

**Parents Flag/Detroit**  
*Parents & friends of Lesbians & Gays*  
P.O. Box 145  
Farmington, Michigan 48024  
313-478-8408

JUNE 1986 NEWSLETTER

Next meeting.....8 June 1986

2pm - 5pm

Lutheran Church of the Master  
3333 Coolidge Rd.  
Troy, MI.

At our June meeting Richard Sinacola, MSW will be our speaker and will speak about our guilt feelings and how to over come them. There will be time for questions after his talk.

This past month has been one of many surprises and one of much love from coast to coast. Our chapter of Parents FLAG recieved gifts of money from Parents FLAG/LosAngeles, Parents FLAG/Rochester, NY, and The Federation of Parents FLAG. We also recieved from Parents FLAG/Philadelphia copies of READ THIS BEFORE COMING OUT TO YOUR PARENTS and from the Federation Parents FLAG we recieved copies of READ THIS BEFORE COMING OUT TO YOUR PARENTS and ABOUT OUR CHILDREN. This is just one example of hands across America with parents reaching out to parents, from coast to coast there is love and it has been shared with us here in Detroit. To each and everyone THANK YOU from Parents FLAG/Detroit.

Now that we have money Betty and Katherine have volunteered to keep track of our checking account. Thanks to both of you, if we are going to make a go of our chapter we need everyone to help.

It was also my lucky day on the 13th no less to recieve a call from Emma. Emma is a parent of a gay son and has just moved to the Detroit area from Lansing, MI. She was a part of Parents FLAG Lansing, and their loss is our gain. I know she will be missed in their chapter but she has already volunteered to help with the hot-line calls. Thanks Emma for calling and offering your help to Parents FLAG/Detroit.

At our last meeting it was decided to give \$10.00 to the Gay Pride Committee for the Gay Pride Parade. We will be listed not only as a supporter but also as a Buddy. The parade will be June 15th.

BEYOND ACCEPTANCE, is a new book by 3 parents from Parents FLAG/ St. Louis. Marian and Art Wirth and Carolyn Griffin are the authors. This book should be in your bookstore by now, do your self a favor and get a copy to read.

On May 10 th and 11th Dignity Detroit celebrated their 12th year Anniversary. On Sunday the 11th, Mass was celebrated by Most Reverend Bishop Patrick Cooney and 10 other priests. And what a celebration it was, never have I heard such great joy in singing from a congregation as was done that day. What a privilege it was for me and my family to be there and celebrate with them. Happy Anniversary Dignity/Detroit and many many more.

From the St. Louis Newsletter May 86.

"I was watching a television show where a minister was saying that gays were an abomination. He mentioned several verses from scripture to prove it and held up a Bible. I sat there glued to my chair for awhile. That man doesn't know my son, but he used a biblical one-liner to show his hate. A chill ran down my spine as I thought about my son's being made into a 'nonperson' in the name of God.

When I used to read about the Nazis in Germany who were so horrible to the Jewish people, I'd think, 'Thank God we're not like that in America.' But as I listened to that minister, I wasn't so sure. I thought, 'What if more and more people get stirred up by people like him! Could there be a blood bath against lesbians and gays here?' For a few minutes I was filled with terror. I had to get up and vacuum the rugs to get my mind off of it.

I don't really think it could happen here--surely not. I have to think that there are enough fair-minded people in this country who would object."

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The above quote was taken from Beyond Acceptance by Carolyn Griffin, Marian Wirth and Arthur Wirth. Beyond Acceptance is finally available in bookstores throughout America.

From Art Wirth:

In Beyond Acceptance, there are several sentences by our son Scott in the last pages of the book:

"Gayness or lesbianism presents itself in our lives unexpectedly. It goes on to surprise us, to confuse us, to disappear and reappear, to open us...Being gay, or closely related to someone who is, offers an uncommonly powerful catalyst for personal transformation. If we can stand the heat and give ourselves over to the full process of coming out, we will learn flexibility in the midst of life's chaos, paradox, and mystery."

In my own experience this certainly has been true. I wasn't ready for it ten years ago when Scott "brought the news". It was a case of "Here it comes, ready or not." In order to seek support to survive, Marian, Rita and I with the help of Dixie and Brenda of MCC, began to reach out for other parents. Now, thanks to Carolyn's current leadership, Parents FLAG is alive and well in St. Louis. This week Beyond Acceptance became reality as we held an advanced copy in our hands. Some of our warmest and deepest friendships have come out of our relations with the Parents FLAG parents who have been there with us, and from the caring and talented lesbians and gay men who have joined the group.

Then April 4 the telephone call from Scott at 6:30 A.M. that brought us the news that a new infant daughter, Jessica Marian Wirth, had entered his life and ours. I'm a grandfather for the first time through my gay son. It's true. If we let it happen, gayness goes on to surprise us and to open us up to the mystery of life.

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