



The PFLAG Link

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

www.pflag-mbs.org

October 2009

Join us for support and friendship!

Sunday, Oct. 25, 2 p.m.,
Unitarian/Universalist Fellowship,
6220 Jefferson at Wackerly, Midland
2:00-3:00 Support Groups, followed
by a light snack

Time to Renew - see Page Two.

Fall is Membership time for PFLAGers! See page 2 for a form you can fill out to provide us with the information necessary for your membership. Every membership helps families with gay children, and provides funds to help increase understanding and bring about equality. If you haven't renewed, see page 2 and help us help others.

Refreshments Promote Friendship!

If you are able to help us out by providing the snacks for a meeting, please call us at 989-941-9458.

Wine Tasting October 17

If you're receiving this prior to October 17, remember a great event open to all over the age of 21: The Third Annual PFLAG Perceptions Wine Tasting. Come and enjoy a great selection of wines, available for purchase, and support PFLAG TriCities and Perceptions of Saginaw. Advance tickets are available online at perceptionssv.org. Tickets are \$25. Wines will be provided by Opperman's Cork & Ale of Saginaw. Join us at the Pere Marquette Depot's Welcome Center, 1000 Adams Street in downtown Bay City, starting at 7 PM.

Bay City AIDS Walk Still Number One in Dollars Raised - Even in a Bad Year

With the preliminary numbers in, AIDS Walk Michigan is reporting a slight decrease in monies raised this year. Walks took place in seven cities over the past two weekends, raising about \$153,000. The total is down about \$22,000 from 2008. Despite chilly temperatures in the mid-50s and intermittent drizzle, over 350 people showed up for the Detroit walk. Among them were several local notables, including Detroit city council candidates Charles Pugh, Saunteel Jenkins and James Tate. "People need to know that the struggle against HIV and AIDS is not just something that happens in a walk,"

Pugh said. "It's a year-round passion of mine. We need to make sure that health department dollars are used for outreach. It's important that we put the money where those efforts should be. That's a priority. I have so many friends and relatives who have lost the battle. So it's a personal journey for me to be there to raise money for treatment and outreach." Across the state, just over 2,000 walkers participated in the seven walks. Totals for the individual walks include Ann Arbor, \$13,100; Bay City, \$41,500; Detroit, \$32,000; Flint, \$11,000; Grand Rapids, \$24,000; Lansing, \$21,000; and

northern Michigan, \$10,500. Each location's funds went to various local HIV/AIDS organizations, including the HIV/AIDS Resource Center, the Lansing Area AIDS Network, Wellness AIDS Services, BASIS-Sacret Heart Rehabilitation Center and others. "Given the economy, I'm pleased," said Murray of the funds raised. "These are very respectable numbers." that increase civic engagement and political awareness among high school and university students.

By Jason A. Michael, from Between The Lines/Pridesource.com; printed 10/8/2009 in issue 1741

PFLAG TriCities Membership is Open to YOU

"You make a difference." "You're a vital part." "Your involvement is crucial to this fight." Those are phrases we all hear whenever someone wants our vote, our time, our effort, and (of course) our money. Aside from the busy necessities that make up our day, there are always things on the fringe of our lives, on the periphery of our vision. They may be church, or politics, or things in our own local community. And it's always a challenge to find time - sometimes even just a

minute - to contribute to things we consider important. That's why now is the moment. PFLAG exists to serve the needs of all persons who find themselves on the outside, not just of our vision or viewpoint, but on the outside of society - because the way we feel about ourselves, or the people we feel attracted to, don't fit the norm. There's no question we all want things to change, just like there's no question change on a social

scale is hard and takes time. But we have sincere, committed and caring people, both here in the Tri-Cities and in the nation, who have been in the same place we are: ourselves or our loved ones don't fit the mold. So take the ten minutes needed to fill out the form on Page 2 and send in your check for membership. Our chapter needs you and your help is precious. We hope you can take a moment and renew your membership today.

Portions of President Obama's Remarks to Human Rights Campaign

It is a privilege to be here tonight to open for Lady Gaga. I've made it!

I want to thank the Human Rights Campaign for inviting me to speak, and for the work you do every day in pursuit of equality on behalf of the millions of people in this country, who work hard in their jobs and care deeply about their families, and who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. For nearly 30 years, you've advocated on behalf of those without a voice. And that's not easy, for despite the real gains we've made, there are still laws to change and there are still hearts to open. There are still fellow citizens, perhaps neighbors, even loved ones, good and decent people, who hold fast to outworn arguments and old attitudes, who fail to see your families like their families, who would deny you the rights most Americans take for granted. And that's painful, and it's heartbreaking. (Applause.) And yet you continue leading by example, by the force of the arguments you make, and by the power of the example you set in your own lives, as parents and friends, as PTA members and church members, as advocates and leaders in your communities, and you're making a difference. That's the story of the movement for fairness and equality. Not just for those who are gay, but for all those in our history who've been denied the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

For all those who've been told that the full blessings and opportunities of this country were closed to them. The story of progress sought by those with little influence or power, by men and women who brought about change through quiet, personal acts of compassion - and defiance - whenever and wherever they could. It's the story of the Stonewall protests, when a group of citizens with few options and fewer supporters stood up against discrimination and helped inspire a movement. It's the story of an epidemic that decimated a community, and the gay men and women who came to support one another and save one another, who continue to fight this scourge, who have demonstrated before the world that different kinds of families can show the same compassion in a time of need. And it's the story of the Human Rights CAMPAIGN, and the fights you've fought for nearly thirty years, helping to elect candidates who share your values, standing against those who would enshrine discrimination into our Constitution, advocating on behalf of those living with HIV AIDS, and fighting for progress in our Capitol and across America.

This story, this fight, continues now. And I'm here with a simple message: I'm here with you in that fight. For even as we face extraordinary challenges as a nation, we cannot and we will not put aside issues of basic equality. I greatly appreciate the support I've receive from many in this room. I also appreciate that many of you don't believe progress has come fast enough. I want to be honest about that... because it's important to be honest among friends. Now, I've said this before, I'll repeat it again, it's not for me to tell you to be patient, any more than it was for others to counsel patience to African-Americans petitioning for equal rights half a century ago. But I will say this: We have made progress and we will make more. And I think it's important to remember that there is not a single issue that my administration deals with on a daily basis that does not touch on the lives of the LGBT community.

We all have a stake in reviving this economy. We all have a stake in putting people back to work. We all have a stake in improving our schools and achieving quality affordable health care. We all have a stake in meeting the difficult challenges we face in Iraq and Afghanistan. For while some may wish to define you by your sexual orientation or gender identity alone, you know and I know that none of us want us to be defined by just one part of what makes us whole.

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