Summer 2005

Equality News (Summer 2005)

Rodney Mondor

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Legislature Votes to End Discrimination

For the second time in its 28 year history, the non-discrimination bill was signed into law. Provided the law remains on the books, unlike in 1997, it will go a long way toward ending discrimination against LGBT people in jobs, housing, education, credit and public accommodations.

Governor Baldacci signed the bill on March 31 and as he dotted the “i” in his name said, “It’s the law.” Although the group gathered for the signing was only big enough to fill a room, his words were heard around the state. Those words will undoubtedly be repeated and celebrated often when we finally uphold the law—which we fully expect to do this time. The long-awaited celebration will take place around June 28 (the day 50,519 signatures are due to the Secretary of State’s office) or around November 8 (election day).

For more information on the presumed upcoming People’s Veto of LD 1196, see pages 4 & 9.

Our goal going into the session was to pass the non-discrimination bill (later titled LD 1196, An Act to Extend Civil Rights Protections to All People Regardless of Sexual Orientation) without a referendum attached. The goal to not send it to referendum was especially challenging for two reasons: Maine voters had twice rejected this same law and the November 2004 elections had seemingly weakened support across the country for LGBT rights.

Many legislators said they supported the bill but only if it went to voters for ratification. While several of these legislators honestly supported ending discrimination against LGBT people (provided voters backed them up), some used this approach as a way to play to voters on both sides of the issue. Sending it to voters didn’t necessarily indicate one way or another whether a legislator supported the bill, but given that defeating it outright was improbable, their next best option was sending it to the voters.

Continued on page 6
EqualityMaine Exclusive Logowear

What better gift for that special someone—and what breezier summer garb for yourself—than EqualityMaine's new line of logowear! You've seen our snazzy new logo at our events, on our website, and in the streets at Pride. Now you can wear equality on your sleeve. (Or on your chest, your coffee and your car.) Whether you're 9 months or 99 years old, waifish or well endowed, we have comfortable and classy logowear to fit your fancy. Items include:

- **$19.99 EqualityMaine Classic T-Shirt (S,M,L,XL,2X [+3 for 2X])** #21345283
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- **$19.99 EqualityMaine Spaghetti Tank (S,M,L,XL)** #21345279
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- **$29.99 EqualityMaine Hooded Sweatshirt (M,L,XL,2X [+3], 3X [+3])** #21345278
- **$9.99 EqualityMaine Infant/Toddler T-Shirt (6,12, or 18 mons, 2T, 3T, 4T)** #21345286
- **$9.99 EqualityMaine Baby Bib** #21345276
- **$3.99 EqualityMaine Bumper Sticker** #21345284
- **$12.99 EqualityMaine Mug** #21345282

Shop at our online store at [www.equalitymaine.org](http://www.equalitymaine.org) or call CafePress at 1-877-809-1659 to order your EqualityMaine merchandise today. Each purchase benefits EqualityMaine.

Register Your Domestic Partnership at Pride

Haven't registered your domestic partnership with the state of Maine yet? Well, here's your chance to do it efficiently and with pride.

EqualityMaine will provide notary publics at the Pride festival in Portland on June 18. To qualify, couples need to have lived together for at least 12 months and expect to remain the sole domestic partner to each other. Also, neither partner may be married to, or in a domestic partnership with, another individual.

Please bring with you proof of residency. For fun, you might want to bring a camera. Although it's just a piece of paper and the benefits are far from those of marriage, there's something very special about legalizing one's partnership.

The cost to register is $35, but you pay this when you send the notarized form into the Office of Vital Records in Augusta. You will not need any money at Pride to get your form notarized.

For more information about the domestic partner registry and how to register if you cannot do so at Pride, visit EqualityMaine's website at [www.equalitymaine.org](http://www.equalitymaine.org) and click on Maine's statewide DP Registry.
I in the last issue of the newsletter, we outlined our legislative agenda, commenting on bills that we were supporting and opposing. Here’s an update on those bills as they’ve wound their way through the legislative process.

EqualityMaine Supported the Following Bills:

☑ PASSED .......... LD 1196, An Act to Extend Civil Rights Protections to All People Regardless of Sexual Orientation. The bill currently sits in limbo as the Christian Civic League attempts to collect enough signatures to put it out to a People’s Veto. They have until June 28 to submit 50,519 valid signatures. In the meantime, EqualityMaine is working very closely with Maine Won’t Discriminate to ensure we have a strong foundation for a winning campaign. More on pages 4 & 5.

☑ PASSED .......... LD 19, An Act to Clarify the Law Regarding Transfer Tax Liability for Deeds Between Domestic Partners, sponsored by Rep. Edward Mazurek (D-Rockland). This bill now includes domestic partners in the real estate transfer tax exemption for deeds between certain family members. To qualify, couples must be registered as domestic partners through Maine’s domestic partner registry. For more info on the registry, go to www.equality-maine.org, and click on Maine’s statewide DP registry on the front page.

WITHDRAWN ........ LR 21, An Act to Repeal the Prohibition of Same-Sex Marriage, sponsored by Senator Ethan Strimling (D-Portland). This bill would have repealed the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) passed in 1997 that defines marriage as one man and one woman. The bill was withdrawn due to the realization that the Christian Civic League was inappropriately linking the non-discrimination bill directly to marriage, and that support for marriage, especially during a People’s Veto, was minimal.

WITHDRAWN ........ LR 991, An Act to Legalize Same-Sex Marriage, sponsored by Rep. Brian Duprey (R-Hampden). This bill was disingenuous because it was submitted by a right-wing, anti-gay conservative legislator who vehemently opposed it. He withdrew it when his tactic to draw us into a conversation about marriage on their terms (to then say, “See, we told you all they want is marriage”) backfired.

Continued on page 5

Board president Rodney Mondor (right) and Board member Shannon Banks attended Equality Forum’s 40th anniversary of the GLBT Civil Rights Movement in Philadelphia on May 1. Amid networking, state receptions, and seminars, they also managed to mingle and have fun.

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Voter ID—A Winning Strategy for Referendum Campaign

Over the past year, EqualityMaine has worked hard to convey a very specific message—if we are to achieve full LGBT equality, we must build long-term political power. Political power is built by identifying our supporters, increasing our number of supporters, and then turning them out in an election.

Through our voter identification project, volunteers have worked toward this goal by talking to thousands of people in 17 door-to-door canvasses. They’ve talked to thousands more at events like the Common Ground Country Fair, Southern Maine Pride, and polling places on election day. They’ve talked with members of the faith community in 12 different churches about conducting their own voter identification efforts within their congregations.

One of our greatest challenges has been conveying a sense of urgency for doing voter ID at a level comparable to a campaign, when there was no campaign in sight. Why the urgency? If we wait until a campaign begins, there is not enough time to identify the number of voters needed to win. It’s a lesson our community around the country is learning the hard way. Every losing campaign says their biggest regret is not starting this work earlier.

In the first 12 months of voter ID, our volunteers talked one-on-one with 7,114 voters and found that 6,613 of them support a non-discrimination law. In the next five months—if we are in a campaign—we need to talk one-on-one with at least 92,886 voters. The need for urgency is now obvious.

We achieved a hard-sought victory in March when the Maine Legislature passed the non-discrimination bill and did so as leaders—by doing what they were elected to do and not simply sending it to referendum. When Governor Baldacci signed the bill into law on March 31, declaring “It’s the law,” we applauded our elected officials. Yet we knew it was far too early to celebrate.

Later, just yards from where the governor had signed the bill, we stood in silent protest as Michael Heath and his supporters kicked off a signature petition drive to overturn the law that had been signed only two hours earlier.

As we get closer to the June 28 deadline for submitting signatures (they need 50,519), every voter we identify as a supporter cancels out one of their signatures. If we out-organize our opponents—by identifying our supporters and then turning them out on election day—we will do more than win in November. We will have begun to build real long-term political power so that we can render useless the anti-LGBT ballot measures of which the Christian Civic League is so fond.

To get involved, contact Darlene Huntress at dhuntress@equalitymaine.org, 761-1001 (office), or 749-4628 (cell). •

EqualityMaine hosted its biennial LGBT Exposition at the State House on May 18. LGBT, HIV/AIDS, and allied groups were invited to display information about their services and programs. Here, Howard Solomon stands in front of the traveling exhibition "Charlie Howard, Twenty Years Later: Hav Far Has Maine Come," created by Howard of the LGBT Archives at USM and Stephen Wessler of the Center for the Prevention of Hate Violence.

Also at the LGBT Exposition at the State House were Transcure 2000, providing nursing services to transgender people, directed by Marty Hagglund (center) and Transgender Advocacy for Maine, offering education and training on transgender issues, directed by PJ Mears (right). Along with Joan, they talk about their services and programs to a gentleman in the State House.
EqualityMaine Opposed the Following Bills:

☑ DEFEATED .......... LD 1294, RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Define Marriage, sponsored by Rep. Brian Duprey (R-Hampden). This bill would have amended Maine's constitution to define marriage as one man and one woman, but would have had potentially far reaching consequences for domestic partner benefits and other benefits that unmarried couples currently receive.

For instance, it was assumed that it would have voided all inheritance and funeral & burial rights now provided through the domestic partner registry and domestic partner health insurance policies provided through insurance companies in Maine.

☑ DEFEATED .......... LD 908, An Act to Protect Homosexuals from Discrimination, sponsored by Rep. Brian Duprey (R-Hampden). This was an anti-choice abortion bill designed to drive a wedge between groups that have worked together to protect and defend a woman's right to choose and eliminate bias based on sexual orientation. The bill stated that if a fetus was determined to have a "gay gene" (which doesn't even exist), then it would be illegal to abort it. EqualityMaine supports a woman's right to make her own reproductive decisions. The bill was reported out of Judiciary Committee with a unanimous Ought Not to Pass. It never even made to the floor for debate.

☑ DEFEATED .......... LD 1488, An Act To Give Parents Control over the Sex Education of Their Children, sponsored by Rep. Brian Duprey (R-Hampden). The bill would have changed the current "opt out" policy for family life education to an "opt in" policy for students. The net result of the bill would have been to deter schools from teaching family life education and add more stigma to sex education. Family Life Education may be the only safe environment for LGBT youth to discuss sexuality issues and mandating an "opt in" policy could have been devastating for LGBT youth living in homophobic homes. The bill was defeated in the House by 79-60 and there was no roll call vote in the Senate.

☑ DEFEATED .......... LD 1639, An Act To Allow Abstinence To Be Offered as an Alternative Education Program for Grades 7 to 12, sponsored by Senator Lois Snowe-Mello (R-Androscoggin County). This bill allows the governing body of a school to choose to offer 'abstinence-only-until-marriage' education for grades 7 to 12 in place of or in addition to any comprehensive family life education that takes place in a school. Abstinence-only-until-marriage programs leave no room for healthy, safe discussions around sexual orientation. The bill was defeated in the House by 86-55 and in the Senate by 25-9.

Thank you to Moose Ridge Associates for the success of our legislative priorities.
Legislature Votes to End Discrimination

Continued from page 1

The amendment to send the bill to referendum, as happened in 2000, was defeated in the House by a margin of 76-74. In the Senate, the amendment was soundly defeated 22-13. These 76 representatives and 22 senators are current heroes of this decades-long struggle for non-discrimination protection. See pages 10, 11, 13, and 14 for this list of 98 legislators. Please take a moment to thank them for their support.

Once it was settled that the bill would not be sent to referendum by the legislature, several more legislators lined up in support of the bill—but not before Rep. Brian Duprey (R-Hampden) attempted to amend the bill several times. Fortunately, each and every amendment was soundly defeated. His amendments included:

• Removing trans inclusive language and defining sexual orientation as “homosexual” only.
• Making it legal for employers to ask the sexual orientation of its employees.
• Restricting bathrooms and locker room facilities to those appropriate to one’s gender at birth.
• If a person brings a discrimination case to the Maine Human Rights Commission and loses, he/she must pay for all attorneys fees for both parties.
• Exempting religious organizations more than they are for other groups protected in the Maine Human Rights Act.

The final vote in the House was 91-58 and in the Senate was 25-10. See pages 13 and 14 for the final roll call votes.

In addition to the vast thank yous to Governor Baldacci for having the courage to stand on principle while being harshly criticized by the Christian Civic League, many legislators are to be commended for their support. At the top of the list are sponsors of the bill, Senator Karl Turner (R-Cumberland) and Rep. Anne Perry (D-Calais). Select members of the Judiciary Committee, whose commitment to ending discrimination evolved to strong leadership within the committee and on floor debates, include Senate Chair Barry Hobbins (D-York), House Chair Deb Pelletier-Simpson (D-Auburn) and Rep. Sean Faircloth (D-Bangor).

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Friends Camp
South China, Maine

Values and ethics are the foundations of our camp community. GLBTQ youth are welcome! Creative activities include drama, ceramics, photography, games, and waterfront. Affordable two-week residential camp sessions for youth ages 7 to 17.

Nat Shed, Director
www.friendscamp.org — director@friendscamp.org
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*Checks/Money Orders may be made payable to the "TG Fund". Credit Cards are accepted. Donations can be made by Mail, Phone, or over the Fund’s Website.
Come Out to Eat for Equality!

Meet up with other EqualityMaine members and help support our work at this season's lineup of delectable dinners. Want to make sure you don't miss a date for dinner? Visit our website at www.equalitymaine.org or call Erica Quin-Easter at (207) 761-3732 to purchase tickets today.

EqualityMaine Night at Pizzeria Uno
Thursday, June 30—lunch, dinner or take-out
South Portland (Maine Mall)
Bangor (Bangor Mall, across from Filene's)

Clip the certificate and bring a crowd to Uno's to start your holiday weekend right. Twenty percent of your meal at either Uno's location will go to benefit EqualityMaine. Spread the word, and feel free to copy the coupon for your friends!

Fabulous Fun on Willard Beach
Hosts: Nancy Field, Gretchen Bates and Janet Paul
Saturday, July 16, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
South Portland, Maine
$35/person, limited to 25 people

This party was such a hit last year that we've brought it back again! Mix and mingle at Nancy's on Willard Beach. Cocktail party, light hors d'oeuvres and beautiful ocean views.

Lobster Bake & Pool Party
Hosts: Maggie Terry and Joanne Mattiace
Saturday, August 6, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
(Rain date: August 13)
Westbrook, Maine
$100/person

Join Joanne Mattiace and Maggie Terry (owner of Free Range Fish & Lobster on Commercial Street in Portland) poolside at their home in Westbrook for one hot fundraising event. The atmosphere is casual, but the food is fabulous. Bring a lawn chair and beverage of your choice, and enjoy the freshest and feistiest lobsters Maine has to offer.

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Fundraiser Date: June 30, 2005

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Please present this certificate at the time of payment to have up to 20% of your check's value, excluding tax and tip, donated to the organization above. Not to be used with other coupons or discounts. Tickets are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of the parking area. Good for lunch, dinner or takeout.

Just hours after Governor Baldacci signed the non-discrimination bill into law, the Christian Civic League held a rally for pastors in the State House to kick off its campaign of a People's Veto. They called themselves the "Coalition for Marriage," but EqualityMaine volunteers were there in silent protest to convey the real content of the bill—no discrimination in jobs or housing.
Legislature Votes to End Discrimination

Continued from page 6

Many thanks to Daryl Fort and Kurt Adams of the Governor's office, whose vision for justice and equality played a major role in passing this historic legislation. Thanks also to the experienced lobbying services of Moose Ridge Associates—Betsy Sweet, Karen Geraghty, John Hennessy, and Kate Simmons.

It would be impossible to thank every volunteer who had a hand in passing the non-discrimination bill, given that we generated over 1,800 contacts with legislators through emails, letters, faxes, phone calls, personal visits, and lobbying at the State House. But some people deserve recognition for the extraordinary efforts they contributed to the process.

Huge thanks once again to Pat Peard, Mary Bonauto, Brenda Buchanan, and Matthew Dubois for their legal and political prowess. Thanks also to Kimm Collins, and to Carisa Cunningham, Rick Dunn, and Alex Wood at Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders.

For their personal testimony at the public hearing, we thank Brad Nadeau, Martin Ripley, George O'Brien, Debbie McBride, Hall Willkie & Thomas Craveiro, Marty Hagglund, Michele Duval, Adam Flanders, Betsy Sweet, and Megan Hannan.

Many volunteers helped us at the State House and in other ways as well. They include: Julie Bedard, Kim Berry, Jim Bishop, Tom Bulger, Amanda Burns, Jenn Curran, Sue Deliberto, Sarah Demarest, Eli Edgecomb, Jane Edwards, Jamie Gibson, Corey Hascall, Laura Harper, Lindsay Harriman, Zach Heiden, Kit Hildebrandt, Denise Harlow, Dee Hutchins, Lauren Jacobs, Ole Jaeger, Marjorie Love, Pam McCann, Gerald Michaud, Donna Minnis, Suzanne Montgomery, Alice Morris, Terry Morrison, Niki Norman, Coleen O'Connell, David O'Heir, Jessye Perkins, Lauralee Raymond, Laura Rendell, Dominique Rizzo, Paula Roberts, Steve Ryan, Eric C. Smith, Nan Stone, and David Wheeda. Our apologies if we made any obvious omissions.

Roll calls votes on pages 10, 11, 13, and 14.
Maine Won't Discriminate Laying Strong Foundation

Maine Won't Discriminate, the campaign to defeat a People's Veto of the non-discrimination bill, is not waiting until June 28 to build an infrastructure or plan a winning strategy. Although the work could be for naught if the Christian Civic League doesn't submit 50,519 valid signatures by June 28, MWD is taking no chances. In fact, the campaign began long before the non-discrimination bill was even signed into law.

MWD is not running a “decline to sign” campaign to prevent the Christian Civic League from collecting signatures. They are instead planning an all-out campaign that ends on election day 2005. If you haven’t seen much of them yet, it’s because a good campaign has a strong foundation, and that’s what they’ve been building for the last several months.

If the Christian Civic League submits their signatures on June 28, expect to soon see Maine Won’t Discriminate on every progressive’s car bumper.

EqualityMaine’s efforts over the past year to identify pro-LGBT voters is melding nicely with MWD’s field plan. Both organizations are committed to building long-term political power so that we can be successful in both legislative and referendum campaigns.

MWD has hired Jesse Connolly as its campaign manager and former Maine Republican Party chair Ted O’Meara as campaign consultant.

Maine Won’t Discrimination’s website is www.mainewontdiscriminate.com. Please sign up and be part of this historic effort to secure non-discrimination protection for LGBT people in Maine.
Cancer Community Center Affirms Safe Space for All Affected by Cancer

The Cancer Community Center’s mission is to maintain a safe and welcoming space for anyone affected by cancer, including gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered members of our community. We are currently assessing whether there is any community interest in having the Center provide a support group program or series of special workshops aimed at addressing issues specific to cancer in the GLBT population. If you have any interest in or ideas concerning this type of programming, or if you would like more information regarding the Cancer Community Center, please contact Jess Colamaria at (207) 774-2200 or stop in for a visit.

Show Your Colors

Advertise in the EqualityMaine newsletter and reach more than 1,400 supporters across the state. Your business matters to our members—support equality and show your commitment to our community!

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- $85 Quarter page (vertical) .......... 3.5"w x 4.75"h
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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@equalitymaine.org.

...Put Your Ad Here!
### Leave a Legacy of Equality

When you make or update your will, consider including EqualityMaine Foundation in your planning. We’ll carry on your commitment to equality for years to come.

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

If you’ve included EqualityMaine Foundation in your will, we’d like to know so we can say thanks.

☐ YES! I have included EqualityMaine in my will.

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Roll Call Votes for LD 1196—Senate

22 Senators Who Supported LD 1196 without a Referendum.

Sen. Philip Bartlett II  D-Cumberland  phil@philbartlett.com
Sen. Michael Brennan  D-Cumberland  mfpbren@aol.com
Sen. Lynn Bromley  D-Cumberland  SenLynn.Bromley@legislature.maine.gov
Sen. Bruce Bryant  D-Oxford  sen.bryant@verizon.net
Sen. Scott Cowger  D-Kennebec  scott@MapleBB.com
Sen. Dennis Damon  D-Hancock  dsdamon@panax.com
Sen. Bill Diamond  D-Cumberland  SenBill.Diamond@legislature.maine.gov
Sen. Dana Dow  R-Lincoln  danadaw@midcoast.com
Sen. Beth Edmonds  D-Cumberland  edmonds@gwi.net
Sen. Barry Hobbins  D-York  bhobbins@hggm.net
Sen. John Martin  D-Aroostook  SenJohn.Martin@legislature.maine.gov
Sen. Arthur Mayo, III  D-Sagadahoc  artmayo@gwi.net
Sen. Elizabeth Mitchell  D-Kennebec  SenLibby.Mitchell@legislature.maine.gov
Sen. Joseph Perry  D-Penobscot  kjjperry@aol.com
Sen. Richard Rosen  R-Hancock  rrosen113@aol.com
Sen. Peggy Rotundo  D-Androscoggin  mrotundo@bates.edu
Sen. Elizabeth Schneider  D-Penobscot  schneiderese@cs.com
Sen. Ethan Strimling  D-Cumberland  strimling@mainesenate.org
Sen. Nancy Sullivan  D-York  npsullivan@gwi.net
Sen. Karl Turner  R-Cumberland  KwTurner@yahoo.com

The final vote of LD 1196 in the Senate was 25-10. In addition to the above 22 senators, the following three senators also voted for the bill.

Sen. David Hastings III  R-Oxford  dhairstings@hastings-law.com
Sen. Peter Mills  R-Somerset  pmills@mainelegal.net
Sen. Kevin Raye  R-Washington  SenatorRaye@downeast.net

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The final vote of LD 1196 in the House was 91-58. The following 15 representatives also voted for the bill.

Rep. George Bishop  R-Boothbay  gbishop@localnet.com
Rep. William Browne  R-Vassalboro  wbrowne@gwi.net
Rep. Darlene Curley  R-Scarborough  djcurley@maine.rr.com
Rep. Robert Daigle  R-Arundel  rdaigle@gwi.net
Rep. Gerald Davis  R-Falmouth  gmdavis@maine.rr.com
Rep. Patrick Flood  R-Winthrop  patricksaflood@adelphia.net
Rep. Stephen Hanley  D-Gardiner  lincoln67@midmaine.com
Rep. Jeff Kaelin  R-Winterport  jhkaelin@adelphia.net
Rep. Earle McCormick  R-West Gardiner  McCormick@powerlink.net
Rep. Gary Moore  R-Standish  garymooreforstandish@adelphia.net
Rep. Christopher Rector  R-Thomaston  cwrector@hotmail.com
Rep. David Richardson  R-Carmel  richardsond@hermon.net
Rep. Joanne Twomey  D-Biddeford  jt@joannetwomey.com

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Q: What's even more fun than canvassing for voters or holding signs at the State House?
A: Hiking and biking with EqualityMaine at Bradbury Mountain!

Join Erica, Darlene and others from EqualityMaine in hitting the road or the trail at MaineShare's annual fundraising Hike & Bike this September.

Bradbury Mountain State Park is located in Pownal, near Freeport and just a few miles off Exit 22 of I-295. For hikers, the park offers several diverse trails with the Bradbury Mountain peak a fine location for viewing hawks, mountains to the west, and water views to the east. For bikers, the day offers three different touring rides of 100K, 50K and 25K as well as the popular trails in the park for mountain biking. The event is family-friendly, with music and great food for all participants.

It's easy to participate:
1. Mark September 18 on your calendar and get out your hiking shoes or your bike.
2. Ask six friends, co-workers or family members to each donate $10 to support you in the Hike & Bike. Your $60 registration fee benefits MaineShare and all its 36 member organizations (including EqualityMaine) working for social justice in Maine.
3. Email Erica Quin-Easter at quineast@equalitymaine.org or call us at (207) 761-3732 to let us know you'll be joining the EqualityMaine team. We'll send you a Hike & Bike registration form, and we'll see you at the mountain!