

# **PFLAG TORONTO**

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

September 2011 Newsletter #11

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## **PFLAG TORONTO VISION**

PFLAG Toronto is a charitable organization that speaks for a more accepting Canadian society by providing support, education and resources to all people who wish to grow in their understanding of sexual and gender diversity.

PFLAG Toronto actively assist in the recognition and growth of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex, queer and questioning persons, and their families and friends, within their diverse cultures and societies.

## **Next Support Meeting**

Wednesday  
**November 2, 2011**  
7:30 p.m.

Kimbourne Park United Church  
200 Wolverleigh Blvd.,  
Toronto, ON M4C 1S2



At the PFLAG Toronto booth



2011 Pride Parade

## A message from your President

September, 2011

By the time you read this, the votes will have been cast and counted, and Ontario will have another Government.

I've mentioned before that it's no secret who I vote for – our lawn sports our candidate's election sign and the sign was installed a few weeks ago. Then one morning – it had gone, along with all the signs for that candidate from neighbours' lawns; and on our block just one colour could be seen on signs left standing.

We contacted our candidate, and a replacement sign was back on our lawn, and stayed there till this past week when we found the sign tossed behind a hedge – the stand having been removed. And we saw on Facebook a photograph taken in an alley of a large pile of similar signs, uprooted from lawns like ours and dumped in a heap.

Either someone local took it upon him/herself to come on our property and remove our signs, or dirty politics were being sanctioned! Neither option was very comforting.

Then the National Post ran (twice) an advertisement by The Institute for Canadian Values that misrepresented the Toronto District School Board's Equitable and Inclusive Schools Curriculum. The National Post later apologised for publishing the ad; however, the Toronto Sun also published the ad.

I am still reading the 223 page TDSB Curriculum Guideline, and knowing that families call PFLAG Toronto because of their 8 and 10 year olds being taunted in school, and having gay slurs used against them in the Primary Grades, it seems to me that perhaps the old curriculum left it too late to introduce some topics, so I'm still reading....

Then I had my wallet stolen out of my purse whilst enjoying a cup of tea and a chat with a friend in a local Starbucks. I put the strap of my purse over the back of my chair then sat down for tea. I won't do it again and remind everyone who carries a purse to keep it on your person at all times!

By the time I left Starbucks, discovered my wallet was gone, and called my husband to phone and cancel my credit cards, they had been used in a spending spree that racked up dollar sales far higher than any I ever did! My I.D. was stolen too – a worry and a hassle to replace.

What made me uncomfortable in all these situations was that someone chose to do something negative, regardless

of the nuisance, harm, hurt or impact it could cause someone else – perhaps even someone or some people they know.

Earlier this year I read, *"I've A Feeling We're Not In Kansas Any More: Tales from Gay Manhattan"* by Ethan Mordden, and like the image that phrase brings to mind, I know the world is not always as we expect it to be.

So we adapt. These events of recent weeks have in fact spurred me on to:

- be more aware of my surroundings and the people who come into my space;
- reinforce my beliefs in the Political Party of my choice;
- strengthen my dedication to PFLAG Toronto because I know that the work being done by our volunteers every day is helping to make life easier for someone who needs our support;
- reaffirm that we have an opportunity each day to help make change happen one interaction, one conversation, one letter to the Editor at a time.



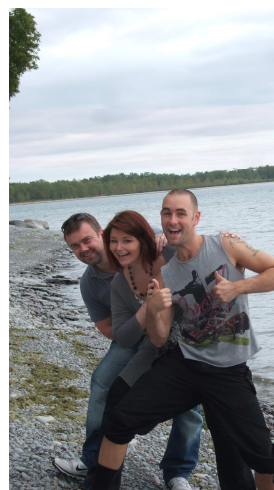
This month I have been busy doing outreach, and I am always most grateful to my friends who help open the doors to invite PFLAG in.

And when Thanksgiving comes around I will be thankful for all the good people in my life who far outnumber those who cause disharmony and upset.

I hope the Thanksgiving holiday weekend affords you all some relaxation time with family or friends, and to those who celebrated Rosh Hashanah, I wish you a good year!

Yours in Pride,

*Irene Miller*

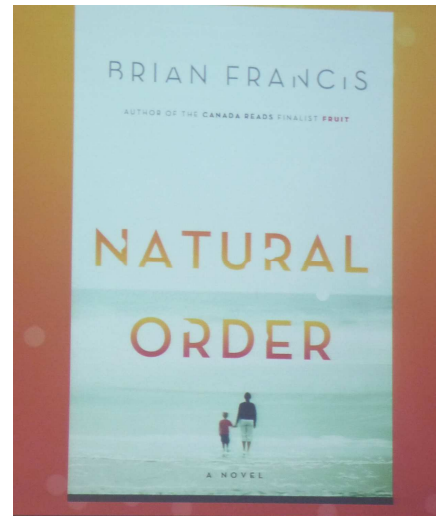


Counting my blessings...

In September we had our son, daughter and son-in-law all under our roof for the first time in years, when Raymond returned from living in New York, and Crystal and David visited from their home in Wales.

*R to L : Raymond,  
Crystal and David*

Coming in the October newsletter, **Brian Francis** and his new book **NATURAL ORDER**



PFLAG Toronto wants to offer a heartfelt **‘Thank You’** to the wonderful people who have recently made a donation to PFLAG Toronto. Your donations are allowing us to continue offering our 24/7 Telephone Support Line, our Monthly Support Meetings and our ongoing outreach and community support.

As a fully volunteer run organization, your donations make a direct impact in the lives of those who need our help.

If you would like to help, you can make a donation through the secure servers at CanadaHelps.org (charitable donation receipts are issued automatically), and if you wish you can specify that your donation remain anonymous, or you can choose to honour someone or a special occasion. Or you may send a cheque to PFLAG Toronto, 200 Wolverleigh Blvd., Toronto, ON, M4C 1S2. (charitable donation receipts will be issued for amounts of \$20 or more)

**DONATE NOW**

<http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=s70090>

*Charitable Registration BN: 891493348RR0001*