



PRIDE PRESS

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Pride Bag Ladies Raise Over \$4,500 for DEFA Fund

Indianapolis – The 26th Annual Pride Bag Lady Bus Tour which was held on Saturday, October 28, 2006 raised over \$4,500 for the Gregory Powers Direct Financial Assistance (DEFA) Fund. This year’s theme was *Martini’s & Diamonds*. Eighty-two people participated in this year’s tour.

Two buses toured the City of Indianapolis making 14 stops including one at Monument Circle for a photo opportunity. Miss Holly Luyah (Jonathan Deming) was the 1st Runner-Up and Miss Sequoia Pentecost (Jeremy York) was named 2006 Pride Bag Lady Queen. Miss Mustang Sally (Brad Plunkett) received the Blossom Award which is given to an individual who has gone “above and beyond” to help those whose lives have been impacted by HIV/AIDS. Sponsors of this year’s Bus Tour were *The Word*, Bioscrip Pharmacy, Full Circle Aveda Salon & the Joe Miller Foundation. See page 4 for photographs!

Indy Pride Awards Scholarships

Indianapolis – At the annual Indy Pride Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Indy Pride President, Gary Brackett presented five scholarships totaling \$7,500 to deserving GLBT students throughout the State of Indiana.

Leonard M. Stellwag – Leonard is a third-year graduate student at Ball State University majoring in Biology. He intends to complete his Ph.D. in biology and use that degree to educate future students through a career in academia. In addition, he intends to pursue research within the entomological community that leads to a better understanding of behavioral ecology and ultimately, human behavior and our role in the natural world. Leo hopes to use his position as a faculty member to serve as an advisor to GLBT students. Leo identifies himself as “queer”. He says the GLBT community has been his home for 15 years. “GLBT people are my family and I’m proud to a member, even if my history is a little extraordinary.” Leo is a member of INTRAA (Indiana Transgender Rights Advocacy Alliance), IFGE (international Foundation for Gender Education, Ball State’s Lesbian, Bisexual, & Gay Student Association. Recently, he was featured in a front-page article in the *Ball State Daily News* about his life as a transsexual. He is a co-founder and owner of Elements Alternative Gifts, Inc. in Muncie. Indy Pride is proud to award a \$2,000 scholarship to Leonard Stellwag.

Jeremy Kaylor – Jeremy is a music education major at Anderson University. His desire is to teach music at the middle school level. According to Jeremy, “middle school students face so many struggles due to physical and emotional change.” By utilizing the avenue of music to facilitate education with children, Jeremy plans to help mold
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GLBT HISTORY

Part of the mission and purpose of *Indy Pride, Inc.* is "to educate the GLBT Community about GLBT history, of the issues which affect it, both social and political and of the resources which are available to its members within the community."



Richard Chamberlain

George Richard Chamberlain was born on March 31, 1934 in Beverly Hills, California. Chamberlain was a teen idol in the title role of the television series, *Dr. Kildare* (1961-1966). Coinciding with his rise to fame on *Kildare*, Chamberlain also had a brief but moderately successful career as a pop singer. Chamberlain subsequently became disenchanted with Hollywood and turned to the theater, finding success in England among British audiences.

In 1966, Chamberlain was cast opposite Mary Tyler Moore in the ill-fated Broadway musical *Breakfast at Tiffany's* which, after a torturous out-of-town tryout period, closed after only four previews. The musical is considered one of the most notorious flops in theater history. Decades later he returned to Broadway in a revival of *The Sound of Music*.

During the first half of the 1970s Chamberlain enjoyed some success in films with *The Towering Inferno*, *The Last Wave*, *The Three Musketeers* and sequels and *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Chamberlain, however, was never regarded as an out-and-out leading man. In *The Slipper and the Rose*, a musical version of the Cinderella story, he displayed his vocal talents, which had already resulted in a hit single during his days as *Dr. Kildare*.

Chamberlain later appeared in several popular television miniseries, including *Centennil*, *The Man in the Iron Mask*, *Shogun*, and *The Thorn Birds* playing Father Ralph de Bricassart. In the late 1980s he experienced a belated breakthrough as a leading man with *King Solomon's Mines*, and also played Jason Bourne in the original 1988 version of *The Bourne Identity*.

He eventually "retired" to Hawaii where he owns land with his partner, agent-producer-director Martin Rabbett, but he never has stopped working. Since the 1990s Chamberlain has mostly appeared in television movies and as a guest star on series including *The Drew Carey Show* and *Will & Grace*. In the fall of '05, Chamberlain appeared in the title role of Ebenezer Scrooge in the Broadway National Tour of *Scrooge: The Musical* alongside Larry Adams, Roberta Duchak, Todd Gross, George Keating, and Ben Ratskoff as Tiny Tim. In 2006, Chamberlain guest starred in an episode of the BBC drama series *Hustle*.

Although it was generally known that Chamberlain was gay, having been outed by the French women's magazine *Nous Deux* in December 1989, it was not until 2003, at age 69, that he came out in a *TV Guide* interview and in his biography entitled *Shattered Love*, which describes how he felt obliged to hide his sexuality in order to have an acting career. Chamberlain and his partner, Martin Rabbett, who is now his manager, met in 1975.

He evidently ceased having any such inhibitions about being gay when he appeared in very "high drag" as Nigel Wick's (British) mother on *The Drew Carey Show*. His most recent TV appearance was on *Nip/Tuck*.

In addition to his acting career, Richard Chamberlain has had six hit singles: *Theme From Dr. Kildare (Three Stars Will Shine Tonight)* (1962), *Love Me Tender* (1962), *All I Have to Do Is Dream* (1963), *Hi-Lili, Hi-Lo* (1963), *I Will Love You* (1963), and *True Love* (1963).

Information obtained from websites.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Listed below are upcoming Indy Pride Events. Mark your calendars to come out and join the fun!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

PRIDE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR: "MANAGING YOUR ASSETS & LIVES TO AVOID RISK & REDUCE COSTS"

PLACE: THEATRE ON THE SQUARE

TIME: 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. – FREE EVENT!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

IN PRIDE 2007 PLANNING MEETING

PLACE: CONFERENCE ROOM – GREGS

TIME: 7:00 – 8:00 P.M.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

PRIDE BAG LADY HOLIDAY SHOW

PLACE: TALBOTT STREET

DOORS OPEN: 7:00 P.M.

SHOWTIME: 8:00 P.M.

COVER: \$5.00

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

PRIDE OF INDY HOLIDAY CONCERT

PLACE: INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TIME: 7:30 P.M. – FREE EVENT!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

INDY PRIDE BOARD MEETING

PLACE: CONFERENCE ROOM – GREGS

TIME: 7:00 – 8:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

INDY PRIDE MEMBERSHIP MIXER

PLACE: AGIO RESTAURANT

TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Quote of the Month:

"I guess a drag queen's like an oil painting: You gotta stand back from it to get the full effect."

— Harvey Fierstein, actor & author

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students into strong, confident, educated individuals." Jeremy is a founding member, board member, artistic director and the first conductor of the Pride of Indy Band & Color Guard. Through his involvement with the Pride of Indy Band & Color Guard, Jeremy helped create an environment where GLBT and GLBT-friendly individuals could come and feel welcomed and important. The Indy Pride Board of Directors presented Jeremy with a scholarship in the amount of \$1,500.

Cara French – Cara is a sophomore at Valparaiso University majoring in Spanish with a minor in communication. Cara has been a GLBT activist since middle school. As the Student Council President in middle school, Cara proposed a "Rainbow Day" in support of the GLBTQ community. Her proposal was not accepted but she did co-organize what was called the "Lunch Bunch" which was a group promoting tolerance of diversity that encouraged students of different social "cliques" to eat lunch together. One of her goals is to reach out specifically to the Latino community to counteract homophobia and encourage tolerance. The Board of Directors of Indy Pride presented Cara with a \$1,500 scholarship.

Cianan B. Russell – Cianan is a third-year graduate student majoring in chemistry at Purdue University. His goal is to be a professor of science education at a primarily undergraduate institution and to conduct research on the roles of science education on the lives of women in society and in science communities. He is directly involved with two organizations – the Purdue Queer Student Union and the INTRAA. At Purdue, he started Queer Grads Weekly Eats – an informal weekly support group for GLBT graduate students. His involvement with INTRAA has included being the Discrimination Story Coordinator, Fundraising Co-Chair and the Lafayette Area Coordinator. The Indy Pride Board of Directors awarded Cianan with a \$1,250 scholarship.

Karl Grimmer – Karl is a fourth-year medical student at Indiana University School of Medicine. He plans to pursue a residency in Anesthesiology with a fellowship in Pain Management. This education track will allow him to assist patients with chronic pain issues. Karl is a member of Indy Pride, an openly gay student-doctor at Indiana University, a member of the Human Rights Campaign Indianapolis Steering Committee and a Pride of Indy Bag Lady. Recently, he agreed to co-host a daylong interactive discussion of GLBT Health Issues for Indiana Youth Group (IYG). Karl was presented with a \$1,250 scholarship.

Pride of Indy Band and Color Guard Announces New Conductor

After an extensive search, the Pride of Indy Band and Color Guard has named a new full-time conductor. PI's musicians and pageantry members are proud to introduce its new artistic leader, Eric Knechtges. Pride of Indy began its search three months ago to find an experienced conductor that would sustain its unprecedented growth. After seeking out qualified candidates and interviewing applicants, the band agreed to offer Knechtges the permanent position, which he happily accepted. Some band members comment that Eric is, "an extremely talented composer and arranger" and has "a great wealth of experience" to offer PI.

Knechtges has been a part of Pride of Indy for six months; he initially found the ensemble online via the www.prideofindy.org website and began coming to rehearsals. Since joining these talented gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied musicians, he has orchestrated some of many firsts for the group. Eric has composed and conducted PI's first original piece, "To Build a Rainbow," commemorating its origins and formation in 2005. He is also one of three interim conductors who began leading the group in August, 2006, when founding conductor Jeremy Kaylor stepped down in order to focus on finishing his college education.

Eric is currently completing his Doctorate in Composition at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in Bloomington, Indiana. He holds a Masters Degree in Composition from Bowling Green State University and a Bachelors Degree in Music Education from Michigan State University. Eric was also band and choir director for two years in Addison, Michigan. One of his band compositions, "Broken Silents," a 30-year commemoration of the Stonewall Riots, was recognized for Special Distinction in the second annual ASCAP/CBDNA Frederick Fennell Competition. "I'm excited that this position will allow me to combine two of my passions, hopefully for the greater good of Indianapolis and beyond." Look for additional information on Eric Knechtges in an upcoming Pride of Indy Band and Color Guard newsletter, or online at www.prideofindy.org. The public can meet Eric at the Pride of Indy 2nd Annual Holiday Concert on December 12!

26th Annual Pride Bag Lady Bus Tour October 28, 2006



Photos by Marcus Baxter