

PFLAG

BUFFALO/NIAGARA



August Sharing Meeting

Sunday, August 20th

1:00-2:30

Currently, meetings are held on Zoom (no account needed) on the 3rd Sunday of most months. Leave contact information at 716-883-0384 at least 24 hours before the meeting for the codes.

P.O. Box 617 Buffalo, New York 14207

Helpline (716) 883-0384 info@pflagbuffalo.org

www.pflagbuffalo.org www.facebook.com/pflag.niagara

We meet because we have learned someone very close to us has come out as LGBTQ+. We try to help one another deal with this information in a positive manner. Although we do not always agree, we try to be understanding. We offer help to those who seek it, but do not force ourselves on others. We strive to maintain anonymity while sharing on a level that is comfortable for us.

THREE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



Each June, PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara awards scholarships to three deserving high school seniors who are LGBTQ+ community members or allies. Applicants should be members of the community or allies, have shown support or been active in events, and plan to continue their support and activism in the future.

We are happy to announce this year's winners.

The Marvin L. Henschbarger Scholarship was presented to Bella, a senior at Tonawanda City High School at the school's awards ceremony. This



\$500.00 award will be used to help Bella pursue a career in business management.

Bella will attend Erie Community College in September. This dedicated senior was a member of the National Honor Society as well as The Future Business Leaders of America. She pledged “to get (her) voice heard” to help “bring change to the country.” She plans on “participating in all peaceful rallies and all peaceful protests” that she can in the future.

The Mary L. Hewett Memorial Scholarship of \$500.00 was awarded to Evelyn, a senior at Buffalo’s City Honors High School. Evelyn plans to attend Yale University.

Evelyn plans to study both medicine and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. In her essay, she wrote that she hopes to “combine

these two areas of study and work with increasing equitable healthcare for women and LGBTQ+ people once I am a doctor.”

The recipient of the Elizabeth “Babs” Conant Memorial Scholarship was Bryn Dewey of North Tonawanda High School. This year, the usual scholarship of \$500.00 was supplemented with \$150.00. Friends of Babs Conant, Susan Clements and Kay Patterson, donated these funds.

Bryn will be attending SUNY Polytechnic and SUNY Upstate Medical for a dual degree. Bryn’s career goal is to be a reconstructive surgeon for the trans community.

Bryn, his school’s valedictorian, wrote that his push for academic excellence was a result of his “desire to serve the LGBTQ+ community” in the field of medicine.

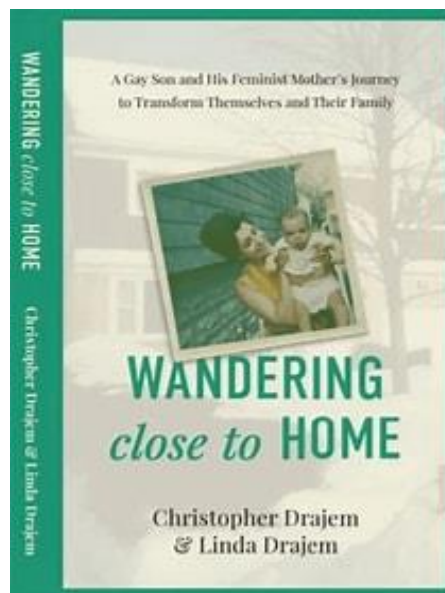
PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara is proud to acknowledge and support these students . We wish them the best in their selected fields of study.

Congratulations, Bella, Evelyn, and Bryn!

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JOINT PFLAG BOOK TALK A SUCCESS



A special event for Pride Month was held on June 22nd. Christopher and Linda Drajem spoke about their book, *Wandering Close to Home: A Gay Son and his Feminist Mother's Journey to Transform Themselves and*

their Family at a virtual book talk hosted by PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara and PFLAG Rochester.

The authors discussed how their memoir came to be, the books that have inspired them, as well as their personal journeys.

Christopher and Linda shared a power-point that gave a great focus to the discussion. They read passages from the book and later answered many questions from the attendees.

Both Drajem's strongly believe in the need for all readers to see themselves in literature to know society values them. The authors believe in the life-saving power of books. This book talk and their words, not just about their book but about the power of books resounded with their audience.

We sincerely thank Christopher and Linda for a memorable, informative, and enjoyable event. PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara will be donating four copies of their book to the Buffalo and Erie County Library system.

We also thank the attendees from both PFLAG chapters for their questions and willingness to share their personal journeys.

We send a special thanks to Pat Cole, president of the Rochester chapter, for her help in planning and publicizing this event.



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