

Celebrating  
29+ years in the  
Cincinnati Community

Quarterly  
Newsletter

Parents,  
Families,  
and Friends  
of Lesbians  
and Gays

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# PFLAG CINCINNATI

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 1

WINTER 2014

## Letter from the President

Well it looks as if most of the snow will be gone soon and it is a welcome sign! I know many of you have been "housebound" because of the snow but soon spring will be here and into summer with BBQ's, family vacations and swimming pools.

We have had some very interesting and informative speakers over the last few months. Paula Ison spoke to us about the Mormon church and their views on homosexuality. Many things have changed in the Mormon church with their stance on it and Paula who is an active member gave us insight into it.

John Keuffer who works with Lighthouse gave us some scary but hopeful information about homelessness and the LGBT kids. So many of these children either runaway or are thrown out of their homes because they are LGBT.

Many turn to horrible ways to survive but Lighthouse is out every day looking for those they can help. They have recently built a 28 bed facility to help these kids get off the streets and make a better life for themselves. John who is a straight ally, former police officer and football player has made it a mission to make sure those who want help, get it.

Speaking of our children – its scholarship time! Every year in June we give out scholarships to high school seniors and those who are continuing their education so that we can have a better future. We are still taking donations for the scholarship fund so if you would like to donate you can either send in a check/money order or visit our the Membership page on our website to pay online.

May 31 is Cincinnati Pride and of course we will be walking and hosting a booth during the festivities. If you are able to walk with us or

help us host the booth send us an email to [info@pflagcinci.org](mailto:info@pflagcinci.org) and we will sign you up!

April 27 we will be hosting team to walk in the 5K for Caracole House at The Spring Grove Cemetery. All monies raised will benefit Caracole House. If you would like to walk with the PFLAG Team send us an email at

[info@pflagcinci.org](mailto:info@pflagcinci.org) so we can make sure you have all the information.

PFLAG meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church on William Howard Taft. Visit our website at [www.pflagcinci.org](http://www.pflagcinci.org) or on Facebook at PFLAG Cincinnati. We hope to see you very soon and 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.

## 2013/2014 Executive Board

President: Michael Cotrell  
president@pflagcinci.org

Vice President: Lauren Grosser  
vicepresident@pflagcinci.org

Secretary: Monica Plett

Treasurer: Brent Rose  
treasurer@pflagcinci.org

Members at Large  
Tom Jenkins, Connie Hopkins, & Gina Ellis

## 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](mailto: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.

- Committee Chairs**  
**Advocacy Chair:**  
 Lynne Lefebvre  
**Hotline:**  
 Marie Jenkins  
**Email Liaison/Webmaster:**  
 Tom Jenkins  
**Library:**  
 Connie Hopkins  
**Membership:**  
 Tom Jenkins  
**Newsletter:**  
 Tim Gross  
[newsletter@pflagcinci.org](mailto:newsletter@pflagcinci.org)  
**Programs:**  
 OPEN  
**Refreshments:**  
 Lauren Grosser  
**Speaker's Bureau:**  
 Lynne Lefebvre  
 Tom Jenkins  
**Scholarship:**  
 Dan Ley  
[scholarship@pflagcinci.org](mailto:scholarship@pflagcinci.org)

## 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](mailto: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.



## Lovin' Northside! Where the MCC Church Lives

By Rev. Joy Simpson

Rev. Joy Simpson and her spouse, Stacy Sandberg, moved to Cincinnati from Kansas City in November – just in time for the worst winter here in thirty years! Undaunted, they have shoveled snow and de-iced walkways to keep their church open in Northside. Rev. Joy is the pastor of New Spirit Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) on 4033 Hamilton Ave. in Cincinnati, as well as the church in Dayton, Eternal Joy MCC. She is a recent graduate of Saint Paul School of Theology (Kansas City), where she specialized in women's issues and led the gay-straight alliance.

"Northside is a great place to grow a church," says Pastor Joy. She likes the passion for art in this neighborhood and the mix of people -- no one economic or racial group dominates. And there are people of all ages too. "It's great to see young adults with children in tow, and I love the good food and coffee spots all along Hamilton!"

New Spirit MCC is contributing to the art sce-

ne in Northside by starting an entertainment venue that's alcohol-free and affordable on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays. (That's the night shops in Northside stay open late.) The plan is to book young, local talent and help them build an audience while gaining a little cash. Poets, film-makers and visual artists will be given the stage, in addition to singers and musicians. Please feel free to suggest artists to Pastor Joy: 513-410-7413.

The kick-off date for the church's monthly entertainment night is April 12. Shawn Thomas, openly-gay singer song-writer from Florida, will be performing at 7:30 p.m. \$5 suggested donation.

[www.shawnthomasonline.com](http://www.shawnthomasonline.com) Shawn will also spice up worship on April 13, Palm Sunday morning. Please note that the MCC church is changing its worship time to 10:00 a.m. as of April 6.

Other community-based activities at New Spirit MCC church:

Monthly LGBT community potlucks the first Thursday at 7 p.m. Upcoming dates: March 6

and April 3.

Why Marriage Matters public forum by Equality Ohio: March 11, 6:00-8:00.

MCC was founded to give LGBT people a home at a time when most churches called homosexuality a sin, and transsexual identity a perversion. "We have been teaching the truth of God's love for over 40 years," says Pastor Joy. "God knows us intimately and appreciates us as only a Creator can. Our gift to Christianity is our insistence on authenticity. I've seen over and over again how people blossom spiritually when offered a safe space to affirm their identity."

Rev. Joy and her spouse Stacy joined PFLAG Greater Cincinnati when they moved to town last fall. Previously, they were members in Topeka, Kansas and Kansas City. Pastor Joy's oldest daughter is a lesbian film editor living in Chicago.



## PFLAG Scholarship Applications Available

With tuition costs on the rise, college students' need for financial support is needed now more than ever. It is with great pleasure that we announce the 2014 PFLAG Scholarship Award program!

The scholarship is available to high school seniors and current college students who demonstrate positive involvement in the LGBT community. Applicants must also be a resident of or attending college in the Greater Cincinnati area.

The goals of the scholarship program are to: (1) recognize outstanding gay, lesbian, bisexual,

transgendered, intersex and straight supportive students in the local community, (2) encourage continuing education for individuals involved with the LGBT community, and (3) foster a positive image of these people in society.

This is the 22<sup>nd</sup> year that PFLAG is offering financial support for high school and college students through the Scholarship Award program. Since the program's beginning, one hundred-twenty-five deserving students have received over \$156,700 in scholarship awards.

Additional information

about the scholarship program and applications are available on the website ([www.pflagcinci.org](http://www.pflagcinci.org)). Local schools also received application materials via mail. All applications must be post-marked by Friday, April 18, 2014. Call 284-6485 or e-mail [scholarship@pflagcinci.org](mailto:scholarship@pflagcinci.org) with questions.

Please help us spread the word and support fundraising events for the Scholarship Award program. We would like to honor as many deserving students as we can; your support is greatly appreciated!

We have so many financial supporters for PFLAG of Greater Cincinnati and we thank each and every person who donated their time and money to our organization. We do not have any paid staff so the money given to PFLAG (outside of memberships) is used to make sure PFLAG is kept in the view of those who will need it.

When you make a donation to PFLAG of Greater Cincinnati that money is used to purchase the literature we display at each meeting. This is material is placed into the hands of families who have a loved one coming out and will answer many questions and calm any fears they have about this life changing journey.

Your donation helps to fund our scholarship program which is awarded every June for the upcoming school year. We award deserving high school seniors and adults continuing their education money to help them further their educational dreams.

Your donation helps us get out into the community with such events as Pride and the Black Family Reunion. Although Pride is a "gay" centered event we encounter many families who have a loved one who is in need of answers. The Black Family Reunion gives us an opportunity to open up dialogue in a community that is not necessarily familiar with the subject. At these types of events we hand out literature,

pens and make sure we answer as many questions as possible.

PFLAG is always open to receiving donations. Your donations are always used for the purpose of promoting PFLAG in our community. We appreciate every donation we get and please know that they are tax-deductible and we can provide you with a letter of donation. If you would like to donate to PFLAG of Greater Cincinnati please visit our website or simply drop a check in the mail!

Again when YOU no longer need PFLAG – PFLAG needs YOU!



# What's Happening in the Community

## **GLSEN PROM**

April 12, 2014

Mayerson JCC

8484 Ridge Road, Cincinnati 45236

For more info go to <http://glsen.org/chapters/cincinnati/prom>

## **Dine Out For Life**

April 24, 2014

Join Caracole House as they partner with area restaurants to raise money to fight HIV/AIDS. Visit their website [www.caracole.org](http://www.caracole.org) to see what restaurants to visit.

## **5K for Caracole House**

Join PFLAG Sunday April 27 as we help raise money for Caracole House. We will have our own fundraising team and you can either walk or run! If you want to be a part of our team send us an email to [info@pflagcinci.org](mailto:info@pflagcinci.org) to get signed up!

## **Cincinnati PRIDE 2014**

May 31 at Sawyer Point

PFLAG Cincinnati will be walking in the parade and hosting a booth. If you would like to volunteer for either please send us an email at [info@pflagcinci.org](mailto:info@pflagcinci.org)

## **Diversity City Youth Chorus.**

Young people aged 13- 22 are invited to sing with Cincinnati's only performing arts organization for LGBTIQ and straight youth. Rehearsals begin Monday evenings at 7 pm March 17, 2014 at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church. The DCYC will give its debut performances on the MUSE June 7-8, 2014 concert series.

Cincinnati Youth Group

Meets every Sunday

103 William Howard Taft

3:00—5:30 pm.

Open to all youth age kids.

Check out [glscincinnati.org](http://glscincinnati.org) for more information.

Like us on Facebook @ PFLAG Cincinnati or  
check us out on the web @ [www.pflagcinci.org](http://www.pflagcinci.org)





## PFLAG Cincinnati 2013-2014 Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box 19634  
Cincinnati OH 45219-0634.

## Membership Category

- |                          |              |         |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual   | \$30    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Household    | \$40    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Supporting   | \$50    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Contributing | \$100   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sponsoring   | \$500   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Lifetime     | \$1000  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other        | \$_____ |

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

Memberships run from October 1 to September 30.

Newsletters are sent by email. If you wish to receive a paper copy, check this box .Mail membership application & dues to  
PFLAG Cincinnati

## Cooking with John

### Salter Caramel –Chocolate Squares

1 cup flour  
1/4 cup brown sugar  
2 t cornstarch  
1/4 t salt  
1/2 cup chilled, unsalted butter  
1 T ice water  
1 egg yolk  
Preheat oven to 350.  
Butter a 11x7x2 baking pan. Blend first 4 ingredients in processor, add butter using pulse until it resembles course meal. Add water and egg yolk

and mix till moist. Add more water if needed. Press in pan and fork bake 20 minutes. Cool Completely.

Next whisk one 14 oz. sweetened condensed milk, 1/2 cup brown sugar, 6 T unsalted butter, and 2 T dark corn syrup. Bring to a boil whisking constantly until mixture reaches 225 on a candy thermometer. Pour over cooled crust, as caramel cools add small pretzels, place next

to each other until covered. Cool about 15 minutes.

Melt 6 oz. chocolate chips with 3 T whipping cream over double boiler, whisk until melted. Spread over chocolate and then sprinkle Murray River Salt over chocolate. Cover and chill.

Cut in bite sized squares.



## 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](mailto: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 211 or 513-721-7900 and ask for the PFLAG number. The general email address for the chapter is [info@pflagcinci.org](mailto: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 homosexuali-

ty, 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](mailto: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](http://www.pflagcinci.org) in the Scholarship Info section or by sending an email to [info@pflagcinci.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:webmaster@pflagcinci.org) Also, find us on [Facebook](#) PFLAG Cincinnati

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

PO BOX 19634  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219-0634

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

