

# NETWORKING 45° NORTH

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2000

We invite you to the  
Third Annual

## Friends North Chili Cook-off and Sledding Party

Sunday, February 13, 2000  
at Bahle's Warming Hut in Suttons Bay  
from 1:00 to 5:00

Bring warm clothes, sleds, skis, snowshoes, board games, cards, a Valentine's Day dessert to pass, and friends who like to play in the snow.

All board members will bring a kettle of chili and the crowd will vote on the best; the infamous chili crown will then be passed from last years winner to this years Chili Cook-Off Queen

Here We Go Again  
by Sheila McRae

As some of you may know by now, the TC Human Rights Commission is lobbying the Traverse City Commissioners to pass the long awaited resolution to introduce "sexual orientation" into the discrimination code. It's a measure that has been long overdue. Many of the other cities in Michigan have adopted this language into their discrimination codes, making it safer for gays and lesbians to work without fear of repercussion if they venture out of the closet, either intentionally or accidentally.

This is not the first time this measure has been brought before the commission. It has failed two times previously, which some believe (myself included) that it sent a message to the people that it's OK to discriminate based on the gender they choose as a partner.

Since that time, there has been turnover in city commissioners. The majority of them have either indicated or promised that they will support this measure, making this a "slam dunk" right? well, maybe...

Commissioner Margaret Dodd has been an outspoken advocate of this resolution. She stated that "gays and lesbians are the second most discriminated group in the country. It has been shown that there are groups who need to be singled out because history has shown instances of repeated discrimination." She also suggested (tongue in cheek) that Traverse City's new slogan should be: "Drive Slowly and Be Nice."

Commissioner Phill Orth, on the other hand wasn't so supportive (surprise!). He stated that he never dreamed he'd be debating this issue when he originally ran for city commission. He feels that an issue such as this is as volatile as abortion and euthanasia. (I remind you that these are issues based on life vs. death arguments!) Again he reaffirmed his position: he's against this resolution even though there are enough votes to pass it.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert had no comment. (Former Friends North attorney by default after Madeline Thomas passed away.)

The room was packed with people, tensions were high, and many heroes ventured to the microphone to identify themselves and speak to the commissioners about why they support this resolution.

One such hero was an elementary school teacher named Bonnie who said that she was very afraid to say her name into the microphone because she could lose her job. Nervously, she said she would feel safer if her job was protected and not based on who she loves and she would feel safer in this community if there were a resolution that said it's not acceptable to discriminate. Her fear of being fired because she loves a woman propelled her to speak about why this resolution is so important to citizens. (Note: this resolution is just that, a resolution. Thus, unfortunately, it has no power of law.)

There were many others who spoke about what it's like to be gay in Traverse City and conveyed many instances of discrimination that they've encountered.... just because they have a bumper sticker on their car, have a different haircut, or just decided to openly state that they are gay during a job interview.

(continued on page )

# FRIENDS NORTH

AN ASSOCIATION OF GAY MEN, LESBIANS, BISEXUALS, TRANSGENDERED, AND THEIR FRIENDS

The mission of Friends North of Michigan, Inc. is to provide social, educational, and support activities and opportunities for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered communities in northern Michigan.

Networking 45° North is the newsletter of Friends North of Michigan, Inc. For information, write to Friends North, PO Box 562, Traverse City, MI 49685-0562.

Northern Michigan Help Line 231-946-1804  
Web site <http://welcome.to/friends.north>  
E-mail [friendsnorth@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsnorth@hotmail.com)

Viewpoints expressed in *Networking* do not necessarily represent those of the Board of Trustees or the general membership.

Friends North of Michigan, Inc. is an association of gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered, and their friends from northwestern lower Michigan, centered in Traverse City. Friends North provides social activities, a newsletter, an information line, workshops, a web site, and a scholarship fund for financial assistance.

Friends North's Board of Trustees is elected each December. Regular Board meetings are held at Grace Episcopal Church, at the corner of Washington and Boardman in Traverse City, at 6:30 PM on the first Tuesday of every month except July. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please contact Friends North in writing ahead of time if you have an item for the agenda. Current members of the Board include:

Tom Kincaid (President): 231-929-2919  
Joe C McQuarrie (Vice President): 231-946-2934 [JMKokopeli@aol.com](mailto:JMKokopeli@aol.com)  
Kirk Mallow: 231-933-5250  
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The Friends North Newsletter Committee is responsible for the publication of *Networking 45° North*.

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Contributions to *Networking* are welcome. Letters, essays, features, reflections, poetry, original artwork, etc. should be sent to *Networking 45° North*, PO Box 562, Traverse City MI 49685-0562 (or [friendsnorth@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsnorth@hotmail.com)). *Networking* will not accept material that is sexist, discriminatory, or sexually explicit. Contributors are responsible for obtaining permission from those whose names they submit for publication. Please include your name, address, and a phone number where you can be reached. If you would like your contribution to be printed anonymously, please let us know.

Address Changes should be sent in advance to the above address.

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## Words from the President

Tom Kincaid

When it came time to put pen to paper for this column I had no idea what to write about... and then I went to the TC Commission study session to add "sexual orientation" to the discrimination code – again.

I am amazed that some of the Traverse City Commissioners still have their heads in the sand. Some view the resolution as special rights for homosexuals. After all, if we are given equal rights, well, gee, everyone will want them...maybe even women and African-Americans. If the City Commission does not pass the sexual orientation resolution into the discrimination code, are they saying, "Yes, it is okay—you can continue to judge people based on the partner's gender rather on their job performance or ability?" Doesn't this seem absolutely ridiculous? I mean, after all these years we still have quite a struggle on our hands – and speaking of "struggles," we have a BIG one within the Friends North organization. A great split is running between our members.

After 14 years of existence we are in real trouble – organizationally and financially. And we are in need: in need of healing the splits that have occurred and in need of putting our differences behind us. We need this organization to pull together. We are in need of volunteers to help with projects such as the newsletter, the High Tea, the Bike Tour. If you don't belong to Friends North, please consider joining or if you do then call me and I will give you something to do. We are planning a great year with many fundraisers, with your help and talents we can get back on track financially.

We've worked too hard and too long to allow this organization to falter. You, as a membership, have elected a great board this year that consist of some very energetic people, but we cannot do it alone. Please help where you can.  
More later.... Tom Kincaid 231/929-2919

## On the Headboard and Beside My Bed

Dianna Johnson

What to write for the Friends North Newsletter? I thought, books. What better subject, and who better than someone (like me) who can't leave her job, as a Border's bookseller, without taking something home. My boss has me figured out too, and has assigned me as a "floater" which means that I shelve books wherever they need to be shelved rather than giving me a particular section to maintain. This is dangerous to my budget! Because I get to see children's books that my son NEEDS or fiction that I need, there's lesbian fiction, erotica, art, books on how to write and how to hang dry wall and how to build shelves. Heck, I've even considered taking up photography because there are so many interesting instructional manuals on the subject.

So I think that it may be fun to review some books that I have opened, and are right now face down on the headboard and beside my bed.

Michael, my nine year-old, came home with a Scholastic book order that had a set of four My Name is America books. Currently, we are reading The Journal of Sean Sullivan: A Transcontinental Railroad Worker. It is a historical piece of fiction "written by" a young man who starts working for the Union Pacific in Omaha, NE as a water carrier. He shares "his experiences" and the different jobs he has; the battles with a dish boss to the killing of rattlesnakes with a six shooter. Michael enjoys it as he learns that things such as the railroad didn't just appear, or go together as easy as his Lego train. And I enjoy it because though I know that it is fiction, it hits me with a lot of history I know I was supposed to learn as a kid, especially a kid who grew up near Omaha.

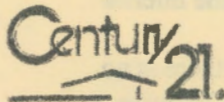
Another book on the headboard is Well of Loneliness by Radclyffe Hall. This is one of those books that I am not finishing on purpose because I don't want it to be over. All I can say is that your gay/lesbian library is not complete without this 1920's piece of classic fiction. Yes, it was published almost eighty years ago, yes the language can be a bit poetic and flowery, but this writing touches so many issues that still poke at us (sometimes hard) today.



The main character is a woman, Stephen, who grows up knowing that she is different. She


communicates with horses and is daring and tomboyish. Her father who is sympathetic and "knows" dies when she is a teenager. Thus Stephen is left with her unaccepting, cold, unresponsive mother. There lies one conflict: mother vs. lesbian daughter (wow, that's a new one). Another conflict is Stephen's inner conflict: knowing that she feels extreme joy loving another woman vs. society's unacceptance which propels her own question. As Stephen gets ready to write in her journal, "she could no longer keep it at bay, this great love, this great pain, that was Mary."

Well of Loneliness was banned outright in 1928. Hall condemned homophobia and it almost ruined her career as a writer. Seventy-eight years have passed, but unfortunately homophobia in families and in society has not.


Finally, if you are looking for a gift for your favorite lesbian, My Lover is a Woman is a great collection of contemporary love poems. Edited by Les'ea Newman (author of Heather Has Two Mommies and In Every Laugh a Tear), a favorite writer, this collection includes stories (in poetry) that span issues of life to death, young love to seasoned love, health to illness, childful to childless. It encompasses all that it means to be a lesbian. Even if I were straight, I would try to find a lady after reading this collection.



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## Why Hire an Interior Designer?

Kirk M. Day

If you need legal advice you consult an attorney. If you need health advice you consult a doctor. When you need help with furnishings and treatments inside your home or business, consult a professional interior designer. You may have a mental picture of your dream home or you may be unsure of the direction. In either situation, consulting an interior designer can help you achieve your dream. It can be fun and exciting when you know where to go and what questions to ask.

It is important to understand the difference between an interior designer and an interior decorator. Both are used rather loosely and it is important to know when to use each term. An interior designer is a professional that has extensive training. This includes a degree or certification from an accredited university or technical school. Interior designers must study architecture which includes but is not limited to: building codes, wiring, plumbing, building materials, drafting, and rendering. Designers must also possess a strong knowledge of blueprints, space planning and technical symbols. Interior design includes in-depth study of textiles, color, furnishings, the history of architecture and interior design, lighting, business management, and psychology. The designer is educated in architecture and building and also has a strong "flair" for creating quality and visually appealing designs.

The interior decorator, however, does not possess a degree or certificate for formal study and has little knowledge of architecture or technical requirements. Decorators often get their title by working at furniture, wallpaper, flooring, accessory stores or other firms which allow them to make interior treatment decisions because of their work experience. While the decorator can bring together appealing decor they are generally not educated about many important details of the total design concept.

It is very important to interview the interior designer to determine whether they are an interior designer. Currently, there is no legislation in Michigan which prohibits a "interior decorator" from using the title "interior designer" which often leads to a mislead client. It is always wise to ask your designer about their education, experience and background to get a firm grasp on their abilities.

Another way to be sure that he/she is qualified is to look for the letters A.S.I.D. after their title. The American Society of Interior Designers is a professional organization which keeps records and information regarding its

members. It has strict qualifications for membership including formal education and work experience. Contact your local chapter of A.S.I.D. for any information that they may have on file regarding the designer that you are interviewing.

Working with a designer should be a relaxing and comfortable experience. Most designers will want to set up an initial meeting. The designer will want to know the scope of the project, your lifestyle, your likes and dislikes, and preferences on style and color. Don't be intimidated. It is the designer's job to ask questions, so be prepared. The more the designer knows about you the better they can create a design that achieves your needs and satisfaction.

Be sure to discuss design fees and a budget. Many designers will charge a fee based on an hourly rate or they may offer you a contract. Whether your project is large or small an interior designer can be a valuable tool and asset.

All too often people think of interior designers as a large and unnecessary expense. In fact, designers can save you money, time and frustration. Plus, they can provide you with endless resources for products and services. The discounts that many interior designers offer will often offset the price difference for a higher quality product. In addition, their endless hours of experience and knowledge are a valuable resource that can help you avoid costly mistakes.

Don't be afraid to contact an interior designer early on in your project as you would an architect. Their insight is a key in helping to guide and develop your dream. Interior designers are willing to work closely with you and your architect, builder and sub-contractors to achieve the impressive results that you expect.

The overall goal of the interior designer is to have a satisfied client surrounded by a beautifully designed environment. Designers interpret your dreams with talent, knowledge and expertise and turn them into reality. The next time you need help to complete your interior goals, hire a professional interior designer and be prepared for a fun and exciting partnership.

**Now What?**

**Where will we hold committee meetings?**

**What will we do?**

**Cathie's Tote and Dine**

**We miss you!!!**

**Friends North Board**

## Life As Domestic Partners... Part III

By: Joe C. MacQuarrie

This past holiday season was truly memorable! Kirk and I stood out in the neighborhood with our tasteful and bright holiday cheer! (as if we don't any other time of year!) I have to begin with the fact that for most of the decorating in and out I merely supervised while Kirk put his talents to work!

We lit up the outside of our house with colored spotlights, a very tall totally red tree, and a 6-foot wide lit wreath on the side of our house! The inside consisted of two truly gorgeous trees. We decorated one in the pride theme of all brightly colored bulbs in the whole color spectrum. This one was a lot of fun. We filled it with candy canes and all kinds of fun things.... It made us feel like kids! The second tree was a work of art... Kirk's masterpiece! It was decorated with grapes, grapevines and purple and white lights.

This year I learned what the true meaning of family is to me, and would like to share it with you. My parents decided this past summer, after my being out now for over 5 years, that they couldn't accept my being gay, and especially now that I am in a loving caring relationship. This was very hard for me, as I have always worked hard to hold the family together and have had the family Christmas gatherings at my house for several years. I decided early on that this was not

going to ruin my first Christmas with the man of my dreams!

We went ahead and planned Christmas Eve and Christmas morning festivities at our house. We had Kirk's brother and his wife, one of my sisters, and one of my brothers and his wife, plus a multitude of friends. I stood back and looked around and realized that this was my true family! We all had a sense of unconditional love and friendship together... and that is what I now believe a family really is! We then got to spend Christmas night downstate at Kirk's mothers. His mother is so wonderful, and she has shown her unconditional love for me, trying to make up for my own parents. Although my parents can never be replaced, it certainly makes a lot of sense to me to stop, take a minute and look around at what I truly have! I may not have the "storybook family"... but who does, anyway... besides, I have one that is better!



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so grows the tree."*

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## Friends North Gender Society Expanding Meetings

With more people everyday coming to the awakening that their true self lies somewhere on a continuum between male and female, and with more media coverage of crossdressing and transgender roles in our society, the Friends North Gender Society is considering expanding their monthly meetings.

A recent article has stated that 8% of men in England cross dress weekly. In many of the far eastern countries it is even more acceptable. However, in the US, society has still to allow an individual a comfortable choice in gender expression. The Internet is helping many men and women realize they are not alone. There are sites with thousands of personal web pages dedicated to the "coming out" of men and women. Most of them have biographies that help others who have been "in the closet" know that they are not alone.

In the US, polls show that 5% of the population, whether male or female, regularly expresses the desire to show the other side of their birth gender. Most transitions are male to female, but there are growing numbers of female to male. It is not looked upon as unusual in any way for a woman to wear work coveralls and boots, but let a man put on a dress and pumps to express the same feelings in the opposite direction and people seem to have a problem.

Because the desire to cross dress is one that does not seem to go away, and because there is no cure (it is not a disease), men and women need someplace to go for support. The Friends North Gender Society has been meeting once each month in a comfortable location, but is seeking to reach out to others in the area who feel they are alone. Traverse City might be below the national average, but for every 20,000 males around, 1,000 think about or have the urge to let their feminine side come out. Of those, if only one in ten really feels the need to meet with others to express themselves and/or get support, then we expect to accommodate 100 people. We welcome them to join us.

The Friends North Gender Society is self-funded and publishes a monthly newsletter for members to keep abreast of local and national gender news and events. We can be reached at (231) 946-1804 (Help Line), or email [GwenChrist@aol.com](mailto:GwenChrist@aol.com).

Thank You, Gwen

## Here We Go Again

(continued from page 1)

These testimonies raised awareness that gays and lesbians have encountered discrimination in it's ugliest form in THIS city. Thus, passing this resolution would not be considered whimsical and superfluous.

Yes, there were those who spoke against the resolution citing that it goes against God's laws... such as pedophilia (it seems to be a favorite, but tiring tactic of the right wing to link homosexuality with pedophilia) and that it's imposing the lifestyle of the few ungodly people onto the majority of law-abiding citizens.

Of course former city commissioner Jasper Weese couldn't let the evening go by without spouting his words of "wisdom" stating that "they [gays and lesbians] will do anything to get recognized and get approval of their lifestyle." Then he went into the reverse discrimination argument and wrapped it up by saying that "they don't have to force their lifestyle on me."

The Traverse City Commissioners will bring this issue to a vote on February 7th. I would like to encourage everyone to write the Commissioners individually and express your support for the passing of this long awaited resolution.

*The above comments are the opinion of the author and not of Friends North...*

## And Another Opinion...

In January of this year the Traverse City Board of Commissioners and the Traverse City Human Rights Board met jointly for a study session on a resolution that condemns discrimination based on sexual orientation, among other forms of discrimination. The meeting was quite uplifting for a number of reasons. The majority of the public in attendance was supportive of the resolution. The majority of the public in attendance was lesbigay or transgender or the parents of same. A pleasantly surprising number of those in attendance were youth. Those who opposed the resolution were appropriately ashamed of their opposition, even though they half-heartedly offered up their weak arguments. The majority of the Commissioners were supportive of the resolution with several being somewhat gamy about it.

(continued on page 8)

# Sidetraxx/Friends North Fund Raiser

Friday, February 11

6pm-Mid-night  
DJ starts at 10:30

Stop in after work  
wind down with friends

T-shirts on sale

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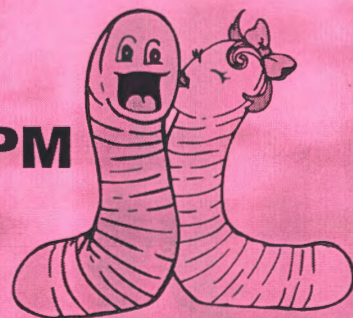
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## Rainbow Flag Facts...

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### Did You Know...

... that the six striped rainbow flag is recognized by the International Congress of Flag Makers

... the first rainbow flag was designed in 1978 by Gilbert Baker, a San Franciscan artist, in a response to a call for a community symbol

... Baker hand-dyed the colors for the original flag

... the original flag had eight stripes-bright pink, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and purple; the one we know today has six

... the color "hot pink" was not commercially available, so was deleted from the original design

... after the assassination of Harvey Milk, San Francisco's first openly gay supervisor, the 1979 Pride Committee decided to use Baker's flag, but eliminated the indigo stripe for sake of balance

... when hanging the flag horizontally the red stripe should be on top; when hanging vertically it should be on the left(as you look at it)

... the rainbow flag symbolizes that we, in the gay community as in society, are a diverse group and for this we should be proud

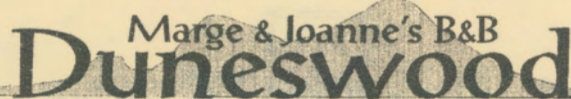
### Another Opinion...

(continued from page 7 )

The word pedophile was only uttered three times and that was all by the same person. And yes the tawdry argument of gays and lesbians being an "already privileged class" was tentatively dragged out for another airing. It all combined to further convince this newcomer to the area that the people of this area are indeed the most civilized people I have ever lived among. It was also evidence of the progress sexual minorities have made towards more fully participating in our society. But the job remains incomplete.

On several occasions a member of the board observed there was little evidence offered of actual discrimination based on sexual orientation. I believe the lack of people willing to step forth and offer testimony regarding discrimination is more a testament to the dominating effectiveness of the homophobic abuse we have suffered than the lack of it having been suffered. Who among us has not heard a homophobic slur in the last 24 hours. And when we heard it were we not swept by a wave of icy chill. I urge each of you readers to prepare an account of the times you have been punched, kicked, spat upon, robbed, had your life threatened, had a brick thrown at you, had your property damaged or were otherwise abused because someone else perceived you to be a member of our scapegoated minority and prepare yourself to present the account at the Commission meeting on February 7th when they are scheduled to vote on the resolution. I think you can legitimately include those times when internalized homophobia kept you from seeking police assistance or medical assistance because you feared it would only lead to further abuse as further testament to the brutal effectiveness of homophobic discrimination.

(continued on page 11 )



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## Identifying Our Buried Feelings

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Gwen Sanford

Recently, I started reading "True Selves" Understanding Transsexualism for Families, Friends, Co-Workers and Helping Professionals, by Mildred L. Brown and Chloe Ann Rounsley. International Foundation for Gender Education calls it the "first official best seller for the TG Community." And so far, in my opinion, it should be considered as a "must read" for every transgendered person.

In an effort to better understand where I came from, and why I'm at this point in my life now, this book is jogging my memory back as far as age five. Memories of standing in my mom's closet among her clothes, trying them on and feeling the comfort they gave me came to life. I remember getting caught by my father when he came home unexpectedly. He called me a sissy-pan, whatever that is. I don't remember ever getting caught after that, but dressing in mom's clothes continued until I outgrew them. After that, I had to make do with her nylons, panties and bras (if held together with safety pins in the back). Her bathing suit worked too. I wore them every chance I could get. The feeling of comfort in those clothes is a predominant memory, but I was always nervous about getting caught.

The more difficult part of memory tracing is recalling how I felt inside. I had always been pretty good at not dealing with feelings and unpleasant memories. It was far easier to stuff them into some inaccessible part of my brain. Although I'm starting to recall some of those feelings from various times while

growing up, there is much more to find and fit into place. There are a lot of things that I did as a youngster that I wish I hadn't done, and finding the feelings will help if I can figure out why I did them. I am beginning to understand that I was not a very happy kid to say the least.


Was that unhappiness due to gender dysphoria, or was it just a product of the general dysfunctional family syndrome that we all seem to have? It seems that I was far more eager to please my father than deal with gender dysfunction. But then, I had never heard of such a thing. Scouting, High School sports, macho type career, I've done all of it and none of it really well. I was picked on and beat up more often than I would like also. Maybe that's part of the reason I had extremely low self-esteem.

Obviously, there is a lot more to discover about my feelings. As a transsexual, I have found the book "True Selves" to be thought provoking. Having been in the crossdressing stage too, I believe the book will be very helpful with self-understanding. And, our families, friends and co-workers will find it very enlightening - if they're interested enough to take the time.

## Lesbian Incest Survivor Group

LISA, Lesbian Incest Survivors Anonymous meets on Monday 7pm at Grace Episcopal Church in the Library. Contact Sheryl 938-9865

Open seven days a week!



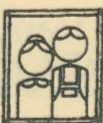
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# Friends North Bike tour 2000

## The First bike tour of the Millennium Dates July 28, 29, & 30

Registration and information to be mailed out soon.  
Information will also be added to our website  
(<http://welcome.to/friends.north>).

Besides our famous bike routes, this years event will have new and exciting features such as an on site catered dinner Friday & Saturday. Saturday night dinner, dance and bon fire. This year will also include a Sunday night camp over "Full Moon" canoe trip down the Platt River. This years event will be again held at a private ranch in beautiful Benzie County.

Contact Nancy & Rose e-mail: [RSCNGC@aol.com](mailto:RSCNGC@aol.com)


## Donations Needed...

This year there will be a new twist to the traditional Friends North High Tea on April 9th. We're holding an auction to raise money for the FN organization!! Please check your closet (no pun intended), attic or garage for items that could be auctioned off.

Any item that is not auctioned at the High Tea will be kept in storage for the Friends North Yard Sale in June.

Contact Sheila at 231-933-0571 if you wish to donate or volunteer for this event!

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## ARE YOU A FRIENDS NORTH MEMBER?

Join Friends North or renew your membership today! Just \$15 per single membership or \$25 for a couple.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ for  single  couple plus \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  Please include me in Friends North e-mail updates.

Comments:

Check this box if you are unable to contribute the full membership amount and would like to be considered for a reduced-rate or complimentary membership.

Mail this form and your check to Friends North • PO Box 562 • Traverse City, MI 49685-0562 • Attn: Memberships

*Friends North's membership list is strictly confidential, and mail from Friends North is sent in plain envelopes.*

## What Will It Take

Gwen Sanford

During the past few weeks I have been thinking about how we can come together more as a community. Everyone I talk with agrees that we need unification, but wonders what will be the catalyst to bring it about? Would it help if we had a monthly get-together beyond the Board Meeting? Do we need more dances, sledding parties or potlucks with nothing particular in mind other than getting to know each other? Perhaps a general meeting that occurs more frequently than December of each year would serve us better?

What would it take for us to bury the hatchet we tend to carry around? Many of us feel wronged by something that has happened in the past, and perhaps rightly so. Usually, these issues rise out of misunderstanding, but unless resolved immediately, will grow to huge proportions and ultimately transform into intense dislike, and even hatred. And to what end? Divisiveness only serves those who wish to see us overcome and conquered. In my opinion, we have too many people out there against us already, without being against each other. In fact, I don't see how we would even have the right to criticize other countries that are at continual war with each other, when we as a community of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered are unable to unite when it is in our unquestionable best interest.

So, what is it going to take Friends? Do we come together for the common cause of making our life and status as decent, loving and caring citizens on this planet a little better? Or do we hide away like vermin, and only come out when we can take a bite out of someone, and spread the disease of hate and apathy beyond imagination.

I will understand if you think I'm being a bit dramatic here, but in my opinion, we need to begin to fill the chasm in our community if we are to move forward. I consider this issue to be the most important one for the coming year, and as a newly elected Friends North Board member, join with the other Board members in some serious soul searching to find ways that will help draw us together as a community.

We need your input too. Talk to your Board members. Write a letter, or send an e-mail if that enables you to get your ideas across more effectively. Whatever tool works best for you; please use it to help out here. Your individual thoughts are important to all of us, and we welcome them. In fact, I believe that we require them.

## Another Opinion...

(continued from page 8)

While this resolution is not a law with teeth that would permit legal redress of wrongs perpetrated against us, it is a forward step in that it is a public condemnation by a governmental body of discrimination based on sexual orientation. It removes the perception of governmental approval from those who would discriminate against us.

As I attended the Pride celebration last summer on the lawn in front of the State Hospital the irony that as little as 30 years before all of us could have been arrested, stripped of our civil liberties, committed to that same institution as mental defectives and subjected horrific tortures based solely on our sexual orientation was not lost on me. Many times that day I looked up at those windows and wondered how many people like us looked out from those windows and wanted to be free. I wondered what became of them and how their lives would have been different if they were living now. When those who oppose the resolution ask why it is necessary to pass legislation to protect us from discrimination perhaps the simple answer is because such legislation is necessary to redress the years of government sponsored discrimination against us.

Should you choose to keep to yourself during the February meeting you will be missing an opportunity to help our allies help us to be a little bit freer. You will be passing up an opportunity to make history. No part is too small in the struggle to be free.



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Sledding Party

Sunday February 13 at 1pm at the Bahle Warming Hut in Suttons Bay. See page 1 for more information.

## High Tea

Sunday April 9 at the Traverse City Opera House. Watch for more info...

## Upcoming Events at SideTraxx

Val's Movie Night—Sundays at 7:30 PM

Euchre League—Tuesdays at 7:30 PM

Pool League—Mondays at 7:30 PM

For more info, contact Val at 231-935-1666

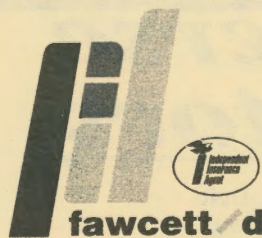
The Lesbian Coffeehouse has changed its name to Sisters' North. If you are interested in being on the e-mail list contact Sheila at [Sheilaintc@yahoo.com](mailto:Sheilaintc@yahoo.com). If you are interested in volunteering, contact Alissa at . Volunteers are desperately needed to resurrect a chem-free evening of socializing and entertainment for area lesbians.

## E-Mail Announcement List

We'd like to remind those of you who have internet access that Friends North now has an e-mail announcement list on Onelist.com. This is not a chatty list, in fact, only the moderator may post messages. The purpose is to be able to get out last minute information to those who may be interested. Messages will be sporadic, only sent when needed, so you need not fear an overflowing inbox.

If you're interested, please email us at [friendsnorth@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsnorth@hotmail.com). If you are already a Onelist subscriber, we can subscribe you to the list directly...otherwise you will be sent an informational letter, telling you how to authorize your subscription.

Are you interested in getting something published in Networking North. Got something to say? Write to: Friends North at PO Box 562, Traverse City, MI 49685 or contact Dianna at [huntgoddess@aol.com](mailto:huntgoddess@aol.com). Use your voice.



PHONE (231) 946-3600  
FAX (231) 946-3738

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3963 WEST ROYAL DRIVE, TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN 49684

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AGENT

**Andrew L. Mitchell**  
Accredited Business Accountant

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Traverse City, MI 49686

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Phone (231) 947-1492  
Fax (231) 947-1532  
E-mail [txalmc@aol.com](mailto:txalmc@aol.com)

## A Hidden Treasure In Our Own Backyard

Sheila McRae

Last November, Dianna and I celebrated our one-year anniversary. Neither of us could afford to take time off from our jobs to vacation out of state, so we consulted our Friends North newsletter and saw an ad for The Bellaire Bed and Breakfast. We have good friends who've stayed there and recommended it highly. That week we made the reservations for our long weekend away.

I was really unprepared for the beauty of this place. The bed and breakfast is a big yellow Victorian home with beautiful grounds and a driveway through a tunnel of hundred year old trees. The innkeepers (our gracious hosts) were David Shulz and Jim Walker (partners of 15 years). Their place used to be a residential home and was converted to a B&B by the previous owners to make ends meet. Three years ago, David and Jim purchased the home. Since then they've been very busy redecorating and renovating while both working full time jobs.

When we arrived, David had a warm and cozy fire crackling in the fireplace of the living room/library. We signed the guest book and then David gave us the grand tour of the house. Because we were the only guests there that weekend (it was off season), we were given our choice of any room in the house.

We saw the Eastlake Room with a sleigh bed and access to the second story porch, the Empire Room decorated in British Colonial touches with a masculine color scheme. David showed us the yellow and green Garden Room, the Homespun Room with the pencil poster bed and homemade quilts. The room that we chose however, was the Vintage Room.

The Vintage Room has a private bathroom with a beautiful trillium stained glass window, a charming clawfoot bathtub, wooden floors and spacious sink area. David and Jim provided the bubble bath and candles. Dianna was thrilled because the bathtub was long enough for even her.

On Saturday, we spent the morning accomplishing the goals we had set for our retreat. We

made plans for our commitment ceremony and enjoyed the luxurious bathtub. We decided to pass on hiking nearby trails, because it was deer season and instead went to Petoskey to get a jump on Christmas shopping. David supplied us with maps of the area and suggestions of places to go and things to do.

Throughout the weekend, I was continually amazed with the amenities that were furnished. For example, when we returned from dinner on Saturday night, a complimentary bottle of (nonalcoholic) champagne was waiting for us with a Happy Anniversary card attached. There were fresh baked cookies tempting us from the night stand-chocolate chip and macadamia white chocolate chip. We knew that breakfast was part of the weekend package, but we did not expect a European Continental breakfast. The gourmet dishes were bountiful. We enjoyed Cherry Iced Scones and Peach French Toast w/ Peach Syrup, sliced meats & cheeses and Cherry Orange Muffins. Whatever we couldn't eat, David would wrap for us to take along on our outings. He was also gracious enough to give us a copy of his secret recipes.

That weekend, not only did David and Jim open up their home, but shared some of their past with us. They were wed in 1985 before being gay was really "acceptable" and it was more difficult to arrange a same-sex wedding. They shared their wedding photo album, told us stories about "their big day", read their vows to us, teased each other about how young they once were, and really gave us some great ideas about our own ceremony.

That Sunday we checked out of the bed and breakfast. In retrospect, we feel that we got more than our money's worth for the stay, also we made two new friends.



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# CLASSIFIED ANNOUNCEMENTS

All classified advertisements and announcements are run free of charge. Please submit your ads and announcements in writing to *Networking* by either postal mail (PO Box 562, Traverse City MI 49685-0562) or e-mail (friendsnorth@hotmail.com).

## Ongoing Announcements

### QUESTIONS ABOUT HIV AND AIDS?

Call locally (231-947-1110) 24 hours a day. This program is sponsored by the HIV/AIDS Wellness Networks—Grand Traverse Area and is staffed by Third Level Crisis Center.

### REPORT HATE CRIMES!!

Call the Triangle Foundation at 1-888-442-9287.

### GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The GTCHD's Reproductive Health Clinic is open to women and men of all ages. Confidential services provided are physical exams, HIV counseling and testing, pregnancy testing, sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment, all methods of birth control available, free Norplants, Depo-Provera, IUDs, and condoms. For more information about these and other methods, which are charged on a sliding fee scale, call 922-4630. Services are by appointment only.

## Groups

### COMMON VOICES: THE FRIENDS NORTH RAP GROUP

Common Voices is a group of men and women who get together monthly for informal discussion, often on a particular topic. Common Voices meets on the second Wednesday of every month at Grace Episcopal Church, 349 Washington, Traverse City, at 7:30 PM. For more information, call Tom at 231-275-6127.

### FRIENDS LIKE US

This Alpena-based group reaches out to lesbians, gays, and bisexuals in the northeast Michigan area. Informal potluck-type gatherings are generally held monthly in Alpena. In addition, interested participants sometimes plan occasional field trips. Call Brad Vauter at 517-354-0841 for more information.

### FRIENDS NORTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Friends North Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month (except July) at 6:30 PM at Grace Episcopal Church, on the corner of Washington and Boardman. All are welcome.

### FRIENDS NORTH GENDER SOCIETY

This support group includes cross-dressers, transsexuals, transgendered, and those somewhere in between. Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month. Spouses, friends, and SOs are also invited to attend this smoke- and alcohol-free environment. Call 231-946-1804 for more information.

### GAY ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Meetings for gays and lesbians are held each Wednesday at 5:30 PM and Saturday at 11:00 AM at Grace Episcopal Church. For further information, call John at 231-922-0746 or Hilda at 231-938-9294.

### GLSEN

The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network is meeting monthly in Traverse City. They welcome all interested educators. For more information, call M'Lynn at 231-943-5050.

### THE PETOSKEY GROUP

A social group for lesbian, gay, and bisexual persons is meeting weekly in Petoskey. The group meets at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays in the Noggin Room of the Perry Hotel. For information, contact Tim at 231-348-8151.

### HANDS-PETOSKEY

HANDS is an HIV/AIDS Network located north of Traverse City. They are currently seeking volunteers in the northern lower peninsula and eastern upper peninsula of Michigan. HANDS is a non-profit organization that has committed itself to helping and supporting the needs of HIV-infected persons. HANDS offers a number of services, including support groups, education, public awareness, and one-on-one friendship support. Volunteers are urgently needed in the Alpena, Gaylord, and Rogers City areas. If you would be interested in the program, please call 231-526-9213.

### NORTHERN MICHIGAN WOMYN'S CHOIR

The Womyn's Choir is always looking for new voices. To obtain more information or for a performance schedule, contact Deb at 231-276-9357.

### P-FLAG

This is a network of parents, friends, and families of lesbians and gays who meet monthly to offer information, support, and a place to talk with others about the issues concerning them. Gays and lesbians are also welcome and encouraged to attend P-FLAG meetings. Meet at Grace Episcopal Church every third Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 PM. For more information, call Patrice Stewart at 231-933-6628.

### TRAVERSE CITY FRONTRUNNERS

If you are interested in running, call Kirk or Jim at 933-5250 and leave your name, number, and a message indicating that you are interested in Frontrunners. You will receive a return call with meeting times and places. All ages and abilities are welcome.

### TRIANGLES AND RAINBOWS

A group of lesbian, gay, straight, and bisexual students at NMC who believe that celebrating diversity is fundamental to a healthy community and future. To help or participate, call T&R at 231-922-1673 or send e-mail (t\_and\_r\_group@hotmail.com).

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION—PETOSKEY

Meets at the Concord Academy, 2230 E. Mitchell St. Services are held on the first and third Sundays of the month at 11:00 AM. Call 231-347-8916 for details or write to PO Box 873, Petoskey MI 49770-0873

### WELLNESS NETWORKS SUPPORT GROUP

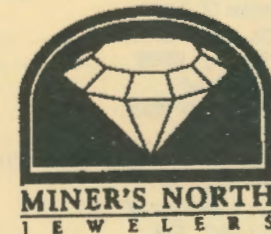
For people with HIV or AIDS, and they welcome you to attend. Please drop in Monday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 PM at Grace Episcopal Church. Every fourth Monday of the month, the Significant Other Support Group meets at 3301 Veterans Drive, Suite 221, just north of South Airport Road. For more information, call 231-933-0279.

### WINDFIRE

This is a local youth support group for teens and others under the age of 25, which meets on a weekly basis in an atmosphere that is comfortable and friendly. Please contact Third Level at 231-922-4800 or 1-800-442-7315 for location, date, and time.

### Lesbian Incest Survivors Anonymous

LISA, Lesbian Incest Survivors Anonymous meets on Monday 7pm at Grace Episcopal Church in the Library. Contact Sheryl 938-9865



222 E. Front Street  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
Downtown

PH: 616-946-8528  
Fax: 616-946-3553

# RESOURCES

## STATE AND NATIONAL HOTLINES

Department of Justice Hotline ..... 800-347-4283  
Gay/Lesbian National Youth Hotline ..... 800-347-TEEN (8336)  
Michigan Wellness Networks ..... 800-872-AIDS (2437)  
Triangle Hate Crime Reporting ..... 877-7-TRIANGLE (877-787-4264)

## STATEWIDE SERVICES

ACLU of Michigan ..... 1249 Washington Blvd., Suite 209, Detroit MI 48220  
Office ..... 248-398-7105 Help Line ..... 800-398-4297  
E-mail ..... michiacu@aol.com WWW ..... <http://michigan.aclu.org/>  
Affirmations Lesbian/Gay Community Center ..... 195 W. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale MI 48220  
Phone ..... 810-398-7105  
E-mail ..... Affirmationsgibt@juno.com WWW ..... <http://www.pridenet.com/affirmations/>  
**Between The Lines** ..... 20793 Farmington Road, Suite 25, Farmington MI 48336  
Phone ..... 248-615-7003 Fax ..... 248-615-7018  
E-mail ..... Pridepbis@aol.com WWW ..... <http://www.betweenthelinesnews.com/>  
Kalamazoo Gay/Lesbian Resource Center ..... 629 Pioneer Street, Kalamazoo MI 49008  
Phone ..... 616-349-4234  
E-mail ..... kgirc@geocities.com WWW ..... <http://www.kgirc.org>

Lansing Association for Human Rights ..... PO Box 18062, Lansing MI 48826  
Phone ..... 517-332-3200 WWW ..... <http://www.macatawa.org/~lahr/>  
Lavender Morning ..... PO Box 50792, Kalamazoo MI 49005  
Phone ..... 616-685-6061  
Lesbian Connection ..... PO Box 811, East Lansing MI 48826  
Phone ..... 517-371-5257  
MBS Nexus: Gay Connections in Midland, Bay City, Saginaw, & Surrounding Areas  
WWW ..... <http://members.aol.com/MBSNexus/>  
Michigan Pride, Inc. (statewide Pride March organization)  
P.O. Box 16191, Lansing MI 48901 ..... 517-371-8466  
E-mail ..... pride@michiganpride.org WWW ..... <http://www.michiganpride.org/>  
The Network: Lesbian and Gay Community Network of Western Michigan  
909 Cherry St. SE, Grand Rapids MI 49506 ..... 616-458-3511  
**Third Coast** ..... PO Box 7296, Grand Rapids MI 49510  
Phone ..... 616-248-9967  
Triangle Foundation  
19641 W. Seven Mile Rd, Detroit MI 48219 ..... 313-537-3323  
Fax ..... 313-537-3379 WWW ..... <http://www.tri.org/>

## NATIONAL SERVICES

ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project  
125 Broad Street, New York NY 10004 ..... 415-621-0674  
WWW ..... <http://www.aclu.org/issues/gay/hmg1.html>  
Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund  
1012 14th Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington DC 20005  
Phone ..... 202-842-8679 or 202-289-3863  
E-mail ..... VictoryF@aol.com WWW ..... <http://www.victoryfund.org/>  
GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation)  
1875 Connecticut Ave. NW, #800, Washington DC 20009 ..... 800-GAY-MEDIA  
E-mail ..... glaad@glaad.org WWW ..... <http://www.glaad.org/>  
GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Education Network)  
121 W. 27th St., Suite 804, New York NY 10001  
Phone ..... 212-727-0135 Fax ..... 212-727-0254  
E-mail ..... glsen@gslen.org WWW ..... <http://www.glsen.org/>  
HRC (Human Rights Campaign; organizers of National Coming Out Day)  
919 18th Street NW, Washington DC 20006  
Phone ..... 202-628-4160 Fax ..... 202-347-5323  
E-mail ..... hrc@hrc.org WWW ..... <http://www.hrc.org/>  
Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund  
120 Wall St., Suite 1500, New York NY 10005  
Phone ..... 212-809-8585 Fax ..... 212-809-0055  
WWW ..... <http://www.thebody.com/lambda/lambda.html>  
NGLTF (National Gay & Lesbian Task Force)  
2320 Seventeenth Street NW, Washington DC 20009-2702  
Phone ..... 202-332-6483 Fax ..... 202-332-0207  
WWW ..... <http://www.nglft.org/>  
PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)  
1101 14th St. NW, Suite 1030, Washington DC 20005 ..... 202-638-4200  
E-mail ..... info@pflag.org WWW ..... <http://www.pflag.org/>

## LOCAL SPIRITUAL

Circle of the Sacred Earth: Rev. Nancy Hayward ..... 231-223-7999  
Journey in Light Ministries: Rev. Linda L. Wilson ..... 231-271-2529  
Unity Church: Rev. Geraldine Colvin ..... 231-938-9587  
3600 Five Mile Rd., Traverse City MI 49686  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Petoskey ..... 231-347-8916  
PO Box 873, Petoskey MI 49770  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Grand Traverse: Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher  
Home ..... 231-938-9078 Office ..... 231-947-3117  
6726 Center Rd., Traverse City MI 49686

## LOCAL COUNSELING

Bay Area Counseling (Petoskey/Harbor Springs)  
Margalo Bley, MSW, ACSW ..... 231-348-3161  
CDRS (free substance abuse referral) ..... 808-A S. Garfield Ave., Traverse City MI 49686  
Phone ..... 231-929-1315 Toll-Free ..... 800-686-0749  
Third Level ..... 1022 E. Front St., Traverse City MI 49686  
Phone ..... 231-922-4800 Toll-Free ..... 800-442-7315  
Women's Resource Center ..... 231-941-1210  
Susan Breuer, PhD (Benzonia/Traverse City) ..... 231-882-4455  
Amy Elena Cook, MSW, CSW ..... 231-932-8699  
Daniel C. Doran, PhD, CSW (Upper Peninsula) ..... 906-635-9263  
William D. Gould, MA (Gladwin) ..... 517-426-2351  
Rodger Landovy, PhD ..... 231-929-1711  
Joanna T. Lauber, MA, OTR, CHt ..... 231-947-8842  
Margo Million, ACSW ..... 231-947-0511  
Elizabeth Most, MSW, ACSW (Petoskey) ..... 231-439-0656  
David Rushlow, ACSW, Munson Medical Center ..... 231-935-6385  
Rod C. Shoemaker, PhD ..... 517-790-3179  
Barbara Jones Smith, PhD ..... 231-947-1444

## LOCAL SERVICE/SOCIAL/POLITICAL

Common Voices: The Friends North Rap Group ..... call Tom at 231-275-6127  
Friends North ..... PO Box 562, Traverse City MI 49685-0562  
Northern Michigan Help Line ..... 231-946-1804 Toll-Free ..... 800-579-8769  
E-mail ..... friendsnorth@hotmail.com WWW ..... <http://welcome.to/friends.north>  
Friends North Gender Society ..... 231-946-1804  
GLSEN Traverse City ..... PO Box 9, Traverse City MI 49685  
Phone ..... 231-943-5050  
Gay Alcoholics Anonymous ..... Grace Episcopal Church, Traverse City  
Call John ..... 231-922-0746 or Hilda ..... 231-938-9294  
PFLAG Traverse City ..... PO Box 1705, Acme MI 49610  
Patrice Stewart ..... 231-933-6628  
Side Traxx (nightclub) ..... 231-935-1666  
Traverse City Human Rights Commission ..... 231-922-4700  
Triangles & Rainbows ..... NMC GLBT group  
Phone ..... 231-922-1673 E-mail ..... [t\\_and\\_r\\_group@hotmail.com](mailto:t_and_r_group@hotmail.com)  
Windfire Gay & Lesbian Youth Support Group ..... call Third Level for location and time  
Phone ..... 231-922-4800 Toll-Free ..... 800-442-7315

## LOCAL HIV/AIDS HEALTH COUNSELING

Community Health Clinic (anonymous HIV testing/counseling, same-day results, no fee)  
Phone ..... 231-929-1844  
Emmet County Health Department (anonymous HIV testing) ..... 231-347-6014  
Grand Traverse County Health Department (anonymous HIV testing) ..... 231-922-4831  
HANDS (HIV/AIDS Support, Petoskey) ..... 800-248-6777  
HIV/AIDS Wellness Networks—Grand Traverse Area, Inc.  
PO Box 1632, Traverse City MI 49685  
Phone ..... 231-947-1110 Bus. Office ..... 933-0279 Toll-Free ..... 800-494-1160  
Northern Michigan Planned Parenthood (anonymous HIV testing/counseling)  
Phone ..... 231-929-1844  
Thomas Judd Care Center ..... 1211 W. Front St., Traverse City MI 49684  
Mary Dillinger, RN, Clinical Nurse Specialist ..... 231-935-8140  
David Rushlow, ACSW, Social Worker ..... 231-935-6385

**Gay? Lesbian? Bisexual? Transgendered?**

**Have Questions? Need Help?**

*Call the Northern Michigan Help Line!*

**231-946-1804 • 800-579-8769**