



P.O. Box 19634, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219-0634
www.geocities.com/pflagcinci
NEWSLETTER – Spring 2002

Great Cincinnati church to sponsor conference

by Dan Parsley, newsletter editor

Jerry Hill, pastor of Clifton United Methodist Church says it best, “Unless you say it, say you are welcoming and accepting, people might not know or feel that way.” For years, Jerry and CUMC has been very vocal about their inclusion and welcoming of gays and lesbians into their community.

In an effort to reach out to others in the religious community and the greater Cincinnati area in general, Clifton United Methodist Church is sponsoring a conference on April 20, titled “THE STRUGGLE WITHIN: Seeking Hope for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Persons within the United Methodist Church and Beyond.”

There will be workshops to attend, lunch is provided, and the keynote speaker will be Jimmy Creech, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Soulforce. Mr. Creech is a former ordained elder in The United Methodist Church. According to his biography, in 1999, he celebrated the holy union of two men in North Carolina.

Charges were brought against him and was found guilty of “disobedience to the Order and Discipline of the United Methodist Church” and withdrew his credentials of ordination. He has a great story to tell about his experiences of the Church’s struggle to welcome and accept lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons.

There is a fee of \$10 and you can register or get more information by calling 513-961-2998. The Confer-

please see *Conference* on page xx

First-ever youth summit declared a success

by Lyndsay Schaeffer, newsletter designer

Cincinnati’s first ever Youth Summit for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth and their friends and supporters was held at the University of Cincinnati on Saturday, March 16, 2002. The event was planned by a group formed out of GLSEN Cincinnati and was sponsored by the gay-straight alliances at the University of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky University. Supporters also included PFLAG, the gay-straight alliance at Xavier University and the Cincinnati Youth Group.

The day-long event brought together high school and college-aged youth and their supporters for workshops on a variety of issues important to GLBT youth in Cincinnati. Topics included: activism, religion, drag, transgendered issues, issues facing straight-supportive youth, homelessness and poverty, diversity and safe sex and healthy relationships. Workshops geared specifically towards adults included a model PFLAG meeting conducted by Marti Kwiatkowski and attended by June and Harold Delph and Marie and Tom Jenkins.

Also included in the day was a meeting to begin organizing a Cincinnati Safe Schools Coalition. In other cities across the country, such groups are proving to be a powerful force in effecting change within our schools.

please see *Youth Summit* on page xx

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 April 9, May 14 and June 11, 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**

2001/2002 Officers

President	Linda Arnest	(513) 241-2990
Vice Presidents	Jim and Beth Bliss	(513) 232-2688
Secretary	Marty Kwiatkowski	(513) 489-8776
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Hot Line	Judy Jacobs	(513) 755-6150
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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

2002 Scholarship Banquet a Success!

by Linda Arnest, Chapter President

The Tenth Annual PFLAG Scholarship Banquet is now history. The planning committee did a fantastic job of making this our most rewarding and profitable fundraiser to date. Nearly 300 tickets were sold, making this the most well attended PFLAG banquet ever.

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the success, whether you donated an auction item, purchased ad space in the program, made a cash donation or purchased tickets and auction items. You are the life-blood of our scholarship program.

A very special THANK YOU goes out to the Banquet Planning Committee: Christy Balmos, Steve & Delores Bebko, Brother David Betz, Rick Kay, Jim Kelly,

From the president ...

Marti Kwiatkowski, Kathy Laufman, Joe O'Flynn, Dan Parsley, Tammy Patton, Dale Penn, Bobbi Ruddock, Lyndsay Schaefer, Maria Sulcer, Link Tague, Coleen Tracey, Marian Weage and, especially, my parents, Harold & June Delph. Thank you all for your hard work, impeccable organizational skills and flair!

It was, indeed, a stellar evening. As always, the performance by VocalPoint!, under the direction of newly appointed Artistic Director Steven Milloy, was rich and also fun. Chris Seelbach's acceptance of the Gene Schmeling Advocacy Award was poignant. I

doubt there was a dry eye in the house.

The Reverend Dr. Mel White's keynote address was moving. There were moments when you could have heard a pin drop, the room riveted on his every word. He encouraged and praised us by pointing out that we are a groundbreaking community, the first of many to come who will face the open discrimination of Article XII.

"Don't give up the fight," he begged us. Reverend White cites the beliefs and deep pockets of religious fundamentalist groups as the root cause for a nation-wide movement toward legislation such as Article XII and the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). "Fundamentalism is orthodoxy gone cultic," he explained.

It was an exciting, emotional, healing and fun evening. I hope you were able to join us. If not, there's always next year!

From Louisville

We wanted to thank PFLAG Louisville for their support of our banquet and let you know about their upcoming Scholarship Dinner. The date is April 21st. Dinner and a fun time will be had. They will also have a speaker, Rhea Murray, who founded the Seymour, Indiana chapter of PFLAG. Her talk: "A Step Beyond, in which I share the journey with my gay son." You can contact them for ticket information by calling Marion Hopkins at 502-266-7991. A minimum donation of \$10 is suggested, but they will kindly accept donations larger than that!!! Their fun starts at 5:30 pm and will be held at 417 East Broadway, East Lutheran Church. They supported our banquet, let's support theirs!!

Scholarship applications wanted!

Thanks to a successful banquet and fund-raiser, PFLAG's 2002 Scholarship Committee will again be awarding scholarships to area gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) students. The Scholarship Program aims to encourage and reward GLBT students, especially those who strive to foster understanding and acceptance in the community.

In the past ten years, 42 students have benefited from these scholarships of up to \$1000. Graduating high school seniors, as well as enrolled college and graduate students from the Greater Cincinnati area (OH, KY, IN) are invited to apply.

An information sheet with details on qualifications and requirements is enclosed. More information can be obtained from the PFLAG Cincinnati web site at www.geocities.com/pflagcinci, by emailing pflagcinci@yahoo.com or by calling (513) 559-0271. Applications are available on the web site or by writing

PFLAG Scholarship Committee

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

The application deadline is April 20, 2002. Awards will be announced at the June 11, 2002 meeting of the PFLAG Cincinnati Chapter.

Thank you for making our banquet a success!

PFLAG Cincinnati wanted to express our thanks and share with you those businesses, churches, and individuals who bought space in our banquet brochure.

Be sure and support all the businesses that support us!!

New Spirit MCC

Victoria Travel(Dan Howell)

Scott Knox, attorney

Fred Middendorf

Lisa Meeks, attorney

Marten's Art

Outlook Counseling Center

Oxford PFLAG

Cincinnati GLBT Community Cen-

ter

Wish on Jefferson

Harold and June Delph

Rockdale Temple

Clifton United Methodist Church

Human Rights Campaign Cincinnati

First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati

GLBT News

The Body Center

GLSEN

St. John's Unitarian Church

Crossport

Queen City Career Association

Planned Parenthood, Cincinnati Region

Dayton PFLAG

J. Brett Offenberger, psychiatrist

Chip Jones, insurance agent

Vicki Marsh and Warren Griffith, American Express Financial Advisors

Kathleen A. Mack, clinical psychologist

Cincinnati Riverbears

General Nutrition Center

AVOC

To get more information, refer to your banquet guide, QCCA Listings, or email us.

From everyone at PFLAG Cincinnati, THANK YOU FOR ADVERTISING WITH US



Youth Summit

from page 1

The day's workshops and meetings concluded with a keynote address by Jason Hungerford, the founder and executive director of Youth Guardian Services, an online support group for GLBTQ/straight-supportive youth. Hungerford told his audience that the important thing to remember was that he was just an ordinary guy. He implored the youth in attendance to not sit back and just say, "But I'm only one person."

The final event of the summit was a youth dance held that evening.

The event was a huge success. Over 150 registrants and presenters attended the event for some

or part of the day. Included in that group were representatives from four states (Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and Virginia). That included participants from seven cities in Kentucky and two in Indiana. A total of 11 cities in Ohio were represented, including Columbus, Dayton, Kettering, Oxford and Cleveland.

The group is already in the planning stages for the next youth summit and a tentative date has been set for November 2002. The planning committee is always looking for additional input, especially from youth. So if you or someone you know is interested, please e-mail info@cincyouthsummit.org to get involved.



Did you know...?

... this marks the 14th year of the QCCA Listings? They estimate the Listings now reach 10,000 households in the Greater Cincinnati area. Way to go!!

... the 2002 PFLAG National Conference will be held in Columbus, OH? PFLAGers from all over the country will be attending September 27-29. More information is coming in our next newsletter, or you can go to www.plag.org to register and obtain information.

... PFLAG Dayton had 72 of their members and supporters attend the January 26th production of "The Laramie Project" at Wright State University? There was so much controversy and some people wanted the show cancelled, but thanks in part to support such as this, show attendance was great!!

... The American Medical Association has voted to support domestic partnership benefits in the public and private sector? According to USA Today, the AMA also supports the legal recognition of domestic partners for hospital visitation rights and medical decision making authority.

Upcoming events

Saturday, March 3, 2001

PFLAG Cincinnati Scholarship Banquet (in case you had not heard!!)
Tickets are \$35 per person and are available by calling June at 241-8291.
The event is being held at The Madison in Covington, KY, 6pm cocktails,
7pm buffet dinner followed by entertainment, silent auction and more!!
Everyone come and support us!!

Cincinnati Men's Chorus

February 1,, they will be having their Fine Arts Sample concert. the conert will be performed at the first Unitarian Church. MUSE women's choir will be performing at 1 p.m., so come early and hear both groups. Also, on April 7,8 of this year, Cincinnati Men's Chorus will be performing at the Aronoff Center of the Arts. The singers are very excited about this concert of music from the American songbook! It is a celebration of Coming Home to favorite American music. Ticket prices for this event are \$22, \$17, \$14. The performance will be in the Jarson-Kaplan Theatre.

June 10, 2001

Cincinnati Gay Pride Parade

July 11-27, 2001

Due to the high demand for tickets, The Ensemble Theater has moved the scheduled January run of *The Last Session* to the summer. We will have more information in an upcoming newsletter.

To post an item in the "Upcoming Events," drop us a note or e-mail us!

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"/> | | Contributing Membership | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Please contact me for
volunteer opportunities | Sponsoring Membership | \$500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <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 tak deductible, ID #953750674). Thank you!

NAME _____ DATE _____ E-MAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE (____) _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

A welcoming and acceptance for all

by Rev. Jerry Murphy,
Pastor, Clifton United
Methodist Church

A while back, a young man from our congregation called me and in a very excited tone of voice said, "I've come out to my parents!" He felt their acceptance and expressed great relief that he didn't have to hide his homosexuality from them. What a relief to have the acceptance of our family as we make major steps through life! We always hope that our families will be people we can turn to for acceptance rather than the rejection we get from so many other parts of society.

His experience reminds me of an extremely important part of the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. Near the time that Abraham and Sarah were told they were going to have a baby, they were visited by three strangers. It is amazing to read about all the preparations they made to welcome these visitors and extend

hospitality to them.

Extending hospitality and welcoming were deeply embedded in the life of the Hebrew people. It was part of their religious expression as we see from a comment in the New Testament letter to the Hebrews. One practiced hospitality because you never could tell when you might be entertaining or welcoming angels. Probably the three that Abraham and Sarah welcomed were angels.

Hospitality and welcoming are New Testament concepts also as we see in Romans 14:1-10. Paul is recommending that Christians welcome people who are different from them. Some of those differences don't seem very important to us because they were centered around not eating certain foods. What foods you ate were extremely important to people of Jewish background and they felt that they would be cut off from God and maybe even punished if they ate foods that were forbidden by the religious laws.

Only when we realize the

severe consequences of welcoming someone who is different do we realize the great burden Paul was placing on these early Christians. Probably Paul was remembering the acts of hospitality and welcoming that he had been taught by his Jewish ancestors to extend to people. Now that he knew Jesus Christ, he seemed to be realizing that the hospitality and welcoming took on a different meaning than they had before.

People from a Christian background have every reason in the world to be welcoming and hospitable to people who are different from them even when they think they are disobeying God by doing to. Many of the people reading the letter to the Romans probably felt that way, but they realized that Paul had a tremendously different experience and maybe that made it necessary to act differently from how they were used to acting.

Being accepted and being welcomed are extremely important for all of us as human beings!!

Conference

from page 1

ence will be from 9:15am to 4:05pm. YOU DO NEED TO PREREGISTER, as there is limited seating and workshops are filled on first registered basis.

As Jerry Hill says, "We want to further what Mel White said while in Cincinnati, which is we need as a spiritual community to come together and value all persons, both gay and straight. Hopefully, this conference will bring our community closer together."

All PFLAG members and friends are welcomed and encouraged to attend!!

The Struggle Within: Workshop Offerings

* "Fools Rush In: Saying What Needs to be Said Through Drama" Laura Weed, Prof. of Theater, Capital University.

* "Diversity is as Diversity Does: UMC and Diversity, How to reflect our Society," Dan Vera, Director of United Methodists of Color for a Fully Inclusive Church (RMN).

* "Reaching out to the Hidden Hands: The Expanding vision of RMN," Milyn Alexander, Exec. Dir. Reconciling Ministries Network

and Sue Laurie, Northern Outreach Coordinator of RMN.

* "The Struggle Within: Coming Out," David Meredith, pastor, Broad Street UMC.

* "Words that Hurt; Words that Heal," Patricia A. Grove, Ph.D., Dept. of Women and Gender Studies, Univ. of Toledo.

* "Taking the Bible Seriously, Not Literally," Jerry Hill, Pastor, Clifton UMC.

* Diversity Up Close and Personal," Ruben Herrera, Diversity Consultant.

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