



GREATER CINCINNATI

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Inside this issue:

Notes from the Top

I heard Cheryl Eagleson and Ric Stackpole on “Alternating Currents” (WAIF program) yesterday, recap’ing the PFLAG Scholarship Banquet. Cheryl said she always tries to go, because it’s such a great event. This year tears were flowing as guests heard coming-out stories read by members of the Know Theatre Tribe. These soulful stories were balanced by the good-natured humor of lesbian folk singer Jamie Anderson, whose witty songs and stories provided quick remedy for the teary-eyed. Besides the High Drama, the food was good, the service was good, and even Mayor Mark Mallory paid a visit to show his support for our mission. He received a standing ovation just for appearing! How dramatic can it get?

How many thank-you’s for a successful banquet can I fit into this column? Not enough, I am sure. The banquet committee was awesome. They are veterans in their roles and took charge of entertainment, programs, tickets, auction, raffle, communication, and set-up like pros. They had friends in high places too, that helped with PR, decorations, and guest lists.

Another round of thank-you’s is due to you, the guests, who chose to spend an evening with the PFLAG family. The banquet is all about family, all about shared values, all about supporting GLBT students through the scholarship fund. Derek Mize, the 2005 Mar-

tha Weyand scholarship recipient, reminded us of the value in PFLAG’s support. He himself is an amazing activist, and he encouraged us all to support the equality efforts taking place in greater Cincinnati.

Then there are those who donated directly to the PFLAG scholarship fund. We couldn’t have the scholarship program without them. Our ISQCCBE friends were awesome in providing support, as were many other donors listed in our banquet program and more. Which returns us to the whole point that Ric Stackpole made on “Alternating Currents.” It’s all about encouraging a new generation that will continue to fulfill the mission of PFLAG through support, education and advocacy.



Now that the banquet is over, there is one thing I know for sure. I need help! PFLAG is out there, and the more we’re out, the more there is to do! So consider taking on even a seemingly little task such as writing thank you letters, placing ads, maintaining PFLAG literature supplies, updating the PFLAG brochure, creating the meeting announcements, helping with PRIDE activities, or even lining up people to appear on WAIF each month. Every little bit helps!

See you the next 2nd Tuesday of the month! And remember especially to come June 13 when we honor our scholarship winners!

That Awesome Banquet Committee

In “Notes from the Top” I mentioned the awesome banquet committee. Who were those people who worked so hard to make the Scholarship Banquet a success this year? Dolores and Steve Bebko organized the auction. Maria Sulcer, Tim Gross and Lisa Beauchamp managed the raffle. Patrick Coyle and his partner Lee Chenault helped in theme generation and entertainment. Marti Kwiatkowski handled program content, advertising and printing. Mark Smith was treasurer, with assistance from Rick Kay. Tim Gross maintained the lists of auction and raffle items, as well as the items themselves, with assistance from Lynne Lefebvre and Marie Jenkins. Tom Jenkins handled the lists for mailings. And Monica Plett took care of tickets and cash donations.

Many others assisted, such as Brian Heim in cover design, Troy Henson at Blue Kaboom in program creation, Kathy Laufman for printing tickets, Becky Schnell from Kirkwood Interiors for decorating the room, Jeane Doan with photography, Chris Ohmer with press releases and publicity, and Jim Kelly and Lois Kay with the treasury. Monica Plett’s daughter Emily Roth and her partner Laura Connall on recommended the performer Jamie Anderson and provided transportation for her. To all these folks, and the many others such as June and Harold Delph who beat the bushes for auction and raffle items, I give many thanks on behalf of everyone who enjoyed the 2006 banquet!

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MISSION STATEMENT

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons and their families and friends, through **support**, to cope with an adverse society, through **education**, to enlighten an ill-informed public, and through **advocacy**, to end discrimination and to secure civil rights. PFLAG provides an opportunity for confidential dialog about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human dignity. Meetings are open to all and are completely confidential.

About the PFLAG Cincinnati Chapter:

Our **regular** meetings are always held on the **second Tuesday of each month** at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, 103 William Howard Taft Rd., from 7:00 – 9:30 P.M. Meetings are open to parents friends and family of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons, as well as to gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons.

Board meetings are held on the Thursday before our monthly meeting, starting at 7:00 P.M. Please contact a Board Member for information about attending meetings.

From the membership committee

Please remember to check the mailing label on this issue of the newsletter. We have included the date of expiration on your mailing label to send a gentle reminder of when your PFLAG dues expire. The date will also include a letter indicating the type of membership dues you have paid. If a date does not appear on the label that either means that you are not yet a member or that our records do not show when you last paid your dues.

Your dues are our only source of revenue. Our only other fundraiser is the annual banquet and the proceeds from that event are earmarked for scholarships. We depend upon your generous support through your dues.

If it is time to renew your membership, please use the form included in this newsletter to do so.

Thank you for your help!

NUT & BOLTS

- This is your newsletter, too. If you have story ideas or would like to contribute, please contact Tim Gross.
- The PFLAG Library has many great books, videos, and other resources about homosexuality, coming out, GLBT issues for children and families. Be sure to check them out at our next meeting.
- The Cincinnati Chapter of PFLAG is happy to provide a speaker for your group or organization, business, school or church. Please contact the PFLAG Help Line at 513-721-7900 to obtain details about requesting a speaker for your group.
- If you have any announcements you would like to include in the newsletter, email them to Tim Gross at pflagtim@yahoo.com. Submission deadline the first week of January, April, July, and October.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE WEEKLY!

Wanna know what's going on in Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky's GLBT and supportive communities each and every week? Subscribe to "The Weekly." It's a free service presented by "Greater Cincinnati GLBT News" and the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Cincinnati. You will receive an email calendar of events every Friday night. The Weekly includes listings for community organization meetings, social and support group gatherings, theatre and arts events, sports leagues, nightlife happenings and much more. To subscribe to this great FREE service, please visit www.greatercincinnatiGLBTnews.com and click on "The Weekly" button on the home page.

**WHEN YOU NO LONGER NEED PFLAG
PFLAG NEEDS YOU**

High Drama: Coming Out and Other Family Tales

2006 Scholarship Banquet

Lynne Lefebvre



My sister Ann was visiting me from England and when asked if she would like to attend the banquet she answered in the affirmative - timidly, but it was definitely a yes. Poor girl, she never knows what she's getting into when I swoop her along with me. Hence, I was seeing the event through her virgin eyes. This was a most enjoyable banquet. Am still asking myself why. Maybe it was the blend of drama and humor - so much a part of our daily life within the gay community. The KNOW Theatre Tribe conveyed the authentic experiences typical of each of our families. Their readings did justice to the immeasurable emotions we have each gone through at some point. I would like to thank them and the brave authors, for doing such important work even if it did produce choked throats and runny blusher! Immediately contrasting that was the lively humor and soothing voice of Jamie Anderson. How I would love to spend an evening at the dinner table with this remarkable woman.

The venue was elegant and once again the banquet committee worked their buns off to make the auction and raffle successful for those students who will benefit from our scholarship fund. Most importantly for me was being at a gathering where a cross section of Cincinnati came together to celebrate our common expression of caring for each other. And boy it was fun! Not only that but this year we were especially honored to have our first mayoral visit by Mark Mallory. Maybe we can get the whole City Council to come next year - I'll buy 'em a drink to celebrate the triumph of including the GLBT community in the Human Rights Ordinance. Make sure you put this important event on your calendar for next year.

Women's Tuesday Night Group Encourages Growth

As an established support group for women who identify as lesbian, bisexual, or transgender, the Women's Tuesday Night Group (TNG) continues to fulfill a significant need in our GLBT community.

It offers support and discussion about coming-out issues in a safe environment, social opportunities for those seeking a wider network of friends, and information about other GLBT organizations and events. Weekly meetings are every Tuesday from 7:30-9:00 p.m. at the former Crazy Ladies bookstore site, 4039 Hamilton Avenue, in Northside. Women in any stage of the "coming-out" journey are welcome.

Facilitators for the TNG have been pursuing and expanding its affiliations with other organizations to encourage more solidarity and collaboration among members of the gay community in Cincinnati. The new TNG website (www.cincytnng.com) will feature links to the WomenOutFront and PFLAG websites. New events organized by several TNG members, the Divas of Delight, will provide women with more venues for entertainment and socializing, including pot luck dinners, dances, and shared sponsorship to bring in well-known comedians and musicians. Announcements of these events will be posted on the Women Out Front and TNG websites.

The goal of the TNG is to create a society that is respectful of human dignity and supports the rights of women who love other women. For more information, contact Donna (513) 284-7476 or via email: donna@cincytnng.com.

What you should know about cohabitation!

Dorothy Byers

Our guest speaker on March 14 was attorney Lisa Meeks. Her topic for the evening was cohabitation agreements. She explained that a same sex couples cannot simply go to Domestic Relations Court like a married couple can and have the court decide how jointly held assets will be divided in the event that the couple separates.

A cohabitation agreement is a contract between the members of a same sex couple that states how issues such as jointly owned property or assets, debts, and

spousal support will be handled in the event that the couple would separate. While there is not room here to relate all the details associated with cohabitation agreements, suffice it to say that couples should definitely have one! Lisa Meeks herself works with many couples to create cohabitation and shared custody agreements. Lisa is a partner at Newman & Meeks Co., LPA at 617 Vine Street.

The Sins of Sodom

John Whatley

"But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter:

And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? Bring them out unto us, that we may know them." Genesis 19: 4-5 KJV

Time and time again have people used these words to condemn homosexuality saying that the city of Sodom was destroyed for homosexual acts. There is no doubt that the people of the city had sexual intentions on their minds when they spoke of knowing the men that Lot was entertaining that night. Isn't it odd then that Lot would offer his two virgin daughters to the mob as a way to appease them? If Lot knew these men were all gay why would he do this? Could it be that the men of Sodom were not homosexuals? This has stronger evidence of being a case of gang rape.

Gang rape of males by other males was very wide spread in ancient times. Often it was done to humiliate, control, and dominate captured soldiers or others who were different. It was considered an ultimate form of punishment. Scientists today agree that rape in any form is an act of aggression regardless of gender or age of the victim or the perpetrator(s).

"My only regret about being gay is that I repressed it for so long. I surrendered my youth to people I feared when I could have been out there loving someone. Don't make that mistake yourself. Life's too damn short." Armistead Maupin - author of "Tales of the City."

Cooking with Tim

Strawberry Cake

2 (3oz) Strawberry Jell-O

1 3/4 c Boiling Water

1 box Frozen Strawberries

2 envelopes Dream Whip (prepared)

1 loaf style Angel Food Cake

Mix Jell-O and water until dissolved, add Strawberries. Chill until jelly like. Fold in Dream Whip. Break cake into bite size pieces and place in 9x9 glass cake pan. Pour Jell-O mixture over and chill over night. Tastes just like Strawberry Shortcake.

Strawberry Pie

Crust

Sift 2 1/2 cups flour, cut in 12 tablespoons of chilled butter, lightly rub the butter and flour mixture together with the tips of your fingers, lifting the mixture and letting it fall back down, until you have a fine crumb like mixture. Stir in 1 c sifted powdered sugar, beat 2 egg yolks lightly with 3-4 tablespoons ice water. Drizzle over the mixture and stir together with a butter knife, continue stirring working swiftly until mixture forms large clumps. Using hands form dough in to 2 balls. Chill at least 1 hour, preferable overnight. Knead slightly on a flour surface. Roll and

place in pie pan. Fork bottom of crust. Bake with pie weight 10 minutes @ 425. Remove weights and bake an additional 4-5 minutes or until golden brown. Cool completely.

Filling

Mix together 1 1/2 c sugar, 3 T cornstarch, 1 1/2 c water and pinch of salt. Cook until thick and clear. Add 1 (3oz) Strawberry Jell-O, and enough red food coloring to make filling a bright red color. Cool. Once cool still in 1 1/2 quarts of fresh strawberries (hulled and cleaned) (cut in half if needed) and then pour into prepared pie crusts. Serve with cool whip or Dream Whip.

Will make 2 pies



So if not for homosexuality why was Sodom destroyed? One does not have to go any further than Ezekiel 16:48-50 to see the sins of Sodom listed in plain text. Pride, idleness, and disregard for the poor and needy, are all listed as sins. The word abomination used in verse 50 (and in virtually every case abomination is used in the Old Testament) was translated from the Hebrew word "to'ebah" which in every case was used in reference to idolatry, not homosexuality.

The Bible is a complex document, filled with historical accounts, allegory, even poems. It can be difficult to understand and easy to jump to incorrect conclusions by just reading it at face value. To truly understand and appreciate what is being said in the scriptures we should all try to look a little deeper. Most importantly should open our hearts and minds a little wider to the message of God's love for all his children. Regardless of whom they are.

John wrote this article in response to recent letters to the editor in the Enquirer, concerning Religion and the Recently Passed Human Rights Ordinance in the City of Cincinnati.



Inlaws and Outlaws

The Ohio chapters of PFLAG and Equality Ohio are co-sponsoring the premier of a film entitled *Inlaws and Outlaws* in cities throughout the state.

The film is a documentary on the subject of marriage, derived from interviews with all kinds of people – gay, straight, young, old.... It's a fun-loving film that lets people draw their own conclusions about marriage for gays and everyone else for that matter. Complete information is available at www.inlawsandoutlawfilm.com. Ohio has been selected for the premier because marriage is an issue here, and Ohio is an important state.

The *Inlaws and Outlaws* premier is Thursday, May 11, 2006 at 7 p.m. in the University of Cincinnati MainStreet Cinema. Admission is free. *

The producer Drew Emery is convinced that you will love this film. In fact one man who saw a pre-screening declared it was the best film he had seen and then revealed that he was a former producer of "60 Minutes!" Be sure to tell everyone you know to come to this 105-minute film!

Afterward we plan to have a short panel discussion about marriage. If we are lucky, the producer or one of the actors will be there.

*The UC MainStreet Cinema is located in Tangeman University Center. Check the PFLAG web site at www.pflagcinci.org for further details on directions and parking

What's Up with the Speakers Bureau

Marie Jenkins

On March 17, a panel consisting of Tom and Marie Jenkins and Derek Mize spoke with a group of foster parents and staff members at Pressley Ridge, a non-profit agency placing special needs children. In the course of a give and take discussion much like a PFLAG meeting, we all shared our stories and all learned from each other. Several of the parents had had experience with GLBT foster children, and their love and support shone through their stories.

On April 7, Tom and Marie Jenkins talked with some of the workers on the United Way 211 line which refers calls to our hotline. They are the first contact for callers who call the number listed in our brochure and have referred over 100 callers to us in the last 3 years. Although GLBT concerns are involved in only a small fraction of their calls they are pleased to provide this valuable service which keeps us from having the cost of a separate phone line. Marian Weage spoke to two classes at Xavier University. Thank you, Marian for your many years of getting the PFLAG message out into our community.

AVOC Comes to PFLAG

Dorothy Byers

At our February 14 meeting, Barry Floore from AVOC (Aids Volunteers of Cincinnati) gave a very informative talk on HIV/AIDS. He gave an overview of HIV including how it is transmitted (via semen, blood, vaginal fluid, and breast milk) and how HIV is diagnosed through a two-week oral test or a 20-minute oral test. AVOC prefers the 20-minute test so that they can counsel clients right away if positive.

Barry discussed common myths and misconceptions. For example, though a person may test positive within 3-6 months of infection, it takes 7-10 years for AIDS symptoms to appear. Annual testing is recommended, but treatment is not recommended until after symptoms have appeared.

Barry presented several things that can be done to reduce risk and to change behaviors. These would include getting educated about HIV/AIDS, reducing alcohol and drug intake (most new infections are due to drug or alcohol use), getting tested regularly, and of course using condoms. He provided a handout with information on changing behavior and getting out the message. He discussed elements of an effective risk reduction message such as emphasizing that AIDS is a serious problem that can be stopped, and giving helpful hints to make better decisions.

Schedule of Events

- **April 22** **6:30pm**
Reception and Silent Auction, MUSE
St John's Unitarian Church, Clifton
- **May 6** **11pm**
Rock'n Bowl; Caracole
Madison Bowling
- **May 9** **7pm**
PFLAG Meeting
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
- **June 2 & 3** **8pm**
Best of Times, Cincinnati Men's Chorus
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
- **June 9 & 10** **8pm**
23rd Annual Spring Concert; Muse
New Thought Unity Center
- **June 10 & 11**
CINCINNATI PRIDE
Hoffner Park, North side
- **June 13** **7pm**
PFLAG Meeting
Scholarship Winners Announced
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
- **July 11** **7pm**
PFLAG Meeting
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
- **August 8** **7pm**
PFLAG Meeting
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church



THANK YOU to Banquet Supporters

We would like to thank the following people who contributed to the success of our banquet this year in the form of cash donations or donations for our raffle and silent auction:

Margaret Adriatico	Memory of Lorraine Benavides	Linda Arnest	AVOC
Pat Buschmann	Memory of Paul Delph	June and Harold Delph	Pink Pyramid
Dignity	Memory of Patricia Ann Morris Goetz	Sandy Dulaney	Direct Dimensions
Judy Schmeling Arnette	Memory of Gene Schmeling	Leona McElwain	Hyde Bark
Charles & Cary Boswell	Honor of Cincinnati Men's Chorus	King's Island	Fabulous Furs
Carolmarie Stock	Honor of my beautiful daughter Sadie Fischesser & my new beautiful grand daughter Evie Stock Woliner	George Gordon	T Mobile
		ID LUBE	Monica Plett
		Party Source	Noah's Art
		Fuchi's Formal Wear	Cincinnati NOW
		Luxottica Retail	Kent and Lynne Lefebvre
		Hyde Park Hair Salon	Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati
		Funke's Greenhouse	AVOC
		Metronations	Bead's By Deborah
Ron & Mary Arundell	Christopher Bolling	Essential Helper	Cincinnati Men's Chorus
Lois Cahill	Paul & Kay Callahan	Eric De FoRest	Vickie Schwartz
Susan Cranley	Dan Parsley	Hyde Park Kroger	Crazy Fox Saloon
James Dillon	Mary Anne Duchin	Mary Gilbert	Cincinnati Magazine
Dean Forster	Cal Fox & Terry Bond Jr	Know Theater	Essential Helper
GLSEN	Hamburger Mary's	Touch of Heaven	Confetti Cats
William Hamilton	John Howard	Dog About Town	Lois Kay
Brian Hunt & Dale Penn	Bob & Paula Kaiser	The Advisory Team	Kathy Helmbach
Pam & Mark Kuby	Timothy Lewis	Jamie Anderson	Dolores and Steve Bebko
Stephen Peterson	Doreen Quinn	Dorothy Byers & Ted Baldwin	
Bobbie Sterne	Clay & Sue Wiseman	Theatre Management Corp. DBA Esquire and Mariemont Theaters	
Knowledge Works Foundation	Joanne Mehr		





By Jane Biddinger

I've never considered myself a frontline activist. And having come of age in the 60's, the era of protests and demonstrations, I've had plenty of opportunities. Take the women's movement for instance. Though a firm believer in equality for women, I never marched in protest of unjust wages nor rallied to demand equal employment opportunities. The closest I ever came to burning my bra was melting an underwire in a dryer with a faulty thermostat.

While I applauded the efforts of those more vocal and brave, my contribution to movement was a quiet but vital one. Like millions of other women, my role was that of a hard-working, diligent, reliable employee who happened to be a woman. It was our job to prove our placard-bearing sisters right. As mothers it was our duty to raise sons who recognize women as equals and daughters whose dreams would not be gender bound.

Now, many decades later, I'm involved in another movement. Another struggle for equality. This time it's my gay son whose rights need protection. And as any PFLAG mom will tell you, when there is an assault on your child, it feels like an all out war.

I didn't volunteer for this war. I was drafted some fifteen years ago when our son came out to his father and me. I was shell-shocked and escaping to Canada held a certain appeal. At that time my battles were internal. My enemies were fear, guilt and grief. I was burrowed deep in my foxhole, unarmed, and I had no exit strategy.

After struggling alone for a couple of years, my husband and I joined PFLAG and began our basic training. We armed ourselves with reading materials. Aligned with other parents, and fortified by their strength, we began to tell family and friends. We made inroads of progress as we came out at our places of employment. We inched our way to the frontline by writing letters to the editor. Letters no longer anonymous. We celebrated each and every accomplishment with our comrades at the monthly meetings. But I was in awe of those in the ranks who were so out front in their efforts. While I struggled to tell my book group of seven other middle-aged women, some of my fellow PFLAG members marched through the streets of Cincinnati in the PRIDE parade. They spoke at public forums. They had the courage to ask for donations for the annual banquet. In person. My progress paled in comparison and I questioned my value to the group.

Then a friend of mine told me about her vacation. She and her husband had just returned from Key West, a city with a large gay and lesbian population. They loved the place and had a wonderful time. She told me how they saw couples of the same gender holding hands, dining at sidewalk cafes, checking into hotels. She told me that though they do not consider themselves to be prejudiced people, there was a time this would have made them uncomfortable. A time they may have chosen another destination. A time before she knew me. A time before she knew my son. But not now.

It was then that I realized that we fight our battle on many fronts. This is a diversified effort requiring multiple maneuvers. We members of PFLAG are part of a coalition forged from the battalions of supporters of equal rights for all persons. There are many roles. All of them noble. All making an impact. All serving a purpose.

There are those in the frontlines who attract media attention. Thank God for the courageous souls who challenge our legal system and its discriminatory laws. For those who speak out at City Council meetings. For those who march in the streets lending a face to an unheard voice. We would be nowhere without them. They are voices changing public opinion.

Thank God as well, for those gentle voices who use subtle tactics. Those voices who affect change by touching one heart at a time. Those voices who nudge family and friends into acceptance and understanding. Those voices in our ranks who stand steadfast and tall as they change private opinions. Theirs is a quiet riot.

It's easy for me to embrace this quiet riot. Speed limits excluded, I'm not generally one to participate in acts of civil disobedience, but I'm comfortable with this. There is no angry mob. Just loving parents, families and friends armed with truth. No taking to the streets. We take action in our homes, in our neighborhoods, in our work places. No overturning of governments. We overturn rightwing propaganda and the injustice it breeds. We do this as we live our everyday lives. By letting the world know who gay persons really are. Through our eyes, through our hearts, through our actions.

Until the Key West epiphany I had discounted the power I have as a mother. I now realize that by knowing me, my friends come to know my son. And that by knowing my son, many myths and stereotypes fall by the wayside. And that by knowing a real person who is gay, one can turn a deaf ear to the clamor of evangelical lies.

The quiet riot allows each of us to advance at our own pace and comfort level. The first steps can be small. Attend a PFLAG meeting. Tell a friend. Attend another meeting. Check out a book from the PFLAG library. Read it from cover to cover. Leave the book on the coffee table. Leave it there when guests are coming.

Each month in our PFLAG circle we read our mission statement calling us to enlighten an ill-informed public. The quiet riot does just that by making use of a tool that educators have long recognized as simple but valuable. In kindergarten they call it show and tell. At PFLAG we call it coming out. I found the process of telling difficult at first but then realized that hiding my son's sexual orientation gave it an air of embarrassment. And worse, an air of shame—the very reason for the pain.



A UNITED FRONT, continued

The showing has been easier. Those who profess to be religious and right claim that gay persons are a threat to society. A threat to family. A threat to marriage. What better way to debunk these fallacies than a snapshot of my gay son at the baptismal font holding his goddaughter? A family photo including my gay son and his partner? My gay son hiding Easter eggs for a nephew and niece? My gay son at the grill hosting the Father's Day picnic? I display these photos on the mantel, pass them around at book group, and sit them on my desk. A picture—a thousand words—a weapon of mass instruction in the war against bigotry.

There are undoubtedly as many tactics being used in this quiet riot as there are participants. I met a man in a restaurant who left a small business card with the tip. The card informed the server that the patron has a gay family member. A quiet announcement. We're here. We're among you. Normal everyday folks.

There was a call to boycott Proctor & Gamble for providing health care for same sex partners. The phone lines were

busy. My husband called and hooked up with a weary sounding woman who was expecting to log yet another complaint. He could hear the surprise in her voice as he thanked her for the company's position. Grateful for the respite she sighed with relief. You just can't believe what I listen to, she told him. You just wouldn't believe.

For those of us in the ranks, the opportunities are plentiful. As we gather at PFLAG to share our war stories, we share our strategies. Add AIDS to the prayer chain at church. Support the theater showing *Brokeback Mountain*. Personally thank the manager. Rebut a snide remark. Display the rainbow flag. Challenge a political stand. Back up that challenge on Election Day.

Our circle is filled with people of conviction. People of courage. People speaking out. In public forums. In living rooms. Into a microphone. Into a neighbor's ear. In thunderous unity. In hushed singularity. Until the roar of injustice is silenced. Until intolerance waves a white flag.

Fitton Center for the Arts

February 9 – April 5, 2006

Dorothy Byers

The Fitton Center Exhibition entitled "Facing Prejudice Every Day" was originally designed by DAAP students at UC. PFLAG participated in the exhibition by submitting writings by Jane Biddinger, Michael Cotrell, and Mark Byers. On March 23, Tom and Marie Jenkins, Dorothy Byers, and Bill Biddinger attended a community event at which participating organizations shared their literature with the public. Racelle Weiman of the Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education at Hebrew Union College also gave a lecture on prejudice, summarized here.

According to *The Nature of Prejudice* by Gordon Allport, first published in 1958, there is a predilection toward prejudice in all of us. It stems from the separation of Me from Not Me. Prejudice is rooted in fear, anger, and ignorance. The [Institute for Global Ethics](#) studied people from all different backgrounds, nations, etc. in a business setting. All identified the same ten values, though with different priorities. If people across the world share the same values, why do we have prejudices? One barrier is the need to change. We want familiar comfort, not challenge. When we see differences as bad, we disrespect the person(s) who are different from us. The trick is to find a little of Me in others.

Dr. Weiman spoke of [Janusz Korczak](#), a Polish Jew who has published many books, among them *How to Love a Child: the Inspirational Words of Janusz Korczak* edited by Sandra Joseph. He helped children in the ghetto by putting them in orphanages, and when they were sent to the gas chambers, he went with them. Why did he help the children and then die with them? It was the right thing to do. Characteristics of people who do the right thing: non-judgmental, listen, caring, open-minded, accepting of difference, patience, optimism (there is a tomorrow), respect, active tolerance.

In teaching tolerance you need open-mindedness to be willing to change, optimism to give hope, and a concept of self-worth, which enables a person to act with courage. When teaching tolerance in the schools, more role models are needed. We don't teach positive role models. More attention like this should be paid to honoring people who act because it is the right thing to do. We need heroes!

To be tolerant, you have to feel that you are significant and capable of making a difference. You have to be fateless. Change is growth, accomplished by being willing 1) to change, 2) to admit we are wrong and 3) to let in someone new. Like a diet, we should work at it every day.



2005/2006 Officers & Chairpersons/Board

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