for worship!** Check the web site www.thebridgealliance.org/

* **JUN 14 - 21 (Sunday - Sunday)**, Portland, **Southern Maine PRIDE Week**. FMI check the web site at www.southernmainepride.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 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 June 15. If you are a GLBTI business owner, an "out" GLBTI business person associating with a non-GLBTI-owned business, or a straight-owned supportive ally who wants a free listing, then contact me. I'm Jean at megress@gwi.net or at 862-2063.

no listings this issue

PERSONALS:

Lesbian new to Rockland wishes to meet other lesbians/gay men for friendship. Some preference for those who are not heavy users or heavily involved in AA. Looking for mature, basically healthy friends who are engaged in various aspects of life. Email Veronica at nicamorgan@rcn.com

Female guitarist/mandolinist/fiddler/singer, seeks female guitarist for jamming, and, if the chemistry is right, performing at open-mics, house concerts, and maybe more. My influences are covers of Indigo Girls, Dylan, Lightfoot, plus my own singer/songwriter material. Thanks for looking. Contact Stephanie at sreiser@tds.net

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

Blaine: For Rent. Long and short term stays available at Magic Pond Wildlife Sanctuary and Artists' Retreat in Blaine (near Mars Hill in The County). Special offer: Permanent rental of the Studio Cottage Apartment at only \$495/month plus utilities (super insulated with wood stove back up and highly efficient

oil stove) with pond and 75 acres of gorgeous back yard. Visit the site: <http://www.magicpondmaine.com> then email me if interested: lg@magicpondmaine.com

Franklin: For Rent. 2 BR, second floor apartment on quiet country lane that leads to the bay. Many lakes in area. 1/2 hour to Bar Harbor and Schoodic Point. Large space for one or two people. No pets, no smoking, drug-free. \$575/mo plus heat and cooking propane. Call Fran at 207-565-0984.

Old Town: House Share Available. Student, woman with son and transgendered lesbian partner, has two rooms to let in large house. One room is large (12x12) and sunny, the other is mid sized (12x9) sweet & also sunny. Both rooms are on the second floor. Second floor has bathroom to share, and features a large claw footed tub. There is ample storage in a large hallway closet. Rent both rooms as a small apartment for a rate of \$130 per week. The house is on a dead end street. House mate will have kitchen and laundry privileges, local telephone, all utilities, cable and Internet access paid for. We are within a five minute walk to downtown and bus line. We are located about five miles from the Orono campus. The rooms are perfect for a student. We are a **no smoking household**. Must love animals, we have two cats and a dog. Guests are fine. No large parties. Must be able to share chores in common rooms, and be reasonably neat. FMI contact wiserube1@yahoo.com or leave a message for Ann at 207-827-4920

Otis: Roommate Wanted. Female seeking same for roommate. room is very small but very affordable. The room is furnished, with only a twin bed, and storage for clothing. There is only room for perhaps your TV and computer. The place is cozy in a campy kind of way, near Beech Hill Pond. Located in a quiet rural area 20 minutes from Ellsworth, 25 minutes to Bangor. Perfect for a summer rental. There's a small circle of gay women in the neighborhood. \$250/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

Rockland: For Rent. Furnished upstairs of house with two rooms and full bath at a low rent for anyone reasonable who is in between homes or needs a place to stay for the short term. Email Veronica at nicamorgan@rcn.com

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.

HIV Support Group for men in Portland. We meet every other Tuesday, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Open meetings. We meet at the Virology Treatment Center, 58 Gilman Street, Portland. Call Diane for more information: 662-2991.

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!

Maine Equity Fund. Part of the Maine Community Foundation, The Maine Equity Fund's mission is to strengthen GLBT organizations in Maine and support community-based initiatives that address GLBT issues and needs through grant making. The vision driving the fund is one of inclusive, diverse, prejudice-free communities for the GLBT population and for all people in Maine. Detailed grant information is available on the web and the annual proposal deadline is in September. <http://www.maineecf.org/grants/availablegrants/equityfund.aspx>

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. MTN also sponsors a transgender peer support group and a separate group for partners of trans/genderqueer/questioning individuals. FMI email Alex at alex@mainetransnet.org or check the web site at www.mainetransnet.org. You could also leave a message at 207-408-1685.

The Naughty North Collective is a state wide radical queer direct action (dis)organization. We are committed to celebrating our queerest selves while resisting the devastating violence inherent in the consumer driven assimilationist gaystream. We will defend ourselves against the brutal silence of isolation thru a diverse and dedicated network of action oriented friends and lovers. We will not deny our anger or fail to recognize the links between queer struggle and challenging power. Naughty North is a defiant orgasm in the face of oppression: all are welcome to get off with us! <http://www.thenaughtynorth.blogspot.com>

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

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

Buddy Bikers, Gay Motorcycle Group (PORTLAND) Guys who are gay/gay friendly who enjoy group rides. Based in the Portland area, but rides are not limited to Southern Maine. Harleys to Hondas, Choppers to Rice Rockets. SORRY, NO SCOOTERS ALLOWED. Annual event; Biker Boy Brunch, third Sunday of August to Amore's in Ogunquit. EMAIL buddybikers@yahooogroups.com Website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/buddybikers>

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 Smith Barney 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 771-0854 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

Outright L/A. (ANDROSCOGGIN / OXFORD / FRANKLIN COUNTIES) Outright Lewiston/Auburn creates safe and affirming environments for youth age 22 and under who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and/or questioning. Outright L/A hosts a weekly drop-in, a place for youth age 22 and under to meet other youth, talk, plan events, play games, watch movies, get information on HIV prevention, and much more! Outright L/A meets every Friday from 6:00 - 8:30pm at the UU Church on the corner of Spring and Pleasant streets in Auburn. FMI call 207-795-8956 or email info@outrightla.org or check the web site at www.outrightla.org

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 343 Forest Avenue, rear entrance. Also provide outreach, phone & email support; community education, leadership development, safer-sex/HIV prevention education, and connections to community resources. 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:

Coastal Women's Connection. A women's social group providing connections for LBT women in the Brunswick to Portland area. 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>.

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@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.