



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

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# Rainbow Connection

MAY, 2013

## Gay Marriage Authority Addresses Group at ISU Event



On April 22nd, author, lecturer and professor Dr. Jason Pierceson spoke to a gathering about gay marriage, and his latest book, *Gay Marriage in the United States: The Road to the Supreme Court*.

Hosted by PPC, the Illinois State University LGBTQ Institute and the ISU Politics and Government Department, Dr. Pierceson was on hand to discuss this most current of current events at the lecture, which was made possible by a grant from the Sage Trust.

Pictured at left: Dr. Pierceson with PPC member Peggy Burton. Below: before the discussion, Dr. Pierceson was able to join representatives of PPC and the LGBTQ Institute for a pre-event dinner at Lancaster’s.



## PPC Votes to Support Marriage Brief

The board of the Prairie Pride Coalition recently voted to sign on in support of an amicus brief involving two state marriage equality lawsuits. The two lawsuits - filed by Lambda Legal and the ACLU of Illinois - were filed on behalf of 25 same-sex couples in the state. The plaintiffs are arguing that heightened scrutiny is the appropriate level of scrutiny for classifications based on sexual orientation and that the Illinois marriage ban violates

*Please see “Marriage Brief,” continued on pg. 4*

# PPC to Partner with Equality Illinois on Faith and Spirituality Outreach



At an April 20 working lunch Prairie Pride Coalition agreed to partner with Equality Illinois and religious/spiritual organizations around the state in a new, organized downstate effort.

Organization and spiritual leaders from Springfield, Peoria, Decatur, Bloomington, Chicago, Carbondale, and

Belleville attended the meeting and agreed that forming a formal network was key to helping change the hearts and minds of Illinois citizens about LGBT issues.

The network would also be a means of quickly "defending our victories" when opponents use religion and their beliefs as a rationale for continuing

discrimination against LGBT people.

Look for more details on this partnership in future issues of The Rainbow Connection. And if you know of a local religious or spiritual leader who you think might be interested in being a part of this effort, please e-mail us at [info@ppc-il.org](mailto:info@ppc-il.org)

## 2013 AIDS Candlelight Memorial May 18

Join the McLean County AIDS Task Force Candlelight Memorial and Open House at 7:00 pm on Saturday, May 18, 2013.

The local celebration of this event will be held at the MCATF office at 1100 N. Beech Street, Suite 11B in Normal, IL.

Come to share your remembrance of those individuals lost to AIDS. The annual memorial events around the world serve to raise social consciousness about HIV and AIDS. For more information, please visit [www.candlelightmemorial.org](http://www.candlelightmemorial.org).



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# Save the Date for the Film Fest!

THE PRAIRIE PRIDE COALITION  
and  
THE NORMAL THEATER  
present

**YOUR  
NORMAL  
LGBT  
FILM  
FESTIVAL**

NORMAL THEATER  
209 North Street, Normal IL  
**OCTOBER 16-20, 2013**

The organizing committee is making plans to bring you the fourth edition of "Your Normal LGBT Film Festival," October 16-20 at the historic Normal Theater in Uptown Normal.

The festival is a partnership between the Prairie Pride Coalition and the Normal Theater and has as its goal to bring quality LGBT films, cast and crew members to our community.

The committee has already received submissions from filmmakers around the country and committee members are planning to visit other LGBT festivals to view some of the films currently making the rounds.

For the latest updates, visit our web site at [www.yournormalfilmfest.com](http://www.yournormalfilmfest.com) and our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/yournormal](http://www.facebook.com/yournormal).

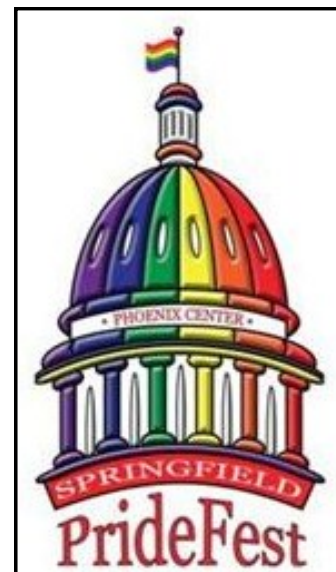
## PPC to Participate in Springfield Pridefest

Prairie Pride Coalition will once again sponsor an information booth at the Springfield Pridefest from noon to 9 p.m. on Saturday, May 18 in downtown Springfield.

This is the third annual pridefest in Springfield. Last year's event drew 6,500 LGBT people and their supporters. The fest will again be on Capitol Avenue between Fourth and Sixth streets.

Two stages will provide constant entertainment choice and a variety of information and retail booths will line the 2.5 block festival site.

For more information go to [www.springfieldpride.org](http://www.springfieldpride.org).



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# Calendar

- **Friday, May 3rd, First Fridays** – join the fun at the **Bistro, 316 N. Main Street, Bloomington**, for appetizers and drink specials. Hosted this month by **Pride State Farm ERG**
- **Saturday, May 4—Cinco de Mayo** party at the **Bistro!**
- **Monday, May 13—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. This month’s speaker will be **Caroline Staerk of Equality Illinois**.
- **Friday, May 10—Hotspot** light shows, hosted by **Sharon Share-a-Like** at the **Bistro**
- **Saturday, May 11—** Transgender support group meets on the second Saturday of each month. Contact [tginbnil@hotmail.com](mailto:tginbnil@hotmail.com) for more information.
- **Saturday, May 18—2013 Celebration of the AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Open House, 7 p.m.** at the **McLean County AIDS Taskforce—1100 N. Beech St., Suite 11 B in Normal**.

Gretchen Shelly  
Owner  
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## Marriage Brief

*Continued from page 1*

the equality guarantee of the Illinois Constitution.

One of the couples - Peggy Burton and Donna O’Crowly - are among the 25 couples suing the state for marriage equality. Prairie Pride Coalition is proud of their work and pleased to have the opportunity to officially weigh in on this issue.

*Jeanette L. Roberts*  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

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**New Covenant Community**

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**Worship Sundays, 10 a.m.**  
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[www.nccnormal.org](http://www.nccnormal.org)