

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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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, The Wesley Ministries and Education Building is on the corner of South Street and Magnolia across South Street from our original location Room 313, 7-9pm.

Next two meetings are the 3rd Wed 10/15/08 and 11/19/07 7:00pm-9:00pm

Come Out With Pride 2008 - Orlando Pride Parade Sunday October 12, 2008 in Downtown Orlando Lake Eola (bordered by N. Rosalind Avenue, E. Robinson Street, N. Eola Drive, and E. Central Blvd)

The 1:00 Opening Ceremonies/"Vote with Pride" Rally at the band shell will be preceded by fun giveaways from the Come Out With Pride Organizing Committee and Channel 35, the local Fox affiliate. Come early to get a good seat, and to help us welcome and acknowledge the local leaders of the LGBT community who will take the stage at 1:00.

Please consider taking a 1-2 hour shift at the PFLAG booth and join us in the parade. It's an experience of appreciation from the community not to be missed.



Vote No on Florida Amendment 2. The Florida marriage amendment hurts families. VoteNoOn2 is a coalition of over 260 civic, faith, and social justice groups who are working together to protect Florida's families and educate voters about the harm that will be caused by Amendment 2. Join this effort and learn about how these so-called "marriage protection" amendments in other states have forced the cancellation of health insurance for thousands of couples and their children.

Amendment 2 does nothing to protect marriage. But it does take away important family protections, health care insurance, hospital visitation and medical decision-making authority, from all unmarried couples, gay and straight. It permanently bans civil unions and dismantles domestic partner benefits that seniors, teachers, police officers and firefighters rely on in more than 18 communities across the state.

votenooflorida.org

Several news sites move articles behind firewall creating broken links. Please go to their site and use the search boxes to find more on articles found here.

Crist won't actively push gay marriage ban

by Mosheh Oinounou

Florida Gov Charlie Crist says he will vote for the Florida gay marriage ban this fall but will not be actively campaigning for the initiative.

"I'll support it, I'll vote for it, move on," Crist said Tuesday, according to the Orlando Sentinel. "It's not top-tier for me, put it that way."

embeds.blogs.foxnews.com

Broward School Board oppose gay-marriage ban

Broward School Board members on Tuesday unanimously approved a resolution to oppose a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriage in Florida.

The Marriage Protection Amendment, which will be on the ballot in November, could cause harm to the school district by forcing employees to leave the state, says the resolution proposed by board member Jennifer Gottlieb. The amendment made it to the ballot because of a citizen drive to put it there. The movement gathered nearly 650,000 signatures.

miamiherald.com

Woman sues Miami hospital after being denied visitation of partner

MIAMI — The family vacation cruise that Janice Langbehn, her partner Lisa Marie Pond and three of their four children set out to take in February 2007 was designed to be a celebration of the lesbian couple's 18 years together.

But when Pond suffered a massive stroke onboard before the ship left port and was rushed to Jackson Memorial Hospital, administrators refused to let Langbehn into the Pond's hospital room. A social worker told them they were in an "anti-gay city and state."

Langbehn filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday charging the hospital with negligence and "anti-gay animus" in refusing to recognize her and the children as Pond's family, even after a power of attorney was faxed to the hospital within an hour of their arrival.

The case raises questions about the way hospitals deal with same-sex or unmarried partners of patients, which has led to controversy in the past. Hospital industry officials say they are constrained by patient privacy laws that can restrict giving visiting access and medical information to non-relatives, a stance that some patient advocates have branded as discriminatory.

Pond, 39, was pronounced dead of a brain aneurysm about 18 hours after being admitted to Jackson's Ryder Trauma Center. Langbehn said she was allowed in to see her partner only for about five minutes, as a priest gave Pond the last rites.

"I never thought almost 20 years of love and family could be disregarded in an instant," said Langbehn, a social worker who lives with her children in Lacey, Wash.

The suit, filed U.S. District Court in Miami, charges hospital social worker Garnett Frederick and physicians Alois Zauner and Carlos Alberto Cruz with negligence and "intentional infliction of emotional distress." The suit seeks damages in excess of \$75,000.

tcpalm.com

365 open LGBTs at Democratic Convention by Rex Wockner

Some 365 openly LGBT delegates and other participants attended the Democratic National Convention in Denver - up from 275 at the 2004 convention, according to National Stonewall Democrats.

pridesource.com

Ban of gay adoption ruled unconstitutional

KEY WEST - A circuit judge has ruled unconstitutional Florida's 31-year-old gay adoption ban, one of only two such statewide bans in the country.

The Monroe County judge's ruling allows a gay foster parent in Key West to adopt a teenage boy he has raised since 2001, but does not mean there will be any statewide change in policy.

Circuit judges in Florida have twice before found the statute unconstitutional, both in 1991, though both challenges stalled. A case in Miami expected to be heard next month could also challenge the law.
sun-sentinel.com

More Companies Are Providing LGBT Protections

By the DiversityInc staff

More businesses now than in the past are providing their LGBT employees protection against discrimination, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation reports with the release of its 7th annual Corporate Equality Index (CEI). The CEI rates businesses on a scale from 0 to 100 percent on their treatment of LGBT employees, consumers and investors. In the 2009 CEI, 259 businesses achieved a perfect score, a 33 percent increase over last year. The 2008 CEI recorded 195 companies with a perfect score. The CEI's top 259 businesses employ 9 million people. Those companies protect their employees from discrimination based on orientation and gender identity or expression because of their corporate policies on diversity and inclusion, training, healthcare and domestic-partnership benefits

diversityinc.com

The 70 percent solution by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

A recent survey by Out & Equal Workplace Advocated held a somewhat surprising number: roughly seven out of 10 straight adults feel that performance, not gender identity or expression, should be the standard in judging job performance in the workplace. This is a huge shift, given that the workplace has long been one of the big stumbling blocks for transgender people
pridesource.com

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force mourns death of pioneering community hero Del Martin

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27 — The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force mourns the death of Del Martin, 87, who died today in San Francisco, Calif. Martin married Phyllis Lyon, her partner of 55 years, on June 16, 2008. In 1955, the couple joined six other lesbians in founding the Daughters of Bilitis in San Francisco, the first lesbian rights organization in the nation. In 1997 and 2004, the Task Force honored Martin and Lyon for their decades of community service

Hallmark debuts cards for same-sex couples

By Karen Dandurant

kdandurant@seacoastonline.com

August 21, 2008 5:20 PM

NEW CASTLE — Most states don't recognize same-sex marriages, but in response to what they say was a great demand, Hallmark Crown stores now recognize it.

The company released four same-sex couple cards Thursday morning. The cards are tasteful and the wording is such that they are appropriate for same-sex weddings, civil unions or even just to make a commitment.

Sarah Kolell, spokesperson for Hallmark, said they wanted to be relevant to a market they had not been addressing. seacoastonline.com

Books for parents, families and friends.**NOW THAT YOU KNOW**

What Every Parent Should Know
About Homosexuality
Betty Fairchild & Nancy Haywood

BEYOND ACCEPTANCE

(Parents of Lesbians and Gays
Talk About Their Experiences)
Carolyn Griffin, et al, 1986

PARENTS MATTER

Ann Miller

LOVING SOMEONE GAY

Don Clark, Ph.D., 1987

PRAYERS FOR BOBBY

(A mother coming to terms with
the suicide of her gay son)
Leroy Aarons, 1995

WHEN SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS GAY

Susan and David Cohen, 1989

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

(True Stories Of Gay
America's Straight Allies)
Dan Woog, 1999

THE NEW LOVING SOMEONE GAY

Don Clark

DIFFERENT DAUGHTERS

(A Book By Mothers of Lesbians)
Louise Rafkin, 1987

STRAIGHT PARENTS, GAY CHILDREN

Keeping Families Together
Robert A. Bernstein

THE FAMILY HEART

(A Memoir Of When Our Son
Came Out)
Rob Forman Dew, 1994

FAMILY OUTING

Chastity Bono / Billie Fitzpatrick
1998

THE BELOVED AND BENT

(Families Learning To Accept
Lesbians and gays)
Dr. Pam Allen-Thompson /
Di Allen-Thompson, 1996

A JOURNEY TO MORIAH

Rhea Murray with Gary Pool

List compliments of pflagupstatesc.org

Annual Membership Renewal

Donations help our chapter to:

- Hold monthly support meetings
- Operate a help line to assist distressed people and their families
- Distribution of informational materials including newsletters, articles and booklets
- Operate the PFLAG Speakers Bureau which provides educational outreach
- Further our legislative advocacy efforts

Membership Dues

Individual membership - \$30.00
Student membership - \$15.00
Family membership - \$40.00

Reduced Income

1st Family Member \$15
Each additional member \$5

Please mail your tax deductible contribution to:

PFLAG Orlando / Central Florida, Inc.
P.O. Box 141312
Orlando, FL 32814