

**Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays**

Meets 2nd Thursday of  
each month. Next meeting:  
Oct. 11th.

**PLACE :**

Wesley Methodist Church  
823 Union Av., Sheboygan.  
TIME: 6:30 Pm.

I Sure hope to see you there!  
(and bring a friend!)

**P-FLAG Lakeshore Chapter**

- Listening, Learning and Loving -

Post Office Box 1396  
Sheboygan, Wi. 53082

There is no copyright on this publication! It is intended as informational for members and friends of P-FLAG Lakeshore. Please feel as free to re-publish from it as I have in 'borrowing' from others for it.

**BEING GAY IS...**

NOP

- Being Gay is having the capability to love a member of the same sex to a much greater depth than a person of the opposite sex.
- Being Gay is a matter of love, not a matter of sex.
- Being Gay is who you are, not what you do.
- Being Gay is a part of you, not a separate entity.
- Being Gay is being okay -- the sin is living a lie.
- Being Gay is not chosen -- if it were, there would be no Gays.
- Being Gay is to be ridiculed about something you can do nothing about.
- Being Gay is not changeable -- but it's liveable.
- Being Gay is accepting yourself when others are not accepting you.
- Being Gay is being who you are -- even though you don't understand it.
- Being Gay is gentleness, warmth and sensitivity, when you are not at war with the outside world.
- Being Gay is different, and the definition of different is not "bad."
- Being Gay is reaching the autumn of your years and wondering why you have spent most of your life trying to get acceptance from people who don't know you and who don't understand you.
- Being Gay is YOU - and nothing in this world is more important than that.

Shirley M. Hunter (Copyright 1985)

The above is printed before the introduction in the book by Sylvia Pennington,  
**EX-GAYS, THERE ARE NONE!**

**CLOSETS ARE FOR CLOTHES, NOT PEOPLE!**

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

The Federation of P-FLAG office in Denver has moved! Their new address is:

Federation of Parent's FLAG  
P.O. Box 27605  
Washington D.C. 20038-7605

On 'PRETTY GOOD' PARENTS

PSF

We have many gay and lesbian members who tell us their Parents "are Pretty Good about this" but "would never come to a meeting". I have been thinking about that. I don't believe in organizations as an answer to everything. But I do know that even though we are "Pretty Good" about our son's homosexuality, P-FLAG has made an enormous difference for us. It took me a long time to come to that first meeting, and I have tried to figure out what made me finally do it. Maybe it was because I knew deep down that I wasn't even "Pretty Good" about homosexuality. I'd never been to a support group before and the idea made me uncomfortable, but I was curious to see what other Parents were like. Also, our son kept encouraging us to go, and gave us the number to call. That was the extra push we needed. If you are a Parent who is on our list but hasn't yet come to a meeting, make time this month. If you are gay, give your Parents that extra incentive to go to a meeting near them. We don't change people, but we can help Parents unload much of the anxiety that lingers even when they are "Pretty Good".

CAN YOU TOP THIS?

PM

Q: What does G.A.Y. stand for? A: God Adores You!  
From Sharon Resof, Chicago P-FLAG

SPREAD THE WORD!

If you know of a Doctor, Minister, Therapist, Teacher, School Administrator, etc who would be interested in getting this newsletter, please send his/her name and address to the P.O. Box. Thanks.

WHAT IS PARENTS FLAG?

PM

Parent's FLAG is the spirit of loving and caring about others. It is a place where support can be found because even though the "oldtimers" laugh and joke and seem far away from pain, they remember what it was like to be learning about the life of their beloved child. At PFLAG we learned we could cling together, and be counted. That even being counted behind a veil was worth the world to our children. Hear their prideful voices:  
"Mom and Dad do care enough to learn and try to understand, they joined P-FLAG". "Mom wrote a letter to her Congressman," "I didn't think they cared because they wouldn't go to meetings. But then my Dad said, 'Did you read in the newsletter that...'"  
"My Dad squashed the 'fa9' jokes at work. He told them it was the same as racism."  
"My sister is only sixteen but you should see the paper she wrote for civics class!"  
What is Parent's FLAG? It's a spirit that says:  
I love you. I care about you. I'm glad you're my child, my brother, my sister, my friend.

By Jan Durgan-Clinchard, President Parents & Friends of Gays Cornhusker, Inc.  
Great Plains Regional Director, Federation of Parents FLAG

USEFUL ITEM!

(News broadcast)

The military forces in the Gulf have found the perfect way to keep blowing sand from getting in their weapons: They put condoms over their weapons' muzzles! They say the condoms are a perfect fit!

TWO LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS SUSPENDED

TL

The evangelical Lutheran Church in America has suspended two San Francisco congregations that called and ordained openly gay assistant Pastors. At the end of five years, the congregations will be expelled from the ELCA if they are not in compliance with the regulations.

The 32-Page decision was announced on July 18, 1990, against St. Francis and First United Lutheran Churches. At the same time, the discipline Panel recommended that the Churchwide Assembly "faithfully examine" ELCA Policies on ordination of homosexuals after "careful study" by the Church.

The ruling outlined two ways First United might comply: It's openly Gay, irregularly ordained assistant Pastor, Jeff Johnson, whose certification as a candidate for ELCA Pastorial call lapsed in 1989, may apply for renewal. If the renewal were granted, or if First United withdrew the call, the charges would be dropped.

In the written ruling, the committee said that the 5-year suspension was intended to allow time for the ELCA to study its Practices in regard to ordination of homosexuals and for "action at one or more Churchwide assemblies."

The Sierra Pacific Synod has called on the ELCA Church Council and Conference of Bishops "to begin immediately a comprehensive study of the issue of the ordination of Gay and Lesbian Persons."

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

PG

"Since the evidence points to the conclusion that homosexual persons do not choose their sexual orientation, cannot change it, and constitute a minority of expression of human sexuality, it is clear that heterosexual prejudice against homosexuality must take its place alongside witchcraft, slavery, and other ignorant beliefs and oppressive institutions that we have abandoned."  
Bishop John Shelby Spong in 'LIVING IN SIN?'

A GREAT POET SPEAKS

PGR

One hundred and thirty years ago, the Great Poet, Walt Whitman wrote about his homosexuality thus:

Hours of torment -- I wonder if other men have the like, out of feelings?

Is there over the whole earth one other man like me--?

And in the same poem he wrote:

I am ashamed -- but it is useless -- I am what I am."

After struggling, Whitman accepted his own feelings as natural. And because he did, he could use his love as a symbol of universal understanding and sympathy. He became the Greatest Poet of American humanitarianism and democracy.

OUTING

PS

Outing is a controversial issue in the gay community today. It is the practice of publicly exposing closeted homosexuals, particularly prominent figures. Some gay activists and organizations believe that this practice is essential to attain gay rights and political power. Thus far, targets have been politicians who vote against pro-gay legislation and celebrities who could serve as role models if they were "out".

**COMMENT:** I feel we should discuss this at the next meeting, Oct. 9th. Please come and share YOUR opinion on this controversial subject with us!

**WHAT'S WRONG WITH MARCHING TO THE  
BEAT OF A DIFFERENT DRUMMER?**

**HOMEWORK!**

PLA

Please write a letter to: President Robert Iger, (ABC Entertainment, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, L.A. Ca, 90027), expressing your disappointment, especially in view of their past support, that they are not airing the Nov. 7, 1990 segment of the Program, "Thirtysomething". Thank you.

**JEWISH GAYS**

PLA

In June, Rabbi Denise L. Eger of Temple Beth Chayim Chadashim, the first Gay synagogue in the World, spoke to one of the largest audiences at P-FLAG L.A. to date. She emphasized that it is very possible to be a religious person and be Gay or Lesbian, mentioning Reformed Judaism, the Unitarian Church, United Church of Christ, the Quakers, and the Metropolitan Community Church along with Dignity, (Catholic), Integrity, (Episcopalian), Affirmation, (Mormon), and many other supportive organizations. She believes she will be able to perform legal marriages for Gays and Lesbians in the state of California during her lifetime.

**AFFIRMATION DURING P-FLAG CONVENTION!**

PD

(Excerpted from the Press release for the 9th INTERNATIONAL PARENTS FLAG CONVENTION, held in this month): In addition, an affirmation ceremony between Brian Binder and David Craig, will be held Sunday Evening. Both gentlemen are P-FLAG members, who reside in Los Angeles, and met at their temple, Temple Beth Chayim Chadashim. They are fortunate to have the unqualified support of their families, all who are members of P-FLAG, and who will be in attendance. Rabbi Denise Eger will officiate at the service. (See above story).

**PARENTS SING AT GAY GAMES**

PFN

Members of P-FLAG were among several hundred voices of the Celebration '90 Chorus at the Gay Games III and Cultural Festival in Vancouver, B.C. Aug. 4-11.

Cartoon making the rounds of P-FLAG newsletters:

Another cartoon, this one from:  
The FLAGPOLE, P-FLAG, Wash. D.C.



OH, AND RICK...YOUR MOTHER SAYS  
TO...UH...TO BRING YOUR...UH...OW!...TO  
BRING YOUR...YOUR...JEFF.



COULD YOU JUST LISTEN?

PM

When I asked you to listen to me and you start giving me advice, you have not done what I asked.

When I ask you to listen to me and you begin to tell me why I shouldn't feel that way, you are trampling my feelings.

When I ask you to listen to me and you feel you have to do something to solve my problem, you have failed me, strange as that may seem.

Listen! All I asked was that you listen, not talk or do - just hear me.

Advice is cheap; 20 cents will get you both Dear Abby and Billy Graham in the same paper.

I can do for myself; I'm not helpless - maybe discouraged and faltering, but not helpless.

When you do something for me that I can and need to do for myself, you contribute to my fear and inadequacy.

But when you accept as a simple fact that I do feel what I feel, no matter how irrational, then I can quit trying to convince you and can get about this business of understanding what's behind this irrational feeling. When that's clear, the answers are obvious and I don't need advice.

Irrational feelings make more sense when we understand what's behind them. Perhaps that's why prayer works -- sometimes, for some people -- because God is mute, and He/She doesn't give advice or try to fix things. God just listens and lets you work it out for yourself.

So please listen and just hear me. And if you want to talk, wait a minute for your turn - and I'll listen to you.

(Comes from the Shanti training manual).

OUR MAIL ADDRESS

There are two ways to get mail to P-FLAG LAKESHORE: Some send our mail C/O Wesley Methodist Church on Union Avenue. When sent there, it is picked up by the Editor ALMOST every Sunday.

WE ALSO HAVE A P.O. BOX!!! Mail is picked up from it, usually twice a week, even when I don't make it to Church! If you are sending to the Church, PLEASE change our mailing address to: P-FLAG LAKESHORE, P.O. Box 1396, Sheboygan, WI. 53082-1396. Thank you!

COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARD!

Those of you who have computers and modems are invited to call IVY'S WALL BBS. It has a message base for private E-mail to other users, Bulletin boards where you can post messages and read other postings, the LATEST version of this newsletter will be available, Chatting with the SysOP, and other features which it is hoped you will enjoy. You may also submit items for this newsletter there!

The phone number for Ivy's WALL is (414) 457-WALL (9255). It is online from 5:30 PM until 11 AM weekdays, (Central), and 24 hours on weekends and holidays.

==> ALL Call The WALL! <==

Technical data: This Computer Bulletin Board, (BBS), operates at 300 and 1200 Baud (only), with 8N1 Parity.

NEW P-FLAG DIRECTORY

We have received the latest copy of the INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY OF AFFILIATED CHAPTERS AND PERSONAL CONTACTS. It will be available in our meeting room, along with the Sheboygan County Resource Guide.

AFFIRMATION

Author unknown

I love myself unconditionally, because God, my Father loved me first and loves me now as his/her child.

It's good to be me. I'm very happy to be me. I'm loved. I'm lovable.

I never devalue myself with destructive self-criticism.

I have unconditional warm regard for all People at all times.

I rejoice in my own uniqueness and give others the same right.

My body is a Temple of the Holy Spirit: I accept it, I like it, I Praise God for it and I rejoice in it's ever increasing wholeness.

I am the child of a Father who happens to be God!

GAY PEOPLE ARE NATURALLY HOMOSEXUAL

PS

Homosexuality is not chosen, like selecting clothes or a line of work. No one knows how human sexual orientation is determined. In discussions covering nearly a decade with hundreds of families with Gay children, we have found that:

The Gay child is most often aware of his/her homosexual orientation at a very early age.

None of the children was influenced or taught to be Gay by any Person.

In homes where Gay children try to become heterosexual, all attempts fail. Being Gay is not just a stage youngsters go through.

Family fears of "catching" homosexuality, or being "recruited" at school or elsewhere are unreasonable and, utterly without scientific foundation.

(Statement of Dr. J. Weinstein, M.D., ~~President~~, American Psychiatric Association, 10/6/78)

ack.

Member 215-474-7458

1-2460

Paul Harvey says: "Soddam Hussein has given new meaning to the word 'sodomy'" (I'd say he's given it a bad name!) I shall now remove my foot from my mouth!

CREDITS for items used in this edition

(Most items edited to make the news fit!).

Sources: NOP=New Orleans P-FLAG BANNER (via SS); PD=P-FLAG Detroit;  
 PFN=P-FLAG National; PFS=P-FLAG San Francisco, (via SS); PLA=P-FLAG Los Angeles;  
 PM=P-FLAG Minnesota; SS=Southern Signal, (P-FLAG Lafayette, La.)

Well, that's it for now... Have a good one, and I'll see you next meeting.

==> GET THOSE NEWS ITEMS IN!!! <==

Deadline for the newsletter: In the P.O. box OR to the BBS by the last Sat. before the 25th.

You may bring news items to the next meeting, 6:30 Pm, Nov. 8th., at Wesley United Methodist Church, 823 Union Av., Sheboygan, Wi.;

Modem them to: IVY'S WALL BBS, (414) 457-9255, 5:30 Pm to 11:30 am weekdays, (Central)/ 24 Hrs. on weekends & holidays, 300/1200 Baud; or:

Mail them to: P-FLAG Lakeshore, P.O. Box 1396, Sheboygan, Wi. 53082-1396

If you need a ride, call the Church at 458-4889

Sure hope to see you there, and bring a friend!

Your Editor. 0 0

L