



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

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# Rainbow Connection

JUNE, 2013

## A Time for Thanks

by Dave Bentlin

Sometimes it can be challenging living in Illinois and specifically in the more conservative areas such as Bloomington/Normal. A particular frustration lies with the elected officials who represent us in Springfield and Washington. Sometimes it feels as if we win our equality \*in spite of\* them rather than because of them.

Happily, recent actions by two of our elected officials merit our thanks and support.

Back in February Jason Barickman, state senator whose 53rd district includes much of Bloomington/Normal, voted in favor of the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, legislation that would ensure equal marriage rights for same-sex couples. Barickman was the only Republican senator to support the bill, and there have been rumors that he will be targeted by conservative Republicans for defeat in the next election. Please take a moment out of your summertime activities to thank Sen. Barickman for his support:

Sen. Jason Barickman  
2401 E. Washington St.  
Suite 201  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
309-661-2788

[jason@jasonbarickman.org](mailto:jason@jasonbarickman.org)

On the federal level, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) was introduced in April to the 113th Congress. ENDA was first introduced in Congress back in 1994, but was defeated by one vote in 1996 and languished in committees during the Bush presidency.

The legislation would provide basic protections against workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Currently 29 states offer no protections against such discrimination.

Illinois' Republican senator, Mark Kirk, was one of four co-sponsors of the new version of ENDA which was introduced on April 25. His support for ENDA is consistent with his voting record which includes supporting the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell and signing on as a co-sponsor of the Safe Schools Improvement Act.

Like Barickman, Sen. Kirk is more moderate on social issues and his support for ENDA has not gone unnoticed by his conservative colleagues who hope to unseat him when he is up for re-election in 2016.

**Story continues. Please see "Thanks," on pg. 6**

## B-N LGBT Landmark Celebrates 20 Years



Jan Lancaster makes even a bar on a Thursday afternoon feel like

someone's living room. She offers water and seating and settles into her own chair for a friendly chat. The moniker "momma" is a fitting one to a woman who has unofficially "adopted" dozens of Bloomington-Normal LGBT youth and adults alike over the years.

Lancaster's landmark Bloomington bar, the Bistro, will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this July, and this milestone is observed with a mixture of joy and awe. Lancaster recalls Bloomington-Normal of 1993 as a place different than the community today. She describes the atmosphere around town when the bar first



that owning a bar is not an easy occupation, especially since patron loyalty can sometimes be fleeting. She

opened and talks about patrons who worried about parking their cars in front of the establishment for fear of being outed. Lancaster also casually talks about picketers from the Christian Coalition and receiving calls from hate-monger Rev. Fred Phelps of the Westboro Baptist Church. If things like this worried Lancaster, she doesn't show it, brushing off these events as insignificant. Her passion and heart are reserved for the clientele she has served, helped, nurtured and cheered on for the past two decades.

Lancaster admits

acknowledges that the clientele of the Bistro is uncommonly true to their establishment, but adds that the changing times, while wonderful on many fronts, can sometimes be bad for business. She explains that when she first opened the bar, she met several people whose families had disowned them, who lived in fear of being outed. Now, she describes these problems as far less common, but as a result, the safe haven that she and the employees of the Bistro have worked hard to create,

**Story continued.**

**Please see "Bistro," on page 6**



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# Champaign/Urbana to Celebrate Pride with Film

Champaign/Urbana to Celebrate Pride with FILMS!

The UP (Uniting Pride) Center of Champaign County will commemorate June and pride month with their annual Reel it UP Film Festival at the Art Theater Co-op, 126 W. Church Street in downtown Champaign.

The festival will consist of screenings of LGBT films each Tuesday evening in June. Two films will be screened each evening - one at 7:30 p.m. and another at 9:30 p.m.

The festival schedule includes the following:

Tuesday June 4th

7:30 pm -- *Codebreaker*

9:30 pm -- *Weekend*

Tuesday June 11th

7:30 pm -- *Gender ID Shorts (No Dumb Questions, I'm Just Anneke, The Family Journey: Raising Gender Nonconforming Children)*

8:30 pm -- Talk Back Panel Discussion

9:30 pm -- *Ready? OK!*

Tuesday June 18th

7:30 pm -- *Passionate Politics: The Life and Work of Charlotte Bunch*

9:30 pm -- *Mosquita Y Mari*

Tuesday June 25th

7:30 pm -- *Scary Normal*

9:30 pm -- *Romeos*

Tickets are available at the door. Tickets and a pass to the festival can be purchased online at the festival web site <http://www.unitingpride.org/>



Gretchen Shelly  
Owner  
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## New Feature: Business Highlight

This month we introduce a new feature - a highlight of one of our local advertisers. Our hope is to spread the word in the LGBTQ community about businesses/professionals who are supportive of our community. This month's featured advertiser is Trey Polesky.



1. Name of business: Trey Polesky, LCSW

2. Location/address: 112 Boeykens Place, Suite 3A Normal, IL 61761

3. Nature of business: Individuals, couples, and family therapy

4. How long you've been in business: About 3 years in private practice, 11 years of agency work within the counseling field

5. Services you offer: I've had the privilege of working with individuals, couples, and families dealing with a variety of life challenges. Issues I'm experienced with: depression, anxiety, relationship difficulties, bipolar disorder, adhd, gender dysphoria and gender identity, self-esteem issues, coming out, substance abuse, behavioral compulsions/addictions, grief and loss, trauma, family of origin issues, and adjustment to significant life events. I offer in-office as well as online Skype sessions. For more information visit my website: [www.t\\_reypolesky.com](http://www.t_reypolesky.com).

6. What prompted you to get into this business: I've always enjoyed helping people make positive changes in

their lives so I knew counseling was what I wanted to do. Working with the LGBTQ community is absolutely one of my passions and here in Central Illinois I found there was definitely a need for more progressive, non-judgmental counselors who were experienced working with LGBTQ clients, their partners, and the issues specific to our community.

7. Name of hometown: Moline, IL.

8. How long you've been a part of the B/N community: 12 years.

9. Best aspects of life in B/N: The restaurants and shops in Downtown Bloomington and Uptown Normal; events at ISU; and the Constitution Trail.

10. Most challenging aspect of life in B/N: The more conservative nature of the area.

11. Your greatest accomplishment: Opening my private practice...I like waking up knowing I'm going to work doing what I love.



# PPC Family Picnic



**Date:** July 14

**Time:** noon—4 p.m.

**Location:**  
**Underwood Park  
Picnic Shelter**

Save the date for the annual Prairie Pride Coalition Family Reunion Picnic! Look for new activities, food and fun at this year's picnic. More details will be in the July newsletter, but for now, save the date and plan to join us!

# Calendar

- **Friday, June 7, First Fridays** – join the fun at the **Bistro**, 316 N. Main Street, Bloomington, for appetizers and drink specials. Hosted this month by the **PPC**.
- **Monday, June 10** – **PFLAG**, the Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays, will celebrate **June PRIDE** month with a picnic at 5:30 p.m. at **Shepard Park**. All are welcome! Bring a dish to share if you wish, but it is not necessary. **PFLAG** normally meets on the second Monday of each month at the **Unitarian Church** – 1613 E. Emerson, from 5:30 – 7:30.
- **Fridays, —Hotspot**, hosted by **Sharon Share-a-Like** at the **Bistro**
- **Every Wednesday and Thursday** – **Bingo and Karaoke** at the **Bistro**, starting at 9 p.m.

## Bistro

*Continued from page 2*

is not often as needed as it has been in the past.

Nonetheless, this will not slow Lancaster down. Obvious pride comes to her face as she talks about the Bistro and the hundreds of patrons who have come through its doors. She speaks proudly of some of her favorite moments over the past two decades, including the impromptu celebration at the Bistro when the equal rights ordinance was passed in the City of Bloomington in 2002.

Several celebratory events are being planned for the Bistro's anniversary next month, so be sure to check the Bistro's Facebook page for up-to-date details.

## Thanks

*Continued from page 1*

Please take a moment to contact Sen. Kirk and thank him for his support of ENDA:

Sen. Mark Kirk

524 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

202-224-2854

312-886-3506 (Chicago Office)

<http://www.kirk.senate.gov/?p=contact>

During this month of pride let's extend our thanks for their efforts to help bring about equality!

*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](http://www.nccnormal.org)

### Healing Touch Bloomington

*Energy Therapy* reduces pain, supports healing from surgery or chemo, promotes relaxation.

For information, contact

**Chris Kaufman, R.N., Certified**

*Healing Touch Practitioner*

305 E. Front St., Bloomington

(309) 826-5546

[Wellsprings1@gmail.com](mailto:Wellsprings1@gmail.com)