

GLBT Teen? Problems? Contact the Trevor Project Hotline—1-866-488-7386  
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## Foundation brings toys to children at Christmas

By Marty Karp

On December 11th from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Simon Says Bar will host the 6th annual Jonnie Stephenson Foundation by bringing to its customers “The Naughty Santa”.

Come, bring an unwrapped toy and take a picture with Simons’ “Naughty Santa” and be eligible for door prizes throughout the day.

Bring a smile to a



Stephenson

child this holiday season by helping

those children who might not necessarily have a toy.

While sipping your favorite cocktail, enjoy complimentary refreshments.

In keeping with the tradition of The Jonnie Stephenson Foundation once again, the foundation will be donating Teddy Bears to On Broadway Bar’s Teddy Bear (*stuffed animal*) Toy Drive. Below Zero will once

again have their annual toy drive and the Jonnie Stephenson Foundation will once again supply toys for their charity as well.

The Jonnie Stephenson Foundation wants to thank Below Zero for the six years it’s been collecting toys in the foundation’s name, On Broadway Bar for its recognition of the foundation and Simon Says Bar for its involvement this year.



Hundreds turned out in Cincinnati recently for a street protest supporting Gay Marriage in Ohio. They took their protest to Columbus on December 3rd.

GLBT News photo by Michael X. Chanak

## HRC joins Crossport for Transgender Day of Remembrance

By Paula Ison

Cincinnati’s annual Transgender Day of Remembrance was held on November 16th at St John United Church of Christ in Bellevue, Kentucky. The event was co-sponsored by HRC

and Crossport. Similar events have been held throughout North American and Europe for the last 13 years to remember and memorialize those Transgender persons who were murdered because of hate and prejudice.

Every week somewhere in the world at least one Transgender person, if not more, is murdered, including nine this year in the United States.

Just recently the burned torso of Shelley Hillard was

found along a freeway in Detroit.

This year’s program included a historical perspective by Vicki Blum and Opening Reflections by Estelle Riley. The Keynote Speaker was Leisan

See *TRANS*, Page 6, Col. 3

## Help the children of F.A.C.E.

Help the children of F.A.C.E. have a nice Christmas! Kellie and Dixie of F.A.C.E. say donations are down! They asked Debi to let you know that when you donate and get a Hot Vegas DVD it will help families with children affected and

infected with AIDS at Christmas time.

“Thank you so much!,” Debi says. “Get yours, you will love it!” If you would like to donate \$15 and receive a DVD, just call 513-722-9200 or 513-600-8332

*The final concert will be an official "It Gets Better" event*

## Cincinnati Men's Chorus presents a new season: Coming of Age

The Cincinnati Men's Chorus (CMC) announces its 21st season, "Coming of Age".

Everybody has a story shaped by their unique experiences; CMC's three concerts will tell a season-long story of coming out.

"Wonderment: A Time of Awe," on Dec. 17 and 18, will recognize the beauty and comfort of tradition during the holiday season, as we find our own way.

On March 24 and

25, they turn to awakening hopes and possibilities in "Anticipation: Secrets and Dreams," where secret crushes and love, both lost and found, take voice.

Their story concludes on June 23 and 24 with a vivacious celebration of our lives and the knowledge that "It Gets Better." This concert is an official event of the It Gets Better Project.

"This season finds CMC coming of age

in many ways; socially, musically, and educationally," said Dr. Casey Hayes, recently named artistic director of the chorus of 50 Gay and Gay-supportive men.

"We're ready to tackle the next wave of challenges that life will throw at us; transforming lives and inspiring action through our songs."

CMC will continue to carry this message out into the world at the World Choir Games, coming to

Cincinnati in July, and then take it into local schools next fall.

The local Human Rights Campaign (HRC) is the sponsor for their 21st season. As part of its sponsorship, HRC is providing CMC season subscribers with a membership with their ticket purchases. Subscribers also can upgrade to a full membership at a reduced price. Subscriptions are \$65, a discount of \$25 from individual walk-up prices; season ticket holders also get 10 percent off additional ticket purchases and can exchange tickets for performances.

The chorus' concert home for the 21st season will be the School for the Creative and Performing Arts, 108 W. Central Parkway, downtown. To order a subscription, visit the chorus' website [www.cincinnatiomenschorus.org](http://www.cincinnatiomenschorus.org) or write Cincinnati Men's Chorus Season Subscription, PO Box 3061, Cincinnati, OH 45201

CMC is a voluntary,

not-for-profit community chorus organized to provide the opportunity for Gay men and Gay-supportive men to sing together. Through their music, they strive for excellence; support and nurture their members; entertain their audiences; and work for justice, inclusion and harmony between the Gay Community and community at large.

The chorus receives funding from the Ohio Arts Council, Arts Wave (*formerly the Fine Arts Fund*), the

Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Community Shares of Greater Cincinnati, Summerfair Cincinnati, GCF's William O. Purdy Fund and the Louise Taft Semple Foundation.

The chorus is a partner organization of Enjoy The Arts and rehearses at St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church in Clifton.

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"Hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease, only love can do that." Martin Luther King

"Always be yourself," from *Billy Elliot*

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#### This publication is dedicated to those who have or have died from AIDS or Hate Crimes

It is our goal to record the positive contributions GLBT people make to their community and the local community at large. While AIDS and Hate CRIMES are certainly not positive things, we seek to draw the positive from the negative. We hold up Paul Delph and Matthew Shepard and their families as models of how human beings should or could react to each other and how families should support loved ones whose lives are not in the box right wing religious zealots want them in. Delph, a multi-talented Cincinnati, died of AIDS in 1996. His mother shut down her business to care for him. Shepard died in 1998, victim of a hate Crime and his mother worked for years to get passed a national Hate Crimes Bill, which is now law.



Paul Delph



Matthew Shepard

## Hey Gay Boy

Should a 62-year-old Gay man and his friends be subjected to anti-Gay taunts coming from the mouth of a neighbor's child? I



am that 62-year-old Gay man who has heard this slander for more than ten years in Mt. Healthy from this child or that.

This column is not about creating a new "victimhood" cult of the down trodden and broken. No, dear reader, it speaks to the

spirit of one determined old queen to have his day. Still, I will report this issue is not an easy one to handle.

### Goose Mother Says

By Michael Chanak

Surprised? The landlord states "they can only warn" but cannot evict another tenant for such behavior – even if it is disturbing my common law right to "quiet enjoyment."

One local off duty police person told me there is "nothing they can do" while another reports – in his other

part-time police job nearby – they treat it seriously and consider it a form of harassment and pursue it.

Surprised? I am not. Most town and municipalities, do not really have much protection and when it exists, it may not be enforced, or unevenly.

Child protective services are a good resource – and yes, they will take complaints – but this type of issue is not their focus. Surprised? I am not. These agencies have not been adequately funded for

years.

After some creative thinking, I approached the local school system and complained. My message was polite but firm – "want my vote – educate your students." Surprised? Yes, you should be. The local superintendent took it seriously and intervened.

No more "hey Gay boy." Know this, anti-Gay comments and bullying are not confined to the young or the schoolyard. The solution is education.

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## Attorney Scott Knox receives Humanitarian Award

Scott E. Knox has been awarded the Dr. Peter T. Frame Humanitarian Award from the Cincinnati Health Network for his pro bono legal services for people with physical and



Knox

mental challenges. The Cincinnati Health Network is a non-profit corporation that coordinates services and programs for medically underserved and special population groups

in our community, such as the Healthcare for the Homeless and Community HIV/AIDS Comprehensive Care programs.

A focus of Knox's legal service is the GLBT Community and its issues.

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Michael, Nate,  
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Sex on a bus

I want to hear someone talk about sex on the bus. Gay sex. That's the kind of sex that precedes Gay marriage by the way, leading occasionally to Gay adoption and Gay households, preceded itself by Gay dinner-parties and Gay bars, culminating of course in the Gay lifestyle.

Sex. I want to hear people talk about sex. Why are we so awkward sometimes about it, so embarrassed? Straight people, I can see; they never have to



Nate  
 By Nate Wessel

think about sex. They can just do what "god" commanded. Gays have to think about it. One becomes officially Gay by recognizing their own sexual desires and formulating that into a public statement: a coming out. Yet sometimes it seems that after that initial ejaculation, people try to sweep all that sex talk under the rug again.

I like going to the Serpent. I've only been a few times, but the atmosphere is nice, the people friendly. Some of my friends

are afraid of it. They heard people have sex there, so now it's off limits for them. They won't even be in the same room as sex. So much for tolerance. I like sex. I like being naked. All the best dinner parties end with nudity. I think most people want to be more open, but don't think they can. It's self imposed.

I was talking loudly about Gay sex during intermission at the theatre when my friend nudges me, "you can't talk like that in Cincinnati," he says. It seems that I can't. When I do, my liberal friends interrupt to tell me it's Cincinnati that isn't liberal enough for that. Enough with it.

Let's just be loud and kinky and to hell with what we think other people think. They probably don't care all that much, and if they do....well, what of it?

Reminder: Youth Group organizing

GLSEN's Greater Cincinnati Youth Group is meeting Sundays, 3to 5p.m at the Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church All high school students are invited.

GLSEN Greater Cincinnati Youth Group (GYG) provides a fun, safe, supportive and confidential environment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning high school youth and their allies. GYG will strive to build friendships and explore identity while promoting a peaceful community founded upon equality, acceptance and diversity.

Questions? Contact: [education@glsen-cincinnati.org](mailto:education@glsen-cincinnati.org) or GLSEN Greater Cincinnati's phone at 866-934-9119.

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## New tax pro requirements mean more tax-time questions

The tax professional industry has historically been one of the largest unregulated industries.



### TAX TALK

By Scott Renno  
Enrolled Agent, 1 TAX

Recent legislation makes an attempt to ensure minimum standards of competency for unenrolled preparers so that your tax return is properly prepared:

- 1.) All non-credentialed tax pros are now required to register with the IRS.
- 2.) They will be required to pass a competency exam in the near future.
- 3.) They will be required to take continuing education and ethics courses.

The IRS has also beefed up its enforcement efforts aimed at identifying incompetent, unqualified and unscrupulous tax pros. Furthermore, the penalties for tax preparers have been increased.

What does this mean for you? Expect many more questions at tax time. The IRS has set a high DUE DILIGENCE standard for all tax pros. If your income and expenses appear to be out of

line, you will be asked to provide an explanation of the large/unusual amounts. If your income does not

appear to support your living expenses, you may be asked about other sources of income. If you claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), expect vigorous questioning to ensure that you are entitled to it. If you claim business mileage but have not kept the required mileage log, expect to be told that this deduction cannot be claimed.

Note that CPAs,

attorneys and Enrolled Agents have always been subject to very strict rules, sanctions, and continuing education requirements.

The new rules, although not as stringent as for credentialed tax pros, is a step in the right direction to improve the non-credentialed tax

*See TAX, Page 7, Col. 3*

We focus on GLBT Community news

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There was a "hot" sermon during the Gathering recently. In reality, The Gathering members and friends evacuated their Over-the-Rhine storefront when the odor of gas caused a call to the Cincinnati Fire Department. The gas was shut off and the service resumed after a 40 minute delay.



*Trans*—from Page 1  
Smith, program director of LGBTQ Center at the University of Cincinnati. Two musical selections were provided by pianist and singer, Amy Annette Wardell who closed the evening with her stirring arrangement of "Born This Way". A reception was held after the service.

We thank those who organized, participated and volunteered their services to make this

event a success and we especially thank St. John for opening their wonderful facility for us.

This year, HRC participated in Transgender Day of Remembrance events in some 25 cities from coast to coast.

### Evangelical Christian becomes Gay Rights Advocate

If you had asked Kathy Baldock 10 years ago if you could be both Gay and Christian, the devout evangelical would've told you 'no'. But one day while hiking near her Reno home, she befriended a fellow hiker who happened to be a Lesbian. As the two became good

friends, Baldock had a change of heart; she began questioning everything she'd believed about Gays and Lesbians.

"It slapped me in the face," said Baldock, remembering the first time she went to a worship service with Gay Christians in 2007. "I ended up on the floor crying and being so sorry for all the prejudices I had. I realized that something was very wrong with my theology."

Baldock is now a leader of the straight Christian ally movement, working to change views within the faith. She became so compelled to fight church homophobia she formed the non-profit Canyonwalker Connections. **Gayopolis**

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## Crossport's Holiday Party December 15

Crossport's Holiday Party will be held December 15 at 7:30.

It will be held at a new venue this year. Everyone is invited including friends and former members.

Cost including dinner is \$30 until December 8 or \$35 at the door. A fun time is guaranteed. For information send an e.mail to [crossportcincy@yahoo.com](mailto:crossportcincy@yahoo.com) or call the hotline 513-919-4850. Crossport is Cincinnati's gender support group. [www.crossport.org](http://www.crossport.org)

## St. John's Music Series

World-famous hammer dulcimer player and composer Malcolm Dalglish visits St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church on Resor Avenue, with enchant-

ing and uplifting solstice music. He performs The Wild Wild Word Show at 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 16 as part of St. John's Music Series.

A founding member of the popular folk trio, Metamora, Dalglish has made more than 13 recordings, including solo offerings on the Windham Hill Label.

A former music education student at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Dalglish has designed and built more than 60 hammer dulcimers.

Tickets for the St. John's Music Series: \$15 includes 1 adult/1 child, \$10 seniors and students, \$5 additional children 12 and under. Tickets and information are available on line at <http://www.stjohnsuu.org/index.php/docs/music-series/> or by calling St. John's at 513-961-1938. Tickets are also available at the door.

## TAX—*from Page 5*

pro.

As an expected consequence to the new rules, many tax preparers will simply stop preparing taxes, rather than meet the new requirements.

Many believe that this will create a shortage of tax pros. If you have a competent preparer, make sure you cooperate fully with them, make all appointments, and comply with all requests for information.

Enrolled Agent Scott Renno, is a member of the American Society of Tax Problem Solvers and NATP





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## Gay & Lesbian Community Center Holiday Party

Everyone is invited to Gay & Lesbian Center Holiday Party.

Instead of the usual humdrum monthly board meeting, the center will have abbreviated versions of its board and membership meetings in December. Both should last less than five minutes in total.

Then comes the center's real December business—a holiday party. Sweet and savory snacks will be offered, including hot hors d'oeuvre and nonalcoholic beverages. In a break with the center's usual policy, BYOB drinks will be permitted for this one night only.

Festivities begin at 7 p.m., Wednesday December 14 at the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Greater Cincinnati, 4119 Hamilton Avenue, next to Hoffner Park in Northside. The center is open to all!



*Local Advocacy group there is seeking help from Cincinnatians*

# Phil Burress interfering in Springfield

**By Rick A. Incorvati**  
**Advocacy Group**

Here's what's been going on in Springfield.

Our local Advocacy Group is trying to get a non-Discrimination ordinance passed in Springfield.

Phil Burress, Citizens for Community Values, a right wing Cincinnati-based anti GLBT Group, has not been a regular presence here (*one visit so far*), but he is providing the local Advocacy Group's opposition (*which is a combination of the local Tea Party and a number of large evangelical churches*) with strategies that look familiar.

Those strategies include:

- a.. Connecting the nondiscrimination effort with a secret plot to get Gay marriage;
- b.. Associating homosexuality with the usual litany of sexual perversions (*and making a nondiscrimination ordinance*

*a threat to children*);

c.. Contending that religious conservatives are being oppressed by denying their rights to express their values publicly;

d.. Playing up the "special rights" angle;

e.. Indulging in an ugly bit of race baiting (*they're painting the supporters of the ordinance as bigots because a couple speakers have challenged an African-American Commissioner with turning against a minority group*);

It's nothing new. It's just frustrating to see this kind of nonsense in one's own backyard—and to have fears that it's working with some folks.

What some in the local advocacy group are hoping is to have someone from Cincinnati come on up this way to explain how your fine city has been down the path that the Tea Party/religious conservatives are hoping to take us.

Sure, I can make that claim, but my saying so won't have the same weight as someone who is closer to the history of it all.

Ideally—I'll just be honest—this story could come from the business perspective. Our city leaders, with a couple exceptions, don't hear civil rights talk, but they would have an ear for the good business argument if it came from someone with business interests.

The other thing we're hoping for is just to bring some outside eyes to the Commission. We don't have earnest religious conservatives on our commission. In fact, we don't have anyone on the commission, I believe, who is personally against a nondiscrimination ordinance. What we do have are people who are playing politics with the issue. This may be a stretch but I think a couple of those folks

may be less comfortable with their opposition if they knew outside eyes were watching their decisions.

We've got two commissioners who are clear no votes. They won't say so publicly, but their stunts in the last weeks and months make it near impossible that they'd venture a support for the proposed changes. There's one swing vote on this 5-person commission that we're after. He's a Republican who works in Columbus and believes that tolerance has a connection to commerce. That said, he's also notoriously averse to risks, so he's not the likeliest of people to stick his neck out on this one.

The nondiscrimination proposal is currently in the hands of a board that is investigating the policy. They'll be back to the Commission with a recom-

mendation later in December. Until then, we're attending our bi-weekly commission meetings mainly to respond to the Tea Partiers who use the meetings as public forum to get their message out to a local access TV audience, and we're planning on using the December 6th meeting (*starts at 7 p.m.*) to make a pro-business argument.

## Equality Ohio involved

Ed Mullen, executive director of Equality Ohio has been working closely with folks in Springfield to get the nondiscrimination law passed there. He says there has been quite a bit of debate about it and multiple

public hearings.

He also said that local folks were hoping someone respected in the Cincinnati business and/or political community could come up for the next meeting to talk about the benefits of human rights ordinance in Cincinnati socially and economically.

Implicit in this testimony is that Burress's home base has rejected his thinking.

Mullen hopes non-GLBT individuals could speak though he thinks it would be a nice addition if multiple folks could come up.

Again, the hearing is December 6th at 7 p.m. in Springfield City Hall.

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