



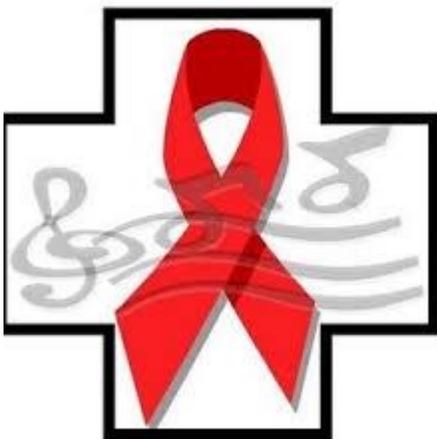
Carroll Citizens for Racial Equality

February 2015

PFLAG to host “Positive Voices” group

Contributed by Joy Fisher

On March 15, 2015 the PFLAG community event will be hosting a group called “Positive Voices.” They are 3 men who are living with HIV and AIDS. They educate and share their stories through song and personal stories. Positive Voices has presented programs in schools, houses of worship and many other venues throughout central Maryland and beyond, including Africa, reaching thousands of people, many of them through their relationship with the Steven Kaufman AIDS Outreach Project. Read Positive Voices’ “About Us” below to learn more:



For almost two decades, Kevin Clemons, Bill Redmond-Palmer, and Greg Satorie-Robinson have been “Positive Voices”. With others along the way, they have shared stories and songs about life, love, and remembrance, speaking openly and honestly about the realities of living with HIV and AIDS.

Positive Voices messages are a powerful wake up call for personal responsibility and action in care and prevention, avoiding high risk behaviors and promoting positive self-esteem. They present sci-

entific facts and personal stories together with music that creates a strong connection with their listener’s hearts and minds. They convey messages of hope and inspiration to those living with HIV disease, and to those whose lives have been personally affected by this global tragedy.

Each member of Positive Voices has many personal achievements and has worked countless hours as community activists and advocates. Learn more about each of us [here](#).

Positive Voices has presented programs in schools, houses of worship and many other venues throughout central Maryland and beyond, including Africa, reaching thousands of people, many of them through their relationship with the Steven Kaufman AIDS Outreach Project. Together and as individuals, Positive Voices strives to serve as a bold and powerful tribute to the memory and legacy of Steven Kaufman, and all those lost to HIV/AIDS.

For more information, visit their website at <http://www.pozvox.org/>

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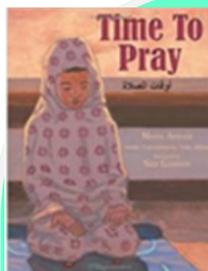
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CCPL Book Review: “Our Muslim Community”

Check out some materials from Carroll County Public Library related to our upcoming CCRE conference, *Our Muslim Community*. Here are a few titles to spark your interest:

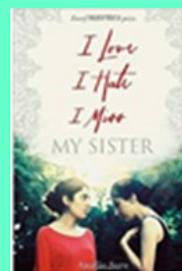


Time to Pray is a children’s picture book beautifully written in English by Maha Addasi, translated in Arabic by Nuha Albitar, and illustrated by Ned Gannon. It is a story about a young girl named Yasmin, who visits her grandmother in the Middle East. As Yasmin is visiting her grandmother she hears the sound of the muezzin calling Muslims to prayer. Yasmin learns how to pray the five daily prayers which her grandmother has taught her during her visit, but worries that without a muezzin calling her to prayer she won’t know when to pray when she goes home to America. Without a mosque near her home, Yasmin is worried about where she will go to pray. Her grandmother lovingly tells her that she doesn’t have to be in the mosque to pray. Yasmin can pray anywhere! As Yasmin returns to America and unpacks her suitcase, she realizes her grandmother packed a gift. It is a prayer clock that makes the sound of the muezzin calling Yasmin to prayer five times a day!

Time to Pray is written with an Arabic translation near the English text. Additionally, the book includes information about the required or *Fard* prayers that Muslims are required to observe daily. This page is a short overview for those who are unfamiliar with the prayer times.

Perhaps, you would like to share this story with a child in your life? As I tell my young friends at the library, though I am all “grown-up,” picture books are still my favorite type of book. Dare I say that no matter how old or “grown-up” you are, you will likely enjoy this beautiful picture book.

I Love, I Hate, I Miss My Sister by Amelie Sarn is a young adult book about two sisters who live in the housing projects of a big city. As many teenaged sisters do, Djelila and Sohane have a love-hate relationship. That was the case, until Djelila’s life was cut short by violence. Sohane is left grappling with an array of questions and feelings, as she contemplates the time prior to Djelila’s death. Djelila was a beautiful young woman, embracing the more secular aspects of her surroundings and her teen life, while Sohane embraced the religious and sought to follow her faith. Djelila is bullied and harassed by a neighborhood gang because she seemed to turn from her Muslim customs, while Sohane faced discrimination by authorities at her school for wearing her head scarf.



I Love, I Hate, I Miss My Sister is a tragic story, which provokes the reader to consider both violence surrounding religion, and even, violence towards girls and women.



American Dervish by Ayad Akhtar is a fascinating novel which follows Hayat Shah’s life in mid-western America. Hayat’s preadolescent and adolescent years are typical. He likes sports, especially baseball and he enjoys video games. His parents aren’t particularly interested in practicing their Islamic faith. In fact, Hayat’s father thinks “religion is for fools.” The Shah family live in a secular world, keeping busy with work, school, and family life. However, when his mother’s friend, Mina, shows up at their house after fleeing her marriage in Pakistan, things begin to change. Hayat feels an extra energy in his household as Mina takes part. Mina is full of life. Hayat is taken by her warmth and her radiance. Additionally, Mina shares her faith with Hayat. Hayat feels drawn to learn about her deep faith and spiritual practices. He loves to hear Mina read the Quran and he spends his spare time as her student, soaking up the beauty she emanates. When Mina starts dating, Hayat causes great pain to the family, and ultimately to Mina, because he doesn’t seem to know how to deal with his emotions. Years later, after being haunted by the consequences of his actions and the hurt he caused the people he loved the most, Hayat seeks a way toward forgiveness.

Check out some non-fiction titles as well:

- *What Do Muslims Believe?* By Ziauddin Sardar
- *Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation* by Eboo Patel
- *A Muslim Primer: Beginner’s Guide to Islam* by Ira G. Zepp, Jr.

Contributed by
Erin Snell



2015 Annual MLK “A Day On, Not A Day Off”

Contributed by Pat Levronney

On Monday, January 19, 2015, the Carroll County Community celebrated the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This was the sixth annual celebration. Each year the event grows with more community participation.

This year’s theme was “MLK and the Voting Rights Act of 1965: Hear the Stories, Feel the Experience.” Dr. Pamela Zappardino explained to participants the timeline of the Civil Rights Movement and how people engaged in peaceful protest to reach their goal of getting the right to vote. This struggle included not only African American, but white men and women, and young people. Dr. Zappardino also gave the audience a Literacy Test that people had to take in order to get their voting card. It was very amusing that no one in the audience could complete it. It was an excellent activity for the participants to engage in, because they re-



Carroll County Times/Baltimore Sun Media Group. Participants watch movie during “A Day On, Not A Day Off” at McDaniel on January 19, 2015.

ceived a big dose of empathy for people during that time trying to obtain the right to vote.

Participants viewed video clips showing actual footage of Dr. King and others marching for their right to vote. After the video, participants had an opportunity to make their own signs signifying the right to vote.

Finally, Dr. Nira Taru, storyteller, told wonderful sto-

ries about the Civil Rights Leaders and their families. The entire day was phenomenal.

The day ended with all participants assembling items for the homeless shelter which were delivered to the Human Services Program the next day; thus bringing Dr. King’s vision of community service to a local level.

Next year will be just as great. Please join us.

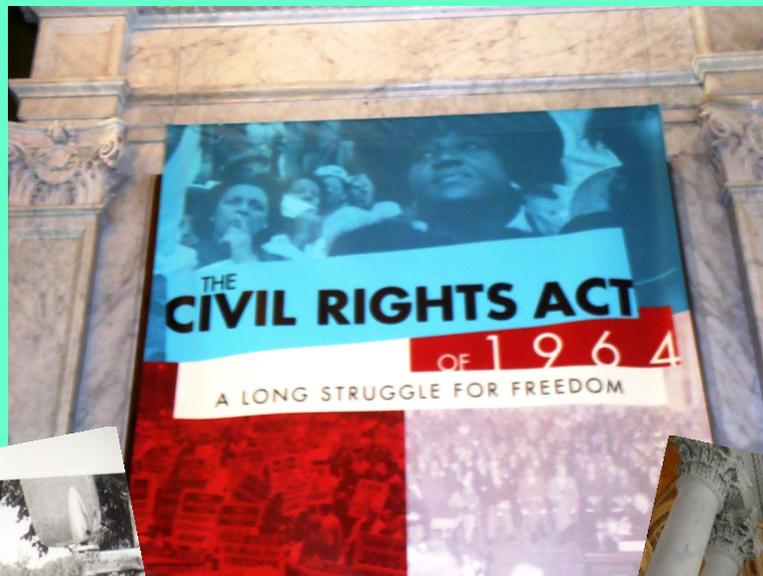




The Civil Rights Act of 1964: A Long Struggle for Freedom is currently on exhibit at the National Library of Congress in Washington DC until September 12, 2015.

Make a point to visit this wonderful commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 which explores the events that shaped the civil rights movement, as well as the far-reaching impact the act had on a changing society. The act is considered the most significant piece of civil rights legislation since Reconstruction. It prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in voting, public accommodations, public facilities, public education, federally funded programs, and employment. Audiovisual stations throughout the exhibition present archival footage of the era, as well as contemporary interviews with civil rights leaders and activists reflecting on the civil rights era. The exhibit is made possible by a generous grant from Newman's Own Foundation and with additional support from HISTORY®.

Pictures and text provided by Gary Honeman during a visit in the Fall, 2014.





Interfaith events examine different religions

The Carroll County Interfaith Council and Faith Club will sponsor a series of events based on the PBS series "Sacred Journeys with Bill Feiler," directed by local filmmaker, Leo Eaton. The series follows Americans who travel on pilgrimage, highlighting their physical and spiritual journeys.

The event will include a showing of each segment of the series, followed by a discussion about the respective religion related to the pilgrimage highlighted. All events will take place at the Finksburg Branch of Carroll County Public Library at 7pm. These events are free and open to the public. In addition, CCPL will have listings and resources available for personal study pertaining to the various religions, basic tenets of faith, and faith practices.

Faith Club focus for March 3, 2015

Jerusalem: At A Glance

The Hebrew Bible instructs all Jews to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem three times a year: in spring for Passover, in summer for Shavuout, and in the fall for Sukkot. But the city is holy to more than just Jews: Christian pilgrims began coming to Jerusalem and the Holy Land within centuries of Jesus' death, and the Al Aksa Mosque, located inside the walls of the Old City, is considered the third holiest site in Islam after Mecca and Medina.

Faith Club Focus for April 7, 2015

Shikoku: At A Glance

The Japanese island of Shikoku is the birthplace of the most revered figure in Japanese Buddhism, the monk and teacher Kobo-Daishi, who brought a populist form of Buddhism to Japan from China in the 9th century. For hundreds of years, a 750-mile pilgrimage route has circled this mountainous island, connecting 88 separate temples and shrines that claim connection to Daishi, also known as the Great Master. Each leg of the journey represents a stage of the path to nirvana: awakening, austerity and discipline, enlightenment, and nirvana.

Faith Club Focus for May 7, 2015

Kumbh Mela: At A Glance

Every 12 years, tens of millions of men, women and children gather on the flood plain of the Ganges and Yamuna Rivers in Allahabad, India, for the Kumbh Mela, the largest gathering of humanity for religious purposes on the planet. Pilgrims come from across India and around the world to bathe in the water where the two sacred rivers meet. Such mass bathing in the Ganges has been recorded for more than 2,500 years.

The series will continue in September 2015. For more information, contact Jerry Fuss at gfuss827@comcast.net.

Contributed by
Rebecca Maurio



Zepp Center co-director reviews *Selma*

Contributed by Charles Collyer

The movie *Selma* (2014), directed by Ava DuVernay, tells the story of the campaign for voting rights in Selma, Alabama, culminating in the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. As a work of dramatic art it is excellent, and as a summary of the historical record, it stands up well despite some understandable criticisms.

The voting rights campaign was one of the major chapters in the Civil Rights Movement during the period (roughly 1955 to 1968) when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was its most visible and effective leader. The previous year, 1964, had brought passage of the federal Civil Rights Act, which focused on the racial desegregation of public facilities (such as lunch counters, fitting rooms, and washrooms) and the dismantling of race-based barriers to employment and education. The film realistically depicts President Lyndon Johnson, who had supported the Civil Rights Act and guided it through the Congress, as preferring to wait a few years before pressing further for a Voting Rights Act. But Dr. King and the Movement were ready to capitalize on the country's readiness for change, and were even then preparing to take a stand on voting rights in the small city of Selma, Alabama.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) had been working in Selma for three years, helping local opinion leaders in the African-American community, such as Amelia Boynton (portrayed in the movie by Lorraine Toussaint; Amelia is now 108 years old in real life) to persuade people to become registered voters. SNCC is represented in the movie by John Lewis (played by Stephan James) and James Forman (Trai Byers). The first SNCC worker in Selma, Bernard LaFayette Jr., is not portrayed in the movie, and this is one historical gap that disappoints me.

When SNCC began their work on voter registration, only about 2% of black citizens were registered because white citizens did not want to cede any political power to them. The intimidation of blacks who tried to register is powerfully suggested in a scene where Annie Lee Cooper (played by Oprah Winfrey) attempts to pass a qualifying test in the county courthouse, and is thwarted by the clerk, who, having just asked how many judges there are in Alabama and having received the correct answer (67), then asks Annie Lee to name them. The power of individual registrars was such that they could always ensure that a white applicant would pass the literacy or citizenship test that was required to become a voter, but that a black person would fail - unless a wealthy white sponsor wanted that person registered in order to augment his own vote. The Voting Rights Act eventually ended these practices.

Blacks were also kept away from the voting booth through sheer terror. Many were sharecroppers, and could be threatened with the loss of their homes and livelihood. Physical threats were commonplace, and stories circulated of people who had tried to register and then been found dead. Before Bernard LaFayette volunteered to begin SNCC's work in Selma, the prevailing view of the place among the SNCC students was that in Selma, and the surrounding Dallas County, "the White people are too mean and the Black people are too scared."

As a result of this pervasive suppression of the Black vote, all elected offices in Dallas County (and most of the South) were filled by whites. All jurors were white, because jurors had to be registered voters. This system amounted to an American apartheid, written into state laws for decades and supported by a cultural "way of life," in which whites felt free to use and abuse blacks in whatever way they chose. The movie is a valuable educational tool for reminding ourselves of what that system was like, and how it began to change because of the Civil Rights Movement.

The film centers on Martin Luther King (admirably played by David Oyelowo) and his Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) team. At the beginning of the movie, it is December 1964 and Dr. King is preparing for his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, uncomfortable to be away when so much is going on back home. A dramatic scene from more than a year earlier depicts the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham in September 1963, in which four young girls were killed. That scene, with its startling explosion, contrasts sharply with the civility of the Nobel ceremony, and quickly reminds us that



the Civil Rights Movement, nonviolent by conviction, was up against a deadly form of domestic terrorism. Facing the Jim Crow South of 50 years ago was not "all in a day's work." It was a time fraught with fear and tension, and called for extraordinary strength and courage.

In addition to the conflict with the advocates of segregation, there were also conflicts within the Movement. Some of the tensions between SCLC and SNCC, and within SNCC itself, are portrayed in the movie, though not with complete accuracy. Two factions within SNCC are represented by John Lewis, one of the founding nonviolent leaders, and James Forman, who was more militant. One of Dr. King's staff, James Bevel (played by the rap artist, Common), straddled both organizations. He is shown as a close associate and advisor to Dr. King, which indeed is how it was. However, Bevel's famous eccentricities are underplayed. Diane Nash, a pivotal figure in the sit-in movement of 1960, the Freedom Rides, and the founding of SNCC, is portrayed by Tessa Thompson. In *Selma*, she is shown in her role as an advisor to Dr. King; however, her very real historical importance is not explained.

The movie does a good job of showing the role of nonviolence in the Civil Rights Movement. One scene shows a nonviolence training session, and another depicts a nonviolent "intervention" by Andrew Young (played by Andre Holland) to calm down an angry demonstrator. These scenes are informative about how the commitment to nonviolence was a key ingredient of the Movement's success in getting laws changed. Nonviolence training helped to make demonstrators more patient in the face of threats, and kept the Movement on the high road. This was not lost on the general public, whose support for the Movement under Dr. King's leadership grew from campaign to campaign during the whole decade from 1955 to 1965.

It is obviously difficult to do frightening work alone. Group trainings had the important effect of reminding Movement people that they were supported by many others in their fight for social justice. In addition, and almost always accompanying those meetings, was music. The music of the Civil Rights Movement grew within just a few years, from older roots and from the contributions of new performers, into a superb repertoire of melodies and words expressing the strength and determination of people in struggle. This repertoire is now taught in many college courses around the world, and is justly celebrated as an American roots tradition at gatherings such as Common Ground on the Hill here in Carroll County. Singing has the power to make people feel part of a larger whole. Many people do not know that the famous singer Harry Belafonte was a major financial backer of Dr. King's work, and a member of his inner circle. At one point in the movie, upon hearing that Harry would be coming to Selma, the campaign workers start singing "Day O, Day O," the refrain from Belafonte's hit *The Banana Boat Song*.

The voting rights campaign in Selma was propelled toward a march on the state capitol, Montgomery, by the murders of two men, one Black and one White. Jimmie Lee Jackson was shot by a police officer while trying to protect his mother and grandfather (The grandfather, Cager Lee [Henry G. Sanders], is one of the most riveting characters in the film). Bevel announced that he would carry Jimmie Lee's body to Governor George Wallace in protest and to demand justice. That didn't happen, but the idea of a march took hold. The first attempt took place on Bloody Sunday, March 7, 1965. A line of marchers crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge over the Alabama River, and was met by Sheriff Jim Clark and his "posse" (Selma's local alternative to the Ku Klux Klan). The posse charged the marchers, clubbing them from horseback and choking them with tear gas. TV footage of Bloody Sunday shocked the nation, and brought hundreds of people, particularly clergy, to Selma to support the campaign. The movie's treatment of Bloody Sunday is compelling. Following a second abbreviated march on March 9, a clergyman from New England, James Reeb, was attacked and beaten to death by White segregationists for being one of the "outside agitators" who had come to Selma to stir up trouble.

Rev. Dr. Ira G. Zepp Jr., Dean of the Chapel at Western Maryland College (now McDaniel) was one of the clergy who travelled to Selma. He almost lost his job at WMC for doing this, but eventually only had his pay docked for the time he was away from campus. Ira saw in Dr. King an example of his own central focus: Christian, nonviolent "praxis" – the practical application of



goodness in a broken world whose nature is to resist its own healing. Ira Zepp is remembered by many students from that time as the teacher who awakened their conscience to issues of social justice, and who gave them permission to get involved in the changes that were going on during the 60s and 70s.

The great march along Highway 80 from Selma to Montgomery finally took place over five days, March 21-25, protected by National Guard troops. The march culminated in a speech by Dr. King on the steps of the State Capitol in Montgomery, the building that had been the first capital of the Confederacy. For many people who have studied King, this speech is a favorite, with its ringing words "How Long? Not Long ... The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." However, the makers of *Selma* were not permitted to use Dr. King's original words, because the rights to them had been transferred to Steven Spielberg, who is making another movie. Not hearing those stirring words in the movie was admittedly another small disappointment.

Shortly after that speech, Viola Liuzzo, a housewife from Detroit who had come to Selma to help in the campaign, was shot and killed while driving a Black marcher back to Selma from Montgomery. She was the third martyr in Selma, a good person who lost her life in service to a cause she believed in. Her death is not shown in the movie, but at its end we see her (played by Tara Ochs) in the crowd cheering Dr. King's speech, and for those who know of her role in the story, this is a final tearful moment.

Criticisms of the movie have been of several kinds. Former staff and colleagues of President Lyndon Johnson (played by Tom Wilkinson) have complained that he is not given sufficient credit for his support of the civil rights movement. Some associates of Dr. King's, such as Andrew Young, agree at least in part with this criticism. In my opinion, the portrayal of Johnson is fair. Having read historian Robert Caro's work on Johnson, one is led to say that the movie does a pretty good job of capturing the complexity of this strong but insecure political leader. Johnson knew that the Civil Rights Movement was on the right side of history, and, for deeply personal reasons, he was on board. But he also knew that in order to maintain his own power, he had to return favors and maintain his influence with many clashing factions. His conflicts are on display in the movie, but I do not think he is portrayed as obstructing the Movement. His relationship with J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI (played by Dylan Baker), was very complex, and frankly the movie oversimplifies it. Johnson attempted, with partial success, to use the FBI to protect King's moderate leadership of the Movement from challenges by others who believed in armed struggle. Much more can be said about these personalities and their roles in our history, but historians like Caro and Taylor Branch have done this much better than I can here.

My colleague Charles Alphin Sr., who worked for Coretta Scott King as the King Center's training director, last month expressed his disappointment to me that Mrs. King's contributions to strategic decision-making were not highlighted more clearly in the movie. However, one exception to this judgment can be found in the scenes showing Coretta (Carmen Ejogo) negotiating with Malcolm X about his request to speak in Selma, and then visiting Martin in jail to advise him that the Black Nationalist leader had changed since returning from his pilgrimage to Mecca, becoming more sympathetic to Dr. King's position. *Selma* does reveal the deliberate, strategic aspects of the Civil Rights Movement pretty well, but I agree that Mrs. King's role in shaping her husband's positions and thinking could have been developed more fully.

Many, including me, note that the movie, as a fictionalized account, is historically incomplete, and despite its large cast does not include some people who were very important in the voting rights story, such as Bernard LaFayette. There are limits to what can be done in any movie. However, *Selma* is just about as good a historical drama as Hollywood can make. As a story, it commands our attention. It shows us an important episode in our history, and helps to explain how part of the modern world came about. It introduces us to some very important people, many of whom – thankfully – are still with us. It shows what courageous, intelligent, nonviolent problem-solving can accomplish.

And it will bring tears to your eyes, several times. It is inspiring.



*Pat Levroney and Jean Lewis for
"A Day On, Not A Day Off"*

*CCPL support for Conference and recent
sponsorship of Sacred Journeys Programs*

*Steve Guthrie award at NAACP Breakfast
for State Superintendent of Year*



Thumbs up: The Community Media Center will air "African American Trailblazers of Carroll County," an original five-episode series produced for the county's public access channel, throughout February, which is Black History Month. The series consists of interviews with black Carroll County residents as they describe their lives and the roles of blacks in county history. Jean and John Lewis, who led the project, said the programs are a way to highlight local history that often goes unmentioned. The program will air 5 p.m. Sundays, 4:30 p.m. Mondays, 2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 9 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays, and 3:30 p.m. Saturdays throughout the month of February on Channel 19.

See more at: <http://www.carrollcountytimes.com/news/opinion/ph-cc-thumbs-021415-20150214,0,1890014.story#sthash.C6dVHVvJ.dpuf>

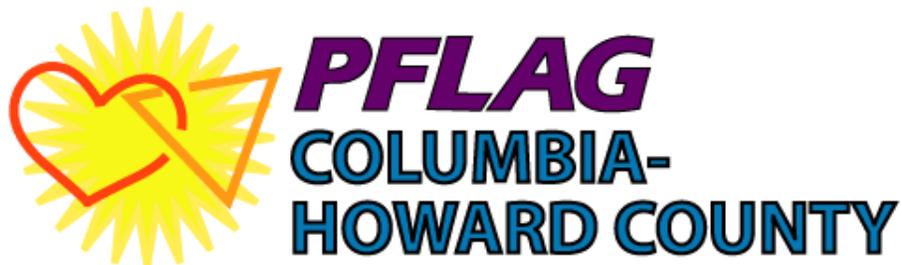




Tuskegee Airmen coming to Westminster

The Tuskegee Airmen Experience will be in Westminster May 6th-9th 2015 @ the Carroll regional airport. For the first 3 days Wednesday, Thursday and Friday....this exhibit will be open to schools for field trips at **NO** cost! We would like to have at least 250 students through the exhibit each day. Each school will need to sign up and get a time to arrive on their day. Wednesday will be for Middle school students , Thursdays high school students/colleges and Friday for Elementary schools. Along with the exhibit, there will be other activities/lessons modeled for the age. For example since this is also around prom; we are having drunk driving simulators and such for the high school/ college age on their designated day. That is why we thought it would be best to separate the grades/ ages by days.





Scholarship Application Packet

Presented By:

*PFLAG Columbia - Howard County,
MD*

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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Purpose:

- To recognize outstanding lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and allied students
- To encourage the pursuit of post-secondary education for self-identified LGBT and allies
- To foster a positive image of the LGBT society

Scholarship Offered:

- Columbia - Howard County PFLAG Scholarship for Outstanding LGBT and Allied Students
- Amount of Scholarship: Up to two (2) \$2,000.00 Scholarships

Eligibility:

- Self identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) or as an ally who demonstrates outstanding support directly to LGBT society and supports equality for all
- A resident of the state of Maryland who is currently attending, or planning to attend, a post-secondary educational institution during the 2015-2016 academic year, or
- A student currently attending, or planning to attend, a Maryland post-secondary educational institution in the state of Maryland during the 2015-2016 academic year (Maryland residency not required if attending a Maryland educational institution)
- Must complete a Columbia - Howard County PFLAG Scholarship application **IN ITS ENTIRETY** including all required supplemental forms (Incomplete applications will not be considered.)
- Cannot be receiving full tuition remission from other sources to fund the education (e.g., other full-tuition scholarships, established college trust fund, etc.)
- Cannot be a prior recipient of the Columbia - Howard County PFLAG Scholarship

Deadline and Terms of Award:

- The **completed** application must be postmarked by **April 11th 2015** and mailed to:

PFLAG Columbia - Howard County
Attention: Scholarship Committee
P. O. Box 1479, Columbia, Maryland 21044

Forms and supporting documents can be obtained online at www.pflagmd.org. **(INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.)**

- The Scholarship Selection Committee will review all applications and make their final decision in the last two weeks of April. All applicants will receive written communication of the decisions made by the scholarship committee. All decisions will be sent out in the mail. The scholarship recipient will be publicly announced at the general meeting on Tuesday, May 12th, 2015 and attendance at this meeting is **MANDATORY**.
- Identity disclosure will be required as the scholarship recipient(s) will be announced in various press releases and other print or online media.
- Scholarship recipient is responsible for providing PFLAG Columbia - Howard County with a copy of the acceptance letter for the intended post-secondary institution they will be attending. The award will be sent directly to this academic institution and will be sent in \$1000.00 increments (fall and spring semester).

Application and Supplemental Materials:

- General application form
- PFLAG Scholarship Questionnaire
- Two sealed letters of recommendation (with at least one from a teacher/professor and one from an individual in the community) **Note: RYA facilitators, PFLAG Steering Committee members, family and friends cannot serve as recommenders.**
- Academic transcripts (unofficial copies)

****All information is confidential and will only be shared with scholarship committee****



Scholarship Application

(Please **type** or **print**)

Attach additional sheets, if necessary

Applicant Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Best Contact #: _____ Email: _____

Academic Information:

High School/College or University presently attending:

List and explain school clubs or Extracurricular Activities: ----- _____

Work Information:

List any previous volunteer or paid positions you have held: _____

HOWARD COUNTY PFLAG SCHOLARSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT YOUR RESPONSES (MINIMUM ONE (1) PARAGRAPH AND MAX 500 WORDS PER QUESTION)

1. How do you contribute to the LGBT community? Why is this important to you?
2. How will you continue to promote LGBT equality while attending your college/university?
3. Aside from LGBT causes, what other ways have you demonstrated your commitment to diversity?
4. Define diversity, explain how diversity is important to the LGBTQ community?
5. Why is Gender Non-discrimination important? What issues do you see as important now that Marriage Equality has passed in Maryland?

By signing the document below I attest to the accuracy of the information provided in this application.

Signature of Applicant: _____ **Date:** _____

RECOMMENDATION FORM COVER SHEET

****All information is confidential and will only be shared with scholarship committee****

Please **type** or **print** the following information:

Name of Applicant: _____

Name of Recommender: _____

Place of Employment (if applicable): _____

Job Title (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

PFLAG Columbia - Howard County Mission Statement:

To promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through:

- **SUPPORT** - to cope with an adverse society
- **EDUCATION** - to enlighten an ill-informed public
- **ADVOCACY** - to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

Please respond to the following questions as they pertain to the applicant.

- What is your relationship with the applicant and how long have you known them?
- Why do you think the applicant should be considered for the Columbia - Howard County PFLAG Academic Scholarship?
Describe any knowledge you have regarding the applicant's commitment and dedication to LGBT and diversity issues.
How will this applicant continue to contribute to LGBT and other diversity issues?
Provide any additional information regarding the applicant's community service and academic achievement would be appreciated.

Please attach this cover sheet to your typed recommendation letter and place them into a sealed envelope with your signature across the back of the envelope.

Return your recommendation in its **sealed** envelope to the applicant **before April 4th**, as she/he is required to include it in their entire application packet.

Thank you for taking the time to help Columbia - Howard County PFLAG offer educational assistance to a qualified student who has an appreciation and commitment to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender issues and the inclusion of equality for all individuals.

RECOMMENDATION FORM COVER SHEET

****All information is confidential and will only be shared with scholarship committee****

Please **type** or **print** the following information:

Name of Applicant: _____

Name of Recommender: _____

Place of Employment (if applicable): _____

Job Title (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

PFLAG Columbia - Howard County Mission Statement:

To promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through:

- **SUPPORT** - to cope with an adverse society
- **EDUCATION** - to enlighten an ill-informed public
- **ADVOCACY** - to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

Please respond to the following questions as they pertain to the applicant.

- What is your relationship with the applicant and how long have you known them?
- Why do you think the applicant should be considered for the Columbia - Howard County PFLAG Academic Scholarship?

Describe any knowledge you have regarding the applicant's commitment and dedication to LGBT and diversity issues.

How will this applicant continue to contribute to LGBT and other diversity issues?

Provide any additional information regarding the applicant's community service and academic achievement would be appreciated.

Please attach this cover sheet to your typed recommendation letter and place them into a sealed envelope with your signature across the back of the envelope.

Return your recommendation in its **sealed** envelope to the applicant **before April 4th**, as she/he is required to include it in their entire application packet.

Thank you for taking the time to help Columbia - Howard County PFLAG offer educational assistance to a qualified student who has an appreciation and commitment to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender issues and the inclusion of equality for individuals.

SCHOLARSHIP CHECKLIST

- General application form

- PFLAG Scholarship Questionnaire

- Two sealed letters of recommendation (with at least one from a teacher/professor and one from an individual in the community)
Note: RYA facilitators, PFLAG Steering Committee members, family and friends cannot serve as recommenders.

- Academic transcripts (unofficial copies)

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.



CARROLL CITIZENS
FOR
RACIAL EQUALITY

presents

Our Muslim Community

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 1, 2015

8 A.M.—2 P.M.

*Carroll County Board of Education Building
Charles I Ecker Board Room
125 North Court Street
Westminster, MD*