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## Family Affairs Newsletter 2009-11-15

Jean Vermette

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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 NOVEMBER 2009

## NEWSLETTER NEWS, NOTES & REMINDERS:

**(NEWS #1:) NEW GAY MENS' COMMUNITY CENTER.** See the posting below at NOV 17.

**(NEWS #2:) RE: THE "NO ON 1" CAMPAIGN.**

This note has to begin with my thanks. You dug deep for this campaign and there aren't words to express my gratitude. It's equally important to say that we have reason to be hopeful about the future. While the loss was personal and devastating on so many levels, our opponents are way off base to view this as a harbinger of what lies ahead for their anti-equality movement. In truth, Maine voters are evenly divided on this issue and trending in our direction every day. Just 32,000 votes separated us from victory.

We -- all of us -- are in this for the long haul. For the next week. For the next month. For the next year. Until all Maine families are treated equally under the law.

**To that end, I hope you will support EqualityMaine, our state's LGBT political organization. It was their years of work that positioned Maine to be the first state in the country to pass marriage equality in the Legislature and have it signed by the Governor -- and they will lead us to do it again.**

EqualityMaine has a big job in 2010 -- to protect the legislators who passed the marriage bill and to elect new pro-marriage candidates to ensure that marriage equality becomes law once more in Maine.

Your input is critical to our future success. Please take a couple of minutes and [share your anonymous feedback](http://www.protectmaineequality.org/survey) on the campaign. **Responses requested by November 20.** <http://www.protectmaineequality.org/survey>

We know there's a lot of work ahead, but it's proud and important, and I look forward to working with you again.

Jesse Connolly  
Campaign Manager  
No on 1 / Protect Maine Equality

**(NEWS #3:) TODAY WE BEGIN MOVING FORWARD.** Winning marriage equality in Maine is going to take a little more work than we anticipated. But be encouraged that we made it almost all the way, and don't have far to go. Everything is trending in our direction, including demographics. In addition, we moved legislators, we moved a governor, we moved the media, and we moved many voters from Yes to No. And while we didn't move quite enough voters in the amount of time we had, **marriage equality in Maine is inevitable.**

Our first step in moving forward will be to host a series of Community Conversations around the state. These conversations will be an opportunity to debrief the campaign, share stories of grief and inspiration, and then talk about what we do in the upcoming months to move us closer to equality.

**Community Conversations will be held December 6th -10th in Bangor, Augusta, Lewiston, York and Portland. Dates and times will be determined and posted as soon as possible.** We hope you will join us for one of these important conversations.

We hope you will stay with us on the next leg of the journey to win marriage equality in Maine.

Betsy Smith  
Executive Director  
EqualityMaine

**(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](mailto: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. The National Senior Citizens Law Center, Lambda Legal, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Center for Transgender Equality, and Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE), are working together to raise awareness of the issues facing older adults who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender ("LGBT") and live in **nursing homes, assisted living facilities and other long-term care facilities.**** We hope to identify areas where policy changes will improve care, and to find other older adults, advocates and providers interested in these issues.

Whether you are an older adult living in a long-term care facility or a family member, caretaker, social worker or friend, your answers to these questions will help as we work together to fight discrimination, abuse and neglect against LGBT older adults. Specifically, you should fill out this survey if you are:

- A lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender older adult who lives or has lived in a long-term care facility;
- A caregiver of an LGBT older adult who lives or has lived in a long-term care facility;
- A family member or friend with knowledge of an LGBT older adult's experience in a long-term care facility;
- A social worker or other helping professional who works with older adults.

Long-term care facilities include nursing homes, assisted living communities and senior living facilities.

The survey is only 16 questions. It should take no more than ten minutes to fill it out. The survey completely protects your confidentiality. *(However, we are looking for volunteers willing to be interviewed, so please consider checking that box!)*



Click here to fill out the survey: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=UPQXC5Gub99lvdRNz83Hwg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=UPQXC5Gub99lvdRNz83Hwg_3d_3d) or if you would like to fill out this survey manually, you can print it out from the link above and mail it to:

Nancy Arevalo  
National Senior Citizens Law Center  
1330 Broadway, Suite 525  
Oakland, CA 94612

**The deadline for responding to the survey is December 15, 2009.**

If you have any questions, please contact Heather Wollin at: [hwollin@nscslc.org](mailto:hwollin@nscslc.org).

**2. Gay Male Research Participants Needed (PAID UMaine STUDY)** Current research often does not reflect the diversity within society. The vast majority of research today is conducted using heterosexual participants which do not properly reflect all of society. Our lab is running a series of studies for which we hope to recruit gay male participants. We are hoping to recruit individuals to participate in a brief series of studies.

The first study is an online survey about social attitudes and Identity which takes about 15-20 minutes to complete.

The second study is on friendship formation and takes about 45mins-1hour.

The final study is a computer categorization task which takes about 10 mins.

You will receive \$10 an hour for your time. If you participate in all 3 studies you will receive \$15. If you are interested in participating please follow the link below to complete part one. You will be contacted via e-mail to schedule the other sessions.

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Gy\\_2fNxK5okOGGe0A52RqZGfQ\\_3d\\_3d](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Gy_2fNxK5okOGGe0A52RqZGfQ_3d_3d)

If you have questions or are interested in learning more please contact me at [joseph.wellman@umit.maine.edu](mailto:joseph.wellman@umit.maine.edu) Your participation could help to inform future research and provide greater understanding.

Thank you, Joseph Wellman, MS / Shannon McCoy, PhD

#### 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.*

#### **A PONDERANCE OF OUR HISTORY & PRESENT**

As we look back to the Vote on November third; some view it as a sad occasion while many see it as a new beginning to an old fight with a lot of frustration mixed in. I view it as a kaleidoscope of history repeating itself and in the making. I remember the night at the Whig & Courier with so much excitement brewing as each pass of the numbers came across the bottom of the screen. We were ahead and seemed to be staying that way. Then the infamous moment where it seemed the world had turned on us once again and we started to fall behind and never recovered.

Many that night washed away their disbelief in their favorite drinks while others cried and some even talked about their wedding dates they had planned and how they will have to replan for another year. It was a somber night for many in the GBLT community as well as for those who supported their loved ones and friends.



The following days were rife with anger, disbelief, hatred, and more planning for the future vote. So many mixed emotions much like a salad of life. Yet the strong always survive and those pushed forward with plans of marches, blogs and future events. There's little hate or anger within these events following the colossal crushing of their dreams, but love for those involved as well as those apposed shone through. Rarely in my life have I seen such love and devotion amongst so many people. I remember hating history and saying that it was a bunch of bullshit that we lean on for future reasons to complain, yet I now see and feel its grip as I become involved in such a beautiful and frustrating fight.

This moment in time brought many to ask questions that seemed to have been there all along, yet ignored; until now. The **separation of church and state** is a political and legal doctrine that government and religious institutions are to be kept separate and independent from each other. During my research of this topic I was sent a journal from the law reference library of Maine. This is an interesting piece of information and the following is what was stated in the writings sent, "**The right of churches and other religious bodies to engage in political advocacy and to make political pronouncements has never been seriously questioned throughout this nation's history, from the colonial period down to the present**" (Derik H. Davis. 2001: pg3).

As the battle continues on both sides of the Marriage debate, many start to question the money used to support the sides and the constitutionality of where it came from. We know that many residents contributed as well as many Maine businesses on both sides. What is saddening is that much more money came from out of state sources and the biggest chunk of that was from Religious organizations. The separation of church and state is now in serious question. Another question that begs to be looked at is; how do we allow out of state entities and people to influence our state politics? Is there a way to stop this and would it be legal to place such a law in place in our state or would it be unconstitutional?

How could we have ignored this for such long a time? With so many in a battle over this issue; one couldn't say that someone hasn't brought this challenge up, yet do the religions have more power than state in this country as it has in a country we denounced over two hundred years ago? It would seem it does and then again if it were challenged in today's world would it stand up and reign as it has for so many years. How can we not put this question forth and make those of law see that it is time to answer it? That it is now time to decide just how separate church and state truly are or aren't.

It is time to bring forth this question and bring forth our voice. It is time to ask our delegates to raise this and vote upon it. I ask each and every one of you to call those you voted for; House, Senate, and whoever may be in an office we have voted in and demand they bring this question forth. If this country was born on freedom and liberty, then we also need freedom and liberty from Religion and Discrimination! We can have both, religious freedom and separation of church and state successfully.

Kris  
kristoco@hotmail.com

## WHITHER THE MARRIAGE STRUGGLE?

For about a year, I have kept my mouth pretty-much shut while a part of our community has fought, trudged, and exhausted its way through yet another major political campaign. I have shared my feelings on that whole effort with a very small number of you but for the most part kept them to myself. I kept them to myself for two reasons: 1) because it became very clear very early on that neither the organizations working on the campaign nor the folks that they convinced to wholeheartedly join them had any interest in hearing any dissonant thoughts or considering any opposing concerns and 2) because when faced with such a mindset, I happen to think it is the more honorable thing to do to step back, let the folks take a shot at what they want, and allow them to learn from the process ... no hard feelings.

The two NEWS notices at the top of this newsletter indicate that the "No On 1" campaign and Equality Maine are now looking for feedback on the whole effort. I'm going to take them at their word and unzip the lips.



First of all, I want to make clear that I think everyone involved fought a very valiant, heartfelt and honorable campaign for a cause that they believed in and had every right to pursue. And while folks bitterly point out that 53% of the population voted "against" us, I would like to offer a different take on the numbers. Since only 50% of the eligible voting population came out to vote, it was actually 53% of 50% who voted YES. That means that only 27% of the eligible voters took the YES side, while 73% (nearly three quarters) either voted NO or didn't care one way or the other ... i.e. the prospect of having "married" gay neighbors didn't bother them enough to want to vote against it. The vagaries of our voting systems allowed the minority to hold sway, but the vote showed that they are very clearly the minority.

Secondly, I think that in the exhilaration of "combat", those folks who were drawn up into the effort, and who fought tooth-and-nail, lost sight of some larger truths about "us", the GLBT community. Here are some of the truths I think we lost sight of.

1). **This was not really a fight about equality.** Despite how it was presented to everyone, even if we had won this campaign, we would *not* have become equal in the eyes of the larger American system. Ask any african-american or latino or muslim heterosexual couple if they think that just because they're allowed to get married that makes them "equal" here in the U.S. I would be surprised if any of them said "yes". What our community was actually fighting for (for emotional or political or financial reasons ... or some combination of those) was the ability for a portion of the GLBT community to obtain the same limited number of special rights and special responsibilities that an increasingly smaller portion of heterosexual couples now choose to take advantage of. This was not a fight that would benefit (or even *promised* to benefit) the entire GLBT community. Did that make it a *bad* thing? Of course not. I think the whole process itself made us more real and more "equal" in the eyes of our fellow Mainers than having marriage handed to us on a silver platter ever could have.

But it was clear to me as the whole campaign was gearing up that a large segment of the GLBT community had no interest in the fight because, for whatever reason, they had no interest in the "institution" of marriage and saw no benefits to them in taking part. *The same was true for a large segment of our heterosexual brothers and sisters, those folks who we looked to for moral and financial support in the effort.* My personal opinion is that if we had really been interested in "equality" we should have been fighting for **every** couple, whether they are married or not, whether they have children or not, and whether they are heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bi or trans, to enjoy the same legal rights in their relationships as everyone else. Being required by law to be a member of a particular institution in order to obtain certain civil rights for you, your partner, and your children (if you choose to have any) seems a particularly strange and un-American concept to me. Isn't that what Saddam Hussein did with his Bath Party in Iraq?

Some folks would doubtless point out that the GLBT community often fights for the protections and rights of particular, small portions of that community, and they would be correct. But we have never dedicated millions of dollars and all of our attention for over a year to the protection of one particular subgroup ... so what made the "folks-who-want-to-get-married" the exception? Which brings me to point #2.

2). **We were just as guilty of squandering our financial and time resources as were our opponents.** I heard plenty of talk about how sad it was that the churches and "Yes On 1" folks were spending so much money and effort to defeat us and how that could have been better spent on feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, helping the oppressed, etc. etc. etc. Well I have news for you folks: we in the GLBT community have hungry, sick, and oppressed members as well; and in the year-plus that we decided to become a one-issue community and dissipate millions of dollars (a year that produced economic hardship for everyone, gay and straight alike), there were AIDS organizations that cut back on services and struggled to keep alive, GLBT youth groups that disappeared, members of our community who suffered discrimination with no one to step up to the plate to help them, same-sex domestic violence incidents with no place for the victims to go, and elder GLBT folks who have had to go back into the closet as they transition into nursing homes or assisted living because they don't feel safe otherwise ... to name just a few things. Some will argue, I am sure, that it wasn't *our* fault that we had to spend all that money and effort, that if the "other" folks had just left us alone we could have gotten on with our lives in peace. That is nothing more than the "chicken and egg" argument. **Everyone** knew when this process began that there would be a referendum if the legislature voted in our favor, and everyone knew that it would be long, and hard, and expensive. The other side knew that as well. They knew that if they continued to



disparage us and treat us poorly that we would eventually have to fight back, and they knew that doing so would be long, and hard, and expensive for them as well. There was a silent, semi-conscious, mutually-understood agreement between the two sides to enter into "combat", not because one side or the other would actually benefit from it ... lots of people on both sides have suffered and are continuing to suffer ... but because, as the book title goes: "War Is A Force That Gives Us Meaning." My personal opinion is that all of our leaders (on both sides) and all of us who consented to participate (on both sides) have been guilty of great short-sightedness. Which brings me to point #3.

3). **Our short-sightedness harms both the nation and our own GLBT community.** While everyone on both sides of the "marriage fight" had their attention distracted ... just as the characters from the Wizard Of OZ had their attention distracted from the man behind the curtain by all the fire and smoke ... other very important national issues that deeply affect both the straight *and* the GLBT communities were (and continue to be) ignored. Things like the wars that continue to suck out our national resources and maim and kill our GLBT service people. I know, they are not allowed to serve openly, to our country's great disgrace; but I'd bet that if you gave any one of them the choice to either "be killed or maimed openly" or "to survive intact to come home to your family without your GLBT status being recognized" they would probably choose the latter. They shouldn't have to be closeted, of course, but while we're working to allow them to serve openly shouldn't we also be working to get them out of harm's way as well? Then there's the "health care" issue. One of our talking points in the marriage fight was that being allowed to marry your partner could provide health care coverage through one or the other's policy ... but that only works when one or the other of you *has* a health care insurance policy to begin with. "Whoopie! Now I'm married ... but I still don't have health care." I'd be willing to bet that the lack of health care negatively affects more GLBT folks (and straight folks) than the lack of being married does. While we were busy fighting with our anti-marriage opponents, our input and resources were being denied to an important issue that affects us all. Then there's climate change, which I won't even bother to go into because I think/hope that you're getting the picture.

So folks, I think it's time we all woke up, shook the dream dust from our eyes, looked around us, and made a better effort to set our goals as a community in a more integrated, comprehensive and less narrow-minded manner. Working *with* others also benefits *us*.

Jean Vermette  
megress@gwi.net

#### COMMUNITY REPORTERS:

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

**No one submitted any reports this issue.**

#### EVENTS (CHANGING):

**\* NOV 17 (Tuesday), Ellsworth, Gay Men's Community Center to Hold First Event, 6:00 p.m.** The much anticipated Gay Men's Community Center in Ellsworth (47 Foster Ave, immediately next door to Tracy's Beauty Salon) will be holding its debut event. The Center, which has plans to expand its range of services in coming months, is initially being established to bring the community of men who have sex with men (the MSM community) together **every other Tuesday night** for a series of varied activities including presentations, games nights, movie nights, and music nights, and possibly even potlucks, dances, etc. It is hoped that eventually the Center will be able to open its doors for a wide range of activities for not only the MSM community, but also for the greater GLBT community. For our opening event, the doors will open at 6:00 p.m. for hors-d'oeuvres, finger food, and non-alcoholic beverages (the Center is alcohol and



drug-free) as well as convivial conversation and networking. Then we will be very pleased to welcome Lew Alessio, the power behind the very popular similar group in Augusta called Just Guys. Lew will be speaking to us from approximately 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Following this, the floor will be open for discussion by all present so that we can help determine what participants at the Center are looking for for future activities. This will help us to draft our eventual mission statement and plan appropriate activities. We welcome all Maine men, especially those in the greater Hancock, Penobscot, Waldo, and Washington county areas, to come and join us at our kick-off event. The Center will be what you make of it, and your participation is vital to its success. See you there! FMI contact Wayne at [wayne@maineguyz.org](mailto:wayne@maineguyz.org)

\* **NOV 20 (Friday)**, Portland, **Maine Gay Men's Chorus Touring Ensemble** will perform at the opening of the 10th Annual USM Royal Majesty Drag Show at Holiday Inn by the Bay, 7:30 pm. FMI check the web site at [www.mainegaymenschorus.org](http://www.mainegaymenschorus.org)

\* **NOV 21 (Saturday)**, Portland, **Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance**, 5:30 pm in Monument Square. This is an international annual event to remember the individuals who were murdered in the past year due to anti-transgender bias. Please join MaineTransNet Portland's Monument Square to remember and honor those who lost their lives this year simply for being who they are. Following the vigil, there will be a potluck dinner at 6:30 at Williston West (32 Thomas St., Portland) to celebrate our community and give thanks for the lives and opportunities that we enjoy. Please bring some food to share if you are able. FMI contact MaineTransNet at [mtn@mainetransnet.org](mailto:mtn@mainetransnet.org) or 408-1685.

\* **NOV 21 (Saturday)**, Bangor, **Bridge Alliance Dance Party**. 8:00 - 12:00 am. at the Morgan Hill Event Center in Hermon (4 miles straight out Rte 2 from the Odlin Rd/395 intersection). Come join us for the monthly dance party sponsored by The Bridge Alliance. 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. Location TBA or check the web site at [www.thebridgealliance.org](http://www.thebridgealliance.org)

\* **DEC 3-12 (Thursday-Sunday)**, Westbrook, family member Carolyn Gage's play **The Poorly-Written Play Festival** will be performed as part of the festival of best one-act plays from the last nine years of the Maine Playwrights Festival. The Best of the Fest is sponsored by Acorn Productions. The play has won the Maine Playwrights Award and been featured at the Samuel French One-Act Play Festival in NY. It has been called "just possibly the worst one-act play ever written." Come see for yourself! The dates are Dec. 3-5, and Dec. 10 & Dec. 12, 7:30 at Acorn Studio Theater, Dana Warp Mill, 90 Bridge St., Westbrook. [Click here](#) for tickets. FMI contact carolyn@carolyngage.com

\* **DEC 10 (Thursday)**, Portland, 7:30 pm. **Third Annual Lesbian All-Star Revue**. Tickets for the third annual Lesbian All-Star Revue are now available online at [stlawrencearts.org](http://stlawrencearts.org). Once again, the show will be at the St. Lawrence Art & Community Center (76 Congress St.). Tickets are \$20/person this year. We are donating proceeds to MaineEquality and WMPG Power-Up Campaign. The Lesbian All-Star Revue is a product of Lesbian Radio heard every Wednesday afternoon from 1 until 1:30 on WMPG, community radio for Portland, Maine. So Mark your Calendars! **There are only half as many tickets this year, so buy them early!** Performers this year include: Carolyn Gage, Georgi Baine, Lib Jamison, Lady Zen, Jo Moser, with There are more bookings underway ... don't miss this year's show ... going to be just like magic! Serious.

\* **DEC 10 - 12 (Thursday-Saturday)**, Portland, **Maine Gay Men's Chorus presents its 18th annual winter concert "Believe"**. All concerts are at the Williston West Church (32 Thomas St) at 8:00 pm. FMI and/or to purchase tickets, check the web site at [www.mainegaymenschorus.org](http://www.mainegaymenschorus.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](mailto:wayne@maineguyz.org) You can also check the web site and get on their mailing list at [www.maineguyz.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 December 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](mailto:megress@gwi.net) or at 862-2063.*

#### **HOME REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT:**

Mida's Touch  
PO Box 127  
Hulls Cove, ME 04644  
ph: 207-288-9727

email: [hewspoint@gmail.com](mailto:hewspoint@gmail.com)

proprietor: Mida Ballard

Renovations, Repairs, and Light construction. OR, you can save money by doing it yourself ... I offer complete consultation and instruction on projects for homeowners. Working with you or doing just part of the job gives you maximum savings! Renovations, repairs, kitchens, baths, sheetrock, painting, ceramic tile, windows, doors, decks & more! 35 years of experience. Looking for a good carpenter? Hire a woman. No job too small.

#### PERSONALS:

**Mature lesbian** looking for other single lesbians to shoot photography with. contact Cathy at [tundrafriends@earthlink.net](mailto:tundrafriends@earthlink.net)

#### 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.*

**no listings this issue**

### 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](mailto:megress@gwi.net)*

**Bucksport Area: Looking for a roommate** to share large mobile home. Available Oct 1st. Quiet friendly country setting. MUST love animals. Be responsible and clean. Prefer non smokers. Twenty minutes to Bangor, 6 miles from downtown Bucksport. \$500 monthly includes heat. You pay half of utilities. Use of washer & dryer, heated garage for storage, plenty of parking space. Your own bath off bedroom. If interested, or for more info, contact Sandy at [Bebop65849@aol.com](mailto:Bebop65849@aol.com) or call 469-2642. If no answer please leave a message. You may also leave a message on my cell 356-3272.

**Cumberland/York area: Wanted - House For Rent:** cottage or house wanted in the cumberland / york county area. Needs to be within a few miles of amtrak. For one person. Can pay \$750 per month without utilities (maybe more depending on how the bills run). Please contact denise at [hummingbird42@myfairpoint.net](mailto:hummingbird42@myfairpoint.net)

### 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](http://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/glbtcq.htm>

**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](http://www.thebridgealliance.org). The email address is [info@thebridgealliance.org](mailto:info@thebridgealliance.org). The events calendar is at [www.thebridgealliance.org/events.html](http://www.thebridgealliance.org/events.html)

**Bridging The Gap** provides no-cost clinical breast exams, mammograms, breast ultrasounds, and other breast health services to women (including lesbian, bi, and trans women) age 20 to 29 who have a symptom of concern and age 30 to 39 who have a symptom of concern or a family history of breast cancer. FMI and to see if you qualify contact Robin at Bridging The Gap at 941-2808.

**Caring Connections** provides no-cost mammograms and Pap tests to women (including lesbian, bi, and trans women) age 40 to 64 who meet income guidelines and dont have insurance to cover breast and cervical health services. FMI contact Robin at Caring Connections at 941-2808.

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



**Equality Maine**, has been providing education and legislative advocacy for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1984. It sponsors a variety of social and legislative educational events each year and is always looking for volunteers and new members. If you're not a member, you should be. FMI contact Equality Maine at 207-761-3732 or toll free at 1-800-556-5472. Their email address is [info@equalitymaine.org](mailto:info@equalitymaine.org) and the web site is [www.equalitymaine.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:downeastglsen@roadrunner.com). You can check the resource-rich national web site at [www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org) and find our chapter page at [www.glsen.org/downeastme](http://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](mailto:knead24u@yahoo.com). You can also check the web site at [www.howardfoundation07.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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, 973-3646 or 1-800-350-5180. (TTY 1-800-438-5514) The best protection is early detection! (Jessica Thompson - contact)

**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.maineef.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](mailto:alex@mainetransnet.org) or check the web site at [www.mainetransnet.org](http://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 [mdpalmmer@gwi.net](mailto:mdpalmmer@gwi.net)

**Trans Care Collaborative.** Mission: To improve the medical and mental health care available to the transgender and gender-diverse population in Maine. To foster a network of medical care, mental health and other support services treating the transgender and gender-diverse community in Maine. To advocate for the needs of transgender and gender-diverse individuals. This is a Portland-based group **for medical and mental health professionals only**. We meet monthly to discuss trans-related healthcare and occasionally offer events that raise awareness about trans issues. FMI contact: Rick Bouchard, LCSW at 207-650-6450 ... email [CONSTL8@maine.rr.com](mailto:CONSTL8@maine.rr.com) OR Wayne Bachner, LCSW at 207-662-4872 ... email [BACHNWW@mmc.org](mailto:BACHNWW@mmc.org)

**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](mailto:info@tgfund.org) OR check the web site at [www.tgfund.org](http://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](mailto:contact@transyouthequality.org) and check the web site at [www.transyouthequality.org](http://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@yahoo.com](mailto:buddybikers@yahoo.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](http://www.clayhillfarm.com). To get on the e-mail list for their Events For Women, send your request to Jackie at [Lmsmarketing@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://www.justguys.info)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:outmaine@yahoo.com). Check the web site at [www.outmaine.org](http://www.outmaine.org) or the myspace posting at [www.myspace.com/outasiwanttobe](http://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](mailto:info@outrightla.org) or check the web site at [www.outrightla.org](http://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 Mary at [laughingmary@hotmail.com](mailto:laughingmary@hotmail.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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:seacoastsapphos@yahoo.com) or check the web site at [www.seacoastsapphos.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:thrive@portlandmaine.gov) or check the website at [www.thrivemaine.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.twinpondslodge.com) or email them at [stay@twinpondslodge.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:pjmears@roadrunner.com) or call 783-4630.

#### WEB BASED MAINE GLBT LISTSERVES & EMAIL LISTS:

**Bisexual Group Online.** Bisexuals in Maine and other points north (BINNE). This is a discussion group, NOT a dating group. Located in Yahoo! groups at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/binne>.

**Coastal Women's Connection.** A women's social group providing connections for LBT women in the Brunswick to Portland area. offball, 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 provides an anonymous and friendly place to browse information about HIV, HIV testing and men's health issues. It also features local and national news and information geared toward the MSM community. Check it out at [www.deservetoknowme.org](http://www.deservetoknowme.org)

**Gay Maine.** [www.gaymaine.com](http://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](http://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 [cascoays@gmail.com](mailto:cascoays@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](mailto: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](mailto:megone@yahoogroups.com) to let members know the details. To join the group, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/megone/>. Please pass the word along to other gay-related lists/groups—the more people who join, the more opportunities there will be for connecting with like-minded folks for some great outdoor fun. Right now, the membership is "open" to anyone who would like to join....however, if we have any problems with folks who are not gay-friendly, I may change it to a process requiring membership approval. Also, people posting should use discretion regarding publicly posting time/place to meet—you may want to simply say "anyone interested in details, please email me at \_\_\_\_\_, or call me at \_\_\_\_\_". Any questions? let me know! ([mikeondavispond@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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@gwi.net](mailto: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.