



# Buffalo / Niagara

PO Box 617  
Buffalo, NY 14207

716-883-0384

PFLAG@bfn.org  
www.PFLAG-buffalo-niagara.org

*We meet because we have learned that someone very close to us is Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgendered.*

*We try to help one another deal with this information in a positive manner.*

*Although we do not agree at all times, we try to be understanding.*

*We offer help to those who seek it, but do not force ourselves on others.*

*We strive to maintain anonymity while sharing on a level that is comfortable for all of us.*

*We encourage all to attend meetings for their own benefit as well as that of the group.*

*It is our hope that when each of us reaches a point of understanding and acceptance, we realize that this is when others need us the most.*

## Buffalo Monthly Meeting

**Sunday July 19, 2009**  
**PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara's Annual Picnic**  
**Details on page 2.**

**Sunday, August 16, 2009**  
2:30 – 5:00 PM

The August meeting will be a self-help sharing meeting. As always, newcomers will be offered the alternative of meeting privately with a PFLAG parent.

Heritage Room, Westminster Presbyterian Church  
724 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14209

Use the driveway to left of the church to reach the church parking lot. Walk behind the church to other side of the building (through the nursery school) and enter through the kitchen entrance.

## New Parents Meetings

**These meetings are scheduled as needed. Please call the helpline.**

Christ United Methodist Church Library  
350 Saratoga (corner of Harlem Road), Snyder, NY  
North of the Harlem Road exit of Route 33

Enter through door closest to the lighted parking lot. This self-help one-on-one meeting deals with the concerns of parents and family members who have recently learned that a loved one is Lesbian or Gay.

**Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Buffalo/Niagara, is a non-profit, all volunteer, community-based organization not affiliated with any ethnic, religious, economic, or political group. Membership is open to all. PFLAG membership lists are kept confidential and mailings are sent in plain envelopes.**



### Local News

## Queer Journeys Programs

Queer Journeys is a cable access program sponsored by PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara and coordinated by Camille Cox and Babs Conant. The programs are based on documentaries on GLBT issues. This program only airs in Buffalo, on Mondays at 6:30 pm and Tuesdays at 1:00 am on Adelphia Channel 20.

The schedule for the next three months is:

July 6: Coming out Coming Home  
 July 13: Out for a Change  
 July 20: The Trials of Jimmy Creech  
 July 27: Queer Sons  
 Aug 3: Lesbian Physicians  
 Aug 10: Maybe We're Talking About a Different God / The Preacher's Son  
 Aug 17: Mom, Dad, ... I'm Gay  
 Aug 24: Making History in Massachusetts  
 Aug 31: Safe School Program for Youth in Massachusetts  
 Sep 7: A Little Respect  
 Sep 14: Choosing Children, Pt 1  
 Sep 21: Choosing Children, Pt 2  
 Sep 29: Our Brother, Dan

A short description of the storylines and a full schedule can be found on our website at:  
[www.PFLAG-buffalo-niagara.org/video\\_project.shtml](http://www.PFLAG-buffalo-niagara.org/video_project.shtml)

## PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara Picnic

Contact helpline for details.

### Lifetime Members

Anonymous (1)  
 Mary Hewitt

### Sponsoring Members

Anonymous (1)  
 John & Diane Covert  
 Clarice Lechner-Hyman  
 Bob Patterson  
 James & Mary Ellen Walsh

### Supporting Members

Anonymous (2)  
 Jane & Tony Benfante  
 Babs Conant & Camille Cox  
 Shawn Cribari  
 Steve and Suzanne Evans  
 Brian Hilton  
 Russel Hurlburt & John Percy  
 Donald Kreger & Ron Ehmke  
 Ronda Marvel  
 Jeffrey McConnell & Fred Dansereau  
 Mark Meyer  
 Dennis Stuart

## Pride Buffalo

The following is a picture taken of our PFLAG contingent in the Buffalo Pride Parade.



## You Brought This on Yourself

by George David Miller

*This poem is dedicated to everyone in the LGBTQ community, especially those who have been brutalized, like my daughter, who was hospitalized after being brutalized at Abu Ghraib High School in America's most livable city, Naperville, Illinois.*

They found her

They found her at the bottom of the stairs

And she had blood on her face and tears on cheeks

And three football players

Anointed, appointed. and baptized by the Church of  
Latter-Day Hate

Pushed her down a flight of stairs because she was gay.

The teachers in their glass closets counted their pay and  
looked and looked and looked

The other way.

The old principal told my daughter: "We can't be of any  
help: you brought this on yourself."

So, my daughter came home later that evening and slit  
her wrist with a plastic knife.

Ran out into the middle of the street looking for oncoming  
headlights so that she could throw herself into  
darkness forever.

I didn't know what to do.

I'm a meek man. I'm a mild man, I have problems asking  
my server at Bob Evans for extra cream in my coffee.

But I was engaged, I was enraged, I was paged by my  
conscience and I told my daughter:

"You push me in front of the next car because I would  
rather die than see you suffer."

And she cried and we hugged, and she knew that I was  
by her side, on her side. and she did not have to  
commit suicide.

And I became obsessed, an angel, a demon, as  
obnoxious as Tony Little selling his exercise  
equipment or Matthew Lesko his books on  
government grants, because it's wrong, it's wrong for  
the weight of the world to be on the shoulders of a  
fifteen-year-old girl.

I mean she ain't Atlas: she can't shrug the world off her  
shoulders.

But I can help push—push—the world off her shoulders  
because I'm her father.

I mean, sir, if she were your daughter, what would you  
do?

And, sir, if she were your daughter, what would you do?

And Dick Cheney and Alan Keyes, if she were your  
daughter, what would you do-

Well we know what you do, and that would be the wrong  
thing.

So, the next day I went to the principal's office, and I was  
armed:

Armed with ideals of justice, goodness, and decency.

## Kay Patterson, LMHC

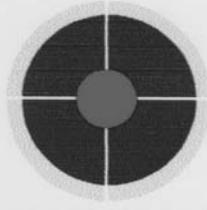
Licensed Mental Health Counselor

### *Counseling for Change*

5820 Main Street, Suite 203, Williamsville, NY 14221

Phone: (716) 838-1236 Cell: (716) 583-4902

Email: Pattersoncounsel@aol.com



## Louis J. Moran, LCSW-R

Counseling & Psychotherapy

531 Linwood Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14209

Services for adults, couples and families: relationship issues,  
depression, anxiety, life transitions, gay & bisexual concerns.

Sliding scale fee. Call: 881-5870      louththerapy@aol.com

ssdickinson@roadrunner.com

## SHEILA SULLIVAN DICKINSON

ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW

733 WEST DELAVAN AVE., #2  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14222

TELEPHONE: 716.816.0933  
FAX: 716.816.0280

## Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

695 Elmwood Avenue,  
Buffalo, NY

Tickets & info: 883-1277

[www.buffalogaymenschorus.org](http://www.buffalogaymenschorus.org)

And I had fire in my eyes—and they looked at me pleadingly.  
 But the only thing I could tell them was this:  
 "I can't be any help: you brought this on yourself."

### Marriage News

The U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a resolution on June 15, 2009 in support of ending the exclusion of gay couples from marriage. The resolution, titled "Equality and Civil Rights for Gay and Lesbian Americans," included support for the freedom to marry along with endorsement of federal bills such as Employment Non-Discrimination Act, the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, the Uniting American Families Act, and the Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

"By passing this resolution, America's mayors spoke for the families they know and serve in communities across the country, and said that excluding those families from the freedom to marry must stop," said Evan Wolfson, executive director of Freedom to Marry and author of *Why Marriage Matters: America, Equality and Gay People's Right to Marry*. "The mayors have their fingers on the pulse of the country, and their voices today said loud and clear that ending discrimination in marriage is the way to go."

In reference to the freedom to marry, the resolution stated, "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports marriage equality for same-sex couples, and the recognition and extension of full equal rights to such unions, including family and medical leave, tax equity, and insurance and retirement benefits, and opposes the enshrinement of discrimination in the federal or state constitutions."

"The nation's mayors are proud to take the lead in recognizing the importance of protecting all our citizens equally. It is now time for state legislatures and our federal government to enact the same protections for all

our nation's citizens," said U.S. Conference of Mayors President Greg Nickels, Mayor of Seattle.

"The mayors' leadership reaffirms that the freedom to marry should not be partisan or political, but rather is part of the security and respect all couples who've made a commitment to care for one another and who are dealing with life's ups and downs should have, especially in these challenging economic times." said Wolfson. "Now the New York State Senate should be the next to lead the nation on the path to equality by swiftly passing the freedom to marry bill into law."

New York's Assembly passed the marriage bill in May, and political leaders from across the state, including New York City's Independent/Republican Mayor Michael Bloomberg and U.S. Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, have called on the State Senate to follow suit in the next few weeks. New York Governor David Paterson is ready to sign the bill. New Jersey also has a governor pledged to sign the state's pending freedom to marry bill once it reaches his desk.

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2008 – 2009

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<b>Please join our PFLAG chapter to support our mission at whatever level membership you can:</b>		
▾ Lifetime Membership .....	\$ 500	▾ New                      ▾ Renewal                      ▾ Change of Address
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Donations of \$50.00 or more can be included in the chapter newsletter.  
 Please circle. OK to publish ▾ Do not publish ▾

Your National PFLAG membership is included in your local chapter dues. You will also receive the quarterly PFLAG-Pole Newsletter delivered to your home or by email from the national office. **Circle here if you don't want to receive the PFLAG-Pole Newsletter ▾**

Make checks payable to **PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara** and mail to: P.O.Box 617 Buffalo, NY 14207  
*PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara is a non-profit 501(c)3 and donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.* **Please write clearly**

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