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# GLBT<sup>Q</sup> news

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## PFLAG Scholarship winners announced

Four deserving students received \$2,500 scholarships for their college education during the June PFLAG meeting, .

This is the 19th year that PFLAG has awarded scholarships. This year's recipients were Allison Marcotte, Alex Robinson, Jason Stewart and Nathan Wessel.

The 2011 Scholarship Committee, chaired by Dan Ley, 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



Allison Marcotte

support, education and advocacy in the community.

Committee members highlighted the accomplishments of the recipients; the committee included Monica Plett, Brent Rose, and Emily Roth.

The scholarship winners demonstrated a wide range of



Alex Robinson

accomplishments in support of the GLBT community, including starting and being a member of Gay-Straight Alliances at their schools, recruiting volunteers for various GLBT activities and events and organizing events such as the Day of Silence and Ally Week. The



Jason Stewart

accomplishments of these students impressed everyone in attendance and elicited enthusiastic praise.

The continued work by students such as these will certainly make the world a better place.

Funds for the PFLAG scholarships came from the



Nate Wessel

ISQCCBE (*The Court*), Paul Delph Scholarship Fund, On Broadway Bar and the generosity of many other donors and members. PFLAG thanks these organizations and individuals for their contributions and looks forward to continuing success in supporting deserving

students.

Here is a brief introduction to the recipients:

### Allison Marcotte

Allison Marcotte graduated from Wyoming High School and will attend Ohio State University majoring in Engineering. She has served as president of her school's Gay-Straight Alliance and senior leader of the Science Olympiad team. As an ally, Allison has worked tirelessly to make the school and community a safe place for all students. She has helped plan activities such as the Day of Silence and Ally Week, spoken on the morning announcements, organized PSA's for

See PFLAG, Page 3, Col. 1

## Bye-bye Doug and Jill

By Worley Rodehaver

Editor

I have known Jill and Doug Benavides-Meredith for years.

I recall Doug as a teen at the annual Gay Prom and have watched him grow into a strong GLBT activist. He has written for **GLBT News** and is currently on the GLSEN staff. He is also active in Public Allies.

Jill also is an activist, has worked with GLSEN for years and was a leader in the local Impact Cincinnati organization.

They have worked constantly to make Cincinnati a better place for the next generation.

Doug has been accepted in graduate school in New York. They leave in August. We will miss them.

## Two volunteer staffers recognized



Wessel



Chanak

Two of our volunteer staffers have recently been honored as GLBT Community Leaders.

Our Associate Editor and Columnist Michael X. Chanak was named best male public figure in the

2011 Divas Glam Awards conducted by Brian Queen. Michael is a life-long activist and a member of the board of the Gay & Lesbian Community Center.

Columnist Nate Wessel was honored with a \$2,500 Scholarship by PFLAG. (See related story, Page 1).

Wessel was born in

Ohio's suburbs but has lived in Cincinnati for four years. He vowed to avenge his dreadful strip mall childhood by helping to arouse real city life in Cincinnati with more opportunity than he grew up with. He is particularly focused on gaining full equality for GLBT people, and on advocating for a

more humane transportation infrastructure and built environment.

Nate is graduating soon with a degree in Urban Planning and is currently looking for work in that field. He also recently published a transit map of the Greater Cincinnati area.

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map@ella.net

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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

Publisher/Editor—Worley Rodehaver

Associate Editor—Michael X. Chanak

Advertising—Karen Halazayn, 513-979-4295

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

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Paul Delph

### 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.



Matthew Shepard

While we believe it is important to get the news out to as many physical locations as possible (*we have about 170 locations in Greater Cincinnati*) we realize that many people now get their news via e.mail and the web.

We are there too. We have an e.mailer that goes out to people who request it and we have a website and FACEBOOK Page.

And, we have a weekly UPDATE available with our e.mailer, FACEBOOK and web editions.

GLBT News focuses on local and area news of interest to GLBT citizens and allies and all our efforts, both print and electronic media strive to reach that goal.

Our UPDATES do have more state and national news and in some cases more in depth coverage since they are not limited in any number of pages.

The print edition is available in 18 Greater Cincinnati neighborhoods and is usually distributed the first weekend of each

month.

The UPDATE normally comes out on Tuesday or Wednesday but that can vary.

To get the e.mailer send your e.mail contact information to [MAP@ella.net](mailto:MAP@ella.net).

To get the publication on line go to <http://www.glbnewsincincinnati.com>.

Going to our Cincinnati GLBT News Facebook page will direct you to the same web address. "Like" us if you go there. We notify on FACEBOOK when the pub is available.

Our Website—<http://www.glbnewsincincinnati.com>

**PFLAG**—from Page 1  
the school and spoken to the student body at assemblies. Allison is an amazing advocate for equality for the GLBT Community and for all people,

**Alex Robinson**

Alex Robinson graduated from Loveland High School and will attend Bowling Green State University to major in Graphic Design. He served as a member and leader of his school's Gay-Straight Alliance, founder and leader of his school's German club and member of the Art and Community Service Clubs. Alex created posters for the GSA, demonstrated respect in his class discussions and advocated for students who don't have a voice. He would like

to use his skills and career to fight for GLBT equality and as Alex says, "My goal is to end discrimination through peace, joy, and unity."

**Jason Stewart**

Jason Stewart graduated from the School for Creative and Performing Arts (SCPA) and will attend California Tech to major in stage management, with a goal of working as a stage manager.

He was a founding member of his school's Gay-Straight Alliance and served as president. Jason established events such as Ally Week and the Day of Silence in his school, while working through the proper administrative channels. He has also been involved with his school's diversity club

for junior high students and volunteered with STOP AIDS. Jason's involvement and leadership has been a great asset to his school community.

**Nathan Wessel**

Nathan Wessel is a student at the University of Cincinnati (UC) majoring in Urban Studies. He serves on the board as the volunteer coordinator for Cincinnati's chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), works at the

See PFLAG, Page 4, Col. 2



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GLBT NEWS

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## MUSE, the Cincinnati Women's Choir. will hold auditions in August

If you've ever wanted to join a vibrant choral community, now is the time. MUSE Cincinnati's Women's Choir invites you to audition with them and come celebrate their 29th Season in song!

On Saturday, August

27th, auditions will be held at their rehearsal home, St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church, 320 Resor Avenue in Clifton from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. See their website for the audition form.

Walk-ins will not be able to be accommodated due to the nature of the audition process.

MUSE is dedicated to musical excellence and social change. Members are women of diverse backgrounds, experiences and perspectives awakening awareness with their voices. Your talent, enthusiasm and presence are welcome! Come harmonize for peace and justice. Join MUSE for a season of fun, friends and most of all music!

Check out their website for other exciting goings on at: [www.musechoir.org](http://www.musechoir.org)

Their mailing address is MUSE, Cincinnati's Women's Choir, PO Box 23292

Cincinnati, OH 45223  
 Their phone number is 513-221-1118

## Integrity to meet Bishop Robinson

Next Integrity gathering is Saturday, July 16 at the Episcopal Church of St. Michael

the Archangel, in Lexington, Kentucky for an evening with The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson, Bishop of New Hampshire, for Evening, a Q & A session

(questions to be submitted in advance), and a reception.

They plan to carpool and depart at 4 p.m. from Trinity Episcopal Church in Covington, 326 Madison Avenue.

Please RSVP if you plan to go at 513-312-2614 (cell).

## Witchery

By Jon Wise

As I lay here in my night,  
 a witchcraft comes to steal my sight  
 and by the bones of Tramps—  
 which built my brittle-cage —  
 to house my soul — is damp;  
 broken down by dreams  
 ever-so wickedly.  
 And as the potions of my brain  
 start to explode — I feel evil  
 pass my soul — and never  
 have I felt such passion.



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**Cincinnati Opera presents its 5th annual PRIDE Night Saturday July 16**

Cincinnati Opera will present its 5th annual PRIDE Night Celebration on Saturday, July 16, following a performance of the opera Eugene Onegin by composer Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

A story of inopportune timing and lost love, Eugene Onegin explores difficulties of the heart which mirror episodes in Tchaikovsky's own turbulent life.

For the first time, Cincinnati Opera's PRIDE Night Cele-

bration will recognize an individual with the Friend of Diversity Award. Dabby Blatt will be honored as the

2011 Friend of Diversity. Blatt is a longtime friend and supporter of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and

Transgender Community in Cincinnati.

The 2011 PRIDE Night Celebration, a Russian-themed after-party, recognizes Cincinnati's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community, and attendance is open to all.

For more information, visit [www.cincinnatiopera.org](http://www.cincinnatiopera.org).

**Two local companies rate 100 percent in Human Rights Campaign Index**

National Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) 2011 Equality index rating companies on being GLBT friendly has been released.

Those achieving 100 percent ratings in this area were: Cincinnati—Macys

and Procter & Gamble. Dayton—NCR Miamiesburg—LexisNexis Columbus—Nation-wide

HRC is the largest civil rights organization in America working to achieve LGBT equality.



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## Pastor guilty of officiating at Gay wedding

The United Methodist Church has found Wisconsin pastor Amy DeLong guilty of officiating at the marriage of a homosexual couple.

But DeLong, who does not deny being Gay herself, was found not guilty on the charge of being a “self-avowed practicing homosexual.” The not-guilty verdict was based on the fact that DeLong declined to comment during the church trial about whether her relationship involved sexual contact.

The jury in the trial could have

defrocked DeLong but chose not to remove her from the ministry but instead to suspend her.

“The suspension is for spiritual discernment,” the jury’s ruling said, with the goal being “to restore the broken clergy-covenant relationship.”

Locally, Clifton United Methodist **affirms** GLBT people.

## Southern Baptists and homosexuality

In a **Wall St. Journal**, op-ed article Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, characterizes the issue of homosexuality as one that is “shaking the foundations” of Christianity itself.

Mohler has chastised his followers for their “homophobia” which, to him, means that evangelicals have been so mean and nasty to Gays and Lesbians that they have lost their chance to get them to “come to know of their own need for Christ and the forgiveness of their sins.”

## Church of England and homosexuality

The Church of England has said it is reviewing its approach to same-sex relationships and whether Gay priests in civil partnerships should be allowed to become bishops, its most significant work on the subject for years.

According to a statement from the House of Bishops, there is a “theological task to be done to clarify further understanding of the nature and status of these partnerships”.

The bishop of Norwich, Graham James, said the “last substantive engagement” with the issue of homosexuality was in 2005.

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**Goose PRIDE**

The high holy days of PRIDE activities are upon us. In the spirit of the season, Mother Goose was escorted to the HRC Zoo Day in May by the president of the GLBT Center – Rusty Lockett.

After all, Steve Simiele asked Rusty “who was playing the role of “Driving Miss Daisy.”

About 80 lovely folks attended this late spring event, including our next city council member Chris Seelbach. Chris asked if he could call me “Mother.” Of course, he can! I saw reps from GLSEN, PFLAG, Crossport, Muse, Nationwide Insurance and the GLBT Center.

I am sure I missed someone so apologies.

Kudos to the local HRC for putting together an event that for \$14 included free



**Mother Says**

By Michael Chanak

parking and a membership to HRC at a great zoo. Please withdraw hand from chest and put the nitro tablets on the tablets – yes, I did offer HRC a positive stroke! I feel like a game show hostess on “The Price is Right!”

June 4th saw a couple of thousand souls support Gay PRIDE in Dayton and yet again Lockett drove the “Goose woman.” He made sure I was well hy-

drated and not overly sunned. I made it through that day in the 90F+ weather without paramedics being called. Word is Dr. Gigs also had a close call during the early summer like weather nearer to home. Be careful crones!

Goose put on her sensible flats and attended the 2nd annual picnic of Crossport in June at Mt. Airy Forest. You know Crossport – Cincinnati’s Gender Support Group. A lovely picnic with 30 folks and the weather cooperated.

That same day, Rusty

Lockett and Bill Abney of Center fame were busy working the Indianapolis PRIDE event – no doubt handing out PRIDE Night at KI flyers for Friday, September 9.

With some 500 hundred watching on, the community enjoyed the annual Drag Races in June sponsored by Below Zero for Cincy Equinox PRIDE. Yet, again the

Goose feels the love of a diverse community.

Finally, a shout out to Brian Queen and his work with 2011 GLAM Divas Award

*See Mother, Page 8, Col. 2*

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# MONDAYS

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Only Place To Party On Monday

*Mother*—from Page 7  
and to all the folks the folks, businesses, organizations that voted and for those who “voted for MEEEE” and are now required to vote for Chris Seelbach in the fall Cincinnati City Council race.

As the goose says “remove all doubt and rumor of who is Gay on council – be sure – elect Seelbach.” (Goose receives no compensation for her endorsement of Chris and neither does GLBT News.)

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