



One of Us

(a Northern AZ LGBAT Newsletter)

April 2010

Volume 7, Issue 11

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PFLAG of Prescott Valley is now offering regular peer support meetings for local families who are dealing with gay and lesbian issues.

*PFLAG Peer Support Meetings
Mondays, March 8th & April 12th, 6 pm
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 7763 E. Long Look Drive, Prescott Valley*

Come OUT!!!

- Closets are for hangers
- Be honest with yourself and loved ones
- There is nothing to fear, You are not alone.
- Support is available (friends, family, community members and online—www.hrc.org/issues/coming_out.asp)

Prescott Pride Center



Connecting Our Community

Northern Arizona's
only GLBT
Community Center!

(928) 445-8800

Warm, Welcoming
Safe & Supportive
Environment

P.O. Box 3765, Prescott, AZ 86302

info@prescottpridecenter.com • www.prescottpridecenter.com

AIDS IS NOT DEAD, Play safe Always

- Know your partner
- Use condoms and/or gloves
- Don't mix excessive amounts of drugs and/or alcohol with sex, keep a clear upper head
- STDs (and babies) are other risks of unsafe sex
- Get tested often—stay healthy

KNOW YOUR STATUS!!

Free HIV Counseling and Testing

Call Cher at 928-679-7276

Feedback. / Comments / Submissions / Suggestions

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Get Involved!! Health Sites:

Parkinson's:

<http://www.parkinson.org/>

HIV and AIDS:

<http://www.hiv.com/>

Male Depression:

<http://www.maledepression.com/>

Diabetes:

<http://www.diabetes.org/>

April 2010 Events

- **Every Tuesday at PJ's in VOC 6:30-** Contact Greg at luckyredrocks@gmail.com
- **Every Wednesday at Red's in Sedona 6:30-** Contact Sedona Pride at info@sedonapride.org
- **Every third Saturday at the Mile High Grill in Jerome 7:00-** Contact Dennis at dizzybear73@gmail.com
- **Friday to Sunday, April 2nd-4th**– Wondercon 2010 comic convention in SF, for more information, go to <http://comic-con.org/wc/>
- **Saturday, April 3rd, 2 - 6 PM**– MOONBURN Men's Spanking Play Parties (First Saturday of each month) Party details, contact: MoonburnLA@sbcglobal.net
- **Sunday, April 4th** – **Easter!** Chocolate Jesus and Hidden Eggs! Hippity Hop!?
- **Wednesday, April 7th, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm** - Regular DFA Meeting. This event repeats every month on the first Wednesday at Bigfoot BBQ in the Old Town Shops (Leroux and Birch), 120 N Leroux St # 123, Flagstaff, AZ, (928) 226-1677. For more info about our hosts: <http://www.bigfootbbq.com>
- **Friday, April 9th, Every 2nd Friday each month, 9PM - 1AM** – SO. CAL. BONDAGE NIGHT. Details: www.SoCABondage.com
- **Monday, April 12th, 6 pm**– PFLAG Discussion Group & Peer Support Meeting at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 7763 E. Long Look Drive, Prescott Valley. PFLAG of Prescott Valley will be hosting a discussion group and peer support meeting for local families who are interested in gay and lesbian issues. The discussion topics for April are the anti-gay adoption bill under consideration in the Arizona legislature and the inclusion of the gay community in the 2010 U.S. census. For more information, contact the Prescott Pride Center at (928) 445-8800.
- **Friday to Monday, April 16th - 19th**– The Tulsa Two Spirit gathering will be held at the Osage Hills state park. For more info contact Corey Tabor at okienativeboy@yahoo.com Just wanted to let you all know that the Blevins family will be sponsoring a hand drum contest at the Tulsa Two Spirit gathering. There will be three place cash prizes plus a pendelton blanket prize. They will also be sponsoring a group drum contest for each society. So get your hand drums out and practice that 49er. You might come away with your gas money. For more info about the Tulsa Two Spirit gathering (I think this is their 14th annual) contact Corey Tabor at okienativeboy@yahoo.com
You can now go to www.denvertwospirit.com and click on the Tulsa gathering link and download the application. It is last year's application, but we are using it again this year. So remember the dates are different.
- **Saturday, April 17th**– X-Chain-G of Flagstaff bdsm monthly play party, every 3rd Saturday of the month. For more details, contact Craig at railman3@hotmail.com
- **Saturday to Sunday, April 17th-18th**– **Phoenix Pride!** Featuring Joan Jett and the Blackhearts and Berlin, get your tickets at <http://www.phoenixpride.org/>
- **Thursday to Sunday, April 22nd-25th**– Cleveland Leather Awareness Weekend, for more information, go to <http://www.clawinfo.org/>
- **Thursday to Monday, April 29th– May 3rd** – Phoenix Phurfest in Phoenix, AZ, for more information, go to <http://bearsofthewest.org>



Where is Everybody?

Speak your mind.

Get published, see front cover for details.

Quotes of the Month

“My lesbianism is an act of Christian charity. All those women out there praying for a man, and I’m giving them my share.”

-Rita Mae Brown

“Drag is when a man wears everything a lesbian won’t.”

-Unknown

“It always seemed to me a bit pointless to disapprove of homosexuality. It’s like disapproving of rain.”

-Francis Maude

“Remember that great love and achievements involve great risks.”

-Frank Zane

And in which it is demonstrated that while some may fall, others are pushed.

- Opening phrase of Neil Gaiman’s Seasons of Mists

**Business owners, event organizers, and bar owners-
Advertisements are free to post- any size!!!**

Humor for the Masses

Wally's Wedding Night

At 85 years of age, Wally married Anne, a lovely 25 year old.

Since her new husband is so old, Anne decides that after their wedding, she and Wally should have separate bedrooms because she is concerned that her new but aged husband may over exert himself if they spend the entire night together.

After the wedding festivities Anne prepares herself for bed and the expected 'knock' on the door.

Sure enough the knock comes, the door opens and there is Wally, her 85 year old groom, ready for action. They unite as one. All goes well, Wally takes leave of his bride and she prepares to go to sleep.

After a few minutes, Anne hears another knock on her bedroom door, and it's Wally.

Again he is ready for more 'action.'

Somewhat surprised, Anne consents for more coupling.

When the newlyweds are done, Wally kisses his bride, bids her a fond goodnight and leaves..

She is set to go to sleep again, but, aha - you guessed it, Wally is back again, rapping on the door, and is as fresh as a 25-year-old, ready for more 'action.'

And, once again they enjoy each other.

But as Wally gets set to leave again, his young bride says to him, 'I am thoroughly impressed that at your age you can perform so well and so often.. I have been with guys less than a third of your age who were only good once. You are truly a great lover, Wally.'

Wally, somewhat embarrassed, turns to Anne and says: 'You mean I've been here already?'



Lessons From an Assassination

Minor Details By Bob Minor

On January 30, 1948, Mahatma Gandhi during his nightly walk in New Delhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse. Godse was a right-wing, gun-toting religious believer with connections to a political party whose goals included making India a Hindu nation, rejecting the secularism that separated religion and state.

Almost every semester I've lectured on Gandhi and his advocacy of satyagraha, a term he coined which literally means "holding on to Truth." You've seen it translated "non-violent resistance" and, like Mel White, "Soul Force."

Gandhi never believed in compromising satyagraha. The very word he chose illustrates that.

He was not a relativist. Non-violence, for Gandhi is the only way to live in this world.

But this semester the class' discussion of my lecture among its self-selected liberal students who were studying peace and conflict, was dominated by an assumption that was sure to enable the advocates of violence in our world to be winners – Gandhi couldn't have thought it was true for everyone.

They didn't want to believe – in spite of Gandhi's fasts unto death, his Salt March across India, and his jail terms – that Gandhi thought his view was correct and others were wrong. These students had become what right-wingers in our culture wanted them to be.

The students wanted me to agree that Gandhi's satyagraha was merely a personal position, that he wouldn't believe it would be true for others. They wanted to like Gandhi, but couldn't believe he was not fair and balanced. They wanted him to be a "postmodernist."

No matter what their fantasies, Gandhi didn't teach that sometimes it was okay to kill others. For him, violence was always wrong. His goal was to coerce others through every non-violent means possible to accept his position and reject violence.

But this doesn't often represent "good" liberalism. Because others have held their beliefs strongly and absolutely, we are to be afraid of such things.

Relativism is much better, it says. All views have their truth. Sincerity trumps destructive views, and opinions are the same as facts.

The right-wing has been successful at portraying liberals and progressives to the public as "situation ethicists" who don't really know what they stand for or who are blowing in the wind without a moral compass. Democratic movement toward the right-wing, which Democrats call compromise, only reinforces the belief that "liberals" don't really stand for anything and will thus cave in to the other side.

What liberal relativists hoped was true worked better before the 1990's Gingrich revolution, before the religious right-wing first tasted political blood, and before conservatives learned how easy it was to portray compromise as weakness, moral softness, insincerity, and the inability to lead. If things don't change, it's likely to end the current Democratic majority.

Of course, "Democrat" does not equal progressive. Many, probably including the current president, are corporate centrists. Their leaders aren't working class people.

So, those of us who do believe that discrimination on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, race, and all the other human categories, is always wrong, have to say so. And we have to say that what we believe is right and that destroying others is wrong as if it really is.

(Lessons...continued on the next page)

(Lessons... continued from the previous page)

This is not to be mean or unlistening toward others. Gandhi never was, for that was acting in violence. But he was always forceful and absolute. And he wouldn't compromise with violence.

We have to be willing to face the fact that the right-wing lies. Yes, I said: lies.

They have learned that even when they have been caught lying, they can be effective by repeating the lie. Repeating it long enough will make it seem less untrue.

They know the mainstream media is fickle. It seldom has a long enough attention span to follow-up on a lie. Eventually, it'll treat the lie as merely one opinion that has as much validity as the other with which it merely differs (the one with the data behind it.)

No matter how often the polls say otherwise, the conservative and Republican talking-point is that the public doesn't want a health care plan with a public option. No matter what the legislative process is, the Republicans will say the Democrats rammed their legislation through.

No matter how the historical data says otherwise, Karl Rove and Dick Cheney will stick by their rewriting of history. No matter what right-wing religious leader is found to be a hypocrite, the right-wing won't criticize them the way they will any lesser offenses "liberals" are accused of committing.

No matter how they control the media, it will always be labeled "liberal." No matter how they disenfranchise working people, they'll claim to be populists.

And they know that they can bully so-called liberals into caving -- whether it's the President not defending his advisors when Glenn Beck targets them unfairly or a congressman's misstatement turned into an apology. It's frankly very easy.

They use liberals who don't want to believe people lie. Put a right-wing justice before the Senate and he'll say anything to get Democratic approval of his Supreme Court position.

Liberals don't want to believe that when they're seated they'll do everything they said they wouldn't. Supreme Court precedents? Sure, I'll tell you that.

It fits your fantasy of the world. But don't expect me to follow them if I don't want to consider them.

They're about gaining power. It's little different than killing Gandhi or a women's' clinic doctor for what they consider a higher purpose.

It doesn't take much more than knowing how to manipulate liberal guilt and meekness. Just learn from how Bush, Rove, Cheney, and Republicans since have done it.

When those of us who disagree can't take a stand as if it is meaningful to us, we convince those who are watching that we're not sincere. We lose their respect.

Even more so, we clear the path for those to rush in who do believe they're right and others are wrong. We enable them to take over.

Robert N. Minor, Ph.D., Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Kansas, is author of *When Religion Is an Addiction*; *Scared Straight: Why It's So Hard to Accept Gay People and Why It's So Hard to Be Human and Gay & Healthy in a Sick Society*. Contact him at www.FairnessProject.org.

Coming Out

by Dave A.

As a man now in his 50s I look back at my coming out and realize that while it was tragic at the time it shaped who I became as a man. Here is that story:

When I was 19 I had a boyfriend who would come and stay with me weekends and then stayed during the week (as I was to learn later) with another guy who loved him dearly. Anyway one weekend when he didn't answer his phone and didn't show up I found out that he wasn't coming. All my roommates knew it but nobody had the heart to tell me. They finally did tell me that he was going back to Indiana and was well on his way.

I stayed in my room and sulked and the next night Saturday night I was urged by my roomies to please go out as I had the only car that would hold everyone. At around 11 I agreed and started getting ready. We would go to afterhours at one of the gay clubs in Phoenix because we were too young to get into the bars any other time. We got there and were having a good time when I saw a young man who was absolutely beautiful. He had long medium brown hair and was to me at that time the most beautiful guy I had laid eyes on. I started talking to my friends about him. None of them agreed with me but they all encouraged me to ask him to dance which after much encouragement and a lot of threats I finally did.

His name was Danny and he agreed to dance with me and came out onto the floor with me and I asked him if he wanted to come to a party we were having at my house. He said he would but he didn't have a car and I told him I would give him transportation home. Then I got my friends together and said OK we have to go because we're having a party. We invited a group of our friends and I must say my friends were very supportive of my little adventure. To make a long story short this beautiful boy was still with me 6 months later. He came and stayed every weekend. I took him home every Monday making him go to school. He had not yet graduated and I insisted he graduate.

On one of these trips he told his parents that we were lovers and he was gay. They seemed to already understand that and while it was hard on him it was not a big deal. When he returned however he insisted that I do the same. I had never come out to my family and they had no idea. I knew for sure they had no idea. Danny was the kind of young man that people just sort of suspected might be gay but I wasn't. After many arguments I agreed and the following weekend I went home with Danny in tow to meet with my mother alone. My heart was in my throat and beating 100 miles an hour when I finally looked my mother straight in the eyes and told her Danny was my lover and we were gay. There was a pause, she was obviously very upset and she said, "You boys are making a big mistake." She didn't have a clue that we hadn't ever made a decision. I wasn't telling her what I had decided to do it on a whim, I was telling her who I was.

I went to Arizona State University and stayed in a home owned by my parents and rented rooms to my friends. A day later I received a telephone call from my mother advising me to tell my friends to find new places to live and that my family could not support me financially in any way while I was in this relationship. I accepted that. I was not grieved but determined at that point and dropped out of my classes and went to work. I rented a tiny house which was not anywhere as nice as the one I was living in and within a few days found myself there with the water running and unable to turn it off and without Danny who had left me and returned home to his parents.

A few weeks later I was a waiter in an upscale Chinese Restaurant Bar Show Club, and moved in with a waitress and we shared the rent in a not so nice place. As the months went by a number of things happened. I discovered I was perfectly capable of supporting myself and that I was an excellent worker. I was amazed at the number of friendships I developed and I was having the time of my life. I had no contact with my family until months later when I was selected for a job that was in Southern California. I went to go and see them and say goodbye. In the meantime, being an avid reader my mother had come a long way and determined that I indeed wasn't making a decision but had always been the man I was trying to introduce her to before.

We re-kindled our relationship as mother and son. My stepfather, by the way, had been very supportive from the get go. We are still close and he knows now how much that meant to me then. My mother passed away 17 years ago. When she died my lover was holding her hand. She loved him and knew what we had was very special. This whole metamorphosis was difficult for me at the time but I am a strong self confident man and much of that is due to being thrown to the lions. I forgave the people who rejected me then but have always been very appreciative that their love for me won out in the end.

There are millions of boys and girls (not to mention men and women) all over the world who are struggling. Not so much with their sexuality as that kind of comes naturally but with the people they love fearing that if they dared to introduce themselves to them as they really are they would be rejected. Sometimes that rejection is the initial step to acceptance. Wouldn't it be nice if on July 4th, Independence Day every one of us who live in a closet would just step out. All over the world people would realize how many of us there are.