



# News and Views

Eastern Idaho Chapter of PFLAG  
PO Box 52242  
Idaho Falls, ID 83405-2242  
e-mail: PFLAGinEID@aol.com  
Phone 522-1057  
web page <http://www.ifpflag.org>  
Voice Mail Phone 522-1057

**Sunday January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005**  
**Chapter Meeting 7:00 p.m.**  
**Unitarian Church**  
**555 E Street, Idaho Falls**

The January Chapter meeting will also be a pizza party with pizza and soft drinks and coffee provided. Business will include sharing and support and discussion about election of Chapter officers for 2005. Come join in the discussions & 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
Nov	No regular Chapter meeting!	
Dec	Holiday Party on Dec 12 <sup>th</sup>	Potluck
Dec	No regular Chapter meeting!	
Jan	Pizza and soft drinks provided	

### HOLIDAY PFLAG PARTY WAS WELL ATTENDED

Thirty five people attended this year's Holiday finger food potluck party. Thanks to Peter for playing the piano while we sang Christmas songs! We had lots of door prizes, excellent food lots of fun. The Holiday Party Potluck replaced the November and December Chapter Meetings as the Chapter Meetings fell on Holiday weekends.

### PFLAG MISSION STATEMENT

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, 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.

### 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	Open

**PFLAG YOUTH GROUP NEWS**  
**Next meeting to be Jan 28<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m.**  
**at the Community Resource Center**

We met on December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Community Resource Center, then our group went to the Skyline Bowling Alley and bowled from 9:30 to 10:30. The Community Resource Center was open for Youth Group on January 14<sup>th</sup>!

### THE THIRD ANNUAL "BREAKING BOUNDARIES" AIDS AWARENESS BENEFIT IN IDAHO FALLS WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

Our PFLAG Chapter coordinated the Memorial Service on Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, where the new quilt panels were dedicated. A folding ceremony was held for the panels completed in 2002 & 2003 in preparation for sending the panels to be made into an Idaho section of the National AIDS memorial quilt. Over ten thousand dollars was raised by the "Breaking Boundaries" AIDS awareness benefit held over the weekend of Dec 3 to Dec 5, 2004. The money raised by this event is used during the year to help those living with AIDS to pay for food, rent, or other goods or services that allow them to live with greater dignity and independence. An article describing this event, including a photo of some of the volunteers, was published in the January 2005 issue of "Bechtel GLOBE," a worldwide Bechtel Employee newspaper.

### JACKSON HOLE WYOMING HAS A PFLAG CHAPTER.

A PFLAG Chapter was organized in Jackson Wyoming last fall. They meet on Monday evenings 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 8300. Phone 307-733-8349 or e-mail at: [JacksonPFLAG@yahoo.com](mailto:JacksonPFLAG@yahoo.com)

## CONSTRUCTION

Visit [www.ifpflag.org](http://www.ifpflag.org) and see the progress. Suggestions for the site are welcome!

### CONN. EPISCOPAL CHURCH PLACES A MORATORIUM ON WEDDINGS.....Jan 14, 2005

**Alison Leigh Cowan, New York Times.**

“NEW HAVEN, Jan. 13 - In a protest against the Episcopal Church's refusal to allow same-sex marriages, the leaders of a church in the stately East Rock section of this city have announced that they will perform no marriage ceremonies at all. The decision, conveyed on Thursday in a letter from the priest to the 115 families of St. Thomas's Episcopal Church, is a novel challenge to the social and religious barriers to marriage between homosexuals. Some Episcopal churches have handled the problem by offering gay couples a blessing ceremony that is not legally considered a marriage. Lay leaders at St. Thomas's have decided that the absence of a ritual at the heart of a church's spiritual and social functions is a powerful way to protest what they consider a form of religious discrimination. The church has adopted the new policy even though no gay couples have asked to be married there....”

### FROM PFLAG NATIONAL--22 NATIONAL GROUPS ADOPT A JOINT STATEMENT OF PURPOSE WITH EIGHT GOALS.....Jan 14, 2005

**by Eric Resnick.**

“On the heels of setbacks from the 2004 national election, leaders of 22 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender advocacy organizations [including PFLAG] have adopted a joint statement of unity and purpose. The move follows contentious public disagreements over strategy and reorganization within several of the groups. The statement, released January 13, honors recent gains and calls all LGBT Americans to action in the fight for equality.....The document names eight priorities to focus on for the immediate future:

- Equal employment opportunity, benefits and protections
- Ending anti-LGBT violence
- HIV and AIDS advocacy, better access to health care, and LGBT-inclusive sex education
- Safe schools
- Family laws that strengthen LGBT families
- Ending the military's gay ban
- Exposing the radical right's anti-LGBT agenda and fighting their attempts to enshrine anti-gay bigotry in state and federal constitutions
- Marriage equality

....The process of formulating the statement began in late November, according to GLAAD director Joan Garry, who was in the discussions....“The timing of this has two pieces,” said Garry, “One is the post-election concern. We wanted to put a united stake in the ground. The other is that it is the new year and pre-inauguration. This is our own state of the union message,” primarily for the LGBT

### SCIENTISTS FIND CLUE TO AIDS ORIGINS, NEW TREATMENT....Advocate.com, Jan 12, 2005

A single change in a human gene may hold the key to preventing people living with HIV from progressing to full-blown AIDS, researchers said on Monday. They found a crucial difference between a gene in humans and one in rhesus monkeys that blocks infection of the virus in the animals--a finding that offers new insights into the origins of AIDS and gene therapy. Had the gene been the same in humans, scientists at the National Institute for Medical Research in London believe, there might not have been the AIDS epidemic that now affects 40 million people worldwide. "If it had recognized HIV, we probably would never have had AIDS. I believe it is a key change," said Jonathan Stoye, head of virology at the institute....Stoye and his team studied differences in the gene products of the monkey and human Trim 5 alpha genes. They pinpointed one specific change in a protein that was important in blocking HIV. By substituting a human protein with a monkey-derived protein they found they could make the human cells resistant to HIV...."The discovery has significant implications for the development of effective gene therapy to combat AIDS," said Stoye, who reported the findings in the journal *Current Biology*. He and his team believe introducing the gene carrying that single change back into human cells would make those cells resistant to HIV infection....But Stoye stressed that more laboratory research, followed by animal tests and human trials, will be needed. "If this were the equivalent of adding a drug with a new target to the repertoire of drugs that we have for the treatment of AIDS, I think it would be of value," he said. (Reuters).

### TREVOR PROJECT INCLUDES SUICIDE HOTLINE

The Trevor Project is a nonprofit organization that promotes tolerance for LGBT and questioning teenagers and aids in suicide prevention among that group. More information on the Trevor Project can be found at [www.TheTrevorProject.org](http://www.TheTrevorProject.org). The Trevor Helpline (1-866 4u-trevor) or 1-866-4-887-3867) (*editor's note-- I dialed this number with the extra digit, and it works*) is the only national 24-hour, toll-free suicide prevention hot line aimed at gay and questioning youth. The Trevor Helpline is geared toward helping those in crisis, or those wanting information on how to help someone in crisis. The Trevor Helpline calls are handled by highly trained counselors and are free and confidential.

**“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.”**

**Martin Luther King**

community and allies....”

**REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT ALONE**