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SUNDAY JANUARY 18, 2008

CHAPTER MEETING 7 P.M.

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

This month's PFLAG Chapter meeting will be a support meeting plus we will view a great video telling the story of supportive parents, from very diverse backgrounds, with GLBT sons or daughters. Parents from such diverse origins as Japanese, Bolivian, and Cherokee, as well as religions such as Mormon, Catholic, Hindu and others share intimate accounts of how their children revealed that they're homosexual and discuss their responses. The parents also talk about struggling with the pain their sons and daughters have dealt with, such as not being accepted by relatives and/or friends and being ostracized by religious congregations. The title of the video is "Anyone and Everyone." Cherie met two of the couples in the video at the 2007 PFLAG National convention. This is a great film to share with friends and family.

Please bring a snack to share if you are able.

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

WWW.IFPFLAG.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.

ON JANUARY 24TH THE FILM “PRAYERS FOR BOBBY” WILL BE SHOWN ON LIFETIME TELEVISION

National PFLAG organization is “proud to be partnering with Lifetime Television, our PFLAG chapters and stars from the upcoming film “Prayers for Bobby” on a number of public education events. Prayers, which debuts January 24 on Lifetime, tells the true story of Mary Griffith, the mother of a gay son, and her journey toward embracing the LGBT community following his tragic suicide. Based on the novel by Leroy Aarons, Prayers highlights the important role PFLAG played in Mary's experience and empowers families to embrace their LGBT loved ones.” There will be “live public events featuring cast members from the film, including award-winning actress Sigourney Weaver, and PFLAG parents and staffers. And be sure to check back on our official blog - at www.pflag.org/blog - for complete information on the film from PFLAG and Lifetime. Then, tune in on January 24 for this stunning and moving film, featuring a power-house performance by Weaver and an unforgettable script based on Aarons' groundbreaking novel.”

OUR PFLAG CHAPTER DECORATED AND DONATED A CHRISTMAS TREE FOR THE IDAHO FALLS FESTIVAL OF TREES HELD IN NOV. 2008

The name for our PFLAG Christmas tree was “Don't Fence Me In” and western theme ornaments were used to decorate the tree. Thanks to those who helped decorate the tree! The tree looked great and was placed in the food court at the Red Lion Hotel so it had great exposure to the public. The sign spelled out PFLAG completely also. A tree has already been purchased for our PFLAG Chapter by Breaking Boundaries for the 2009 Festival of Trees event.

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

DEAR ABBY MENTIONS PFLAG TO GAY TEENAGE GIRL...Dear Abby column, January 07, 2009

“Dear Abby: I'm 16 and know in my heart that I'm gay, even though I'd give anything not to be. So far, I have kept this to myself, but I don't think I can keep it within forever. Please tell me how you “come out.” I am worried sick about what will happen, since my parents belong to a church that believes homosexuality is a terrible sin. Will my parents still love me? Will my friends reject me? Will my sister, who I've always been close to, be afraid to keep sharing a room with me? As hard as I have tried, I can't change the feelings I have inside, so I know I have to deal with this, but I don't know what to do. Please help me.— Tormented Girl in Louisiana.

Dear Tormented Girl: I can only imagine the stress and anxiety you are experiencing. My heart goes out to you. As you clearly point out in your letter, sexual orientation is not a choice, but something a person is born with. Not knowing your parents or your inner circle of friends, I can't predict how they will react if you tell them you are gay. But if your instincts tell you that your family will react badly, then I advise you to wait to come out until you are out of their house and self-supporting. In the meantime, allow me to share two helpful resources. The first is PFLAG {Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays}. This organization has been around since the early 1980s, and from it you will receive specific advice on how to deal with your parents. Its Web site is www.pflag.org, and I highly recommend it. The second is the Trevor Helpline, a nationwide, 24-hour crisis helpline for lesbian, gay bisexual, transgender and questioning young people. Its toll-free number is (866) 488-7386. You can find out more by going to www.thetrevorproject.org.

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.

SEVENTH ANNUAL BREAKING BOUNDARIES AIDS BENEFIT HELD DEC. 7 – 9, 2008 WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

A black tie dinner and auction held on Friday, Dec 7, 2008 at the Idaho Falls Elk's Lodge had a record attendance with over 300 people present. Our PFLAG Chapter coordinated the Memorial Service on Sunday, Dec 9th and 50 people attended that service which was highlighted by a candlelight vigil on the bank of the Snake River.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

WHEN YOU NO LONGER NEED PFLAG

PFLAG NEEDS YOU!

