



PFLAG Cincinnati Quarterly Newsletter

Letter from the President

Dear PFLAG Cincinnati members and friends,

It is with many emotions that I introduce myself, Mark Smith, one of the new co-presidents for the Cincinnati Chapter of PFLAG. I look forward to co-leading this chapter with Lynne Lefebvre. Inside this newsletter you will find a bio on each of the board members, I hope you find it informative and feel free to contact any of us. Please let me address the role of co-president. When approached about running for president I was very concerned that my work and home commitments would make it difficult for me to effectively lead this organization. Lynne stepped forward to the challenge and agreed to co-lead the organization with me. We have agreed that I will be the primary focal point for leading the organization and that she will take more of a "behind the scenes" role in supporting me in the leadership of the organization. I think Lynne and I will make a great team, she has such passion for this organization - thanks Lynne!

I would be less than honest if I didn't tell each of you that I feel a bit nervous and excited about my new role on the PFLAG Cincinnati board. Nervous because I have a long legacy of successful leadership's shoes to fill. I know that in order to keep this much needed organization viable so

it continues to serve the greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky area, we will need to make some tough decisions and implement some changes to build on the strong foundation of the past leaders of our organization. I am excited because we have a fabulous board in place consisting of legacy members with many years of PFLAG experience and some new blood that has a strong history of leadership in the LGBTQ community. Speaking of strong leadership, I want to personally thank the exiting board for their hard work. Some key successes that come to mind for me was the successful scholarship program, implementation of new by-laws, implementation of a new web site, participation in the Cincinnati Pride celebration, various speaking engagements and of course our monthly general meetings that included some fantastic guest speakers. I am sure each of you have your own list of highlights from last year. The board would love to hear from you. Let us know what we need to keep doing and what you think needs to change. Of course I would be remiss if I did not also put in a plug... we need your help and would love to hear from you if you are interested in volunteering some time to work on a special project. We know everyone is very busy, but trust me, we can work with your schedule to make it work! Keep your eyes on this space for information

on volunteer opportunities and also keep reading those emails from Tom Jenkins as there will be opportunities in them also.

Speaking of opportunities, I want to give you some insight into my personal leadership goals as co-president for the fiscal year 2008. I welcome any feedback you have.

- Continue the focus on the core mission of the organization - to offer support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex individuals, families and friends in a safe and caring environment
- Develop and implement a plan that will permit the organization to continue funding the scholarship and general funds
- Develop and implement a plan to increase volunteerism within the organization and increase attendance at the general meetings that will include collaboration with other organizations (GLBTQ and non GLBTQ).

I will use this space to keep you up to date on our progress.

See page 5 for the board bios.

PFLAG Cincinnati

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Special points of interest:

- ☺ Welcome New Board—Page 5
- ☺ New Chapter Website Finally Here—Page 7

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Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons and their families and friends, through **support**, to cope with an adverse society, through

education, to enlighten an ill-informed public, and through **advocacy**, to end discrimination and to secure civil rights. PFLAG provides an opportunity for confidential dialog about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to

create a society that is healthy and respectful of human dignity. Meetings are open to all and are completely confidential.



Our **regular** meetings are always held on the **second Tuesday of each month** at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, 103 William Howard Taft Rd. 45219, from 7:00 – 9:30 P.M. Meetings are open to

parents, friends and family of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons, as well as to gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons.

Board meetings are held on the Thursday before our monthly meeting, starting at 6:30 P.M. Please contact a Board Member for information about attending meetings.

Please remember to check the mailing label on this issue of the newsletter. We have included the date of expiration on your mailing label to send a gentle reminder of when your PFLAG dues expire. The date will also include a letter indicating the type of membership

dues you have paid. If a date does not appear on the label that either means that you are not yet a member or that our records do not show when you last paid your dues.

Your dues are our only source of operating revenue. All other fundraising is done for schol-

arships. We depend on your generous support through dues..

If it is time to renew your membership, please use the form included in this newsletter to do so. Thank you for your help!

NUTS & BOLTS

This is your newsletter! If you have story ideas or would like to contribute, please contact Tim Gross at newsletter@pflagcinci.org.

The PFLAG Library has many great books, videos, and other resources about homosexuality, coming out, GLBT issues for

children and families. Be sure to check them out at our next meeting.

The Cincinnati Chapter of PFLAG is happy to provide a speaker for your group or organization, business, school or church. Please contact the contact the PFLAG Help line at 513-721-7900 or send an email to

info@pflagcinci.org to obtain details about requesting a speaker for your group.

If you have any announcements you would like to include in the newsletter, email them to Tim Gross at newsletter@pflagcinci.org. Submission deadline the first week of January, April, July, and October.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE WEEKLY!

Want to know what's going on in Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky's GLBT and supportive communities each and every week? Subscribe to "The Weekly." It's a free service presented by "Greater Cincinnati GLBT News"

and the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Cincinnati which will send you an email calendar of events every Friday night. The Weekly includes listings for community organization meetings, social ad support group gatherings,

theatre and arts events, sports leagues, nightlife happenings and much more. To subscribe to this great FREE service, please visit www.greatercincinnati.glbtnews.com and click on "The Weekly" button on the home page.

WHEN YOU NO LONGER NEED PFLAG. PFLAG NEEDS YOU!!

A PFLAG MOM IN FLORENCE: By Jane Biddinger

Every person has his or her way of looking at things. It's a matter of perspective. Recently we visited Florence, Italy with three other couples. Four of us were celebrating one of those milestone birthdays ending in zero. The architect of the group focused on the structure of the monuments. He could tell the age of a building by its composition. The artist examined the brush strokes of the paintings. She pointed out the significance of the colors used in the great works of art and the significance of the position and light of the object painted. We had more than our share of accountants, and they were quick to convert euros to dollars. I, on the other hand, saw the city through the eyes of a PFLAG mother.

As we walked through the Piazza della Signoria, the architect spotted support beams, the artist focused on the statues, the accountants calculated the American price of souvenirs. I, on the other hand, looked for the round bronze medallion laid in the cobblestone of the square. Most visitors to the square walked past or over the marker barely noticing it, but I sought it out. I stood on the spot of the Bonfire of the Vanities that occurred on February 7, 1497.

At that time, the division between state law and church law was blurred at best, and often nonexistent. A Dominican monk named Girolamo Savonarola (the Phil Burrell of the Renaissance), claimed God had sent him to purge the city of evil. It seems God, quite conveniently, also put him in charge of defining evil. The monk used his position to impose his views on the citizens of Florence. He preached that works of art, literature, fancy clothing and jewelry were occasions of sin and anyone in possession of these items would lose their souls. Legions of his followers swept the city in search of violators. Threatened with eternal damnation, many citizens rendered their treasures. Citizens were encouraged to report those who did not. Neighbors turned in neighbors, brothers handed over brothers, and sons betrayed their fathers. Fires, the most notable taking place on the spot where we stood, destroyed untold treasures.

Savonarola's revelations from

God were not limited to mere material things, but extended to matters of the flesh as well. Homosexuality headed his list of evils and guaranteed a special spot in hell. Suspects were rounded up. Tortured. Executed. The fires of Florence continued to burn.

As a PFLAG mother, I immediately envisioned another mother entering that same square 500 years ago. She passes through on her way to the well. She listens carefully to the names of those arrested during the night. She prays that her son knows none of them. She prays even harder that none of them know him. The butcher calls out from across the way, telling her once again that her load would be lighter if only her son would finally take a wife to do his washing and cooking. She lowers her eyes and mumbles about his hard-to-please nature. She scans nearby faces for knowing expressions. She longs to find another mother whose fears matched her own, but the danger is too great.

On Sunday morning, she passes through the square on her way to Mass. She chokes back tears as she lights votive candles. She has done this for three years now. The first year she prayed for her son to change. The second year she prayed for acceptance. This third year she prays for his safety. Taking her place in the back of the church, she questions God's wisdom, God's fairness, and sometimes God's very existence. She bows her head and allows the hushed voice of her heart to drown out the ranting from the pulpit.

After Mass, she passes through the square as she makes her way home. Home was once her haven, but now there is tension here. Her husband doesn't understand. Yes, he loves his son, but this is beyond his comprehension—an off-limits topic. Her son's childhood memories live here. She questions her role as mother. Was it something she did? Something she should have done? She does not sleep deeply, for her heart races at the sound of any approaching horse in the night. And, the middle son—the one who follows every rule—is beginning to quote the monk.

As my imaginary Florentine mother came to life, I began to see the city as she might have. I breathed a sigh of relief as I read the medallion further as it recorded another event that took place on that spot.

On May 23, 1498, the Dominican monk was hanged and burned on the same spot where the atrocities of his rein took place.

Ironically, Florence is Michelangelo's hometown and this piazza of persecution was at one time home to his David. The world-famous sculpture is now housed nearby in the Academia. Masses of people travel from all ends of the earth and wait hours to view this magnificent 17 ft. tall statue—the most recognized in the world.

They stand slack-jawed in awe of this figure that Michelangelo carved from a piece of marble that was an uncompleted work of another sculptor. Michelangelo's creations spread beyond his birthplace of Florence. His Pieta resides in the Vatican in Rome, the most Catholic of places. Throngs of visitors file by this must-see masterpiece, the most famous and revered religious sculpture known to man. He created both of these pieces before he turned thirty. The number of visitors and the time allowed in the Sistine Chapel is restricted to accommodate the crowds that form each and every day to view the frescos that compose Michelangelo's ceiling.

I consider these incredible pieces of work miraculous collaborations of God and man. Standing in their presence, one knows that while human hands toiled them, the source of inspiration was undoubtedly divine. Describing Michelangelo's works as inspirational is as understated as referring to Mount Vesuvius as a hill. Legions of the faithful agree.

Through my PFLAG eyes, I see not only the artistic marvels, but also confirmation of our group's belief. It is generally accepted that Michelangelo was gay. The fact that our Creator blessed him with a talent unknown to mankind before him and yet to be duplicated proves to me that when Michelangelo died, God embraced this gay man, smiled, and welcomed him home.

New Website Launched: By Mark Smith

If you have been to the our website www.pflagcinci.org since October 4, you have seen some dramatic changes. If you haven't been to the website lately please check it out!!! The website was totally redesigned by Tim Gross, with input from the PFLAG Cincinnati board. Our new technical architecture (all the behind the scenes stuff most of us never want to know about!) was created with much help from a new friend to our organization, Marc Loy. In addition to donating his time, Marc also paid the first year's fee for the company that is now hosting our website. Without Tim's hard work, the great feedback from the board on Tim's design and Marc Loy's technical assistance, we would never have been able to complete this project. Thanks everyone for

your hard work! Special thanks also goes out to Tom Jenkins for all his diligent work as the webmaster for the previous website. Tim Gross will be taking over the duties of webmaster for the new website. If there is anything you see that needs correcting on the www.pflagcinci.org website please send an email to webmaster@pflagcinci.org. While we are on the subject of emails, please see page 11, to obtain the email addresses for the new board members. We have set up generic email addresses for each officer and some special roles. This will make it much easier for you to contact PFLAG. As people rotate in and out of roles, the email addresses stay the same. Please check your bookmark for the PFLAG Cincinnati website.

Some of you may be using an old geocities web address. For a few months the geocities web address will continue to automatically redirect you to the www.pflagcinci.org web site, however in the near future we will be severing our relationship with geocities. Once this occurs, the geocities link will no longer work, giving you a broken link message.

If you have anything that you would like posted to our website please send an email to info@pflagcinci.org. If you are requesting that we post an event please include the date, time, location and details on how someone can find out more information about the event (for example, email address, phone numbers etc.).

Notes from the Top says Goodbye: By Dorothy Byers



As immediate past president, I want to say good-bye and thank you to everyone who worked so hard for PFLAG over the last two years!

First of all, I want to thank the Board and Committee Chairs: Mark Smith, Monica Plett, Dan Parsley, Lynne Lefebvre, Lois Kay, Tom Jenkins, Marie Jenkins, Tim Gross, Marti Kwiatkowski, Tim and Carol Egbert, and Ric Stackpole. These are the people who made everything happen: meeting, programs, speaking engagements, banquets, newsletters, web sites, communication, advocacy, library resources, scholarships, and plain old support.

Second of all, I want to thank the many organizations that helped PFLAG achieve its goals. ISQC-CBE offered tremendous support for our scholarship program, and Patrick Coyle of CMC was a great inspiration for our banquets. We also enjoyed partnerships with the GLBT Center and GLSEN, and with HRC and Equality Cincinnati in hosting the film *Inlaws and Outlaws*. The list could go on. I learned so much from interacting with such talented and energetic volunteers in a world I once never knew existed!

I was proud that our very own past president Marian Weage was a grand marshal for the Pride Parade, and humbled by the amazing dedication of June and Harold Delph to

the cause of PFLAG. With support from these and many other friends, PFLAG was able to maintain a healthy scholarship program and offer outreach through speaking engagements and community events, in addition to providing support for those people just starting their journey.

I have always received a positive response when representing PFLAG, a testimony to the success of all the people who have worked so hard to make PFLAG an effective community organization. I am honored to have served as PFLAG Cincinnati's president.

PFLAG Cincinnati Board Members

Mark Smith—Co-President—president@pflagcinci.org

I was born and raised in Cincinnati and currently own a wonderful historic Clifton home with my partner Chris. It is hard for me to imagine, but, Chris and I have been together for eight years. I work for IBM as a project manager in the Global Business Services division and have had various technical and management positions. I have over 20 years experience in the information technology field and hold a professional certification in project management from the Project Management Institute (PMI). I plan to utilize my broad IBM tech-

nical and management experience in my role as PFLAG co-president. My tenure on the PFLAG Cincinnati board started 2 years ago when I was elected treasurer and then last year I was the vice president. In addition to PFLAG I am also on the speakers bureau for the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and a leader on IBM's Midwest region (22 states) GLBT Diversity Network group. In the past I was



on the boards of the Cincinnati Youth Group (CYG) and Queen City Careers Association (QCCA). Both Chris and I are very out at work, in the community and to our families. We are both fortunate to have loving and supportive families.

Lynne Lefebvre—Co-President—info@pflagcinci.org

I was born (59 years ago) and educated in England. I met my husband Kent while working in Germany when he was in the military. We have lived in Kansas, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Texas and France. We have two children - Vanessa (a lovely straight lass) and Ross (our gay son and inspiration for joining PFLAG about six years ago.)

Our values and understanding of

the world were questioned when Ross came out at the age of 21. Since then we have witnessed outrageous bravery by seemingly ordinary people. This inspired me to take on the role of Advocacy Chair for our chapter. My heart, brain and sense of humor have been expanded by this work. I have only gratitude for having a gay son. PFLAG, for me, is a safe and loving place for those



who cannot find it elsewhere. I remain committed to speaking up, often and everywhere.

Michael Cotrell-Vice President-vicepresident@cincipflag.org

I am the newly elected Vice President for PFLAG Cincinnati. I have been an active participant of PFLAG for the past two and a half years. I got my "start" in PFLAG through the organization known as the ISQCCBE, which chose PFLAG as one of their designated charities. I was born in Austin,

Texas and moved to Ohio when I was 13. I have been living in the Cincinnati area for almost 4 years. I am a social worker in a long term care facility and am an active member of the ISQCCBE where I also serve as Vice President.



Monica Plett-Secretary-secretary@pflagcinci.org

I came to PFLAG in 2000 shortly after my daughter, Emily, came out to me. Emily is now 26 yrs old and is very happy working as a therapist in a group home for emotionally disturbed children. I started coming to meetings consistently in 2003 when I was on the banquet committee. I have

been on the banquet committee for 4 years. I have served as secretary for 2 years. Besides my daughter, I also have a gay nephew and a lesbian niece. I am divorced and Emily is my only



child. I was born and raised in Cincinnati. I have been a Claims Representative for over 16 years for the Social Security Administration. This has truly been a great journey learning, growing and working with the wonderful people at PFLAG.

Dorothy Byers—Treasurer-treasurer@pflagcinci.org

I've been with PFLAG since 2000 when our 18-year-old son Mark came out to husband Harold and me.

President Linda Arnest soon asked me to chair the Scholarship Committee. For the next two years that took me out of my shell and made my situation more public. I then served on the banquet committee for a couple of years.



When I joined the Board as Vice President I came to realize all that PFLAG does in the way of support. And I realized how important it was to speak out on behalf of

the GLBT community. That's when I got the courage for door-to-door canvassing to repeal Article XII. It felt good to overcome innate shyness and participate in a successful campaign.

I served as President for two years, following in the giant footsteps of Marti Kwiatkowski. She has a big heart that touches everyone. In the President's role I was called upon to reach out to a great many people in roles representing PFLAG's missions of support, education and advocacy, a daunting challenge for me. I am thankful for the wonderful support offered by the Board members – you're awesome!

As Past President and Treasurer I

can now reflect on my personal evolution from stunned parent to almost-activist. I did not join PFLAG with the intent of getting involved. It happened. I thank the many people whose influence made it happen. I will continue to serve PFLAG as best I can, allowing time for extra-curricular interests such as running and playing the violin in addition to working as the Engineering Librarian at UC.

And the son who got me into this? Mark is a fledgling singer-songwriter in NYC while his older brother Eric performs in a string quartet based in Los Angeles. Check them out at www.markaholic.com and www.calderquartet.com !

Tom Jenkins—At-Large Member—info@pflagcinci.org

I have been on the board of PFLAG Cincinnati for five years, serving as Internet Liaison (handling email and the web site) and as Membership Chair (keeping the membership & mailing lists). I previously held various offices in PFLAG Louisville before my wife Marie and I moved to the Cincinnati area in 2001. I have participated in several speaking

engagements on behalf of the chapter.

Our older daughter came out in 1985. Shortly thereafter, Marie co-founded the Louisville PFLAG chapter and both of us were actively involved in that chapter and the Louisville gay community until 2001.



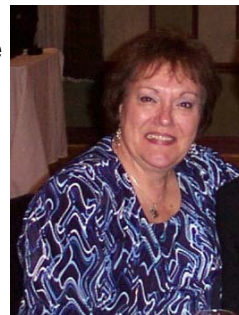
Born and raised in Indianapolis, I earned a doctorate in Mathematics. I worked at the University of Louisville for thirty years before retiring as Professor of Mathematics and as Director of Academic Information Technology. I also served on a scholarship selection committee honoring a gay faculty member.

Marti Kwiatkowski—At-Large Member

I am a teacher and an educator. I presently teach ABLE classes at the Hamilton County Justice Center. I have been married for 40 years, have three straight children and seven grandchildren.

I first came to PFLAG to grieve the loss of my best friend who had recently died of Aids in 1996. As I felt the welcoming arms of PFLAG, I made the decision to become a straight supporter and help PFLAG in any way possible to build a vibrant chapter. I began as first a member, then secretary, then vice-president and on to the presidency. I served as president of PFLAG for three years. So I have been an active member for ten years. In that time, I have seen our Cincinnati chapter grow into something beautiful and notewor-

thy. Our chapter has expanded and become a vibrant part of the GLBT community in Cincinnati. I have also had the pleasure watching many, many, young gay youth develop into strong advocates for GLBT rights as they take their place in the Cincinnati gay community. At the beginning of my journey, I mistakenly thought there was no place for a straight supporter -- What I have learned is the rights that we advocate for GLBT individuals are universal. It is the right to live and love in freedom under the umbrella of equal rights. With PFLAG's help I educated myself, I supported others on their journey and in turn became stronger myself, and I have become an advocate. I believe that no gay person should be denied any basic hu-



man rights. As I sit back now -- as member at large -- I am so proud of the work we do and what we have accomplished. The smiles and understanding on the faces of all those

new parents, who were frightened at first, but ended up leaving the meetings with a smile and hugs tells me that we are accomplishing great things. I have been a strong supporter of PFLAG for ten years and I will continue to do so. I welcome anyone, straight or gay to join us.

Tim Gross—At-Large Member—webmaster@pflagcinci.org

I started attending PFLAG meeting in fall of 2000 and have attended regularly since then with the exception of a 10 month hiatus to New York. I came on the board as a committee in the 2002/03 year as coordinating the Newsletter mailing. I was one of the people who initiated Cincinnati PFLAG in obtaining the postage imprint for mailing and not using the stamps. From there I moved to doing the newsletter solo, became part of the banquet committee, to assisting with the Library, to becoming an at-large board member, design-

ing and doing the design work for this past banquet and recently redesigned the new website. I started coming to PFLAG when I was in the process of coming out to my wife and family. I was born and raised in Chesaning Michigan and attended Ferris State University. After graduating from Ferris I moved to southwestern Pennsylvania for 2



years, then to Northern Kentucky for a year, Binghamton NY for 10 months then back to Cincinnati. I have been back in Cincinnati since summer of 2002. I moved back to Cincinnati because my partner John was here and we have been together since 2001. I currently work in non-profit HIV/AIDS as a client support specialist for Caracole, Inc, assisting our clients with their housing needs. Other than PFLAG my community involvement has been limited to volunteering with the Pride Alive.

PFLAG National Convention: By Tom & Marie Jenkins

We attended the National PFLAG Convention in McLean, VA, just outside of Washington DC. Appropriately, the convention opened on National Coming Out Day, October 11. Many folks came early to visit their congressional representatives, though we were not able to. In addition to great general session panels on topics such as safe schools, faith community focus and diverse communities, there were almost 40 breakout sessions. Friday evening we saw a new film, *For The Bible Tells Me So*, in which five families tell how they dealt with a family member's coming out. The families included the parents of The Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson, Episcopal Bishop of New Hampshire, and former U.S. Rep. Dick Gephardt & his daughter Chrissy. Bishop Robinson introduced the film and commented that his parents had told the film maker things they had never told him. You can see more at <http://forthebibletellsmeso.org/>.

Saturday morning Bishop Robinson participated in the Faith Community panel along with Rabbi David Horowitz who is active in the Akron chapter and is

secretary of the national board of directors. Other panelists were Harry Knox of HRC and Rev. Rebecca Voelkel of NGLTF.

Marie attended two entertaining and informative workshops given by Dr. Robert Minor, Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Kansas. The first, on burnout, emphasized the importance of not needing to get everything perfect. Perhaps some of you who have been hesitant to take on leadership roles in our chapter will find that thought inspiring. The second on how to deal with the religious right was especially helpful. Dr. Minor sees the feeling of righteousness as addictive, and puts forth ideas from 12-step codependency groups for reframing the pronouncements of the religious right in a way which is more healthy for society. We purchased a copy of his book, *When Religion is an Addiction*, and plan to donate it to the PFLAG library.

Saturday afternoon we met with about 30 other PFLAGers from the Great Lakes Region and the new regional director Debra

Smith. Ohio has become a model to the extent that chapter leaders work together through monthly conference calls and state wide conferences twice a year.

A focus of the convention was to kick off a new campaign, *Straight for Equality*, aimed at enlisting more straight allies to our cause. At the Saturday evening gala PFLAG received commitments for almost \$250,000 to fund *Straight for Equality*. The gala program, moderated by Scott Simon of NPR, included awards to Dear Abby (Jeanne Phillips), Bishop Robinson and Mitzi Henderson, a former president of national PFLAG.

It was great to meet & talk to PFLAGers from around the country as well as see many old PFLAG friends.

See Pictures of the convention on Page 10.

Cooking with John Pumpkin Cheesecake

1 1/2 cups Gingersnap cookies crumbs
3/4 cup Hazelnuts or Pecans
3 TBS Brown Sugar
6 TBS melted Butter
3—8oz pkgs Cream Cheese, softened best not to use fat free or low fat
1 cup Brown Sugar
2 cups canned pumpkin

1/2 cup heavy cream
1/3 cup maple syrup
1 TBS Vanilla
1 1/2 tsp Cinnamon
1 tsp Allspice
1 tsp Pumpkin Pie Spice
4 eggs
Mix cookies, butter, nuts, and 6 TBS Brown sugar in 9" spring foam pan pat on bottom and about 1/2 up

side of pan
Beat cream cheese and brown sugar till fluffy, stir in pumpkin. Mix in the cream, syrup, spices and vanilla. Beat in eggs 1 at a time till smooth.
Bake at 200 degrees for 3 hours. Turn oven off and let set in oven for 1 hour, with oven door cracked open. Let season overnight in refrigerator

PFLAG Scholarship Fund-raising: By Dorothy Byers

It's fall already! It's the beginning of a new fiscal year for PFLAG Cincinnati, and change is afoot. Last year at this time PFLAG sought volunteers for the PFLAG Scholarship Banquet. The Banquet was always held the first Saturday of March, and preparation began in September. But as you no doubt read in the Spring 2007 newsletter, the Board decided NOT to host a banquet in 2008. However, the scholarship program remains a vital part of the mission.

We just need to raise funds in new and creative ways. If you have ideas for scholarship fund-raising, we welcome your input. It's not too soon to raise funds for the next round of scholarship winners! Consider the following:

- Host a house party
- Sell your paintings and donate the proceeds to PFLAG Scholarship Fund

- Get a performer friend to donate a concert, the proceeds from which benefit PFLAG
- Make a donation in memory or in honor of someone

Make a direction donation to PFLAG Scholarship Fund, PO Box 634, Cincinnati OH 45219-0634.

Send your ideas to info@pflagcinci.org!

Upcoming Events

PFLAG Meetings

November 13

December 11

January 8

7—9:30 pm

Mt Auburn Presbyterian

Church, 103 W. H. Taft, 45219

Sunday, November 11, 2007

7:00 PM

ISQCCBE Event

USO Show

On Broadway

Saturday, November 17, 2007 - 8:00pm

Sunday, November 18, 2007 - 3:00pm

Rapt in Love - Fall Concert

MUSE's fall concert is about loving boldly. To celebrate this 25th year, we begin with some classic works from our rich lesbian and feminist repertoire in the first concert of our 25th anniversary year. St. John's UU Church
320 Resor Ave

November 18th

New York Cabaret with Special After-Show Performance by Matt Bogart

Proceeds will benefit STOP AIDS

Hosted by Terry LaBolt

Below Zero Lounge

November 18th

6:00 PM

Harrison's Thanksgiving Dinner & Show

ISQCCBE Show

Shooters

November 28, 2007

All Day Ten Thousand Villages

Shopping Day Benefits MUSE

When you support fair trade labor practices, you also support MUSE.

Ten Thousand Villages in O'Bryonville contributes 10% to MUSE *when you mention MUSE at time of purchase.* Tell your friends!

Ten Thousand Villages

2011 Madison Road, O'Bryonville

December 7, 2007 - 7:00pm

Boone County Library-Scheben Branch Holiday Performance

MUSE rounds out the year singing global holiday, seasonal and socially conscious tunes .

Boone County Library - Scheben Branch, 8899 U.S. 42 Union, KY 41091

December, 15, 2007 8:07 pm

December 16, 2007 3:07 pm
Safe and Warm: *Together for the Holidays*

Snuggle up with CMC for our popular holiday concert. Relax with many of your holiday favorites and a few surprises too.

Greaves Hall, Northern Kentucky University

Every Saturday on WAIF 88.3 FM
Alternating Currents - 3-5pm
Weekly Gay and Lesbian public affairs radio program featuring news, interviews, music, and information on what is happening in the local community.

Straight for Equality Initiative

Statement of Purpose

Straight for Equality is an outreach and education project that empowers straight people in supporting and advocating for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) people. Straight for Equality reaches out to straight allies who may not have realized how their own contribution can make a significant difference. It also seeks allies who understand the importance of this goal but may be hesitant to get involved. This project will boost these allies' confidence by providing them with the tools, knowledge, skills and opportunities to take the next step. There are many ways to be a straight ally and everyone's contributions, whether large or small, private or public, can help achieve this goal.

The project will accomplish its objectives by:

- Creating a forum for fair-minded straight people to discuss and resolve the concerns and barriers they face in becoming or growing as effective allies of the GLBT community;
- Providing specific recommendations to help transform people's attitudes and perceptions of GLBT individuals and the GLBT community;
- Assisting other GLBT allies in encouraging friends, family members, coworkers, and community members to embrace this goal and effect real and lasting change.

Straight for Equality is the next logical step for [Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays \(PFLAG\)](#) as we expand our work for GLBT equality. As part of PFLAG's mission of support, education and advocacy, this new project will embrace an increasing number of straight people who are ready to lend their invaluable voices and perspectives to bring the straight and GLBT communities together, straight for equality.

[The Straight for Equality Pledge](#)

As a straight ally committed to supporting and advocating for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people, I will:

[Come out.](#)

I will acknowledge and work on any uncertainties I may have in "coming out" as a straight ally, and, as I grow in confidence, I'll increasingly let my family, friends, and colleagues know that I support equality for GLBT people.

[Speak up.](#)

Whenever I have an opportunity, I'll say something supportive of GLBT people, whether I'm responding to a homophobic joke or remark, commenting positively about a current event, or making the case for equality in a discussion.

[Join in.](#)

I will review the many recommended actions provided through Straight for Equality that will help me create change in big and small ways and incorporate those with which I am comfortable into my growth as a straight ally to help move equality forward.



Jeanne Phillips "Dear Abby" (center) receiving the Straight for Equality award from John Cepek, President of PFLAG (left) and Jody Huckaby, National Executive Director (right).



Tom and Marie Jenkins announcing PFLAG Cincinnati Pledge for the "Straight For Equality" Campaign unveiled at this year's National Conference in Washington D. C.



The Conference is a time for learning and also time to reconnect with "old" PFLAG Friends. Tom and Marie take a break with one of those friends from Brevard, NC, Sue Null.

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