



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 20, 2010
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.

PFLAG on the Move

The PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara June meeting will be the last one held at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Due to construction and staffing changes at the church, we will no longer be able to meet in that venue. Members of the Board are exploring other places for our meetings. We will have our picnic in July and will have a new meeting place starting with our August meeting. Watch this space for details.

New Parents Meetings

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

Held at a location convenient to those involved.

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.

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:

Jun 7: Silent Pictures
 Jun 14: Camp Lavender Hill
 Jun 21: Trevor / I Know Who I Am, - Do You?
 Jun 28: Maybe we're Talking About a Different God
 Jul 5: Coming out Coming Home
 Jul 17: Out for a Change
 Jul 19: The Trials of Jimmy Creech
 Jul 26: Queer Sons

A description of the storylines can be found at:
www.PFLAG-buffalo-niagara.org/video_project.shtml

Can You Help With The Newsletter

It is time consuming to find interesting things to share with our members. We want to have a content filled newsletter but that's hard to do within the time available. You can help. When you're reading the news and you see something that would be interesting to our members, just send an email with the information to pflag@bfn.org and if you're reading on-line most sites have a button that easily allows you to share the article with us.

Lifetime Members

Frank Carnevale & James Pilc
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 Babs Conant & Camille Cox
 Shawn Cribari
 Loretta & Richard Gucwa
 Donald Kreger & Ron Ehmke
 Jeffrey McConnell & Fred Dansereau
 Mark Meyer
 Roger Seifert & Dennis Stuart
 Linda Stefaniak
 P. J. Tomczyk

Annual Meeting Report

PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara held its annual meeting on May 16, 2010. At the annual meeting, Kris "Kristian" Rickard was elected President for a two-year term, John Covert was elected Vice President for a one-year term, Michele Perry was elected Secretary for a one-year term, Jeffrey McConnell was elected Treasurer for a two-year term, and Suzanne Evans was elected as a member of the Board for a two-year term. The difference in the length of the terms is so that only half of the officers will be up for election in any year.

A treasurer's report for the 2009-10 fiscal year was also presented. Members will find a copy of the treasurer's report included with their newsletter.

Pride Weekend

Pride weekend in Western New York will be June 5-6, 2010. The Dyke March will be held on Saturday June 5th and the Pride Parade will be held on Sunday June 6th. PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara will be marching in the Pride Parade and if you would like to join us, just give the helpline a call for the details. The parade starts at Main and Summer Streets, goes west on Summer Street to Elmwood Avenue, goes north on Elmwood and ends at Bidwell Park. There is a Market Place and entertainers in Bidwell Park after the parade. PFLAG will have a booth in the Market Place, so if you can't walk in the parade at least be sure to stop by the booth and say "hi."

Impatience on ENDA

Chris Geidner, Metro Weekly (DC)

As the timeline for action on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) tightens, LGBT organizations turned up the pressure on May 18, with a news conference at the National Press Club in Washington and a rally in front of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office in San Francisco. The events led Pelosi (D-Calif.) to spend an hour May 17, on a conference call aimed at reassuring LGBT groups that she intends to hold votes on both "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal and ENDA this year.

The National Center for Transgender Equality's (NCTE) Mara Keisling, who was among those invited to participate in the Monday conference call with Pelosi, told *Metro Weekly*, "She talked to us about her commitment for ENDA and possible ways of getting both ENDA and 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' through Congress this year."

Most congressional observers and LGBT advocates expect movement on DADT repeal to be considered, if formally proposed, as the Senate Armed Services Committee and full House consider the National Defense Authorization Act in coming weeks. But no such path has been made clear for ENDA, even in the House where the bill has a greater chance of success. After Monday's call with Pelosi, Keisling noted, "ENDA's still not scheduled, so that's hard."

"We went into the call and came out of the call knowing that the speaker is personally committed to LGBT issues. We went in and came out knowing that the speaker has a very crowded agenda," Keisling said. "She sees a pathway to getting both done ... but our job is to be pushing. We need ENDA now."

That pressure was made clear in San Francisco when several groups – Get Equal, Equality California, the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), the Transgender Law Center, the Equality Federation and local groups – joined together for an event aimed at showing Pelosi the importance that her constituents placed on her scheduling a vote on ENDA.

Speaking about concerns that House consideration of any DADT repeal in the National Defense Authorization Act in the coming weeks could put off any ENDA vote for the time being, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Rea Carey said Monday, "We would all be doing a disservice to our community, and frankly to the country, if we accept the either/or framework that has been put up about ENDA and 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.'" Carey added, "As advocacy organizations, we have a responsibility to work on both of them – and push both of them – at the same time."

To that end, the NCLR's Liz Seaton pointedly noted, "As we talk about Congress considering various pieces of legislation, it's not that the LGBT community wants so much, it's that Congress has failed to act to end the discrimination in so many areas for so long."

Whether ENDA is ready for a vote, though, is a matter of some disagreement. Both Harry Gural, Frank's communications director, and a Democratic leadership aide have strongly disputed the circulating conventional wisdom that the whip count they say is necessary to bring ENDA to the floor for a vote in the House is complete. On May 15, Gural specifically disputed an account published in the LGBT newspaper *Bay Windows* on May 13 in which the view of "supporters" of ENDA was characterized as "just waiting for the Democratic leadership to call the bill to the floor."

The characterization was backed in the article by Carey and Keisling. Carey was quoted as saying, "We have heard that the official whip is completed and that there are enough votes to pass ENDA in committee and in the House, which tells us that our vigorous lobbying and grassroots engagement efforts are being effective."

On Capitol Hill, however, things are not being described in such conclusive terms. An aide in Frank's office singled out the Task Force's assertion about the whip count in a meeting on May 14. Shannon Cuttle, an activist with Get Equal, met with Diego Sanchez, Frank's aide, on May 14. Cuttle said that Sanchez told her and James Pietrangelo II that Carey's quote was incorrect.

Gural went further on May 15, telling *Metro Weekly* that it was "irresponsible" to claim that the whip count is completed. Gural said that the count is being run through

Kay Patterson

Licensed Mental Health Counselor



Counseling for Change

5820 Main Street, Suite 203, Williamsville, NY 14221

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

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Once Upon a Time

Friday June 18 (8 pm) - Unitarian Universalist Church

695 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY

Saturday June 19 (8 pm) - First Presbyterian Church

One Symphony Circle, Buffalo, NY

Sunday June 20 (4 pm) - Orchard Park Presbyterian Church

4369 South Buffalo Road, Orchard Park, NY

Tickets & info: 883-1277

www.buffalogaymenschorus.org

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Frank's office, so he and Sanchez would have the most accurate information on where the count stands.

The Democratic leadership aide explained, "We have to make sure people are with us on both – on passage and the motion to recommit." It is this second portion, the motion to recommit, where Gural said the whip count is not yet complete. The leadership aide pressed the case for why the whip count on the motion to recommit is important, writing, "Last week, House Republicans offered a motion to recommit on the Home Star bill, which amended the bill with Trojan Horse language that prohibits funding to go towards child molesters." The aide also pointed to a report at the Center for American Progress's Think Progress blog detailing similar action by the Republicans on several pieces of legislation. The aide concluded, "If Republicans are willing to play politics with

jobs legislation, can you imagine what they will do with a motion to recommit on ENDA?"

Talking about the whip count on a "hypothetical" motion to recommit, NCTE's Keisling responded to Gural and the leadership aide's comments on Saturday. She said that there are going to be some people voting "pro-LGBT" no matter what and some voting against no matter what, but that "everyone else is just rationally going to say, 'It depends on what it is.'"

At Monday's news conference in D.C., NGLTF's Carey added to that, saying, "We have been working on this bill for decades, we have done our work, and we believe we have the votes." As to Gural and the leadership's concern, Carey said, "We know that we and our colleagues in many other organizations will do everything we can on those motions to recommit to make sure that this bill remains as one of the landmark pieces of civil-rights legislation in this country that will protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people."

As to the issue of priorities, of which Keisling has been critical of the leadership, she clarified her remarks on Saturday, May 15, saying, "They might be prioritizing it now, but the reason they're doing it now and not nine months ago is indisputably that they didn't prioritize it. They prioritized health care -- and maybe that was the right thing to do -- but that's what happened.

"I don't have access to whip counts, and I get it, but what we're saying is, 'We can pass the bill,'" she said. "They have their jobs to do, and they want to temper expectations, but we want to see a vote."

Gallup: Opposition to gay marriage eases

Jennifer Vanasco, 365gay.com

Opposition to gay marriage has returned to 2007 levels, according to an annual Gallup Poll on American beliefs.

Gallup says that 53 percent of Americans are against gay marriage; 44 percent are in favor. Last year, 57 percent were against and 40 percent were in favor. In 2007, though, 53 percent were against and 46 percent of Americans were in favor of gay marriage.

53 percent is the lowest rate of opposition that Gallup has recorded. When Gallup first asked this question in 1996, 68 of Americans were opposed and 27 in favor. Liberals are most supportive: 70 percent of them support gay marriage, compared to 25 percent of conservatives.

Says Gallup: "Over time, Americans have become more accepting of legal same-sex marriage, and a growing number of subgroups now show majority support for it. However, religious and conservative segments of the U.S. population remain largely opposed — even though their support for gay marriage has also increased in recent years. Because religious and conservative groups are larger than nonreligious and left-leaning groups in the United States, overall, more Americans remain opposed to, rather than in favor of, same-sex marriage."

Gay marriage is legal in the District of Columbia and five states: Vermont, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Iowa.

PFLAG BUFFALO/NIAGARA
2010–2011

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