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# Greater Cincinnati GLBT<sup>Q</sup> NEWS

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**AUGUST 18TH!**

### Northside Tavern

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5-7 Chicken Lays and Egg Fashion Show  
7-11 Drag Queens and Kings of Pride including:  
The Fever Family (host Scarlett Fever, Shane Fever,  
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The Brooks Family (host Tyra Brooks, Maquaila Jaa, Claudia Cruiz, Jameson  
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## Democratic Convention 2012, a test of GLBT powers

The Democratic Convention of Sept. 3 to 6 will be a major test of the growing clout of the GLBT community in the Democratic Party. At issue here is adding Marriage Equality to the Democratic Platform. Platforms are all about manipulating symbols, because they state priorities and measure power.

A party can go back to its constituents and say “See what we will do for you. We need your votes, money and volunteers to make that happen !” In The best

traditions of community organizing, national, state and local GLBT advocacy groups are marshaling support, choosing delegates and executing strategies to win inclusion of Marriage Equality by the DNC Platform Committee. Their job helped is helped by DNC rules which mandate inclusion of specific minorities as delegates .

There is now a complicated formula which sets a minimum number of GLBT delegates That President Obama has come out in

favor of Marriage Equality is a good omen. The Radical Right already hates him. This means it is at worst a no lose deal. The commitment is yet to be tested legislatively.

That is the real bottleneck. Thanks to Citizens’ United and the Koch Brothers the State and Federal legislative branches will be well stocked with fundamentalist fanatics.

While some GLBT activists may not like The Dems continuing to hold the Convention in North Carolina because of the recent passage of a state constitution “Marriage Inequality Amendment”

See *Dems*, Page 3, Col. 1

Real politic 101  
By Tedd Good



## Center Kings Island fund raiser

By Michael X. Chanak  
Gay & Lesbian  
Community Center

Don’t miss the Midwest’s largest amusement park entertainment event benefiting a local GLBTQ community group – the Center.

You can buy your tickets on line now for the Friday September 7, 2012 event at Kings Island in Mason, Ohio. ([www.cincyglbt.com](http://www.cincyglbt.com)).

Folks from more than 30 states have bought tickets to support the event that celebrates its 16th year this September thanks to the generosity of the Kings Island. A portion of the ticket sales, depending on attendance is donated to the local Greater Cincinnati Gay & Lesbian Community Center each year.

The Center is a non-profit organization as recognized as by the IRS 501(c) 3.

Tickets not only include free parking (\$12 value) but have not increased in price for this event for nearly five years: individual tickets on-line, or at Center \$40 in advance and \$45 at gate, or groups of seven or more \$36 (on – line only)!

While the event began as a private fund-raiser,

more and more allies are asking “do I have to be Gay to attend?!?!?” The simple answer – if you support equality – you’re welcome! Imagine NOT having to wait in line for your favorite ride?

Plus, it is a great value and a chance to benefit Greater Cincinnati’s only Center serving a diverse community. The proceeds cover the much of the annual operating expense of this 19-year-old community organization.

Beginning in August, individual tickets will be available for purchase at the Center during normal business hours (see [www.cincyglbt.com](http://www.cincyglbt.com)) with cash or check (with identity). For those who like to purchase on line, and want to use “will call” or have “a personal printer” go to [www.cincyglbt.com/pride-night](http://www.cincyglbt.com/pride-night). Kings Island waived the fee for electronic purchases on their e-store this year! That’s an additional savings of \$5.

When you visit our Pride night page at [www.cincyglbt.com](http://www.cincyglbt.com) be sure to thank our sponsors to date: The Midwest Word, Scott Knox – Attorney – at – Law, Find Fred, Meet Mindy, **cnkyscene**,

Below Zero Lounge, Greater Cincinnati GLBT News and Kings Island! We appreciate the support!

Kings Island opens the parking lot the day of the event at 5 p.m., with the gates opening at 5:30 p.m. The rides will begin operation at 6 p.m. The event concludes at midnight.

Please remember – while this is a child friendly event – it is geared toward adults. Because the event is always scheduled by Kings Island after Labor Day, the water park and children’s rides are closed.

A question The Center gets a lot: Can I use my season’s pass or a discount coupon from a local store? No, sorry this is a fund-raiser for the Center – no season passes or special discount coupons are honored.

Tee shirts with this years pride night logo will be available for sale at the main entrance to the park. This year, a local drinking establishment will host an event during Pride Night weekend, replacing the “after glow party” at Kings Island.

## Greater Cincinnati GLBT News

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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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GLBT News and UPDATE, Worley Rodehaver and , Michael X. Chanak are on Facebook

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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

## Camp GLSEN

Wow! I'm typing this in LaGuardia Airport on my way back from Camp GLSEN, a conference for students and adult leaders from GLSEN chapters all over the country. I'm completely blown away by all of the people I met, people working for safe schools from LA to Maine.

Our movement is HUGE, momentous and truly inspiring. I talked to teachers from rural Tennessee, discovered

*Dems*—from Page 2 consider this; having a successful test of GLBT power can turn the Radical Right's Pyric victory into a nightmare scenario



that Omaha has four separate LGBT youth groups, learned about tweeting from the person who manages the Facebook page for "GSAs" and I'm proud to say, saw our chapter here in Cincinnati repeatedly held in the spotlight as an example for other organizers.

Our safe-schools movement is BROAD. There are people struggling to pull together boards and find volunteers, but somehow managing to support 50 or more Gay-Straight Alliances.

There were people from Pittsburgh advising me on and managing staff and finding interns, and

people with almost no funding working one district at a time for policy change. There were students whose mastery of social media in pursuit of a good cause made me feel I was in the presence of a benevolent queer spider, students who's exceptional skills at not only confronting systemic bullying, but at drag and piano and dance and close and honest friendship and mutual support made me wonder where I was at their age just five short years ago.

There were people who were just opening their eyes to new concepts and GLSEN veterans of 10 or more years sharing their frustrations and successes, encouraging one another to keep going.

Our movement is BEAUTIFUL. For it's exhaustive inclusion, it's relentless pursuit of work on the intersections of oppression, for it's optimism, it's drive, for it's tears of frustration and of joy, for it's incredible SUCCESS at bringing about a demonstrably better world for all students regardless of their sexual orientation or gender expression in just two ongoing decades.

Thank you, everyone who is a part of this movement and everyone everywhere who is working for safe and inclusive schools. Our work is truly for good.

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## GLSEN publishes local Gay-Straight Alliance List

New data published this month by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) of Greater Cincinnati reveals some interesting facts about high school Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) in the Greater Cincinnati area as well as school anti-bullying policies.

Most notably, the data shows that most GSAs in the region reside in Hamilton County school districts, outside of Cincinnati Public which claims only two GSAs. CPS however leads the pack on inclusive anti-bullying policies. GLSEN advocates for anti-bullying policies that are "enumerated" meaning that they mention by name several protected categories such as "race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity/ expression, disability..." etc. Enumeration gives policies more teeth, allowing and requiring teachers to stand up for

students who are being targeted because of their personal characteristics. CPS's policies, which apply to all of it's more than 30,000 students mention sexual orientation, but not gender identity.

GLSEN hopes the new data will shed light on the near complete lack of enumerated anti-bullying policies and also help students and parents who are deciding which high school to attend to factor in the presence of a GSA or enumerated policy into their decision. Says Jeremy Johnson, "We often hear from students who's bullying at school has gotten so bad that their parents are actually looking to transfer them to a new school or even to home or online school.

We hope that by showing which local high schools are taking measurable steps toward a safer environment for LGBT students, we can point some of those

people in the right direction".

Several schools had not responded by press time, but up to date

information on all schools can be found at [glscincinnati.org/schools](http://glscincinnati.org/schools)

.*The GSA Chart in on Page 5*

### Slade X. Andrews

Ric C. Ashcraft also known as Slade X. Andrews, 58, of Cincinnati, formerly of Lawrenceburg, Indiana passed away Sunday, July 22 in Cincinnati.



Slade

He was born Wednesday, July 14, 1954 in Cincinnati, son of the late Charles Ashcraft and the late Gladys Creaser Ashcraft.

He worked as a manager for Property Management Group.

Surviving are Brothers,

Kenneth W. Ashcraft of Aurora, Indiana; Dennis K. Ashcraft of Logansport, Indiana and his twin brother, Randall E. Ashcraft of Aurora; Sister, Barbara M. Barnhill of Patriot, IN; Special Friend, Terrance Healey of Cincinnati; Several Nieces and Nephews.

Services will be held at the convenience of the family.

Contributions may be made to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Please call the office at (812) 926-1450 and they will notify the family of your donation with a card.

### Three ways to keep in touch

"Like us on FACEBOOK, read us on our website, <http://www.cincinnati.glbtnews.com/> or become a member of our e.mailer family and get GLBT News sent to your e.mail address once a week. Send your e.mail address to [MAP@ella.net](mailto:MAP@ella.net).



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Area	School	Gay-Straight Alliance/ Diversity Club	Enumerated* anti-bullying policy
CPS	Clark Montessori	No	Partial
-	Dater	No	Partial
-	R. A.Taft IT	No	Partial
-	SCPA	Yes	Partial
-	Shroder	No	Partial
-	Walnut Hills	Yes	Partial
-	Western Hills	No	Partial
Indiana	Lawrenceburg	No	No
Kentucky	Beechwood	No	No
-	Boone Co High School	Yes	No
-	Campbell County	No	No
-	Conner	Yes	No
-	Cooper	Yes	No
-	Dixie Heights	No	No
-	Holmes	Yes	No
-	Lloyd Memorial	No	No
-	Ludlow	No	No
-	Silver Grove	No	No
-	Walton-Verona	No	No
Other Hamilton Co.	Anderson	Yes	No
-	Cincinnati Country Day	Yes	No
-	Colerain	Yes	No
-	Deer Park	No	Not Available
-	Finneytown Secondary Campus	Yes	No
-	Loveland	Yes	No
-	Madeira	Yes	No
-	Mariemont	No	No
-	Mount Healthy	No	No
-	North College High School	No	Not Available
-	Northwest High School	No	No
-	Norwood	Yes	No
-	Oak Hills	Yes	No
-	Princeton	Yes	Not Available
-	St. Bernard-Elmwood	No	Not Available
-	Sycamore	Yes	No
-	Turpin	Yes	No
-	WH Harrison	No	No
-	Winton Woods	Yes	No
-	Wyoming	Yes	Not Available
Other Ohio	Fairfield	Yes	Not Available
-	Glen Este	No	No
-	Kings	No	No
-	Milford	No	No
-	New Richmond	No	No
-	Ross	No	No

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## God's DNA

The votes have been cast, and yet another Christian denomination, the Episcopal Church, has decided it's okay to bless the unions of same-sex couples. Thanks, Episcopal Church, for making us feel a little more welcome, but in the big scheme of the Christian Church we still feel about as welcome as a pig at a Bar Mitzvah.

It's time for us to take responsibility for the situation and accept that the problem is not the lack of churches willing to welcome us in; the problem is that we GLBT folk have allowed the Church of the Poser to tell us we're not part of God's family.

I believed the lies once, too. But that was before I realized that no one can take me out of the family of God except me. No, I'm not claiming to be more powerful than God; if God wanted to make a change in my life I have no doubt change would come. But God will not kick me out, and if God won't kick me out, the only way for me to be out is if I willingly walk away.

How do I know God will not kick me out?

Consider this: Jesus said, "Whoever does the will of my Father is my brother and sister and mother." (*Matthew 12:50*) In Galatians 3:26 we read: 'You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.' Once we have been given the status of son or daughter of God, no one can it away.

Twenty-five years ago when my folks kicked me out

of the family for coming out, I may not have been physically in their presence for a while, but it didn't change my DNA. I was still their daughter.



Allen

I've heard all the lies we've all been told about God not loving his GLBT children, but please believe me

when I say they're just not true. There are a lot of somewhat well-intentioned (*but misguided nonetheless*) people out there busying themselves with how they believe God feels about us when what they should really be busying themselves with is what God has actually told them to do. In fact, instead of arguing with each other we should all be busy doing what God has told us to do.

There may be certain church-shaped buildings we are not welcome in, but no one can tell us we are not members of God's family. That's between us and God and if God hasn't told us to get lost, then that means we're the ones who have

wandered off. We need to wander back.

The Episcopal Church may just now be blessing unions, but they've welcomed the GLBT community for years. The ranks of open and affirming churches are growing. We've always been part of God's family, and with more and more churches opening their doors to us, we no

longer have the excuse that we're not welcome in church. What are we going to do about it?

*(Editor's Note—Karen Gels Allen and her partner, Adriana Bustamante, are co-pastors of The Living Water Ministries on Facebook, and preach at New Spirit Metropolitan Community Church in Cincinnati.)*

### Dr. Roma receives lifetime achievement award

For nearly 40 years, Dr. Catherine Roma has been creating vibrant choral communities that reach across barriers of race, religion, class, sexual orientation and age.

She works to translate the values of social justice and inclusion into fundamental experiences of community for both audience and singers. She does this through music that spans a wide variety of styles and cultures and through strategic efforts to develop membership and audiences that reflect the rich diversity of our world.

In July 7th, Dr. Roma was

awarded the GALA (*Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses*) Lifetime Achievement Award. The Lifetime Achievement Award honors an "individual whose body of work has significantly impacted the global community around LGBT issues." She has, as the award requires, "contributed to exceptional progress in how LGBT people are viewed and represented in society, (being) a notable leader, and (is) widely recognized as person of passion, vision, courage, and perseverance.

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## Sweet PRIDE

June 30 began at 8:15 a.m. when one of this years Cincinnati PRIDE marshals,

Adam Hoover rang me up to ask about



**Goose Mother Says**

By Michael Chanak

where the step off point for the Cincinnati PRIDE was located. After a moment, other calls/texts came from folks asking me when the “dowagers” were to arrive and where we would be located during the parade and festival. Then it struck me, we are never alone in this life unless we choose to be.

This is the nature of Sweet PRIDE – where so many of us make a connection with our own history/herstory and our communities. This awesome feeling of having been so blessed by the Goddess to be able to have a friend both 45 years my junior and another 29 years my

senior (*who could not attend*) reminds of what community has been for me in Cincinnati.

Frustrating at points, hurtful at others – sweet PRIDE and seeing old friends and new restores me.

Covington PRIDE – a more intimate street fair at 7th and Bakewell – found old time dowagers such as Rich Thies, Peggy Roche, Steve Roussos, Steve Howe and Larry Whitaker, George Vanover, Carl Fox, Tom Weber, Tom Miller – have a set and chat as though time had stood still. John Maddux, Steve Buescher and Brother Michael Childs, Kathy Laufman, George Crawford, Jerry Schmidt (*bet you all didn't know you were an honorary dowager?*), Mother Paula Jones, Fred Martens, Cheryl Eagle-son, Scott Knox, Ron Clemons were seen the

day before at the parade. This does not complete the list by any means.

Now it is time for some love to these committees – Cincinnati co-chairs – Cathy Rogers and Erica Dufresne, Tony Phillips – publicity/marketing, Randy Womble – volunteers, Tom Wible – parade, Melissa Riley – vendors, Shawn Baker – website/social media, John Boggess, Rich Sherman – parade, David White and Dennis Pattinson – volunteers.

Key volunteers that supported Cincinnati PRIDE: Brooklyn Steele-Tate (*Michael Cotrell*), Lindsey Johnson and Alison Willis on the Kroger stage, Tyese Rainz, Amy Teetor and Ryan Chupka on the CityBeat stage, Logan Probst with vendors, and many others who worked long hours in global warming grade heat.

For some southern love, to the NKy component of PRIDE – NKy co-chairs – Mykey Hess

and Diane Gamble, Kiersten Ess – Treasurer, Giovanni Lives – Entertainment, Nicole Testory – Vendor check-in, Terry Bond Jr. and Carl D. Fox – Setup (*with kind assist from George Crawford*); Collin Wood – 701 Bar; Shannon See – Rosie's Tavern; Katie Meyer, Bonnie McGinnis and Kyle Koeppe – Pike Street Lounge; Matt Mime – Street performance; Others who helped – Robin Brewer, Shay and Lisa Short, Dj Blak Cherri, Dj Tim Cleary and Dig-it Dane Jacy, Ken Bucher, Wade Maurer, Linda Chaney, Taryn Valpey, Rick Johnson, John Hall, Melissa Riley (*from Cincinnati PRIDE*) and this list probably isn't complete unless the folks in blue in Covington and Cincinnati are thanked for their help and cooperation! (*Goose tried very hard not to miss volunteers – if I did – drop a line to me*

In this queer's lifetime, I remember speaking at the 1987 PRIDE Rally on Fountain Square – to two hundred people. Today, I humbly honor and celebrate all who made this a wonderful weekend. I'd be remiss to not make a particular thank

you to Rusty Lockett, Brandon and Lindsey Frimming, for watching out for the “dowagers” in the heat making sweet PRIDE, a safe one!

## What you have missed?

If you have not been to our website or if you are not on our e.mailer list here are some of the stories you have missed during the last three weeks!

- ▽ Old Testament church strikes again
- ▽ Anderson Cooper and Ocean come out
- ▽ MUSE wins Gold Medal in World Choir Games
- ▽ Gay/Lesbian relationships to be blessed in Episcopal Church
- ▽ Sally Ride, first woman. Lesbian in space
- ▽ Chick-Fil-A anti Gay
- ▽ Ohio school settles with bullied student

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Amazon's founder—  
\$2.5 million to support  
Gay Marriage initiative

Gay Marriage advocates in Washington state have found some very helpful friends in Amazon's billionaire founder and his wife.

The *New York Times* reports that Jeff and MacKenzie Bezos have pledged \$2.5 million to help pass the state's November ballot initiative legalizing same-sex marriage, a sum that places the pair “among the largest financial backers of Gay Marriage Rights in the country” and one that doubles the money available to the proponents of Referendum 74.

The paper explains that a former Amazon employee who is now the fundraising chair of the pro-referendum effort e.mailed Jeff Bezos asking for a donation between \$100,000 and \$200,000. She wrote about the difficulty she faced as a young Lesbian, wanting to marry her longtime partner and needing the support of straight people.

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