

# Greater Cincinnati GLBT News

January 2003: Volume 6, Number 1

## Gay Man Murdered On New Year's Eve in OTR

2002 ended in Cincinnati with a tragedy which chillingly reminds us that violence against GLBT people is still a very real threat. On December 31st, 21-year-old Gregory Beauchamp was gunned down at the corner of Vine and West Liberty in Over the Rhine following what witnesses say was anti-gay harassment. The victim and some friends were reportedly on their way to ring in the new year at the Venus Club when a group of young men in a passing car began calling them "fags." Mr. Beauchamp was pronounced dead on the scene shortly after 9pm. According to a witness, his body lay on the sidewalk for several hours on display before police would cover him up. His funeral was held on Monday January 6th.

Cincinnati Police are still looking for the perpetrators, believed to be four or five African American males between the ages of 19 and 20. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Police Department at 352-3542.

Doreen Cudnik of Stonewall Cincinnati told GLBT News that the organization is looking into Beauchamp's murder. Their Anti-Violence Project Committee is in the process of following up with District One of the Cincinnati Police Department to ensure that if this was a hate crime, as many believe it to be, it will be fully investigated as such. A statement about this matter will be posted on Stonewall's website at [www.stonewallcincinnati.org](http://www.stonewallcincinnati.org) in the coming weeks.

## Local Groups Preparing for Historic Retreat on January 18th

Plans are being finalized for the community-wide GLBT Retreat which will be held on Saturday January 18th. The day long event is sponsored by the Cincinnati GLBT Coalition and will be held at Clifton United Methodist Church from 8:30am to 4pm. All area GLBT and supportive organizations, as well as any interested individuals, are encouraged to participate.

Event coordinator and Coalition moderator Tom Jones says that the purpose of the event is "to bring together representatives from GLBT organizations and interested individuals to assess (1) where we stand as a GLBT community; (2) where we want to be and (3) how to get there." On a related topic, the day will also include a discussion of how organizations can learn from one another in addressing such topics as fundraising, organization and making their membership more diverse. It should also prove to be a great opportunity for socializing with community members.

The morning will begin with coffee-donut socializing at 8:30am. The first session begins at 9am with an in-depth look at where the local lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community stands today. The plan is to divide into smaller breakout groups which will critically examine these aspects of community life: social opportunities (including sports and entertainment); political presence; religious opportunities; building GLBT businesses; community image (including media coverage); health; diversity and GLBT families. After these topics are discussed in depth in the smaller groups, everyone will then regroup to hear reports on each of them and open the floor for general discussion on each.

Identifying needs of members of the GLBT community that are not adequately being served and also creating a list of action steps to better meet those needs is a priority of the retreat, according to Jones. For example, some organizations may see ways to expand their purposes or missions in ways that would be more valuable to the community.

Cincinnati City Council Member David Crowley has agreed to be the luncheon speaker. Councilman Crowley has been a strong supporter of the GLBT community and has worked with Citizens to Restore Fairness on the planning for the repeal of Article 12. He will bring the group up to date on the repeal effort and also address some political perspectives from City Hall on GLBT issues.

After a break for lunch, discussion will turn more particularly to how our community is organized with a look at specific issues facing GLBT organizations in our area. Bill Bridges, local HRC representative, plans to put forward four organizational scenarios for the group to consider. A panel discussion will follow looking specifically at organizations' needs/abilities in (1) fund raising; (2) membership and Board, particularly the diversity challenges facing all groups; (3) motivational challenges to get members involved; and (4) an assessment of whether there needs to be a better division of labor among existing GLBT organizations such as in the Speaker Bureau area.

This is the first time such a large scale assessment of our local community has taken place. The idea grew out of recent Coalition meetings where organization representatives discussed what the needs of the community were and how their own organizations could better meet those needs. It was decided that the time was right to take an in depth look at our community and more specifically identify needs that were not being met.

As part of that assessment participants from outside the community have also been invited to participate. For example, it is anticipated that individuals from *CityBeat* and *The Enquirer* will be on hand to discuss the GLBT community's image in the mainstream press world. Similarly, it is expected that there will be a representative from the Cincinnati Health Department as well as the YWCA to address health issues as well as representatives from AVOC, Caracole and AVNK. Representatives from the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce are being invited to talk about the impact gays and lesbians have on local business.

The true success of this retreat will be heavily determined by the number and diversity of the participants, says Jones, since the Coalition's goal is to examine aspects of the whole community. The hope is to have a good turn out from groups as diverse as Cincinnati Youth Group and Tristate PrimeTimers, from River Bear to the Queen City Court. Organizations are encouraged to send as many representatives as they like. In addition, any interested individuals not specifically representing a group are encouraged to attend and share their thoughts. All that is asked is that participants either contact The Coalition through [TomJones2000@aol.com](mailto:TomJones2000@aol.com) or at The Center's phone at 591-0222 so that a good estimate can be obtained for food planning purposes.

### What is the Coalition?

The GLBT Coalition is technically a service provided by The Community Center. It reinvented itself in late 1999 and adopted a Mission Statement "to provide a forum for GLBT and supportive organizations and individuals to foster pride and unity in the GLBT Community and to advocate, both within and beyond the GLBT community, for fairness and increased acceptance, on a non political basis, by facilitating communication." The Coalition meets on the third Saturday of the month at 10 am at St. John's Unitarian Church on Resor in Clifton. All interested organizations are encouraged to attend.

# Pride Parade 2003 to be "The Gayest Show on Earth"

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, from Burnet Woods to Hoffner Park, down the streets of Clifton and all the way to Northside comes "The Gayest Show on Earth"!

Yes, that's the title for this year's Pride Parade, which will be held on June 8th, starting at noon. In just a few more months another Pride Day extravaganza from the GLBT community will be winding its way to a great festival, filled with lots to eat and drink, and plenty of good music. This year's Pride Parade will have a circus theme so start planning what kind of a float that you will have in keeping with this theme.

A float you say!! Yes!! This year the committee has decided that pull behind floats are now allowed. This will open up tons of possibilities for your group or organization to see if they can make the best float in this year's Pride Parade. The committee will judge which floats are made to perfection and awards will be given to the first, second, and third place winners. So put on those thinking caps and get to work.

There is another change that you may find interesting also. It's an "Early Bird Special." If you get your float applications in by April 4th, the fee to be in the parade is only \$40. That's almost like being free, and speaking of which, that fee can be waived if you or your organization would like to be a sponsor of this year's Pride Day. There are various levels of sponsorship available, from \$250 to \$5,000. To find out all the details on sponsorship, visit [www.cincypride.com](http://www.cincypride.com).

Have you ever wanted to be a clown? Well this year you can be and we need you to be. The committee needs volunteers to be Pride clowns and that just may be you or someone you know. A prize or prizes will be placed inside balloons and you will have the opportunity of selling the prize-winning balloon, plus, raise money to help finance the Pride Day parade and festival.

The next 2003 Pride Parade Committee meeting will be on Sunday January 12th at noon at the Greater Cincinnati Women's Resource Center in Northside. Ken Colegrove, Pride Parade's long time organizer has put together a new online Pride News Letter and everyone is invited to become a subscriber. Keep up to date with all the exciting Pride preparations and find out more about how you can get involved by emailing to [cincypridesubscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:cincypridesubscribe@yahoo.com)

## Holly Near and Cris Williamson to Headline Fundraiser in March

On Saturday March 8th, women's music legends Holly Near and Cris Williamson will be appearing in concert at the College of Mount St. Joseph. Tri-State Womfest and the Cincinnati Pride Committee will present the concert, which will serve as a joint fundraiser equally benefiting both organizations.

Holly Near's career spans over 30 years. Her music articulates the social conditions of the world community, and her strength as a performer has led to collaborations with such artists as Ronnie Gilbert, Pete Seeger, Arlo Guthrie, and Bonnie Raitt, to name just a few. She has received awards for her work from the ACLU, the National Organization for Women, Ms. Magazine (Woman of the Year), and also been given the Legends of Women's Music Award.

Cris Williamson is a singer, songwriter, spirit healer, and teacher of the "art of the possible." Her work has stirred souls and opened minds with music that celebrates human strength, tenacity, and resilience.

Tickets for the concert are \$25 in advance, and \$30 the day of the show. They are now on sale at New World Book-store in Clifton, Books n' More in Newport, and the Women's Resource Ctr. (Crazy Ladies) in Northside. You can also buy them at the Pride website at [www.cincypride.com](http://www.cincypride.com).

## Lavender Santas Collect Toys for 291 Children

158 families signed up for holiday help this year with the Lavender Santa Program. The Unity House World Peace Center in Northside provided toys to 291 underprivileged children for the holidays. Every family was provided with either toys, food or school supplies. In 2002 Unity House helped about 50 children. This year the group exceeded their goal of 250.

This could not have happened without the wonderful people who came to their rescue with large cash donations. Stonewall Cincinnati provided funds to purchase toys for 15 children. Hamburger Mary's, The Pink Pyramid, Jacobs On the Avenue and Relaxing Moments served as drop off sites. On December 21st, Bullfishes dedicated the night to the children and raised over \$500 for the program by selling photos with Mrs. Claus. Unity House wishes to thank Donna Smith, owner of Bullfishes, Irene Clark (Ms. Claus) and Jenna Arnold for taking the photos and making the night one to remember.

Because of the generous donations from Lavender Santa organizers Lynn Love and Darlene Hicks, the teenagers ages 14-17 all received gifts bags packed with gift certificates, socks, shirts and candy.

Two Christmas parties were held for the younger children. Mt. Ida C.S.I. Outreach hosted the first party supported by Unity House, Club Kapri Korn and House of Refuge Mission at Shane's Place on Taft Road where children were given the opportunity to pick out their own toys. Over 45 families (85 children) received toys that night. At a second party hosted by Unity House WPC at Garfield Commons Apartments in Northside, Santa passed out presents to children while their families enjoyed holiday music, cookies and juice.

It is always amazing when people give up their time to volunteer in the community. Youth from Oxford and West Chester took on the tedious job of wrapping all those toys. They spent 5 hours at it. Unity House director Dianna Brewer says, "The best part of the Lavender Santa was to see the smiles on all the children faces when they received their gifts."

She promises that next year the Lavender Santas will return and give those who did not have a chance to be involved an opportunity to give what they can.

## MUSE Presenting Rhiannon in Concert

Cincinnati's Women's Choir will hold a special concert and silent auction featuring master teacher Rhiannon on Saturday January 25th. Rhiannon is a vibrant, gifted singer and composer who has been bringing her potent blend of world music, jazz, improvisation and storytelling to audiences for over three decades. In 1976 she co-founded the groundbreaking women's jazz quintet, Alive! This pioneering group toured internationally and released three albums during their ten years together. She will share her vision of music as a vehicle for healing, community building, transformation and social change. The concert and silent auction will follow a weekend long workshop for MUSE's members given by Rhiannon. It begins at 8pm at St. John's Unitarian Church. Get your tickets by calling 221-1118 or go to [www.musechoir.org](http://www.musechoir.org).

# Miami University Awareness Week to Feature Rev. Mel White and Judy Shepard

During the first week of February, Spectrum, the GLBT student organization at Miami University of Ohio in Oxford will host several high profile events during its annual Awareness Week on campus. These events are open to everyone and promise to be worth the drive up from Cincinnati.

On Monday February 3rd, Scott Greenwood, co-founder of Lambda 1809, Miami's GLBT alumni association and a Miami graduate, will speak about some of the major legal issues affecting our community. He was the principle litigator in the challenges to Issue 3 in Cincinnati and has a relentless dedication to defending the rights of every citizen. His speech will be held in room 100 of the Laws Building on the campus.

Judy Shepard, the mother of Matthew Shepard, will speak on Tuesday February 4th. Since her son's brutal killing in 1998, Mrs. Shepard and her husband set up the Matthew Shepard Foundation and have worked tirelessly to end hate crimes against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. In 1999, she testified before Congress and has volunteered with GLSEN and the Human Rights Campaign. Her very personal story of tragedy and her message of love are moving and inspiring. Mrs. Shepard's appearance will be at 8pm at Millet Hall.

When your son comes out to you, what do you do? Start a website and become activists. That's what Patt and Jeff Ellis did. They will talk about their lives and about their site, [familyacceptance.org](http://familyacceptance.org) on Wednesday night at 7pm in room 100 of the Arts Building on the campus. Katie Hladky, a leader of Spectrum, says "We are excited to bring Jeff and Patt to Miami in hopes that what they will have to say will help change the hearts and minds of many struggling young Christians."

On Thursday February 6th, the Rev. Dr. Mel White, co-founder of Soulforce and a former ghostwriter for both Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell, will speak at Presser Hall at 8pm. Rev. White is well known across the country and the world for his efforts to openly challenge the homophobic teachings of many of our religious leaders, what he calls "spiritual violence" against GLBT people. His organization, Soulforce, of which we now have a local chapter in Northern Kentucky, follows the path of Martin Luther King and Gandhi in using non-violence and love to overcome hatred and fear. His speech will be titled "Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America" and will focus on his personal struggles to come out.

The week of events will culminate on Friday February 7th when Spectrum will host a benefit dinner for the Oxford chapter of PFLAG (Parents Families Friends of Lesbians and Gays). Funds will go to support that group's ongoing work in the Talawanda school district and several private schools to educate teachers and administrators about the dangers of bullying and harassment in schools not only for GLBT individuals, but all students who suffer. The dinner will be in Marcum Conference Center and tickets for it can be purchased by contacting the Miami University Box Office at 513-529-3200.

Both the events with Mrs. Shepard and Rev. White are free with no advance tickets needed, but seating will be limited. For more information on Miami University's 2003 Awareness Week, go online to the groups's website at [www.orgs.muohio.edu/spectrum/](http://www.orgs.muohio.edu/spectrum/) or call 513-529-3823.

## PFLAG Seeks Nominations for Rainbow Awards

As a major part of its 2003 Scholarship Banquet in March, our local chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will be presenting its first Rainbow Achievement Awards. PFLAG president Marti Kwiatkowski says that the new awards, called the "Dorothys," are intended to recognize leaders and others whose hard work in support, education and advocacy has benefitted our local GLBT community. The group is currently seeking nominations for these awards. If you know of anyone, gay or straight, who you feel is deserving of such an honor, please contact Marti at 489-8776 or [kwi31@fuse.net](mailto:kwi31@fuse.net). The deadline for nominations is February 1st.

## Join the Pride Night at Kings Island Planning Committee

The staff and management of Paramount's Kings Island is looking forward to the Gay and Lesbian Community Center's 7th fundraiser in their park. The actual day is still being negotiated, but it has been slated for a weekend in September 2003.

Even without the official date being set as of yet, there are plenty of other decisions that must be made before the event can go on. The committee is already beginning its work in areas such as sponsorships, talent, advertising strategies, budget and many others, according to Center Vice President Troy Henson. Anyone who is interested in becoming a part of the Kings Island Committee is welcome. There are a variety of positions to be filled and it would only take about two days a month for you to participate in the meetings. The meetings will be every two weeks, and the first meeting is set for January 14th at 6:30pm at The Center. The main agenda for the first meeting will be to review the surveys from last year to understand what the Pride Night guests liked and disliked about the event.

## Investment Group Offers Stock Tips

Gays and lesbians interested in learning more about the stock market and how to make intelligent and informed decisions about investing for the future are invited to join The Three Dollar Investment Club of Cincinnati. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church. Most meetings include reviews of portfolio performances over the past month and new stock presentations for potential purchases. The group also sponsors social outings for its members. To find out more, call 541-6036 or visit [threedollarinvestment.com](http://threedollarinvestment.com).

## Winter Gala Benefits Caracole

You are invited to enjoy an evening of fine dining, dancing and the exciting return of "Mystery Boxes" at the lavish annual Winter Gala fundraiser for Caracole. "A Victorian Valentine" will be on February 15th at the Peterloo in Indian Hill. Tickets are \$135 each and all proceeds go to provide housing to people living with AIDS. For info, visit [www.caracole.org](http://www.caracole.org).

## Miss Queen City Pageant Coming January 26

Their majesties Empress XII Ginger Snap and Empress IX Booshie Rayburn will be the hostesses for the 2003 Miss Queen City Pageant on Sunday January 26th at The Dock. The reigning Miss Queen City, Lady Devane, will be giving up her title that night. The schedule for the contest includes a male interview at 1pm on Sunday afternoon for the contestants and judges with the actual pageant beginning at 8pm. If you'd like to be a contestant, please contact Ginger at [cincyempres12ginger@hotmail.com](mailto:cincyempres12ginger@hotmail.com).

## Lesbians of Color to Meet in February

Sista! Sista!, a local network for lesbians of color, will have its next quarterly meeting on Saturday February 22nd. The group offers support, discussion and information and women of all ages are represented. At this next meeting, Sista Sista will enjoy poetry, music, and get to experience the knowledge and power when Sistas get together. Join them at 4pm at the One Mo Cup Coffeehouse on Hamilton Avenue in Northside. For more information, please call Darlene Hicks at 281-3846.

## Women's Choir Sings Spirituals in Over the Rhine

MUSE, Cincinnati's Women's Choir, is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The second concert of their 2002-2003 season is coming up in early February. The group will perform on February 8th at 8pm and February 9th at 3pm. Both performances will be held at the Nast Trinity United Methodist Church (1310 Race Street in Over the Rhine). This concert, which is titled "Let It Shine, Let It Shine," will continue in the choir's ongoing tradition of performing "new spirituals." Having the concert in the Over The Rhine neighborhood is a part of MUSE's outreach to diverse communities throughout the city. As a part of this outreach, several members of the choir have been volunteering on a regular basis at Nast Trinity's weekly breakfast for the poor. Admission to the February 8th and 9th concerts will be by donation only with no tickets required. For more information, call 221-1118 or visit [www.musechoir.org](http://www.musechoir.org).

## UC Alliance Getting Back on Track

The University of Cincinnati Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Alliance is still alive and kicking! The group, which started back in the 70's is one of, if not the oldest GLBT groups in Cincinnati. During the 2001-2002 school year, the Alliance went through a sudden change in leadership and they have been in recovery since, according to Board member Emily Joy. She reports that this school year the group has not only grown in membership, but has also updated their website. Fall quarter the Alliance held educational panels in the dorms and in some classes on campus. The Alliance also supported the Youth Summit held at NKU in November. Future plans include bringing several speakers to the campus this spring. For more information on the group, or to become a member, call 556-1449 or visit their website at [www.soa.uc.edu/org/algbp](http://www.soa.uc.edu/org/algbp).

# Our Faith Too!

*Celebrating the Spirituality of GLBT People*

## St. John's Unitarian Starting Campfire USA Chapter As Alternative to the Boy Scouts

Members of St. John's Unitarian Church are now involved in an effort to establish a local chapter of Campfire USA. This national organization for youth is seen by the church as a good alternative to the Boy Scouts, whose exclusion of gay members and leaders has caused many to rethink their support and participation. The first two organizational meetings will be January 12th and February 18th at 2pm at St. John's.

According to Clare Iverson of St. John's, the new group has about six families already involved from her church and is working to recruit families from other congregations across the city, including Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, Church of Our Savior, First Unitarian Church, Clifton United Methodist, the Northern Hills Fellowship, St. Peter's United Church of Christ and others.

The Campfire USA chapter is intended for both boys and girls, ages kindergarten to fifth grade. The "family structure" of the group also makes it ideal for both older and younger siblings and parents as well. The program is very flexible, much like that of the Girl Scouts which leaves decisions on what activities to participate in up to the parents and family members.

Many churches who have been historically involved with the Boy Scouts of America have been forced to try to balance their commitment to offering programming for young boys and their commitment to affirming the rights of gay people, young and old. In 1999, the Unitarian Universalist Association formally ended its association with the Boy Scouts and the denomination's president denounced the group for its discriminatory policies. Despite this and other criticism, as well as the removal of financial support by many churches and governmental bodies across the country, the Boy Scouts continue to enforce their policies that exclude gays from participating. According to Iverson, Campfire offers a viable alternative for both parents and institutions who do not want to have their children involved in an organization which does not reflect their values.

Campfire USA (which many of us remember as the Camp Fire Girls when we were growing up) has been co-ed for many years now. It has also become very supportive of its lesbian and gay members. In the organization's statement of Core Values it reads, "We are inclusive, welcoming children, youth and adults regardless of race, religion, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation or other aspect of diversity."

Iverson says she sees the formation of a local Campfire USA chapter as an excellent way for St. John's Unitarian Church to do outreach in a new and exciting way to the local GLBT and allied community.

For more information on Campfire USA, visit the group's website at [www.campfire.org](http://www.campfire.org). For more information on our new local chapter, contact Clare Iverson at [cfiverson@fuse.net](mailto:cfiverson@fuse.net) or 631-2868.

## Gay and Lesbian Catholics Worship With Dignity

Dignity of Cincinnati offers lesbian, gay and bisexual Catholics, and their friends and families, support and the opportunity to openly worship with other GLBT and supportive people of their faith. In addition, the group gives congregants support and times to socialize and share their personal and spiritual concerns.

Among the oldest gay groups in the city, Dignity of Cincinnati has been around since the mid 1970's. For many years they met at the St. George Parish on Calhoun Street in Clifton Heights. In 1987, following a pontifical letter issued by Pope John Paul II which condemned homosexuality as "intrinsically disordered," the Archdiocese of Cincinnati evicted the group from church property because it would no longer challenge the Church's teachings. For several years Dignity met at the All Saints Chapel in Mt. Adams before moving on to their current home at the Community Friends Quaker Meeting in Avondale.

The organization currently has a small but very committed group of members who attend their masses regularly. In 2003 Dignity's leaders say they will be focussing on bringing in new people and stress that everyone is welcome to be a part of their activities. Dignity meets for mass on the first and third Saturdays of each month at 7:30pm at the Community Friends Quaker Meeting House (3960 Winding Way near the Xavier University campus). Following worship, they often go out for food and fellowship. For directions or to receive their monthly newsletter, call 557-2111 or email [dignitycincy@yahoo.com](mailto:dignitycincy@yahoo.com).

# In My Opinion

## To B or Not to GLBT

by Bruce Beisner, GLBT News editor

A year or so ago, I attended a workshop about bisexuality at my church, St. John's Unitarian. It was part of a series, covering the G, the L, the B and the T. The first two sessions I went to were attended by mostly lesbian and gay members of the congregation and a few supportive allies. The conversations were interesting but not groundbreaking. Then came the third session, the one on the B's. This class was very challenging for those of us who attended, including myself. I was amazed how little this group of pretty enlightened people really knew about bisexuality, and how many misconceptions we shared around the topic. Ideas like bisexuals cannot be monogamous and most bisexuals are really just in a stage of coming out as gay or lesbian. Both statements being wrongheaded stereotypes.

More recently I was asked to speak as part of a class on sexuality for high school youth, also at St. John's. Having done many of these classes in the past, I am a seasoned pro. But some of the questions from these youth were surprising to me. And also made me think. One young woman asked me why I, and others in the community, feel the need to identify ourselves as gay or lesbian. She said she felt it better for her not to put herself "in a box" and that it was more healthy for people to have relationships with whomever they are attracted to, regardless of gender. Others in this group echoed her sentiments.

It seems for many years the gay and lesbian community has shunned our bisexual friends. I only remember the B being added to GLBT around 1993 or so, and probably out of politeness and not understanding. When I was younger I think I felt that when someone called themselves bi rather than gay it somehow took something away from the strength of my own identity. I'm not sure why this was the case but suspect that it was just me projecting my own issues onto others. Since then, I have to say that I have met some bisexual people who project their issues onto gay people like me.

I believe that this whole issue really is about identity. A very prized possession to many of us. Because we live in a society which is pre-dominately heterosexual and therefore assumes that every little boy and girl will grow up to be straight, people who find they love those of the same gender really have to create strong and positive identities for themselves to survive. Bisexuality complicates all of this. It blurs the line between black and white, between yes and no. And that makes us uncomfortable. You know its funny how Alfred Kinsey's scale of sexuality ranges all the way from one to ten but most everyone in that workshop I went to said they were firmly either a one or a ten.

Because of this, I know there are many people, both in the GLBT community and in straight society, who stay in the closet about their true bisexuality. And we know that closets are not good places to live.

After some thought, I find that I really agree with that young woman in the high school class at St. John's. It is definitely better for each of us to love whomever our heart leads us to, and not get too caught up in all the labels. But, at the same time, I deeply understand the need and necessity many of us have to assert our identity on one end or the other of Kinsey's scale.

I recommend that each of us strive to learn more about sexuality in general, as well as about the bi's among us. A good place to start is by checking out [www.biresource.org](http://www.biresource.org). By being better informed, we can grow in our respect for every person, whatever label they wear or don't wear. And isn't that what the whole idea of a rainbow is about.

## 2002: Queer Year in Review

*As we begin 2003, Greater Cincinnati GLBT News looks back at some of the biggest stories that made headlines over the past 12 months:*

**January**– James "Spike" Taylor died suddenly on January 4th. Taylor was a former Emperor of the Queen City Court and worked as Fund Development Coordinator of AVOC. >> After several dormant years, the local chapter of Integrity began meeting again. >> Hamburger Mary's held its official grand opening party.

**February**– The Crazy Ladies Bookstore closed after many years as a Northside landmark. >> Several leaders of Stonewall Cincinnati held a press conference to announce their support for the boycott of downtown businesses over racial issues. >> GLBT folks partied at a huge Valentine's dance held at the University of Cincinnati.

**March**– PFLAG Cincinnati's Scholarship Dinner, which featured speaker Rev. Mel White, was the largest and most successful in the group's history. >> The first ever GLBT Youth Summit offered a day of workshops to over 150 participants.

**April**– Charges were filed with the Presbytery against Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church and its minister over their policies which affirm gays and lesbians. >> Kyle Robinson was crowned the first Mr. Queen City Leather. >> HRC sponsored a local town hall meeting to discuss ENDA.

**May**– Ohio's Supreme Court overturned a state law which had made same-sex sexual advances a crime. >> The community was deeply saddened by the death of the current ISQCCBE Emperor Geoff Grady on May 22nd. >> Controversy continued over statements made by members of Stonewall Cincinnati's Board of Directors.

**June**– The new Rainbow Band made its debut in the Cincinnati area's largest Pride Parade ever!!! >> Other Pride highlights included a big two-day music festival, the Community Center's art contest, and the second annual Pride Ball on the Ohio River.

**July**– GALA choruses from across the region gathered for a weekend of music and activism in downtown Cincinnati. >> Northern Kentucky Fairness began block walks to drum up support for pro-GLBT legislation in Covington.

**August**– A record crowd attended the 6th annual GLBT Pride Night at Paramount's Kings Island. >> The new "One Human Family" advocacy group began meeting.

**September**– Three members of Stone-wall Cincinnati's Board of Directors were ousted by the membership following months of turmoil. >> Ginger Snap and Sam Clemmons were crowned the new monarchs of the Queen City Court.

**October**– GLSEN, HRC and other area groups hosted a National Coming Out Day program. >> New Spirit MCC announced plans to buy their own building in the Northside neighborhood.

**November**– Crazy Ladies, now called the Greater Cincinnati Women's Resource Center, re-opened with the addition of a used book and crafts shop. >> Over 200 attended the 2nd GLBT Youth Summit held at NKU. >> The TriState Leather Contest had its first female winner. >> Most gay supportive candidates were defeated in local and statewide elections.

**December**– The Coalition Holiday Party raised over \$600 in donations and gifts for Caracole's Children's Toy Drive. >> Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church hosted speaker and author Chris Glaser.

# Family Matters

## Reflections and Renewal

by Marti Kwiatkowski, PFLAG Cincinnati President

All of us at Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays of Cincinnati would like to wish all of you a healthy and happy New Year. Isn't this the time of year we all get on our exercise bikes, make lots of resolutions, and then forget about them a few weeks later?

There is one resolution we are going to make and keep. We resolve to make this year's Scholarship Banquet a wonderful success. If you haven't heard, PFLAG's Annual Scholarship Banquet will be on Saturday March 1st at the Madison in Covington and we expect all of you to be there to support our GLBT and straight supportive youth. Please mark that date on your new calendars right now.

We will be awarding the PFLAG Rainbow Achievement Awards, or "The Dorothys," to individuals in the GLBT and supportive community that reflect PFLAG's mission of support, education or advocacy. If you have not already nominated someone deserving of this award, please do so. Just email [kwi31@fuse.net](mailto:kwi31@fuse.net) and request a nomination form. You may also help us right now. Our Banquet Committee has put the call out for silent auction items. These may include bottles of wine, personal service items, donations, or a special item that you know will bring a fetching price. Please call June Delph at 241-8291 to arrange for pick-up.

As this New Year begins it is also a time for us to reflect on the past year and all those people important to us. Let us not forget that our lives are made up of relationships. Let us not become too comfortable or complacent that it blinds us to the needs of others. Please help us reach out to those that need us.

Please come to see us on the second Tuesday of every month at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church (103 William Howard Taft Road) at 7:30pm and help us promote the health and well-being of GLBT persons, their families and friends through support, education, and advocacy. All meetings include a small group discussion. This PFLAG chapter feels like family. I hope you will join us.

# GLBT Health

## Diabetes

by Bob Donovan, MD

Diabetes mellitus, or sugar diabetes, or often, just "sugar. It's mostly about sugar, or glucose, in the blood stream and insulin, the hormone that controls the level of sugar in your system.

So, what's the big deal about diabetes? Well, about 6% of the people in the US have it and about 600,000 new cases are diagnosed every year. That's a pretty large chunk of people. It's one of the most frequently encountered chronic diseases a doctor will see. The surprising thing is that about half of those who have it don't even know it. In fact, they may have diabetes for 5-10 years before diagnosis. So, if so many people who have it don't even know it, why's it so important to know?

It's important because uncontrolled diabetes can lead to heart attack, stroke, blindness, kidney failure and amputations. Diabetes is the fourth leading cause of death by disease in the US, killing more than 160,000 people every year.

Like I said, diabetes is about sugar and insulin. Your body produces insulin in the pancreas. Insulin regulates how much sugar is in the blood stream. Basically speaking, when the level goes up, the body tells the pancreas to release more insulin, which causes sugar to enter cells. Most diabetes can be divided into two kinds. The first kind happens when the body stops producing insulin at all. Most of this type of diabetes occurs in young people, and it's life-threatening rapidly. Many parts of the body's metabolism go haywire if there's no insulin around. These people require insulin to be injected in order to survive. This type, which is called "type 1 diabetes", comprises a relatively small percent of diabetics.

The larger group of diabetics produces insulin, but either not enough is produced or the body is unable to use it effectively enough. This is called "type 2 diabetes". Generally this is not immediately dangerous, and that's why many don't know they have the disease. However, even though people may not know they have it, diabetes is damaging the body. Almost immediately, the body's immunity is not working as well as normal. And the processes that cause hardening of the arteries are beginning to happen at a faster than normal rate. This is one reason people with diabetes are more prone to heart attacks, blindness, stroke, amputations and kidney failure.

Greater numbers of people in the US are developing type 2 diabetes, and more and more children as well. To a large degree this is because of lack of exercise and poor eating habits with the result of more obesity. Couch potatoes beware!

How do you know if you have diabetes? Some people have very little in the way of symptoms. Others may have excessive thirst, frequent and heavy urination, increased appetite and yet may have weight loss in the more severe forms. A person with diabetes will often have unusual tiredness or drowsiness or intermittent blurry vision.

Certainly, if you have these symptoms, you ought to see your family doctor. The test for diabetes is quite simple – just testing the level of sugar or glucose in your blood. This can be done right in your doctor's office with a drop of blood from a stick of the finger. Sometimes a fasting level will need to be done. Less often a longer test called a "glucose tolerance test" will need to be performed.

What puts you at risk to develop diabetes? 1) If someone in your family has the type 2 diabetes, you're at greater risk to get it; 2) if you're more than 30% over the standard body weight for your height; 3) if you're over 50 years of age, you're at greater risk; 4) if your ethnic background is African American, Hispanic or American Indian, you're at higher risk, and your risk of the complications of diabetes is worse; and 5) if you had diabetes in pregnancy, you're more apt to develop it later in life.

What if you're found to have diabetes? Following a diet is most important. This does not have to be a horribly strict, unpleasant diet. In fact, getting rid of all sugar is no longer considered the only thing, although cutting back on carbohydrates is important. Reducing total calories is the critical element. And adding in exercise is extremely important because it helps use up glucose in the body and changes metabolism. Some people with diabetes may even get by with diet and exercise alone, not needing any medication. In fact, diabetes may go away if weight loss is sufficient.

Some with diabetes type 2 may need medication. Several are now available, which work in different ways in the body, to help more insulin to come out and to use sugar more effectively, or to change the absorption of sugar. Your doctor will help decide which of these is most appropriate when needed. Occasionally injecting insulin is also needed for a type 2 diabetic.

If you have a loved one with diabetes, you can help by getting to know all you can about diabetes. Then you can let him or her know you're sympathetic with all that's going on because having diabetes requires a lot of life changes. Then you can help them get through the frustrations and into doing what's healthy. If you eat together, you can help by eating the same foods and avoid buying what the diabetic shouldn't eat. It's also important to encourage exercise. You can also do that together. Learn the symptoms of hypoglycemia, or low blood sugar, so you can help if it comes up. Be patient. If you want more information, call the American Diabetes Association at 800-232-3472, or visit their web site at [www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org).

# On The Nightbeat

## Arts, Entertainment and Nightlife

by Miss C.C. Bloom

Well, I don't know about you, but I had a GREAT time down at the Planet Freedom New Year's Eve party. If you missed it, a huge crowd of both gals and guys showed up for the party which was held at LeBoxx Cafe in the Garfield Suites Hotel. There was good party music and folks enjoyed the cute little shuttle bus which came by every 15 minutes or so to provide transportation to other GLBT nightspots down-town such as Pipeline, Spurs and Hamburger Mary's. Some told me that the ride around town was the most fun part of the night and that they met new friends everytime they got on board. Rumor has it that party organizer Michelle Hobbs is thinking that she might retire from Planet Freedom after over 15 years of pre-senting these great happenings. I hope she can find a good replacement, because we would really miss this New Year's tradition.

The Imperial Queen City Court's annual Miss Queen City Pageant is coming up on Sunday January 26th down at The Dock. Lady Devane, the current reigning Miss Queen City, will be giving up her crown at the pageant which will be hosted by their majesties Empress XII Ginger Snap and Empress IX Booshie Rayburn. Doors open at 7pm and the show gets underway at 8pm. Don't miss it. The talent numbers at this pageant are always something to behold! If you think you'd be interested in being a contestant, please contact Ginger Snap at [cincyempress12ginger@hotmail.com](mailto:cincyempress12ginger@hotmail.com)

Speaking of The Dock, they are getting ready to warm up your cold winter evenings with a weekend of HOT fun. The annual "Tropical Nights" weekend returns on January 17th, 18th and 19th. There will be a special guest DJ from out of town, hot strippers, tropical cocktail specials, afterhours til 4am on Friday and Saturday and a big drag extravaganza on Sunday night. They promise everyone will get "leid!"

Kudos to Donna Smith and all of her staff at Bullfishes. The popular women's bar in Northside raised over \$500 for the Lavender Santa program at a special party on December 21st.

Our friends at The Serpent Bar tell us that busi-ness has been very good over the last six months. One new attraction at the bar is the addition of the Leather Crypt Shop. Drop by and let Robert show you his wares. Hours are Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10pm to 2am.

Last month Hamburger Mary's celebrated its first anniversary with a big bash on December 13th. Peter and his staff at Mary's tell me that they are currently working on some new menu items which should be ready in February. On Fridays and Saturdays, check out the great tunes from DJs Max, John Varnes and Blak Cherri in the bar.

Woolly's on Monmouth will be hosting its big Super Bowl Party on Sunday January 26th. Come on down to Newport and enjoy the game on their big screen TV. Rick tells me there will be lots of free snacks and drink specials all night.

Some other highlights to add to your Nightlife calendar this month include the annual Miss Big Bone Lick Pageant on Saturday January 18th at Jacob's in Northside, the new All-Male Fridays with hot go-go boys at the Pipeline, and the Miss Gay Cincinnati USofA Pageant at The Dock on January 12th.

Happy New Year to one and all! And boys, remember to wear those condoms in 2003!

# Financial Advisor

## Understanding the Basics of Bonds

by Vicki L. Marsh, American Express Financial Advisors

Stocks and stock-investing topics dominated the pages of America's financial publications over much of the past decade as Wall Street rocketed to record-breaking heights. Today, with market indexes in flux, many investors and financial publications alike are turning their attention to bonds for their potential stability and steady income. Following is a closer look at bonds and why you may want to consider adding them to your overall investment strategy.

**What Are Bonds?:** When you buy an individual bond, you are basically loaning money to the bond issuer, usually a corporation or a state, local or federal government. In return for your "loan," the bond issuer promises to repay your principal investment, plus interest. The issuer usually pays you a fixed rate of interest at regular intervals until the bond's "maturity date," the date on which the issuer repays your principal investment. Three of the most common types of bonds include:

**Corporate bonds,** issued by companies to raise capital. "Secured" corporate bonds are backed by a company's assets, such as its real estate. "Unsecured" corporate bonds are backed by the company's credit.

**Municipal bonds,** issued by state and local governments to raise funds for public projects, such as bridges, roads and schools, or for special projects. Public purpose municipal bonds are usually exempt from federal, state and local taxes. Private purpose municipal bonds, defined as those which give more than a 10% benefit to a private party, are taxable unless specifically exempted.

**Federal government bonds,** with maturities from 1 to 50 years, are issued by the U.S. Treasury and several government agencies. They include Treasury bonds (T-bonds), Treasury notes (T-notes), agency bonds (issued by federal agencies) and Series EE and Series HH savings bonds.

**Learning the Lingo:** The bond market has a terminology that may be confusing to novice investors. Learning the following terms will help you better understand bonds:

**"Par value"** or "face value" is the stated value of a bond. Corporate bonds usually have a par value of \$1,000, for municipal bonds, its \$5,000. Federal government bonds have varying par values. Unless the issuer defaults (is unable to pay), bonds are redeemed at maturity at their par value.

The **"coupon rate"** is the interest rate you'll earn from a bond. For example, if a bond has a par value of \$5,000 and an annual coupon rate of 10%, the bond will generate interest payments of \$500 annually – 10% of \$5,000.

**"Zero-coupon"** bonds have a coupon rate of zero, meaning that they do not pay interest on a periodic basis. This type of bond sells at a deep discount to its par value and gradually appreciates in value as it approaches its maturity date. Such bonds can be potentially helpful for investors saving for a predictable future event, such as retirement or a child's college education.

**Rates of Return Vary:** As with many other investments, a bond's rate of return is generally linked to the level of risk it carries – the higher the risk that an issuer will default, the higher the interest rate paid. Treasury bonds, for example, are often considered safer than other bond types because they're backed by the U.S. government. But they may also offer a lower rate of return than non-Treasury bonds of similar value and maturity.

Individual bond returns may also vary according to the bond's term, or length of time until it matures. Long-term bonds, for example, may require a commitment of 10 or more years, but usually offer higher returns than shorter-term bonds. Similarly, intermediate bonds with maturities of three to 10 years will generally offer higher returns than bonds with maturities of less than three years. (*continues on next page*)

**Laddering May Lessen Risk:** Although bonds are generally considered less volatile than stocks, they do have risks. For example, bonds carry credit risk, the risk that a bond issuer will default, and interest rate risk, meaning the value of your bond may decrease if interest rates rise.

An investment strategy known as “ladder-ing” may help reduce your exposure to interest rate risk. Laddering occurs when you buy a series of bonds with staggered, or “laddered”, maturities. For example, you might purchase separate bonds with one-year, two-year, four-year and six-year maturity dates. With laddering, only part of your bond portfolio matures at one time. If you reinvest and interest rates have risen, you can take advantage of the higher rate; if interest rates have dropped, only a portion of your portfolio is affected.

**Bond Fund Advantages:** If a bond ladder seems too complex, you may want to consider a bond mutual fund to add diversity to your bond investment strategy. Like stock mutual funds, bond funds offer convenience, professional management and instant diversification. When you buy a bond fund, you not only may lower your exposure to credit risk by diversifying your holdings, you also may take advantage of a fund’s ability to buy in bulk at better prices. A bond mutual fund may enable you to own a share of bonds that are \$50,000, \$100,000, or \$250,000 each – something you might not be able to achieve as an individual investor.

**Know Your Options:** For expert help in determining how an individual bond or bond fund might fit into your investment portfolio, consider consulting with your certified financial advisor. Working together, you and your financial advisor can determine the mix of assets– stocks, bonds and money market instruments– that best fit your needs and goals.

# Thought You Knew!

## *Advice for the Confused and Clueless from Ambrosia*

Gentle Readers, I do hope that everyone's holidays were warm and safe. As promised, I'll begin sharing some of my most personal and secret dieting tips with you my esteemed read- ers. I've gotten just tons of mail regarding this, much of it like this letter from Michael:

### **Dearest Ambrosia,**

I've followed you and many of the other local performers for years now. One thing that's really impressed me with you, Ambrosia, is that you have never lost your figure. I've seen many of the other queens (especially those that aren't so young) fill out into sweaty heifers. What's your secret? I think you should share it with me and possibly those other girls! It's not fair to keep that all to yourself.

–Michael

Well Michael, here's two of my secrets for starters.

**Secret #1-** I strongly believe that metabolism (how fast your body works internally) has a lot to do with weight. I don't know too many of those overweight girls that aren't lazy and bored. That's my first secret. Boredom. Those are the girls that we can't stand! They're always at home, always watching television, always call- ing on the telephone, and always eating. Of course, all girls can't be a popular and excit- ing glamour girl such as myself but there are plenty of things for boring people to do. Why there are clubs, volunteer work, gardening, etc. Back to me, I find that I'm so busy I rarely have time for dinner. I have to creatively schedule my evenings, so rather than a heavy dinner, I often opt for drinks with a few different groups of people, perhaps a celery stick or two (maybe with dip if I'm feeling bad!) to share with each round of drinks, and move on. I find this satisfies my many obligations without tedious exercise the next day. I've also found that road trips for shopping can be a great way to break the monotony of Cincinnati living. Believe you me, my wardrobe wasn't built in a day and not much of it here in Cincinnati.

**Secret #2-** I bring this secret from a private, secluded salon nestled deep in the mountains of Santa Fe, New Mexico. I must first forewarn my readers that this isn't for the faint of heart or for those that aren't serious about their own personal beauty regime. I was told in a hushed voice behind a closed door about this from one of my closest friends and its a great catalyst to enjoying your quickened metabolism. At the spa, I was put into a lush Turkish cotton robe and led into a closed room. In the room, a thera-pist eased me out of my robe and introduced me to a procedure called a colonic. My country cousins might call this an enema but a colonic is much easier on a "lady's" sensitive nether regions. This procedure lasted nearly 45 minutes, being, of course, very gentle. During the procedure, I enjoyed quiet music and soothing videos. This procedure clears away all of the bad things inside and leaves one fresh, empty and ready to take on the world! I was skeptical at first (and colonics aren't inexpensive - it's not your 99 cent Fleet enema) but soon realized the great results. I must also warn that these should not be used every day. I've found with weekly appointments, my diet was off to a great start.

I hope you've enjoyed reading about these first two secrets. I have more on the way. Since we've just started a new year (and by popular demand), I thought I would reprint this letter from one of my first columns:

### **Dear Ambrosia,**

I've followed you for years–since the 80's. Since then, you've gone through many different looks–long hair, bobbed hair, pixie hair, evening gowns, S&M, etc. I have to say that throughout your changes you always look fabulous. You're always so well put together. Please let me know your secret!

–Vicki Voyeur

### **My dearest Vicki,**

I'm flattered by all of the attention. My secret is actually pretty simple. I believe that beauty (the fabulous beauty that you're talking about) comes from the inside. Inner beauty always manifests itself on the outside. All of the expensive clothes, furs, shoes, etc. that everyone can see– really don't matter, because without inner beauty no one would see it. I've got proof of this. Think of some of our other local performers that you may have seen in a similar outfit, or borrowed outfit. None of them can hold a candle to me because they're all focused on the outside.

Ambrosia wants to hear from you! Write to her with your questions at [ehutflie@cincyradio.com](mailto:ehutflie@cincyradio.com)