



August 2008

The PFLAG Link

MIDLAND, BAY CITY & SAGINAW CHAPTER
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Renowned Film Presented This Month

It's the primary source of conflict for families of faith who have gay children: the apparent condemnations of homosexuality found in the Bible. This month we'll go deep and get personal, with families who have handled that question, and with

theologians and pastors, in the film **"For the Bible Tells Me So."** Renowned both for its depth and access to people living in the core of the issue, the film features Episcopal Bishop of New Hampshire **Gene Robinson**, and former House Minority Leader **Dick Gephardt**.

Imaginative and nuanced, it shows both the personal costs - and triumphs - of intimate family stories, combined with the views of qualified scholars. Everyone who cares about gays and the influence on our culture of the Bible should see it.

Wine, Women... sorry, make that "Friends..." and Song - Again!

On Saturday, October 18th, Perceptions and PFLAG Tri-Cities join for our **Second Annual Wine Tasting**. Beginning at 7:00 pm and is open to the public, limited to age 21 and over. Come see the redecorated office of the **Saginaw Board of Realtors**, in Cornerstone Mall, 7075 Gratiot Road (M-46) near River Road in Saginaw. This year's vino variety, again from **Opperman's Cork &**

Ale, promises to outshine last year's; with light hors d'oeuvres and live music provided by "Out of Context." Like what you taste? Orders will be taken for same-night delivery. Tickets are \$25, available from Perceptions and PFLAG board members. (Paid members of Perceptions and PFLAG may request a \$5 rebate on their ticket at the door.) For more, contact Perceptions at

989-891-1429 or info @PerceptionsSV.org, or contact **Brian** from PFLAG at lineweaver 1080@charter.net. Early ticket purchases are encouraged as we will have to limit the number of tickets available at the door. Tickets may be purchased from PFLAG and Perceptions Board Members or **online** using your PayPal account or credit card.

Do They Really, Really Like Us? Let's Find Out

Your local PFLAG TriCities organization is governed by a Board consisting of several members, including President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and several "at-large" members.

This week we'll vote to elect the Board for the coming year. Candidates include new Board members **Laura O'Malley, Ruth Baker** (nominated for Treasurer, replacing **Jim Doane**) and **Chip Smith**.

Returning Board candidates include **Bob Malosh, Denise Malosh, Brian Baker, Leo Romo** and **Jay and Leisa Crane**. Members in good standing may vote. PFLAG TriCities is a 501(c)3 organization.

This Month's Meeting:

Sunday, Sept. 28, 2 p.m.
Unitarian/Universalist Fellowship,
6220 Jefferson at Wackerly,
Midland

Film: "For the Bible Tells Me So"

ALSO: Board Election

AIDS Walk

Bay City/Saginaw/Midland
Sat., Sept. 27, Winona Park,
Bay City
Register 9:30, walk 11:00 a.m.

2nd Annual Wine Tasting

Saturday, Oct. 18 7 PM
Saginaw Board of Realtors, 7075
Gratiot Rd (M-46) near River
Road in Saginaw. See article.

Need help? PFLAG is here.

We can help with

- ▶ Bullying or other harassment problems
- ▶ Family Support
- ▶ Issues Awareness and Education

Each monthly meeting is designed to address all three. Join us Sunday at 2 p.m. For help anytime, call 941-1458. Calls and meetings are always confidential. Meetings consist of a brief time for business, small group discussions of family matters or advocacy issues, and an informative presentation.

The LDS (“Mormon”) church sent a letter in June urging its members to send money to stop marriage equality in California. This prompted Utah entrepreneur **Bruce Bastien** to donate \$1 million to pro-equality forces, according to the **Salt Lake Tribune**. Meanwhile, the **Los Angeles Times** reported that **Brad Pitt** donated \$100,000 to support opposition to California’s Proposal 8. For perspective, see [Serena Freewomyn’s commentary at the online Bilerico Project](#). As for the LDS church, its support for Proposal 8 may be the strongest of any denomination. To see how the money adds up [online, go to the LA Times’ website](#), where journalist **Maloy Moore** keeps track.

NOW is a time when legislators’ schedule has loosened up - so it’s a good time to meet with your **Reps and Senators** to urge them to include transgendered persons in **ENDA**. There’s an issues page available at PFLAG National’s website ([PFLAG.org](#)).

On Tuesday, Sept. 9, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) applauded a Maryland Appeals Court’s unanimous ruling ending a campaign by anti-transgender activists to strip the county’s civil rights law of protections based on gender identity. The law was amended in November 2007 and, because of today’s ruling, will now be enacted to include the transgender community.

Had A Great Time. Wish YOU Were Here!

Saturday, Sept. 20 was a great day for PFLAG chapters in Michigan, as **PFLAG TriCities** hosted members from several chapters at the Unitarian/Universalist Church in Midland for the 2008 Statewide Meeting. Presenters included **Michael Brancheau** revealing the differences between following our inner truth and following

the scripts we’re given by parents and society; **Jean-Marie Navetta** and **Elizabeth Hampton Brown** from **PFLAG National**, on helping sympathetic people how to become equality advocates and how to communicate effectively with media; Triangle Foundation Communications Director **Colette Beighley** sharing her

journey from quiet mom to power-house advocate, and Delta College Biology Professor **Charissa Urbano** explaining science’s understanding of sexual identity and orientation. Breakfast and lunch were provided with help from members of Perceptions of Saginaw Valley. Presentations were in-depth but the mood was light.

New Job, Same Advocacy for GLBT Rights

On Sept. 13, Triangle Foundation announced that **Colette Beighley** has been named its Director of Communications. Colette has served for nearly two years as Triangle’s West Michigan Field Organizer,

helping to established Triangle’s first field office in Grand Rapids. She will continue to work out of her West Michigan office. The Foundation is “proud to be able to bring a

director-level position to Grand Rapids. This new appointment further demonstrates our work as a statewide organization and our commitment to West Michigan.”

Planning Ahead Now Makes It Easier Later

SAGE (Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders, a service group in New York) says on its website “[B]y the year 2030, LGBT seniors age 65 and above are expected jump from 2.5 million to as many as 4.7 million.” SAGE also says that

compared with the rest of the elder population, LGBT seniors are “[T]wice as likely to live alone, half as likely to have life partners... and four times less likely to have children to help them.” On Oct. 12-14, SAGE and **AARP** will sponsor their **Fourth**

National Conference on LGBT Aging at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge. More information about this conference and about SAGE’s efforts to help LGBT seniors prepare for later life can be found at [sageusa.org](#).

“When You Care Enough” To Just Say “Thanks”

Recently, **Hallmark Cards** brought out a line of greeting cards appropriate for same-sex marriage and commitment ceremonies, enraging anti-gay groups like the **American Family Association**. **PFLAG**, which has long had a reputation for pleasantness and civility

(as attested by Members of Congress even upon hearing PFLAGers expressing disappointment at unfriendly votes) suggests countering the rage expressed by the AFA and similar groups: Purchase Hallmark “Thank-You” cards and send them with a note of

appreciation to **Hallmark Customer Service, P.O. Box 419034, Mail Drop 216, Kansas City, Missouri 64141**. Remember that changes in society can be led effectively at the level of corporations and businesses. For more, see [this page](#) of PFLAG’s website.