

Portland Voice

Volume 24, Issue 6

P.O. Box 8944, Portland, OR 9720

June, 2011

Non-President's Message

Hello – Robin Will here, secretary and webmaster of Gay & Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest. Dawn is letting me use this space to introduce ourselves before we appear at June's membership meeting.

We're students of LGBTQ history. Until the 1990s, there wasn't much being said and done with our history. As a population we had been in the closet. In the media we were trivialized, treated as freaks, or novelties, or pariahs, or criminals – or not mentioned at all.

Being unmentionable tells us that there's something wrong with us. It keeps us lonely and isolated. If we're not worth investigating or talking about, we can't learn much about ourselves. And it keeps the general population from knowing much that's true about us.

Since 1994, GLAPN has been working to correct that deficit in LGBTQ history. Of course, we're finding stories of persecution and tragedy. But we're also finding stories of brave and gifted people who managed to be themselves against all odds, and who have a lot to teach us today.

We'll probably never catch up. We continue to learn about the distant past; and we're scrambling to keep up with the recent past – trying to document the struggle for LGBTQ civil rights while we still have real live people who can tell us what went on.

We're also aware that history is being made all around us. Transgender and gender-queer folks are opening everybody's eyes. The organizational muscle that queer youth are showing just lately is wonderful to see. The re-awakening of Two-Spirit awareness among our native cultures has the power to transform things for all of us.

So here comes my pitch. PFLAG has literally been making history since the day it was founded, and there is no better window on the struggle for rights and respect for
(continued on page 2)

Monthly Meeting Information

Tuesday, 7-9 pm, June 14, 2011

Gay & Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest –

GLAPN is a Portland-based organization dedicated to learning, preserving, and sharing the history of sexual minorities in the Pacific Northwest. GLAPN members will be sharing stories, and helping PFLAG get a sense of its own role in LGBTQ history.

First United Methodist Church, SW 18th Avenue at Jefferson Street, Portland, OR

Pride!!

It's almost time for Pride 2011! Please consider walking with us in the parade. The gathering time and place will be forwarded to you in a special email as soon as the details are released from Pride Northwest. If you have never marched with PFLAG, you're in for a special treat. The outpouring of love and support from the crowd will bring tears to your eyes. As Board Member Rhonda Laughlin says, "It's the closest you may ever come to feeling like a rock star!"

Black Pride!!

PFLAG Portland is also very proud to announce a week-long series of events for Black Pride, sponsored by A6, the Local Lounge, CAP, Pivot, Pride Northwest, Chat PDX and our own PFLAG Portland Black Chapter! The entire schedule can be found at Portland Black Pride's Facebook page. The events will culminate on June 19 with a Families of Color Day Out Picnic at Kenton Park, 8417 N. Brandon Ave, from 4:30 – 9:00pm. As our PFLAG Portland Black Chapter organizer, Khalil Edwards is fond of saying, "This will be one for the record books!"

PFLAG

Inside: ♦ President's Message

♦ Transgender Minister Shares Story

♦ Calendar of Events

Bishop Gene Robinson in Portland - June 29th

Equity Foundation will host Right Reverend V. Gene Robinson of the Episcopal Church, the first openly gay non-celibate priest ordained as a bishop in the United States. His story is featured in the 2007 feature-length documentary "For the Bible Tells Me So" and he is the author of "In the Eye of the Storm: Swept to the Center by God". As an advocate of full civil rights for GLBT people, he has worked at state, national, and international levels as a speaker and lobbyist. He is a powerful and eloquent speaker bringing a positive yet pragmatic message to our movement.

Bishop Robinson will speak at two benefit events for Equity Foundation on Wednesday, June 29th: a limited-seating breakfast at the NW Health Foundation, and a dinner at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, both in Portland. Tickets are \$50 for the breakfast and \$75 for the dinner; RSVP, learn more, or purchase your tickets by visiting www.equityfoundation.org or calling 503-231-5759 ext. 523. Call now as seating is limited. Don't miss this rare opportunity!

Annual Meeting Announcement

PFLAG Portland's Annual Meeting will be on July 12 at 7:00pm at the First United Methodist Church at 1838 SW Jefferson st. The Board of Directors is recommending one change to the bylaws: currently, Board members are term limited to three successive two year terms. We are recommending the removal of that phrase. The Board feels strongly that talented individuals who wish to serve beyond their three term commitment should be allowed to do so should they win support by a vote of the Membership at the Annual Meeting. This change will not affect this year's election. No other changes are recommended.

Shaun Simpkins, Joyce Liljeholm and Austin Lee, are seeking additional two year terms. Dues paying members may cast their vote for Austin Lee's candidacy and the bylaw change on July 12, 2011 at the Annual Meeting.

Save The Date – PFLAG National Conference in Washington, DC, November 3-6, 2011

PFLAG's National Conference is tentatively scheduled for Friday, November 4th through Sunday, November 6th, 2011 in Washington D.C. Arrive early for Lobby Day on Thursday, November 3rd. Lobby Day offers us a not-to-be-missed opportunity to talk with our representatives about subjects of importance to us and to experience being in the halls of power. Registration and lodging information will be published as conference plans firm up.

Calendar of Events

June 1, 70 NW Couch Street at the Portland University of Oregon campus. Portland Community Cinema presents **TWO SPIRITS**, a documentary about the murder of a Native American boy who was also a girl. It provides an historical and cultural narrative of the transgender aspect of Native Americans. Co-sponsored by Oregon Public Broadcasting and the University of Oregon School of Journalism. Following the film a panel of resource experts discusses the content and its relevance to our community.

PFLAG Portland East County: Join our Gresham chapter on Monday, June 6, for a discussion on resources within the LGBTQ community in Portland. Support group to follow

June 14 meeting: It's Pride month! Come to PFLAG Portland and hear about the struggle for equal civil rights in our corner of the world as we hear from members of the Gay/Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest.

June 18 and 19 – Time for Pride!! This is your official invitation to come walk with us in the parade on Sunday morning. Watch this space for details about when and where to meet. And don't forget to get your PFLAG t-shirt! We're taking orders on-line now at www.pflagpdx.org.

July 12 PFLAG meeting: Please join us as we welcome back the Reverend David Weekley. The Rev. Weekley made headlines about 1 year ago when he came out as a transgender man. Now he's written a book that he'll be sharing with us, *Out of the Wilderness*. Joining the Reverend will be Michelle Alexander who has written, *The Color of Sunlight*, about her experience as a nurse caring for a transgender patient. You don't want to miss this great PFLAG literary event!

(Non-President's message, Continued from lpage 1)
sexual minorities than what is happening to young people and their parents right now. Individuals routinely do brave, first-ever things in their communities, and GLAPN would like to document those actions where other LGBTQ folks can see them, and take heart from them.

GLAPN frequently "inherits" boxes of papers after someone dies, or after an organization closes its doors. We would prefer not to wait that long for PFLAG to get their organizational history into the record where researchers and scholars can make use of it! At the June 14 meeting, we'll be asking your help in documenting (1) the history of your organization, and (2) the day-by-day efforts by PFLAG parents and youth that advance the cause of sexual minorities everywhere.

We look forward to meeting you.

Yes! I support the mission of PFLAG Portland

Enclosed is my membership fee. (Your membership includes National PFLAG membership.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Family (\$45)

Individual (\$35)

Student/Limited Income (\$15)

Donation (\$ ____)

Make check payable to PFLAG Portland. PFLAG is a 501c(3) tax-exempt organization.

Mail to: PFLAG, P.O. Box 8944, Portland, OR 97207

The Mission of PFLAG Portland

We, the parents, families, and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons, celebrate diversity and envision a society that embraces everyone, including those of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. PFLAG promotes the health and well being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons, their families and their friends through support, education, and advocacy. PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and strives to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. Contact PFLAG Portland at 503 232-7676 or visit our website at www.PFLAGPDX.org.

PFLAG Portland presents I AM, at This Year's Queer Documentary Festival!

June 4, 2011 Clinton Street Theater, 4:00pm

PFLAG Portland and Asian Pacific Islander Pride are the Community Partners for this fascinating film at QDOC 2011. Director Sonali Gulati will be in attendance.

Returning to India upon the death of her mother, filmmaker Sonali Gulati regrets never having revealed that she is a lesbian. She imagines her mother's possible reactions in a series of unreassuring vignettes, and then meets with out and closeted Indians and their parents to ask her questions of the society at large.

Stories of confusion, resignation and heartbreak are tempered with those of love, acceptance and pride in this moving and heartfelt film.

Against the backdrop of the Indian Supreme Court's 2009 decision in a case challenging Penal Code 377 outlawing homosexuality (dating from British colonial law), LGBT people begin to find solidarity and publicly claim their rightful place as Indians—and family.



Contact Information PFLAG

Dawn Holt, President

Joyce Liljeholm, Vice President

Austin Lea, Secretary

C. Hall, Treasurer

Khalil Edwards, PFLAG Portland Black

Chapter Satellite Representative

Bob Kincaid, PFLAG Portland East County

Satellite Representative

Rev. Paul Davis, Board Member

Antoinette Edwards, Board Member

Rhonda Laughlin, Board Member

Shaun Simpkins, Board Member

Ben Vigil, Board Member

HELP LINE

(503) 232-7676

PFLAG National Website

www.pflag.org

Portland Chapter Website

www.pflagpdx.org

Robin Will, Editor

pflagpdxnews@gmail.com

The Portland Voice is published monthly. Readers are welcome and encouraged to submit articles, editorials, poetry, news items, and photography for consideration to be included in our newsletter. Email our editor at pflagpdxnews@gmail.com or send information to P.O. Box 8944, Portland, Oregon 97207. Submissions are published at the discretion of the editor and may be edited for length or content. The deadline for content submissions to this newsletter is the 20th of the month prior to publication.

To get this newsletter via email, send an email to pflagpdxnews@gmail.com.

PFLAG

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

P.O. Box 8944 • Portland, OR 97207

