

# POSITIVE REACTION

JULY 2006

## WE ARE PROUD OF OUR PRESENCE AT PRIDE

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BY: CHARLIE GRINDLE	

Thanks to the efforts of numerous clients, staff, volunteers and supporters, this year was our best Pride ever.

We had four successful days of HIV/STD testing, done in conjunction with Portland Public Health (PPH). We provided free, rapid, oral swap HIV tests to over forty-five people. Our testing staff was able to offer streamlined connection to case management services for those who tested positive, getting newly positive people the support and information they need when they need it most. Meanwhile, PPH provided onsite syphilis testing and cards for free STD screenings.

We had a strong Outreach and

Prevention presence throughout the community and at events during PRIDE week, including the comedy show, the Pier Dance and Sunday Cruise. Our Executive Director, Patti Capouch, spoke at Sunday's Interfaith Ceremony. And then there was the T-shirt making at our Valley Street office. In preparation for the parade, staff, clients and volunteers made almost 40 red ribbon T-shirts—making sure that HIV and HIV related services were visible to anyone on the parade route.

Further ensuring our visibility, our marching contingent included a banner, a convertible, 35 marchers, various pets, an eight person samba band, and

our own majorette—one Mary Martha Gantt. Our walkers handed out festive leis, candy for children and water bottles and backpacks containing safer sex supplies for the adults. It was a great kick off for our Safe Summer Campaign! For our efforts, we received the coveted Ruby Slipper Award for Best Walking unit in the parade from Southern Maine Pride. This award represents the color red in the Pride flag, which stands for life.

A few days of festivities take months of planning. We would like to thank all of you who helped along the way, and hope you are PROUD of your work!

### HIV/AIDS: FACT OR FICTION

- HIV is a gay disease.
- **FICTION:** HIV was first recognized in this country in the gay male population, however worldwide the majority of people living with HIV/AIDS are heterosexual. And the rising number of infections in the heterosexual community in the U.S. continue to dispel the misconception of the "gay disease".

### NEWS TO AMUSE

BY: KLAY BRAUN



"The King of Popcorn TV," Aaron Spelling dies of stroke at 83. Dismissed by critics and adored by TV fans, Spelling earned a second Emmy in 1994 for bringing And the Band Played On to the small screen. Who can help but sing the Love Boat theme or squeal with ankle biter Tattoo on Fantasy Island. "da plane boss, da plane!"

Oh, to have such fond memories of youth. I recall a friend spending the night one summer evening. Plans were to watch the L.B. and F.I. Not unusual for a Saturday sleepover at age 11, but the censorship was unexpected. Some parents believed Aaron Spelling was the devil; with all his 'coochie coochie' coos with Charo and sexy women from Charlie's Angels. In my Portland

neighborhood, The Love Boat just might get cha' pregnant. Please. They didn't mention anything about turning us queer! We wanted more!

Throughout his career, many television programs were produced including Beverly Hills 90210, Charlie's Angels, Hotel Fantasy Island, Love Boat, Dynasty, T.J. Hooker, The MOD Squad, Hart to Hart, Starsky and Hutch, along with The Boy in the Plastic Bubble. Thanks for the memories!

**ADAP to Pay for Maine-care Waiver Premiums**

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) will now pay for your MaineCare Waiver monthly premiums!

Send your bills to:

Gen Meredith – ADAP

11 State House Station

286 Water Street, 9<sup>th</sup>Floor

Augusta, ME 04330

\*Or call your case manager

**MEDICATION CO-PAYMENT REIMBURSEMENT IS CHANGING**

July 1<sup>st</sup>, the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) will begin paying for HIV medication **co-pays**. In order to use this benefit, you must apply to ADAP. Your case manager can assist you. You will receive an ADAP card to present to the pharmacist to pay for the co-payments.

Other medication co-pays will need to be paid at the time of pick up. Reimbursements for these co-pays will need to be sent to Augusta. Other medication co-pays will be reimbursed at 70%.

For example, if your co-pay is \$10.00, you will be reimbursed \$7.00.

If you do not wish to enroll with ADAP, Direct Client Funds (DCAF) through the Peabody Center can be used for reimbursement, however the \$500.00 cap per year remains.

Please contact your case manager if you have any questions.

**NEWS FROM POSITIVE HEALTH CARE**

Staff from Portland Public Health marched in this year's Gay Pride Parade and we were happy to visit with so many folks at this year's festival. The weather was great and everyone seemed to be in good spirits. Among the many activities was testing for HIV and syphilis, a joint effort between Portland Public Health and the Frannie Peabody Center. Unfortunately, there were positive test results for both HIV and Syphilis.

It is noteworthy that there has been a resurgence in Syphilis nationwide. In the US, most new syphilis cases have been seen in populations of MSM (Men who have sex with men), many of whom are HIV positive. Maine has not been spared, and the incidence rates continue to rise. According to Maine CDC, (the folks in Augusta who

track diseases), there were only two cases of syphilis in Maine for 2005. So far this year, we already have nine cases.

Anyone who is sexually active is at risk for Syphilis, but HIV positive folks are especially vulnerable because their immune systems are already compromised. To further complicate matters, co-infection with HIV may actually cause a syphilis test to be negative when it is really positive.

Symptoms of syphilis show up on the skin and include an ulcer or sore, (often but not always on the genitals), and a rash, usually on the chest, palms of the hands and the soles of the feet. The signs can be subtle and can disappear without any treatment within days or weeks, but this does not mean that the

syphilis has gone away. Instead, it just means that the syphilis is dormant in your body. If you don't get treatment, the disease will just stay with you until more serious symptoms, like cardiac and neurological problems, emerge years later. For HIV positive persons, the disease is trickier to diagnose because the rashes that first appear with syphilis may look different than they would on a person who does not have HIV.

You can spread syphilis without having intercourse. In fact, just skin to skin contact, can spread syphilis.

The treatment for syphilis is intramuscular penicillin, as in shots in the rear end. You may need several shots depending on how long you've had the infection.

**Healthy Cooking**

**HERBED ORZO**

(absolutely EASY and delicious!)

2 cups all together fresh chopped herbs (basil, thyme, savoury, chervil, cilantro, parsley, chives, etc.)

1 cup of orzo pasta that you can find in grocery store

2 tablespoons olive oil

salt and pepper to taste

Boil salted water and add orzo. Cook until al dente. In serving dish, mix freshly chopped herbs, olive oil and salt and pepper. When orzo is cooked, drain and add to serving dish. Mix well. Season to taste. Can be served hot or cold.



**STAFF SPOT LIGHT**

**ANNIE MESSINGER, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

Annie began working for FPC in January of 2003, as an administrative assistant. She was quickly promoted to development assistant and has been raising money for the center ever since. Annie says, "My daily tasks are ever-changing, but the most

important role is ensuring that donors are aware of how important their giving is to our mission." When asked Annie said, getting to know the people we serve is the most interesting part of her job. On a more personal note, Annie shared that she

enjoys snowboarding, cooking, documentary films, and the Red Sox. And, she has a twin sister named Cori. We wish to thank Annie for being such a dedicated member of the team and say job well done on the Summer Solstice event.

## INFO BITS

**AID for AIDS:** Did your meds change recently? If so don't throw those old ones away. AID for AIDS is group based out of New York City that takes unused HIV medicines and sends them to the third world. To donate medicines, please mail them to the following address.

AID for AIDS  
Dr. Diana Ramirez  
515 Greenwich St. #506,  
New York, NY 10013  
212/337-8043

Medicines can be already opened but please **do not send expired medication.**

**Possible Gym Membership:** Attention York County clients if you would like your name entered in a drawing for a free three month membership to Saco Sport and Fitness, please contact Mary Martha Gantt at 774-6877 x116. This drawing will take place on July 14 at 3pm. Please submit your name prior to this time if you wish to be put into the drawing.

**Annual Casco Bay Cruise:** This event is a fundraiser to benefit MerryMeeting AIDS Support Services. The cruise will take place on Tuesday, July 4, 2006,

from 7pm to 10:30pm (rain or shine). The cruise will be an enjoyable evening filled with food, music & a lovely viewing of the Portland fireworks, if weather permits. The cruise will be leaving from the Casco Bay Line Terminal on Commercial Street in Portland. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for seniors and people 18 and under. For tickets or more information call 725-4955.

**Testing Events:** For more information on all testing events please call 749-6818.

## From the Development Office

We would like to thank clients, staff, board members, and members of the community for supporting our 2nd annual Summer Solstice event held on Wednesday, June 21st. The evening was a major success for Frannie Peabody Center, and we couldn't have done it without you! A special thanks goes to Tom Antonik, Cynthia Cushing, and Luis Lopez, in addition to our major sponsors: Hannaford Supermarkets, GlaxoSmithKline, Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield, Coffee by Design, and Cross Insurance.

# JULY 2006

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 MerryMeeting Cruise	5 Food pantry	6 Alive at Five Peer Support	7 Weekday Music Series	8
9	10	11	12 Food pantry	13 Alive at Five Peer Support	14 Weekday Music Series	15
16	17 Movies in the Park (begin @dusk)	18	19 Food pantry	20 Alive at Five Peer Support	21 Weekday Music Series	22
23/30	24/31 Movies in the Park	25	26 Food pantry	27 Alive at Five Peer Support	28 Weekday Music Series	29

- Every Wednesday the Food Pantry, located in the bottom of St. Luke's on Park St., is open from 9-1.
- Peer Support Group meets every Thursday evening from 5:30-7:00 at the Frannie Peabody Center, Portland.
- Every Friday from 5-9pm the Portland Museum of Art offers free admission to the public.
- **July 8**– Kick-off to the Alive at Five Concert Series. These concerts are free and take place in Monument Sq., Portland from 5-7:30pm. Featuring: **the subdued**
- **July 7**-Weekday Music Series takes place in Post Office Park (corner of Market and Middle St.) from noon-1pm in Portland. Performance by: **Jason Spooner**
- **July 13**– Free Concert in Monument Sq. from 5-7:30. Featuring: **Enter the Haggis**
- **July 14**– Concert in Post Office Sq. noon-1pm. Performance by: **Moses Atwood**

**\*Schedule of Events is continued on page 4.**



# FRANNIE PEABODY CENTER

comprehensive HIV & AIDS services

Check us out on the web

[www.peabodycenter.org](http://www.peabodycenter.org)

## Frannie Peabody Center

335 Valley Street

Portland, Maine 04102

Phone: 207/774-6877

Fax: 207/879-0761

Email: [info@peabodycenter.org](mailto:info@peabodycenter.org)

### Schedule of Events (cont.)

- **July 17**-Movies in the Park are shown in Congress Sq. (corner of Congress and High St.) Portland. **Movie: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971)**
- **July 20**-Free Concert in Monument Sq. from 5-7:30. Featuring: **Strangefolk**
- **July 21**-Concert in Post Office Sq. noon-1pm. Performance by: **Doug Kolmar**
- **July 24**-Movies in the Park-Congress Sq. **Movie: Escape from Alcatraz (1979)**
- **July 27**- Free Concert in Monument Sq. from 5-7:30. Featuring: **KD3: Karl Denson Trio**
- **July 28**-Concert in Post Office Sq. noon-1pm. Performance by: **Dan Gonzalez**
- **July 31**- Movies in the Park-Congress Sq. **Movie: Who Framed Roger Rabbit (1988)**

The Frannie Peabody Center is committed to compassionate care for the community infected with and affected by HIV and AIDS in Maine. The Peabody Center helps the community face and fight the realities of the disease by providing prevention education and direct services, including housing, information, education, advocacy, and counseling services. The Peabody Center treats the whole person with dignity, care and compassion.

## POSITIVE THOUGHTS

BY: CHARLIE GRINDLE

Greetings! I hope everyone had a chance to get out and enjoy the sunshine. It's hard to believe that solstice is passed. We hardly had enough sunny days leading up to it to notice that it was the longest day of the year. And now we're losing a bit of precious sunshine every day. But, cheer up! I predict a long, gradual fall and a very late beginning of that next season. It seems that in Maine, we always need to be thinking about, and preparing for, the next season, and we can sometimes forget to enjoy the lovely time we're in. In California, I found it easy to procrastinate because it was always a sunny day. I enjoy the

changes of weather and season, and try to find something wonderful about where I am in life and the world every day.

Did all of you get to some of the Pride festivities? Great weather, and everyone worked hard to make it a successful week. If you were at the Pier Dance or on the Sunday cruise, I was the one in wings. I must admit, I'm having wing-withdrawal, and may have to take them out of the closet and wear them while I vacuum. Isn't that a vision?

In my 'coming out' as a positive person, I find I've developed a 'positive' chip

on my shoulder. In my internet communications, in speaking with folks about volunteering, I'm noticing a big "I'm a poz. Wanna make something of it?" creeping into my attitude. Although I'm not a real 'out there' activist, in my quiet way I think I'm making a statement. The drag queens pushed forward the social changes we needed at the time in a big 'in your face' way. Our times call for the same kind of change; perhaps we need to start our own 'velvet revolution' for positiveness.

Blessed be, Charlie

### SUMMER TV PREVIEW

MTV's Gay/Lesbian Network, **Logo**, turned 1 on June 30<sup>th</sup>! Past **Q** employees sent resumes in lieu of cards.

**Star Jones Reynolds**, of the **View**, "YOU'RE FIRED"! Perhaps your husband may be interested in appearing on **Noah's Arc**.

**Bravo**: Join Kathy Griffin and her gays on **Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List**. (Tuesdays)

**Here**: **An Evening with Paul Lynde**. (August) We've missed you on Hollywood Squares Uncle Arthur! **Lifetime**: **Lovespring International** - An improv comedy series, guest starring Sean Hayes as a man who ate his wife after their plan crashed; tasty! (Tuesdays)

**Logo**: **Can't Get a Date**- Where 'date-challenged persons' are pitied on camera vs. in yahoo chat. (Tuesdays) **Noah's Arc**- new season with Noah and the boys. Maybe they'll run into Lilith on a raft. (Begins August 9th)