



INDY PFLAG NEWS

MARCH 2009

PFLAG meets the 2nd Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be Sun., March 8 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.

March 8 Meeting

Confronting Prejudiced Responses

Our March program will feature Leslie Ashburn-Nardo, Ph.D., currently an Assistant Professor of Psychology and core faculty member of the Industrial/Organizational Psychology graduate program at Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis. Her research focuses on prejudice, prejudice reduction, stigma, and implicit social cognition and has been published in social and industrial/organizational psychology journals. She received her doctoral degree in experimental social psychology from the University of Kentucky.

Confrontation—verbally or nonverbally expressing one's dissatisfaction with prejudicial and discriminatory treatment to the person who is responsible for the remark or behavior—can effectively reduce prejudice and empower victims. Yet people rarely say or do as much as they would like when they witness or experience discrimination. Furthermore, failure to respond to prejudice has negative affective, cognitive, and physiological consequences. Findings to date beg the question: Why are people reluctant to confront prejudice? My colleagues and I recently developed the Confronting Prejudiced Responses (CPR) Model to outline various factors that may inhibit prejudice confrontation. I will present the model and some of our initial research findings and invite discussion about this viable grassroots approach to reducing prejudice. This program follows our sharing time.

Indy PRIDE is June 13. It's not too soon to mark your calendar!

The day begins with a PRIDE parade, and PFLAG folks have walked in this every year...however, not very many of us! **This year we want to make our presence much more visible.** We have really great INDY PFLAG t-shirts for sale (\$15), so we'll look more cohesive. Come to a meeting or call Sarah (545-7034) to buy your shirt.

We're urging you to come join the group. It's really exciting and rewarding - we get lots of cheers from the watchers and even some hugs. This is a chance to show the GLBT community that we love and support them.

Please put the date on your calendar, buy a t-shirt, and walk with us!

Notes from Annette

Since we are in the middle of a cold, snowy winter, I've become a bit reflective. I've been thinking back to when I first joined PFLAG. Why did I first walk into that room? What did I expect to gain? What did I expect to learn? Did I want to make friends with other parents? Was I going to help myself? Was I going to help my son?

Well, after almost 10 years of walking into that room once a month, I can say that joining PFLAG has been a very positive experience for me. Even though I am quite liberal, I still had issues. I worried that my son would never give me grandchildren. I worried that he might get beat up for who he is. I worried that he might contact HIV/AIDS.

After my son came out, I went into the closet. I felt less-than. I felt that my family was not as "perfect" as other families. I was afraid to tell people about my son's sexuality – I did not want to be judged by anyone.

I don't really remember that first meeting. But whatever occurred in that room, it compelled me to keep coming back. I gained a lot of support and understanding. All of my questions were eventually answered. And I gained a wonderful support network.

I think my biggest thrill was when I first marched in a Pride Parade. I felt like I belonged to a large family that had a place just for me! I cried as spectators shouted "We love you PFLAG!" It was at that moment that I realized that I did not join PFLAG just for myself – I joined it to help all of the GLBT people out there who have been rejected by their families and by society. I felt that I was finally giving back.

PFLAG, like so many other volunteer organizations, depends on its membership for its strength. We see so many people come and go. Some come to a meeting only once, others keep coming back. My hope is that even if you have received the help and support you desired, that you will keep supporting PFLAG by attending more meetings, march in Pride with us, and most importantly, share your stories. There is always room for one more chair in our circle!

Our Indy PFLAG Lending Library offers many wonderful books and videos that you can borrow. It travels to every monthly PFLAG meeting, so be sure to check it out for new and interesting subject matter.

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.

Calif. House Committee Opposes Prop. 8

-Advocate.com, 2-20-09

California's house judiciary committee passed a resolution opposing Proposition 8 on Tuesday, saying that the ballot initiative to end marriage equality in the state was an "improper revision of the California constitution."

Assembly member Tom Ammiano, a San Francisco Democrat who authored H.R. 5, said in a press release that he was confident that the assembly would support the repeal of Proposition 8. Ammiano told Advocate.com Wednesday that the resolution will face a full house vote within the next week, amid the state budget negotiations transpiring in the legislature.

Bay Area legislator Mark Leno has introduced a similar resolution in the senate, which Ammiano said will likely also pass. "We are predicting success on this," he said. "I'm very grateful for all of the people who have come forward with me on this. We have a lot of support with our straight allies."

Voting in the committee was along party lines, with a 7-3 vote. One of the Republican committee members is Steve Knight of Palmdale, whose father, Pete Knight, wrote Proposition 22, a ballot initiative that banned same-sex marriage in California in 2000 by statute, but not in the constitution.

"I think all three of them were looking for places to hide," Ammiano said. "Knight said, 'I really think the legislature should not weigh in on this. If the courts decide with the opponents of Prop. 8, that's fine with me.'" Ammiano added, "The members themselves were not vitriolic in their remarks. It was the usual, 'We love you but we hate the sin.'"

The California supreme court will hear arguments for and against keeping Proposition 8 on the books on March 5. (Michelle Garcia, Advocate.com)

Voices for Peace: A Joint IWC and IMC Concert

Saturday, March 21, 2009, 8 p.m.

Ransburg Auditorium, University of Indianapolis
1400 East Hanna Avenue

Join the Indianapolis Women's Chorus and the Indianapolis Men's Chorus in a powerful performance that invites us to overcome our differences and recognize our common humanity. Members of the two choruses unite for the fourth time in 14 years to raise their voices for unity and peace among all peoples.

Dignity Indianapolis, a Catholic GLBT and friends group, has a monthly 6:00 PM Mass and pitch-in meal on the second Sunday of each month at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church located at the Northwest corner of Illinois and 46th Streets.

Americans embrace gay-friendly proposals

-Deb Price, Detroit News, 12-29-08

Gay Congressman Barney Frank likes to tell the tale of the mother who reacts with love and acceptance to the news that her son is gay, but warns him: "Just don't tell your father. It would kill him."

Frank's story illuminates a misimpression, even among gay-friendly Americans -- that other folks' internal thermometer toward gay people and our rights is stuck close to freezing.

But as the nation prepares for a new Congress and president, a recent Newsweek poll indicates that politicians shouldn't run from gay-friendly feelings.

What makes the Newsweek poll especially valuable is that the responses to its wide range of questions underscore that, other than on same-sex marriage, most Americans would embrace steps to pass laws to treat those of us who're gay equally.

A lot of that warming trend reflects how common it is now for Americans to know someone gay: Today, 78 percent say they know someone gay or lesbian, Newsweek found. Early in Bill Clinton's presidency, 1994, 53 percent did.

Newsweek found:

- By 87 to 10 percent, Americans favor "equal rights" for gays "in terms of job opportunities."
- By 66 to 29 percent, Americans support allowing gays to serve "openly" in the military.
- By 67 to 27 percent, Americans support Social Security benefits for gay "domestic partners."
- By 73 to 23 percent, Americans favor "health insurance and other employee benefits" for gay partners.

Most Americans even favor some type of legal recognition: By 55 to 36 percent, the majority support "legally sanctioned gay and lesbian unions or partnerships." People also were asked what is "more morally objectionable" to them, with a series of heterosexual situations compared with a "gay couple in a long term, committed sexual relationship."

Viewed as more morally objectionable than the gay couple were an adulterous heterosexual (55 to 18 percent); an "unmarried heterosexual who has sex with many different partners" (48 to 21 percent); a heterosexual who has divorced more than twice (37 to 26 percent); a "heterosexual who suddenly decides to get married in Las Vegas, but has the marriage annulled one week later" (48 to 24 percent).

Newsweek's revealing snapshot comes as gay leaders express concern that President-elect Barack Obama is getting off to a shaky start on gay issues.

Among positives: He invited a gay band to march in the inaugural parade and banned anti-gay or anti-transgender discrimination for appointment-level jobs.

But Obama missed a timely opportunity to appoint an openly gay person to his Cabinet. And he picked pastor Rick Warren -- who lent his celebrity to help strip away gay couples' right to marry in California -- to deliver his inaugural invocation.

Fresh starts are opportunities for big change. And on basic gay issues, Americans are ready.

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

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*Charlene/Oran (317) 897-0126

*info@indypflag.org

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