

PFLAG ORLANDO

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends.

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Apr 08

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends. This is done through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

Support meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the Month at the First United Methodist Church of Downtown Orlando 142 East Jackson Street, Orlando, FL, Wesley Building, Room 205 and start at 7:30pm

Next two meetings are Wed 5/14/08 and 06/18/08 7:30pm-9:30pm

PFLAG Orlando is happy to sponsor this event:

Hilarious, poignant 'coming out' show to debut at JCC Maitland, FL On Saturday night, May 10 at 8 p.m., the Jewish Community Center of Greater Orlando in Maitland will present MotherSON, a semi-autobiographical solo play which deals with a young Jewish man and his mother and their evolving relationship after he comes out to her. Go to <http://www.pflagorlando.org> for more information.

When 05/10/08, 8pm
Where Harriett & Hymen Lake Cultural Auditorium
Jewish Community Center of Greater Orlando
<http://www.orlandojcc.org/>
851 N. Maitland Ave, Maitland, FL
Cost \$10 for members, \$12 for non members or \$50 for front row
Contact Jennifer Becher 407-645-5933 x245
Dinner **Join us for dinner beforehand.** We need 20 people to reserve a private room. we already have 10-15 people coming. Please **RSVP** via the website feedback form
Where Eastern Pearl Chinese Restaurant 478 E Altamonte Dr. #102, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701

GAYDAYS.COM June 3 - June 9, 2008

Please go to their web site to see the many dozens of events happening around the Orlando area.

<http://www.gaydays.com/calendar/>

We'd like to thank gaydays.com for hosting the PFLAG Orlando web site!

PFLAG Regional Conference in Orlando Florida.

Held at the beautiful Regal Sun Resort

On Friday, **Leadership Day** you (for chapter leaders, board members, longtime volunteers)

- How to grow your chapter
- How to develop your chapter leadership
- Straight For Equality
- and more!

On Saturday at the Main Conference (for members and friends of PFLAG) you can look forward to the following:

- Safe Schools
- How to use media effectively
- Faith issues for LGBT people and allies
- and more!

Many more details can be found on the PFLAG Orlando Web Site at <http://www.pflagorlando.org>

We need volunteers to help host the event. Please contact us at pflagorlando@yahoo.com

Anger and denial

More tips on coming out to your family
by Shelley Argent.

How, when or where to tell loved ones that you're gay, lesbian or bisexual is never easy.

Some young people say that it's the hardest thing they have ever done in their life, and it isn't always done in the best manner.

I have had parents say they were told while driving around a roundabout. One gay man told me he just rushed in while his parents were eating dinner, quickly told them and then rushed out of the house to a friend waiting in the car to take him to Sydney.

These are not ideal times or ways to tell loved ones. Even if you plan to the finest detail, there is still a lot of stress and tension involved.

The problem is that most parents never expect what you're about to tell them and so of course it comes as a shock. Even if parents suspect you may be gay, lesbian or bisexual, there is a difference between suspecting and knowing they have a gay son or lesbian daughter.

With shock comes tears, and sometimes things are said that would have been best left unsaid, and which most parents regret later.

Anger is another emotion that surfaces. Parents get angry and say such things as "How dare you do this to us?" They get angry with you and angry with themselves for not 'stopping it' from happening.

It's a time I would suggest keeping friends and partner away from family, because they are liable to be angry with them as well.

Their anger is misplaced because they don't understand you haven't done this deliberately; you haven't chosen to be gay

or lesbian. Parents also feel confused and isolated not knowing where to turn for assistance.

Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays (PFLAG) can help by first letting them know they are not alone.

They can then provide emotional support and resources, and finally put the sexuality issue into perspective.

A comfortable stage for many parents who don't seek understanding or support is 'denial'. In this stage, many put their heads in the sand and hope that it isn't really happening. They may think you're just confused, too young to know, or just experimenting and will soon come to your senses.

You need to be careful with parents in the denial stage because the longer they're in denial, the harder it is to get them to move to acceptance. Some families I have met are content to stay in this stage for many years.

However, I always suggest that if you feel your family is moving in this direction, keep talking about your friends, partner and where you go for entertainment.

Just keep them a little out of their comfort zone until they begin to talk, ask questions and eventually not feel so threatened by the whole process.

I would also suggest you occasionally invite them out for coffee or a meal and take them to some of your favourite 'very gay friendly' coffee shops or restaurants.

This will help break down the sensitivity they're experiencing, plus it will let them see that where you go and what you do is similar to your siblings.

www.pflagvictoria.org.au Reprinted with permission from Home - MCV - Melbourne Community Voice Retrieved on April 30, 2008 from <http://mcv.e-p.net.au/features/anger-and-denial-2952-2.html>



Straight for Equality is here! Find out how you can be part of this new project from PFLAG.

- Visit the Straight for Equality website at <http://www.straightforequality.org>
- Sign the Straight for Equality pledge today.
- Learn more about the NEW Straight for Equality resources!

Transgender man tells Oprah: I'm pregnant

CHICAGO, April 3 (UPI) -- An Oregon transgendered man announced on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in Chicago he is pregnant with his first child, a daughter. Thomas Beatie, 34, who was born a woman named Tracey and retained his female reproductive organs after becoming transgendered, said on Thursday's episode of the popular talk show he is nearly 25 weeks pregnant with a baby sired by an anonymous sperm donor, the show's producer, Harpo Productions, reported on its Web site. "I see pregnancy as a process and it doesn't define who I am. Ironically, being pregnant doesn't make me feel any more female or feminine," Beatie said.

upi.com

Kansas City Passes Transgender Protections

The Kansas City, Mo., city council voted to extend antidiscrimination laws to protect expressions of gender identity. Council member Beth Gottstein, the measure's primary sponsor, said that though she expected some resistance, it was time to pass the measure.

"If our city code doesn't protect everyone, it protects no one," she said in a statement Thursday released by the Human Rights Campaign. "I am proud that we have taken this action to make clear that no one in Kansas City should have to face discrimination."

advocate.com

Visitors From 29 States Ask Lawmakers to Support Inclusive ENDA

New England Blade and HX New England // News //

Nearly 200 transgender rights activists and their supporters descended on Washington from 29 states last week to urge Congress to support legislation aimed at ending discrimination and violence.

Participants in a March 14 lobby day organized by the Washington-based National Center for Trans-gender Equality said they hoped to put aside the sharp disagreements that surfaced last year over a decision by House Democratic leaders to remove transgender protections from the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

innewsweekly.com

Florida Senate Committee OK's Non-Trans ENDA

The Florida senate commerce committee approved a bill that would prohibit discrimination against gays and lesbians in housing, employment, and public accommodations. Introduced in 2007 by Democrat Ted Deutch, the measure was passed on a vote of 7-1, with one abstention, on Tuesday. Four Republicans and three Democrats affirmed the bill.

While the proposed law does not include protections for transgender Floridians, Palm Beach County Human Rights Council president Rand Hoch said in a statement that attaching gender identity to the bill would kill it before it reached the floor. However, the organization approached Rep. Kelly Skidmore to introduce a transgender-inclusive bill into the house, thereby adopting a two-bill strategy.

advocate.com

Gay-marriage ban supporters hit road

Supporters of a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage in Florida began a 10-city campaign Thursday to counteract a major argument mounted against the proposal - that it would infringe on rights of the elderly who choose to live together without marrying.

John Stemberger, the Orlando lawyer who headed the Florida4Marriage.org petition campaign that put the amendment to a statewide vote, announced the new campaign dubbed Yes2Marriage.org. The referendum is Amendment 2 on the Nov. 4 ballot.

news-press.com

Pinellas County approves gay rights measure - Tampa Bays Local News

Clearwater, Fl. - Pinellas County's human rights ordinance prohibits discrimination for race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status and physical disability.

But County Commissioners asked staff to draft an ordinance that would also prohibit discrimination in housing, employment and public places like restaurants and shops, based on sexual orientation.

"It's one of those things a demand kind of thing, until somebody asks that we look at it, it wasn't necessarily on the radar screen," said Leon Russell, Pinellas County's Director of Human Rights.

But at a public hearing on the proposal to add sexual orientation to the county's human rights ordinance, all of the speakers were against it. Some say it's not needed.

tampabay10.com

Pridefest shines despite clouds

By MARK HARPER Education Writer
DAYTONA BEACH -- The clouds hovered, gray and threatening, over Daytona Pridefest 2008 on Sunday.

Sure, there were rainbow-colored balloons and green hair and gaggles of beer-drinking lesbians laughing and loving life. Hundreds of people attended Pridefest, an event that organizers estimated is about 10 years old.

news-journalonline.com

Suit filed by gay-straight group's ex-leader tossed By RACHEL SIMMONSEN

Palm Beach Post Staff Writer
Friday, April 11, 2008

A federal judge has tossed out a lawsuit filed by a then-student at Okeechobee High School who said she was wrongfully denied the right to start a Gay-Straight Alliance on campus.

The former student, Yasmin Gonzalez, has graduated, so she's no longer affected by the school's decision to ban the club, U.S. District Judge K. Michael Moore said in a ruling Wednesday.

Gonzalez's attorneys with the ACLU tried to maintain her stake in the case by seeking nominal monetary damages, but Moore ruled she isn't entitled to any money because she wasn't claiming violations of due process.

"We were surprised and disappointed by his interpretation," said Rob Rosenwald, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union.

palmbeachpost.com

Across The Nation | Florida Advocacy Group Launches HIV/AIDS Education, Testing Campaign Aimed at MSM

COMPASS, a Palm Beach County, Fla.-based gay and lesbian advocacy group, last week launched an HIV/AIDS education and testing campaign aimed at men who have sex with men, the Palm Beach Post reports. The campaign encourages MSM to sign cards pledging to promote HIV testing to 10 other people.

According to the Post, the "impetus" for the campaign was a report released last year that documented the impact of HIV on MSM in the state (Barton, Palm Beach Post, 3/30). The report, conducted by the state Department of Health, found that an estimated one in 22 MSM in Florida is HIV-positive. The report also found one in 12 black MSM in the state is HIV-positive, compared with one in 18 Hispanic MSM and one in 29 white MSM. Some advocates argued that the state might be underestimating the incidence of HIV/AIDS among MSM, adding that many MSM do not practice safer sex for a number of reasons (Kaiser Daily HIV/AIDS Report, 11/15/07).

kaisernetwork.org

Women's bisexuality an 'identity,' not phase
By Sharon Jayson, USA TODAY

Bisexuality among women isn't just a phase, according to new research that followed 79 non-heterosexual women for a decade and found that bisexual women continue to be attracted to both sexes over time.

Being bisexual is a distinct orientation, not a temporary stage, says the study by Lisa Diamond, an associate professor of psychology and gender studies at the University of Utah. It is being published next week in the January issue of *Developmental Psychology*, a journal of the American Psychological Association.

usatoday.com

Collection Development "Gay Parenting": Building Rainbow Families

Adoption options

Nonetheless, no amount of exposure in *People* magazine can eliminate the significant legal hurdles facing gay men and lesbians looking to have families. That's the long way of saying that gay adoption—probably the most popular method of family building among gay men and an increasingly popular choice for lesbians—is not explicitly legal in the 50 states. Only about a dozen states permit single gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered (GLBT) adoption and joint adoption, defined as an unmarried couple's petitioning the court to adopt a child who has been put up for adoption by the birth parent(s) or by the state.

Most states do allow single GLBT adoptions but haven't taken a formal stand on joint adoptions, a situation that makes it hard for gay couples to share legal rights regarding their children. (Florida, for the record, is the only state that has outlawed gay adoption, period.) Where joint GLBT adoptions are illegal, gay couples in which one party already has legal rights of a child seek second-parent adoption.

With so much red tape on the home front, numerous gay couples resort to international adoption, which can be faster. Still, the future parents in question must remain closeted throughout the entire process because no country will knowingly place a child in a gay household. In other words, only single-parent adoption is available; the other person can file for second-parent adoption after the child is safely in America. Foster parenting also offers gay couples a chance at parenthood, but the state retains legal guardianship.

This first collection development article on gay parenting will necessarily tackle its legal issues along with its emotional and economic components. But first, a little sociological background.

libraryjournal.com

Atwater's support gives big boost to Florida gay-rights legislation

Legislation that would ban discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation passed a Florida Senate committee after a major addition to the list of co-sponsors: state Sen. Jeff Atwater, who is in line to become the next Senate President.

Atwater represents much of coastal Broward, including all or parts of Fort Lauderdale, Hillsboro Beach, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Lighthouse Point, Sea Ranch Lakes and Wilton Manors.

The chief sponsor is state Sen. Ted Deutch, who represents Coconut Creek and Deerfield Beach. State Sens. Nan Rich, D-Weston, and Jeremy Ring, D-Parkland, are also co-sponsors.

The measure would prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations based on sexual orientation. It would add the protection to existing law banning discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability and marital status.

weblogs.sun-sentinel.com

Same-Sex Wedding Expo to be Held in St Petersburg, FL

The national gay & lesbian wedding resource, RainbowWeddingNetwork.com, has announced that the company will be producing St. Petersburg's first-ever GLBTQ Wedding & Family Expo. The event will also include the Same Love, Same Rights® Mobile Marriage Summit, a forum in which ideas are collected from all who attend on innovative ways to create mass change in America concerning marriage equality. The Expo will be held at the Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront on **Sunday, May 4, 2008** from 12:30 - 3:30 pm and is free for the public to attend.

prweb.com

LGBT Parents Involved in, Excluded from K-12 Schools; Children Often Harassed

NEW YORK, Feb. 28 - The first comprehensive report on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) families' experiences in education, released today by GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, in partnership with the Family Equality Council and COLAGE, has found that LGBT parents are more likely to be involved in their children's K-12 education than the general parent population. These parents are more involved in school activities and more likely to report consistent communication with school personnel. In addition, both LGBT parents and children of LGBT parents often report harassment because of their family structure.

glsen.org

Bipartisan Support for Fla. Anti-Discrimination Measure

by Kilian Melloy

Fla. Republican state Sen. Jeff Atwater
An inclusive non-discrimination bill in the Fla. legislature has received such strong bipartisan support that it has passed the state's Senate.

The bill, which would extend the state's fair housing laws and non-discrimination statutes to cover GLB people. As state law currently stands, discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, age, and disability is prohibited; however, while some counties do afford anti-discrimination laws that protect gays, lesbians, and bisexuals, there is as yet no state-wide law to that effect.

edgeboston.com

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