



P F L A G

# PFLAG Cincinnati Quarterly Newsletter

Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

## Letter from the President

Well here we are going into another year of PFLAG and the past year has been outstanding. First on the agenda I would like to welcome our newest members to the board of directors. Mark Smith has been the treasurer and a former president for PFLAG. He has stepped into the role of Member at Large. Monica Plett as resumed her role as secretary. In our October elections we didn't lose any board members but a few of them did switch roles. Lynne Lefevbre is Vice President, Brent Rose has taken on the role of treasurer. Suzanne Whitaker, Dorothy Byers, Karen Weber and Tom Jenkins are all Members at Large. I would like to personally thank each one of them for returning to serve the PFLAG mission for another year. We also have a new librarian. David Whitaker has jumped on board to oversee the productivity of our library. We are always looking for helpful material for our library. If you would like to donate something or know of a helpful book or video, please email us at [info@pflagcinci.org](mailto:info@pflagcinci.org).

We have had some tremendous speakers over the last few months. Joan Wyzenbeek spoke to us about her trials and triumphs with being gay in the early years. She was jailed simply because of who she loved but never waivered in that love. What a story she told! Gloria McCauley spoke to us on same-sex domestic violence and protecting your self. See the article on page 7 for some helpful tips.

Craig Brinkman spoke to us on companies which offer benefits to same-sex couples. There are many companies that are listed by HRC (Human Rights Campaign) to be strong supporters of same-sex issues. Check out [www.hrc.org/cej](http://www.hrc.org/cej) for full details. See if your company matches up!

Ed Green spoke to us about his involvement with a local public school who was faced with their first transgender student. He spoke of the journey the students faced along side of this new student. It was a positive ending for all. On December 1 we will celebrate World AIDS Day at many local churches. I encourage everyone to attend

a celebration somewhere. Remember those we have lost and those still fighting. Cheryl Hutchinson will be speaking at our monthly PFLAG meeting. Cheryl works with stop) AIDS and is a very effective speaker. Our January meeting will be a potluck/social event to ring in the New Year. We won't have a speaker but we will be eating some great food and having small group discussions.

We are planning our next fundraiser so keep your ears open! Speaking of fundraisers, we would like to thank the ISQCCBE for their generous efforts this year in raising money for local charities including PFLAG! We received a check from Reign 18 for over \$6000.00! This is added to the amounts they raised all year for us! Thanks Priscilla and Jay and the entire ISQCCBE!

Well I think that is all for this letter. I appreciate all that you do for PFLAG and remember when you don't need PFLAG, PFLAG needs you!

Sincerely,  
Michael Cotrell  
President

## PFLAG Cincinnati

Volume 24, Issue 3

Fall 2009

### Special points of interest:

- © SAY YES!!~ STOP AIDS WALK 2009 - The Paul Delph Team
- © Equality March on Washington
- © Moments of a March, A Moms Perspective

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## Mission

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.



## Meetings

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/more\\_about\\_us.html](http://www.mtauburnpresby.org/more_about_us.html)) 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, lesbi-

ans, 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 chap-

ter meeting, starting at 6:30 P.M. Chapter members are welcome to attend the monthly board meeting.

Please send an email to [info@pflagcinci.org](mailto:info@pflagcinci.org) or call the PFLAG Help Line at 513-721-7900 and ask for the PFLAG 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. The chapter would benefit greatly from your involvement in the creation of this newsletter. Send an email to the editor at

[newsletter@pflagcinci.org](mailto: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.

## 2009/2010 Officers & Chairpersons/Board Members

### Executive Board

President: Michael Cotrell  
[president@pflagcinci.org](mailto:president@pflagcinci.org)  
Vice President: Lynne Lefebvre  
[vicepresident@pflagcinci.org](mailto:vicepresident@pflagcinci.org)  
Secretary: Monica Plett  
Treasurer: Brent Rose  
[treasurer@pflagcinci.org](mailto:treasurer@pflagcinci.org)

Members at Large:  
Tom Jenkins, Karen Weber, Dorothy Byers,  
Mark Smith & Suzanne Whitaker

### Committee Chairs

Advocacy Chair: Lynne Lefebvre  
Hotline: Lois Kay  
Email Liaison: Tom Jenkins  
Library: David Whitaker  
Membership: Tom Jenkins  
Newsletter: Tim Gross  
[newsletter@pflagcinci.org](mailto:newsletter@pflagcinci.org)  
Programs: **OPEN**  
Refreshments: Tim & Carol Egbert  
Speaker's Bureau: **OPEN**  
Scholarship: Dan Ley  
[Scholarship@pflagcinci.org](mailto:Scholarship@pflagcinci.org)  
Webmaster: Tom Jenkins  
[webmaster@pflagcinci.org](mailto:webmaster@pflagcinci.org)

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# WHEN YOU NO LONGER NEED PFLAG, PFLAG NEEDS YOU!!

# Homeland Security with the Cincinnati Police Academy

## Barry Webb

Have you ever wondered what police recruits are actually taught at area police academies in the Greater Cincinnati area? In addition to learning local laws, tactical skills, pursuit driving and firearms all recruits in the State of Ohio are required to complete a minimum of 24 hours of cultural awareness training since 1993.

As part of the cultural awareness training local police academy instructors invite members from the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and trans-

gender (GLBT) community to sit on a panel to talk to recruits about their life experiences, as it relates to their sexual orientation, and to answer questions from the recruits. The purpose of the training is to assist in breaking down stereotypes that sometimes have occurred in the past between law enforcement and the gay community and to have a "conversation" where both sides learn from each other.

Just recently PFLAG was invited to participate on the panel to educate

recruits about GLBT issues from the family member perspective. Ms. Lynne Lefebvre, Vice-President of PFLAG Cincinnati, stepped forward to volunteer her time to talk about the PFLAG mission to educate recruits where they can refer citizens for support.

PFLAG's participation has added to the conversation that now occurs at local police academies and has contributed to a better understanding future police officers now have about GLBT issues and concerns.

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## PFLAG at Xavier University

### Dr. Luther Smith

E Pluribus Unum (EPU) is a graduation requirement of all students in order to graduate from Xavier University. The course introduces students to the opportunities that cultural diversity presents, to the issues of stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination, and to the exploration their relation to the exercise of power in American society. At the conclusion of the course, students will have an increased awareness of their own attitudes and behaviors

regarding diversity, and be able to identify ways in which they can continue to responsibly address issues of diversity.

The EPU class in which PFLAG participates is focused on GLBTQQA (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, allies) issues and concerns. A panel from the organization presents their stories and perspectives regarding their

experiences with GLBTQQA community and responds to questions students raise regarding those experiences and perspectives. The class is structured as an informal means for the students registered for the class to enhance their understanding and acceptance of individuals who identify as GLBTQQA.

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## Xavier Diversity Class

### Marian Weage

Linc Tague & I spoke on Saturday, September 26th at Xavier University. Sister Rose Ann Fleming teaches a weekend class on Diversity 2-3 times a year, and she has invited us to speak for several years. During the weekend, Sister Rose Ann has several sessions with different speakers on all aspects of diversity. Of course, Linc & I spoke about homosexuality. There were 16 students at this particular session - some athletes & some psychology majors, and they were all very respectful and open-minded. The last time we spoke, we were faced with a young man with strong negative opinions about the subject, but this was the exception rather than the rule. I also show our PFLAG video, and everyone seems to benefit from that.

# SAY YES!!~~ STOP AIDS WALK 2009 - The Paul Delph Team

R. Maria Sulcer

Talk about a way to get you back re-connected with some folks who you have always loved, just say YES to Lynne Lefebvre when she asks you if you can help out with something.

This is what I did when Lynne asked if I could help out with the aids walk this year. I said YES!

With our beloved June Delph passing on July 1st, the STOP AIDS walk was just around the corner and is an event June always headed and managed so beautifully.

I couldn't say no, as I felt I wanted to support this cause that June, Harold and Linda and the Delph family had been a part of over these past years in memory of Paul Delph. I had been a part of many of these walks and the different fund-raising events over the years.

But also, I felt as if I was honoring June who had laid the foundation for the Paul Delph Team which has raised over \$20,000 over 11 years.

I said YES and Linda, Harold and I met one Saturday morning and reviewed June's wonderful notes.

I set up the website thru STOP AIDS and David White (from STOP AIDS) so patiently helped me every step of the way.

Linda crafted a great letter and Harold sent out the e-mail blast and we were off and moving forward.

I attended the monthly PFLAG meeting and invited everyone to come join us.

The donation checks started coming in and began the building toward our financial goal of \$2,000.

Lynne connected with Nigel of Below Zero Lounge - downtown Cincinnati and he offered to do a split the pot fund-raiser.

We appreciate Nigel and his willingness to provide all the supplies, advertising and atmosphere that were needed to drum up some more dollars for the cause.

Linda worked with a designer friend on a button for The Paul Delph Team and they were so graciously donated.

Once the morning of the walk arrived, the rain did not stop us. The walk must go on, RAIN or SHINE.

Kathy Nardiello asked if channel 19 could do a story on our team.

They filmed us coming together, registering and turning in the donations that were received that morning.

As we started out on the walk trail, we

stopped and spoke with channel 19 about our team, about Paul and about June and about the faithful walkers who have been showing up over the years, not only with donations, but to walk as well.

I realized as I walked, that we walk because it really gives you that time to connect with people and to connect with the cause and to connect with why we walk.

I know why I said YES and why I walked.

It was to help bring the greater good, the awareness, the dollars needed to STOP AIDS.

It was also about remembering Paul and others and it was about honoring June and about being with an incredible group of people, many new friends, family and PFLAG members.

I am glad I said YES and I look forward to next year when more of you will join us and say YES to this cause and take a walk around our city and riverfront and remember those that have gone before us.

**THANK YOU LYNNE FOR ASKING ME!!**



Harold Delph and  
Lynne Lefebvre



Mark Smith, Harold Delph and  
Dorothy Byers



Brent Rose and Brian Frasure

# Equality March on Washington

## Emily Roth

I sit at my computer and begin to write this article as I listen to the speech that President Obama gave at the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) dinner two nights ago. As I begin to write this article, less than thirty-six hours have passed since I stood with between 150,000 and 250,000 people and marched and rallied for equality in our nation's capital. This experience was truly one of the most moving and amazing experiences of my life. Standing and marching with so many people who support equality for LGBT individuals—how incredibly awesome. Furthermore, I was able to march with my mom, an experience that far too many LGBT persons only dream of—or, perhaps sadder, don't dream of. Far too many LGBT persons are still ostracized by their own families, and hope only for some degree of tolerance, or to be able to attend holiday events or to be welcomed with a hug. My mom proudly wore a PFLAG t-shirt on the day of the march. At one point a young man came up to her and commented to her that her t-shirt was cool. He then said sadly, "I wish my mom would go." This was one bittersweet moment in a day that was, overall, filled with energy and optimism.

We marched past the White House and to the Capitol. At one point, a cheer went up from the crowd. We were about to turn onto Pennsylvania Avenue, and the reason for the cheer was not immediately apparent. We then learned that people on top of a parked double-decker bus were reporting that Pennsylvania Avenue was filled all the way to the Capital! (Might I add that at this point there were more marchers who hadn't even turned onto Pennsylvania yet than we could see.) I read after the march that the rally began at the Capitol before many of us had even stepped off, and the route was 2.5 miles long. We covered 4+ lanes of traffic for

over 2.5 miles. How incredible. (And this also explains why it seemed to take forever before we could start marching!) Wow. Amazing. Incredible. What a truly phenomenal, uplifting and transforming experience. I have been to several marches in DC (primarily for women's rights), and this march really was different. I spent some time during and after the march reflecting on how exactly this march differed from the others. Of course, the make-up of the crowd was different, and the slogans, signs and chants varied. The primary difference, however, was in the attitude of the participants. The other marches I attended were during the reign of President George W. Bush. Those of us marching were frightened and angry—frightened that our rights would be taken away, and angry that our leaders were not listening. During this weekend's march, however, the atmosphere seemed hopeful. Yes, there is a great deal of dissension in our community regarding how we feel about the progress (or, arguably, the relative lack of progress) made by President Obama. However, the sense that I got during this march was that the majority of the marchers believed that our President is *listening*, and that he actually cares about us and about our rights. As we marched by the White House, the marchers chanted, but there was more hope than anger in their faces.

Of course, this may have been related to the fact that President Obama spoke at the HRC dinner the night before. He spoke so eloquently and sincerely at this event, and at his words, particularly his reflection on the importance of PFLAG, tears come to my eyes. I hear him say "I'm here with you in that fight." The fact that our President was able to speak to this group of people at all is astonishing—in his book "The Audacity of Hope," Presi-

dent Obama references the three hundred speaking invitations that he received weekly as a senator (p. 71), so we can only imagine how many invitations he receives as President. His advisors and staff presumably advised him to speak at the HRC function—which emphasizes the importance of equality as a national issue at this time. Of course, since the march and the President's speech, the hate crimes bill has been passed and signed into law—another significant victory.

There really are no words that can describe the feeling of marching on Washington for something that you believe in—at least, not in my opinion. I also have a difficult time explaining the sense of hope that I feel as, for the first time in my life, we have a president that I feel truly hopeful about. So for me, this march was more of an opportunity to remind the world that we are still out here, and to remind Congress that some action needs to be taken. For me, at least, this march was not a protest against the current administration. I would like to share two of my favorite chants, signs or quotes from the weekend:

The much-publicized "Hey, Obama, let Mama marry Mama!" And, perhaps most poignant to me, "This is what Democracy looks like!" As I looked around, I realized that yes, this truly is what Democracy is all about. Hundreds of thousands of people came together in one weekend to march and demonstrate and spread a message of acceptance. The actual gathering occurred hours after our highest elected leader spoke to thousands of GLBT persons and allies at a dinner. This could never happen in an undemocratic society. And this never would have happened 50 years ago. We have come a long way. We still have a long way to go, but I think that we have some hope of getting there now.



## Moments of a March, A Moms Perspective

### Monica Plett

Riding the Metro into DC picking out the other passengers also bound for the march;

Walking out of the subway station and being greeted by crowds of people and rainbow flags;

Walking through a small park and hearing "Hey Obama, let Mama marry Mama";

Sitting outside Starbucks waiting for the march to begin;

Watching people coming from all directions, the crowd swelling;

Being told "thank you" by a lady when she reads my "I'm a PFLAG mom" t-shirt;

Talking to a woman from the Columbus Ohio PFLAG chapter who tells me at the national PFLAG meeting the crowd erupted in cheers and the tears flowed when Obama talked about PFLAG in his HRC speech;

Marching very proudly with my daughter, Emily and my gay nephew, Brad;

Seeing older people marching, one woman tells me this is her third GLBT march and she came because she didn't know if her knees would let her come to another one later;

Seeing younger people marching and

toddlers in strollers with 2 mommies or 2 daddies;

Seeing so many signs, Equality Across America; Homophobia, now that is a choice;

LGBT Agenda: 1. Equality 2. see #1; Hate is easy, love takes courage; End the harm from religion-based bigotry and prejudice;

Seeing so many rainbow flags and colorful balloons, a group of people each holding an open green umbrella, another group with red umbrellas;

Hearing a policeman with a megaphone yelling "get out of the street we have to reopen it" but there was nowhere to move;

Hearing my usually quiet nephew yell back "people, this is a protest, stay in the street";

Standing in front of the White House chanting "what do we want? Equality! when do we want it? Now!" and "out of the closet and into the streets";

Seeing the sharpshooters on the roof of the White House with very large rifles;

Walking down Pennsylvania Ave to the Capitol seeing people in the street as far as you could see in both directions.

Marching, marching, the Capitol doesn't seem to be getting any closer;

Supporters waving rainbow flags on the sidewalks cheering us on;

Arriving at the Capitol, masses of humanity everywhere you looked;

Locating my good friend John and his partner Jim in the crowd, a very happy reunion;

Hearing the speakers at the rally, Judy Shepard in her soft voice reminding us to tell our stories, vote, participate and be a part of the system, and that the President can never do this alone, he has to have Congress behind him;

Lt Dan Choi screaming "I am not asking anymore, I am telling, I am telling, I am telling, will you tell with me?"

Dinner at a sidewalk cafe on Capitol Hill with Emily, Brad, John and Jim;

Attempting to process the day and all the emotions.

Words cannot adequately describe my feelings during the march. It was an amazing, awesome and profoundly moving experience. I will forever treasure the memories.



**John Howard, Monica Plett and Jim Walton**



**Monica Plett and Brad**



# President Obama Calls PFLAG's Story "The Story Of America"

[www.pflag.com](http://www.pflag.com)

**Washington, DC; October 11, 2009:** Last night, President Obama told a part of the PFLAG story, the story of Jeanne Manford walking alongside her son Morty in a parade. This is where the story began, the story that the President called "the story of America." In telling this story, the President signaled his continuing support of the LGBT community and of the issues in which all Americans have a stake.

"PFLAG is honored that President Obama recognized the very personal and powerful beginning of our organization," said PFLAG National President John R. Cepek. "It's awe-inspiring to consider that PFLAG began as one woman's show of support for her son and has grown into an international network of activists from all walks of life."

The President acknowledged the need for progress on a number of key issues, including passing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and repealing the Defense of Marriage Act and the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy. He encouraged Americans to have faith in the movement for equality: "Do not doubt the direction we are headed and the destination we will reach."

"President Obama represents the best chance we have to secure equal rights for LGBT people and their families. His leadership is vital to moving equality forward for all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity," said PFLAG National Executive Director Jody M. Huckaby. "Now we need to hold our elected officials responsible for changing laws to ensure that

equality becomes a reality for all Americans."

The President reiterated his commitment to the LGBT community in his keynote address to the annual dinner of the Human Rights Campaign, in front of 3,000 attendees at the Washington Convention Center.

In 1972, it was a bold statement of solidarity when Jeanne Manford marched alongside her gay son in a New York parade. The unconditional love and support she demonstrated that day touched onlookers and led Jeanne to reach out to other parents. What started with 20 people in a church

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## Cooking with John Pumpkin Pie Cheesecake

- 1 box Ginger Snaps
- 3/4 cup butter, melted
- 5 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened (not low fat)
- 5 eggs + 2 egg yolks
- 1 3/4 cups white sugar
- 1/8 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1 small can pumpkin
- 2 teaspoons Maple Extract
- 5 teaspoons Pumpkin Pie Spice
- Put Ginger Snaps in a food processor to grind up. Stir in melted butter. Put crumb mixture in a 10 inch spring form pan, and press out and up the sides of the pan.
- Drain as much of the liquid from the pumpkin through a cheese cloth, leaving it too wet will make your cheese cake not set up.
- Beat cream cheese and eggs until the mixture is smooth. Add sugar, flour, whipping cream, pumpkin, maple extract and Pumpkin Pie Spice. Taste and add more Pie Spice if needed.
- Pour mixture in a prepared crust and bake in a 200 degree (yes 200 degrees is correct) for about 3 hours or until the center has set. Also, you may want to put your pan on a cookie sheet to prevent the butter from leaking out the seam of the pan.
- After your cake is baked, turn off oven and crack the door with a towel or something to cool for 1 hour. Then let set in refrigerator for at least 12 hours before service. (Hint: for this New York Style Cheesecake your top will remain unbroken.)

## President Obama Calls PFLAG's Story "The Story Of America"

basement in 1973 has grown into more than 200,000 people in chapters across the world who still work to make sure their LGBT loved ones have the same rights and opportunities as their straight friends and family members. In addition to providing a framework for local and regional support networks,

PFLAG also implements national education programs and mobilizes a strong grassroots network to advocate at all levels of government. In 2007, PFLAG launched the Straight for Equality project, which focuses on encouraging straight allies to come out in support of LGBT people and their rights.

According to Cepek, "PFLAG's story is powerful because it demonstrates the capacity of ordinary individuals to create real change. We need that kind of change for all Americans."

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### In Step With June By Jane Biddinger

The first time is always the hardest. The first day on the job. The birth of the first child. The first AIDS walk without June Delph.

Just as in each of the four prior years, my thoughts turned to June during the week leading up to September 26, 2009 and Cincinnati's 20<sup>th</sup> AIDS Walk. After all, it was June who encouraged me to walk. It was June who was the leader of our pack. It was June who passed away July 1st.

It's strange what brings two souls together. How we become friends. Sometimes it's a mutual acquaintance. Sometimes it's happenstance. Once in a blue moon it seems destined. June was my once in a blue moon person.

Under normal circumstances, the likelihood that June and I would cross paths was miniscule at best. She and husband Harold lived in Cincinnati. My husband and I call Fairfield home.

To an outsider, June and I had little in common. June being an employee at the University of Cincinnati before her career as a realtor extraordinaire focusing on the Clifton area. I kept books for a manufacturing company in Woodlawn.

Though invisible to the untrained eye, June and I had a common bond. We both were mothers of gay sons. A kinship thicker than water or blood. We met at PFLAG. My husband and I were regulars. June and her husband Harold were newcomers.

June and I both were in unfamiliar terrain, stumbling along a path neither of us ever dreamed of. While I grappled with the sexuality of my oldest child, June grieved the loss of her younger child, a son, to AIDS.

When I first learned of our son's sexual orientation, I was afraid to utter the A word. If I dared, my son might be stricken. I was terrified. I told him of my concern for his health, but the word stuck in my throat so I didn't use it, but I was certain my tone let him know I wasn't speaking of the common cold. He promised me he would take precautions. I trusted he would. What more could I do? It was too much to bear, so I blocked it out of my mind, tucking it deep into the recesses of my subconscious where I hoped it would stay. In my little world, my son would be single, celibate, and safe. Except for an occasional nightmare, I held my fear at bay as I focused on the issues

at hand. Telling family and friends. Fretting over co-workers reactions.

PFLAG was my salvation. I looked forward to hearing the happily-ever-after stories each month. Accepting siblings. Supportive grandparents. Understanding friends. This is why I came. The hope and promise kept me going from month to month. And I was making progress.

Then came June. June whose son died of AIDS. In June's face I saw her pain. On her slumped shoulders I saw her sorrow. My heart went out to June, but as she talked about losing Paul, I became unnerved and frightened again. June was living my nightmare and the nightmare of every other gay man's mother. She had outlived her son and no woman I know wants to face that. I didn't like being reminded of that possibility.

I was content being the ostrich and tried to put June's story out of my mind. Sometimes I was successful. In time, June grew stronger. Her face softened and her smile returned. Her shoulders lifted along with her spirits. Not that June forgot about Paul;

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# In Step With June

## By Jane Biddinger

that's not feasible. But June did grow beyond her heartache and into a life of advocacy. She reached out to group after group in the gay community. June was named *Duchess & Keeper of All Children* by the Court. True to that title, she was active in PFLAG long after her need for the organization was satisfied. She organized and led 11 teams for the AIDS walks raising \$20,860. She worked relentlessly in spite of her broken heart. Or perhaps because it was broken, she was able to share its pieces more easily.

I never told June, but I credit her with yanking my head from the false-security of the sand and teaching me there is no bliss in ignorance. June brought me face to face with the reality

of AIDS. How it does affect normal people. Normal families. Just like my own. I could no longer think of an AIDS infected person as a statistic. That number now had a face and name—Paul Delph. Son. Brother. Talented musician. Not unlike my own son.

Once my ears were sand-free, I became aware of the attitude that all gays have to do to avoid AIDS is to give up gay sex. No mention made of a loving relationship. No mention of that same recommendation to prevent sexually transmitted disease in heterosexuals. I met a minister working with AIDS patients. She told how often it's as difficult for parents to accept that sexual orientation of their child as it is to accept the diagnosis of AIDS.

Five years ago, I accepted June's invitation to be part of the Delph team walking to stop AIDS. June taught me that fear can paralyze. Paralysis can be overcome by knowledge. With knowledge comes responsibility to act.

The forecast for the morning of the walk called for a gloomy, overcast, and drizzly day. Being a fan of neither umbrellas nor sweat, it's been my habit to pray for sunshine and cool temperatures. This year was different. Praying for sunshine didn't feel right. The inclement weather was fitting. Just as June's family and friends hadn't finished shedding tears for June, neither had the heavens.

We walked in the mist. Missing June.

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## PFLAG Joins President Obama for Historic Hate Crimes Bill Signing

### Statement by PFLAG National Executive Director Jody M. Huckaby

Dear PFLAG Family & Friends,

Thanks to you and thousands of other dedicated activists, today marks a historic event for our LGBT loved ones, as President Obama has signed into law the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. I was proud to represent you at the White House earlier today to mark the first federal law ever that includes sexual orientation and gender identity as protected categories.

This law represents a victory more than ten years in the making, and would never have happened without the commitment, outreach, and support of PFLAG members and friends like you, who are at the heart of all that we do. Along with Judy, Dennis, and Logan Shepard, many other families were on hand at the signing to remember the LGBT loved ones who inspired this law and to stand together against violence motivated by hate.

We know that this expanded hate crimes law is a tremendous step forward, but it is only a single step and there are many more to take. We are not resting on this victory. In fact, PFLAG is already working hard to continue moving equality forward, focusing on upcoming legislative priorities such as passing ENDA and repealing DOMA and Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

I hope each of you will celebrate today's victory and then support PFLAG as we move onward, toward the next victory in our commitment to moving equality forward.

Sincerely,

Jody M. Huckaby

PFLAG National Executive Director

## PFLAG Cincinnati Chapter Meetings

7—9:30 pm  
Mt Auburn Presbyterian  
Church, 103 W. H. Taft, 45219

December 8  
January 12  
February 9

March 9  
April 13  
May 11

June 8  
July 13  
August 10

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## Community Events

The Playhouse" Nov. 7-December 31 Sanders Family  
Christmas Dec.3-30 A Christmas Carol

**LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE BOYS**  
**June 5-6, 2010**

MUSE: Dec. 5 Holiday Shopping at 10,000 Villages. 10:00-  
5:00

**Cincinnati Men's Chorus**  
**Harriet Tubman Theater**  
**National Underground Railroad Freedom Center**

Every Saturday on WAIF 88.3 FM  
Alternating Currents - 3-5pm  
Weekly Gay and Lesbian public affairs radio program fea-  
turing news, interviews, music, and information on what is  
happening in the local community.

**GLORIOUS**  
**December 19-20, 2009**  
**Sponsored by Janice Flanagan, CFP®, CRPC®, Vice**  
**President - Investments, Financial Advisor, Wells Fargo**  
**Advisors, LLC**  
**MOVE**  
**March 27-28, 2010**  
**Sponsored by Macy's**

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BRAVO- Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization  
Gloria McCauley – Executive Director.

BRAVO focuses on Hate Crimes. 1/3 of relationships will experience some type of violence.  
Half of the work that BRAVO does deals with prevention, such as self defense classes. BRAVO speaks to law enforce-  
ment officials and recruits to better deal with same-sex violence. They have a 24 hour crisis hotline monitored by volun-  
teers who have taken a 48 hour training. BRAVO started in Columbus, OH in 1996, but became statewide in 2008.  
Bravo works to eliminate violence perpetrated on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identification, domestic  
violence, and sexual assault through prevention, education, advocacy, violence documentation, and survivor services,  
both within and on behalf of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender communities.

If you need help or know of someone who does or you would like to volunteer, you can contact them at:

BRAVO  
PO Box 82068  
Columbus, OH 43202  
513-453-4001  
866-86-bravo (toll-free)

[Info@bravo-ohio.org](mailto:Info@bravo-ohio.org) (email)  
[Report@bravo-ohio.org](mailto:Report@bravo-ohio.org) (support)  
[www.bravo-ohio.org](http://www.bravo-ohio.org) (website)

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## 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](mailto:info@pflagcinci.org)

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**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](mailto: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.

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

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**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.

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**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](mailto:info@pflagcinci.org).

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**Scholarships:** Each year your chapter funds its own scholarship program. The scholarships are awarded annually to deserving members of the community. More information can be found at the chapter website, [www.pflagcinci.org](http://www.pflagcinci.org) in the Scholarship Info section or by sending an email to [info@pflagcinci.org](mailto: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.

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**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](mailto:info@pflagcinci.org) to make a request or to volunteer to be on the speakers bureau.

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**Website:** The chapter has an excellent website ([www.pflagcinci.org](http://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](mailto:webmaster@pflagcinci.org)

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# 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, 2010.

### Request Type

- New
- Renewal
- Change of Address

### Membership Category

- Individual      \$25
- Household        \$35
- 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.