



Buffalo / Niagara

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www.PFLAG-buffalo-niagara.org

We meet because we have learned that someone very close to us is Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgendered.

We try to help one another deal with this information in a positive manner.

Although we do not agree at all times, we try to be understanding.

We offer help to those who seek it, but do not force ourselves on others.

We strive to maintain anonymity while sharing on a level that is comfortable for all of us.

We encourage all to attend meetings for their own benefit as well as that of the group.

It is our hope that when each of us reaches a point of understanding and acceptance, we realize that this is when others need us the most.

Buffalo Monthly Meeting

Sunday, July 18, 2010
3:00–6:00 PM

The July meeting will be our annual picnic. The picnic will be held at OHM Ultra Lounge on Main Street just north of Allen Street in Buffalo. See the story on page 2 for more details on the picnic.

PFLAG on the Move

The PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara August meeting will be held in a new location. The Board is exploring a number of options but has not decided on a final location. We will send a notice to all members at the end of July or the beginning of August with the new location for our meetings.

New Parents Meetings

These meetings are scheduled as needed. Please call the helpline.

Held at a location convenient to those involved.

This self-help one-on-one meeting deals with the concerns of parents and family members who have recently learned that a loved one is Lesbian or Gay.

Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Buffalo/Niagara, is a non-profit, all volunteer, community-based organization not affiliated with any ethnic, religious, economic, or political group. Membership is open to all. PFLAG membership lists are kept confidential and mailings are sent in plain envelopes.

Queer Journeys Programs

Queer Journeys is a cable access program sponsored by PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara and coordinated by Camille Cox and Babs Conant. The programs are based on documentaries on GLBT issues. This program only airs in Buffalo, on Mondays at 6:30 pm and Tuesdays at 1:00 am on Adelphia Channel 20.

The schedule for the next three months is:

Jul 12: Out for a Change
 Jul 19: The Trials of Jimmy Creech
 Jul 26: Queer Sons
 Aug 2: Lesbian Physicians
 Aug 9: Maybe We're Talking About a Different God / The Preacher's Son
 Aug 16: Mom, Dad, ... I'm Gay
 Aug 23: Making History in Massachusetts
 Aug 30: Safe School Program for Youth in Massachusetts
 Sep 6: A Little Respect
 Sep 13: Choosing Children, Pt 1
 Sep 20: Choosing Children, Pt 2
 Sep 28: Our Brother, Dan

A description of the storylines can be found at:
www.PFLAG-buffalo-niagara.org/video_project.shtml

Can You Help With The Newsletter

It is time consuming to find interesting things to share with our members. We want to have a content filled newsletter but that's hard to do within the time available. You can help. When you're reading the news and you see something that would be interesting to our members, just send an email with the information to pflag@bfn.org

Lifetime Members

Frank Carnevale & James Pilc
 Mary Hewitt
 Clarice Lechner-Hyman

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John & Diane Covert
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 Russel Hurlburt & John Percy
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 Mark Meyer
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 P. J. Tomczyk

and if you're reading on-line most sites have a button that easily allows you to share the article with us.

PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara Picnic

The PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara is holding its annual picnic on Sunday July 18, 2010. The picnic will start at 3pm instead of our normal meeting time of 2:30pm. The picnic is scheduled until 6pm. This year, the picnic will be held at OHM Ultra Lounge (948 Main Street – just north of Allen Street), which has a large back patio. PFLAG will provide all food but members and guests will need to purchase beverages from the bar.

Please call the Helpline if you plan to attend so that we can have an idea of how much food to supply. But if your plans change at the last minute, don't hesitate to stop by. If any of your family are in town that weekend, feel free to bring them along.

We hope to see you there.



A number of PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara members participated in the Pride Parade on June 6th.

Dignity for All Student Act Passes

The Dignity for All Students Act Coalition – which includes the New York Civil Liberties Union, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), NYSUT, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the Empire State Pride Agenda – today applauded the New York State Senate for passing the Dignity for All Students Act, legislation that will protect children from pervasive bullying and bias-based harassment in the state's public schools.

"This is a major victory for children, parents and educators across the state," NYCLU Executive Director Donna Lieberman said. "No child should be afraid to go to school. With this vote, the State Senate has empowered New York's educators to fulfill their responsibility to provide all students a safe, nurturing learning environment."

The Dignity for All Students Act, which had passed the Assembly seven times only to stall in the Senate, will amend state Education Law to protect public school students from severe and pervasive harassment and discrimination, including "verbal threats, intimidation or abuse," based on race, color, national origin, ethnicity,

religion, religious practice, weight, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex. The bill's protections are not limited to these categories.

"This issue has been allowed to languish far too long," said NYSUT Executive Vice President Andrew Pallotta, who oversees the union's legislative and political operations. "We applaud the Legislature's action on this very important matter, and we urge the governor to sign the Dignity for All Students Act into law."

As part of the legislation, teachers and staff will receive regular training to properly address instances of harassment and discrimination. The new law will require monitoring and reporting of such incidents.

"This legislation is critical to ensuring the safety of New York children. The training and accountability provisions of DASA will impact every school in the state by giving them the tools to do something about bullying and harassment," said ADL New York Regional Director Ron Meier.

The dignity bill defines harassment in a manner that appropriately excludes speech and expression that is entitled to First Amendment protections, and aims to protect all students from any harassment that substantially interferes with their education.

"This is a watershed moment for New York schools, which are about to get safer for all students. GLSEN applauds the New York State Legislature for taking comprehensive action against all forms of bullying and ensuring that all students are protected under the law," GLSEN Executive Director Eliza Byard said. "After 10 long years of work to pass this legislation, GLSEN is pleased that New York will now join nine other states that have passed effective, enumerated safe schools legislation."

The nine other states that have enumerated anti-bullying laws are California, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Vermont and Washington. Three additional states – Colorado, Maine and Minnesota – and the District of Columbia have nondiscrimination laws that include protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression.

"While this legislation will help make schools harassment-free zones for all students, it is also the first-ever New York State law that includes explicit protections based on gender identity and expression, and we are particularly pleased that the Legislature had taken the important step of making schools safe for transgender youth," said Empire State Pride Agenda Executive Director Ross D. Levi. "No student should be targeting for bullying just because they are different."

Gov. David Paterson introduced legislation that would complement the dignity bill by requiring schools to follow the state's human rights law against discrimination and establishing a school violence hotline. He has previously pledged to sign the Dignity for All Students Act into law. The State Assembly passed the bill on May 17.

Kay Patterson

Licensed Mental Health Counselor



Counseling for Change

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For months, the Dignity for All Students Act Coalition has been organizing in support of the dignity bill. The legislation is supported by more than 100 additional organizations statewide including the Asian American Legal Defense Fund, Citizen Action of New York State, the Council for Supervisors and Administrators (CSA), the National Education Association (NEA) – New York, the National Organization of Women (NOW New York State, as well as the Albany and New York City chapters), the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), the Sikh Coalition, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and Latino Justice: PRLDEF.

Obama promises to push on gay rights issues

By Philip Elliott, Associated Press

President Barack Obama is promising gay rights activists he'll keep pushing for action on their priorities including benefits for same-sex partners and repealing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military.

At an event in the White House East Room in honor of gay pride month, Obama told activists that he's delivered on promises including passage of anti-hate crimes legislation. But, the president said, "We've got a lot of hard work we've still got to do."

He said he'd keep his promise to repeal "don't ask, don't tell," an area where gay activists are pushing the president to move faster.

Obama also said that the Health and Human Services Department would be moving to get hospitals to allow visitation rights for same-sex couples.

Obama's Labor Department announced it has broadened the definition of "son and daughter" so employers would be required to offer workers in same-sex relationships the right to take 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for partners' newborns or to adopt. The move, coming less than five months before November's congressional elections, incited conservatives and Republicans who stood in lockstep against the Obama administration's earlier efforts to repeal a ban on gays and lesbians serving openly in the military.

It also found support from loyal Democrats and organized labor, but not with some gay activists, who long ago stopped giving Obama the benefit of a doubt.

"We still need laws passed that achieve what these minimal efforts attempt to do piecemeal," said Lane Hudson, a gay activist who last year interrupted Bill Clinton as he defended his administration's handling of gays and lesbians in the military.

"The little things that the Beltway crowd pays attention to - and the White House uses to say 'We're making so much progress' - that doesn't translate outside the Beltway," Hudson said, referring to the rest of the country outside of Washington.

The White House boasts numerous accomplishments to mention during meetings with gay and lesbian activists but the impact of those accomplishments is limited.

Even Sen. Chris Dodd, the Connecticut Democrat who helped write the original family leave law the Labor Department expanded, praised the directive yet called it "just one more step on the long haul towards guaranteeing equal rights" for the gay community.

"There are still too many obstacles, laws and regulations that restrict the rights of gay and lesbian Americans, and we must keep up the fight to break down those barriers to equality," Dodd said in a statement that underscored the impatience felt, even by Obama's allies.

For instance, Obama signed a hate crimes bill into law, expanded benefits for partners of State Department

employees and ended the ban on HIV-positive persons from visiting the United States. He referenced families with "two fathers" in his Father's Day proclamation last week and devoted 38 words of his State of the Union address to repealing "don't ask, don't tell," the ban on gays serving openly in the military.

"There've been some mixed signals from his staff from time to time, but at the end of the day we're on the path toward repeal," said Aubrey Sarvis, the executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, which is trying to end the military ban.

"Initially, we saw the president and his team were a bit cautious and measured, I think in large part because they didn't want to repeat the mistakes of the Clinton administration. That was understandable. But we're long past that," he said.

There's reason for the frustration.

Obama's campaign pledged to repeal "don't ask, don't tell," yet that goal appears to remain years away. In a legal brief, Obama's Justice Department cited incest as a reason to defend the traditional definition of marriage, prompting some gay donors last year to boycott the Democratic National Committee. And just last week, a committee at his Health and Human Services Department recommended the nation retain its policy barring gay men from donating blood.

"Two wars, a financial crisis, now an oil spill, plus a fundamental unwillingness to act boldly on gay rights, have rendered Obama agenda-less on this issue," said Richard Socarides, who advised Clinton on gay policies.

Obama's allies say the small-bore changes are the best activists can hope for even though Democrats control the White House, Senate and House.

"People wrongly assume that having Democratic majorities in Congress means that your legislative goals will be met. That's not the case," said Fred Sainz, a vice president at the Human Rights Campaign, Washington's largest gay rights organization.

Gay constituents are not the only part of the Democratic coalition to be disappointed by this White House.

Environmental groups complain that a comprehensive climate bill has languished on the Hill. Organized labor saw its signature legislation, which would make it easier for workers to form unions, fall short because it didn't have White House's backing. And women's groups were in open revolt during the debate over the health care overhaul because of anti-abortion provisions.

Gays say the White House must take a stronger stand. "The people in the White House have to realize that issues of equality are not controversial," Hudson said.

A Gallup poll last month found 70 percent of Americans favor allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military.

That same poll, however, included a reminder: most Americans, 53 percent, oppose legalizing gay marriage.

CNN documentary 'Gary and Tony' takes big-hearted look at gay parenthood



Soledad O'Brien interviews Gary Spino, left, and Tony Brown in the CNN documentary.

By Tom Shales

They're parents "like anybody else," says a sympathetic soul, but not really. Not quite. If they were like anybody else, these parents wouldn't both be wearing "Proud Dad" caps at the baby shower.

As the title more than implies, "Gary and Tony Have a Baby," a poignant and captivating CNN documentary, is the story of a family that's both unusual and a sign of the times. It does not, as the cliché goes, "explore all sides of an issue," but instead offers an intimate and affecting portrait of what happens when partners in a same-sex marriage set out to secure for themselves a blessed event, the limits of biology notwithstanding.

Sensitively but not mawkishly reported by Soledad O'Brien, the hour-long documentary is definitely high-road television – meaning it's been made as a gesture toward enlightenment and not to grab big ratings, which it probably won't.

"Gary and Tony" may be "soft," but it's also hard-hitting emotionally. The two men – Gary Spino and Tony Brown – face many a bump along the rough road to parenthood. Two New Yorkers in their late 40s who've been living together for 20 years, Spino and Brown must be truly in love or else how could they survive in one of those punishingly puny New York apartments? They're a likable pair if not precisely eloquent. "So cool," one of them says while looking at sonograms of the fetus. "So cool," says the other when they hear the baby is a boy.

So cool? Not "awesome"??

Asked early in the hour why they want to be parents, they come up with the same sort of glib answers, making it sound as if they're trying to be fashionable rather than paternal. But this is a picture medium; shots of Gary and Tony holding newborn Nicholas, and close-ups of their shining eyes as they behold the baby for the first time are inescapably expressive – and conclusive.

O'Brien has the men recall the history of their relationship from the beginning, when, like it says in

"Some Enchanted Evening," they saw each other "across a crowded room." They had a wedding outside of New York State because the legislature refused to pass a bill acknowledging same-sex marriages. Demonstrators outside the courtroom repeat the canard about gay marriage being a "threat" to the institution, but Gary and Tom justifiably want to know how they are a threat to anybody.

The "threat" argument seems to presuppose that everyone would be homosexual and take up with husbands or wives of their own gender if not for the social strictures placed upon such behavior. And that goes back to the never-ending argument about whether homosexuality is learned or inherited, a "lifestyle" or a genetic predisposition. O'Brien is wise not to rehash all that; it's not a subject that brings out the best in those who never seem to tire of debating it.

You do have to wonder: Could an opponent of same-sex marriage, or even a homophobic extremist, watch the documentary, see Gary and Tony in paternal bliss with their child, and still want to deny them this happiness – even deny them the right to cohabit? Or, for that matter, to hop into the same sack?

A good-natured Floridian named Holly is the egg donor, although "donor" is not quite the word because she charges the guys \$8,000. But another woman has to be employed as the surrogate, to carry the baby to term, and she gets a \$30,000 fee (these expenses are in addition to thousands of dollars in legal fees). Cindy, who has a back filled with tattoos, at first finds the male couple "annoying" but later on, they all seem to get along.

When the baby arrives early, and has to be delivered via emergency C-section, Cindy is told she will never be able to have another child (she and husband John – not their real names – have two). Her feelings for the baby she gave up grow stronger than she, or the two dads, anticipated, although it appears she was spared a traumatic meltdown. O'Brien might have given us more detail about that.

Asked by the reporter whether they worry about how peers and angry zealots may react to Nicholas when he gets older and attends school, Gary says, "We won't live our lives in fear of what a crazy person will do." That is some kind of courage, isn't it?

"Gary and Tony" is not technically advocacy journalism, but in showing a same-sex couple who successfully navigate the mine field and adopt a baby that one of them helped create, O'Brien makes a case for, at the very least, compassion – a case that has to be made again and again in this society, or so it seems.

During their courtship, when Gary and Tony were first considering some version of marriage, Gary was appalled to hear a priest rail against same-sex marriage at the church in central Pennsylvania that he attended. Pamphlets were distributed that urged people to "Join the Campaign to Save Marriage in Pennsylvania." Instead of

having anyone inveigh against the campaign, the producers simply cut to a tell-tale sign that sits outside the church: "All Are Welcome."

Not really. Not quite.

Sweeping Government Plan to End Homelessness Includes LGBT Youth

Representatives from PFLAG National's policy team were invited to attend a White House press conference where the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) submitted *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Present and End Homelessness* to the President. A critical mass of federal, state and local government entities along with faith-based and community organizations informed the plan, which aims to end chronic homelessness in the next five years, promising more effective coordination among 19 federal agencies that all work to assist individuals seeking stable housing and economic empowerment.

We applaud USICH for including the unique needs of homeless youth in its report. Shockingly, estimates suggest that the number of homeless youth range somewhere between 1.6 million and 2.8 million. Of that number, between 20 to 40 percent are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning (LGBTQ). *Opening Doors* acknowledges that youth often leave home as a result of family rejection and severe family conflict that may include physical and/or sexual abuse. It also mentions that young people become homeless when they "leave foster or institutional care (including running away, aging out, or being discharged)." Away from home, many of these young people who are LGBTQ face blatant discrimination when trying to access alternative housing, which is exacerbated by institutionalized discrimination in federally funded programs.

At PFLAG, we know all too well what it feels like to receive a phone call from a young person seeking safe and supportive housing after being kicked out of their home because they are LGBTQ. We also know the unfortunate reality that far too many existing shelters remain unsafe and grossly unprepared to meet these young people's unique needs. Because of this experience, we will continue to work with the Administration to ensure that all youth shelters available are culturally competent and inclusive for all youth in need. We will also continue to ensure that data collection on these vulnerable populations captures the lived experiences of LGBTQ young people.

Kids of lesbians have fewer behavioral problems, study suggests

By Madison Park, CNN

A nearly 25-year study concluded that children raised in lesbian households were psychologically well-adjusted and had fewer behavioral problems than their peers. The study, published in the journal *Pediatrics*, followed 78

lesbian couples who conceived through sperm donations and assessed their children's well-being through a series of questionnaires and interviews. Funding for the research came from several lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender advocacy groups, such as the Gill Foundation and the Lesbian Health Fund from the Gay Lesbian Medical Association.

Dr. Nanette Gartrell, the author of the study, wrote that the "funding sources played no role in the design or conduct of the study."

"My personal investment is in doing reputable research," said Gartrell. "This is a straightforward statistical analysis. It will stand and it has withstood very rigorous peer review by the people who make the decision whether or not to publish it."

Gay parenting remains a controversial issue, with debates about topics including the children's psychological adjustment, their parents' sexual orientation and adoption restrictions.

Wendy Wright, president of the Concerned Women for America, a group that supports biblical values, questioned the legitimacy of the findings from a study funded by gay advocacy groups. "That proves the prejudice and bias of the study," she said. "This study was clearly designed to come out with one outcome – to attempt to sway people that children are not detrimentally affected in a homosexual household."

Gartrell started the study in 1986. She recruited subjects through announcements in bookstores, lesbian events and newspapers throughout metro Boston, Massachusetts; San Francisco, California, and Washington. The mothers were interviewed during pregnancy or the insemination process, and additionally when the children were 2, 5, 10 and 17 years old. Those children are now 18 to 23 years old. They were interviewed four times as they matured and also completed an online questionnaire at age 17, focusing on their psychological adjustment, peer and family relationships and academic progress.

To assess their well-being, Gartrell used the Child Behavior Checklist, a commonly used standard to measure children's behavioral and social problems, such as anxiety, depression, aggressive behavior and social competence. The answers were coded into a computer and then analyzed. This data was compared with data from children of nonlesbian families.

The results surprised Gartrell. "I would have anticipated the kids would be doing as well as the normative sample," she said. "I didn't expect better."

Children from lesbian families rated higher in social, academic and total competence. They also showed lower rates in social, rule-breaking, aggressive problem behavior.

The involvement of mothers may be a contributing factor, in addition to the fact that the pregnancies were planned, Gartrell said. The children "didn't arrive by accident," she said. "The mothers were older... they were

waiting for an opportunity to have children and age brings maturity and better parenting.” This also could have occurred because “growing up in households with less power assertion and more parental involvement has been shown to be associated with healthier psychological adjustment,” Gartrell wrote in the study.

Some of the teenagers reported being stigmatized by peers because of their parents’ sexuality. Researchers compared the figures in terms of the psychological adjustment between children who had experienced stigma versus those who did not. “We found no differences,” Gartrell said. “That leads us to asking why and how are young people managing discrimination? That will be the topic of future papers. We’ll look into what the ingredients are to allow them to cope despite adversity.”

Gartrell studied only lesbian families, because circumstances surrounding gay male families are different. Gay men becoming fathers is newer in comparison with lesbians, because their options have been limited to adoption or surrogacy. Lesbians often conceive through donor insemination.

“This study shows that the 17-year-old adolescents who have been reared by lesbian families are psychologically happy and high functioning,” said Gartrell, a Williams distinguished scholar at the UCLA School of Law. Restrictions of child custody and reproductive technologies based on sexual orientation are not justified, she said.

Jury: Philly can’t evict scouts for no-gays rule

By Maryclaire Dale, Associate Press

The city of Philadelphia cannot evict a local Boy Scouts chapter from a city-owned building for refusing to admit gays, a federal jury ruled. The city had insisted that nonprofits given free use of its property must abide by local anti-discrimination laws, which include equal protection for gays. But the jury found the city’s reason violated the local scout council’s First Amendment rights.

“We do hope that eventually national (Boy Scouts of America) will change its minds. But at this point, the Cradle of Liberty (Council) is still obligated to follow its policy,” said foreman Merrill Arbogast, 40, of Reinholds, a trucker and former Eagle Scout.

In their lawsuit, the scouts had sought an injunction barring the city from evicting them, or charging \$200,000 a year in rent, on their stately Beaux Arts headquarters building.

While the verdict gives weight to their request, the judge did not immediately issue the ban. Instead, he told jurors the city’s anti-discrimination policy is “principled” and said he hoped the two “honorable institutions” could work something out.

“The city defended this suit in a very principled way, in an area of the law that is highly nuanced –

Constitutional Law – and highly unpredictable,” U.S. District Judge Ronald L. Buckwalter told jurors after the verdict.

In his view, he said, the city can still terminate the lease under the 1928 agreement, which was designed to give nonprofits free rent if they maintained the sites. However, the city must terminate the lease for a legally permissible reason, not because of an organization’s views.

“From now on, the Boy Scouts will be negotiating from a position of strength,” said lawyer Jason Gosselin, who represents the scouts. “The city can’t come in and impose its views on what the scouts ought to do.”

He hopes negotiations with the city will resume. The city was reviewing its legal options.

“While the good work of the Boy Scouts cannot be disputed, the city remains steadfast in its commitment to prevent its facilities from being used to disadvantage certain groups,” the city said in a statement.

The eight-day trial followed a decade of sometimes heated discussions stemming from a 2000 Supreme Court decision that said the Boy Scouts, as a private group, can exclude gays from membership. Some public and private donors around the country withdrew support.

In Philadelphia, the Cradle of Liberty Council tried to walk a fine line between appeasing the city, the United Way and other supporters and the Irving, Texas-based Boy Scouts of America.

In 2003, it enacted its own nondiscrimination policy but was forced to retrench when the Boy Scouts of America ordered it to conform with national rules. The chapter later enacted a statement that says it doesn’t tolerate illegal discrimination.

“We felt that they were between a rock and a hard place,” said Arbogast, the jury foreman.

There has been just one known case of a gay scout being ousted from the Philadelphia chapter, although the city argued that many more may be scared off by the national policy.

Greg Lattera, 25, testified that scouting meant the world to him as an inner-city child. He said he did not intend to become a flag bearer for gay rights when he spoke about being gay while wearing his scout uniform in a TV news interview.

“We felt he was used, a pawn for certain groups’ agenda,” Arbogast said.

A New Book

Window Books is pleased to announce the May 31, 2010 release of Marc Adams’ ninth book, *It’s Not About You: Understanding Coming Out & Self-Acceptance*.

“This project is the result of nearly three years of research and writing,” Adams says. “It’s one of my most exciting projects.”

It’s Not About You is a practical guide for family and friends of those coming out as well as teachers, social

workers and counselors. The book includes a guide for those coming out on how to live life courageously, confidently and consistently.

Marc Adams earned critical acclaim with his autobiography, *The Preacher's Son*, released in 1996. Since then, Adams authored a follow-up book titled, *(lost)Found*, five poetry books and *Do's and Don'ts of Dealing with the Religious Right*. Adams is the founder and executive director of HeartStrong, Inc., a nonprofit social justice organization.

"I was inspired to write this book after spending the past 14 years interacting with other gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and discussing coming out experiences and the disclosure reactions of their families and friends," Adams continues. "While the past decade has brought a little improvement in disclosure reactions, there is a serious need for a modern perspective to guide those on the receiving end of a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender person's honesty as well as encouragement for those taking the step to live their lives honestly."

It's Not About You includes a foreword by Shelley Craig, PhD, LCSW, an assistant professor at Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto. She teaches in the Health and Mental Health Specialization primarily focusing on research and practice for health. Dr. Craig is also the president of HeartStrong, a nonprofit social justice group providing support to GLBT students persecuted in religious educational institutions. She also serves on the national board of directors for PFLAG.

"Marc Adams has written in intuitive form, what those of us in the social sciences are beginning to understand," Dr. Craig writes. "Reactions matter. This insightful volume establishes a case and framework for approaching these critical moments."

"The purpose of this book is to educate those interacting with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people not only about the impact of their reactions but to provide a path to correcting an inappropriate reaction," Adams says. "Coming out is a gift of honesty and this book lights the way to accepting that gift and maintaining relationships based on love. Readers at every place in their journey will find something new here."

It's Not About You also includes an important segment by contributing author, Alexander Pangborn, on coming out as transgender. A full time nursing student, Alexander Pangborn plans to focus on sexual health issues in the LGBTQ community. He also serves on the national board of HeartStrong and as the director of TAO (Transgender Advocacy, Education and Outreach) for HeartStrong.

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