

# The Aids Project Newsletter

P.O. Box 10723

Portland, Maine 04104

Subscription - \$10.00 per year

Editor - David Ketchum

The Aids Line: 1-800-851-AIDS

or  
775-1267

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As you all know, a survey was recently conducted to determine the possibility of starting the Aids Project Newsletter again. The results have been very positive with a 50% response. We thank you all for your time and comments, which were very helpful. We now ask that you make your subscription check for \$10.00 payable to: The Aids Project, to cover one year (12 issues). To those of you who stated you could afford more, than by all means, we would be most grateful. A very special thank you to those who sent checks with their survey. The future of the Aids Project Newsletter depends on the subscription response, so please be prompt and generous. Also, please check your name and address and make any necessary changes when you reply. Subscription to the Newsletter is free for PWA's and PWArc.

## THE AIDS PROJECT (TAP)

The Aids Project (TAP) is a non-profit organization formed in 1985 to respond to Aids in Maine. Aids, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, affects individuals, families, and communities all over the state. Although based in Portland, TAP attempts to provide assistance, information, direction, and support to the people of Maine. While TAP does have two full time staff positions, much of the work is provided by volunteers. Without volunteers, TAP would not be able to provide many of its much needed services. They are the backbone of our organization.

The Aids-Line is staffed by trained volunteer operators. This telephone service answers general questions about Aids and provides referrals for health care, support services, counseling and testing for Aids antibodies, and additional information. The toll free number allows all Maine residents a 'local' resource on Aids. The number to call: 1-800-851-AIDS or in greater Portland: 775-1267.

TAP can make available experts on many aspects of Aids to private and public groups. Areas of expertise include general information on Aids, psychosocial issues, nursing care, counseling and testing for Aids antibodies, and people personally affected by Aids. TAP can also refer you to some other speakers and presenters.

TAP often has available many different pamphlets, handouts, fact sheets, etc. on various aspects of Aids. These items are available for free to any interested individual upon request. (Bulk orders are not accepted).

TAP provides anonymous and voluntary counseling and testing for antibodies to the Aids virus. Counseling is given by individuals trained and certified by the State Bureau of Health. This low cost service provides many individuals with one-on-one safer sex instruction and risk reduction information.

TAP makes lubricated condoms available for free. Condoms are available upon request at our office. (We will not mail condoms). Protect yourself and the ones you love.

If you are a person with Aids (PWA) or have an Aids related condition, or if you are caregiver/friend/family to a PWA or a person with an Aids related condition, TAP may be able to provide several forms of assistance. Please call the Aids Project office for further details.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

As this Newsletter goes to press, there will be a meeting of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Aids in Augusta. Among the several things to be discussed, will be the three Legislative Documents listed below. All three Acts are beneficial in the fight against Aids. Please contact your local Representatives and Senators as well as those who sponsored these Acts, by phone or letter, to show your support in helping these Acts to become law. This would also be a befitting tribute to the memory of Representative Connolly, whose untimely death will affect us all.

Legislative Document No. 602 Maine Senate  
An Act to Include the Term "Sexual Orientation" in the Maine Human Rights Act.  
Presented by Senator Andrews of Cumberland  
Cosponsored by Representatives: Connolly of Portland, O'Gara of Westbrook, and Rydell of Brunswick.

Legislative Document No. 974                      Maine House of Representatives  
An Act to Provide Health Care Benefits to Uninsured Individuals.  
Presented by Speaker Martin of Eagle Lake  
Cosponsored by Senators: Kerry of York, Kany of Kennebec, and  
Representative Rydell of Brunswick.

Legislative Document No. 1366                      Maine House of Representatives  
An Act to Develop a Client Support Services System for Individuals  
Infected with the Human Immune Deficiency Virus.  
Presented by Representative Rydell of Brunswick  
Cosponsored by Representatives: LaCroix of Oakland, Webster of  
Cape Elizabeth, and Senator Gill of Cumberland.

## STATISTICS

As of May 12, 1987, there have been 51 diagnosed cases of Aids in Maine. Of these 51 cases, 19 have died. Aids has affected people as young as 12 and as old as 57. There have been 160 positive tests reported, but the real number of Maine people infected with the Aids virus could be as high as 5000.

**SPECIAL EVENT**

The Aids Project is participating in an international effort to support those people who are fighting for their lives and to remember those who have already lost their battle with Aids. On Memorial Day, May 25, 1987, there will be a public candlelight vigil in Monument Square, in Portland, at 7 p.m. This will be followed by a march to the First Parish Unitarian Church at 425 Congress Street for an Ecumenical Memorial Service at 7:30 p.m. Representatives from various religious denominations, persons directly affected by Aids in their lives, and others will take part in this service. Following the service there will be a reception and social hour in the Parish House at the church. We welcome media coverage of this important event. However, no cameras, recording devices, or videotaping of the memorial service will be allowed. Representatives of the Aids Project will be available for comment at the candlelight vigil. For more information, or to arrange interviews, contact Gary Anderson (774-6877) or Cindy Bouman (767-4220). There is a Mobilization Against Aids petition at the end of this newsletter. Please have ten people sign same and bring it with you on the 25th, or send same directly to the Aids Project, P.O.Box 10723, Portland, Maine 04104.

## MATERIALS

Two remarkable books by two remarkable women:

"The Screaming Room" by Barbara Peabody - Oak Tree Publishers of San Diego, Ca. - \$15.95 - it can be ordered at any Bookland if not already in stock. The book is the factual account, based on Peabody's journal, of her 28 year old son's struggle with Aids. Beyond a doubt, this book should be required reading material nationally in all public schools, as well as the adult population in general. It is expected to be available in paperback this fall.

"Betty - A Glad Awakening" by Betty Ford with Chris Chase - Doubleday - \$16.95 - also available at any Bookland. The book is the account of the former first lady's struggle with prescription drugs and alcohol and her recovery. A truly human experience of what love and caring can do. Betty Ford was recently interviewed on the Phil Donahue show and wanted to make it nationally known that the proceeds from the sale of the book would be split 50/50 with the Betty Ford Clinic and Aids research.

Both of these books would make a very caring gift to those you love.

## OF INTEREST

The Social Concerns Department of the Woodfords Congregational Church, in its meeting on May 4, called for the establishment of a Woodfords Aids Task Force to address the question posed in Sunday's sermon: "How Shall the Church Respond to Aids?" They are pleased to announce that Cindy Bouman will chair the Task Force and initiate action with the support of the Department. If you are interested and willing to work on a Christian response to this major human and social problem of our time, please call Cindy at 767-4220.

## CALENDAR

- May 22 - Perspectives On Aids for all patient care personnel and others seeking factual data on the problems of Aids and Aids patients. 8:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Conference Room 304 A, B&C - Building 203 - Togus, Maine. Registration is required. Contact the Aids Project for more details.
- May 25 - Mobilization Against Aids Candlelight Vigil - details as stated earlier in this newsletter.
- May 29 - A performance to benefit the Aids Project at the Portland Performing Arts Center - 25A Forest Avenue - 7:30 p.m. - "All Singing - All Dancing - All Concerned" - Tickets \$15.00 - Available at: Amadeus Music Store, Cycles, The Good Egg Eatery, Graphiti, The Magic Garden, Portland Wine and Cheese, the Underground. For more information, call the Aids Project 774-6877.
- May 31 - There will be an Aids Presentation at the Quaker Meeting House from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Speakers will be Gary Anderson and a Person with Aids. For more details, please call the Aids Project at 774-6877.
- June 1 - 5 - The III International Aids Conference will take place in Washington, D.C. - numerous events are planned - speakers range from Senator Ted Kennedy to Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop to Ms. Elizabeth Taylor. Please contact the Aids Project for further details and registration information.
- June 4 - "EVITA" the Broadway show will be presented by the Portland Players at the Phyllis Thaxter Theater in South Portland. Showtime is at 8:00 p.m. There will be a wine and cheese reception before showtime. Tickets \$10.00 - Available at: The Aids Project, Underground, Entre Nous, Cycles, Back Street, members of Maine

## CALENDAR cont.

Health Foundation, and at the door on the night of the performance. All proceeds benefit the Maine Health Foundation.

- June 6 - The Aids Project is participating in the WCSH-TV Garage Sale at the Cumberland County Civic Center. WE NEED YOUR HELP. We need: household items, dishes, clothing, second hand furniture, hangers. Chores include pricing items, hanging clothing, moving items to the Civic Center on Friday evening June 5th. If you have donations or would like to help in some other way, please call the Aids Project - 774-6877 and ask for Susan - or call 775-5451 X295.
- June 14 -New Hampshire event - Ecumenical Healing Service for persons with Aids, Arc, family members, friends, all who wish to be present, to support and show our compassion and care for one another. St. Paul's Episcopal Church - Concord, N.H. - 7:30 p.m. - Rev. Jane Henderson, pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church, Plymouth, N.H. will be the speaker. She has organized a task force, and is organizing ground level efforts statewide. Her brother died of Aids in 1985 in NYC, and she offers a specialized ministry for families of patients with Aids/Arc and is currently speaking with many clergy and community groups.
- June 18 -There will be an Open House at The Aids Project - 48 Deering St. - Portland, Maine. For time and further details, contact The Aids Project at 774-6877.
- June 25 -An organizational meeting to establish a support network in Hancock County for persons affected by Aids will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Health and Counseling Services Bldg., 415 Water Street, Ellsworth, Maine. It is hoped that this meeting will bring together Hancock County community members from all walks of life who share a common interest in giving and/or receiving support around the challenge Aids presents to each and every one of us. More information available by calling 667-5304.
- June 26 -There will be an Aids Conference at Katahdin Area Health Education Center - River Road - Calais, Maine. Please contact Deborah Wheaton at 454-2144 ext. 48 for further details and exact times.

## COMMENTS

We welcome your thoughts and suggestions to help the Newsletter meet your needs. If you have an event in your area that you would like to have published in The Aids Project Newsletter, please contact us at the Aids Project - 774-6877 - or by mail to the attention of: David Ketchum. We look forward to your comments.

WHEN YOU SEE SOMEONE WITHOUT A SMILE,  
GIVE THEM ONE OF YOURS.....

