

# community



# compass



## Mountain Pride Media

Mountain Pride Media would like to extend our gratitude to the Board of Directors and staff of Samara Foundation of Vermont for awarding us a grant of \$4,000 for 2001. Samara's continued support of our mission to develop and strengthen the community of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (GLBTQ) Vermonters, through the development and maintenance of communication vehicles has been key to our continued growth as an organization.

Mountain Pride Media continued to celebrate *Out In The Mountains* 15th anniversary in June. We would like to thank everyone who joined us for our 3rd Annual Founder's Celebration with a very special thank you to Bennett Law for hosting the event at his home in Bethel, VT. Thanks also to everyone who stopped by to see us at Pride 2001 in Burlington. Congratulations to our three "Outfit" Pride 2001 raffle winners. The winners will be "styling" in their MPM baseball hat, rainbow rings pin, and 15th anniversary OITM tee shirt while reading their one-year subscription to *Out In The Mountains*.

If you would like to subscribe to *Out In The Mountains* or purchase any of our Mountain Pride Media apparel, you can do so online by visiting our web site - [www.mountainpridemediacorp.org](http://www.mountainpridemediacorp.org)

As part of 30 Days Of Pride, Mountain Pride Media hosted an open house on June 19th. We would like to thank The Daily Bread Bakery and Jeff Walt for doing a poetry reading in conjunction with our open house. Special thanks to Justin Barton-Caplin who organized the poetry reading and open house. We would also like to thank Alan, Denny, Euan, Roland, Dan, Stephen, Elizabeth, Stina, Mack, Jim, James, Michael, and Bennett for stopping in to help with the June *Out In The Mountains* "stuffing". Our August issue "Stuffing" Night is scheduled for Thursday, July 26th from 5:30 to 9:30

p.m. at our offices in Richmond, Vermont (above The Daily Bread). Please join us if you can and help get *Out In The Mountains* out into the community.

Mountain Pride Media would like to applaud Bennett Law (president) and Kevin McAteer (Fundraising Chair) for their amazing dedication and work over the past 3 years. Both Bennett and Kevin retired from the Board of Directors in June. We would also like you to join us in welcoming two new Board Members: Tom Anoe of Rutland and Esther Rothblum of South Burlington. We are also pleased to welcome Mack Roark as the new Art Director of *Out In The Mountains*. Finally, congratulations to Mountain Pride Media's new officers: Carrie Rapp (President), Roland Palmer (Vice President), Jim Petrie (Treasurer), and Dan Brink (Secretary).

## NLGJA Vermont

The Vermont Chapter of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association made its public debut at the Pride festivities in Burlington on June 16, two days after receiving a \$500 grant from the Samara Foundation of Vermont for start-up costs.

Barbara Dozetos is interim president of the chapter pending full elections in the fall. In the meantime, the group is planning its web site, which will be a resource for local journalists, as well as a means of disseminating information about the chapter and its activities.

The chapter is planning a panel discussion exploring the coverage of minorities in Vermont in conjunction with the journalism department of St. Michaels College in Colchester.

The group will meet for brunch on Sunday, July 8. See the calendar for details.

The NLGJA works within the news industry to foster fair

and accurate coverage of lesbian and gay issues and opposes newsroom bias toward gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people and all other minorities. The national organization's web site is [www.nlgja.org](http://www.nlgja.org). Anyone who supports the mission of NLGJA is invited to attend events or join the organization. Look for the NLGJA listing in the Source under Professional.

## Pride VT

Many big thanks to everyone who attended and organized June's Pride festivities and variety of events. The support and coming together of our community was truly a sight of beauty and inspiration. Thank you.

The Pride VT Committee will be meeting Tuesday, July 10 and invites any and all folks to attend and evaluate this year's festival and schedule of events. Refreshments will be on hand. This will be a great way to get involved early and provide feedback. For information on the location and time of the meeting, please call Brian at 802-373-2237 or check the website at [www.pridevermont.org](http://www.pridevermont.org)

## R.U.1.2? Community Center

Last December R.U.1.2? responded to a great need in our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning community of Vermont by starting a "Coming Out" support group for adults. The group meets the second and fourth Thursdays of every month at the Peace and Justice Center (21 Church St.) in Burlington from 6:30 - 8 pm. The group is free, confidential, open, and ongoing. Among other things, it is a place where people can feel comfortable to question their sexual identity, access resources, build friendships, and find support while they are coming out to long-time friends, family, and co-workers.

If it were not for Nancy Ellen Brownsword M.A.C.P. and Sean May M.S.W. there would not be a support group to speak of. These two committed R.U.1.2? volunteers have worked tirelessly in the creation and implementation of this much needed program. Nancy Ellen is very excited by the support group's success. "Sean and I leave every group feeling elated. The group provides a welcoming and supportive environment for peo-

ple who may not be sure where they fit. That can be a very scary place. I see the group as a gateway for people to start to work through issues of coming out and get connected to the LGBTQ community." The group is not only serving Chittenden County, but many support group attendees are traveling more than an hour from Washington, Franklin, and Addison Counties as well as the Northeast Kingdom.

Although things are going very well, R.U.1.2? plans to put a lot of energy into this program in the coming months. There are a variety of ways that members of the community can get involved in the coming months. We are looking for group facilitators who would like to take on the role of leading support group from time to time. Please contact us for an application. One of the challenges of running a support group is getting the word out to the right people! R.U.1.2? is looking for people to help with the promotion of this valuable program. We are looking for several people to develop mailing lists, press releases, and put up posters in locations around Vermont.

Beginning August 9, the support group will be moving to R.U.1.2? Headquarters on the Burlington Waterfront. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to call 802-860-RU12 or email [thecenter@ru12.org](mailto:thecenter@ru12.org). For directions to HQ, a listing of volunteer opportunities, and information on becoming a donor check out our web site at [www.ru12.org](http://www.ru12.org).

## Samara Foundation

Samara Foundation announced that four Vermont high school seniors will be receiving \$1,000 scholarships for 2001. The Samara Scholarship was established in 2000 as an investment in the future of Vermont students who oppose discrimination and prejudice and who stand for the elimination of homophobia in our society.

Samara Foundation would like to thank the members of the Samara Scholarship Advisory Committee for all their hard work and dedication: Natalie Brennan, Dummerston; Chris Chambers, Lebanon, NH; John Crane, White River Junction; Pam Macy, Lyndonville; Roland Palmer, Hinesburg; Tom Robinson, Colchester; B.J. Rogers, Shelburne; Susan

Sussman (Chair), Middlesex and; David Wales, Winooski.

In addition to the four scholarships, Samara also awarded grants totaling \$30,000 to fifteen Vermont organizations serving the GLBT community (please see accompanying article and our ad in this issue for grant specifics). Samara would like to thank the Grants Advisory Committee for the time and effort put into reviewing and evaluating the grant proposals: Maggie Hooker, Montpelier; Howard Russell (Chair), Hinesburg; Mary Alice Schatzle, Starksboro and; Richard Wizansky, Guilford.

Samara Foundation is committed to diverse community involvement in our grant making process. Community members interested in participating in year 2002 Grants Advisory Committee should call the Samara Foundation office at 802-860-6236.

## Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force

July 11 marks the one-year anniversary of Vermont's civil union law going into effect. This month alone, 117 Vermont couples - from 71 towns and all 14 counties - will celebrate their first anniversary of being joined in civil union. Their love and commitment have enriched our society. The sky has not fallen. For many, the sun is shining brighter than ever.

Nonetheless, the civil union law was under assault in our legislature January through May. Words such as the following were spoken on the floor of our Vermont House again this year: "Homosexual acts compromise health and well-being through interaction of uncomplimentary and dissimilar organs constituting behavior that is both disordered and unnatural" (May 23, 2001, Rep. Carl Haas, Rutland). H.502, a civil union repeal bill, (narrowly) passed the Vermont House.

The backlash is far from over. We MUST continue to increase public understanding, which in turn reduces fear, which will pull the rug out from under the backlash. Everyone can play a part: the magic is LOTS of one-on-one conversations. With the generous help of the Samara Foundation, we'll be at the fairs all over Vermont again this summer, with a new look - hope to see you there!

Organizations from around the state are encouraged to provide descriptions of recent or upcoming activities and events. E-mail your submission to [editor@mountainpridemediacorp.org](mailto:editor@mountainpridemediacorp.org)