



Seven Montana Couples Fight for Fairness

by Amy Cannata, Communications Director

With the ACLU's help they're suing the state for domestic partnerships.

The seven committed couples have raised children together. They've shared the fun of vacations and the stress and agony of medical problems. They own homes together.

Most have been together for more than a decade, and they all have the kind of love that includes a commitment to spend the rest of their lives together.

What they don't have is any kind of legal protection for their relationships.

That's why we're standing with them to sue the state for domestic partnership recognition, ensuring them all the same rights as married couples.

And others are standing with them, too.

On September 27, the Bozeman City Commission unanimously passed a resolution in support of the couples and their lawsuit seeking equal treatment under Montana's Constitution. What a wonderful day for our plaintiffs and all Bozeman residents!

Two of our couples – Mike Long and Rich Parker and Stacey Haug-



Our seven plaintiff couples and family members standing tall in front of the Montana Capitol the day we filed their lawsuit against the state.

land and Mary Leslie – call Bozeman home, and were at the meeting.

"It was amazing," said Mike.

Bozeman Mayor Jeff Krauss, whose son plays football with Mike's and Rich's son, Kevin, introduced the resolution.

He and the other city commissioners spoke about how Bozeman needs to be welcoming to all people and all families and that discrimi-

nating against same-sex couples by refusing to acknowledge their relationships is wrong.

"I believe this is the greatest country on Earth. It starts with our respect for individual rights," Krauss said.

You can view the full text of the resolution on our website, www.aclumontana.org.

We hope that other cities will pass similar resolutions in the coming months.

It's been an exciting road so far for the ACLU and our plaintiffs.

The ACLU announced its suit at a July 22 press conference in the former Supreme Court Chambers of the Montana Capitol. It was a moving moment for the plaintiffs to gather

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**Rallying at the Symbolic
Center of Liberty**

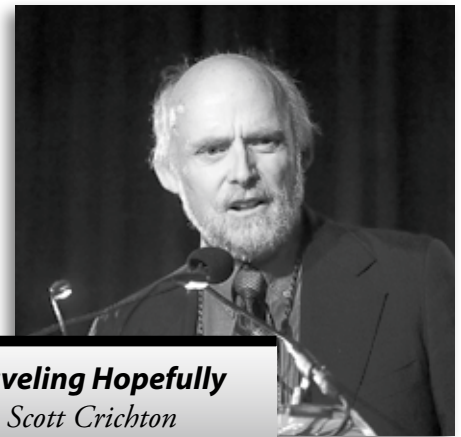
I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been invited to speak at the Ellis Island gala celebrating the ACLU's 90th anniversary and historic Leading Freedom Forward Campaign. I've been to some remarkable ACLU gatherings in the past—biennial conferences and membership meetings—but, I have to say this was a truly memorable event.

The gathering was inspirational both because of its sentiment and its setting at the site where so many immigrants were first processed as they came to these shores seeking liberty and freedom. As we stepped off the ferry onto the island, and proceeded up the steps to the receiving building, we were greeted with music from a klezmer band. The reception was held in the midst of the remodeled museum documenting the history of the numerous waves of immigrants that came to America. I wondered how many of us had relatives who had walked those halls.

In addition, there was a remarkable display highlighting the ACLU's significant battles dating back to its founding in 1920. (That exhibit, by the way, will be set up in our state capitol rotunda March 7, 2011.)

We heard dramatic readings from landmark ACLU cases, watched a short video about some of our history and current cutting edge cases, and were entertained by the Philip Glass Ensemble with an original piece composed for the event by Mr. Glass.

What was most moving for me however, was hearing from Jim and Marian Shee, Arizona natives describing how they have been impacted by the Arizona anti-immigrant law that invites racial profiling of people of color, violates the First Amendment, and interferes with federal law. Marian is of Japanese dissent and shared her story of her family's internment in a Texas detention camp when she was a child. Jim, one of 24 plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed by the ACLU and a coalition of other civil rights groups challenging the law, told about how he'd been pulled over on multiple occasions by police demanding his papers because he "looked suspicious." Now they don't feel safe leaving home without their passports.



Traveling Hopefully
Scott Crichton
Executive Director

The closing remarks came from Anthony Romero, who started work as ACLU's executive director four days before the 9/11 attacks in 2011. Anthony is always inspiring, but was even more so as he spoke in this hallowed site about the importance of our mission and our organization — looking back on our accomplishments in the 20th Century and looking forward to our challenges in the 21st Century.

Leading Freedom Forward

The Leading Freedom Forward Campaign was an unprecedented effort to build the organization's infrastructure by increasing funding to key state affiliates, enhancing advocacy capabilities nationwide and securing the ACLU's financial future.

And, we in Montana are direct beneficiaries of that successful campaign as one of the first five affiliates selected to be part of the Strategic Affiliate Initiative. The other stories in this newsletter should help you can understand what a huge difference this program has made for our work in Montana. As I said in my remarks to those assembled for the Ellis Island Gala, gone are the days when I lie awake at night worrying how we were going to keep the doors open or how we were going to pay for expert witnesses essential to our litigation.

I was so grateful to be able to thank many of the donors to this campaign for investing in us, for investing in the ACLU. I affirmed to those assembled that we in Montana have a plan, a vision and priorities set by an enlightened and engaged board, and carried out by a talented and inspired staff.

We are fighting, and we are winning the good fight.

Summer Break? Not at the ACLU

It was quite a summer. What can I say about the weather, other than I'm sure I'm not the only one who had green tomatoes refusing to turn red? But, while it was unseasonably cold much of this summer, ACLU of Montana has been hot! Prison conditions, partnership recognition, accurate sex education—these are just a few of the issues the amazing staff at ACLU has tackled.

Prison conditions in Montana are harsh but nothing prepared me for the cruel and unusual punishment meted

out to Raistlen Katka. A teenager with mental health issues, Raistlen was brought to the attention of ACLU by other prison inmates who were concerned about his treatment. He was incarcerated at the age of 16 in Montana State Prison rather than a juvenile facility. There he suffered solitary confinement for months at a time, was denied contact with his family,

was denied educational opportunities though he had only finished the 9th grade, and attempted several times to commit suicide by chewing through his own veins. It took much too long to get Raistlen's case to court but he is now in the Montana State Hospital. In July a district judge ruled that he remain there receiving treatment until a final decision is made on his case.

The same week as Raistlen's hearing, the ACLU sued the state of Montana on behalf of seven same-sex couples, asserting that Montana fails to provide legal protections for same-sex families—a violation of the Montana Constitution's guarantees of equal protection. These courageous, committed couples want the same legal protections that opposite-sex couples are offered through marriage. Take the time to read about these amazing people (their biographies are available on the ACLU web site) who are putting themselves and their families in the spotlight to fight for equality.

Over the summer, the ACLU of Montana also came out in support of a new sex education curriculum at the Helena School District. The curriculum will provide accurate, comprehensive sex education and age-appropriate information to its students. Sounds good, doesn't it? However, opponents were vocal and active, bringing in outside anti-sex education activists. Happily, proponents such as ACLU and our partners countered these efforts and won.

These are just some highlights of recent ACLU activities. Stay tuned for developments. I am proud to be part of an organization that makes such significant contributions to bettering life for all Montanans.

If the issues I've mentioned above resonate with you and you want to ensure that individual rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution are defended, consider becoming a more active member. Attend ACLU events in your community. Sign up for e-alerts to stay current with ACLU issues and activities. If you are a member of the union, you might consider making a tax-deductible donation to our foundation. Help us keep things hot in Montana! Your support makes the important work of ACLU possible.



President's Reflections

Sheila Bonnard

Why I Support the ACLU



I support the ACLU because it is the strongest advocate nationwide for the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights, and the ACLU of Montana is the state's strongest advocate for the Bill of Rights and for our own magnificent Montana Constitution's Declaration of Rights.

The ACLU is on the forefront statewide protecting our First Amendment individual liberties; leading the movement on Montana prison reform; advocating and litigating for Native American voting rights and religious practices; challenging our state government on unconstitutional same-sex laws and regulations; and advocating in so many other areas such as privacy. No other organization in Montana or America covers such a broad spectrum of our rights and advocates so fiercely for every individual's civil liberties.

Tom Biglen works as an attorney in Big Timber. He serves on the ACLU of Montana's board of directors.

Working to End Solitary Confinement



Legal Notes
Betsy Griffing
Legal Director
The Jean Anderson Chair

Solitary confinement is a common tool for prisons these days. The Montana State Prison (MSP) is no exception.

At the end of July, we had a four-day trial in front of Judge Sherlock in Helena seeking a preliminary injunction to have our 18-year-old client, Raistlen Katka, remain at the Montana State Hospital rather than return to MSP where he is subject to a program called Restricted Administrative Segregation (RAS) or MSP's equivalent of "supermax." Under this program, an inmate is held in solitary confinement for two years. For the first year,

he gets no visitors, is allowed few phone calls, and is locked down 23 hours each day for five days a week and 24 hours a day for two days a week. His one hour of recreation Monday through Friday takes place in a chain-linked dog run where the sky is barely visible and the sun never shines because of the height of the surrounding walls and guard catwalk above.

At the time we filed our suit in December of last year, Raistlen was a 17-year-old boy diagnosed with a severe mental illness. He had been placed in solitary confinement when he was just 16 years old, and came to our attention when inmates in the cells next to his heard his cries. Rather than seeking their own relief, these inmates asked us to help this 16-year-old boy.

Our staff attorney, Jennifer Giuttari, visited Raistlen immediately, as we had learned that he had tried to commit suicide by biting through the veins in his arms. Jen immediately wrote the warden asking for emergency consideration of Raistlen's case — to get him out of solitary, off of disciplinary treatment, and into mental health treatment.

The disciplinary treatment Raistlen had been subjected to was referred to as "behavior modification plans," where the inmate is stripped of his clothing and placed in a "rubber room" with no windows, no water, no toilet paper and only a hole in the floor as a toilet. A blanket and gown were his only coverings. When Raistlen tried to bite through his wrists, he was not given medical care or mental health treatment, but instead punished by being put in this "rubber room." Under this program, he can be held in this rubber room for days before being returned to solitary confinement.

Solitary Confinement Hinders Cognitive Development

At the hearing to have Raistlen removed from solitary confinement and to prevent him from being subject to further behavior modification plans pending a trial in his case, we presented uncontroverted evidence from a neuropsychologist who testified that the human brain continues to develop until the age of 25.

The teenage years are a particularly important time in brain development as that is when the frontal cortex

Legal Notes, cont. on next page

PRIDE 2010

ACLU of Montana brings "Liberty" to Pride in Kalispell. We were excited to talk to people about our work to end discrimination and to advance relationship recognition. Thanks to all who shared their stories with us. We can't wait until next year in Bozeman!



— which controls behaviors such as anger and helps in self-control and self-discipline — develops. This should come as no surprise to people who remember their teenage years. The organic development of the frontal cortex is dependent upon social interaction at this critical time. Without that social interaction organic brain damage occurs. That is what is happening to Raistlen and any juvenile placed in solitary confinement — organic brain damage— inhibiting that teen’s ability to develop control mechanisms essential for being a productive member of society. MSP, by subjecting juveniles to solitary confinement and behavior modification plans, is causing brain damage to juveniles.

Solitary Confinement Exacerbates Mental Illness

We also presented testimony from a psychiatrist who is a national expert on the effects of solitary confinement. He testified how mental illness is made significantly worse by solitary confinement and the imposition of behavior modification plans. This is, of course, even worse when applied to a juvenile. Thankfully, the judge allowed Raistlen to stay at Montana State Hospital and out of prison until he rules further on the case.

Extended solitary confinement is cruel and unusual punishment — if a person is not mentally ill going into it, he is coming out. If a person is mentally ill going into solitary confinement, he is clearly much more damaged coming out. This is not how we “rehabilitate” inmates or make society safer. Instead, we create a core group of damaged individuals who have great diffi-



photo courtesy of Eliza Wiley, Helena Independent Record

Raistlen Katka and Cooperating Attorney Andree LaRose share a heartfelt moment during Raistlen’s July hearing.

culty coping with the day-to-day struggles of life.

We will continue to challenge solitary confinement. We will advocate for inmates like Raistlen in our courts, and will ask the Montana Legislature to address this issue. Extended solitary confinement — at least two years of such isolation — should never be imposed. It is too long and causes great harm. It should certainly not be imposed on juveniles or the mentally ill. And such confinement should never be imposed without strict due process protections, where the prison must make an affirmative showing in each case why it is necessary.



Constitution Day Trivia

The winners of the ACLU of Montana’s Constitution Day trivia round at Riley’s Irish Pub in Helena show their appreciation to the folks who get it done.

New ACLU Organizer Fighting to End Montana's Death Penalty

I've always believed that the death penalty was wrong, a remnant of a more violent time, and must be abolished in order for society to continue to evolve, but I did not realize why that is so important until now.

Getting Started

My first assignment with the Abolition Coalition was touring the state with Bud Welch, whose daughter was killed in the Oklahoma City bombing. Listening to him speak about his loss and the impact that capital punishment has had on his life was powerful. Through his tearful saga I saw a man still struggling with the loss of his daughter, and through his grief the amazing ability to love and forgive. That's when it struck me that this work, this movement, is about more than just preventing innocent people from being executed or saving taxpayer money. At the heart of this issue is the resilient human ability to show mercy and compassion at life's most trying times.

Since those early months of summer I've concentrated my outreach work in the Flathead. I've talked with liberals and conservatives, families of murder victims and faith leaders. And while I have not met another Bud Welch, I see that same glimmer of humanity, in the eyes of everyday people I meet with. It gives me hope that in such uncertain times we have not lost our conscience to fear.



...[T]his work, this movement, is about more than just preventing innocent people from being executed or saving taxpayer money. At the heart of this issue is the resilient human ability to show mercy and compassion at life's most trying times.

Denver Henderson

Spreading the Word

As the summer drew to a close, we undertook key public education activities which will allow us to lay the foundation for a successful legislative session next year. The first was our star-studded speakers' tour. "Beyond Repair" featured both national speakers as well as Montana voices. We crisscrossed the state during the first 10 days of October speaking to a variety of audiences in key communities.

The second effort is a major organizing drive within the Methodist community called Abolition Sunday. The

Bishop's office is asking Methodist churches to devote one Sunday this fall to host an information table, lead a small group discussion, or give a sermon on abolition. I'm working with a great group of activists within the Methodist Church to secure table locations and encourage church leaders to participate. These projects will allow us to add hundreds of new supporters to our coalition, and to bolster the cause of abolition!

Other states are counting on us to win, and they are counting on you to act. In this way, your voice has the ability to transcend state lines, and change countless lives across the country. Montana's victory will make success more likely in places like Kansas, North Carolina and, yes, even Texas.

Take Action

Ultimately our future success in Helena depends on the actions we take today. Legislators must hear support from you before they are going to vote to end the death penalty. We need you to pledge to do three things to help us put a face to the movement:

- Talk with candidates about abolition when they come to your door this fall.
- Write a letter to your legislator, telling him or her in your own words why now is the time for abolition.
- During the upcoming legislative session, call your legislators and reiterate your support.

If you can make a pledge to do these things, please call or email me today (tel: 406-239-3421; email: denverh@mtabolitionco.org) to let us know we can count on your support. And thank you.



Denver Henderson
ACLU of Montana
Montana Abolition
Coalition Coordinator



Bud Welch

Informed Youth Make Healthy Decisions

The ACLU of Montana is used to being in the middle of controversial debates—it's in those debates that we are usually the most needed. But even we were surprised by the national firestorm drummed up by opponents to the new health curriculum guidelines proposed this summer by the Helena School District.

Earlier this year, we learned that the Helena Public School District was in the process of revising its guidelines covering the full spectrum of health issues faced by students, including responsible decision making about sex and reproductive health. The district developed the proposed guidelines over a two-year period, in which community members, health professionals, teachers and district staff reviewed the best evidence available and developed a plan to meet the needs of Helena's students. The result was a set of guidelines that is based on sound research and best practices from across the nation.

Advancing Comprehensive Standards

The ACLU of Montana is one of several state and local organizations comprising the Montana Partnership for Sex Education. Through this partnership, the ACLU of Montana advocates for the adoption of comprehensive sex education standards in Montana public schools. The ACLU takes on this issue to ensure that our public school students get the information they need to make healthy decisions. Our public education system should reflect our commitment to providing our students with the best education possible, and should not be used to advance or impose a religious viewpoint. Independent studies show that "abstinence-only" programs do not prevent teen pregnancy or reduce risky behavior. They only shortchange students and leave them at risk.

When the Helena Public School District released its proposed guide-

lines in June, we were delighted to see a comprehensive sex education curriculum that included medically accurate information about sex, contraception, and abstinence. The guidelines introduced proper terminology for various body parts and stressed the need for planning for and avoiding the negative consequences of all types of sexual activity. The guidelines also acknowledged that people can love people of the same gender, and that gay slurs and bullying are not acceptable.

Making Helena's Youth Safer

Such guidelines will help Helena's youth protect themselves from unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV/AIDS. They also will make our students safer by addressing bullying and harassment, promoting healthy, respectful relationships, and giving them the information they need to protect against sexual abuse and violence.

The latest statistics showed the growing need for students to have this information now. After 14 years of steady decline, Montana experienced a 3.2 percent jump in teen pregnancy and a 9 percent increase in teen births in 2006, one of the highest increases in the nation. In Montana, 36 percent of all chlamydia cases and 29 percent of all gonorrhea cases occur in youth ages 15 to 19. In 2009, more than 40 percent of Montana students reported that they have had intercourse by the age of 16, and more than 31 percent of middle-school students responded that they had been bullied on campus in the past year.

An Interesting Reaction to a Tried and True Approach

The information offered in Helena's guidelines is based on similar

plans across the country that are proven to work. So we were a bit surprised when several local and national media outlets began reporting on the curriculum debate and presented the guidelines as radical and out of the mainstream. FOX News commentators in particular offered slanted and inaccurate reports of the guidelines' content, and a handful of local opponents commented on national FOX News shows. Pundits and pontificators across the country called the guidelines



Niki Zupanic
ACLU of Montana
Public Policy Director

"Our educators are responsible for providing our students with accurate and reliable information; the parents then provide the values and context for that information. This curriculum holds up its end of the bargain—nothing more, nothing less."

– Niki Zupanic, testifying at the July Hearing

"pro-gay" and claimed that children would be taught how to have sex.

Amid this swirl of misinformation and fabricated controversy, the school board held its first public hearing on the guidelines. Attendance at the board's July meeting was well into the hundreds. The hearing room, and overflow area, were both at capacity nearly a full hour before the meeting began. Unfortunately, many of our supporters were locked out of the meeting altogether. Fortunately, the supporters who were able to get inside of the room offered very compelling testimony to the board members. Each side was granted one hour for public comment, and within our one hour we had 34 community members testify in support. The ACLU of

We Want You!

by John Fletcher, Board Member

A passion for civil liberties is the key ingredient of a great member of the ACLU of Montana Board of Directors.

We fill these seats by election (one-third of the 18 seats each year) and by



appointment (the Board may fill any vacancies through appointment).

Service on the Board includes attending quarterly meetings (costs incurred for travel and lodging may be reimbursed), serving on a committee which meets monthly via teleconferencing, representing locally our organizational and fundraising interests, and making a personally-significant financial donation. While we try to have our board's composition reflect our state's complex social diversity and the board's internal requirements for differing skills and experience, a basic qualification for service on our board is membership in ACLU of Montana. Therefore, notice in this newsletter is probably the best way to communicate to members about our needs. As you might imagine, we're a fun bunch of folks on the

board—even when we assemble in formal sessions and conduct business following our version of parliamentary procedure!

Please consider joining us in setting policy for ACLU of Montana and in providing needed oversight. Because our committee likes to maintain a list of possible appointees and candidates, we are also interested in hearing from members who—while otherwise busy now—would consider joining the Board in the future. Board service is an important contribution to our organization and its mission.

Interested?

If so, please email or call John Fletcher, the chair of the Board's Governance & Nominations Committee, at fletcher@montana.com or 406-721-4269.

"Teens need reliable information. We cannot be with them all the time, but we can make sure that they have the information they need. When students are not given reliable sexual health education, they get it from television, movies, and uninformed peers. The information offered in Helena's guidelines saves lives and helps prevent unintended teen pregnancies."

Niki Zupanic, testifying at the July Hearing

Informed Youth, continued from page 7

Montana also submitted written comments to the board prior to the meeting. Our comments and our supporters' testimony spoke to the need for many of the most controversial aspects of the guidelines.

The meeting was very heated, to say the least, and by the end of the night, the superintendent and other staff were asked to review the guidelines and share any suggested revisions at the board's September meeting.

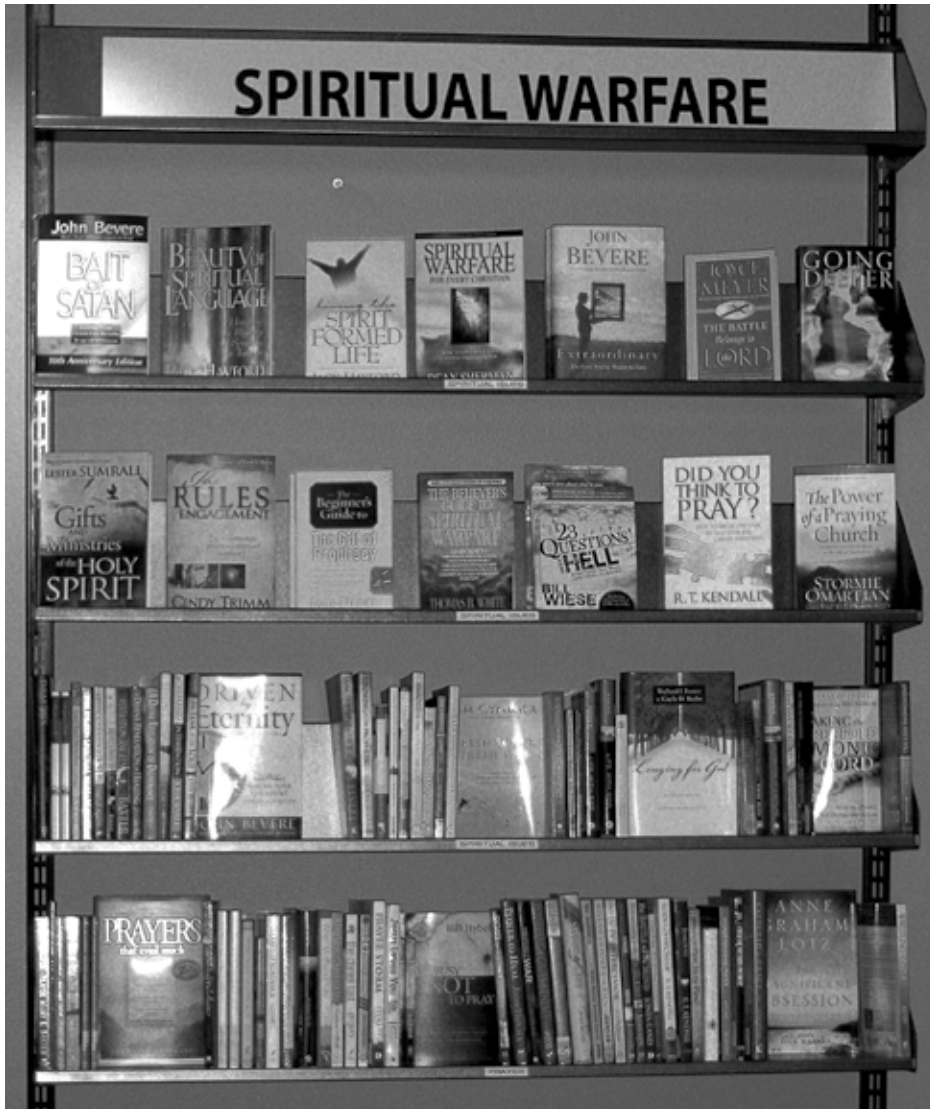
Curriculum Adapted and, Ultimately, Adopted

When revisions were released in mid-September, we were relieved to see that the substance and intent of the guidelines remained mostly intact. While some of the more controversial provisions were deleted, the topics were still addressed in other aspects of the guidelines.

After a second evening of public testimony, one more revision, and further deliberation, the Helena School Board adopted

the health curriculum on a six to three vote on Tuesday, October 12.

The next day the *Helena Independent Record* announced, "The battle is over." And, while it was a long, drawn-out fight, the final outcome was positive. The majority of Helena's students will get the information they need to make the best choices as they grow and mature, while those parents who do not want their children to participate have the choice to opt out.



Secular Wars

While most teachers were preoccupied in August with setting up their classrooms, several Billings teachers had bigger concerns.

The Billings School District 2 Superintendent was ordering them to attend mandatory training—not in a gymnasium or school auditorium, but in a church.

These teachers worried that this edict violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, which protects individuals from government imposed religion. They contacted the ACLU for help. We agreed that the development was troublesome, and wrote a letter to the district asking that the training be moved to a secular location, or at the very least an opt-out choice be available to teachers and staff who

were uncomfortable attending the meeting at Faith Chapel Church.

The district declined to do either, and teachers were forced to enter the chapel's worship center for their training, passing by large signs about Christianity, Bible racks and the bookstore display you see above.

This truly is a "spiritual war," in which some believe that they can foist their faith upon others. We are currently reviewing the school district's response to our request for documentation of their policy decision making process. We will continue to stand up for the rights of individuals who feel they are being coerced in sectarian ways in what should be a secular environment like the public schools.

Why I Support the ACLU



I have realized over time that there is a continuous need for voices to speak up on civil liberties issues in a positive way, and to help confront those who would disenfranchise some segments of our society. The Bush years made me realize what a thin veneer of civilization we have and that we need a watchdog organization which will speak up and analyze issues pertaining to our Bill of Rights. The battle is never won, however, and there is a need for constant monitoring to guard the rights and liberties for all of us. The ACLU serves this important role well and we see its impact on a local, state and national level.

Nancy Nicholson is a retired certified financial planner living in Helena. She serves as the ACLU of Montana's Board Vice President.

Three Forks Reception



Andy Tuller and Jim Elder discuss the hot civil liberties issues of the day at our September reception in Three Forks. Missoula area members are invited to our December reception and Rankin Awards on December 4, 2010, from 6–8 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in downtown Missoula.

Fighting for Fairness

continued from page 1

together and to affirm their right to dignity and respect at Montana’s legislative and judicial epicenter.

Standing side-by-side with their life partners our couples spoke about how the state’s refusal to recognize their relationships has hurt them, and why they joined the suit *Donaldson and Guggenheim v. State of Montana*.

Jan Donaldson and Mary Anne Guggenheim live in Helena. Jan is a retired nurse and Mary Anne a retired pediatric neurologist and former state legislator. They know firsthand the struggles associated with having no legal recognition of their relationship. When Mary Anne was having medical issues, the doctor’s staff refused to talk to Jan about an upcoming appointment.

Our other couples have similar stories.

They are: MJ Williams and Nancy Owens of Basin, Mike Long and Rich Parker of Bozeman, Stacey Haugland and Mary Leslie of Bozeman, Denise



Basin couple MJ Williams and Nancy Owens have been together for 18 years. MJ is a musician and composer and Nancy teaches college anthropology. “We have been on wonderful journeys together, in our minds and in the world,” says M.J.

Boettcher and Kellie Gibson of Laurel, Rick Wagner and Gary Stallings of Butte and Casey Charles and David Wilson of Missoula.

I urge you to read their biographies on our website.

People across Montana are rallying to support our couples.

Statewide LGBT Organizer Hired to Educate Public

We are excited to announce the hiring of a new Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered (LGBT) Advocacy Coordinator at the ACLU.

Ninia Baehr will be focusing on public education promoting the ACLU's work for LGBT relationship recognition in Montana.

Ninia comes to the ACLU with a strong background in organizing communities to advocate for policy change. She has a long history as an LGBT activist, and she has first-hand experience working for policy change in Montana.

Ninia graduated from Montana State University (MSU) with a bachelor's degree in rural sociology in 1982. Since then she has earned a

master's degree in women's history, completed a graduate fellowship in women and public policy, and become a registered nurse.

For the last six years, she has worked at MSU with tribal leaders, elected officials, state and local agency personnel, and others to promote primary prevention of chronic diseases. She has also served as the faculty/staff advisor for the MSU Queer-Straight Alliance.

Prior to returning to Montana, Ninia worked for six years as the director of operations for the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture in New York City. She has also worked as a health and human



Ninia Baehr
*ACLU of Montana LGBT
Advocacy Coordinator*

rights organizer and an environmental justice organizer.

Ninia was the named plaintiff in the Hawaii same-sex marriage case *Baehr v. Lewin* (later *Baehr v. Miike*), and she knows from personal experience that public education and advocacy, along with litigation, can be crucial in creating lasting change.

You can reach Ninia at 406-579-8884 or niniab@aclumontana.org.



Our two Bozeman plaintiff couples pose in front of Bozeman City Hall before the big meeting where the City Commission unanimously passed a resolution supporting our lawsuit against the state seeking same-sex domestic partnerships..

They report countless encounters with people who say, "I believe in you. Keep up the good work."

We know that Montanans value

fairness. And to deny our plaintiffs the ability to protect one another in times of crisis is simply not right and not lawful.

"The liberties of our country, the freedom of our civil Constitution, are worth defending at all hazards; and it is our duty to defend them against all attacks.... It will bring an everlasting mark of infamy on the present generation if we should suffer them to be wrested from us by violence without a struggle, or to be cheated out of them by the artifices of false and designing men."

— Samuel Adams



ACLU

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of MONTANA

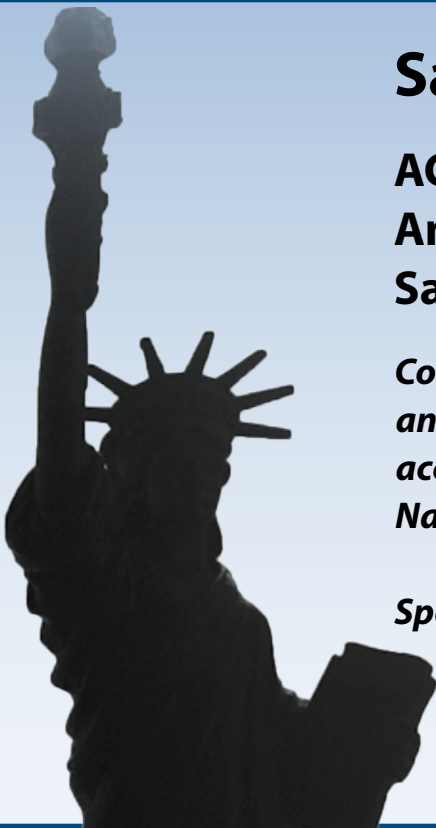
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Autumn 2010



Save the Date!

**ACLU of Montana
Annual Meeting
Saturday, March 5, 2011**

Come meet with allies; attend workshops, roundtables, and presentations; and see all that the ACLU has accomplished over the past 90 years at our National 90th Anniversary Exhibit!

Speaker to be announced • Look for more details soon

*at the
Best Western Great Northern Hotel
in downtown Helena.*