



INDY PFLAG NEWS

MARCH 2010

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

March 14 meeting

Our March meeting will feature **Dr. Julia Lash, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services at IUPUI**. Julie grew up in rural Indiana, working on a farm and attending a small non-denominational church. She was active in sports and excelled academically, eventually completing a degree in physical education and math education at Purdue. Although Julie began to recognize she might be gay while in high school, her fundamental religions upbringing made it difficult to look honestly at her sexual orientation. It became her "cross to bear." As Julie pursued medical research as a career, she began to come to terms with her true self. Through understanding and nurturing friends and clergy, and the gift of a therapist that could validate both her sexual orientation and her faith, Julie began to embrace her identity.

As a result of her own journey, Julie made a career change and now works as a psychologist and is Director of Counseling and Psychological Services at IUPUI. One of her areas of specialization is working with GLBT individuals at various stages of life and self-acceptance. She and her partner recently celebrated 21 years together.

Julie looks forward to discussing sexual orientation from a psychological perspective, the coming out process for GLBTQ individuals and their families, identity conflicts, and mental health issues resulting from stigma and oppression.

Come to Indy PFLAG's Annual Meeting Sunday, April 25, 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

Yesterday the theme song from "My Three Sons" was going through my head. That got me thinking about the actual show, which ran on TV from 1960-1972. The show was about a widower, Steve Douglas, who is raising his 3 sons with the help first of his father-in-law, Bub O'Casey, and later his Uncle Charlie. This was a household that contained 5 men.

So that reminded me of other TV shows in which single parents raised children. A very early show was "My Little Margie" – the story of a widower, Vernon Albright, played by Charles Farrell, raising his daughter Margie, played by Gale Storm.

I realized that there were a few more shows with single parents – "Bachelor Father" (1957-1962); "Family Affair" (1966-1971); and "One Day at a Time" (1975-1984). The parent figures in these shows were either a birth parent or an uncle who was raising his sibling's child(ren).

Of course these parent figures were straight – you would never see a gay person on TV raising a child back then. But these parents were single. Of the shows I mentioned, only "One Day at a Time" contained a mother. The other parents were men.

These shows were accepted by the general public. I doubt that anyone argued that a single parent could not raise children. These characters were caring, loving people who did the best they could for their young charges. There were challenges along the way, but by the end of 30 minutes, everything was always ironed out.

Perhaps we need to go back in time and bring up these shows when people insist that only a mother and father can raise children. We were shown that families come in all shapes and sizes and that love and consistency are what matters most.

**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.

2010 IYG ART AUCTION: Reflections - Past, Present and Future of LGBT Youth

Saturday, March 13th, 8-10 p.m.

Wheeler Art Center

We are very excited to have Honorary Chairs, Sheila and Bob Kennedy for the 10 Annual Indiana Youth Group Art Auction. Our theme is Reflections: Past, Present and Future of our LGBT Youth. We are holding the event at a new venue, Wheeler Art Community Center in historic Fountain Square. This year's event promises an evening packed with live musical entertainment, our favorite artists, auctioneers and friends.

Early Bird Tickets: *VIP \$40, General Admission \$15*

NOTE: Early Bird tickets must be purchased by March 5, 2010. *Door prices - VIP \$45, General Admission \$20* The VIP social hour will start at 7:00 PM. New features for our VIPs include a private auction, complimentary drinks, *hors d'oeuvres*, and VIP surprises throughout the evening.

Admission fee(s) and auction proceeds to benefit IYG. Tickets may be purchased at

www.indianayouthgroup.org

**STUDENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2010
INTRODUCED IN U.S. HOUSE**

Measure would prohibit discrimination against public school students on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity

The introduction of the Student Non-discrimination Act of 2010 (SNDA), H.R. 4530, which would prohibit discrimination against any public school student on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. In addition, the SNDA prevents discrimination against any public school student because of the actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity of a person with whom that the student associates or has associated. The bi-partisan SNDA was introduced by Congressman Jared Polis (D-CO) and has 60 co-sponsors.

"Hatred has no place in the classroom," said Congressman Polis. "Every student has the right to an education free from harassment and violence. This bill will protect the individual freedoms of our students and enshrine the values of equality and opportunity in our classrooms."

Federal statutory and/or constitutional protections expressly address discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex and disability, but do not expressly address sexual orientation or gender identity. As a result, students and parents have limited legal recourse to redress for discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

PFLAG Releases "Straight for Equality in Healthcare" Gives Providers Keys to Much-Needed Inclusion Strategies for LGBT Patients

"This resource can transform the experiences of LGBT people in the healthcare system." -Jody M. Huckaby, Executive Director, PFLAG National

Washington, D.C. – While affordable healthcare continues to be a major national issue, this is only one of the challenges facing lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people when it comes to their medical care. Too often, providers' lack the basic cultural competency on LGBT issues, rely on misinformation or simply do not have access to simple and effective resources, creating barriers to adequate healthcare access for their LGBT patients. The release of Straight for Equality in Healthcare aims to change this trend.

Straight for Equality in Healthcare is the second publication from PFLAG National's *Straight for Equality* project. The project, launched in 2007, aims to help people have the everyday, nonpolitical conversations that need to occur in order to foster greater acceptance of GLBT people. Since its inception, the project has trained more than 3,500 people nationwide on the topic of how to be a straight ally.

The new *Straight for Equality in Healthcare* guide was created with the assistance of a diverse committee of healthcare professionals in fields such as primary care, mental health, nursing, and allied health disciplines. Topics include:

- **Why should I care about gay people in my practice?** The case for inclusion.
- **Making a diagnosis:** Understanding and identifying personal barriers around LGBT issues and specific steps on how to overcome them.
- **Lidocaine for your nerves:** Being supportive need not be nerve-racking. Simple, nonpolitical ways to start signaling acceptance of LGBT people in your practice are outlined.
- **Resources:** Basic terminology, sample inclusive intake forms, nondiscrimination policies, and connections to other resources.

The new publication is featured on the *Straight for Equality in Healthcare* website, www.straightforequality.org/healthcare. The site includes broader discussions of the issue and additional resources.

UPDATE

SJR 13, the proposed amendment against marriage equality in Indiana, has died in the House. Another year goes by!

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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