



Rainbow Winter 2016 Connection



THIS MONTH'S FEATURE

Mon. Feb. 15 - Sat. Feb. 27:
Legacy Wall Exhibit at ISU
 Mon. Feb. 15: *Opening Reception & Carlos Figueroa on Bayard Rustin*
 Tue. Feb. 18: *Bill Kemp on Albert Cashier*
 Tue. Feb. 25: *Tracy Bain on Barbara Gittings*

LGBT Legacy Wall comes to ISU and Normal in February



The Prairie Pride Coalition and ISU's Milner Library are the lead sponsors of The Legacy Wall, a traveling interactive LGBT history exhibit that will be on display on the main floor of the library beginning on Monday, Feb. 15 through Saturday, Feb. 27.

The free exhibit was created and is curated by the [Legacy Project](#), a Chicago-based non-profit dedicated to recognizing the contributions LGBT individuals have made to world history and culture.

The large [Legacy Wall](#) exhibit features stories of LGBT people from all walks of life throughout history who have made great contributions in more than 20 distinct fields. Featured individuals include social justice pioneer Jane Addams; civil rights organizer Bayard Rustin; British mathematician Alan Turing; U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan; astronaut Sally Ride; artist Michelangelo; and the Rev. Mychal Judge, the "Saint of 9/11." In addition to historical content, the exhibit also highlights the challenges faced by LGBT youth and includes data on the effectiveness of including LGBT-

related content in general education for substantially lowering the incidence of bullying in schools.

PPC and the library are working with other entities on campus to schedule curricular and co-curricular


Continued on page 2

Local Groups and Individuals Exploring Formation of Transgender Program

Representatives from the Prairie Pride Coalition, the Central Illinois Pride Health Center, and the Bistro recently gathered to discuss the possibility of forming a transgender support group/network in Bloomington/Normal.

Informal transgender support groups have come and gone in the past few years but everyone agrees that Bloomington/Normal and the surrounding area needs a formal effort that addresses the needs of members of the transgender community.

Various ideas discussed included a schedule of quarterly activities and a mentor/support network for younger people struggling with gender identity issues.

All agreed that feedback from interested individuals is IMPORTANT! If you would like to be involved in the development of this idea or would like to attend activities please e-mail us at info@ppc-il.org so that we can follow up with you. 

- P2 • Legacy Wall Events at ISU's Milner Library & Bone Student Center
- P3 • Illinois HIV Connect
 - MCHD HIV Testing
- P4 • PPC Board Member Moves On
 - Your Normal LGBT Film Festival Wrap-Up

INSIDE

- P4 • LGBTQ Playwrights Planning to Submit for Festival
 - FDA Updates Donor Referral Policy
- P5 • At the Bistro
 - Pride Health Center Taking Shape

Legacy from page 1



opportunities associated with the wall:

- #A display adjacent to the wall will highlight ISU LGBTQ alums and staff members and the legacies they are creating through their careers and volunteer activities;
- #Faculty members plan to incorporate the exhibit and speaker events into their curriculum;
- #Local gay-straight alliances will be invited to special events during the two-week period.

The PPC and library have collaborated on these efforts with various departments including Diversity Advocacy; ISU Pride; the ISU LGBTQ Institute; Women's and Gender Studies; and the Office of the President.

The wall at ISU will be on display during the library's open hours: 7 a.m. to 3 a.m. Mondays through Thursdays; 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fridays; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays; and 10 a.m. to 3 a.m. Sundays.

Note: Please see article on this page for the lineup of special speakers scheduled to give presentations during the run of the exhibit.



Legacy Wall Events at ISU's Milner Library and Bone Student Center

There will be an opening reception at The Legacy Wall exhibit on February 15th and Carlos Figueroa of Ithaca College will be speaking in the Prairie Room of the Bone Student Center at 7 PM on Bayard Rustin: Black Gay Quaker



Tracy Baim
Photo by Hal Baim

Director of Event Logistics and Life Safety at ISU. Gittings founded the New York chapter of The Daughters of Bilitis, an early lesbian rights organization, in 1958.

book, *Barbara Gittings: Gay Pioneer* at 7 PM February 25 on the second floor of Milner Library in an interview with Barb Dallinger, Associate



Thinker and Civil Rights and Labor Activist. Rustin may be most well known for being the organizational coordinator for the 1963 March on Washington where about 250,000 people heard Martin Luther King, Jr. give his "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.



Prairie Pride Coalition which is responsible for bringing The Legacy Wall to ISU is sponsoring two evening events at the exhibit.



Librarian Bill Kemp of the McLean County Museum of History will be speaking on the second floor of Milner Library at 7 PM



February 8 on Woman in Blue: Union Army Private Albert D.J. Cashier of



ALBERT D. J. CASHIER
OF
COMPANY G, 95TH ILLINOIS REGIMENT
Photographed November, 1864

Illinois – The Life of Transgender Civil War Veteran Albert Cashier. Cashier lived out his post-Civil War days in Saunemin, IL, about 10 miles east of Pontiac.

Tracy Baim, Windy City Times Publisher and

Executive Editor, will talk about her

ISU Pride will be holding their regular meeting at the exhibit on the 17th at 7 PM at which they will do a "State Your Legacy" exercise in which participants will be asked to reflect on their own lives and how they will contribute to the ongoing LGBT Legacy in the future. 🌈

Wall Display at IWU

Prior to its exhibition at Illinois State University, the LGBT Legacy Wall will be on display at Illinois Wesleyan University's Ames Library Monday, February 1, through Sunday, February 14. For more information visit www.iwu.edu. A "Nation(s) Divided?" theme event, sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion/Office of Residential Life.



HIV Care Connect



Illinois HIV Care Connect is an extensive, statewide network of medical case management, health care and support services for people living with HIV. By enrolling, HIV positive individuals can find the services they need to achieve optimal health and self-sufficiency.

Once enrolled, people living with HIV receive confidential medical case management services at no charge, regardless of income. Also, they might qualify for a range of other services including mental health care; outpatient health care; nutritional therapy; medical transportation; legal assistance; and utility and short-term rent assistance.

Bloomington/Normal and McLean County is part of the program's Region Two that is served by the University of Illinois College of Medicine and the Heart of Illinois HIV/AIDS Center in Peoria. Phone number is 800-801-8751.

For more information on Illinois HIV Care Connect visit the network's www.hivcareconnect.com



McLean County Health Department HIV Testing



HIV Counseling & Testing

The McLean County Health Department is your partner in HIV/AIDS prevention. Through counseling, testing, community education, outreach, and surveillance, the department works to prevent and control the spread of HIV / AIDS in McLean County. At this time, there is no vaccine or cure for HIV or AIDS. An estimated 1.2 million people are currently living with HIV or AIDS in the U.S. In 2011, Illinois ranked 6th highest in the nation for the number of HIV / AIDS cases.

Safe Confidential HIV Testing & Counseling

MCHD offers different HIV testing options, which a counselor will discuss with you.

Testing Times

Appointments are accepted Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00

a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.


Walk-ins are accepted Tuesdays 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

McLean County Health Department
200 W. Front St.
Bloomington, IL 61701

Do you have Questions or Need more Information?

If you have a question about HIV/AIDS or would more information, please contact HIV Prevention Counselor by email at HIV prevention counselor, by phone at (309) 888-5478, or text only at 309-306-1768.

Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Testing
The McLean County Health Department's Personal Health

Clinic provides confidential testing, treatment, and follow up for gonorrhea, syphilis, and chlamydia. There is no residency requirement for individuals who want testing. 



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/>



PPC Board Member Moves On

Your Normal LGBT Film Festival Wrap-up

LGBTQ Playwrights Invited to Submit for Festival



The Prairie Pride Coalition is sad to lose board member Marcus Smith who is departing Bloomington/Normal to begin a new position at State Farm Insurance's Dallas hub.

Marcus's involvement with PPC began several years ago when he volunteered as a member of our film festival committee. He subsequently ascended to become chair of that committee and then became a member of our nine-person board.

Marcus's work ethic, organizational skills, can-do attitude, winning personality and warm smile will be missed by all of us. We wish him and Rob the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives! 🌈

The sixth annual "Your Normal LGBT Film Festival" completed a successful run last October. A stellar lineup of LGBT film festival favorites was screened during the four-day event that also included an appearance by the director of the film GAME FACE as well as a talk back featuring one of the actors from the feature HENRY GAMBLE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.

Other highlights of the festival included presentation of the Bruce T. Lang Legacy Award to local LGBT activists and former PPC board members Peggy Burton and Donna O'Crowly. Peggy and Donna were part of the historical lawsuit by same-sex couples that led to Illinois adopting marriage equality.

The Prairie Pride Coalition and the Normal Theater would like to thank everyone who attended and provided advertising support for the festival. Be sure to check upcoming issues of The Rainbow Connection for news about the 2016 edition of the festival. 🌈



FDA Updates Blood

FDA Lifts Ban On Blood Donations By Gay And Bisexual Men - Updated December 22, 2015. (Abridged)

The Food and Drug Administration is relaxing a 32-year-old ban on blood donations from gay and bisexual men and announced that it was replacing a lifetime prohibition with a new policy that will allow gay and bisexual men to donate blood, but only if they have not had sexual contact with another man for at least one year. "Relying on sound scientific evidence, we've taken great

care to ensure the revised policy continues to protect our blood supply," said Peter Marks, deputy director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

Gay-rights advocates and many medical groups have been urging the FDA to lift the ban for years. They argue the policy is discriminatory because it singles out gay and bisexual men and



New Route Theatre is accepting submission of new plays by Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, or Queer playwrights for a LGBTQ staged-reading festival.

The company, based in Bloomington-Normal, IL, will select three plays to be presented April 22-24 in readings open to the public. All submissions made by February 20, 2016 will be given full consideration.

Submit materials and/or questions with attention to series curator, Duane Boutte at: new.route.theatre@gmail.com

This festival is presented in partnership with Prairie Pride Coalition. 🌈

Donor Deferral Policy

unnecessary because blood donors can be screened for HIV.

"It perpetuates the stigma that HIV is a gay disease," says Kelsey Louie, who heads Gay Men's Health Crisis, an advocacy group.

The FDA says it will monitor the new policy to see whether the restrictions could eventually be relaxed more.

For full text of this press release, visit:

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm478031.htm>



AT THE BISTRO



The Bistro, 316 N. Main Street in downtown Bloomington, is offering a fun fall full of great music and shows. Upcoming events include:

22 JAN	ADAM LEE Solo w/ Milky Classic (The Goddamn Gallows), and Brett Conant Sat 8 PM - 11 guests	The Bistro Bloomington
23 JAN	SLOW DOWN SCARLET w/ The Chair Sat 8 PM - 7 guests	The Bistro Bloomington
NEXT MONTH		
06 FEB	DOG OF PANIC w/ Gay Neighbors, Shizoo, & Tyler from Unemployed Architect Sat 8 PM - 1 guest	The Bistro Bloomington
20 FEB	VAYA w/ Alex and the XOs Sat 8 PM - Hosted by Chemistry Events	The Bistro Bloomington
27 FEB	HOLD - EVENT TBA Sat 8 PM - Hosted by The Bistro	Chemistry Events Bloomington
LATER THIS YEAR		
02 MAR	ADAM LEE w/ Full Band, Plus Matt Woods and 1 More TBA Wed 8 PM - 8 guests	The Bistro Bloomington
06 MAR	THE FLURALS w/ Red Scarves and Tina Sparkle Sat 8 PM - 1 guest	The Bistro Bloomington
12 MAR	BEN STALETS Sat 8 PM - Hosted by The Bistro	Chemistry Events Bloomington
26 MAR	WOOD CHICKENS Sat 8 PM - 1 guest	The Bistro Bloomington
09 APR	JAKE DOWN Solo w/ Jerm Plus Sat 8 PM - 5 guests	The Bistro Bloomington



RAINBOW CONNECTION

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Pride Health Center Taking Shape

McLean County, IL —After several months of rallying the troops, the Central Illinois PRIDE Health Center is beginning to gel. The purposed health center will provide physical and behavioral health services for the LGBTQ community without discrimination or the ability to pay.

In an effort to raise awareness and encourage support in our community for this health care facility, many meetings have taken place during the last half of 2015. PRIDE Health Center board members have reached out to McLean County Board members, Bloomington City Council members, the Community Health Care Clinic, PATH, Project Oz, the McLean County Health department, and YWCA McLean County. Outside of McLean County, Central Illinois Friends of People with AIDS, the Up Center in Champaign, The Phoenix Center in Springfield, and other such organizations.

The board is process of submitting for a 501c3 non-profit status with the State of Illinois. In doing so, Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws have been drafted and are currently up for final review and approval. PRIDE Health Center would also like to find a suitable building space that could be used for the center. The tax deductible donation of a lease for such a building would be optimal at this time. Financial resources are currently limited. A Go Fund Me campaign to help launch this effort will be underway once the 501c3 status is in place so that all donations will be tax deductible.

PRIDE Health Center board members who have volunteered their time to spearhead this non-profit include: Len Meyer, executive director; Madonna Courtright, marketing communications & public relations consultant; Denise Goff, clinician; Jan Lancaster, business advisor; Kelley Tice, grant writer; James Waller, legal counsel; and Kevin Woods, fund development consultant.



The board currently seeks other members with experience in finance, business, and non-profit management. A search is also in progress for a doctor to serve as medical advisor. If you or anyone you know would be interested in participating in building up this important community service, please contact Len Meyer at cipridehealthcenter@gmail.com or call 815.893.7459.

To learn more about the health center and keep in touch with its progress, check out their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pridehealthcenter

