

## Gertrude Stein, Gertrude Stein



Photo by Cheri Goldstein

Sarah Payne as Gertrude Stein

Cheri Goldstein

"You will meet many characters through Gertrude's eyes," says Sarah Payne, the director, producer and actress who will play Gertrude Stein in the one woman play *Gertrude Stein, Gertrude Stein*. The play will both open and close the festivities celebrating National Coming Out Day in the Barre-Montpelier area.

"You join Gertrude as she is packing up her apartment in Paris after she and Alice B. Toklas have been informed that they have been evicted. As she is going through her life's possessions, you will meet people like her brother Leo, Picasso, and Matisse. There is also a very lengthy discussion about her relationship with Alice," explains Payne.

She continues, "I think this is a terrific show to be doing for Coming Out Day. If this is a celebration of gay and lesbian pride and affirmation, then Gertrude Stein was way ahead of the game. She was out there openly celebrating when most didn't even dare speak of her lifestyle. She had a great deal of courage to be living openly as a lesbian at the turn of the century."

And does Payne have any special reason for doing this particular show? "Oh yes, of course. Gertrude Stein was an egomaniac and so am I! There is something I find very magnetic about her. She was right there when so many art forms were

changing — and she was there to help change and create a new literary form. She is very exciting to be depicting on stage — and I like the challenge of a one woman show." Besides, Payne states with a grin, "I am going to be 60 years old soon and I've been trying to inch my way out of the closet for years...I think this show will be just a dandy coming out party for myself!"

The show benefits the Vermont Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Barre. Show times are 8:00 pm on Friday, October 11, and Saturday, October 12 at the Universalist Church in Barre, at the corner of Main and Church Streets. A donation of \$5 is suggested, more if you can, less if you can't. ▼

## Vermont AIDS Council Annual Meeting

The Vermont AIDS Council held its annual meeting on June 8 in Randolph and elected officers to lead its Board of Directors for the coming year.

Michael Fernandes of Williamsville and Christopher Monahan of Essex Junction will serve as co-chairs. Fernandes represents the Brattleboro AIDS Project on the Vermont AIDS Council. Monahan represents Burlington-based Vermont C.A.R.E.S. Ted Doucette, from the Bennington Area AIDS Project, will serve as Treasurer and Sam Sanders, representative of the Upper Valley's AIDS Community Resource Network, is Secretary.

Also at the annual meeting, membership in the Council was granted to the recently formed Vermont PWA Coalition, a state-wide group organized by and for people living with AIDS and HIV infection. The Vermont AIDS Council is a coalition of state-wide community-based AIDS service organizations. The Council's Board is comprised of two representatives of each of the nine member organizations.

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 for information, training, and advocacy. It seeks lasting solutions to the growing need for education, information, and services for Vermonters who are affected by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

The Vermont AIDS Council is based in Montpelier, and can be reached at 229-52557. ▼

TELEPHONE (802) 524-9595

CAROL L. THAYER, M.D.  
FAMILY PRACTICE

OFFICE HOURS  
BY APPOINTMENTR.D. 2, BOX 1160  
FAIRFAX, VERMONT 05454

DEBORAH G. ALICEN, M.A.  
Licensed Psychologist-Master

P.O. Box 16  
Plainfield, VT 05667

(802) 454-7701