

News and Views  
Eastern Idaho Chapter of PFLAG  
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Sunday July 24th, 2005  
Chapter Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
Unitarian Church  
555 E Street, Idaho Falls

Weather permitting, the July meeting will be at the greenbelt area (last month was rained out) by the river, across Memorial Drive from the Unitarian Church. Please bring a back yard game and join in a fun evening at PFLAG. Either meet at the Church and walk to the greenbelt or come directly to the greenbelt area.

#### 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 |
|-------|-----------------|--------------|
| May   | Support         | Sharon & Jim |
| June  | Support         | Potluck      |
| July  | Support & Games | R. Kay & Jim |

#### May Chapter Meeting

Fourteen people attended the June finger food potluck & meeting. Outdoor activities were cancelled due to bad weather, but the meeting provided valuable time for sharing and support. Thanks to all who brought food for the potluck!

#### 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

#### REMEMBER,

WHEN YOU NO LONGER NEED PFLAG  
PFLAG NEEDS YOU!

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 July 22nd , 7 p.m.

at the Community Resource Center

We need input from the PFLAG youth and others to help increase outreach regarding the PFLAG Youth Group.

Volunteers to staff Youth Group meetings are also needed.

Please contact a board member to volunteer.

#### THE MOUNTAIN BREWER'S DONATION TO CHARITIES FROM THE BEER FEST EVENT HAS NOT BEEN FINALIZED.

The June 4th Mountain Brewer's association Beer Fest event was a huge success with approximately \$40,000 to be distributed to the charities involved. Breaking Boundaries will receive the major portion of the money when the final accounting has been completed.

#### ANNUAL PICNIC FOR THE EASTERN IDAHO CHAPTER OF PFLAG IS AUGUST 21ST

Mark your calendars for the annual PFLAG picnic for the Eastern Idaho Chapter. The picnic will be at Sealander Park as in past years. Sealander Park is southwest from Idaho Falls. On interstate 15 take exit 113 and drive in front of the new Melaleuca building, under construction, on 6500 South (you can see the new huge concrete building across the interstate from the Army Surplus Store). Follow the pink triangles to the end of 6500 South. This road dead ends at the Sealander farm where the park is located. See also the attached map. The picnic will be from 3:30 p.m. until dark. Please note that the picnic is on the third Sunday in August. You will be able to pay your PFLAG dues for the coming year at the picnic. Dues are \$25 and it includes membership (\$15) in the National PFLAG organization. Dues scholarships are also available from our Chapter.

"Love is the one treasure that multiplies by division; is the one gift that grows bigger the more you take from it....Give it away,....and tomorrow you will have more than ever."

Anonymous

#### SPAIN BECOMES THIRD COUNTRY TO LEGALIZE GAY MARRIAGE....AP June 30

(Madrid) Parliament legalized gay marriage Thursday, defying conservatives and clergy who opposed making traditionally Roman Catholic Spain the third country in the world to officially recognize same-sex unions. The measure passed the 350-seat Congress of Deputies by a vote of 187-147 with four abstentions. The bill, part of the ruling Socialists' aggressive agenda for social reform, also lets gay couples adopt children and inherit each others' property. The bill is now law. The Senate, where conservatives hold the largest number of seats, rejected the bill last week, but the Senate is an advisory body and final say on legislation rested with the Congress of Deputies. Gay couples will be allowed to marry as soon as the law is published in the official government registry, the Boletín Oficial del Estado. This could come as early as Friday or within two weeks at the latest, the parliament's press office said....The Netherlands and Belgium are the only other two countries that recognize gay marriage nationwide.

#### SPANISH PREMIER ZAPATERO'S REMARKABLE GAY MARRIAGE SPEECH

....Doug Ireland, July 1, 2005

When the Spanish parliament yesterday took its historic vote legalizing both gay marriage and adoption of children by gay couples, Socialist Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero made probably the most remarkable speech in favor of full equality for those with same-sex hearts ever delivered by a head of government anywhere, in which he quoted two of the most illustrious gay poets in history. Here are excerpts from Zapatero's speech:

"We are not legislating, honorable members, for people far away and not known by us. We are enlarging the opportunity for happiness to our neighbors, our co-workers, our friends and, our families: at the same time

we are making a more decent society, because a decent society is one that does not humiliate its members....Today, the Spanish society answers to a group of people who, during many years have, been humiliated, whose rights have been ignored, whose dignity has been offended, their identity denied, and their liberty oppressed.... Today the Spanish society grants them the respect

they deserve, recognizes their rights, restores their dignity, affirms their identity, and restores their liberty.... Today, conscious that some people and institutions are in a profound disagreement with this change in our civil law, I wish to express that, like other reforms to the marriage code that preceded this one, this law will generate no evil, that its only consequence will be the avoiding of senseless suffering of decent human beings. A society that avoids senseless suffering of decent human beings is a better society. With the approval of this Bill, our country takes another step in the path of liberty and tolerance that was begun by the democratic change of government.

Our children will look at us incredulously if we tell them that many years ago, our mothers had less rights than our fathers, or if we tell them that people had to stay married against their will even though they were unable to share their

lives. Today we can offer them a beautiful lesson: every right gained, each access to liberty has been the result of the struggle and sacrifice of many people that deserve our recognition and praise....Today we demonstrate with this Bill that societies can better themselves and can cross barriers and create tolerance by putting a stop to the unhappiness and humiliation of some of our citizens...It is true that they are only a minority, but their triumph is everyone's triumph. It is also the triumph of those who oppose this law, even though they do not know this yet: because it is the triumph of Liberty. Their victory makes all of us (even those who oppose the law) better people: it makes our society better. Honorable members, there is no damage to marriage or to the concept of family in allowing two people of the same sex to become legally married. To the contrary, what happens is this class of Spanish citizens get the potential to organize their lives with the equal rights and privileges of marriage and family. There is no danger to the institution of marriage, but precisely the opposite: this law enhances and respects marriage."

#### 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 1-866 488-7386 (lines are open 24 hours a day, every day). The Trevor Helpline is a phone bank staffed by trained counselors willing to help those in crisis, or those wanting information on how to help someone in crisis. The call is free and won't appear on your phone bill.

#### SUMMARY REPORT FROM THE BOARD

No board meeting was held in July.

#### 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](mailto:JacksonPFLAG@yahoo.com)

#### VISIT THE IDAHO FALLS PFLAG WEBSITE AND GIVE US SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

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

#### REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT ALONE

The map to the Eastern Idaho Chapter of PFLAG summer picnic at Sealander Park. Picnic starts at 3:30 p. m. on Sunday August 21st, is on the attached file.