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Monadnock Men's Resource Center

We are committed to providing all men with a safe space for growth, sharing, connection and community building... and to overcoming men's violence in all our lives.

important upcoming events

Dean Hutson to Speak at NHCLU Event on "Dissent in a Time of War"

John Hutson, President of Franklin Pierce Law Center, and former Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Navy, will be the keynote speaker at the NH Civil Liberties Union's annual membership meeting, Sunday, Oct. 3rd.

Hutson, a retired Rear Admiral with a nearly 30-year military career, will speak on "Dissent In A Time of War." The NHCLU meeting, free and open to the public, will be from 4 - 6 PM at the Society for The Protection of New Hampshire Forests in East Concord, NH.

Admiral Hutson has become a strong and independent national voice at the intersection of law, terrorism and the military. With two other high-ranking

retired military officers, he authored a brief in the U.S. Supreme Court opposing the government's position in the recent Guantanamo Bay Detainees case.

He has spoken out forcefully about the need for basic due process of law in the treatment of all detainees in a time of war, be they prisoners of war or enemy combatants. He has advocated for an independent and thorough investigation of what went wrong at Abu Ghraib. And, he has proposed publicly that the military end its failed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy as to gays in the military. At every turn, as a legal educator and a respected military leader, he has spoken to the preminent value of the role of law in a civil and a military society.

The NHCLU invites their members and the public to come hear Admiral Hutson speak, 4pm on Oct. 3, at the Society for The Protection of New Hampshire Forests in East Concord, NH. For further information, call the NHCLU at (603) 225-3080.

A Day of Waging Peace - Tuesday, October 5th - 10 am

Sponsored by **Mothers (& others) Uniting**. Workshops, childcare and children's activities. Keene State College Student Center. Keynote address by Holly Near at 10:30 AM; Workshop Sessions at 12:30 PM and 3:15; 5:30 Peacewalk with "Granny D"; 7:30 Concert with Animaterra opening for Holly Near. Go to www.mothersuniting.org for workshop and other details.

Questions? Call 603-357-9413, or e-mail sue@mothersuniting.org

Teach Your Children Well ~ Workshop by the MMRC, 3:15 PM

This workshop is designed to help adults learn to empower children in creating a non-violent and just world. The goal is to give people a plan for action.

In a world preoccupied with war and terrorism, how can children develop a sense of hope and the power to make the world a better place? Through discussion, brainstorming and interactive activities this workshop will explore how adults can help empower the children in our lives with the goal of leaving the workshop with a personal and/or group plan for action. *By Forrest Seymour & Damien Licata, Co-Directors, and Robert Schultz, Steering Committee.*

Free • Open • Drop-In
SUPPORT GROUP
for ALL Men

Sunday evenings • 7:00 pm sharp

at LifeArt • 43 Central Square • Keene

Monadnock Men's
MMRC
Resource Center

Wrestle with Your Kids!

by Mark Brandenburg MA, CPCC

“Bring it on,” I yelled to my kids. “I’ll pin you both at the same time!”

“You think so?” my daughter yelled back. “You’re gonna get what you deserve!” My son came at me from the front, while my daughter snuck around behind me. I spun to the ground, and was assaulted on both sides. It was only a matter of time before they each had a shoulder pinned to the ground.

While they celebrated their victory, I planned my next attack, knowing that the “results” of the battle were far less important than the battle itself.

Do you want to be an effective father? One of the easiest ways to be effective is to wrestle with your kids. Not only is it loads of fun, but its’ benefits go a long ways towards teaching your kids some valuable lessons.

When your child wrestles with you, they learn many things simultaneously. They learn that you care about them enough to spend time with them. They learn about strength and force, and how to apply it. And they also learn that while you’re much stronger than they are, you can be gentle with them at the same time.

Wrestling with your kids allows you to set very clear limits on what’s allowed. Research has shown that wrestling with your kids helps them to develop self-control and to gain more discipline. When a limit has been violated, you can gently and firmly let your child know what’s allowed and what isn’t.

It’s extremely important to wrestle with your daughter as well as your son. When you avoid wrestling with your daughter, you run the risk of showing her that you don’t believe she’s capable of handling it. She can handle it, and by doing it you show her you think she’s strong and capable.

If you have more than one child, you can have some great wrestling matches with the whole family, including mom! But as fathers, we’ll often have a special place in the family as the “fun, physical guy.” We’ll often be the ones who show our kids how to play. In this case, we need to be able to show our kids how to play “rough.”

Many fathers have wrestled with their kids because it just “felt right,” or because they remembered their father wrestling with them when they were young. They had no knowledge of any research associated with it or that it had great benefits for their kids.

I stalked my prey from behind and leaped onto her back, taking her down and tickling her mercilessly as she squealed for me to stop.

It is in the intensity of these moments that the bond strengthens between a father and his child. We are firmly in the present moment, with no concern about our history or our future.

These are the moments that can change a child’s world.

And if you let these moments happen, they can change your world, too.

Mark Brandenburg, MA, CPCC, coaches men to be better fathers and husbands. You can sign up for his free bi-weekly newsletter, “Dads Don’t Fix Your Kids” on his website at www.markbrandenburg.com. (used with permission)



Monadnock Men’s Resource Center

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Damien Licata & Forrest Seymour

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The MMRC Community Newsletter

Jim Duffy, Editor
Steve Salamin, Design & Publishing

The MMRC Community Newsletter is published quarterly and distributed throughout the region for free.

Please consider supporting our efforts by doing any of the following:

- Subscribe for only \$20/year
- Come to a Support Group
- Volunteer as a Facilitator
- Make a Tax-Deductible Donation

THANK YOU!

Monadnock Men’s Resource Center
P.O. Box 140
Keene, New Hampshire 03431
(603) 357-5780

www.mmrconline.org

Gay Marriage? Blame It On Jefferson...

by Thom Hartmann

“It’s never been tried before.” “The Bible doesn’t mention it.” “Civilized people have never done things this way.” “No society in the 6000 years of the history of civilization since Gilgamesh has suggested such a thing.” “It’ll create social chaos, ultimately destroying the nation.” “It’s just too radical an idea for people to accept.”

Those were the arguments put forth in the 1760s and 1770s as the American colonies split - divisions that often tore apart families - on the issue of whether a free people could govern themselves in a democracy or should stay with England’s king. They were trotted out in the 19th century over the issue of freeing America’s slaves. They appeared again in the 20th century over whether women should be allowed to vote and fully participate in society. And these voices were heard again early in my lifetime when the Supreme Court forced public schools to allow white and black children to attend class together.

Gay marriage is simply the logical and appropriate extension of the idea that in a constitutionally limited democratic republic a vital function of government is to protect the rights of minorities. It’s called “civil rights.”

Back in 1787 when the Constitution was being worked out, conservatives pointed out that what John Adams called “the rabble” couldn’t be trusted to elect representatives or - even more dangerously - become elected officials. As the father of modern conservative thought, Edmund Burke (1729-1797), famously noted: “The occupation of a hair-dresser, or of a tallowman [candle maker], cannot be a matter of honor to any person - to say nothing of a number of other more servile employments. Such description of men ought not to suffer oppression from the state, but the state suffers oppression if such as they, either individually or collectively, are permitted to rule.”

American representative democracy was an experiment in 1776 that had never before been tried among “civilized” people. The world watched with curiosity and awe, and during the Civil War figured it was at an end.

Even by 1900 there were only a handful of democratic nations in the entire world, and if you define democracy to require the enfranchisement of all people, male and female, black and white, the first true democracy didn’t appear until 1920 when we passed the 19th Amendment.

Since that time, liberal democracies have exploded across the world. Of the 191 member nations of the UN in 2003, 140 hold multi-party elections and 81 are considered “fully democratic” by the UN’s standards. Through democratically elected representatives, citizens themselves rule nearly all of North and South America,

Europe, Australia and most Pacific Islands, South Africa, and many parts of Asia.

This is all startlingly new - an eye blink in the history of what we call civilization. Democracy and civil rights are not “traditional values.” The Bible, the Koran, and the Vedas sanction slavery. Women have been the property of men for nearly all of our history. And the idea that one of the most important functions of government is to protect the rights of often-unpopular minorities so shocked Colonial conservatives that many took up arms against the revolutionaries, fled to Canada, or returned to England.

George Washington was speaking directly to the issue of civil rights when, in 1790, he said, “As Mankind becomes more liberal, they will be more apt to allow that all those who conduct themselves as worthy members of the community are equally entitled to the protections of civil government. I hope ever to see America among the foremost nations of justice and liberality.”

“Gay Marriage...” - continued on Page 4 >>

SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE MMRC!



- **DROP-IN TO A GROUP!**
(SUNDAYS - 7:00 PM @ LIFEART)
- **SPREAD THE WORD!**
- **VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME!**
- **BECOME A MEMBER!**

CALL (603) 357-5780 FOR DETAILS.
THANK YOU!

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. The world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children."

~ Dwight D. Eisenhower

"I am afraid to forget. I fear we human creatures do not forget cleanly as the animals presumably do. What protrudes and does not fit in our pasts rises to haunt us and make us spiritually unwell in the present."

~ J. Glen Gray

"The use of the atomic bomb, with its indiscriminate killing of woman and children, revolts my soul."

~ Herbert Hoover

"Let me put it to you bluntly. In a changing world, we want more people to have control over your own life."

~ George W. Bush



"Gay Marriage..." - continued from Page 3

The history of America and the history of modern democracies is one of expanding civil rights. First we freed white males from the kings and queens. Then we freed those of us whose skin varied in color. Then we freed women. While none of us are yet completely free, the ancient kings are returning in the guise of multinational corporations, and the battles for civil rights continue against conservative forces, it's essential that we recognized that "We, the People" means all of us.

It's no coincidence that when the Vermont and Massachusetts Supreme Courts recently looked at constitutions written in the 1700s, inspired by the writings of Jefferson, Madison, and Franklin, they discovered therein the rights of gays and lesbians to civil unions and marriage.

Gay marriage is a civil rights issue, plain and simple, and entirely in keeping with the egalitarian vision of this nation's Founders. It's time for us to honestly and frankly face and accept that fact, and act appropriately.

Thom Hartmann (thom@thomhartmann.com) is the award-winning, best-selling author of over a dozen books, and the host of a nationally syndicated daily talk show. Go to: www.thomhartmann.com Used with permission by the author.

The Status of Men

In addition to hosting the presidential primaries every four years, the Granite State can now attribute another "first in the nation" event to itself.

In 2002 the New Hampshire State Legislature established the **New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men**, the first and only such endeavor in the history of our nation. Its mission is to research, examine, and illicit public response and information on a wide range of male issues and to make formal recommendations to the Legislature. Topics of the Commission's meetings have included domestic violence, the high rate of male suicide in our state, and the important role of fathers in children's development. The meetings are held monthly and open to all. Public commentary is encouraged.

The Commission's website can be found at www.nh.gov/csm. It includes resources, publications, meeting calendar and minutes, as well as the means to contact committee members. The Commission is a work in progress. Public input at this point is important. The MMRC encourages everyone to educate themselves and participate in this historic process.

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MMRC COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 29, 1 to 4 PM
New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men
 Room 208 of the Legislative Office Building

Tuesday, Oct. 5th...**A Day of Waging PEACE**
(See the announcement on the front page.)

Every Sunday night, 7pm:
MMRC Drop-in Support Group, for all men,
 LifeArt, 43 Central Square, Keene, 603-357-5780

First Monday of each month:
Dads Group, 105 Castle Street, Keene NH.
 RSVP with Rebecca Fray, 603-355-3082

First Tuesday, monthly, 7-9pm:
PFLAG (Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays)
 St. James Church, 44 West St., Keene 603-355-1040

Men's Group: A peer-led group using the arts, poetry, movement, myth, ritual and discussion to honor the past and explore the here and now. Tuesdays 7:15-9:15pm at the Mariposa Museum, Peterborough, NH. Call Andrew at 603-878-1409 for details.

Wednesdays, October 27, Nov 17. & Dec. 29...
New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men
 Legislative Office Building, room & time tba, on website.