

Youngstown  
Chapter  
Winter  
2014

# PFLAG Rag

Visit our website at  
[www.youngstownpflag.org](http://www.youngstownpflag.org)



## Event to Explore Gender Equality



On January 23, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., a program will be presented to “inform audiences of a growing issue in the Mahoning Valley, gender equality among youth in the LGBTQIA community.” Tickets for the day-long event cost \$75, and the presentation will ultimately be available on the TEDxYoungstown website.

Kristopher North will speak about YOUnify, of which he is Artistic Director. YOUnify is the LGBTQ+ youth empowerment theater troupe in downtown Youngstown, which focuses on empowering LGBTQIA individuals and youth through the arts. In an interview with *The Jambar*, the YSU student newspaper, dated 11/6/14, North said, “Our focus is to educate audiences on the struggles and challenges that face the queer youths in this area, especially in the Mahoning Valley.” Students will perform as well, their script being based on their personal experiences.

Tickets: [www.TEDxYoungstown.com](http://www.TEDxYoungstown.com).  
Anyone wanting more information about TEDxYoungstown can contact Lori Shandor at [TEDxYoungstown@gmail.com](mailto:TEDxYoungstown@gmail.com).

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## Are You Interested?

—Toni Schildcrout

Youngstown PFLAG, as a volunteer membership organization, relies on the interest of its members to spend a little of their free time to

contribute ideas to create programs of education, support, and advocacy for our greater community.

With that in mind, we are asking you, all members in good standing (see the membership information on p. 11), to let us know if you are interested in becoming more involved in PFLAG. The governing body meets four times a year outside of the regular monthly meetings. The elected officers include a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer, and three directors. Detailed duties of each office is available upon request.

Contact Toni at [toni@schildcrout.net](mailto:toni@schildcrout.net) if you would like to spare some of your precious free time with us. Thank you.

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## BRAVO Workshop a Success

—Steve Schildcrout

The workshop held on March 17 on understanding and dealing with violence against LGBTQI people was sponsored by a coalition of PFLAG Youngstown, Help Hotline, and BRAVO (Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization). It was a great success because of the quality of the presentations by the two speakers from BRAVO, Aaron Eckhardt and Lauren McDade, the large turnout of participants, and the funding it generated from registration fees that will permit PFLAG to offer a \$500 award in a student essay contest next spring. Thanks to BRAVO for the presentation, to Help Hotline for their organizational work, to St. John’s Church for

providing the facility, to the members of PFLAG Youngstown and YSUnity for their financial contributions and labor, and to the businesses that provided breakfasts for participants. These businesses include Peet's Coffee & Tea, Starbucks, Giant Eagle, and WalMart.

## PFLAG Archives at the Mahoning Valley Historical Society

—Toni Schilderout

In June of this year, the MVHS accepted the donation of the collection of materials pertaining to PFLAG for their archives (no items of a sensitive nature, like membership lists, were included), now located at The Tyler Center in downtown Youngstown. These materials can be accessed by the public (that means PFLAG members too). In a letter of thanks, Pamela Speis, the Archivist, said: "Thank you for helping us to preserve this part of the Valley's rich and varied history. Your continued support of MVHS and our mission is greatly appreciated."

So continue to cut out those newspaper articles that mention our activities, so that we may add this additional material to our historical record. Any PFLAG Youngstown Board member will accept these items.

## Transgender Day of Remembrance

—PFLAG Voice, 11/14

Each November, usually between the 19th and 28th (depending on location), the world honors the International Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR).



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Now in its 16th year, TDOR marks when communities around the globe commemorate trans or gender non-conforming people who died over the past year due to anti-trans violence or prejudice because of actual or perceived gender identity or expression.

[Approximately twenty people observed this event in Youngstown by marching with electric candles in the cold from the McDonough Museum to the Court House and around the block, ending on the corner of Federal Plaza West and Market St., where a list of names of victims of prejudice was read.]

### Shop on Amazon Smile & eBay and Support SAGE

SAGE is now registered on Amazon Smile and eBay Giving Works! When you shop at Amazon Smile you'll find the exact same low prices and selection, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to SAGE. SAGE also gets a donation from eBay when you buy and sell!

## PA Dem. State Senator Is Proud to Be Gay

—from Mahoning Stonewall Democrats newsletter,  
10/2/14

HARRISBURG, Pa. — A Pennsylvania state senator on Sept. 23 came out as gay.

"Hundreds of people know I'm gay, I just never made it an official declaration," said state Sen. Jim Ferlo (D-Alleghany County) as WITF, a public radio station in central Pennsylvania, reported. "I never felt I had to wear a billboard on my forehead. But I'm gay. Get over it."

Ferlo came out during a news conference that focused on adding sexual orientation and gender identity and expression to the commonwealth's hate crimes law. It took place nearly two weeks after a gay Philadelphia couple was attacked as they walked home from a local restaurant.

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## Youngstown PFLAG Essay Award Contest



### Attention Parents, Students & Faculty

Youngstown PFLAG will award **\$500** to a local youth who has made efforts to address the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people and their families in our community. Together, we hope to raise awareness of these needs. As a chapter of PFLAG National, we offer support, education, and advocacy on behalf of LGBT people and their families. With this Essay Award Contest, we want to recognize youth who have been working toward these goals.

### Contest Eligibility & Terms

#### The applicant must:

- Be a Youngstown area student in grades 10-12.
- Submit a typed and printed essay between 500 and 1000 words on one topic listed on the application.
- Complete the contest application, and have the written consent of their parent/legal guardian in order to be a participant.
- Provide a letter by a staff member at their school who knows them and is familiar with what they've done or by another adult who is familiar with their work. This person must not be related to them but may be a school teacher, counselor, an administrator or a staff member of another organization.

**Submissions due by March 15, 2015**

Winner determined by **April 15, 2015**

Award conferred by mid **June 2015**

For more information, contact Shavar Johnson at [youngstownpflag@aol.com](mailto:youngstownpflag@aol.com)

Download the application at:  
[www.youngstownpflag.org](http://www.youngstownpflag.org)





# HIV Prevention

—Tom Copeland

Don Rowinsky reports in the Mahoning Stonewall Democrats newsletter (10/2/14) that the Center for Disease Control

. . . (CDC), through its Act Against AIDS initiative, launched a new national campaign that encourages gay and bisexual men to *Start Talking. Stop HIV*. The campaign was created by and for gay and bisexual men. It promotes open communication about a range of HIV prevention strategies for sexual partners. *Start Talking. Stop HIV* features gay and bisexual men promoting life-saving conversations between sexual partners about HIV prevention strategies.

The campaign touches many topics that gay and bisexual men in all types of relationships will want to talk about: HIV testing, their HIV status, condom use, and medicines that help prevent and treat HIV (pre-exposure prophylaxis [PrEP], post-exposure prophylaxis [PEP], and antiretroviral therapy [ART]).

However, Charles Veneable, formerly of the Youngstown Health District's Regional Advisory Group for HIV Prevention (now defunct), says that he is not aware of any state-sponsored HIV prevention activity in Youngstown now that the advisory group for this region meets in Canton.

## What Makes Students Feel Safe?

We are well aware of the plight of LGBT school children. It has generally lessened in the last seven years but is still dire. Consult the data in GLSEN's study "Over Half of LGBT Students Feel Unsafe at School" (<http://thinkprogress.org/lgbt/2014/10/22/3583011/glсен-bullying-study-2013/>) for details,

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but the practical question is what is improving the climate for these kids. The article offers the following specifics:

Though the picture is still troubling, the outlook is not bleak, which is largely in part to increasing resources in schools. The study found that the positive benefits of these resources are easily identified and explain why anti-LGBT harassment is on the decline, however gradually. Here are some of the features of schools where LGBT students felt more safe:

- Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs): About half of students reported having a GSA at their school, and those who did were less likely to experience verbal harassment, discrimination, or feelings that they were unsafe because of their sexual orientation. They also felt more connected to their school community.
- LGBT-Inclusive Curricula: Only 18.5 percent of LGBT students were taught about LGBT people, history, or events in their schools, while conversely 15 percent had been taught negative content on LGBT topics. Less than half of students could find LGBT-related content in their libraries or even via the Internet access provided at school. Not only did students at schools with an LGBT-inclusive curriculum experience much lower rates of harassment, but they were more likely to be interested in studying science, technology, engineering, math, or social science in college.
- Supportive Teachers: Almost all LGBT students (96 percent) could identify at least one staff member at their school who was supportive of LGBT students, but only 39 percent could identify as many as a dozen. Those who could felt safer at school, had higher GPAs, and were four times as likely to plan on attending college.
- Comprehensive Anti-Bullying Policies: Most respondents (82 percent) said that their school had an anti-bullying policy, but only 10 percent reported that the policy specifically enumerate protections based on both sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. Students at schools with a comprehensive policy were less likely to experience verbal harassment and more likely to hear staff intervene when they did.

All of these anti-bullying resources are on the

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rise, but conservatives are still adamantly trying to block them. When they do, they are actually holding back the futures of LGBT youth, at least according to the data. As GLSEN Executive Director Eliza Byard said about the new report, "Progress is being made in our nation's schools, but when more than half of LGBT youth continue to report unsafe or even dangerous school climates, we all have a responsibility to act."

For more information about the experience of LGBT students, check out the full 2013 National School Climate Survey.

## Gay Man Is General Counsel to Air Force

— Chris Johnson, *Washington Blade*, 9/21/14, <http://www.washingtonblade.com/2014/09/21/gay-attorney-confirmed-top-lawyer-air-force/#sthash.mJNtXIUJ.dpuf>

Four days before the third anniversary of the end to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the U.S. Senate confirmed an openly gay attorney as the



top lawyer for the Air Force. On Sept. 16, the Senate confirmed Gordon Tanner, whom President Obama nominated in April, by voice vote to the position of general counsel to the Air Force. Tanner is the first-ever presidential appointee confirmed by the Senate who's not only openly gay and married to a same-sex spouse, but also a military veteran. Although he served in the civilian side of the Air Force for more than a decade, he had served on the uniform side of the service as a judge advocate general from 1973 to 1977. In 2010, Tanner married his spouse Robert Patlan in D.C. <http://www.washingtonblade.com/2014/09/21/gay-attorney-confirmed-top-lawyer-air-force/#sthash.mJNtXIUJ.dpuf>

"There's some good in the world, Mr. Frodo, and it's worth fighting for."

—Onomastic, *Daily Kos*, 9/19/14

When an anti-gay, self-described, "Preacher" showed up at James Madison University to tell gay students they were going to hell, students responded to his hate with love...[T]he James Madison University students gathered around the preacher, singing a song of love and tolerance. With one guy on guitar, the group begins to sing "How He Loves," a Christian song by John Mark McMillon. And with it, you can't hear the preacher at all. . . . Our young people are holding on to that good and fighting for it. How can we do anything less, when our young people standing up and fighting for justice embody that "good?"



Remember this Apple logo, 1977-99, by the Regis McKenna Advertising Agency? 25¢ to whoever finds out why it was retired!

## Apple CEO Comes Out

— [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/10/30/tim-cook-gay\\_n\\_6074016.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/10/30/tim-cook-gay_n_6074016.html)

Although Tim Cook has never denied being gay and was even so identified as early as 2011 by Ryan Tate in *Gawker*, he has now made a public declaration of his orientation:



Being gay has given me a deeper understanding of what it means to be in the minority and provided a window into the challenges that people in other minority groups deal with every day. It's made me more empathetic, which has led to a richer life. It's been tough and uncomfortable at times, but it has given me the confidence to be myself, to follow my own path, and to rise above adversity and bigotry. It's also given me the skin of a rhinoceros, which comes in handy when you're the CEO of Apple.



## Activist Ugandan Official

—Zack Ford in Thinkprogress, 12/1/14

Two years ago, [Parliament Speaker Rebecca] Kadaga was urging [Ugandan] lawmakers to pass what was then referred to as the “Kill The Gays” bill, which would have allowed the death penalty for those convicted of homosexuality. She said it would make a good “Christmas gift” to its advocates. Such a law eventually passed, though the death penalty had been amended down to a life sentence in jail.



[This month, she] warned Christian ministers in the country that they have much to fear from gay rights activists.

“Be very careful because gays are here to distort our heritage,” she told clergy gathered for Golden Jubilee celebrations at St. Stephen’s Church in Pajwenda on Sunday. “We have discovered that they adopt our children and confine them in gay communities abroad to train them on gay practices. By the time they come back home, they are already influenced by homosexuality and are used to influence others in the community.”

## N.J. Ban on “Conversion” Therapy Is Legal

— NJ.com (Hackensack, N.J.)/NJ Advance Media (9/12), quoted in Mahoning Stonewall Democrats newsletter, 10/2/14

A three-judge panel for a federal appeals court on Thursday ruled that New Jersey’s ban on LGBT “conversion” therapy does not violate religious or free-speech protections in the U.S. Constitution. The ban, which was signed into law last year by Gov. Chris Christie, is justified on the grounds that it helps protect the public, the panel said.

## No Longer Ex-Gay

Yvette Cantu Schneider was interviewed by Hatewatch, a blog managed by the staff of the Intelligence Project of the Southern Poverty Law Center. The following is based on an article entitled “Redeemed,” by Evelyn Schlatter on October 2, 2014, in SPLC’s *Intelligence Report*.



Schneider first came to believe conversion was possible in the church. “To be told week after week that our lives could be significant was like a drug. But, as with all drugs, there was a price. That price was to leave your individuality at the door and conform to what church leadership expected of you, to do as you were told, all in the name of serving the omniscient, omnipotent God.”

She was disciplined by mentors within her religious community but did not undergo conversion therapy as such. When she was later disillusioned about the church to which she belonged and also faced serious emotional turmoil for another reason, she sought counseling outside the church and began to reconstruct her life.

Now she recognizes conversion therapy as “a political tool of the so-called pro-family organizations to deny LGBT rights” by demonstrating that sexual orientation is not an immutable characteristic and hence not protected by the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

“What makes ex-gay therapy so devastating,” she maintains, “is that people are taught to believe that there is something wrong with them that needs healing. The message that resounds like a relentless drumbeat is that you aren’t good enough, and you need to change. It isn’t hard to imagine the effect this has on LGBT people, which is why all the major mental and medical health organizations have deemed sexual orientation change therapy efforts not only ineffective, but damaging.”

“I think the ex-gay movement will be dead

within the next 10 years. As churches become more gay-affirming, parents and church leaders won’t seek parachurch ministries to “fix” in gay Christians what isn’t broken. The fact that the ex-gay movement has been a monumental failure with no real, lasting change in those who have sought to negate same-sex attractions and become heterosexual will become more and more apparent to the average lay Christian. This is especially true in the age of social media, when information spreads like wildfire and can’t easily be suppressed. I’m sure there will be pockets of people here and there who will still try to change someone’s orientation. But the movement as a relevant entity in the push for LGBT rights will be defunct.”

## Back Door to Marriage Equality?

—Charlie Butts (OneNewsNow.com) 9/17/14

In Arizona, Judge John Sedwick ordered the state to issue a death certificate listing the deceased’s status as “married” and his partner as his spouse. The case in Indiana involved a lesbian couple, where Judge Joseph Van Bokkelen said the state will issue a death certificate bearing one woman’s name as “spouse” when her partner passes away from the effects of ovarian cancer.

## The Conservative Voice

One News Now gleefully reports that “the Sixth Circuit has ruled that if a state doesn’t want to recognize a gay marriage performed in another state, it doesn’t have to. Maybe, just maybe, we’ve taken our first step away from the edge of the moral abyss.”

However, the prospect is only partially rosy: “Arkansas and Mississippi became the latest two states [November 25] to have their gay marriage bans overturned by federal judges, but . . . both orders are on hold so the states can consider appeals.”

## Obama on Same-Sex Marriage

—Jeffrey Toobin, “The Obama Brief,” *The New Yorker* (free content) 10/27/14

President Obama opposed marriage equality until May of 2012. He told me that he now believes the Constitution requires all states to allow same-sex marriage, an argument that his Administration has not yet made before the Supreme Court. “Ultimately, I think the Equal Protection Clause does guarantee same-sex marriage in all fifty states,” he said. “But, as you know, courts have always been strategic. There have been times where the stars were aligned and the Court, like a thunderbolt, issues a ruling like *Brown v. Board of Education*, but that’s pretty rare. And, given the direction of society, for the Court to have allowed the process to play out the way it has may make the shift less controversial and more lasting.”

## Vatican Rejects Welcoming Language

—See more at <http://www.buzzfeed.com/lesterfeder/final-statement-on-family-from-catholic-summit-re-treats-from#rgzzt1>

On October 18, the Vatican released a statement about the pastoral care of homosexuals. Much can be learned by comparing the language of this document with that in an interim draft that was rejected by a vote of 118 to 62. The most interesting aspect of this document is that it deals exclusively with same-sex unions. This is the hot button for the Vatican, trumping sin and salvation.

Second, notice the blatant incoherence of the effort of the majority to combine loving tolerance with moral condemnation of gay families:

There is no basis whatsoever to assimilate or to draw even remote analogies between same-sex unions and the plan of God for marriage and the family. . . . [On

the other hand,] In their regard every sign of unjust discrimination should be avoided. . . . [Furthermore,] it is totally unacceptable for the Pastors of the Church to exert pressure in this matter and for international bodies to make financial aid to poor countries conditional upon the institution of laws that establish the “marriage” between persons of the same sex. [Translation by BuzzFlash and T. A. C.; official translations have not yet been made available online.]

Contrast this with the words of the interim draft that was rejected:

Homosexuals have gifts and qualities to offer to the Christian community: are we capable of welcoming these people, guaranteeing to them a fraternal space in our communities? Often they wish to encounter a Church that offers them a welcoming home. Are our communities capable of providing that, accepting and valuing their sexual orientation, without compromising Catholic doctrine on the family and matrimony?

The question of homosexuality leads to a serious reflection on how to elaborate realistic paths of affective growth and human and evangelical maturity integrating the sexual dimension: it appears therefore as an important educative challenge. The Church furthermore affirms that unions between people of the same sex cannot be considered on the same footing as matrimony between man and woman. Nor is it acceptable that pressure be brought to bear on pastors or that international bodies make financial aid dependent on the introduction of regulations inspired by gender ideology.

Without denying the moral problems connected to homosexual unions it has to be noted that there are cases in which mutual aid to the point of sacrifice constitutes a precious support in the life of the partners. Furthermore, the Church pays special attention to the children who live

with couples of the same sex, emphasizing that the needs and rights of the little ones must always be given priority.

The difference between the two statements is not doctrinal, for both decline to recognize same-sex unions as marriage and declare that financial aid must be blind to the recipients’ position on this issue. Rather, the difference is in the majority’s rejection of non-doctrinal concessions about the humanity, dignity, and worth of homosexuals and their partnerships. The Vatican majority vainly attempt to masquerade as nondiscriminatory while at the same time insisting that how and where individuals touch each other’s bodies can invalidate their spiritual worth and the value of their relationships.

Yet there is hope in two facts: (1) that a third of the highest-ranking Catholics in the world voted for the interim draft’s language, and (2) that all of the voters were considering homosexuality not as a matter of mere sexual activity but as a matter of affectional unions, interpersonal connection.

## Parents Seek to Reform Church from Within

—Associated Press, Vindicator Nov. 28, 2014

Rob and Linda Robertson did what they believed was expected of them as good Christians.

When their 12-year-old son Ryan said he was gay, they told him they loved him, but he had to change. He entered “reparative therapy,” met regularly with his pastor and immersed himself in Bible study and his church youth group. After six years, nothing changed. A despondent Ryan cut off from his parents and his faith, started taking drugs and in 2009, died of an overdose.

“Now we realize we were so wrongly taught,” said Rob Robertson, a firefighter for more than 30 years who lives in Redmond, Wash. “It’s a horrible, horrible mistake the church has made.”

The tragedy could have easily driven the Robertsons from the church. But instead of breaking with evangelicalism — as many parents

in similar circumstances have done — the couple is taking a different approach, and they’re inspiring other Christians with gay children to do the same.

They are staying in the church and, in protesting what they see as the demonization of their sons and daughters, presenting a new challenge to Christian leaders trying to hold off growing acceptance of same-sex relationships.

It’s not clear how much of an impact these parents can have. Evangelicals tend to dismiss fellow believers who accept same-sex relationships as no longer Christian. The parents have only recently started finding each other online and through faith-oriented organizations for gays and lesbians such as the Gay Christian Network, The Reformation Project and The Marin Foundation.

## The Zellnik Brothers at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage

Forty-five minutes of delightful musical theater entertainment happened in Washington DC on November 29 at the Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage. David and Joe “The Brothers Zellnik” presented a “taste” of their theater history original lyrics and music, invited by ASCAP (American Society of Authors, Composers and Publishers) as part of introducing promising and accomplished performers in the musical theater arena. Songs from “Yank” and “City of Dreams” as well as from their new musical “Ruth and the Panda” are presented.

You can access the performance by searching for Kennedy Center Millennium Stage and selecting Archival Videos; type in Zellnik and you will be directed to the video. Enjoy.

Items selected by Toni Schildcrout

(Stephen Snyder-Hill presented his book at a YSU program; Jordan Schildcrout is Toni and Steve Schildcrout’s son; David Zellnik has been Jordan’s partner for 18 years.)

## Response to Gay-Bashing

—Steven Payne, Daily Kos, 11/8/14

Ohio State University student Cole Ledford claims that a shared kiss with his boyfriend led to an assault by an enraged homophobe. Before being punched in the face, he was called a fag, of course. This type of violence is all too common for LGBT people who dare be too LGB or T in public. What wasn’t common was Cole’s reaction to the attack.

Shortly after being punched, his left eye socket clearly swollen, Cole took to Twitter and posted a picture of his injury and a message for the person who gave it to him:

To the guy who punched me tonight for kissing my boyfriend,

I’m sorry that you called me fag. I’m sorry you hit me for no reason.

I’m sorry that whatever insecurities you have don’t allow you to accept others for who they are. I’m sorry that I threaten you.

I’m NOT sorry I’m gay. I’m proud to be this way. I’m proud to be confident enough to love who I love and to love me. I’m proud to have friends and family that love me regardless of me. Honestly, I’m not sorry.

The next day, he posted on Twitter yet again, this time so he and his boyfriend could thank everyone who has sent him well-wishes and comforting thoughts.



Simply incredible. The empathy he shows his attacker for the personal demons lurking within him is empathy I don’t know if I could muster. Going bravely forward, he shows that his innate dignity was in no way compromised by someone else’s violent and ignorant shortcomings. It has been both touching and inspiring to the thousands of people who have picked up his Tweet and shared it since it was first posted last Thursday.



## Books

### *Soldier of Change*

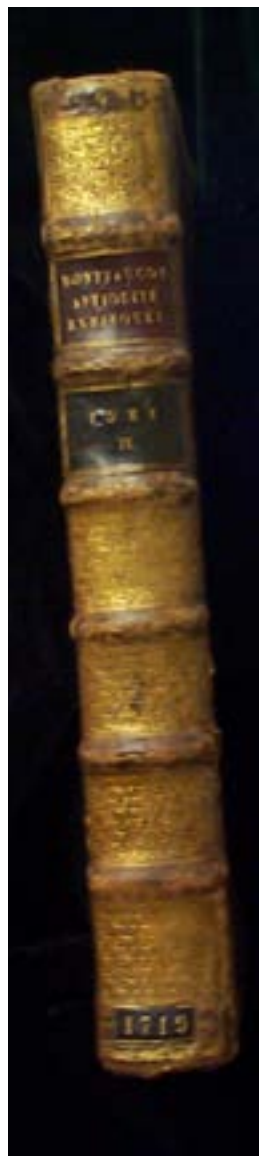
In September 2014, *Soldier of Change* by Stephen Snyder-Hill was released by the University of Nebraska Press. Mr. Snyder-Hill was the soldier who, on September 22, 2100, at the Republican presidential primary debate, asked.....

“The question I asked (uncut) was:

Hello, I’m a soldier currently serving in Iraq, and I have a question for the Republican candidates. In 2010, when I was deployed to Iraq, I had to lie about who I was, because I am a gay soldier and I didn’t want to lose my job. My question is, under one of your presidencies, do you intend to circumvent the progress that has been made with gay and lesbian soldiers in the military? Or would you continue to allow us to serve openly and not fear losing our jobs? Also, would you consider extending the same spouse benefits to gay and lesbian soldiers who are legally married as you do to our heterosexual counterparts? Thank you very much and have a good day” (quote from *Soldier of Change*).

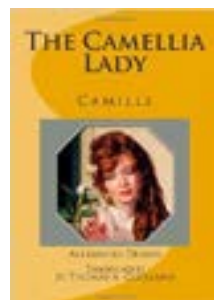
The history of this remarkable soldier who asked this remarkable question is available for you to read. It’s available through Amazon, the website of Potomac Books (where you can read an excerpt, listen to interviews and watch the video that led to the book) or at the library.

### *Murder Most Queer: The Homicidal Homosexual in the American Theater*



Jordan Schildcrout has written his first book, published by the University of Michigan Press as a volume in the series “Triangulations: Lesbian/Gay/Queer Theater/Drama Performances” in October 2014. Both for academic use and for the general public, the content is described thus: *Murder Most Queer: The Homicidal Homosexual in the American Theater* examines the shifting meanings of murderous LGBT characters in the American theater from the 1920s to today, showing how these controversial representations wrestle with and ultimately subvert the archetype of the “villainous homosexual” (mmq website). For more information please go to the website: [www.murdermostqueer.com](http://www.murdermostqueer.com) for a video and a complete listing of the plays discussed in the book. Check the blog for continued discussion and if you happen to be in New York City on December 3, attend the launch party at The Center, 208 W. 13th St., Room 210, 7-10 p.m.

Also available from Amazon.com (\$7.00): *The Camellia Lady; or, Camille*, by Alexandre Dumas fils, translated by T. A. Copeland, with one gay footnote.



## Membership Report and Dues Request, 2014-15

—Steve Schildcrout, Treasurer

As our annual membership drive nears its end, so far we have 18 paid households joining or renewing for 2014-15. This is the same number as last year’s, but six of these are new or reinstated memberships. You can still be added to the roster when you go to [www.youngstownpflag.org](http://www.youngstownpflag.org) and click the “Donate” button to pay \$25 (or more) with PayPal, or when I receive your check made payable to Youngstown PFLAG and sent to 2201 Goleta Ave, Youngstown, OH 44504, or when you bring your check or cash to a chapter meeting. From each dues payment, we send \$15 to National PFLAG to support their work, and our chapter keeps \$10. Thus you become a member of both National PFLAG and the Youngstown Area chapter. We will use your local dues mainly for

- Use of the facilities of St John’s church for our chapter meetings
- Help Hotline Crisis Center for taking and directing our incoming phone calls
- Funding our Essay Award for local high school students (See notice in this issue)
- Brochures and booklets published by National PFLAG that we provide for our members and for distribution at fairs and festivals and at schools that we visit

Most of you who joined or renewed gave generous donations in addition to your dues. Donations this year totaled \$205, 100% of which will be used by our chapter to further our programs. A healthy chapter needs the financial support as well as the active participation of its members. Thanks to all of you who support the Youngstown Area chapter with your dues, your donations, and your involvement in our activities.



## 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, except for this month, when to avoid Christmas conflicts it meets on Dec. 20 instead.

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.

12/9, 6:30-9:30: PFLAG Holiday Potluck, in St. John’s Episcopal Church Parlor across from YSU on Wick. Join us for appetizers and desserts and share some of your specialties! Beverages will be provided.

1/23, 9-4: TEDxYoungstown Presentation (see article, p. 1.)

# 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-

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>

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## Join Us

If you are joining as a new member, please send your name, email, postal address, and phone number to [youngstownpflag@aol.com](mailto: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>.

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## 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 [tcopeland@neo.rr.com](mailto:tcopeland@neo.rr.com) or to

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



### 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.