

The Rainbow Connection

June 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

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.

Illinois congressman endorses protections for LGBT Bi-National couples

An influential pro-immigrant U.S. House member has endorsed including protections for LGBT bi-national couples as part of comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

In a statement, Rep. Luiz Gutierrez (D-III.) said inclusion of language allowing LGBT Americans to sponsor foreign partners for residency in the United States is an important part of a broader reform bill.

“Our efforts to fix our broken immigration system and protect basic civil rights are not truly comprehensive if we exclude same-sex couples,” he said.

Standalone legislation that would enable an estimated 36,000 bi-national same-sex couples to stay together in the United States is known as the Uniting American Families Act. Proponents of the legislation have been seeking inclusion of UAFA as part of upcoming comprehensive immigration reform legislation in Congress.

Gutierrez announced officially his support for inclusion of UAFA on Monday May 24, 2010 at a press conference in Chicago. Joining him at the conference was Rep. Mike Quigley (D-III.) and gay Rep. Jared Polis (D-Colo.), who also support inclusion of LGBT couples in immigration reform.

Late last year, Gutierrez introduced his own version of comprehensive immigration reform legislation that was seen as an alternative to the working bill expected later. However, even though Gutierrez is a co-sponsor of UAFA, the legislation didn’t include UAFA-like language.

According to the statement from Gutierrez’ office, the lawmaker’s recent announcement means he’s “recommitting himself” to inclusion of specific UAFA-like language as part of comprehensive reform.

Support from Gutierrez — a favorite among Latino and pro-immigration groups — can only bolster the efforts of LGBT rights supporters seeking to include UAFA as part of larger reform. In the Senate, Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) is poised to lead legislative efforts this year on the issue, although when his bill will be introduced remains in question.

Civil Unions Bill update

SB 1716, the state bill commonly known as the civil unions bill, has not come up for a vote in Springfield and prospects for an immediate vote are not good as lawmakers are focused on a state budget before heading back to their districts for the summer.

The bill, however, is not dead. Action on SB1716 will probably be extended so it can be considered during the fall veto session. This means we will probably have the entire summer to contact our legislators and ask them to support SB1716.

While Rep. Dan Brady and Sen. Bill Brady are most certainly not supportive we still need to be sure that they hear from us. For contact information and to get updates on the bill visit the Equality Illinois web site at www.equalityillinois.org and click on the “our issues” link.

Advocacy Council joins ENDA Coalition

The Advocacy Council for Human Rights has added its name to other LGBT organizations across the nation that are petitioning Congress to pass ENDA, the Employment Non Discrimination Act.

The coalition is being coordinated by United ENDA www.unitedenda.org as a tool to pressure our lawmakers to pass this important legislation. More than 400 national, state and local groups have signed on to this important coalition of LGBT and LGBT-friendly organizations.

Bistro Cranks up the Summer Fun

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

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, June 11. Hosted by Sharon ShareAlike, the event will feature a number of great drag performers. Cover charge for the show is \$5 at the door.

Friday, June 25 is the Bistro Talent Night contest featuring a \$200 prize to the winner as selected by the audience. The contest begins at 11 p.m. and cover charge for the contest is \$5 at the door. All talent is welcome!

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

Hot LGBT Fun in the Summertime!

Summer usually brings the gays out and 2010 is no exception! Here is a partial list of LGBT festivals, parades, picnics and concerts coming up in the next few months:

QC Pride (Quad Cities Pride Festival)
June 5 – 6
www.qcpride.org

PrideFest Milwaukee
June 11 – 13
Milwaukee's Summerfest Grounds
www.pridefest.com

Out in the Park at Six Flags Great America
Saturday, June 19
Six Flags Great America, Gurnee
www.gaychicagomagazine.com/events/gayday.shtml

Chicago Pride Street Festival
June 25 – 26
Waveland at Halsted
www.chicagoevents.com

St. Louis Pride Festival 2010
June 26 – 27
www.pridestl.org

Chicago Dyke March
Saturday, June 26
2:30 p.m.
www.chicagodykemarch.wordpress.com

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus Concert
Saturday, June 26
3 and 8 p.m.
www.cgmc.org

Chicago Gay Pride Parade 2010
Sunday, June 27
Noon
www.chicagopridecalendar.com

Windy City Black LGBT Pride
Beginning Wednesday, June 30
www.windycityblackpride.org

Family Reunion Picnic
Sunday, July 11
Noon – 4 p.m.
Underwood Park, Normal
www.achr-il.com

Out at Wrigley Field
Sunday, July 18
Cubs v. Phillies
www.outatwrigley.com

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

Champaign-Urbana PrideFest
Friday, August 20
4 – 9 p.m.
Hessel Park, Champaign
www.facebook.com/cupride.fest

Windy City Gay Rodeo
August 20 – 22
Crete, IL
www.ilgra.com

Peoria Pride 2010
Sunday, Sept. 12
Peoria Riverfront
www.peoriapride.com

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>

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HEARTLAND THEATRE COMPANY

Annual 10-Minute Play Festival



INNS & OUTS:
The Hotel Lobby

JUNE 10,11,12,13,17,18,19,20,24,25,26,27

Have you ever sat in a hotel lobby, safe behind your newspaper, and watched what happens around you? People checking in. People checking out. Lost luggage. Stolen towels. Somebody missing. Somebody hiding. The world's craziest convention. A front desk clerk with dreams of Anywhere But Here. Dangerous (or not-so-dangerous) liaisons... There will definitely be Inns & Outs when Heartland opens up a hotel lobby!

Reservations: 309 452 8709 or
boxoffice@heartlandtheatre.org

www.heartlandtheatre.org

Jeanette L. Roberts

Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Psychotherapy for Individuals, Couples, and Groups

200 West Monroe, Suite 305
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

(309) 820-8162

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
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		<h2>New Covenant Community</h2>
		
<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, 10:30 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>		



June 4, 2010

316 North Main / Bloomington, Illinois
61701 / 309.829.2278

BISTRO hours:

M-TH: 8p.m.-1a.m.,

FRI: 4:30p.m.-2a.m.

SAT: 8p.m.-2a.m.

THE BISTRO TALENT NIGHT

\$2000

CASH PRIZE TO AUDIENCE CHOICE

HOSTED BY

SHARON

**WITH
DJ RAKESTRAW**

FRIDAY JUNE 25TH



SHOWTIME 11:00 \$5.00 COVER

CONTESTANTS MUST CHECK IN BY 10:30 SHARP!

ALL TALENT WELCOMED