

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
Kathleen Burger
Peggy Burton
Gary Gletty
Margot Mendoza
Donna O'Crowly
Elizabeth Anvick
Marcus Smith
and
Olemuel Ashford

Rainbow Connection

JANUARY, 2014

Longtime Activist Presented with Inaugural Award

An award established to honor champions of LGBT equality was presented to its namesake at a ceremony during the Your Normal LGBT Film Festival.

The Bruce T. Lang Award for LGBT Equality was presented to Bruce for his longtime efforts to help achieve equality for the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities. For many years Bruce has served as a board member or member of the McLean County AIDS Task Force and for the last several years has served on the steering committee of the Central Illinois Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

The board of directors of the Prairie Pride Coalition serves as the selection committee for recipients of the Lang Award.



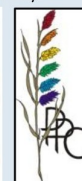
AN EQUALITY ILLINOIS FORUM:

MARRIAGE RIGHTS IN ILLINOIS

Learn and ask questions about the
new freedom to marry law



Presented by:



Prairie Pride
Coalition

**BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
COMMUNITY**

TUESDAY, JAN. 14, 2014
6 – 7 P.M.

**Bloomington Police Dept.
Osborn Room**
305 S. East Street
Bloomington, IL

*Special guest Kathy Michael,
McLean County Clerk, will explain
procedures for and questions about
applying for a marriage license.*

REGISTRATION RECOMMENDED:
<http://tinyurl.com/bloomington-forum>

Admission is free, refreshments
including wedding cake will be served,
and childcare will be available on site!

Congratulations to Local Acorn Equality Fund Scholars!



Prairie Pride Coalition congratulates our local BloNo students who recently received scholarships at the Dec. 7 Acorn Equality Fund Scholarship Breakfast:

Luke Scholarship: Marcellus Leonard, ISU graduate student studying social work;

Luke Scholarship: Rachel Wimberly, IWU undergraduate student;
Acorn Scholarship: Timothy Reardanz, IWU undergraduate student;
McKeon Scholarship: Ben Walter - BloNo native and student at Clark University.

Since its creation in 1999 the Acorn Equality Fund has awarded 132 scholarships totaling \$246,000. The organization's primary fundraiser is the breakfast which is an annual event on the first Saturday in December. www.acornequalityfund.org.



Supporters from Bloomington/Normal attended the breakfast and sat at the PPC tables.

Gretchen Shelly
Owner
309-661-1726 • 309-661-1729

merry maids.

1702 W. College Ave
Suite A-3
Normal, IL 61761
mmofbn@yahoo.com

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Michelle Mosby-Scott
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Phone: (309) 662-5084 • Cell: (309) 310-1154 • Fax: (309) 662-2994
Michelle@allisonmosby-scott.com • www.allisonmosby-scott.com

LGBTQA Business Profile: Hail the Hair King

- Name of Business: Hail the Hair King Salon
- Owner's Name: Travis Manning
- Location: 11 Finance Drive #1, Bloomington
- Web site Address: hailthehairking.com
- Facebook Address: www.facebook.com/hailthehairkingsalon
- Hours of operation: Monday 1pm-10pm, Tuesday 1pm-10pm, Wednesday 11am-10pm, Thursday 8am-7pm, Friday 9am-6 pm, Saturday 9am-4 pm
- How long in business: 6 months
- Services offered: Hair cuts, color, hair extensions, wigs, facial waxing, manicures, pedicures
- What prompted you to open your own business? I wanted to do things to focus on the customer in a fun, open environment where everyone can be themselves. I am authentic and I wanted to create an environment where people can be who they really are with no judgement. I love what I do and feel fortunate to be able to go to work, have a good time, and make people look and feel good.
- Hobbies outside of your business? I'm an artist so I'm always working on something creative. I have a partner and we have Ibizan Hounds that we love and spend a lot of time with. Since my business is located inside a personal training facility, my nutrition and fitness has become important to me too.
- Do you have any special message for the LGBT community to include in this profile? We work with anyone who has hair or nails. We don't care what your orientation, gender or race is. We're here to make you feel and look your best with a personal touch. My salon is small but I tried it big and it just didn't work for me. The personal touch was gone because the setting wasn't intimate. It's back now, so come check us out!



The Case for Marriage Equality

During 2013, the Prairie Pride Coalition collected many petition cards which were shared with our state legislators to demonstrate support for the marriage equality bill. The bill was passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Pat Quinn, and couples can apply for marriage licenses in June.

Many of the petition cards included eloquent, strong words of support, so we decided to share some of them with you. We will continue to do this in the months leading up to the June start date for marriage.

"I support marriage equality because my nephew deserves the same rights I have." - Janet

"I support marriage equality because this is the 21st century and we need to move out of this ancient way of thinking." - Lauryn

"I support marriage equality because I support and love my gay aunt." - Camilla

"I support marriage equality because someday I hope to be married to my boyfriend." - Tim

"I support marriage equality because my dad was not able to marry my step-dad." - Katherine

"I support marriage equality because I have loved Tana for 33 years." - Ruth

"I support marriage equality because our family deserves the same rights as other families." - Lauri

“I DO”
support
marriage equality

Calendar

- **Friday, January 3—First Fridays at the Bistro in Downtown Bloomington.**
- **Monday, January 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.**
- **Tuesday, January 14—Marriage Rights forum, sponsored by PPC from 6-7 p.m. in the Bloomington Police Dept. Osborn Room. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/bloomington-forum>.**
- **Monday, January 20—Youth Committee of Bloomington-Normal Talent Show at the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Bloomington from 6-8 p.m. Admission is free. E-mail bnarea@gmail.com for more information or to register an act to perform.**

Talent Show Scheduled for January 20

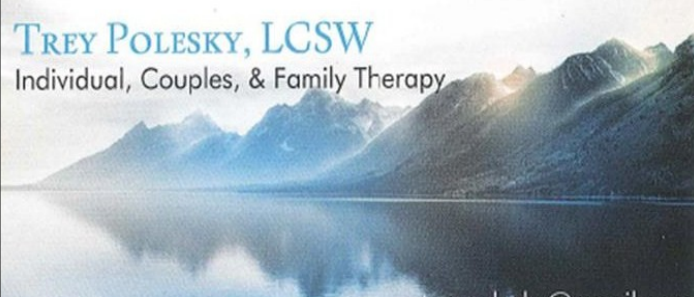
Dust off those dance shoes, limber up those vocal cords, and get ready to showcase your talent! The Youth Committee of the Bloomington-Normal, in conjunction with PFLAG of Bloomington-Normal, Illinois Safe Schools, and the Community Concerns Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal is hosting their first ever Talent Show on Monday, January 20.

The show will take place from 6-8 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, located at 1613 E. Emerson in Bloomington. Admission is free.

If you are interested in performing in the talent show, please register by e-mailing the youth committee at bnarea@gmail.com. There is a \$5 registration fee for performances.

All types of performances are welcome at the show: singing, dancing, spoken word, comedy, musical acts, and more!

TREY POLESKY, LCSW
Individual, Couples, & Family Therapy



112 Boeykens Place
Suite 3A
Normal, IL 61761

treypolesky@gmail.com
www.treypolesky.com
phone (773) 819-5428
fax (877) 761-3132

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

