

The Independence

The Newsletter of Dignity/Philadelphia for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Catholics & Friends

Sunday, May 19

Dignity Philadelphia's 46th Anniversary Pot Luck Dinner

Let us celebrate ourselves on Sunday, May 19th, starting at 5ish pm, by participating in one of our annual/memorable Pot Luck Dinners. Dignity Philadelphia has been going strong in the LGBTQ Community, and definitely in our hearts, for 46 years. And we are doing what we do best – in addition to praying, of course – cooking and eating, AND enjoying each other's company. As you all know by now, everyone is encouraged to bring a dish that will make you happy; if it makes you happy, it will make us happy too! You can either prepare your signature dish – such as meatballs – or buy something prepared from your favorite food store (but not The Dollar Store), or pick up some chips, dip, cookies or any other type of happy food. Our motto at Dignity is, You Bring It – We Eat It! And, as always, if you plan to bring a whole roasted pig, deep fried turkey or an elegant spiral ham, please let Leo or Louis know, so they can plan accordingly. But the main thing is your presence. Dignity Philadelphia would not be here if it weren't for you! Join us for this dinner and reminisce about the not-so-good-days-in-that-social-closet. We have all come a long way in 46 years and we need to celebrate ourselves, our friends and Presiders, our religion and our history. We look joyfully to having you join us at this event.



MOTHER'S DAY AND FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

And we keep celebrating in May. Honestly, if it weren't for the coupling of our parents, we wouldn't be here – would we? **May 12th** we will honor our mothers, and on **June 16th**, we honor our fathers. Whether still alive or departed, we will honor them. As is our tradition, we allow time to call out their names aloud, and celebrate them during our Sunday liturgy. They are a part of us and live in our hearts, or in New Jersey. But we don't forget them, and we pay tribute to them in this community setting. By acknowledging them, we reflect on the impact they made on us and how this contributed to the successful adults we are today.

ORDINATION DAY MASS – SATURDAY, MAY 18TH

The Women's Ordination Conference will hold a special Mass this Saturday at 9:30 am at Sister Cities Park, 18th and JFK Parkway*. Quoting from their newsletter, "On this day, at this outdoor Mass, we both lament the loss of the gifts of women to official Catholic ministry and celebrate what they already are and can be, with a liturgy led by a woman. We stand outside the Church praying our gratitude for the treasures all people can bestow on the faithful while others stand inside the Church affirming only men as having those treasures and sanctioned for bestowing them." They – WOC – want us faithful Catholics to join them. Please put this date on your calendar, and prior to your weekly Saturday Brunch, attend this event. They titled the event, "This is how the light gets out!" And as many of you musical aficionados already know, this line is a variation of the Leonard Cohen song:

"Ring the bells that still can ring
 Forget your perfect offering
 There is a crack, a crack in everything
 That's how the light gets in"

* This park is directly across from Sts. Peter and Paul Basilica.

UPCOMING JUNE ACTIVITIES

June 2nd Dignity Philadelphia will have our annual Investiture Mass. And since this is after our hot and heavy elections, we will have new officers – or recycled officers. But at this Mass, we will



celebrate members who have stepped up to the Dignity plate and taken a leadership role for the next two years. And we may have a special social hour – so do come to Sunday liturgy and join us in wishing them a successful endeavor.

Gay Pride Day is **June 9th**. We need to make an appearance since we need to show our solidarity with our LGBTQ brothers and sisters at the Annual Gay Pride Parade and at Penn's Landing. Plus we need to acknowledge our orientation and celebrate with our tribe! And Gay Pride gives us this opportunity. So don't get sunburn or partake of non-sacred drinks, and remember to come to Mass. (Remember when we had dark hair (or just hair), and we would march thru the gayborhood singing semi-religious songs, continue onward to Market Street and finally arrive at Penn's Landing? And we still had energy to party? What happened to those young vibrant healthy men and women?) FYI, Dignity Philadelphia will not, repeat – will not – have a booth at Penn's Landing this year.

June 26, the Phillies invite you to celebrate Philadelphia's rich LGBTQ Culture at Pride Night Celebration at Citizens Bank Park on this Wednesday at 7:05 p.m. They will host – and beat – the New York Mets.



All members of the LGBTQ community, as well as family, friends and organizations are invited to come out and show their pride at this event. As always, Henry Chau will be making the announcements, taking reservations – and your money – and make the tickets available. Let's keep celebrating our pride and support our local team.

MORE SUMMER HAPPENINGS!

And what would summer be without the traditional free outdoor concerts at the Mummery Museum? As all of you know, these concerts are held weekly at the museum – and yes, Jimmy Clay, they are free! The following schedule was submitted by Dignity's own little mummer – Joe Toal. So let's support another Philadelphia tradition and support these groups:

May 9, 2019: Durning

May 16, 2019: Fralinger

No concert on May 23, 2019

May 30, 2019: Duffy

June 6, 2019: Greater Kensington

June 13, 2019: Ferko

June 20, 2019: Woodland

June 27, 2019: Quaker City

The Mummery Museum is located on 1100 South 2nd Street, Phila., PA 19147 (2nd Street at Washington Avenue). There is free parking in the museum's lot and ample street parking. Refreshments are served at 7:30 p.m. and the concerts begin at 8:00 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, the concerts will be held indoors. Bring your family, lawn chairs (a must) and hearty appetites. Enjoy an old fashioned block party. Buy Philly soft pretzels, hot dogs and sodas. Then, sit back and listen to a famous string band. Join our dancers and learn the "Mummery Strut." The schedule above is for May and June only. The next newsletter will have the July and August schedule. Please join us!

MOTIONS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

50/50 for March and April, 2019



Motion 19-03-01 made by Kevin Davies; seconded by Rob Baker.

Be it moved that the April 50/50 be donated to Action Wellness Immediate Seating. Passed unanimously

Please forgive the editors for failing to mention the 50/50 for **April** in the last newsletter. FYI, it is a part of Action Wellness, entitled "Immediate Seating". For those not familiar with the program, it is a volunteer-run complimentary ticket program for all Action Wellness clients. It gives the clients the opportunity to enjoy theater, film, dance, concerts, museums, and a myriad of special events at no cost to them. (I remember meeting an HIV client from North Philadelphia, who told me he had gone to the Museum of Art for the first time in his adult life. He said that if it weren't for Immediate Seating, he would not have experienced such social outings!).

Motion 19-04-01 made by Rob Baker; seconded by Joe Orr. Be it moved that D/P donate the May 50/50 to Open Door (La Puerta Abierta). Passed unanimously

La Puerta Abierta (LPA) is recognized as an effective organizational model that significantly improves access to quality mental health care for the Latino immigrant and refugee communities who typically face barriers to this care.

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The following was another motion passed by the Board of Directors in April:

Motion 19-04-02 made by Kevin Davies; seconded by Joe Orr. Be it moved that D/P nominate the John J. Wilcox, Jr. Archives at the William Way Community Center for the Community Service Award. Passed unanimous!

IT WAS OUR PLEASURE!

Dignity Philadelphia got two beautiful 'Thank You' notes from two Dignity USA Board members: Patty Stricker and Bob Butts. They both expressed their thanks for hosting them on February 23, 2019. We loved having them come visit us as part of their Board meeting. And it was Dignity Philadelphia's pleasure to welcome them and share hospitality and food with our Board members! And a special thanks to Kevin Davies for making all the arrangements.

While on the subject of gratitude, let us not forget Henry Chau for hosting 19 members (and friends) to the Lunar New Year celebration on February 16, 2019. Good job Henry!

Bi-Monthly Munchie

Remembering Stonewall's 50th

Happy Pride Month

Happy Mother's and Father's Days

Munchie Addendum:

I think being gay and gay people are the most wonderful things in the world. I wish all of us could have the power and pride to benefit from what is rightfully ours. Why isn't there an enormous building in Washington called the 'National Association of Lesbian and Gay Concerns' to lobby for us?

Larry Kramer

BIRTHDAYS – PAST AND FUTURE CELEBRATIONS

Upcoming Birthday Cake Sundays are **May 12 and June 16**. If your birthday is in May or June, let us treat you to some birthday cake. BUT even if your birthday is not during these two months, come and eat cake with us! We celebrate anyone's birthday – including celebrities', so why shouldn't we celebrate yours? During February, March and April we celebrated the following handsome and happy men: In addition to Birthday Cake Sundays, we plan to have Anniversary Cake!



*February Birthdays:
Ben Safed, Michael, Ed and Larry*



*March Birthdays:
Jimmy Calnan and Kevin Davies*



*April Birthday: Joe Toal,
mentioned in the above blurb*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - MAY AND JUNE 2019

(weekly mass at 330 S 13th Street between Pine and Spruce Streets)

May is Jewish American Heritage Month and National Pet Month 2019

Sun., May 5 Mass at 7 pm
Board of Directors Meeting at 4:30 pm

Thurs., May 9 Mummings Concert - Durning

Sun., May 12 Mass at 7 pm – Mothers Day
Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30 pm
Birthday Cake Sunday

Thurs., May 16 Mummings Concert - Fralinger

Sat., May 18 Ordination Day Mass at 9:30 am,
Sister Cities Park

Sun., May 19 Anniversary Mass at 7 pm
Anniversary Pot Luck 4:30 pm
Rosary Group Meeting 6 pm

Sun., May 26 Mass at 7 pm

Mon., May 27 Memorial Day – official start of summer!

Thur., May 30 Feast of the Ascension and
Mummings Concert - Duffy

June is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Pride Month

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month commemorates the events of June 1969, and works to achieve equal justice and equal opportunity for LGBTQ Americans.

Sun., June 2 Mass at 7 pm – Investiture Mass
Board of Directors Meeting at 4:30 pm

Wed., June 5 Broad Street Ministry at 10:30 am

Thurs., June 6 Mummings Concert – Greater Kensington

Sun., June 9 Mass at 7 pm
Philly Pride – Penn's Landing, 12 noon to 5 pm

Thurs., June 13 Mummings Concert – Ferko

Sun., June 16 Mass at 7 pm – Father's Day
Liturgy Committee Meeting at 4:30 pm
Rosary Group Meeting at 6 pm
Birthday Cake Sunday

Thurs., June 20 Mummings Concert - Woodland

Sun., June 23 Mass at 7 pm

Wed., June 26 Gay Night at the Phillies at 7:05 pm

Thurs., June 27 Mummings Concert - Quaker City

Sun., June 30 Mass at 7 pm

PRAYER INTENTIONS



Please sign our Prayer Intentions book if you have anyone you would like the community to remember in our prayers.

The deadline date submission for the July/August 2019 newsletter is June 19, 2019

Articles published in the Dignity/Philadelphia newsletter, *The Independence*, are not necessarily the opinions of the Board of Directors of Dignity/Philadelphia, or of the Communications Co-chairs. Publication of names, organizations, and/or photographs in *The Independence* is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such persons, employees, and/or members of organizations.

Board of Directors

Michael Rocks – Director/President of the Board

Rob Baker – Director (Membership)

Kevin Davies – Director (Record Keeping)

Erin McMenamin – Director (Finances)

Joe Orr – Director (At Large)

Jim Clay/Dick O'Malley – Liturgy Service Group Co-ordinators

Michelle Perrone/Dolores Vera – Communications Service Group

Rev. Ron Hoskins – Chaplain on leave of absence



Electronic payment at razoo.com/story/Dignity-Philadelphia

The Catholic Christian Tradition in the L/G/B/T Community
Celebrate Who You Are And Embrace The Person God Calls You To Be!

Yes, I want to be a member of the Dignity family!

I am joining as a **new member** I am **renewing my membership** **Address Change**

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Numbers: cell _____ **home** _____ **work** _____

Email address: _____ to receive Dignity/Philadelphia's

Newsletter (*The Independence*) and the latest news via email blasts. Your support through your dues to Dignity/USA will entitle you to voting privileges in national elections; subscriptions to the monthly Dateline and Quarterly Voice; discounted registration for biennial conventions and other Dignity/USA events; and access to Dignity News email list and chat groups.

Scholarships available for Dignity/Philadelphia and DignityUSA memberships. Contact the Dignity/Philadelphia Director of Membership for more information.

The total amount of your dues and donations to both Dignity/Philadelphia and DignityUSA may be included in one check. We will forward your DignityUSA dues/donations and your contact information to the DignityUSA national office.

Individual annual dues:
Dignity/Phila \$20;
Dignity/USA \$30
\$ _____ **Total**

Couple's annual dues:
Dignity/Phila \$35;
Dignity/USA \$60
\$ _____ **Total**

Please enclose your check, payable to Dignity/Philadelphia, and mail to: Dignity/Philadelphia, P.O. Box 53348, Philadelphia, PA 19105.

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