



News and Views

Eastern Idaho Chapter of PFLAG
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Sunday May 23rd, 2004
Chapter Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Unitarian Church
555 E Street, Idaho Falls

On May 2, 2004, John Schroeder of our PFLAG Chapter and Wayne Schow, father of a gay son, were panel members on "Tough Talk," a television show discussing gay marriage. We will be showing a recording of the show and have an open discussion about gay marriage following the showing at the May meeting.

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
Oct	Theron McGriff Wayne & Cherie	
Dec	Potluck Holiday Party	All
Jan	Potluck Dinner	All
Feb	John Schroeder	Mike & John
Mar	Video	Jim & Sharon
Apr	Support for Theron	Finger food Potluck
May	Gay Marriage	Mike & John

April Meeting

Twenty-four people attended the April meeting which was a support dinner for Theron McGriff. The food was great, and everyone received a prize for playing "Gay" bingo.

SAVE AUGUST 22ND FOR ATTENDING THIS YEAR'S PFLAG PICNIC

Sealanders Park has been reserved again for the 2004 PFLAG picnic. We always have a wonderful time and great fellowship at the annual PFLAG picnic. Mark Sunday, August 22, 2004 on your calendars and plan on attending! More information and a map to the park will be in a future

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	Lee Griener

PFLAG YOUTH GROUP NEWS
Next meeting to be June. 11th 7 p.m.
at the Community Resource Center

Please note: There will be no Youth Group on May 28th due to the Memorial Day Holiday weekend.

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

f Youth Group meetings are also needed.

Please contact a board member to volunteer.

AN UPDATE ON THERON McGRIFF'S CASE AS HEARD AT THE IDAHO SUPREME COURT ON MAY 3RD

The Idaho Supreme Court heard oral arguments on May 3, 2004 at 11:00 a.m., for one hour, for Theron McGriff's court case. Theron's case is an appeal of a District Court Judge's decision taking custody of his children away from him because he is gay. The Courtroom was nearly filled with Theron's supporters, both from Idaho Falls and Boise. Supporters are optimistic the Court will rule in Theron's favor, but it will be up to six months before the Court will make its ruling. Theron's legal bills are very high. He needs any help we can provide. Send checks to Theron McGriff at 2820 St Charles Ave., Idaho Falls, ID 83404. Please make checks payable to Theron McGriff, not to PFLAG, as this is NOT a tax deductible donation.

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.

PROTEST THE PROPOSED ANTI-GAY MARRIAGE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Call the White House and write to your representatives. The number at the White House for leaving a comment for the President is 202-456-1111.

JUDGE DENIES LATE BID TO STOP GAY MARRIAGES....Boston (AP), May 14, 2004

"A federal judge Thursday rejected a last-minute bid by conservative groups to block the nation's first state-sanctioned gay marriages from taking place in Massachusetts next week. U.S. District Judge Joseph Tauro said Massachusetts' high court acted within its authority in interpreting the Massachusetts Constitution. The plaintiffs immediately announced they would take their case to the 1st U.S. Circuit court of Appeals."

"QUEER EYE IN THE BIG SKY" IS THEME FOR MONTANA'S 2004 PRIDE CELEBRATION

June 11-13, 2004 is Montana's Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans Pride Weekend in Missoula, Montana. Besides a Pride Parade, there will be workshops, dances, a concert and variety show, drag show, and book and video sale. More information is available at pridecelebration@onewest.net, www.gaymontana.com website or call 406-543-2224.

NATIONAL PFLAG CONFERENCE TO BE IN SALT LAKE CITY, UT OCT. 22-24, 2004....Gary & Millie Watts, and Frank and Lynne Keil

"As co-chairs of the host committee for the 2004 National PFLAG Conference we are writing to ask you for your support. The 2004 PFLAG National Conference is scheduled for Salt Lake City, October 21- 24th this year at the Little America Hotel. We've done everything we can to keep tuition costs down but they are still not inexpensive: \$225/person or \$425/couple. This rate, however, does include all meals. (See below) Room rates are \$114/night in the Garden rooms and \$129/night in the tower....The conference will open Friday morning and continue through Sunday concluding at 1:00 p.m. Featured speakers and guests already include Bishop Gene Robinson, Barney Frank, Tammy Baldwin, Simon LeVay, Evan Wolfson, Mathilde Krim, Frank Kameny, Kate Kendall, Rocky Anderson and Paul Smith. Invitations have or are being extended to Senator Gordon Smith, Dick and Nancy Gephardt (PFLAG members), San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and others....We have attended previous national PFLAG Conferences and the feelings extended to us of love, concern, and friendship by other parents in attendance has been touching, overwhelming, and healing. It's traditional to laugh, cry, sing, and eat together. Now it's our turn to show those attending the conference from all over the country how great the Family Fellowship and PFLAG members are in this area. Please come and be a part of this great event....We've promised national PFLAG at least 300 registrants from the Mountain West region. The early bird registration of \$225 is good until July 1st. Go to

_SUMMARY REPORT FROM THE BOARD

(The next meeting will be on Wednesday Jun 9th at 7:00 p.m., at Wayne & Cherie's)

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend this meeting. Mike, Jon, Jim, Sharon, Wayne and Cherie met on May 12th.

The meeting agenda included:

Youth Group outreach.

Theron's Court Case

PFLAG National Convention in Salt Lake City in October.

Festival of Trees.

Chapter meetings.

Breaking Boundaries 3

Future programs.

Finances

UTAH HIGH SCHOOL IN FREE-SPEECH BATTLE WITH GAY STUDENTS....Advocate.com, May 14, 2004

Administrators at Hillcrest High School in Salt Lake City said they were not being antigay when they asked a group of students to remove T-shirts emblazoned with the slogan "Queers kick ash." The shirts, which were part of an antismoking campaign targeted at gay and lesbian youths, were deemed potentially disruptive to the school environment because of the words "kick ash," they said, and per the district's dress code they were not allowed. But the students, several of whom were suspended on May 6 and May 7 for refusing to remove the shirts, had a different story. They claimed that assistant principal David Breen told them he disapproved of the word "queer" and that he threatened to close down the school's gay-straight alliance if they didn't comply. And they say they've got a tape recording to prove it.

"There is a tape," Chris Hampton, public education associate for the American Civil Liberties Union's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, told Advocate.com. "Actually, there are two tapes. Hampton said quotes used in an ACLU press release, in which Breen was said to have voiced disapproval of the word queer and threatened to bring the GSA to "a screeching halt," came directly from one of the tapes, which were secretly recorded during two separate meetings between the students and Breen. The ACLU claims the students have a free-speech right to wear the shirts on campus. The ACLU have formally asked the school to reverse the ban and remove any suspensions from the students' records by May 20....

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"For better or worse, gay marriage starting Monday"

....Front page headline Post Register newspaper

www.pflag.org. for additional information and on-line registration. JOIN US!"

Start planning and saving now as this PFLAG National Conference is within easy driving distance from Idaho Falls.

Idaho Falls, Idaho

May 16, 2004

REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT ALONE