

2 0 J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 3

PFLAG^{of} Door County

5-6:30PM THE 3RD SUNDAY AT HOPE CHURCH, STURGEON BAY



Advocacy, education and support for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, their families and friends.

- **New Baby!**
- **Trans* series**
- **IL Equality?**
- **Dear Abby**
- **Thank You!**

CONGRATULATIONS!!



LIAM - BORN 19 DECEMBER 2012
PARENTS: RYAN AND MOI

HOPE CHURCH TRANS* SERIES

Hope Church will be doing a series of talks on gender identity at their adult forum. The forum begins at 9:00am and are held in the Fellowship Hall, the same location we usually have for our monthly meetings.

This is the current schedule for the adult forum:

1/27	Beth Mitchell	Transgender 101
2/3	Michael Munson	Anti-transgender Violence
2/10	Rudy and Shirley Senarighi	Film, "What's a Family"

SAME SEX MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN ILLINOIS A POSSIBILITY

Illinois lawmakers likely will introduce House Bill 5170, "The Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act" during the lame duck session of the legislature in January.

Illinois State Senator, Heather Steans, the chief sponsor of the bill in the state's upper chamber, sees an opportunity to ride the wave of increasing support for same-sex marriage throughout the country.

"I really think that there's a national sea change that's happening on this and I think it's helped [other legislators] evolve on this issue," Steans said. Steans went on to say, "We have a governor now, who two years ago was running on a platform of civil unions, and now he supports it. It's just been a real sea change here."

Openly gay state Rep. Greg Harris, a Democrat who is championing the measure in the House, called the issue "very straightforward." "We treat all couples with the same respect and dignity in the eyes of the law and we protect the rights of religious institutions to either consecrate or not consecrate marriages within their faith as they see fit," Harris said.

Illinois Governor Pat Quinn and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel support the measure, which, if passed would make Illinois the 10th state to legalize same-sex marriage.

Three states—Washington, Maine, and Maryland—approved marriage equality by popular vote in the November 2012 election, joining Iowa, Massachusetts, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Connecticut with similar laws in place.

FATHER AND SON RECONCILIATION STALLS AFTER EMAIL EXCHANGE

01/03/2013

DEAR ABBY: I cut my father out of my life years ago, after he declared he could not support my decision to adopt three children from a Russian orphanage with my longtime companion. The adoption announcement coincided with my "coming out" to Dad, who is now married to his third wife.

It must have been a lot for him to take in at one time. He told me plainly that he could not support my decision because he could not "understand" it. He has never met our children, and does not acknowledge them as his grandchildren.

This year on Father's Day, I sent him a card and he replied by email that he was glad to hear from me and he hoped for a reconciliation, but was not sure how to go about it. I responded by email that I was cautiously optimistic that we could reignite a respectful relationship.

I haven't heard back from him and I suspect it's because he saw that I had changed my last name from his to my husband's, a decision I made after our marriage. My father was not aware that I had gotten married. I think I have overwhelmed him again, which has rendered him speechless. Please advise me on how to proceed. -- PRODIGAL SON IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY RESPONSE

DEAR SON: Call your father, tell him you love him and that you would like to schedule a visit with him -- but would like to send him some reading material before you do. Then contact PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). The phone number is 202-467-8180 and you'll find them on the Internet at www.pflag.org. They will be happy to provide you with literature for your dad to help him "understand." Frankly, he has my sympathy because before you hit him with the "double

whammy," he didn't have a clue about who you really are.

Whether your name change overwhelmed him or not is irrelevant. The ball is now in your court, so if you want to have a hope of a relationship with your father, you will have to make the next move.

http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby/?uc_full_date=20130103

RELATED FACEBOOK POSTS FROM PFLAG NATIONAL

January 3 -

Thank you Dear Abby for once again referring someone to PFLAG for the information and resources their family needs to reconcile and accept each other.

January 4 -

Best part of our week -when the person Dear Abby gave the advice to actually called our offices and we were able to send off a whole packet of information to him. It is entirely possible that PFLAG and our network of volunteers and supporters really are the best thing since sliced bread.

THANK YOU!!

Donations are starting to come in! Thank you to those individuals and businesses who have contributed to PFLAG of Door County!

STAY CONNECTED

To stay updated on the latest news and actions from PFLAG National, be sure to:

Stay current with PFLAG National by visiting www.pflag.org.

Keep in touch with PFLAG National on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pflag.

Follow PFLAG National on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/#!/PFLAG>.

Check out recent posts on our PFLAG National blog at <http://blog.pflag.org/>.

Watch PFLAG National on our YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/pflagnational>.

Calendar of Meetings and Other Events

Appleton

PFLAG of Appleton

PFLAG of Appleton meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Appleton Harmony Café, 233 College Avenue at 6:30 p.m. For more information, please email: pflagappleton@gmail.com.

Valued Families

(Support Group for LGBTQ parents with children)

Note: this group disbanded in late 2010. If anyone would like more information about this group or similar groups in the area, please call Jesse Heffernan, 920-734-CAFÉ (2233).

Spectrum

(LGBTQ and allied social group 18 years and up) Spectrum meets Mondays from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Harmony Café--Fox Valley, 233 East College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911, 920 734-2233.

[See also under Green Bay below]

GBLT Partnership

(Offers leadership development and support for teens ages 14-18)

GBLT Partnership meets weekly on Tuesdays from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Harmony Café--Fox Valley, 233 College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911. Tel. 920-734-2233.

[See also under Green Bay below]

Door County

PFLAG Door County

PFLAG Door County meets on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 5:00 p.m. at the Hope UCC Church, 12th and Michigan, Sturgeon Bay. For more information:

www.pflagdoorcounty.org or richardgardiner2001@gmail.com
920-421-8815

Calendar of Meetings and Other Events

Green Bay

Conversation Cafe

The following happens at the Harmony Café (West Mason Street (next to Toys R Us)):
Conversation Café takes place every Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., hosted by Cricket.
For a complete list of the services provided by the Harmony Café, click on the following link:
www.focol.org/harmonycafe/

The Green Bay Transgender Group

(The Green Bay Transgender group meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Harmony Café.

Spectrum

(LGBTQ and allied social group 18 years and up)
Spectrum meets Tuesdays from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Harmony Café, Green Bay, 1660 West Mason Street, Green Bay, WI 54303. Tel. 920-569-1593.
[See also under Appleton above.]

Manitowoc

PFLAG Manitowoc County

PFLAG Manitowoc County meets the 1st Thursday of the month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the St. James Church, 434 N. 8th St.
pflagmanty@gmail.com
1-920-323-3942

GBLT Partnership

GBLT Partnership (Offers leadership development and support for teens ages 14-18)

GBLT Partnership meets weekly on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Harmony Café-Green Bay, 1660 West Mason Street, Green Bay, WI 54303. Tel. 920-569-1593.

[See also under Appleton above.]

LaCrosse

PFLAG LaCrosse

PFLAG LaCrosse meets every Tuesday starting at 6:30 p.m. at the LGBT Resource Center of the 7 Rivers Region.
www.7riverslgbt.org

Adult-Gay/ Straight Alliance of Green Bay

A-GSA, Adult Gay/Straight Alliance of Green Bay, is a new advocacy group located

in Green Bay for families and friends of persons who identify as GLBT.

A-GSA provides opportunities for dialogue about topics related to sexual orientation. All sessions are respectful, nonjudgmental, and strictly confidential. A-GSA charges no fees. All are welcome.

Meetings are 6:00-8:00pm, second Tuesday of the month (September through May)

"The English Room" at the Union Congregational United Church of Christ

716 S. Madison St. Green Bay, WI 54301

Contacts: Michele Becker, 920-432-1283 or John and Karen Wirch 920-434-9960.

Calendar of Meetings and Other Events

Madison

PFLAG Madison

Straight Spouse Group

PFLAG Madison meets the 3rd Sunday every month except June, July and August, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. The Straight Spouse Group meets at 4:00 p.m., immediately following the PFLAG Group meeting. See www.pflag-madison.org for directions and agenda topics.

Point

PFLAG Point

PFLAG Point meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. No permanent meeting place has been determined. Link on the following for more information: www.pflagpoint.com or phone 715-572-6922.

Milwaukee

PFLAG Milwaukee

PFLAG Milwaukee meets on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 5:00 p.m. at the Martin Luther Church in Milwaukee. See the following for more information: www.milwaukee-pflag.org.

Oshkosh

PFLAG of Greater Oshkosh

PFLAG of Greater Oshkosh meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 137 Algoma Blvd. in Oshkosh. Contact information: pflagoshkosh@gmail.com.

Newsletter Contact Information:

PFLAG Sturgeon Bay/Door County
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
920-421-8875

Website: www.pflagdoorcounty.org.

E-mail: pflag@doorcounty.com

Also find us on Facebook: PFLAG Door County

Editor/Secretary: Beth Mitchell benmitche@mac.com

If you would like to be removed from the PFLAG e-mail list, please let us know by replying to this e-mail and we will remove your address.

Washburn

PFLAG Washburn

PFLAG Washburn meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. on the lower level of the Washburn Public Library, 307 Washington Avenue, Washburn. For further information, please call 715-209-1100.