

SAGE Maine a great resource for state’s elderly GLBT community



Senior Beat
Carol Higgins Taylor

There are no words to describe the event that transpired last week in an Orlando gay bar. Forty-nine people were gunned down and dozens more injured. Individuals and communities as a whole, all over the country, are devastated, distraught, and angry. The GLBT community, which includes all ages, is shattered but is pulling together, supporting one another at this horrific time.

June is Gay Pride month. Celebrations have turned to vigils.

“We are sad and grief-stricken, but we will celebrate Gay Pride and stand prouder than ever before in honor of the sacrifice of all those people,” said Doug Kimmel, who was a co-founder of national SAGE in 1978, and is executive director of SAGE Maine.

Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) is the country’s largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of gay, bisexual and transgender older adults. Often when the gay community is thought of, seniors are not the first group that comes to

mind. SAGE is working to change that.

Lest you think that this is not a necessary entity, the personal stories may change your mind.

For instance, an elderly man in Aroostook county, who was receiving home health services, was victimized by the person hired to help him. The aid, upon learning the man was gay, taunted him, prophesied to him, threatened him with Hell, and frightened him. Being homebound and with very limited resources, he lived in fear. When it became too much, he fired the person but then was alone to fend for himself. He reached out to an AARP staff member, who intervened and helped get him the help he needed.

Many seniors who fear they may need to return to the closet, for safety reasons, upon entering assisted living facilities or nursing homes. They don’t fear the staff as much as the other residents — their peers who lived through the same times, when gay was best hidden. They live in fear of being found out. Fear of what will happen if their partner comes to visit.

“This is a very real fear for Maine seniors, but fortunately, under Maine law, we are protected in nursing facilities,” said Kimmel. “Maine law provides human rights protections for the GLBT

community. Not all states have those protections.”

While we have come a very long way and there is much to be grateful for, there is danger lurking among us. Many seniors are all too familiar with the constant threat having grown up in a different time.

“There are differences in the perspective between the reactions of the young people and seniors (with regard to Orlando),” said Kimmel. “Everyone is devastated but as seniors we have a historical perspective of violence against us. We remember McCarthy, WWII and Hitler. It took us back and reignited a fear that we could go back to that time.”

But there is a vow to stand strong in solidarity. And SAGE is there to help.

SAGE has offices in New York City, Washington, D.C. and Chicago, and 24 SAGE affiliates across 16 states and the District of Columbia, representing every region of the country.

With the assistance of AARP Maine, SAGE Maine began in 2013, and has impressive and critical goals to:

- Ensure that agencies and providers address the needs of GLBT older adults.
- Commit in word and action to offering an environment free of bias and which welcomes and affirms all people.

- Promote community and provide opportunities for social networking and support.
- Facilitate a connection to a network of services.
- Include all diverse populations.
- Draw attention to the specific barriers facing older transgender adults.
- Collaborate with strategic partners to provide services, advocacy, education, and training.

“One of the aspects of the elder GLBT community is the need to connect especially during time of transition, such as losing a partner,” said Kimmel. “It’s important to be part of a social network. That’s why we established the Drop-In Centers. It’s one of our biggest successes.”

The Drop-In Centers, located in Augusta, Bangor, Damariscotta, and Ellsworth, are a safe place where GLBT seniors can connect. There is also a telephone option for those who cannot get to a center in person. You sign and you can join the chat with others who have signed up.

For more information about SAGE Maine, visit sage-maine.org or call 809-7015.

If you are fearful or struggling, reach out. A closet is for clothes.

Carol Higgins Taylor is an advocate for seniors. Email her at seniorbeat@gmail.com.

It’s all fun and games until the cops show up

Duck of Justice
From the Bangor Police Department Facebook page



There are times in this job when we have to warn people about unsafe behaviors. Some of these behaviors are not specifically and categorically banned or posted. That is because you really cannot plan for every situation and we are always hopeful that common sense will prevail.

Some things that are not banned (but we assume you would not do).

1. Swimming at the water treatment plant.
2. Canoe racing at one of the public swimming pools
3. Firewood collection at the City of Bangor Tree Nursery
4. Used pallet bonfires in front of the Bangor Central

Historical Atals of Maine receives awards

The Historical Atlas of Maine has received three new awards, bringing to four the number of honors presented to the folio, its editors, cartographer and publisher this spring.

The atlas won the best Book/Atlas category and was named Best of Show by the international Cartography and Geographical Information Society, and received the Excellence in Publishing Award from the Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance.

In February, Historical Atlas of Maine received the 2016 American Association of Geographers Globe Book Award for Public Understanding of Geography — one of the two most distinguished book prizes available in American geography.

The atlas, the result of a 15-year scholarly project led by University of Maine researchers, offers a new geographical and historical interpretation of Maine, from the end of the last ice age to the year 2000. The volume was published in 2015 by University of Maine Press, a division of UMaine’s Raymond H. Fogler Library.

The folio-size Historical

Fire Station

Recently, the good folks at the air traffic control tower called the police department to report that someone was flying kites in the approach path of the main runway at Bangor International Airport.

Not a mile back from the runway but directly in front of the approach lights, near Interstate 95 and the Odlin Road.

Sgt. Beaudieu was sent to investigate. It was true. It’s all fun and games until the cops show up.

The abnormally breezy day created perfect kite flying conditions and the folks said that at one point, “all the string was out.”

This reminds me of TC’s Maxim #202010 “The fun of one can ruin the day of many.”

As always we urge you to keep your hands to yourself, leave other people’s things alone and be kind to one another.

We will be here!

Atlas of Maine is edited by UMaine historian Richard Judd and UMaine geographer Stephen Hornsby, with cartography by Michael Hermann. It tells the principal stories of the many people who have lived in Maine over the past 13,000 years — the history of Native peoples, European exploration and settlement, the American Revolution, Maine statehood, agricultural and industrial development, and the rise of tourism and environmental awareness.

The 208-page atlas features 76 two-page plates with a rich array of 367 original maps, 112 original charts and 248 other images — historical maps, paintings and photos — in addition to its text. The result is a unique interpretation of Maine, a rich visual record of the state’s history, and a major achievement in humanities research.

Bangor Pride celebration to be held June 21-26

BANGOR — The 2016 Bangor Pride celebration is set for the week of June 21 through June 26, and will feature many different events, parties, discussions, community speakers, arts events and other things celebrating the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community in eastern Maine. Pride this year is hosted by the Bridge Alliance and Mabel Wadsworth Health Center, and the theme is ‘Bye Bye Binary.’ Below is a list of events from Thursday, June 23 through Sunday, June 26.

Thursday, June 23

- Quorship: Join the LGBT in this open and affirming nondenominational service for those of the spiritual community to celebrate pride. 7 p.m., Hampden Congregational Church, 101 Main Road North
- Pride Karaoke with Marissa! 9 p.m., Ipanema Bar & Grill

Friday, June 24

- SAGE Reception & Potluck: A celebration of our LGBTQ, gender variant, and queer elders. 4-6 p.m., Miller Square, 315 Harlow St.
- Art Show: A celebration of LGBT, queer and gender variant expression, hosted by the Health Equity Alliance (HEAL), 6-8 p.m., 58 Main St.
- Drag Show: A fabulous night of music, dance, and drag! Free event, suggested \$5 donation at the door. There is no age limit to this event, however, be mindful this is a drag show and some content may not be suitable for all ages. 9 to

11:30 p.m., UMA Bangor Campus, Eastport Hall, Room 124.

Saturday, June 25

- Pride Parade: Line up at 10 a.m., parade starts at 11 a.m. on the Waterfront. Join us in our march through downtown Bangor in celebration of Pride 2016. All are welcome.
- Pride Festival: A day of music, speakers, vendors, education, social connection, and fun in West Market Square. Festivities begin around 11:30 a.m., and go until 4 p.m.
- Penobscot Theatre’s Rock of Ages at the Bangor Opera House, shows at 3 and 8 p.m. Donate to the Bridge Alliance and receive \$5 off your ticket.
- Pride Youth Dance: Music, dance, and pride! High School students, ages 13-18. Local GSAs and youth groups are participating. 7 to 9 p.m., Maine Holistic Center, 81 Main St.
- Pride Happy Hour: Light libations at Nocturnem Draffhaus, 5-8 p.m., music by Trisha Mason.
- Pride After Party: An all night celebration of pride! 21+ event. 9 p.m. to closing, Paddy Murphy’s, 26 Main St.

Sunday, June 26

- Morning Worship: Enjoy morning spiritual services at the participating local congregations with a focus on Pride 2016. For information on participating congregations check in with the Bridge Alliance Facebook page: [facebook.com/TheBridgeAlliance](https://www.facebook.com/TheBridgeAlliance)
- Transitioning Families: Potluck for families, friends, and allies of our trans community gathering together in celebration and support. 2-4 p.m. For loca-

tion, please contact the Bridge Alliance Facebook page: [facebook.com/TheBridgeAlliance](https://www.facebook.com/TheBridgeAlliance).

Hampden Academy teacher awarded fellowship in Kansas

The Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes in Fort Scott, Kansas, an international educational non-profit, has awarded its prestigious fellowship to history and law studies teacher, Kathryn King of Hampden Academy.

King will arrive in Fort Scott on June 26 for a week of collaboration with the center.

The merit-based LMC Fellowship is awarded to educators who have distinguished themselves in teaching respect and understanding through project-based learning or who have the potential for this distinction. The center selects exemplary teachers from across America and Europe, drawn from a variety of disciplines, to collaborate on projects that discover, develop and communicate the stories of Unsung Heroes in history.

In her tenure at Hampden Academy, King has taught American History, public policy, and law studies, focusing on the interface among Constitutional law, civil rights, international relations, and domestic policy. King’s teaching prepares students to think procedurally, critically, and globally.

She integrates photography, music, drama, film, and literature into her

classes and particularly enjoys facilitating Socratic dialogue, mock trials, and simulated public policy exercises with her students. She wants her students to develop a love for social studies that will spark a lifelong relationship with the democratic process, as well as enabling them to engage confidently and effectively in the making and critiquing of public policy.

While teaching at Hampden Academy King has been recognized by the American Bar Association, the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine, the Maine Bar Association, and the Choices Program at Brown University as an exemplary educator. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, King has mentored many student teachers as well as new members of Hampden Academy’s faculty.

“Kathryn has the kind of passion for teaching that we look for in all our Fellows,” Lowell Milken Center Executive Director, Norm Conard, said. “She is a creative educator who makes a difference in her school.”

Sales Pitch

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Art Camp
July 25th-29th 9am-12pm Ages 7+
Create pieces of art through a variety of media. Art exhibit at the end of the week!

August Dance Camp
August 8th-12th 10am-2pm, Ages 6+
Learn different styles daily! Styles include: Ballet, Hip-Hop, Tap, Contemporary, & more!

Photography Camp, Intro to Photography
August 15th-19th 9am-1pm, Ages 11-18
At the end of the week, show off your work! *must bring own camera or cell phone*

For more info or to sign up call: (207) 989-7100
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Last Friday of the Month Sale

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