



PFLAG BOULDER

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays **Dec & Jan 2007/2008**

Holiday Potluck Planned

Thursday, December 20th, 6:30 pm

Members, families and friends are invited to attend our traditional Holiday Banquet at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, December 20, in Mead Hall downstairs in the First United Methodist. Candlelight and colorful lights will set the stage for a festive evening of fun and fellowship. The board will provide roast turkey and stuffing, mashed potatoes, baked ham, ratatouille, beverages and table settings. Please add your choice of side dishes, vegetables, salads, rolls and desserts to this elegant potluck.

After dinner we will view the 20-minute segment of Channel 12's Nov. 25th Colorado OutSpoken show about PFLAG featuring Jean Hodges and Julie Wilson (Ft. Collins). Following the video, Gregg Tobo, a full-time professional magician from Astonishing Productions, will entertain us. Gregg has used his magic to inspire adult audiences in corporations throughout Colorado. Prepare to be astonished! This is also a good time to get acquainted with your fellow PFLAGers, who are some of the nicest people you'll ever meet.

PFLAG Program

Inside the Making of 'The Laramie Project'

Thursday, January 17th, 8 pm

Leigh Fondakowski, now an associate instructor at Naropa University, was the head writer and Assistant Director of The Laramie Project, a play about the town's reaction to the October 1998 hate murder of gay college student Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming. A member of the Tectonic Theatre Project since 1995, Leigh is an Emmy nominated co-screenwriter for the adaptation of The Laramie Project for HBO. Leigh will speak to us about the creation of the Laramie Project and the impact it had on her and those around her. This is an amazing opportunity to hear from one of the writers of a powerful exploration of homophobia, violence, its shattering impact, and how we can all begin to find humanity and hope again.

The news of Matthew's brutal death in 1998 shocked the country and brought attention to the violence aimed at LGBTQ people. The play, which premiered in 2000, was a collaborative effort between the cast and writers who drew on over 200 interviews with Laramie residents. The play was described by The New York Times as "...enormously good-willed, very earnest and often deeply moving work of theatrical journalism." It continues to be produced across the country and is often used as an anti-homophobia training in schools.

Meetings

PFLAG Boulder

First United Methodist Church
1421 Spruce Street
14th & Spruce - 303.444.8164

7:00 PM - Support & Advocacy Groups Meet
8:00 PM - Program

The public is always welcome to the main program at 8:00 PM the 3rd Thursday of each month. PFLAG Boulder meets each month at First United Church in Boulder. 7:00 PM small groups meet for support or for discussing. People attending the 8:00 program are also invited to attend the 7:00 hour. If you don't need support for yourself, you can offer it to someone else. Confidentiality is our commitment to all participants.

December 20th

PFLAG Holiday Potluck
6:30 pm

January 17th

PFLAG Program: Inside the Making of 'The Laramie Project'

September 19-21, 2008

Mountain West PFLAG Region Meeting

New Board Member Champions Youth

by Elizabeth Bethea

At our annual recognition banquet in May, the PFLAG Board welcomed another new member, Jayme Peta. Jayme comes to us with a long and outstanding record of activism in the LGBTQ community, beginning with working for queer youth through outreach, health and homelessness programs in San Francisco. In these programs, she created and facilitated youth groups, staffed crisis lines, provided education on tobacco, HIV and other risk factors that disproportionately affect LGBTQ youth, and acted as supervisor for program staff. She also served on several boards and advisory committees, providing training and expertise, developing policies and procedures and organizing workshops and conferences targeting queer youth. In Portland, Oregon, Jayme went on to plan and administer programming, outreach, coalition building, strategic planning and financial matters for an organization working to prevent domestic violence against transgender and intersex people. She also helped to coordinate efforts to educate employers on the rights of transgender/transsexual people in the workplace, including identifying issues and obstacles to change and developing brochures and guidelines for employers.


Jayne is deeply concerned about the myriad ways in which queer youth are oppressed, above and beyond their adult counterparts. She attributes these additional risks to the rampant and unchecked oppression in schools and the lack of control that youth have over their lives, health care and other crucial decisions that affect them. Jayme is always inspired by the resilience shown by so many youth, and by how they increasingly come together to advocate and act on their own behalf. These areas of expertise and demonstrated results make Jayme an ideal addition to our Board, which is committed to increasing intergenerational and cross-cultural diversity, not only on the Board but among our PFLAG membership as well.

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In July, Jayme earned her Master's degree in Counseling Psychology at Naropa University, where she has been employed as Registrar since 2001. She is an Adjunct Faculty member in the undergraduate psychology department and has also recently opened a private psychotherapy practice, specializing in the support of LGBTQ people and their families/significant others. We are fortunate indeed to have Jayme on our board and in the Boulder community!



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Boulder Pride's Office:
2132 14th Street
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SAVE THE DATE!
Mountain West PFLAG Region to Meet in Boulder

Boulder will be the site for a Mountain West Regional PFLAG Conference on Sept. 19-21, 2008. Friday evening and Sunday morning meetings will be hosted at the Millennium Hotel; the all-day Saturday and evening meetings are at the First United Methodist Church downtown. The theme for the conference is UNITED WE CAN: AN INTERGENERATIONAL CALL TO ACTION. Five different topical strands will focus the conference workshops: Intergenerational Interactions; Growing Groups—Developing Leadership; Putting the T in PFLAG—Trans Issues; The Politics of Equality; and Faith Communities and Spiritual Journeys.

We hope to host 200 members from chapters in Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado, as well as college-age students from GLBT Resource Centers from across Colorado and from many regional college campuses. In addition, members of the Colorado Alliance for Family Equality (CAFÉ) will be invited since they will not be holding a separate summit in 2008. All are welcome to attend: GLBTQ, families, allies, everyone!

There will be a need for volunteers to help with local transportation, to offer home-stays, organize set-up and clean up for catered meals on Saturday, and provide other help yet to be determined. Registration fees have not yet been set, although every effort is being made to provide five meals and fixed expenses for under \$100. There will be a Saturday-only fee for area residents.



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Sound Circle Solstice Concert

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, December 14th-16th

Fri-Sat-Sun, December 14, 15, 7 p.m. and Sun. Dec.16 at 5 p.m. at Columbine Unity Church located at 8900 Arapahoe Ave., east of Boulder, between 75th and 95th streets.

Sound Circle, a 22-voice a capella women's chorus with 10 years of history in Boulder county, is preparing a beautiful concert for the winter holiday season. The program is nontraditional, in a range of contemporary, classical, pop, & improvisational styles, featuring women and Colorado composers, and texts by Rumi, Hafiz, & Lorca, among others. An amazing guest pianist, Ed Beckman, is joining the chorus.

Tickets are \$20 for general admission; \$15 for seniors and children; available at Word Is Out Bookstore or reserve by phone at 303-473-4525. Advance tickets or reservations recommended.

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Equal Employment Advocacy

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According to the sixth annual survey conducted by Out & Equal, Harris Interactive, and Witeck-Combs, nearly two-thirds of American adults (64%) believe it is unfair that federal law currently allows for an employer to fire someone because they are gay or lesbian. A similar majority (60%) of heterosexual adults were not even aware that federal law does not provide protections for employees on the basis of sexual orientation. An overwhelming majority (79%) of heterosexuals also feel that how an employee does his or her job, and not their sexual orientation, should be the standard for judging an employee. When it comes to the issue of transgender employees in the work place, two thirds of heterosexuals (67%) also agree that employee performance should be the standard by which they are judged and not whether they are transgender. [Harris Interactive, Sep 10]

In contrast, a June 2007 report from The Williams Institute confirms that employment discrimination is alive and well:

- When surveyed, 16% to 68% of LGBT people report experiencing employment discrimination.
- Fifteen to 57% of transgender people also report experiencing employment discrimination.
- When surveyed, many heterosexual co-workers report witnessing sexual orientation discrimination in the workplace.
- In states that currently prohibit sexual orientation discrimination, LGB people file complaints of employment discrimination at similar rates to women and racial minorities.
- Gay men earn 10% to 32% less than similarly qualified heterosexual men.
- Transgender people report high rates of unemployment and very low earnings.
- Controlled experiments reveal sexual orientation discrimination in workplace settings.

Finally, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) recently completed a similar survey. Their State of the Workplace reports:

- Nearly 90% of Fortune 500 companies include workplace protections based on an employees' sexual orientation
- 25% prohibit discrimination against transgender employees and applicants
- 53% offer domestic partner (DP) benefits in the US
- 20 U.S. states prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and 12 based on gender identity

Nearly 70 companies have informed HRC that they offer comprehensive transgender health benefits. The HRC database shows that 141 companies offer hormone therapy and 110 offer surgical procedures. Scholars have found that the cost to add trans health benefits is estimated to be only an addition 11 cents per insured.

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PSYCHOTHERAPIST

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Children's Books for Holiday Giving

A new book, *The Boy Who Wanted to be a Dancer*, is about a boy who wants to be a dancer when he grows up. When he enrolls in a dance class, he gets teased by his brother and his classmates at school, but a crisis teaches him about friendship, family values and dancing. Illustrations by Kelly Jackson Brownlee. To order with a PFLAG connection, click on <http://windowbooksonline.com/wbo/PFLAG.html>

For younger children, *Spot*, written and illustrated by Todd Tuttle, is a book about tolerance. As this little dog grows older, he begins to lose his spots and worries that he will no longer be welcome in Spotsville. Our PFLAG library has a copy. To order: <http://www.meetmarcadams.com>

Go to www.twolives.com, the online home of Two Lives Publishing for quality books for LGBT families. This lesbian-owned company, active in the LGBT family community, publishes books for all ages from babies and toddlers to children over age 13 for families and schools. Highly recommended.

Another resource for books for LGBT parents and for children of LGBT parents as well as professionals, go to www.familiesjoinedbylove.com

Winter Lavender Gala

When: 6-10pm, December 14

Where: Avalon Ballroom, 6185 Arapahoe Avenue, Boulder CO

RSVP: If you plan to come, please RSVP to 303-441-4995 between December 1st and 8th so we can plan for food.

This will be a dance and party with catered food, and door prizes. Susie Pringle will provide a dance lesson. Sandra Gail Abbott will DJ. All LGBT, friends and family are welcome. Sponsored by Open Door Fund, Aging Services Foundation, Gill Foundation and Boulder County Aging Services Division.

Want to "Meet Your Neighbors"?

Seven PFLAG'ers, LGBTQ or otherwise, are needed to have dinner and conversation on Wed, Feb. 27th as part of a Lenten Series at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church in Heatherwood. Titled "Meet Your Neighbors," the series is intended to reach out to meet face-to-face with various marginalized groups over several weeks. Feb. 27th is where PFLAG comes in to eat and talk with these people of good will who merely want to stretch their understanding of what it means to be GLBTQ or a parent, sibling or ally. The time commitment is from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Contact Jean if you can help at: 303-444-4580 or JeanInBldr@comcast.net.

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- Throw away your cigarettes, lighters and ashtrays.
- Call the Colorado QuitLine at 800-QUIT-NOW or log on to the Colorado QuitNet at www.co.quitnet.com for **FREE** support and information.

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PFLAG Boulder
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<http://members.tde.com/pflagbldr/>

PFLAG Boulder meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at First United Methodist Church, 14th and Spruce, Boulder, Colorado. Sharing time begins at 7:00 pm, program at 8:00 pm.

REMEMBER, Our confidentiality pledge must not be broken.

Newsletter is published monthly. A subscription is included with each membership to PFLAG. Material related to PFLAG is welcome from any source. Deadline is the twentieth of each month. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject, or edit any material submitted.

Membership Categories

- \$25.00 Individual
- \$35.00 Family
- \$10.00 Student
- \$10.00 Newsletter Only
- \$50.00 Supporting
- \$100.00+ Sustaining

Membership dues are renewed in February of each year. Send address changes and membership information to PFLAG, P.O. Box 19696, Boulder, CO 80308.

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OUR MISSION

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons, their families and friends through:

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

PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

Call for Nominations for Boulder Pride’s Annual Jack and Jean Hodges Community Service Award

Description of the Award

The Boulder Pride Jack and Jean Hodges Community Service Award recognizes an LGBTQ person or ally in Boulder County who has provided outstanding volunteer service in supporting the LGBTQ advocacy and empowerment work at Boulder Pride and the larger community. The award’s namesakes are Jean and Jack Hodges, whose community service and advocacy supporting the LGBTQ community in Boulder County is longstanding and exceptional.

Eligibility

Candidates must:

1. Currently be a Boulder County resident
2. Actively participate in LGBTQ focused volunteer service in the Boulder community

Method of Selection

Nominations for the Distinguished Service Award can be made by anyone in the Boulder County community and are made by sending a letter of nomination to the chair of the award selection committee by January 15th, 2008. Letters of nomination should identify the nominee’s areas of exceptional service, detailing the activities for which the nominee is believed to deserve this award. Any additional documentation such as newspaper clippings or a record of achievement should be included.

Nomination letters should be addressed to Kirsten Spielmann, Award Chair, Boulder Pride, PO Box 1018, Boulder, CO 80306.

