

# GLAD Chat



P.O. Box 3783  
Decatur, IL 62524  
[www.gladdecatur.com](http://www.gladdecatur.com)

Volume 23 Issue 4

April 2016

## **April GLAD Social**

In April Pixie Fennessey will discuss religious movements and their effect on the LGBT population in Uganda as well as show the critically acclaimed film *God Loves Uganda* (<http://godlovesuganda.com>).

The feature-length documentary is a powerful exploration of the evangelical campaign to change African culture with values imported from America's Christian Right. The film follows American and Ugandan religious leaders fighting "sexual immorality" and missionaries trying to convince Ugandans to follow Biblical law. Filmmaker Roger Ross Williams exposes the missionary movement in Uganda as an outgrowth of Africa's colonialist past and a twenty-first century crusade to recreate a continent of people in the image and likeness of America's most extreme fundamentalists.

Doors will open at 6:30; we will eat at 7:00.

## **LGBT Advocacy Day**

On Wednesday April 13th, from 11:00am to 5:00pm, Equality Illinois is hosting a day-long advocacy event in Springfield complete with lobbying training, lunch, and meetings with legislators and other officials.

Got to <http://www.equalityillinois.us/events/2016-lgbt-advocacy-day/> to register.

Schedule:

11AM – 12PM – Advocacy training and lunch at the State House Inn (101 E Adams St, Springfield, IL 62701)

12PM – 5PM – Meetings with legislators and public officials, both individually and as a large group. More information on exact meetings to come will be announced prior to the event. Check back for more information.

5PM – 6PM – Closing event and reception at the Illinois State Library (300 S 2nd St, Springfield, IL 62701)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

April 9 6:30 PM  
GLAD Social. UUFD  
3773 N MacArthur  
Rd. Decatur

April 27 6:00 PM  
GLAD Board Meeting  
DMH Cafeteria

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## Stonewall

May 7th at 7:00pm, CORAL is sponsoring *Stonewall* at The Legacy Theater in Springfield. The doors (and bar) open at 6:00. Tickets are \$10.00 in advance, and can be purchased from Jim Barr—(217) 412-4749—or \$12 at the door. Discussion follows the movie in the Legacy Lounge. Accessibility is limited for the physically challenged. Please call 217-528-9760.

From IMDB.com:

- The plot revolves around the 1969 Stonewall Riots, the violent clash that kicked off the gay rights movement in New York City. The drama centers on Danny Winters, who flees to New York, leaving behind his sister. He finds his way to the Stonewall Inn, where he meets Trevor before catching the eye of Ed Murphy, manager of the Stonewall. He colludes with corrupt police and exploits homeless youth.

## Prairie Pride Coalition Voices of Pride

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 at 7:00pm and 24 at 2:00pm at 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 7:00pm and April 24 at 2:00. 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 8:30pm and April 24 at 4:30pm. The cast for **ReConnect** will include Nathan Brandon Gaik, Brigitte Richard, George Jackson, Joseph Johnson, Samuel James Willis, Marya Manak, Kelsey Brunner, Rachel Hettrick, Anastasia Ferguson and Wes Melton.

**Thingification**, written and performed by Duriel 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 7:00pm and April 24 at 6:00pm.

**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 8:30pm and April 24 at 7:30pm. **Bedfellows** will feature Duane Boutte and Dave Krostal.

New Route Theatre's intent is to make this an annual event along with our Black Voices Matter festival that we present 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](mailto:new.route.theatre@gmail.com) or find New Route Theatre on Facebook.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Brothers & Sisters Together

RSVP to Buff or Jerry at (217) 494-8567

April 8 7:00pm  
Sgt. Pepper's Café

April 15th Mekong Café

April 22 Café Brio

April 29 Lime Street Café

## **Martha [*Lesbian*] Living Coming Out**

I wonder if millennials will ever understand what a dangerous, stress-producing thing “coming out” used to be. For me, if it was necessary or if it was the right thing considering the circumstances, I did it. In the beginning I may have even been militant about it, but even then it made me nervous. Until recently, the most people I came out to at a single time was years ago when Illinois was garnering support for a bill to prohibit gay marriage, and Channel 20 asked the community for a couple to interview. No one stepped forward, so I did. Ann didn’t want to do it, and it scared the hell out of me. But a few weeks before this, another lesbian couple had been interviewed for the *Illinois State Journal-Register*. The article was respectful as it told the story of a lesbian family, with children. So I had some hope.

Anyway, WICS sent an interviewer and a cameraman to our home and they started rolling. I barely remember it, but the way WICS couched the interview with, “They say they’re in love and they want to get married,” offended me. I felt it took something that was precious to me and turned it into a gaudy roadside attraction. Probably we weren’t the best people to do the interview, simply because I hadn’t learned to count to ten before I let people know what’s bothering me, so I offended Channel 20. The next day everyone at Ann’s work thought it was great. At my bank job, most people wouldn’t even meet my eyes. But I didn’t get fired, as one of our community members had been after being open in the media about his life.

I’m older now and I really don’t care what others think—frankly, there’s no reason to. While this paradigm shift seems to have come quick, people of my generation know the battle was long and hard. Then one day I came home from work and Ann jumped up to meet me, asking if I would marry her. Gay marriage had become legal in Illinois. I’d been so focused on getting Gay Marriage that I hadn’t considered what gay marriage would be like, or what would be required of me.

(cont. on next page)

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I recently retired from teaching and had a much needed knee replacement. Little did I know what was ahead. Every time I checked in at the doctor's office, I had to give certain information: my birth date, my address, my insurance and the person to contact in case of an emergency. For this surgery, I had to give detailed information on the person who would be helping me at home. The first day at the first reception desk I was asked who Ann was to me. I said, "She's my wife." When I got back in the doctor's office and the nurse was going over all that information with me, she said, "Okay, and Ann is your sister?" I said, "No. She's my wife." Flustered a bit, the nurse said, "But it says right here she's your sister." I said, "Please correct it." Then the doctor came in and he was talking to me about the amount of help I'd need the first couple of weeks post-surgery. I told him, fudging a little, that my spouse (a nice gender neutral word) would be there. The doctor said, "Does he work outside the home?" I told him, "My spouse is my wife and she is retired." I could see this was the beginning of a pattern. The people I had to come out to were polite. Although some said to Ann, "I'm sorry," this could mean all sorts of things: sorry she got married, sorry it was to me, sorry for what? When I checked in at St. John's hospital, the woman at the desk said, "And Ann is your fiancée." I said, "She is now my wife." When I checked in to outpatient services, the nurse said, "I see here you're divorced." I said, "I've remarried." And on we went. I had so many different statuses because every time, over the years, I was asked about marital status, there was no box to check for me.

This went on consistently. The best reaction I got was in the hospital late in the evening a young student nurse came in to help me get up. Ann was sitting there reading. The student nurse asked, "Is this a family member?" I said, "Yes. This is my wife." Without missing a beat the young woman asked, "How long have you two been together?" I answered, "Twenty-years." She said, "Wow, how'd you do that?" I felt kind of warm inside and realized I didn't know how we did that. This millennial actually went straight to the most important part of our love. It's stamina. It's endurance despite all the things that life's thrown at us in an environment that wasn't supportive. I'm not sure how much history that the student nurse knew. But it was enough to be happy for us.