

# TORONTO PFLAG

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

October 2013 Newsletter #36

[www.torontopflag.org](http://www.torontopflag.org)

[office@pflagtoronto.org](mailto:office@pflagtoronto.org)

## TORONTO PFLAG VISION

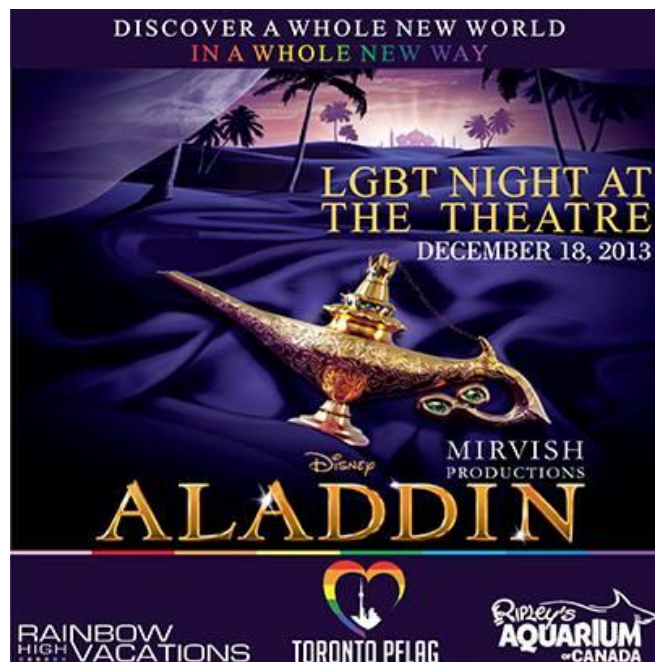
Toronto PFLAG is a charitable organization that speaks for a more accepting Canadian society by providing support, education and resources to all people who wish to grow in their understanding of sexual and gender diversity.

Toronto PFLAG actively assists in the recognition and growth of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex, queer and questioning persons, and their families and friends, within their diverse cultures and societies.

## Next Support Meeting

Wednesday  
**November 6, 2013**  
7:30 p.m.

Kimbourne Park  
United Church  
200 Wolverleigh Blvd.,  
Toronto, ON M4C 1S2



## A message from your President

October 31, 2013



Buffalo Niagara stopped by for a chat!

What do PFLAG Buffalo Niagara and Toronto PFLAG have in common? Quite a lot, including the goal of eliminating bullying from our schools, as we have been finding out in conversations that began at the Toronto PFLAG booth during Toronto Pride 2013 when Brian LaBella, Vice President of PFLAG

Buffalo Niagara stopped by for a chat! The opportunity to support one of their ventures, meet with the Board members and supporters of a partner PFLAG, and do some cross-border information sharing was too good an opportunity to miss, so on October 20<sup>th</sup> my husband Gary and I drove to Buffalo to attend PFLAG Buffalo Niagara's screening of the movie *Bully*.

The drive between our two cities took less than 2 hours, and this bodes well for future collaborations including Toronto World Pride 2014 when we are expecting to be joined by our American friends at Pride!

PFLAG Buffalo Niagara had asked permission to copy our bookmarks, had their version proudly on display, and reported that they were proving to be hugely popular! We were happy to help – families helping families – the PFLAG way!



We also met their dedicated team of volunteers who in many ways are very similar to the wonderful folks who do the work of Toronto PFLAG. With a shared Vision, Mission, and goals, we found we had loads in common, and the conversations we started at Pride will be the building blocks to future cross-border relations and information sharing.

For any of you who travel to Buffalo from time to time, check if there is a Support Meeting or event planned and drop by, and consider dining at the Left Bank restaurant (reservations required) where we were treated to a delicious dinner. Our thanks to all at PFLAG Buffalo Niagara for the warm welcome given us. We look forward to reciprocating and welcoming you to Toronto PFLAG events, including our December 18<sup>th</sup> theatre outing to *Aladdin*. (details on page #3 of the newsletter).

**PepsiCo:** On October 17<sup>th</sup>, Mary-Anne Popescu and I made a presentation at PepsiCo with a focus on bullying. Mary-Anne read from the speech on bullying written by her son Simon which is on our

website at <http://www.pflagtoronto.org/news-events/news/speech-toronto-pflag-teen-speaks-out-against-homophobic-bullying>



This speech reminds us all that bullying continues in our schools today, and compels us to continue speaking out against it.

In recognition of Spirit Day, almost

everyone in attendance wore something purple! PepsiCo have been very generous in their support of Toronto PFLAG, and we thank Christine and her team for arranging for our visit.

### Transgender Day of Remembrance - November 20, 2013 7-9pm

I have borrowed some prose from the Notice on the 519's web-site to share information on this important date and event. If you have not participated in the past, try and make time on November 20<sup>th</sup> to attend the 519. Read the full blog on the 519 website.

#### ***'to honour in death those who have been so dishonoured in life'***

*Annually, The 519 and Toronto's trans communities join the international community to mark and commemorate those trans members of our communities who are no longer with us. This event serves as a memorial, a protest, an opportunity for reflection and a chance to see old friends and meet new ones.*

*The 519 acknowledges not only transphobia as a root cause of violence in our community, but also the various forms of oppression in our culture that increase violence, and limit protections for many members of the trans community. We remember everyone lost to transphobia, racism, ageism, ableism, sex-worker stigma, classism, HIV stigma and homophobia.*

*Violence has impacted our communities and is not only an intended act - it is also an act of neglect. Violence affecting trans communities includes cuts to social spending, and depleting the social safety net.*

*The impact of violence on the trans communities is pervasive. For many the vulnerability is constant.*

*Contact Morgan Page, Trans Community Services Coordinator at The 519 for more information.*



I hope Hallowe'en was fun whether you dressed up and partied or shelled out and treated yourself to some mini candy bars. November will be busy with lots of community activities and on December 18<sup>th</sup> I hope you'll join us for a magic carpet ride at *Aladdin*!

*With hugs and warm wishes, Irene Miller*

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Brunch with Benefits - a.k.a. Proud FM's Diva Brunch

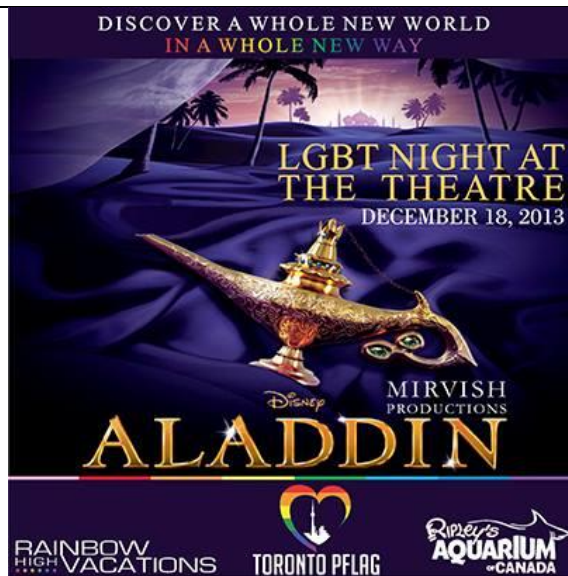
Starting December 1<sup>st</sup>, and continuing on the first Sunday of each month, join us for:

### Brunch with Benefits a.k.a. Proud FM's Diva Brunch

Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>  
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Ganzi Restaurant at 504  
Jarvis Street!

- amazing tunes by DJ Phil - playing The Supremes to Cher to Brit Brit!
- Hosted by the newly crowned Queen of Halloween Scarlett Bobo - whose birthday is December 1st!
- We will be selling raffle tickets for amazing prizes to benefit Toronto PFLAG.

Mark your calendars for December 1<sup>st</sup>, January 5<sup>th</sup>, etc., and enjoy Brunch with friends and benefit Toronto PFLAG!



In an exotic, faraway land, one man's life is about to change with the lucky rub of an ancient lamp – and you're invited to join the magic carpet ride.

Welcome to ALADDIN, Disney's new Broadway-bound musical, adapted from the hit film and featuring some of the best-loved music by Academy and Tony Award-winning composer Alan Menken and lyricists Howard Ashman, Tim Rice and Chat Beguelin, with book by Beguelin.

With its timeless story, extravagant sets and costumes and a host of memorable characters and songs, ALADDIN will transport you to a place you only know in your dreams. Go ahead, make a wish. And discover a whole new world, in a whole new way....at ALADDIN!

### LGBT NIGHT AT THE THEATRE to support Toronto PFLAG

ALADDIN – WORLD PREMIERE! at the Ed Mirvish Theatre  
**Wednesday, December 18, 2013 @ 7:30PM**

Our friends at Rainbow High Vacations are rolling out the pink carpet for Toronto PFLAG families and friends (Yes, they are actually rolling out the PINK carpet!)

#### What's Included:

- ✓ Your choice of ticket (all price levels are available)
- ✓ An exclusive admission ticket welcoming the LGBT community to the new Ripley's Aquarium
- ✓ Häagen-Daz and soft drink voucher
- ✓ All taxes, ticket handling fees and service charges

More information and to order your tickets, visit our website <http://www.torontopflag.org/news-events/news/special-offer-see-the-dec-18-world-premiere-of-aladdin-and-support-toronto-pflag>

Want to get in the Festive Spirit?

Attend the Singing Out Holiday Concert  
– 2 performances on December 7<sup>th</sup>.



**LIGHTS**  
of December  
**OUR HOLIDAY CONCERT**

Artistic Director **JODY MALONE**      Accompanist **BETH HANSON**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2013**  
Matinee: **3pm**    Evening: **7:30pm**

**JANE MALLETT THEATRE**  
St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts  
27 Front Street East, Toronto M5E 1B4

**TICKETS \$25**  
Available at: [singingout.com](http://singingout.com),  
Out On The Street &  
from chorus members

OUR SPONSORS

**Xtra!**    **50**    **Singing Out**  
PRIDE - MUSIC - BELONGING

**singingout.com**    **f**    **yt**    **TORONTO'S LGBTO COMMUNITY CHORUS**

Photo by MICHAEL BALDWIN. Graphic Design by WAYNE EGG

**Toronto PFLAG is inviting PFLAGs and FFLAGs  
from the U.S., Canada, and around the world  
to join us in Toronto for  
World Pride 2014 Toronto  
June 20 - 29**

**Toronto will be the first city in North America to host  
World Pride,  
one of the largest international events of our times with an anticipated 2 million visitors.**

- Mark your calendars
- Plan your vacation around June 20 – 29, 2014
- Contact your travel agent or Rainbow High Vacations in Toronto to make a booking
- Plan to join us at our Toronto PFLAG Information booths
- Let us know you are coming at [office@pflagtoronto.org](mailto:office@pflagtoronto.org)
- Bring your signage and march with us in Pride to show the vast scope of Ally support for our LGBTQ loved ones, and make it the largest PFLAG contingent ever to march in a Pride Parade!

We will keep you posted on a Toronto PFLAG event that you are not going to want to miss!

**Together we can make a difference at World Pride 2014 Toronto**

**THANK YOU**

Toronto PFLAG wants to offer a heartfelt '**Thank You**' to the wonderful people who have recently made a donation to Toronto PFLAG. Your donations are allowing us to continue offering our 24/7 Telephone Support Line, our Monthly Support Meetings and our ongoing outreach and community support.

If you would like to help, you can make a donation through the secure servers at [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org) (charitable donation receipts are issued automatically), and if you wish you can specify that your donation remain anonymous, or you can choose to honour someone or a special occasion.

Or you may send a cheque to

Toronto PFLAG, 200 Wolverleigh Blvd., Toronto, ON, M4C 1S2.  
(charitable donation receipts will be issued for amounts of \$20+)

**DONATE NOW**

<http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=s70090>

*Charitable Registration BN: 891493348RR0001*