

publishing/computing/info

**The PINK PAGES**

• A community phone directory listing thousands of businesses, nonprofit organizations and professionals who welcome the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. For a copy of the directory or if you would like to advertise call 617-423-1515.

featuring

**Internet GAYYELLOWPages**  
<http://www.pinkweb.com>

**FREE Referrals**  
 to any gay place worldwide  
 LAWYERS • BARS • SERVICES • RESTAURANTS  
 BOOKS • BNBS • DOCTORS RESORTS

Europe • USA • New Orleans • NY • SF • Montreal • Provincetown • Key West  
 Florida • New Hope • Boston • Ogunquit • New England.....

**Watch Pridetime**  
 Gay/Lesbian TV for New England on the web  
**Anytime**  
<http://www.2waytv.com/clients/ptime/pridetime.html>

**PRIDE TIME TELEVISION**

Easy to use, a simple download makes video viewing a snap.

Video Reviews, Entertainment, Community Profiles, and a Question you might have the answer to...



Host, Paul Gagnon and Correspondent, Karen "Ma" Malmé

**Accolade Group Internet Publishing**

~ In Business? ~  
 Why not join the RBA?

802.859.8972  
 ofb@villagetrade.com  
[www.villagetrade.com/accolade](http://www.villagetrade.com/accolade)

STRATEGY  
 DESIGN  
 SUCCESS

Advisement ♦ Web Page Design ♦ Business Ad Design ♦

Word Processing ♦ PC Backups ♦ Internet Research ♦

**PHOTO SCANNING BY MAIL FOR AS LITTLE AS \$5**

**CompAssist**  
 COMPUTER SOLUTIONS FOR EVERYONE!

Call us: (802)362-5567  
 E-mail us: [Support@CompAssistVt.com](mailto:Support@CompAssistVt.com)  
 Our Web page: [www.CompAssistVt.com](http://www.CompAssistVt.com)

GAY OWNED AND OPERATED - ALL WORK STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Tutoring ♦ Troubleshooting ♦ Graphic Design ♦ Win 95 Up-Grades ♦

**Cruise Gay Astrology's Website**

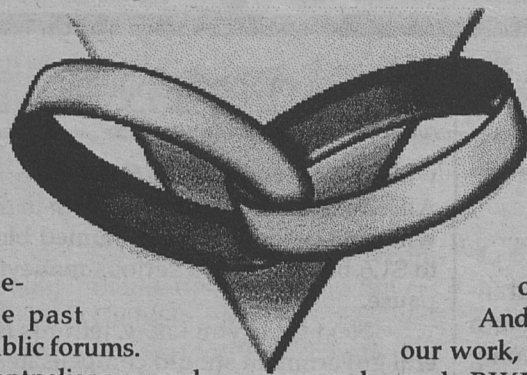
[www.AccessNewAge.com/Stargayzer](http://www.AccessNewAge.com/Stargayzer)

for  
 Lichtenstein's horoscopes  
 Gay Love Signs, Closets in your Chart  
 Stonewall horoscope

Order a two page astro personality reading from Madam L by sending this ad, \$20 and your birth-date, time & city to Lichtenstein, POB 1726, New York, NY 10011

**Notes From The Task Force**

BY BARI SHAMAS



People are talking and listening around the state about the freedom to marry for same-gender couples. In the past month there were five public forums. Three in the Barre and Montpelier area and two in Windham County. After attending the forum in Bellows Falls, one participant shared the following:

"I experienced a change of heart after attending the panel discussion on the Freedom to Marry issues. I was already committed to equal treatment of homosexuals in my own mind. However, I did not fully grasp the profound unfairness and destructive "enforcement of inequality" which is imposed by denial of civil marriage to homosexual couples. After my participation in that one panel discussion, I now have the deepest conviction that it is impossible to assert that homosexuals who are denied access to civil marriage are being treated equally before the law."

Nina Beck and Stacy Jolles, plaintiffs in Baker v State, along with Beth Robinson, their attorney and volunteer for VFMTF, were guests on WKDR's The Mark Johnson Show. This show, broadcast in the Burlington area, attracts a wide audience. There were so many calls that they were asked to stay an extra hour. Some callers gave the predictable negative feedback, but there were lots of very supportive comments from folks who identified themselves as otherwise "conservative" people.

Under the coordination of Chris Tebbits, volunteers at pride collected over 300 signatures to the resolution which says: "Because marriage is a basic human right and an individual choice, the state should not interfere with same gender couples who choose to marry and share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities, and commitment of civil marriage." On the same day in Putney, John Calvi and Marshall Brewer talked with the folks at the Putney Free For All (a community event sponsored by the Putney Food Coop). John and Marshall also collected signatures for the resolution and enjoyed watching the faces of folks change as they illuminated how the present interpretation of marriage laws are discriminatory.

With guidance from Beth Hughes and uploading work by Oliver Beauchemin the Task Force has been busy expanding our web site. Now, you can go there to read the clearest arguments from many side of the discussion. Lots of legal briefs are loaded on. In particular, you can read the States Motion to Dismiss at the trial court level and the appeal briefs of the appellants (the plaintiffs). We also have amicus briefs from: Vermont NOW et al, VCLGR et al, Vermont Human Rights Commission, Vermont Organization for Weddings of the Same-Gender (Religious groups), Vermont Psychiatric Association, Professors of Legislation and Statutory Interpretation, Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gay Men et al. We are trying to get all the opposition briefs online. So far, we have one brief from TiP. You can also go there to learn what events we are planning or see the list of where we have spoken And if you want a copy of the marriage resolution, that is there too.

The Central Vermont group is meeting regularly in Montpelier. They are planning three forums for September and October. Tentatively in Waterbury, St. Johnsbury, and Montpelier. Another public forum is scheduled for September 27 at The First Congregational Church, Burlington. Chittenden and Addison Counties are working together to staff a table at The Champlain Valley Fair ( 8/29 to 9/7). Volunteers to help staff the booth are welcome. Unlike forums, which appeal to a small segment

of society, this is an opportunity to be visible to a wide array of our neighbors.

And to help financially support our work, another fun fund-raiser is planned. BIKE FOR THE RIGHT TO MARRY! SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1998 All experience levels welcome!

Enjoy a scenic ride in the Champlain Valley, meet new people, and raise money for the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force as well.

For more information about any of these events or how to become more involved, see the contact info below.

In honor of this poetry issue of OITM, this month's column concludes with a poem written by Verandah Porche. She passed this on with the following note: "The anagram idea (the fact that the poem was composed of the letters of their names and no others) was my personal ritual-protest to the closet, if you see what I mean. A wedding, even a private one, is a declaration of unity within a community. R & T had no ceremony, so I wrote these for them as my personal gesture."

**On the Marriage of Two Men:  
 (composed of the mingled letters  
 their two names and no others.)**

This hymn weds risk to rhyme the way the wind  
 Orders snow-thick hemlocks to mark time;  
 Demands they show their ransacked crowns as one  
 Dark shadow. What rich ores shall I mine  
 And smelt? I scale the scalded hill to claim  
 New dialects. What heat, what hearts will melt  
 Down antonyms? What riddle yields their names?

Read the short hand destiny has dealt  
 In minced words diced into mosaic. Listen:  
 Cast into a caldron two like myths;  
 Hear anathema and make an anthem,  
 An oracle, a calendar, an oath.  
 Rein in the close-knit distances, the skein  
 Death wears so chilled, so thin, and weld a chain.

II.  
 The close-knit distances dream claims to skim  
 Or scan: what I crystallize and chase in rhyme  
 Demands new man-myths. Melt down the antonyms:  
 Damned, hallowed; kindred, alien;  
 Aroma, stench; sea, desert; swim and drown;  
 Nadir, acme; mirth and woe. I trace  
 Detail in air; stencil a talisman.

Read these wrinkled hands that toss the dice  
 In random strokes: how two men dared to come  
 Collide, contend, consider, and console;  
 How they marry and make arms a home,  
 A winter shell, a mansion, citadel.  
 Read their names in my mosaic code.  
 Drink to their amity and chant their ode!

We are grateful to all the folks who are mentioned in this column and those volunteers not mentioned for their efforts in maintaining visibility for the freedom to marry topic. If you would like more information about events or meetings or would like to invite representatives from VFMTF to speak at your workplace, community of faith, civic organization or whatever, you can contact us by: calling Wendy Beinert 802-652-0723, Roberta Garr 802-223-7620 or Bari Shamas 802-387-5788, or email [info@vtfreetomarry.org](mailto:info@vtfreetomarry.org) or visit our web site, [www.vtfreetomarry.org](http://www.vtfreetomarry.org)