



The PFLAG Link

MIDLAND, BAY CITY & SAGINAW CHAPTER
P.O. BOX 834, BAY CITY, MI 48707
989-941-1458

www.pflag-mbs.org

November 2009

Join us for support and friendship!

Sunday, Nov 22, 2 p.m.,
Unitarian/Universalist Fellowship,
6220 Jefferson at Wackerly, Midland
2:00-3:00 Support Groups, light
snack and Speaker Kevin Appold

Time Running Out to Renew Your Membership- see Page Two.

Our dues for fall have been sent to PFLAG National, providing funds for many efforts and activities that directly benefit local PFLAG chapters. National provides training, facilitates "cross-pollination" of new ideas among chapters, and works hard to move employment equality forward and to move "Don't Ask/Don't Tell" out. If you haven't renewed, please do so now. It's getting late and equality won't wait!

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE for WORLD AIDS DAY, Tuesday, December 1. Presented by Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center - BASIS HIV/AIDS Care Program. 7:00 pm, Andersen Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust Drive, eastside Saginaw. Free and open to the public; for more information call: 989.294.2991 (Bay City). Cookies, coffee, and punch will be served after the ceremony.

Calhoun County Coalition for Inclusion will hold a Peace Prom Saturday, Dec. 5 from 8 to 11 PM at the First Congregational Church, 145 Capital Ave. NE, Battle Creek, Michigan. Come dance and show your support for the LGBTQQIAA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Allies) community in Calhoun County! There will be a DJ, refreshments, information about open and affirming services in Calhoun County, (it wouldn't be prom without them) prom photos, and a safe space for socializing.

(Cont.)

For Some, the March Meant Everything

This month, join us and experience the March for Equality

Into the life of every engaged person, every person whose vision reaches out beyond his or her personal needs, there arises a significant moment. In that moment everything changes. Realization hits; the values you took for granted shift and realign. Status quo becomes status gone, and you know nothing will be the same, ever. **Kevin Appold** came out five years ago and is active in promoting equality and supporting the gay community. "I'm a local who grew up in Bay City went to Western High and graduated from Michigan Tech with a B.S. in Chemical

Engineering," Kevin says. "I've worked for the Dow Chemical Company for 15 years as a Process and Improvement Engineer. I came out about 5 years ago and I'm engaged to my fiancée **Cameron Hersey**. Since I came out I've been actively involved in the gay community, participating on the board of Perceptions, attending PFLAG activities and seminars, fundraising for the Michigan AIDS Walk, and being involved in Dow's employee network GLAD, Gays, Lesbians, and Allies at Dow." Kevin and Cameron traveled to Washington D.C. for the

National Equality March - and that was, for Kevin, a day of destiny. "It was a moving experience that felt like being part of history, a turning point in the gay civil rights movement to no longer be patient and start grassroots activism to end discrimination at the National level." Sunday, Kevin will speak at PFLAG TriCities to help define for us what that moment meant for him. He'll share pictures, footage and slides to present the March's meaning. Join us and share in a moment of power, of choice, and of destiny.

Big News in Michigan; Bad News from the East Coast

Maine Sucks while Kalamazoo Rocks

Conservative groups, including the Catholic Archdiocese of St. Louis (\$10,000) and the Diocese of Phoenix (\$50,000), contributed money and time - in the form of setting up phone banks to call Mainers to persuade them against marriage equality. The same methods were used by pro-equality organizations, but to little avail as Maine's "Question One" passed by a margin of 31,561 votes, or 52.79% to 47.21%. **Maggie Gallagher**, president of the conservative Christian group National Organization for Marriage, was quoted in an analysis by **Abby Goodnough** in the New York Times on Nov. 4: "Maine is one of the most secular states in the

nation. It's socially liberal. They had a three-year head start to build their organization, and they outspent us two to one. If they can't win there, it really does tell you the majority of Americans are not on board with this gay marriage thing."

The dismay caused by this decision was balanced by a stronger margin in favor of fairness in Kalamazoo, where 61% of voters supported **Ordinance 1856**, which gave protection in employment, housing and public accommodations to gays, lesbians and transgendered persons. After a twin set of approvals and reversals by the City Commission, the margin was strong enough to, perhaps,

give pause to any who would like to try one more time to persuade Kalamazoo's citizens that unfair is good enough. Among the tactics used as their desperation grew, the opponents of Ordinance 1856 resorted to placing a photo of one well-known trans person as a warning that such people were some kind of threat. Hurtful as that was, the vote brought a sense of comfort. Other notable victories in Michigan include Councilman and President of the Detroit City Council, **Charles Pugh**, the first openly gay candidate to run for city council in Detroit, and Commissioner **James Rasor**, the first openly gay candidate to run in the city of Royal Oak.

(Cont. from first page) Peace Prom is a dance open to people of any age and any sexual orientation, so come with your friends, partner, or family to show support! **ADMISSION IS FREE!** Sponsored by Calhoun County Coalition for Inclusion and Arcus Foundation.

Eighth Annual Holiday Party & Charity Auction

Perceptions 8th Annual Holiday Party will be Saturday evening, December 12th. Our new venue, centrally located in the Tri-Cities, is Bay Valley Resort, offering a ballroom overlooking a pond and golf course decorated with holiday lights and a year-round indoor/outdoor heated pool. Just off I-75, Bay Valley will offer discounted rooms for our out-of-town guests or anyone who doesn't want to drive home after the festivities. We will have live entertainment from Modus Rock, who are featured on the cover of the current issue of Review Magazine. There will be a Charity Auction (both live and silent) raising money for our Scholarship Fund. If you know of a business or individual who may donate an item for the auction, please let them know about [our event](mailto:Jim@PerceptionsSV.org). Contact Jim@PerceptionsSV.org for more details about donations. Tickets are available online now. Perceptions Trustees will soon have tickets available for sale.

Transgender Day of Remembrance at CMU

On Friday November 20, 2009 the Central Michigan University Office of Gay and Lesbian Programs would like to invite you to celebrate, memorialize, and honor Transgender Day of Remembrance. The morning will kick off at 8:00 am in the Strosacker Room, located in Park Library. The event will be a breakfast discussion with Erin Moers. She will share her personal journey as an individual who is transgender. This event would be the perfect opportunity for all to come show their support.

Window Media LLC Shuts Down

Washington Blade, Florida Blade and the Houston Voice close their doors

Several longstanding publications directed at the gay community have closed, even while a "white knight" was in the midst of negotiating to add them to his publishing business. In a copyrighted story, the Associated Press attributed the shutdown to the troubles in publishing brought about by the nation's economic sorrows, and to the fact that news of interest to GLBT readers is being covered more frequently in mainstream media. The Washington Blade had operated for 40 years. According to 365gay.com's Newswire, negotiations with Benton Communications, Inc., publisher of the Falls Church, Virginia News-Press, had gone forward, including approval of its bid by the U.S. Small Business Administration, but that was not enough to stave off a final closing of the Blade on November 16.

One Murder per Month?

Transgender persons suffer bias crimes at a rate of one murder per month, according to the National Center for Transgender Equality. Hate crimes legislation may seem useless - as if additional jail time will really deter hatred! - but there are real benefits to the law signed by President Obama on October 26. For one thing, it gives local law enforcement officials the option of bringing in Federal money and manpower to deal with bias-motivated crimes. And that provides a greater motivation to solve such crimes - which will help remove any sense of safety now felt by hatred-motivated thugs, based on an expectation of apathy on the part of small towns' police. Also, the very presence of "transgender" as a named group that is federally protected is a positive development. More information can be found in a report from [October 26 on National Public Radio's "Morning Edition"](#) webpage (go to www.npr.org and search the website for "hate crime laws.")

PFLAG Tri-Cities Membership Form for 2009-2010

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone (home) _____ Phone (cell) _____
 E-mail _____

Check here if you want to receive correspondence from the National PFLAG :

PFLAG Tri-Cities Newsletter Subscription Options:

- I want to receive the PFLAG Tri-Cities newsletter
- I would like to receive the newsletter as an e-mail attachment
- I would like to receive the newsletter by U.S. Mail

2009-10 Memberships

- Family \$40.00
- Individual \$30.00
- Student/senior citizen (65 or older) \$15.00
 (\$15 goes to national, PFLAG Tri-Cities membership is complimentary)
- I would like to donate to PFLAG Tri-Cities \$ _____

Please make check payable to **PFLAG Tri-Cities** and mail to:
 Ruth Baker, Treasurer
 1030 South Drive
 Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858