



INDY PFLAG NEWS

OCTOBER 2009

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

October 11 Meeting

At this month's meeting we welcome **Evan McMahon** as our program speaker. The Indiana chapter of Marriage Equality USA (MEUSA) was formed and is currently lead by Evan. He is a native of Bloomington, IN who came out to his family and peers in middle school at the age of 14. In the 15 years since coming out, Evan has traveled the country as a LGBT activist, organizer, participant and journalist.

Evan is one of the top LGBT bloggers and freelance journalists in the US. He has spoken at dozens of conferences on new and social media, blogging and LGBT rights. He was one of the chief designers of the "Security Manual for LGBT Bloggers".

"I've marched in rallies, planned demonstrations, published articles on LGBT Civil Rights, been targeted by anti-gay groups and been arrested for kissing another man during a KKK rally....Why? So the next generation of LGBT teens won't face the same hate and fear that we've had to endure."

Marriage Equality USA-

In the late autumn of 2000, the national organization, Marriage Equality USA (MEUSA) was officially founded. Since then other chapters have formed across the country and chapters are growing every day. The organization's sole purpose and focus is to end discrimination in civil marriage so that same-sex couples can enjoy the same legal and societal status as opposite-sex couples.

Marriage Equality USA (MEUSA) understands how critical it is for a greater number of voices to be heard and often works in tandem with other state and national organizations. With greater numbers of people working together towards ending discrimination in civil marriage, MEUSA hopes to accomplish in the foreseeable future what truly is the inevitable: civil marriages for same-sex couples.

Marriage Equality USA (MEUSA) as a national organization leads the country wide movement to end discrimination in civil marriages but on local grassroots levels. State and county chapters are free to use the means and methods they feel will benefit our movement in their region the best. What works in California may not work in Indiana. That being said the chapters are supported and guided by the national board and the several national organizations we have partnered with.

Our November 8 meeting will be an Event!

An open to the public Spirit & Place event will showcase Indy PFLAG as an Inspiring Place to be on **Sunday, November 8 from 2-4 pm**. We partner with IYG and St. Luke's Methodist

Church to present a panel of shared stories about how transformational a simple space can be when unconditional support, security and acceptance enter. Reverend Barbara Child will lead a discussion about how people inspire places and IYG artwork will be on display. **Come and bring a friend!**

Notes from Annette

It's been over 10 years since my son came out. During that time, a lot has happened in the GLBT world – marriage rights were given in a few states, the GLBT community helped put a new, progressive president in office, and there is a possibility that anti-gay bills will be repealed. I've seen the GLBT community gather their forces and work together to make these changes.

In my own life, I've seen changes. Today I was in a party store, looking for a wig for my costume for the Damien Center Masquerade Ball. My son suggested that I get dressed up as the character "Debbie" from the TV show "Queer As Folk." As I was talking to the young woman who was helping me, I told her what my costume was going to be. To my surprise, she had watched the show and knew about the characters. She was very comfortable chatting with me about it and I felt that here was another ally.

On Saturday night my husband and I went to a folk music concert. One of the songs the musician played was about GLBT marriage. I was thrilled to hear her get the message across in favor of gay marriage! After the show was over, I went up to her – I gave her my card and asked her to look up PFLAG and in particular the Straight for Equality initiative. She told me she knew about PFLAG and considered herself an ally.

Ten years ago, I doubt very much I would have approached these people and talked about GLBT issues. But there are a lot of forces going on in this country and a lot of it is for the better. Next month I'm going to Washington, D.C. to be part of the "March on Washington" – a rally and march that will let our legislators know that we are ready for equality now!

I have a much better feeling about my own journey and my own "coming out" process. I also think that there are thousands and thousands of people who are comfortable with GLBT rights and are willing to be allies. It will be interesting to see what happens during the coming months! I am so happy to be on this journey!

A quote from our Spirit & Place "People Make the Place"

event description: Elie Wiesel, a Jewish writer, professor, political activist, Nobel Laureate and Holocaust survivor said, "Sanctuary is often something very small. Not grandiose, but a small gesture toward alleviating human suffering and preventing humiliation. The sanctuary is a human being. Sanctuary is a dream. And that is why you are here and that is why I am here. We are here because of one another. We are in truth each other's shelter."

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.

We need your support through membership!

Your membership dues are the primary source of our Indy PFLAG income. Last fiscal year, beginning Oct. 1, 2008, we had 44 member units with \$2585 in membership fees. Our annual expenses run about \$4000 a year, so you can see that we need YOUR MEMBERSHIP to help us meet our expenses and support our work. We hope you find Indy PFLAG and the newsletter valuable and choose to renew or become new members. Your dues help us continue our work in support, education, and advocacy. We can't do it without your support.

Where does your money go? We send \$15 for every member unit to National PFLAG so they can continue education and advocacy at the national level. Last year we spent about \$780 for postage and supplies for the newsletter. (We don't have to pay for paper and printing!) We spent about \$1000 to cover costs for registering for teacher, counselor, and social work conferences and other events such as Indy PRIDE and Black PRIDE. We distribute information and materials at these events, and we spent \$450 for copy expenses and materials. We spent about \$850 for buttons and bumper stickers which we sold to add to our income for the year. Other expenses include room rental for our meeting space and liability insurance required by St. Luke's. The chapter officers and board try to use the money wisely as if it were our own, which it is.

Please send in your form today!!! If you are renewing, please consider renewing at a higher level than last year. So far, we have received only 16 membership renewals for this fiscal year. It's time to show your support and send in that membership!

Save the Date: Thursday, December 10 is the date for the Indiana Equality annual fundraiser

"Holiday In the Old Northside" will take place at the home of Joe Everhart, 1238 N Park Avenue. The 1873 Italianate house was known for decades as the home of the Saengerchor, a German social club. The home has been restored to its nineteenth-century appearance, except for the basement where the German-styled bar has been retained.

Soups, breads, and desserts from local restaurants and chefs will be featured. Tickets are \$80 each, and are tax deductible.

PFLAG has worked with Indiana Equality since 2003 to advocate for inclusion, fairness and equality for all.

Census 2010 to Report Same-Sex Marriage Data

The Census Bureau will for the first time publicly release the number of gay marriages reported in a decennial census, as it plans to release raw data about same-sex relationships in the 2010 headcount.

The decision reverses a Bush-era policy that prohibited the release of the data. In a legal opinion published last week, Commerce Department lawyers concluded that the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act does not prohibit the Census Bureau from publicly releasing the data, contrary to the conclusions reached by Bush administration lawyers.

The new policy marks a continued shift in how the Census handles declarations of same-sex partnerships. In 1990, enumerators made a practice of changing the sex of a person described as the husband or wife of a head of household to reflect the opposite sex. In 2000, the bureau instead edited the data to describe same-sex couples as "unmarried partners."

From washingtonpost.com Editors; August 3, 2009

National Equality March Rally October 9-11 in Washington DC

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their allies who gather in Washington DC during the October 9-11 weekend for the National Equality March will have plenty of opportunities to demonstrate, collaborate and commemorate. Event organizers released today a lengthy slate of workshops, seminars, rallies, prayer services, memorial ceremonies and family events associated with the first large-scale demonstration for equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people to be held in Washington DC since 2000.

"We're not just joining together to demand equal protection in all matters governed by civil law," said

Tanner Efinger, event coordinator for the March. "We're also coming together to organize, to strategize, and to give and receive training in how to bring about the change we demand." (From 365gay

Newscenter Staff; 9/23/09)

Details: <http://nem.gaycities.com/events/681-national-equality-march-rally>

Indy Choruses Announce 2009-2010 Performances Men's Chorus kicks off season October 17 and 18

The Indianapolis Men's and Women's Choruses have announced its 2009-2010 season of diverse and entertaining performances:

The Men's Chorus (IMC) concert season begins October 17 and 18, 2009, when the men strut their stuff in a spoofy, campy "Spooftacular" send-up of everyone's favorite shows, songs, and stars. It's guaranteed to be a wild, no-holds-barred romp. The performances will be at the Athenaeum at 401 E. Michigan in Indianapolis.

Next, the IMC (along with some of the women from the Indianapolis Women's Chorus) will present "Masters in the Hall" on December 12th, 19th, and 20th, 2009. This extravagant madrigal dinner event will bring the traditional pomp, music, and food of old England together for the holidays. "Masters in the Hall" will be held at Northwood Christian Church. The Indianapolis Women's Chorus (IWC) begins its 2009-2010 concert season with some non-subscription performances.

On October 10, 2009, the IWC presents "WomanSong" at Unity of Indianapolis. While this is not part of their subscription package, this \$10 per ticket event will be sure to please the "woman" in everyone!

IWC will also present a collaborative concert with the Indiana Women's Prison in October, 2009, complete with instrumentalists and improvised performances by incarcerated women. IWC Artistic Director, Pam Blevins-Hinkle has led these workshops and is available to provide further details about these workshops. Contact Pam at pbhinkle@gmail.com or at 317-213-7522.

**Find the Choruses complete schedule at
<http://www.indychoruses.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**
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