



P.O. Box 19634, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219-0634

[www.geocities.com/pflagcinci](http://www.geocities.com/pflagcinci)

NEWSLETTER – Spring 2003

## Rainbow Awards Highlight of PFLAG Banquet on March 1st

*from Greater Cincinnati GLBT News, March 2003*

A diverse crowd of about 230 people gathered on Saturday March 1st at The Madison in Covington for the 11th Annual PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Scholarship Banquet. The event was a big success, says PFLAG president Marti Kwiatkowski.

Among the special guests at the banquet were PFLAG's National Executive Director David Tseng, Regional Director Ann Wilger and Cincinnati City Councilman David Crowley. The festivities were hosted by Cincinnati Enquirer columnists Jim Knippenberg and Laura Pulfer.

The centerpiece of this year's banquet was the presentation of the first "PFLAG Rainbow Achievement Awards." The "Dorothys," as the group is calling them, were awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions in the areas of advocacy, education and outreach to the local GLBT community. This year's recipients were: Caitlin Arnest of the Walnut Hills Gay/Straight Alliance; the Rev. Jerry K. Hill, minister of Clifton United Methodist Church; Joan Lang of the Cincinnati Men's Chorus; Worley Rodehaver, publisher of Greater Cincinnati's GLBT News; Mindy Sandfort of GLSEN; and Kathy Y. Wilson, columnist for CityBeat.

Judy Schmeling presented the Gene Schmeling Advocacy Award to Lyndsay Schaeffer. Lyndsay is a graduate student in Molecular Genetics at the University of Cincinnati and was co-chair of the GLBT Youth Summit held last November at NKU. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Youth Guardian Ser-

vices email support network.

PFLAG also presented the premiere of its new educational video. Titled "An Invitation," the short film was directed by Joe O'Flynn and stars local families and friends talking about their personal experiences and how they found the support they needed at PFLAG. Among those featured are June and Harold Delph, Steve and Dolores Bebeko, Chris Seelbach, Marian Weage, Jane and Bill Biddinger, David Crowley, Jim Prues, David Tseng, and Kurt Angermeier. The group plans to use this video to help raise public awareness of our local Cincinnati PFLAG chapter.

A special recognition was given by Linda Arnest to the Cincinnati River Bears who have donated \$5,000 over the last 3 years to PFLAG's Youth Scholarship Program. A silent auction featured everything from a fur hat to framed portraits of George and Barbara Bush. The evening ended with a raffle hosted by Marian Weage, made up to look like the Wicked Witch of the West from "The Wizard of Oz."

PFLAG wishes to thank all of those who helped in the planning of the banquet and donated items for the auction and everyone who came out to support their scholarship program. The group will meet next on May 13th at 7:30pm at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church.

**See a complete list of  
banquet supporters on  
page 4!**

Our **regular** meetings are always held on the **second Tuesday of each month** at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, 103 William Howard Taft Rd., from 7:30 - 10:00 PM. Our next meetings will be on May 13, June 10 and July 8, 2003. 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 same night as regular meetings, starting at 6:00 PM. Please contact a Board member for information about attending meetings.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gender 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.

## From the membership committee

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 revenue. Our only other fundraiser is the annual banquet and the proceeds from that event are earmarked for scholarships. We depend upon your generous support through your 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!

— **Harold and June Delph and the entire membership committee**

## 2002/2003 Officers

President .....	Marti Kwiatkowski .....	(513) 489-8776 .....	kwi31@fuse.net
Vice President .....	Dorothy Byers .....	(513) 559-0271 .....	dfbyers@cinci.rr.com
Secretary .....	Marie Jenkins .....	(513) 697-9923 .....	MarieMJ@aol.com
Treasurer .....	Rick Kay .....	(513) 794-9097 .....	RickKay@ernstandrabe.com

## 2002/2003 Chairpersons/Board Members

Advocacy Chair .....	OPEN .....		
Hot Line .....	Dick and Judy Jacobs .....	(513) 755-6150 .....	dickjacobs@fuse.net
Internet Liaison .....	Tom Jenkins .....	(513) 697-9923 .....	tom.jenkins@louisville.edu
Library .....	Kathleen Alexander .....		
Program .....	Linda Arnest .....	(513) 241-2990 .....	linda_arnest@hotmail.com
Refreshments .....	Delores and Steve Bebko .....	(513) 573-0589 .....	dbebko@prodigy.net
Speaker's Bureau .....	Marti Kwiatkowski .....	(513) 489-8776 .....	kwi31@use.net
Newsletter Text .....	Chris Anderson .....	(513) 948-8668 .....	wcanders@juno.com
Newsletter Design .....	Lyndsay Schaeffer .....	(513) 389-1744 .....	lyndsay@youth-guard.org
Newsletter Mailing .....	Tim Gross .....	(513) 556-8595 .....	mitsu@yahoo.com
Membership .....	June and Harold Delph .....	(513) 241-8291 .....	hjdelfh@netzero.net
Scholarship .....	Ric Stackpole .....	(513) 919-8474 .....	Richard.Stackpole@uc.edu

# 2003 Scholarship Banquet a Success!

by **Marti Kwiatkowski,**  
**Chapter President**

*From the  
president ...*

The PFLAG Scholarship banquet was a complete success. This is due primarily to all of you who have given so generously. Whether it was your time and energy, a donation, a raffle/auction item or just by your presence, we are very thankful. We are particularly indebted to the River Bears for their outstanding support of our scholarship program this year.

This year's banquet was an exciting one. Some of our special guests included National Executive Director of PFLAG, Mr. David Tseng, Cincinnati City Councilmember David Crowley and his wife Sherri, the Regional Director of PFLAG, Mrs. Ann Wilger and her husband, Jim and a special visit from the Wicked Witch Of The West (Marian Weage). And of course, we must not forget our MC's for the evening - Cincinnati Enquirer columnists, Laura Pulfer and Jim Knippenberg.

We are especially proud of our community service video that premiered at this event. The video was introduced by Joe O'Flynn, Executive Director, and features some of our PFLAG members. PFLAG Cincinnati is dedicated to raising public awareness of our Chapter and plans to distribute this video throughout the Greater Cincinnati community. Our thanks to Marti Kwiatkowski, Joe O'Flynn, Linda Arnest, Harold &

June Delph, Steve & Dolores Bebko, David Crowley, Chris Seelbach, Jane & Bill Biddinger, Marian Weage, David Tseng, Jim Prues, Kurt Angermeier, Pan Optic and Lance Moody, Mechanical Bug Editorial for their contributions to this project.

Well, the votes are counted and the winners of our PFLAG Rainbow Achievement Awards are: Caitlin Arnest representing Walnut

Hills Gay Straight Alliance; Reverend Jerry K. Hill, Pastor, representing Clifton United Methodist Church; Joan Lang representing the Cincinnati Men's Chorus; Worley Rodehaver representing the GLBT News; Mindy Sandfort representing GLSEN; and Kathy Y. Wilson representing City Beat.

We are equally proud of our Gene Schmeling Advocacy Award winner Lyndsay Schaeffer. Our congratulations to all of these winners.

An event such as this does not happen without a lot of teamwork. I would like to thank the following people for their contribution to this year's banquet : June and Harold Delph, Linda Arnest, Lyndsay Schaeffer, Steve and Dolores Bebko, Tom and Marie Jenkins, Dorothy Byers, Marian Weage, Joe O'Flynn, Jim Kelly, Rick Kay, Dale Penn, Kathy Laufman, Tammy Patton, Maria Sulcer, Brian Hunt, Becky Schnell, Ursuline Academy, Lois Kay, Michele Kay; Doug Meredith, and Tim Heller.

Remember: There is no place like PFLAG Cincinnati Thanks everyone!!!

## **Present this voucher at Hamburger Mary's on the following dates:**

### **Mothers Day Weekend**

Friday May 9<sup>th</sup> lunch to Dinner Sunday night May 11<sup>th</sup>.  
Including their fabulous Sunday brunch.

### **Fathers Day Weekend**

Friday June 13<sup>th</sup> lunch to Dinner Sunday night June 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Including their fabulous Sunday brunch.

For everyone ordering an entrée and presenting this voucher or newsletter, Hamburger Mary's will donate \$1 to PFLAG.

**Hamburger Mary's,**  
**911 Vine St., Cincinnati**

## **Thoughts on the War from June Delph**

From a mailing from the American Friends Service Committee - a Quaker Organization. Website: [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org):

"Despite the Hollywood versions, war is neither romantic nor thrilling. It's not a proud test of manhood. It is the worst thing we can do to the human family, and it must be avoided at all costs."

# Thank you for making our banquet a success!

PFLAG Cincinnati wants to express our thanks and share with you those businesses, churches and individuals who bought space in our banquet brochure. Please support all the businesses that support us!!!!

GNC  
Dr.J. Brett Offenberger  
Planned Parenthood  
T.G.I. Friday's  
Jewish Family Service  
GLSEN  
Women Writing for a Change  
The Gay & Lesbian Community Center  
GLBT News  
Metropolitan Community Church  
Hamburger Mary's  
Delph Family  
Ivan Tamarkin, Attorney  
Outlook Counseling Center  
Rev. Keith M. Haithcock  
and Rabbi Javier E. Cattapan  
Chip Jones, AAI  
First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati  
Griffith Marsh & Associates  
Leslie S. Evelo, Ph.D,  
and Priscilla A. Wood, Psy.D

PFLAG Oxford Chapter  
Dignity  
Clifton United Methodist Church  
AVOC  
WISH  
Resonate, Inc.  
Dan Howell Travel  
Cincinnati Men's Chorus  
River Bears, Cincinnati  
David Crowley  
Cincinnati Frontrunners  
Fred Middendorf  
CYG  
IBIS International  
Caracole  
Toyota Motor Manufacturing North  
America

For more information, refer to your banquet program, QCCA Listings, or email us. From everyone at PFLAG Cincinnati, THANK YOU FOR ADVERTISING WITH US.

## Register now for a regional conference on reconciling Christianity and homosexuality at an Early-Bird price

Visit [www.shepherdinitiative.org](http://www.shepherdinitiative.org) for more information.

The Shepherd Initiative, an ecumenical Christian organization in Columbus, OH, that advocates for GLBT inclusion the Christian church, is now accepting registrations for its "2003 Amazing Grace, Continuing the Dialogue to Reconcile Christianity and Homosexuality" Conference. This conference, which is expected to welcome more than 600 registrants from across the U.S., will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Columbus, Ohio, on Saturday June 14, 2003,

from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (a Friday evening reception is also planned).

The conference will welcome national speakers and religious authors Tony and Peggy Campolo. The Campolos, American Baptists and self-described evangelicals, will discuss how they agree and disagree on the issue of homosexuality, and still remain in loving and respectful relationship.

The conference will also include keynote addresses by Herbert Chilstrom, the retired bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America who once opposed blessing same-sex relationships but now advo-

cates for them; and Edwina Gateley, a dynamic and passionate Catholic speaker who will celebrate the radical love of Jesus.

In addition to these respected religious speakers, the conference will include more than 30 focus sessions on a variety of GLBT and Christian topics.

Don't miss one of the most comprehensive conferences on reconciling Christianity and homosexuality offered anywhere. For more information, write The Shepherd Initiative at [info@shepherdinitiative.org](mailto:info@shepherdinitiative.org)

# Intersex is Next

from **The Banner** (New Orleans),  
Nov. 2002

The annual Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays conference, held in Columbus, included a workshop titled "Why Should PFLAG Care About Intersex?" That's probably a good question for the group to consider, and it's certainly an important one for the intersex community.

But for the rest of us, a better question might be, "Just What the Hell Is Intersex?"

According to the Intersex Society of North America, intersexuality refers to an anomaly in the reproductive and sexual system or, in non-jargon, someone born with sex chromosomes, genitalia or an internal reproductive system that are neither clearly male nor clearly female.

Janet Green, executive director for New Jersey-based support group Bodies Like Ours, explains that intersex refers to someone with atypical genitals, like an enlarged clitoris or a "micropenis." It can also refer to someone who has one ovary and one testicle, or someone whose chromosomes are, say, XXYX instead of XX or XY.

Green, who was in town for the conference, estimates that one in 2,000 people is born intersexed, though ISNA points out that it's impossible to collect accurate statistics, considering the shame and secrecy often involved when a doctor notices an intersexed infant.

The emerging intersex movement is still rather small, and the word has yet to break into the national vernacular, but groups like ISNA and the recently founded Bodies Like Ours are working to change that. And if they can pig-

gyback their cause onto those of groups with similar goals, like PFLAG, all the better.

Bodies Like Ours is focusing much of its attention on public education and awareness as well as community building. There are a variety of reasons why a child might be born intersexed, but the simple fact is that they are born that way, which is something parents, the medical community and intersexed people themselves need to understand.

"Children are born different," Green said. "some have big noses, some have blonde hair." And some have micropenises or a mosaic of sex chromosomes.

The intersex movement's major focus thus far has been on the medical community. The American Medical Association's protocol for dealing with intersex conditions was developed in the '50s, Green said, and all too often involves doctors and/or parents "deciding" whether the child should be male or female, and then performing what's essentially non-consensual cosmetic surgery. (For example, if an intersexed child is born with an enlarged clitoris, her parents may decide to make her female, cutting it to a more "standard" size.)

Green understands it can't be easy to be in that position. "Imagine you're a parent and someone tells you we don't know if your baby is a boy or a girl," Green said. "It's hard to think of your child as being a sexual being when you're holding a seven-pound baby."

But it is a sexual being, or at least one day will be. And doctors should now know that gender identity and sexuality have as much to do with the wiring in someone's

head and the chemicals pumping through their bodies as it does with what's in their underwear.

So why should PFLAG and, by extension the GLBT community care about intersex?

Green explains that there's often an overlap between intersexed people and homosexuals, and certainly there's an overlap between transgendered people and the intersexed, as some choose to transition to another gender (or, in the case of those who had their sex decided for them as infants, transition back to what they were born as but doctors muddled with).

Apparently PFLAG agrees. The group's national board of directors issued a policy statement welcoming the intersexed and their families to be full members, encouraging the end of the shame and secrecy of intersexuality, and encouraging the end of unnecessary genital mutilation.

Is the next step the GLBT community becoming the GLBTI community? Maybe, but for now the intersex community would probably settle for understanding from others and the AMA adopting a new protocol to better address the treatment of intersexed newborns.

"This is like dominoes," Green said of the struggle for recognition. "First it was the blacks, and then women, and now gays and lesbians. And intersex will be kind of the next domino."

**Remember:  
When you no  
longer need  
PFLAG, PFLAG  
needs you**

# Upcoming events

SUPPORT THE CINCINNATI MEN'S CHORUS Trip To Montreal for the International GALA Festival – Purchase your Kroger Certificate for \$20.00 redeemable at any Kroger store in the US for anything in the store except alcohol or tobacco – same as cash. Contact is Dale Penn.

**April 19, 2003**

PFLAG Scholarship application deadline.

**April 27-May 11, 2003**

Holocaust Awareness Weeks

**May 23 and 24, 2003**

MUSE 20th Annual Spring Concert, Greaves Hall, Northern Kentucky University, 8 p.m.

**May 25, 2003**

Deadline for Pride Night Poster Contest – The winning poster design will become the official representation for Pride Night at Paramount's Kings Island. Winning artist will be rewarded with \$200 in cash and free admission. Download your entry now from the Community Center's webpage.

**June 7-8, 2003**

Pride Parade and Festival. Keep watching for more information.

**June 13 and 14, 2003**

Cincinnati Men's Chorus presents "Dreaming of the Day ... With Justice for All," 8 p.m., Aronoff Center for the Arts. This concert is dedicated to PFLAG Cincinnati and will premiere a special arrangement of "Momma Don't Cry," written by Paul Delph.

**June 14, 2003**

"Amazing Grace," continuing dialogue to reconcile Christianity and homosexuality. At the Adam's Mark Hotel, Columbus, Ohio. See below for more information.

**September 9, 2003**

PFLAG potluck supper with Cincinnati Youth Group. Dinner starts at 6 p.m.

**September 26, 2003**

Pride Night at Paramount King's Island. The Community Center is offering a discount for members.

## GREATER CINCINNATI PFLAG MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

<input type="checkbox"/>	New	Individual Membership	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal	Household Membership	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Change of address	Supporting Membership	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please contact me for volunteer opportunities	Contributing Membership	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/>		Sponsoring Membership	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please send all mailings blind label only	Lifetime Membership	\$1,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/>		Other Contribution	\$ _____

Make all checks payable to "PFLAG" and mail to P.O. Box 19634, Cincinnati, OH 45219-0634. (Your donation is tax deductible, ID #953750674). Thank you!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

# Courts adapting to new concept of family

copyright Lawyers' Weekly, USA

For better or worse, the concept of family is changing in America—and Cincinnati solo attorney Scott E. Knox is one of the many lawyers nationwide who has been pushing the courts to adapt to new realities.

Knox, 46, has built a successful practice concentrating on matters involving gay, lesbian, transgender and HIV issues. But it was two cases that he handled for principle, not profit, that made headlines in 2002. The cases both involved clients who wanted to change their names—and were prevented from doing so. In one case, Knox's clients were a lesbian couple; in the other, Knox represented a man who chose to live his life as a woman. "I did [them] for free because it seemed to me that people who were powerless were being told, 'We'll do whatever we want with you, and there's nothing you can do about it,'" he said. "The bully aspect of it landed on every nerve that I have."

In the first case, a couple had petitioned to adopt a common surname, which they'd created by combining letters from their original last names. One of the women had become pregnant by artificial insemination, and they wanted their unconventional family to share a single "unified name in the eyes of the law."

The second case involved a man in his 50s who remained physically male but had decided to live as a woman and wished to adopt a feminine first name, which was a prerequisite of the sex-change surgery he sought.

Ohio law states that people can change their names for any "reasonable and proper cause," so long as "such change is not made for fraudulent purposes," such as avoiding creditors. But in both cases, the same local magistrate refused to grant the petitions, declaring that "natural law" and "divine edict" weighed against same-sex couples and transgendered individuals.

A probate judge affirmed the name-change denials, citing "public policy" rather than "divine edict." And

an appellate court also refused to overturn the rulings, finding no abuse of discretion.

But the Ohio Supreme Court, often divided deeply on issues with a political flavor, reversed—soundly rejecting the idea that a name-change request could be turned down because of public disapproval.

"I am dancing in the streets!" a jubilant Knox said when the decisions first came down. But in a more recent conversation with Lawyers Weekly USA, he was more reflective.

"It's sad that we had to go as far as we did for it—that it took such a battle to achieve such a common-sense result," Knox said. "And it made me angry, because the assumption seemed to be, 'Come on, who's going to plough \$10,000 or more into the appeal of a name change?'"

Knox has been focusing on HIV/AIDS and gay/lesbian/transgender issues since he first went solo in 1989. Before that—for four years following his graduation from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in 1985—he was an associate with a small firm that concentrated in asbestos-related injury litigation and em-

ployee-side labor law.

In addition to his regular caseload, Knox today frequently conducts seminars in his specialty areas for various organizations including bar associations, AIDS volunteer and support groups, physicians and other health care professionals, social workers and legal committees. He is also active in several gay/lesbian and HIV/AIDS advocacy groups, and has won a number of awards—including one from the Cincinnati Bar Association—for his community service efforts.

The irony of the name-change cases, Knox noted, is that such petitions by gays and lesbians had been routinely granted in Ohio for a decade—but that the petitioners who succeeded frequently kept the reasons for the request a secret. Now, the Ohio Supreme Court has put an end to the "don't ask, don't tell" status quo.

"That's what's satisfying," Knox said. "Now there's a clear message from the Ohio Supreme Court that probate judges all have to follow the statute, and there's a clear statement of what the statute means. That part feels great."

— Michael M. Bowden

## Sex As A Crime

On March 26, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in a sodomy law challenge that has been called "the most important gay rights case in a generation."

The case, *Lawrence and Garner v. Texas*, centers around two Texas men who were arrested for having consensual sex in their bedroom.

A favorable high court ruling could nullify similar laws in 12 other states, according to the Associated Press.

Unlike the 1986 precedent of *Bowers v. Hardwick*, the Texas case rests both on the right to privacy and the right to equal protection. Texas's sodomy law applies exclusively to homosexuals, treating gay men and lesbians differently than

straight Texans, and requiring the state to present the court with a rational reason for the disparity.

The Texas case went up the ranks of the state courts, winning an appellate court ruling, but losing to the full appellate court of the Houston area. Subsequently, the state's highest criminal court declined to review the case, and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund petitioned the high court in July 2002.

A ruling from the Supreme Court is expected in June or July 2003.

Of the 18 states that currently have sodomy laws, only four states—Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri—have sodomy laws exclusively targeting same-sex activity.

