

News and Views

Eastern Idaho Chapter of PFLAG
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Sunday March 27th, 2005
Chapter Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Unitarian Church
555 E Street, Idaho Falls

As this meeting date falls on Easter Sunday no special program has been arranged. The church will be open and PFLAG members will be available for support.

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 12th	Potluck
Dec	No regular Chapter meeting!	
Jan	Pizza and soft drinks provided	
Feb	View "Tough Talk" Wayne & Cherie	
Mar	Support Meeting	

January Chapter meeting

Fourteen people attended the January Chapter meeting. We viewed the TV program "Tough Talk" which included a panel of two of our PFLAG members debating two men with conservative view points on the subject of gay marriage. A group discussion followed. Refreshments were provided by Cherie and Wayne.

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.

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 Open

PFLAG YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Next meeting to be Mar 25th 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.

SUMMARY REPORT FROM THE BOARD

(The next meeting will be on Wednesday Apr 13th at 7:00 p.m., at Wayne & Cherie's). No board meeting was held in February or March.

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

THE IDAHO FALLS PFLAG WEBSITE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Visit www.ifpflag.org and see the progress. Suggestions for the site are welcome!

PLAN TO ATTEND THE NEW VISION, NEW VOICES CONFERENCE IN IDAHO FALLS ON APRIL 16TH

Members from our PFLAG Chapter are part of the organizing committee to host the first of six meetings being held statewide in 2005, as part of a progressive leadership project of United Vision for Idaho. The conference will be held at the Unitarian Church in Idaho Falls on April 16th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lunch and childcare is provided. The goal for this event is to build a better state and community by developing common community values, determine issues and implement strategies .

DEAR ABBY SUPPORTS PFLAG IN RECENT COLUMN "DAUGHTER, ATTRACTED TO GIRLS, NEEDS MOM'S LOVE, APPROVAL"....By Abigail Van Buren

In response to a parent, whose 14 year-old daughter has "come out" to her and is confused about what to do, Dear Abby writes: " It is a compliment to you that your daughter trusts you enough to be open with you about her sexual orientation. Many gay teens -- and younger children -- are so afraid they'll disappoint their parents by disclosing they are "different" that they don't talk about it. What your daughter needs right now is to know that you love and approve of her. You must be doing something right, because she is assured enough about who she is that she feels safe being open about it. Congratulations on that. It is extremely important that you come to terms with your own feelings about homosexuality. It is not uncommon for the parents of a gay child to feel guilt or shame, when in truth, it has nothing to do with the quality of their parenting and everything to do with genetics. Your wisest move at this point would be to contact Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), and join one of its many support groups. Once you do, you will find it enormously helpful. Contact it by calling (202) 467-8180, or check www.pflag.org.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST DEBUTS FEATURE-LENGTH DOCUMENTARY ON TRANSGENDER MINISTER AT TWO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVALS....Electronic

Newsroom, March 1, 2005

The intentionally-inclusive United Church of Christ is not only the first mainline Christian denomination to ordain an openly transgender minister, but the 1.3-million-member church has produced a feature-length documentary film to tell the remarkable story of one transgender minister's journey of faith. "Call Me Malcolm," co-produced by the UCC and Filmworks, Inc., debuted at the Riverside (Calif.) International Film Festival on Feb. 26.... The 90-minute film tells

the story of the Rev. Malcolm E. Himschoot, then a UCC seminary student, who poignantly explores his struggles with faith, love and gender identity...."Malcolm's struggles are all of ours – 'Who am I?' 'Where do I fit in?' 'What am I doing with my life?'" the filmmaker says.

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. 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 wont appear on your phone bill. CALIFORNIA GAY MARRIAGE BAN ILLEGAL JUDGE RULES....by Mark Worrall 365Gay.com San Francisco Bureau March 14, 2005

A San Francisco judge ruled Monday that it is unconstitutional for the state of California to deny marriage to gay and lesbian couples.

"It appears that no rational purpose exists for limiting marriage in this state to opposite-sex partners," County Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer said in a written ruling. In striking down the state ban on same-sex marriage Kramer wrote that the state's historical definition of marriage, by itself, cannot justify the denial of equal protection for gays and lesbians. "The state's protracted denial of equal protection cannot be justified simply because such constitutional violation has become traditional," Kramer wrote. "We're still a little stunned, but we're overjoyed," said Lancy Woo, a 38-year-old lifelong San Francisco resident who is the lead plaintiff in the case with her partner, Cristy Chung, 40. "Our six-year-old daughter, Olivia, is just beginning to understand how the world works, and we can't wait to talk with her about today's ruling. We've always taught that her that our family is based on love, just like other families, and this ruling confirms that our family shouldn't be treated any differently by our government." Another child of lesbian parents was elated when she heard the news. "I am so happy that my parents can finally get married," said Ericka Sokolower-Shain, the fifteen-year-old daughter of plaintiffs Karen Shain and Jody Sokolower. "My parents have been together for over 30 years. They have been together so long they can practically read each others' minds. It is only right they should be able to get married." "This is a historic ruling that says the freedoms guaranteed in our state's Constitution belong to all Californians," said Jennifer C. Pizer, Senior Counsel for Lambda Legal in the Western Regional Office and its lead attorney on the case...."The court recognized that same-sex couples aren't treated equally under the law unless we can marry. This ruling says that same-sex couples deserve all the protections and security marriage provides and that we're entitled to get them the same way straight couples do." Kramer's ruling will be appealed and the California Supreme Court will make a final ruling....

BREAKING BOUNDARIES/SOUTHEAST IDAHO AIDS COALITION SELECTED AS THE SPONSOR CHARITY FOR THE IDAHO FALLS BEER FEST EVENT FOR 2005

The North American Brewers Association will sponsor the Eleventh Annual Beer Fest For Charity on June 4, 2005 at the Sandy Downs Race Track south of Idaho Falls, Idaho. The association has selected the Breaking Boundaries organization 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. Past events have drawn crowds of up to 6000 people. Donations of time and auction items will be needed! More information to come....

REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT ALONE