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PFLAG FEATURED IN AWARD-WINNING BOOK

An updated edition of the award-winning book, "Straight Parents, Gay Children: Keeping Families Together" largely about PFLAG families--labeled by various reviewers as "penetrating," "moving," "compelling" and "stirring"--has been released by the Avalon Publishing Group.

With a new Foreword by Betty De Generes, the latest version of "Straight Parents, Gay Children: Keeping Families Together" features two all-new chapters, and updated material throughout the book. Like the original edition, it includes an Introduction by novelist and journalist Robert MacNeil of MacNeil-Lehrer Productions.

The book has won an Award for Best Scholarship on the Subject of Intolerance, from the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights in North America. Shortly after its original publication, a St. Louis donor contributed sufficient funds to PFLAG to insure that each of its hundreds of affiliates would own at least two copies.

The book describes the author's own coming to terms with his daughter's homosexuality, together with dramatic stories of other parents who, like him, feel the experience has enriched their lives. "If you have a gay child," sums up the author, Bob Bernstein, "you're in the very best of company, including of course the vice president of the United States."

An Amazon.com review describes the book as "an essential resource for parents of gay and bisexual children." Kirkus Reviews calls it "Sensitive . . . moving . . . A compelling portrait of straight parents' . . . move toward celebrating difference and speaking out against injustice." The Washington Blade labeled it "A succinct, moving book about parents who have defied the social stigma of homosexuality to publicly support their gay children."

Bernstein was national vice president of PFLAG for seven years. "Maybe my love of PFLAG comes through a little too clearly," he says. "One college professor wrote a generally favorable review, but added that it sometimes reads like what she called 'an infomercial for PFLAG.' Well, that's a verdict that doesn't really trouble me."

One of the book's new chapters, captioned "Family Values," discusses gay and lesbian parenting. Another, "The Unreliability of Stereotypes," considers three fields--policing, professional sports and politics--in which common stereotypes, in the words of the book, are "unmasked as, well, fairy tales."

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For information about accessing this new edition of "Straight Parents, Gay Children: Keeping Families Together" as well as additional information about the book for inclusion in your chapter newsletter, please contact: Blanca Olivieri, Senior Publicist, Avalon Publishing, Tel: 646-375-1065, Fx: 646-375-2571, email: blanca@avalonpub.com.

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