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**SUNDAY MARCH 15, 2008
CHAPTER MEETING 7 P.M.**

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

This month's PFLAG Chapter meeting will be a support meeting.

Planning has begun for the Breaking Boundaries/PFLAG float for the Idaho Falls fourth of July parade. More information about this exciting event will be included in future newsletters.

Please bring a snack to share if you are able.

TEEN COFFEE HOUSE PLANNED FOR MARCH 24TH AT THE UNITARIAN CHURCH

The Social Justice committee at the Unitarian Church in Idaho Falls has planned a Teen Coffeehouse evening for March 24, 2009. Adult organizers will arrive between 6:30 and 6:45 pm to set up and the coffeehouse will open at 7 pm. The plan is to provide a safe place for teens to meet with warm drinks and conversation. Music, poetry readings, or open mic may possibly be included depending on teen interest.

“A right delayed is a right denied.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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FEBRUARY MEETING

Fifteen people attended the February PFLAG meeting. We viewed the film "Prayers for Bobby" and had a good group discussion. Thanks to those who brought snacks!

PROP 8 ORAL ARGUMENTS CONCLUDE: THE WAIT BEGINS, Ross von Metzke, Advocate.com, Mar 5, 2009

Emotions ran high Thursday [Mar 5th] when the California supreme court heard oral arguments on whether to uphold the state's voter-passed initiative Proposition 8. Though it's highly unlikely the court will issue any sort of decision Thursday -- the court has 90 days to rule on Prop. 8 -- the supreme court has already gone to work on a draft of its decision. Oral arguments will likely result in changes to the draft, but chances are slim that they will actually affect the outcome. The pressure was on from both sides of the marriage battle. Moments after Prop. 8 passed at the polls last November, Lambda Legal, together with the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the American Civil Liberties Union, filed a lawsuit challenging the validity of the proposition. Two other suits were filed that same day -- lawyer Gloria Allred filed on behalf of a Los Angeles couple seeking to get married and on behalf of Robin Tyler and Diane Olsen, the first couple to marry in Los Angeles County. San Francisco and Los Angeles counties also filed a legal challenge to Prop. 8. The groups argue that Prop. 8, which was a citizen-driven initiative, is invalid because it improperly attempts to undermine the California constitution's core commitment to equality and deprives the courts of their essential role in protecting the rights of minorities. According to the constitution's text, such changes can only be pursued, if at all, through the constitutional revision process, not through an initiative. Another key player in the fight to overturn Prop. 8 is California attorney general Jerry Brown, who in December asked the California supreme court to declare Proposition 8 invalid, explaining that the ballot measure is fatally defective because the government lacks the compelling grounds necessary to deprive "people of the right to marry, an aspect of liberty that the supreme court has concluded is guaranteed by the California constitution."

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

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.

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.

PRESIDENT OBAMA LOOKS FOR ADVICE ON "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL"Advocate.com, Mar 5

President Barack Obama has started consulting with advisers as to how the federal government may overturn the ban on service by openly gay people in the military. Obama has been consulting with Defense secretary Robert Gates and Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Michael Mullen "so that this change is done in a sensible way that strengthens our armed forces and our national security," Tommy Vietor, a White House spokesman, said in an e-mail this week. The reversal of the law is part of a campaign promise made by Obama. California congresswoman Ellen Tauscher reintroduced legislation to repeal the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1993. Tauscher's bill garnered 143 cosponsors when it was introduced in 2008, but it never reached a floor vote. Tauscher mentioned at an event Monday for the Center for American Progress Action Fund that 26 other countries, mostly allies like the United Kingdom and Germany, no longer have such bans on the books. She also said that if Colin Powell, who was once the "physical embodiment" of opposition to openly gay service members, could change his mind now, it's time to make a change. Seventy-five percent of the American people believe that this is the wrong policy," she said, adding that "we have a lot of people behind us."

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

WHEN YOU NO LONGER NEED PFLAG

PFLAG NEEDS YOU!