



# Arlington Gay & Lesbian Alliance

We're OUT in Arlington - Serving the Arlington Community Since 1981

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## Press Release

### **James Fisher and Arlington PFLAG to Receive 2013 AGLA Equality Awards**

Each year the Arlington Gay & Lesbian Alliance (AGLA) presents two Equality Awards, one to an individual and one to an organization, in recognition of their record of working to improve LGBT equality in Arlington. This year the AGLA Board voted unanimously to honor James Fisher and Arlington PFLAG with the 2013 AGLA Equality Awards.

James Fisher will receive the 2013 AGLA Individual Equality Award. A pioneer for the LGBT community, Mr. Fisher is being honored for his lengthy service as a Commissioner on the Arlington Human Rights Commission, as well as, his work as an early member of AGLA's Board and significant efforts on behalf of LGBT Arlingtonians over the past few decades. Beginning his service at a time when most gays and lesbians lived quietly in the closet, his courageous move to step out of that closet was integral to the progress of Arlington's LGBT community. Mr. Fisher recently completed more than a decade of service as a Commissioner on the Arlington Human Rights Commission and, for many years, he also served as a gay men's Peer Counselor at the Arlington branch of the Whitman Walker Clinic.

The 2013 AGLA Organization Equality Award will be given to PFLAG mothers and leaders Elizabeth Fogarty and Gerda Keiswetter on behalf of the Arlington PFLAG group. For the past four years, Elizabeth and Gerda have been opening their hearts and sharing their knowledge with families struggling to accept their children, family members, and friends that are LGBT. Arlington PFLAG meets at least once per month and has recently created an LGBT youth group, known as ALY, to provide young people with a safe and supportive environment for celebrating who they are without fear of judgment.

The 2013 Equality Awards will be presented at AGLA's Annual Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 10, 2013, at Freddie's Beach Bar & Restaurant in Crystal City, Arlington, VA. A list of past AGLA

Equality Award winners is provided below. For more information about the AGLA Equality Awards and upcoming holiday party, please visit [www.agla.org](http://www.agla.org) or contact AGLA President Tiffany Joslyn.

### **Previous Equality Award Recipients**

2012: Everett Fisher and the Imperial Court of Washington, D.C.  
2011: John Clisham and Servicemembers Legal Defense Network  
2010: Arlington School Board Member Sally Baird and Freddie's Beach Bar & Restaurant  
2009: Hon. David Englin, VA State Delegate, and Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington  
2008: Kris McLaughlin and the Virginia Partisans  
2007: Cheryl Spector and Arlington County Public Library  
2006: Jay Gandy and Equality Virginia  
2005: Hon. Adam Ebbin, VA State Delegate, and Clarendon Presbyterian Church  
2004: Rhonda Buckner and Log Cabin Republicans of Virginia  
2003: Author Alex Sanchez and the Arlington Public Schools' Student Services Department  
2002: Arlington County Board Member Jay Fissette and Whitman-Walker Clinic/Northern VA

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