

P.O. Box 19634, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219-0634
www.pflagcinci.org
NEWSLETTER – Summer 2002



One family's Pride experience

by Marie Jenkins

It was hot and humid as Tom and I left home to join the PFLAG marchers at Burnet Woods for our first Cincinnati Pride Parade, but by the time we got to the park and saw all the colorful groups massing for the parade, we forgot our discomfort and took on the upbeat spirit of the others. The parade was led by the new Cincinnati GLBT marching band in rainbow colored t-shirts. Their cheerful rendition of When the Saints Go Marching In set the festive atmosphere which accompanied us all the way to Hoffner Park.

The PFLAG contingent was rather small this

please see *Pride* on page 7

PFLAG awards annual scholarships

by Dorothy Byers, Scholarship committee chair

On Tuesday, June 11 at the PFLAG monthly meeting, ten deserving students received scholarships for their college or graduate education. This is the tenth year that PFLAG has awarded scholarships. This year's recipients were Paul Droessler, Megan Jensen, Ryan King, Nicole Kowell, Linda Press, Randall Rubinstein, Mindy Sandfort, Chris Seelbach, Ryan Taylor, and Steven Weissenburger.

The 2002 Scholarship Committee chaired by Dorothy Byers selected the winning students. The Committee based its selections on the applicants' academic record, activities, future plans, and references. Special emphasis was placed on students who help to fulfill the PFLAG missions of providing support, education and advocacy in the community. Committee members Lyndsay Schaeffer and Ric Stackpole highlighted the accomplishments of the recipients, who in turn gave insight into their personal journey and spoke inspiringly about future plans.

The scholarship winners demonstrated a wide range of accomplishments in support of the GLBT community including poster sessions, underground papers, school presentations, volunteering for organizations such as GLSEN and the Youth Summit, and founding or taking leadership roles in school and college alliances. The

please see *Scholarships* 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 August 13, September 3 and October 8, 2002. 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**

2001/2002 Officers

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| President | Linda Arnest | (513) 241-2990 |
| Vice Presidents | Jim and Beth Bliss | (513) 232-2688 |
| Secretary | Marty Kwiatkowski | (513) 489-8776 |
| Treasurer | Rick Kay | (513) 871-3033 |

2001/2002 Chairpersons/Board Members

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| Advocacy Chair | Kathleen Tamarkin | (513) 469-1188 |
| Hot Line | Judy Jacobs | (513) 755-6150 |
| Internet Liaisons | June and Harold Delph | (513) 241-8291 |
| Library | Kathleen Alexander | |
| Outreach/Phone Tree | Jane Biddinger | (513) 829-0938 |
| Program | Jim and Beth Bliss | (513) 232-2688 |
| Refreshments | Delores and Steve Bebko | (513) 779-9397 |
| Speaker's Bureau | Marti Kwiatkowski | (513) 489-8776 |
| Newsletter Text | Dan Parsley | (513) 281-9840 |
| Newsletter Design | Lyndsay Schaeffer | (513) 321-1618 |
| Membership | June and Harold Delph | (513) 241-8291 |

A farewell from the outgoing president

by Linda Arnest, Chapter President

From the president ...

This will be the last newsletter article I will write as President of the Cincinnati Chapter of PFLAG. When the next newsletter is issued, we will have a new President, Marti Kwiatkowski (is that ever a tough one to spell!!). Marti has been our Secretary for the last three years. I was thrilled when she agreed to take on the role of President, which will become effective in October. In our work together over the past three years, I have found Marti to be highly capable and dedicated to the PFLAG mission. She also brings some fantastic new ideas that will move our chapter forward in exciting ways.

For the last three years, I have had the honor to represent our chapter on many exciting and rewarding events. My participation in

each of the last three scholarship banquets has been rich and rewarding. We've brought in national speakers such as Dan Woog and the Reverend Dr. Mel White. Witnessing the accomplishments and aspirations of each year's scholarship recipients gives me renewed hope for a brighter future for the GLBT community locally and at large.

Our chapter has grown in size. I've watched the number of people attending our monthly meetings swell. Nearly every meeting now brings one or two new folks who have never attended a meeting before. This means they have found us and are reaching out for support and education, which is our primary

reason for being.

I've watched as our chapter has participated in numerous marches and non-violent protests. In April 2000 we and our banners participated in the Millennium March on Washington for Equality in Washington, DC. In June 2001 we were there with our PFLAG banners during the ex-gay conference held by Focus on the Family, in Fairfield. In June 2002 we held a silent protest across the street from the Reverend Fred Phelps' group during their protest of Proctor & Gamble. And we annually march in the Cincinnati Pride Parade.

I've learned so very much about leadership and compassion. I've met so many exceptional, wonderful people in the GLBT and the straight-supporting community. This opportunity has been a gift and a blessing for me. I leave it with deep satisfaction and with gratitude. Thank you, PFLAG Cincinnati.

An update from speaker's bureau

Recently, the PFLAG Speakers Bureau did a presentation to a Sociology class at NKU On Friday, April 19th. Dr. Nicole Grant's Sociology class of approximately 50 students were in attendance. PFLAG was represented by Steve and Dolores Bebko, Tom and Marie Jenkins, and Marti Kwiatkowski.

The class was concluding their study of families and a lively and informative discussion ensued. Dr. Grant is interested in

expanding her student's understanding of just how diverse families are. The students were impressed with the stories and experiences related by the PFLAG parents about their children.

As a result, Dr. Grant hopes to invite PFLAG back for other speaking engagements.

PFLAG Speaker's Bureau contact is Marti Kwiatkowski at 489-8776. If anyone is interested in scheduling a speaker, please call Marti.

Coming in September: the PFLAG picnic. See upcoming events for more!



Scholarships

from page 1

collective accomplishments of these students impressed all present and elicited enthusiastic praise. Continued efforts by students such as these will indeed make the world a better place.

Funds for the PFLAG scholarships are raised through the PFLAG banquet, held in late winter of each year. The Tenth Annual Banquet held March 2, 2002 featured guest speaker Mel White and was a great success. Thanks to the contributions of many, the Scholarship Committee was able to award more scholarships than ever before. PFLAG looks forward to continuing success in supporting deserving students.



Local radio shows you should listen to

by Dan Parsley,
newsletter editor

One of the ways that PFLAG Cincinnati gets our message out to the public, whether it be about our banquet or upcoming events, is by receiving free publicity. One of the groups that has been supportive to us has been the fine folks at Alternating Currents and EveryWomom Show on WAIF 88.3.

Did you know that Alternating Currents is now celebrating their 25th year of being on the radio? So what might you hear if you turn that radio dial on a Saturday afternoon to 88.3? Well, from 1pm to 3pm, you will hear EveryWomom Show, the main focus of which is women's music and news. From 3pm to 5pm, you can listen to Alternating Currents, which does news, music, entertainment, events calendar, and phone interviews. They also have various groups that come in on a regular basis to give information to the gay/lesbian community about what is going on with their groups. PFLAG has been one of those groups. Linda Arnest, chapter President says, "These radio programs have always

been very supportive of PFLAG and more than willing to give us air time to promote our banquet and our chapter. We feel they are a wonderful way to get the word out that we are here as a resource for anyone in need of support." Marti Kwiatkowski, chapter Secretary agrees. She says, "I was on Alternating Currents once this year to promote our banquet. The host (Cheryl Egelston that day) was most gracious and her kind manner and soft voice soon put me at ease."

Cheryl Eagleston and Don Wetterer and co-producers. Cheryl states that they have been a long time supporter of PFLAG. Says Cheryl, "This is fun. I get to be on the radio, be very creative, and support groups such as PFLAG. Volunteering here is one activity I never tire of." Cheryl also states that volunteers are always welcome to come and help and participate.

On the day I did the interview for this article, Debra Randall was also on air with Cheryl. Debra also is a volunteer with EveryWomom Show. Says Debra, "This is great fun. I get to play music and do wacky entertainment news. And it is nice to be able to highlight local talent. We are nothing if we

are not chatty. We could sit here for 5 or 6 hours and entertain ourselves. I really enjoy this volunteer work."

In addition to Cheryl and Don and Debra, there are so many other volunteers that come in and are on air during the month. So each Saturday, you might hear something different each time. But the one main constant of both shows is that they seek to educate, inform, and entertain the Cincinnati gay/lesbian community.

If you wish to volunteer or find out more information about these radio programs, you can contact Cheryl or Don at 381-5640 or visit our PFLAG website for a link to their website.

**To listen:
WAIF 88.3 FM
1 - 5 p.m.
Saturday
Afternoons!**

Reaching the city's GLBT youth

by Marti Kwiatkowski,
Speakers' Bureau Chair

As a presenter at the Youth Summit held on March 16th at UC's McMicken Hall, I was given special treatment as I walked in the door. Youth and adults wearing staff T-shirts escorted me to the registration table. As I picked up my registration materials, the welcome area was buzzing with excitement as people were milling around and looking at all the tables with information relating to GLBT issues. Along with other groups, PFLAG co-sponsored this event and I was invited to conduct a model PFLAG meeting.

After a rousing welcome by Andy Ruffner that included an introduction of all those who helped organize the summit (in particular our own Lindsay Schaeffer) I walked to Room 252 where our PFLAG meeting would take place.

We had a total of 16 people in our group, including those PFLAG members who agreed to help me with the meeting. Among those, were two parents new to PFLAG and a number of high school and college youth. As we began our discussion, it wasn't long before all of us were involved in sharing stories, disseminating information, and encouraging one another.

Among the many topics discussed between the parents and youth attending this meeting were: How do we keep our gay children safe; a reminder that when a gay youth "comes out" the rest of the

family often goes into the closet; and how can we dispell the wealth of misinformation circulated in the media about gay people in general.

It was a wonderful and exciting experience for me. I joined PFLAG five years ago, and I would not have anticipated that our gay youth would take such a primary role in getting the word out to other gay youth. It was clear to me that everyone who participated in this summit wanted certain messages conveyed throughout the day: You are not alone; there are safe places for you; there is support and encouragement throughout the coming out process; and we are working to help create a safer community for GLBT youth.

Although I was unable to stay for the whole day, I left the Summit filled with such joy and a sense of hope for the future. It is our youth that will reap the benefits of not just PFLAG outreach, but GLSEN, Gay - Straight Alliances, and the Cincinnati Youth Group along with those new groups developing every day. I felt so proud of these young people who are paving the way for a healthier, happier, and egalitarian future for all of us. Thank you to all those who helped make this a very special event and a special thanks to those PFLAGers who volunteered their time - Marie and Tom Jenkins, June and Harold Delph and David Betz. And a special thank you to Linda Arnest who went on vacation and asked me to fill in for her.

**The next Youth Summit is
coming soon! See page 7 for
more details!**

Did you know...?

... American Airlines and IBM are two of the corporate sponsors for this year's PFLAG National Conference?

... we have added a new item to our Lending Library? The Blue Book is a welcome addition. It is an excellent resource and perfect place to find answers to all your questions about homosexuality. We have 10 copies you can check out.

... PFLAG Dayton recently raised over \$20,000 at their annual fundraiser? Way to go Dayton, keep up the good work.
... Canada recently became the third country to recognize same-sex marriages? A three-judge court ruled that prohibiting gay couples from marrying is unconstitutional and violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Denmark and the Netherlands are the other two countries. Way to go Canada, eh!!

... our PFLAG Cincinnati newsletter goes out with no advertising support? And our mailing list makes it one of the widest distributed among any PFLAG chapters in the U.S. You can speak to any board member about volunteering to help with our newsletter, or any other volunteer opportunity. Get involved!!

Upcoming events

September 10, 2002

Don't forget, the PFLAG PICNIC!!!! Oh yea, let the fun begin!! This year, our annual picnic will be held during our September meeting at Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church. Here is the schedule: 6:30pm is the picnic, bring a side dish (chicken and drinks provided); 7:30pm is meeting start. So come just a bit early and join in on the fun. To volunteer to help set up, call June or Harold at 241-8291.

September 20-22, 2002

The National Association of Catholic Diocesan Lesbian and Gay Ministries(NACDLGM) is holding a conference hosted by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. It will be held in Blue Ash and will deal with gay and lesbian issues. You can pick up a brochure at a PFLAG meeting or call 510-465-9344 for more information or email www.nacdlgm.org. Thanks to Bill and Jane for letting us know about this.

September 21, 2002

The annual AVOC Aids Walk. There are a lot of PFLAGers that participate to raise money for this worth organization. June and Harold Delph always organize a group to raise money for this. You can contact them to walk as a group at (513)241-8291.

September 27-29

The PFLAG National Conference will be held right in our own back yard, in Columbus, OH. Several Cincinnati PFLAGers are going and some are participants in the workshops to be held. The event will take place at the Hyatt Regency Columbus. According to PFLAG National, they will collaborate with the Family Pride Coalition to bring you their best conference yet. With dozens of workshops to choose from, networking and family events, FAMILY VOICES for EQUALITY 2002 will be a historic event. To obtain more information or to register, you can go to www.pflag.org or call 614-447-5105.

To post an item in the "Upcoming Events," drop us a note or e-mail us!

GREATER CINCINNATI PFLAG MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Youth Summit returns to Cincinnati

by Lyndsay M. Schaeffer,
newsletter designer

Even though last year's success is still fresh in our minds, planning has begun for the next Greater Cincinnati GLBTQ Youth Summit. After assessing the last event, planners have agreed that the best way to serve GLBT, questioning and supportive youth is to provide a forum and information early in the school year.

The second youth summit is being planned for Saturday, November 16, 2002 at Northern Kentucky University. The event already has the support of GLSEN, PFLAG and the alliances at NKU, the University of Cincinnati and Xavier University.

This year's summit will again include a day of workshops and discussions on topics that are important to GLBTQ and straight-supportive youth. Again we will be offering special sessions geared towards parents and other adult supporters, as well.

Workshop topics that are

being considered include discussions on religion, bisexuality, activism, working within a school setting and the needs youth have from supportive adults. Workshop proposals are also being accepted from interested parties.

In addition to workshops, the day will include lunch time caucuses to bring together groups with common interests and an evening dance for the youth.

Workshop proposals should include the proposed topic, a suggested presenter and his or her qualifications and a general outline of how the workshop will be conducted. Proposals or questions about workshops proposals should be e-mailed to proposals@cincyouthsummit.org or can be sent by US mail to Cincinnati Youth Summit, P.O. Box 9477, Cincinnati, OH 45209.

In addition to workshop proposals, we are still looking for more volunteers to help with planning and fundraising. To contact the Greater Cincinnati Youth Summit, e-mail info@cincyouthsummit.org or

call (513)633-4100.

Save the date on your calendar, November 16, 2002 and plan to attend. Keep watching <http://www.cincyouthsummit.org> for the most up-to-date information.

Any questions, contact Lyndsay Schaeffer or Mindy Sandfort, co-chairs at any of the addresses given above.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Plan to attend
Second Greater Cincinnati Youth Summit,
When: Saturday, November 16, 2002,
Where: Northern Kentucky University.
Phone: (513)633-4100;
E-mail: info@cincyouthsummit.org
Web: www.cincyouthsummit.org
Snail mail: P.O. Box 9477, Cincinnati, OH 45209

Pride

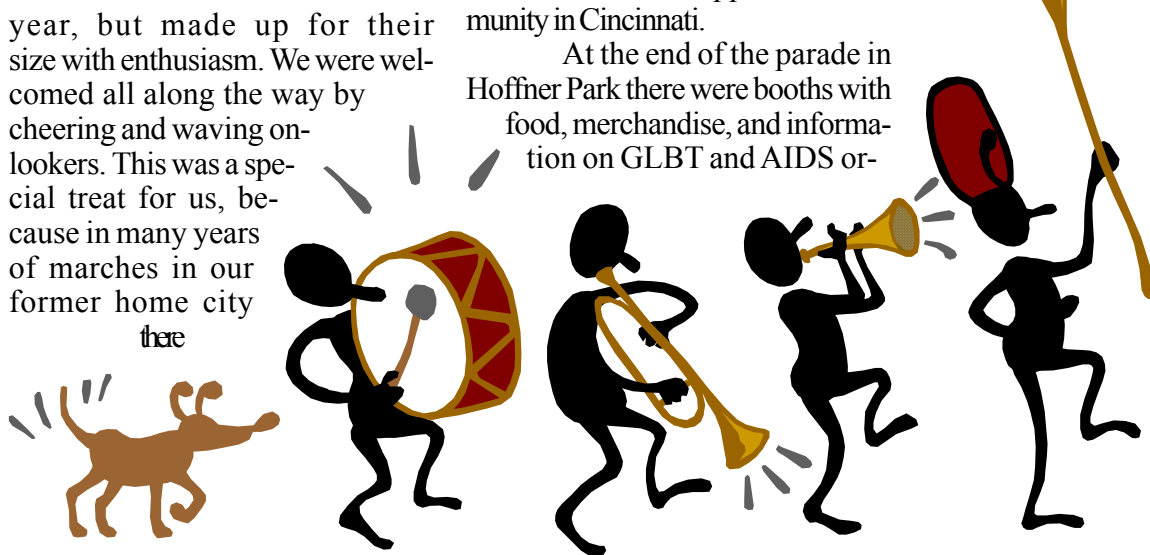
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year, but made up for their size with enthusiasm. We were welcomed all along the way by cheering and waving on-lookers. This was a special treat for us, because in many years of marches in our former home city there

had never been any spectators at all. For the first time since we moved here, I realized the size and strength of the GLBT and supportive community in Cincinnati.

At the end of the parade in Hoffner Park there were booths with food, merchandise, and information on GLBT and AIDS or-

ganizations and services. Somewhat tired from the parade we made the rounds once and stayed for a little of the musical entertainment before going home to rest. It was an empowering day and an experience we recommend to all PFLAG members.



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