

TORONTO PFLAG

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

January 2013 Newsletter #27

www.torontopflag.org

office@pflagtoronto.org

TORONTO PFLAG VISION

Toronto PFLAG 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.

Toronto PFLAG actively assists 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
February 6, 2012
7:30 p.m.

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

PROUD TO PLAY NIGHT February 12th, 2013

IN SUPPORT OF

Egale Canada and Toronto PFLAG

You are invited to join
Toronto PFLAG and allies
As the **Toronto Raptors** play the **Denver Nuggets**
Tuesday, February 12th, 7:00 p.m.

Tickets \$20.00

When you book using **Codeword: PROUDTOPLAY**

Toronto PFLAG and Egale Canada will each receive \$2.00
from every ticket purchased

Due to the unsettled labour situation in schools
the educational workshop component of the
day has been cancelled.

PROUD TO PLAY NIGHT
IN SUPPORT OF

Egale
Original Human Rights Trust

TORONTO PFLAG
torontopflag.org

RAPTORS
DENVER NUGGETS

TUESDAY
FEB. 12TH 7:00PM
TICKETS \$20
FROM FEB. 12TH

PFLAG & EGALE WILL EACH RECEIVE \$2
FROM EVERY TICKET PURCHASE

VISIT RAPTORS.COM/TICKETPASS
AND USE CODEWORD: **PROUDTOPLAY**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
MICHAEL THORNE AT 416.815.4312 OR MICHAEL.THORNE@MILSE.COM

RAPTORS BASKETBALL
LIVING THE GAME.

A message from your President

January 27, 2013

Opening Doors

What a month it has been politically. We had a bird's eye view of President Barack Obama's Inauguration, and with mounting excitement and celebration we watched history being made right here as Kathleen Wynne was elected Premier of Ontario.

President Obama's speech in which he mentioned Stonewall likely took most of us by surprise. He then went on to include these words, *"... our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law, for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal, as well."*

President Obama clearly stated his views on equality and these words, spoken in a country which lags behind our own in protecting its citizens regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity, and in guaranteeing them the same rights and privileges as their straight counterparts, surely resonated across America.

As I write this today I am surrounded by newspaper and media articles repeating the word 'historic'. At the Ontario Liberal Leadership Convention the final two delegates named on the ballot were both women. That was indeed historic.

Kathleen Wynne won. She is premier-designate. Ontario's 25th Premier will be a woman who is a married lesbian. My thesaurus doesn't offer words with meanings deep enough to describe how incredibly important this news is.

And it is important:

- To women and girls, who have seen that there need not be barriers or limits to their dreams and aspirations. They can reach for the top and hope to achieve it.
- To men and boys, who may look at the women in their lives with fresh eyes.
- To anyone LGBTQI2S, who can see a role model who did not shy away from the question, *"... Is Ontario ready for a gay Premier?"*
- To all of us straight allies - the parents, siblings, offspring and friends of someone LGBTQ, who will know that our loved ones can claim their equal places in all facets of their daily lives.

Doors have been opened, so that others can come through.

I am grateful for those who opened these doors, and although I'll never get the chance to thank President Obama personally, I have a great big HUG ready to give Kathleen Wynne when I next see her!

Yours in gratitude,

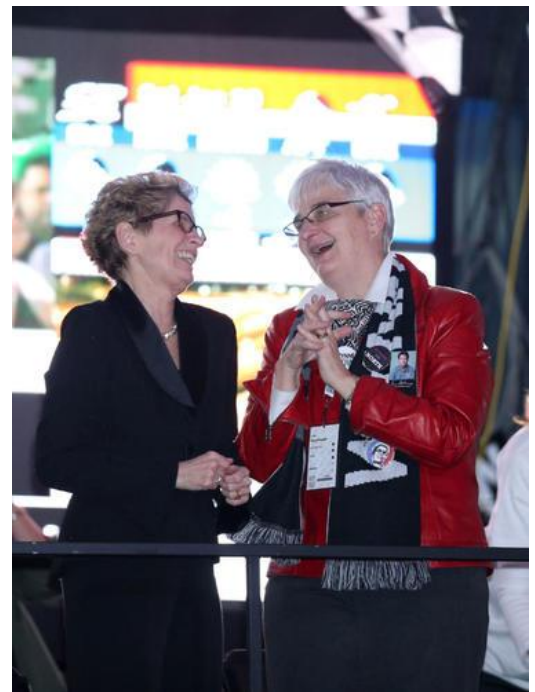
Irene



Kathleen Wynne, at the Brian Burke Award Reception 2012



Kathleen and Jane at Toronto PFLAG Pride Brunch 2012



Picture: Rene Johnstone/Toronto Star
Kathleen Wynne, Jane Rounthwaite, January 26, 2013

Because all of us in PFLAG consider ourselves part of a family, the news of Jeanne Manford's death left many of us feeling bereft. Jeanne Manford advocated for her son and began a movement that has spread the globe. She led by example. She inspired many of us who continue doing today what she did 40 years ago. Much has been written and many pictures shared in recent weeks. Here are the words of Jody Huckaby, from PFLAG National.

Tuesday, January 8, 2013

From PFLAG National Executive Director, Jody Huckaby:

It is with great sorrow that we share with all of you the passing of PFLAG's founder, Jeanne Manford

Today the world has lost a pioneer: Jeanne Manford, the founder of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and the Mother of the Straight Ally movement.

Jeanne was one of the fiercest fighters in the battle for acceptance and equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. It is truly humbling to imagine in 1972 - just 40 years ago - a simple schoolteacher started this movement of family and ally support, without benefit of any of the technology that today makes a grassroots movement so easy to organize. No Internet. No cellphones. Just a deep love for her son and a sign reading "Parents of Gays: Unite in Support for Our Children."

This simple and powerful message of love and acceptance from one person resonated so strongly it was heard by millions of people worldwide and led to the founding of PFLAG, an organization with more than 350 chapters across the U.S. and 200,000 members and supporters, and the creation of similar organizations across the globe.

Jeanne's work was called "the story of America...of ordinary citizens organizing, agitating, educating for change, of hope stronger than hate, of love more powerful than any insult or injury," in a speech by President Barack Obama in 2009.

All of us - people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and straight allies alike - owe Jeanne our gratitude. We are all beneficiaries of her courage. Jeanne Manford proved the power of a single person to transform the world. She paved the way for us to speak out for what is right, uniting the unique parent, family, and ally voice with the voice of LGBT people everywhere.



Fasken Martineau LLB – Diversity Lunch

Toronto PFLAG was invited to attend a Diversity Lunch on Tuesday, January 22nd from 12:00 – 2:00p.m. at Fasken Martineau’s downtown offices.

Jim Callaghan and Irene Miller appreciated the opportunity to speak with so many employees, answer their questions and share resources and information about our support and outreach programmes.



Toronto PFLAG Dad Jim Callaghan with Fasken Martineau employees.

Taxable Donation Receipts

Those people who made on-line donations to the charity this year using Canada Helps will have been issued Taxable Donation Receipts by Canada Helps at the time of the donations.

Donations made directly to the charity will generate Charitable Donation Receipts issued by our Bookkeeper, and duly authorized by an Officer of the Corporation.

If you have moved this year, please contact our office at office@pflagtoronto.org and advise us of your new address.

Charitable Donation Receipts will be mailed out early February 2013.

Thank you,
R. Gary Miller, C.A.
Treasurer

THANK YOU

Toronto PFLAG wants to offer a heartfelt ‘**Thank You**’ to the wonderful people who have recently made a donation to Toronto PFLAG. 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.

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

Toronto PFLAG, 200 Waverleigh Blvd., Toronto, ON, M4C 1S2.
(charitable donation receipts will be issued for amounts of \$20+)

DONATE NOW

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

Charitable Registration BN: 891493348RR0001