

NEWS / COMMUNITY

Samara Dinner Celebrates Scholarships, Grant Recipients

Andrea Van Liew

MONTPELIER - Samara Foundation benefactors, board members, and volunteers mingled at the foundation's Annual Thank You! Celebration at the Statehouse on September 15.

Among those, of course, were representatives of *Out in the Mountains/Mountain Pride Media*, but there were also some new faces in the crowd.

Andrea Van Liew, who started exploring the possibilities of foster care with her partner 10 years ago, spoke about the Gay and Lesbian Adoptive and Foster Families group (referred to as "Laff," because "you gotta laugh," Andrea quipped) that has been meeting for about a year now, supported by Samara.

Andrea and her partner now have two daughters they met through foster care, and together with 30 to 35 other families, meet regularly to talk about parenthood issues and to support each other.

Merry Gangemi also spoke about the radio show she started

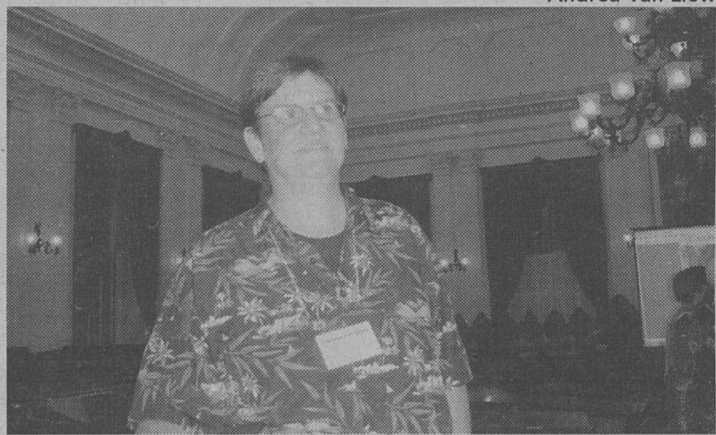


PHOTO: LYNN MCNICOL

in January of this year with help from Samara. "Woman-Stirred Radio," the "Premier GLBTQ Radio Show," airs from 4 to 6 pm Thursdays from WGDR 91.1 FM at Goddard College.

Merry spoke briefly about the beginnings of the show that has been a success from the start. "I'm amazed at how everything fell together," she said.

Bill Lippert, past president of Samara, talked about the foundation's beginnings in 1992 in the middle of the AIDS epidemic when he lost some of his dearest friends.

"I think it's incredibly impor-

tant to honor where our roots lie," he said, referring to a friend who, close to dying, continued to urge Bill to make sure the Samara Foundation became reality.

Samara Foundation President Suzanne Stofflet attended the dinner, as did her partner Mimi Emerson ("First Lady," her name tag read). Stofflet talked about being the "new kid on the block," as someone new to the local community taking over Bill's job. She emphasized the importance of looking not at places we don't want to go, but always keeping focused on our goals. ▼ — Ed.

Michelle Barber is MPM's Newest Board Member

Michelle Barber is Mountain Pride Media's newest board member.

Michelle, who is 25, moved to Vermont three years ago from Kentucky, where she was involved the gay community on campus. She had been reading *OITM* for some time, and when she read that we were looking for new board members, she decided to check it out. Elected in late August, Michelle has joined the fundraising and strategic planning committees, and chairs the outreach committee.

Michelle is Service-Learning Coordinator for Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont. In that role, she works to connect faculty with nonprofits such as the Northfield Boys and Girls Club and the Central Vermont Council on Aging.

Michelle can add one more nonprofit to those she works with, now that she is also serving on the MPM board.

"For me, it helps plug me into the larger community," she said. Welcome, Michelle! ▼ — Ed.



PHOTO: NIKKI DALTON

NEWS FLASH!

off our backs Wins the Michigan Media Award for Excellence in the Coverage of Women and Gender

WASHINGTON, DC - Washington-based feminist newsjournal *off our backs* is the 2006 recipient of the Michigan Media Award for Excellence in the Coverage of Women and Gender, from the University of Michigan Institute for Research on Women and Gender.

Established by the Institute for Research on Women and Gender in 1999, the Michigan Media Awards recognize outstanding examples of media coverage of neglected, underrepresented issues of concern to women; that appreciate and emphasize the gender aspects of a particular issue or event; that challenge gender-based stereotypes, including stereotypes about feminism and feminist politics; that bring a fresh, feminist perspective to familiar stories; or that offer excellent coverage of academic research on gender.

Started in 1970, *off our backs* has been publishing insightful and provocative feminist journalism for the past 36 years, making it the oldest feminist publication in the country. With subscribers across the nation and around the globe, the longevity of *off our backs* is a testament to the power and necessity of feminist media. Since its inception, *off our backs*, also known as *oob*, has been run by a collective of diverse women who use group consensus to conduct operations and make editorial decisions. ▼



Press release from *off our backs*.

Flynn Center 06-07

FlynnSpace



Uproarious Premiere!

"This play explores marginalized spaces that I've always been drawn to, or by default, placed into."
(Thomas DeFrantz)

Slippage Ensemble in

"Queer Theory"

A Musical Travesty

Friday-Saturday, November 3-4 at 8 pm

Sponsored by **PHYSICIAN'S COMPUTER COMPANY** Media Support from **SEVEN DAYS**

FLYNNCENTER

153 Main St., Burlington, VT
802.863.5966 v/relay

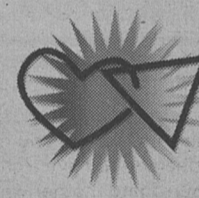
tickets, information, and related FlynnArts activities:
www.flynncenter.org or call 86-flynn today!

Support the advertisers who support US!

Say you saw their ad in:



Transcending Boundaries and PFLAG's



Northeast Regional GLBTIQ Conference

Celebrating the spectrum of Sexuality, Gender & Sex

October 27-29, 2006

Schedule of events:

Friday night receptions at Hilton Garden
Saturday & Sunday workshops at DCU
Saturday night **Halloween party** at DCU

Keynote speakers:

Sam Thoron, Lani Ka'ahumanu,
Jennifer Finney Boylan and Matt Kailey

For more information or to register:



www.transcendingboundaries.org
transcendingboundaries@gmail.com
Bobbi 603-352-6854