



P.O. Box 19634, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219-0634  
www.pflagcinci.org  
NEWSLETTER – Fall 2002

## Cincinnati PFLAG members help make second Youth Summit a success

by Lyndsay Schaeffer, Cincinnati Youth Summit Co-Chair

With nearly two hundred participants, the second Cincinnati Youth Summit for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth and their supporters was an even bigger success than the first Youth Summit. The Youth Summit took place in the University Center at Northern Kentucky University (NKU) on November 16, just eight months after the first event.

After the success of last March's day-long event, the organizers agreed that the information and inspiration provided by the summit might be more helpful if it were provided closer to the beginning of the school year. This change will allow for better use of new contacts made at the youth summit and will provide more time for students who are motivated to try and effect change within their schools.

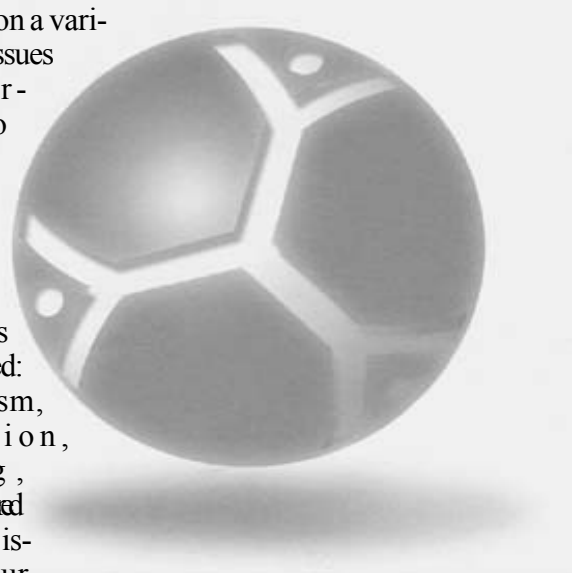
The event was once again planned by a group affiliated with GLSEN Cincinnati. The organizing committee included a number of PFLAG Cincinnati's younger members, including Mindy Sandfort, Caitlin Arnest, Shawn Walker and Lyndsay Schaeffer. Additionally, PFLAG Cincinnati provided support through financial contributions, publicity and as a presence at the conference. A model PFLAG meeting was conducted by Marie and Tom Jenkins and Harold and June Delph and Dorothy Byers staffed a table in the resource center throughout the day.

The day-long event brought together high school and college-aged youth and their supporters for work-

shops on a variety of issues important to GLBT youth in Cincinnati. Topics included: activism, religion, drag, transgender issues, issues surrounding bisexuality and safe sex and healthy relationships. Additionally, there were more hands on demonstrations on topics such as self defense and writing.

The day's workshops and meetings concluded with a keynote address/performance by Alix Olson, a nationally recognized slam poet. Olson spoke to her audience about activism and making a difference in the world. The final event of the summit was a youth dance held that evening.

Planning will begin soon for the next youth summit. The planning committee is always looking for additional input and support, especially from youth. So if you or someone you know is interested, please e-mail [info@cincyouthsummit.org](mailto:info@cincyouthsummit.org) to get involved.



Our **regular** meetings are always held on the **second Tuesday of each month** at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, 103 William Howard Taft Rd., from 7:30 - 10:00 PM. Our next meetings will be on August 13, September 3 and October 8, 2002. 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 same night as regular meetings, starting at 6:00 PM. Please contact a Board member for information about attending meetings.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gender 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.

## 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!

— **Harold and June Delph and the entire membership committee**

## 2002/2003 Officers

President .....	Marti Kwiatkoski .....	(513) 489-8776 .....	kwi31@fuse.net
Vice President .....	Dorothy Byers .....	(513) 559-0271 .....	dfbyers@cinci.rr.com
Secretary .....	Marie Jenkins .....	(513) 697-9923 .....	MarieMJ@aol.com
Treasurer .....	Rick Kay .....	(513) 794-9097 .....	RickKay@ernstandrabe.com

## 2002/2003 Chairpersons/Board Members

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# Welcome from the new president

by **Marti Kwiatkoski,**  
Chapter President

As the new President of Cincinnati PFLAG I know that I have big shoes to fill. As many of you already know I came to PFLAG around four years ago. I walked in the door not knowing what I would say to the group. I felt uncomfortable and awkward. As I sat in the circle and listened to the introductions of others, I began to relax. When it was my turn, I blurted out my story. I am here to grieve the loss of a childhood friend who died of AIDS. No one in my straight community seems to understand my loss and I'm having a hard time dealing with my feelings.

I will never forget that moment, or the hugs I received later, especially from June Delph who told me about losing her son, Paul. From that meeting on, I knew that I was in the right place. It wasn't long before I became Secretary and now, President.

I have been witness to many changes in those four or so years. Our attendance at meetings has gone from around 20 to 45; I had the

*From the president ...*

privilege of meeting many young people who became astounding advocates of GLBT justice. And I have been touched in many ways by the stories and human kindness that has been present at all of our meetings.

PFLAG was instrumental in opening my eyes to my own bias and my misconceptions and has replaced them with a heart full of a new understanding of who I am and how much I love my gay friends. So it is with great pride that I become the new President.

We have wonderful things to look forward to in 2003. Greater outreach into the community using our new PFLAG video; a radio program once and month; and a successful banquet to enhance our scholarship fund. None of this success will happen without the help of our parents, families and friends who have been so generous with their time and effort in the past. I am ex-

cited about the next year and all that we may accomplish.

Any organization, however, is built on a firm foundation. These are some of the people who have nurtured me and helped me grow as a human being and a person willing to take on the leadership role of President. To Linda Arnest, my friend, mentor and role model, who has spent the last three years building a strong and supportive chapter. To June and Harold Delph who so graciously opened their hearts and their home to me and performed so very many tasks they are too numerous to mention. To Marian Weage a gifted, strong and passionate person and the founder of Cincinnati PFLAG who always encouraged me to stand up and out; and to the numerous friends that have always uplifted me with their love and support.

It is the circle that is strong and true, not easily broken, that keeps the message of truth alive in the world. It is fitting that we begin our meetings with a circle of support so our hearts do not break, our minds are uplifted and our pathway becomes clear.

Thank you Cincinnati Chapter for believing in me – I am so proud of you.

## Membership has its privileges for all

by **Linda Arnest**

You may not know this, but the Newsletter you are reading is mailed each quarter to over 900 individuals, families and businesses in the Greater Cincinnati area. It's an expensive effort for our small chapter to undertake, but we see it as an important outreach effort for our community. You never know when a copy may be shared with someone struggling to tell their family they are gay or with a family member who

does not understand. This is just one of the important ways your membership dues support the work of PFLAG Cincinnati.

In spite of our large mailing list, it's sad to say, PFLAG Cincinnati has only 70 paid members.

We also use our membership dues to support other local GLBT organizations and events. Recently, we contributed over \$300 toward the cost of GLSEN's Youth Summit, a wonderful event offered free to all participants.

Another important use of PFLAG membership dues is the maintenance of our supply of free educational literature made available at our monthly meetings and also at any event we attend. This wonderfully factual material has educated many Greater Cincinnati folk who look to PFLAG for information and help.

Thanks to Dan Parsley and

please see *Members* on page 7

# Meet PFLAG Cincinnati's newest board officers

## Dorothy Byers — Vice President

As the incoming Vice President for PFLAG, I look forward to a rewarding year. My husband Harold (a violinist in the CSO) and I were drawn to PFLAG two years ago when our son Mark came out to us. As with many families, we were taken aback and disbelieving, even though in retrospect we could have seen it coming. Harold found PFLAG through the web, and I found it independently through *CityBeat*. Harold was able to get to the next meeting, one that proved immensely helpful. All the benefits of PFLAG were apparent immediately – the understanding ears, the knowledgeable speaker, the helpful library, and the straight-forward, earnest people who were both welcoming and affirming.

Thanks to PFLAG and the education it gave us, we adapted fairly quickly to having a gay son and supported him fully. Mark was pleased that we showed our support of him by giving back to PFLAG. At first it was just bringing the refreshments! But last year I chaired the Scholarship Committee. How rewarding, to work with strong allies in a dream job, giving away scholarships! We received applications from many wonderful candidates, each of whom opened our eyes to the trials, needs, and strengths of GLBT persons.

Mark (now a sophomore at UC) helps maintain the PFLAG website. He too feels the satisfaction of helping an organization that has helped our family. Through PFLAG we have learned that the coming out process is not an overnight thing – it takes time, and you continue to grow. Your circle widens. You get braver in speaking out on behalf of the GLBT community. There are more families to be helped, and we've experienced that PFLAG is effective. That is why I said "yes" to President Linda Arnest when she asked if I would be Vice President this year. I'm not finished – I have more to learn and more to give.

*Dorothy Byers*  
(Engineering Librarian at UC)

## Marie Jenkins — Secretary

Why am I still a member of PFLAG 17 years after our daughter came out? And why did I offer to serve on the board of PFLAG Cincinnati? When Dan Parsley asked me to write about being on the board, my first thought was "How can I write about being secretary? You take notes; you write minutes. What's interesting about that?" But there are many reasons why I'm still involved and I'd like to share them with some of you who are newer to PFLAG.

There are all the wonderful people I've met, gay, lesbian, straight, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning. Knowing them and working with them and hearing their stories has enriched my life beyond measure. There's the sure knowledge that PFLAG is meeting a very great need and that I am having a far greater influence in making the world a better place than I had ever imagined I could have. Here's one example.

In 1994, when Tom and I were in San Francisco for the PFLAG conference, we went for a guided tour of the Castro. While we were standing on the corner of Castro and Market a somewhat disheveled middle-aged man approached and asked if I was here for the PFLAG conference. I answered "yes" and he said, with tears in his eyes, that his mother hadn't spoken to him in thirty years. What could I do? I felt so inadequate, but I gave him a hug and told him I and all the other PFLAG moms cared. And I left San Francisco with a renewed commitment to continuing my work with PFLAG.

Closer to home and on a more practical level, why am I a board member rather than out in the streets hugging motherless gay men? Years in PFLAG have shown me that there is strength in working together as an organization, and an organization needs leader to keep it together. The PFLAG voice is listened to and I enjoy being part of that voice. In only two board meeting I have already learned much about how PFLAG

please see *Volunteering* on page 7

# Thoughts from the PFLAG National Convention

by Marti Kwiatkoski,  
Chapter President

I was the new kid on the block and walking to the convention center hotel I felt overwhelmed. It wasn't long, however, until I began to feel at home with many PFLAG friends.

The eagerly awaited three-day conference was a special one. A place that provided a forum for all to connect, exchange, speak, explore and learn from one another. Conference format featured over 50 presentations, panel discussion, plenary sessions and workshops by more than 100 experts, interesting and varied, specializing in many issues confronting the GLBT community. A special emphasis on safe schools, hate crimes and how to strengthen chapters gave me a lot of food for thought and how to incorporate new ideas and information to local chapters.

"PFLAG: Family Voices for Equality" had many highlights some of those were:

\* *Release of PFLAG "From Our House To The Schoolhouse: First National Safe Schools Survey.*

\* *Families Of Color Network (FOCN) presentation of stories and strategies for building bridges of understanding.*

\* *Hate Crimes Plenary*

\* *Keynote presentation by Human Rights Advocate, Ambassador James Hormel and Rights activist Daughter Alison Hormel Webb.*

\* *Special award presentation by Judy Shepherd, mother of hate crime victim Matthew Shephard, to the PFLAG Four Corners Chapter for their leadership in assisting the family of hate crime victim Fred Martinez.*

I must admit that after three days, I was both exhilarated and exhausted. So much information in so little time!!! Despite my tiredness, one thing stood out for me. As I shared Cincinnati Chapter information and activities with other chapter presidents, I realized what a wonderful chapter we have. Our outreach, programs, support, education and advocacy are something to be proud of. My heart swelled to see how impressed other chapter presidents were to hear about our new video, how we received our grant support and about our successful scholarship program.

We have a great deal to be proud of PFLAG Cincinnati and I must confess I bragged about our chapter whenever I could. All of us need to give ourselves a pat on the back for our success. It encourages all of us to be hopeful of Cincinnati's future as a GLBT friendly place to live.

Please come to see us on the second Tuesday of every month at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, 103 William Howard Taft Road, at 7:30 p.m. and help us promote the health and well-being of GLBT persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. All meeting include small group discussion. This PFLAG chapter feels like family. I hope you will join us.

## Did you know...?

... the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC has a current exhibit which spotlights persecution of homosexuals during World War II? "Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945" will be open until March 16 of next year. The exhibit, according to The Associated Press, has photographs, news clippings, German documents, and examples of the badges that prisoners were made to wear in concentration camps.

... in late September, California became the first state to pass a gay-inclusive family leave law?

... between July 2000 and January 2002, 4,371 same-sex couples came to Vermont to have their relationships legalized under the state's "civil union" law. This is from the Office of Vital Records at the Vermont Health Department.

... volunteer opportunities abound at PFLAG Cincinnati? To find out more, just talk with or call a Board Member and get plugged in!!

# Upcoming events



The PFLAG Chapter Video Committee is proud to announce that the final taping has been completed and the video is now at the composer for the final touches. We would like to thank all those PFLAG members who consented to be interviewed. We are pleased to announce that Mr. David Tensi, National PFLAG Executive Director, consented to be videotaped at the National Convention in Columbus, despite his very busy schedule. We expect that the video will be ready by the end of November.



PFLAG will be hosting a 15 minute segment on WAIF on the second Saturday of each month at 4:30 pm. If you would like to tell your story of how you became involved in PFLAG in a conversational setting with a WAIF host as well as make a few announcements for our chapter, we would love to have you. You do not have to be at the station in person, interviews may be conducted by telephone from the comfort of your own home. You may also tell your story anonymously. Please contact Marti at [kwi31@fuse.net](mailto:kwi31@fuse.net) for further information.

## GREATER CINCINNATI PFLAG MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

<input type="checkbox"/>	New	Individual Membership	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal	Household Membership	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Change of address	Supporting Membership	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/>		Contributing Membership	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please contact me for volunteer opportunities	Sponsoring Membership	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please send all mailings blind label only	Lifetime Membership	\$1,000.00
		Other Contribution	\$ _____

Make all checks payable to "PFLAG" and mail to P.O. Box 19634, Cincinnati, OH 45219-0634. (Your donation is tax deductible, ID #953750674). Thank you!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

# PFLAG Cincinnati in the digital world

by **Tim Jenkins,**  
**Internet Liaison**

PFLAG Cincinnati now has its own web domain, [pflagcinci.org](http://pflagcinci.org). If you don't remember the longer URL <http://geocities.com/pflagcinci/>, typing [www.pflagcinci.org](http://www.pflagcinci.org) will take you to the same site. See the Resources section of our web site for links to many GLBT organizations.

Did you know that more than 20 web sites provide information about PFLAG Cincinnati and links to our home page? They range from A, for Alternating Currents, the show on WAIF 88.3 FM which will host PFLAG once a month, to X, for Xavier Alliance.

Other educational sites include UC's Women's Center LGBTQ Space and College of Mount St. Joseph Student Life Center. The UC Psychological Services

Center has a long page entitled "Some Facts Psychologists Know About. SEXUAL IDENTITY - SEXUAL ORIENTATION". A list of resources at the end includes PFLAG.

Several local high schools listed our scholarships last spring.

News sites include Greater Cincinnati GLBT News, City Beat and Gay People's Chronicle.

Organizations include Queen City Rainbow Band, the Queen Cities Career Association and Cincin-

nati Gay Married Men's Group as well as the PFLAG national web site.

Several guide's to Cincinnati organizations and events link to our site. They include Gayellow Pages, Rainbow Cincinnati (GayCincinnati.com) and DigitalCity.com.

Our host church, Mt. Auburn Presbyterian, and Integrity Cincinnati provide links.

Our good friends at the Cincinnati Youth Group and the Youth Summit link to us as well.

## *Are you receiving PFLAG Cincinnati Email?*

About 150 members and friends receive announcements of chapter activities as well as those of kindred organizations. Posts also include news of interest to PFLAG members, mostly involving GLBT issues. The list averages 3 to 4 announcements each week. To join the list, send e-mail to [tom.jenkins@louisville.edu](mailto:tom.jenkins@louisville.edu).

*Tom Jenkins, Email Coordinator*

## Members

*continued from page 3*

Lyndsay Schaeffer, this Newsletter looks GREAT and includes informative and interesting articles. We also like to think of it as one way to boost membership. Please, if you are not already a member of PFLAG Cincinnati, take a moment, sit down and fill out the membership form in this issue of the Newsletter. The cost is minimal for most of us: \$25 individual, \$35 family. You can certainly contribute more as a special donation if you choose (we would be most grateful!).

The PFLAG mission is to promote the health and well-being of GLBT persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. I hope you will support our goals with a financial dona-

## Volunteering

*continued from page 4*

interacts with other GLBT organizations in Cincinnati and how much work it takes to keep our scholarship program going. I enjoy taking part in deliberations over which of many needs we will be able to work on this year. I enjoy working with others who share my aims and goals.

As an organization we need lots of volunteers to keep our activities flowing. We need everyday officers, liaisons with other GLBT groups, more members who can provide individual support, planners

and workers for our scholarship banquet which enables us to help young men and women as they pursue their education. We need newsletter editors and mailers, greeters and refreshment providers to make our meetings welcoming, and so much more. Whatever talents you have to share, however great or small, PFLAG can use them, and the world will be richer because you gave of your time. If any of our readers have been motivated by my article to give back some of the love and support which they have received at PFLAG, I'm sure our president Marti Kwiatkowski would be glad to help find just the right niche for you.



**PFLAG Cincinnati wishes everyone a happy, safe holiday season!**

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