



## Collaboration Works

by Roberta Barry

Talk to each other! That's my answer to the organizations who share similar missions, yet are crying that there's not enough money or volunteer power to achieve their goals.

It all started with a cup of coffee at the bagel shop with Susan MacNeil of Aids Services of the Monadnock Region. She had a great idea about a collaborative effort in sponsoring a speaker series. She knew of my involvement with PFLAG and GLSEN and she also knew that we, like many human service groups, had little money. She had experience in the process of obtaining grants. I had other contacts in groups who shared our vision for GLBT people and the need to move our world here in this corner of New Hampshire beyond tolerance toward acceptance. Thus, the speaker series was conceived.

Starting the series on October 8th is Craig Dean, who is Executive Director of the Equal Marriage Rights Fund, who will speak about living with pride, equality, dignity and respect.

On October 15th, Trio Bettencourt, the program coordinator for Boston's Dept. of Public Health Teen AIDS Program at Northeastern University, will speak. He is a

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## Recommended

### Fall Reading

Love in Good Time,

A Memoir

BY Claire Robson

"Claire Robson has written a warm family saga and an equally moving coming out story. She has shown us how the exceptional can be woven into the ordinary with patience and love. The writing in this book is deft and beautiful. This is a story for everyone."

— Edmund White,  
 author of A Boy's Own Story

The world of the Robson family is a complicated mixture of suffocation and strength, and Claire's parents' lives are as small and safe as they can make them. A mother who wants her daughter to fulfill her own dreams and a daughter who wants to be everything her mother is not—both may love each other, but neither understands the other.

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## AIDS Quilt

Timberlane Regional HS  
 Hosts the AIDS Quilt

On November 13, Timberlane Regional High School will host 12 panels in their gym. Students will view the panels from 8 AM to 2 PM. Afterwards, the display will be open to the public from 4 PM until 8 PM.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt is a poignant memorial, a powerful tool for prevention education and the largest ongoing community arts project in the world. Each of the more than 44,000 colorful panels in the Quilt memorializes the life of a person lost to AIDS.

As the epidemic claims more lives, the Quilt continues to grow and to reach more communities with its messages of remembrance, awareness and hope.

More information about The AIDS Memorial Quilt is available at: [www.AIDSQUILT.org](http://www.AIDSQUILT.org).



## Congratulations Bishop Gene Robinson

Congratulations to Bishop Gene Robinson upon his confirmation as Bishop for the diocese of New Hampshire of the Episcopal Church.

Many thanks to Peg Gage, PFLAG National Board member, for her unflagging support of Bishop Robinson.

## Congratulations to Bishop Robinson Supporters

Having worked and prayed for this day for years, we thank you on behalf of the PFLAG NH family for your steadfast devotion to Gene.

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gay, HIV positive, 25 year old, who will speak about accepting our children and embracing their needs.

The speaker on October 29th will be Sabrina Sojourner, African American Congresswoman and first open lesbian to be elected to the U. S. Congress from the District of Columbia. She will be focusing on diversity and multiculturalism. We'll be sharing her with Keene State College where she will participate in their symposium on racism on October 30th.

Our last speaker on November 5th is Steve Yurcik, a white, male, HIV positive heterosexual NYC Police Officer, and father of two. He will speak about how AIDS can happen to anyone. Please join us as we move beyond boundaries to examine what it truly means to be human.

This grant from the Monadnock Community Foundation has allowed five organizations to work together in a formal way to bring this thought provoking series to our community. Our goal is to raise visibility and community consciousness around the issues our groups collectively share.

The five groups are: Aids Services for the Monadnock Region, PFLAG - Keene, GLSEN - Southwest NH, Keene Unitarian Universalist Church, and Keene State College. The location for all of the speakers is the Unitarian Universalist Church at 69 Washington St., Keene, NH and each program will begin at 7 PM. A reception with refreshments will follow. We are offering continuing education or staff development credits for professionals.

As our core committee works with others in the community on the details of this series, more collaborative connections are evolving. What better way of celebrating the Coming Out Month of October than for all of us to sponsor these speakers and to invite the whole community to join in dialogue about what it means to accept and embrace differences and how that differs from tolerance.

A simple contact via e-mail, a phone call, or invitation to share a cup of coffee can lead to powerful sharing and growth opportunities.

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Claire Robson escapes her village and her family through a scholarship to university, where she easily becomes a hippie, marries the son of a family far wealthier than her own, and plunges headlong into domesticity. But before long she leaves her husband and rides her motorcycle straight into the lesbian community to become first a squatter, then a school principal.

This memoir reads like a novel, and is by turns laugh-out-loud funny and heartbreakingly poignant. It is a coming out story that tackles the trade-offs some gay people make after they leave the closet and choose acceptance instead of activism, work instead of sex, success instead of happiness, and silence instead of truth. While this may not seem to be everyone's story, the author's courage, honesty, warmth, and humor make it an unquestionably universal one. "A deft, loving, and insightful recounting of the formative decades of an extraordinary ordinary life. Far from indulging in the current fashion in women's memoir for dissecting one's victimhood, Robson's sly good humor and iconoclasm shine a clear and unapologetic light on the quixotic and often lengthy process of becoming an independent, entirely functional, self-accepting queer adult. From her misbegotten marriage to her arrest as a housing squatter, from schoolyard taunts to lesbian bed death, from the healing power of women's basketball to grieving a dead parent, Robson is unflinching, funny, touching, and intimate in her disclosures. Reading her memoir of coming into her own as a lesbian, a woman, and a human being is like the best sort of long, ambling stories friends tell friends over innumerable pots of tea." —Hanne Blank, author of *Unruly Appetites*

Claire Robson is a British-born writer who has lived in the United States for the past fourteen years. She writes both fiction and poetry and has been published in numerous journals and literary reviews. Claire teaches writing in Boston and New Hampshire.

## Nugget

Readers of the Billings Montana PFLAG newsletter are treated to a "favorite shared quote" that came from the previous monthly meeting.

One edition of the newsletter offered up this one:

**"My Mom use to blame herself for my being gay.**

**Now she wants to take all the credit!"**