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Summer 2004

Equality News (Summer 2004)

Maggie Allen

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Equality News

Advocacy for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Communities since 1984

PO Box 1951, Portland, ME 04104 • 207-761-3732 • fax 207-828-8620 • mlgpa@mlgpa.org • www.mlgpa.org

EQUALITY
maine

SUMMER 2004

Get involved this summer. Join the **Equality Knocks** project to help secure LGBT equality.

See page 3 for more information.

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MLGPA Becomes Equality Maine

After twenty years of being the Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA for short), we are now Equality Maine.

Why did we change our name? We changed our name for several reasons.

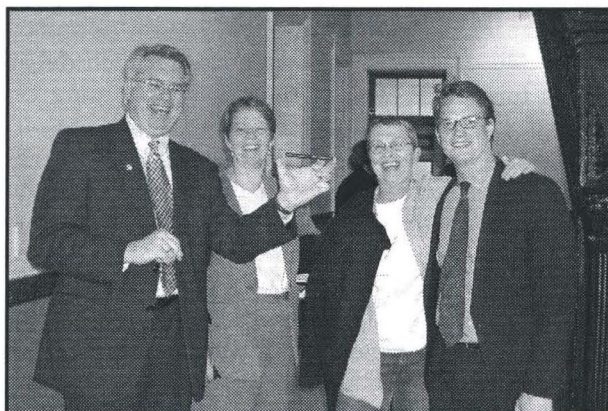
- 1) Given that our name included only "lesbian" and "gay," and not "bisexual" and "transgender," we felt it was not inclusive and did not represent our work.
- 2) Our mission has always been to strive for equality, so putting our mission directly into our name made sense.
- 3) When applying for foundation grants, our applications were often discarded as soon as funders read the word "political," even though MLGPA Foundation does solely educational and non-political work.
- 4) There's a trend across the country of like organizations changing their names to something more reflective of who they are and what they do (Equality California, Equality Florida, Kentucky Fairness Project, Mass Equality, Georgia Equality, Equality North Carolina, just to name a few).

Prior to changing our name, we conducted a community survey as part of our strategic planning process. Through that survey, we learned that although old timers knew and loved the name MLGPA—after all, they founded the organization twenty years ago—anyone new to the organization had no idea what the letters stood for. Since saying the full name was a mouthful we often used the acronym MLGPA, leaving people staring blankly and requiring us to say the full name anyway.

Because there is no direct reference to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender in our name now, we've been accused on a couple of occasions of "hiding behind a name." We were the Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance for twenty years—if we were going to hide, we would have hid during those first twenty years when it was the most difficult to be out and proud. It is no longer difficult for an organization to be out and proud. We spend every day at the State House talking to legislators about

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Victory At Last!



Life is good as Equality Maine Legislative Committee chair John Hennessy displays the pen that Governor Baldacci used to sign into law the domestic partner inheritance rights bill. To John's left are Betsy Sweet of Moose Ridge Associates, volunteer lobbyist Darlene Huntress, and the bill's sponsor Rep. Ben Dudley. See page 2 for story, including how legislators voted.

Equality Maine

Acting in support of people of diverse orientation and gender identity through education, legislation and collaboration in Maine.

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Victory at Last!

LD 1579, a bill that provides inheritance rights and next of kin status to surviving domestic partners, was signed into law by Governor Baldacci on April 28. Maine is the fifth state in the country to provide these types of domestic partner benefits and to create a statewide domestic partner registry.

The law provides three basic benefits:

- If a domestic partner dies without a will, trust, or other estate planning, the surviving domestic partner shall inherit the deceased partner's property in the same manner as a surviving spouse.
- A domestic partner shall be considered the first next of kin when determining whom has the right to make funeral and burial arrangements.
- A domestic partner shall be considered guardian and/or conservator when the other partner is incapacitated.

Both LGBT and straight couples may register their domestic partnerships with the state, provided they meet the following criteria: a) At the time of registration, each partner is a mentally competent adult and not related in a fashion that would prohibit marriage; b) The partners have been legally domiciled together in this state for at least 12 months preceding the filing; c) Neither partner is married or in a registered domestic partnership with another person; and d) Each partner is the sole domestic partner of the other and expects to remain so.



Governor Baldacci signs LD 1579 into law on April 28. Behind him are supporters (L to R) Rep. Tom Bull; Kimm Collins, Natl. Assoc. of Social Workers-Maine Chapter; Rep. Ben Dudley, sponsor of the bill; Betsy Sweet, Moose Ridge Associates; Rep. Larry Bliss; Rep. Bill Norbert, chair of Judiciary Committee and major advocate; Rep. Scott Cowger; Karen Geraghty, Moose Ridge Associates; John Hennessy, Equality Maine volunteer lobbyist; Sen. Art Mayo, leading advocate in the Senate.

When we began this journey nearly 18 months ago, the bill we drafted contained a statewide domestic partner registry. We knew that a registry was the only sure way for a probate judge to determine who qualifies as a surviving domestic partner. The registry was debated at length by the Judiciary Committee and eventually removed.

The bill without a registry created much debate about "unintended consequences," such as former or current roommates claiming they were the domestic partner of the deceased and demanding they inherit that person's estate. The first of the bill's three amendments addressed some unintended consequences, but by the time the bill reached the Senate for its first vote, concerns about unintended consequences had reached a peak and several Senators withdrew their support. Knowing we needed their votes to pass the bill, we proposed amending the bill again by putting the registry back in. They did and the Senate passed it by one vote.

Back in the House, we succeeded in passing the bill with the registry two more times. We went back to the Senate for what should have been a final vote when one of our supporters suggested yet another amendment. We argued against it, stating that another

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Volunteers Begin Knocking for Equality

Equality Maine kicked off its "Equality Knocks" project in late March when 25 volunteers returned from an intensive 3-day training in Boston. The training, sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, taught cutting edge skills on building political power through voter identification and volunteer recruitment. We will use these skills to build the kind of political power we need to win future referendum and legislative campaigns.

Since 2000, states and municipalities across the country that have used these skills to build LGBT political power have won 75 percent of their referendum campaigns. In places that were won decisively, the opposition has ceased using the referendum process because it is no longer an effective or affordable tool for them.

This is exactly our goal for Maine—that not only do we win the next referendum campaign, but we win it so decisively that the Christian Civic League and their supporters cease using the referendum process to deny equality to LGBT Mainers.

Equality Knocks volunteers are talking to Maine voters one-on-one about two issues—**CIVIL RIGHTS** (would they support a statewide law that makes it illegal to discriminate against LGBT people, such as firing someone from their job for being gay?) and **MARRIAGE** (do they believe that same-sex couples should have access to the same civil marriage rights as everyone else?)

Voters are rated on a 1 to 5 scale—a 1 voter will not only vote in our favor but will volunteer or give money (actively support), a 2 voter will vote in our favor, a 3 voter is undecided, a 4 voter will vote against us, and a 5 voter will not only vote against us but will work against us (actively oppose).

To date we have conducted door-to-door voter ID in Falmouth, Brunswick, and Hallowell. We conducted voter



Terry Morrison (left), volunteer for Equality Knocks, talks with a voter in Falmouth about civil rights and marriage for LGBT people.

ID/volunteer recruitment at the Maine Democratic Party convention and conducted voter ID at the primaries on June 8.

Although we have thousands more voters to talk with, we have spoken one-on-one to **1,766 voters**.

On **Civil Rights**, we've identified:

437	1's (actively support)
1,121	2's (will vote in favor)
84	3's (undecided)
115	4's (will vote against)
9	5's (actively oppose)

On **Marriage**, we've identified:

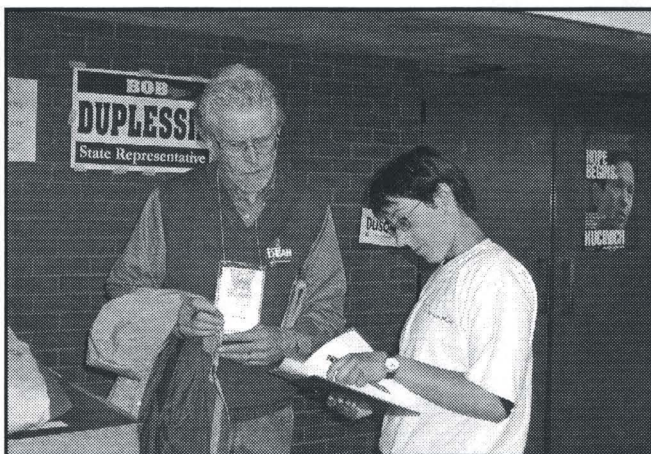
415	1's (actively support)
849	2's (will vote in favor)
179	3's (undecided)
297	4's (will vote against)
26	5's (actively oppose)

Counting just 1's and 2's as supporters, for **civil rights** we have 88 percent support and have (adding 3's, 4's, and 5's) 12 percent opposition. For **marriage**, we have 72 percent support and 28 percent opposition.

Take into consideration that we have done a lot of volunteer recruitment to the LGBT and allied communities and those voters (all 1's and 2's) are counted in these numbers. As time goes on, the number of non-LGBT voters identified will be far greater than LGBT or allied voters and the numbers will shift from 1's and 2's downward.

However, for the June 8 primary we ID'ed voters in Lewiston, Auburn, Westbrook, Gorham, and Scarborough. We spoke with **995 voters**.

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Catherine Abbondanza, a 2004 graduate of North Yarmouth Academy, talks with a voter at the Maine Democratic Party convention in May. Catherine will be volunteering with Equality Knocks this summer before she heads to Goucher College this fall.

2004 Joel Abromson Memorial Scholarships Awarded

Equality Maine is proud to announce the winners of the 2004 Joel Abromson Memorial Scholarship competition. The scholarship is named in honor of the late Senator Joel Abromson, a long-time advocate for equality and civil rights in Maine.

Linda Fecteau and Jessica Gagne were selected to receive \$1,000 scholarships from Equality Maine to further their education and recognize their commitment to equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. This year, more than 90 applicants submitted essays addressing the question, "How can schools become safer for all students regardless of their sexual orientation or gender expression?"

Linda Fecteau of Auburn, Maine, is a graduating senior at Poland Regional High School. She plans to attend either Elmira College or George Washington University in Fall 2004. As a member of the Natural Helpers group at her high school, Linda participated in the National Day of Silence, which in her words, "serves to raise awareness of offensive language used daily by students towards those of different sexual orientations, ethnicities, and skin color." In her winning essay, Linda discussed the role that student-led groups like the Natural Helpers, the Peer Mediators and the Civil Rights Team play at her school in creating a safe and welcoming environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth

and other diverse student populations.

Jessica Gagne of South China, Maine, is a graduating senior at Erskine Academy, where she is active in the National Honor Society, Drama Club, Speech Team, TLC Community Service Club, sports and other activities. At college this fall, she plans to pursue a career in speech therapy. In her winning essay, Jessica wrote, "A radical change in school culture is necessary before all students are able to feel safe within the school community." Her suggestions to create safer schools include mandatory sensitivity training for students and adults; student events that appeal across social lines and encourage acceptance, respect and communication; and strong, well-enforced "policies that support acceptance of diversity and respect for differences."

To read the full text of Linda and Jessica's essays or to view winning essays from previous years, please visit www.mlga.org.

Since 1992, Equality Maine has given more than \$15,000 in scholarships to young champions of civil rights. The scholarship contest is open to all high school seniors in the state of Maine who have been accepted to any institution of higher learning. For more information or to make a contribution to the Senator Joel Abromson Memorial Scholarship Fund, please contact Equality Maine at (207) 761-3732 or email mlga@mlga.org. •

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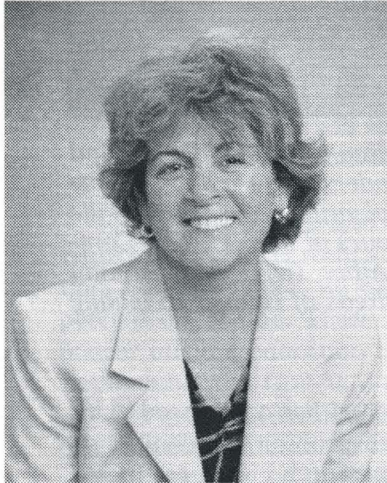
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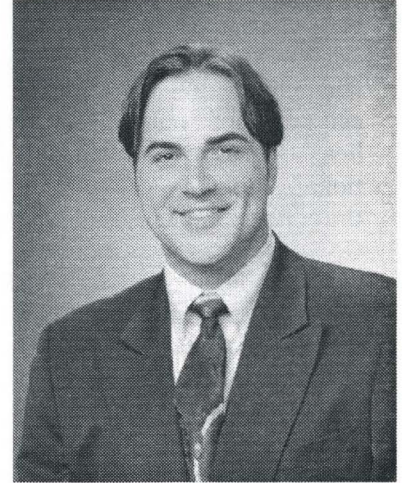
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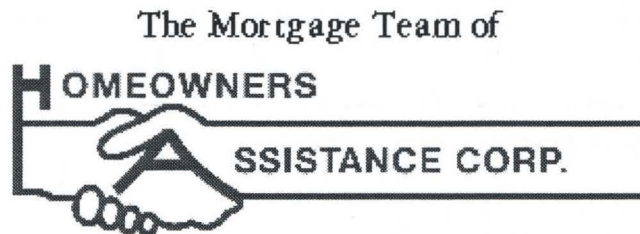
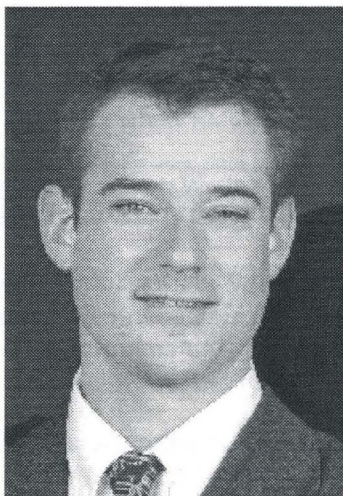
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Progress Brings Flurry of Activity To Legislature

It seems the LGBT community has made more progress toward equality in the last twelve months than in any other period in history. From court rulings to civil disobedience, this country has taken a giant step forward in the pursuit of full marriage equality for LGBT people.

In *Lawrence v. Texas* in June 2003, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that sodomy laws in this country are unconstitutional. Between June 2003 and March 2004, three Canadian provinces—Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec—ruled that same-sex marriages are legal. In the now famous *Goodridge v. Dept. of Public Health*, a ruling which came down in November 2003, the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts ruled that denying marriage licenses to same-sex couples in that state is unconstitutional. And in many acts of civil disobedience, cities across the country began issuing marriage licenses soon after the *Goodridge* case was announced.

This much progress almost guarantees there will be a backlash, and Maine is not immune. Yet it also brings out the crusaders who want to bring the equality momentum to Maine. As such, the next legislative session (begins January 2005) is shaping up to be busy and contentious.

Rep. Brian Duprey (R-Hampden) has submitted a bill to amend the constitution to define marriage as a man and a woman. If the legislature passes it by a 2/3 majority, it goes to the voters for approval. If our constitution gets amended to define marriage as a man and a woman, our chances of ever having the right to marry become incredibly slim.

On the other side of the issue, Sen. Ethan Strimling (D-Portland) has submitted a bill to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) so that same-sex couples who marry in Massachusetts will be legally married in Maine.

On top of that, a group of Maine citizens are collecting signatures right now to send a referendum question directly to Maine voters asking that the legislature convene, at the beginning of every legislative session, a U.S. Constitutional Convention to call on Congress to pass an amendment to the U.S. Constitution defining marriage as a man and a woman.



Mary Bonauto (center), leading attorney for Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, argued and won the Goodridge case, providing plenty of reasons to smile during the early morning hours of May 17. This Cambridge couple, Jeannette Albee (left) and Tammy MacLean, were one of hundreds of couples to legally marry in Massachusetts.

And finally, Governor Baldacci has announced plans to submit a civil rights bill to prohibit discrimination against LGBT people in employment, housing, credit and public accommodations. If the legislature passes the bill, it could very well become a referendum question through the people's veto process.

Working on a legislative agenda as big and critical as this one will require more resources than what Equality Maine can provide by itself. It will require a coalition of LGBT and allied organizations, businesses, and individuals to contribute their time, expertise, and money to a coordinated effort to win on as many fronts as possible. At the very least, we must do no harm. For example, losing an effort to defeat a constitutional amendment would cause great harm. However, defeating a constitutional amendment while losing a repeal of DOMA would keep the status quo and at least do little harm.

If you'd like to be involved in this effort, please contact us at 761-3732 or mlgpa@mlgpa.org. •

Alfred DePew, MA, CPCC

Life Coach

Call for a free sample session

(207) 775-3708

Leave a Legacy of Equality

When you make or update your will, consider including Equality Maine in your planning.

We'll carry on your commitment to LGBT equality for years to come.

For more information on making a bequest or other planned gift to Equality Maine, contact Erica Quin-Easter at (207) 761-3732 or quineast@mlgpa.org.

Volunteers Begin Knocking for Equality

Continued from page 3

On **Civil Rights**, we identified:

51	1's	(actively support)
761	2's	(will vote in favor)
68	3's	(undecided)
106	4's	(will vote against)
9	5's	(actively oppose)

On **Marriage**, we identified:

41	1's	(actively support)
569	2's	(will vote in favor)
124	3's	(undecided)
240	4's	(will vote against)
21	5's	(actively oppose)

Counting just 1's and 2's as supporters, for **civil rights** we had 82 percent support and 18 percent opposition. For **marriage**, we had 61 percent support and 39 percent opposition. These were mostly democratic primaries but the education referendum question brought out Republicans, Greens, and Independents as well.

Our goal by November 2005 is to identify 50,000 voters. However, in order to win the next referendum campaign decisively we'll need to have well over 350,000 votes.

That means we have a lot of work to do! And we need your help!

Our next voter identification action is Saturday, June 26, in Portland. Please join this urgent effort to build political power and to forever end referendum questions on LGBT equality! To volunteer, contact Equality Maine at 207-761-3732 or mlgpa@mlgpa.org. •



Sue Comyns (center) was one of 25 volunteers who attended a national training on voter identification in March. She and fellow volunteers Jennifer Curran (left) and Jackie Oliveri review voter lists in preparation of identifying voters on primary election day in Lewiston and Auburn.

Charlie Howard Remembered on 20th Anniversary of Death

The Charlie Howard Memorial Foundation, located in Bangor, is hosting a memorial walk in July in memory of Charlie Howard. Charlie was a young gay man living in Bangor when he was murdered because he was gay.

All events take place on Wednesday, July 7, 2004 in Bangor.

6:30 pm Non-denomination church service at the UU Society Church of Bangor, 120 Park St.

7:15 pm Walk begins from the UU Church.

8:15 pm Walk ends at the State Street Bridge, then everyone gathers at the Public Parking Garage, just down from the site, for public speaking.

Show Your Colors

Advertise in the Equality Maine newsletter and reach more than 1,000 supporters across the state. Your business matters to our members—support equality and show your commitment to our community!

\$250 Full page (vertical) 7.5"w x 10"h
\$150 Half page (horizontal) 7.5"w x 4.75"h
\$150 Half page (vertical) 3.5"w x 10"h
\$ 85 Quarter page (vertical)..... 3.5"w x 4.75"h
\$ 40 Business card (horizontal).. 3.5"w x 2.125"h

Advertise annually (4 issues per year) and receive a 20% discount (full payment required with first publication).

For more information or to reserve a space in the next newsletter, contact Erica Quin-Easter at (207) 761-3732 or quineast@mlgpa.org.

...Put Your Ad Here!

Grant Funding Crucial Support for Equality Maine

Equality Maine wishes to thank the following foundations who provide significant capacity-building, operating and project support for our organization. Thanks for your investment in equality!

Gill Foundation - \$60,000 (over two years, 2002-2003) for planning and organizational development

Haymarket People's Fund - \$2,000 for community outreach & volunteer leadership development in Voter ID project

Human Rights Campaign - \$3,500 for lobbying to pass domestic partnership inheritance rights bill

Maine Initiatives - \$40,000 (over three years, 2004-2006) for core operating support

MaineShare - ongoing support (\$5,000+ per year) through workplace giving campaigns

National Gay & Lesbian Task Force - \$50,000 (over two years, 2003-2004) for "Equality Knocks" Voter ID project

Resist - \$2,500 for community outreach and volunteer leadership development in Voter ID project

Unity Foundation - \$7,500 for technology infrastructure (2003) and \$7,500 for marketing and branding (2004)



Many thanks to Unity Foundation, who provided a capacity-building grant of \$7,500 for marketing and branding Equality Maine's new identity—and especially to Dott Freeman (standing at easel), Unity Foundation president, for her consulting support throughout the strategic planning process.



Equality Maine board members, staff and volunteers attended Maine Initiatives' annual awards dinner after receiving a major grant of \$40,000. Distributed over the next three years, Maine Initiatives' grant will be used for core operating support and grassroots organizing for equality. Development Director Erica Quin-Easter (right) celebrates with partner Kate and son Tony.

MLGPA Now Equality Maine

Continued from page 1

LGBT equality. We go door-to-door talking to Maine voters about civil rights and marriage equality for LGBT people.

The greater challenge today is showing that we are inclusive and that we strive for equality for everyone under our rainbow. As an example, the domestic partner bill we passed this legislative session extends benefits to unmarried straight couples as well as LGBT couples. (Many straight couples have refused to marry until

everyone has the right to marry. Yet they still need to protect their families).

The reception we've received for the new name has been incredibly positive. We're very excited about our new strategic plan and our vision for the future. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard on helping shape Equality Maine's future, and thus the future of equality for LGBT people in Maine. •

Let's get ready...

PRIDE '04

"Vive la Différence"*

18th ANNUAL

**Tuesday, June 1 through
Wednesday, June 30**

flavor PRIDE ART SHOW

Featured Artists;

Amy Adams, Megan August
Dalrymple, Geoffrey Drew, John
Fahnley, Noah Krell, Heather A. Libby,
Laura Milkins, Erin Moreau, Deborah
Randall, Elizabeth Sofarelli
SPACE / Alternative Arts Venue
538 Congress Street, Portland
For more info call 207/828-5600 or
Connect to www.space538.org

Sunday, June 13

3:00PM to 5:00 PM

Maine SpeakOut Project Annual

Walk With The Ones You Love

Baxter Boulevard, Portland

For more info connect to,

www.mainespeakout.org

Wednesday, June 16

5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

An Open House Reception

for the LGBT Collection, part of the
Jean Byers Sampson Center For
Diversity In Maine, located in Specials
Collections, Glickman Family Library.
Speak with University staff.
See items from the Collection.
Enjoy light refreshments.

Wednesday, June 16

7:00 PM

PRIDE LIGHTS & REMEMBRANCES

Our traditional Pink Lights and
remembering why we light them,
Special guests and more
7:00 PM Tommy's Park, then at
7:30 PM we will walk to Congress
Square and continue the tradition.
www.southernmainepride.org

Thursday, June 17

GAY & LESBIAN COMEDY NIGHT

National Comedian Jason Stuart along
with Alana Dviche, Ian Harvie,
Christine O'Leary

Pre-Show Party starts at 6:30 PM

Show starts at 8:00 PM

Tickets \$10.00

The Comedy Connection

Custom House Wharf, Portland, ME

Friday, June 18 through

Sunday, June 20

MAINE GAY MEN'S CHORUS

80's POP!

8:00 PM Fri. & Sat.

3:00 PM Sat. & Sun.

Portland Performing Arts Center

25A Forest Ave, Portland, ME 04101

For more info connect to,

www.mainegaymenschorus.org

Friday, June 18

"Rainbow Scavenger Hunt"

Portland & Ogunquit

Help us "paint the towns red" and while
you are at it find the other 7 colors of
the original rainbow and compete for
prizes and surprises!
Several locations around the cities!

Saturday, June 19

PRIDE RALLY – NOON

Monument Square, Portland

PRIDE PARADE – 12:30 PM

2004 Parade Theme

"Lions & Tigers & Queens...Oh My!"

Monument Square to Deering Oaks
Park via Congress, High, Park and
State Streets

Registrations available online

For more info connect to,

www.southernmainepride.org

Saturday, June 19

PRIDE FESTIVAL

1:00 PM til

Sly Chi –

Portland's hottest funk band

Pepper MaShay –

"Dive into the Pool" Diva

Naya's Trance –

Middle Eastern Dance Ensemble

Andi Fawcett of Relish Gruv

Southern Maine Pride Royal Court

Host DJ Kidbilly / Somewhere Else

Vendors, Food, Family Activities,

Kid's Space & Lots of Fun!

MSOP Rummage Sale

"Out Of Our Closet"

Saturday, June 19 – NEW NIGHT

PIER DANCE –

Gates Open 8:00 PM

Dance 9:00 PM to 1:00 AM

Pepper MaShay – LIVE!

DJ Tom Grin / DJ Joe Bermudez

Special Guests, Surprises & New

This Year – FOOD VENDORS!

\$15 Advance / \$20 At The Gate

Sunday, June 20

SMP IN OGUNQUIT

Maine SpeakOut Project 3:00 PM

"Walk With The Ones You Love"

Join us at Maine Street...

New Deck Opens at Noon

Tea Dance w/ Susan Esthara

Complimentary Cook Out & Pizza

Pool Tournament & Karaoke

Join us at InsideOut...

Lunch Specials at Noon

Male Dancers w/ DJ D. Rell

Drink Specials & More

DJ Tom Grin gets you in motion

For times & details connect to

www.southernmainepride.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

There are many areas and opportunities to get involved with Southern Maine Pride. Whether you can give large or small amounts of time, or a "one time" commitment on the day of June 19th (Saturday), we would like to hear from you.

Connect to www.southernmainepride.org and print off a volunteer application, fill it out and return to us by mail.

Or call the **PrideLine** at 207-773-4188 and leave a message, we will be happy to mail you one.

Pick up or drop off an application at **Drop Me A Line, Somewhere Else, Blackstones**. See the web site for other places.

Southern Maine Pride – 211 Marginal Way #113 – PO BOX 9715 – Portland, ME 04104-5015 – 207.773.4188

Victory on LD 1579!

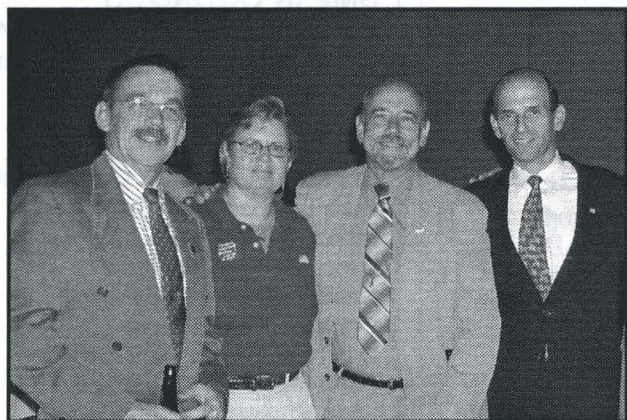
Continued from page 2

amendment would kill the bill, but after reading the language and negotiating with its author (Rep. Peter Mills, Cornville), we agreed that the amendment made the bill stronger—the language was clearer and it added some benefits for domestic partners who neglect to register. We picked up an additional 15 votes, mostly Republicans, all of whom had consistently voted against us. The final vote in the House was 84-58.

The bill went to the Senate for an enactment vote two weeks later—a triumphant 18-14 vote. It was signed the very next day by Governor Baldacci. The law takes effect on July 30, 2004.

To register your domestic partnership, you must submit a notarized Declaration of Domestic Partnership to the Department of Human Services. Declaration (and termination) forms will be available on the Department of Human Services website, <http://www.state.me.us/dhs/>, under Office of Vital Records, by July 30.

Endless gratitude goes out to Governor Baldacci, Rep. Ben Dudley, Sen. Arthur Mayo, Rep. Bill Norbert, Rep. John Richardson, Sen. Beverly Daggett, Sen. Karl Turner, Sen. Ethan Strimling, Rep. Tom Bull, Sen. Sharon Treat, Rep. Scott Cowger, Rep. Larry Bliss, Sen. Peggy Pendleton, Rep. Pat Colwell, Rep. Bob Duplessie, Rep. Herb Adams, Rep. Hannah Pingree, Rep. Chris Barstow, Sen. Michael Brennan, Rep. John Eder, Rep. Julie O'Brien, Rep. Sean Faircloth, Rep. Carol Grose, Rep. Boyd Marley, Rep. Deb Simpson, Pat Peard, Dottie Melanson, Moose Ridge Associates, Natl. Assoc. of Social Workers—Maine Chapter, Carrie Evans & Heather Wellman—Human Rights Campaign, Darlene Huntress, Equality Maine board and staff, and all of our dedicated volunteers. •



Equality Maine thanks Blackstones (Ralph Cusack, left, and Butch Fenton, 2nd from right) for their sponsorship of our celebration reception at the Maine Democratic Party Convention. Thanks as well to individual donors who helped offset the reception's cost, including Michael DeAngelis, Matthew Dubois (Vogel & Dubois), Mark Fitzgerald, Jane Gilbert, John Hennessy, Jane Lincoln and Mary Jane Wallace. Heartfelt thanks also go to Democratic Party Chairwoman Dottie Melanson for all her efforts in initiating and promoting the event and on LD 1579! Pictured above with Ralph and Butch are board member Barb Wood and Governor Baldacci.



Speaker of the House Patrick Colwell (left) and Majority Whip Bob Duplessie (2nd from left) were instrumental in passing LD 1579. Also enjoying the celebration reception at the Maine Democratic Party convention are former board member Susan Sparaco and Governor Baldacci's Chief of Staff Jane Lincoln.

How Your Representative Voted

Herbert Adams (D)	Portland	Y
Mary Andrews (R)	York	N
James Annis (R)	Dover-Foxcroft	N
Walter Ash (D)	Belfast	Y
Susan Austin (R)	Gray	N
Christopher Barstow (D)	Gorham	Y
Stephen Beaudette (D)	Biddeford	Y
Philip Bennett (D)	Caribou	N
Donald Berry (R)	Belmont	N
Robert Berube (R)	Lisbon	N
Leonard Bierman (R)	Sorrento	N
Patricia Blanchette (D)	Bangor	Y
Lawrence Bliss (D)	South Portland	Y
Stephen Bowen (R)	Rockport	Y
David Bowles (R)	Sanford	N
Joseph Brannigan (D)	Portland	Y
Bonita Breault (D)	Buxton	Y
Richard Brown (R)	South Berwick	Y
William Browne (R)	Vassalboro	Y
Joseph Bruno (R)	Raymond	Y
Joan Bryant-Deschenes (R)	Turner	N
Thomas Bull (D)	Freeport	Y
George Bunker (D)	Kossuth Township	N
James Campbell (R)	Newfield	Y
Marilyn Canavan (D)	Waterville	Y
Roderick Carr (R)	Lincoln	N
Eugene Churchill (R)	Orland	Y
John Churchill (R)	Washburn	N
Joseph Clark (D)	Millinocket	N
Harold Clough (R)	Scarborough	N
Ronald Collins (R)	Wells	N
Patrick Colwell (D)	Gardiner	Y
Jonathan Courtney (R)	Sanford	N
Scott Cowger (D)	Hallowell	Y
Margaret Craven (D)	Lewiston	Y
Philip Cressey (R)	Baldwin	N
Robert Crosthwaite (R)	Ellsworth	N
Glenn Cummings (D)	Portland	Y
Darlene Curley (R)	Scarborough	N
Robert Daigle (R)	Arundel	N
Gerald Davis (R)	Falmouth	N
Benjamin Dudley (D)	Portland	Y
Edward Dugay (D)	Cherryfield	Y
Matthew Dunlap (D)	Old Town	Y
Robert Duplessie (D)	Westbrook	Y
Brian Duprey (R)	Hampden	N
Guy Duprey (D)	Medway	N

Continued on next page

How Your Legislators Voted on LD 1579 (Con't)

William Earle (D)	Damariscotta	Y	Maitland Richardson (R)	Skowhegan	N
John Eder (G)	Portland	Y	Peter Rines (D)	Wiscasset	Y
Sean Faircloth (D)	Bangor	Y	William Rogers (R)	Brewer	N
Edward Finch (D)	Fairfield	Y	Richard Rosen (R)	Bucksport	Y
Jeremy Fischer (D)	Presque Isle	Y	Sonya Sampson (D)	Auburn	Y
Kenneth Fletcher (R)	Winslow	N	Thomas Saviello (D)	Wilton	Y
Rosita Gagne-Friel (D)	Buckfield	Y	Roger Sherman (R)	Hodgdon	N
Stan Gerzofsky (D)	Brunswick	Y	Thomas Shields (R)	Auburn	N
Kevin Glynn (R)	South Portland	N	Deborah Simpson (D)	Auburn	Y
Albion Goodwin (D)	Pembroke	N	Nancy Smith (D)	Monmouth	Y
Christian Greeley (R)	Levant	N	William Smith (D)	Van Buren	Y
Carol Grose (D)	Woolwich	Y	Lois Snowe-Mello (R)	Poland	Y
Paul Hatch (D)	Skowhegan	Y	Oscar Stone (R)	Berwick	N
Theodore Heidrich (R)	Oxford	N	Gary Sukeforth (U)	Union	Y
Ken Honey (R)	Boothbay	N	Nancy Sullivan (D)	Biddeford	Y
Randy Hotham (R)	Dixfield	N	Edward Suslovic (D)	Portland	Y
Deborah Hutton (D)	Bowdoinham	Y	Richard Sykes (R)	Harrison	N
Troy Jackson (D)	Fort Kent	Y	Joshua Tardy (R)	Newport	Y
Lawrence Jacobsen (R)	Waterboro	N	Jonathan Thomas (D)	Orono	Y
Rodney Jennings (D)	Leeds	N	Judd Thompson (D)	China	Y
Arlan Jodrey (R)	Bethel	N	David Tobin (R)	Windham	N
Henry Joy (R)	Crystal	N	James Tobin (R)	Dexter	N
Jeff Kaelin (R)	Winterport	Y	David Trahan (R)	Waldoboro	N
Thomas Kane (D)	Saco	Y	Russell Treadwell (R)	Carmel	N
Susanne Ketterer (D)	Madison	Y	Joanne Twomey (D)	Biddeford	Y
Theodore Koffman (D)	Bar Harbor	Y	Ronald Usher (D)	Westbrook	Y
Roger Landry (D)	Sanford	Y	Michael Vaughan (R)	Durham	N
Mary Ledwin (R)	Holden	N	William Walcott (D)	Lewiston	Y
David Lemoine (D)	Old Orchard Beach	Y	Thomas Watson (D)	Bath	Y
Arthur Lerman (D)	Augusta	Y	Walter Wheeler (D)	Kittery	Y
Paul Lessard (D)	Topsham	Y	Richard Woodbury (U)	Yarmouth	Y
Sarah Lewin (R)	Eliot	N	Raymond Wotton (D)	Littleton	N
Jacqueline Lundeen (D)	Mars Hill	N	Florence Young (R)	Limestone	N
Louis Maietta (R)	South Portland	N			
Richard Mailhot (D)	Lewiston	Y			
Elaine Makas (D)	Lewiston	Y			
Boyd Marley (D)	Portland	Y			
Lisa Marraché (D)	Waterville	Y			
Earle McCormick (R)	West Gardiner	Y			
Monica McGlocklin (D)	Emden	Y			
Bernard McGowan (D)	Pittsfield	Y			
Linda McKee (D)	Wayne	Y			
Terrence McKenney (R)	Cumberland	Y			
Janet McLaughlin (D)	Cape Elizabeth	Y			
Deborah McNeil (R)	Rockland	N			
Sawin Millett (R)	Waterford	N			
Janet Mills (D)	Farmington	Y			
Peter Mills (R)	Cornville	Y			
Stanley Moody (D)	Manchester	Y			
Gary Moore (R)	Standish	N			
Thomas Murphy (R)	Kennebunk	N			
Kevin Muse (R)	Fryeburg	Y			
William Norbert (D)	Portland	Y			
Jacqueline Norton (D)	Bangor	Y			
Robert Nutting (R)	Oakland	N			
Julie O'Brien (R)	Augusta	Y			
Lillian O'Brien (D)	Lewiston	Y			
Christopher O'Neil (D)	Saco	Y			
Rosaire Paradis (D)	Frenchville	Y			
John Patrick (D)	Rumford	Y			
Anita Peavey-Haskell (R)	Greenbush	N			
Edward Pellon (D)	Machias	Y			
Leila Percy (D)	Phippsburg	Y			
Anne Perry (D)	Calais	Y			
Joseph Perry (D)	Bangor	Y			
Raymond Pineau (D)	Jay	Y			
Hannah Pingree (D)	North Haven	Y			
John Piotti (D)	Unity	Y			
Christopher Rector (R)	Thomaston	Y			
Earl Richardson (R)	Greenville	N			
John Richardson (D)	Brunswick	Y			

How Your Senator Voted

RICHARD BENNETT (R)	NORWAY	N
KENNETH BLAIS (R)	LITCHFIELD	N
MICHAEL BRENNAN (D)	PORTLAND	Y
LYNN BROMLEY (D)	SOUTH PORTLAND	Y
BRUCE BRYANT (D)	DIXFIELD	Y
DAVID CARPENTER (R)	SPRINGVALE	N
MARY CATHCART (D)	ORONO	Y
BEVERLY DAGGETT (D)	AUGUSTA	Y
DENNIS DAMON (D)	TRENTON	Y
PAUL DAVIS, SR. (R)	SANGERVILLE	N
NERIA DOUGLASS (D)	AUBURN	Y
BETHEDA EDMONDS (D)	FREEPORT	Y
KENNETH GAGNON (D)	WATERVILLE	Y
CAROLYN GILMAN (R)	WESTBROOK	N
CHRISTOPHER HALL (D)	BRISTOL	Y
PAMELA HATCH (D)	SKOWHEGAN	Y
RICHARD KNEELAND (R)	EASTON	N
LLOYD LAFOUNTAIN III (D)	BIDDEFORD	N
KENNETH LEMONT (R)	KITTERY	Y
JOHN MARTIN (D)	EAGLE LAKE	Y
ARTHUR MAYO (R)	BATH	Y
BETTY LOU MITCHELL (R)	ETNA	Y
RICHARD NASS (R)	ACTON	N
PEGGY PENDLETON (D)	SCARBOROUGH	Y
MARGARET ROTUNDO (D)	LEWISTON	N
CHRISTINE SAVAGE (R)	UNION	N
TOM SAWYER, JR. (R)	BANGOR	N
KEVIN SHOREY (R)	CALAIS	N
STEPHEN STANLEY (D)	MEDWAY	N
ETHAN STRIMLING (D)	PORTLAND	Y
SHARON TREAT (D)	GARDINER	Y
KARL TURNER (R)	CUMBERLAND FORESIDE	Y
CAROL WESTON (R)	MONTVILLE	N
CHANDLER WOODCOCK (R)	FARMINGTON	N
EDWARD YOUNGBLOOD (R)	BREWER	Y

MLGPA Celebrates 20 Year History

On March 20, 2004, MLGPA celebrated its 20th anniversary. Over 350 people attended the dinner at the Holiday Inn By the Bay in Portland. Special guests included Governor John Baldacci, Congressman Mike Michaud, and several state and local elected officials. We did not give out our annual community awards, but instead honored "the old and the new"—founders of MLGPA who led us over the last 20 years and youth who will lead us over the next 20 years.

Howard Solomon and Rodney Mondor created a beautiful and articulate video of our community's history of the last 20 years. Drawing on articles and items from the LGBT archives at the University of Southern Maine, Howard was able to tell a story that so many of us had

never heard or seen before.

The President's Award was given to Representative Ben Dudley, sponsor of the domestic partner inheritance rights bill, for his years of legislative service and advocacy for the LGBT community.

We were honored to have special guest Linda Abromson, wife of our beloved friend the late Senator Joel Abromson, whose legislative advocacy won us passage of the civil rights bill in 1997. Last year we renamed our annual scholarship the Joel Abromson Memorial Scholarship Fund, for which Linda gave an impassioned appeal for support. Thanks to all who gave generously to support this year's scholarships!



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Rachael Bairstow
David Becker
Linda Conti
Victoria Delfino & Susan Butler
Mark Fitzgerald
Jane Gilbert & Nancy Fritz
Marty Hagglund
John Hennessy & Peter Callnan
Bobbi Keppel
Jane Lincoln
Thomas Little
Joanne Mattiace & Maggie Terry
Dottie Melanson
Rodney Mondor & Ray Dumont
Susan Pate
Virginia Slawson
Howard Solomon & David Rappoport
Barb Wood

Many thanks to all our 20th Anniversary Celebration sponsors and host committee members who helped make this year our best yet! **Mark your calendars now and join us on March 5, 2005 for Equality Maine's 21st birthday.** •



Youth honored at the 20th Anniversary Celebration dinner included Adam Flanders, Lindsay Flick, Nikki Dunham, Daryl Jamison, Andrew Jones, Lyndon Cudlitz, Kelly Coughlin, Geoff Pritchard, Braden Chapman, Danielle Askini, Will Carnahan, Maggie Zall, and Dora Rosen.

COME OUT TO EAT FOR EQUALITY!

From July through October 2004, Equality Maine is offering a series of dinner parties around the state. Come out to support our community and benefit equality in Maine! Mark your calendars now—here's just a hint of things to come:

“Potatoes Aplenty”

Hosts: Nancy Hudak and Ernie Easter

Saturday, July 24, 5:30 p.m.

New Sweden, Maine

\$25/person, limited to 20 people

From soup to dessert, a celebration of Aroostook County's most famous crop. Vegetarian and omnivore selections.

“Martinis with Michelle on Willard Beach”

Hosts: Nancy Field and Beth Lawrence, Gretchen Bates and Janet Paul

Saturday, August 21, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

South Portland, Maine

\$35/person, limited to 25 people

Mix and mingle at Nancy and Beth's on Willard Beach. Enjoy martinis by Michelle of Katahdin Restaurant bartending fame, light hors d'oeuvres and beautiful ocean views.

“Cruise the Mediterranean with Equality Maine”

Hosts: David Rappoport and Howard Solomon

Saturday, October 2, 6:30 p.m.

Bowdoinham, Maine

\$25/person, limited to 20 people

A gourmet tour of Mediterranean cuisine, from hors d'oeuvres in Morocco to dessert in Greece, with stops in Spain, France, and Italy along the way. Buffet of chicken, seafood, and vegetarian entrees; wine and beer. Bon voyage!

Want to make sure you don't miss a date for dinner? Call Erica Quin-Easter at (207) 761-3732 or email quineast@mlgpa.org for more information or to purchase tickets.

CALL FOR HOSTS

We invite you to open your doors for Equality Maine! Host a benefit party in your area or team up with a friend to:

- ...have a backyard BBQ
- ...open up your house for a sit-down dinner
- ...party in your favorite public place, or
- ...invite your favorite restaurant or bar to host a benefit night for Equality Maine!

The sky is the limit—you decide the date and theme, and get the word out to friends and colleagues to come out to support Equality Maine.

Parties may be private (you do your own invites and RSVPs, and send the proceeds to Equality Maine) or public (your party is advertised in dinner series listing via newsletter and email & tickets are booked through Equality Maine office).

Interested in opening your doors for an Equality Maine dinner, or joining forces to co-host a benefit party anywhere in Maine? Call Erica Quin-Easter at (207) 761-3732 or email quineast@mlgpa.org for more information. •

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN EQUALITY MAINE TODAY!

All Equality Maine members receive a subscription to our quarterly newsletter, voting rights at the annual meeting, advance notice of community events, membership in the email Action Alert Network, opportunities to volunteer and the satisfaction of supporting equality for all. Contributions of any amount are counted towards membership—whether you can give \$1.00 or \$1,000.00, your membership makes a difference in promoting diversity and protecting the rights of LGBT people in Maine.

YES! I want to be a member of Equality Maine! Enclosed is my contribution of:

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☐ Sign me up as a Sustaining Partner! Please start charging my monthly gift of \$10 / \$25 / \$50 / \$_____

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Acting in support of people of diverse orientation and gender identity through education, legislation and collaboration in Maine.
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See story on front cover.

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