



Rainbow Connection JUNE 2016

EVENTS JUNE - AUGUST 2016!

There are so many events coming up in our community that we have a special page for Community Events in this issue. please turn to page 9 to find details on these coming events. Plan to participate in as many as you can.

I AM ORLANDO ~ 6/12/2016



Personal Observations from a Prairie Pride Coalition Board Member

How does one understand what happened in Orlando? That someone could so hate another human being that they would want to extinguish their lives? How does one move on from this?

The mind of any person capable of such an act of violence is ill. I remember my parents telling me from age twelve when I came out in the late eighties to be very cautious, that there were people in the world that would even kill me for being this way. This fear has echoed loudly in my head all these thirty years since. Maybe giving the shooter the excuse of illness is my compassion for something beyond me. I am simply not capable of understanding the mind of a killer nor do I want to.

My paternal Grandmother always said with a tear in her eye, "she never thought full acceptance would ever be achieved by the 'gay community.'" As a trans lady, I would diligently have to stamp out any gender variance because it would make people uncomfortable and volatile. While not always embraced the true blessing of my life has been living this experience. My

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grandmother was correct for her time which spanned the last thirty years.

However, what I saw the other day here in Bloomington, Illinois proved time can change many things. I went to the candle light vigil to receive a form of solace but it had a double meaning for me. I wanted to see what my town would produce in an outpouring. Over three-hundred attendees! There were many more who simply could not be there for one reason or the other, as I know some of them. It was hot and humid. The brief rain shower produced a double rainbow. I wanted to cry seeing and feeling all the love. Then turning on the television, radio, and other forms of media to learn people from all walks of life everywhere came to a halt to stand together in unity and love.

When I was about six years old I remember hearing Gloria Gaynor's lavish expression of Survival with her tune *I will Survive*. I could die for who I am. I could also live to be old, and to tell the story of how I *survived*. For Orlando I know history will reflect this great tragedy, and with it the tremendous outcry of humanity.



Photo by Denise Goff

Monday, June 13, Withers Park, downtown Bloomington - With over 300 standing vigil, PPC board member, Margot Mendoza, reading the names of the 49 men and women that were shot at the Pulse Bar in Orlando Sunday June 12, 2016, at the Vigil. (The Bistro and PPC organized the local event.)



Group of 4 photos by Dave Bentlin



Photo by Alex Wong /Getty Images

Je suis Orlando. (French)
(The world is Orlando)

I am Orlando

أنا أورلاندو (Arabic)

Ես Օրլանդո (Armenian)

আমি অরল্যান্ডো am (Bengali)

Аз съм Орландо (Bulgarian)

Ine ndine Orlando (Chichewa)

אני אורלנדו (Hebrew)

Sono Orlando (Italian)

我是奥兰多 (Chinese)

Jsem Orlando (Czech)

Jeg er Orlando (Danish)

Ik ben Orlando (Dutch)

Mi estas Borderante (Esperanto)

Ich bin Orlando (German)

Είμαι Ορλάντο (Greek)

Se mwen menm ki Orlando (Haitian Creole)

Owau no Orlando (Hawaiian)

मैं ऑरलैंडो हूँ (Hindi)

Én Orlando (Hungarian)

Ég er Orlando (Icelandic)

Saya Orlando (Indonesian)

Tá mé Orlando (Irish)

私はオーランドです (Japanese)

나는 올랜도입니다 (Korean)

Ego sum Orlando (Latin)

Ko ahau Orlando (Maori)

Jeg er Orlando (Norwegian)

Jestem Orlando (Polish)

Estou Orlando (Portuguese)

Sunt Orlando (Romanian)

Я Орландо Russian)

Ou te Orlando (Samoan)

Tha mi Orlando (Scots Gaelic)

Anigu waxaan ahay Orlando (Somali)

Soy Orlando. (Spanish)

Jag är Orlando (Swedish)

நான் ஆர்லாண்டோ இருக்கிறேன் (Tamil)

ผมออร์แลนโด (Thai)

Ben Orlando duyuyorum (Turkish)

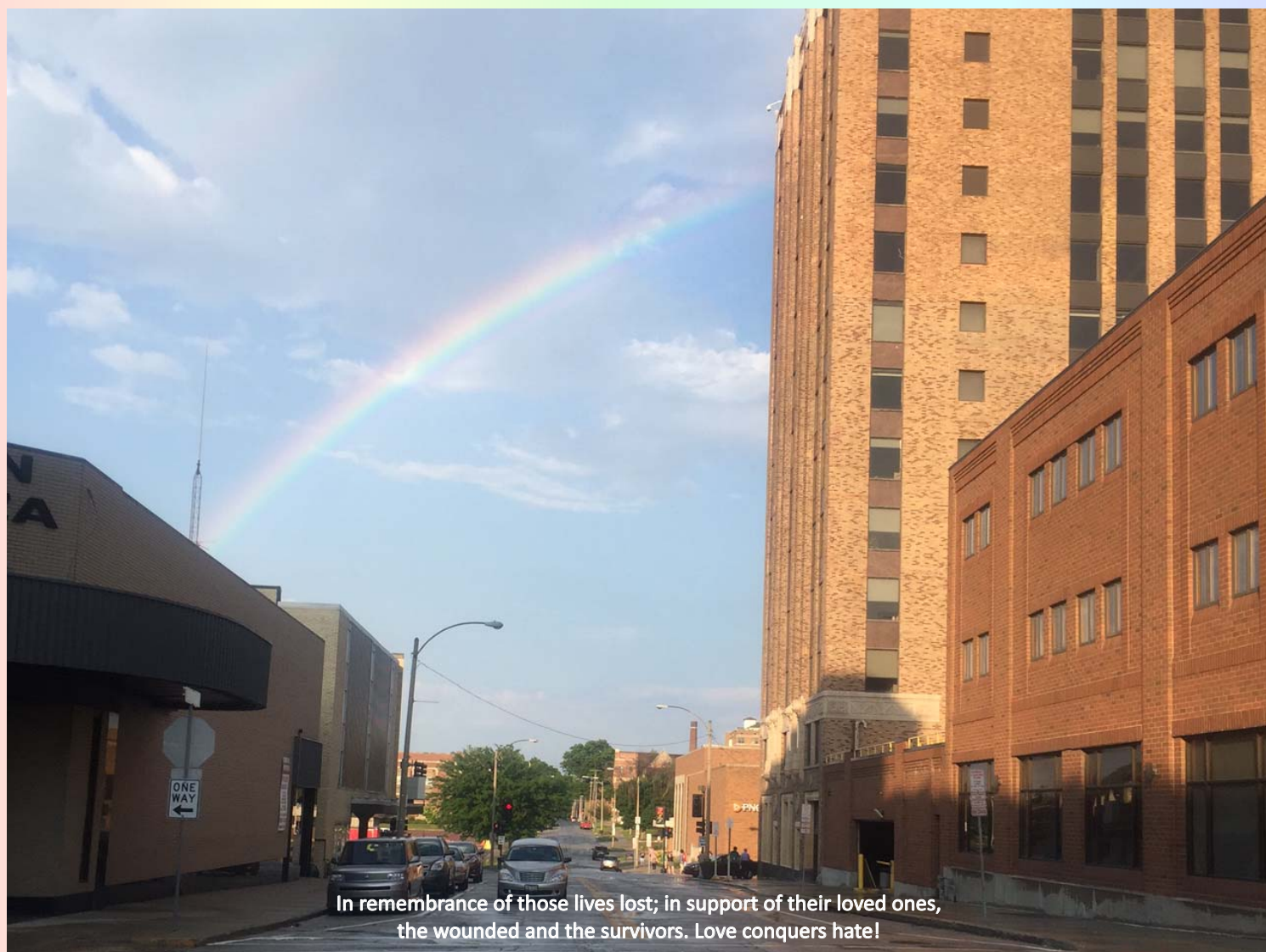
میں نے اُرلینڈو ہوں (Urdu)

Tôi Orlando (Vietnamese)

Yr wyf yn Orlando (Welsh)

איך בין אָרלאַנדאָ (Yiddish)





In remembrance of those lives lost; in support of their loved ones,
the wounded and the survivors. Love conquers hate!

9 photos by Denise Goff



Bloomington/Normal Responds to Orlando

A crowd estimated at more than 300 marched on the evening of Monday, June 13 from the Bistro to Withers Park in downtown Bloomington and shared tears, hugs, music, and words of reassurance in the wake of the mass murders of 49 patrons at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando the day before.

Co-sponsored by the Bistro and the Prairie Pride Coalition, the march was initially threatened by a heavy thunderstorm, but that obstacle quickly passed and produced a brilliant rainbow that greeted marchers as they approached Withers Park.

Speakers included Jan Lancaster, owner of the Bistro; Rev. Kelly Becker of the First Christian Church; Rev. Jennie Edwards Bertrand from the Hope Church; Dontae Latson from the YWCA of McLean County and Not In Our Town; and Dave Bentlin of the Prairie Pride Coalition.

All offered words of comfort to the attendees; solidarity with the victims and their families and friends; a call for renewed emphasis on sensible gun legislation and increased mental health services; and hope for peace and an end to violence and discrimination against LGBTQ+ people.

Prairie Pride Coalition board member Margot Mendoza read the names of the 49 people as hundreds of candles were lit amongst the crowd. A moment of silence followed.

The program ended with marchers singing "Imagine" led by Katie Eckeberger from the Hope Church. Afterward many of the marchers returned to the Bistro to spend more time together in a safe, LGBTQ+ friendly space.

The Bistro and the PPC would like to thank the hundreds of people who

attended; the staff of the Bistro and the board of the PPC; ISU Athletics for use of the PA equipment; Hope Church, First Christian Church, and New Covenant Community for the candles and holders; the local media for covering the event and spreading the word; and everyone who helped publicize the event through Facebook and other means. 🌈



19th Annual Family Reunion Picnic Goes on despite Tragedy



Normal, Illinois, JUNE 12

The Prairie Pride Coalition and the B/N Chapter of PFLAG sponsored the community's 19th annual pride picnic on Sunday, June 12 at Normal's Underwood Park.

More than 65 people attended what proved to be a more somber affair as attendees were digesting the terrible news from Orlando. All agreed that it was important to gather to talk, console each other, and enjoy some good food. 🌈



Thoughts and Prayers are NOT enough!



Many of us are wondering what we can do in the wake of the tragedy in Orlando. We may be far away, but we share a connection with our LGBTQI brothers and sisters in Florida. Here are some ideas:

- **Donate blood:** The Central Illinois chapter of the American Red Cross will be hosting blood drives this week and next at the following locations:
 - * Tuesday, June 14 at the Double Tree Hotel from 7-11 a.m.
 - * Wednesday, June 23 at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 - * Friday, June 24 at the Marriott Hotel in Uptown Normal from 12:30-4:30 p.m.
 - * Blood donations may also be given by appointment at the Red Cross Bloomington location: 1 Westport Court, Bloomington—309-662-0500
 - * Alternately, you can also give voice to ending the discriminatory and outdated ban on gay men donating blood by the FDA. Sign the petition here: <https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/lift-blood-donation-ban-gay-and-bisexual-us-citizens>
- **Donate money:**
 - * The official Pulse victims donations spot sponsored by Equality Florida, Florida's LGBT civil rights and advocacy group: <https://www.gofundme.com/PulseVictimsFund>. Every penny raised in this account will go directly to victims of the shooting as well as their families.
 - * Planting Peace is a global nonprofit organization founded for the purpose of spreading peace in a hurting world. They opened a CrowdRise fund to cover medical and funeral costs for the victims of the Pulse shooting. <https://www.crowdrise.com/we-stand-with-pulse-fund>
- **Contact your legislator to share your thoughts about gun control:** The Huffington Post recently published an article giving very quick and easy links for anyone to find their state representatives, senators and congresspeople, and e-mail or phone them directly. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/nicole-silverberg/guide-elected-representatives-gun-control_b_8708154.html
- **Strive to understand and love our Muslim brethren.** They are not responsible for the actions of one.
 - * <http://time.com/4365689/orlando-shooting-muslim-nightclub/>
 - * Learn about Bloomington's Muslim population: <http://www.bloomingtonmosque.com/icbn/index.php>
 - * Consider attending the LGBT Spirituality Panel Discussion taking place on Monday, June 27 at 7 p.m. at Heartland Bank and Trust Co., sponsored by Not in Our Town: Bloomington
- **Be safe, love one another, be OUT and be PROUD!!**

• National HIV Testing Day is June 27



National HIV Testing Day is a reminder to get the facts, get tested, and get involved to take care of yourself and your partners.

An estimated 1.2 million people in the United States are living with HIV, and that number grows by almost 50,000 every year. **One in eight people who have HIV don't know it.** That means they aren't getting the medical care they need to stay healthy and avoid passing HIV to others.

CDC has found that more than 90 percent of new HIV infections in the United States could be prevented by testing and diagnosing people who have HIV and ensuring they receive prompt, ongoing care and treatment. Early linkage to and retention in HIV care is central to managing HIV and promoting health among all people living with HIV. **HIV medicines can keep people with HIV healthy for many years, and greatly reduce the chance of transmitting HIV to their sex partners.**

Get the Facts

Protecting yourself and others against HIV starts with knowledge. Knowing the facts about HIV will help you make informed decisions about sex, drug use, and other activities that may put you and your partners at risk for HIV.

- Learn the basics about HIV, how to prevent HIV transmission, and the steps you can take to protect yourself and others.

- Talk about what you learn with your friends and other people who are important to you. Empower even more people via social media. Share your new knowledge with your friends online.

Get Tested

The only way to know if you are infected with HIV is to get tested.

CDC recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV at least once as part of routine health care, and that people with certain risk factors get tested more often. People with more than one sex partner, people with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and people who inject drugs are likely to be at high risk and should get tested at least once a year. Sexually active gay and bisexual men may benefit from even more frequent testing, depending on their risk. To protect your own health, you should also get tested if you have been sexually assaulted.

If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, CDC recommends HIV testing with each pregnancy, both for your own benefit and to reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to your baby.

See our Basic Testing Q&As for more information.

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/testing.html>

- **Knowing your HIV status gives you the power to control your health and your future.** And getting tested has never been easier. You can ask your health care provider to test you for HIV. Many medical clinics, substance abuse programs, community health centers, and hospitals offer HIV testing. Testing is often free of charge. **You can also visit GetTested and enter your ZIP code.**

- **Text your ZIP code to KNOWIT (566948),** and you will receive a text back with a testing site near you.

- **Contact your local health department.**

- **Get a home testing kit** (the Home Access HIV-1 Test System or the OraQuick In-Home HIV Test) from a drugstore.

Get Involved

HIV testing is only one step. We can all do something to help stop HIV. Here are some ideas about how you and your friends can get involved.


Share your knowledge of HIV or your personal HIV story with others. One of the best ways to increase awareness is through a personal



connection with others. Participants featured in CDC's HIV awareness campaign Let's Stop HIV Together, shared their voices and personal stories to raise HIV awareness, reduce stigma, and champion the power of relationships in the personal and public fight to stop HIV.

- Use social media to increase HIV awareness. Follow @TalkHIV and tweet about National HIV Testing Day using: #NHTD. You can also like Act Against AIDS on Facebook and create your own Let's Stop HIV Together meme. Share your ad and encourage others to do the same.

- Support people living with HIV. Have an open, honest conversation about staying safe and healthy. Listen to the challenges that people living with HIV face and provide support for their special needs.

- Volunteer in your community. The first step to getting involved in HIV prevention is to contact your local AIDS service organizations and/or community health departments. These groups can help identify opportunities or other organizations that may need the support of volunteers. 

To Find an HIV Testing site Near You

For local Information on HIV Testing and prevention call **309.888.5478** or visit <http://health.mcleancountyil.gov/index.aspx?NID=98>

To find information on HIV testing sites in other locations visit <https://gettested.cdc.gov/>

Call 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) to ask for free testing sites in your area.



CI Pride Health Center Offers Weekly Youth Group



Ages 13-19

(ages 12 and under welcome with parental consent)
(When? Every Friday starting ...)

June 3, 2016, 6-8 PM

First United Methodist Church
211 N. School St., Normal, IL

Find us on Facebook by searching:
Central Illinois Pride Center
www.facebook.com/pridehealthcenter

www.cipridehealthcenter.org

We are here to promote the health and well-being of the LGBTQ community of Central Illinois without judgement or discrimination based on race, color, ethnicity, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability. No one will be turned away regardless of insurance.

Just coming out? Need help with friends and family? Need help educating others or need more information for yourself?

There is a safe place for you! Whether you are coming to terms with your sexual orientation, gender identity, both or supporting someone who is, we are here for you!



What we offer:

Meeting with other youth ages 13-19 like you!

Fun social environment!

Educational services and resources throughout Illinois!

Chances to openly discuss the positives and negatives about coming out as LGBTQIA* and/or supporting someone who is!

Non-threatening and non-judgemental environment!

OPEN TO EVERYONE regardless of identity!

Local Counseling Resources Available

The Central Illinois Pride Health Center and Prairie Pride Coalition have put together a list of counselors in Bloomington/Normal and central Illinois who are available to talk with individuals and groups who are struggling with the recent mass murder of 49 people at Pulse nightclub in Orlando. To obtain more information or a list of counselors please email cipridehealthcenter@gmail.com.

Teenagers 13-19 who are seeking help can also attend the weekly LGBTQ youth group sessions Friday evenings, from 6 to 8 PM at the First United Methodist Church, 211 N. School St. in Normal. The group is a project of the Central Illinois Pride Health Center.

Homeless LGBTQ Youth

When an MCLP team conducted a needs survey for PPC, one of the topics that surfaced as a concern for a large number of respondents was LGBTQ youth. One of the greatest areas of need among LGBTQ youth is help for those who are homeless which may comprise 40% of all youth who are homeless.

Diane Zosky, Director of the School of Social Work at ISU, oversaw a project for PPC that studied the problem with special focus on homeless LGBT youth here in McLean County. Many thanks to Diane and the graduate students who undertook the research: Adam Kinzer; Barbara Harris, and Josie Linman.

Part of the problem is just in identifying at risk youth. 8 agencies dealing with homelessness were interviewed. Among the things they reported is the fact that youth that are students often

Project OZ Workshop June 28



Build your strength as an ally for LGBTQ youth!

Participants will learn about current research and trends, terminology and definitions associated with LGBTQ youth, and discuss ways to create a culture of inclusion in your place of work and community.

This training is relevant for anyone who wants to support LGBTQ youth including school personnel, human service agencies, university staff, health care providers, and corporate employees. Presented By: Bonn Wade, LCSW
Bonn Wade holds a master's degree from the University of Chicago and has worked in Chicago- and Miami-based social service agencies for the last 19 years. Bonn joined Chicago House as the Director of the TransLife Center in

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Homeless continued from page 7

do not report that they are homeless, partly because of the fear of being stigmatized, but also because they many not identify themselves as homeless because they find places to sleep at the homes of friends and relatives.

The highest reason for identifying as homeless among LGBT youth is family rejection due to sexual orientation or gender identity. Another reason is aging out of foster care at age 18.

Here are some highlights from the report:


Risks that accompany being homeless are: danger and violence; malnutrition and food insecurity; physical and mental health concerns; engagement in survival sex; lack of stable transportation to school, work, medical facilities, and other services, and the resulting disrupted employment and education; substance abuse; and oppressive encounters with police.

The resulting needs are, of course, housing (emergency, transitional, and long term) that need to be overtly affirming to the special needs of youth that are LGBTQ, mental and physical health services, education, life skills training, sex education, employment training, legal services, transportation, as well as basic things like food, clothing, and toiletries. Transgender support is vital for those youth. Key is early intervention, primary prevention and intervention with families, and supportive adult mentors.

The delivery of necessary services must provide safety, a respectful culture, and permanency and the people who provide the services must be trained to make this happen. There are many gaps in the providing of services.

Here are some recommendations from the report, some of which PPC will be able to support with funding, and by other means: training for service providers; adult mentoring with youth and parents; and advocacy.

Again, PPC is very grateful to Diane Zosky and her team of graduate interns for this great work. PPC will continue to work with Diane and will bring ideas

and plans to you for opportunities to work to reduce LGBTQ youth homelessness. 



lgbt spirituality forum June 27, 7 pm

lgbt spirituality forum

(an interfaith discussion on affirming spiritual outlets for the LGBTQIA+ community)

an evening of discussion led by local religious leaders who understand the importance of LGBT+ persons finding safe places to worship and knowing what spiritual resources are available within our community

There will be time for Q&A / Refreshments Provided

Sponsored by



**Heartland Bank community room
200 W. College Ave. Normal**

monday, june 27th - 7pm



COMMUNITY CALENDAR



June 24, Saturday
PRIDE Weekend at the Bistro
 316 N. Main Street, Bloomington

June 25, Saturday
PRIDE Weekend at the Bistro
 316 N. Main Street, Bloomington



June 26, Sunday
Dash Against Discrimination
 Corn Crib, Raab Road West, Normal
 Check-in begins at 1 p.m.; Run begins at 2 p.m.



June 27, Monday
Spirituality Forum
 Heartland Bank Penthouse meeting Room,
 Uptown Normal



June 28, Tuesday
LGBTQ Youth Support Training by Project OZ
Beyond the Rainbow - Supporting LGBTQ Youth
 ISU Alumni Center, 1110 N. Main Street, Normal



June 28, Tuesday
Not In Our Town 20th Anniversary
 6-9 PM, Old Courthouse Square



July 4, Monday
Independence Day



July 11, Monday
B/N PFLAG
 5:30 PM meeting - Unitarian Universalist Church
 of B/N, 1613 E. Emerson St., Bloomington



August 8, Monday
B/N PFLAG
 5:30 PM meeting - Unitarian Universalist Church
 of B/N, 1613 E. Emerson St., Bloomington



August 27-28, Saturday-Sunday
Sweet Corn Blues Festival
 Uptown Normal. PPC and PFLAG will have an
 information booth. Contact us if you can help.



SEPTEMBER 1, Thursday
Festival ISU
 10 AM - 3 PM, ISU Quad
 PPC and PFLAG will have an information booth.
 Contact us if you can help.



September 5, Monday
Labor Day
 Labor Day Parade, 9 AM - Noon



September 12, Monday
B/N PFLAG
 5:30 PM meeting
 Unitarian Universalist Church of B/N
 1613 E. Emerson St., Bloomington



October 5, Wednesday
**The 4th Amendment in Flux: The Roberts Court,
 Crime Control, and Digital Privacy**
 ACLU of Illinois, Central Illinois Chapter - Mike Gizzi
 and Craig Curtis presenters. Normal Public Library
 Community Room Uptown Normal

RECURRING EVENTS

Fridays - Weekly
LGBTQ Youth Group
 First United Methodist, 211 N. School St., Normal

Thursdays - Weekly
Bingo at 9 PM, at the Bistro
Karaoke at 10 PM, at the Bistro
 316 N. Main Street, Bloomington

Fridays - Weekly
Improv Attack, 8:30 PM at the Bistro
 316 N. Main Street, Bloomington

Project OZ continued from page 7

2012, is an appointee on Cyndi Lauper's
 Forty To Nine Project, and serves on
 the boards of The LYTE Collective and
 Task Force & Community Social Services.
 Bonn's co-trainer, Monica James, has
 20+ years' experience as a community

organizer, and is currently a board
 member at the Transformative Justice
 Law Project of Illinois.

CEUs are available, and lunch is
 provided. For questions, email
 Projectoz@projectoz.org or call us at
 1-309-827-0377.

WHEN

Tuesday, June 28, 2016 from 9:00 AM to
 2:00 PM (CDT)

WHERE

Illinois State University: Alumni Center -
 1101 North Main St., Normal, IL 61761



Recommended indications for PrEP

RECOMMENDED INDICATIONS FOR PREP USE BY MSM

- Adult man
- Without acute or established HIV infection
- Any male sex partners in past 6 months (if also has sex with women, see below)
- Not in a monogamous partnership with a recently tested, HIV-negative man AND at least one of the following
- Any anal sex without condoms (receptive or insertive) in past 6 months
- Any STI diagnosed or reported in past 6 months
- Is in an ongoing sexual relationship with an HIV-positive male partner

RECOMMENDED INDICATIONS FOR PREP USE BY HETEROSEXUALLY ACTIVE MEN AND WOMEN

- Adult person
- Without acute or established HIV infection
- Any sex with opposite sex partners in past 6 months
- Not in a monogamous partnership with a recently tested HIV-negative partner AND at least one of the following
- Is a man who has sex with both women and men (behaviorally bisexual) [also evaluate indications for PrEP use by Box B1 criteria]
- Infrequently uses condoms during sex with 1 or more partners of unknown HIV status who are known to be at substantial risk of HIV infection (IDU or bisexual male partner)
- Is in an ongoing sexual relationship with an HIV-positive partner

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/prepguidelines2014.pdf> 

**The
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PPC Board

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

Dash Against Discrimination



eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

McLean County

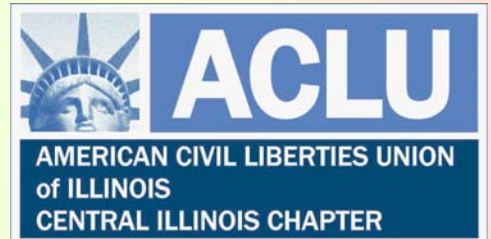
The Prairie Pride Coalition will participate in an awareness fair at the YWCA's Dash Against Discrimination Walk/Run at 2 PM Sunday June 26, at the Corn Crib in Normal.

The PPC will be one of the groups that will have information available to share with the community.

The fair is free, but those who wish to enter the walk/run should arrive early to register. Be forewarned ... this is a **"color-a-thon"** where participants will be blasted with colored powders along the course.

All money raised will go toward the YWCA's mission impact programming.

4th Amendment in Flux



October 5, Wednesday

**The 4th Amendment in Flux: The
Roberts Court, Crime Control, and
Digital Privacy**

Join with the ACLU of Illinois, Central Illinois Chapter to hear Mike Gizzi and Craig Curtis present a program on the 4th Amendment to the Constitution at the Normal Public Library Community Room in Uptown Normal. Free and open to the public. 