

Youngstown
Chapter
Spring
2015

PFLAG Rag

Visit our website at
www.youngstownpflag.org



LGBTQIA Discussion at YSU —Steve Schildcrout

Shavar and Steve represented PFLAG at a discussion on sexuality issues at YSU sponsored by YSUnity, the LGBTQIA student group on campus. The event was held February 25 and was coordinated by Tim Bortner, president of YSUnity. The confidential discussion was wide ranging, with much of it prompted by videos, including such topics as representation of gays in the media and how it has evolved historically, and current gaps in understanding of transgender and asexual people even among gays and lesbians. We discussed changing LGBTQIA perceptions in the US and abroad. In the US we are now looking to the courts, especially the Supreme Court, for decisions we hope will further legal equality and lead to social acceptance. A consensus emerged that progress is being made, but slowly and with some setbacks, and that political and social action are still needed with cooperation among the various LGBTQIA organizations and communities.

We gratefully acknowledge a
donation in memory of
RUSSELL GRANT GATES
from Trevor Gates-Crandall.

Next Stop U.S. Supreme Court

—Jon W. Davidson, from
Impact (Winter 2015): 4

[Four legal cases involving same-sex marriage issues have been consolidated and will be heard by the Supreme Court. Lambda Legal will argue.] Having all of these cases together before the Court means that we have an amazing array of family stories illustrating why having access to marriage is so important to same-sex couples, from cradle to grave.

[The court has instructed the counsel are to] brief the following questions:

1. Does the 14th Amendment require a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex?
2. Does the 14th Amendment require a state to recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out-of-state?

The 14th Amendment protects individuals against unwarranted restrictions on their liberty and equal treatment, the core arguments we have been making and prevailing on in our marriage cases. The briefing from both sides will be concluded by April 17. We don't yet know when arguments will be held, but it likely will be soon after the briefing is over.

Please continue reading this article, discussing What Happens If We Win, What If We Lose, and Will We Win, online at www.lambdalegal.org under publications: "Impact Winter 2015."

President:
Marguerite Felice
Vice-President:
Antonia Schildcrout
Treasurer:
Stephen Schildcrout
Newsletter Editor:
Thomas Copeland

School Ejects 2 Dads' Son

—PFLAG National, *Policy Matters*

Davidson Academy, a Christian school with no direct affiliation to any church or religious organization, denied admission to married couple Brian Copeland and Greg Bullard's young son. The school stated in a letter to the couple that Copeland and Bullard's "lifestyle conduct" opposed Davidson's mission. Bullard is a senior pastor at a local church.

Doctor Rejects 2 Moms' Baby

—Jen Hayden, Daily Kos, 2/19/15

New moms Jami and Krista Contreras brought their 6-day-old baby for a check-up with the pediatrician they'd interviewed months before she was born. But, when they arrived . . . another pediatrician entered the room and [announced that] the doctor they were hoping for had a change of heart. After "much prayer," she decided that she couldn't treat their baby because they are lesbians.

The couple say they were simultaneously in shock and humiliated, compounded by the fact the baby needed to be fed and they were stuck in the office when all they really wanted to do was run.

. . . Although there is nothing illegal about what Dr. Roi did. . . Attorney Dana Nessel, who is handling the Michigan same-sex marriage case that's about to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, believes the laws need to change. If not, she said, more families like the Contrerases will be mistreated by the medical profession.

The Contrerases say they waited for months before deciding to come forward, ultimately deciding it is a conversation that has to be had for things to change.



Marriage Ban Blocked in NE

—OneNewsNow, 3/2/15

The ACLU of Nebraska sued the state in November on behalf of seven same-sex couples. . . . The ban means that same-sex couples miss out on medical and financial benefits available to heterosexual married couples, U.S. District Judge Joseph Bataillon said as he issued the injunction. "All of the plaintiffs have further demonstrated psychological harm and stigma, on themselves and on their children, as a result of the non-recognition of their marriages," he said in the 34-page ruling. "The plaintiffs have been denied the dignity and respect that comes with the rights and responsibilities of marriage.

Bataillon rejected the state's argument that the ban reflects the will of a majority of voters and promotes family stability. . . . "The notion that

I expect more from professionals. From doctors. From people who have pledged to care for humanity. From people who have pledged first to do no harm. . . . We physicians have a moral duty to care for people. We have a moral duty not to discriminate.

—Posted 2/18/15 by Dr. Abigail Schilderout of Huntington Woods, Michigan, on her DocThoughts blog

some children should receive fewer legal protections than others based on the circumstances of their birth is not only irrational — it is constitutionally repugnant," he said.

Progress

—Jessica Peoples (email 2/26/15)



Barely two weeks ago, after years of struggle, we won the freedom to marry in Alabama, the state my family calls home. It's been a long time coming—and my wife and I celebrated alongside thousands of other same-sex couples.

For the first time, we slept soundly knowing that our family was respected by Alabama law. My next step is adding my wife and our daughter to my health insurance plan.

O Brave New World

—PFLAG National, *Policy Matters*

Congress introduced a bill proposing the International Human Rights Defense Act on January 29. The bill was spearheaded by Sen. Edward Markey of Massachusetts and Rep. Alan Lowenthal of California. The act would make protecting and promoting international LGBT rights a foreign policy priority. . . . Currently, the Senate bill has 26 co-sponsors and the House bill has 46 co-sponsors.

BUT

Arkansas State Sen. Bart Hester has filed a bill which would prevent political subdivisions like counties and cities from passing anti-discrimination ordinances that protect LGBT people. If passed, political subdivisions of the state would be unable to create a protected classification or prohibit discrimination on a basis not contained in state law.

AND

The Wyoming House approved a bill which opens the door to discrimination against LGBT people justified by religious beliefs. The House added an amendment which excludes government employees or officials from this bill.

YET

UK's Labour Party announces zero-tolerance policy on anti-gay bullying. Calling such bullying "damaging," and calling for children to be kicked out of school if they call each other "gay" on the playground, the party on February 3 called for zero tolerance in "every classroom, dinner hall, and playground." The Labour Party has also announced plans to make LGBTQ-inclusive sex-education mandatory in all state schools.

AND EVEN

[In Russia a] group, claiming to be from the children's rights ombudsman's office, raided a school in St. Petersburg in late January, demanding the firing of an LGBTQ-supportive teacher. The office of the actual children's rights ombudsman of St. Petersburg, Svetlana Agapitova, denied any connection to the group and said the school had "every right to call the police if this unknown organization is conducting illegal acts."

Honoring A Black LGBTQ Hero

—Russell Roybal, Deputy Executive Director National LGBTQ Task Force

During Black History Month, we need your help in honoring one of the most significant and yet unsung heroes of the civil rights movement.

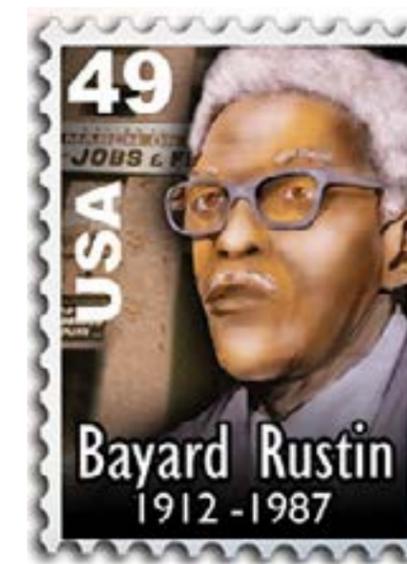
Bayard Rustin was the chief organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, an openly gay man, and an LGBTQ activist.

In 2013, Rustin was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In awarding the medal, President Obama said, "For decades, this great leader, often at Dr. King's side, was denied his rightful place in history because he was openly gay."

Now we all have a chance to give Rustin and his legacy the public awareness and recognition they deserve with a United States postage stamp. Please take a few minutes to visit our campaign page < http://ngltf.convio.net/site/R?i=_F_r09a5pty7S8tu6UHTsQ >, where you'll find a sample letter to send to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to recommend a stamp in honor of Bayard Rustin.

We launched this campaign with our partners at the International Court System—a partnership that led to last year's release of a postage stamp in honor of Harvey Milk.

Now it's time to honor another true LGBTQ hero, and with your help we can make history again with a Bayard Rustin stamp.



Essay Award Contest Deadline Extended to 4/25/15

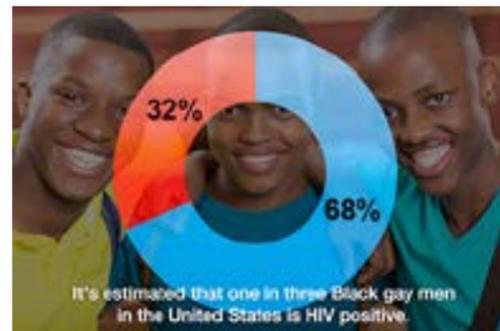
This is the message sent out by Nicole Thomas, Equality Ohio

YOUNGSTOWN, OH—Youngstown PFLAG, a nonprofit group for parents and friends of lesbians and gays, has organized an essay award contest for high school youth grades 10-12. Submissions will be accepted until April 25, 2015.

For the past 25 years, Youngstown PFLAG has worked to strengthen families and promote LGBT equality in the Valley. As a chapter of PFLAG National, Youngstown PFLAG offers support, education, and advocacy on behalf of LGBT people and their families. With the Essay Award Contest, the chapter is looking to recognize one young person who has made a conscious effort in the community to work toward these goals.

Youngstown PFLAG intends to award a \$500 prize to one local youth. In March of 2014, the chapter collaborated with Help Hotline and BRAVO (the Buckeye Regional Anti-Violence Organization) in hosting a conference on LGBT violence. A portion of the funds from the conference helped support the \$500 contest award. Parental consent and a letter of reference will be needed in order to participate. The winner will be announced on May 15, 2015, the award being conferred in June. Youngstown PFLAG hopes this contest will promote LGBT awareness and action in the Valley.

For more information about Youngstown PFLAG and the essay award contest, please visit Youngstown PFLAG at www.youngstownpflag.org and [facebook.com/YoungstownPFLAG](https://www.facebook.com/YoungstownPFLAG). Contest inquiries can also be made via email at youngstownpflag@aol.com.



Another Victory for Trans Equality

—email from Mass Equality, 2/19/15

[On February 18], Swampscott, MA, became the 12th jurisdiction in the state to enact non-discrimination protections based on gender identity in public settings. The new town policy will allow genderqueer, gender non-conforming, and transgender people the safety and protection of the law like so many other protected classes.

AIDS Walk Ohio

—Plagiarized from all over



The 2015 AIDS Walk Ohio will take place on April 18 and April 19. This inspiring event will be held simultaneously in Columbus, Dayton, and Toledo. The Honorary Chair will be Ted Allen, host of the hit primetime Food Network series *Chopped*.

Do Black Gay Lives Matter?

—amfAR, February 2015

Black gay men in the United States have been disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic. The fact that this lopsided burden has increased despite major progress among other heavily affected populations is one of the greatest failures of the HIV/AIDS

response in the U.S. amfAR's new issue brief explores the depth of this enduring disparity and summarizes the actions that must be taken to turn things around. To amplify the issue, amfAR VP and Director of Public Policy Greg Millett penned an opinion piece for CNN.com

<<http://www.kintera.org/TR.asp?a=hIKVKcN1IIIRJ4N-0F&s=muJ0JcOSIkUI6MWE&m=iIKTLhP2InIWIkI>>

Vatican Welcomes Gay Catholic Group at Last

— Philip Pullella, Yahoo News (Reuters), 2/18/15

A prominent American Catholic gay rights group was given VIP treatment for the first time at an audience with Pope Francis on [Feb. 18], a move members saw as a sign of change in the Roman Catholic Church. "This is a sign of movement that's due to the Francis effect," said Sister Jeannine Gramick, co-founder of New Ways Ministry, which ministers to homosexual Catholics and promotes gay rights in the 1.2 billion-member Church. Gramick and executive director Francis DeBernardo led a pilgrimage of 50 homosexual Catholics to the audience in St. Peter's Square. They told Reuters in an interview afterwards that when the group came to Rome on Catholic



pilgrimages during the papacies of Francis's predecessors John Paul and Benedict, "they just ignored us."

Catholics Shy of Gay St. Patrick's Day Marchers

—Elizabeth Barber, Yahoo News, 2/17/15

BOSTON (Reuters) - A Roman Catholic grammar school located near Boston has pulled out of the city's St. Patrick's Day parade in protest over organizers' decision to allow a gay veterans' group to march in next month's event.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary School, which traditionally sends its marching band to the South Boston route, said on Friday it would withdraw following a decision by the Allied War Veteran's Council, the parade's organizers, to admit a group of gay and lesbian veterans called OutVets to participate.

"We can't associate with that," Brother Thomas Dalton, principal of Immaculate Heart of Mary School, said in a phone interview. "It would appear we were condoning it."

Boston parade organizers said they would admit the OutVets group because its members were veterans.

Dalton, the principal, said the school did not consult with the archdiocese in Boston before withdrawing from the parade this year, which will be held on March 15. Archdiocesan officials did not immediately return requests for comment.

In New York, Cardinal Timothy Dolan has said he will serve as grand marshal of this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade, despite conservative criticism that he should withdraw over the inclusion of gay marchers.

SAGE's New Keys for Housing Solutions

—email 2/19/15 & sageusa.org/lgbthousinnd sageusa.org/lgbthousing

[In February], SAGE launched an exciting national initiative to alleviate the housing crisis impacting LGBT older people across the country. This critical project advances five "keys" to securing affordable, culturally competent housing for LGBT elders, who face rampant discrimination when seeking housing: Building Housing, Training Providers, Changing Policy, Educating Consumers, Expanding Services.

[After their kickoff event, they] joined with HUD and the National Center for Lesbian Rights to convene a path-breaking, day-long White House LGBT Elder Housing Summit.

See More At: http://Sageusa.org/Lgbthousing/?Utm_source=E-Sagematters+February+2015&Utm_campaign=February+2015+Esagematters&Utm_medium=Email#Sthash.ipkeykjw.dpuf

Alan Turing's Family Demands Pardon for 49,000 Convicted Gays

—Connie Purtill, Global Post.com, 2/24/15

On [the morning of February 23,] the family of Alan Turing—the famed English mathematician and codebreaker whose work led to modern computer science—went to the UK prime minister's residence at 10 Downing Street.

They asked that the government officially pardon 49,000 men who, like Turing, were legally persecuted for having consensual sexual relationships with other men before homosexuality



was decriminalized in the UK.

The family handed over a Change.org petition with more than

500,000 signatures calling for a pardon for all UK men convicted under the country's "gross indecency" laws. Such a pardon could clear the records of some 15,000 men still alive today.

Homosexual acts between two men were decriminalized in England and Wales in 1967. However, laws against "gross indecency" and "buggery"—offenses generally applied only to gay men—officially remained on the books until 2003.

Turing, whose work breaking Nazi codes was key to Allied success in World War II, was convicted in 1952 of gross indecency following his relationship with a 19-year-old man. He was chemically castrated and died of an apparent suicide two years later.

He received a royal pardon in 2013. His family and supporters now want the same for others.

Benedict Cumberbatch, the actor who played Turing in the Oscar-nominated film, and Stephen Fry, the British comedian who has campaigned for

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Turing to be placed on the 10 pound bill, signed an open letter in the *Guardian* newspaper last month calling on the royal family to extend the pardon to all men convicted under the laws.

"The UK's homophobic laws made the lives of generations of gay and bisexual men intolerable," the letter read. "It is up to young leaders of today including the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to acknowledge this mark on our history and not allow it to stand."

Go, Obama!

[PFLAG National's *Policy Matters* crows:]

Pres. Obama cites same-sex marriage as a civil right in State of the Union speech. Speaking in the U.S. Capitol on January 20, before a joint session of Congress and six of the Supreme Court justices who will likely decide the freedom to marry issue, President Obama called same-sex marriage a "story of freedom" and "a civil right" in his 2015 State of the Union (SOTU) address. Also historic? His affirming inclusion of the words 'transgender,' 'bisexual,' and 'lesbian,' the first time any of these words—or these groups—have been included in a SOTU address. Truly a thrilling and moving moment for PFLAGers everywhere.

[The Associated Press adds the following:]

Fred Sainz, vice president of the . . . Human Rights Campaign, said gay rights activists suspected all along that Obama supported gay marriage because he had indicated his support in a 1996 questionnaire before backtracking years later.

[And in fact, in a memoir, *Believer: My Forty Years in Politics*, released February 10,] David Axelrod, who served as a top White House adviser after helping Obama get elected, said Obama begrudgingly followed his advice that he would face strong opposition from African American religious leaders and others if he let it be known he supported gay marriage. "Having prided himself on forthrightness, though, Obama never felt comfortable with his compromise and, no doubt, compromised position," Axelrod wrote.

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Open Season on Trans Women

—Dani McClain, The Nation, 2/19/15

This week, writer and MSNBC host Janet Mock noted on her blog that at least six trans women have been killed in the United States since the start of 2015. The magnitude of the violence is astounding, as is its pace: By this time last year, no homicides of trans women had been reported.

Call for Auction Items

[Dreams of Hope are] looking for donations of items to auction at our March 28 fund-raiser: Absolute Motown. If you would consider donating an item or service, please send email to info@dreamsofhope.org.



Mississippi KKK Supports Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore's ordering the state's probate judges to refuse marriage licenses to same-sex couples. (*Daily Kos*)



KS Governor Sam Brownback took out the Governor's pen today to issue an executive order revoking prior policies issued by Governor Kathleen Sebelius. The Executive order, EO 15-2 turns back protections against discrimination against those who are LGBT. (*Daily Kos*)

Chelsea Manning Speaks Out

—*The Guardian*, 10/08/14

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice," reads the oft-quoted line from Martin Luther King.

I am a young trans woman. And I can attest to the "long" part, but I hope the bend toward justice will soon become more pronounced.

I filed a petition to change my name in January of this year. Even with some assistance from counsel, the petition took nearly four months to draft and file before I ever made it to a hearing before the court. The hearing and filings were public, and I had to pay fees for filing and posting a legal notice in a local newspaper costing me nearly \$500. And, despite making it clear that I identify as female, and having two military psychiatrists recommend support for my transition, legally changing my name has no effect on the "legal" gender status that the government imposes upon me.

No Men-Only Frats Anymore

—Michael F. Haverluck, OneNewsNow.com

Wesleyan University invites students who identify themselves under the umbrella of one or more of the 15 alternative sexualities to join a house embracing everyone but heterosexuals. This campus residence is called "Open House," which welcomes each of the 15 groups represented by the acronym "LGBTQQFAGPBDSM."

For those not in tune with many of the invented "gender identities," LGBTQQFAGPBDSM individuals represent the following groups (in order): lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, queer, questioning, flexual, asexual, genderf***, polyamorous, bondage/disciple, dominance/submission, and sadism/masochism.

Rob Bell on Oprah, 2/15
 —PFLAG National Policy Matter

“One of the oldest aches in the bones of humanity is loneliness. Loneliness is not good for the world. Whoever you are, gay or straight, it is totally normal, natural and healthy to want someone to go through life with. It’s central to our humanity. We want someone to go on the journey with.”

Fair Virginia
 —PFLAG National Policy Matter

Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe on Monday, January 12, said he would veto “in a nanosecond” a . . . “Conscience Clause” bill if passed . . . that would allow state licensed or accredited business owners to deny service to someone based on their religious beliefs. The comment against House Bill 1414 came in response to a question at a Richmond press conference during which the governor discussed what he described as his “equal opportunity” legislative agenda for the 2015 General Assembly, which began on January 14.

Tiffany Goes Gay
 —PFLAG National Policy Matter

For the first time, Tiffany & Co. is featuring a gay couple in its latest engagement campaign. (Fun fact: the pair are not models but an unnamed, real-life NYC couple.) Tiffany & Co. joins a growing list of companies taking their brand in this direction.

SD Marriage Ban Struck
 —PFLAG National Policy Matter

On Monday, January 12th, U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier struck down South Dakota’s law banning same-sex marriage on the basis that it violates rights under the Fourteenth Amendment in a 28-page decision. She granted summary judgment to plaintiff same-sex couples in the case.

Huckabee Rants
 —PFLAG National Policy Matters

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee equated drinking alcohol and using profanity to being gay on CNN’s “State of the Union” on February 1st. He said all three were lifestyle choices that were appealing to others, but not to him. He also claimed that accepting gay marriage as policy is like requiring Jews to serve “bacon-wrapped shrimp in their deli.”

SCOTUS Justices Lean Our Way
 —PFLAG National Policy Matter

U.S. Supreme Court Justices Elena Kagan and Ruth Bader Ginsburg . . . have conducted same-sex marriage ceremonies. . . . Justice Kagan performed a September 21 same-sex marriage for her former law clerk and his partner Patrick Pearsall in Maryland. Justice Ginsburg performed a same-sex marriage at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington DC in August 2013.

“It’s My Party” Singer Lesley Gore Dies at 68
 —Mark Kennedy, Associated Press, 2/16/15



Brooklyn-born and New Jersey-raised, Lesley Gore was discovered by Quincy Jones as a teenager and signed to Mercury Records. She graduated from Sarah Lawrence College with a degree in English/American literature.

Gore’s other hits include “She’s A Fool,” “Sunshine,” “Lollipops and Rainbows,” “That’s the Way Boys Are,” and “Maybe I Know.” She co-wrote with her brother, Michael, the Academy Award-nominated “Out Here on My Own” from the film *Fame*. She also played Catwoman’s sidekick in the cult TV comedy *Batman*.

In the 1990s, Gore co-wrote “My Secret Love” for Allison Anders’s film *Grace of My Heart*, released in 1996. A couple of years later, she appeared in *Smokey Joe’s Cafe* on Broadway. Gore had been working on a stage version of her life with playwright Mark Hampton when she died.

In 2005, she released *Ever Since*, her first album in 30 years, but was sure to revisit older hits in front of fans. “If I’ve learned anything in this business,” she told *The New York Times* that year, “how stupid would it be not to do ‘It’s My Party’ when people come to hear it?”

She officially came out to the public when she hosted several episodes of the PBS series *In The Life*, which dealt with gay and lesbian issues.

In the past few years, she performed at Feinstein’s at the Loews Regency in New York and, along with Ronnie Spector and LaLa Brooks, headlined the *She’s Got the Power* concert outdoors at Lincoln Center in 2012.

In addition to Sasson, Gore leaves her brother and mother, Ronny.

“She was a wonderful human being—caring, giving, a great feminist, great woman, great human being, great humanitarian,” Sasson, a jewelery designer, told The Associated Press.

America the Beautiful
 —ReiFollow



Among our nation’s most famous pieces of poetry is that which underlies the song, “America the Beautiful.” On several occasions, it has been proposed to replace “The Star Spangled Banner” as our national anthem. Its author was a young Wellesley College English professor named Katharine Lee Bates.

Almost everybody in this nation knows the words. Few know that she was a lesbian. Read her story in *The Daily Kos* < <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2010/09/18/902952/-LGBT-History-America-The-Beautiful?detail=email>>.

Qamp 2015

Dreams of Hope hosts an overnight arts camp every summer for queer and allied youth ages 13-19. This year’s Qamp will take place August 14-17 at Crestfield Camp in Slippery Rock, PA. Cost is \$500 per Qamper. Need-based financial assistance is available. Info.: email to info@dreamsofhope.org

HELP YSUnity
 LOSTRIA

Scan to purchase

Our official launch of our shirt sale campaign! All members, supporters, and friends are encouraged to buy a shirt to raise awareness of our organization and to wear at group events to show our pride.

We have to make our sales goal of 40 shirts by **March 5** in order to get them printed. There are t-shirts, v-necks, long-sleeved t-shirts, and hoodies to choose from. Proceeds from the sale go to YSUnity.

<http://teespring.com/ysunity>

Yank!

—Toni Schildcrout

Yank!, A WWII Musical, the off-Broadway hit of 2010, receiving rave reviews and seven Drama Desk nominations, will be presented by the Evolution Theater in Columbus, Ohio, May 27 through June 6. The show will be at the Columbus Performing Arts Center, Van Fleet Theater, at 549 Franklin Avenue. Check out the following websites: box office at www.Evolutiontheater.org (for tickets) and www.yankthemusical.com (for information about the content and history of the musical).



March 4–May 6, John Carroll University, D. J. Lombardo Student Center, 1 John Carroll Boulevard,

University Heights, Ohio. This exhibition examines the Nazi regime's attempt to eradicate homosexuality, which left thousands dead and shattered the lives of many more.

Pride Center Goes Digital

The Pride Center of Greater Youngstown (the original name) has a new website. It's not yet fully functional, but you can preview it at < <http://crpdesignz.com/pridecenter/>>. We hope to provide on the Internet a wide range of services as we restructure and reinvent ourselves.

Calendar

PFLAG Youngstown meets the second Tuesday of every month, so add these dates to your 2015 calendar: January 13, Feb, 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 15, October 13, November 10, and December 8. Watch for additional activities throughout the year.

The Pride Center of Greater Youngstown meets on the fourth Saturday of every month at 1:00 in the Main Branch of the Youngstown Public Library.

An informal LGBT discussion group meets monthly on the second Saturday at 6:00 at the Mocha House in Boardman.

The Stonewall Democrats meet on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 at 1523 Poland Avenue.

3/4, Wednesday 5pm-7pm LGBTQIA Through the Eyes of Different Religions at YSU Beeghly Hall-McKay Auditorium, sponsored by YSU, YSUnity, Women's and Gender Studies Program and Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies. "A panel of individuals with in-depth knowledge about some of the world's most populated religions will explore how LGBTQIA issues are viewed in the context of different religions. Light refreshments will be served."

3/10, Tuesday 6:30pm-8:30pm—PFLAG meeting at St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Avenue

4/14, Tuesday 6:30pm-8:30pm—PFLAG as above

4/17, Friday, 10am-3pm—Day of Silence Table in the second floor of Kilcawley Center; Breaking the Silence & Candlelight Vigil 3:30 P.M. at the Campus Rock

5/12, Tuesday 6:30pm-8:30pm—PFLAG annual meeting and election of officers and board for the 2015-16 year.

5/29-31, 7th Annual TransOhio Trans and Ally Symposium; check website at www.transohio.org for information.

6/9, Tuesday 6:30pm-8:30pm—PFLAG Tuesday 6:30pm-8:30pm—PFLAG as above

What Is PFLAG?

Our Vision

We, the parents, families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, celebrate diversity and envision a society that embraces everyone, including those of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. Only with respect, dignity and equality for all will we reach our full potential as human beings, individually and collectively. PFLAG welcomes the participation and support of all who share in, and hope to realize this vision.

Our Mission

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, 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. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

Our Strategic Goals

1. Build the capacity of our organization at every level so that we may have all the resources, in the form of information, people and funding, necessary to move forward in our work with the greatest possible effect.
2. Create a world in which our young people may grow up and be educated with freedom from fear of violence, bullying and other forms of discrim-

Submissions

The Youngstown Area PFLAG Rag needs your input. There are four issues annually, having the following deadlines: March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1. Send submissions (including pictures) to tcpoland@neo.rr.com or to

Youngstown Area PFLAG
313 N. Belle Vista Ave.
Youngstown, OH 44509

- 11 ination, regardless of their real or perceived gender identity or sexual orientation or that of their families.
3. Make our vision and our message accessible to the broadest range of ethnic and cultural communities, ending the isolation of families with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender family members within those communities.
4. Work toward full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons within their chosen communities of faith.
5. Create a society in which all LGBT persons may openly and safely pursue the career path of their choice, and may be valued and encouraged to grow to their full potential in the workplace.
6. Create a society in which all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons may enjoy, in every aspect of their lives, full civil and legal equality and may participate fully in all the rights, privileges and obligations of full citizenship in this country.

We welcome the participation and support of all who share in our Vision and Mission and who hope to realize our goals.

- See more at: <http://community.pflag.org/page.aspx?pid=237#sthash.WpB2s9T6.dpuf>

Join Us

If you are joining as a new member, please send your name, email, postal address, and phone number to youngstownpflag@aol.com. You may submit your dues payment of \$25 per household plus any optional donation using PayPal at our website: <http://www.youngstownpflag.org>.



Disclaimer

The views expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of the executive board, editor, or chapter.

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 in the Parish House of St. John's Episcopal Church (lower level), 323 Wick Avenue, Youngstown, OH.