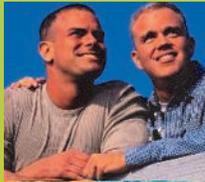




A JOINT
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AND CLEVELAND
CHAPTERS



PFLAG

NOVEMBER
2015

Celebrate Spirit Day

Millions go purple on Spirit Day (Thurs., Oct. 15) in a stand against bullying and to show their support for LGBT youth. Observed annually since 2010, individuals, schools, organizations, corporations, and public figures wear purple, which symbolizes 'spirit' on the rainbow flag.

Join The LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland as we don our purple in solidarity of #Spirit Day.



The colors of our rainbow:

- Red is for light
- Orange is for healing
- Yellow is for the sun
- Green is for calmness
- Blue is for art
- Lilac is for the spirit



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My life as a 'fath-bro-friend'

By Dan Symons, PFLAG Cleveland advisory board member

"It's time to do your homework."

"Don't forget we are leaving in 10 minutes to make it to your soccer game."

"Leave your sister alone."

These are phrases that I didn't think I would say as a gay 28-year-old man. But, two years into a relationship with a father of two, these are everyday statements and I wouldn't change it for the world. Don't get me wrong, there are times when I want to pull my hair out and go into the bedroom and lock my door. But then I realize how lucky I really am. I know many gay couples who have been together for many years and are very envious of my relationship with a man who has children. These couples have either given up the notion of ever being a parent, or are in long adoption processes that can take an emotional toll.

I do find my role is often confusing. Am I to be a father figure, friend, brother, or mother (Ha!)? I continuously found myself questioning my role and how a gay couple could fulfill any of these roles. I talked often with friends and co-workers about this. It is 2015, so of course, many of these friends/coworkers are in divorce situations themselves. Most of the time, my situation was

no different than anyone else's situation. They were all unsure of their role at times. My good friend gave me some good advice. She said, "You have to be a responsible adult, but you have to remember that the children already have two great parents."

I really thought about this statement and how it could relate to my childhood. I did not grow up in a divorced household and I couldn't imagine having another parent figure. I didn't need another parent figure and nor do my partner's kids. They are great kids with fun personalities, loving nature and two great parents. So, I consider myself the 'fath-bro-friend' (father-brother-friend). I want the best for them at all times. I want to have fun and make memories with them. I want to protect them and respect that they have two parents who love them very much.

These last two years have definitely been unexpected and challenging as a 'fath-bro-friend.' I wouldn't change any of it. This relationship has taught me to appreciate the sacrifice and unconditional love of parents and how amazing having children in your life can be. As a 'fath-bro-friend,' I am no different than any other parental figure...mom and dad...mom and mom...dad and dad. #onelove

Ohio Family Ties study seeks interviewees

Researchers from the OSU Sociology Department are seeking LGBTQ adults and at least one of their parents to be interviewed for a study on how family ties influence health. Compensation is included and participation is completely confidential. Contact OUTFamilyTies@osu.edu or visit <http://ohiolgbtfamilyties.weebly.com/> for info.



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.

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Teen Pride Network

Upcoming events

Halloween Dance—Friday, Oct. 24 at UUCA, 3300 Morewood Rd., Fairlawn, 7-11 pm. Ghouls, goblins and good times! Refreshments provided and costumes are highly encouraged. Featuring DJ John Hummell.

GLSEN Youth Conference— Saturday, Nov. 21 at UUCA, 8:30 am-4 pm. LGBTQA high school students will engage in dialogue about issues, diversity, and how to make schools safe for all. Free. (See page 3 for details.)

Ice Skating—Friday, Dec. 18 at Lock 3 in downtown Akron, 7-10 pm. Food and beverages provided. Skate rental on us, so bring your friends!

Details on all events at TPNAkron@gmail.com.

GLSEN NEO events

Visit www.glsen.org/northeastoh for info.

Youth conferences

November 7—LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, 6600 Detroit Ave.

November 21—Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron, 3300 Morewood Rd., Fairlawn.

Safe Space 101

A program for educators and community members to build safe spaces for all.

October 19—Strongsville Library, 18700 Westwood Dr., 5-7 pm

October 27—Akron Public Library, 60 S. High St., Akron, 5-7 pm

November 30—Cleveland Heights Lee Library, 2345 Lee Rd., 5-7 pm

Plexus Grand Party

The Plexus Educational Foundation is hosting its annual Grand Party at the Tudor Arms in University Circle, 10660 Carnegie Ave., on Friday, Oct. 16 from 5:30-9:30 pm in celebration of Coming Out Week. Cash bar, light appetizers, bar menu and valet parking available. Free with registration. Visit www.thinkplexus.org for info.

HRC Hallow-Bash

Annual bash at Bounce, 2814 Detroit Ave., on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 8-11 pm. Ages 21+. Tickets \$15/\$25 VIP in advance or \$20/\$35 VIP at the door. Free drink and admission to costume contest with ticket. Visit <http://action.hrc.org/site/Calendar?>

Nightlight Cinema

Fall films series concludes Nov. 9

November 9—"Five Dances", the story of an exceptional young dancer in the setting of New York City, 7 pm. Sponsored by Akron's GCEF, CANAPI, Nightlight Cinema, and the Summit County Department of Public Health. Nightlight Cinema, 30 N. High St., Akron.

Cleveland Aquatics Club

Swim party

Cleveland's LGBT Aquatic Team invites you to a swim party on Sunday, Oct. 25 from 12-3 pm at CSU's natatorium (come at 11 am if you want to watch a team practice).

Event is free with no commitment to join. Pizza, salad and beverages.

CAQT is an all-level swim team that welcomes the swim-phobic, beginners and seasoned swimmers. We come from all walks of life to celebrate the joy of swimming. Team practices Tues/Thur evenings and Sunday mornings.

Learn more and register for the party at www.clevelandaquaticteam.com



Find inclusive churches

Ohio has many open and affirming houses of worship for LGBT Ohioans of faith. Equality Ohio has an online resource to help connect people with welcoming faith communities at <http://www.equalityohio.org/find-your-faith/>.

Simple criteria of location and faith will connect the searcher to nearly 20 different religious denominations, including variations of Christianity, Judaism, Pagan/Wiccan and nondenominational. One caveat is that the search results are limited to only one place or worship at a time, so multiple searches may be needed to find the right faith home.

If you believe your faith community should be listed, please email info@equalityohio.org.

GLSEN NEO Youth Conference

GLSEN Northeast Ohio, with the help of our working partners at Teen Pride Network, will host a Youth Conference at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron, 3300 Morewood Rd., Fairlawn on Saturday Nov. 21 from 9 am-4 pm.

This is one of two youth conferences being held by GLSEN NEO this fall to reach more high school students in the Northeast Ohio region. (See page 2 events for additional info.)

This year's conference theme is "Just Be Who You Want to Be," and will celebrate the recent gains in LGBTQ rights in Ohio, nationally, and in today's schools.

Programming will focus on issues that interest LGBTQ students and their supportive allies. There will be facilitated dialogues and speakers throughout the day. We encourage representatives from area Gay-Straight Alliances to attend so that students leave

motivated to continue to learn and make change in their communities. (You do not need to be in a GSA to attend.)

Lunch and snacks are provided and there is no cost to register. An open mic event will be held during lunch, so students can come ready to share poetry, sing, play an instrument, or share their thoughts.

Register at www.glsen.org/northeastoh or email gary@glse northeastohio.org for more info.

Doritos go rainbow for LGBT

As reported by CNN and other news sources, Doritos are available in rainbow colors inspired by the Pride flag as part of a new campaign in support of the LGBT community.

The chip brand partnered with the It Gets Better Project to develop packages of "Doritos Rainbows," which were available for purchase online through National Coming Out Day (October 11) with a \$10 donation to the It Gets better Project, according to CNN.

The project, founded by author Dan Savage and his partner Terry Miller in 2010, was created in response to several LGBT teens who committed suicide, CNN reported. The organization's message is that "life indeed gets better," and the group aims to provide support and hope to LGBT youth worldwide.

Doritos initiated the campaign, according to CNN's report, and said in a statement that the brightly-colored chips are the company's way of showing its support in the "boldest, most colorful way possible."

"Time and again, our consumers have shown us, there really is nothing bolder than being

true to yourself and living life to the fullest," a Doritos spokesperson said in a statement.

A spokesperson for the It Gets Better Project said it was honored to partner with Doritos and celebrate the progress the LGBT community has made in America, reported CNN.

"By utilizing the incredible reach that Doritos has throughout the world, we can give hope to the LGBT young people who need it the most," a spokesperson for the It Gets Better Project said in a statement. "There is so much more work to be done, and together, we will inspire the LGBT community and its allies to continue the fight and embrace who they are by living a #BoldandBetter life."



NEW!

LGBT Center programs

The LGBT Center of Greater Cleveland, 6600 Detroit Ave., is eager to announce these program updates.

Bi & Queer Women's Group (Restarts 10/3): 1st/3rd Saturdays, 11 am. Leader Kimberly is a bisexual author who keeps up the [Bisexual Initiative of Greater Cleveland's website](#). Contact MSimek@lgbtcleve land.org.

Made In Africa - African Dance (Starts 10/5): Monday evenings, 5:30-6:30 pm. Open to the community. No experience necessary.

Karate (Starts 10/9): Friday evenings, at The Center, free. Open to all ages, community. Contact MSimek@lgbtcleve land.org.

POZZPOZ (formerly tHrIV+ing) (Returns 10/15): Long-term survivors support group, Thursdays.

Senior Chair Yoga: Fridays by Pink Lotus Yoga. Open to ages 50+. Contact MSimek@lgbtcleve land.org.

Chair Massages: 15 min. massage by licensed massage therapist. Free, needs appointment: <http://msjmassage.appointy.com/>

Narcotics Anonymous: Contact MSimek@lgbtcleve land.org or call 216-651-5428.

Theater Ninjas (Starts 10/7): Workshops using a mix of games, improv and theater techniques, 6 pm. Ages 14-24. Dates: Oct. 7, 21, Nov. 4, 18, Dec. 2.



Sugar Plum Tour

Sunday, Dec. 6 (One day only!)

The annual Sugar Plum Tour in Akron will be Sunday, Dec. 6. Five unique houses, specially decorated for the holidays, open for tours in support of GCEF. Tickets go on sale November 9 and sell out very quickly!

An insert has been included in this newsletter mailing to our Akron members, or visit sugar-plumtour.org for details.

NCMC holiday concert

NCMC Unwrapped

The North Coast Men's Chorus is back at the Hannah Theater, 2067 E. 14 St., Cleveland, with their multifaceted holiday concert on Saturday, Dec. 5, 3pm and 8pm, and Sunday, Dec. 6, 3 pm. Tinsel, costumes and holiday cheer will keep you smiling all through the New Year.

Tickets \$20-\$45: www.ncmchorus.org.

CWRU 'Out & Greek'

LGBT Greek support

LGBT students at CWRU who belong to a sorority or fraternity can meet in the LGBT Center at the Tinkham Veale University, Room 179. Meeting date is Thursday, Oct. 22 at 7 pm for discussion and support.

City Club panel event

Inclusivity for LGBT Employees

Join representatives from some forward-thinking Northeast Ohio corporations at The City Club of Cleveland, 850 Euclid Ave #200, on October 15 at 12 pm as they highlight the successes of their LGBT and ally employee resource groups and how fostering their growth ensures economic development.

Panelists include:

- Paul Clark, Regional President, PNC
- Kelly Hancock, Executive Chief Nursing Officer, Cleveland Clinic Health System
- Kellie Rubesne, Senior Counsel, Progressive
- Jason Rudman, Director of Consumer Payments and Digital Banking, KeyBank

Moderated by WCPN senior reporter/producer David C. Barnett. Tickets: \$20 members/\$35 nonmembers. www.cityclub.org.

LGBT news

SAGE Benefit Clambake

A benefit for SAGE (Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders) at the Manor Country House in Euclid on Saturday, Oct. 17 at 6 pm. Chowder, clams, chicken, dessert, drinks, door prizes and dancing. Tickets \$55. http://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/50318/t/14468/shop/item.jsp?storefront_KEY=447&t=&store_item_KEY=1873

LGBT Center Awareness Day

Come see what's new at the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, 6600 Detroit Ave., at our all-day open house on Monday, Oct. 19. Learn about our current programs (see updates left) and meet some of our staff members.

Heritage Day Awardees

Come see what's new at the LGBT Community The City of Cleveland and local members of the LGBT community, including PFLAG, congratulate the award winners of the 7th Annual Heritage Day:

Community Advocacy: Bryan Jones
Entertainment: Rich Cole
Health & Wellness: Bob Bucklew
Public Service: Tom Stebel
LGBT Ally: Bob & Karen Gross
Elected Official: Joe Cimperman



LGBTQ in theaters

Mothers & Sons

Friday, Oct. 9—Sunday, Nov. 15, Times Vary
The Beck Center for The Arts
17801 Detroit Rd., Lakewood

The newest play by four-time Tony Award-winning playwright, Terrence McNally, *Mothers and Sons* was nominated for the 2014 Best Play Tony Award. The story follows a mother whose young son died of AIDS several years prior. When she unexpectedly visits the home of her son's ex-partner (which now includes his husband and their child), she is forced to come to terms with how much society has changed without her and the full life her son might have enjoyed.

This play is a deeply compassionate and touching look at the transformative nature of forgiveness and the evolving definition of family.

Exact Change at Church in the Circle

Thursday, Oct. 15, 7 pm
Church in The Circle
1919 East 70th St., Cleveland

For the first time ever, a community of faith with host Exact Change - Christine Howey's inspiring play about finding one's identity.

This deeply personal story of a gender identity journey has local roots here in Cleveland. Before Caitlyn Jenner became part of the national conversation, Christine Howey (formerly

Dick Howey), was a prominent Cleveland actor who transitioned in the 1990s.

Exact Change is Christine's amazing story and gender journey. It's a deeply relevant personal narrative with local roots and major contemporary relevance.

Church in the Circle (University Circle United Methodist church) is proud to host this important FREE performance.

The performance is co-sponsored by over 10 local community organizations and faith communities. Local diversity consultant & transgender advocate Jacob Nash will lead a Q&A with Christine and audience after the show.

Find a group at Meetup

Looking for a local organization, networking group, or support meeting? Want to start a group but not sure how to get the word out? Look no further than

meetup.com.

Meetup.com is all about "neighbors getting together to learn something, do something, share something" and includes listings for everything from local hikes to LGBT groups like these:

Out and About Youngstown

Cleveland 20s and 30s Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Group

Akron/Cleveland Dapper/Masculine TransFashion Society

Rainbow Friends of NE Ohio

Women over 40 and Friends (WOFFs)

Meeting details and contact info are provided with each listing.



Get involved...volunteer!

In celebration of Coming Out Week, Plexus, has compiled a database of local nonprofits that serve the LGBT community that could use your time and resources. These include:

The AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland is seeking front desk and pantry services in 2-4 hour shifts, typically in the afternoon.

CANAPI of Akron has volunteer opportunities in landscaping, administrative, custodial, building maintenance, painting (interior and exterior), and staffing info tables at events.

Cleveland Stonewall Democrats are seeking help with phone banking and data entry on a monthly basis (2-3 hours). Will train.

Equality Ohio is located in downtown Cleveland and has various opportunities, typically 1-4 hour shift. Computer skill preferred.

GLSEN NEO is in University Heights seeks help with mailings, phone banking, writing,

speaker series, and various committees.

HRC Cleveland has event prep and execution needs throughout the year, including its service day, bowling event, the Cleveland Gala and Cleveland Pride.

LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland needs guest services, event support, and marketing/communication skills. Opportunities are often on a weekly basis.

CWRU LGBT Center seeks student mentors and support for fundraising, program participation and organization.

Log Cabin Republicans are expecting lots of opportunities with the convention next year.

PFLAG Akron and Cleveland chapters are also listed.

Find more at <http://www.thinkplexus.org/community-service-opportunities.cfm>.



Queer Hauntings: True Tales of Gay & Lesbian Ghosts

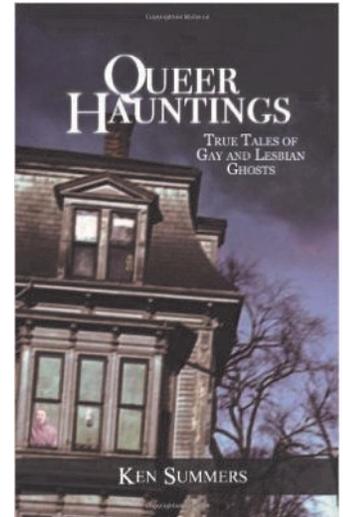
By Ken Summers, writer, lecturer and paranormal investigator From Goodreads post

Queer Hauntings: True Tales of Gay and Lesbian Ghosts is an exclusive collection of eerie locales worldwide with a queer bent. This guidebook combines historical fact and unearthly encounters from across the United States, as well as around the globe.

Behind the shadows and doors of societal homophobia hide find pink phantoms and lavender apparitions in cities and towns spread across the globe. From haunted bars in New Orleans to an old theater in London, this guide encompasses the other side of the supernatural. The stories range from the serious, from brutal murders in rural Georgia, to the

light-hearted, including the male spirit who enjoys unzipping men's trousers at a British pub. Ghosts of legendary celebrities intermingle with ordinary individuals.

Along with these queer spirits are many businesses, either gay-owned or catering to a gay/lesbian clientele, experiencing hauntings. Countless bed and breakfasts have otherworldly guests staying the night. Clubs and bars hide more than shy young lovers in their darkened corners. The dead ignore rainbow flags and techno beats. Their desire to be seen and heard outweighs their fear of the differences in their surroundings.



PFLAG CHAPTER MEETINGS

Akron

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

Cleveland

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

Elyria/Lorain

3rd Mondays - 7pm
First Congregational Ch.
4th and Washington

Youngstown

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

OTHER SUPPORT GROUPS

OutSupport Medina

4th Mondays - 7pm
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 Solutions for making this full-color newsletter possible.

On disagreement and civil discourse

By Ed Kancler, Akron PFLAG board member

I keep wondering why that at one time it seemed disagreements about issues did not result in heavy name calling, insults or anger.

At first, my ego suggested that too many people have opinions that are not based on facts, and so are simply expressions of ignorance. But that's too simple and, in itself, reflects arrogance and a touch of condescension. That's just as bad as a maybe worse.

So, what is there to conclude? Have we become so polarized that we do not want to be bothered by rational discussion? Why? Why have we become this way? Why can't we agree to disagree without anything more? Why can't there be mutuality of respect for each other that compels us to realize that we are all in this together?

Having written all this, I do not believe my view is too simplistic. While there are nut cases

on both sides of all issues, that should not interfere with seeking respect for one another. How can we achieve such a goal? What can people of good will—and I believe there are many—do to get there? I have some suggestions, of course.

1. When you disagree with what someone says, instead of going crazy, ask yourself why did he or she say that? In other words, think. Why and how did that person reach that conclusion?
2. If you can't figure it out, do some research. Search the Internet, writings, books. Find out what others say. Look at history. See if there are answers and reasons.
3. Then even if you still do not agree, try to appreciate why it was said.
4. Engage the other side. Converse. Talk. In other words...communicate.

This is especially true now. There are those who put religious beliefs ahead of individual rights. And there are those who say religion should be damned because of those beliefs. Yet this whole country was put together (18th century style) to accommodate "all." Let's face it—in the days of desegregation and racial Civil Rights, along came violence. That is my worry. It is my deepest fear that the issues of LGBT rights, marriage, etc., will lead to violence. Let's hope we can do things to avoid that. While we may never come to agreement, there are people of good will on both sides of the issues who would abhor violence. That could be an answer. Maybe *the* answer.

We should reach out, find those who disagree with us, and create a chorus of understanding of each other's views. That's so we can all live together...here, now, and for the future.