

Celebrating
25 + years in the
Cincinnati Community



PFLAG CINCINNATI

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 2

Spring 2011

Quarterly
Newsletter

Parents,
Families,
and Friends
of Lesbians
and Gays

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Letter from the President

Things are gearing up for us here at PFLAG Cincinnati. We have had lots of great speakers over the past few months speaking on a variety of subjects. Scott Knox visited us to talk on legal issues mainly within the LGBT community. One thing he made very clear was to NOT sign anything until you have asked the right questions to the right people. If you are looking for some legal expertise please give Scott a call at 513-241-3800.

Doug Meredith spoke to us on the hurt and damages secrets can do to us and the people around us. People keep secrets for a variety of reasons but in the end are they helpful or do they do more damage than telling the secret. Karen Naugle from Cincinnati Children's House and Ryan Messer from Ethicon spoke to

us on the diversity groups within their workplaces. So many companies have designed policies to end discrimination in the workforce.

June brings about warmer weather and our scholarship award ceremony. Every year we give away several scholarships to well deserving high school graduates and those who are furthering their educational studies. We will announce those who won and eat some cake! Speaking of our scholarships - on **June 5** there will be a dinner and a show at **On Broadway (located at 817 Broadway St.)** Dinner will begin at 6:00pm and the show starts at 8:00pm. I know it's a school night but I promise NOT to keep you up too late. All monies raised will benefit our scholarship program.

In July we will celebrate Pride 2011.

Every year a large group of us walk the streets wearing our PFLAG shirts, carrying our rainbow flags and loving our gay children! Pride is not just a gay event it's a family event that shows the diversity of the LGBT/Straight community. If you want to walk with us just let us know! Times and locations to be announced.

We always have lots going on with PFLAG Cincinnati! We always need lots of people to help us spread the mission of PFLAG! Remember when you no longer need PFLAG, PFLAG needs you.

Sincerely,
Michael Cotrell
President



Mission Statement

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual

and transgender persons, their families and friends through:

Support, to cope with an adverse society,

Education, to enlighten an ill-informed public, and

Advocacy, to end discrimination and secure civil rights.

2010/2011 Executive Board

President: Michael Cotrell
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Vice President: Lynne Lefebvre
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Refreshments:
Lauren Grosser
Speaker's Bureau:
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Dan Ley
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Meeting

Our monthly chapter meetings are on the **second Tuesday of each month** from 7:00 – 9:30 P.M. at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church (link for directions <http://www.mtauburnpresby.org/location.shtml>) located at 103 William Howard Taft Rd, 45219. The monthly **chapter meeting is open to everyone**, including parents, friends and family of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons, as well as to gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons

or anyone interested in learning more about the topic. Meetings are completely confidential. What is said there stays there. Confidentiality is important to most of us for one reason or another, and at all time we respect the rights of others.

The chapter also has a monthly board meeting that is held on the Thursday before the monthly chapter meeting, starting at 6:30 P.M. at 103 William Howard Taft Rd, 45219. Paid up members of the chapter are

welcome to attend the monthly board meeting.

Please send an email to info@pflagcinci.org or call the PFLAG Help Line at 513-721-7900 and ask for the PFLAG contact number if you need more information about the monthly chapter meeting or information about attending the chapter board meeting.

Newsletter

This newsletter is published quarterly (usually sometime in the first month of the quarter). The chapter would benefit greatly from your involvement in the creation of this newsletter. Send an email

to the editor at newsletter@pflagcinci.org if you have an announcement that should be included, an idea for an article, or even better, would be interested in writing an article. Also, feel free to

send an email to the editor if you have any suggestions or comments regarding your chapter's quarterly newsletter's content or design.



First Comes Love

By Jane Biddinger

When my son was four, he was the ring bearer in my sister's wedding. His white-jacketed tuxedo was a smaller version of the ones the best man and groomsmen wore. Tiny white ribbons firmly secured the rings to the pillow he carried, but his determined look told me those rings would make it to the altar intact. And they did. For the most part, he heeded my orders to walk slowly, stand tall, and kneel up straight. I did notice him fidget as the bride and groom kissed, but only then. And he was cute as the dickens to boot. I have the photos to prove it. As I watched him walk down that aisle, my mind flashed forward to the day he would make that same journey to take a wife of his own. I brushed aside a few tears and assured myself that was years and years away. At the reception afterward, he danced with a little girl named Judy. As I tucked him into bed that night, he told me he was going to marry Judy some day. When they were all grown up he said. I could live with that.

Twenty years later, my son donned another tuxedo. This one sized to fit a man of 6' 2". Once again, he performed admirably. If he was anxious, he didn't let on. Those cute-as-the-dickens days were but a memory. He was now handsome, tan, and fit. Let me assure you, I know we mothers are by our very nature biased, but there were others that night who confirmed my take on his appearance. I held his arm and gave it a squeeze as he escorted me down the aisle of that same church, to seat me as the mother-of-the-groom. The groom being his younger brother.

My sons stood shoulder to shoulder at the altar. The younger with his soon-to-be spouse on his arm. The older witnessing his brother commit himself to the love of his life. For better. For worse. Forever. Something I knew he would never do. Something I knew he would never be allowed to do.

For by this time, my son knew that Judy wasn't the right one for him. Actually, no woman was right for him.

There would be no wedding in his future. Not for my older son. My first born who was gay.

Not that I would have welcomed it at that point in time. I am not proud of this statement, but it is the truth. We had only known about our son's sexual orientation for a short time and were still closeted ourselves. I avoided friends' inquiries as to his social life. I lied that he was too busy studying, then focusing on his career, then traveling to get involved with anyone. In truth, I avoided the subject with my son as well. I do denial quite well.

Prior to our son's coming out I hadn't given serious thought to gay marriage, thinking it was none of my concern. But if pressed to take a side in the debate, I would have been one of those sanctity of marriage people determined to defend the state of marital bliss without thoughtful consideration of the role gender plays in a marriage. I guess I'm a slow learner, but in time I recognized that the vows to love, honor, and cherish one another till death are not gender specific.

Eight years ago my older son did meet the love of his life, and I was ready, so very

ready for him to have someone to share his life with. And I am happy, so very happy with the man he chose. The man who chose him. I set another plate at the family table, added a name to my Christmas list, and had yet another blessing to count before I slept. My son had a partner and that was a good thing.

Living here in our Buckeye State, my son and his partner were destined to remain just that. Partners. Not that they were any less devoted to one another than my son and his wife or my husband and me. Not that they loved one another less. Not that they squabbled less often about who took out the garbage. But merely because they are the same gender.

Our grandchildren have never know our son without his partner. Having two uncles is no foreign concept to them. It's quite the norm. Subscribing to the theory if it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it truly is a duck, our seven year-old-grandson Jacob assumed they were married. In fact, when he found that these uncles of his were not, he was dumbfounded. When I told him it wasn't legal for them to be, he was angry. He asked if the president could change that, and I told him a president can use his influence to encourage change. He asked me where he could sign up. Jacob is a bit young to set his eyes on the Oval office, but he's got 28 years to plan. And raise campaign funds.

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First Comes Love, *continued*

Thankfully, miraculously, his uncles won't have to wait for Jacob to grow up. This past summer my son was transferred to, of all places, Boston. Boston, the home of the Freedom Trail. Boston, where Paul Revere rode on horseback shouting The British are coming. Boston where gay marriage is legal.

A wedding is in my son's future after all.

Their engagement is recent and the nuptials are in the planning stage. Big wedding? Small? Formal? Casual? Will I have time to lose 20 pounds? These questions remain to be answered. Those details will

work themselves out. The focus for me is on that certificate of marriage. That acknowledgment that my son and son-in-law's love is affirmed. Their relationship valid. Their right to be married a legal reality. Something I once thought impossible. Something I thought I would never live to see.

Our six-year-old granddaughter Rachel is excited, as young girls and weddings go hand in hand. She attends a Catholic school and couldn't wait to tell her friends. Her mother didn't want her to be upset or hurt by any remarks that might be made, so she explained

to Rachel that while our family is quite happy, there are others who may not feel that way. They discussed the notion of being open minded.

When our Rachel got to school the next day, she asked her teacher if she was open minded, to which her teacher responded yes. Rachel grinned and announced her uncles' engagement telling the class that boys can love boys and girls can love girls and that's all okay.

Pretty wise words from a six-year-old.

WHEN OUR RACHEL GOT TO SCHOOL THE NEXT DAY, SHE ASKED HER TEACHER IF SHE WAS OPEN MINDED, TO WHICH HER TEACHER RESPONDED YES. RACHEL GRINNED AND ANNOUNCED HER UNCLES' ENGAGEMENT

Gay Bingo to benefit PFLAG Cincinnati

**The Cabaret (next to Below Zero)
1122 Walnut Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202**

**July 24
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm**

**\$10.00 per person for 8 games
Raffle prizes, fun people and raising money! What
more could you ask for?!**



PFLAG at Xavier University

On Saturday, March 19th, two panels spoke to Dr. Luther Smith's, E Pluribus Unum class at Xavier. Lynne Lefebvre, Monica

Plett, Brent Rose & Michael Cotrell were on the first one, For the second he wanted a gay and a lesbian couple. Mark

Smith, Chris Ohmer and Maria Sulcer were on that panel. These two articles following were written by students in the class.

Differences are not intended to separate Margaret Hazlett

"Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realize our need of one another."

— Desmond Tutu

Today in my E. Pluribus Unum class, I got to meet some fantastic people, one of them being a woman who was experiencing motherhood after recently adopting an African-American child 14 months ago. She was a successful white saleswoman in her early thirties living an average yet great life. She was also a proud lesbian. Many people who'd see this woman as well as any of the other people who came to talk to our class wouldn't think she was gay. That's how a lot of the LGBTQIA community is. For those of you who don't know what LGBTQIA stands for, it stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender/transsexual, queer/questioning, intersex, ally and this is what I learned about not only them, but about myself as well as other people.

I could go on for pages explaining and detailing every-

thing I learned about from PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and from my E.P.U. teacher at Xavier, but I'll just list what stuck out most to me and what I want others to hear. One woman on the board of PFLAG opened up our discussion by saying that a man or woman who is gay never comes out just once, he or she comes out a thousand times; and "when the kid comes out of the closet, the parents go in." After taking this course about the LGBTQIA community, I began to understand more how much courage a man or woman must have to say "I'm gay" not once, but thousands of times. I can barely say "I like you" to a guy when I have a crush on him, let alone discuss my sexuality with a business colleague or a stranger. Not to mention that many men and women in the community have to tell their parents this and fear that they will cast them out of their house and hearts. There is no one I know that has ever had to face that realistic paranoia and no one ever thinks of that when

they know someone who is gay or lesbian or bisexual, etc. I certainly didn't.

Another topic that came up that I was completely blindsided with was the topic of gay marriage. Now I know that everyone has heard of if not discussed this heated debate, but do we really know why it is such a big deal? Yes, gays want to have a "civil union" and be able to declare themselves as a "married couple" but do we *really* know why? One thing a man brought up who was a member of PFLAG was that gay couples don't have civil rights. The first thing I thought of was that they could vote, they could serve in the army, but the only normal thing that they couldn't do was get married. Boy was I wrong. I mean that's a huge part of it, having that title of husband and wife, or husbands and wives, but it was a different level of the marriage that this man brought forth. For example, did you know that gay couples if they buy a house, if

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One thing a man brought up who was a member of PFLAG was that gay couples don't have civil rights. The first thing I thought of was that they couldn't do was get married. Boy was I wrong. I mean that's a huge part of it, having



something happens to one of the partners and he or she is deceased, then the house's rights go to the family, not the other partner? That's like if your mom and dad were married, bought a house, something happened to one of them, and then when he or she died, the house immediately went to that person's family. I don't know about you, but I would feel ripped off; like I was treated unfairly, and that's exactly what this is. The same situation applies to adopting a child, only one man or woman is allowed to have the child adopted under his or her name, meaning 1 father and 1 mother—there's no such thing as 2 mothers, ha!

There are 1100 civil rights that gay couples do not receive even when marriage is

legalized in the state; they're all federal laws that the government will not recognize within the gay spousal community, and it's wrong. People don't know this though, so they don't think it's so bad not to allow gay marriage when really they're depriving certain people of their rights to be normal citizens.

Needless to say, people need to be more aware or even more understanding to who people are around us. Desmond Tutu's quote I opened up with sums it up perfectly. Whether it be your straight roommate, your gay teacher, your lesbian classmate, or your bisexual best friend—you don't have to title those people, but know who they are more than just your roommate, that one professor, the chick you sit next to in class,

or your best friend. We shouldn't have to have this "need" to realize our need of one another; we as human beings should want to need one another. I'm so glad that I chose this random weekend for an E.P.U class because I don't think I could enjoy or learn as much as I did about people who are only different from me in one way and have that affect me in **no** way what so ever. I can't wait to check in with these men and women hopefully in the near future to figure out how the woman's kid is doing, if 2 of the men who were partners finally chose a suitable car that they both liked, and if more students like me get the opportunity to meet these fantastic people.

Chapter Meetings

May 10
June 14
July 12
August 9
September 13

An Eye Opening Experience Erica Krasienko

Coming from a somewhat open, Roman Catholic family and having what I would say is a good deal of gay friends, I thought myself to be very educated on LGBTQQA issues. After a weekend of hearing numerous speakers throughout the Cincinnati community speak to issues homosexuals face, I realize that I didn't even know the half of things going on. Just so you know where I'm coming from and a little bit of my background, I would describe my home life and my education as quite sheltered. I've grown up in the same neighborhood my entire life and have basically grown up in the public eye, with

my father being a major politician where I live. I am the oldest of four children and I currently live four hours from home. I've attended Catholic school since kindergarten and this past weekend was the first time gay issues and rights were ever brought up to me in an educational setting. Everything I knew I pretty much heard through the grapevine and by talking to friends, but I never made any effort to do my own research to find out what was really going on.

After hearing from PFLAG and other speakers this weekend, I feel like I have learned so much. I personally

believe that everyone should have this type of "diversity training," if you will, and it is a shame that college age students are as uneducated as I was on matters that affect our friends, our family, and our generation greatly. Being a heterosexual female, I never realized how much I took for granted. I didn't realize that I would never have to come out to my family to tell them that I was straight. I didn't realize that a heterosexual married couple has at least 1000 more rights than a homosexual married couple. I didn't realize that 31 states do not have

Continued next page



Cooking with John

PFLAG Ham with Bourbon, Molasses, and Pecan Glaze

- 1/2 cup apple juice (unfiltered)
- 1/4 cup bourbon
- 1 3/4 cups (packed) dark brown sugar
- 1 cup pecans, toasted, cooled, finely ground
- 1/4 cup dark molasses
- 3 tablespoons dry mustard
- 1 whole bone-in 16- to 18-pound ham
- Tangerine Chutney

Preparation

Boil juice and bourbon in small saucepan until reduced to scant 1/3 cup, about 6 minutes. Combine sugar, pecans, molasses, and mustard in bowl. Add bourbon mixture; stir to form thick paste. Position rack in bottom third of oven and preheat to 325°F. Line large roasting pan with heavy-duty foil, leaving overhang on all sides. Trim off skin and all but 1/4

inch fat from ham. Place ham, fat side up, in prepared pan. Roast ham until thermometer inserted into thickest part registers 130°F to 135°F, about 10 minutes per pound or 2 hours 40 minutes for 16-pound ham. Remove ham from oven; increase oven temperature to 425°F. Lightly score fat on ham in diamond pattern. Rub glaze thickly over top and sides of ham. Return ham to oven and roast until glaze is deep brown and bubbling, about 25 minutes. Let ham stand at least 20 minutes and up to 45 minutes. Serve with chutney and spoon bread.

Tangerine Chutney

- 9 small seedless tangerines, unpeeled
- 3 tablespoons red wine vinegar

1 tablespoon dry mustard
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 1 1/2 cups red jalapeño pepper jelly
 3/4 cup orange marmalade
 Finely grate enough peel off tangerines to measure 3 tablespoons. Using small sharp knife, cut all peel and white pith off tangerines. Working over large sieve set in bowl, cut between membranes, releasing segments into sieve. Place in refrigerator and let segments drain at least 2 hours and up to 6 hours. Stir vinegar, mustard, and salt in medium bowl until mustard dissolves. Mix in jelly, marmalade, and 3 tablespoons grated tangerine peel. Cover and chill chutney base up to 6 hours. Gently fold tangerine segments into chutney base and serve.

Community Events

Upcoming Speakers:

- May 18** Lobby Day in Columbus
- June 12** Scholarship Award Celebration
- July 9** Northern Kentucky Pride Festival

July 8-10 Cincinnati Equinox: Pride

Nov 3-6 PFLAG National Convention. Alexandria VA.

Alternating Currents 3-5pm
Every Saturday on WVQC 95.7

www.wvqc.org

Weekly Gay and Lesbian public affairs radio program featuring news, interviews, music, and information on what is happening in the local community.

“Remember, when you no longer need PFLAG, PFLAG needs you”

An Eye Opening Experience, continued

policies prohibiting termination of a job if you are homosexual. I didn't realize how much discrimination goes on in the workplace against homosexuals. I didn't realize any of this, simply because I am heterosexual. I have taken all of these things for granted, and the worst part is, I didn't even know I was taking them for granted.

I think it is very important to raise awareness about all of these topics to young adults today, because otherwise, they will go unnoticed and I think all of these topics are extremely important. After watching a movie about discrimination in the workplace, I am now aware of just how

much discrimination happens. The people in this movie were being harassed by the highest people in their corporation, were being fired from their jobs for being homosexual, and were being assaulted for just being who they are. These are absolutely terrible things, yet there are still people that throw out single, out of context Bible quotes. What about everything in the Bible saying to stone people who are promiscuous? Are we going to follow that too? I don't think so.

After hearing speakers from PFLAG and other people in the LGBTQQA community, I feel as if my eyes are opened to the issues around me. There were so many

things I was unaware of and I can't believe that major issues are not talked about more in schools. I would like to see a turnaround in the future and I would love to see more people being educated not just in universities, but in high schools and even middle schools. I think the more information people know, the better. If children are being educated younger, I think there is a greater chance of children being more comfortable coming out if they are homosexual, and they will also be more comfortable around homosexuals. I feel like this is a winning idea for everyone involved and can raise awareness about big issues that are very important in society today.



General Chapter Information & Resources

Advocacy: Understanding and participating in advocacy for GLBT concerns at a local, state, national and international level is addressed by our Advocacy committee. If you have anything concerning awareness or participation in advocacy for GLBT concerns please contact our Advocacy chairperson at info@pflagcinci.org

Hotline/Email: Throughout this section and the entire newsletter you will see references to the hotline and various email addresses. If you ever get confused about whom to contact, you can just use the chapter Hotline or general email address. The chapter hotline can be reached by calling 513-721-7900 and ask for the PFLAG number. The general email address for the chapter is info@pflagcinci.org. Feel free to use these as your single point of contact for anything related to the chapter. Just keep in mind that depending on your request, the operator/email monitor may need to contact someone else in order to properly address your questions/comments.

Library: Your chapter has a mobile library that is open for business at every monthly meeting. The library is an excellent resource that contains many great books and videos that address topics such as homosexual-

ity, homosexuality and religion, coming out and GLBT issues for children and families. You are welcome to borrow any of the books or videos.

Membership: PFLAG Cincinnati values your support and interest in the chapter. Your membership supports the activities of the chapter which include purchasing publications for distribution at meetings and events where we are represented, books for the library, dues to National PFLAG and the printing and mailing of this newsletter. The scholarship program is funded primarily through our fund raising events and donations. The membership year runs October 1 to September 30.

Programs: Periodically throughout the year at the monthly meetings, a guest speaker will be included in the agenda. In the past we have had religious leaders, doctors, lawyers, financial advisors and GLBT non profit health and support leaders as guest speakers. If you have an idea or would be interested in being a guest speaker send an email to info@pflagcinci.org.

Scholarships: Each year your chapter funds its own scholarship program. The scholarships are awarded annually to deserving members of the community. More infor-

mation can be found at the chapter website, www.pflagcinci.org in the Scholarship Info section or by sending an email to info@pflagcinci.org. If you are interested in donating to the scholarship fund, send a check to P.O. Box 19634, Cincinnati Ohio 45219-0634 made out to PFLAG Cincinnati, noting in the memo that the check is for the scholarship fund; PFLAG Cincinnati is a non-profit organization with a 501(c)3 status. Your contribution may be tax deductible – seek advice from your tax preparer.

Speakers: If you ever need anyone to speak to a group, organization, business, school or church, your chapter has experienced members that have volunteered to speak on behalf of the chapter. Send an email to info@pflagcinci.org to make a request or to volunteer to be on the speakers bureau.

Website: The chapter has an excellent website (www.pflagcinci.org). There is up to date information about the chapter including things like monthly meetings, information about events and volunteer opportunities. If you have any feedback on the website send an email to webmaster@pflagcinci.org Also, find us on [Facebook](#) PFLAG Cincinnati

Want to get involved in the chapter contact a board member for volunteer opportunities

General Membership Application Membership Application & Address Change Form



PFLAG Cincinnati memberships run from October 1 through September 30. Join or renew now and your membership will run through September 30, 2011.

Request Type

- New
- Renewal
- Change of Address

Membership Category

- Individual \$30
- Household \$40
- Supporting \$50
- Contributing \$100
- Sponsoring \$500
- Lifetime \$1000
- Other \$ _____

- Please contact me for Volunteer Opportunities
- I do not wish to receive email announcements
- Send all mailing blind (will have no references to the organization name on the envelope)
- Please mail paper copies of the newsletter

Make all checks payable to "PFLAG" and mail to P.O. Box 19634, Cincinnati OH 45219-0634. Thank you!

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE (_____) _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

The chapter newsletter is published four times a year. Issues are posted on the web site with an announcement sent by email. Paper copies are mailed only by request. If you wish to receive a paper copy by mail, please check the appropriate box above.

Announcements of chapter activities as well as those of kindred organizations are sent via email. Posts also include news of interest to PFLAG members, mostly involving GLBT issues. The list averages 3 to 4 announcements per month. If you do not wish to receive email announcements, please check the appropriate box above.

PO BOX 19634

Cincinnati, Ohio 45219-0634

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

