

Memorandum

From the Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians
Spring 2005 Number 47

New Address

The PLAGAL Board of Directors has decided to change the mailing address for PLAGAL due to problems retrieving mail from the Washington DC post office box in a timely fashion. Please direct all your mail to the new address:

PLAGAL
PO BOX 16753
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22302-0753
202-223-6697
plagal@plagal.org
www.plagal.org

All mail sent to the old box will be forwarded for a time, but please update your records ASAP. We look forward to hearing from you at our new address!

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Bits and Pieces by Cecilia Brown, President

By the time you read this newsletter, we will have begun a new and exciting year! This past year PLAGAL experienced some ups and downs as we changed and grew.

On the down side we were having difficulty retrieving our mail and processing it because of the very limited hours of operation of the DC post office where our post office box was housed. We also had a miscommunication between those who write, edit and put together the newsletter for mailing; the result being that only those who are on our email list received the newsletter last year. Both issues have been addressed by the Board of Directors and corrected. We apologize for any inconvenience that you may have experienced during this time of transition.

On the upside PLAGAL was represented at several pride events and our speakers were asked to more colleges. The Board of Directors wrote and implemented a non-violence statement which is now on our website. PLAGAL opposed GLBT sponsorship of the March for Women's lives and started a letter writing campaign to those GLBT organizations that sponsored the event, some of our members even attended with a counter protest. Those on our email list received more action alerts via email and took action sending us copies of what they had written. Our list serve has grown, we translated a few brochures to Spanish and we have chosen a new logo. It was quite a busy year for PLAGAL.

For 2005 we have planned a new look for our website. We are going back to having two newsletters a year with Dave Styers and Bill Crow bringing back the stuffing parties that Joe Beard made famous. PLAGAL will start a mid year gathering at a different location each year to coincide with pride. We are going to promote our speakers bureau as well.

Check out the website from time to time to keep up with important dates and changes. If you are not part of the official PLAGAL email list please consider joining. This is not to be confused with the listserv that is a discussion list. Our official email list is an information-only list and PLAGAL never sells or rents our membership list.

PLAGAL is now entering our 15th year of bringing the pro-life message to the GLBT community. I am honored to serve another term as your president and I look forward to 2005 with excitement as we continue to make transitions and grow.

NEW PLAGAL LOGO



The Board of Directors is pleased to announce our new PLAGAL Logo. It was designed by LapelPinz at www.LapelPinz.com.

The heart represents the mother. The fetus inside the heart represents her unborn child. The rainbow wings represent the support that pro-life GLBT members of PLAGAL have for her and her child.

In honor of our 15 years as an organization and our new logo, PLAGAL will be issuing this logo in the form of a lapel pin for those who pay their 2005 dues.

Welcome Jillian



We are pleased to announce that Jillian Abigail Malone was born on September 1, 2004, at 5:16am at the Special Beginnings Birth and Women's Center in Arnold, Maryland, to James and Jackie Malone. She weighed 8 lbs. 9 oz. and measured 20 3/4 inches long. Jackie is the Executive Vice President of PLAGAL.

PLAGAL Annual Meeting and Board Meeting

PLAGAL held its annual meeting and board meeting at the Dignity Center on January 23, 2005, in Washington, DC.

To view the minutes from both meetings go to www.plagal.org go to the board members page.

Your new Board of Directors for 2005 is as follows:

Dave Styers, Cecilia Brown, Bill Crow, Jackie Malone, Rick Hoffman, Maria Krasinski, Ken Teise, Laurel Harris, Steve Cook



PLAGAL members at meeting 2005

Your officers are as follows:

President: Cecilia Brown
Exec VP: Jackie Malone
Secretary: Jackie Malone
Treasurer: Dave Styers
Asst. Treasurer: Bill Crow
Pride Chair: Maria Krasinski
Speaker Bureau Chair: Rick Hoffman

Pride Events

This is the list of Pride events that PLAGAL will be participating in as of this mailing. More may be added.

We are in need of individuals willing to help run the PLAGAL booth. Please consider donating an hour of your time. If interested please contact the individuals listed as contacts for more info.

June 12, 2005 -- DC Pride
Marc Zappala
mzappala@hotmail.com
856-904-0115

June 18, 2005 -- Ocala Pride Picnic
Cecilia Brown
president@plagal.org
352-680-1153

June 19, 2005 -- Baltimore Pride
Jackie Malone
EscpTheMadnss@yahoo.com
443-604-7925

June 26, 2005 -- Atlanta Pride
Rick Hoffman
404-759-7014
rick@plagal.org

PLAGAL Archives

Just a reminder: The PLAGAL archives are stored within *The Northeast Ohio Lesbian/Gay Archives* at the **Western Reserve Historical Society** in Cleveland, Ohio.

Items in the archives include photos, news articles, press releases, letters to the organization (both in support and in condemnation of PLAGAL), newsletters, op-ed pieces written by PLAGAL members, Board meeting minutes, etc. If you have items about PLAGAL that you would like to have in the collection please write us at plagal@plagal.org, and we will make arrangements to get them to the Western Reserve Historical Society. Let us preserve our history so that others may see that there are proliferators within the GLBT community.

PLAGAL To Go Paperless

PLAGAL has always been frugal with the money that has been donated to us by our membership. To save money we decided to print the newsletter less often. However, the Board of Directors would like to have our newsletter go out more often so that we can keep in touch with our members and friends on a more frequent basis. The newsletter is our biggest expense. The money that is saved by going paperless would go towards our educational and service projects. PLAGAL will still offer hard copy newsletters to those who do not have email or access to a computer. Our goal is to have 75% of our members and friends paperless by December 2005. This is also an excellent opportunity to update our records and remove those from the mailing list that no longer wish to receive our newsletter. Snail mail addresses still need to be kept so that when PLAGAL plans an event in areas of the country we can contact individuals who may be interested. Please send the following to PO Box 16753, Alexandria, VA 22302:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Yes, Make me paperless my email address is:

No, I still wish my newsletter to come by snail mail

Remove me, I no longer wish to be on the mailing list

"The child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth." - United Nations, Nov. 20, 1959, Declaration of the rights of the child

PLAGAL Membership Form

2005 DUES ARE NOW WELCOME

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Status: _____ member _____ mailing list only

Dues and Contributions

Annual dues: \$20.00 _____

Contribution: _____

PLAGAL is a 501c (3) organization. Donations are tax deductible as allowable by law. Make checks payable to PLAGAL.

Participation

I am willing to organize a local PLAGAL group.

I am not willing to organize a group but would be willing to join and participate in one.

I can represent PLAGAL by helping out at Pride and other LGBT events in my area.

I can represent PLAGAL by participating in events within the pro-life community.

I am willing to become a local contact for PLAGAL.

I am an articulate speaker and would love to become part of the PLAGAL speaker's bureau.

I am willing to be part of a committee if needed.

I am a fabulous writer and would be willing to write op-ed articles and other things for PLAGAL.

Please return form to:

PO Box 16753

Alexandria, VA 22302

or email: plagal@plagal.org.

"Sunspot" by Marc Zappala

A brief, tremendous sense of loss
Walked next to me the day
I left my college campus.
Its face, a mystery

As was its origin, at the time.
My last exam was done,
And yet my thoughts were like the
spot
Which blemishes the sun

So certain was I of a girl
Behind me, yet beyond
The world of flesh. I sensed her
life
As one that might have been

And so I thought, at first, she was
The girl I would have had
Had not my sexuality
Prevented it -- But God

Responds to prayers outside our
own,
I know. That life denied
Was my aborted niece, who
begged
Of God to say goodbye

To one who surely would have
stood
To save her at the time
Had he not been in ignorance
Of nature, and the crime.

*Marc wrote this poem in his grief
over his sister's abortion.*

Midyear Meeting

We know that not everyone can attend the annual meeting and March for Life in January. So it was decided that a midyear meeting should take place where PLAGALites can come together and meet and have fun. Every year a new location will be chosen to coincide with a pride event that PLAGAL will be participating in. This year PLAGAL will have the meet and greet for DC pride.

Mid-Year PLAGAL Meet & Greet Potluck Lunch & a Movie (*Calico*)

When: June 11, 2005, 11 am to 2 pm

Where: First Unitarian Church of Baltimore
1 West Hamilton Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

What to bring: Potluck dish to share

For more info and to RSVP contact:

Jackie Malone
EscpTheMadnss@yahoo.com
443-604-7925

Calico the movie by Russ Barnes

Statement

A cautionary tale, which I hope is in the vein of Frankenstein, A Brave New World and other classics, Calico tells the tale of a possible near-future for humanity.

Genetic screening is real and has been in use for many decades. Down's syndrome, a double chromosome abnormality, is easily detected by analyzing fetal cells, and currently, in Great Britain, it has become a recognized practice to abort fetuses that carry this abnormality. While it is the choice of potential parents, the implications of discarding fetuses deemed ill or abnormal is troubling- especially in light of our transitory, often secular, determinations of "illness."

Hitler determined that an entire race of people were ill. In order to preserve the "health" of his race, he decided to exterminate these people in an effort to create a eugenically perfect humanity, the Aryans.

Calico is not meant to fuel the fires of anti-abortionists or call into question a woman's right to choose. However, this film examines the issues of genetic screening and determination of survival in the context of a society that values normalcy and beauty.

Considered abnormal and an illness by some, homosexuality was the perfect vehicle to examine the issues our film addresses- hopefully as entertainment.

This film raises the question, which we all must answer as a society, "Is it acceptable to destroy a potential life if that life is different from us, or does not comport to our notions of beauty?"

Production Notes

Nearly impossible to make because of its controversial nature, Dean and I worked hard financing and filming this feature without help. At nearly every turn, we were denied money or other backing, because the subject matter scared people. This only emboldened us and made us realize that this was a story that needed to be told.

And we did.

My Experiences at the Midwest Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Ally College Conference 2005

By Rick Hoffman

As an active member of the LGBT community at Oberlin College, I have had the opportunity to attend the Midwest Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, and Ally College Conference three times. While it is has not always been very informative because Oberlin already does a great job of education within its queer communities, I still have enjoyed it because it was fun. This year I decided to try my skills as a workshop giver, rather than just a participant, because this conference gives you the opportunity advertised right on their website of applying to give a workshop. I also thought it would help with some of my career goals. I think it is very important to have dialogue about abortion, and I've been learning about all the issues related to abortion since eighth grade (about nine years). I did not inform PLAGAL that I would be applying for this workshop because I really did not expect the conference planners to accept my workshop. I did not want to get PLAGAL's hopes up and then have them crushed. Even though I wanted my workshop to be about dialogue about all the issues, I just did not think that the conference planners would tolerate hearing an anti-abortion perspective. Then my workshop was approved without a hitch! Or so I thought...

My workshop, which is titled the same as PLAGAL's motto, "Human Rights Start When Human Life Begins," was part of the agenda for the annual meeting, and there I received great suggestions from my fellow board members, including showing a clip from the movie *Twilight of the Gods* about the prospect of abortion unborn children predisposed to be gay.

This year the Midwest Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Ally College Conference took place at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota. When my friends from Oberlin and I flew into Minneapolis / St. Paul, we were given the royal treatment right from the start. We were picked up from the airport. We stayed at a professor's apartment 6 blocks from campus, where the conference director was also staying. The conference director was very cordial to us, talking to us all the time trying to find out our needs. The first night my friend and I post flyers around the school and the flyer I made about my workshop had the tag line, "Abortion has more issues than *National Geographic*. Come hear about them and discuss them."

Later on we were on our way to a dance club, and the conference director finds out that I'm the one doing the "pro-life breakout session," and he says, "Oh, we have to have some serious discussion." I reply, "Ok, let's have dialogue" because I usually feel fairly confident when talking to other gay boys about abortion. We start debating in a civil manner, and he tells me how the planners had a long talk about my workshop and how they decided they could not reject me just based on my political stance, because the description was logical. Up until this point I had no idea what the conference planners thought about my workshop because even though I talked to the head of the programming committee several times, he never mentioned anything about the topic of my workshop. Then I talked about it at the club we go to. The programming chair tells me how he is the Mayor of a very pro-life town and how he knows some pro-life democrats. This made me feel validated.

The next day is my workshop. Unfortunately it had started late because the person before me ran overtime because the keynote speaker before him went over time. Before the workshop even commences, the professor (whose apartment we were staying at) looks at the PLAGAL t-shirt I had on the table and says, "Pro-life. I just don't get that. It doesn't make sense to me." I did not really say anything because the comment was not specific, and I needed to start the workshop. She finishes setting up the projector and the laptop computer and leaves. I begin by having everyone push their chairs into a circle and then have them say their names because I think it's important to humanize people, and since this

topic is emotionally charged and controversial, I think people have a tendency to demonize others. I then introduce myself and my involvement in pro-life activities, and I say I recognize my privilege as a white male to speak and my outsider status as a gay male (not getting pregnant or impregnating anyone else). I start talking about PLAGAL and Cecilia being post-abortive and how we got arrested at the March for Life. Then I showed the clip from *The Twilight of the Gods*, and afterward I start talking about the abortion-intersex connection. The Intersex Society of North America has a sentence on their website about how abortion is routinely offered to women whose babies have intersex conditions, including Klinefelter's Syndrome, which I read verbatim to the audience. Then I tell how I knew someone who wanted to abort because she was white and the father was Black and how I thought that was based on racism. I was careful to say that I am not judging these people but using their situations as examples of the broader framework in our society today. I also talked about *Lawrence v. Texas* because I anticipated questions about it. I informed how it would not be overruled if *Roe v. Wade* were overturned and that *Roe v. Wade* overturning would not make abortion automatically illegal, even though as I said I was not necessarily fighting for that. Next, I talked about Feminists for Life and their holistic views on eliminating the root causes that propel women to abortion.

Then one of the conference planners who had picked us up from the airport says how this workshop should not have been approved and that it does not fit the theme of the conference. She says that I am using "terror tactics." Then someone asks about pregnancy by rape. I talk about it being a really tough issue. I talked about core feminist values of non-violence and non-discrimination and not judging someone by their parentage and not giving the death penalty for the father's crimes. I said that no matter what, the rape will not be forgotten just like not forgetting Sept. 11th or the tsunami and that the child could be something positive out of something so horrible. Then the time is basically up, and the professor mutters under her breath that once you start letting the state control your body, it's all downhill from there. She apologizes to the audience if anyone was offended by the workshop and says it is over so there was basically no time for discussion.

A few people come up and take brochures (about ten in total) and talk to me, one about how her pro-life group on campus says anti-gay stuff, and she asks how I deal with that. I told her it is a constant struggle, and that is why I work with PLAGAL to make the movement more inclusive. A couple people said they liked my presentation.

Later, however, the professor and another professor from St. Cloud come back and berate me. They said how it's not right for me as a male to speak about women's bodies and that I should know better than to promote the state controlling our bodies because it is just like anti-sodomy laws. The professor whose apartment we were staying at says that my shirt, "Women Deserve Better than Abortion" is offensive, and she makes an analogy of a shirt saying "Gays Deserve Better Than Sodomy" or "Gays Deserve Better than Love." She said I should apologize because I hurt a lot of people in the workshop. I mostly just listened to her, because she was in a position of authority, as a professor and conference planner.

Afterwards, my friends and I took our stuff out of her apartment and stayed the final night in the conference director's house, 40 minutes away. I found out later from my friend that he heard that the person who asked about rape was a sexual assault survivor and that the workshop was particularly difficult for her.

Since the conference, I have sent thank-you cards to the professor whose apartment we stayed at and the people who picked us up from the airport and took us back. I encouraged them to stay open to the dialogue and advertised Vice President of Feminists for Life Sally Winn's speaking tour coming up very soon in Minnesota. Perhaps they will be more apt to listen to her since she is a woman and was pregnant in college.

PLAGAL honors NetLink Resource Group, Inc., with special business award

PLAGAL would like to take this opportunity to honor NetLink Resource Group Inc., for hosting the PLAGAL website at no cost to PLAGAL. NetLink Resource Group, Inc. continues to offer Internet support and security of our national database. PLAGAL has never been more organized and up to date on our membership lists. Thank you again NetLink Resource Group, Inc. Visit them on line at <http://www.netlinkrg.com>.

Steve Cook receives highest PLAGAL honor—The Tom Sena Award

The Tom Sena award is the highest honor that can be bestowed on a member of PLAGAL. This award was designed in memory of our beloved founder, Tom Sena. Tom founded “Gays Against Abortion” in 1990 in Washington, DC and in early 1991 the name was changed to the current name PLAGAL - the Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians. What started out as one man speaking out for the unborn within the gay and lesbian community is now an organization with well over a thousand nationwide. Tom had the courage to stand up for the unborn in what, at the time, was probably the most hostile community towards the pro-life message. Because of his willingness to be ostracized from his community for the sake of the innocent, he paved the way for open discussion in the gay and lesbian community. More and more gay people are rethinking their position on abortion.

To receive this award you must show outstanding leadership within PLAGAL and promote GLBT inclusion within the pro-life community while at the same time bringing the pro-life message to the GLBT community. We are pleased to announce that Steve Cook is the recipient of this prestigious award.

Steve has served as a board member for several years and has promoted PLAGAL in a very hostile pro-life community in the San Jose, CA, area. Steve promoted PLAGAL when it was extremely difficult to do so. Steve was unable to attend the annual meeting but received his award by mail.

PLAGAL recognizes our amazing volunteers

PLAGAL is a 100% volunteer organization. All of the work that is accomplished is done by our volunteer board, president, members and friends who support the cause of PLAGAL. Without the help of these amazing people we would cease to function. At the annual meeting that was held in January 2005, PLAGAL recognized the following individuals for their hard work and dedication to PLAGAL.

Scott Baker, Sharone Belt, Bill Caldwell, Joseph J D’Amour, Steve Everett, Mike Ferens, Ken Funabashi, Ben Gentry, Mark Hart, Christopher Hinkle, Terri Hudson, Jim McFarland, John Mina

PLAGAL also recognized the following board members for their service to PLAGAL for the year of 2004.

Steve Cook, Timothy Cravens, William Crowe, Laurel Harris, Rick Hoffman, Joseph Kovalioff, Maria Krasinski, Jackie Malone, David Styers, Ken Teise

Thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication. It is very much appreciated.

PLAGAL SUPPORTS BILL TO PROHIBIT ABORTIONS OF GAY UNBORN CHILDREN

The Pro-life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians (PLAGAL) applauds State Rep. Brian Duprey of Maine for his introduction of a bill that will prohibit abortion on unborn children who are gay. "We recognize that at this time the gay gene has not been isolated, but with all the advances of genetics we believe that it may just be a matter of time" says Jackie Malone, Executive Vice President of PLAGAL.

PLAGAL maintains that if the theory of a gay gene is proven and isolated, then the day will not be far off when a test for the predisposition of homosexuality will be developed. Once medical science achieves that ability, it will be possible to do by a legal, surgical procedure what all homophobes and gay bashers throughout history have tried and failed to do -- to eliminate gays and lesbians once and for all.

"Abortion tries to get rid of real human beings who are threatening or undesirable. All the unborn should be respected just because they are human" states Cecilia Brown, President of PLAGAL. She adds "Children are routinely aborted now because of gender or disability, it is not inconceivable to see people aborting because of a possible gay gene."

State Rep. Brian Duprey has an excellent record of supporting legislation that protects the unborn. PLAGAL is glad to see that he will continue the fight for the unborn even in the case of sexual orientation. PLAGAL would like to point out that "gay rights" has nothing to do with so-called "abortion rights". PLAGAL doesn't base the value of human beings on the results of a genetic test. Such tests do not define or undermine each individual's humanity. Gay, straight, male, female, or physically challenged -- all are human beings that deserve every chance for life

To contact Representative Brian Duprey
House of Representatives
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
repduprey@hotmail.com

Shop online and help PLAGAL at the same time

Are you a person who shops online? Do you find that it is just plain easier to go online to shop and not mess around going from store to store looking for specific items? Would you like to see your online shopping dollars help a cause you believe in? Well you can shop at the Mall at iGive.com and help PLAGAL at the same time. There are over 330 well-known online stores. Places like PetsMart, Eddie Bauer, JCPenney, Toms of Maine, Green Market, Chadwick's, Hallmark...

HOW IT WORKS

1. Join to support Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians it's FREE, private, & easy
2. Shop the Mall at iGive.com -- You'll see familiar stores like the Gap, CDNow, JCPenney and more
3. Watch the \$\$ roll into PLAGAL -- up to 25% of EACH purchase gets donated!
4. Get involved with Six Degrees of Donation. Raise \$1 for each new shopper you refer! Use this link to JOIN FOR FREE and begin Supporting Pro-life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians:
<http://www.iGive.com/html/refer.cfm?memberid=261518&causeid=3636>.

MORE INCENTIVE

- 1st time buyer deals
- Excellent Prices and exclusive deals for members
- Free Shipping offers
- Six degrees of Donation to help your cause even further when you tell your friends to join
- Virtual Karma from supporting your favorite cause

Coming soon

Very soon you will be able to get cool stuff featuring the new PLAGAL logo from Café Press. While the online store is not up and running yet look for that development to happen within the next two months. Watch our website for updates.

Did PLAGAL Get Ink?

When anything appears in the lesbian and gay media discussing the Pro-Life movement, or in any media discussing PLAGAL, Please, PLEASE send it to us. We do not have -- and cannot afford -- a clipping service or subscriptions to the multitude of lesbian and gay media. We are always discovering -- sometimes months after the event -- that we were mentioned somewhere. As has become our custom, we would also like to remind our readers that PLAGAL needs the names (and addresses, voice and fax numbers, and now e-mail addresses) of local gay and lesbian media.

Meanwhile --

Cecilia Brown represented PLAGAL in her speech Liberal, Lesbian and Pro-life at Wellesley College on February 15th.

Board Member Rick Hoffman represented PLAGAL at the Midwest Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, and Ally College Conference 2005 with his workshop presentation "Human Rights Start When Human Life Begins"

In the 2/15/05 issue of **The Daily Campus** a commentary by Mike Hubbard titled "Abortion not justified" makes mention of PLAGAL.

The January 25, 2005 edition of the **Christian Science Monitor** makes mention of "Groups as diverse as Feminists for Life and Pro-life Gays and Lesbians", in an article called "Within the Ivy League, a shift to the right on abortion?"

On **crosswalk.com** PLAGAL is mentioned in article "Bill Would Ban Abortions of 'Gay Unborn Children'" by Susan Jones

PLAGAL was mentioned on the **O'Reilly Factor** on March 9, 2005 in the Personal Story Segment "Pro-life and Gay rights alliance?" Guest: Maine State Representative Brian Duprey.

PLAGAL is mentioned in **Stones Cry Out** in the March 8, 2005 blog titled "Technology creates strange alliances."

On February 25, 2005 **Life News.com** mentions PLAGAL in an article titled "Lawmaker Introduces Bill to Prohibit Abortions of Gay Unborn Children"

On March 8, 2005 **CNSNEWS.COM** mentions PLAGAL in an article titled "Bill Would Ban Abortions of 'Gay Unborn Children'"

PLAGAL is mentioned in a March 8, 2005, article titled "Pro-Life Group Backs Maine Bill Banning Abortions on Gay Babies" from **LIFENEWS.COM**

In a March 9, 2005, article put out by **OUT Phoenix** PLAGAL is mentioned in an article titled "Group Supports Bill to Prohibit Gay Abortions."

Ever since PLAGAL has backed State Representative Brian Duprey's bill it has created much dialog about the issue of the gay gene and abortion. Dialog is always a good thing. Here is a partial list of Blogs and message boards that have mentioned PLAGAL and the issue: Baptist Board, OC on line, NJ.com, Arguing with sign posts, Nations Neuse Prays, Timbre of a time free mind, Visions Dreams Prayers, Tylor Watchnews.com, OUT in Columbus.