

GLAD Chat

Volume 20 Issue 6

June 2013



“ALL PRIDE COLORS” THEME OF JUNE 8TH SOCIAL

In honor of Gay Pride Month, the June 8th GLAD Social will feature the theme “All Pride Colors.”

The social will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 8th at the Peerless Corporate Training Center,

1304 N. 20th St. The potluck begins at 7:00p.m. GLAD will supply the tableware and drinks.

We ask you to bring a dish to share and to please donate \$5 toward our expenses.

Mark your calendars for the 8^h. We hope to see you there to celebrate all your pride colors.



MARRIAGE EQUALITY NOT DEAD YET

As most of you are probably aware of by now, the Marriage Equality Bill was not brought to the floor of the Illinois House for a vote on May 31st.

It should be noted, however, that Illinois marriage equality is not completely dead for 2013. On the evening of the 31st, bill sponsor Greg Harris announced the proposed law

would be re-introduced in the November veto session of the House.

And on June 1st, it was revealed that a second path had been made by Speaker of the House Michael Madigan’s extension of the bill’s approval deadline to August 31st. This means that, conceivably, if a special session is held

this summer for pension reform, the Marriage Equality Bill could be voted on then.

For full details of Madigan’s extension, go to: <http://www.illinoisobserver.net/2013/06/01/madigan-grants-same-sex-marriage-bill-approval-deadline-extension/>

CORAL PRIDE PICNIC JUNE 15 IN SPRINGFIELD

The Coalition of Rainbow Alliances, CORAL, (of which GLAD is a member) is sponsoring its annual Pride Picnic on Saturday, June 15th at 5 p.m. at Lincoln Park – Nelson Center, Shelter Number Four in Springfield.

This popular annual event is free to the LGBT community. CORAL will provide the meat and beverages. They ask that those coming bring a side dish. Buff tells us this is the 32nd annual picnic. That’s quite a tradition. Help celebrate what is

probably one of this area’s first local Gay Pride events.

If you have any lawn games you’d like to share, please bring those along too.

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June 8:

GLAD Social, 6:30 p.m. Peerless

June 13 & 14:

Richland Diversity Conference (P2)

June 15:

CORAL Picnic
5pm Springfield

June 26:

May GLAD Board Meeting
5:30 p.m. DMH Cafeteria

June 29:

June Allison’s Birthday
(P2)

For more information or questions on any events please join us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/groups/GLAD1/

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SEND JUNE ALLISON A CARD FOR HER JUNE 29th BIRTHDAY

Longtime GLAD member June Allison is having a birthday June 29. How about sending her a card? You can send a card to her at Symphony of Decatur, 2530 N. Monroe Street, Decatur, IL 62526 or to her home address 2134 W. Ridgeview Dr., Decatur, IL 62521.

June has been moved up to the 4th floor of Symphony (formerly Aspen Ridge) as the second floor is being renovated and redecorated. She and Chelso are able to go out to see movies and have dinner from time to time. She loves to have visitors. All you have to do is sign in at the front desk and ask for her room number.

A phone call is great too. Her phone is 620-2134.

RICHLAND'S 13th ANNUAL DIVERSITY CONFERENCE JUNE 13th & 14th

This month Richland Community College will be sponsoring its 13th Annual Conference on Diversity and Globalization. This year's theme is Cultural Capital Revolution. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Julianne Malveaux, a labor economist, noted author and commentator.

The conference will be held on June 13th and 14th. It starts at 1 p.m. on Thursday with 2 sessions offered and continues all day on Friday. For a complete list of the sessions and guest speakers go to <http://diversity.richland.edu/>

For registration information go to: <http://diversity.richland.edu/registration>



Hats off to GLAD's own Linda Ryherd-Schroeder, who was interviewed on WAND-TV May 30th in regards to the Marriage Equality Bill. To watch the interview go to http://www.wandtv.com/global/video/popup/pop_playerLaunch.asp?vt1=v&clipFormat=flv&clipId1=8945028&a

We are also pleased to announce that WAND reporter Paula Thornton requested to join the GLAD Facebook group last month. As of May 30th, she is the 84th member of our group.

As some of you may be aware, the popular Clinton auto-themed eatery Ted's Garage was the scene of a major fire on Easter Sunday (3/31). Unfortunately the owner, Scott Baum, has decided not to rebuild the business. Ted's was the destination for several of our August socials in past years. We'll miss the tasty food and fine customer service we got there.

Warm weather has returned and that can only mean one thing --- it's GLAD street cleaning time again. We sponsor four blocks on South Monroe Street that we try to pick up once a month.

If you are interested in helping (it takes about a half hour) contact John at jpoling@mchsi.com

CHUCK JORDAN'S PASSING

We are sad to report the passing of GLAD member Chuck Jordan on April 27th.

Chuck and Gabino attended GLAD functions on and off for several years. Chuck served on the Decatur Area Artist Against AIDS committee, and was a great help for last DAAAA event that was held in 2009. He and Mark Doyle prepared the food for the opening night reception (those in attendance may recall the appetizers were both dazzling and delicious.)

Chuck was the executive director of Timberlake Supportive Living in Springfield. He is survived by his parents and two sons. Memorials may be given to CEFCU for an educational fund for his sons.

For his complete obituary go to: <http://brintlingerandearl.com/sitemaker/sites/Brintl11/obit.cgi?us-er=978327Jordan#.UYMjph5XNfg.facebook>



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EQUAL MARRIAGE BILL DENIED LEGISLATIVE VOTE

An Editorial by John Poling

As this is being written, it is less than 24 hours since Marriage Equality bill sponsor Greg Harris decided not to call the equal marriage bill for a full vote of the Illinois House of Representatives.

The emotions of many of us are still very raw at this point – shock, disappointment, betrayal – are among the words being used by bill supporters to describe their feelings about the bill not being voted on. Harris said the decision would allow more time to build support before a possible vote on it during the November veto session.

In the waning hours of the May 31st session, however, Harris admitted he simply did not have the 60 votes needed to pass the bill.

Harris announced: "Several of my colleagues have indicated they would not be willing to cast a vote on this legislation today ... and I've never been sadder to accept such request. They asked me for time to go back to their districts and reach

out to their minds and hearts."

There are some, including this writer, who believe the minds and hearts of those against the bill won't be changed. They've been about as hard pressed as anyone can be and they stood firm, waving their banner of homophobic demagoguery. It is better to know now who is against us and campaign-like-hell against their reelection in 2014.

Groups like the Civil Rights Agenda, Equality Illinois and Lambda Legal vow to keep the pressure on until November. Likely, however, marriage equality is dead for now, perhaps not to be resurrected until 2015.

For an excellent analysis of what happened in the final hours of the "vote that never was," read Tracy Baim's piece in the Windy City Times:

<http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Legislature-adjourns-without-marriage-vote/43047.html>

REEL IT UP! LGBT FILM FESTIVAL EVERY TUESDAY IN JUNE

Beginning Tuesday June 4th and every Tuesday in June, the UP Center of Champaign County is sponsoring a screening in their Reel It UP! LGBT Film Festival.

The films will be shown at the Art Theatre Co-op located at 126 W. Church St. in downtown Champaign. The 1st show will be at 7:30pm and the 2nd show at 9:30pm. Individual tickets and full month passes will be sold in advance and at the door.

Here is the schedule:

Tuesday June 4th
7:30 pm -- Codebreaker
9:30 pm -- Weekend

Tuesday June 11th
7:30 pm -- Gender ID Shorts (No Dumb Questions, I'm Just Anneke, The Family Journey: Raising Gender Nonconforming Children)
8:30 pm -- Talk Back Panel Discussion
9:30 pm -- Ready? OK!

Tuesday June 18th
7:30 pm -- Passionate Politics: The Life and Work of Charlotte Bunch
9:30 pm -- Mosquita Y Mari

Tuesday June 25th
7:30 pm -- Scary Normal
9:30 pm -- Romeos

To view synopsis and trailers of the films, go to: [Here](#)

To get to Lincoln Park take Sangamon Avenue heading east to 5th Street turn left (south) until next road (approx. 2 blocks). Turn right follow park around to shelter 4 near children's playground

CORAL PICNIC: continued from page 1



Martha [*Lesbian*] Living

By Martha Miller

Come Out, Come Out, Whoever You Are

June is Pride Month because it coincides with the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in 1965, the riots that marked the beginning of the gay civil rights movement. Stonewall was the first time gays fought the police for their rights. Last night Illinois legislature postponed a vote on gay marriage, so Illinois will not be the 13th state to legalize gay marriage but probably the 29th.

A few weeks ago a NBA player, Jason Collins, formerly of the Celtics and most recently with the Wizards, came out admitting that he's gay. This caused quite a stir in the media, as if sports fans had never heard of a gay athlete before. But truthfully Collins didn't exactly risk what's left of his career because there really isn't much left anyway. He is a thirty-four-year-old "free agent" without a contract. Since 1975, nearly a dozen big-league male athletes have publically identified themselves as gay—and all of them had retired from their sport or were about to.

A day later a soccer player by the name of Robbie Rogers signed with the LA Galaxy. Rogers had retired last year and come out as gay afterwards. Since then he's decided to play again. "I don't know what I was afraid of," Rogers said. "The one thing I've learned from all of this is being gay is not that big of a deal to people." I would argue that it is a big deal to people, or the media wouldn't focus on it. Once again the press asked all the same questions about locker rooms and showers. But while the MLS has a fraction of the NBA's popularity, Rogers has the potential to be more influential than Collins, who is a journeyman basketball player without a contract for next season; Rogers is an active and accomplished international soccer player in his prime. Martina Navratilova is still unique in professional sports for having come out at the height of her career. At the least that cost her some endorsement deals.

Jason Collins and his twin brother, Jarron, were guests on the "Jimmy Kimmel Show." At first glance, I saw a big guy in a polo shirt and next to him was a big guy in a dressy oxford shirt. I assumed the dressy shirted guy was Jason because, in my mind, gay men dress better than straight men. I was wrong. When WNBA star Cheryl Swoops came out several years ago, I was shocked because she was the *ONLY* WNBA player that I was sure was straight because she'd had a baby in her first season. Despite evidence to the contrary, the stereotypes still exist.

Professionals in sports are trying to make changes, but they deal still with things like the Rutgers' coach, who was fond of screaming "Fu**ing Fairies!" and "Faggots!" at his players. Kobe Bryant in recent years was reprimanded for sitting on the bench and calling a ref, "Fu**ing Faggot!," yet he is quoted as saying about Collins "This is a great day for the NBA." Growing up, players have heard "gay" as a synonym for loser. The 2012 season the NBA ran an ad about that. I remember some kids shooting hoops and one misses and is called gay. Grant Hill says, "Not in my house. No way." Basketball bad boy Charles Barkley said that he'd been on teams with lots of gay players and it didn't matter to him.

Jason Collins says he wears number 98 because that was the year Matthew Shepard was killed in an anti-gay hate crime. Within 24 hours after Collins went public, No. 98 became the top-selling custom jersey on the Wizards' Web site. So we've come a long, long way since Stonewall. With each state that legalizes gay marriage, there is less media coverage. But we won't be there until being gay is like being left-handed and no one talks or writes about it. Despite the fact that Illinois recently left some huge issues unsettled, gay marriage is just a matter of time. And that is something to celebrate.

More about Martha's writing and contact info on her web site www.marthamiller.net