

calendar: december 2004

To announce an event in our monthly calendar, e-mail it to calendar@mountainpridemedia.org, or write us at: POB 1078, Richmond, VT 05477.

For more detailed, up-to-the-minute listings, check out our web calendar at : www.mountainpridemedia.org/calendar_index.htm

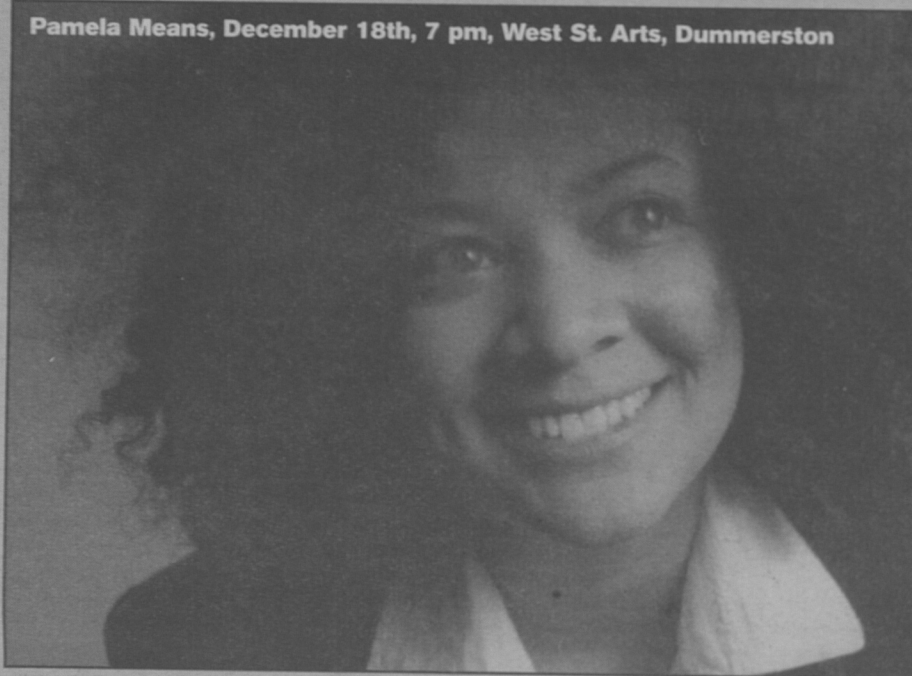
Wednesday 1

BURLINGTON - Vermont CARES - World AIDS Day. 2nd floor of the Firehouse Center for the Visual Arts between 5 and 7pm. Come and meet with others who've experienced life and loss during the AIDS epidemic. There will be live music, a presentation of newly created quilt panels honoring those who have died and time to reflect on the meaning of HIV/AIDS in our lives. Hors d'oeuvres, beverages and wine will be served.

PITTSFIELD, MA - BSCC - Potluck Dinner - 7:00 PM. Unitarian-Universalist Church, 175 Wendell Ave., Pittsfield, MA. Bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share. Open to the GLBTQ community and friends. FMI 413-243-8484.

RUTLAND - Intro to Adoption Course - How to Adopt and the resources available in Vermont is the subject of a free six-week course to be held December 1-January 12 in Rutland, Vermont. Sponsored by The University of Vermont/Vermont Department for Children and Families Child Welfare Training Partnership and The Vermont Adoption Consortium, the six-week course is designed to explain adoption to those contemplating adding to or building their families by adoption. The sessions are scheduled Wednesday evenings between 6 pm and 9 pm. At any given time there are 100 Vermont children who are available for adoption with no identified families. Consequently, the need for both adoptive and foster families is very high. The sessions will be lead by Ray Beaver, a social worker with 20 years experience in working with children in care, who has been an adoption and foster parent trainer for four years. For more information: 802-877-2441 or e-mail Raymond.Beaver@uvm.edu.

Pamela Means, December 18th, 7 pm, West St. Arts, Dummerston



ST JOHNSBURY - Vermont CARES - Needle Exchange - walk in hours every Wednesday 3-6pm at Vermont CARES 1235 Hospital Drive Suite two. For more info call Penni at 802-748-9061.

ST JOHNSBURY - Vermont CARES - Oral HIV Testing - Free Walk in testing available every Wednesday 3-6pm. at Vermont CARES 1235 Hospital Drive Suite two. Other times available by appointment. FMI: call Penni at 802-748-9061.

Thursday 2

GT. BARRINGTON, MA - BSCC - Out and About - 8:00 PM. At Due, Railroad St., Gt. Barrington. A monthly athering in South County for the young and young at heart. All are welcome.

RUTLAND - VTCARES - Oral HIV Testing - FREE & ANONYMOUS. First Thursday of Every Month (Next one is November 4) from 12 noon to 4pm At Asa Bloomer State Office Building (On Merchants

Row, Rutland) 1st Floor Clinic provided by VTCARES. Be Safe. Be Smart. Get Tested. Knowledge is Power. No needles! Walk-in testing hours at VTCARES every Wednesday 10am-1pm 27 South Main Street 775-5884.

WEST LEBANON, NH - GLBT Indoor Soccer - Every Thursday from 8-10pm. (not Dec. 23rd) FMI: contact Jim, e-mail - jcmcc@valley.net.

Friday 3

BRATTLEBORO - T.H.E. Men's Program - Community Building Program Presents "Men @ Art", a Display of Art by Local Gay and Bisexual Men. T.H.E. Men's Program (Total HIV Education), a Brattleboro-based community-building program for gay and bisexual men will display art in various media by local gay and bisexual men. This event will be part of Gallery Walk Night, December 3, 2004 from 5:30-8:30 PM (one night only) at 67 Main St., 4th Floor in Brattleboro, VT. Come on up, enjoy the show, and learn more about the gay and bisexual men's community through art and conversation. Refreshments will be served. Most art will be available for sale. Some proceeds from the event will be donated by artists to the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont. For more information, call Glenn Johnson, program coordinator at 802.254.8263 extension 107, or email men@sover.net.

BURLINGTON - Firehouse Gallery - Opening Reception - 5 - 7 PM - Roundabout: Print Project Six. Exhibition December 3-23, 2004 - Open discussion w/ the artists Saturday, December 4, 2:00-4:00pm - Printmaking is widely considered a collaborative process since more than one individual is typically involved in the creation of a print.

community compass

PWA Coalition World AIDS Day

Hop to it if you want to be at the benefit concert on World AIDS Day - Wednesday, Dec. 1. It's an omnibus gala, featuring well known Vermont musicians and poets and even a play: Jon Gailmor, Coco Kallis, Paul Miller, Michael Arnowitz, Nadell Fishman, and Terrance McNally's one-act play *Andre's Mother*. It's all happening at Montpelier's City Hall Auditorium - thanks to Lost Nation Theatre. The concert begins at 7 pm, and admission is by donation at the door. All proceeds benefit the Vermont People with AIDS Coalition, a nonprofit consumer advocacy group whose mission is to improve the quality of life for

those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. For more information, call the PWA Coalition office at 800-698-8792 or 802-229-5754, or contact Herb Proper at socitele@sover.net. Go, have fun, it's a good cause, and you know that the future of funding for AIDS-related work isn't looking real cheery.

Freedom to Marry: Good News / Bad News

Now that the elections have past, we are faced with both good and bad news. It is time to look back and move forward. Vermont is still one of the states the rest of the country looks toward for leadership on the marriage front. We took the first step.

We were the first state to

truly, legally recognize our families and have the full discussion neighbor to neighbor about why this is an important issue for everyone. Through that discussion Vermonters came to understand this legal recognition strengthens the community as a whole. Exit polls show that more than 75 percent of Vermonters feel that our families deserve that protection and legal recognition. Forty percent choose marriage as the better option over civil unions. The polls also show that a diminishing minority wants our families to have nothing. The ongoing discussion is working!

So what is next? Our goal at the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force is to continue to

build a favorable majority in Vermont. We want a grassroots majority to demand the option of marriage be offered to all families. Full equality is the only true and fair way to treat each other.

How can you help? If you are interested in getting involved, in making history, please contact the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force through our website at www.vtfreetomarry.org or call (802) 388-2633 and leave a message. We are at a critical moment in our history and the time is now to act. We need all the help we can get. Currently we are in need of board members, regional coordinators and general volunteers.

Thanks to all of you who have done so much. Let's take the

next step now.

Consumer Help for PWAs

The Vermont People with AIDS Coalition is very pleased to announce that we have hired a part-time Consumer Advocate, Trampas Graham, in the Burlington area. He is available to help anyone who is having difficulties with HIV services, or to answer questions about HIV/AIDS or available services. Call him at 802-324-1507.

Volunteers Extraordinaire

Without the help of volunteers, Mountain Pride Media would be unable to publish both *Out in the Mountains* and its parallel website, www.mountain-

