

REACH OUT *the newsletter of Maine Speakout Project*

Fall 2005 • 343 Forest Avenue • Portland, ME 04101 • 207.874.1030 • tty 207.874.1043

Maine Speakout Project is a Program of **Community Counseling Center** 

Summer at Maine Speakout Project

This summer brought a lot of new and wonderful changes to MSOP. We moved offices in June. MSOP is now housed with Community Counseling Center's Deaf Counseling Services at 43 Baxter Boulevard. Our new space is bright and open and located conveniently near Hannaford and Back Cove. While our mailing address has remained the same, 43 Baxter has given us the opportunity to expand the office and re-open the Charlie Howard Memorial Library (CHML). Best of all, we now have plenty of parking.

My summer was spent unpacking boxes of books as we prepared to re-open the CHML. I admit that I spent a couple afternoons reading instead of shelving, but the breadth and depth of the collection was such that many volumes caught my attention. I hope that each of you will get an opportunity to stop by and, perhaps, borrow a book or two.



The Portland Walk with the Ones You Love event
officially kicked off Pride Week on June 12, 2005.

On the Speakout front, we have been very busy as well. A total of three Walk with the Ones You Love events were held in Kennebunk, Portland and Bangor, and each was successful. Portland's Walk again kicked off Southern Maine Pride's week of events. We held our 2nd annual Out of Our Closets yard sale, complete with an eBay component and raised over \$600.00. And during the months of June, July and August, we held Speakouts at 18 venues.

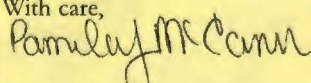
It was an exciting media summer for MSOP. MSOP was featured in the *Portland Press Herald* and on multiple local and national TV and radio programs. I was fortunate enough to be interviewed on-air by Cheryl Jacques when Q-TV came to Portland. MSOP's mission of non-divisive communication and changing hearts was heard by a national audience.

Lastly, Outright has begun meeting at the 43 Baxter Boulevard for their youth leadership and weekly drop-ins. MSOP will be working closely with Outright volunteers, advisors and youth to provide support for their speaker's bureau and programming.

As we begin the fall season, please consider ways in which you can recommit yourself as a MSOP volunteer:

- Can you donate a gasoline card?
- Will you host an event at your church or community organization?
- Are you able to donate a LGBT themed children's book to the Charlie Howard Library?

As a community of individuals committed to improving the world in which we live, these are some small ways to support the mission of increased tolerance and awareness that is the Maine Speakout Project. I look forward to working with each of you throughout the fall.

With care,


Pam McCann, Maine Speakout Project Program Coordinator

Celebrating Our Progress, Remembering Our Losses

2nd Annual

Transgender Day of Remembrance
Saturday, November 19, 2005

Over 80 community members attended the 2004 Day of Remembrance service honoring transgender men and women. The excitement of last year's event sparked renewed interest and involvement. MSOP, with other community members and stakeholders, has planned a larger and more inclusive celebration and educational event for 2005.

Because of the generous financial support we have received from the Maine's Women Fund, the 2005 Day of Remembrance is now a day long event. Other significant sponsors include University of Southern Maine's Glickman Family Library, DHHS and Community Counseling Center.

Building on last year, we have added a morning conference to the afternoon remembrance ceremony. The morning portion is a mini-conference planned with community medical and mental health providers in mind.

2nd Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance

Saturday, November 19, 2005

9:00am - 5:00pm

University of Southern Maine

Albert Brenner

Glickman Family Library

Multiple concurrent sessions will be offered with topics such as Transgender 101, Partnering with Transpersons and Violence Against the Trans Community. Certificates of attendance will be offered to attendees.

Our keynote speaker for the 2nd annual Day of Remembrance is Dr. Randi Kaufman, Psy. D. Dr. Kaufman is the current coordinator of Boston's Fenway Community Health Center's Transgender Health Program and is a recognized expert in the field. Dr. Kaufman will provide an overview of transgender community with regards to mental health.

For more information about this event, please contact Pam McCann at 207.874.1030.

Maine Speakout Project Advisory Committee

Richard Bilodeau, Co-chair

Bob Carter, Co-chair

Elliott Cherry

Leslie Clark Brancato

Laura Gottfried

Tara Healy

Holly Howard

Connie Howe

Natasha Johnson

Daniel Pelletier

Everett R. Perlman

How to Give

Contributions can be sent to:
Maine Speakout Project
343 Forest Avenue
Portland, Maine 04101-2006

How to Volunteer

Help us to get our speakers invited to your club, church, school committee or workplace lunch-and-learn. Get trained to become a speaker. Volunteer to work an event. There is so much you can do to help!

For more information, call Pam McCann at 207.874.1030 or send an email to pmccann@commcc.org.

MSOP Mission

The mission of Maine Speakout Project is to create a society that is inclusive and respectful of people of differing sexual and gender orientations by providing opportunities for non-divisive dialogue.

City of One: Young Writers Speak to the World A Book Review

City of One is a wonderful, powerful book of poetry written by youth from around the world and collected by the WritersCorp. While not explicitly a text that deals with LGBT issues, *City of One* does deal with experiences of otherness, loneliness and rejection that are common to LGBT youth.

In its simplest form, *City of One* is a collection of observations about the world from LGBT youth. Yet, the work goes beyond that. Youth writers speak to adults and comment on the condition of their world. The perspective is multi-ethnic and each poem's author varies in gender, age, ethnicity, tone and, most significantly, experience. Each poem is alternatively joyful, sad, contemplative or intense. You are invited into the world of the author and asked to see through their specific social location and lens. An excellent example of the vision and potential of youth includes the following poem by Susana Sandoval, age 13.

"The Healing"

With my healing hands I will cure
every disease in the world,
so people won't have to worry.

With my healing hands I will erase
racism, prejudice, and sexism,
turn them into three more stars
in the sky.

City of One: Young Writers Speak to the World and other amazing titles are available for loan from the Charlie Howard Memorial Library from 9:00am - 5:00pm M - F and on Saturdays, Sundays and evenings by appointment.

This book would be extremely valuable for anyone working on the front lines of a social justice or peace movement. The voice of youth is too often ignored as lacking the experience necessary to provide an informed perspective on the world. This book shatters all these prejudices and bias and shows the depth and clarity of thought youth possess.

City of One is extremely cutting edge. This work takes on peace from outside the box. Immigration, war, racism, motherhood, childhood, language, family, violence and love are all approached with grace and openness. Within the words and stories, youth present their unique anti-oppression strategies.

OUTRIGHT

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS/DROP-IN HOURS
43 BAXTER BOULEVARD, PORTLAND
TEL 207.828.6560 TOLL FREE 888.567.7600

1st Friday of every month
6:00pm - 9:00pm Drop-In

3rd Friday of every month
6:00pm - 10:00pm Dance

1st Tuesday of every month
6:00pm - 7:30pm Activity/Topic (Different every week!)
7:30pm - 9:00pm Peer-facilitated Support

2nd Tuesday of every month
6:00pm - 7:30pm Activity/Topic (Different every week!)
7:30pm - 9:00pm Drop-In

3rd Tuesday of every month
6:00pm - 7:30pm Peer-facilitated Support
7:30pm - 9:00pm Drop-In

4th Tuesday of every month
6:00pm - 9:00pm Community Meeting
Let your voice be heard! Come make decisions about
Outright's future and help create new activities.

Special Thanks to GWI



for their continued
support & hosting of
www.mainespeakout.org

Speaker Training

Saturday, December 10th

9:00pm - 5:00pm

43 Baxter Boulevard

Portland, ME 04101

FREE

lunch provided

Call Pam at 207.874.1030
for more information.

Cookbook Order Form

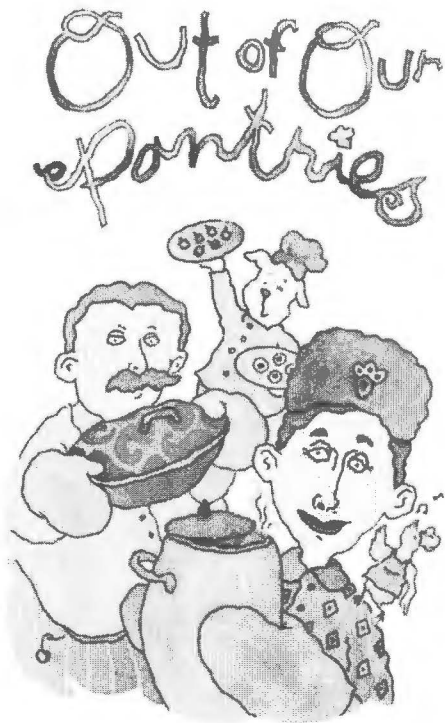
\$20.00 plus shipping

The *Out of Our Pantries* cookbook features over 150 diverse and delicious recipes from Speakout volunteers, advisory committee members, and community supporters.

Stories, salsa, curry and candied yams are all beautifully presented in *Out of Our Pantries*, with artwork donated Abby Carter-Levin.

All sales benefit Maine Speakout Project.

The mission of the Maine Speakout Project is to create a society that is inclusive and respectful of people of differing sexual and gender orientations by providing opportunities for non-divisive dialogue.



Item	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price
Cookbook		\$20.00	
		Subtotal	
		Shipping *	
		Total	

Ordered By:

* Shipping Fee: 1-4 books \$3.00, 5-10 books \$5.00

 Name Phone Email

 Street City State Zip

Payment Method:

____ Check/Money Order enclosed, payable to Maine Speakout Project

____ Mastercard/ Visa /American Express (circle one) _____
 Credit Card # Expiration Date

 Name on card Signature

Order via:

mail Maine Speakout Project , 343 Forest Avenue, Portland, ME 04101-2006, Attn: Nicole Pelletier
 email Speakout@commcc.org
 tel 207.874.1030 x 336
 tty 207.874.1043
 fax 207.874.1044
 web www.mainespeakout.org or www.commcc.org

**A narrative by Richard Bilodeau,
Speakout Advisory Board Co-Chair
from the Out of Pantries Cookbook**

Whenever I think of cooking, I think of Thanksgiving. This is the one holiday of the year that I like to spend hours and hours in the kitchen. And each Thanksgiving that goes by, I think of the first one my partner Scott and I spent together out on our own.

Meeting in college in Vermont, we decided to settle in my hometown of Portland, Maine. After Scott finished school in the spring of 1991, he relocated to Maine (I had finished school a year earlier and was living at home with my mother and brother awaiting Scott's arrival). After spending 6 weeks at home, we moved into our first apartment, a one bedroom on Congress Street. We furnished the place with an assortment of "donations" from family and friends. My favorite piece of furniture was an old chair that had been clawed beyond recognition by six cats. Three cleanings later (in the days before Febreze, I might add) and the chair smelled like new. All it needed was a plain white sheet acting as a slipcover, and it was suitable for both our company and us.

Feeling like we'd done a great job getting our place together, we decided to celebrate Thanksgiving just the two of us. Letting our families know we would be absent that year, we made a grocery list and headed for the store. I cannot tell you the value of a good cookbook when no one knows how to cook. Scott and I were both raised in homes where our mothers did all of the cooking. In fact, the only things I'd actually cooked at home before leaving for school was toast and soup. This explains the many nights of dining on Oodles of Noodles in Vermont.

My mother had given us a cookbook when we moved into our apartment. I have referenced it many times. And it came in very handy that Thanksgiving.

At the store, we marveled at all of the things one needed to buy to actually make the holiday dinner. In the vegetable aisle, we had a great debate over potatoes. I had selected a ten-pound bag, concerned it would not make enough mashed potatoes for the two of us. Scott and I had a heated debate over it, but since neither one of us had actually ever mashed a potato we decided to err on the cautious side and purchased the bag. The mashed potatoes came out great - we were still eating them at Christmas.

And even though we made too much food, our first Thanksgiving together was like all the others in our lives. We enjoyed good food, drink and conversation - thankful that we were spending time as a family.

**Maine Speakout Project is all about sharing stories.
We'd love to hear yours. Email it to speakout@commcc.org
for inclusion in an upcoming Reach Out.**

Out of Our Pantries



a cookbook to benefit



*Out of Our Pantries, a
cookbook to benefit
Maine Speakout Project,
is now available.*

Featuring over 150 diverse recipes, the cookbook includes yummy appetizers, soups & salads, main dishes, vegetables & side dishes, desserts & accoutrements from the pantries of MSOP volunteers and supporters. To order a copy of *Out of Our Pantries*, call Nicole at 207.874.1030 or email speakout@commcc.org.



June was a busy month for Maine Speakout Project. *Left*, Karen Wyman and MSOP's program coordinator Pam McCann work the Speakout table at a Southern Maine PRIDE event. *Above*, The 2nd annual "Out of Our Closets" yard sale and eBay auction raised over \$600 for MSOP. *Right*, Jaime of the 93.1 WMGX Morning Show kicks off Portland's '05 Walk With the Ones You Love.





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Maine Speakout Project is a Program of
**Community
Counseling Center**
a United Way member agency

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, November 1st, LGBT Service Providers Panel
Portland Public Library (6:00pm - 9:00pm)

Tuesday, November 8th, Election Day
Don't Forget to Vote!

Saturday, November 19th, "Celebrating Our Progress,
Remembering Our Losses" Transgender Day of
Remembrance Conference & Ceremony
Glickman Family Library, USM Portland (9:00am - 5:00pm)

Sunday, November 20th, "Celebrate Diverse Families"
National Family Week Event
King Middle School, Portland (1:00pm - 3:00pm)

MSOP Upcoming Speakouts

Monday, October 17th, Rape Response Services of Bangor

Tuesday, October 18th, UMaine Farmington

Tuesday, October 18th, Citizens Offering
New Alternative - Damariscotta

Sunday, October 23rd, UMaine Orono
Students for Safe Space

Thursday, October 27th, Unity College
Freshman 101- 8 Sessions

Thursday, November 3rd, Thomas College

Friday, November 4th, Portland High School

Monday, November 7th, Portland High School

