

The Rainbow Connection

July 2010

ACHR Board of Directors: Dave Bentlin; Peggy Burton; Gary Gletty; Margo Mendoza; Donna O'Crowly

The Rainbow Connection is published by the Advocacy Council for Human Rights (ACHR). Send correspondence to P.O. Box 5048, Bloomington, IL 61702-5048, or e-mail info@achr-il.com

Open Worship Church of Hope sponsors rally

The Open Worship Church of Hope, Bloomington/Normal's newest LGBT-affirmative place of worship, is sponsoring a GAAAP Rally at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 17 at the church, 1702 W. College Ave., Suite A-2, in Normal.

GAAAP is the acronym for Global Alliance of Affirming Apostolic Pentecostals, a ministerial organization of Pentecostal/Apostolic men and

women "who have personally dealt with the issue of sexual orientation emerging with a strong faith in God and belief in His sufficient sacrifice for our gracious inclusion in the Body and Bride of Christ."

Bishop Robert Morgan, General Chairman of GAAAP will be preaching at the event. All are welcome to attend whether associated with GAAAP or not.

Open Worship Pastor Robert Stamper welcomes everyone to join in this GAAAP Rally. For more information about the church go to www.owcoh.com.

It's all in the Family at our July 11 "Family Reunion" Picnic

Please join us on Sunday, July 11 at Underwood Park in Normal for a day of great food, games, raffles and conversation at our annual "Family Reunion" Picnic.

Our event will kick off with lunch at noon. As in previous years meat and other grillable items will be provided by the Advocacy Council; everyone attending is asked to bring a food item to share. Plates, napkins, cups and silverware will be provided and canned drinks will be available for a nominal charge.

After lunch we will have a variety of activities including bags, water balloon toss, volleyball, and a raffle for lots of great prizes. Or, if you just want to sit and enjoy the warm summer weather with friends that's alright too!

The Family Reunion Picnic was established several years ago as an event where lgbt people and their supporters could be a part of a summer ritual: the family picnic. For some lgbt people who have been rejected by their families – or can't be openly gay around them – the Family Reunion Picnic provides them the opportunity to be themselves and celebrate the season with their other "family."

For information on the Family Reunion Picnic go to www.achr-il.com or e-mail us at info@achr-il.com.

AIDS Walk/Run a Success

The McLean County AIDS Task Force AIDS Walk/Run on May 15 raised more than \$1,700 for client services at the task force.

The task force fundraising committee would like to thank everyone who participated, sponsored a walker/runner, and donated items.

The task force will continue its fundraising with future events including an Artists Against AIDS fundraiser and the annual Dining Out with Friends fundraiser. For more information contact the task force at 309-827-2437 or check out the task force web site at www.mcatf.org.

Beat the July Heat at the Bistro

The Bistro, 316 N. Main St. in downtown Bloomington, is planning a July full of fun events ranging from bingo to karaoke to a talent night.

The month kicks off with First Fridays on July 2. Come to the Bistro for a cool drink and have some free appetizers provided by J.P. Finley and Company Realtors.

Each Thursday the B will have bingo followed by karaoke at 10 p.m. provided by Liquid Courage. Start the weekends early by coming out to win a prize and sing a song!

The Spotlight Show returns at 11 p.m. on Friday, July 9. Hosted by Sharon ShareAlike, the event will feature a number of great drag performers. Cover charge for the show is \$5 at the door.

For additional information about these events visit the Bistro facebook page – search under "Bloomington Bistro."

Belated Anniversary Wishes

After our June issue went to press we received word that Ruth & Tana, longtime citizens/activists in our community, recently celebrated 30 years of sharing, bitching, living, laughing, loving, and enjoying each other.

Many of you will remember these two special people as the owners/operators of Once Upon a Time Books

... continued on next page

Losing Donny

Gene Naden

rainbowactivist@gmail.com

Donny, you were my first friend, my best friend, my only friend.

We made up stories and acted them out. Inspired by Gunsmoke, The Rifleman and Rawhide.

I stayed overnight most weekends. In the big double bed upstairs.

You discovered Little League baseball. I tried it. It didn't interest me. I would rather be making out. Or just acting

Then you started talking about girls.

What was this?
I was mystified.
I had no interest in them.

We drifted apart. It hurt.
I realized I had lost you.
There was no one I could tell,
Nowhere I could go.

One day I took a long walk in the forest
Then a long hot bath.
I cried in the tub.
No one asked why.
No one asked why.
Why.

Still a boy, I silently swore I would forget.
Forget what it felt like.
To sleep with Donnie.

I never did.

And Gifts, the LGBT bookstore and gift shop in downtown Bloomington. Their business and its goal to provide a service to the community helped make BloNo a more welcoming place for LGBT people and is still missed to this day.

Congratulations to this very special couple on their milestone!

Congresswoman Halvorson Votes for Repeal of DADT; Johnson Opposes

On May 27 Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson joined 233 other members of Congress in passing the Murphy Amendment, the measure that calls for the Repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT)."

The amendment is part of a larger military budget bill that now goes to the U.S. Senate where it faces a more uncertain future.

Halvorson's support for the Murphy Amendment continues her pattern of supporting the LGBT community. Last year Halvorson voted for the updated hate crimes act that added sexual orientation to the list of protected classes, and recently she signed on as a co-sponsor of the Employment Non Discrimination Act (ENDA).

Halvorson's support is in stark contrast to 15th Congressional District Rep. Timothy Johnson who voted against the amendment and has consistently received a

score of ZERO from the Human Rights Campaign.

Johnson is being challenged in November by Democratic candidate Dr. David Gill who on his web site has called for the repeal of DADT as well as the repeal of the anti-gay "Defense of Marriage Act."

Halvorson, who represents Illinois' 11th congressional district, is being challenged in November by conservative Republican Adam Kinzinger.

Debbie Halvorson for Congress 2010: www.debbiehalvorson.com

David Gill for Congress 2010: www.gill2010.com

Local Doctor and Congressional Candidate to Speak at Unitarian Church

Dr. David Gill will discuss "Health Care Reform...Today and Tomorrow" at 10 a.m. on Sunday, July 18 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington/Normal, 1613 E. Emerson St. in Bloomington.

Gill is a candidate for the 18th Congressional District seat held by Republican Tim Johnson. He has expressed support for several issues of concern to the LGBT community, in sharp contrast to Johnson who has a zero rating from the Human Rights Campaign based on his poor voting record on LGBT issues.

Your Normal LGBT Film Festival – Become a Part of History!

The organizing committee for the Oct. 7-10 Your Normal LGBT Film Festival continues to work toward making the inaugural festival a big success. There are many aspects of the festival planning that seem daunting but our committee is confident that this will be the first of many festivals to come.

HOWEVER...we need your help in planning this historical event! As the summer continues we will begin to narrow down our list of films to be considered for screening at the Normal Theater. David at the Movie Fan, 503 S. Main St. in Normal, has graciously worked with us to create a film selection list that will be on display at his store; if you see a favorite that you would like to be considered for screening fill out a ballot and hand it in at the front desk.

ALSO...we soon will be rolling out our sponsorship program as a way to raise funds to cover the costs associated with the festival. Look for more details in the August edition of the Rainbow Connection!

LGBT Pride Lasts All Summer!

Was your June so busy that you didn't have an opportunity to participate in many of the annual pride events scheduled in central Illinois and the larger, nearby metro areas? Never, fear, the coming months will provide you with many additional opportunities to enjoy that summer fun that the LGBT community is so famous for.

Chicago Northalsted Market Days

August 7 – 8
North Halsted, Chicago
www.northalsted.com

C-U Pride Fest

Friday, Aug. 20
4 p.m. - ?
Lincoln Square Mall, Urbana (new location)
<http://www.facebook.com/cupride.fest>

Windy City Gay Rodeo

August 20 – 22
Crete, IL
www.ilgra.com

Peoria Gay Pride Cruise on the Spirit of Peoria

Saturday, Sept. 11
7 p.m. Dock Party
8:30 p.m. Cruise
www.ciadeillinois.org

Peoria Pride 2010

Sunday, Sept. 12
Peoria Riverfront
www.peoriapride.com

New LGBTQ Youth Project

A new youth project aimed at GLBTQ young people between the ages of 14 and 23 is coming to Bloomington/Normal.

The Me, Myself & I Youth Project is dedicated to educating and empowering Bloomington-Normal's GLBTQ youth and their straight allies in a safe and diverse environment. By providing support, education and referral services, as well as a place where they can be safe to explore their inner selves, the Me, Myself & I Youth Project helps GLBTQ youth become more comfortable with themselves, their sexuality, and their place in society.

Formed in 2009, Me, Myself & I Youth Project is currently recruiting interested persons who would like to volunteer. Founded by Berry Stevenson and assisted by Edward Sinclair Bruner, both long-time GLBTQ & HIV prevention advocates in Bloomington-Normal & Illinois, MMI Youth Project is especially interested in students & adults that are interested in serving on the Board of Directors.

An informational get-together will be held in August. For more information or to see how you can help, please contact Berry Stevenson at youthdirector09@yahoo.com.

Jeanette L. Roberts

Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Psychotherapy for Individuals, Couples, and Groups

200 West Monroe, Suite 305
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

(309) 820-8162

Open Worship Church of Hope

1702 W. College Ave., Suite A2
Normal, IL 61761
www.owcoh.com



Robert Stamper | Pastor

Tel: (260) 519-0125

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

October 7 – 10, 2010

Your Normal LGBT Film Festival

Right here at the historic Normal Theater!

"Your Normal LGBT Film Festival" was formed to Create a showcase of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender stories and art to entertain, inspire and grow the audience of Central Illinois fans and champions.

Questions? Want to get involved? Contact us at: YourNormalLGBTFilmFestival@gmail.com



Check us out on Facebook
<http://tinyurl.com/YourNormalLGBTFilmFestivalFB>

Sponsored by
The Advocacy Council for Human Rights
www.achr-il.com

| | |
|--|--|
|  | <h3>New Covenant Community</h3> <p>An Open and Affirming/More Light congregation which welcomes all persons into full participation in the life of our community, regardless of race, gender, age or sexual orientation.</p> <p>Worship Sundays, 10 a.m. Sunday School and childcare provided during worship</p> <p>Chapel of the Campus Religious Center 210 W. Mulberry St., Normal, IL 61761 (309) 454-7362 www.nccnormal.org</p> |
|--|--|

Rainbow Connection is now Green!

If you do not have access to the internet or would rather receive a paper copy of this newsletter, please send a donation of \$10 to ACHR to help offset printing and mailing expenses for the calendar year 2010. Donations can be sent to:

Advocacy Council for Human Rights
PO Box 5048
Bloomington IL 61702-5048

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <h2>FIRST FRIDAYS At the Bistro</h2> |
| <p>July 2, 2010 316 North Main / Bloomington, Illinois 61701 / 309.829.2278</p> <p>BISTRO hours: M-TH: 8p.m.-1a.m., FRI: 4:30p.m.-2a.m. SAT: 8p.m.-2a.m.</p> | |

| |
|---|
| <h2>A fully customized cleaning in a one-size-fits-all world.</h2> |
| <p>Come home to a customized service that is guaranteed to fit you perfectly.</p> <p>\$60 off \$20 off first 3 cleanings Weekly or biweekly service 309-661-1726</p> |
|  |
| <p>merrymaids.com merry maids Relax. It's Done.™</p> |
| <small>New customers only. Not valid with other offers. Valid only at this location. Cash value of 1/1000 of 1 cent. Offer good through 10/31/2009.</small> |