



Parents, Families & Friends  
of Lesbians And Gays

# PFLAG WEAVER

## *Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians And Gays/Dallas*

May, 2003

### *Our Mission*

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends, through *support*, to cope with an adverse society; *education*, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and *advocacy*, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.



PFLAG provides the opportunity for confidential dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.



**NATIONAL WEB SITE**  
www.pflag.org



**DALLAS WEB SITE**  
www.pflagdallas.org



**PFLAG/Dallas**  
(Newsletter and all correspondence)  
P.O. Box 111148 • Carrollton, TX 75011

**972/77 PFLAG**  
(972/777-3524)

**PFLAG/Dallas Co-presidents:**  
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**Newsletter Phone/Fax**  
972/418-1898  
newsletter@pflagdallas.org

**Newsletter Deadline:**  
May 8, 2003  
by mail, fax or e-mail

### *Next Meeting*

May 8, 2003  
Second Thursday, 7-9:30 p.m.  
Midway Hills Christian Church  
11001 Midway Road, Dallas

## *Marian Kearns dies at 74*

### *Our GLBT community loses a great friend*

Marian R. DeLosky Kearns died Saturday, April 12 of an embolism following surgery. It was her grandson's wedding day, and Marian was unable to attend because of her surgery.

Marian was a charter member of PFLAG/Dallas, a board member for several years, and a Rap Group leader. Martha England said, "I remember going into a rap group facilitated by Marian when I was still a very fragile member of PFLAG. I remember her saying that she didn't have all that religious baggage to carry around, so it was no problem that she had a gay son."

In fact, during one PFLAG garage sale, she picked up a red satin flounced dress and said she'd buy it if nobody else did, because "It'd be perfect for my son." She hosted the garage sale at her home for several years. Martha England recalled, "Her garage backed up to a very busy street and one year, as cars slowed down to look at our treasures, several wrecks occurred. Marian said, 'No more garage sales at my house.' That was something I liked about her ... she told it like it was."



Marian raised four children, and attended college when her youngest son reached high school. She earned her nursing degree in 1981, divorced, and began a nursing career at Parkland. She retired from nursing in 2000.

But she never retired from volunteer work. She volunteered with the Dallas AIDS Food Pantry (where memorial contributions may be made), and worked with Linda Krajewski, John and Martha England and me for several years on preparing this newsletter for mailing.

Then the Englands left for Georgia, and Linda's job became more demanding. Many times it was just Marian and me, but it seldom took very long and her caustic commentaries made the time fly.

She was afraid of my absolutely harmless Corgi, Taffy, and didn't care much for the cats, either. Luckily, they don't like visitors, and stayed away. She liked Discovery Channel's decorating guru, Christopher Lowell, feeling

that if he wasn't gay, he should have been.

We stuffed many a newsletter laughing at Christopher.

Just last month, Marian told me she was quitting the newsletter. She would stay on until I found someone else, she said, but she felt she had done her share.

As usual, she had done more than her share.



Marian attended the 2002 Black Tie Dinner as the guest of Jeffery Weber. I was her date, and picked her up at home. I did not get her a corsage ...

Luckily, we did not sit together. They would have probably separated us. Her wicked comments always made me laugh out loud, and many attendees would have been skewered. I believe it was her first Black Tie, but I'm not sure of that.

Marian loved going to movies and plays with Rosemary Schmader. She was our movie critic, advising which were good and which were "crap."

I'm sorry she never saw my latest gadget; she would have sneered, and I'd have laughed. She usually sneered at my gadgets, and probably rightly.

I can't quite believe yet that she'll never wait on my porch again while I pen Taffy in the kitchen, that we'll never laugh at Christopher in drag, that we won't get back to Rick's for a barbecue dinner.



Marian is survived by three sons – Peter Kearns of San Francisco, Paul Kearns of Denver and Robert Kearns of Dallas – one daughter, Ellyn Finnigan of Odenton, Md.; three sisters and four grandchildren.

She is also survived and respected by the PFLAG/Dallas chapter, everybody at the AIDS pantry, and other recipients of her generous nature.

Our sincerest condolences to her family and friends. She will be missed.

# Money, money, money, money

Now that you've paid Uncle Sam, how about helping Auntie PFLAG? Here are three ways you can help: one absolutely painless, one pretty painless and one ... well, paying dues isn't pain-free, but it's only a small ache!



## Community Partners programs

PFLAG/Dallas is subscribed to various community programs at local supermarkets. These programs allow you to help raise money for PFLAG/Dallas by simply having your card scanned each time you shop. It costs you nothing to participate, and you will save on in-store specials.

The amount of money we earn is based on a percentage of sales, so be sure to have your card scanned for every purchase.

### Albertsons Preferred Savings Card

Link your card to PFLAG/Dallas by registering your card online at [www.schoolpop.com](http://www.schoolpop.com). Enter PFLAG as the organization, or use our ID number, 0619229. If you don't have a Preferred Savings Card, be sure to ask for one the next time you visit Albertsons.

### Kroger Share Card Program

These cards are available at our monthly meetings. Be sure to pick one up.

### Tom Thumb Reward Card

Link your Reward Card to PFLAG by telling the cashier our ID number, 7927. If you do not have a Reward Card, get one during your next visit to Tom Thumb.

Thanks!



## Corporate matching for PFLAG

Did you know that many companies will match employee gifts to non-profit organizations? PFLAG members who work for a number of corporations provide PFLAG National with thousands of extra dollars each year to support our programs. Corporate matching is an easy way for you to double the impact of your contribution! Here's how:

1. Ask your human resources staff if your company has a matching gifts program. If so, ask for an application.
2. Fill in your section of the application and mail it to PFLAG at 1726 M Street NW #400, Washington, DC 20036, along with your gift.
3. PFLAG National will then fill in the rest of the application and submit it directly to your company. We'll let you know when we submit the application, and when the matching gift is received.

If you have questions about corporate matching, please contact Ian Deloney at (202) 467-8180, ext. 219, or [ideloney@pflag.org](mailto:ideloney@pflag.org). Thanks for donating and for supporting PFLAG!



## Are your dues paid?

In April, notices were mailed to all PFLAG/Dallas members, reminding them that their dues were payable.

We've had a nice response, but many of you have not sent in your renewals. Please look for that letter and, if your address has changed and Membership doesn't have your new one, please send your 2003 dues to Membership, PFLAG/Dallas, P O Box 111148, Carrollton, TX 75011-1148.

Dues are: individual, \$20; family, \$30. If you want to donate more, you can be a patron: bronze, \$100; silver, \$200; gold, \$300; benefactor/life, \$500.

Thanks for supporting PFLAG/Dallas.

## Got a question? Try our library

Our librarian, Jeffery Weber, has upgraded our library amazingly. There are lists by categories of the books available, and you borrow on the honor system. Donations of books or cash are welcomed, and we will put your name in books you donate or enable.

Look at the books on the rolling shelves at our next meeting. They may answer questions you didn't even know you had!

## Give-and-take in wedding roles

by Judith Martin  
Washington Post

### Dear Miss Manners,

My lesbian partner of 26 years and I will be helping our straight daughter with her wedding plans. We are out to our immediate family and friends, as well as the groom's immediate family. Our daughter wants her mother, not her father, to walk her down the aisle. My questions are:

1. If Mom walks our daughter down the aisle, how should I, as Mom No. 2, enter with the wedding party?
2. How should the invitations be worded to indicate that both of us, as well as the groom's parents, are announcing the wedding of our respective children? The ceremony can be a bit unconventional, but we hope to maintain as much of the traditional wedding etiquette as possible.

### Dear Reader,

Then you will have to accept Miss Manners' definition of traditional. That is, to regard wedding etiquette as a basis for symbolizing the families involved as they actually exist, and not to try to jam them into roles that may not fit.

Giving away a bride is already an anachronism, retained for its charm. People who are fixed on the idea that this task must be performed by a gentleman, and who hunt up a remote one in the absence of a father or stepfather, render it meaningless.

The point is that it should be one or more parents, or someone such as a stepparent or guardian who has served as such. How you assigned yourself to be "Mom No. 2" you do not say, but if you feel that the other mother alone should give your daughter away, then you should enter last as hostess, and sit up front. But it might also be fitting for you both to give away the bride.

Invitations are usually issued by the bride's family alone because they traditionally acted as sole hosts. But if all of your parents are giving the wedding, all of your formal names with honorifics should appear at the top of the invitation, beginning with the parents of the bride, and using as many lines as it takes to request the pleasure of your guests' company.

*Feeling incorrect? E-mail etiquette questions to Miss Manners at [MissManners@unitedmedia.com](mailto:MissManners@unitedmedia.com) or mail to United Media, 200 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016.*



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# *The Lutheran Church and the Sexuality Studies*

With these two articles, *The Lutheran* offers the first in a series of reports that will explore the thoughts and actions of ELCA members and leaders regarding the sexuality studies called for by the 2001 Churchwide Assembly.

Voting members at the Indianapolis session moved to speed up consideration of gay and lesbian issues in the ELCA, which have been matters of concern in the 65 synods for several years. They called for the development of a study document on homosexuality by 2005, complete with proposals for action by that assembly, which would lead to decisions about blessing same-gender unions and allowing gays and lesbians in committed relationships on ELCA ministry rosters. They also authorized the development of a social statement on human sexuality (*The Lutheran*, October 2001, pages 16-17, [www.thelutheran.org/0110/page16c.html](http://www.thelutheran.org/0110/page16c.html)).

A 13-member task force headed by James M. Childs Jr. is leading this work, under the banner "Journey Together Faithfully" ([www.elca.org/faithfuljourney](http://www.elca.org/faithfuljourney)). Their first study guide was sent in August to to all ELCA congregations. It is based on the ELCA's "A Message on Sexuality: Some Common Convictions." Childs is on leave from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, where he is professor of theology and ethics and director of academic development.

In addition to reporting on task force meetings, *The Lutheran* will cover activity relating to the studies through conversations with members of congregations that study the task force materials and discussions with individuals whose lives are touched by the issues. The magazine also will present divergent perspectives from theologians and ethicists on relevant questions. We begin with these two essays that raise the foundational question of why the church should – or shouldn't – pursue the mandated studies.

## **What you really can't say in the ELCA**

*By Leonard R. Klein*

### **Let's take a new look**

The ELCA's move to study the blessing of homosexual unions and the ordination of people who are in them has frightened many who hold the traditional position on sex and marriage. But the situation is worse than they imagine.

The traditional position already lost the most important battle when it was decided at the 2001 Churchwide Assembly in Indianapolis that the nature of Christian marriage was up for discussion. We should fear not what will happen in 2005 but what did happen in 2001.

We're assured that there will be a "fair and open study process." The task force undoubtedly believes it is committed to listen to the variety of "voices" in the ELCA. But those of us who hold the biblical teaching that human sexuality comes to its proper fulfillment in the union of one man and one woman as husband and wife don't wish to have our voices heard. We wish to have the voice of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions heard.

If the ELCA had listened to those voices, which according to its constitution should be the norm for its life, this discussion would not be taking place. It's the discussion itself that creates a situation of confession and crisis. When the church publicly defaults on questions of faith and morals, as at the time of the Reformation, the faithful are required to stand up and be counted, to point out the unfaithfulness and to confess the truth of God's word.

It's flattering to our egos to imagine that we have embarked upon a daring journey of listening, discovery and decision-making. The snake flatters us by whispering that we are now bold and ma-

ture enough to talk about questions that we used to fear. The snake flatters us by telling us that we are discussing hard issues in a civil manner. With Adam and Eve we are inveigled by the snake's promise to make us wise, but this undertaking is not wisdom. It is folly and unfaithfulness.

The church can and should talk about appropriate ministry to homosexual people. It can and should talk about the complexities of the human persona and human sexuality.

But it can't talk about whether to compromise the biblical teaching on heterosexual monogamy. This doctrine is clear from the creation story in Genesis to the vision of the New Jerusalem descending as a bride to meet her bridegroom at the end of Revelation.

Moreover, there is reason to expect that the promised open discussion can't actually take place. The church's culture of dysfunctional politeness silences many voices. It has, for instance, become politically incorrect to suggest that the Bible regards homosexual relations as sinful. This part of the church's witness is bound-and-gagged by opening the question. In some synod assemblies and other venues, questioning any part of the gay and lesbian agenda requires considerable courage. Those who do are quickly tagged with a label implying mental illness: "homophobia."

Then, too, the process gives little cause for confidence and raises unpleasant doubts as to its honesty. The material prepared by the ELCA for discussion at synod assemblies uses the model of "conversation" rather than study of the word of God and moral reasoning. That tips the scale toward revision.

The public affiliations and statements of those on the task force suggest that a solid majority already supports amending the church's doctrine of marriage so as to approve the blessing of homosexual unions and, as its logical outcome, the ordination of people in them.

The leadership is maintaining a stance of plausible deniability on this question, but it has offered no convincing refutation against any of the evidence brought to light.

One thing is undeniable: The task force includes no prominent theologian who publicly supports the traditional position.

This discussion should not be taking place, and it will not be nearly so open as our leaders would have us believe. The genuinely liberal tradition of debate and private judgment never was the way to make doctrinal and moral decisions.

But a true debate in the liberal tradition is in any event unlikely. Political correctness, dysfunctional politeness and bias at the highest levels will absorb conservative voices like so much cotton and guarantee the outcome.

The blessing of homosexual unions and the ordination and placement of people in them is already happening in some places in the ELCA. It's hard to imagine any process that would restore discipline. It's likewise hard to imagine how this process and task force could come to a position that unequivocally reaffirms the church's tradition on sex and marriage.

More likely is a decision that will allow change to continue while downplaying it enough to avoid a major schism. But the outcome will matter little for the abandonment of the Christian doctrine of marriage and the distortion of the many related doctrinal and moral issues that already happened in Indianapolis. That is the alarming truth that this process conceals. But maybe you're not supposed to talk about such things in the church.

*This report was sent to us by PFLAG/Dallas member Bill Smith. We appreciate the opportunity to make it available to you. This is the first of two articles. LPS*

## Page Four

Hey, Puddin's,

Happy May Day! And of course Happy Mother's Day to all of you PFLAG moms!

This past month, Joan Nall and I worked a PFLAG/Dallas table in the Majestic Theatre lobby during comedian Margaret Cho's concerts here in Dallas.

The big deal about this, is that we were able to have a presence in a theater for a non-gay show. Margaret is straight ... but not narrow! Her remarks in her show about discrimination were very telling. She spoke about prejudice towards lesbians and gays, as well as sexism, racism, and women about their body image. Image is everything.

The wonderful thing of this event is that we have a straight celebrity talking about our struggle. Listening to her, it's obvious she knows all about struggle. She's in a racial minority ... she's asked is she Korean, Japanese, Chinese? She's struggled with body image. She's been told she's should look and act a certain way because she's a woman.

It's the exact kind of struggle we go through as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. We get bombarded with image messages. We get asked, "Are you a man or a woman?" We're told you can't be feminine if you have short hair and are a little too athletic and you can't be masculine if you're a sensitive ballet dancer. We're told that women and men, girls and boys, should look and act a certain way. Period.

We're constantly being told not to be different. Fit in. Look and act like everybody else. Yet, isn't that what we're doing anyway? The fact is, we're all different, and yet in those differences we're all the same. A person of a minority race feels the same as a GLBT person. They get the same looks. Women get those looks from men in "traditional" male work settings. Men get looks if they are too sensitive. People go on diets. Minority people get told, "I just can't tell you people apart!". GLBT people hear that too.

My point is that we all struggle. So instead of struggling against each other, we could try and understand each other. That's what PFLAG is for ... understanding. We all struggle in our own ways with fitting in. Labels aren't always right. PFLAG is a place to celebrate our being, not our labeling. Everybody gets criticized for one thing or another.

The fact is ... we're all the same. We just look and act different. PFLAG is people who love their lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender family members or friends. We're like flowers, we look different, but we're all beautiful. Now that's something to celebrate for May Day!



Speaking of Mother's Day, we wish Alice Thomas a fond farewell. She is leaving Texas to be with family. Alice is our very first PFLAG/Dallas mom. For a long time she was the *only* PFLAG/Dallas mom! She'd get a call from our founders Darien and Melba who'd say, "Alice, put your shoes on, we need to go talk to someone!" And off they'd go. She has seen this chapter go through many changes. It's not the same as it was 10 years ago. We have grown into one of the biggest chapters in the nation. And it all started with Alice answering the call to help other parents! One person can make a difference, one person willing to challenge labels. Thanks, Alice! You always have a home with PFLAG/Dallas!

**Pat Smith**  
Co-president  
(214) 363-3869

## Saying goodbye to our Webmaster

Paul Curry, our board member and Webmaster, has resigned. His life has become just too hectic, and he's afraid he cannot give PFLAG the time it deserves.

We so appreciate his efforts, and we'll miss him.

And we hope other board members take note: Paul found and trained his own replacement. Taking over the Web site is David Price. You can reach him at [webmaster@pflagdallas.org](mailto:webmaster@pflagdallas.org). We welcome David with thanks.



## I love doing the newsletter.

That being said, I need help!

Jane Crain, who carried the finished newsletter to the post office, moved to be near her grandchildren. Martha and John England, who faithfully stuffed and sipped wine and gossiped for several years, did the same. And Marian is gone.

I need at least one, preferably two, and possibly three people willing to spend a couple of hours a month (this month it will be Sunday, the 27th) to get the newsletters stuffed. They're already folded, the envelopes are addressed, and the post office has even made it simpler to prepare the trays.

If you're in North Dallas, Coppell, Carrollton, Addison or Plano, and you like red wine (soft drinks for those under 21) and good conversation, please consider helping out. This is (sorry, but it's true) brainless work, but so necessary. And since we no longer have to work around some stuffers not driving at night, we could even change the time. How does Wednesday night sound?



## Guess who's coming to the GAYla?

Dan Butler, the out gay man who plays Bob "Bulldog" Briscoe on "Frasier," will be the special guest at Walt Whitman Community School's 2003 GAYla, "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Dan is such an infuriating, funny man on the show. He should be equally funny, if not that infuriating, at the prom.

Walt Whitman is expecting 400 to attend the 2003 GAYla, and is still looking for sponsors. If you or your organization would be interested in helping sponsor this terrific event, please contact Roger Ryan at (405) 364-6848 or [rryan@pdsengr.com](mailto:rryan@pdsengr.com). They've tried to contact all interested, but they may have missed you.

We at PFLAG/Dallas are so proud of where our GAYla has gone. Walt Whitman has done such a great job of promoting and proceeding with it.



## Isn't that a nice ad at the bottom of page 2?

We'd sure like to have three or four or five more. The ads help defray the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, and all our old contracts have expired. This business-card size is \$20 a month, or six months for \$50, or 12 for \$100. We can recreate most cards, or scan any card you send us.

Contact me at [ladye\\_sparks@ev1.net](mailto:ladye_sparks@ev1.net) to place your ad.

**Thanks, Paul,**  
for bringing PFLAG/Dallas  
into the cyber age!