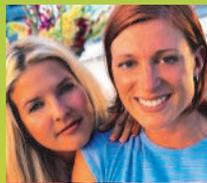




A JOINT
PUBLICATION
OF THE AKRON
AND CLEVELAND
CHAPTERS



PFLAG

APRIL
2014



PFLAG scholarship deadline is April 30

It's not too late to apply for one of PFLAG's national scholarships. Awards range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and typically 12-13 scholarships are awarded.

Eligibility requirements:

- Be a graduating senior or have graduate in the past year
- Must self-identify as GLBT or an LGBT ally
- Demonstrate an interest in service to the LGBT community
- Have applied to an accredited U.S. higher education institution

To apply, visit PFLAG.org.

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Join our Gay Games 9 PFLAG bowling team

The Gay Games 9 are coming to Northeast Ohio this summer. You can be involved by volunteering, cheering on the athletes...

Or participating in an event yourself!

Conceived by Olympian Tom Waddell in 1982, the Games bring together a global community every four years in friendship to experience participation, to elevate consciousness and self-esteem, and to achieve a form of cultural and intellectual collaboration.

In the spirit of the games, PFLAG Cleveland has formed a bowling team within the Social Division. Bowling will take place August 10-15 (exact times/dates TBA) and may require taking time off of work to participate. Be part of LGBT history in America's heartland and join the PFLAG Cleveland bowling team! Contact Dan Symons dan@mysymons.com or 330-680-5397 by Monday, April 14.

PFLAG will host a bowling mixer on Weds., April 23 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Mahall's, 13200 Madison Ave, Lakewood, for anyone interested in joining the team.

Top 9 Reasons to Participate:

- Meet and mingle with 10,000 athletes and artists at the world's largest sporting event open to all.
- Be one of 600-plus bowlers expected.
- Bowl at one of the country's largest bowling centers—Game of Wickliffe (formerly Free-way Lanes)—84 lanes.
- Compete at the last Gay Games in North America until at least 2022.
- Experience competitive & social bowling in same venue.
- Rock out the Closing Ceremony at Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.
- Prep for your fall leagues and tournaments.
- Join the biggest LGBT sports party held every four years.
- Teach the sports world a lesson in inclusion —on welcoming lanes!

And check out 34 other sports and cultural activities you can join on your own at gg9cle.com :

What about Lobby Day?

Equality Ohio has retired its annual Lobby Day in order to kick off a much stronger and more statewide nondiscrimination campaign, according to Communications Director Grant Stancliff.

Over the coming weeks and months, Equality Ohio will coordinate multiple opportunities to lobby in person—in individual Ohio districts and communities—in the form of town halls and

community meetings with Ohio senators and representatives.

"We think it's a powerful direction and a stronger presence than a single lobby day," Stancliff said, "[to] send a clear message to Columbus that the time is now for nondiscrimination."

Sign up for email updates at equalityohio.org and "like" Equality Ohio on Facebook.



Our Mission

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 to secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

AKRON CHAPTER

PO Box 5471
Akron, OH 44334

PFLAGAKRON.ORG
pflagakron@aol.com

INFO & HELPLINE: 330-342-5825

Executive Board

President-Kim Mosyjowski; VP-Bill Libby; Secretary-Joe Gardner; Treasurer-Sue Magilavy; At Large-Chris Goldthorpe, David Horowitz, Marie Libby, Ed and Audrey Kancler, Joe Mosyjowski, Bob Menapace

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CLEVELAND CHAPTER

615 Prospect St.
Berea, OH 44017

PFLAGCLEVELAND.ORG
mail@pflagcleveland.org

INFOLINE: 216-556-1701

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Sharon Groh-Wargo (c) and Marianne Buccini with Scott Gracheff, director of "The Rugby Player" at the Cleveland International Film Festival

Dare 2 Care

Annual Gala

Dare2Care is an Ohio-based nonprofit organization dedicated to uniting LGBT and ally youth in the Greater Cleveland community.

Join us at our annual gala on April 25 at the Tudor Arms Hotel, 10660 Carnegie Ave., Cleveland, to celebrate the major social movements and LGBT milestones from 1964 to 2014 with an incredible display of fashion, music, dance, creative genius and human passion.

PFLAG Cleveland will be represented at a table at this event.

Cocktail reception begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by the gala presentation at 7:30 p.m. and after party at 10:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$125 individual/sponsor or \$200 for front row. For more info or tickets, visit Dare2CareUSA.org.

Akron Chapter news

LGBT Church Support Group

Several years ago, Akron PFLAG board members Marie and Bill Libby started an LGBT support group at their church at 47 Hudson-Aurora St. in Hudson. First Congregational is now an opening and welcoming church. The group is open to everyone and next meeting is Mon., April 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Cleveland chapter news

April Program Change

The April education option featuring playwright and celebrated stage actor Christine Howey, had to be cancelled at the last minute due to a scheduling conflict. Howey will appear at a meeting later this year. We apologize for the inconvenience.

May Program

Margaret Wong, a nationally recognized legal expert on immigration and nationality law, will be the speaker at our education option meeting on Tues., May 13 from 6:45-8:15 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 2230 Euclid Ave., 44115.



Because of her own experience of obtaining a green card and U.S. citizenship under U.S. immigration law, Margaret Wong recognized that companies and individuals need sound guidance in this highly regulated, seemingly arcane, and sometimes frustrating, regulatory area. She will present information specific to the LGBT community, including recent changes in immigration law.

Her biography can be found at AsianAmericans.net.

EarthFest 2014

Look for our chapter table at EarthFest 2014, presented by the Earth Day Coalition at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds on Sun., April 13.

In Memoriam

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Margaret "Peggy" Reid, a longtime friend and family member of PFLAG Cleveland. A memorial services is planned on the Oberlin College campus April 27. Learn more about Peggy at cleveland.com/obituaries.



Presenting at Children's Hospital event

Akron PFLAG will have a presenter at Akron Children's Hospital's conference: "Development, Behavior, and Emotions: Improving Mental Health in Pediatric Primary Care" on May 16 in the Considine Auditorium.

Akron PFLAG was invited to have a resource table at the conference. Participants will have time allotted to visit organizations' displays, obtain resources and ask questions. For info, contact Anna Dusseau at adusseau@chmca.org or 330-543-6037.



Our members at the State PFLAG Conference.

Standing, left to right: Jeff Bixby, Michelle Kit, Craig Hoffman, Bill Libby, Marie Libby, Ed Kancler, Kim Mosyjowski, Audrey Kancler, Pat Brandt. Seated: Marianne Buccini, Sandy Vardell.

State PFLAG Conference wrap-up

Akron and Cleveland PFLAGs were well represented at this year's State PFLAG meeting.

People from nine out of Ohio's twelve State chapters attended the day-long session in Wooster on April 5, gaining new insights into topics ranging from diversity awareness in schools to transgender issues

to anti-violence to LGBT and the Amish.

Presenters from the Cleveland/Akron area included GLSEN's Jeff Bixby, Dr. Christa Boske from Kent State, and Josh Morgan of CANAPI. Information from PFLAG National, Equality Ohio, and CANAPI was shared, and all chapters re-

capped the previous year's activities. Attendees networked and planned for the year to come and, as always, left with new ideas and optimism regarding PFLAG and its mission.

—by Audrey Kancler
Akron PFLAG

Day of Silence

Every year, more and more students participate in Day of Silence (April 11), which began 13 years ago when University of Virginia students committed to silence as a way to bring attention to anti-LGBT bullying and harassment on campus.

The day is an awareness-building experience designed to make schools safer for all students. Participating student groups are encouraged to work with school administrators and staff to create a positive Day of Silence experience and open dialogue to improve school climate.

GIVE OUT DAY

engage. support. give.

On May 15, we invite you to participate in the 2nd Annual Give OUT Day.

Give OUT Day is a national initiative that will engage hundreds of organizations and mobilize thousands of people on a single day across the country to participate in an online giving campaign in support of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community.

The numbers are staggering. Although a high percentage of people who are LGBTQ are fierce advocates for equality and social justice, the percentage of those who put their money towards funding that activism is minute by comparison: as of 2008, less than 5% were giving to charitable organizations in the LGBTQ space, [according to a study by Horizons Foundation](#). Now is your chance to change the numbers!

PFLAG National and 33 chapters participated last year and raised around \$8,000. Thanks to expanded awareness, growing resources, and a spirit of giving to the community, we know we can do better this year!

Razoo and its Razoo Foundation are partnering once again with Bolder Giving to sponsor Give OUT Day. Razoo is an online crowdfund-

ing platform, and the [Razoo Foundation](#) is a 501(c)(3) that manages a donor advised fund (DAF) through which all donations on Razoo.com are disbursed. [You can learn more about the event and its sponsors by visiting this helpful FAQ.](#)

PFLAG National will host conference calls to assist with registration, planning and technical assistance on Monday, April 14th at 9:00 p.m. EDT. The dial-in number is 888-346-2030.

Are you ready to register your chapter? [Click here to get started now!](#) You must do this to activate your account. **The deadline to register your chapter is April 21, so act fast to be a part of this day of giving!**

Important: All PFLAG chapters must use the approved PFLAG logo to avoid confusion for potential donors. [Click here to download the logo for use in your Give OUT Day registration and fundraising.](#) (Right click on the jpg full color image, select the "Save link as" option, and download the file.)

Once you've registered, you'll be connected to the Give OUT Day Nonprofit Toolkit, which has everything you'll need to help your chapter get started in advance of May 15.

6th TransOhio Trans & Ally Symposium

We're back on the beautiful
and state-of-the-art Ohio
Union at The Ohio State
University for the 6th annual
Trans & Ally symposium
May 31-June 1.

Our keynote speaker this
year is Kye Allums. His per-
sonal story made news
when he came out as
transgender while playing
Division I basketball at
George Washington Univer-
sity. Kye has an amazing
project called I AM
ENOUGH which TransOhio
is thrilled to support.

For conference info, visit
transohio.org.



PFLAG Cleveland President Sharon Groh-Wargo meets with Judy Shepard at the Cleveland International Film Festival

Save the Dates!

June 20-21 Columbus Pride
June 28 Cleveland Pride
June 28 Pride Prom



Canal Park events

HIV/AIDS awareness benefit April 14

The Until There's a Cure Foundation is a non-profit organization in the San Francisco Bay Area that raises funds for HIV/AIDS.

Their first game in Akron is with the Akron Rubber Ducks on April 14. \$5 from each ticket will go directly to the fight against HIV/AIDS. Through their partnerships with sports teams, the organization has raised over \$3.5 million.

Gay Games 9 Family FunDay June 1

Play catch on the field before the game, get player autographs, enjoy \$2 hot dogs and more! Game June 1 at 2:05 p.m. Fill out a [request for tickets](#) to reserve your tickets today. (Limited quantities available).

U-Night to End Stigma

Kent State University

Join students, staff and professionals as they share their experiences with stigma related to: mental illness, mental/physical disabilities, addiction, sexuality and gender.

U-Night to End Stigma will be held at the Student Center Ballroom Second Floor on the KSU campus on Mon., April 14 from 5:00-10:00 p.m. Check out our [Facebook page](#) for event info.

Matt Shepard Film Screening

Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine

Join in the conversation! A free screening of this powerful documentary about Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old gay man murdered in Laramie, WY in 1998, will be held at The Capitol Theater, 1390 W. 65th St., Cleveland, on May 6 at 7:00 p.m.

The murder made headlines around the world and the film, directed by a close, personal friend of Shepard and produced by a former Facing History student, examines the dangers of hatred and intolerance through a truly personal lens.

Following the screening will be a conversation with the filmmakers. To RSVP, visit facinghistory.org/communityconversations.

Presented by Facing History and Ourselves and The Allstate Foundation in partnership with Gay Games 9 presented by the Cleveland Foundation GLSEN NEO, Gordon Square Arts District, LGBT Center, and Sistah Sinema Cleveland Chapter.

NCMC "Von Trapped"

Concert April 26 & 27

"Von Trapped," North Coast Men's Chorus' comedic twist to everyone's favorite Austrian singing family, will be performed Sat., April 26 at 8:00 p.m. and Sun., April 27 at 3:00 p.m. at Notre Dame College Regina Hall Auditorium, 1857 S. Green Rd., South Euclid.

For tickets: ncmchorus.org or call 216-556-0590.

Walk, Rock and Run

Diversity Center Fundraiser

The Diversity Center's annual Walk, Rock and Run event will be Sat., May 3. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. for runners (\$25) and 8:00 a.m. for walkers (free or donation). Event begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, East 9th St. at Erieside Ave.

Participation includes free same-day admission to several downtown museums, including the Rock Hall and the Great Lakes Science Center.

Proceeds directly support youth programs in nine Northeast Ohio counties. Our goal this year is 7,000 participants and \$25,000! For more info, visit diversitycenterneo.org or call 216-752-3000.



Kye Allums

OutSupport.org

Medina, Ohio Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community
and the Family and Friends Who Love Them

LeGit (lesbian, gay, bi, trans) Memorial Day picnic

**Welcoming ALL LGBTQ and their allies,
family and friends, all PFLAG's and LGBT Support groups
from Northern Ohio.**

Come join us for food, fun, friends & family!

- DATE:** Saturday, May 24 (Rain or shine!)
- TIME:** 4:00-8:00 p.m., eating around 6:00 pm
- WHERE:** Camp Paradise - SHC Society for Handicapped Citizens
The Arc of Medina County
4283 Paradise Rd
Seville Ohio 44273
www.shc-medina.org
- BRING:** Dish to share (either snacks, main dish or dessert) Your own disposable table setting i.e. plate, cup, utensils, napkins) & drinks (sorry, only non-alcoholic are allowed).

We'll supply drinking water and some snacks. There will be a grill and charcoal if you want to bring something to grill.

Please RSVP to: LGBTQGroupMedinaOhio@gmail.com
Contact Sandy with questions at 330-241-128.

See www.OutSupport.org for directions and map on the EVENTS tab
LIKE us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/OutSupportMedinaOhio

Equality Ohio local internship / grants

Equality Ohio has an opening for a Cleveland-based intern to assist with recruitment, event planning and legislative efforts. The internship involves 10-15 hours per week and runs through the end of 2014.

Applicants should be enrolled at least part-time at an area college or university and should have completed at least 24 hours of coursework with minimum 2.5 GPA.

Equality Ohio is also offering mini-grants through its education fund to individuals and

organizations that celebrate diversity, dignity and justice and which promote acceptance and compassion. Grants up to \$10,000 available. Proposals should address public education, support infrastructure and collaboration activities to support the mission of Equality Ohio.

For internship and grant application information, visit equalityohio.org. Click on News and then Latest News. Applications must be submitted to Kim Welter at kim@equalityohio.org.

Windsong Cleveland

Windsong is an organization of women and their supporters who aim to empower women and affect social change through the performance of music, and build community and provide education through partnerships with like-minded organizations.

The group just released its first CD, "Season of Light," available on its website for \$17.

The chorus' next concert will be held Sun., June 8 at 4:00 p.m. at The Church of the Covenant in University Circle. Member Sue Blouch will dedicate the song "Everything Possible" to PFLAG. Advance tickets are \$13.

For CD, concert tickets or info, visit Windsong online at windsongchorus.org.





News from Gay Games 9

PFLAG CHAPTER MEETINGS

Akron

3rd Thursdays - 7:00 pm
North Springfield Presbyterian Church
671 N. Canton Rd.

Cleveland

2nd Tuesdays - 6:45 pm
Trinity Episcopal Church
2230 Euclid Ave., 44115

Elyria/Lorain

3rd Mondays - 7:00 pm
First Congregational Ch.
4th and Lorain

Wooster

2nd Thursdays - 7:30 pm
Universalist Fellowship
3186 Burbank Rd.

Youngstown

2nd Tuesdays - 6:30 pm
St. John's Episcopal Ch.
323 Wick Ave.

OTHER SUPPORT GROUPS

Medina

4th Mondays - 7:00 pm
Unity Church
787 Lafayette Rd./Williams on the Lake (4th bldg.)
Sandi 330-241-1281
OutSupport.org

Thank you to Consolidated

We sincerely appreciate the generous contribution of the Lanci family and Consolidated Graphics Group for making this possible.

Opening ceremony producer named

GG9 has announced Patrick Roberge Productions Inc. (PRP) as the Opening Ceremony producer for this summer's international sport and culture event. The Opening Ceremony on August 9 kicks off the weeklong event in Northeast Ohio.

PRP is an award-winning show and content producer with more than 25 years of experience presenting high-profile international events, including the 100th Grey Cup, the Opening and Closing ceremonies of the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games and the Opening Ceremony of the 122nd Session of the International Olympic Committee.

"We are going to rock the games with a ceremony filled with emotion and pageantry," says Patrick Roberge, president of PRP. "We will feature the parade of athletes, the raising of the Rainbow Flag, as well as spectacular production numbers representing the region's rich culture, talent and diversity."

Spectator tickets (\$20 to \$75) are expected to go on sale within the month.

LGBT Center Registration Party

LGBT Center of Greater Cleveland, 6600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland – April 26, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Join the LGBT Center and GG9 for pizza and refreshments. Participants will get to register at a discounted rate with open access to the computer lab to allow for volunteer and participation registration. Please contact Ryan Zymler at rymlier@lgbtcleveland.org.

GG9 Bowling Social

Mahall's Twenty Lanes, 13200 Madison Ave., Lakewood — May 16, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Come join us for unlimited \$5 bowling (cash only), drinks, and dancing with DJ Party Sweat (spinning dance hits from the electro-80's)! We will also have staff available for on-site registrations. Contact Matt Cordish at mcordish@gg9cle.com.

Sistah Sinema Screening of "Margarita" & Registration Party

SPACES, 2220 Superior Viaduct, Ohio City – May 17, 7:00 p.m.

In the guise of a family drama, Margarita looks, through the eyes of a hard-working illegal, at social injustice as it relates to class, race and immigration policy. Sistah Sinema is a national organization that showcases films about queer women of color on a monthly basis. Films are followed by a moderated discussion or activity to encourage dialogue and ties within the LGBT community and allies. Gay Games representatives will be on site for registrations. Contact Deidre McPherson at deidre@sistahsinema.com.

Team Cleveland Registration Party

Twist, 11633 Clifton Blvd., Cleveland — May 17

Join Team Cleveland for a registration party at Twist. GG9 representatives will be on site for registrations. Contact Matt Cordish at mcordish@gg9cle.com.

What it's really all about

By Ed Kancler, Akron PFLAG board member

So, here's the thing. Every time I learn of the truly great events happening for LGBT, some misguided soul gets a letter published in the Plain Dealer that denigrates LGBT as being against "God's laws," "Nature," and is ruining our "way of life." What a pity. There are people out there like Fred Phelps (who, by the way, I believe is roasting in hell alongside Jerry Falwell) and his ilk.

What to do? What to do?

Well, the entire quest for Equality is looking more and more like the Civil Rights Movement that made its gains starting in the 1960s. First, the courts have to point the way. Second, people have to be persuaded and convinced. Third, most see the light of day and willingly (sometimes grudgingly) accommodate.

All of us who believe in equality must recognize that we are somewhere between the first

and second tasks. Now, more than ever, we must be rational. We must persevere and convince people—our friends, neighbors and everyone else—that we are all in this together. And, together, we will be in a better place. As U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman said in the Michigan decision against the ban on same-sex marriage, the state forgot what this is all about:

People.