

Celebrating
25 + years in the
Cincinnati Community



PFLAG CINCINNATI

Quarterly
Newsletter

Winter 2012

Parents,
Families,
and Friends
of Lesbians
and Gays

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Letter from the President

Wow this year has really gone fast! We have had some really outstanding speakers and informational programs. We occupied various community events with the intention of pushing PFLAG to the front of the line. We awarded 4 scholarships and spent time at 2 pride celebrations this year and we elected a new board..... familiar faces who have given ONE more year to the cause! PFLAG has been busy!!

As we look into the upcoming year we have some great stuff planned. In January we will be having a guest speaker on the subject of gender variant children and in February GLSEN will be on hand to show us their stories project. We have a fundraiser February 26 for our Scholarship program. Gay Bingo is bingo with a twist! It's \$10.00 for 8 games and there are prizes,

fundraising and lots of laughs! The doors will open at 6pm and the games will start at 7pm. Its an early night and is usually done by 9:30 pm and ALL the money goes to PFLAG! In March we are looking at exploring the possibility of starting an additional meeting time in Butler County, so make sure you keep an eye out for that information.

If you know of a college bound kid have them check out our website for scholarship applications in February! Every bit helps!

Speaking of raising money and donations, PFLAG Cincinnati is in the process of recruiting new members! We are asking each of you who have not renewed your membership or have never been a member to sign up as soon as possible. Membership covers our operating costs and includes helping us purchase literature to pass out

and various events and helps to purchase booth space at these events. Without this money we could not afford to get literature to give to those who are searching for answers. We appreciate it!

In closing I want to wish you all the best this holiday season! This is the time of year that many people spend alone for a variety of reasons. Take the time to say hello to someone, smile at them or invite them to a family dinner. You never know what YOUR generosity will help overcome.

Remember when YOU no longer need PFLAG, PFLAG needs YOU!!!

*In Service to the Community
Michael Cotrell
President*



Mission Statement

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual

and transgender persons, their families and friends through:

Support, to cope with an adverse society,

Education, to enlighten an ill-informed public, and

Advocacy, to end discrimination and secure civil rights.

2011/2012 Executive Board

President: Michael Cotrell
president@pflagcinci.org

Vice President: Lynne Lefebvre
vicepresident@pflagcinci.org

Secretary: Gina Ogden Ellis

Treasurer: Brent Rose
treasurer@pflagcinci.org

Members at Large
Tom Jenkins, Mark Smith,
Lauren Grosser, & Monica Plett

Committee Chairs

Advocacy Chair:

Lynne Lefebvre

Hotline:

Marie Jenkins

Email Liaison/Webmaster:

Tom Jenkins

Library:

Matt Ellis

Membership:

Tom Jenkins

Newsletter:

Tim Gross

newsletter@pflagcinci.org

Programs:

OPEN

Refreshments:

Lauren Grosser

Speaker's Bureau:

OPEN

Scholarship:

Dan Ley

scholarship@pflagcinci.org

Meeting

Our monthly chapter meetings are on the **second Tuesday of each month** from 7:00 – 9:30 P.M. at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church (link for directions <http://www.mtauburnpresby.org/location.shtml>) located at 103 William Howard Taft Rd, 45219. The monthly **chapter meeting is open to everyone**, including parents, friends and family of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons, as well as to gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons

or anyone interested in learning more about the topic. Meetings are completely confidential. What is said there stays there. Confidentiality is important to most of us for one reason or another, and at all time we respect the rights of others.

The chapter also has a monthly board meeting that is held on the Thursday before the monthly chapter meeting, starting at 6:30 P.M. at 103 William Howard Taft Rd, 45219. Paid up members of the chapter are

welcome to attend the monthly board meeting.

Please send an email to info@pflagcinci.org or call the PFLAG Help Line at 513-721-7900 and ask for the PFLAG contact number if you need more information about the monthly chapter meeting or information about attending the chapter board meeting.

Newsletter

This newsletter is published quarterly (usually sometime in the first month of the quarter). The chapter would benefit greatly from your involvement in the creation of this newsletter. Send an email

to the editor at newsletter@pflagcinci.org if you have an announcement that should be included, an idea for an article, or even better, would be interested in writing an article. Also, feel free to

send an email to the editor if you have any suggestions or comments regarding your chapter's quarterly newsletter's content or design.



A Legacy of Love

By Jane Biddinger

For as many birthdays as I can recall, I have received a card from my aunt. Year after year she wrote I love you, Janie just below the printed script and she signed it Aunt Sis.

This woman was my godmother, the woman who promised at my baptism to raise me if my own mother left me orphaned. The woman who took me in when as a third-grader I missed the school bus and no one was home to help me. The woman who gave me an Irish linen hankie to carry on my wedding day.

She was also the woman who told the paramedics she'd have pushed her lifeline button far sooner had she known it would bring a trio of handsome young men into her bedroom.

The cards she sent weren't the most expensive nor the most lavish, but that didn't mean she didn't care to send the very best. Quite the opposite. Her handwritten words meant more than those hallmark sentiments written by a greeting card employee, generic enough to sell to the masses, while personal enough to bring a tear to the eye or to tug at the heart. My aunts words

were, as the commercial says, priceless.

My Aunt didn't sign the card with the standard and expected Love, Aunt Sis. Rather, I love you she said. An active and purposeful greeting. I was loved, and though I already knew it, reading those words made her love for me real and concrete. Something of substance.

My next birthday will be different. There will be no card from my aunt. No more, I love you, Janie.

My aunt succumbed to a stroke and heart attack this fall. After a week in Hospice, we laid her 93 year-old body to rest.

Her funeral service was simple. No dignitaries. No paparazzi buzzing overhead in helicopters. She had outlived her friends and all but two of her eight siblings, so only family and friends of family gathered to mourn her passing.

Three of her grandchildren eulogized her.

The oldest, a military man, read Bible passages assuring us of her eternal rest and salvation and our destiny to join her. He shared memories of his grandmother. The cookies she baked and sent to him. The hugs and kisses she blessed him with. The let-

ters she wrote while he was away soldiering. The stacks of letters still in his possession. Letters signed, I love you, Grandma.

The second, a mother and Sunday school teacher, too read from the Bible. She recalled the good times she had with her grandmother. The trip in her early teens traveling cross country with her Grandma and Charlie. The way her grandmother loved Christmas and decorated the tree before Thanksgiving and didn't take it down until after her February birthday. The cards she sent to her great-grandchildren. Never missing a cause for celebration—be it birthday, Valentine's Day, or Halloween. Those cards too signed I love you.

The youngest, a computer guru, gave the simplest and most touching testament. She stood before us holding back tears and said, Grandma loved me. Unconditionally.

Though she added some anecdotes such as her grandmother being the one to provide her first beer, she needed say no more. Grandma loved me summed up their relationship.

Continued next page

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A Legacy of Love, continued

An outsider, assuming a grandmother's love for her granddaughter only natural, might have been puzzled at the depth of emotion displayed by this young woman. An outsider might consider her statement of the obvious trite and unimaginative. An outsider might think she did no soul searching to find the best part of her grandmother to remember at her graveside.

The outsider would be wrong.

Grandma loved me was the single most important thing my aunt had done for her granddaughter. For this young woman is gay. And as we all too painfully know, not all gay persons are loved. Let alone loved unconditionally.

Even when they're family.

Like so many of our gay children, this young woman once lived in fear.

Fear does strange things. Fear turns the

sounds of a house settling into a blood thirsty intruder. Fear causes the people of one nation to distrust the entire citizenry of another.

Fear causes our knees to buckle and our hearts to race. Fear causes a gay person to imagine life without love. Life without acceptance. Life without family.

And for some these fears come true.

But not in this case.

My aunt witnessed change after change after change during her 93 years. Horse power had an entirely different meaning in her early years than it does today. Toilets are now in rooms inside our houses, rather than in a building behind them. The year she was born, the U.S. Post Office inaugurated regular airmail service with biplanes flying between Washington DC and NYC with a stop in Philadelphia.

Now warnings about falling satellites and other space debris are common place.

Through those decades love was the one constant in a sea of change. And my aunt held it tight.

My aunt grew up when our gay children were queers and there was no closet deep enough to keep them from harm's way. Ellen had yet to be born, not alone come out. The modern family had no gay couples raising a child together.

Once again, love was the cement that held families together. My aunt gave it willingly. Joyfully. Completely.

The legacy of love--unconditional love--is the ultimate gift she bestowed on her granddaughter. The ultimate gift we bequeath to our children. Gay or straight.

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Me and Mine

By Robert Morgan (Grandpa)

I am not gay, I 'm very straight.
I'm not a bigot, I cannot hate.
Gods Word is near, and clear to see.

A zealot's vibes, don't rest in me.

Life must have, a cost, a fee.

A price to think, a need to be.

Who I am, with all my thoughts.
All have value, but what a cost.

A parent's awe, a family's cry.
Your lovely child, oh, watch him fly.

A course, a path, my wonder clear.

Let not his eyes, discern my fear.

With him I walk, this street of life.
Standing near, to ward, pain or strife.

For in him, is me, and all that's mine.

My love, my pride, traverse his time.



The ISQCCBE is a local not for profit organization that raises money for local charities dealing with LGBT issues. Each year new "heads" of the organization are elected by the community to run the organization. We call these people "Emperor and Empress" and they choose 4-5 local charities to raise money for. Money is raised mainly through drag shows where we sell raffle tickets, jell-o shots, etc. We have cook off's, comedy shows all to raise money for our community. PFLAG of Greater Cincinnati has been one of the chosen charities for the past several years and the ISQCCBE has been one of our strongest supporters.

The ISQCCBE has been in existence for over 20 years and has almost reached ONE MILLION DOLLARS!!! Our shows are done at bars and clubs and 100% of the profits go to the charities. None of the performers get any of the money and they donate their time, money and often items to make sure we raise as much money as we can. Check out our website at www.isqccbe.org for more information or to donate to our charities.

Chapter Meetings

January 10
February 14
March 13
April 10
May 8
June 12

Cooking with John Rib Roast with Mushroom Sauce

- 6 large garlic cloves
 - 3 tablespoons freshly thyme leaves
 - 2 1/2 tablespoons olive oil
 - 2 tablespoons coarse kosher salt
 - 1 tablespoon coarsely ground black pepper
 - 1 8 1/2- to 9-pound beef rib roast
- Mushroom Sauce (below)

Preparation

With processor running, drop garlic through feed tube and chop finely. Scrape down bowl. Add thyme, oil, salt, and pepper; blend to paste. Pat roast dry with paper towels. Place roast, bone side down, in roasting pan. Cut several shallow slits in fat. Press some garlic paste into slits. Rub remaining garlic paste all over roast. **DO AHEAD** Can be prepared 1 day ahead. Cover with plastic wrap and chill. Uncover and let stand at room tempera-

ture 2 hours before roasting.

Position rack in bottom third of oven and preheat to 450°F. Roast beef 20 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 350°F. Roast until thermometer inserted into beef from center of top registers 125°F to 130°F for medium-rare, about 1 hour 50 minutes. Transfer to platter and cover with foil; reserve roasting pan with juices for Mushroom and Bacon Sauce. Let roast stand at least 20 minutes and up to 1 hour.

Mushroom Sauce

- 1/4 pound sliced bacon, chopped
- 9 garlic cloves, sliced
- 2 shallots, thinly sliced
- 1 pound mushrooms, sliced
- 3 cups dry red wine
- 4 cups low-salt chicken broth
- 1 cup beef broth
- 1 large fresh rosemary sprig

Reserved roasting pan with juices Sauté bacon in large saucepan over medium heat until golden. Add garlic and shallots; sauté 3 minutes. Add mushrooms; sauté 8 minutes. Transfer half of mushrooms to bowl; reserve. Add wine to pan. Boil 15 minutes. Mix in all broth. Add 2 cups water, and simmer until mixture is reduced to 5 cups, about 1 hour 30 minutes. Skim fat from top; add rosemary. Simmer 3 minutes; discard rosemary. **DO AHEAD** Can be made 2 days ahead. Cover mushroom-wine mixture and reserved mushrooms separately; chill.

Place reserved roasting pan over 2 burners. Add mushroom-wine mixture and bring to boil, scraping up browned bits. Strain back into same saucepan, pressing out all liquid. Simmer over medium heat until reduced to 2 cups, about 30 minutes. Mix in reserved mushrooms from bowl. Season with salt and pepper.



General Chapter Information & Resources

Advocacy: Understanding and participating in advocacy for GLBT concerns at a local, state, national and international level is addressed by our Advocacy committee. If you have anything concerning awareness or participation in advocacy for GLBT concerns please contact our Advocacy chairperson at info@pflagcinci.org

Hotline/Email: Throughout this section and the entire newsletter you will see references to the hotline and various email addresses. If you ever get confused about whom to contact, you can just use the chapter Hotline or general email address. The chapter hotline can be reached by calling 513-721-7900 and ask for the PFLAG number. The general email address for the chapter is info@pflagcinci.org. Feel free to use these as your single point of contact for anything related to the chapter. Just keep in mind that depending on your request, the operator/email monitor may need to contact someone else in order to properly address your questions/comments.

Library: Your chapter has a mobile library that is open for business at every monthly meeting. The library is an excellent resource that contains many great books and videos that address topics such as homosexual-

ity, homosexuality and religion, coming out and GLBT issues for children and families. You are welcome to borrow any of the books or videos.

Membership: PFLAG Cincinnati values your support and interest in the chapter. Your membership supports the activities of the chapter which include purchasing publications for distribution at meetings and events where we are represented, books for the library, dues to National PFLAG and the printing and mailing of this newsletter. The scholarship program is funded primarily through our fund raising events and donations. The membership year runs October 1 to September 30.

Programs: Periodically throughout the year at the monthly meetings, a guest speaker will be included in the agenda. In the past we have had religious leaders, doctors, lawyers, financial advisors and GLBT non profit health and support leaders as guest speakers. If you have an idea or would be interested in being a guest speaker send an email to info@pflagcinci.org.

Scholarships: Each year your chapter funds its own scholarship program. The scholarships are awarded annually to deserving members of the community. More infor-

mation can be found at the chapter website, www.pflagcinci.org in the Scholarship Info section or by sending an email to info@pflagcinci.org. If you are interested in donating to the scholarship fund, send a check to P.O. Box 19634, Cincinnati Ohio 45219-0634 made out to PFLAG Cincinnati, noting in the memo that the check is for the scholarship fund; PFLAG Cincinnati is a non-profit organization with a 501(c)3 status. Your contribution may be tax deductible – seek advice from your tax preparer.

Speakers: If you ever need anyone to speak to a group, organization, business, school or church, your chapter has experienced members that have volunteered to speak on behalf of the chapter. Send an email to info@pflagcinci.org to make a request or to volunteer to be on the speakers bureau.

Website: The chapter has an excellent website (www.pflagcinci.org). There is up to date information about the chapter including things like monthly meetings, information about events and volunteer opportunities. If you have any feedback on the website send an email to webmaster@pflagcinci.org Also, find us on [Facebook](#) PFLAG Cincinnati

Want to get involved in the chapter contact a board member for volunteer opportunities



PFLAG Cincinnati 2011-12 Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mail membership application & dues to
 PFLAG Cincinnati
 P.O. Box 19634
 Cincinnati OH 45219-0634.

Membership Category

- Individual \$30
- Household \$40
- Supporting \$50
- Contributing \$100
- Sponsoring \$500
- Lifetime \$1000
- Other \$_____

Memberships run from October 1 to September 30.
 Newsletters are sent by email. If you wish to receive a paper copy, check this box .

“Remember, when you no longer need PFLAG, PFLAG needs you”

Gay Bingo Cincinnati benefits PFLAG of Greater Cincinnati

February 26, 2012

Doors open at 6 pm Games begin at 7 pm

\$10.00 for 8 games

Theme: Mardi Gras Party



*The Cabaret (**enter through Below Zero**)
 1122 Walnut Street
 Cincinnati, OH 45202*

PO BOX 19634

Cincinnati, Ohio 45219-0634

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

