



P.O. Box 19634, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219-0634
www.geocities.com/pflagcinci
NEWSLETTER – Winter 2001

Mel White to give keynote address at annual scholarship banquet

by Dan Parsley,
Newsletter editor

The 2002 PFLAG Greater Cincinnati Banquet will have a great treat this time. We have received a commitment from Mel White to be the Keynote Speaker.

So who is Mel White? Well, to say that he is a strong advocate for the rights of the gay and lesbian community would be an understatement.

Some of our own Cincinnati PFLAG members know Mel and have heard him speak before and say we are in for an experience. Delores Bebko, who has been a PFLAG member for years, had the chance to protest with Mel in Cleveland a couple of years ago. Says Delores, "I just feel like I was honored to participate when I had the opportunity. As a group, I think we are extremely fortunate to have someone like Mel, who will use his talents in a non-violent but relentless manner to educate and inform people when necessary."

Our own PFLAG President, Linda Arnest, said it was very excit-

ing for her to get Mel to come to Cincinnati to speak at our banquet. Linda says, "I heard him speak here back in 1996 and have been a supporter ever since."

For decades, Mel White has used nonviolent means of protest to fight against discrimination and exclusion of gays and lesbians in our country. In 1997, he was awarded the ACLU's National Civil Liberties Award for his efforts to apply the principles of Mahandas K. Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. to the struggle for justice for sexual minorities. For years now, he and his partner, Gary Nixon, has traveled around the country speaking and organizing people of faith to do justice, and confronting religious leaders whose anti-gay rhetoric, in his words, "leads to the suffering and death of God's lesbian and gay children."

Mel is a retired Minister, an author, a film and television producer/writer/director, and along with Gary founded Soulforce, Inc., a non-profit corporation dedicated to teaching and applying the principles of nonviolence in the cause of justice, not just for sexual minorities,

but for all God's children who suffer injustice and discrimination.

Mel is excited to be coming to speak at our annual banquet. In a recent phone interview, we spoke with Mel from his home in Laguna Beach, California about what he is up to and will speak about. "It is important to look at this moment in time and see where we are in our national history and PFLAG history and to look at the "new" state of our nation and how PFLAG fits in. Since

please see **White** on page 7

Inside this
issue ...

* How you can help
make this year's banquet a success

* Meet our new treasurer

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 January 8, February 12, and March 12, 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 dues.

Your dues are our only source of revenue. Our only other fund-raiser 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

2001/2002 Officers

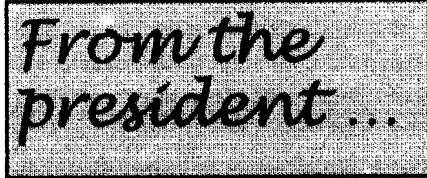
President	Linda Arnest	(513)241-2990
Vice Presidents	Jim and Beth Bliss	(513)232-2688
Secretary	Marty Kwiatkowski	(513)489-8776
Treasurer	Rick Kay	871-3033

2001/2002 Chairpersons/Board Members

Advocacy Chair	Kathleen Tamarkin	(513)469-1188
Hot Line	Judy Jacobs	(513)755-6150
Internet Liaisons	June and Harold Delph	(513)241-8291
Library	Kathleen Alexander	
Outreach/Phone Tree	Jane Biddinger	(513)829-0938
Program	Jim and Beth Bliss	(513)232-2688
Refreshments	Delores and Steve Bebko	(513)779-9397
Speaker's Bureau	Marti Kwiatkowski	(513)489-8776
Newsletter Text	Dan Parsley	(513)281-9840
Newsletter Design	Lyndsay Schaeffer	(513)321-1618
Membership	June and Harold Delph	(513)241-8291

Coming out is hard to do

by Linda Arnest,
Chapter President



I casually mentioned to one of my straight friends that I had spoken on a panel at the University of Cincinnati on National Coming Out Day.

"There's a designated day for it? Everybody lines up and spills it, no matter the consequences? Sounds like a Jerry Springer show, or maybe Ricki Lake." My liberal friend with gay friends of his own didn't understand. It's a process.

Jaime McCauley, coordinator for the UC event, said it best at the opening of the program. "Coming out and being out is an important move for anyone who

is gay. It's a continual process. You have to come out to people every day: friends, family, neighbors and co-workers. Even total strangers."

My gay brother told me ten years before he came out to our parents. I know a lesbian who wants to come out to the world, but her parents can't handle that much openness yet. It's an evolution that can take a lifetime.

Coming out is not just a GLBT process. Parents, families and friends experience it as well. As with GLBT people, like my

brother Paul, the process can begin with denial. A gay man once told me he had to tell his parents six times he was gay. "They kept forgetting!"

A loving, supportive parent can have trouble absorbing this shocking news. A son or daughter coming out can spawn a plethora of worries. Their child might be exposed to AIDS. They might be beaten up, experience discrimination. Can they find true happiness?

We need to be patient with ourselves, and others, who are struggling to come out. Time is a great healer.

The PFLAG mission is to promote the health and well-being of GLBT persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy.

Meet PFLAG Cincinnati's new treasurer

Rick Kay recently joined the PFLAG Cincinnati board as treasurer. The following is a short biography Rick wrote to help us get to know him a little better.

I'm 36 years old and a native Cincinnati (is this a good thing to admit?).

I've been with my partner Jim Kelly for almost 8 years. We live in Mt. Lookout with our cat Dottie.

I'm a tax manager with Ernst & Rabe, a local CPA firm located in Hyde Park.

I grew up in and around Mariemont and lived in St. Louis for 4 years while attending Washington University.

Although I have only one sister, I grew up with a large ex-

tended family most of which still lives here in town.

In my freetime, I like to travel, watch movies and television, read, exercise, and spend time with family and friends.

Why I Am Involved With PFLAG

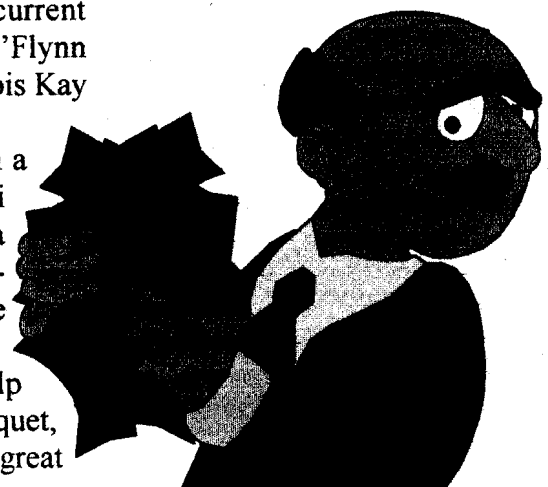
I became involved with PFLAG because of two current PFLAG members, Joe O'Flynn (the last Treasurer) and Lois Kay (my mom).

My mom has been a member of the Cincinnati chapter on and off for a number of years and has always spoken highly of the group.

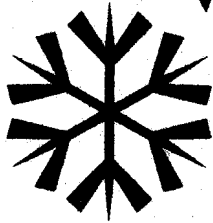
Joe asked me to help out with the PFLAG banquet, where I met a number of great

people who volunteer their time and effort for this organization.

I wanted to become Treasurer because I believe that PFLAG makes a difference in the lives of many people. I enjoy the supportive nature of the group, both through the monthly meetings and, especially, through the yearly scholarship program.



UPCOMING EVENTS



December 24, 2001

January 12, 2002

March 2, 2002

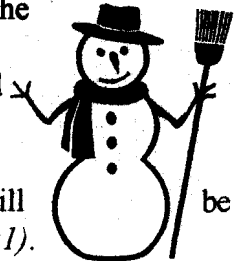


The Metropolitan Community Church, 5501 Hamilton Ave. in College Hill, will have a Christmas eve service at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) will hold a town hall meeting to discuss the Defense of Marriage Act legislation currently in the state senate. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the issues, the current political landscape and how each of us can get involved.

The 10th Annual Cincinnati PFLAG Scholarship Banquet. Key note speaker will Reverend Mel White (*see profile on page 1*).

Right now we are asking all of our members to help us gain support from the community. We are asking for ads in our program or donations of items for the auction or raffle. Members are also asked to contribute what they can. Donated items can be brought to our January or February meetings or you can contact Harold and June Delph to get the items to them. For more information, see page 5.



GREATER CINCINNATI PFLAG MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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



What? **The annual PFLAG Scholarship Banquet is approaching?**

How can I help?

Attend, and bring a friend or two. Last year, we had over 200 people come and/or support our banquet. Thanks to the organizing talents of Joe O'Flynn, last year's banquet was the most successful ever!! If you receive this newsletter, we will also be sending out an invitation to you in January or you may call June Delph at 241-8291 to purchase tickets or get more information.

Buy advertising in our banquet printed program. If you, or your organization or business, are interested in purchasing advertising space in our beautiful printed program, please mail CAMERA-READY copy and your check payable to PFLAG to: PFLAG Greater Cincinnati contact June Delph with questions

P.O. Box 19634, Cincinnati, OH 45219-0634, or at 513-241-8291, or email at delphs@msn.com

Advertising copy and payment MUST be received no later than February 10, 2002

Advertising prices for the 2002 Banquet Program are as follows:

\$75.00 for full page(5x8 inches)

\$50.00 for half page(5x4 inches)

\$30.00 for quarter page(2.5x4 inches)

\$20.00 for traditional business card size

And remember, an ad can be about your business or can be a personal message you want to share with everyone.

Don't forget, a listing of our advertisers will be put in our next newsletter, which goes out to over 500 households in the Greater Cincinnati area!!

Donate merchandise, services, or gift certificates. One of the great success stories in raising money at these banquets has always been because great people like yourself donate items or services to be auctioned off. Our silent auction was a smash hit, so we need items for this year. One of our most successful items last year was a handmade baby blanket, people went nuts over it!! Call Harold or June Delph at 241-8291 with questions or to make arrangements to get your donations to them. And remember, your donation is tax deductible. Our tax identification number is 95-3750694.

So mark it on your calendar: March 2, 2002 at The Madison in Covington, Kentucky

PFLAG and GLSEN on hand as National Association for Gifted Children meets in Cincinnati

by Dan Parsley, Newsletter Editor

The National Association of Gifted Children recently held their annual conference right here in Cincinnati at the Sabin Convention Center. We were asked along with the local chapter of GLSEN to set up and staff an information booth. Over 3,000 people attended the convention. And the information we gave these folks will go to over 8,000 national members, and 42,000 affiliate members of this organization.

Peter Rosenstein is the executive director of NAGC. He states, "We were very pleased that the local chapters of PFLAG and GLSEN decided to accept our offer to participate at our national convention, to provide information to our members about the issues of gay and lesbian kids. I think as a group we learned more about the diversity of students in classrooms and the needs of gifted children that are gay and lesbian. It also allows us with this information to direct both students and parents to needed resources."

The National Association of Gifted Children is in the process of putting out its position paper on GLBT gifted children.

Three years ago, according to Mr. Rosenstein, the NAGC set up a GLBT task force. Their mission is to collect research and general information on the special needs of Gifted and Talented GLBT students, prepare information for dissemination on the needs of GLBT gifted and talented students. It is also to sponsor sessions at the NAGC convention, share information with various NAGC constituencies through researched articles for "Parenting for High Potential" and other NAGC publications, and determine how GLBT issues will be a continuing focus within NAGC after the task force completes its work.

Both our PFLAG Cincinnati group and GLSEN staffed the information booth for three days. Kathy Laufman, GLSEN co-chair and PFLAG member helped to organize this event. She states: "What NAGC members saw in the Convention Center's Exhibit Hall for the first time in the 49 year history of their organization were the faces of PFLAG and GLSEN. Volunteers from both PFLAG and GLSEN answered questions, provided informative handouts, and impacted each person who passed by, simply by standing proudly

beneath the banners"

Kathy goes on to say that "one young student separated from his group and latched on to the PFLAG mom in the booth as though he never wanted to leave. She knew exactly what to say. I saw their strong connection, and the power of her affirmation. Many educators came seeking information and were excited to leave with new resources for their schools." June Delph was also one of the volunteers. "We reached many, many people who needed to know about PFLAG and GLSEN. It is such a great feeling to know our message is getting out, and in this particular case, getting out to parents, teachers, and school administrators where this information is so vital."

I also got to volunteer. I was amazed to see the response of how friendly and warm people were, just to come up to the booth and say hello and say "welcome." Thanks to Kathy and June and Harold for setting up and thanks so much to everyone that volunteered their time. And thanks to the NAGC for inviting us.

A copy of the NAGC position paper can be obtained by writing them at 1707 L Street NW, Suite 550, Washington, DC 20036.



PFLAG

Cincinnati

would like to wish our
entire PFLAG family



a safe and happy holiday season

Banquet plans well under way

by Linda Arnest, Chapter President

Planning has begun for the 2002 Tenth Annual PFLAG Scholarship Banquet. The event will be held at The Madison in Covington, Kentucky on Saturday, March 2. The evening will include a silent and live auction, presentation of the Gene Schmeling Advocacy Award and, hopefully, entertainment by Vocal Point. Tickets will go on sale in January.

We are pleased this year to also offer a very special guest speaker, the Reverend Dr. Mel White. Mel last spoke in Cincinnati during the 1996 Gay Pride celebration at the University of Cincinnati. We are so very pleased to have his commitment to return in March.

Mel is the author of "Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America" which provides a compelling insight into the life of a young man who grew

up in a fundamentalist Christian household knowing he was gay.

More recently, Mel has formed an organization called Soulforce. Using the non-violent teachings of Mohandas K. Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., Mel and his supporters travel the country, and the world, protesting at various Christian conferences against the exclusion of openly gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons from church membership. He works tirelessly to educate and enlighten the Jerry Falwells of the world.

Most importantly, the monies raised during our banquet each year fund our annual scholarship program. Since 1992, PFLAG Cincinnati has awarded over \$29,000 in scholarships to talented and deserving gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered college students in the Greater Cincinnati area. This is only possible due to the generous nature of the GLBT community and our members. I hope you will join us on March 2 for an enlightening, entertaining and rewarding evening.

White

continued from page 1

the September 11 attacks, what does lie ahead for minorities in our country? There are some people I have spoken with who say we should quit complaining now, that we have a war to fight, and our little struggle, the small issue of justice and rights for all minorities can't be bothered with. Well I say, Soulforce and PFLAG has never been MORE important."

Mel is excited to be back in Ohio. "I have spoken and protested in Ohio many, many times. It is truly one of our favorite places to visit. And we have so many friends in Cincinnati and PFLAG, Gary and I can't wait." Just two weeks ago, Mel was in Washington, protesting at the

National Council of Catholic Bishops. "At that conference, we did no civil unrest, but we did contact every Bishop that was going to attend and tell them that for four days and nights, we would be outside their hotel. It was great that so many of the Bishops came out and recognized us and talked with us and prayed with us."

You can get more information about Mel from the www.soulforce.org website. You can also visit our library resource center to check out a copy of his book, Stranger At The Gate: To Be Gay and Christian In America. It is exciting to have him be our keynote speaker at our banquet. So don't forget, March 2, come and attend and support our scholarship banquet.

Did you know ...?

... there is a group called Northern Kentucky Fairness Alliance? They are a non-profit group promoting equality for all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, and are currently seeking stories of discrimination in employment, housing, or public accomodation in Northern Kentucky. You can contact Charles King at cdking@fuse.net or POB 121293, Covington, KY 41012-1293

... Wright State University had a controversy about presenting the production "The Laramie Project" next month? Seems like some people did not want a "gay play." Playhouse in the Park did the production here and was great, so go and support their performance. January 17-27, box office number is 937-775-2500.

... at least seven openly gay men were among those that were killed in the September 11 attacks? According to PFLAG Louisville, one of them from that area was Ronald Gamboa, who was aboard one of the hijacked flights along with his partner and their three year old adopted son. Gamboa's parents still live in Louisville.

... this year marks the 20th anniversary for PFLAG as a national organization?

... Indiana University trustees recently voted to provide the same health insurance and other benefits to gay/lesbian partners of faculty, staff, and students as those received by married spouses? According to the Louisville Courier-Journal, 155 universities across the country have similar policies.