

PFLAG BUFFALO/NIAGARA

Parents, Families, Friends, And Allies United with LGBTQ People

**We will be offering our monthly
Sharing Meetings via Zoom starting in
September. We believe this virtual option is a
good way to continue our mission to support,
educate, and advocate. We have missed you.**



September Sharing Meeting

Via Zoom

September 20

2:30-4:30

**Please leave your contact information (email or phone) on our Helpline
(716-883-0384) and we will send you the information to log in securely.**

You must contact the Helpline at least 24 hours before the meeting starts.

**In addition, outside of our monthly meetings, if need be, New Parent Meetings can occur virtually as if needed in
between sharing meetings. Call our helpline to request a meeting.**

PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara

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ZOOM WITH PFLAG!

We will be using Zoom to hold Sharing Meetings with interested people starting September 20th, our first virtual meeting. We have not met since February, and we are eager to resume meetings.

Please be aware:

- You must call our Helpline for the meeting number and password at least 24 hours in advance.
- If you have not used Zoom, we hope you can do so or learn about its use ahead of the meeting. We do not want to miss you due to problems logging in.
- You will have to use audio and video to be a part of this meeting.
- Nothing will be recorded.
- Your name, first and maybe last may show at the bottom of your Zoom box. Please make sure that you are comfortable with that identification before you join. It will be visible to others. It depends on how your device is registered or labelled.
- PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara has Zoomed for board meetings, but ask for your patience as we attempt this new option.

We look forward to seeing you!

PFLAG REMEMBERED

By Lisbeth Ball

The Helpline brought us a lovely story this August. Pat, who attended Sharing Meetings over 22 years ago was hoping we had information on a Dennis whose words at a meeting, so long ago, changed her perspective and opened her heart. Dennis spoke of how his former wife and he still kept their family together.

They continued to celebrate birthdays and holidays with their children, not wanting them to have to choose one parent over the other. Pat heard this and knew this is what she wanted for her family. And that's what she did. Pat and her ex-husband maintained a connection for the family they both loved and have to this day.

Pat wanted to reach out and thank Dennis for the words that changed her life. She grew to become an ally for LGBTQ community throughout all these years. Our special thanks to Pat for sharing such a lovely story.

She was hoping she could reach out to Dennis. She asked if we could help her.

Current PFLAG members reached out to past members for help in locating Dennis. We reached out to make sure we had the right man and ask if Pat could contact him.

His heartwarming response to PFLAG follows:

My former wife (we find it less off-putting to call each other 'former' instead of what we feel is the harsh sounding 'ex') & I are still friends & we see each other at holidays, etc. & at our children's - & now grandchildren's - milestone events.

Our separation was difficult for our children (not unexpected, of course) & we came to the realization very early in our breakup that we shouldn't make things even more difficult for them (3 daughters) by having to choose who to see for holidays, etc. That original awkwardness was brief & our overcoming it has paid huge dividends, to say the least.

My belief is that the majority of credit for our friendship goes to my former wife, as her needed journey to understanding me, her gay (former) husband, was fraught. She was & continues to be a lay leader in her Catholic parish & has reconciled her Catholic beliefs with her understanding of what it is to be gay. That has not been easy, it goes without saying.

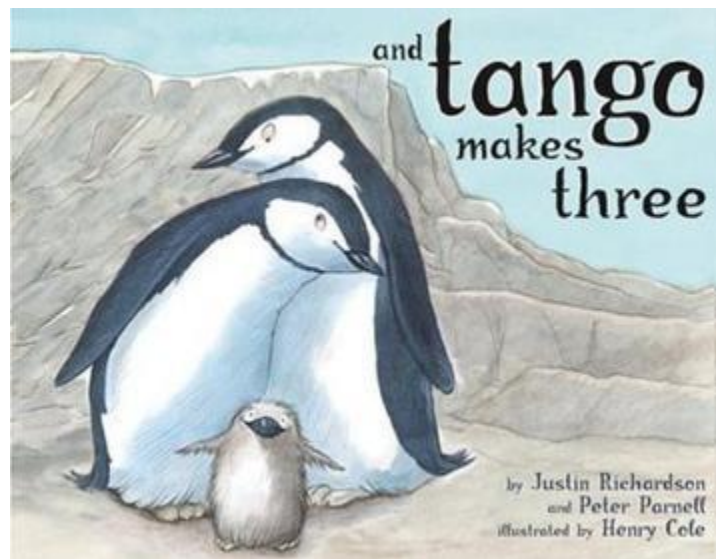
My partner Roger (we'll celebrate 25 years of togetherness this October) & I are at Christmas Eve dinner at her house & she at Christmas Day dinner at ours, in addition to seeing her during the year at various family events.

I'm reminded of the plaque hanging in my mother's house (she has been gone now for 10 years), now hanging in mine, which says "If anyone asks, remember, we are a normal

family". Well, we ARE a normal family, because a normal family is a family that loves each other.

PFLAG shared Dennis's letter with Pat so she could share her deep thanks. We thank her for reaching out to us and are happy we could help connect these two PFLAG alumni whose paths crossed so long ago with such an impact.

BOOK CORNER



This month's selection is *And Tango Makes Three*, by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson, illustrated by Henry Cole .

This children's book is about two male penguins and the egg they hatch, love, and raise. It is based on a true story. It is recommended for ages Pre-K to 3rd grade. It is so important for children to be read to and to read, not just for developing and strengthening reading skills but for the ideas, themes, and lesson within. This award-winning story has caused controversy and has been challenged in American schools; in addition, some countries have attempted to have it banned.

We heartily recommend this book.

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