



The Rainbow Connection is published by the Prairie Pride Coalition (PPC).

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Rainbow Connection

JULY, 2012

Save the Date for 8!

The Prairie Pride Coalition, with license from the American Foundation for Equal Rights (AFER) and Broadway Impact, is proud to announce a one-night-only reading of "8," a play chronicling the historic trial in the federal constitutional challenge to California's Proposition 8, written by Academy Award-winning screenwriter and AFER Founding Board Member Dustin Lance Black.

The staged reading of "8" will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 8 in the theater at ISU's Center for Performing Arts. Admission is free but donations will be accepted in the theater lobby.

"8" is an unprecedented account of the Federal District Court trial in *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* (now *Perry v. Brown*), the case filed by AFER to overturn Proposition 8, which stripped gay and lesbian Californians of the fundamental freedom to marry.

Black, who penned the Academy Award-winning feature film *Milk* and the film *J. Edgar*, based "8" on the actual words of the trial transcripts,

first-hand observations of the courtroom drama and interviews with the plaintiffs and their families.

The coalition is working with the production's ISU co-sponsors - School of Theatre and Dance, College of Fine Arts, Diversity Advocacy, and University Housing Services - to bring together a cast of **Please see "Save the Date," continued on pg. 4**



a new play by
DUSTIN LANCE BLACK
chronicling the federal trial
for marriage equality

The PPC is Coming Out!



What better way to mark the kick off of our brand new name (from the Advocacy Council for Human Rights to the Prairie Pride Coalition) than a coming out party?

The PPC will host a celebration coming out on Friday, September 28 at Heartland Community College.

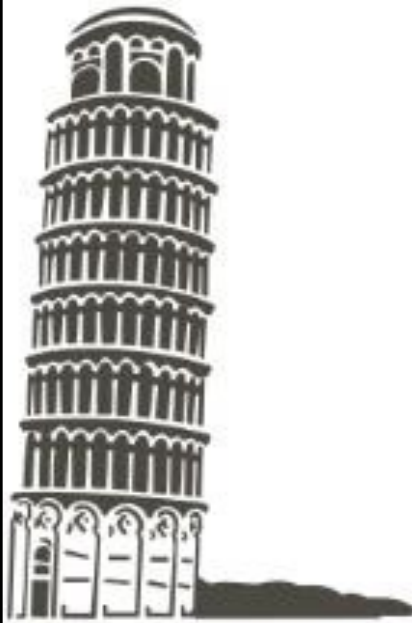
More details on the event will be forthcoming, so keep your

eye on the newsletter, and of course, remember to check out our fabulous new website: www.ppc-il.org, and "like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/PrairiePrideCoalition

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McLean County AIDS Task Force Dine to Donate at Avanti's

Wednesday, July 25th from 11:00 A.M. to close.

Dine-in, Carryout, and Delivery at BOTH LOCATIONS (Bloomington AND Normal) 20% of your food and beverage sub-total will be donated to **McLean County AIDS Task Force**.

FLIER MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER FOR DONATION TO BE APPLIED Guest Check Total \$_____ (before sales tax)

*Not valid with any other coupons or discount offers. Offer valid only on date shown. This program is for dine-in, carryout, and delivery customers; our banquet room and catering services are excluded.



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A Letter from Amasong

Greetings, My name is Mari McKeeth and I live in Normal, IL. I have been singing with AMASONG (Champaign-Urbana's Premier Lesbian/Feminist Choir) since 1995. During that time, we have put out 4 award-winning CDs, and been the subject of a documentary film that was televised nationally on PBS. Since it is 100 miles roundtrip from my house to rehearsal/concerts, I conservatively estimate that I've driven more than 50,000 miles "just to sing."

I wouldn't do this for just any group, nor any music. Over the years we've sung in 50+ languages, been introduced to a multitude of female composers both famous and obscure, and performed some of the most beautiful music I've ever had the privilege to experience. Not to mention the LGBTQ-positive atmosphere, local activism, wonderful friendships, hilarious "Amasong Gone Wrong" spoofs -- and, well, it is where I met my dear wife Heidi. I've also been heavily involved with getting our CDs put together, which is time-consuming and, for the group, VERY expensive.

Our last CD was released in 2008, and Amasong is ready to begin our next CD project! I'm reaching out to you--my supportive friends and community--to back our project and make it happen. Amasong is launching a project on [kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com) to raise at least the first half of the funds it will take to get the amazing music from 2008-2012 into the public's hands. Between now and June 30th, we need to raise \$7,500 through the Kickstarter project. **Check out our project at this link!** <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/amasong/amasong-makes-a-new-cd>

Wonder how it works? We ask you to back our project at any amount you wish, and we give you thank-you rewards starting at the \$5 mark. Here's the important part: To see any of the money you pledge, we **MUST reach \$7,500 by 11:59 PM on June 30th.** (Think of it as a matching grant program: Amasong's board will match your support to make our new CD happen, if we can get at least \$7,500 on [kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com) by June 30.) Your pledge amount and credit card number will be taken by Amazon.com, but **your card will only be charged when our full amount is reached on June 30.** If we do not reach our goal, your card will not be charged. Each level is accompanied by great rewards. At \$25, we'll send you the new CD when it's finished! Rewards start at \$5, and increase incrementally until at \$1500, our talented director Meagan Smith will write an

original short composition just for you! We're planning digital release of the music this time around, so there are great download rewards, too! *If you wish, you can also waive some or all of the rewards, and increase your tax-deductible contribution to Amasong.* Check out the rewards and the project story here: <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/amasong/amasong-makes-a-new-cd>

Kickstarter is new to me, but it is a fast-growing way for small grassroots groups to raise money quickly and easily. Several members of AMASONG have supported other Kickstarter projects. I found it very easy to use and follow when I made my pledge today. So -- that's it. If you are interested in supporting this project, please check out the link and consider making a pledge. But remember -- your pledge must be in by June 30!

Thanks for considering this. Mari.

p.s. -- feel free to pass along Amasong's Kickstarter information to any of your friends who might be supportive of good music, happy feminists, and LGBTQ positive groups!

Gretchen Shelly
Owner
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merry maids.

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Calendar

- **Friday, July 6, First Fridays** – join the fun at the **Bistro, 316 N. Main Street, Bloomington**, for appetizers and drink specials. Hosted this month by the **McLean County AIDS Taskforce**.
- **Monday, July 9** – **PFLAG, the Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays**, meets on the second Monday of each month at the **Unitarian Church – 1613 E. Emerson**, from **5:30 – 7:30**.
- **Friday, July 13—Hotspot**, hosted by **Sharon Share-a-Like** at the **Bistro**
- **Saturday, July 14** – **Transgender support group** meets on the second Saturday of each month. Contact tginbnil@hotmail.com for more information.
- **Sunday, July 15—PPC Family Reunion Picnic** from **11:30—4 p.m.** at **Underwood Park picnic shelter**.
- **Thursday, July 19, and Friday, July 20—First United Methodist Church of Normal annual Attic Sale**. Thursday from **5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**, and Friday from **8 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Proceeds support the **United Methodist Women**.
- **Friday, July 20—Benefit for the MissFits roller derby team** at the **Bistro**.
- **Saturday, July 21—AIDS Run/Walk**, sponsored by the **McLean County AIDS Taskforce**. **7:30 a.m.** at **Tipton Park**.
- **Every Wednesday and Thursday** – **Bingo and Karaoke** at the **Bistro**, starting at **9 p.m.**

“Save the Date,” Continued from page 1

faculty members and notable ISU acting alums (watch for cast updates in future issues of our newsletter).

“8” had its much-heralded Broadway world premiere on September 19, 2011, at the sold-out Eugene O’Neill Theatre in New York City. The production brought in over \$1 million to support AFER’s efforts to achieve full federal marriage equality.

For the latest news on our event, check out our facebook page at www.facebook.com/PrairiePrideCoalition and our NEW web site www.ppc-il.org.

Jeanette L. Roberts

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