



Rainbow Connection

DECEMBER, 2012

Support for Gay Marriage Increases

Results from an October survey of registered voters in Bloomington reveal continued, sustained support for legal recognition of same-sex couples.

The survey, conducted by students in Dr. Tari Renner's IWU political science class, show that 44 percent of respondents support marriage equality, an additional 31 percent support civil unions but not marriage, 20 percent want no legal recognition, and 6 percent are undecided. In summary, 75 percent of respondents support some sort of legal recognition for same-sex couples.

The survey, which has a +/- 5 percent margin of error, is the latest edition of the instrument that has been used for the past 10 years to measure attitudes of registered voters in the City of Bloomington.

To show how attitudes have changed it is useful to look at the results of the 2006 survey. That year only 25 percent supported marriage equality, while an additional 34 percent sup-

ported civil unions but not full marriage equality. That survey also found that 32 percent believed there should be no legal recognition for same sex couples.

Dr. Renner noted that the number of survey participants who believe there should be no legal recognition has decreased substantially over the years, consistent with other surveys/polls conducted by state organizations such as the Paul Simon Institute.

LGBTQ people and their supporters will be watching the action in Springfield this winter as the General Assembly may call for a vote on the issue with the marriage equality bill that was introduced earlier by Rep. Greg Harris.

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

Send Correspondence to P.O. Box 5048, Bloomington, IL 61702-5048, or e-mail info@ppc-il.org

PPC Board: Dave Bentlin, Peggy Burton, Garry Gletty, Margo Mendoza, Donna O'Crowly, Elizabeth Anvick, Suzie Hutton, Olemuel Ashford, Ryan Mishler, Tony Thieman-Somora, and Tony Somora

Big news!
PPC recently received word that its application for 501 (c)3 tax exempt status has been ACCEPTED by the Internal Revenue Service! This happened much more quickly than we anticipated, and it serves as a nice way for us to begin 2013!

Yingling Elected to Illinois House

The November elections brought much good news for the LGBTQA community: ballot initiative victories in four states, re-election of President Barack Obama, and the election of Wisconsin's Tammy Baldwin as the first openly-gay United States Senator.

In the shadow of these high-profile victories is Sam Yingling, who quietly made history by becoming the first openly-gay candidate outside of Chicago elected

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PPC Board Election Dec. 7



This notice will act as the official notification of the Annual Meeting of Prairie Pride Coalition. The board of directors will be elected at this meeting, ballot below. The Annual Meeting will occur on December 7, 2012, at 5 p.m. at The Bistro 316 North Main Street Bloomington, IL 61701.

OFFICIAL BALLOT – Prairie Pride Coalition Board of Directors 2012

Vote for up to 9 by placing a X next the name of the nominee:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| _____ Dave Bentlin | _____ Donna O’Crowly |
| _____ Peggy A. Burton | _____ Gary Gletty |
| _____ Olemuel Ashford | _____ Margot Mendoza |
| _____ Tony Thieman-Somora | _____ Elizabeth Anvick |
| _____ Kathleen Burger | _____ |

The above members are nominated to serve two-year terms on the Prairie Pride Coalition Board of Directors. These two-year terms begin in January 2013. You may return your ballot in one of three ways:

1. Mail your ballot to:
Prairie Pride Coalition
P.O. Box 5048
Bloomington IL
61702-5048
2. Email your ballot to info@ppc-il.org no later than 11:00 pm on 12/06/2012.
3. Bring it with you to our Annual Meeting which will occur on December 7, 2012 , 5 p.m. at The Bistro 316 North Main Street Bloomington, IL 61701.



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MCATF Seeks Help with Holiday Baskets

Each year the McLean County AIDS Task Force has sought to do something special for its approximately 50 clients who seek the support of the task force. This year the task force plans to distribute gift baskets to those clients and they need your help!

Your donation of \$5, \$10, \$25 or \$35 will go toward purchasing Dollar General gift cards, Aldi vouchers, gas cards, and food items to be included in the baskets. The baskets will help ensure that the task force clients enjoy their holiday season. Fundraising efforts go towards providing these clients with some financial aid throughout the year. The money that MCATF raises helps them with utility bills, transportation costs, food vouchers, and other needs including medical costs that are not covered by other agencies or insurance. Most of our clients have exhausted their benefit allowance before the holiday season.

In addition, the task force plans to use donations

to sponsor a holiday dinner for the clients and their guests to add to their holiday cheer.

Donations payable to MCATF can be mailed to:
 McLean County AIDS Task Force
 1100 N. Beech St., Suite 11B
 Normal, IL 61761

Or, you can visit the MCATF web site at www.mcatf.org and make a donation using Paypal.

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have passed, but we hope you have some spare dollars available to help the task force take care of its clients during the holidays!



Yingling

Continued from pg. 1

to the Illinois House of Representatives. Yingling, a native of Lake County, won the 62nd District seat, garnering 54 percent of the vote to defeat his Republican challenger.

Yingling's previous experience has included serving as Avon Township Supervisor and starting his own advertising company. He is a graduate of DePaul University and makes his home in Round Lake Beach.

Yingling's victory is monumental in that it proves that a gay candidate can be victorious outside of the liberal enclave known as Chicago's north side. Before November, that area had elected the state's only openly-gay legislators: Rep. Kelly Cassidy, Rep. Deb Mell, Rep. Greg Harris, and the late Larry McKeon. Yingling's win demonstrates that the general voting population outside of Chicago is willing to support the best candidate who also happens to be gay. For more information on Yingling, go to www.samyngling.com.

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Calendar

- **Friday, Dec. 7, First Fridays** – join the fun at the **Bistro, 316 N. Main Street, Bloomington**, for appetizers and drink specials. Hosted this month by PPC.
- **Saturday, Dec. 8** – Transgender support group meets on the second Saturday of each month. Contact tginbnil@hotmail.com for more information.
- **Monday, Dec. 10** – 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, Dec. 14**—Bistro Holiday Show, with Plain Jane playing on Dec. 15
- The Bistro will be open on Christmas Eve and Christmas Night, as well as for a fabulous party to ring in the new year on Dec. 31.

New Route Theatre to Stage “Our David”

New Route Theatre, a local theater troupe, will stage the AIDS drama "Our David" Dec. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, and 16 at the YWCA of McLean County, 1201 N. Hershey Road in Bloomington.

"Our David," by Ian Mairs, centers on uneasy neighbors Velma and Clyde. Velma, a widowed grandmother, has tended her vegetables in this humid North Florida community for most of her life. Clyde, a gay man out of place here, has recently moved in from New York City after losing his lover and most of his friends to AIDS.

The local production is directed by Bridgette Richard and is being staged as part of a local commemoration of World AIDS Day on Dec. 1.

New Route Theatre is a multi-racial and multi-cultural theater company that produces new as well as established works that explore the nature of the human spirit in the context of ethical, political, and social choices. Its mission is to produce professional quality theatre using a broad spectrum of artists who represent the community in all of its diversity.

For more information go to New Route's Facebook page - search "New Route Theatre."

New Route Theatre presents

Featuring
Nathan Bottorff
Carol Scott

Directed by
Bridgette Richard

OUR DAVID
by Ian Mairs

December
7, 8, 14, 15, 2012
7:30 pm

December 9, 16, 2012
2:30 pm

YWCA
1204 Hershey Drive
Bloomington

Jeanette L. Roberts

Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Psychotherapy for Individuals, Couples, and Groups

200 West Monroe, Suite 305
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

(309) 820-8162



New Covenant Community

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.

Worship Sundays, 10 a.m.

Sunday School and childcare provided during worship

Chapel of the Campus Religious Center
210 W. Mulberry St., Normal, IL 61761 | (309) 454-7362
www.nccnormal.org