

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
 A joint publication of the Akron and Cleveland chapters

A crime of INTENTION

By Ed Kancler,
 Akron chapter president

Just a reminder, Akron PFLAG's Annual Meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Akron-Summit Co. Public Library Main Branch auditorium. The keynote lecture will be given by Lynne Bowman, executive director of Equality Ohio. This is our second annual lecture in tribute to the memory of LGBT advocate and local PFLAG pioneer Bruce G. Kriete.

Parking is free and refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Matthew Shepard Bill is now the law of the land! The U.S. Senate passed it by a whopping 68-29 vote. Are you listening, Ohio Senate? Hate crimes against LGBT people are crimes just as they always should have been. Now, if a hate crime against a LGBT is a crime, why shouldn't discrimination in employment and housing be illegal? So there!

That last comment was directed at John Boehner,



pinhead U.S. Congressman. His view on the U.S. Senate vote implied his belief that the law seeks to determine a person's "intention," which Boehner thinks is impossible.

Ignorance comes in many packages, and a simple review of criminal law reveals that many crimes are defined as being committed "with malice aforethought," i.e., "an intentional doing of a wrongful act." So, Mr. Boehner, "intention" has

been part of criminal law for over 230 years in our country. You could look it up (Black's Law Dictionary, 4th ed., p. 1110).

Every week there is some good news about the cause for equality. That should be happening every day, every hour. So, as we approach the holiday season (Thanksgiving is my favorite—no gifts, just family,

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CHAPTER MEETINGS

Akron PFLAG

Nov. 18*
 7:00 pm

N. Springfield Presbyt.
 671 N. Canton Rd.

* Nov. 18 is a Wednesday

Cleveland PFLAG

Nov. 10
 7:30 pm

Trinity Episcopal
 2230 Euclid Ave., 44115

Alliance PFLAG

Nov. 24
 7:00 pm

Union Ave. Methodist
 S. Union Ave.

Wooster PFLAG

Nov. 19
 7:00 pm

Universalist Fellowship
 3186 Burbank Rd.
 Please call ahead to confirm.

Youngstown PFLAG

Nov. 22
 3:00 pm

Stonewall Comm. Ctr.
 1523 Poland Ave.



Our Mission

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, 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.

PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

AKRON CHAPTER

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WWW.PFLAGAKRON.ORG

**HELPLINE:
330-342-5825**

Executive Board

President-Ed Kancler; VP-Chris Goldthorpe; Secretary-Joe Gardner; Treasurer-Bob Menapace; At Large-David Horowitz, Bill & Marie Libby, Audrey Kancler, Trish Casserly, Joy Watts, Jim Lake, Sue & Chuck Maglavay

Committee Chairs

Program-Chris Goldthorpe; Publicity-Marie Libby; Hospitality-Rada Jenkins; Library-David Greene; Newsletter-Audrey Kancler

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Executive Board

President-Sharon Groh-Wargo; VP-Jes Sellers; Secretary-Marianne Buccini; Treasurer-Art Thomson; At Large-Alan & Margot Cohen, Craig Hoffman; Legislative Coordinator-Tom Roese; Newsletter-Pat Brandt; Snacks-Gail Smith; Librarian-Gene Ashley; Webmaster-Quentin Jamieson

WHAT'S HAPPENING

AKRON CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING



WEDNESDAY, November 18 7:00 p.m.

**Akron-Summit Co. Public Library
Main Branch Auditorium**

Free parking. Refreshments.

Our 2nd annual Bruce G. Kriete memorial lecture will be given by Lynne Bowman, executive director of Equality Ohio.

Note: There is no Thursday chapter meeting this month.

**NOV
10**

FILM AND THE LGBT COMMUNITY, with Patrick Shepherd, associate director of the Cleveland International Film Festival, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Trinity Commons, 2230 Euclid Ave., Cleveland 44115. Includes screening of an award-winning short film. Sponsored by PFLAG Cleveland. For info: www.pflagcleveland.org.

**NOV
14**

CONNECTING AND RECONNECTING: A workshop for lesbian and gay couples, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., the LGBT Center, 6200 SOM Center Road, D-20, Solon. \$125 per couple. Contact: Renee Jennings, 216-905-3032 or rjenningsLisw@gmail.com.

CALL ME MALCOLM, documentary film and panel discussion, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Plymouth Church UCC, 2860 Coventry Road, Shaker Heights. The story of a transgender seminarian. Co-sponsored by Equality Ohio. Free and open to the public. For info: 216-921-3510.

**NOV
16-17**

WORLD AIDS DAY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, Ramada Plaza Hotel, 4900 Sinclair Rd., Columbus. For info: Sullivan@ohioaidscoalition.org or 800-226-5554.

**NOV
20**

YOUTH TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE, 7:00 p.m., Lesbian Gay Community Center, 6600 Detroit Ave., Cleveland 44102. For info: 216-651-5428.

**NOV
25**

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING WORSHIP, 7:00 p.m., Liberation UCC, 13714 Madison Ave., Lakewood. Bring nonperishable food items for the Jon Brittain Food Pantry of the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland. For info: 216-521-5556 or libucc@aol.com.

**DEC
1**

WORLD AIDS DAY EVENT, testing, info and more. MC-104, Cleveland State University, East 22nd and Euclid Ave. For info: 216-651-5428 or www.lgbtcleveland.org.

**DEC
4**

DAVE KOZ AND FRIENDS: A smooth jazz Christmas, 7:30 p.m., Playhouse Square Center, Cleveland. Out gay musician Dave Koz brings his holiday concert to Cleveland. Tickets \$10-\$65. www.playhousesquare.com.

MetroHealth hosts AIDS quilt events

MetroHealth Medical Center, 2500 MetroHealth Drive, Cleveland, will host a display of the Names Foundation AIDS Quilt from Nov. 30 to Dec. 8 in the Atrium.

A special screening of "Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt," a documentary about the Names Project AIDS Quilt and the people memorialized in it, will take place at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 1 in Scott Auditorium.

On Wednesday, Dec. 2 and Saturday, Dec. 5, a panel-making workshop will be held to create new pieces for the

quilt. Registration is required for this event, as space is limited. Call 216-778-4051.

For more information on this series of events: www.metrohealth.org/quilt.

Founded in 1987, the AIDS Memorial Quilt is the largest ongoing community arts project in the world. It contains more than 40,000 individual panels, each of which memorialized a person lost to this disease. Portions of the quilt, are on constantly display throughout the country.



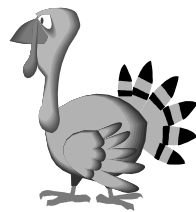
Cleveland Pride Thanksgiving fundraiser

Cleveland Pride presents "Pride goes to Hollywood" on November 21 from 7:00-11:00 p.m. at the VFW Post & Hall, 4435 W. 131st St.

A "Thanks for Giving" after party will be held at HUSH night club from 10:00 p.m.-2:30 a.m.

All proceeds go toward bringing in top talent for the 2010 Pride festival.

The board members of Cleveland Pride will perform in a turnabout show. Raffles, corn hole, food, drinks and prizes will also be available.



Visit www.clevelandpride.org for details.

Piano benefit concert

The Community AIDS Network (CAN) and The Pride Center of Akron will host a benefit concert, featuring internationally renowned pianist Tatsuya Nagashima, on Sunday, Nov. 15 at the Akron City Centre Hotel, 20 West Mill St.

A reception will be held at 2:00 p.m. with complimentary hors d'oeuvres, champagne, and cash bar. Concert begins at 3:00 p.m. Intermission includes cash bar. Tickets are \$50. Semi-formal attire required.

A private dinner (limited menu) and concert will be held in the evening at Bricco, 1 West Exchange St. Cocktail hour (cash bar) begins at 5:00 p.m. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Tickets \$75.

Presale tickets available through Nov. 6 by calling CAN at 330-252-1559.



GLSEN hosts youth conference

The 3rd annual GLSEN Youth Conference will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7 at Cleveland State University's downtown campus.

This event will feature workshops for LGBT students and allies, resources for schools and Gay Straight Alliances, time for personal growth and reflection, and opportunities to meet other students.

This year GLSEN is pleased to announce that the North Coast Men's

Chorus will perform a concert at the conference, followed by a panel discussion of the many journeys and courageous lives of the chorus' members.

The day is co-sponsored by The Gay Straight Alliance Committee of GLSEN Northeast Ohio and the GLBT Student Services Office of Diversity & Multicultural Affairs and CSU.

The conference is free. Lunch will be provided. Directions and conference details will be provided upon completion of the registration form, available at:

www.glsennortheastohio.org.

Akron Pride Center to merge with the Community Aids Network

The board of directors of the Akron Pride Center has issued an announcement that it will merge with the Community AIDS Network (CAN) to form a new organization to meet the needs of the LGBT community in the Akron area.

The merger is expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

CAN is well-organized, well-run, and provide excellent services to the community. Additionally, CAN has a very professional and active Board of Directors.

The letter from the board stated that the new organization will "fully represent both organizations" and that "the Pride Center board members will continue to represent and protect the best interests of the Pride Center throughout the merging process, as well as thereafter."

The letter stated that the Pride Center will share office space at the current CAN building at 895 N. Main in Akron, as well as a director and

staff. The merger is expected to open up new opportunities for volunteers in both organizations, as well as reduce overhead and develop a stronger community presence.

"As a team, we will strengthen community connections and resources to better serve Akron and Northeast Ohio," the letter stated.

The Pride Center was

founded in 1998 to advocate for the well-being of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender people in Akron and the surrounding counties.

All donations and assets of The Pride Center will continue to fund Pride Center programs and events as a separate part of the CAN operating budget. The recently acquired building on Aster Avenue will be put up for sale in the near future.

A FAQ related to the merger can be found at The Pride Center's website: akronpridecenter.org.

"One of the major components in our decision was the fact that we wanted to make sure that the Pride Center would have a strong physical presence in the Akron area immediately."

Crime *(Continued from page 1)*

friends, and food), let's think of ways to help our cause.

I keep finding that the easiest way is to get PFLAG into every conversation possible:

"What have you been doing with yourselves?"

"Oh, traveling, seeing the grandchildren, going to PFLAG meetings."

"What's PFLAG?"

Take it from there!

See you November 18th. And please note that this is a Wednesday. We will not meet on Thursday this month.



Human AIDS ribbon project

The Red Ribbon Connection is sponsoring a human AIDS ribbon project, an AIDS awareness event, at the McKinley Monument in Canton on Sunday, November 29 from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

The event's purpose is to help individuals and organizations show their support for those with AIDS and to help raise awareness in the community.

Participants are asked to wear red and will be organized into a giant human AIDS ribbon in front of the monument. The press has been invited to document this endeavor.

Cookies, coffee and hot chocolate will be provided. For more information or to bring a group, please call 330-455-3835.

Support EHEA

HB176, which would end discrimination against LGBT people in housing and employment in Ohio, has a long road ahead in the Senate. We need your help.

If you have been the victim of discrimination, if your LGBT child has moved out of state because Ohio is not a welcoming place, if you have to lie and hide your life to protect yourself, or if you simply believe HB176 is the right thing to do, Senate President Bill Harris needs to hear from you.

For more information about the bill visit:
www.dowhatsrightohio.com

Contact Sen. Harris at
614-466-8086 or
SD19@senate.state.oh.us

Legal symposium celebrates new law

By Tom Roese, Cleveland PFLAG legislative coordinator

Over 319 lawyers and human rights activists celebrated recent legislative victories at a legal symposium on LGBT issues at Cleveland Marshall Law College on October 30.

Representatives from Equality Ohio, ACLU, Lambda, HRC, the city of Cleveland, and an international human rights activist made presentations.

Recent legislative progress at the national and state levels celebrated at the event included: the signing by President Obama of an inclusive federal hate crimes bill (see sidebar at right); the passage of Ohio HB 176 in the House of Representatives; and a related federal bill, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which has passed through House and Senate committees and looks poised to be signed into law as early



as next year.

Councilman Joe Cimperman of Cleveland strongly felt the repeal of Ohio's Super DOMA bill is a target to

work toward. The bill not only limits marriage between one man and one woman, but also constitutionally excludes any possibility for civil unions to be legally recognized.

Councilman Cimperman outlined how several civic factions came together in helping to pass Cleveland's Domestic Partner Registry. In addition, Cimperman talked about the developments which led to a successful bid by the City of Cleveland to bring the 2014 International Gay Games to the area. He also stressed what a positive impact this event will have for the local economy, as well as human rights progress for the LGBT community.

Some of items on the agenda for Equality Ohio in the coming months include complete passage of HB 176 in Congress, statewide relationship recognition (domestic partner registry), second parent adoption, safe schools for LGBT students, and the ability to change gender marker on birth certificates.

While progress is being made on some issues, locally and nationally there still is much work to do. It was suggested that one of the most valuable things an individual can do is to stand up for human rights whenever possible. Come out as a supporter of LGBT rights at your work, school, place of worship, and neighborhood. Make your views visible and known, including continual contact with your local, state, and national representatives. While Ohio as a state ranks second to the last in LGBT rights, Ohio's cities, especially, Cleveland, Toledo, Cleveland Heights, and Bowling Green rank among the top 10 percent of positive LGBT rights...so there is hope.

Obama administration supports LGBT

The gay rights community continues to make small marks of progress under President Obama's administration.

The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act was signed into law last month. It expands current hate crimes law to include crimes based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. The measure was named for Matthew Shepard, the gay Wyoming college student murdered 11 years ago.

In addition, the departments of Housing and Urban Development and Health and Human Services each announced developments that support the LGBT community.

HHS will establish the nation's first national resource center for

the support of LGBT senior citizens. HUD announced it will seek to ensure its housing programs do not discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Its definition of "family" would also include LGBT individuals and couples.

Jody Huckaby, executive director of PFLAG National, said of the announcements, "PFLAG is grateful to the lawmakers and administrative officials who listened to our families and heard their stories, then acted to help secure equality for our LGBT loved ones."

He added that the progress encourages supporters to move forward to repeal hurtful laws such as "Don't ask, Don't tell" and the federal Defense of Marriage Act.

Commonly asked questions about trans people

From the publication of the Transgender Network of PFLAG

What does “transgendered” mean?

Transgendered people are those whose gender identity or gender expression differ from conventional expectations for their physical sex. Gender identity is one’s internal sense of being male or female, which is commonly communicated to others by one’s gender expression (clothes, hairstyle, mannerisms, etc.).



ous genitalia. They are often subjected to surgical “normalization” procedures, which usually results in loss of sexual response in adulthood. The Intersexed Society of North America has labeled this practice “infant genital mutilation.” Some intersexed infants are sexually reassigned, and later in life develop issues strikingly similar to transsexuals.

What is gender dysphoria?

Gender dysphoria is the overall psychological term used to describe the feelings of pain, anguish, and anxiety that arise from the mismatch between a trans person’s physical sex and gender identity, and from parental and societal pressure to conform to gender norms. Almost all transgendered people suffer from gender dysphoria to some degree.



eral distinct but related groups of people who use a variety of other terms to self-identify. For example, many post-operative transsexuals no longer consider themselves to be transsexual. Some non-operative transsexuals identify themselves as transgenderists. Despite this variance, most trans people will agree that their self-identification is an important personal right.

What causes transsexualism?

Many medical researchers now believe transgenderism is rooted in complex biological factors that are fixed at birth, and thus it is not a choice but a personal dilemma. Theories include spontaneous genetic mutation and exposure to opposite sex hormones in utero.

What is gender transition?

Gender transition is the period during which transsexual persons begin changing their appearances and bodies to match their internal gender identity. While in transition, they are very vulnerable to discrimination and in dire need of support from family and friends. Hormonal therapy can take months or years to effect the physical changes that will produce a passable appearance, and some never pass completely. Transition may also include gender reassignment surgery.



Who are trans people?

Trans people include pre-operative, post-operative, and non-operative transsexuals, who generally feel that they were born into the wrong physical sex; crossdressers, who wear the clothing of the opposite sex in order to fully express an inner, cross-gender identity; intersexed persons; and others.

It’s important to note that the term “transgendered” includes sev-

Who are crossdressers?

Crossdressers are the largest group of transgendered persons. Although most crossdressers are heterosexual men, there are also gay and bisexual men, as well as lesbians, bisexual and straight women, who crossdress. The vast majority live in secrecy about their transgendered status, and unlike transsexuals, they do not wish to change their physical sex.

Who are intersexed people?

Intersexed people are born with chromosomal anomalies or ambigu-

When you no longer need PFLAG, that’s when PFLAG needs you!