



# PFLAG BOULDER COUNTY

**PFLAG**  
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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Dec 2011 / Jan 2012

## **Our Annual Holiday Potluck** *Tuesday, December 13th, 6:30pm*

Once again it's time to gather our PFLAG family and friends for our Winter Festive Feast where the PFLAG Board provides the turkey with all the trimmings, a meatless lasagna, beverages, table service and you bring a salad, side dish or dessert to complete a delicious meal. We are inviting OASOS youth, their parents and Rainbow Elders to create this cross-generational celebration. Toby Tenenbaum, well-known Boulder area composer and pianist, has agreed to provide entertainment. Toby will play four of his original compositions to brighten this winter solstice season. Remember the earlier 6:30 start time in the parlor of the First United Methodist Church.

## **PFLAG Program - "Brother Outside: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin"** *Tuesday, January 10th, 7pm*

*A film about Bayard Rustin, lost prophet of the civil rights movement.*

A master strategist and tireless activist, Bayard Rustin is best remembered as the organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, one of the largest nonviolent protests ever held in the United States. He brought Gandhi's protest techniques to the American civil rights movement, and helped mold Martin Luther King, Jr. into an international symbol of peace and nonviolence.

Despite these achievements, Rustin was silenced, threatened, arrested, beaten, imprisoned and fired from important leadership positions, largely because he was an openly gay man in a fiercely homophobic era. Five years in the making and the winner of numerous awards, BROTHER OUTSIDER presents a feature-length documentary portrait, focusing on Rustin's activism for peace, racial equality, economic justice and human rights. In a nation still torn by racial hatred and violence, bigotry against homosexuals, and extraordinary divides between rich and poor, his eloquent voice is needed today.

## **Special PFLAG Event in Longmont** *Thursday, January 12th, Longmont YMCA*

Read more inside about this outreach effort to reach Latino GLBTQ persons and their families.

## **PFLAG Program - A Celebration of Love** *Tuesday, February 14th, 7pm*

A panel of both gay and straight couples and singles will share their stories of how their relationships began and how they have been sustained over time. Whether you are single or coupled, make this a Valentine's Day to celebrate the value of relationships and the power of committed love to overcome obstacles.

## **Meetings**

*PFLAG Boulder County*  
First United Methodist Church  
1421 Spruce Street  
14th & Spruce - 303.444.8164

**7:00 PM - Program**  
**8:30 PM - Support & Advocacy Groups Meet**

The public is always welcome to the main program at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, held in the Parlor.

At 8:30 p.m. a support group, especially intended for newcomers and others dealing with personal LGBT-related issues, meets in the library as long as needed. Confidentiality is promised.

Contact [info@pflagboulder.org](mailto:info@pflagboulder.org) with questions, concerns, or requests for support to get a personal response.

**December 13th**  
Annual Gala Holiday Potluck

**January 10th**  
PFLAG Program -  
Bayard Rustin Film

**January 12th**  
Special Longmont Event

**February 14th**  
PFLAG Program -  
A Celebration of Love

*PFLAG Boulder County's membership for 2012 is 94 households, down from 110 last year.*

*It's not too late to renew!*

## National PFLAG Convention: Highlights and Take Aways

*By Jean Hodges*

I was so proud of our Boulder County delegation at the National Convention on Nov. 3-6. We were joined by other Coloradans: three members from PFLAG Colorado Springs, two from Ft. Collins, Shari Wilkins from Denver and six from Boulder—Kristen Kinard, Maureen Cassulo, Jean and Jack Hodges, Karen Adams and Karina Doyle (and her Illinois PFLAG mom). We all participated in the best national convention of the five I have attended.

On Lobby Day some 180 PFLAGers from across the country met with senators and representatives from their respective states. As a Colorado group we met with Mark Udall's legislative aides and with Michael Bennet and his staff. The emphasis in both meetings was to tell our stories. Sen. Bennet asked that written, brief stories be sent to his office for use in future legislative work. Karen and Jean's visit to the office of John Boehner was not as well received, but a visit to Barney Frank's office scored us a promise by aide, Diego Sanchez, to do a screening of our film "Faces and Facets" for legislators in the near future. Senator Al Franken, Representatives Barney Frank, Jerrold Nadler, and Jared Polis, and other government officials inspired everyone to make the visits because we could make a difference about upcoming bills: H.R.1648/S.506 focuses on preventing student-on-student bullying and harassment. H.R.998 addresses discrimination by schools or school employees and provides for legal remedy in cases of bullying and harassment.



*Boulder Lobbyists on Capitol Hill*



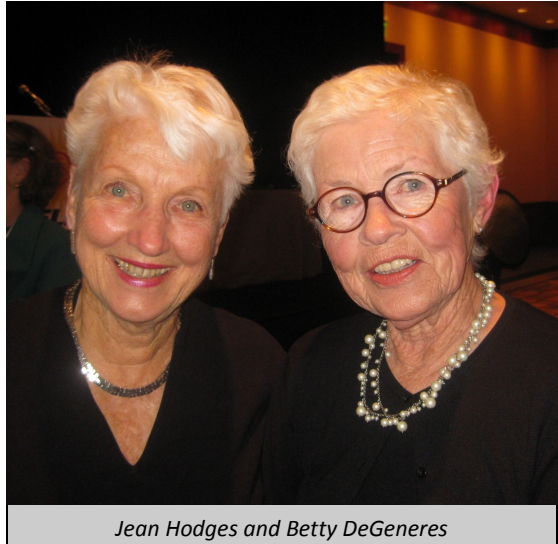
*Dr. Jill Biden, Second Lady*

The PFLAG National Convention was opened by Dr. Jill Biden, the Second Lady, a mom, a grandmother, life-long educator and a much sought-after speaker. One of her aides, who is gay, convinced Dr. Biden to choose PFLAG as one of her many speaking invitations because of what PFLAG meant to him and his family. After her affirming words of support for the PFLAG mission, she walked backstage to see her aide in tears. Both wept as they embraced with a new bond of understanding.

Other plenary speakers included Caitlin Ryan, as well as a special FBI agent and persons from the Department of Justice and the Civil Rights Commission who asked to speak to PFLAG about partnering to stop LGBTQ hate crimes and bullying. Workshop topics included anti-discrimination legislation, safe schools, hate crime investigation, bi-national families, religion, making sports safe, starting chapters, rural chapters, social media, scholarships, fundraising, marriage, board leadership development, to name just a few. Our two board members came away empowered to create a stronger chapter here at home. Karen Adams and Melissa Druckman, a former Boulder board member now living in New York State, were both invited to join a National PFLAG Transgender Advisory Council.

Our film, "Faces and Facets of Transgender Experience" was featured in one workshop led by Karen and Jean. But the biggest impact was at our PFLAG table, where we sold some 78 DVD's at the convention and gave away 20-25 to legislators, and some of our speakers from the Civil Rights Commission and the Dept. of Justice, as well as one to Betty DeGeneres with the request that she watch it with Ellen. She said she would. Jack, Maureen, Kristen, Karina, Karen and Melissa Druckman staffed our table conscientiously for 2 1/2 days solid. On the last day Jack said one woman bought 15 copies. She may have heard Catherine Hyde, Trans Coordinator from Maryland, who said that she bought ten copies and gives one to each new family that comes to her support group. "It's the best way for them to get started on this journey," she said.

The convention culminated with the Awards Banquet where Betty DeGeneres received the first "Betty DeGeneres Advocate Award". Who can forget her inspiring and often hilarious words as she showed us video clips of her comic bits on Ellen's show? I was pleased to have a picture taken with such a gracious and unpretentious lady. (Some say we look like sisters, but really, it's just the white hair we share.) I was honored to present the very special Starr Award to Nancy McDonald, National President emerita, who was my mentor when I first become local president back in 1996. Highlight of the evening for all of us, however, was our chapter receiving Special Recognition for Outstanding Contribution because our film, "Faces and Facets of Transgender Experience" met the criteria for all three aspects of the PFLAG mission and has reached across the country in its distribution.



Jean Hodges and Betty DeGeneres

The convention was exciting and meant non-stop activities that kept us all going 12 to 14 hours a day. Our time together concluded with a thoughtful panel of clergy from many faiths who spoke about the importance of finding the value of spiritual beliefs held by diverse faith communities and the challenge to those faith communities to work toward LGBTQ equality and inclusion.

We each came away with actions to pursue. For Karina Doyle it will be to organize presentations in Boulder County about Caitlin Ryan's research for parents, teachers, and clergy to better keep LGBT children safe and accepted. For Kristen and Maureen, they will bring new skills to board leadership. For Karen there was a break-through in understanding that she doesn't need to do her TYES work alone. There is a national network of support awaiting her connection.

As for me, I came away with deep satisfaction of being part of this national organization that is growing in power to effect change nationally through the work of an amazing national staff and the empowered 250 chapters across the country that are the life blood of the movement for LGBTQ equality.

**First United Methodist Church of Boulder**  
is proud to host the PFLAG monthly meeting  
[www.fumcboulder.org](http://www.fumcboulder.org)  
Education Hour 9am - Worship 10:30am  
Celebrating Diversity  
Embracing Inclusivity  
Sharing God's Unconditional Love

**“Keeping Families Together”**  
*Thursday, January 12th, 6:30pm - 9pm*

**An Outreach Event Planned for Longmont Latinos**

Encouraged by the success of the Latino panel for our September program at the Progressive Center on Main Street in Longmont, we have engaged Jessy Perez to help us create a second Latino panel for another Longmont event. This program will be in addition to our regular second Tuesday meeting in Boulder. It is planned for Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at the Longmont YMCA, 950 Lashley (9<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Lashley) in the Meeker Room. Mauricio Shoup, representing Out Boulder, a co-sponsor for this meeting, will again share his personal experience of multiple oppressions as a young gay Mexican. In addition we hope to have a Latino parent and a gay youth to speak.

Inspired by Caitlin Ryan’s research, the PFLAG Board set a goal for 2012 to do more outreach using the Family Acceptance Project materials in Longmont to target Latino LGBTQ persons and their families. The purpose is to increase our support mission by going to where people are who might be unlikely to ever attend a PFLAG meeting in Boulder. Board member Sandi Zeigler and Jessy Perez are leading this support effort. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**A Seasonal Family Event: “Amahl & the Night Visitors”**  
*Saturday, December 10th, 2pm // Sunday, December 11th, 10:30am*

The ever-popular one-act American opera, “*Amahl and the Night Visitors*” will be the special Advent Gift to the community at the First United Methodist Church on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 11 at 10:30 a.m. With stage direction by Jean Hodges and musical direction by Evanne Brown, a cast of some forty members will offer a holiday treat for all ages.

A perennial holiday favorite of audiences everywhere, Gian Carlo Menotti's short opera tells a tale of the three Magi taking respite from their travels in the hut of a poor widow and her crippled son. More secular than sacred, it is a universal story of self-sacrifice, compassion, generosity and the miracles that can occur when one boy takes a leap of faith. *Amahl & the Night Visitors* has been the most frequently produced American opera in the world since its premiere on television (NBC) in 1951 on Christmas Eve. Stunning music, beautiful costumes, singing, dancing, and an inspiring story make *Amahl* an opera that will brighten your holiday season. Sung in English, this one-act opera is offered free to Boulder families of all ages to brighten the season. Canned goods for Emergency Family Assistance Association are requested at the door.

**Requiem for Roadkill: A Sound Circle Solstice Concert**  
*Friday/Saturday, December 9th & 10th, 7pm // Sunday, December 11th, 5pm*

Sound Circle's Solstice concerts feature a nontraditional mix of genres and colors, offering audiences an alternative to the holiday-based musical events of the season. The title work, *Requiem for Roadkill*, is a multi-movement soundscape created by Sound Circle. The entire concert is a meditation on being human, in the context of our increasingly fast pace of life. Tickets available at [brownpapertickets.com/event/211612](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/211612) or Boulder Body Wear. Performances on Fri-Sat, Dec 9-10 at 7:00 pm; Sun Dec. 11 at 5:00 pm.

Costs are \$20 GA, \$15 sr/child. For more info contact 303-473-4525 or [scoffee@ecentral.com](mailto:scoffee@ecentral.com).

## Bringing the Best of Queer Cinema to Boulder County

Bent Lens Cinema is an all-volunteer organization dedicated in equal parts to LGBTQ visibility through film and community building. Unlike traditional film festivals, they program films throughout the year with a special annual documentary film weekend called Queer Realities. Programs are often followed by the Bent Salon where viewers can socialize and make new friends while enjoying delicious treats. Bent Lens makes an effort to make sure all films are affordable and works with other organizations to program films addressing specific issues and concerns within our community. Not just for the city of Boulder, Bent Lens strives to reach our community throughout the county. Bent Lens Cinema welcomes its new chair, Dan Julio and bids a hearty thanks to Gus Spheeris for his many years of dedicated service as chair. Gus remains with Bent Lens Cinema working tirelessly behind the scenes to find the best films and fund-raise.

Bent Lens Cinema may be found at <http://www.bentlens.org>. There you can find information about current and upcoming programs, volunteer, make suggestions and sign up for the mailing list. Bent Lens Cinema has an upcoming program on January 7, 2012 and Queer Realities during the weekend of February 25-27.

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\$15/Issue, \$130/Year  
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## MLK Writing Contest

*Deadline: December 9th*

Three students from Fairview, Boulder, and New Vista High Schools, who are members of the Youth Opportunities Advisory Board (YOAB) for the City of Boulder, announced an opportunity to engage youth in Boulder's annual Martin Luther King (MLK) day march and rally, Monday, January 16, 2012.

The YOAB MLK writing contest is for middle and high school students. These youth leaders were inspired by Dr. King's quote, "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the entire staircase". For these student organizers it means that although our community faces many overwhelming challenges around equity and inclusiveness, taking the first step is the only way things get better. Winners and runners up will get a chance to read their pieces on MLK day. Additionally, first place winners will receive a \$100 gift card. Judges will pick winners from both middle and high school, who speak English fluently and who are learning English.

We encourage you to tell students you know in the City of Boulder about the contest and urge them to participate! Writing pieces should be submitted by December 9th, 2011. If you have questions, contact Alice Swett at [swetta@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:swetta@bouldercolorado.gov) or by phone at (303)-441-4349.

### TYES

**A Support Organization for Families with Gender Variant Children**

Meets, 6 p.m. on fourth Fridays  
E-mail: [TYES.group@gmail.com](mailto:TYES.group@gmail.com)



**PFLAG Boulder County**  
 PO Box 19696  
 Boulder, CO 80308  
**303.444.8164**  
 www.pflagboulder.org

PFLAG Boulder meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at First United Methodist Church, 14th and Spruce, Boulder, Colorado. Program starts at 7:00 pm, sharing time begins at 8:30 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 on October 1st of each year. Send address changes and membership information to PFLAG, P.O. Box 19696, Boulder, CO 80308.

**Advertising**

Business card size: \$15 monthly / \$130 annually. Please contact Richard Butler (303-530-2156). If special arrangements need to be made feel free to send an email.  
 < Please support our advertisers >

**OUR MISSION**

*PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gays, 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.*

**Winners of TRANSforming Art Contest Announced!**

Out Boulder congratulates the winners of the TRANSforming Art Contest. The exhibit that includes all entries in the contest will be **on display at the Pride House through December 14.**

**First Place - c.d. ortiz-oldham**

**It.**

- White skin, Brown heart
- Female body, Boy soul
- Childlike smile, Jaded quintessence
- Lover, Fighter
- Gay, Straight, Everything-in-Between
- Spiritual, Non-Believer
- Fiercely unique, Painfully ordinary
- Passionately Apathetic.
- Two Spirits, One Body
- Sacred, yet Meaningless
- Fitting everywhere, Belonging nowhere
- Everything, Nothing
- Never existing in black, white or Technicolor
- Only gray.
- Never home, Always visiting
- Concrete Contradiction.

**It.**

-c.d. ortiz-oldham  
**2.3.2011**

**Help Needed!**

Jan. 16, Martin Luther King Day, help staff the PFLAG table.

Contact [Rollie@safehousealliance.org](mailto:Rollie@safehousealliance.org)



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