

World AIDS Day Commemorated in Many Ways

Red ribbon banners hung from the lamp-posts in Bennington. Twenty people braved the cold and wind to clutch candles on Middlebury's town green and remember those lost to the disease. And all around the state, churches and temples rang their bells sixteen times at 2 p.m. to commemorate the sixteen years which have passed since the AIDS pandemic began.

On Sunday, December 1, observances of World AIDS Day here in Vermont tended toward the somber and reflective. At the Unitarian Universalist service in Burlington, people lined up to speak at an open microphone and recount how they had been affected by HIV and AIDS. "I was shocked by how many people got up to speak," responded one attendant, an employee of the Vermont Department of Health.

Elsewhere around the world, the red ribbon symbol flourished. In France, aerial acrobats poured red smoke out of their jet planes to create a 5,000-foot ribbon in the skies above Paris. In Germany, a casket traveled throughout Berlin's subway system, with staged funeral proceedings at several stops. In South Africa, Table Mountain was lit by red spotlights to create a haunting sight above Cape Town.

Here in the United States, many communities sponsored presentations of panels from the NAMES Project Memorial AIDS Quilt. Candlelight vigils were also common in many major cities such as New York and San Francisco, which have been hardest hit by the epidemic. Lights at the White House and other national monuments were dimmed for fifteen minutes.

Nearly 22 million people around the globe are currently infected with HIV, the Human Immunodeficiency Virus. Of the recorded cases, six million have died, with 25% of those deaths occurring in the past year alone.

Those numbers are expected to rise, particularly among "third world" and developing nations, where condoms are as scarce as the drugs which can now manage many of the opportunistic infections associated with AIDS. Here in the United States, HIV rates of infection continue to grow, particularly among women and people of color.

Though new medications have made great progress in prolonging the life expectancy of those infected, they have sparked new controversy in their availability and potentially lethal side effects. Many HIV+ people simply cannot afford the tens of thousands of dollars needed to enroll in "drug cocktail" therapies, and with recent cuts to Welfare and Medicaid, the gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots" will continue to grow. This, in turn, will lead to a greater rate of AIDS-related deaths among the economically disadvantaged.

Around the nation, various chapters of ACT UP (the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power) have been fighting often vicious battles against business and government policy-makers who control both the price and the accessibility of HIV and AIDS medications. Clashes during protests have reached a fever pitch in San Francisco, where ads from local HIV/AIDS agencies in Bay Area newspapers have been calling for an end to protest-related violence.

On the global political scene, the International Lesbian and Gay Association has called for the immediate decriminalization of sexual activity between consenting partners of the same sex. The group also strongly criticized the Vatican for helping the spread of the disease by way of the church's opposition to the use and distribution of condoms.

In the United States, well over half a million people have been reported as having AIDS. Over 320,000 of those individuals have died, according to reports from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Here in Vermont, nearly 300 people have been reported as having AIDS, with a great many more considered HIV+. Over half of those with AIDS have died from the virus.

For more information about HIV and AIDS, call the Vermont AIDS Hotline toll-free at (800) 882-2437. Individuals requiring hearing-impaired assistance can contact the Hotline via the TTY line at (800) 319-3141. ▼



Vermont Area Resources

Please help us keep this listing current by advising us of any changes in your group's status or address. All phone numbers are area code 802 unless noted.

- Addison County Women in Crisis**
53 Court Street • Middlebury VT 05753 • 388-4205
- Active Lesbians of the Monadnock Area (ALMA)**
PO Box 6345 • Keene NH 03431 • (603) 363-4961
- Amelia Earhart**
PO Box 746 • Lebanon NH 03766
- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)**
110 E. State St. • Montpelier VT 05602 • 223-6304
E-mail: acluvt@aol.com
- Battered Women's Services, Inc.**
PO Box 828 • Montpelier VT 05601
24 hour Hotline: 223-6855
- Brattleboro Area Gays and Lesbians**
PO Box 875 • Brattleboro VT 05302 • 254-5947
- Brattleboro Area Lesbian Center**
71 Elliot St. • Brattleboro VT 05301
- Burlington Police Department**
Community Based Police Officer
Lieutenant Bill LaWare • 658-7658
- Burlington Women's Council**
City Hall • Burlington VT 05401 • 865-7200
- Chiltern Mountain Club - Vermont Chapter**
Bob Bland • 333-9448 • E-mail: bland@sover.net
- Christ Church Presbyterian-More Light Church**
UVM • Burlington VT 05401 • 862-1898
- CRONES (for women over 40)**
PO Box 242 • Winooski VT 05404
- DaGLO (Dartmouth College)**
Hanover NH 03755 • (603) 646-3636
- Dignity Vermont**
PO Box 782 • Burlington VT 05402 • 863-1377
- East Coast Wrestling Club**
PO Box 40868 • Providence RI 02940
(401) 467-6737 • ecwc@blockparty.com
- Friends in Adoption**
44 South St. • PO Box 1228 • Middletown Springs VT 05757 • 235-2373
- Gay Fathers' Support Group**
PO Box 234 • Essex Junction VT 05423 • 879-7883
- Gay Info Line (NH)**
Box 181 • Concord NH 03301 • (603) 224-1686
- Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Alliance**
Goddard College • Plainfield VT 05667
- Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Alliance**
Landmark College • Putney VT 05346 • 387-6752
- Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Legal Association**
c/o Blackwood and Kraynak • 863-2517
- Gay/Lesbian/Straight Teachers' Network (GLSTN)**
PO Box 930 • Amherst MA 01004-0930
- Gay/Lesbian Victim Assistance Hotline**
(800) 259-1536 • 24 hrs. a day • AVProject@aol.com
- Golden Threads (Lesbian Contact Publication)**
PO Box 65 • Richford VT 05476-0065 • 848-7037
E-mail: goldentred@aol.com
- Hear Us OUT**
PO Box 285 • Brattleboro VT 05302 • 257-0332
- Huntington Open Women's Land (HOWL)**
864-5595
- Interweave (Unitarian Universalists)**
152 Pearl Street • Burlington VT 05401
- Kwanzaa**
PO Box 583 • Burlington VT 05402-0583
- Keene State College LBG Alliance**
Keene State College • Keene NH 03431
- Lesbians United, Never Apart (LUNA)**
c/o Umbrella Women's Center • 1 Prospect Ave. • St. Johnsbury VT 05819 • 748-8645
- Men's Health Project**
PO Box 5248 • Elmwood Ave. • Burlington VT 05401 • 863-2437
- Men Alive!**
PO Box 423 • Burlington VT 05402 • 865-2247
- Middlebury GLB Alliance**
Middlebury College • Middlebury VT 05753-6033
- Monadnock Gay Men (MGM)**
PO Box 1124 • Keene NH 03431 • (603) 357-5544
- Mountain Pride Media, Inc.**
PO Box 177 • Burlington VT 05402
- NH Citizens' Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights**
PO Box 730 • Concord NH 03302 • (603) 224-1686
- NorthEast Queendom Lesbians Activating Community Empowerment (NEQLACE)**
c/o Umbrella Women's Center • 1 Prospect Ave. • St. Johnsbury VT 05819
- NorthEast Vermonters for Gay and Lesbian Rights**
c/o Umbrella Women's Center • 1 Prospect Ave. • St. Johnsbury VT 05819 • 748-8645
- Old Lesbians Organized for Change (OLOC)**
PO Box 242 • Winooski VT 05404
- One in Ten (Castleton State College)**
468-5611 x.392

Out in the Mountains

PO Box 177 • Burlington VT 05402
388-6503 • oitm@aol.com
Web Site: <http://members.aol.com/oitm/>

Outright Vermont

PO Box 5235 • Burlington VT 05402 • 865-9677
Youth Hotline: (800) 452-2428
E-mail: OutrightVT@aol.com
Web Site: <http://members.aol.com/outrightvt/>

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG)

Brattleboro Area

J. Cram • 409 Hillsinds • Brattleboro VT 05301
257-5409

Central Vermont

New contact to be announced.

Lake Champlain Chapter

Lil Venner • 23 Birchwood Lane • Burlington VT 05401 • 863-4285

Manchester Area

Mae and Jay Morrow • PO Box 92 • Manchester VT 05254 • 362-4400

Rutland Area

Julie and Peter Cooper • 11 North St. • Rutland VT 05701 • 773-7601

Peace and Justice Center

21 Church St. • Burlington VT 05401 • 863-8326

Radical Faeries

RR2 Box 1640 • Plainfield VT 05667 • 454-1635

Radical Faerie Camp Destiny

c/o Endora • RR 1 Box 30 • Bristol VT 05443
453-5760

Rainbow Business Association

Contact Bill at 862-1570 or Sheila at 865-0469

SAGE (for gay men over forty)

PO Box 863 • Burlington VT 05402 • 860-1810

Social Alternatives for Gay Men (SAM)

PO Box 479 • Norwich VT 05055 • 649-3133

TRANS (Transgender Radical Action, Networking, and Support)

PO Box 5687 • Burlington VT 05402

Umbrella Women's Center

1 Prospect Ave. • St. Johnsbury VT 05819
748-8645

University of Vermont GLBA

656-0699

Vermont Bisexual Network (BiNet)

PO Box 8124 • Burlington VT 05402
658-9554 or 865-3062

Vermont Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights (VCLGR)

PO Box 1125 • Montpelier VT 05602 • 454-8552

Co-liasons to the government:

Virginia Renfrew
Keith Goslant • 454-8552

Vermont Education Association Network of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Educators and Their Allies

Contact Rose-Marie at 442-3978

Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force

PO Box 1312 • Middlebury VT 05753 • 388-6356

Vermont GLBT Pride

PO Box 5113 • Burlington VT 05402
865-3734 or 658-1602

Vermont Gay Men's Spiritual Support Brotherhood

5 Raymond Pl. • Burlington VT 05401 • 863-9684

Vermont Gay Social Alternatives (VGSA)

PO Box 237 • Burlington VT 05402-0237
865-3734

Vermont Human Rights Commission

133 State St. • Montpelier VT 05633-6301
828-2480

Vermont Lesbian and Gay Parents

131 Richardson St. • Burlington VT 05401
860-1922

Visible in Vermont Arts (VIVA)

PO Box 812 • Burlington VT 05402 • 863-2307

Woman Center

5 School Ave. • Montpelier VT 05602 • 229-6202

Women's Crisis Center

PO Box 933 • Brattleboro VT 05302 • 257-7364
24 Hour Hotline: 254-6954

Women Helping Battered Women

PO Box 1535 • Burlington VT 05402 • 658-1996

Women's Information Service (WISE)

79 Hanover St. • Lebanon NH 03766
(603) 448-5922 • 24 Hour Hotline: (603) 448-5525

Women's Rape Crisis Center

PO Box 92 • Burlington VT 05402 • 864-0555

Women of the Woods (WOW)

RFD 1 Box 5260 • Worcester VT 05682 • 229-0109

Youth Aware of Addison County

c/o PO Box 646 • Middlebury VT 05753
(800) 452-2428 (Outright Vermont)

Michael's
Seafood
and Steak Tavern
LUDLOW'S PREMIERE DINNER HOUSE

Route 103 • Ludlow, Vermont • 802-228-5622
Visit Our Web Page: <http://www.rovers.net/~seafood1>