

EQUALITY ILLINOIS APRIL 2010 E-NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

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1) Join Us: April 2 – First Friday Networking Social

Join Equality Illinois supporters and friends at our monthly First Friday Networking event on Friday, April 2. 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, April 2, 2010

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Sidetrack – Glass Bar

3349 North Halsted Street

Chicago, Illinois

(21 and over, with I.D.)

For a \$10 donation to the Equality Illinois PAC,
you receive two-drink tickets and a ticket for a door prize drawing.

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

2) Lay An Egg: Women for Equality Comedy Event

Join the Women for Equality at Mary's Attic on Saturday, April 3rd for a fun-filled afternoon featuring lesbian comedienne Shannon Ennis. This event benefits the Equality Illinois Education Project, helping raise funds to continue our important work in educating legislators, communities and individuals about LGBT issues. The \$50 per person admission includes two drink tickets. To see Shannon at work, please go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAFJifpMMbQ>

Lay an Egg With Comedienne Shannon Ennis

Saturday, April 3, 2010

4pm-7pm

Hamburger Mary's Chicago

5400 N. Clark Street

Chicago

\$50 – Supports Equality Illinois Education Project, 501(c)(3) organization

3) All About The Arts: Boneyard Arts Festival

Equality Illinois & Allied For Equality will join The Uniting Pride (UP) Center of Champaign County at their booth for LGBTQA resources for the 8th annual Boneyard Arts Festival on Saturday, April 17, 2010.

Presented by 40 North | 88 West - Champaign County's Arts, Culture and Entertainment Council – the Boneyard Arts Festival is an annual 4-day event showcasing the broad range of creative activity flourishing in our community. Its goal is to bring together local artists and businesses in a special event that promotes and celebrates the art that live in Champaign County. More than a traditional arts walk, the Boneyard is a unique countywide celebration that takes place in a wide variety of venues (over 100!) – both traditional (clubs, galleries & museums) and non-traditional (ice cream shops & real estate offices) – and features the work of hundreds of artists. Go to <http://boneyardartsfestival.wordpress.com/about/> for additional details.

The UP Center is a multi-service agency for youth and adults which supports and supports human care, educational and community building activities directed at furthering the well-being and development of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning and ally community of Champaign County, Illinois. Please visit their website at: <http://unitingpride.org/index.php>

Boneyard Arts Festival
Saturday, April 17, 2010 – Noon-5pm
Urbana Champagne Independent Media Center (UCIMC)
202 South Broadway Avenue
Urbana, Illinois

4) FACE TIME: 2010 Springfield Lobby Day

Equality Illinois' annual Lobby Day in Springfield will be held on April 22, 2010. Buses of Equality Illinois members, as well as fair-minded people from all across the state will converge on the Illinois State Capitol to lobby legislators and push for passage of the Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act – SB1716.

While we continue to work towards full marriage equality in Illinois, SB1716 will provide many of the rights and responsibilities that are currently afforded only to married heterosexual couples. Among those rights are the ability to participate in healthcare visitation and decision making for one's partner, survivor benefits and the right to make disposition decisions about deceased partner's remains. This legislation is important to gay and lesbian couples, and has a special significance to senior citizens. Too often these relationships are not recognized in crisis situations, and partners are treated as strangers in the eyes of the law. This is your opportunity to add your strength to the cause!

Buses depart from the following locations:

CHICAGO: 7:00 am
Equality Illinois Office – 3318 N. Halsted Street
*Street parking is either metered or by permit

OAK PARK: 7:00 am
Euclid Avenue United Methodist Church – 405 S. Euclid Avenue
*Street Parking is limited.

BOLINGBROOK: 7:30 (- 8:00) am

The Oak Park bus will make a brief stop in Bolingbrook (7:30-8am) to pick up additional attendees.

Denny's Restaurant – 126 East North Frontage Road

* Park in the Denny's parking lot.

- Exit 267 off of I-55 South (Stevenson)

CARBONDALE: 7:00 am

Church of the Good Shepard – 515 S. Orchard Drive

*Parking available in the gravel lot by the church.

BELLEVILLE: 8:45 (- 9:15) am

The Carbondale bus will make a brief stop in Belleville (8:45-9:15am) to pick up additional attendees.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ – 115 West B Street

* Street parking available.

- Actual pick-up/drop-off point is at the corner of 2nd & C Streets.

Targeted arrival time in Springfield is 11am. After a lunch and an informational meeting, participants will head over to the State House to meet with legislators. After our lobbying session, Equality Illinois will host a reception and dinner at the Station House. Buses will depart Springfield around 5:30pm, arriving back at our starting places at approximately 9:00pm.

Supporter from the entire state are welcome and encouraged to join us in Springfield.

Limited bus seating is available on a first-come basis. To reserve your seat, please click [here](#).

Attendees arriving in Springfield via alternative transportation click [here](#) to RSVP.

Wednesday, April 22

Illinois State House

Springfield, Illinois

11am – 5:30pm

Buses depart 7am – Return approximately 9:30pm

Equality Illinois extends a special thank you to the Church of the Good Shepard United Church of Christ for extending warmth and hospitality to our travelers from Carbondale, providing them with coffee, juice and breakfast items! Additional in-kind support will be provided by Quaker Foods and Snacks to those departing from Chicago.

5) Savor the Bouquet: Sidetrack Spring Wine Tasting benefiting Equality Illinois PAC

Wine gives great pleasure; and every pleasure is of itself a good.

---Samuel Johnson, *Boswell's Life of Johnson*

Please save the date and plan to join Equality Illinois supporters and friends at Sidetrack's Annual Spring Wine Tasting – Wednesday, May 12 – benefiting Equality Illinois PAC.

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.

Come out, take a sip, and have some fun!

Sidetrack Spring Wine Tasting
Wednesday, May 12, 2010
6:00pm – 9:00pm
Sidetrack
3349 N. Halsted Street
\$20 Door

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6) Bon Appétit! – Dining Out For Equality – Save the Date

Dining Out for Equality 2010 will take place on Wednesday, May 19. This exciting event, hosted by Equality Illinois, involves a select group of Chicago dining establishments, all of which are committed to equality for LGBT people in Illinois. Our restaurant partners have graciously agreed to donate 20% of the day's food and beverage sales to Equality Illinois. All you have to do is come out and eat!

By dining out at a participating restaurant on May 19, you will enjoy a delectable meal at a wonderful local establishment while helping to further the vision of Equality Illinois: a fair and unified Illinois where everyone is treated equally with dignity and respect, and where all people live freely regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

Please visit our website, www.DiningOutforEquality.org for information on partnering restaurants. Please save the date and plan on joining us now!

7) It's our Responsibility: Getting out the Vote

Voting in any type of election provides an important way to voice our opinions regarding our leaders and policies. Voting is how we determine our political future. The ability to vote exists as one of the most cherished constitutional rights that many people have fought for, marched for, and died for.

At Equality Illinois, we honor that right and responsibility by registering voters and getting out the vote. We are currently working on a plan for registration throughout the entire state -- not only the street fairs in Chicago but also at the Pride festivals in Carbondale, Belleville, Quad Cities and Peoria as well as other districts.

Please check the Equality Illinois website (www.equalityillinois.org) to learn more about voter registration or to learn when our team is coming near you.

8) Marriage Equality: Prop 8 Trial Transcripts Available Online

The American Foundation for Equal Rights, which is supporting the current legal effort to overturn California's Proposition 8, has posted transcripts from Day 1 thru Day 12 of the Perry v. Schwarzenegger case on its website at <http://www.equalrightsfoundation.org/our-work/hearing-transcripts/>. Transcripts from each day of the trial may be read, linked to and quoted from, but not reposted or sold in any way.

In addition, gay filmmakers John Ireland and John Ainsworth joined together to create their own production: "The Perry vs. Schwarzenegger Trial Re-enactment." Using court transcripts and a cast of 40 professional actors, they have re-enacted every moment of the trial proceedings. The re-enactment is available at <http://www.marriagetrial.com/> and on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDmA_n5ygS4

9) Fan Base: Become a Fan of Equality Illinois' Facebook page

Join over 2,000 fans of Equality Illinois' **Facebook** page and show your support for equality in Illinois! It's the easiest way to keep abreast of what is happening in the LGBT community all across the state. Become a fan by going to:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Equality-Illinois/104000334423>

10) Up Next: Calendar of Upcoming Events

April

April 2: Equality Illinois First Friday Networking Event
Sidetrack
3349 N. Halsted Street
Chicago
\$10 – Supports Equality Illinois PAC

April 3: Women's Event
Lay an Egg With Comedienne Shannon Ennis
4pm-7pm
Hamburger Mary's Chicago
5400 N. Clark Street
Chicago
\$50 – Supports Equality Illinois Education Project

April 8: Equality Prayer Breakfast
Event for Clergy and Lawmakers
9am (Registration begins at 8:30am)

April 17: Boneyard Arts Festival
Noon-5pm
Urbana Champagne Independent Media Center (UCIMC)
202 South Broadway Avenue
Urbana, Illinois

April 22: Lobby Day for Civil Unions and Marriage Equality Illinois
11am – 5:30pm
Illinois State House
Springfield, Illinois

May

May 7: Equality Illinois First Friday Networking Event
Sidetrack
3349 N. Halsted Street
Chicago
\$10 – Supports Equality Illinois PAC

May 12: Spring Wine Tasting

Wednesday, May 12
Sidetrack
3349 N. Halsted Street
Chicago
Supports Equality Illinois PAC
\$20 – Supports Equality Illinois PAC

May 19: Dining Out For Equality
Wednesday, May 19
Various Restaurants
Chicago
A portion of the funds raised will benefit the Equality Illinois Education Project

June

June 4: Equality Illinois First Friday Networking Event
Sidetrack
3349 N. Halsted Street
Chicago
\$10 – Supports Equality Illinois PAC

June 6: Quad Cities Pride
LeClerc Park
Davenport, IA

June 12-13: Andersonville Midsommarfest
Clark Street, Foster – Balmoral
Chicago, IL

June 19: Metro East Pride
Belleville, IL
Chicago

June 27: Chicago Pride Parade
Kick-off at Noon
Halsted & Belmont
Chicago

11) Join the Cause! – 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.

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 15,000 members, and together you can achieve **civil unions**, ensure **safe schools**, fight **hate crimes**, and so much more!

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.

