

Alternatives to Marriage PROJECT



Meaghan Lamarre, chair of AtMP's Board of Directors, led the annual board retreat in January 2009.

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About Us

[Get Involved](#)

[Press Room](#)

[Facts & Fun](#)

[Current Issues](#)

[Blog](#)

[Ways to be Unmarried](#)

[Living Single](#)

[Living Together](#)

[GLBT](#)

[Polyamory](#)

[MarriageFree & Boycott](#)

[Parents & Children](#)

[Commitment](#)

[Ceremonies](#)

[Domestic Partner](#)

[Benefits](#)

[Mission](#)

[Who We Are](#)

[Contact](#)



Annual Report 2009

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 relevant social 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 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Executive Director: Nicky Grist

Chairperson: Meaghan Lamarre

In 2009, the Board of Directors included: Rachel Buddeberg, Rajiv Garg, Katharine Grantz, Michele Hirsch, Alison E. Hatch, Kevin Maillard, Marshall Miller, Gordon Morris, Ann Schranz and Dorian Solot. In 2010, Thomas A. Amoroso, MD, MPH and Rabbi Alissa Wise were also elected to the Board of Directors.

Alternatives to Marriage Project

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Summer intern Pablo Moretto lobbied to expand domestic partner benefits in summer 2009.

Current Issues



Job-based Health Insurance

2009 Objective: persuade health care reformers to stop using marital status or relationship type to control access to health insurance.

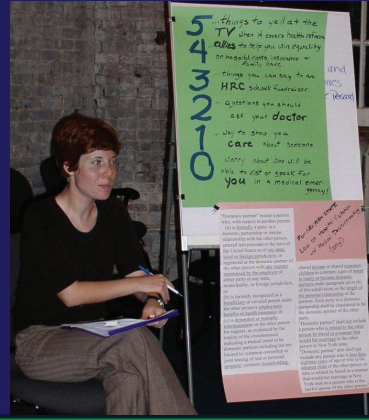
In January, Executive Director Nicky Grist described insurance problems and solutions as a panelist at **Creating Change**, the national conference of LGBT organizers. The audience was enthusiastic; one said the presentation was "excellent ... (it) changed (my) way of thinking about marriage equality ... and the ways we need to protect and fight for 'marriage' rights for everyone."

In May, AtMP submitted detailed comments to the **Senate Finance Committee** during the drafting stage of the national health reform bill. Student interns helped create fact sheets about the barriers to coverage faced by unmarried people, distributing them to dozens of reform organizations. As a result, the **Center for American Progress** quoted four of AtMP's recommendations, and the Sloan Foundation's Work & Family blog noted that a "promising idea is the simple and fair 'plus-one' concept for health insurance championed by the Alternatives to Marriage Project. ... This idea could be a building block for future workplace and public policies concerning benefits and family leave."

AtMP also worked on two federal laws apart from health reform. The economic stimulus package included financial relief for people who pay out of pocket to continue their health insurance after losing their jobs – a.k.a. **COBRA**. AtMP campaigned to guarantee continuing coverage for domestic partners by calling the Senate, writing letters to editors, and helping AtMP members send over 550 emails to Congress and the President.

We also campaigned for expanding the **Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act** to give plus-one benefits to federal employees, by submitting written testimony to U.S. House and Senate subcommittees, meeting with Congressional district staff in NYC and arranging similar meetings for AtMP members in Madison, WI. We even sent thank you gifts to a senator and a key administration official who publicly acknowledged the "fairness issue" of excluding some partners from coverage.

Alternatives to Marriage PROJECT



Jessica Gafkowitz, AtMP's Communications Assistant, explained hospital rights at the NYC Gay Center in September 2009.

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Hospital Rights

Current Issues



2009 Objective: mobilize AtMP members, especially in New York, to secure their hospital rights through personal and legislative action.

AtMP's early research on hospital rights revealed that about half of U.S. states exclude unmarried partners or close friends from making medical decisions for incapacitated patients unless named by the patient in writing in advance, while New York and Missouri did not allow *anyone* to make medical decisions without advance directives. AtMP joined a statewide coalition to advocate passage of the long-stalled **Family Health Care Decisions Act**. We educated AtMP's 600+ members in NY by phone and email, submitted written comments to the State Senate Health Committee, met with nine lawmakers, helped AtMP members send over 225 emails to the state legislature and local media, and celebrated when the bill finally became law in early 2010. In the process, we also persuaded two LGBT organizations to tell their members that hospital rights in NY are not linked to marriage equality.

AtMP wrote fact sheets about New York's unique lack of marital status discrimination in hospital visitation and surrogate decision making, distributing them at community events around NYC. We also developed a practical **workshop** about advance directives, presenting it in coordination with LGBT organizations three times in 2009 and early 2010.

Each April 16th, we remind AtMP members nationwide that it's easy and important to write advance directives, as part of the **National Healthcare Decisions Day** coalition. In 2009 and 2010, over 1,230 members nationwide learned about hospital visitation and medical decision making, and over 230 took action to protect their rights.

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Nicky Grist and Professor Anna-Marie Smith updated Congressional staff in March 2009.

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Welfare & Marriage Promotion

Current Issues



2009 Objective: build the new Get Marriage Promotion Out of TANF Coalition, identify allies and arguments, prepare for a legislative battle in 2010.

At the end of 2008, an ad hoc group of academics and advocates, including AtMP, had sent a policy paper opposing the continued diversion of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), a.k.a. welfare, funds for marriage promotion to the president-elect's transition team. In early 2009, Nicky Grist and Cornell University Professor Anna Marie Smith went to Washington DC to meet with the offices of Representatives McDermott (WA), Stark (CA), Lee (CA), and Schakowsky (IL), Senator Baucus (MT), and the Administration for Children and Families. While the Congressional staffers received our message warmly and gave us good advice about **how to influence the next anti-poverty budget**, the administration engaged us in a polite debate about using anti-poverty funds for marriage programs. A summer intern compiled a review of marriage program evaluations and related social science research, which we sent to the Congressional staffers as a follow up. The Legislative Assistant to Rep. McDermott said "This is wonderful and extremely helpful."

Through AtMP's updates and outreach, the **coalition** to get marriage promotion out of the TANF budget grew to over 35 members. We persuaded one coalition member to submit a proposal to the federal Welfare Research & Evaluation conference. FAMILI, an organization leading the effort to *increase* the use of welfare funds to promote marriage, used the existence of our coalition as a threat to scare its own members into action.

At the request and with the help of one AtMP member, we also created a mini-campaign to protest a Virginia proposal to require **marriage lessons in K-12** education, enabling members to send dozens of emails to state legislators.

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Board member Michele Hirsch thanked supporters at a fund raising party in October 2009.

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About Us



Donations	\$ 34,118
Grants	\$ 12,891
Other income	\$ 464
Net sales	\$ 731
Total income	\$ 48,204

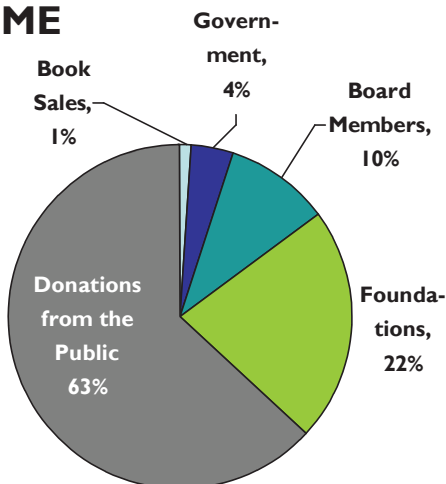
Personnel	\$ 30,768
Professional fees	\$ 2,594
Postage & printing	\$ 6,919
Office supplies & equipment	\$ 1,267
Rent, utilities, telephone, etc.	\$ 4,811
Travel, training & conferences	\$ 1,946
Permits, dues & subscriptions	\$ 1,530
Total expenses	\$ 49,835

Net income \$ (1,631)

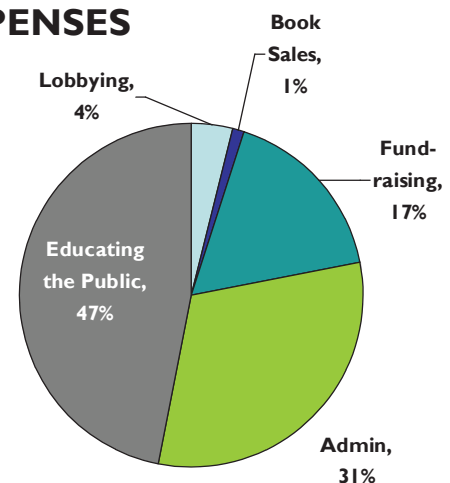
Net assets at 12/31/09 \$ 46,931

You can view AtMP's annual financial report to the IRS at www.guidestar.org, or receive a copy by emailing AtMP@unmarried.org.

INCOME



EXPENSES



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Nicky Grist helped NYS Assembly member Jim Brennan inform constituents about hospital rights in April 2009.

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About Us



Visionaries \$5,000 - \$25,000:

The Abraham Fuchsberg Family Foundation.

Benefactors \$1,000 - \$4,999:

Rachel A. Buddeberg, NY State Senator Thomas K. Duane, Marshall Miller & Dorian Solot, Gerard Palmeri, Nancy Polikoff, Catherine E. Reuben & Scott Glanzman, Amber Settle & André Berthiaume, The Strauss Hawkins Fund, an advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

Sustainers \$500 - \$999:

The Ben & Jerry's Foundation, Susan Mandelker Deitz & Morris Mandelker, Democracy In Action, Martha Ehrenfeld, Katherine Franke, Jean V. Hardisty, Kevin Maillard & Iris Chiu, Mark Schubin & Karen McLaughlin, Jan Smith.

Leaders \$250 - \$499:

Stacey Alexander, Tom Amoroso, Ashton Applewhite & Bob Stein, Julie Bluhm & Stephen Gumnit, Clayton Cheek & Jordan Reese, Ken Diamondstone & Joe Kopitz, Ulla Figwer & Dave Goss, Diana Gabriel, Amy S. Glesius & Roger Buelow, Michele Hirsch, Gretchen Kehde & Jon Soroko, Meaghan Lamarre, Will Marcotte, Suzanne Miller & Walter vom Saal, Pepper Mint, Jeremy Peirce & Deirdre Cusack & Kala Pierson, Ann Schranz, Anna Marie Smith & Megan McLemore, Jo VanEvery, Robert West & Petey Young.

Friends \$100 - \$249:

2 Anonymous Donors, Robert C. Aronoff, Judy Beth Ashworth, Kostia Bergman, Gwen Blank & Gustavo Lopez, Ginny Brock & Daniel Schmeltzer, Roger B. Brokaw, Deborah Chalfie, Stephanie Shi Chen, Paul Christensen, Thomas F. Coleman, Sandra C. Cunha, James Denny, Robert Devries, Lisa Duggan, Marci Etter, Janie Fronek & Ken Heskstad, Grace Fung & Victor Chiu, Marcia Geller, Tom Giesler, Katharine Grantz, David Graves, Ray Grist, Reri Grist-Thomson, William A. Gulvin, Lisa Healey, April Herms, Frederick Hertz, Melissa Hess, Alison Johnson, William F. Keinath, Isaac Mitzuru Kikawada, Kim Klein & Stephanie Roth, Roger Kohn, John Lapham & Annie Hoffman, William P. LaPiana, Charles N. Lawrence, Mike Leibensperger, Dr. Karen Gail Lewis, Kuma Lisa (Gordon), Raymond McCauley, Linda McClean, Susan & Charles McLean, Marc Rosen, Melora Rush & David Booth, J.K. & Kim Scheinberg, Erin L. Stuelke & Paul Rupe, E. Kay Trimberger, Mary Ann Vorasky, Robyn Wagner, Alissa Wise & Danielle Feris.

Boosters \$1 - \$99:

23 Anonymous Donors, Rene Alvarez, Roxanne Alvarez & Baylen Linnekin, Chris Barber, Danielle Barry, Teresa Barton, Belinda Bellet, Bettykay, Susan Boggiano, Terry Boggis, Emily Boone, Tree Bressen, Lisa Brigham, Melinda Brown & Lou Sortman, Bennett Capers & Seth Forman, Tom Cichonski, Larry Coleman, John Deming, Bella DePaulo, Ruth Desmond, John DeThomas, Natalie DeWitt, Searah Deysach & Early to Bed, Laura Diffenderfer, Ralph & Sally Donofrio, Skip Drumm & Alan Gross, Joseph Eichstaedt, Yvonne Farrell, Carol Ferraro, Richard Fine, Joseph C. Fineman, Angela Fiore, Elena Frampton, Travis Fritsch, Rajiv Garg, Robert Garland, Jaclyn Geller, Dr. Peter J. Giannini, Michelle Giansante, David Glassman, Mary A. Gniadek, James W. Gordon, Avi Green, Miriam Greenwald, Elyse Hahn-Awazu, Judy Hanrahan & JP Vilai, Arcenia Harmon, Nancy J. Hile, Rodney Hoffman, Paul Jeselsohn, Jillian Johnson, John E Johnson, Rev. Jonalu Johnstone, Stephanie Johnstone, Miho Kameoka, Stephen Katz, Alex Kent & Lisa McReynolds, Sabina Kneisly, Bill Kohn, Anita Krishnakumar, Mary Kyle, Miguel La Rota, Roger Lake, Esther Landau, Betsy Lehrfeld & Jim Turner, Ed Lesen & Clarice Pollock, Tom Limoncelli, Eric Lotke, Sarah Lovering, Harry R. Major, Michelle Mancini & Ted Wong, Herbert Masters, Richard McElroy, Karen McKendrick, Gary W. Meyer, Joanna Miles & Nathan Gerratt, Stephen Miles Jr., Ashley April Murphy, Jennifer Nagy, Beth Nienow, Jennie O'Flanagan, Frances H. Orr, Virginia Panlasigui, Ethel Peterson, Naida Piccolo, Susan Piontek, Arthur Prokosch, Paresh Puhon & Kenneth Jansson, Sondra Roldan, Leann Roque, Sarah-David Rosenbaum, Gilad Rosner, Sarah Rowley, Paul D. Sawyer, Arnold Schwab, Stephanie Shaw, Kevin Slesinsky, Melissa Smith, Julie Smith, Julie Sokley, Goldie Solot, Becca Stallings & Daniel Efran, Robyn Steely & Varner Seaman, John C. & Roberta Stewart, Abigail Taylor, Miriam, Rebecca, & Robin Tell, L.A. Teodosio, Anne Tofflemire, Mary Tonner, Walter (Ron) Tucker, Alice Tufel & Phil Milito, John Ullman, Kenneth Lee Vickers, Rose Cuison Villazor, Robert Vodicka, Myra Walden, John Francis Heidlage & Joan Frances Walsh, William L. Ward, Carolyn Wiesner, Emily A. Wingard, Ari Wohlfeiler, Nicole Woo, Sharon Woznicki, Bernadette Wright, Kathryn Xavier, Thomas M. Yamin & Patti Schulte, Wisconsin Historical Society.

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ATMP's student interns, Joanne Biederman & Dave Kamper, Julie Bluhm, Rachel Buddeberg, Jessica Gafkowitz, Rajiv Garg, Julie Levin Russo, Sarah Madden & Conor Brown, Kevin Maillard & Iris Chiu, Anna Skiba-Crafts & Ben Nathan, L.A. Teodosio, Libby Zimmerman.

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www.JoVanEvery.ca, Hirsch Roberts Weinstein LLP, John Kilguss.

Big thanks to our 2009 volunteers:

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