



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, June 21, 2009
2:30 – 5:00 PM

The June 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.

Save the Date

Sunday July 19, 2009

PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara's Annual Picnic
Details in next month's newsletter

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 two months is:

- June 1: Our Faces
- June 8: Silent Pictures
- June 15: Camp Lavender Hill
- June 22: Trevor / I Know Who I Am, - Do You?
- June 29: Maybe we're Talking About a Different God
- July 6: Coming out Coming Home
- July 13: Out for a Change
- July 20: The Trials of Jimmy Creech
- July 27: Queer Sons

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

Pride Buffalo

PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara will again be marching in this year's Pride Buffalo Parade on June 7, 2009. We're forming at 11am in the Kleinhans Music Hall Parking lot with the parade starting at 1pm. We're looking for as many members as possible to join us. If you want to participate but can't walk the entire way, let us know so we can reserve space in a car for you. Please call the helpline at 883-0384 to let us know you'll be joining us.

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 (3)
Jane & Tony Benfante
Babs Conant & Camille Cox
Shawn Cribari
Brian Hilton
Russel Hurlburt & John Percy
Donald Kreger & Ron Ehmke
Ronda Marvel
Jeffrey McConnell & Fred Dansereau
Mark Meyer
Dennis Stuart

Annual Meeting Report

Jeffrey J. McConnell, Acting President

The Annual Meeting of PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara was called to order by Acting President Jeffrey McConnell on May 17, 2009 in the Heritage Room of Westminster Presbyterian Church 724 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14209. The first order of business was to elect Babs Conant as Secretary and to elect Michele Perry to the Board of Directors. The second order of business was the approval of bylaws amendments as presented in the May newsletter. The members present unanimously approved both bylaws changes.

The third order of business was a discussion of a committee structure for PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara. There are additional details on this structure in an article later in this newsletter.

Lastly, a Treasurer's report for the fiscal year running from April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009 was presented as follows.

Financial report removed from online version

Committee Structure

Jeffrey J. McConnell, Acting President

PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara has had a difficult time finding people to serve as officers and Board members. The office of Vice President has been vacant since May 2008 and the office of President became vacant in April 2009. The rest of the officers and Board have a mixture of demands on their time that is limiting what they can contribute to our chapter.

The Board is looking for more members to become active in our chapter so that it can continue to offer all of the wonderful services that so many have come to rely on. The Board also recognizes that everyone has many demands on their time and may be limited in how much they can contribute. To allow more members to help out to a level that they are able, the Board is in the process of forming a set of committees. The idea is that members can serve on committees, some of which will require just a small amount of time.

The idea of a committee structure was discussed at the Annual Meeting of the chapter. The Board presented the possibility of four committees in the areas of the newsletter, speaker's bureau, outreach, and fund raising.

The newsletter committee would be responsible for finding materials for the newsletter. Each month we want to include articles about our local chapter as well as articles that inform our members, give opportunities to advocate for our LGBT friends and family members, and provide support to our members. Finding those resources takes a lot of time if done by just one person, but if we had a committee each member could be responsible for finding one or two articles each month, which is much less work. It would be nice to have one member profiled in each edition of the newsletter. This committee would be responsible for getting those member profiles as well.

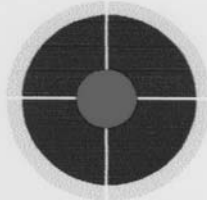
The speaker's committee would be responsible for finding members who can attend when we've been asked to give a presentation. The committee would also find people from the area who can give presentations at our chapter meetings. We've had a number of interesting topics at meetings this past year, but deciding on topics and then lining up the speakers takes a lot of time if one person does it. If we have a committee, each member could be responsible for the topic for just one of the monthly meetings.

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 louthery@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

On Vacation!

Friday, June 19th (8 pm) - Unitarian Universalist Church
695 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY
Saturday, June 20th (8 pm) - First Presbyterian Church,
Symphony Circle, Buffalo, NY
Sunday, June 21st (4 pm) - Church of the Nativity,
1530 Colvin Boulevard, Kenmore, NY

Tickets & info: 883-1277
www.buffalogaymenschorus.org

**PFLAG BUFFALO/NIAGARA
2008 – 2009**

Board of Directors

Acting President: Jeffrey J. McConnell

Vice-President:

Secretary: Babs Conant

Treasurer: Jeffrey J. McConnell

Directors: Wendy J. Christophersen

Marylou Hess

Michele A. Perry

Kristian Rickard

Newsletter Staff

Editor & Design: Jeffrey J. McConnell

Contributors: Jeffrey J. McConnell

Duplication: Jeffrey J. McConnell

Distribution: Wendy Christophersen & Michele Perry

The outreach committee would be responsible for establishing connections to other area organizations and the fund raising committee would be responsible for heading up fund raising activities but also for finding people who can lend a hand for things such as our lottery fund raiser and our Night in the Vineyard fund raiser.

Members at the Annual Meeting also came up with ideas for committees. The first suggestion was a safe-schools committee that will take the lead on our safe-schools project. This committee would be responsible for gathering materials and for planning events to give local area teachers and guidance counselors the tools they need to help stop bullying to allow children to focus on learning while in school.

Another suggestion was a member support committee. This group would be responsible for periodically checking in with our members and would also

arrange for rides to meetings and events for members without transportation. This group could also be responsible for finding out what sort of things our members would like to see our chapter do.

The last suggestion was a helpline committee. In 2007, we moved our helpline number to cell phone service, which allows members to share the task of answering our helpline. A helpline committee would be responsible for finding members who would be willing to answer the helpline for a month or two. This group would also be responsible for making sure that those answering the phone are properly trained and have all of the resources they need to answer the calls we typically receive.

Do you have any other suggestions? Do you want to help on any of these committees? If so, please drop us an email at pflag@bfn.org or call the helpline at 883-0384 and let us know how you would like to be involved.

Short Newsletter

You probably noticed that this month we have a very short newsletter. We need your help to get the next newsletter filled with the sort of articles you've grown familiar with. If you see an article in the paper or online, send us the full text of the article via email (pflag@bfn.org).

Would like to tell the story of your or your loved ones coming out? How about a story about the first time you told a friend about your LGBT loved one? What about the review of a good LGBT or PFLAG related book? It doesn't have to be long. About 250 words fills half of one column of the newsletter and about 500 words fills the entire column. The article on Pride in this issue is less than 80 words. Have an idea, whether it's short or long, please write it up and email it to us (pflag@bfn.org).

Please circle item(s) ▾	JOIN US!		PFLAG BUFFALO/NIAGARA
Please join our PFLAG chapter to support our mission at whatever level membership you can:			
▾ Lifetime Membership	\$ 500	▾ New	▾ Renewal
▾ Benefactor Membership	\$ 250		▾ Change of Address
▾ Sponsoring Membership	\$ 100	▾ Advertising member	(Business Card Advertisement
▾ Supporting Membership	\$ 50		\$100. Annually for 10 issues)
▾ Household Membership	\$ 30		
▾ Newsletter Subscription Only	\$ 15	▾ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities	
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.			
			<u>Please write clearly</u>
Name (s) _____			Date _____
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