

AffirmationDC

Chapter Calendar

8-9 December
Establishment of
Affirmation as a
national organization
in 1979.

10 December
National Day-Without-
a-Gay

14 December
Christmas Party, home
of Mellor and Rob,
Capitol Hill, DC, 4:00.

25 January
Chapter Meeting, 4:00
PM.

Christmas and White Elephants

AffirmationDC's Christmas party returns to Capitol Hill, this year at the home of Mellor and Rob on Sunday, December 14, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. We know that many of you have multiple engagements and obligations at this time of year, and so the Christmas party is held on an "open house" format – come when you can, leave when you must. But one part that you want to try to not miss is the traditional white elephant gift exchange.

No, a white elephant is not something that Sarah Palin shot while running errands. A white elephant is a gift so weird, or so unloved, or so dog-gone-it-and-bless-its-heart odd, that as soon as you as your received it, you tried to forget it. This is your chance to drag it out, rewrap it, and bring it to the party to exchange for something even more weird, odd, or bizarre, that you may actually love. Just a couple of rules: the gift cannot be anything X-rated, it cannot be anything that you went out and bought yourself (at least not intentionally), and it must be wrapped, boxed, bagged, or something so that the lucky recipient cannot see it until he or she unwraps it.

Now, it would not be an Affirmation gathering without food. Rob is an amazing cook, but you are encouraged to bring a plateful of your favorite snack or desert to share (but if you can't, don't worry).

And, in the spirit of Christmas, we are also asking you this year to bring either a toy or a couple of articles of clothing for those in need.

Rob and Mellor live the Metro Eastern Market Station, which is on the Orange and Blue lines. For directions via car or



Metro, please check the "snail mail version of the newsletter or contact David at 240-383-8788 in advance.

Giving Thanks

A big thanks to Robert and Lani Graves for hosting this year's Thanksgiving dinner. Fifty-one Affirmation members and friends celebrated this special day.

[At Affirmation.org...](http://Affirmation.org...)

2009 Salt Lake City Conference
Affirmation supports Common Ground



Editorial

Thank you

David Melson
Chapter Leader

It was not that long ago that I attended my first Affirmation meeting. It was snowing. There were four of us there, John, Olin, Spencer, and me. Who knew where that afternoon would lead?

Thank you all for the amazing privilege of serving as your Chapter Leader for the past four years. Washington is Affirmation's oldest continuously operating chapter, and has always been dynamic enough to stay vital in a constantly changing environment.

My time in Affirmation has changed me greatly. I have been saddened by the lows to which some church members will stoop to tell the world that I am not good enough because I am one of God's gay kids; and I have found immense joy in those LDS members who have stood up for the right. My most memorable moments have been the 2007 Conference, the 2006 Come-Out-to-Your-Ward Sunday, and the late night sessions when you have allowed me to hear your problems, to hold your hand, and to watch you find the strength to make it through to the morning. In the first two, the members of this chapter pulled together in ways that were overwhelming and humbling. And in the others, as you allowed me to comfort, I became comforted and stronger because of you.

Many thanks to my mentor and friend Olin Thomas, to Fred and Mitch, to Michael, who has done so much behind the scenes to make this chapter strong, and Dana and Shawn, and to each of you.

I will still be around, just with a different title. I know that I leave the chapter in good hands and that your new leaders will have the fresh vision to move the chapter even further ahead.

You are truly Saturday's gay little warriors. Thank you!

Meet Your New Chapter Leaders

AffirmationDC has a new set of chapter leaders for the new year. Come meet them at the Chapter Christmas party on December 14.



A Day Without a Gay

The battle for equality for gay and lesbian Americans has intensified in the past several weeks, and the hearts and the minds of people across the country are opening to the idea that even a gay deserves to be happy (to take a line from Fiddler on the Roof).

The world has seen us fight back with anger, resolve, and with courage. On December 10, they will see us fight back with love. On December 10, 2008, the gay community will take a stand against hatred by donating love to a variety of causes.

On December 10th, you are encouraged not to call in sick, but to call in "gay" – and then donate your time to service. December 10 is also International Human Rights Day. There are literally hundreds of human rights causes and organizations that need our help now.

And if you work in a location where individuals can be fired simply for being gay or lesbian, there are still ways that you can lend a hand or a voice. Just go to www.DayWithoutAGay.org to find out how. Information is also available at www.Affirmation.org.

Quote...Unquote

"All men are created equal. No matter how hard you try, you can never erase those words."

Harvey Milk, 1978

"When any society says that I cannot marry a certain person, that society has cut off a segment of my freedom."

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 1958.

Washington D.C. Chapter

Affirmation: Gay and Lesbian Mormons

David Melson
Chapter Leader

Dana Christensen
Chapter Treasurer

Fred Bowers
David Burton
Michael Madsen
Lael Taylor

Randall Thacker
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Asst. Chapter Leaders

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