



Rainbow April 2016 Connection

EVENTS IN APRIL, MAY, JUNE!

WED Apr 13: ISU Lavender Graduation (Page 6)
 WED Apr 13: Equality Illinois Lobby Day (Page 2)
 TUE Apr 19: Foreclosure in McLean County (Page 3)
 FRI-SUN Apr 22-24: Voices of Pride (Page 1)
 FRI Apr 29 #40toNoneDay (Page 3)
 SAT May 7: STONEWALL, the Movie (Page 5)
 SUN May 8: IWU Lavender Graduation (Page 6)
 SAT May 21: Springfield PrideFest (Page 3)
 SUN Jun 12: 19th Family Reunion Picnic (Page 3)

VOICES OF PRIDE: A Festival of New Plays at NEW ROUTE

New Route Theatre, PPC Team to Present Festival of LGBT Plays

New Route Theatre, in conjunction with Prairie Pride Coalition, presents Voices of Pride, a festival of new LGBTQ plays. Four selected submissions, received from around the Midwest, will be presented in staged readings April 22, 23 and 24 at the First Christian Church, 401 West Jefferson St in Bloomington. Tickets will be available at the door for a suggested donation of \$10 and is open to the public.

The selected plays include:

Garbage Can Blues, written by Paula Ressler, an Associate Professor in the English Department of Illinois State University and Directed by program curator Duane Boutte. **Garbage Can Blues** will be presented April 22 at 7 p.m. and April 24 at 2 p.m. Cast in **Garbage Can Blues** are Peg Kirk and Troy Schaefflein.

ReConnect, written by DC Cathro, a playwright from Maryland, who will have two of his other plays presented in festivals in Dallas and Kansas City this year, and Directed by New Route Theatre Artistic Director Don Shandrow. **ReConnect** can be seen April 22 at 8:30 p.m. and April 24 at 4:30 p.m. The cast for **ReConnect** will include Nathan Brandon Gaik, Brigette Richard, George Jackson, Joseph Johnson, Samuel James

NEW ROUTE THEATRE
 a member company of the Black Theatre Consortium

Sponsored by
 Prairie Pride Coalition, Inc.

VOICES OF PRIDE

Curated by Duane Boutté

A FESTIVAL OF NEW PLAYS

APRIL 22, 23 & 24

Garbage Can Blues By Paula Ressler Directed by Duane Boutté April 22 at 7 pm • April 24 at 2 pm	Thingification By Durial Harris Directed by Duane Boutté Asst. Directed by Gina Cleveland April 23 at 7 pm • April 24 at 6 pm
ReConnect By DC Cathro Directed by Don Shandrow April 22 at 8:30 pm • April 24 at 4:30 pm	Bedfellows By Daniel Kipp Directed by Don Shandrow April 23 at 8:30 pm • April 24 at 7:30 pm

First Christian Church • 401 W. Jefferson St. • Bloomington, IL
Tickets available at the door • Suggested donation: \$10
Presented in memory of Phil Shaw

Willis, Marya Manak, Kelsey Brunner, Rachel Hettrick, Anastasia Furguson and Wes Melton.

Thingification, written and performed by Durial Harris, a Creative Writing Associate Professor in the English Department at Illinois State University. This one person play, Directed by Duane Boutte and Assistant Directed by Gina Cleveland, will be performed April 23 at 7 p.m. and April 24 at 6 p.m.

Bedfellows, Written by Daniel Kipp, a playwright from Rock Island and Illinois Wesleyan Theatre graduate, and Directed by Don Shandrow will be presented April 23 at 8:30 p.m. and April 24 at 7:30 p.m. **Bedfellows** will feature Duane Boutte and Dave Krostal.

New Route Theatre and PPC hope to make this an annual event along with the theatre's Black Voices Matter festival that it presented in February. For more information regarding New Route Theatre and the Voices of Pride Festival contact Don Shandrow, Artistic Director, at new.route.theatre@gmail.com or find New Route Theatre on Facebook.

- P2 • Equality Illinois Lobby Day
- Bills of Interest in Springfield
- STONEWALL, the Movie
- P3 • Springfield PrideFest
- #40toNoneDay
- 19th Family Reunion Picnic
- P4 • STI/HIV Services at MCHD

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- Foreclosure in McLean County
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- P6 • At the Bistro
- Pride Health Center Taking Shape
- ISU, IWU Lavender Graduation

EQUALITY ILLINOIS Advocacy Day April 13

IL BILLS OF INTEREST



2016 Legislative Agenda

We Support

END PANIC DEFENSES

SB 3046, an initiative of Equality Illinois, prohibits the use of LGBT panic defenses in murder cases.

ENSURE A JURY OF ONE'S PEERS

SB 3286, an initiative of Equality Illinois, establishes non-discrimination protections in jury service on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, economic status, sexual orientation and gender identity.

MODERNIZE VITAL RECORDS ACT

Consistent with modern medical standards, HB 6073 updates the law regarding changing the gender marker on a birth certificate.

RESPONSIBLE AND FAIR BUDGET

Illinois needs a budget with adequate revenue to protect vital services.



We Oppose

LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE

SB 2164 sanctions discrimination against LGBT couples and single parents.

ISOLATION OF TRANSGENDER YOUTH

HB 4474 prohibits transgender and gender non-conforming students from using school facilities that correspond to their gender identity.

Equality Illinois' fight for full equality for LGBT Illinoisans continues with this robust 2016 legislative agenda. Read more on these issues at equalityillinois.org/2016-agenda.

For more information, contact:
Equality Illinois
Mike Ziri, Director of Public Policy
773-477-7173
mziri@eqil.org

State Legislation of Concern to LGBTQA Community

Lost in much of the rancor over the lack of a state budget is the reality that there are a handful of bills that could seriously impact the lives of members of our community.

Bills that our community supports include legislation to end the "LGBT panic" defense in murder cases; a bill to update rules for changing gender markers on vital records such as birth certificates; and a measure that would establish non-discrimination protections for jury service.

Anti-LGBTQ bills include one that would prohibit transgender students from using the restroom that corresponds to their gender identity and a bill that would carve out dangerous exemptions in the state's anti-discrimination law.

We encourage everyone to visit the Equality Illinois web site www.equalityillinois.us and read more about the 2016 Legislative Agenda. The web site also includes a resources section with contact information for legislators.

SPRINGFIELD PRIDE

Saturday, May 7, 7 PM at the Legacy Theater, CORAL of Springfield presents STONEWALL, a drama about Danny, a fictional young man caught up during the 1969 Stonewall riots. As Danny and his friends experience discrimination, endure atrocities and are repeatedly harassed by the police, we see a rage begin to build. This emotion runs through the entire community of young gays, lesbians, drag queens and trans people who populate the Stonewall Inn

Continued on page 3

A daylong advocacy event in Springfield complete with lobbying training, lunch, meetings with legislators, and a visit to the capitol is set for Wednesday, April 13

The day will begin with a briefing and advocacy training at 11 a.m. followed by lunch in the capitol. The afternoon will be devoted to visiting legislators and advocating they take supportive positions on bills of particular interest to our community (see accompanying article for more information on bills).

The day will wrap up with a 5 p.m. event and reception at the Illinois State Library.

Anyone interested in going should contact Prairie Pride Coalition at info@ppc-il.org as we have paid registrations and we need people to fill them!

S'FIELD PRIDE continued from page 2

and erupts in a storm of anger. With the toss of a single brick, a riot ensues and a crusade for equality is born.



Two weeks later, on Saturday, May 21, the sixth annual Springfield Pride Fest will kick off in downtown Springfield. This all-day event features a full lineup of entertainment, food, information booths, and vendors in celebration of pride. Full information on the festival can be found at www.springfieldpride.org.

True Colors Fund: #40toNoneDay April 27

40% of Youth Experiencing Homelessness Identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender (LGBT).

By Reah Rolando

According to The True Colors Fund, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to end homelessness among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth, up to 1.6 million youth experience homelessness each year in America. The True Colors Fund also states, "The statistics for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) homeless youth are even more shocking, as this group represents up to 40% all young people experiencing homelessness. Considering that LGBT youth represent an estimated 7% of the total youth population, these numbers are disproportionately high." LGBT youth are even more vulnerable once they are without a home. They run a greater risk of victimization, unsafe sexual practices, and mental health issues than non-LGBT young people experiencing homelessness.

#40toNoneDay is an international public engagement project that aims to raise awareness for these facts and encourage community members to play a role in ending LGBT youth homelessness. #40toNoneDay provides those willing to get involved with the



opportunity to share information about the issue, host discussion groups, and share "unselfies" (which are selfies for a cause) on social media. The first #40toNoneDay was launched last year on April 29, 2015, and reached over 17 million people online. Organizations such as the Illinois Collaboration on Youth, GLAAD, The Trevor Project, and Human Rights Campaign all participated in the day last year and collectively had an immense impact on educating the general public through multiple avenues. This year, we encourage local organizations and agencies to get involved with raising awareness for this often "invisible" issue. It's important that we talk about LGBT youth homelessness to start generating solutions and teaming up to literally bring the numbers of LGBT youth experiencing homelessness from 40 to none. You can find more information on how to make a difference here: <https://truecolorsfund.org/40tononeday/>

19th Family Reunion Picnic

PPC & PFLAG joint annual Family Reunion Picnic will be on Sunday, June 12, 2016 from Noon until 3 PM at **UNDERWOOD* PARK SHELTER** at 200 Jersey Ave. in Normal (East of Linden St.). **It's potluck so bring something good to share, but remember . . . PPC will supply fried chicken, bottled water, and paper products.**

***Note change - NOT Anderson Park this year.**




MCHD Services



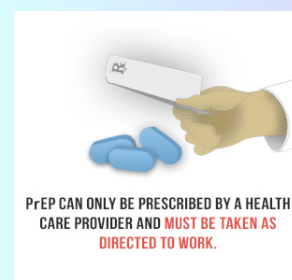
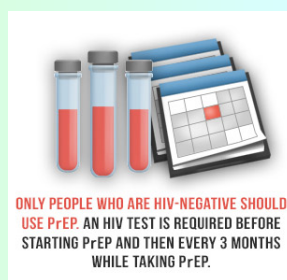
McLean County Health Department (MCHD) offers a variety of STI/HIV testing, education, and interventions to the community. These services are provided in Clinic Room 139 on the first floor of MCHD.

We provide urine, oral, and rectal testing for Gonorrhea and Chlamydia; blood test for syphilis screening; a variety of HIV testing options including blood draw and rapid testing; treatment for gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and syphilis; a range of vaccinations geared towards preventative health; and knowledgeable staff that can discuss a variety of topics that include: individualized prevention plans, condom use, PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) for HIV, and other sexual health issues.

If you have any questions, please visit our website at <http://health.mcleancountyil.gov/> or call us at **309.888.5478**. We look forward to meeting you!

Melissa Graven, RN, BSN
Communicable Disease Supervisor
McLean County Health Department 

PrEP: Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis



Pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, is a way for people who do not have HIV but who are at substantial risk of getting it to prevent HIV infection by taking a pill every day. The pill (brand name Truvada) contains two medicines (tenofovir and emtricitabine) that are used in combination with other medicines to treat HIV. When someone is exposed to HIV through sex or injection drug use, these medicines can work to keep the virus from establishing a permanent infection.

When taken consistently, PrEP has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV infection in people who are at high risk by up to 92%. PrEP is much less effective if it is not taken consistently.


PrEP is a powerful HIV prevention tool and can be combined with condoms and other prevention methods to provide even greater protection than when used alone. But people who use PrEP must commit to taking the drug every day and seeing their health care provider for follow-up every 3 months.

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/prep/> 


US Public Health Service PREEXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS FOR THE PREVENTION OF HIV INFECTION IN THE UNITED STATES -2014 A CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE



“On the basis of these trial results and the FDA approval, the U.S. Public Health Service recommends that clinicians evaluate their male and female patients who are sexually active or who are injecting illicit drugs and consider offering PrEP as one prevention option to those whose sexual or injection behaviors and epidemiologic context place them at substantial risk of acquiring HIV infection.”

For the full document, including summaries of PrEP clinical studies, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/preprovidersupplement2014.pdf> 

To Find an HIV Testing site Near You

For local Information on HIV Testing and prevention visit <http://health.mcleancountyil.gov/index.aspx?NID=98>
To find information on HIV testing sites in other locations visit <https://gettested.cdc.gov/> 

LEGACY WALL DRAWS SPECIAL INTEREST



Librarian Bill Kemp discusses transgender Civil War soldier Albert Cashier, one of the individuals profiled on the LGBT Legacy Wall.



ISU President Larry Dietz speaks, with Bayard Rustin scholar Carlos Figueroa.




ISU faculty/staff members Paula Ressler and Sandy Colbs at the Feb. 15 opening reception.



Milner Library Dean Dane Ward and Legacy Wall Executive Director Victor Salvo discuss the wall at the opening reception on Monday, Feb. 15.

Hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and community members viewed the LGBT Legacy Wall during its two-week run at ISU's Milner Library. More came to hear presentations by Bill Kemp from the McLean County History Museum and Tracy Baim, author of a new biography of Barbara Gittings.

An opening reception featured local LGBT leaders as well as ISU President Larry Dietz, ISU Provost Janet Krejci, and Normal Mayor Chris Koos.

The Legacy Wall and the associated events were sponsored by the Prairie Pride Coalition and Illinois State University Milner Library. Co-sponsors included ISU Women's and Gender Studies, the ISU LGBTQ Institute, and ISU Diversity Advocacy. 



Former Normal Mayor Paul Harman and Normal Mayor Chris Koos at the Feb. 15 opening reception for the LGBT Legacy Wall.

Foreclosure in McLean County

Stacey Tutt, Associate Clinical Professor and Director of Community Preservation Clinic at University of Illinois Law School will speak on *Foreclosure in McLean County* at 7PM, April 19 at the Normal Public Library Community Room.

Many believe the foreclosure crisis is over, but this is far from the case, especially for minority neighborhoods. Even after federal loss mitigation programs became more effective, minorities faced greater obstacles qualifying for loss mitigation options. Mediation programs were designed to address servicing abuses and reduce the devastation to minority neighborhoods.

Come learn how the McLean County Foreclosure Mediation Program is working to create change in your own community. This event is open to the public and free of charge. Sponsored by the ACLU of Illinois Central Illinois Chapter and the McLean County League of Women Voters.

Unitarian Universalist-Boy Scouts Agreement

What Does the Boy Scouts-Unitarian Universalists Agreement Mean for Humanists? BY JOHN B. HOOPER • 29 MARCH 2016

I had mixed feelings when I learned that the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) had signed a memorandum of understanding with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Unitarian Universalists are leaders in the quest for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) justice. The UUA opposed the BSA's ban on openly gay members, which led to the dissolution of the relationship between the two organizations in the late 1990s. When the BSA dropped its ban on gay adult leaders in July 2015, two years after doing the same for gay youth, it opened the door for the formation of more inclusive troops. However, the BSA still bans atheist, agnostic, and humanist scouts and leaders. In fact, its Declaration of Religious Principle clearly states, "The recognition of God as the ruling and leading power in the universe and the grateful acknowledgment of His favors and blessings are necessary to the best type of citizenship and are wholesome precepts in the education of the growing members." There was no mention in the memorandum of a more accepting attitude for atheist, agnostic, or humanist youth and leaders in the BSA.

For the full text of this story, visit:

<http://thehumanist.com/commentary/boy-scouts-unitarian-universalists-agreement-mean-humanists>



A BUSY SPRING AT THE BISTRO



The Bistro, 316 N. Main Street in downtown Bloomington, had a busy month of March capped off with Momma's big birthday celebration, but the bar has many more shows and events lined up for the coming weeks

and months.

Upcoming events include a Talent Winner Show at 11 p.m. on Friday, April 15; a performance by the Artist Formerly Known as Vince at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 23; and a performance by SQUIDD! at 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 21.

In addition, the Bistro is now open beginning at 4:30 p.m. on every First Friday each month so drop by and begin your weekend on a fun note!

To keep updated on events at the B check out the Bistro's page on Facebook.



RAINBOW CONNECTION

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PPC Board

**Dave Bentlin, President
Elizabeth Anvick, Secretary
Olemuel Ashford, Treasurer
Kathleen Burger
Gary Gletty
Margot Mendoza**

Pride Health Center Taking Shape

McLean County, IL — We have been working hard to get things up and going at the center. All of our Board positions have been filled by talented and dedicated individuals and we are now focusing on ways we can begin to service the LGBT community of Central Illinois.

going. Please attach your resume with email.



Len Meyer, 815.893.7459

cipridehealthcenter@gmail.com



One thing we can do in our early stages is to offer a binder program for those who identify as Trans and are in need of a binder but cannot afford to purchase one. Donations of new or gently used binders are being taken at this time. To donate: please email us at **cipridehealthcenter@gmail.com** or you can call us at (815) 893-7459 to arrange for pickup.

We are also looking to have our youth group up soon and are looking for someone to fill our Community Outreach position. For the time being, this position is volunteer. We are looking for someone with outreach or youth group experience who can also assist us with getting more groups

ISU, IWU CELEBRATE LAVENDER GRADUATION

ISU and IWU will again honor their LGBTQA graduates with Lavender Graduations on campus in April.

The IWU Lavender Graduation will be at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 8 in the Turfler Room at the IWU Memorial Center. ISU's ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13 in the Prairie Room at Bone Student Center.

Lavender Graduation is an annual ceremony conducted on numerous campuses to honor lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and ally students and to acknowledge their achievements

and contributions to the University. The Lavender Graduation Ceremony was created by Dr. Ronni Sanlo, a Jewish Lesbian, who was denied the opportunity to attend the graduations of her biological children because of her sexual orientation. It was through this experience that she came to understand the pain felt by her students. Encouraged by the Dean of Students at the University of Michigan, Dr. Sanlo designed the first Lavender Graduation Ceremony in 1995.

Both ceremonies are open to LGBTQA people and their supporters.

