



PFLAG Cincinnati Quarterly Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Notes from the Top

Some people wonder why all the hype during Pride month, which concludes as I write this. I believe it gives us something to shoot for in planning events and building awareness, in celebrating and in taking stock.

Just think what happened during June from PFLAG's perspective. Not only did we have a booth at the Pride Festival and march in the Pride Parade, we also proudly marched behind our founder Marian Weage, who was one of the grand marshals!

At our June 12 meeting we awarded \$2,000 scholarships to five terrific recipients, inspirations to us all. (See article about our awardees). PFLAG topped the \$100,000 mark in awarding scholarships since the program began!

That very same day Marian and I represented PFLAG at the EPA as part of their celebration of diversity and valuing all employees. Lynne LeFebvre represented PFLAG on a panel at Ethicon Endo-Surgery during their pride celebration and awareness week. Marie and Tom Jenkins represented PFLAG on a panel at GE in their second year of GLBT Alliance activity. Good things happen in Pride month!



Also during Pride month, the June 25, 2007 issue of *New York The Magazine* ran an article entitled "The Science of Gaydar" by David France. He wrote at great length about the characteristics of gays and lesbians and whether their traits are biologically determined, as well as the many ramifications that pertain. The article is informative and entertaining, but my favorite part is a quote from Anne Fausto-Sterling of Brown University who writes, "I want to see the claims for gay rights made on moral, ethical, legal, and constitutional bases that don't rely on a particular scientific view of sexual development."

I firmly believe that Pride month activities move society in the direction desired by Fausto-Sterling. We didn't need a biological reason to participate in Pride, just love for our GLBT families and friends. Many thanks to all who participated - you make such a difference!

Dorothy Byers, President
513-559-0271
dfbyers@cinci.rr.com

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COMING SOON

PFLAG Cincinnati plans to unveil a redesign of our website. Its exciting new look with pictures of past events, chapter history and much more. Plans are for a late summer to early fall rollout. Stay tuned for developments.

PFLAG National Convention October 11-14, 2007

Everyone I know that ever attended a PFLAG National Convention came back totally invigorated and charged. So give it some thought! They'll be launching a Straight for Equality program (Dear Abby will be getting an award!), and they'll have exciting speakers, many sessions and workshops, networking opportunities with fellow PFLAGers across the country, and even an opportunity to meet legislators on Lobby Day (October 11) if you are so inclined. Visit the Pflag website at

<http://pflag.org/> and click on the image of the capital building. For more information



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. 45219, 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 6:30 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 operating revenue. All other fundraising is done for scholarships. We depend on your generous support through 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!

Nuts & BOLTS

- This is your newsletter! 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 which will send you an email calendar of events every Friday night. The Weekly includes listings for community organization meetings, social ad support group gatherings, theatre and arts events, sports leagues, nightlife happenings and much more. To subscribe to this great FREE service, please visit www.greatercincinnati.glbtnews.com and click on "The Weekly" button on the home page.

WHEN YOU NO LONGER NEED PFLAG
PFLAG NEEDS YOU

PFLAG Awards Scholarships!



On Tuesday, June 12 at the PFLAG monthly meeting, five deserving students received scholarships for their college or graduate education. This is the fifteenth year that PFLAG has awarded scholarships. This year's recipients were Brian Kuennemeier, Patrick McNearney, Pavel Romero, Jennifer VanLandingham, and Chana Wolfson.

The 2007 Scholarship Committee, chaired by Ric Stackpole, selected the winning students. The Committee based its selections on the applicants' academic record, activities, future plans, and references. Special emphasis was placed on students who help to fulfill the PFLAG missions of providing support, education and advocacy in the community. Committee members Marti Kwiatkowski, Dan Ley, Vanessa Melendez, and Mark Smith highlighted the accomplishments of the recipients.

The scholarship winners demonstrated a wide range of accomplishments in support of the GLBT community from taking on leadership roles in local college alliances, speaking at local schools, increasing HIV/AIDS awareness, and advocating for transgender issues. The collective accomplishments of these students impressed all present and elicited enthusiastic praise. Continued efforts by students such as these will indeed make the world a better place.

Funds for the PFLAG scholarships were raised through the PFLAG Scholarship Banquet held March 3, 2007 as well as from other generous donors and members of PFLAG. This year, a special scholarship was given to an education major and was funded in part by the Christopher Proffitt Memorial Scholarship fund. PFLAG looks forward to continuing success in supporting deserving students.

Here is a brief introduction to the recipients:

Brian Kuennemeier is a recent graduate of Villa Madonna Academy in Villa Hills, Kentucky. In high school, he was involved with the May Festival Youth Chorus, Teen Court, and speaking at various high schools about eating disorders. He plans to attend Tulane University in New Orleans in the fall. Brian plans to obtain his Ph.D. in psychology and become a clinical psychologist, focusing on helping children and adolescents deal with issues such as coming out and eating disorders, so that they can lead proud, healthy lives.

Patrick McNearney is a business entrepreneur major at Xavier University. He has been very involved in the Alliance, serving as President, and brought the "Gay? fine by me" t-shirt campaign to Xavier's campus handing out 500 t-shirts to students. In conjunction with this campaign, he also brought NFL veteran Esera Tuaolo to speak on campus. Patrick has demonstrated qualities of a great leader and has demon-

strated a commitment of working for the GLBT community both now and in the future. Patrick's award is funded by the Martha Weyand Memorial Scholarship fund.

Pavel Romero is majoring in Middle Grades Education with an emphasis on English and Social Studies at Northern Kentucky University. He is involved in numerous campus organizations, including the student government, Common Ground, and Latino Student Union Y Amigos. Pavel's involvement in these groups has helped to raise awareness, understanding, and support of GLBT issues. Pavel tutors students who are learning English as a second language and plans to become a teacher so that he can help students develop and grow in positive ways and prepare them to live and work with diverse groups of people. Pavel award is partially funded by the Christopher Proffitt Memorial Scholarship fund.

Jennifer VanLandingham is a graduate student at the University of Cincinnati and working toward her Masters of Social Work. She is specializing in administration and plans to focus on changing current policies that prevent the GLBT community to live out whole lives. Jennifer started "Tearing Down the Walls," which is a social justice organization in her church and organized the church's first World AIDS Day Service, which was sponsored by AVOC. She has also volunteered for the Pride Festival the past several years and been on mission trips to Honduras and Nicaragua. Jennifer is committed to helping those who do not have a voice.

Chana Wolfson is working toward a double major in Latin American Studies and Women's Studies at the University of Cincinnati. Chana is an ally and advocate for transgender people. She helped to organize Camp Trans, an annual camp near the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, and founded TransMissions, an organization for transsexual, transgender, genderqueer, and questioning students and allies. Chana hopes to attend graduate school to conduct and publish research about GLBT Jews in Conservative Judaism, which will help to bring attention and further acceptance and inclusion of ignored groups.



Pictured

Dorothy Byers, Pavel Romero, Jennifer VanLandingham, Brian Kuennemeier



Coronation XVII is fast approaching us and we want to give you all the details as to what will happen!

Wednesday September 5 join us at Rosie’s Tavern in Covington, KY as we Toast and Roast Empress XVI Brooklyn Steele-Tate and Emperor XVI Bobby Kettenacker on their year. This will be hosted by ICP XVI Mike Glassmeyer and Poison Ivy. At 10:00 pm will be *Invade by Canada* with a show at Shooters. On **Thursday September 6** we will be at Club BronZ, located on Hamilton Ave with the In-Town Show! This show is designed for all those performers who have given of their time and talent to us this year. The show will be hosted by our Decade Empress Christina Blake and Decade Emperor Ray Bessee.

Friday September 7 we will once again be on the Queen City Riverboat Cruise for our Out of Town Guests. The cost is \$25.00 This is a time for us to recognize all of our out of town Reigning Monarchs and their guests. Boat leaves promptly at 6:30 pm.

Saturday September 8 is Coronation XVII “From Tiki Torches to Voodoo Dolls: A Trip through the African Safari” We will have an open bar from 5:45 pm – 6:45 pm and the show will start at 7:00 pm. Coronation XVII will be held at The Duke Energy Convention Center. Please join us as we will crown our newly elected monarchs. Ticket cost is \$65.00.

Sunday September 9 we will have our Victory Brunch on the 12th floor of the Ramada Inn (the old Lucy in the Sky restaurant). Tickets are \$20.00.

There is so much going on this weekend, it would be a shame for you to miss anything. Please check out our website for more information at www.isqccbe.org We have a new option this year to help you out – You will be able to purchase all tickets with PayPal on our website.

Coronation is a very exciting time for all of us and we hope you can join us! As Bobby and I say goodbye to our year – we want to Thank PFLAG for all it has done for the community and for us. We have made so many friends and we cherish the times we have spent “sitting in the circle”

Until next time,

Empress XVI
Brooklyn Steele-Tate

Emperor XVI
Bobby Kettenacker

The Rainbow Flag

RED—for life

GREEN—for nature

ORANGE—for healing

BLUE—for art

YELLOW—for the sun

PURPLE—for spirit

Schedule of Events

- **July 31 5:30 pm**
AVOC Annual Meeting
Underground Freedom Center
www.AVOC.org to RSVP
- **August 14 7 pm**
PFLAG Meeting
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
- **August 18 8 pm**
An Evening with Bernadette Peter;
Benefiting Caracole
Aronoff Center for the Arts
- **September 11 7 pm**
PFLAG Meeting
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
- **September 21 7 pm**
Pride Night
King’s Island
- **October 6**
Greater Cincinnati Youth Summit
Northern Kentucky University
- **October 9 7 pm**
PFLAG Meeting
Board Elections
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
- **October 19 & 20**
Heart to Heart, Hand in Hand: Partnerships that Changed the World
Cincinnati Men's Chorus
Christ Church Cathedral
- **November 13 7 pm**
PFLAG Meeting
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church



HAPPINESS DEFINED

Jane Biddinger

Like most mothers, I just wanted my son to be happy. Whatever made him happy (within reason) was fine with me. It was simple when he was three, squealing with laughter as I pushed him higher and higher in his swing. It was easy when he was twelve, beaming as he took first place in the school science fair. It was effortless when he was twenty-three, holding tight to his diploma as he graduated college. It was, however, challenging when he was twenty-seven, asking to bring the guy he was dating to a family birthday celebration.

Greg came out to us five years earlier. Like many other parents, we went through the sea of hysteria, denial, and grief. We needed help reaching the shore of acceptance. In time we joined the PFLAG circle where we shared our story which, though we considered it uniquely personal, was universally understood. We delved into the library finding a wealth of information and hungrily took it in. The more we learned and shared, the more comfortable we became. In time, we told family and some close friends.

Then we branched out further. We watched him bowl in a gay league. I baked Christmas cookies with a group of his friends. (As Jerry Falwell undoubtedly knows by now, gay persons do celebrate religious holidays. Gasp! Some are even active and welcome in churches and temples.) As we entered our son's world, we found it curiously similar to our own. We considered these events as major accomplishments and they were. As I look back, I realize that these same activities done with my straight children would neither cause us anxiety nor merit a pat on the back. How deeply the myths and misunderstanding surrounding homosexuality had influenced us.

Though we knew the next step was coming, we pretended that it wasn't. Denial is such a dear friend.

Page 5 And then our son asked to bring

a date to my husband's 50th birthday dinner—at a restaurant. In public. Where people may see us. At PFLAG meetings we witnessed other parents' jitters at the prospect of meeting the person who might be the one to steal a son or daughter's heart. Some concerns were universal for the mom or dad of any child. Will we like him? Will he like us? Will she fit into our family? Will we fit into hers? Does he have a good job? Does she have tattoos or a pierced tongue? Some matters were gay specific. What do I call him? Friend? Boyfriend? What if she holds her hand? What if they kiss? What if we run into someone we know? All of our PFLAG cohorts survived to tell about their encounters and had prepared us somewhat, but hearing other stories was different from living it.

Our son's request unleashed my imagination and anxiety—a dangerous duo. I considered my options. Limit the dinner to blood relatives only. What about our daughter-in-law? Maybe I could grandfather her in. Find a restaurant allowing only six persons to each table? Impossible. Then I thought about how I would react if Greg's dinner date was a young woman. Unless she sported an ankle bracelet gifted by judicial decree, I would welcome her without hesitation. Why was I acting differently to this young man? I bumped up the number of our reservations.

The evening came and went without any mishaps. It was a dinner much like any other. The conversations were much like any other. I looked around the table. We were any family. We were any family eating together. We were any family celebrating a birthday.

Looking back on my thoughts at that time, one would think we were meeting a space alien rather than someone our son was fond of. Though we had made real progress, we were still concerned about what people would think and how we would be treated. But Greg was further along in the process than we

were and we were playing catch up. Our fears once were his fears, but he had met them, dealt with them, and conquered them—all without our help. Surely we could follow his lead—together.

I also felt a sadness whose source I couldn't identify until I realized that I was measuring what I perceived to be my son's happiness on my personal scale. Though I seldom acknowledged it any more, my dreams for him had once included a wife with the perfect mother-in-law, children deeply in love with their paternal grandmother, and a home in the suburbs—picket fence optional. But this was my dream—not his. It's not unusual for parents to expect children to follow in their footsteps or even live unrealized dreams through them. The pressure takes various forms—a college sweat shirt, a set of golf clubs, dance lessons. By following our lead, our children affirm the path we have taken and there is comfort in that. I had been so sure that a life like mine was the one that would fulfill him, complete him, and satisfy him that I lost sight of his own needs and wants. While I grieved what I perceived to be his loss, he was making a life, a good life, his own life. While I thought his orientation was forcing him to settle for a way of life not quite equal to mine, he was forging his own pathway to happiness—real, true happiness, no substitutions allowed. And I, with my head buried in the sand of the heterosexual perspective of happiness, was oblivious.

Greg now has a life partner. A most welcome addition to our family. Another person to love. Introductions are no longer an issue. Mike is our son-in-law. The grandkids call him Uncle Mike. Dinner reservations are simple.

Happiness is the ultimate individual quest. There is no one-size-fits-all version. I'm embarrassed to admit it took me years to figure it out. It would have been much simpler merely to look at my son when he's with Mike.

THANK YOU to Banquet Supporters

PFLAG would like to apologize and thank the following Scholarship Banquet donors whose names were accidentally omitted or misspelled in our Spring Newsletter

Steve and Dolores Bebko, Marian Weage, Cathy Hale, Cincinnati Magazine, Union Station, Findlay Market/Cheryl Eagleson, Pink Pyramid, National Exemplar, First Watch, Tom and Marie Jenkins, Cincinnati Arts Association, Universal Grille, Janice Flanagan, Scott Knox, Markaholic, Joanne & Hans Mehr



Volunteers needed for Black Family Reunion!

Once again PFLAG and GLSEN will share a booth at the Black Family Reunion in August. This is an important outreach activity for the black community. We need volunteers to help on Saturday August 18 and Sunday August 19. Check your calendars and call me at 513-559-0271 if you can help out. The shifts are 11 am to 2 pm and 2 pm to 5 pm each day.

--Dorothy Byers

PFLAG Board and Committee Volunteers Needed!

As you know, PFLAG runs entirely on volunteer support. New Board members will be elected in October. Please consider volunteering for the Board. Positions are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Other areas needing volunteer support are
the banquet (to be held next year if volunteers step forward)
the library
coordinating speakers
scholarships.

Call me at 513-559-0271 if you are interested!

--Dorothy Byers

Cooking with Tim

Hawaiian Hamburgers

1 lb. ground beef
1 TBS fresh chopped Marjoram
(1 tsp of dried)
1 TBS fresh chopped Sage
(1 tsp of dried)
1 tsp onion powder
1 tsp Course Sea Salt

Mix together, the add
Soy Sauce and Teriyaki sauce to make
moist but not wet. (equal parts)
Make patties and grill to desired done-
ness. Serve on toasted Hawaiian Sweet

Buns, with thinly sliced Fontina Cheese,
with bacon, grilled pineapple slices and
Teriyaki glaze.

Fruit Salad with Banana Sauce

1/2 cut up cantaloupe
2 peaches
1 lb strawberries
1/2 walnuts
3 fresh apricots
or what ever other fruit you wish to

add
Sauce
in blender
2 1/2 bananas
1/4 cup honey
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 stick butter
2 tablespoons lemon juice
blend till smooth
and stir in 1 cup heavy whipping
cream
stir over fruit and let sit over night



2006/2007 Officers & Chairpersons/Board Members

- President: Dorothy Byers
- Vice President: Mark Smith
- Secretary: Monica Plett
- Treasurer: Dan Parsley

- Advocacy Chair: Lynne Lefebvre
- Hotline: Lois Kay
- Internet Liaison: Tom Jenkins
- Library: **OPEN**
- Membership: Tom Jenkins
- Newsletter: Tim Gross
- Programs: Marti Kwiatkowski
- Refreshments: Tim & Carol Egbert
- Speaker's Bureau: **OPEN**
- Scholarship: Ric Stackpole

General Membership Application

Check below for

- New
- Renewal
- Change of Address

Membership Type

- Individual \$25
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- Supporting \$50
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- Sponsoring \$500
- Lifetime \$1000
- Other \$ _____

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- Please send all mailings blind
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