



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Hon. Paul Ferguson and Four Seasons Garden Club to Receive 2014 AGLA Equality Awards

November 25, 2014 - 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 Clerk of the Circuit Court of Arlington Paul Ferguson and the Four Seasons Garden Club with the 2014 AGLA Equality Awards.

Hon. Paul Ferguson will receive the 2014 AGLA Individual Equality Award. Several members of the Arlington Community reached out to AGLA with letters in support of Mr. Ferguson, including 2013 AGLA Equality Award recipient James Fisher. Fisher noted Mr. Ferguson's unwavering support of the annual Valentine's Day marriage equality demonstrations organized by the People of Faith for Equality in Virginia (POFEV), recounting how "Paul himself joined the group, thanking the crowd for raising awareness of the issue, expressing his support and apologizing for his inability to provide a license for same-sex couples to marry, under law." But Mr. Ferguson took his support one step further, he would welcome the couples up to his office and personally accept applications, "promising to hold those in wait for the couple until the law changed." In recognition of his leadership and compassion, as Clerk of the Court, and in his prior public service in Arlington as a longtime LGBT supporter, AGLA is proud to recognize Mr. Ferguson with the 2014 AGLA Individual Equality Award.

The 2014 AGLA Organization Equality Award will be given to Four Seasons Garden Club. This club describes itself as a "garden club mostly for the gay community, but all are welcome. Only requirement is love of plants." Our local chapter of the Four Seasons Garden Club helped to preserve elements of the healing garden formerly at Arlington's (now closed) Whitman-Walker Clinic, moving the beautiful and contemplative healing garden and labyrinth to Barton Park for all to enjoy. In support of the garden club's nomination, AGLA Past President Kris McLaughlin wrote: "Our gardeners deserve kudos for much and helping to make ours a thriving community." AGLA is proud to recognize the work of the Four Seasons Garden Club and its enduring work within our community.

The 2014 Equality Awards will be presented at AGLA's Annual Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 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 or contact AGLA President Tiffany Joslyn at president@agla.org.

Previous Equality Award Recipients

2013: James Fisher and Arlington PFLAG
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 Fiset and Whitman-Walker Clinic/Northern VA

Arlington Gay & Lesbian Alliance (AGLA) is a strong beacon for equality in Arlington, Virginia. It's an inclusive 501(c)(3) nonprofit open to all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) people and straight allies. It provides social activities, nonpartisan political awareness, and works with civic groups on community service. AGLA also has a scholarship program. Join AGLA today at www.agla.org and support a wonderful community organization.

Please feel free to invite all your Facebook friends to join you at the Equality Awards presentation. <https://www.facebook.com/ArlingtonLGBT>

AGLA is also on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ArlingtonLGBT> and Meetup at <http://www.meetup.com/ArlingtonLGBT>.

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