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Gay Parents Take Note!

by Kelly Finn

GALPAK (Gay and Lesbian Parents and their Kids) has a lot of exciting activities being planned in the next few months. We will now be having two meetings every month. One will be an opportunity for the adults to discuss issues of parenting, relationships, and other relevant topics. The second meeting will offer our kids a chance to talk openly about issues concerning their unique situations as children of gay people.

As a group, GALPAK offers support to gay parents and their kids. We are seeking to increase public awareness, through education, about the existence of gay parents and their children. We are already being recognized within the community; and, at the request of the Asheville Gay and Lesbian Community Council, I have agreed to represent GALPAK on the Council.

It is the sincere intent of GALPAK to maintain anonymity for members who request it. All children of gay parents have the right to receive support from their peers on this issue; and I urge anyone who has a child (or knows of someone who does) to please contact me for more information. We currently have children of all ages in the group who would like to meet other kids in similar situations.

GALPAK is making plans to send representatives to an international conference of gay parents and their children in June in Houston, Texas. We desperately need and would gratefully accept any contributions or donations to GALPAK for this purpose. The cost of the three-day conference is \$150 per adult and \$65-\$75 per child if paid before May 15. Meals are included in this registration fee but lodging is not covered. We would like to sponsor two adults and two kids.

We will meet on Monday, April 15, at 7 PM at All Souls Church in Biltmore. For other unannounced meetings and social events, please call me for details. For any information on the conference or GALPAK, please call or write: Kelly Finn, PO Box 2322, Asheville, NC 28802; 258-0660 (leave message). ▽

SURVIVORS -

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more than just a reaction to the abuse. You begin to believe in yourself, that you're capable and lovable. You start making healthy changes and decisions.

Conclusion

For me, doing the program on February 5 was a significant step in coming to terms with being an incest survivor. The support from my family, friends, and the community really meant a lot to me. The other committee members and I feel that February 5 was a very special night.

Books

Courage To Heal, by Ellen Bass & Laura Davis. The Bible for survivors.

Victims No Longer, by Mike Lew. For men recovering from childhood sexual abuse.

Ed. note: Researchers Bell, Weinberg, and Hammersmith state that "the popular stereotype that homosexuality results when a boy is 'seduced' by an older male or a girl by an older female is not supported by our data."--Sexual Preference: Its Development in Men and Women, Bloomington (1981), 185.

OBITUARIES

Eddie Dean Thompson

Eddie Dean Thompson, of Asheville, died at his residence on February 17, 1991. He is survived by his life partner, Wayman Caruthers; his father, Harvey Jordan Thompson; and his mother, Allene Woods.

Before Eddie's health declined, he was an active speaker for the PWA Community through the Episcopal Church and the Ministry to People With AIDS under Joan Marshall.

Eddie was one of the original founders of the PWA support group under the direction of Dan Marshall.

Eddie was born in Barstow, Florida, on July 30, 1954. He will be long remembered for that black felt cowboy hat with the white feather.

Funeral Services were held February 22 in Auburndale, Florida. Cards can be sent to Wayman Caruthers, P.O. Box 16846, Asheville, NC 28816. Memorial gifts may be sent to Mountain Area Hospice, 75 Livingston Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

In memory of Eddie Dean Thompson
 A good listener to me and my family.

--Lee Jones



Lloyd Ray

CLOSER member Lloyd Ray died on February 4, 1991, at his home in Fletcher, North Carolina. Ray was retired and had been a member of CLOSER since summer, 1990.

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