

# PFLAG

**BUFFALO/NIAGARA**



## **PLEASE NOTE**

**To Accommodate Father's Day, we are meeting on  
Sunday, June 11th 1:00 – 2:30**

**There will be no July meeting.**

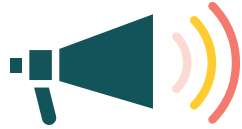
Currently, meetings are via Zoom (no account needed) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of most months. Leave contact information at 716-883-0384 at least 24 hours before the meeting for the codes.

**P.O. Box 617 Buffalo, New York 14207**

**Helpline (716) 883-0384 [info@pflagbuffalo.org](mailto:info@pflagbuffalo.org)**

**[www.pflagbuffalo.org](http://www.pflagbuffalo.org) [www.facebook.com/pflag.niagara](https://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.*



### ***A GREAT SPRING SCHOOL DAY***

Recently, PFLAG Buffalo/ Niagara awarded a grant to the Charter High School for Applied Technologies (C-SAT). Nathan Monaco, teacher and advisor, requested the funds to be used for transportation and supplies for a “A Day of Tolerance.” This Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) event was held on both C-SAT school campuses (GSA).

Please read the article on the following page and enjoy the photos shared by Mr. Monaco and his group. We are glad we could help and thank our PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara supporters for helping to make this day possible.



CSAT's Day of Tolerance was held on 4/21/23 and was a student-led celebration to acknowledge everyone in the LGBTQ+ community and help others have experiences within our group. In our GSA it has always been preached that discussions are important, but the only way to help others understand and breed true tolerance is to give the students in our school the chance to have experiences with us. The Day of Tolerance was that opportunity to share experiences with our GSA.

In the morning our high school GSA travelled to the middle school and met with their GSA. Combined we had nearly 40 students. We did an arts and crafts pin making activity followed by a team-building activity and gave our students the opportunity to learn about each others' experiences and what to expect when they attend our high school.



We finished our day by using the money that was awarded to us to give each student the chances to express themselves outwardly giving each student pride merchandise like a flag that represents their identity, pins, vinyl stickers, and of course...Skittles. (This was the biggest hit of all because apparently our middle school GSA refers to themselves as “The Skittle Club”. You get it.)

Students also received information about contacts in the area and where to find support for wellness including the PFLAG organization.

After leaving the middle school and getting ice cream at 10:30 in the morning, we returned to the high school where we set up a booth for students to collect information about our club, learn about the LGBTQ+ community, and also receive some of the same pride merchandise we gave away at the middle school.



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The event turned into an extremely tolerant and exciting coming out party of sorts. It was endearing to see the open arms waiting for students as they bravely put themselves out there and allowed each other to celebrate and recognize their differences.



Your grant money made all of the difference in helping to hold an event that allowed our LGBTQ+ students to feel recognized, empowered, and influential in our school culture. We want to offer the sincerest and most genuine thank you for your support.

With Love,

The Charter High School for Applied Technologies Gender Sexuality Alliance.

## ***PRIDE WEEK MAY 30-JUNE 4***

### **PARADE SUNDAY, JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**Reprinted from May Issue**



If you would like some of the items above to wave or wear at the parade this year, contact [info@pflagbuffalo.org](mailto:info@pflagbuffalo.org).

This year's Pride Week theme is "Show up. Turn up." The Pride Week website states, "We show up because we have so much to fight for. We turn up because we have so much to celebrate." What a perfect theme and purpose!

Get out your calendar and visit the [Buffalo Pride Week - Buffalo Pride Week](#) to make plans for early June. Starting with flag raisings and culminating with The Pride Parade and Festival on June 4<sup>th</sup>, Pride Week starts and ends strong but also offers many great events in-between.

There will be a 5K run, an LGBTQ+ history walking tour, a cornhole tournament, and a weeklong "Shopping with Pride" event (organized by PFLAG Buffalo's friend and collaborators, Niagara Pride). In addition, there will be a Tea Dance and a Pop R & B Hip-Hop concert. Interested in local theater? There will be locally written and produced play onstage multiple nights.

Get ready to show up and turn up!

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## BUFFALO/NIAGARA

### ***PFLAG B/N ENJOYS AND SUPPORTS THE BUFFALO BRUNCH***

***By Jeanne Mullen***



The annual Buffalo Brunch was held at Salvatore’s Italian Gardens on May 7<sup>th</sup> on a sunny Saturday. This wonderful May tradition, sponsored by Embrace WNY, is a great time to gather with the community and supporters, but its true purpose is to honor “individuals, groups, organizations and businesses that help celebrate and embrace the LGBTQ+ community within the greater Western New York community.” This is the 25<sup>th</sup> year for the Brunch, as the yearly guests refer to it!

This year's event was sold out; proceeds from the ticket sales and raffles are used for local scholarships.

I was privileged to attend with my husband Bill. This is our second Buffalo Brunch. The groups and people who were recognized are so committed to the LGBTQIA+ community. The work these people put into their projects are indicative of their passion and commitment. Truly inspiring. We had a great time at our table sharing with other guests and having fun and great food.

As a board member and sharing parent of PFLAG, I want to thank Embrace WNY for all that it does to make the Buffalo Brunch possible and for the great things done with the funds raised. The food, the baskets, the guests, and those honored made the experience memorable and inspiring.

**PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara sends sincere congratulations this year's honorees:**

**Community Service Awards**

**Buffalo/Niagara LGBTQ History Project**

**Kelly Craig, Evergreen Health**

**Ron Piaseczny, President, Niagara Pride**

**Citation for Community Service for an Elected Official**

**Mitch Nowakowski, Buffalo Fillmore District Councilperson**





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**PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.**