



INDY PFLAG NEWS

APRIL 2010

PFLAG meets the 2nd Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be Sun., April 11 from 2 to 4 pm at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in the Youth Wing (North door), just west of Meridian on 86th St.

April 11 meeting

At our April meeting, we'll welcome **Gilbert Holmes, Executive Director of American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana**, as our program speaker. Mr. Holmes has over 30 years experience as a leader and senior executive of diverse public and private sector organizations. He will speak on "Student's Rights & Wrongs," some cases and issues discussing Constitutional and Bill of Rights guarantees. His discussion will follow our confidential sharing time.

**Come to Indy PFLAG's
Annual Meeting on
Sunday, April 25 at 5 pm**

We need your help and participation!

On Sunday, April 25th at 5pm we will be having our annual Indianapolis PFLAG meeting at President Mimi Jacobs home (1615 Guildhall Court, Indy, 46260). All members are encouraged to join us. At that meeting we will be discussing the past and coming year as well as electing our officers for the coming year. Over the last several years most of the jobs have been filled by the same people and we would really like to reach out to more of our members to not only join us for the annual meeting but to consider getting involved with the Board. Please come, hear about what we are doing and consider running for one of our offices.

If you can come, please rsvp to Mimi at mimildc@aol.com or 228-9480.

After the meeting we will have a pitch in dinner which everyone is welcome to stay for. If you are coming, please also let Mimi know what you can bring.

We look forward to having you join us!

Notes from Annette

I was recently thinking about my son's coming out process to my husband and me. It was over 10 years ago and we were not prepared. We were surprised, shocked, scared – all the typical reactions. But the one reaction we never experienced was rejection. We accepted our son for who he was, even though we knew we had a lot to learn.

Think about it – when your son or daughter came out, what exactly changed about them? Did your son still have the piercing blue eyes you always loved? Did your daughter still have her wonderful sense of humor? What about their intelligence and their athletic prowess? WHAT has changed?

Even though we have learned something new about our child, their internal essence has not changed. They should still be the child you've always loved and cherished. They are a part of us as they've always been. There should be no question of whether we should accept them – no matter what our church or politicians believe. We need to reassure our child that we still love them. I'm sure you don't want to see your child end up on the street, afraid and unsure of his/her future.

Coming out is difficult for both parents and child. There are new words and concepts to adjust to. Attending PFLAG meetings is a wonderful way to learn about these concepts. Parents and children can meet and talk to other families who have gone through the same experiences. We have books that you can read about GLBT issues. This is a learning process that can bring your family closer together. I know for our family, we became closer once our son came out. He was no longer harboring a secret. Don't allow this to drive a wedge between you and your child – let this be a way to allow your family to grow and enjoy each other.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to staff our booth at the Indiana PTA Conference

**Saturday April 17th 9 am-5pm
Indianapolis Marriott East
21st and Shadeland Ave.**

We had very positive responses from attendees at last year's conference, so we're going back. Volunteers are needed in 2 hour shifts throughout the day.

If you're able to help out, contact:

Annette at (317) 872-1385, schwester26@comcast.net
or Jeff at (765) 374-3117, skyguyjj@comcast.net.

Indy PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) is a group of people who share common experiences and provide support for each other. We listen and love. We help families have open, positive and loving relationships with GLBT children and we work for their civil and human rights.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

Dining Out for Life

Making a difference is as easy as going out to eat!

Please join us for Indy's 16th Annual Dining Out for Life **Thursday, April 29th, 2010!** Area restaurants will participate in the largest restaurant event in the Indianapolis area. Benefiting the Damien Center and hundreds of people living with HIV & AIDS throughout our region.

Go here for a list of participating restaurants:

<http://www.diningoutforlife.com/indianapolis/participating>

Indiana AIDS Fund Presents Spotlight 2010

Spotlight is a one-night extravaganza of the performing arts that brings together the best music, dance, theatre, poetry and more. More than 15 acts have already been confirmed. This year, the event will be held on **Monday, May 10, 2010.**

Tickets for Spotlight 2010 go on sale April 1. To celebrate our 15th year, tickets are just \$15 for regular admission or \$115 for VIP, including pre- and after-party events. For ticket information, visit www.cloweshall.org. For more information about the show, log on to www.spotlightindy.org!

All proceeds from **Spotlight 2010** will benefit the Indiana AIDS Fund and the agencies and programs across the state that educate and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and serve those living with the disease.

Circle City IN Pride Parade & Festival Annual Pride Event

Saturday, June 12, 2010

10:00 a.m. - Circle City IN Pride 2010 Parade - Parade step-off at corner of College & Mass Avenue

11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Circle City IN Pride Festival @ new location: American Legion Mall

Website: <http://www.indyprideinc.org>

**As always, Indy PFLAG will march in the parade and staff a booth at the event. We hope to have lots of members, families and friends join in!*

The Legendary Liza Minnelli to be Honored at the 2010 Straight for Equality Awards Gala

The second annual Straight for Equality Awards Gala is coming up on May 1 at the New York Marriott Marquis, and PFLAG National is proud to announce that Academy Award®-winning actress and iconic straight ally Liza Minnelli will be honored with the 2010 Straight for Equality in Entertainment award for her lifelong support of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people.

Throughout her decades-long career, Minnelli has won an impressive list of awards and has been an outspoken ally to the LGBT community.

"Liza Minnelli is the quintessential straight ally – she has been an outspoken supporter of equality for LGBT people for her whole life, and her tremendous and ongoing philanthropy in the fight against AIDS has made her a very public advocate of the many individuals and their families who have been affected by the disease," said Jody M. Huckaby, PFLAG National's executive director.

"As someone who has been supported and touched by the LGBT community for my entire life, I can't imagine being anything but an out and proud straight ally who doesn't fear speaking up to anyone," said Minnelli.

Straight for Equality is a project of PFLAG National that was launched in 2007 to invite, educate, and empower straight allies to demonstrate their support for their LGBT friends and family. Since its inception, the program has trained more than 3,500 people nationwide through its educational workshops in corporations, healthcare environments, and communities. The Straight for Equality in Entertainment Award was designed to honor a performer and/or artist who has a history of advocating for equality for LGBT people.

LGBT seniors more likely to be poor, isolated

A new [report from Movement Advancement Project](#) sheds light on stereotypes of senior members of the LGBT community.

The report finds "LGBT elders are more likely to live in poverty, face social and community isolation, and lack appropriate health care and long-term care" according to a news release on the group's Web site.

The report, called the first major collaboration between LGBT groups and advocates of the elderly, provides a road map for advocates to help seniors age. The report includes input from Services & Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders, American Society on Aging, National Senior Citizens Law Center, Center for American Progress and AARP.

"Most Americans already face challenges as they age, but LGBT older adults have the added burden of a lifetime of stigma; familial relationships that generally lack legal recognition under the law; and unequal treatment under laws, programs and services designed to support and protect older Americans," the release said. *(365gay.com)*

To talk with a parent who also has a gay son or lesbian daughter & to learn more about Indy PFLAG, please contact:

***Annette (317) 872-1385**

***Charlene/Oran (317) 897-0126**

***info@indyflag.org**

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