

# Greater Cincinnati GLBT News

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## For Youth, By Youth and About Youth

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, supportive and questioning young people are growing up in a time of incredible change. Over the past two years, eight new gay/straight alliances have begun in local high schools. The Cincinnati Public School Board added sexual orientation to their discipline policy. And the first GLBT Youth Summit took place at the University of Cincinnati. Now organizers are busy putting the final planning together for the second annual GLBT Youth Summit which will be held at Northern Kentucky University in November.

On March 16, 2002, history was made when several area organizations including GLSEN (Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network) Cincinnati Youth Group, PFLAG and the University of Cincinnati LGBT Alliance joined forces to produce the first ever Cincinnati GLBT Youth Summit focusing on the issues of lesbian and gay young people. The one day conference, held at the UC campus, attracted well over 150 GLBT and supportive youth and adults from across the city and offered workshops, a keynote speaker and an evening dance.

Following the success of the event last spring, organizers immediately began to plan for another such gathering during this school year. According to Andy Ruffner of GLSEN, "Walking through the halls at the first Youth Summit, listening to the voices of young and old working in unison towards a common goal of creating a better world for everyone, showed us something we hadn't seen before. We were able to see that in order to end anti-gay bias in schools or anywhere, we must find a way to include the ideas, needs and abilities of all those who are affected."

According to Ruffner, the lessons learned from the first Youth Summit will help make this month's gathering even more successful. He says that 75 percent of the planning committee for the event is made up of young people and that they have been working very hard to get everything ready for Saturday November 16th.

The second Youth Summit will be held at the Northern Kentucky University Campus in Highland Heights, KY. The day-long event will include four workshop sessions which cover topics specifically relevant to GLBT and supportive youth. Participants will be asked to choose among a list of offerings which include sessions about coming out, bisexuality, developing a gay/straight alliance at your school, building leadership skills, legal issues, same gender parenting and spirituality. There will be some workshops exclusively for youth and other exclusively for adults.

Following the workshops, there will be a keynote address by Alix Olson. Olson was a member of the 1998 Nuyorican National Championship Slam Team, as well as winner of the 1999 OutWrite National Slam. Since then, she has been a touring folk poet and spoken word artist, performing nationally and internationally at hundreds of colleges, clubs and festivals, including the International Poetry Festival in Rotterdam, Netherlands, Amsterdam's Gay Games, and the LGBT Cultural Arts Festival in London, England. "Built Like That" is Olson's debut CD which includes many of Alix's known and loved pieces. To find out more about her, visit [www.alixolson.com](http://www.alixolson.com).

The GLBT Youth Summit is completely FREE. Official sponsors are GLSEN and NKU's Common Ground. Supporting organizations include the University of Cincinnati Alliance, PFLAG, Stonewall Cincinnati, Cincinnati Youth Group and the Xavier Alliance. For more information, visit [www.cincyouthsummit.org](http://www.cincyouthsummit.org).

## TriState Leather Contest November 22-24

Leather enthusiasts, title holders and GLBT celebrities from across the country will be in Cincinnati during the weekend of November 22nd-24th for the 2003 Mr. TriState Leather Contest. Frank Perko, Mr. TriState Leather 2002, will be giving up his title during a weekend of S/M competition, education and lively social gatherings.

Things kick off on Friday November 22nd with registration at the Days Inn on Central Parkway, TriState Leather's official host hotel. There will also be a meet and greet with the contestants at 10pm at The Pipeline that night.

On Saturday, there will be the giant vendor market and display of the leather archives. Author Jack Rinella and Cristo of Cristo Blades will be on hand to teach sessions of "Dungeon 101." The actual contest is Saturday night and will be held at Bullfishes in Northside. Judges for the contest will include: Frank Perko, Mr. TriState Leather 2002; Tobin Britton, America Leatherwoman 2002; David Baldwin, Mr. Olympic Leather 2002; and Mister Marcus, a correspondent for San Francisco's *Bay Area Reporter*. A special leather auction follows the contest as well as victory parties scheduled at The Serpent Bar, The Dock and Jacob's.

With prior reservations, discount weekend packages are available which include admission to several special events throughout the weekend. For more information on the 2003 TriState Leather Contest, please call 281-7340 or visit [www.tristateleather.org](http://www.tristateleather.org).

## Most Local Gay Supportive Candidates Defeated in November 5th Election

Almost all of the candidates recommended by Stonewall Cincinnati this year were soundly defeated in the November 5th election. Ohio gubernatorial candidate Tim Hagan, who held a fundraiser in October at Hamburger Mary's, was overwhelmingly defeated by Bob Taft. What can we expect from a second term of Taft as governor? One of his first actions after taking office in 1998 was to remove a long-standing executive order that protected gays from discrimination in state employment. Dr. Jean Siebenaler, who has been very vocal in her support of GLBT causes, won only 39% of the vote, being beaten by Phil Heimlich for Hamilton County Commissioner. Heimlich supports Article XII and has worked to block efforts to repeal it. Rep. Steve Chabot, who scored only a 10 (out of a possible 100) on HRC's Congressional Scorecard this year, was also overwhelmingly reelected. Perhaps the only bright spot on November 5th was the reelection of a very strong defender of gay and lesbian rights to the Ohio House of Representatives. Congratulations to Mark Mallory who won 100% of the vote in his district. He ran unopposed.

# GLBT Radio Program Celebrates 25 Years on the Air

For anyone who thinks of Cincinnati as a conservative city, this fact must be considered: Cincinnati is home to one of the longest running gay and lesbian public affairs radioprograms in the nation.

The name of the program is "Alternating Currents," and it can be heard every Saturday afternoon from 3pm to 5pm on WAIF 88.3 FM. The weekly show is a mix of news, commentary, music, and interviews, all dealing with subjects of interest to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and supportive communities.

"Alternating Currents" began as a show called "Gaydreams" in the late 1970's days of gay liberation on the then new all volunteer community radio station WAIF 88.3FM. The program was founded by John Zeh, and through the years has had a series of dedicated men and women who have donated their time and efforts to bring the local community news and information that cannot be found anywhere else in Cincinnati. And although Mr. Zeh left the show years ago, its tradition continues with the present group of programmers.

Co-produced by Cheryl Eagleson and Don Wetterer, the present format features local and national guests, news, reports from local GLBT organizations, current events, and music. The format is designed to appeal to a broad range of listeners, gay and straight alike, providing news as well as a little entertainment.

"Alternating Currents" can be heard every Saturday afternoon from 3 to 5pm on WAIF 88.3 FM. You can also listen anytime to the show online. Check out week's program or one from a past month at their website at [www.alternatingcurrents.org](http://www.alternatingcurrents.org).

## Local Woman Fighting Discrimination in the National Park Service

Jenna Skogg has worked for the National Park Service (NPS) since the late 1980s. She first served at the Golden Gate National Park in San Francisco and then at posts in several other states. Five years ago, she moved to the Cincinnati area to be near her mother who has had health problems and took a position at the Taft National Historic Site in Mt. Auburn. That was when the problems started, she says.

In 1998, Skogg filed a complaint against her immediate supervisors at the Taft site. She says she was the victim of verbal harassment and ridicule and was singled out for this treatment by co-workers because of her appearance and her perceived sexual orientation. Unlike many employers, the NPS does have protections in place for GLBT employees. During his term as president, Bill Clinton signed an executive order banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation for all federal agencies.

Jenna's complaint, made with the Human Resources Department of the NPS Mid-west Division languished for over a year until she was told it had been referred to the Department of the Interior's Inspector General. This office then moved it on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or EEOC.

As the days, months and years passed and the investigation into her complaint lagged on, Jenna says that she was repeatedly given assurances that the Park Service was working to transfer her to another position. But the few offers that were made were, according to her, not acceptable and her superiors refused to give her the references necessary for her to secure a suitable post elsewhere.

After nearly two years of investigation, the EEOC dismissed her case earlier this year. It was at this point that Jenna went public about her situation for the first time. This past summer she also began consulting with an attorney.

Looking back on her fight so far, Jenna says it has led her to a spiritual transformation. The years she has spent in Cincinnati have not been wasted at all. While quietly remaining on duty at her job and waiting for her case to move along, she has been involved with lots of local groups including PFLAG, the League of Women Voters, St. John's Unitarian Church, the National Organization for Women, and the Women's City Club. She currently resides in Northside with her girlfriend and their cat.

In September, a federal judge in Cleveland reviewed her case and recommended that the Park Service meet with her lawyers to work out a settlement. A hearing is expected to take place on November 19th.

## Community News

### City Councilman to Address Next PFLAG Meeting

Our local chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays will have a special guest at their monthly meeting on Tuesday November 12th. Cincinnati City Council-member David Crowley will be there to present to the group information on the current status of efforts to repeal Article XII of the city charter. Mr. Crowley, who was one of only two new members to be elected to council last year, has been involved with PFLAG for a number of years and has firmly come out in favor of actions to remove the anti gay amendment from Cincinnati's charter. He will talk about a recent study done by the National Coalition for Community and Justice which looked at the possibility of a ballot campaign aimed at a repeal. The PFLAG meeting is on November 12th at 7:30pm at the Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church.

### GLBT Family Picnic Becoming A Monthly Event

On October 20th, Stonewall Cincinnati, Unity House World Peace Center and the Cincinnati State College Rainbow Alliance hosted a fall picnic to celebrate GLBT families. The outing, held at Burnet Woods in Clifton, attracted about 30 people and about 15 kids. The kids had balloon races, an egg race, and balloon toss for games, with everyone who participated receiving a prize. Dianna Brewer of the Unity House was the winner of the big egg race for adults. There was a presentation on educational options by Chris Anderson of Anderson Education Services. The many parents who attended had such a wonderful time that a monthly potluck and game time is planned for Bullfishes from 4pm-8pm on November 24th, December 15th and January 12th. Stonewall, the Rainbow Alliance, Bullfishes and Unity House will help to co-sponsor a kids potluck once a month. For more information, call the Stonewall office at 651-2500.

## Lesbians of Color Gathering November 9th

“Sista! Sista!” will hold their quarterly gathering on Saturday November 9th at 1:30pm at the Greater Cincinnati Women’s Resource Center (formerly the Crazy Ladies Bookstore) in Northside. The group offers support, discussion and information. The Unity House World Peace Center will be the host for this gathering. Women of all ages are invited to come enjoy the music, poetry, knowledge and experience the power when Sistas’ get together. For more information, call 681-7765.

## Men’s Chorus to Sing Animated Holiday Favorites

The Cincinnati Men’s Chorus will kick off its new season with a special tribute to all your favorite animated holiday television specials. “An Animated Christmas” will feature a warm, wonderful and wacky array of holiday music presented as only CMC can do it. The performances will be on December 7th at 8:07pm and December 8th at 2:07pm at the Aronoff Center for the Arts. To purchase your tickets, please call 542-2626 or visit [www.cmc.bigstep.com](http://www.cmc.bigstep.com).

## New Bar Opens in Newport

Although it actually opened a couple of weeks ago, Woolly’s on Monmouth will have its official grand opening party on the weekend of November 8th to 10th. The club, located at 828 Monmouth Street in Newport, Kentucky (only 5 minutes from downtown Cincinnati) is a big, warm and very friendly neighborhood tavern which is hoping to establish a good gay crowd, according to owner Rick Petri.

The club is all new, from the lights on the front facade to the soaring ornate tiled ceilings. During the week, Woolly’s offers drink specials, karaoke and pool contests. One Friday each month look for an all-star drag show. Live bands perform a wide variety of music every Saturday night. The bar, as it is now, is quite spacious, but Rick says there is plenty of room to expand into the upstairs in years to come.

## Court Presents “Toyland Show”

Empress Ginger Snap and Emperor Sam Clemmons, the monarchs of the ISQCCBE (The Court), will host the organization’s annual “Toyland Show” on Friday November 22nd. Showtime is 11:30pm at Shooters and all proceeds will go to benefit the AIDS Volunteers of Northern Kentucky Angel Fund. The Angel Fund which helps provide toys, food and clothing for children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, was started by Rodd Gruelle (known in the Court system as Zilla Blue). The Court will also be hosting a Miss Magical Makeover Reunion Show at Shooters on November 29th and a Winter Wonderland Show on November 30th at Jacob’s.

## Lavendar Santas Return!

Tis the season for giving and this year the GLBT community in the Northside neighborhood will be making a special effort. The “Lavender Santa” program, begun last year by Club Kapri Korn and the Unity House World Peace Center, is back and will hopefully be bigger than before.

In 2001, the organizations, with the help of Crazy Ladies and Stonewall Cincinnati, raised over \$500 worth of toys and food in less than two weeks for poor children in the neighborhood. This year they are starting earlier and asking all organizations to join them in the “Lavender Santa” toy drive. Many area bars and restaurants have already committed to being drop off sites. To find out where you can bring your donations of food and toys to the “Lavendar Santa” program, please contact Jackie at 542-5244. If you would like to make a money donation to the program by check or credit card, please contact Unity House World Peace Center at 681-7765, or you can send your check to: Unity House W.P.C., attn. Lavender Santa, 4165 Turrill Street, Cincinnati OH 45223.

## Women’s Choir Begins 18th Season

MUSE, Cincinnati’s Women’s Choir, will kick off its 18th season with concerts on Saturday November 16th at 8pm and Sunday November 17th at 3pm at St. John’s Unitarian Church. The presentation, titled “We Are A Village” will celebrate the importance of women in our communities. For tickets call 221-1118.

MUSE is also excited to announce the release of their third recording. The new CD features live performances of “Will The Circle Be Unbroken” “Take Heart,” “Her Song Rises” and other favorites. You can purchase your copy of “MUSE Live” through their website at [www.musechoir.org](http://www.musechoir.org).

## Divas Dazzle to Benefit AIDS Volunteers

One of Cincinnati’s best loved performers, Kathy Wade, will be among those honored at “Diva Dazzle III” on Saturday November 16th. This glamorous fundraising event presented by AIDS Volunteers of Cincinnati will take place at the Hilton Netherland Plaza Hotel in downtown Cincinnati and will feature performances by Carol Sherman-Jones, Deb Girdler, Melodie Guinta, Spring Starr Pillow and many others. Tickets for Diva Dazzle III start at \$125 per person. For tickets, call Doris Marks Callis at 861-3522 or visit [www.avoc.org](http://www.avoc.org).

## Monday Movies at The Center

If you’re looking for a great Monday night alternative to football games on TV, check out the new movie night at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Cincinnati. Every Monday starting at 6:30pm, The Center will be showing a different GLBT-oriented movie. This program is free and open to everyone. It’s a perfect opportunity to just sit and relax after the strains of a Monday (although sometimes the crowd does get a little crazy). Some of the upcoming titles include: The Broken Hearts Club, My Best Friends Wedding, Trick, and Felix. To find out this week’s film, call 591-0200 or visit [www.glbcentercincinnati.com](http://www.glbcentercincinnati.com).

## “One Human Family” Making A Difference

On Saturday morning October 26th, members of the new GLBT and human rights organization “One Human Family” pitched in to help make a difference in our city. As part of National Make a Difference Day, the group joined with volunteers from around the region to clean up the base of the Western Hills Viaduct. This project was a first step in the group’s plan to do outreach and community service projects.

# In My Opinion

## With One Foot in the Closet and...

by Bruce Beisner, GLBT News editor

While my husband and many of my friends will tell you that I think I know everything, there are a lot of things that I have to admit I just don't understand. The stock market. Why people like Skyline chili. Why lesbians and gay men vote for Republicans. This whole leather fetish thing. As I have gotten older, I have learned that certain choices don't make people wrong, they just prove that others have different personal tastes and different views of the world than I do. And that's OK. In fact it's more than just OK because this diversity is what makes our city and our world an interesting place to be.

But there is one choice, one world view, that I just can't understand or bring myself to say is OK. That one thing is our willingness, as GLBT people, to live as second class citizens in our own city.

It seems over the last year there has been, at least in some circles, a renewed interest in repealing Article XII of the city charter. As most of you will recall, Article XII was the ballot initiative passed overwhelmingly by voters (68% approved it) in 1993 that removed sexual orientation from the city's human rights ordinance and also, to this day, prohibits the city from enacting any legislation aimed at protecting the civil rights of GLBT people. The only way to get rid of Article XII is to have a ballot initiative to repeal it, then move on to the possibility of voting in supportive laws. Last spring, the Citizens to Restore Fairness announced that the results of a citywide poll of voters done by the National Coalition for Community and Justice showed that this year was not the right time to put a repeal referendum on the ballot.

Lately I find myself sitting in meetings with leaders of our community and we start to talk about Article XII. Everyone seems to agree that a repeal effort should wait until more people in the local GLBT community are energized and ready to fight to get rid of it. Which begs the obvious question in my mind, why doesn't anyone, outside the few organizations already working on the repeal, seem to care at all about Article XII?

My answer is that way too many of us are way too comfortable, or at least have convinced ourselves that we are comfortable enough. We don't expect more from Cincinnati, so we don't get more. We say "I can't hold my boyfriend's hand when we walk down the street, but that's all right because I can do it inside our home." We often can't talk about major parts of lives at work but rationalize that would be inappropriate anyway, even though most of our co-workers do it. We live with one foot in the closet and then plan vacations to Key West and San Francisco. I know, because I do it too.

There is not a strong push to repeal Article XII because we've grown way too accustomed to it. Most people I talk to tell me that the law hasn't affected them personally at all. Last year the Human Rights Campaign tried to find people who had been victims of discrimination in Cincinnati to testify before the Ohio Legislature. They had a hard time. Does that mean that discrimination doesn't exist? I don't really think so, but...

I believe that homophobia in our city is more subtle and that it happens many times because we allow it to. There is this understanding of when and where we can be ourselves, and when and where we can't. Our own participation in this system of oppression is a big part of why it continues.

Unfortunately, it was only after very overt actions by members of the Cincinnati Police Department that many in our city began to stand up and demand racial justice. I really do hope that it won't take a Roger Owensby or a Timothy Thomas in the GLBT community for us, as individuals and as a whole, to begin to demand our rightful place as equal citizens of Cincinnati.

# Our Faith Too!

*Celebrating the Spirituality of GLBT People*

## In Northern Kentucky? No way!

"I can't believe I found this church." "We are a much better church now that we know all these gay people." "It's important to us to raise our children in a church that welcomes all people." "My church would not except me when I came out, can I come to your church?" These are the kind of comments and questions they get at St. John United Church of Christ in Bellevue, Kentucky. In March of 2001, the *Cincinnati Enquirer* did a feature article about the church's new called pastor, Rev. Keith M. Haithcock. "Church Pastor – Gay Man" was the title. To say the least, it raised a few eye-brows in this small Kentucky town. But it was the beginning of a wonderful journey of becoming a congregation that seeks to welcome all people.

This congregation, on the south bank of the Ohio River only two miles from downtown Cincinnati, and only a mile east of The Party Source (right on Route 8), has not been the same the past four years. "We have gone through some major changes. And they are changes for the better," says Rev. Haithcock.

What was an aging straight congregation is now a little younger and much more diverse. At an average Sunday morning service, you'll see couples who have sat in the same pew for 40 plus years still sitting there. A few rows up you will see two women sitting together who came to St. John because they no longer found themselves welcome in the church of their birth, at least not as out lesbians and a couple. On the other side of the aisle is a young straight couple who just got married last year. Next to them are the two guys that just started dating. One is a member of the church the other came after their first date.

In the choir are members who have sung together for over 50 years. Next to them is the male partner of the man who just updated and redesigned the church's web site. There is the widow who sits in the "family pew" where her husband and two sons used to be next to her. Now that her children are grown and have moved away, she says she sat there alone feeling "the presence of Jesus and her family next to her." That was until two years ago when two young men showed up in her pew one Sunday after the Gay Pride Festival. Now she considers them her family too.

In the front of the church on Sundays you will find a funny, strange, loving man. He's not perfect and he will tell you so. But he is real. The Rev. Keith M. Haithcock is an out proud Christian gay man. His sermons are based on scripture. His main focus in ministry is not about being gay, but he doesn't apologize for who he is either or the radically inclusive Good News that he preaches. He is just who he is.

This past June, St. John UCC of Bellevue celebrated its 115th anniversary. On this occasion, Rev. Haithcock said, "There is a new generation rising at St. John Church, a generation without the judgment and rigidity of religion. A generation eager to proclaim the inclusive love of God as taught by Jesus, the Christ to become a place for people, just like you, to discover their full potential."

There are parties, parades, dinners, committees doing all kinds of work together, Bible Studies, choir rehearsals, rummage sales, a Spiritual Growth series, retreats, the "Music on the Avenue" recital series, and of course Sunday worship services happening at St. John United Church of Christ. As Rev. Haithcock puts it, "We do not claim to have all the answers to life, faith, scripture or anything else. But we do try to create a safe place where together we can ask hard questions about things that really matter. And we're doing it right here in Northern Kentucky." For more information on St. John Church, please call 859-261-2066 or visit their website at [www.stjohnchurch.net](http://www.stjohnchurch.net).

## Local Chapter of Soulforce Started

Soulforce, an international interfaith movement which is committed to ending the spiritual violence perpetuated by religious policies and teachings against lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender people, now has a local chapter in the Greater Cincinnati area. As one of its first activities, the new group called Soulforce TriState (KY-OH-IN) held a candlelight prayer vigil for the victims and perpetrators of hate crimes on Saturday October 19th. The event, which attracted a small but passionate crowd, was held at the High Point United Church of Christ in Union, Kentucky.

The members of the new local chapter of Soulforce have just returned from Lynchburg, Virginia, where they were involved in Lynchburg's first ever Gay Pride Event. As a part of their trip, they stood vigil outside the doors of Jerry Falwell's Thomas Road Baptist Church during Sunday services.

"Spiritual violence" is a term coined by Rev. Jimmy Creech to describe the consequences of the anti-gay policies, teachings and actions of many of our nation's religious leaders and churches. Stopping this spiritual violence is the mission of Soulforce. Our new local chapter is a part of the international organization founded by the Rev. Mel White and co-chaired by Rev. Creech.

If you are interested in finding out more about future activities with Soulforce TriState, please contact Nancy Cox at 859-647-9832 or PamDeFusco at 859-356-1381. The group's meetings and the candlelight prayer vigil are hosted by High Point Faith Community, an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. High Point is located at 11176 U. S. 42, in Union, Kentucky.

# Financial Advisor

## When Do You Sell Your Investments?

by Vicki L. Marsh, American Express Financial Advisors

As the stock market continues to fluctuate, you may be taking a closer look at your investment portfolio. If you've noticed certain stocks or mutual funds that haven't performed as well as you'd anticipated, you may be wondering if its time to sell. Should you keep an underperformer and wait for it to change in value, or sell it to free up money for other investments?

Even if the investment market declines, stocks and mutual funds can still play a vital role in a diversified investment strategy, so it's important to carefully evaluate your assets before deciding to sell. Below are some tips that may help guide you in the decision-making process.

**Knowing When to Say Goodbye:** When it comes to stocks, "buy and hold" has long been held as a wise investment strategy, because the potential for stocks to appreciate increases the longer they are held. Although such a strategy may still be right for you, there are times when you may want to consider selling:

**1. Your stock is down.** Deciding whether a price drop is a signal to sell or an opportunity to buy is one of the hardest investing decisions to make. Your choice should depend on why the price fell. For example, if the stock price dropped as a result of circumstances beyond the company's control, such as a general market downturn, you may want to hold the stock – or perhaps even buy more. Conversely, if the stock's price drops because of negative company news, such as an earnings report that doesn't meet estimates, you may want to sell.

**2. Your stock's price rises as much as you had anticipated.** Consider taking emotion out of your decision by setting a "sell target." When the stock reaches a certain price, you simply sell it and reinvest elsewhere. Your sell price doesn't necessarily need to be set in stone. As a company's prospects change, you may wish to adjust your sell price accordingly. For example, if you own stock in a manufacturing company that wins a long-term government contract, you may want to consider raising your sell target to account for the company's increased growth potential.

**3. You've reached your downward limit.** Just as you might set a sell target for rising prices, you may also want to set a downward limit on how much loss you're willing to take. For example, under such a strategy, you might sell if the stock's price falls 10% to 15% from your original purchase price.

**Different Rules for Mutual Funds:** Because mutual funds usually hold a wide range of assets, evaluating when to sell often requires criteria slightly different from those required by stocks. Before you remove a mutual fund from your portfolio, ask a few key questions:

**1. Does the fund fit with your current needs?** Look to see if the investment philosophy behind your initial mutual fund purchase still fits with your current financial needs and tolerance for risk. For example, if you initially bought a high-growth fund at age 25, it may have more risk than you're comfortable carrying at age 50.

**2. Is it still a steady performer?** Compare your fund's performance to other, similar mutual funds. If your fund has consistently lagged behind those with similar investment objectives, you may want to move on. Although patience is a virtue for any investor, you may want to consider selling when a fund has underperformed its peers for at least three years.

**3. Has the fund departed from its original investment style?** A fund that recently changed portfolio managers or seems to be straying from its initial objectives may merit scrutiny. Check to see if the fund's new investment style fits with the other assets in your portfolio. If it's too risky – or too conservative – for your investment needs, it may be time to say goodbye.

When you're within three to five years of an investment goal – such as retirement, a house down-payment or money for college tuition – it might be time to start liquidating mutual funds that are heavily weighted in stocks. Compared to other asset classes, stocks are generally considered more prone to the market's up and downs, so your money might be better suited in an investment geared toward short-term investing, such as a bond or certificate of deposit (CD).

**Weigh the Costs and Benefits of Selling:** Unless you're trading in a tax-deferred account, such as an employer-sponsored retirement plan or an individual retirement account (IRA), selling a stock or mutual fund can provide potential tax advantages and drawbacks. For example, if you profit from the sale of a stock or mutual fund, you'll likely owe tax on any gain recognized (generally capital gains tax on assets held for more than 12 months, ordinary income tax on assets held for less than 12 months).

Yet if you sell a stock or mutual fund at a loss, you may be eligible for certain tax benefits. For example, if you have a \$4,000 loss on the sale of stocks this year, you can use the entire loss to offset \$4,000 of capital gains. If you don't have any capital gains, you can apply up to \$3,000 of the loss to your ordinary income and carry forward the remaining loss to be used against income in following years. A capital loss can be carried forward until it's used up entirely. See your tax advisor for details.

**Rely on Careful Planning:** As you review your investments, be sure to base your buying and selling decisions on your investment goals and careful planning. Consider consulting with your certified financial advisor to make the decision-making process easier. Working together, you and your financial advisor can create a fully diversified investment portfolio capable of weathering the market's storms.

# Family Matters

## Why I Became Involved With PFLAG

*by Marti Kwiatkowski, PFLAG Cincinnati President*

While my husband and many of my friends will tell you that I think I know everything, there are a lot of things that I have to learn. As the new president of Cincinnati PFLAG I know that I have big shoes to fill. Linda Arnest, as the past president, has represented our chapter in many rewarding ways and I hope that I will be able to do the same.

First of all, let me introduce myself. I am the mother of three boys, all straight. So, now you ask the question, why get involved with Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays?

Well, I came to PFLAG around four years ago because I needed to grieve the loss of my childhood friend who was gay and died of AIDS. I had no idea walking in the door of the first meeting that my life would change so dramatically. My first experience was one of a family welcoming it's child home. And for that reason, I decided to stay and fight the good fight against prejudice, bias and bigotry against gays and lesbians.

The years I have spent in PFLAG have opened my eyes to my own misconceptions as well as opening my heart to a new understanding of who I am and how much I love my many GLBT friends, especially the young people.

Therefore, I see my mission as the new President of Cincinnati PFLAG as one of outreach— to the GLBT community as a whole and to the city in which we live that desperately needs to understand who we are. I already consider myself part of the GLBT community and I am looking forward to meeting new friends as I take a more active role in our Cincinnati Chapter.

We have wonderful things to look forward to in 2003. The PFLAG Banquet is scheduled for March 1, 2003 and promises to be a success as our banquet committee is hard at work making plans. A video is presently in production about the story of the Cincinnati Chapter of PFLAG and we hope to distribute it next year. I was also fortunate to attend the National Convention of PFLAG in Columbus last month and it was really an exciting look experience. And of course there are our monthly meetings where we meet so many brave and courageous people that are a tribute to our primary mission of support.

Thank you all and I look forward to meeting you soon. And remember "there's no place like PFLAG."

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

# GLBT Health

## Tips to Help You Quit Smoking

*by Bob Donovan, MD*

In my last column, I wrote about why quitting smoking is such a good idea. Here are some tips to help in quitting.

Smoking is not only a matter of nicotine addiction, but it's about many different habits you may have developed, and you've got to be aware of these. Some people will need to substitute for having something in their mouth. Some need a substitute for something in their hand. Be aware of your times for smoking, too, like if you always smoke after a meal or first thing in the morning, or while driving. You've got to be ready for anything that triggers your smoking.

Because it's so difficult for most people to quit, you have to be prepared for setbacks. Most smokers take 7-8 tries before successfully stopping, so if you relapse, don't get discouraged; try again. It took you a long time to develop your habit; give yourself time to quit.

Also because this is so difficult, plan in advance. Quitting is a big change in your life, so don't downplay it. Start by thinking about your triggers and plan what to do about them. Three basic ways of managing your triggers:

- 1) Avoid the situation: for instance, if you smoke when you drink coffee, drink something else. By the way, when you stop smoking, caffeine becomes more powerful to you, so it's a good idea to cut back on caffeine anyway. Don't stop suddenly, though, or you might get headaches.
- 2) If you can't avoid, change the situation: drink your coffee with your other hand or try using a straw. (I know some of these sound silly, but better to look silly than to smoke and get sick.) Sit in the non-smoking section at the restaurant.
- 3) Be ready to substitute for the cigarette: keep something in your free hand on the phone like a pen or paper clip. Chew gum or suck on a hard candy, or whatever.

After you've spent some time figuring out your triggers, set yourself a quit date. Leading up to that date you might also consider tapering your smoking over a couple of weeks. When you come to your stop smoking date, throw away all your cigarettes. Be sure to get them out of all your typical hiding places. Get rid of your ashtrays. Get a hair cut. Clean out your car. Clean all your clothes, and anything else that smells of smoke. You may not even be able to smell the smoke in them now, but you will soon enough, and that may trigger an urge.

Be sure to drink a lot of fluids which helps to flush your system and may help some of the withdrawal symptoms. Keep mouth and hand toys around anywhere you may need them (or him or her, whatever). Try to exercise. That will help with weight control, help with energy and keep your mind off smoking. If you have heart or lung problems already, be sure to get the advice of your family doctor about exercise.

Deal with your emotions. One study found that people who felt angry or anxious were twice as likely to smoke than calmer people.

Be ready to get support, from a lover, family, friends. Consider a support group if those kind of things might be helpful. The cancer association and lung society have some stop smoking groups, as do several medical insurance companies.

The withdrawal symptoms of nicotine may feel like you've got a cold for a few days. You may feel some dizziness and tingling in your hands and feet. You may get a cough as the hairs in your breathing tubes come back to life and begin to clear out your respiratory passages. You may feel more hungry than usual and crave snacks, especially sweets. Try fruits and juices instead of the higher calorie stuff. This will help your body recover.

Nicotine craving will last most intensely for about a week. If nicotine craving is a serious problem for you, you may want to consider using the nicotine patch or gum, which are available over-the-counter or by prescription, or the nicotine nasal spray, which is available by prescription. There is also a medication that can be prescribed which helps some in their efforts to stop smoking.

You may experience some mental foggy for a couple of weeks as your body readjusts. Some people feel like external stimuli, like sounds, are more noticeable for a while. You're just not being numbed as much by the nicotine.

Good luck! To your health!

# On The Nightbeat

## Arts, Entertainment and Nightlife

by Miss C.C. Bloom

Hello again! Well as the weather starts to get a bit nippy and we all start to think about the upcoming holidays, there's lots to report out and about in Cincinnati.

We have a new bar in town, actually its right across the river in Newport, but that's close enough for me. Woolly's on Monmouth has been opened for a couple of weeks now and will have its official grand opening party weekend on November 8th to 10th. Come down on Friday night for a big drag show starring Darlene Love, Nellie Olson, Sabrina, Shanice McCoy Sky and a host of others. On Saturday, the band Reckless will perform live and Sunday will be a big prize giveaway. Rick and his crew down at Woolly's have a great thing going on, so be sure to stop in sometime.

The Cincinnati Women's Choir, MUSE, will present their fall concerts on Saturday November 16th and Sunday November 17th. Their director, Cathy Roma, is a friend of mine and I must say that she and the choir put on a really beautiful show each and every time. For tickets, contact MUSE at 221-1118.

The folks down at The Pipeline tell me they are excited to be welcoming Viva, known far and wide as one of the world's best Madonna impersonators. She'll be at the club on November 9th as part of their "James Bond Premiere Party" that night upstairs in the Flux dancebar. You know Madonna sings the new Bond theme. I hope this impersonator is as good as the last one they had who did Cher back in September.

My good chums Ginger and Sam of The Court report that the group will be hosting lots of fundraisers in November. Check out the shows at Shooters on November 8th, 11th and 29th and up at Jacob's on November 9th and 30th. The show on the 11th is their annual "Toyland Show" and all proceeds benefit AIDS Volunteers of Northern Kentucky.

On several weekends in November, Queen City Off Broadway will present "I've Got Feathers, But I'm Not a Chicken" in the upstairs at Carol's on Main (or Plush as they like to call it). In October, Michael Blankenship put on quite a spooky show at Plush with his "Poe Pourri: Stories and Poems by Edger Allen Poe." To find out what's up at Plush, including some great weekly events, check out their website at [www.carolsonmain.com](http://www.carolsonmain.com).

The Dock is alive and kicking on Sundays again! On November 17th will be "Nea Carla's Cavalcade of Drag Queens" (the name of the show is worth the cover, don't you think!) and on November 24th it's the Miss Northern Kentucky Pageant.

For the last few months, my husband and I have been making Thursdays our regular night to go out. Sometimes we drop by Latin Night at Carol's and others we go to enjoy the karaoke, excuse me its Maryoke, at Hamburger Mary's. Last week we checked out the Down and Dirty Strip Show at The Dock. Some of the guys were kinda hot, but strippers have never been my thing. My love's favorite Thursday spot these days is Jacob's, where we go to hear the Brian Newman Trio perform. Well, whatever night you like to go out, you can find out what's going on by checking out the "Nightlife" section on the paper's website at [www.greatercincinnati.com](http://www.greatercincinnati.com). See you later!

# Out of the Past

## Remembering A Gay Pioneer

by Bruce Beisner

The more I talk with younger lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, the more I realize that we really don't know where we have come from. Don't have a good sense of how dramatically things have changed in a relatively short period of time. Knowing our history and having heroes to look up to are very important for many people coming out and for our community in general.

On October 24th, the GLBT community lost one of those heroes. Harry Hay died from lung cancer at his San Francisco home at the age of 90. Mr. Hay's legacy of activism for gay people goes back well over 50 years and in many ways his early work with other determined and courageous men and women made the Stonewall riots, Harvey Milk's election, the Marches on Washington, the Human Rights Campaign and even this newspaper possible.

Most of us would say that the gay rights movement began in 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in New York City. But things were happening as much as 20 years earlier. In 1949, a small group of male homosexuals formed "The Mattachine Society" in Los Angeles. This group's founders, which included Chuck Rowland, Bob Hull and Harry Hay, named it after the male court jesters of 13th century Europe who often dressed as women in their performances. Mattachine is hailed by many to be the first organized gay political group in the nation's history. In fact, it wasn't the very first but it was the first to become legally incorporated and to establish a long-term presence.

The Mattachine Society was really a secret network of support groups for gay men. As a "homophile organization" it was primarily interested in working within the government system for change. The group's charter called for "the solution of human sex behavior problems through various accepted techniques involving change of attitude and law." Mattachine, One Inc. and the Daughters of Bilitis were the three main homophile organizations active in the 1950's.

Harry Hay's work with the Mattachine Society came out of his history of involvement with the Communist party and the labor movement in the 1930's. He was one of the first people to publically argue that gays represented a cultural minority and that "we serve a purpose." He felt it was vital that we see ourselves not just as individuals but as a community.

In 1955, Hay was called before the House Un-American Activities Commission but refused to testify. Many of the Mattachine Society leaders were afraid that Hay's Communist ties could hurt the organization and he was forced out in 1953.

As the gay movement progressed, Hay was there to witness, lead and participate. He stood up and was "out" at a time when there wasn't such a word, when very few (we're talking about ten people in the entire country) would stand with him. As his biographer, Stuart Timmons, put it, "All gay people continue to benefit from his fierce affirmation of gays as people."

Harry Hay is survived by his partner of 39 years, John Burnside, and his adopted daughters, Hannah Muldaven and Kate Berman.

# Thought You Knew!

*Advice for the Confused and Clueless  
from Ambrosia*

## **Dear Ambrosia,**

A friend of mine just got me started in drag and I'm having a lot of fun doing it. But, when you're 16-years-old, it's hard to find clubs that have either amateur or below 18 drag queens. She's helped me from makeovers to shopping sprees. However, that's not my problem. My problem is telling my parents about it. I have no idea of what to expect in their reaction. I fear that they'll either disown me, forbid me to do drag ever again, or worse, send me away to a military academy! I don't know what else to do. I hope that you can give me some good advice on what to do.

*—Young Queen in Distress*

## **Dear Young Queen,**

That is quite a dilemma - although I don't think I would mind too much being under-covers in a military academy! Anyway, I think that we can all thank Jerry Springer, Ricki Lake and the other talk show hosts for making this such a terrible issue. The trashy queens and guests on those shows have really given us a big mess to clean up - on how we are perceived by the heterosexual world. I would say that you have two options:

1) Don't tell them. It's your business and we all know that there's nothing more glamorous (or seductive) than a lady with a secret. If you keep it under wraps, people will constantly keep trying to chip away at your resolve to find out what's underneath! If they knew about you- would it really enhance your relationship with them, shock them, upset them - would they start shopping with you for drag? Think about what would be best for them and you in the big picture -long run...

2) Do tell them that they've got a glamor girl living right there under their own roof! This will take more work in the beginning. Before you drop the bomb, try to find out their perceptions of drag. If it's not good, try to do some educating (subtly of course!) to massage their views in order to get the reaction you deserve and one that will keep things good between all of you.

Good luck with this and I think it's great that you've got a close friend to shop with in themeantime- that's so important. If you do end up at the academy, drop me line and let me know how that goes- the trials and tribulations of life make us better!

## **Dear Ambrosia,**

As a celebrity, I know you get a lot of attention, perhaps even have fans who cross the line and become stalkers. I'm no celebrity like you, but I think I may have a stalker on my hands. I met this woman at a church function about six months ago. She and I were both the only lesbians at the dinner, and we struck up a good conversation. I think she developed a little crush on me after that. I didn't want to be rude, but I have a long-term partner already. She keeps calling and asking me to go do stuff with her (without my partner being there) and has sent flowers to my place of work. She even left a note on my car! I really don't want to hurt her feelings, but its getting too weird. What should I do?

*= —Didn't Mean to Turn Her On*

## **Dear Turn On,**

Now stalkers are something I know something about. I remember this one guy, friends dubbed him "My Biggest Fan." Well, that was years ago and we really need to talk about your situation. You sound like a grown-up, well adjusted woman so I'll speak frankly. First, I don't believe that you didn't do anything to lead her on. I think you may have wanted this and now you don't know what to do with it. To find out if I'm right you should do a few things with her (without your partner). You could even go so far as to let it get a little hot and heavy. If this happens and you decide you don't want it to continue, just be sure to make the sex bad for her. That's one way to get her to stop coming around. Of course there's always to honest approach, tell her she's creeping you out and her actions are incredibly inappropriate. That approach isn't as fun for me to write about but it's probably the better way to go. Good luck!

*Ambrosia wants to hear from you! Send your questions to [ehutfie@cincyradio.com](mailto:ehutfie@cincyradio.com).*