

2008 Annual Report



Volunteers Stephanie Shaw (left) and Heather Welborn distributed information about alternatives to marriage at Newark (NJ) Pride in June.

The Alternatives to Marriage Project (AtMP) advocates equality and fairness for unmarried people, including people who are single, choose not to marry, cannot marry, or live together before marriage. We provide **support and information** for this fast-growing constituency, **fight discrimination** on the basis of marital status, and **educate the public** and policymakers about legal and economic issues. We believe that marriage is only one of many acceptable family forms, and that society should recognize and support healthy relationships in all their diversity. AtMP is a national 501c3 nonprofit organization.

Chairperson: Meaghan Lamarre
Executive Director: Nicky Grist

In 2008, the Board of Directors included: Julie Bluhm, Rachel Buddeberg, Rajiv Garg, Katharine Grantz, Alison E. Hatch, Marshall Miller, Mark Neil, Dorian Solot, Jo VanEvery. In 2009, Michele Hirsch and Kevin Noble Maillard were also elected to the Board of Directors.

Support & Information



Fordham University Law Professor Kevin Noble Maillard (left) shared the podium with AtMP's Nicky Grist during an October session of his Family Law class in New York City.

Knowing that almost half of unmarried eligible voters chose not to vote in 2004, AtMP dedicated itself to **getting out the vote** in 2008. We sent over 26,600 emails and made nearly 2,000 phone calls to members around the country, urging them to register and vote in both the primaries and general election. Most of the members we talked to were ready to vote, excited about the elections, and glad to hear from fellow AtMPers (over 20 unmarried and married volunteers donated their time and phone minutes to this project).

Medical decision-making and hospital visitation are key topics within AtMP's focus on health care, because they are subject to many misleading myths about marital status. We wrote up detailed advice about how to complete health care proxies and other advance directives, and emailed it to over 820 AtMP members who had previously expressed interest in health care. Responses were so positive that we joined the National Healthcare Decisions Day Initiative and expanded this project into 2009.

*"Thank you so much for this email!
We're doing ours, today, thanks to you!"
- Colleen, Stratford CT*

"Connecting to a community of people like me" is important or very important to nearly 70% of the people who complete our online survey. With over 8,500 members in all 50 states and dozens of countries, creating community takes creativity. Over 600 members get news clips and exchange views via our email listserve. In 2008 we added a **book group** to facilitate deeper, more focused conversations. Over 35 people joined and explored new books as well as classics on topics ranging from law reform to lifestyle.

Fight Discrimination



AtMP co-founder Marshall Miller (right) visited NY State Senator Thomas K. Duane in Albany in May, to thank him for supporting our goals.

AtMP's **health care strategy** advanced dramatically with the preparation of two detailed policy papers. Our 14-point plan for making health insurance equally available to people whether they're single, partnered or married is based on three simple principles: cover more relationships; treat covered relationships equally; and maintain coverage when relationships change. Our plan for equality and justice in hospital rights calls for updating state medical decision laws, instituting a federal visitation rule, increasing provider accountability, and creating a national registry for advance directives. These specific, well-researched proposals are the foundation of our grassroots actions and legislative lobbying.

Grassroots action was certainly called for when a Florida **hospital denied visitation** for a same-sex couple whose vacation ended tragically. While Lambda Legal filed suit, over 50 AtMP members emailed the local tourism board to remind them that respecting unmarried people's hospital rights is good business.

Hoping to build on the success of our 2006 **constitutional amendment** campaigns, we dedicated a six-month internship to fighting Florida's Amendment 2. Despite our postcards, emails, phone calls, fact sheets and blogs, voters decided that "no other legal union that is treated as marriage or the substantial equivalent thereof shall be valid or recognized."

We enjoyed better success when **Black Jack, Missouri** again tried to stop an unmarried family from living in a single-family-zone. AtMP contacted the media and the local ACLU, and 30 members signed a petition to the governor, calling for a statewide prohibition on marital status discrimination. Facing public ridicule, Black Jack amended its zoning to recognize unmarried families!

Educate the Public



Attorney Mark Momjian (right) invited American University Law Professor Nancy Polikoff (center) and Nicky Grist to discuss proposals for going beyond marriage at a continuing legal education event for the Philadelphia (PA) Bar Association in May.

In addition to educating lawyers and law students (see photos on page 2 and above), AtMP helped build public understanding about unmarried people and family diversity by educating the media.

Our first-ever media awards highlighted the best and worst coverage of **Unmarried and Single Americans Week**. In addition to publicizing our picks through a press release and on our website, we personally congratulated the reporters from the three best papers (the Minnesota Independent, Buffalo (NY) News, and Riverside (CA) Press-Enterprise).

Complementing our get-out-the-vote effort, our “Every Single Vote Counts” campaign aimed to **educate political commentators** about the importance of the unmarried electorate. After questioning over 50 members in at least 23 states about how presidential candidates should address the concerns of unmarried voters, we created a special report to the media. We mailed comprehensive background packages to targeted pundits and pollsters who seemed most open to broadening their coverage, issued press releases about the role and concerns of unmarried people in the national election, and posted in numerous election coverage blogs.

AtMP staff, board and members represented the unmarried point of view in many media outlets, including the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Port of Harlem* and *More* magazines; CBC Radio One and the Allan Handelman syndicated radio show; and online at Miller McCune, NewsOK, ABC news, and Reason.tv.

Donors & Dollars

2008 Income and Expenses

Donations	\$ 32,367
Grants	\$ 27,000
Other income	\$ 825
Net sales	\$ 848
Total income	\$ 61,040
Personnel	\$ 28,243
Professional fees	\$ 1,400
Postage & printing	\$ 5,138
Office supplies & equipment	\$ 1,104
Telephone, internet etc	\$ 887
Travel, training & conferences	\$ 1,800
Permits, dues & subscriptions	\$ 1,312
Total expenses	\$ 39,884
Net income	\$ 21,156
Net assets at 12/31/08	\$ 48,561

*Did you know?
You can view AtMP's annual financial report to the IRS at www.guidestar.org, or receive a copy by calling 718-788-1911.*

Visionaries \$5,000 - \$25,000: Abraham Fuchsberg Family Foundation. **Benefactors \$1,000 - \$4,999:** Robert C. Aronoff, Alexandra Chasin, Democracy In Action, NY State Senator Thomas K. Duane, Marshall Miller & Dorian Solot, Mark Neil, Gerard Palmeri, Nancy Polikoff, Catherine E. Reuben & Scott Glanzman, Amber Settle & André Berthiaume. **Sustainers \$500 - \$999:** Julie Bluhm & Stephen Gumnit, Martha Ehrenfeld, The Strauss Hawkins Fund, Mark Schublin & Karen McLaughlin. **Leaders \$250 - \$499:** Stacey Alexander, Tom Amoroso, Anonymous, Rachel A. Buddeberg, Ulla Figwer & Dave Goss, Amy S. Glesius & Roger Buelow, Katharine Grantz, Judy A. Guerin-Cunningham & Richard Cunningham, Alison E. Hatch & Dan Welch, Gretchen Kehde & Jon Soroko, Will Marcotte, Susan & Charles McLean, Suzanne Miller & Walter vom Saal, Guy Santo, J.K. & Kim Scheinberg, Ann Schranz, Jan Smith, Alexandra Teixeira, Jo VanEvery, Mary Ann Vorasky, Robyn Wagner, Alice Yew. **Friends \$100 - \$249:** Anonymous Donor, Majid Ayyoub & Sandra Washburn, Ginny Brock & Daniel Schmeltzer, Melinda Brown & Lou Sortman, Paul Christensen, Janna Cordeiro & Sebastian Toomey, Lisa Duggan, Richard Fine, Eric & Mary Folley, Crystal Fortwangler, Janie Fronck & Ken Heskestad, Diana Gabriel, Dr. Peter J. Giannini, Pierre Girard, Michael Glasser, David Graves, A.J. Greer, Ray Grist, Reri Grist-Thomson, William A. Gulvin, Lisa Healey, April Herms & Lexi Adams, Melissa Hess, Teresa Hsu, Samuel D. Hummel, Jr. & Kriti Sharma, Kirsten Isgro & Tom Schicker, Alison Johnson, Nancy Jones, William F. Keinath, Dianne Kiser, Kim Klein & Stephanie Roth, Roger Kohn, Miguel La Rota, Roger Lake, Meaghan Lamarre, Betsy Lehrfeld & Jim Turner, Dr. Karen Gail Lewis, Madam's Organ Restaurant, Linda McClean, Jeremy Peirce & Deirdre Cusack, Marc Rosen, Melora Rush & David Booth, Drew Shell & Julie Scherer, Jennifer Tennant, E. Kay Trimberger, John Francis Heidlage & Joan Frances Walsh, Robert West & Petey Young, Bernadette Wright & Don Krapf, Libby Zimmerman & Kostia Bergman. **Boosters \$1 - \$99:** At least 11 anonymous donors, Fernand Alvarez, Mary Andres, Bettykay, Heather Bodman, Emily Boone, Tree Bressen, Lynn Brooks, C.T. Butler & Diana Bradley, Jenna Calabrese, Lisa Cohen, Larry Coleman, Robert Cook Jr., Sandra C. Cunha, Veronique de Ruy, Bella DePaulo, John DeThomas, Searah Deysach, Skip Drumm & Alan Gross, Kassy Ellefson, Michael Farmer, Yvonne Farrell, Gina Feletar, Joseph C. Fineman, Angela Fiore, Travis Fritsche, Rajiv Garg, Robert Garland, Tom Giesler, David Glassman, Douglas E. Gogerty, Jon Haasch, Dr. Denise Hall, Frederick W. Henninger, Abraham Heward, Nancy J. Hile, Rodney Hoffman, Sarah Hutchinson & Bret Pearson, Sandy Johnson, Jillian Johnson, Whitney Johnston, Stephen Katz, Connie Kauppi, Carolyn King, Jonathan Francis Krall, William Kuby, James A. Larson, Harry R. Major, Kenyatta Matthews, Richard Mc Elroy, Raymond McCauley, Shana McDavis-Conway & Eva Townsend, Jonathan McDowell, Joanna Miles, Nina J. Mizrahi, Amy Mortimer & Eric Lotke, Ashley April Murphy, Lorri Nandrea, Ellen Pattison, Nancy & Bob Patton, Dante Picchioni, Naida Piccolo, Susan Piontek, Jeremy Pittman, Penny Postel, Paresh Puhon & Kenneth Jansson, Michael Reynolds, Jim Richardson, Priscilla Rivera, Sarah David Rosenbaum, Gilad Rosner, Sarah Rowley, Paul D Sawyer, Sunessa Schettler & Matthew Glidden, Arnold Schwab, Richard Semegram, Evan Shapiro, Stephanie Shaw, Anne Sinkey, Melissa Smith, 'Becca Stallings & Daniel Efran, Eric Stiles, Steve Sutor, Wilson Taylor, Grace Tazewell, Miriam, Rebecca, & Robin Tell, John Ullman, Kenneth Lee Vickers & Kay Holloway, Arno A. Warnke, Kelly Webster, Carlos L. Wilcox, Marion Willetts, Sharon Woznicki, Thomas M. Yamin & Patti Schulte, Renee Yates. **Contributors of Goods & Professional Services:** Early to Bed, Gill Foundation, David Graves, Hsiung Hsien, Paul Jean, John Kilguss, Lagusta's Luscious, Meaghan Lamarre, Marshall Miller & Dorian Solot, Muses Legal Products Inc., Op-Ed Project, Parish Gallery, Nancy Polikoff, Robinson & Cole LLP, Bill Wadman, Doyle Warren. ♡

Thank You!



In July, Nicky presented an unmarriage thank-you plaque to volunteer Brad Allen in Santa Fe, NM

Most of AtMP's work is done by volunteers. In 2008, these wonderful people completed vital projects such as policy research, policy advice, event planning, accounting, writing newsletter articles, encouraging members to vote, representing AtMP in the media, and adding new information to www.unmarried.org. Many thanks to all of you!

Brad Allen, Roxanne Alvarez, Tom Amoroso, Amy Baker, Juliann Barbato, Nancy Bauck, Gail Becker, Julie Bluhm, Janelle Brazington, Melinda Brown, Rachel Buddeberg, Shannon Carlin, Iris Chiu, Janna Cordeiro, Bella DePaulo, Deborah Dillon, Emily Diskow, Ulla Figwer, Elissa Foster, Leah Foster, Rebecca Fox, Jessica Gafkowitz, Rajiv Garg, Jaclyn Geller, Bob Godwin, Samantha Gonzalez, Sari Gordon, Katharine Grantz, Norman Greig, Bill Gulvin, Luann Harris-Wells, Alison E. Hatch, Twanna Hines, Michele Hirsch, Heather Hochberg, Teri Hu, Owen Hutchins, Maya Jakubowitz, Joe James, Paul Jean, Alison Johnson, Carolyn King, Meaghan Lamarre, Rebecca Levine, Ricci Levy, Baylen Linnekin, Sarah Lovering, Kevin Noble Maillard, Marshall Miller, Pablo Moretto, Shari Motro, Mark Neil, Joy O'Donnell, Victoria Ortiz, Gerard Palmeri, Nancy Polikoff, Will Reissner, Cathy Reuben, Lourdes Rivera, Larry Roth, Richard Sacks, Jihad Saleh, Sunessa Schettler, Terry Schleder, Janay Scott, Richard Semegram, Amber Settle, Stephanie Shaw, Meg Smolinski, Dorian Solot, Samantha Stanton, Billie Jo Stoddard, Leslie Talbot, Rachel Trammell, E. Kay Trimberger, Jo Van Every, Dennis Ventry Jr., Doyle Warren, Heather Welborn, Elizabeth Wood, Sharon Woznicki, Bernadette Wright, Kenny Yim, Eva Zelig.

We truly want to thank everyone who made 2008 a great success. Please tell us if we've missed or misspelled your name.

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