

# The Rainbow Connection

**August 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](mailto:info@achr-il.com)

## “Your Normal LGBT Film Festival” needs your help!



On October 7-10 the Advocacy Council for Human Rights in association with the Normal Theater will host Your Normal LGBT Film Festival. Our mission is to “create a showcase for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender stories and arts to entertain, inspire and grow the

number of central Illinois fans and champions.”

A project of this magnitude requires support from our local LGBT and allied communities. With that in mind, we are seeking sponsors to help defray festival costs and ensure that we secure the best LGBT film entertainment possible!

Each sponsorship level is named for the color of one of the stripes in the rainbow flag which has become the symbol of the LGBT Community. The sponsor levels include:

Red .....	\$25.00
Orange .....	\$50.00
Yellow .....	\$100.00
Green .....	\$250.00
Blue .....	\$500.00
Lavender .....	\$1,000.00

Your sponsorship shows support for the local LGBT community and your name will appear in the program booklet where it will be seen by the members of this community and its allies that are expected to attend the festival (sponsors can also donate anonymously).

Your donation to our sponsor program is fully tax-deductible will help us not only this year but as we begin planning for next year’s festival too.

For more information please see the sponsorship form elsewhere in this newsletter. Or, you can download the form from the ACHR web site [www.achr-il.com](http://www.achr-il.com).

Your support of this event is vital and much appreciated.

### ACHR and Human Rights Campaign co-sponsor DADT Forum

A forum on the discriminatory “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” military policy will be at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 31 in the Community Room at the Normal Public Library, 206 W. College Ave.

The event, a collaboration between the Advocacy Council and the Human Rights Campaign, will feature speakers and GLB military personnel who have served under the discriminatory policy. A question and answer period will follow the presentation.

The military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) policy was put in place in 1993 by President Bill Clinton as a compromise that allowed GLB military personnel

to serve as long as they were not openly gay. The policy has had unintended consequences including an increase in discharges particularly among lesbian military personnel.

Earlier this year the U.S. House of Representatives voted to overturn DADT. Locally, Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson voted to overturn DADT; Congressmen Aaron Schock and Tim Johnson opposed the repeal. The measure faces an uncertain future in the U.S. Senate.

All are welcome to attend this forum, but we would especially welcome military personnel and veterans who would be willing to contribute to the dialogue.

For more information contact the Advocacy Council at [info@achr-il.com](mailto:info@achr-il.com).

## News from the McLean County AIDS Task Force

Hopefully the remodeling of our office is nearing completion. We are no longer boarded up and the new windows are in place. There is still interior work to be done, so we do not have a firm date for reopening. We are looking towards being able to have the office open again in early fall. At this time we are not planning to have regular office hours when we do open but will be available for special events and groups.

Part of our reorganizing also involves moving out of the north side of our space. The board made this difficult decision as one way to cut our overhead due to the lack of state funding this year. Part of this decision was also eliminating the Food Bank service for our clients. We hope that this money and energy saving measure will help us to work on other client services, perhaps even including food vouchers. We are also making available to our client base information about other food banks in the Bloomington area where they will be able to get food. There are currently 12 other locations that make food available to those in need. In the future MCATF will try to provide services that are not duplicated by other agencies.

As has been stressed before with the loss of our state funding grant, fund raising has become our primary focus for now. We are currently working on an Artist Against AIDS event in early November. And, as usual it will take a great deal of effort to make this work. We welcome anyone who would be interested, and invite you to our next fund raising meeting at the Task Force office, 313 N. Main, Bloomington at 5:30 p.m. on August 13.

Other volunteer opportunities exist on our Grant Writing Committee. While fund raising will meet our short term goals, we need to seriously look at more substantial forms for obtaining operating revenue. We very much need persons who are experienced and knowledgeable in this field. We also need persons who may not have such experience but are willing to volunteer for the "leg work." If interested please email [davidremesch@mcاتف.org](mailto:davidremesch@mcاتف.org).

Please look for future notices both about our grand reopening and our Artist Against AIDS fund raiser.

### Bistro sizzles in August!

The Bistro, 316 N. Main St. in downtown Bloomington, has a slate of events designed to keep you cool during the hot August nights.

The month kicks off with First Fridays on Friday, Aug. 6. Drop by beginning at 5 p.m. for free appetizers provided by our community's newest GLBTA church, the Open Worship Church of Hope.

Friday, Aug. 13 is NOT an unlucky day if you head to the Bistro for the Monthly Hot Spot featuring Mahogany Knight and her troupe of talented performers who will take the stage at 11 p.m.

The Bistro swings open its doors each Thursday night for Bingo and Karaoke beginning at 9 p.m.

The month wraps up with a talent show on Friday, Aug. 27 featuring a \$200 prize to the winner.

Some of these events include a cover charge but many don't. For more information stop by the bar; call them at 309-829-2278; or check out the Bistro Facebook page.

### Family Reunion Picnic a success

Despite overcast and threatening skies more than 55 LGBT people and their allies attended the ACHR Family Reunion Picnic on Sunday, July 11 at Normal's Underwood Park.

Attendees enjoyed lots of great food, participated in a bags tournament, and bought tickets for some fabulous raffle prizes. Kids of all ages enjoyed the water balloon toss and a contest to break the rainbow piñata.

The ACHR would like to thank Ruth and Tana; Gretchen from Merry Maids; and Kristi from Gryfalia's Aerie for donating raffle prizes. Special thanks also goes to the McLean County AIDS Task Force for bringing soda and water to sell; the proceeds were split between the task force and ACHR.



*In the pictures above, having fun at the Family Reunion Picnic, are: (top photo) Dana Harrison and Bruce Lang, (bottom photo) Denise Goff and Dana Harrison.*

## Halvorson Campaign needs our support!

Freshman Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson, whose district includes a good portion of Bloomington/Normal, is in a tough re-election campaign against opponent Adam Kinzinger.

Debbie addressed the local LGBT community in the fall of 2008 and stated her support for issues that are important to us. She has stayed true to her word:

She voted for the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Act.

She voted for the repeal of the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell Policy.

She has signed on as a sponsor of the Employment Non Discrimination Act (ENDA).

Folks, before Debbie we did not had an LGBT-supportive congressman represent us and our interests. Her predecessors – Jerry Weller, Tom Ewing – were vehement opponents of equal rights for LGBT people. Likewise, the congressmen in adjoining districts – Tim Johnson, Aaron Schock – are also on record as opposing equality for the LGBT community.

Debbie's campaign needs our help. Volunteering for her campaign or donating is vital if we are to keep her LGBT-friendly voice in Congress. To volunteer, contact Jason at [Jason.Nippa@ilvictory2010.org](mailto:Jason.Nippa@ilvictory2010.org). For more information about Debbie go to [www.debbiehalvorson.com](http://www.debbiehalvorson.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

## CORAL to march in State Fair Twilight Parade

The Coalition of Rainbow Alliances (CORAL) and its Rainbow Flag Corps will once again participate in the Illinois State Fair Twilight Parade on Thursday, Aug. 12 in Springfield.

The corps has participated in the parade for several years and has garnered applause and a parade award over the years.

In a related item, CORAL is sponsoring an ice cream social at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 28 at the home of Buff and Jerry, 2810 S. State St. in Springfield. Tickets are \$10 (available at the door).

CORAL is a not-for-profit volunteer group that facilitates networking for Central Illinois Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered communities, their families, friends, and interest groups that support them.

## Open Worship Church of Hope

1702 W. College Ave., Suite A2  
Normal, IL 61761  
[www.owcoh.com](http://www.owcoh.com)



Robert Stamper | Pastor

Tel: (260) 519-0125

## GLAD Sets August Social

The Gay and Lesbian Association of Decatur (GLAD) monthly social will be at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 14 at the Peerless Cleaners Training Center, 1304 N. 20<sup>th</sup> St. in Decatur.

The featured speaker will be Gary Sawyer, editor of the Herald and Review. For more information go to [www.gladdecatur.com](http://www.gladdecatur.com).

## Champaign/Urbana Pride Fest

The first-ever pride festival in Champaign/Urbana will be from 4 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 20 at Lincoln Square Mall in downtown Urbana.

The festival will feature local artists, vendors, community organizations, entertainment and games for the kids.

An after-party for adults 19+ years of age will follow at 88 Broadway, 142 Lincoln Square in Urbana.

For more information contact Caroline Nappo at [cnappo2@illinois.edu](mailto:cnappo2@illinois.edu).



Shown above are two more smiling faces at the Family Reunion Picnic, Bruce Lang and regular **Rainbow Connection** contributor, Gene Naden.

# 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](mailto:YourNormalLGBTFilmFestival@gmail.com)

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



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The Advocacy Council for Human Rights  
[www.achr-il.com](http://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><b>Worship Sundays, 10 a.m.</b> 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 <a href="http://www.nccnormal.org">www.nccnormal.org</a></p>
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### 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><b>August 6, 2010</b> 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>
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