



News & Views

Parents, Families, Friends, Allies & Members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Gender Non-conforming Community

Volume 17, Number 3

May/June 2016

Show Your Pride by Supporting RI Pride Fest!

Support RI Pride's 40th anniversary with a \$40 for 40 years donation! — RI Pride Committee

Pride is all of us! We all have something to celebrate. We are the reason why Rhode Island Pride is celebrating their 40th anniversary in 2016!

It is essential that community members take the next step to ensure that the heart of our local community continues to beat strongly. Please join us in saying #IAMRIPride, and make your \$1 donation for every year RI Pride has existed!

Since 1976, the LGBTQ community has gathered in downtown Providence to celebrate what makes them proud. For 40 years, that crowd has grown. What started as a protest march has evolved into a 16-hour celebration: a festival with live music, vendors, and families having fun together; a nighttime illuminated parade showcasing the artistic talent of our community through a myriad of floats, performing groups, and marchers; and late-night block parties produced by our local small businesses that also foster one of the most creative drag communities in the country.

Overall attendance at PrideFest has reached upwards of 35,000 – a number that requires significant planning and expense to ensure that this annual celebration is not overshadowed

by any number of possible complications. In 2015, the festival site exceeded a significant resources to The addition of has become Pride Parade as crowds have last few years, added them at



panded which add-strain on limited cover a larger area. safety barricades necessary for many routes nationwide, grown. Over the we have slowly PrideFest as our celebratory crowd has grown.

All of this comes at a cost, and Rhode

Island Pride was not able to cover those costs in 2015 due to low donations, an increase in attendance, and higher-than-expected public safety overtime expenses. While in the last two years RI Pride has successfully sustained and even doubled the amount of sponsorships coming from corporate businesses, and most generously from some of our local small businesses, we

must rely on donations from our community to ensure that the growth of RI PrideFest is sustainable in the coming years. In order to bring their 2015 budget out of the red and produce a 40th Anniversary PrideFest that is at least equal to last year, they must raise at least \$40,000!

Please help RI Pride find 1,000 people among their 35,000 attendees who can give just \$40 each. That's only \$1 to mark every year of progress our community has enjoyed with Rhode Island Pride.

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Parents, Families, Friends and Allies United with LGBT People to Move Equality Forward

Our Mission

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and their families and friends through:

SUPPORT: To support parents on their journey to understand and accept their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender children; and to help children, of whatever age, to understand and come out into loving relationships with their families;

EDUCATION: To enlighten an ill-informed public,

ADVOCACY: To end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

PFLAG is a volunteer grass-roots, tax-exempt, non-profit organization, not affiliated with any political or religious institution.

PFLAG is a welcoming place for parents and friends of all members of the LGBTQ community, but we are much more than that. Those who identify as gay, lesbian bisexual, transgender, or gender non-conforming are also encouraged to attend our meetings., with or without their family members. Parents and friends may come with or without their loved ones who are members of the LGBTQ community.

Confidentiality is assured.

PFLAG/Greater Providence

President: Sandra Richard

Vice-President: Jane Eastman

Treasurer: James Rotondo

Secretary: Dianne Ordog

Members-at-Large: Maureen Britton, Jill Duff, Julie Laffey, Denise Messier-Reynolds, Joe Ordog and Nate Zane

Ex-Officio Past President: Myra Shays

Newsletter Editor: Sandra Richard

Welcome Committee Coordinator: Julie Laffey

Speaker Coordinator: Doreen LePage

**WE'RE
HERE 
FOR YOU!**

news from our chapter



Queen Mother I of the Americas Nicole the Great presenting Sandra Richard, President of PFLAG Greater Providence, RI with the Judy Shepard Family Values Award. Standing just behind is Jacqueline DiMera and to the right is Stephany Bice.

PFLAG Greater Providence Recipient of Judy Shepard Family Values Award

Our Chapter was very excited and honored to be presented with the Judy Shepard Family Values Award from Nicole the Great (San Diego City Commissioner Nicole Murray Ramirez), Queen Mother I of the Americas of the International Court System at the Coronation Ball of the Imperial Court of Rhode Island held at the Biltmore Hotel on April 16th. It was a fabulous evening with great entertainment!



Get Rainbow Pinned at RI Pride When You Visit Our PFLAG Booth on June 18th!

Rhode Island PrideFest is once again approaching. This is a fun event with booths, food, entertainment and a welcoming, celebratory atmosphere for the LGBTQ community. Our PFLAG chapter will have a booth at the

festival site, and will also march in the nighttime Illumination Parade. This gives us the opportunity to increase the awareness of PFLAG and our important mission of providing support.

We hope to increase the number of parade marchers this year so we'll have an even better showing of support. Last year, the crowd showed their approval by shouting and waving back with great enthusiasm. So if you would like to join the fun, please email us at pflagprovidence@gmail.com saying you'd like to be a marcher.

The details:

Date: Saturday June 18th

Location: South Water St, Providence

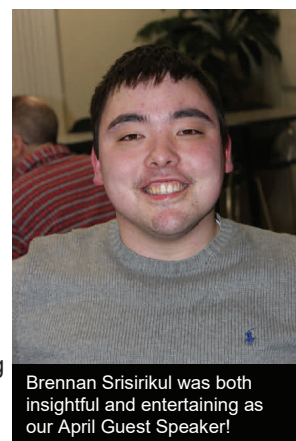
Booth Hours: 12 noon - 6 pm

Parade: Meet-up time is 8 pm. Parade starts at 8:45 pm.

We will contact marchers with more details as June 18th approaches. Regardless, if you are at PrideFest for any reason, stop by our booth and say hello.

April Guest Speaker — Brennan Srisirikul

Our April meeting featured Brennan Srisirikul as our guest speaker where he swept us off our feet as he shared with us his insightful and at times humorous journey navigating the challenges of being gay and having cerebral palsy.



Brennan Srisirikul was both insightful and entertaining as our April Guest Speaker!

In an article by Joanne Bussiere in the February 2016 issue of *Options Magazine*, Brennan states that he never liked labels. "The word *disabled* made him ask himself if he was 'dissing' his abilities." A friend suggested the phrase *differently abled* which helped him frame his perception of self.

The article further states "It took Brennan a while to come out because he did not want yet another label. When he came out at 18, being a perceived underdog in two communities gave him motivation. Say Brennan, 'I am more than my wheelchair; I am more than my sexuality. They are parts of the greater whole of me.

As a young gay man born with cerebral palsy, Brennan has managed to propel his career into

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April Guest Speaker

(Continued from Page 2.)

singing, acting and motivational speaking. Brennan will be performing a one man show in NYC on June 18, 2016 entitled "In My Own Little Corner".

Chapter Board Update

On April 16th, our Board along with a few of our chapter members spent an otherwise beautiful Saturday indoors developing a strategic plan to provide direction for our chapter as we move forward in the next few years. Board member Jill Duff and her husband Bob generously offered up their beautiful home and hospitality so we could work on this important task.

We spent the day analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of our organization as well as other factors externally that could impact our chapter's operation. From that we developed the following seven goals to focus on over the next three years:

1. Create a warm and welcoming experience for all who attend our monthly support meetings.
2. Create an environment that encourages participation and volunteerism and that reflects the diverse population in our service area.
3. Expand our outreach to families and communities in our service area to assure that all families in our service area are aware of the support, education and advocacy we can provide to them and their LGBTQ loved ones.
4. Work toward developing a Board of Directors with the requisite skill sets to meet the chapter's needs.
5. Provide Board members and other volunteers with opportunities for leadership training and development.
6. Develop partnerships with other LGBTQ or LGBTQ ally organizations to help promote each other's services and expand our outreach.
7. Establish a Speaker's Bureau with a list of individuals who would be available to go out to speak on behalf of PFLAG at other community/business events.

These strategic goals, along with the PFLAG National Vision and Mission statements, were adopted by our Board of Directors to establish our chapter Vision and Mission Statement and Strategic Goals at our April 22, 2016 Board meeting.

You can find a copy of this document on our

website at www.pflagprovidence.org under the Home tab.

In addition to the Duff's, a big thank you is extended to all who gave up their Saturday to help us become a stronger organization to better serve the LGBTQ community: Maureen and Scott Britton, Jane Eastman, Julie Laffey, Doreen LePage, Barbara Metz, Denise Messier-Reynolds, Sandra Richard, James Rotondo, Myra Shays and Nate Zane.

2016-17 PFLAG Board Members Elected at May Meeting

At our May 4th chapter meeting, chapter members elected the slate of candidates put forward for the 2016-17 Board with an extended term ending September 2017 to coincide with PFLAG National's recommended fiscal year for all chapters.

We welcome the following individuals as members of the PFLAG Greater Providence Chapter Board of Directors:

President: Sandra Richard

Vice-president: Jane Eastman

Treasurer: James Rotondo

Secretary: Dianne Ordog

Members-at-large: Maureen Britton, Jill Duff, Julie Laffey, Denise Messier-Reynolds, Joe Ordog, and Nate Zane

Ex-officio member (non-voting): Myra Shays

We are also pleased to announce that PFLAG member Doreen LePage will be taking over the task of scheduling speakers for our monthly meetings from Scott Mirani, who has done an outstanding job of obtaining some excellent speakers over the years.

In addition, as a result of our Strategic Planning Meeting in April, the Board established a new Welcome Committee which will be charged with greeting and welcoming people attending our meetings. Right now it is a committee of one, with new PFLAG Board member Julie Laffey as the coordinator. We are in the process of putting together the program and will provide more information at a future meeting. In the meantime, if you are interested in being a "door greeter" or a "meeting buddy" for a newcomer, please let us know. It's a great way to get a little more involved in our Chapter! You can let Julie know at a meeting or email her at pflagprovidence@gmail.com.

We also want to extend a very big thank you to those board members who are stepping down for their service and devotion to our mission of providing support, education and advocacy to the families we service: Barbara Metz, Scott Mirani, and Christine Noel. We couldn't have gotten this far without their very valuable assistance!



(L-R) Sandra Richard (PFLAG), Monique Paul (TGI Network), Senator Donna M. Nesselbush, Sam Rubenstein, Janson Wu of GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders - GLAD, and Elliott Paxton Buelter at Rhode Island State House.

PFLAG President Sandra Richard Testifies in Support of Bill Banning Conversion Therapy for Minors in RI.

Thanks to the persistent efforts of Brown University student Sam Rubenstein and RI Senator Donna Nesselbush, the RI Senate Committee on Health and Human Services heard testimony on Thursday, May 26th from LGBTQ organizations and others in support of Senate Bill 2827 prohibiting "conversion therapy" by licensed health care professionals with respect to children under eighteen (18) years of age.

PFLAG Chapter President Sandra Richard joined representatives from TGI Network, Youth Pride, and GLAD, as well as members of the LGBTQ community who were subjected to reparative/conversion therapy in the past in testifying to the ineffectiveness and dangers of such therapy to those who are struggling with their sexual orientation or gender identify.

The Committee recommended setting aside SB 2827 Substitute A for further study in order to be sure all issues that could generate a legal challenge are addressed. Senator Nesselbush, the sponsor of the bill will be working closely with Janson Wu of GLAD to finalize the wording of the bill.

You can read the text and monitor the status of this bill by going to the following link: <https://legiscan.com/RI/bill/S2827/2016>

A copy of Sandra Richard's testimony can be found on our PFLAG chapter's website at www.pflagprovidence.org under the Events/Activities tab.





An Invitation to Attend Temple Habonim's 5th Annual LGBTQ Pride Shabbat

**TEMPLE
HABONIM** **Friday June 17, 2016
7:30PM**

For the past two and a half years, the Keith family has been supporting their son/brother so he could transition from female to male.

When he was 14 years old Hunter came to his mom, Roz, and revealed that he is transgender. *"We knew for a long time that Hunter was struggling. We just never guessed that he was at odds with his gender identity."*

What does it mean to be transgender? How do you love and support your child when you don't understand what they are going through? As a teen, what is it like to have friends who knew you as Olivia and love you now as Hunter?

This June, at their **LGBTQ Pride Shabbat**, they will welcome Roz and Richard Keith and their son, Hunter, to **Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington, RI 02806**. They will share their story lovingly and openly and answer these questions and more. The Keiths are cousins with long-time Temple members, Vicki and Cliff Karten. **All are invited to attend the Shabbat on June 17th.**

Hunter's family, especially his mother, Roz, has become extremely involved in advocacy work for transgender education and awareness. Their home synagogue, Temple Israel in West Bloomfield,

MI has been on this journey with the family for more than a year. Their congregation currently hosts a parent support group co-facilitated by Roz, with a teen group beginning this fall.

The entire Keith Family was invited to the U.S. Department of Justice this past June for a pride month lunch and learn. The family's story was told, and education and awareness was delivered to an audience eager to understand.

The Keith Family tells their story to educate and to provide transgender youth with the tools they need to be empowered, supported, and validated as they transition to their authentic life.

Temple Habonim is the spiritual home for 220 families, including Jews by birth, Jews by choice and interfaith families who come together as a community to worship, learn and connect. Habonim, meaning The Builders, is a welcoming Reform temple in the East Bay which draws from Barrington, Warren, and Bristol, as well as other Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts communities. They pride themselves on being a place of inclusion for a diverse community, offering programs to meet varied needs and interests. They are a place of caring, where traditions are honored, minds are expanded, friends are made, participation is encouraged and comfort can be found within community. They welcome you to visit and learn more about them. Visit their website at www.templehabonim.org or call (401) 245-6536.

are free (although they do accept donations), and conversations can be recorded in any language.

Since the space is limited, they ideally can accommodate 2 people, perhaps 3 in each 40-minute session. You should consider bringing a relative, friend, colleague, or someone whose story interests you. Adults of any age may participate; but they suggest you do not bring children under the age of 10. Participants under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian sign a release form in order for them to participate. The recording booth is wheelchair accessible.

So how does this work? Sometimes one participant acts as the interviewer—asking his or her partner questions. Sometimes both participants are storytellers—reflecting on their shared memories and experiences. StoryCorps facilitators are present during every conversation. They will help make you feel comfortable, explain the interview process, and handle all technical aspects of the recording. You can listen to others' stories by going to their website at www.storycorps.org/listen.

The StoryCorps Mobile Booth, a traveling recording studio, will be parked at Burnside Park in Providence from June 23 to July 29, 2016. Reserve a time to record a conversation with someone special by calling 800-850-4406 or by visiting storycorps.org/reservations. Reservations open to the public on Thursday, June 9 at 10am.

However, if you contact Sandra Richard by June 8th at PFLAG at (401) 307-1802 or via email at pflagprovidence@gmail.com, as a Community Partner, she can pre-register your interview slot for you. Since space is limited, contact her today!



The Keith family (L-R): Roz, Richard, Danielle & Hunter.



StoryCorps is coming to Providence!

Rhode Island Public Radio and StoryCorps want to hear your stories! StoryCorps is a national oral history project that provides people with the opportunity to record, share, and preserve their life stories.

The heart of StoryCorps is a 40-minute conversation between two people who know each other. At the end of the conversation, participants take home a CD recording to share with family and friends. With the participants' permission, a copy will be archived in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. You can also make copies of your CD for friends and family or post the audio online. You can also provide PFLAG a copy of your CD if you wish.

Their goal is to make the StoryCorps recording experience accessible to all by partnering with national and local organizations that serve diverse populations. StoryCorps recordings celebrate the voices and milestones in our community and provide a unique opportunity to interact with the people PFLAG serves. The recordings

news from all over



Boston hospital to be the first in northeastern US to offer gender reassignment surgery

A major Boston academic hospital has announced that it will begin to offer gender reassignment surgery (GRS) for transgender patients, making it the first in northeastern United States to do so. Trans rights advocates say the move may help promote a better understanding of the needs of the community.

Boston Medical Center (BMC) has been providing transgender patients with hormone therapy as well as facial and chest surgeries since the 1990s.

On Wednesday, it said that it will be performing GRS, also known as gender affirmation surgery, beginning this summer.

Speaking to Reuters, Doctor Joshua Safer who will be helping to oversee BMC's Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery shared that the decision was made with the realisation that hospitals were not keeping up with the needs of transgender patients.

'This was not just a neglected population, but an unnecessarily neglected population because there was a gap between what conventional medicine knows and what conventional hospitals were providing,' Safer said.

He further revealed that before its public announcement, there were already around 100 patients who expressed interest in the surgery.

Transgender rights advocates commended BMC's move. Angela Mazaris, director of Wake Forest University's LGBTQ Center, explained that the hospital's decision could promote understanding of the needs of transgender community.

'Having a major hospital system recognise this and put in place both the expertise and the infrastructure to offer care to the transgender community is a really exciting recognition of those needs,' she said.

GRS will only be available to adults 18 or older who have been living as the other gender for at least a year. Potential patients will also be subjected to a review of their mental and physical

suitability, said the hospital.

Safer also shared there may be a long waiting list for the surgery as the hospital plans to perform only one to two surgeries per month in its initial phase.

Researchers at UCLA's Williams Institute recently reported that there are around 300,000 transgender people aged 13 and above living in 15 states in the country.

One of the states is North Carolina, which has been facing a lot of backlash for its anti-transgender bill passed in March.

Credit: Nigel Tan, Gay Star Business, May 23, 2016



Volunteer for PFLAG!

"We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.—Winston Churchill

Our PFLAG chapter operates with an all-volunteer Board of Directors who are dedicated to fulfilling the mission of PFLAG for its members.

We hope to grow and expand our outreach in Rhode Island, but we need your help to do so. Some forms of help are short and simple—like signing up to bring refreshments to one of our support meetings, picking up some of our new brochures to distribute in businesses and doctors' offices you frequent, or helping us plan for Pride Fest and the Pride parade in June.

Other types of volunteering may involve a longer commitment, such as serving on a committee or serve as a speaker as part of our education and outreach efforts.

We are also looking for someone to take over the design and production of this newsletter. Right now we publish every other month. If anyone is interested in taking on this task or volunteering for any of the above needs, please contact us at pflagprovidence@gmail.com.

Don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook www.facebook.com/PFLAGGreaterProvidence, RI and "Follow" us on Twitter @PFLAGProvRI.





Chris Burns, Assistant Men's Basketball Coach at Bryant University.

A Coach's Courage: Bryant's Chris Burns first openly gay coach

SMITHFIELD, R.I. (WJAR) — In the world of sports, being first is king. For Chris Burns -- an assistant men's basketball coach at Bryant University -- being first wasn't so easy. He came out as gay on October 7th.

The announcement not only made him the first openly gay coach in men's Division I basketball, but according to Outsports.com, in all major American sports. Never had a coach in the NFL, MLB, NBA, NHL or NCAA football been openly gay.

When Burns' interview with USA Today.com hit the internet, it didn't command the buzz of past coming outs like players Jason Collins in the NBA or Michael Sam in the NFL had. The feeling appeared to be that Burns was the third version of an old story.

My first question for Burns was, "Is there still a story here?"

"Absolutely," said Burns. "Going through the process at the beginning, I didn't want to talk or think too much about, 'You're the first person to do this in your sports as a coach.' But I think that still tells the story. The fears and the realities of coming out are still very real."

The idea of coming out jeopardized a very strong foundation of relationships he had built with his Bulldog players.

"He was a guy that I could come to when I was going through my ups and downs, whether it was on the court or off the court," said senior Curtis Oakley Jr.

Basketball was the first love of Burns' life. He remembers his mother having to replace the rugs that lived beneath the mini-basketball hoop he played on nonstop in his childhood basement.

Before long, Burns was starring for then-Division II Bryant, notching a Most Outstanding Player award in the 2005 national title game despite a Bulldog loss.

Through all the years of hiding, he was defenseless to the homophobic slurs that often filled the air in sports.

"(It's) the way people use (them) to kind of undermine and undercut almost your ability to do what you do," said Burns.

Part of the reason the story isn't over with this most recent an-

nouncement from Burns is the many more gay athletes and coaches still hiding. In his words, the number is probably greater than you would think.

"A lot more," said Burns. "They're out there. I've gotten reach out from those people who are out there and I know people who are out there. They're everywhere."

That decision on October 7 didn't come without major risk attached.

"It has a chance to affect you getting hired in your next jobs," said Burns. "There's a reason I'm the only one."

But for Chris Burns, the chance to come out first and the hope to see other coaches cross that same line -- a start line more than a finish -- was a responsibility he had to embrace.

"I've had a lot of different people tell me, 'No matter what you think happened that day, you've saved lives,'" said Burns. "That's really what it's about."

Credit: Jeff Kolb, NBC 10 News, May 16, 2016

Support RI Pride's 40th anniversary

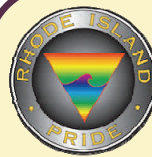
(Continued from Page 1.)

Here is the breakdown of expenses for PrideFest:

- PrideFest itself costs about \$120,000 (this is up from \$80,000 just four years ago) Here's how we spend it:
- Entertainment: \$35,000 (performers 15k, stage/sound/light 20k)
- Public Safety: \$25,000 (barricades 15k, police and fire 10k)
- Infrastructure: \$35,000 (tents 12k, road closures/permits 8k, tables, chairs, toilets, trash, etc. 15k)
- Outreach & Miscellaneous: \$25,000 (State House lighting, Banner Trail, signage, advertising, etc.)
- Costs on average per year to sustain Rhode Island Pride as an organization \$40,000 (our office space, meeting expenses, website -- bringing our total annual budget to \$160,000+.

Here is the breakdown of income for RI Pride:

- Including all of 2015's outstanding debt we're looking at \$185,000 in expenses in 2016. Our projected gross income for this year includes:
- Parade and vendor registrations \$30,000
- Beer, Wine & Spirits Garden: \$25,000
- Sponsorships: \$60,000
- Donations: \$5,000
- Grants: \$10,000
- Fundraising events: \$15,000 - \$40 for 40 Years: \$40,000



RI Pride cannot create a Rhode Island PrideFest as we know it without more financial support from community members like YOU.

Please join with them and make a \$40 gift TODAY! Go to the following link to donate online: <https://www.crowdrise.com/rhode-islandpride40thanniversary40for40years/fundraiser/rhodeislandlesbianan>



Nathaniel Boehme, Oregon's new Coordinator for LGBT Veterans (Photo: GORDON FRIEDMAN / Statesman Journal)

Oregon hires nation's first advocate for LGBT veterans

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs has hired a coordinator for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender veterans — a position it says is the first of its kind nationwide.

Nathaniel Boehme is a third-generation airman who will provide outreach and assistance to Oregon's LGBT veterans, their spouses and dependents.

Boehme introduced himself to the Legislature on Wednesday at a joint meeting of the veterans and emergency preparedness committees.

The existence of the position "speaks volumes as to Oregon's commitment to veterans," he said to lawmakers.

Boehme, who is gay himself, comes to the ODVA after working for the military and non-profits, with experience helping veterans in housing crises.

He was deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom and is an active duty member of the Air National Guard. He has also earned a master's degree in sociology from Washington State University.

Being the first LGBT veteran's coordinator is a daunting task, Boehme said, but it's humbling to be selected.

The position was created by Senate Bill 946, which passed easily in 2015. More than \$91,000 a year is appropriated for the job.

Boehme started May 16 and is still training. One of his first goals is to figure out the needs of Oregon's LGBT veterans.

ODVA Director Cameron Smith said the state doesn't track the number of LGBT vets like it does for other groups, but specific out-

reach to underrepresented veterans helps the community at large.

There is, however, a documented need for the position; the Portland area has the second-highest concentration of LGBT residents per capita outside San Francisco, Boehme said.

Smith added that of Oregon's 331,000 veterans, about 70 percent don't access their U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits.

One of Boehme's responsibilities is making sure LGBT veterans have access to health care and other VA benefits.

Research shows that LGBT service members are more likely to experience physical and mental health problems related to the stress of deployment and reintegration compared to their heterosexual counterparts.

LGBT veterans with questions or seeking services are asked to email LGBTQVets@odva.state.or.us.

Credit: Gordon Friedman
Statesman Journal, May 26, 2016



Absolut Vodka Gets Provocative With Transgender Ad

Absolut Vodka dares to go where most big-time booze-sellers won't with a new ad featuring a transgender story line.

The commercial, "Darla," is part of the Swedish vodka brand's #AbsolutNights campaign. The tagline: "When was the last time you were true to yourself? Sometimes being open to new possibilities is all it takes."

In the ad, a man at a music festival spots someone he knows. "Then I turned around and saw Dave," the voice over goes. "Only it wasn't the Dave I remembered. He told me his name was Darla now." The man "tried to make an excuse to get away," but goes along as "she grabbed my hand." They listen to music, drink Absolut Sea Breezes, go backstage, dance, watch a parade, and take pictures in a photo booth.

Eventually, they talk about how Dave be-

came Darla. "We walked, and she told me she always felt this way," the man says. "I just listened, and somehow I understood." He enthuses, "She was *amazing*." Finally, the two watch the sunrise, and Darla shares her journey. "She was my friend," the voice over concludes. "The same person. The same heart. She hadn't changed. I had."

Thus far, the ad has garnered nearly 600,000 views and 518 comments. You can view the ad at this YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/YgHCzV2FrSM>

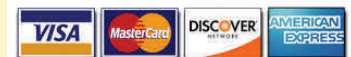
Credit: Susannah Breslin, Contributor, Forbes/
Lifestyle, May 29, 2016



Join or Renew Membership Today!

When you no longer need PFLAG, PFLAG still needs you. Join or renew your membership today so we can continue to support, educate and advocate for families just like yours.

PFLAG makes the world better, family by family. Become a member of our family. Use the form on the back page to join today or visit our website at www.pflagprovidence.org to join or donate on-line!



Chapter Meetings

PFLAG/Greater Providence meets the first Wednesday of each month from 6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.:

The MET School (Unity Building)
325 Public Street
Providence, Rhode Island

Upcoming Meetings

No meeting in July!

August 3, 2016
September 7, 2016
October 5, 2016
November 2, 2016
December 7, 2016

Contact Us

PFLAG/Greater Providence
PO Box 41344, Providence, RI 02940
Phone/Text: (401) 307-1802
www.pflagprovidence.org
pflagprovidence@gmail.com



Ideas for Topics/ Speakers?

Do you have a specific topic you would like to have addressed by a speaker or know of anyone whom you would like to recommend as a speaker for our Chapter? If so, please contact us via email at pflagprovidence@gmail.com.

Member Resources

Rhode Island Bi Resource Network

<http://www.ribinetwork.org>
<http://www.facebook.com/TheOtherBWord>

SAGE Rhode Island

235 Promenade Street, Suite 500, Box 18
Providence, RI 02908
401-528-3259
sagerinfo@gmail.com

TGI Network of Rhode Island

PO Box 40365, Providence, RI 02940
info@tginetwork.org
(401) 441-5058 (voicemail)
Family Support Group meets 2nd Monday each month from 6:30-8:30 pm at Bell Street Parish House, Bell Street, Providence

Youth Pride, Inc.

743 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 421-5626
info@youthprideri.org
<http://www.youthprideri.org>

LGBT Caregiver Support Group

Child & Family Elder Care
Calvary United Methodist Church
200 Turner Road, Middletown, RI 02842
jgrapentine@childandfamilyri.com
(401) 848-4119
1st & 3rd Tuesdays each month from 10:00—11:00 a.m.

Options Magazine

www.optionsri.org

GLAD (LGBT Legal Advocates)
www.glad.org

Blogs of Interest

Faith Topics

Susan Cottrell

<http://www.FreedHearts.org>

Kathy Baldock

<http://www.canyonwalkerconnections.com>

LGBTQ Issues

Think Progress

<http://thinkprogress.org/lgbt/issue/>

The Huffington Post

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tag/lgbt-blogs>

Parenting a Transgender Child **Gender Mom**

<http://gendermom.wordpress.com/>

Raising My Rainbow

<http://raisingmyrainbow.com/>

Facebook Groups of Interest

Interweave Channing

Parents of Transgender Children
(Closed Support Group)

The Facebook Transgender Alliance
(Closed Support Group)

Rhode Island Pride



Check us out on Facebook at
www.Facebook.com/PFLAG
Greater Providence, RI



**Greater
Providence
Chapter**

Membership Application

Yes! I want to be a supporting member of PFLAG.

Please provide the information requested below and make your check payable to: **PFLAG/Greater Providence**. You may bring this form with your payment to the next chapter meeting or mail to: **PFLAG, P. O. Box 41344, Providence, RI 02940**. You can also join or donate on-line by visiting our website at www.pflagprovidence.org.

☐

Household \$40

☐

Individual \$30

☐

Student/Limited Income \$20

☐

Additional Contribution \$_____ in ☐ Honor or ☐ Memory of: _____

Name(s) _____

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Phone No. _____ E-mail _____

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