



# Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays of Greater Cincinnati Quarterly Newsletter

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SPRING 2007

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## Notes from the Top

Thank you everyone for a great banquet on March 3! *That's Amore! 15 Years of Love, Laughter, and Leadership* was a great success on many counts. We had record attendance, record items for the raffle and auction, a record number of advertisers, and record earnings for the scholarship fund! So spread the word about our scholarships! The application deadline is April 17. Awards will be made at our June 12 meeting.

Again, thank you everyone. Who is everyone? Everyone is the PFLAG Board. Everyone is the Banquet Committee. Everyone is the large group of friends who donated items, supported our program through advertising, and contributed donations directly to the scholarship fund. When that large group of friends comes together at an event like the PGFLAG banquet, the synergy is unbelievable. What a great community! What's not to love and laugh about?

Truthfully, there is a weakness in our "love, laughter and leadership" theme. It's the leadership part. This year the Board and Banquet Committee were almost one and the same, a rather small core that worked very hard, and valiantly I might add! The result was awesome, but the energy drain was large. Without an infusion of additional leadership, fifteen years of banquets will be the limit. In examining our leadership resources for the core mission of support, education, and advocacy, the Board has decided that unless new volunteers lead and assist with the banquet, PFLAG will not host a banquet in 2008. This very difficult decision followed MUCH discussion.



Let me clarify one thing: the Board is still 100% committed to the scholarship initiative. We are currently evaluating alternate methods for raising money to continue funding scholarships for 2008 and beyond. If you have ideas for scholarship fundraising, I welcome your input.

I should also clarify that while the Board cannot lead the organization and host a banquet without reducing its ability to focus on the core mission, the Board will fully support and mentor new leaders and volunteers who would like to organize the banquet for 2008. If you are interested in leading OR becoming a member of the 2008

banquet committee please contact me. The Board thanks everyone who has helped make past banquets a success and looks forward to your continued support.

Not having a PFLAG scholarship banquet seems somehow sacrosanct.

We love being the vehicle for bringing GLBTQ family and friends together. With your good thoughts and participation, we hope to uphold our facilitating role in the community.

See you the next 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month!

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

## Wealth Management for Domestic Partners

At our March 13 meeting, Janice Flanagan from Merrill Lynch gave a very informative presentation on wealth management for domestic partners. Merrill boasts a top diversity rating from the Human Rights Campaign, and recently received HRC's Corporate Equality Award. Janice and her company are well aware that domestic partners are not treated as spouses under federal law, and there are significant differences from state. Janice covered issues such as estate planning, retirement planning, and insurance. She is happy to work with anyone wanting to discuss such issues and can be reached at 859-426-4263.



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

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 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 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!

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.

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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](http://www.greatercincinnati.glbtnews.com) and click on "The Weekly" button on the home page.

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

## STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Jane Biddinger



The annual PFLAG banquet reminds me of the first one that my husband and I attended. To the best of our recollection it was 14 years ago, give or take a year. The banquet was held in the party room of a condo association. It was more cocktail party than dinner, and we ate as we mingled. One of our members prepared the food; the presentation of each dish was surpassed only by its taste. Another member, serving as bartender, also sold raffle tickets for the dozen or so donated items. It was a wonderful evening. We ate. We enjoyed the company. We won a poster.

Fast forward to the year 2007. We park valet-style at the Madison in Covington, Kentucky—an establishment that welcomes us back year after year. We need the large ballroom to hold our members and supporters. An entire section of the room is cordoned off to accommodate rows of tables displaying raffle and silent auction items. The mayors of Covington and Cincinnati sign proclamations in our honor. The cities are separated by a river that runs red in election years, but on this night its shores are linked by the arc of a rainbow—our PFLAG rainbow. We dine. We raise money for our scholarship fund. We celebrate our progress.

In the days following the banquet, I ticked off a list of happenings that I would not have thought possible when my son first came out. To some, they may appear to be small and insignificant, but to me, they are landmark and noteworthy. Signs of acceptance and progress. Ellen and her Emmy. Ellen hosting the Oscars. Will and Grace popping up routinely as my husband clicks the remote. The *Brokeback Mountain* DVD available and openly on display at Wal-Mart. Suzie Orman remaining a trusted financial expert as her books sail to the top of the list of best sellers.

When I revel in these thoughts, I'm tempted to rest on the collective laurels of PFLAG and other supporters of gay rights. Every once in a while I become downright ecstatic and allow myself to entertain the thought that the battle might soon be over. The good guys will win. Victory will be ours.

It has been my experience that this feeling of ecstasy is generally followed by a jolt of reality bringing me back to earth with a thud. It was no different this time. I had not yet come down from my banquet high, when I picked up a book written by one of my favorite authors, Jodi Picoult. *Nineteen Minutes* is a novel about a high school shooting. The perpetrator has been a victim of bullying since kindergarten. In addition to the countless acts of physical cruelty, Peter suffers verbal abuse each and every day. Though he is straight, in order to hurt and denigrate him as deeply as possible, the other students call him homo and fag—the ultimate insult. Eventually a broken and hopeless Peter snaps, and ten students are dead, many others maimed and traumatized. This is a work of fiction, but before writing the book, the author researched the topic of bullying by speaking with witnesses and victims of school shootings. Sadly this story is based on real life stories. Real life tragedies.

Not long after the banquet, Ann Coulter's remarks, made while speaking to the Conservative Political Action Committee, leaked out. She called call John Edwards a

faggot and later claimed it was a joke gone awry. Within weeks, General Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said, "I believe homosexual acts between two individuals are immoral and that we should not condone immoral acts. I do not believe the United States is well served by a policy that says it is OK to be immoral in any way."

The novel *Nineteen Minutes* describes teenagers at their worst. Their words and actions result in dire and fatal consequences. While neither the shootings nor the bullying are to be condoned or excused in any way, these are actions of teenagers, not of fully developed mature adults. There is the hope that as they mature, they follow the example of those older and wiser, developing a respect for all of humanity. On the other hand, Ann Coulter and General Pace are both well-educated, mature persons, not teenagers whose activities are often fraught with erratic behavior and self-absorption.

It's sometimes said that there are no coincidences. In the past presidential and Congressional elections, barring gay marriage was the rallying cry of the Republican Party. They played the "defense of marriage" card to the hilt and as a result, reined in the religious right. Is there some reason that now, when support for the war is waning, the president's approval rating is low, and Hillary and Barack Obama are receiving so much attention, the gay issue is making news again? Not once, but twice? What is next?

The bullies in *Nineteen Minutes* used the desire to be part of the "in crowd" to entice other students to join them. Popularity at the price of another student. A student who didn't fit in. A student made to feel weak and powerless. A student who had nothing to lose. None of them knew Peter, but they defined him. They labeled him. They ostracized him. The fact that they didn't know him didn't matter. After the fact, in the midst of the carnage, the bullies claimed they were just joking. In the political arena, candidates use bigotry and fear tactics to win votes. An office at the price of the gay community—our children, relatives, and friends. Those in our society who are different. Those they see as a minority. A mere 10% of the population. They don't know our gay children, family and friends, yet they refer to them as abominations. They label them immoral. They call them promiscuous while denying them marriage.

PFLAG has long encouraged us to support candidates who align themselves with equality issues. And while the next election is about a zillion negative campaign ads away, it is not too early for each of us to take an active part in the process. Obviously, we can write the candidates telling them that we will no longer tolerate the intolerance shown to our children. We will not support any candidate who offers them up on an altar of political influence. We can join the campaigns of candidates who support our cause. We can plant signs in our lawns and plaster our vehicles with stickers.



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS; con't

There is, however, another step we can take that is even more important. And more powerful. We can make ourselves visible. Visible as gay persons, or as parents, relatives or friends of gay persons. In our neighborhoods and communities. In our churches and workplaces. In civic organizations, on the golf course, at the bunco/bridge/poker/ table. It is in this way that we debunk the myths that surround homosexuality. We strip away the label uncovering the human being behind it. We show the world

that immorality rests on the side of those who would deny equality to citizens of this country, not on the side of those daring to love. It is in this way that our families, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances swell our 10% minority into a force to be reckoned with. It is in sharing our stories, our lives, and our struggles that those who know us come to know the truth. It is that truth that will lead our allies to the election booth. It is that vote that will at last set our gay children free.

Ohio PFLAG Conference

You don't have to be a PFLAG Board member to attend the Ohio PFLAG Conference! You just need to be ready for an Extreme Makeover, PFLAG Edition!

Elizabeth Brown and Jean-Marie Navetta from PFLAG National will talk about  
Grassroots Media  
Effective Story Telling  
PFLAG Branding

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 21, 9 am to 4 pm. For \$18 here's what you get:  
the terrific program by Elizabeth and Jean-Marie  
a lovely day in Yellow Springs at the Antioch Inn  
breakfast and lunch  
the good company of other Ohio PFLAG'ers.

Visit the PFLAG web site at [www.pflagcinci.org](http://www.pflagcinci.org) for registration information. The deadline is April 11.

Schedule of Events

- **April 25**  
Caracole Annual Meeting
- **April 4 & 5**  
"Wake up a Concert for the Earth"  
**MUSE**  
New Thought Unity Center
- **May 5** **8:00 pm**  
"She Sand, He Sang"  
**Cincinnati Men's Chorus**  
Adonis the Nightclub
- **May 8** **7 pm**  
**PFLAG Meeting**  
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
- **June 1 & 2** **8:07pm**  
This is Our Country: American Music our way"  
**Cincinnati Men's Chorus**  
The Freedom Center
- **June 9 & 10**  
**2007 PRIDE**  
Hoffner Park
- **June 10** **1:00pm**  
**Pride Parade**  
Burnett Woods to Hoffner Park
- **June 12** **7 pm**  
**PFLAG Meeting**  
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
- **July 10** **7 pm**  
**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 Advertising, cash donations, or donations for our raffle and silent auction. Please accept our sincere apologies if your name was accidentally omitted for this list

- |   |  |                                |  |
|---|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Kathleen Cox in memory of Ken Skahan                            | Doreen Quinn in memory of Ken Skahan                       |                                |  |
| George Gordon & Joseph Farrell in memory of Christopher Profitt | Ray Sinclair in memory of Christopher Profitt              |                                |  |
| Dick & Judy Jacobs in memory of nephew Gary S. Cook             | Clayton & Sue Wiseman in honor of Luke Weisman & Don Deems |                                |  |
| Brian Joiner in memory of Paul Delph                            | Fidelity Investments on behalf of Kris Long                |                                |  |
| Harry Blanton   | Mike Burke   | Lou Kerr                       | J. Brett Offenberger, MD                           |
| Christopher Bolling & Stephen Peterson                          | Judy Schmeling & Lou Arnette                               | Kim Roots                      | Randy Cook, MS, LPCC, LICDC                        |
| Gary & Karen Brandstetter                                       | Paule Steichen Asche                                       | Frank Burdick                  | G.E. Johns Homes                                   |
| Mr & Mrs. David Buschmann                                       | Stacia Supnick   | Datha Harrison/Lisa Butler     | New Spirit MCC                                     |
| Lois Cahill   | Kathleen Tamarkin  | Van Ackerman                   | The Schlenker & Shahani Team; Sibcy Cline Realtors |
| Cincinnati River Bears  | Nancy Taylor   | Joanne and Hans Mehers         | Caracole   |
| Deborah Cummings  | Randy Ulses  | Dan Parsley                    | Clifton United Methodist Church                    |
| Harold & June Delph   | Stella & Robert Volmer                                     | Monica Plett                   | Church of Our Saviour                              |
| James Dillon & John Neil Grindstaff                             | Sheila Wagner  | Women Writing for a Change     | First Unitarian Church                             |
| Mary Anne Duchin  | Karen & Larry Weber  | Funke's Greenhouses            | GLSEN, Cincinnati                                  |
| Tim & Carol Egbert  | Dennis Weiskopf  | Theatre Mgt. Corp.             | OutReels   |
| Gale Holcomb & Jennifer Reid                                    | Carolyn Wetzell  | Playhouse in the Park          | Lisa T. Meeks                                      |
| William and Jane Hopewell                                       | Tracy Wilking & Ruth Dickey                                | AVOC                           | Covington Human Rights Commission                  |
| ISQCCBE, Inc.   | Davis Woods  | Luxxotica                      | Calvary Episcopal Parish                           |
| Todd & Amanda Johnson   | David Workman  | Direct Dimensions              | Wright Choice Photography                          |
| Anita Kiel  | Jack Brennan   | Motch Jewelers                 | Michelle Charland                                  |
| Knowledgeworks Foundation                                       | Mary Lou Auredell  | Shadowbox Cabaret              | The Golden Lions                                   |
| Pam Kuby  | Rachel Santel  | Jeff Thomas Catering           | Marhaholic   |
| David Kundrat   | Sandy Dulaney  | Metronations                   | Juice PLUS+  |
| Kathy Laufman   | Janice Flanigan  | ID Lube                        | Enjoy Your Toys                                    |
| Jason & Amy Leveridge   | Deborah Wagge  | Wild Oats                      | Adonis the Nightclub                               |
| Melt Restaurant   | Lynne and Kent Lefevbre                                    | Kings Island                   | Leslie Evelo, Ph. D. & Priscilla Wood Ph.D.        |
| Nancy Mize  | Carol Sherman Jones  | Crazy Fox Saloon               | The Center   |
| Megan Carey of Next Day Sign                                    | Victoria Schwartz  | Fabulous Furs                  | Rosie's Tavern                                     |
| Nova Christian Church   | Dorothy Byers  | Hype the Salon                 | QCCA   |
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| Jack & Betty Roosa  | Linda Arnest   | On Broadway Bar                | Know Theatre of Cincinnati                         |
|   | Lois Kay   | The Gathering                  |  |
|   | Becky Schnell  | Scott E. Know, Attorney at Law |  |
|   | Jill Benavides   | Noah's Art Salon               |  |

## The University of Cincinnati will hold its Visibility Week Film Festival April 24 - 28. See schedule for the UC Visibility Week .



<b>Tuesday 24</b>	7:30pm – Rent	7:30pm – If These Walls Could Talk 2
5:00pm – Transamerica	<b>Thursday 26</b>	<b>Saturday 28</b>
7:30pm – Venus Boyz	5:00pm – Rent	2:00pm – Venus Boyz
11:00pm – Rent	7:30pm – Transamerica	4:00pm – If These Walls Could Talk 2
<b>Wednesday 25</b>	<b>Friday 27</b>	6:00pm – Transamerica
5:00pm – If These Walls Could Talk 2	5:00pm – Venus Boyz	8:00pm – Rent

### PFLAG Scholarships to be Awarded June 12!

PFLAG scholarships will be awarded at the monthly meeting June 12, 7:30 pm, Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church. Don't miss this opportunity to meet and congratulate the scholarship recipients. The deadline for applications was April 17. Scholarship Committee will be reviewing the applications in preparation for the award presentations. Don't miss the June meeting! Many thanks to all the people who contributed to the scholarship fund and to the success of the Scholarship Banquet!

### Gay and in the NFL

Ezera Tuaolo spoke to large group at XU in March. Mr. Tuaolo spoke of his trials and tribulations growing up in poverty in Hawaii. As life went on Mr Tuaolo started playing football and went to college, and was drafted to play professional football, all the time hiding his sexual orientation. He spoke of growing up in the church and hiding his orientation. Today Ezera lives with his partner whom he meet while still in the NFL, they have 2 children.

Pictured:

Tim Gross, Ezera and Lynne Lefebvre



### Cooking with Tim Lemon Meringue Pie

#### Crust

- 1 1/4 cup flour
- 6 tbsp chilled butter
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tsp finely grated lemon zest
- 1 egg yolk, lightly beaten
- 1—2 tbsp ice water

Cut butter into pieces and add flour. Rub the butter and flour together with fingers tips until you have a fine crumb like mixture. Stir in the sugar. Mix egg yolk and water together and drizzle over mixture and stir in. Chill over night. Allow to come back to room temperature the

knead before rolling out. Bake crust for 10 minutes with pie weights the remove weights and bake and additional 4-5 minutes (until golden)

#### Filling

- 1/4 cup Cornstarch
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1 cup water
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 2/3 cup lemon juice fresh squeezed
- 2 tbsp butter
- 4 eggs separated

Blend cornstarch, sugar, water, and lemon zest and juice in pan, bring to boil

slowly, stirring constantly, until thicken and clear, cook gently for 1 minute. Stir in butter. Beat 2 tbsp of hot lemon mixture into the beaten egg yolks, then beat the egg yolks into the hot mixture. Return to heat and cook stirring for 1 minute. Pour into shell.

#### Meringue

Whisk the 4 egg whites from the filling with 1/4 tsp cream of tartar until soft peaks form, slowly whisk in 2/3 cup sugar and whisk until stiff peaks form. Spread over filling and bake 10 minutes at 350, or until golden brown



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