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# Out in the mountains

VERMONT'S VOICE FOR THE LESBIAN, GAY,  
BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY SINCE 1985

## 20 years (and we're still queer!)



### OITM looks back at two decades of community- building in Vermont



OITM has meant so much to me. During my years of coming out. It made me know that I was part of something great. I felt so alone then. No one understood me. Family members, friends and many others. I was so proud to deliver these papers. Feeling that maybe I was helping someone else who felt lonely. I hope OITM continues for many years.

It has made me realize that there is a community out there for me. I just wanted to say thank you for such a fantastic paper. It is a paper that I am proud of. Keep up the great work.

**TIMOTHY PYER,  
THE UPPER VALLEY**



My name is Marsha Bancroft, I am 68 years old and finally living in Vermont, very much out of a very deep, dark closet. My family and I have skied at Mad River Glen for 45 years, driving up from New Jersey as many as 12 weekends every winter. I also spent at least a week in Vermont every summer for as many years. I discovered *Out In The Mountains* at a bookstore one day early in its publica-

tion history. I couldn't believe my luck to find such a wonderful resource, which I hid in my suitcase and read in privacy at home in New Jersey. After that I looked for the newspaper when-

ever I was here and hid it away like forbidden chocolate!

During the 18 months before we moved to Vermont I found myself in therapy for the first time in my life. Through that experience I finally gave myself "permission" to consider coming out as a lesbian and finding a life true to my real self. However

actually facing my husband of 40 years and our three adult children with this information was terrifying. I became a faithful reader of OITM as soon as we moved. At that time Chris Leslie was writing the spiritual column. At the end of her column, included with her contact info, was the statement that she was counseling individuals and couples with spiritual and gender issues. I called, made an appointment, and the rest is history. OITM also introduced me to Christ Church Presbyterian. With Chris's encouragement, I began to attend services and met the most supportive and loving group of people I have ever encountered. Because I had such positive counsel and such warm, understanding acceptance from my church, I found the strength to come out and have never regretted the decision. Now my partner and I are subscribers of OITM and still find each issue a fresh source of support, information and community. Happy Birthday, OITM, I am grateful!

**MARSHA BANCROFT  
WORCESTER**

Curt and I found *Out in the Mountains* on our first visit to Vermont, which was to have our civil union. During that visit we spent four days, touring much of the state. Vermont is a tremendous place. We continued to return to Vermont during each of our vacations and kept in touch with what was going on in the community, between visits, by hitting the OITM web site. We found our dream home in South Burlington and, sooner than we had planned to buy a house in Vermont, bought it. Slowly but surely we are moving the geographic center of our lives to Vermont.

Now, as subscribers to OITM, we keep up-to-date with the news in the community. The thing we like most about OITM is that it actually contains news about Vermont. The GLBT paper we have access to in Dallas has a much larger circulation but contains much less actual news. We enjoy reading the editorial comments as well as the views expressed in the letters to the editor. When we are

at our house in South Burlington we make it a point to patronize advertisers in OITM. We believe strongly in the mission of Mountain Pride Media and are delighted to be able to help with making a donation to MPM's further success. We appreciate MPM.

**MARK S. WESTERGARD &  
CURT R. MOODY  
DALLAS, TX & SOUTH  
BURLINGTON, VT**

Every time I read *Out in the Mountains*, I feel like I'm holding the precious glue that holds our diverse community together. Many thanks to all who have made it happen over the past 20 years, issue by issue!

**JOHN CRANE  
NORWICH, VT**

When I first came to Vermont 13 years ago, OITM was a great roadmap to the GLBT community around the state. In the years since, it has become much more than that. It has become a character as alive and as important to me as any friend I know. I look forward each month to "my" OITM to keep up on events that affect my life and the lives of my friends, I inevitably learn something from the dialogue I find in the letters to the editor, and I have cherished the thoughtful reflection put into the editorials of Euan Bear and her predecessors along the way.

OITM helps to shape my political decisions and it sometimes leaves me aghast when I read how even today we continue to fight amongst ourselves as much as we fight against those who oppress us, but it would not be honest of OITM to ignore our inner community struggles and it says a great deal about the integrity of the paper that it remains willing to look at all sides and not just the most advantageous side of an argument within our culture to present to the world.

OITM is about diversity, and it truly offers a forum for any number of voices and opinions within the many layers of the soufflé that represent the larger GLBT community. Whether part of the youth, elder, men, womyn, transgendered, leather, drag, faerie, HIV, or whatever else

"community" or any combination of the above, we have all been embraced and made stronger because of the hard work of the people who have been determined enough to keep putting this paper out every month for the past twenty years. "Thank you" hardly seems an adequate response, but I offer it to all of you at OITM present and past.

**GRACE NOBLE  
COLCHESTER**

I live in Westminster, Vermont and believe it or not, it was what OITM didn't have that inspired me to get more involved in our community. The Calendar section of OITM never has any events listed for Southern Vermont other than the Brattleboro AIDS project needle exchange on Tuesday nights. Ugh! How pathetic! Now that the only Gay bar in our county is closed I can't stand by and watch any longer. I am now directly involved in helping get a Windham County LGBTQ center started in Brattleboro (More news to come on that). So thanks for that unintentional inspiration.

**ADRIENNE DEGUEVARA  
WESTMINSTER**

Here's why OITM means so much to me:

When I first moved to Vermont, *Out in the Mountains* was a beacon, a guide, a buoy, a safety net. I was really impressed that such a small state would have a whole newspaper dedicated to a community I cared so much about, and I used it to access queer events, meet new friends, and get my first real job in the community. The breadth and depth of topics was impressive, and it was nice to have a link to national and international causes right in my backyard. For someone just getting on his feet, such a resource was crucial. *Out in the Mountains* retains a tenor and mood that I respect, and compared to other queer papers around the nation, it proves itself a great balance of intellect, humor, and integrity. Congratulations to OITM and Mountain Pride Media for what they've accom-

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Top to bottom: the crew from SafeSpace; Howard Dean, Jason Lorber & Bill Lippert, June 2004; Peggy Luhrs; Nicki & Marina of The Barony, 2003; Orb Weaver Farm cheesemakers; Dan Berns & Jay Schuster; Deb Lashman.