



INDY PFLAG NEWS

JUNE 2009

PFLAG meets the 2nd Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be Sun., June 14 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.

June 14 Meeting

In June, we welcome Marti Abernathy, a blogger/podcaster at Transadvocate.com with a long history of activism nationally and in the Hoosier state. She's previously been involved with the Indiana Transgender Rights Advocacy Alliance, Rock Indiana Campaign for Equality, and the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition. She's taken vital roles as a grass roots community organizer in The Indianapolis Tax Day Protest (2003), Transgender Day of Remembrance (2004), Indiana's Witch Hunt (2005), and the Rally At The Statehouse (the largest ever GLBT protest in Indiana - 3/2005). In 2008 she was the first transgender delegate from Indiana and a member of Barack Obama's LBGT Policy and Steering Committee. Marti's presentation will follow our confidential sharing time.



Come walk with us in support of equal rights at Circle City IN Pride Parade & Festival - Sat.. June 13

Join the fun as Indy PFLAG members, friends and families march in the parade behind our Indy PFLAG banner and welcome festival-goers at our booth. We'll meet near the corner of College and Massachusetts Avenue around 9:30. The parade begins at 10. Wear your new Indy PFLAG t-shirt or anything you feel comfortable in. We'll hand out our traditional rainbow leis (in limited supply) as we come together to celebrate LGBT diversity in Indiana.



Some PFLAG History:
In 1972, Jeanne Manford started an international movement when she marched with her son Mortie in New York's Gay Pride Parade. Enraged that her son had been beaten at a gay rights protest two months before while police did nothing, she carried a sign at the Pride march that said, "Parents of Gays: Unite in Support of Our Children."

Notes from Annette

On Saturday, June 13th, Indianapolis will once again celebrate the 2009 IN Pride Parade and Festival. The Parade begins at 10:00 a.m. on Massachusetts Avenue near College, and the Festival follows the Parade.

This will be the 5th year that I will be marching in the Parade. When I first marched, I had no idea what was in store for me! Walking with my PFLAG family, under the PFLAG banner, I was amazed as spectators cheered us on as we passed them! We heard people shout "We love you PFLAG" – and it brought tears to my eyes! These were GLBT people who may not have the love and support they need from their own families. PFLAG parents were emblems to them – we were the parents they wished they had. I felt very proud and humble to be a part of this caring and inclusive group.

After the Parade was over, I spent the afternoon at our PFLAG booth. We sold buttons and bumper stickers, handed out brochures, and educated parents and families about PFLAG's mission of Support, Education and Advocacy.

Our goal is to include as many family members as possible this year. We urge you to march with us in the Parade. In addition, we ask you to invite your friends and family to march too! This is a wonderful way to show your love and support for your GLBT family member. There is strength in numbers – we want to show how much we care about our GLBT children as well as the whole GLBT community. So please join us on June 13th! If you have any questions, you can contact me at 753-0051. *-Annette*

P.S. – We are selling fabulous PFLAG t-shirts to wear in the Parade!



From Sarah: T-shirts are selling out. We have 4 size M, 1 size L, and 4 size XL left. IF we re-order, it will probably be for a smaller number and therefore more expensive. These are a real deal at \$15 each.

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.

Wrap-up of Indy PFLAG Annual Meeting 2009

The Annual Meeting of Indy PFLAG was held on May 3 at the home of Mimi Jacobs and Larry Cripe. The meeting was short and the pitch-in afterwards offered great food as usual. It also featured a surprise birthday party for Sarah Patterson, longtime PFLAG member.

Happily the current officers agreed to serve for another year. Mimi Jacobs was elected president, Sue Hazer continues as treasurer and Dick Patterson as secretary. We added Ellen Bernstein as a sixth Board member at large. Jeff Jones, Jan Nichols, Marcia Neff, Sarah Patterson and Annette Gross will continue to serve. Our bylaws require at least three at-large board members.

We will be participating again in the Spirit and Place Festival. The theme this year is Inspiring Places. At Jeff Jones' suggestion, we will meet in our usual room on the usual day in November, because he says that's the most inspiring place he knows. The speaker will be the Rev. Barbara Childs of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis. Our partners will be St. Luke's United Methodist Church and the Indiana Youth Group.

Other activities coming up are the Gay Pride Festival and parade June 13, and Black Pride in August. Jan Nichols and Annette Gross will represent us at a PTA conference on May 16.

Serving on this board is more fun than work, and the bonus is that we are helping change the world.

Indy PFLAG Scholarship - 2009

The Indianapolis PFLAG Chapter is pleased to be able to offer a \$500 scholarship for the 2009 - 2010 academic year. This scholarship is available to any student who has been accepted to an accredited institution of higher education or to a vocational institution. The application deadline is July 15, 2009. The award will be paid to the recipient by September 1, 2009, after receipt of proof of enrollment.

In order to be eligible for these funds, you must meet the following requirements:

- Be a resident of Indiana
- Be a graduating high school senior or hold a high school diploma or a GED
- Self identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender
- Demonstrate an interest in service to the LGBT community
- Have been accepted to an accredited institution of higher education or to a vocational institution.

You must provide the following documents:

- Completed scholarship application form
- Two letters of recommendation
- An essay (no more than 2 pages) discussing either your life as an LGBT student or how you have been involved in the LGBT community

Please send your completed application packet to the following address postmarked no later than **July 15, 2009**:

Indianapolis PFLAG Scholarship
P. O. Box 441633
Indianapolis, IN 46244-1633

All candidates will be notified of the outcome of their applications by August 15, 2009. **Forms can be accessed via our website: www.indypflag.org/Scholarship/Scholarship.htm**

The Stonewall Riots – 40th Anniversary

This is a brief history of how the gay rights movement began and the reason for Pride Events that take place around the country each June.

In June 1969, a group of LGBT people rioted following a police raid on the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar at 43 Christopher Street, New York City. Sylvia Rivera, a transgender rights activist and founding member of both the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Activists Alliance, is credited by many as the first to actually strike back at the police and, in so doing, spark the rebellion. Further protests and rioting continued for several nights following the raid. The riots are frequently cited as the first instance in American history when gays and lesbians fought back against a government-sponsored system that persecuted homosexuals, and they have become the defining event that marked the start of the gay rights movement in the United States and around the world.

On June 28th, 1970 (Liberation Day), the very first Gay Pride marches were held in Chicago, L.A., New York, and San Francisco to remember the Stonewall Riots of the previous year. Today, several cities worldwide, including Toronto, hold their pride events in June to commemorate Stonewall.

Pride Skate '09 Fundraiser

Don't miss this year's **Pride Skate '09** fundraiser, part of the fun-filled, nine day Pride Week events. On June 7th from 6:30-9:00pm you can step back and relive the nostalgia with Indy Pride, Circle City IN Pride, **Pride Skate 09's** "Rolling Back to the 80's" themed skating party!

The cost is only \$10 which includes admission, skate rental, all-you-can-eat pizza, and all-you-can-drink soda! Imagine a nightly Pride community fundraiser *and* dinner for only ten dollars per person. As this is a fun-raiser with all monies raised going back to Indy Pride, there is only one set price for admission, and any additional contributions are more than welcome! Some community organizations will have tables set up and the **Pride Skate '09** committee will be selling tickets for a number of fabulous prize drawings that you could win throughout the evening!

The **Ten's** own **DJ Vanilla Soul** will be spinning tunes for the evening with all your 80's favorites. Representatives from the **Naptown Roller Girls** will be participating and joining in on the fun!

The evening will cumulate with the famous "Drag Skate" race in which the first few skaters to sign up will get a chance to skate-their-way to Drag Skate Queen status in a fast-paced, hilarious quick-change drag race you have to see to believe.

This third annual skating party is definitely an Indy Pride event to put on your calendar! All are welcome and families are encouraged to attend. Gather your friends and family and come out to **Pride Skate '09** on June 7th, 6:30-9:00pm at Skateland (3902 N Glen Arm Rd, on the west side)! Check out more details and the other Pride Week activities on our website at www.indyprideinc.org.

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

***Sarah (317) 545-7034**

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

***info@indypflag.org**

Indianapolis PFLAG, P.O. Box 441633, Indianapolis IN 46244-1633

www.indypflag.org