

## More Gleanings

from *Finding Out: the ABCs of Same Sex Relations*  
by Homer and Sue Spencer

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES.** Founded in 1968, the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches is known generally as "the gay denomination." Its doors are open and its welcome is genuine to all people: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and heterosexual.

The Reverend Troy Perry, defrocked by his Pentecostal denomination and recovering from a suicide attempt, experienced in his own person the deep need for the affirmation and succor of those cast out. In response, he felt God calling him to act and he gathered eleven friends together for a service of worship.

This group became the Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles. Its members soon began reaching out to invite others to the new life "through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ."

There are now more than 300 UFMCC congregations in 18 countries throughout the world. Members of the Fellowship, more than 35,000 in number, may retain membership in their "home" churches/denominations as a symbolic thread of hope that one day the heterosexual/other-sexual dividing wall will come down. That one day concentric circles of Christians will not exist because all smaller ones will have dissolved into one that practices "judge-none" love. Until that day comes, those who are made to feel diminished in traditional congregations will find in the UFMCC, a haven and a welcome.

*Carroll Teeter has resigned as editor of the PFLAG newsletter, effective with the August issue, Moderator Lynn Mulder announced. Teeter, who has edited the letter for three years, says that health and age caused him to reluctantly make the decision.*

### PFLAG OF POLK COUNTY TREASURER'S REPORT -- July 31, 2008

	PAID	RECEIVED	BALANCE
July 1 On Hand			\$ 661.70
31 Bank charge	\$3.00		
July 31 On Hand			\$ 658.70
Savings account balance: \$55.70			

---Glenn Glazier

**THIS NEWSLETTER** is an organ of the Polk County, Florida Chapter of the national support organization, **Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)**. Submissions of material are welcome and may be mailed to 725 Avenue Q, SE, Winter Haven, FL 33880-4616. For further information, call 551-3557, 859-3437 or 683-5204. -- AUG Issue 5, Vol. 8

## New gay wife

*I'm married to a male and have three children all under 10 yrs old. I'm having difficulty in knowing what to do about whether or not/when to tell my children I'm gay. It seems like such a complicated thing to talk about, not sure the youngest (4yrs old) will understand. I'm not "out" completely publicly as I'm still married...divorce is not in the future, though separation may eventually be in the cards (not even sure of that)...and I'm just confused about what I should, or shouldn't be telling my children about the whole thing. I'm so befuddled myself as to what I'm going to do with myself and in my relationship, I'm not sure I should say anything until I'm solid in any decisions/plans.*

*Any information/advice/books on this matter would be very very helpful. Thank you!*

Sandy Brown, PFLAG Sturgeon Bay, WI responds:

I think she's got time for she and her husband to decide what they are going to do and then what and how they want to tell their children, but I would think in the mean time learning more about gay families would be something to do with books like *Heather Has Two Mommies*, etc. My recommendation to the husband would be the new book, *"When Your Spouse Comes Out: A Straight Mate's Recovery Manual"* by Carol Grever and Deborah Bowman. In fact, even the wife who is trying to figure out ways to come out might benefit from Chapter Two, "Coming Out Three Ways". I would certainly guide the wife to find a support group to help her understand the process of coming out that she is dealing with. I don't know a guide about talking to children.

## Iranian gay in trouble

A gay teenager who faces being hanged if sent back to Iran is a step closer to being forced to return, after the Netherlands followed Britain in refusing his appeal for asylum.

Mehdi Kazemi, 19, came to London to study English in 2005 but says he later discovered that his boyfriend had been arrested by the Iranian police, charged with sodomy and hanged.

He claimed asylum in Britain, saying that he feared for his life if he returned. However, his case was refused late last year, so he fled to the Netherlands. A Dutch court, however, ordered him to return to Britain, leaving the teenager once again facing deportation.

According to Iranian human rights campaigners, more than 4,000 gay men and lesbians have been executed since the Ayatollahs seized power in 1979.

Borg Palm, his lawyer, said today that the Dutch court had ruled he could only claim asylum in the UK - but that it was not "totally sure" he would be forced to return to Britain immediately as a European court could temporarily halt the move.

"The case was about whether he should be sent to Britain or not - which country was responsible for his asylum case," he told Sky News.

"The highest administrative court in Holland decided that the IND, the equivalent of the UK Home Office, was right to say that England is responsible."