

News and Views

Eastern Idaho Chapter of PFLAG
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POTLUCK

Sunday February 26th, 2006

PFLAG YOUTH GROUP 6:00 p.m.

CHAPTER MEETING 6:30 p.m.

Unitarian Church

555 E Street, Idaho Falls

This month we will have a potluck dinner and share ideas for future programs. Bring a dish to share and enjoy good fellowship.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The following programs and refreshments are either taken care of or need volunteers. Please do your share!! Sign up at the next meeting or contact a board member.

Month Program Refreshments

Aug Annual Picnic Potluck

Sep Video about gay marriage Wayne & Cherie

Oct Presentation by John S. Kirk & Kathee

Dec HOLIDAY PARTY FINGER FOOD POTLUCK

Jan Video "Fish Can't Fly"

Feb Sharing Program ideas POTLUCK DINNER

JANUARY MEETING

Fifteen people attended the January meeting. We watched the video "Fish Can't Fly." This is an excellent film and tells the stories of another side of the "ex-gay" debate. Thanks to all who brought refreshments.

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.

BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN WAS SHOWN IN IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO FOR THREE WEEKS!

We expected it to be shown for three days max. Support Network:

Jim and Henrietta 522-3228

Bill and Ann F. 529-0919

Board Members & PFLAG Volunteers

President Cherie Stevens

Vice-President/Secretary Jon

Program VP Open

Membership VP, Treasurer Jim Be.

Newsletter Publisher Sharon

Newsletter Editor Wayne Stevens

Transgender Contact R. Kay Snyder

Advocacy R. Kay Snyder

Support Hank

Religious Liaison Rev. Barbara Condon

PFLAG YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Next meeting to be Feb 26th, 6 p.m.
at the Unitarian Church

In January and February, Youth Group meetings will be held before the Chapter meetings at 6 p.m. on January 22nd and February 26th at the Unitarian Church.

Please come at these times to discuss future plans for Youth Group.

There will be NO Youth Group meetings on the second & fourth Fridays in January and February.

BREAKING BOUNDARIES/SOUTHEAST IDAHO AIDS COALITION SELECTED AGAIN AS THE SPONSOR CHARITY FOR THE MOUNTAIN BREWER'S BEER FEST EVENT FOR 2006, IN IDAHO FALLS--Volunteers & Auction items needed!

The North American Brewers Association will sponsor the Annual Mountain Brewer's Beer Fest For Charity on June 3, 2005 at the Sandy Downs Race Track south of Idaho Falls, Idaho. The association has selected the Breaking Boundaries organization, for the second year in a row, to be the featured sponsor charity, assist with the event and as a result receive a major proportion of the net profit from the event. Last year Breaking Boundaries made over \$23,000 at Beer Fest. If anyone can help, here is what we need. 1. For you to keep your calendar open for that Saturday (June 3).

2. Donate items for the raffle or auction. We can use anything. Auction items big or small, preferably new items, are needed. Small items donated will be placed with other items to make an auction item. Volunteer help for the event is also needed. If you can volunteer call Theron McGriff or email him at theronmcgriff@aol.com We also want to make 20 or so "packages" for example, a summer picnic package, a weekend in SLC with show tickets etc. The values of the packages should not be over \$500. Big items (like shotguns, trunks, larger artwork etc) did great last year too. Those are the immediate needs, so please let Theron know if you have something to donate...and nothing is too small or too large!!!

STUDY SHOWS GAY CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS MAY IMPROVE BOTH PARTNER'S HEALTH

By Chris Johnson Tue Feb 14, 2006

LONDON (Reuters) - Gay and lesbian civil partnerships -- better known as "gay marriage" -- could bring lasting health benefits to same-sex couples, researchers said on Tuesday. Doctors already know that marriage benefits the health of both sexes in a variety of ways. British scientists said civil partnerships for gay couples were likely to offer similar advantages. "Marriage confers health benefits on men and women and similar benefits could arise from same-sex civil unions," said Professor Michael King, of London's Royal Free and University College Medical School, in a study published in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health. The Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Australia and Canada already give same-sex couples the rights traditionally offered to married couples. Britain introduced civil partnerships for gay and lesbian couples late last year. Elton John and his partner David Furnish made use of the new legislation, which creates partnerships which are not technically marriages but confer similar benefits. "It looks like both men and women benefit from (traditional) marriage," King said in an interview. "These are not effects just on happiness or well-being. They seem to be important in terms of cardiovascular disease and other issues." Civil unions probably reduce discrimination against gay and lesbian couples and make their relationships more stable....

MILITARY'S "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL," POLICY IS CLOSE TO BEING OVERTURNED...Advocate.com, Feb. 3, 2006.

With more than 100 congressional cosponsors, the bill that will overturn the military's "don't ask, don't tell" is closer than ever to passing.

THE BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN EFFECT...By C. Dixon Osburn, Excerpted from The Advocate, February 28, 2006

...Never before has a gay-themed film been as written about, reviewed, lauded, awarded, discussed, dissected, parodied, and hyped as Brokeback Mountain, so it's easy to forget amid this din that the film is deeply moving millions nationwide one theater and one screen at a time,

communities sitting together in the dark and emotionally connecting with this story. And not just where one would expect. A theater manager in Mason City, Iowa, reported receiving a petition asking him to bring the film to his screens (he was planning to anyway). The AMC Southroads 20 in Tulsa, Okla., received thank-you calls after it started screening Brokeback on January 6; there was so much demand, in fact, the theater had to add a screen for the first few showings. Newspapers from Columbus, Ohio, to Tallahassee, Fla., to small-town Joplin, Mo., have all run stories essentially saying the same thing: Good news, folks, Brokeback Mountain is coming to town! MISSOURI JUDGE SAYS LESBIAN CAN BE FOSTER MOM....Advocate.com, Feb 18, 2006

The Missouri Department of Social Services improperly denied a woman's application to become a foster parent because she is a lesbian, a judge ruled on Friday. "This court finds that the Respondents' decision denying the Foster Care License to Petitioner is unsupported by competent and substantial evidence upon the whole record," Midkiff wrote in her 15-page ruling. "This court also finds that the agency's decision in denying the Foster Care License to Petitioner is arbitrary and unreasonable.... Ms. Johnston's sexual orientation should not be the endpoint of the Agency's consideration of her application for a foster care license."

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE NORTHWEST PFLAG REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN PORTLAND

The Double Tree Hotel near Lloyd's Center in Portland, Oregon will be the location for the April 21-23, 2006 NW PFLAG Regional Conference. Attending PFLAG conferences is always a great uplifting and educational experience. At this conference you will have an opportunity to meet several people from National PFLAG, including Sam Thoron (National President, Saturday Keynote), Jody Huckaby (Executive Director; Keynote and Plenary session), the new Field & Policy Coordinator for our region and Judy Hoff (Safe Schools Coordinator; Workshop Presenter). Dr Robert Minor will present a workshop on Friday afternoon and Dotti Berry and Robynne Sapp, who are on a yearlong journey called "Gay Into Straight America" will share their experiences on Sunday morning. For more information and registration forms come to the February PFLAG Chapter meeting or visit the following web site: <http://nwpflagconf.tripod.com> . You can download the registration form from this web site.

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

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Putting the rights of a minority up for a popular vote is always wrong...is not democracy...is tyranny and immoral."

—Matt Foreman, Executive Director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Nov. 2005

REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT ALONE

WHEN YOU NO LONGER NEED PFLAG
PFLAG NEEDS YOU!

IDAHO LEGISLATURE APPROVES ANTI-GAY MARRIAGE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSAL LAST WEEK

This amendment proposal will be on the November ballot for the general public to vote on. We have our work cut out for us to get this amendment defeated!