

EQUALITY ILLINOIS OCTOBER 2009

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1) SIGN ON – Equality Illinois Needs YOUR help

We need your support right now to advance and expand our assertive agenda for full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Illinois. **To build on our momentum, we need at least 10,000 new members this month!**

Educating our fellow Illinoisans and public officials about legislative issues important to the LGBT community, building a strong support network across faiths, sexual orientations, and gender identity, and maintaining a strong and effective team of lobbyists are all key to our future successes. But Equality Illinois cannot succeed in that without your participation.

Become a member for as little as \$35 – that's less than \$3 per month, about the cost of a latte. Join forces with 10,000 members, and together you can achieve **civil unions**, ensure **safe schools**, fight **hate crimes**, and so much more!

Become a member now and you may not even need to skip those lattes: we'll enter you in our weekly new member drawings for **dozens** of prizes.

We all have a stake and a role in advancing equality, and Equality Illinois cannot achieve this mission without your support.

We're counting on you. Please give at least \$35 now, and please forward this message to at least 5 of your friends or family members. For additional information on our many giving options, please contact Joey McDonald at (773) 477-7173 or JMcDonald@eqil.org.

2) CURTAINS UP! The Addams Family musical – Benefit for Equality Illinois

Join us for a special showing of The Addams Family the musical and benefit our mission of equality!

When you purchase your tickets through Equality Illinois and join us on December 8th, your purchase will benefit the Equality Illinois Education Project - to support our crucial work to secure, protect and defend equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in our State. A portion of the ticket price is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Premium VIP ticket holders are invited to a special Equality Illinois post-performance reception to which the cast of The Addams Family is also invited. We want you to enjoy The Addams Family with us!

The Addams Family, starring two-time Tony Award® winners Nathan Lane and Bebe Neuwirth, is opening in Chicago this Fall before it goes to Broadway. The weird and wonderful family created by New Yorker cartoonist Charles Addams comes to devilishly delightful life in a Broadway musical. Experience The Addams Family at the pre-Broadway showing and support Equality Illinois.

The Addams Family – A New Musical
Tuesday, December 8, 2009
Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Oriental Theatre
24 West Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois

To purchase your tickets, please go to:
http://eqfed.org/equality_illinois/events/addamsfamily/details.tcl

3) OUTREACH – Equality Illinois hosts Bulgarian Delegation

Equality Illinois hosted the Commission for Protection Against Discrimination as part of the U.S. Department of State's International Leadership Visitor Program. The Commission's is a joint program by Bulgaria's Parliament and President in order to study discrimination on the basis of 19 categories and to find ways to combat it. Bulgarian representatives met with Equality Illinois staff members, discussed the movement for LGBT rights and items on the shared agenda.

4) JOIN US: October 2 – First Friday Networking Social

Join Equality Illinois supporters and friends for our monthly First Friday networking event, celebrating the beginning of Autumn in the Midwest! Help us welcome our guests for the month of October – Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC). For a \$10 donation to the Equality Illinois PAC, you receive two-drink tickets and a ticket for a door prize drawing.

Equality Illinois First Friday Networking Event
Friday, September 4, 2009
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sidetrack – Glass Bar
3349 North Halsted Street
Chicago, Illinois
(21 and over, with I.D.)

Founded in 1974, by a group of medical students concerned with the rising rates of sexually transmitted diseases among gay men, Howard Brown Health Center is now the Midwest's premier LGBT health care organization, leading the region in addressing the comprehensive health care needs of the entire community. Over the years, HBHC developed an array of services including primary medical care, mental health counseling, substance abuse services, prevention and education, research programs and case management. In 2007, the Lesbian Community Care Project (LCCP) merged with Howard Brown, becoming the lesbian heart of Howard Brown, dedicated to improving the health of lesbian, bisexual, and queer women, as well as transgender individuals. Through LCCP, these women are offered sensitive medical care, programming and education on lesbian health topics, and an array of mental health services, including smoking cessation groups.

Named after Dr. Howard Brown Jr., the center was incorporated in 1976 as Howard Brown Memorial Clinic. The main location is in Chicago's Uptown, one of the city's most diverse neighborhoods, and the one with the city's highest incidence of HIV/AIDS. Howard Brown Health Center's Broadway Youth Center (BYC), located in Lakeview, is a facility geared towards youth aged 24 and under. Through Howard Brown and its community partners, youth are offered daily health and education workshops, HIV/STD testing, case management, medical care, counseling, as well as social and support groups.

For additional information, please go to HBHC. <http://www.HowardBrown.org>

Contributions support the Equality Illinois Political Action Committee. Contributions are not tax deductible. Paid for by Equality Illinois PAC. A copy of our report filed with the State Board of Elections and the Cook County Clerk is (or will be) available for purchase from the State Board of Elections, Springfield, IL, or the Cook County Clerk's Office, 69 W. Washington, Chicago, IL 60601. State law requires that we report the occupation and name of the employer of any individual who contributes over \$500.00

5) OUTING: October 4 – GLBT / Community Pride Picnic

On Sunday, October 4th, Equality Illinois will head to Carbondale to join in the celebration at the GLBT/Community Pride Picnic. There will be food, live bands, games, vendors from local businesses, and local artwork on display. Several organizations will have informational tables including: Equality Illinois, the Rainbow Café, the GLBT Resource Center at SIUC, the Rainbow Network and more.

Please stop at the Equality Illinois table and talk to field director, Caroline Staerk. Find out what Equality Illinois is doing to advance equality in Illinois, and what you can do to help that mission.

GLBT / Community Pride Picnic
Sunday, October 4, 2009
2:00pm – 8:00pm
Church of the Good Shepard
515 South Orchard
Carbondale, Illinois

6) WALK, DON'T RUN: October 9-11 – National Equality March

The journey for full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (“LGBT”) Americans has been long, often difficult, and always spirited. We have come far, achieving significant social and political victories, but we have yet a long way to go.

One way in which LGBT Americans and our allies have celebrated our victories and re-ignited our energy is by gathering in our nation's capitol. To stand shoulder-to-shoulder with fellow Americans from every corner of the country who believe in and fight for equal rights can be a powerful experience. In the three decades since Stonewall, we have marched on Washington in 1979, 1987, 1993, 1997, and 2000.

In that tradition, organizers are planning to gather on the National Mall again on October 11, 2009, in what has been called the National Equality March. We wish the organizers and the attendees a successful experience.

The March is one way to inspire and be inspired. It is part of the journey that begins and continues at home – in our states, our cities, and our communities. We are proud of the accomplishments that have been achieved on state and local levels throughout the country – that has been the most successful strategy so far – but we must continue to build on that momentum.

This is how we, at Equality Illinois, are building on that momentum: We are working restlessly to pass relationship recognition legislation in Springfield, to educate the larger community about hate crimes and partner with our allies to prevent them, to develop resources necessary to foster schools free of homophobic and transphobic violence, and much more.

Let's not let this momentum slip away. We hope that those who are able to attend the March and those who do not go will continue to join us in our mission to bring full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in Illinois. We cannot succeed without your support.

Please visit www.EqualityIllinois.org to learn more about our vast agenda and to get involved.

For details, as well as travel, on the National Equality March, go to:
http://equalityacrossamerica.org/blog/?page_id=19

For additional details on transportation to Washington, go to:
<http://www.jointheimpactchicago.com/>

For details on Chicago's Solidarity Rally, as part of the National Equality March, go to:
<http://www.lgbtchange.org/>

7) REFLECT: October 12 – The Laramie Project – Ten Years Later

About Face Theatre cordially invites you to their presentation of ***The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later***. They are joining forces with Tectonic Theatre and 120 other theaters around the United States to simultaneously present this reading, which will culminate in a live, nationwide Q&A session.

*Presented at the Goodman Theatre - Benefitting About Face Youth Theatre
Equality Illinois' summer intern/volunteer Scott Jaburek is also part of the About Face Family

October 12, 2009

6:45pm (VIP Reception begins at 5:30pm)

Call About Face Theatre at 773-784-8565 x 109 or check out the website at
<http://www.aboutfacetheatre.com> for additional information

8) REVEL: October 24 – Women for Equality

Equality Illinois invites you to the third annual
Women for Equality – An event for LBT Women and Friends
Saturday, October 24th at the Velvet Rope in Oak Park.

Join us as we celebrate women from all walks of our community!

Women for Equality
An event for LBT Women and Friends
Saturday, October 24, 2009
5:00pm – 9:00pm
The Velvet Rope
728 West Lake Street
Oak Park, Illinois

9) ALPHABET SOUP: October 27 & 28 – Night of 100 Drag Queens

Join us for a delicious serving of
Night of 100 Drag Queens - Alphabet Soup
A benefit for Equality Illinois
Tuesday, October 27 and Wednesday, October 28
Sidetrack
3349 N. Halsted Street
Chicago

Now in its 17th year, Night of 100 Drag Queens showcases the talents of both seasoned performers and amateurs in a lively and raucous review!

VIP ticket purchasers begin the evening with a reception at 7:00pm, with champagne, lite bites and special surprises.... all prior to the main show. Doors open to the general public at 8:00pm, with the show promptly beginning at 8:30pm. Advanced ticket purchase is recommended for both evenings. Tickets can be purchased securely online or through your favorite Sidetrack bartender.

To purchase tickets for Tuesday, October 27, 2009 – **click here**
http://eqfed.org/equality_illinois/events/c4_n100dq_tues_oct27/details.tcl

VIP Reception (7-8 pm) & Show (8 pm – Midnight)

Advanced Tickets: \$20.00

General Admission – Show Only (8 pm – Midnight)

Advance Tickets: \$10.00

To purchase tickets for Wednesday, October 28, 2009 – **click here**
http://eqfed.org/equality_illinois/events/_c4_n100dq_wed_oct28/details.tcl

VIP Reception (7-8 pm) & Show (8 pm – Midnight)

Advance Tickets: \$20.00

General Admission – Show Only (8 pm – Midnight)

Advance Tickets: \$10.00

Online Ticketing is Will-Call only:

The names for both purchasers and guests will be held at the door of Sidetrack.

10) TRICK OR TREAT: October 31 – Halloween Celebration

Equality Illinois is proud to be a sponsor of the Triangle Neighbors' 13th Annual Halloween Celebration – Tales from Wonderland – Saturday, October 31st, 1pm – 8:45pm.

The celebration begins at 1pm with a party at the Center on Halsted, which will include bobbing for apples and musical chairs. When Halsted Street closes for Trick-or-Treating (3-5pm), families with children are invited to stop at the Equality Illinois office – 3318 N. Halsted Street – for a reception. Stop by and meet members of the Addams Family – Gomez & Morticia, Pugsley & Wednesday, and Uncle Fester. Grandmamma, Cousin Itt and Lurch may also drop by! All children in costumes will receive a treat for their Halloween goodie bag.

The Triangle Neighborhood Association is hosting a Mad-Hatter Tea Party for children from 4-6pm at Space Park – 815-817 W. Roscoe Street. A Pet's Event will be held simultaneously in the alley adjacent to Space Park. This is also the time to sign up for both the Kid's Parade and the Pet Parade.

Adult costume judging begins at 6pm at Halsted & Belmont, and the annual Halloween Parade will follow. The Main Show and Awards Presentation will take place at 7pm at the 7-Eleven Stage – corner of Halsted & Roscoe Streets.

We hope that you come out and enjoy the Halloween festivities with us at the last outdoor Halsted Street celebration of the year!

Halloween Reception
Saturday, October 31, 2009 – 3-5pm
Equality Illinois Office – 3318 N. Halsted Street

11) TAKE A SIP: November 11 – Fall / Holiday Wine Tasting

Please make a note to join us at our Fall/Holiday Wine Tasting on Wednesday, November 11th at Sidetrack. For a \$20 (per person) contribution to the Equality Illinois PAC, you can sample and learn about over 75 wines from around the world. This event boasts offerings for every taste, palate and pocket! And, as always, you can also ask your favorite bartender for Sidetrack's fabulous wine list.

Wines will be available for purchase, subject to limitations and availability.

Advance sale tickets are now available for purchase online by **clicking here**.
https://secure.ga4.org/01/pac_fall09_winetasting?preview=f

All advance sale ticketing is Will Call, and will be issued at the door of Sidetrack the evening of the event.

Equality Illinois Fall / Holiday Wine Tasting
Wednesday, November 11, 2009
6:00pm – 9:00pm
Sidetrack
3349 N. Halsted Street

Contributions support the Equality Illinois Political Action Committee. Contributions are not tax deductible. Paid for by Equality Illinois PAC. A copy of our report filed with the State Board of Elections and the Cook County Clerk is (or will be) available for purchase from the State Board of Elections, Springfield, IL, or the Cook County Clerk's Office, 69 W. Washington, Chicago, IL 60601. State law requires that we report the occupation and name of the employer of any individual who contributes over \$500.00

12) FAN BASE: Become a Fan of our NEW Facebook page

Please show that you support equality in Illinois by becoming a fan of Equality Illinois' **brand-new** Facebook page. Organizations that oppose marriage equality have thousands of "fans" for their cause. Let's show them how strong we are!
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Equality-Illinois/104000334423>

13) CELEBRATE: Equality Illinois 2010 *Justice for All* Gala

We are now planning our 2010 ***Justice for All*** Gala, to be held on Saturday, January 23rd at the Hilton Chicago, and are proud to announce this year's Gala Co-chairs: Mr. Ted A. Grady, Ms. Karen Olin and Mr. Frank Quinn.

Justice for All is the largest and most fun annual LGBT black-tie gala in the Midwest, with over 1,000 people attending each year. You may run into elected officials, business owners and executives, community leaders, as well as your next-door neighbor!

This event directly benefits the Equality Illinois Education Project, a 501(c)(3) organization, and funds raised help support our mission to secure, protect and defend equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Illinois. The Gala generates substantial media attention in the gay as well as mainstream Illinois media.

Join us for one important night, one important event.

Equality Illinois 2010 Justice for All Gala
Saturday, January 23, 2010
Hilton Chicago
720 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago

Tables and individual tickets go on sale October 9th and will be available for online at www.equalityillinois.org, or by calling our office – 773-477-7173.

Prices:

Platinum Table of Ten: \$4,500.00

Best Available Seats in House
(Includes admission to the Premier Reception)

Premier Table of Ten: \$3,500.00

Individual Ticket: \$350.00

Premier seating near the stage
(Includes admission to the Premier Reception)

Standard Table of Ten: \$2,500.00

Individual Ticket: \$250.00

Guests who purchase Platinum or Premier Tables or Individual Tickets are also invited to
the Premier Reception
Friday, January 22, 2010
A New Leaf
1820 North Wells Street
Chicago

Call our office at 773-477-7173 (or email) with questions regarding the Gala:
Gala Sponsorship – Bernard Cherkasov (bcherkasov@eqil.org)
Table & Ticket Purchases – Joey McDonald (jmcdonald@eqil.org)
Program Book Advertising – Caroline Staerk (cstaerk@eqil.org)
Silent Auction Donations – Bill Trude (btrude@eqil.org)

Gala Table/Ticket purchases are tax-deductible as provided by law.

14) UP NEXT: Calendar of Upcoming Events

October

Equality Illinois First Friday Networking Event – October 2
Partner Organization – Howard Brown Health Center
National Equality March in Washington, DC – October 10-11
The Laramie Project – Ten Years Later – October 12
Women for Equality – October 24
Night of 100 Drag Queens – October 27 & 28
Equality Illinois' Family Friendly Halloween Reception – October 31

November

Equality Illinois First Friday Networking Event – November 6
Partner Organization – Accenture LGBT Group
Wine Tasting to benefit Equality Illinois PAC – November 13

December

Equality Illinois First Friday Networking Event – December 4
The Addams Family Theatre Event – December 8
Ultimate New Year's Eve Party – December 31

January

Equality Illinois First Friday Networking Event – January 8
2010 Justice For All Gala – Premier Reception – January 22
2010 Justice for All Gala – Saturday, January 23

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