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SUNDAY APRIL 19, 2008

CHAPTER MEETING 7 P.M.

**Unitarian Church
555 E Street, Idaho Falls**

This month's PFLAG Chapter meeting will be potluck dinner, a support meeting, & we will play "Gay" Bingo. **Please bring a dish to share if you are able, beverages will be provided.**

Planning continues for the Breaking Boundaries/PFLAG float for the Idaho Falls fourth of July parade. The next float meeting will be at Mike and Johns, 1200 1st Street, on May 6, 2009 at 6 p.m. for a dinner meeting. The Theme for our float is "It is Cool To Be Kind."

TEEN COFFEE HOUSE PLANED FOR MARCH 24TH AT THE UNITARIAN CHURCH

The Social Justice committee at the Unitarian Church in Idaho Falls has planned a second Teen Coffeehouse evening for April 27, 2009. Adult organizers will arrive between 6:30 and 6:45 pm to set up and the coffeehouse will open at 7 pm. The plan is to provide a safe place for teens to meet with warm drinks and conversation. Music, poetry readings, or open mic may possibly be included depending on teen interest.

"A right delayed is a right denied."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

WWW.IFPFLAG.COM

MARCH MEETING

Six people attended the February PFLAG meeting. This was a support meeting. Thanks to those who brought snacks!

UNANIMOUS RULING: IOWA MARRIAGE NO LONGER LIMITED TO ONE MAN, ONE WOMAN.....DesMoinesRegister.com, April 3, 2009

Basic fairness and constitutional equal protection were the linchpins of Friday's historic Iowa Supreme Court ruling that overturned a 10-year-old ban on same-sex marriage and puts Iowa squarely in the center of the nation's debate over gay rights.

The unanimous, 69-page decision maintains a church's right to decide who can be married under its roof, but it runs counter to the expressed opinion of a majority of Iowans who believe marriage is defined as the union of one man and one woman.

The ruling takes effect April 24. Iowa has no residency requirement for marriage licenses, which virtually assures a rush of applications from out-of-state visitors. The ruling opens the marital door to an estimated 5,800 gay couples in Iowa.

The Rev. Mark Stringer said he cried when he learned of Friday's decision. Stringer performed the only legal same-sex marriage in Iowa when he officiated a 2007 ceremony in the brief window between a Polk County judge's ruling and the subsequent court-ordered delay so the Supreme Court could weigh in.

"It's really an astounding moment under our history," Stringer said. "What really excites me is that Iowa is the first in our area of the country. We are being a leader in civil rights, which will be part of our state's history."

Friday's decision stemmed from a 2005 lawsuit filed by six gay and lesbian couples who were denied marriage licenses by the Polk County recorder's office. The seven justices affirmed Polk County Judge Robert Hanson's ruling that Iowa's ban on same-sex marriages treated gay and lesbian couples unequally under the law.

JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING PFLAG CHAPTER.

The Jackson Wyoming PFLAG Chapter meets monthly on the third Monday evening at St. John's House, which is part of St. John's Episcopal Church. The entrance is on Glenwood. You are welcome to be in touch if you have questions. The meeting runs from 7 -8:30 PM. (Jackson PFLAG, Mark Houser, P.O. Box 2683, Jackson, WY 83001). Phone 307-733-8349 or e-mail at: JacksonPFLAG@yahoo.com

Jackson website www.jacksonPFLAG.com

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP OUR PFLAG CHAPTER AS OUR CHAPTER GOES INTO ITS SIXTEENTH YEAR!

- \$ Come to the meetings.
- \$ Provide refreshments for a meeting.
- \$ Coordinate a program or activity.
- \$ Tell your Friends and Family about PFLAG
- \$ Pay dues (\$25) if able.

PFLAG MISSION STATEMENT

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered persons, and their families and friends, through support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

COLORADO GOV. SIGNS DESIGNATED BENEFICIARY LAW....Advocate.com, April 10

Gov. Bill Ritter of Colorado on Thursday signed the "Designated Beneficiary Law" which allows unmarried adult couples -- including same-sex partners -- some of the legal rights afforded to married couples; the legislation delivers expanded rights in areas including inheritance matters, medical decisions, and hospital visitation. With an eye toward convenience, the law permits any two unmarried adults to designate each other as beneficiaries by filing a form with a county clerk. The legislation takes effect on July 1. Two openly gay members of the legislature, Sen. Jennifer Veiga and Rep. Mark Ferrandino, both Democrats from Denver, sponsored the legislation. It passed with minimal Republican support. Republican senator Kevin Lundberg had dismissed the legislation as an attempt to establish "marriage light." Colorado voters passed a same-sex marriage ban in 2006.

VERMONT LEGISLATURE OVERTURNS GOV, VETO FOR SAME-SEX MARRIAGE.

Just prior to this event the following was printed by the Burlington Free Press on April 3, 2009:

"A bill to convert Vermont's civil-union system for same-sex couples to marriage was approved Thursday night by the state House. But the 95-22 margin fell short of the 100 needed to overcome a likely veto by Gov. Jim Douglas. "There's only one thing truly equal to marriage, and that's marriage," said state Rep. Johanna Donovan, D-Burlington. "Now is the time to give civil unions a respectful burial."

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

WHEN YOU NO LONGER NEED PFLAG

PFLAG NEEDS YOU!
