

GFC NEWS

October, 1997

GFC-Richmond • P.O. Box 8501 • Richmond • VA • 23226

President's Message

Pride!

I had prepared some notes on getting older - prompted by the occurrence of my birthday - but chucked them when I opened Monday's newspaper to see a photo of Bob Rodgers and myself beneath our GFC-Richmond banner on Pride Day. This was the only photo the paper ran of the Pride Day festivities. Words cannot describe how proud I was to see that; and how proud I am to have been one of the founders of GFC-Richmond!

I know that if I wasn't filled with *gay pride*, I wouldn't be as involved as I am in the gay and lesbian community. I wouldn't have had the drive to help start a group like GFC-Richmond.

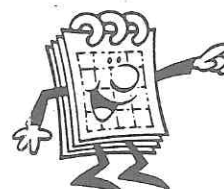
I know how alone I once felt. I can remember not knowing where I could go to turn for help. Well guys, now the hundreds, if not thousands, of other gay dads in Richmond and surrounding areas who've been feeling so alone will know that they aren't alone. Each of you share in this service to all those *unknowns*, because you are an integral part of GFC-Richmond.

We really are on the leading edge of social evolution. It is groups such as ours that are going to spark the widespread realization that gay men in general and gay dads in particular do not necessarily fit old stereotypes and ought not be regarded with a cautious eye. That is what will bring an end to entrenched homophobia.

I am truly proud of how I'm living my life and very proud to be part of GFC-Richmond.

Bob

Upcoming Events



Mark
Your
Calendar

• October 2 Meeting

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: St. Marks Episcopal,
520 N. Boulevard

General Meeting; the Kid's Panel discussion has been moved to the November 6 Meeting.

• October Halloween Party For Our Kids

Details to be announced.

• November 6 Meeting

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: St. Marks Episcopal,
520 N. Boulevard

There will be a panel of several of our children to talk about what it's like to find out that their Dad is gay and what it has meant to them.



Important Announcement

The regularly scheduled meeting for GFC-Richmond has been changed from the second Thursday to the first Thursday of the month. The location has also been moved to St. Marks Episcopal Church at 520 N. Boulevard. This change is effective with the October meeting which is now scheduled for October 2, 1997.

September Meeting Highlights

The sixth meeting of GFC-Richmond began at 7:35 p.m. at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church. The evening's speakers were introduced: Glenn Ayers and Stuart Simon, attorneys with the firm of Simon, Lafayette & Associates. The main presentation was given by Stuart Simon and focused on legal issues facing gay fathers. Specifically, he covered:

- Divorce - How fault is determined
- Property - Marital and separate
- Support - Spousal and child
- Custody - Sole or joint, physical and legal

A variety of "situation specific" questions were asked by members...some who are currently or have recently dealt with these issues, and others who have gone through it some time ago, but realized that their personal situations could change and/or should be reexamined.

Treasurer's Report: Approximately \$180 was in our account as of 9/11/91.

Bob Rodgers advised the members that St. Marks Episcopal Church at 520 N. Boulevard would provide a better meeting place, and the church wanted GFC-Richmond to hold their meetings there. Since St. Marks' meeting room was already scheduled for the second Thursday of each month, it was agreed

that GFC-Richmond meetings would be switched to the first Thursday of each month, beginning with the upcoming October meeting which has been rescheduled for October 2, 1997.

Exposed...

Richmond Gay Pride weekend was September 12 - 14. GFC-Richmond had a booth at Byrd Park during the Festival on September 14. Many people stopped by for information.

The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* featured a great article about the Festival in the Metro Section on Monday, September 15. GFC-Richmond was mentioned in the article as Bob Rodgers was interviewed by the *Times-Dispatch*. A photograph of Bob Rodgers and Bob Greene appeared with the article...on the front page of the Metro Section!

GFC - Richmond Executive Board

For information about the group or upcoming events, contact an officer.

Bob Greene	President 355-6218
Bob Rodgers	Vice President & Event Coordinator 230-2578
Dave White	Treasurer 560-4351
Randy Phelps	Secretary & Membership 275-1448

Book Resources

The following are some books which you may find of interest.

Books For Parents

Gay Fathers
Other Side of the Closet
Outing Yourself
There's Something I've Been
Meaning To Tell You

Books For Children

Daddy's Roommate
Heather Has Two Mommies
How Would You Feel If Your
Dad Was Gay
It's Perfectly Normal
Uncle What-Is-It Is Coming To
Visit
When Sex Is The Subject

Info About GFC - Richmond

GFC-Richmond is a non-profit organization of gay fathers, their partners, children and friends. The organization is an affiliate of Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International.

The purpose of the organization is to:

- Provide a forum for members to discuss common concerns
- Encourage cooperative action and promote common interests of gay fathers and their families
- Provide opportunities for social interaction among gay fathers, their children and friends
- Promote and sponsor activities designed to present a positive image and engender positive acceptance of alternative parenting