



The PFLAG Link

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

www.pflag-mbs.org

September 2009

Join us for support and friendship!

This Month: Activist Ben Dotson
Sunday, Sept. 27, 2 p.m.,
Unitarian/Universalist Fellowship,
6220 Jefferson at Wackerly, Midland
2:00-3:00 Support Groups, followed
by a light snack

AIDS Walk Needs YOU

Come and walk with us on Sept. 26
in Bay City, and lend your needed
help to your friends suffering from
HIV/AIDS. **PFLAG TriCities** will
be there! Because of efforts like this,
no one in Michigan infected with
HIV need go without help and
treatment. Add your gift on behalf of
our **TriCities Team** through
AIDSwalkmichigan.org, or call 888-
791-9255 (791-WALK.) Starts at the
Friendship Shell in Winonah Park in
Bay City, and runs from 9:30 Am to
2 PM. Your support is vital whether
you can join us or not. In past years
the Bay City Walk has raised more
than any other in Michigan! Benefits
BASIS-Sacred Heart, providing
care to hundreds of men, women and
children living with HIV/AIDS in
Arenac, Bay, Gladwin, Midland,
Saginaw, Huron, Sanilac, and
Tuscola Counties.

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.

Ben Dotson: Not a Couch Potato

Originally from Estill Springs,
Tennessee, this month's Guest
Speaker **Ben Dotson** majors in
both Political Science and
Music at Central Michigan
University. Ben served as
Co-President of CMU's Gay
Straight Alliance for two years.
In addition, he has served on the
Detroit Steering Committee of
the Human Rights Campaign, as
a member of the Michigan
Policy Advisory Committee on

Social Justice and Civil Rights
for the Obama Campaign, as a
"Get-Out-the-Vote" intern for
the Obama Campaign, as an
Advocacy Co-Chair for the
College Democrats at CMU,
and, more recently, as the new
media coordinator, speech
writer and issue researcher for
openly gay candidate **Toni
Sessoms'** State House bid. He
has lobbied in Washington, DC,
for many pieces of pro-equality

legislation including: ENDA,
the Matthew Shepard Act, and
the Uniting American Families
Act among many others. An
advocate for the inclusion of
young people in the political
process, Ben is currently
developing a series of programs
that increase civic engagement
and political awareness among
high school and university
students.

Annual Elections This Month

This year several great people
are willing to step up and take
leadership roles in PFLAG
TriCities. At this month's
meeting, you'll have your
chance to have your say.
Annual elections are both
legally required and "the right

thing to do" to ensure your
TriCities chapter serves your
needs. Standing for President:
Bob Malosh. For Vice
President, **Brian Baker**. For
Secretary, **Denise Malosh**. For
Treasurer, **Ruth Baker** (are you
beginning to see a pattern

here?) And **Jennifer Zantow**,
Laura O'Malley, **Leo Romo**,
Richard Shook and **Chip
Smith** are seeking positions as
Trustees-At-Large. Your vote is
important. The election will be
held at this month's meeting.

PFLAG/Perceptions WINE TASTING: New Historic Location!

Tickets are now on sale for the
Third Annual Perceptions &
PFLAG Wine Tasting. This
year's event will take place at
the historic Pere Marquette
Depot in downtown Bay City.
Advance tickets are \$25 and are
available online, from Percep-
tions & PFLAG board mem-
bers, and at the Pere Marquette
Depot in the Welcome Center.
(The Depot is located at 1000
Adams Street in downtown Bay
City and the Welcome Center is
open M - F 10:00 am to 7:00
pm, Sat 10:00 am - 5:00 pm,
and Sun noon - 5:00 pm. Ask
for Justin when purchasing
tickets.) Paid members of
Perceptions & PFLAG may
request a \$5 refund at the door,
where we'll have the member-
ship rosters. **Opperman's Cork
& Ale** will present a variety of

wines for you to taste and give
information and serving
suggestions. There will be a
selection of hors d'oeuvres
available to complement the
wines and **Michaels Pie** will
provide live music to enjoy
while you're mingling in the
beautifully restored waiting

room of the historic railroad
depot. Only those age 21 and
older will be admitted. A
limited selection of non-
alcoholic beverages will be
available for those who do not
care to consume alcohol. See
[http://PerceptionsSV.org/Wine
Tasting](http://PerceptionsSV.org/WineTasting)



Historic Pere Marquette Depot, Bay City

Isabella Area LGBT Group

This community-based group serving all LGBT people and allies meets at 7 PM on the second Tuesday of each month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 206 W Maple, Mount Pleasant. Call Erin Moers at 9899-317-0811 or **Rev. Wayne Nicholson** at 989-773-7448.

Nearby PFLAG Chapters:

PFLAG Livingston County meets the fourth Sunday, 3-5pm. Call 517-548-0839

PFLAG Genesee County in Flint meets the second Sunday of each month, 2-4:30 pm. Call 810-766-3267

PFLAG Holland Lakeshore meets the third Friday, 7-9pm. Call 616-399-2161.

You Think YOU have Problems? Try Being Middle-Eastern and Gay

It's a time of some uncertainty for U.S. citizens of Middle-Eastern descent, due to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and ongoing conflicts involving Israel and its neighbors. Yet the Detroit area has a thriving population of Middle-Eastern people. Gay members of this population may face some of the strongest cultural and religious opposition, including violence from their own

families, for whom cultural expectations seemingly dictate unwavering rejection for gay children and siblings. An organization of Middle Eastern GLBT Persons now exists, providing support for those for whom acceptance seems beyond the horizon: "**Al Gamea**" ("The Gather-ing," pronounced "all jah-may-ah.") Providing social events along

with support, Al Gamea was formed after a group of friends viewed the film "I Exist," a "ground-breaking documentary that gives voice to a group that has long been silent," and decided an organization that would provide a safe place for Middle-Eastern members of the GLBT community was needed. More information is available at www.algamea.org.

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