

## Vermont News

### Garfin Named Executive Director of VT AIDS Council

Erica Garfin has been named Executive Director of the Vermont AIDS Council. The Council, recently incorporated as a private non-profit organization, is based in Montpelier.

Garfin was employed for five years as Director of the Information and Referral Program at the Vermont Center for Independent Living. She holds an undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Master's degree in Health Advocacy from Sarah Lawrence College. Garfin, who lives in Montpelier, is on the board of the Health Policy Council and is Vice-President of the Vermont Consumer's Campaign for Health.

The Vermont AIDS Council is a state-wide coalition of the eight AIDS service organizations in Vermont. Members include: the AIDS Community Action Project (St. Johnsbury), the AIDS Community Resource Network (Upper Valley area), the Bennington Area AIDS Project, the Brattleboro AIDS Project, the Franklin/Grand Isle AIDS Task Force, HEAL Vermont (Montpelier), the Northeast Kingdom AIDS Coalition, and Vermont C.A.R.E.S. (Chittenden County area).

The Vermont AIDS Council provides a forum for collaboration among the member organizations and serves as an umbrella for those organizations by providing a network of information and resources. Among the priorities of the Vermont AIDS Council is the development of a state plan to ensure delivery of the best education, information, and services to the people of Vermont who are affected by HIV disease.

With the exception of a small grant from the state's Independence Fund for case management services, Vermont remains one of the five states in the country that allocates none of its revenues for AIDS education or direct care.

### UFMCC Update

Northern Lights Metropolitan Community Church of Vermont and New Hampshire now has a home at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Montpelier. Northern Lights meets each Sunday at 4:00 p.m.

For the last Sunday of July, Reverend Phillip Ray Birchard, a UFMCC elder who was a pastor in New York City, St. Louis, Minneapolis, and Honolulu and now based in San Francisco, will be a guest preacher.

During Labor Day weekend, Reverend Joe Fischer, former pastor of Ray of

Hope MCC in Syracuse NY, will preach.

The UFMCC Northern District fall conference will be held on September 28-30 in Buffalo NY. The theme for the conference is "Celebrating and Strengthening our Relationships."

For more information about Northern Lights MCC and the upcoming events, call 888-2011.

### Vermont Gay Social Alternatives

This past February, a new social group was formed to meet the needs of gay and lesbian people looking for an alternative to the bar scene as a means of meeting people. Vermont Gay Social Alternatives (VGSA) has so far nearly one hundred and forty members, twenty of whom are women. Members come from all over Vermont as well as New Hampshire and New York.

Past events have included a catered lunch in April, a "Beach Day" at Burlington's North Beach, and a lawn party during Gay Pride Day. Each event has attracted approximately twenty to fifty people.

VGSA is planning another "Beach Day" on July 22 at Lake Dunmore. There

are also plans to do events jointly with Social Alternatives for Men (SAM). The events are for the most part non-alcoholic, so that all ages can attend.

Membership dues are six dollars per year to cover the costs of monthly mailings. For more information about VGSA and its upcoming events, write to VGSA, PO Box 277, Winooski VT 05454-0277 or call 893-6935.

### Fly By Night Players to Present "Bent"

The Fly By Night Players, a local ad hoc theater troupe, is planning to produce "Bent" by Martin Sherman this fall in Burlington.

"Bent" is a play about the persecution of homosexuals during the Holocaust. Its powerful message is intended to educate the community about gay consciousness.

The Players are looking for community members interested in being involved with the production. Anyone who has experience in theatrical productions or is interested in volunteering to make this happen, please contact the group at 860-1477.

## OITM T-Shirts!

Be the first on your block to sport this stunning fashion statement in purple and white! These are the SAME *Out in the Mountains* T-shirts featured in the unannounced Wet T-Shirt Contest in the Montpelier Pride Parade! The front features our masthead (with just the words "Out in the Mountains") and "A Vermont Area Resource" is printed on the back along with a silhouette of the state. Order yours today and tell the world that you too are OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS!

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