

# Community News

## Goslant to Receive Community Service Recognition Award

by Larry Wolf

Vermont Governor Richard Snelling will honor Keith Goslant on June 6 with a Community Service Recognition Award. Keith is one of nine Vermonters who will be receiving awards. Eight other awards will be given to organizations. He is in good company – this year's recipients include the president of Make a Wish Foundation, the Good Samaritan House for Battered Women and Children, and the St. Johnsbury Trucking Company for its contributions to the Vermont Food Bank.

The Governor's Commission on Volunteers, itself a volunteer organization, was created by Madeline Kunin in December 1989. The Commission received a great many nominations for its annual awards and developed a ranking scheme to evalu-

ate the nominees. Their criteria included the need for the service, the effectiveness in achieving the stated goals, the innovativeness of the work, and its encouragement of the use of volunteers.

While Keith feels honored by the award, he is quick to point out that many others have also contributed a great deal of time and effort and that there is still much work to be done. "I may have been out there on the forefront," he says, "but I never had the feeling that I was out there alone."

Keith has been an early and effective advocate for AIDS services and has provided educational lectures to organizations ranging from the Vermont Police Academy to high schools to Rotary Clubs. He was one of the founders of Vermont CARES, the first AIDS service organization in the state.

In 1988, Keith was instrumental in the passage of the state's HIV anti-discrimination bill. His message is a consistent one: we must confront the ignorance and fear of AIDS with information and compassion. For individuals to be responsible for their actions, they must have the best available information in order to make informed decisions.

In her letter of nomination, Deborah Kutzko, AIDS Program Manager for the Vermont Department of Health, states: "He has the unique ability to work with people of varying backgrounds and opinions toward a common goal. He has helped form AIDS service organizations in other areas of the state...works closely with hospice organizations in the preparation of their volunteers. Keith is a strong advocate for people infected with the virus that causes AIDS. He appears tireless in his ability to respond quickly when needed by either a client or by other volunteers or organizations."

Commission member Holly Wilson spoke to *OITM* about Keith's work: "I'm really pleased for Keith to get this award. He's done a significant amount of work in this area. Let's face it, working with AIDS and gay issues has not always been popular. It's not accepted like the PTA. Keith was right out there on the forefront. It's not an easy field to work in. It's very emotional. You see your friends die."

"Keith has been and continues to be a tremendous help to me, and to the AIDS service organizations that comprise the Vermont AIDS Council," states its Executive Director, Erica Garfin. She continues, "He's a bottomless pit of information, he's a great sounding board, and he's a remarkable advocate for people affected by HIV."

Lauren Corbett, Executive Director of Vermont CARES, sums it up: "Not only has Keith served people living with HIV/AIDS with his professional knowledge of mental health care, but also with his heart."

### The Passion of Pearls...

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| June 7  | Women's Buffet and Dance<br>\$5.00 5-9 p.m.  |
| June 9  | First Class Male revue<br>\$10.00 5-9 p.m.   |
| June 12 | Pasta Night with<br>Joe Cappe Quartet and All<br>That Jazz;<br>all you can eat pasta<br>6-9 p.m. |
| June 15 | Ladies Lounge Dance -<br>Oldies Night<br>\$1.00 7-10 p.m.  |
| June 17 | Men's Pool Tournament<br>Sign up at bar, \$5 entry fee   |
| June 20 | Juice Bar: 18 and older<br>Downstairs at dance bar<br>\$3 cover                                  |
| June 23 | Piano bar upstairs<br>featuring Craig Hilliard<br>7-9 p.m..                                      |
| June 30 | Bingo and Pizza Night  |

### Pearls

135 Pearl Street  
Burlington, Vermont

### The First Vermont Gathering of Gay, Lesbian, & Bisexual Therapists/Counselors

Would you like to know who else is out there?  
We have a lot to talk about.

This will be a day of meeting, eating, and playing.  
Bring food to share, games, your bathing suit, and  
anything else you'd like.

Sunday, June 30, 1991, 11 a.m. 'til we're done.  
**Contact Crow (Carol Cohen)** at 864-5595 or  
**Walter** at 863-5510 and we'll get you a map to  
Walter's house, where this will be taking place.

**We look forward to seeing you!**