



around vermont

Free Workshop: Money, Law, and Taxes

Sweating over your 1998 taxes? Stocking up on aspirin before you even pick up the forms?

Three local legal and financial professionals are donating an evening to help community members develop financial survival skills. Not only will Donna (DL) Lescoe, Susan Murray, and Charlotte Vincent simplify complex subject matter, they'll pay special attention to the needs of GLBT taxpayers, investors and consumers.

Best of all, Money, Law, and Taxes is free.

Lescoe, an independent financial professional and registered representative of Community Investment Counselors, will speak about the importance of understanding and planning your finances. She will cover the new Roth IRAs, SIMPLE IRAs and other beneficial retirement programs available to individuals and small businesses.

A partner with the Burlington and Middlebury law firm of Langrock, Sperry & Wool, Murray has years of experience helping lesbians and gay men

with their unique estate planning needs. She will talk about drafting wills, powers of attorney, health care proxies, guardianship nominations and partnership agreements designed to protect and define g/l families.

Independent tax professional Charlotte Vincent will explain 1998 tax changes in residential purchases and sales, educational tax credits, capital gains, IRAs. She will also address the evolving implications of Vermont 60 and point out tax-free income available to employees.

Money, Law, and Taxes takes place Wednesday, February 17, from 6:30-8:30PM at the Fletcher Free Library at 235 College Street in Burlington. Bring your families, bring your friends, and bring your financial, legal and tax questions.

For more information contact Donna Lescoe, 2 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753 802-388-1357

UVM's Center for Cultural Pluralism Opens

The University of Vermont has created new services for queer students, faculty, staff, and

the larger university community.

On January 26, UVM's Center for Cultural Pluralism began its Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Ally Services Program. The services are intended to assess and help meet educational, developmental, socials and safety needs of LGBTQA folks on campus.

Besides helping to facilitate educational programming, networking and communications, the program also provides resource materials, training and development, advising, mentoring, assessment and research.

LGBTQA Services debuts under the leadership of interim coordinator Paj Wadley-Bailey. An experienced student mentor, graduate assistant and event coordinator, Ms. Wadley-Bailey has been involved with LGBT issues, women's rights and civil rights advocacy for more than three decades.

The Center for Cultural Pluralism is hosting an open house for those interested in learned more about the LGBTQA Services Program and related issues. The event runs on Friday, January 29th from 4pm - 6pm.

American Boyz to Hold True Spirit Conference

Although it isn't happening in Vermont, it is of local interest and has local connections.

Third Annual True Spirit Conference will be held at the Best Western Maryland Inn in Laurel, Maryland from February 26 - 28, 1999. This three day conference focuses on the social, physical, emotional, spiritual and relational health of all gender variant people on the FTM spectrum and their significant others, friends, families, and allies.

For the third year, The True Spirit Conference will provide the only annual east coast conference event for people of transgender experience, their friends, families, allies, and service providers to gather together for education, networking and support.

"True Spirit offers many unique opportunities for participants that address a variety of the real life needs and concerns of people of transgender experience," says Trey Maurer, True Spirit 1999 media coordinator. One of those unique opportunities is making health screening available on site including breast

exams, blood pressure checks and other health maintenance services. "Getting routine health checks can be an exceptional challenge for some trans people," continued Maurer, "so we try to remove one of the barriers to access by bringing the health care provider to the conference rather than sending people out to find a provider on their own."

Conference registration fee ranges from \$60 - \$80 with work scholarship and housing assistance available on a first come first serve basis. The Vermont contact for Free Spirit is Hank Weiss, 453-5370; email: HankVT@aol.com ▼

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Hormel after several conservative Republicans accused him of promoting homosexual views.

The White House accused lawmakers of prejudice.

Hormel, who is gay, was approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, but Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., didn't allow his nomination to come to the floor in the face of scattered GOP objections.

Barry Toiv, a White House spokesman, expressed confidence Hormel would be approved by the full Senate this year because a majority back the 66-year-old San Francisco philanthropist and heir to the Hormel Meat Co.

Methodist commitment

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — More than seven dozen United Methodist Church pastors defied their church to witness a commitment ceremony between two women.

The "holy union" ceremony between Ellie Charlton, 63, and Jeanne Barnett, 68, was blessed by more than 90 United Methodist ministers in a dramatic mass defiance of a church law against same-sex marriages.

"I promise to love you the rest of my life," a tearful Charlton told Barnett.

Behind them on the stage, the

ministers lined up on risers and chanted a blessing that could cost them their jobs:

"O God, our maker, we gladly proclaim to the world that Jeanne and Ellie are loving partners together for life."

"If anyone wants to file charges against us, this is what the charges are for, praying this prayer," said the Rev. Donald Fado, pastor of St. Mark's United Methodist Church in suburban Sacramento, the organizer of the ceremony that was part church service and part civil rights demonstration.

The unprecedented service dramatizes the conflict that has been simmering for years within

the United Methodist Church, with 8.5 million members America's second biggest Protestant body after the Southern Baptist Convention.

In 1996, the church's legislature, the General Conference, took a stand against clergy around the country who had been quietly performing same-sex couple blessings. It added these words to the Methodists' Book of Discipline: "Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches." ▼



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