

Celebrating
28+ years in the
Cincinnati Community

Quarterly
Newsletter

Parents,
Families,
and Friends
of Lesbians
and Gays

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

One of the
Supremes 3

Goodbye
Lynne and
Mark 7

Welcome to
our New
Board
Member 7

What's Hap-
pening in the
Community 8

Membership
Application 9

Cooking with
John 9

Chapter
Resources 10

PFLAG CINCINNATI

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 1

WINTER 2013

Letter from the President

Recently I did a television interview and the interviewer didn't really know what PFLAG was or even what we're about. Most of his interview questions came from the website – which I find totally acceptable but in the end he had a bit more knowledge about PFLAG (and a few other organizations). We talked about our mission, our scholarship program and what parents and friends could expect from a “standard” meeting. We talked about feelings for both parents and kids and how schools can be a better outlet for safety.

These days it seems more and more that kids are coming out at a younger age. Television is showing more positive images of gay people, movies are showing that we face the same dilemmas and concerns that the average straight person deals with. At PFLAG we let parents

deal with their kids coming out however they need to; we encourage communication between all parties and we provide a safe haven for everyone – confidentiality is the KEY! We provide good programs such as Matt Parker who spoke on HIV education and Ed Green who helped us learn how to prevent our kids from being bullied. We work with other organizations such as GLSEN and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to promote a safe haven for all kids and adults in the coming out journey. We at PFLAG support, educate and advocate for those who may not be able to do so on their own.

One question the interviewer asked me was “Where do I see PFLAG in the future.” My first thought was I wanted us in a bigger building, with lots of happy children and parents but then it hit me – I want to see the demise of PFLAG! I want there to be no need to hug a mom

and dad when a child comes out, no need to look for a house for a child who has been disowned by their parents. I want to look at the booklets we provide as historical information – information no longer needed. I want to not have to organize speakers or meetings for people to come to get help. I want to wake up in a place where each person is accepted and needed in this world. I no longer want to need PFLAG.

But until then – PFLAG is needed and we will be here for parents, family, friends, gays, lesbian, transgender and questioning people. Our doors are open for those who need it and those who have used it and can help. We lend an ear to listen, a shoulder to cry on, a hug for celebration. Remember when you no longer need PFLAG – PFLAG needs YOU!

In Service to the Community
Michael



Mission Statement

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual

and transgender persons, their families and friends through:

Support, to cope with an adverse society,

Education, to enlighten an ill-informed public, and

Advocacy, to end discrimination and secure civil rights.

2012/2013 Executive Board

President: Michael Cotrell
president@pflagcinci.org

Vice President: Lauren Grosser
vicepresident@pflagcinci.org

Secretary: Monica Plett

Treasurer: Brent Rose
treasurer@pflagcinci.org

Members at Large
Tom Jenkins, Connie Hopkins, & Brandie Gross

Meeting

Our monthly chapter meetings are on the **second Tuesday of each month** from 7:00 – 9:30 P.M. at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church (link for directions <http://www.mtauburnpresby.org/location.shtml>) located at 103 William Howard Taft Rd, 45219. The monthly **chapter meeting is open to everyone**, including parents, friends and family of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons, as well as to gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons

or anyone interested in learning more about the topic. Meetings are completely confidential. What is said there stays there. Confidentiality is important to most of us for one reason or another, and at all time we respect the rights of others.

The chapter also has a monthly board meeting that is held on the Thursday before the monthly chapter meeting, starting at 6:30 P.M. at 103 William Howard Taft Rd, 45219. Paid up members of the chapter are

welcome to attend the monthly board meeting.

Please send an email to info@pflagcinci.org or call the PFLAG Help Line at 513-721-7900 and ask for the PFLAG contact number if you need more information about the monthly chapter meeting or information about attending the chapter board meeting.

Committee Chairs
Advocacy Chair:
Lynne Lefebvre
Hotline:
Marie Jenkins
Email Liaison/Webmaster:
Tom Jenkins
Library:
Connie Hopkins
Membership:
Tom Jenkins
Newsletter:
Tim Gross
newsletter@pflagcinci.org
Programs:
OPEN
Refreshments:
Lauren Grosser
Speaker's Bureau:
Lynne Lefebvre
Tom Jenkins
Scholarship:
Dan Ley
scholarship@pflagcinci.org

Newsletter

This newsletter is published quarterly (usually sometime in the first month of the quarter). The chapter would benefit greatly from your involvement in the creation of this newsletter. Send an email

to the editor at newsletter@pflagcinci.org if you have an announcement that should be included, an idea for an article, or even better, would be interested in writing an article. Also, feel free to

send an email to the editor if you have any suggestions or comments regarding your chapter's quarterly newsletter's content or design.



One of the Supremes By Jane Biddinger

As a young girl, I admired Perry Mason's deductive reasoning and his ability to get to the truth. I fancied myself as his female counterpart. I'd approach the bench, cross examine the witness, and present shocking evidence that would bring a gasp to the courtroom, freedom to my client, and justice to the perpetrator. In those days, Kathy Bates' program *Harry's Law* was a matter of fiction in all manner of speaking and alas my legal career was but a fleeting fantasy.

I've moved on. My dream now is to be a Supreme Court Justice.

If my lack of courtroom experience is a concern, I assure you I have had plenty of on-the-job training. Having raised two sons and a daughter born within the span of four years, I've listened to more complaints than Judge Judy and settled more disputes than Solomon. Perhaps not with his wisdom, but then I've never even come close to splitting

one of them in half.

When my children left home, I gladly gave up my job as judge, jury, and executioner. I had no desire to take up the role again. Until now.

With gay marriage coming before the nation's court, I'd like to be one of the chosen nine deciding its fate. Truth be told, I'd like to try the case as well. I imagine the trial going something like this:

The prosecutor Righty Winger's opening statement consists of the rhetoric we've heard for years. *Gays are responsible for all the ills of the earth. Blah, blah, blah. Pestilence and famine. Blah, blah, blah. Hurricane Sandy. Blah, blah, blah. Global warming. Blah, blah, blah. The closing of the Twinkie plants. Blah, blah, blah.*

My opening statement is brief and succinct.

"That's a lot of bull."

Mr. Winger calls a parade of religious righters to the stand. Each places his hand on the Bible and claims the following to be the truth, the whole truth,

and nothing but the truth: homosexuals choose to be gay, God damns homosexuals to hell, and Teletubbies will turn our little innocents to the dark side. Another barrage of witness testimonies testifies that same sex marriage will put an end to the family as we know it. The institution of marriage will become a thing of the past. Gays will enter into marriages with dogs, ponies, and farm animals. Gay marriage will confuse children's gender identification causing some girls to think they can use power tools and boys to assume they can grow up and take charge of the PTA bake sale. A pack of retired military folk follows telling of their experiences with gays in the service. The WWII gent slept with one eye open just in case one of those guys tried something funny. None did. The Korean vet stood guard outside the shower. Nothing happened. They both agree that gays are sneaky.

Continued next page



One of the Supremes

By Jane Biddinger

“They go about pretending to be normal people, doing their job and all, being real friendly like. Next thing you know you’ve slapped one of them on the back and become downright fond of him, only to have a buddy tell you he’s a homo. It’s just not right.”

“The prosecution rests,” says Mr. Winger.

I rise and call my first witness.

The bailiff asks his name.

“Thomas Jefferson,” he replies.

“Mr. Jefferson, are you familiar with this?” I ask, handing him a yellowing document.

“I most certainly am. I wrote it.”

“Mr. Jefferson, will you please read the first line of the second paragraph stopping at the comma?”

“Yes, indeed. *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,*”

“Did you say all men?”

“Yes, all men.”

“Surely there was an exclusion or two.”

“No. No exclusions. No exceptions.”

“You didn’t run out of ink? Weren’t short on paper?”

“No, we had an ample supply of both.”

“No fine print?”

“The print was all fine. I practiced my calligraphy diligently. Got a few cramps in my fingers, but I assure you, the document is just as it should be.”

“Just to be clear, sir, you make no mention of animals. Dogs, ponies, and farm animals.”

“Animals? And I was afraid you were going to ask me about women. Abigail Adams gave John hell over that. Thank God for the constitutional amendments. Be assured that in this nation we believe all of mankind is created equal. As for animals, spend a day with me at the farmers’ market and you’ll see pigs, cows, and oxen are definitely not.”

“What about gay persons?”

“We could have used more of them back in

the day. George didn’t smile much—those wooden teeth gave him fits. Ben was always so serious about his kites, and such. He didn’t add much levity to the group. I liked to think that I kept things on the light side as much as I could given the gravity of our responsibilities.”

“Excuse, me, Mr. Jefferson. I don’t mean gay in the happy sense. I mean gay as in homosexual.”

“My dear lady, we dressed in powdered wigs, ruffled shirts, and knickers. Do you really think we’d harbor ill will toward our, as you call them, gay unionists? And what about that pledge to the flag you all say now. Betsy would be so happy you stuck with her design. It ends *with liberty and justice for all*. Don’t you take those words seriously?”

“Thank you, Mr. Jefferson, I think that says it all.”

I call my second witness to the stand.

Continued next page



One of the Supremes By Jane Biddinger

“State your name,” the bailiff requests.

“I have many names.”

“No aliases allowed. State your legal name.”

“God.”

Please sir, no comments.

Just state your name.”

“God **is** my name. Along with Yahweh, Jehovah, Allah, Abba, and a number of others. I answer to them all.”

“Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you...”

“You can skip that last part.”

I approach the witness,

“God, how nice of you to appear here today.”

“The Supreme Court. It’s appropriate. Besides, I’m always here. Omnipresent, you know.”

“God, I’ve asked you here to talk about gay marriage.”

“Yes, I know. Omniscient, too.”

“One of the standard arguments against gay marriage is that you made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve. Many say that’s a sign that you don’t approve.”

“I did make Adam and Eve first, but it was simply a case of necessity. If the

species was going to propagate, there had to be male and female. That did not, however, mean I didn’t want to shake things up after that.”

“Shake things up?”

“Adam and Eve both had brown eyes, and they were both right-handed. I like to tinker with my creations. Too much of the same is boring. Those right-handed, blond, blue-eyed folks are my people too.”

“So what does that say about gay marriage?”

“I’ll pass that on to my son. He likes to do the talking. I’m more comfortable throwing my voice from a bush or a mountain top. Call Junior up here.” God grins and says, “He hates when I call him that.”

The bailiff administers the oath to a man wearing a hoodie pulled around his face.

“State your name.”

“Jesus.”

I approach the witness.

“Jesus, I’m just curious.

Why the hoodie?”

“I don’t normally dress this way, but I don’t want the press to recognize me. After that Mayan calendar hullabaloo, the last thing

we need is a second coming alert.”

“I understand. I’ll try to make this quick. Are you aware that many who claim to follow your teachings use the Bible to support their condemnation of homosexuality?”

“Yes. I am. Frustrates me no end.”

“And why is that?”

“Because I don’t ever mention homosexuality at all. Never. Nada.”

“You didn’t condemn homosexuality?”

“No. Never did. It’s one of those urban legends. Like the one about Tinker Bell being modeled after Marilyn Monroe. No truth to it at all, but once people get those notions in their heads, there’s no convincing them otherwise.”

“So, Jesus, for the record here. Just what was the most important thing you did say?”

“Hmm. There was lots of stuff, but the most important I’d say is to love God, the big guy there. And to love your neighbor as yourself. That pretty much sums it up.”

“Even your gay neighbor?”

“Most assuredly so.”

“Thank you, Jesus.”

Continued next page



One of the Supremes

By Jane Biddinger

“You’re welcome. I’m going to slip out the back if you don’t need me anymore. Just may swing by Disney on my way home. I just love Space Mountain. Reminds me of Sinai.”

I call my final witness and the bailiff swears him in.

“State your name.”

“Cupid. You might not recognize me without my bow and arrow. Security confiscated them. I feel naked without them.”

I begin my questioning. “Mr. Cupid, what can you add to our discussion about gay marriage?”

“Plenty. Cupid’s my name and love is my game. I’ve been in this line of work for eons and I know my stuff.”

Prosecutor Winger rises to his feet and screams, “Objection! We don’t want to hear the sordid details of gay love. It’s not fit for human ears.”

Mr. Cupid says, “You’re confusing love with sex. If we were here to talk about the mechanics, you’d be listening to Dr. Ruth, not me.”

“Continue, Mr. Cupid,” I say.

“The love I deal with is magical. It’s the one person you can’t live without. The person you make a home with. The person you make a life with. I’ve devoted my life to love and I’m here to tell you love is both unpredictable and undeniable.”

“How so?”

“When I first started out, I

thought this job would be a piece of cake. Shoot a few arrows at some young folks and be done for the day.

Once I saw the effect love has on a life, I realized how important my profession is.

“I swore only to make good matches. I searched high and low for the couples who would be perfect together and took aim. For the most part it worked well, but sometimes those arrows had a mind of their own and would veer off course and there was no stopping them.”

“Can you give us some examples?” I ask.

“Edward VIII for one. I aimed for a princess and darned if that arrow didn’t make its way to an American business woman. Changed the course of history. Edward abdicated the throne and the couple lived happily ever after. And Dolly Parton’s another. She and Carl Dean have been married over 40 years now. Who would have thought?”

“Interesting, but how does this relate to gay marriage?”

“It’s along those same lines. The arrows having a mind of their own and all. The first time I hit two men, I was horrified. I took my bow in to have it checked, thinking my string must be loose, but there was nothing wrong. I thought it must be me and I had my eyes checked, but they were okay too. I considered myself lucky when

those men ignored the hit and married women. Those marriages didn’t work out, but at least I hadn’t been responsible for them.

The two-guy hits continued to happen, not frequently, but often enough to make me doubt myself. Two-gal hits started up and I thought about hanging up my bow.”

“But you didn’t. Why not?”

“One by one those couples followed their hearts. I stood back and watched the relationships grow. And you know what? They were exactly the same as those gyal ones. In time more and more couples followed suit.

They had commitment ceremonies. And now they’re getting married. Married!

“And how do you feel about that?” I ask.

“Great. The world’s a scary place right now. Nations threaten to annihilate one another. Politicians fight day and night. And those school shootings, don’t get me started on that. The list goes on and on.

“And in the midst of all this, here we have two people vowing to love one another. To honor one another. And to cherish one another? Forever. Who in their right mind could find evil in that?”

“My point exactly. I rest my case.”



Goodbye Lynne and Mark By Michael Cotrell

As the years go by we have families come who come to PFLAG to get necessary help and once they feel they have gotten that help they may venture off but not Lynne LeFebvre and Mark Smith. They both have stayed with PFLAG for over 10 years.

Lynne came to PFLAG when her son Ross came out to her and her husband Kent. There was no big news flash nor sadness but Ross did tell his parents they did not need a support group because they were smarter than that. Lynne has been a part of our board of directors for several years in the capacity of Co-President, Vice President and Member at Large. She actively works to provide us with speakers each month as well as doing

several speaking engagements with area schools and the police academies. Lynne has worked over the years to help make the Annual Banquet a success as well as making sure our visitors see a smiling face! For the last few years she has been the driving force in getting walkers in the Pride Parade. Thank You Lynne for all you have done and will do for PFLAG Cincinnati – You are so appreciated! Mark Smith first came to PFLAG to get information on how to tell his mom he was gay. PFLAG provided a helpful resource for both him and his mom and Mark stuck around to help others in the coming out process. Mark serviced on our board of directors as treasurer,

vice president, Co-President and member at large. Mark helped to make sure the Annual Banquet was a success as well as spoke at various events such as Xavier's diversity class, police academy lectures and Pride Celebrations. Mark has been a great example to our younger generation on the ability to be healthy, wealthy and wise in all aspects of life. Thank You Mark for your help in making PFLAG a success! We appreciate you!

I personally want to thank both Lynne and Mark for their continued support both physically and financially of PFLAG Cincinnati – its members like YOU that make the world a better place.

Welcome Our New Board Member Welcome Connie Hopkins

I grew up in Madeira, Ohio. I live in Loveland with my husband Mark and two sons Austin and Nick. We have 3 dogs. I work at Children's Hospital in Sponsored Programs Compliance.

I attended my first PFLAG meeting in June of this year. Our son, Austin, was a

scholarship winner and our family came to the pot luck dinner and meeting. I was impressed by the group's compassion, generosity and friendliness. I continue to come to the meetings because there is always something to learn and I enjoy the people that attend the meetings. I became a board

member in hopes of helping out and giving back. Our son, Austin, attends the college of Pharmacy at Ohio Northern University. He attends the PFLAG meetings in Lima and has become involved in the on campus LGBT group Open Doors.



What's Happening in the Community

Attention All Students:

Our Scholarship Application materials are now available on our website. All applications are due April 19. This is for any graduating senior or currently enrolled college student. Scholarships will be awarded in June.

GLSEN Prom will be held April 13, 2013 at the Mayerson JCC. Check out their website at glsencincinnati.org for more information

April 13 PFLAG Cincinnati will host the Annual State Conference. PFLAGers from all over Ohio will travel to Cincinnati to attend our State Conference and experience our beautiful city. If you are interested in helping, please email Michael @ president@pflagcinci.org Stay tuned for more details.

Pride will be June 29, we are looking for walkers.
Please contact Lauren @ vicepresident@pflagcinci.org for more information.

The StopAIDS Walk will be held this fall. Watch for an e-mail or our Facebook page for more information.

PRISM Youth Butler County

The group meets every Tuesday at 7 pm in Hamilton.
See <http://www.facebook.com/PrismYouthButlerCounty> for details.

Cincinnati Youth Group

meets every Sunday

103 William Howard Taft

3:00—5:30 pm.

Open to all youth age kids.

Check out glsencincinnati.org for more information.

Like us on Facebook @ PFLAG Cincinnati or
check us out on the web @ www.pflagcinci.org



PFLAG Cincinnati 2012-13 Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

P.O. Box 19634
Cincinnati OH 45219-0634.

Membership Category

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual | \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Household | \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Supporting | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Contributing | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sponsoring | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Lifetime | \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | \$_____ |

**“Remember,
when you no
longer need
PFLAG,
PFLAG needs
you”**

Memberships run from October 1 to September 30.
Newsletters are sent by email. If you wish to receive a paper copy, check this box .

Mail membership application & dues to
PFLAG Cincinnati

Cooking with John Corned Beef with Marmalade Glaze

Ingredients

1 cup sweet orange marmalade
½ cup Irish whiskey
1/8 t ground nutmeg
1 T whole grain mustard
2- to 2 1/4-lb lean fully cooked corned beef
1 lb baby carrots
1 lb fingerling potatoes
Olive oil to coat
Balsamic vinegar
Salt and pepper to taste
Herbs de provenance

Preparation

Preheat oven to 425°F.
Coat large rimmed baking sheet with nonstick spray. Boil first 3 ingredients in saucepan until reduced to generous 3/4 cup, stirring often, about 7 minutes. Mix in 1 tablespoon mustard.

Generously brush corned beef all over with glaze; place in center of prepared sheet. Toss carrots and 1/4 cup glaze in large bowl to coat; place

around beef. Toss potatoes and carrots with olive oil, salt, pepper, Herbs de provenance and vinegar. Roast until carrots are tender and beef is golden, brushing occasionally with more glaze, about 35 minutes. Transfer to platter, garnish with parsley, and serve with Dijon mustard.



General Chapter Information & Resources

Advocacy: Understanding and participating in advocacy for GLBT concerns at a local, state, national and international level is addressed by our Advocacy committee. If you have anything concerning awareness or participation in advocacy for GLBT concerns please contact our Advocacy chairperson at info@pflagcinci.org

Hotline/Email: Throughout this section and the entire newsletter you will see references to the hotline and various email addresses. If you ever get confused about whom to contact, you can just use the chapter Hotline or general email address. The chapter hotline can be reached by calling 513-721-7900 and ask for the PFLAG number. The general email address for the chapter is info@pflagcinci.org. Feel free to use these as your single point of contact for anything related to the chapter. Just keep in mind that depending on your request, the operator/email monitor may need to contact someone else in order to properly address your questions/comments.

Library: Your chapter has a mobile library that is open for business at every monthly meeting. The library is an excellent resource that contains many great books and videos that address topics such as homosexual-

ity, homosexuality and religion, coming out and GLBT issues for children and families. You are welcome to borrow any of the books or videos.

Membership: PFLAG Cincinnati values your support and interest in the chapter. Your membership supports the activities of the chapter which include purchasing publications for distribution at meetings and events where we are represented, books for the library, dues to National PFLAG and the printing and mailing of this newsletter. The scholarship program is funded primarily through our fund raising events and donations. The membership year runs October 1 to September 30.

Programs: Periodically throughout the year at the monthly meetings, a guest speaker will be included in the agenda. In the past we have had religious leaders, doctors, lawyers, financial advisors and GLBT non profit health and support leaders as guest speakers. If you have an idea or would be interested in being a guest speaker send an email to info@pflagcinci.org.

Scholarships: Each year your chapter funds its own scholarship program. The scholarships are awarded annually to deserving members of the community. More infor-

mation can be found at the chapter website, www.pflagcinci.org in the Scholarship Info section or by sending an email to info@pflagcinci.org. If you are interested in donating to the scholarship fund, send a check to P.O. Box 19634, Cincinnati Ohio 45219-0634 made out to PFLAG Cincinnati, noting in the memo that the check is for the scholarship fund; PFLAG Cincinnati is a non-profit organization with a 501(c)3 status. Your contribution may be tax deductible – seek advice from your tax preparer.

Speakers: If you ever need anyone to speak to a group, organization, business, school or church, your chapter has experienced members that have volunteered to speak on behalf of the chapter. Send an email to info@pflagcinci.org to make a request or to volunteer to be on the speakers bureau.

Website: The chapter has an excellent website (www.pflagcinci.org). There is up to date information about the chapter including things like monthly meetings, information about events and volunteer opportunities. If you have any feedback on the website send an email to webmaster@pflagcinci.org Also, find us on [Facebook](#) PFLAG Cincinnati

Want to get involved in the chapter contact a board member for volunteer opportunities