



Established September 23, 1886

Portsmouth Herald

111 Maplewood Avenue, Portsmouth, NH 03801

Dozens gather to support gay rights

By Matthew Tetrault
news@seacoastonline.com

PORTSMOUTH — Seacoast residents were on hand to show their support for gay and lesbian rights at a house party hosted by state Sen. Martha Fuller Clark this Sunday.

More than 55 people attended the event at Fuller Clark's downtown Portsmouth home. The focus of the house party was to educate Seacoast residents about the Atticus Circle, a national civil rights advocacy group.

The main speaker for the evening was Atticus Circle founder Anne Wynne. Wynne is has several friends who live on the Seacoast.

Wynne, a married mother of three, created the group to give straight people a tool to support gay and lesbian rights. The group derives its name from the character Atticus Finch from Harper Lee's book, "To Kill A Mockingbird."

"I wasn't out to found a group like this, but I couldn't find a group like it, so I decided to do it myself," said Wynn.

Local groups including Seacoast Outright, a gay and lesbian support group, and PFLAG NH, a group for parents of gay and lesbian children, were also in attendance

to fund raise and network with supporters.

Currently, the Atticus Circle is working to educate voters and lawmakers about the views of same-sex couples. The group also provides legal advocacy on behalf of gay and lesbian parents whose rights

are being denied because of their sexual orientation.

As both the founder of the Atticus Circle and a family lawyer, Wynne is particularly concerned about the welfare of children in same-sex marriages. According to Wynne, under current legislation, the children of same-sex couples are denied the guarantee of child support in the event of separation.

"There are more than one million children being raised by same gendered parents."

Anne Wynne

Founder, Atticus Circle

"There are more than one million children being raised by same gendered parents and they deserve the same rights my children have," said Wynne. "This is the civil rights struggle of our time."

Fuller Clark also took the opportunity to speak to Seacoast residents about support for gay and lesbian rights in New Hampshire.

"It's important that we have these groups to stand for this important issue," said Fuller Clark, who is also the parent of a gay child. "They deserve the same access to equal rights that the rest of us enjoy."