



PFLAG BOULDER COUNTY

PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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February 2012

Celebrate Valentine's Day with PFLAG

Tuesday, February 14th, 7pm

"Taking A Chance on Love: Stories about Expectations and Commitment"

Our panelists will share their love stories, about long-term, long-distance, and still-looking for romantic relationships. Help us celebrate Cindy Beeler and Susan Bateman's 25th anniversary. Cindy's parents, Barb and Sam Beeler, will share the story of their long-lived marriage as well. We'll also hear from our younger generation, the Rev. Luke Grobe, about love and expectations for those still-looking; and Anthony Green will tell us about love long distance. "Love is a many splendored thing" as the song says, but it's not an easy path for most of us. We hope you'll complete your Valentine's Day by coming to PFLAG.

PFLAG Program Preview: Let's Hear It For Creating Change!

Tuesday, March 13th, 7pm

On January 25-29, some thirty University of Colorado students attended the annual Creating Change Conference in Baltimore. They have been invited to share their insights, highlights and what attending this conference has meant to their personal growth. Please join them for a stimulating discussion.

Funding from our PFLAG Kathy Braun Youth Leadership Development Fund helped to allow some of these students to attend this conference that focuses on LGBTQ activism.

Group Facilitation Training Offered

Tuesday, Feb 7th, 10-11:30am

With renewal of interest in offering support groups for parents with LGBTQ children, we need more persons who are skilled facilitators to volunteer. Jean Hodges will offer a training on Tuesday, Feb. 7th, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. using guidelines created by National PFLAG staff. There will be helpful handouts as well as some role-playing to explore best practices in situations that might arise. Even if you have past experience in leading groups, please plan to attend this training, so that we all understand and develop the skills needed to offer the most constructive support as part of our PFLAG mission. Register with Sandi Zeigler, 303-774-8617 by February 5 to learn where the workshop will be held. This opportunity is open to all interested persons.

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 with questions, concerns, or requests for support to get a personal response.

February 7th

Group Facilitation Training

February 14th

PFLAG Program: Taking a
Chance on Love

March 13th

PFLAG Program: Let's Hear
It for Creating Change!



ONE MORE TRY TO PASS A CIVIL UNIONS BILL!

Take action now! Let your state legislators know you support civil unions! Maybe this time it will pass! Sign the petition now --- and tell your legislators to vote on the right side of history. <http://bit.ly/COcivilunions>

Thanks, Dennis, for Your Act of Courage *A Letter to the Editor of Longmont's Times-Call*

(FYI-Dennis is a member of our PFLAG Chapter and is the spouse of Kristen Kinard)

I read in the Jan. 27 and 28th Times-Call that Dennis Coombs, Mayor of Longmont, stuck his neck out recently when he decided to be one of two Colorado mayors (Denver's Mayor Michael Hancock is the other) to sign on to a list of U.S. mayors supporting marriage equality for LGBT persons. Although his action was a personal decision and fully within his first amendment rights, Dennis is now the center of controversy in Longmont among those who are staunch defenders of Longmont's historically traditional conservative community. I am happy to see that he also has many who support his personal position.

With a daughter living in Longmont and a grandson at Skyline High School, I am pleased to see diverse opinions expressed in Longmont about a subject that is dear to my heart. I have a gay son who has happily been in a committed relationship for some sixteen years. I yearn for the day that he and his partner can share the same privileges that his father and I have, to receive the rights and community respect that come with full marriage equality.

PFLAG Boulder County has begun a support group for families with gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender members who love their children but must still deal with the anti-gay attitudes that are a part of our communities. For information about weekly meetings in Longmont, contact Jessy K. Perez, 720-434-4818 or Sandi Zeigler, 303-910-3368.

Times are changing and with it Longmont citizens are now discussing this hot button social issue thanks to the courage of one man's convictions. Leadership means being out in front of your people when it is called for. Thank you, Dennis, for standing up for a position that is on the right side of history. You show us what it means to stand for the dignity of all your citizens! Hopefully, the rest of Longmont will one day catch up.

Jean Hodges, Vice-President
National PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)

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

TYES Joins PFLAG Boulder County

To accommodate the growing number of families with gender variant children, Karen Adams, founder and leader of TYES (Transgender Youth Education and Support) and current TYES families have accepted the invitation of the PFLAG Boulder board to become a satellite support group in partnership with PFLAG. On the second Tuesday evening each month at the First United Methodist Church Boulder, TYES will offer their second monthly support group meeting for adults and teens. Besides mutual support, the group will occasionally join with, and even provide, a PFLAG program. Besides offering support to families dealing with issues related to gender variance, TYES members will enlighten the rest of the PFLAG membership. PFLAG programs are open to the public.

TYES parents and a family play group will continue to meet in Lafayette on the first Sunday of the month by invitation only. To contact TYES for more information, email TYES.group@gmail.com. This meeting is only open to family members.

PFLAG Develops Outreach Efforts In Longmont

Jessy Perez has joined the PFLAG effort to help our PFLAG chapter do more outreach in Longmont to Latino LGBTQ persons, their families and allies. The goal is to establish a support group that would meet regularly to serve the needs of that population. Jessy's job will be to network with local Latino organizations and attend community events to publicize PFLAG and encourage attendance at this support group as well as to provide a language bridge for Spanish speakers. Weekly meetings for the first month will begin on Jan. 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, Longmont, 350 11th Avenue. Sandi Zeigler and Jessy will co-direct this support group.

Collaboration is the new reality for PFLAG programming and outreach. With limited volunteer power in both organizations, PFLAG is also partnering with Out Boulder through Mauricio Shoup, Program Director, to cultivate equality, respect and well-being for all those LGBTQ Latino persons, their families and allies living in Boulder County. The idea of a Latino panel sharing personal experiences was born from a desire to engage Longmont's Latino, LGBT, and Allied communities in a conversation aiming to identify key issues essential for healthy community development. The first LGBT-Latino forum, held in Longmont in September, was so successful that a second program was held at the Longmont YMCA on January 12. The idea for a support group grew out of these public forums.

Exploring the intersections of experience in the Latino and LGBTQ communities, the LGBT Latino Forum explored the theme, **Keeping Families Together**. The panel featured Ray Rodriguez and his mother Jennie, Mauricio Shoup, and two youth panelists, Daniel Sobrevilla and Dan Mestas, former PFLAG Board member. The forum was moderated by locally renowned facilitator, Daniel Escalante. A recurring theme among the panelists was the importance of family as the main support for dealing with oppression.

SAVE THE DATE: The Statewide Convening on LGBT Youth

Saturday, March 10th

ONE Colorado is holding a day long program for anyone who works with LGBTIQ youth, co-sponsored with the National Education Policy Center at the University of Colorado with Governor John Hickenlooper, co-chair.

Dr. Eliza Byard, Executive Director of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), will keynote the Convening and offer a national strategy on creating safe and inclusive schools for all students.

Convening participants will have access to the latest tools and resources to develop skills for serving and addressing the concerns of LGBT young people. The day-long program includes an engaging panel of young LGBT people and sessions on health and wellness, legal issues, transgender youth, and bullying intervention strategies.

REGISTER NOW at: <http://bit.ly/ConveningRegistration>

For More Information

contact Daniel Ramos at danielr@one-colorado.org or 303-396-6443.

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PFLAG Stands Up for the Girl Scouts

Jody Huckaby, Executive Director of National PFLAG, has been invited to write occasional blogs for the Huffington Post's Gay Voices. In his Jan. 13th blog Jody commended the Girl Scouts of Colorado for including a transgender girl as a member despite protests reverberating across the country. We are reprinting Jody's entire blog below.

*I will do my best to be
Honest and Fair,
Friendly and Helpful,
Considerate and Caring,
Courageous and Strong...*

These are the opening phrases of the Girl Scout Law. And over the last few months, we've heard them used in a few different contexts. We watched as the Girl Scouts of Colorado did their best to live to the letter of this law by allowing Bobby Montoya, a transgender girl, to join the Girl Scouts of Denver, Colo. We saw them slightly twisted when several troops in Louisiana, in protest of that decision, decided to disband, their leaders resigning. And we saw them stretched to their limit—and possibly their breaking point—when the video of a young California girl calling for a ban on Girl Scout cookies in protest of the decision popped up and went viral.

In the face of all of this—ignorance and resignation threats from troop leaders across the country—the Girls Scouts of Denver held firm in their decision. PFLAG National applauds and supports them. Tragically, exclusion, discrimination, and rejection are common experiences for many transgender and gender non-conforming young people. In fact, in the 2009 report by the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, "Injustice at Every Turn," 57 percent of transgender respondents said that they experienced significant rejection when coming out as transgender to immediate family, including parents, guardians, and siblings. In school, 31 percent of these same respondents reported harassment by teachers or staff in K-12 settings. Ultimately, it is family acceptance that offers the best protection against the many threats to the health and well-being of our children. And if it is a Girl Scout's duty to "make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout," then why should Bobby Montoya lose out on this important aspect of acceptance?

We commend the Girl Scouts of Colorado for offering support to Bobby Montoya and her family, and providing education to the other families and volunteers in the greater Denver Girl Scouts community. And, for what it's worth? We'll be eating a lot of Thin Mints and Samoas here at the PFLAG National offices this year.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jody-huckaby/bobby-montoya-girl-scouts-transgender_b_1204376.html

Tweet Jody at: www.twitter.com/pflag.

Editor's Note: *Word has been received that our TYES support group has reached out to this family.*

TYES

A Support Organization for Families with Gender Variant Children

Meets, 6 p.m. on fourth Fridays
E-mail: TYES.group@gmail.com

Lambda Community Center is becoming The Center - Northern Colorado

"The ongoing economic recession has hit many non-profits hard, particularly those in non-metro areas. While the Lambda Center continued to offer valuable services to the community, fundraising capacity was unable to keep up with the financial demands of the organization." Thus The GLBT Center of Denver is taking over operations. We are told the changes will be mostly administrative and in fact could lead to more resources for the area. The change officially occurred Jan. 1, 2012.

For more info visit their website: <http://glbtcolorado.org/NorthernColoradoFAQ.aspx>

OASOS and Boulder County LGBTIQ Youth Met to Bond

By Melissa Marsh, OASOS Director, Boulder County Public Health

I just wanted to give you all an overview of the Boulder County GSA summit that occurred a few weeks ago at the Niwot Grange. Over 30 youth from all over the county attended and almost every high school was represented. We had about a third come from the St. Vrain Valley School district and the rest come from the Boulder Valley School District. The number one highlight for youth who responded to our survey was getting to know and meeting other LGBTIQ youth and their allies throughout the county. The workshops youth identified as favorites included Bisexuality and Biphobia, Healthy relationships then Spirituality. Thank you so much to all of you who worked so hard to make this event happen!

C.U. Announces New Director for GLBTQ Resource Center

The Division of Student Affairs is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Scarlet Bowen as Director of the GLBTQ Resource Center, effective January 3, 2012. Dr. Bowen, a former Assistant Professor of English and Co-Director of the LGBT Studies Program at CU-Boulder, came to LGBTQI activism and scholarship in the early 1990's, amid HIV/AIDS activism and the emergence of LGBTQI studies and queer theory in higher education. Since then she has balanced research and teaching in sexuality studies with feminist, queer, and anti-racism activism.

Scarlet expressed that she is honored and delighted to join the talented staff at the GLBTQ Resource Center and to continue to serve the LGBTQI and allied community at CU-Boulder.

LGBT Lobby Day 2012

February 27th

This is your chance to tell your legislators what matters to you.

Register now: <http://bit.ly/LGBTlobbyday2012> [Your RSVP is required.]

Last year, more than 120 people joined together for Lobby Day. This year, there are more Lobby Day sponsors than ever, and on Monday, February 27, a big crowd of folks is expected who are ready to share their stories and let their voices be heard. We need to work together to advance Civil Unions.

One Colorado is hosting a Pre-Lobby Day Social on the evening of Sunday, February 26 so that we can grab a bite and get to know each other. And for anyone who needs a place to stay on Sunday, we're coordinating a community housing exchange for those coming from out of town. It's critical that LGBT Coloradans meet and get to know their elected officials --- that's the only thing that's changing public opinion!



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PFLAG Boulder County
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 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.
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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.

PFLAG National Deserves Your Support

Here's how PFLAG influenced legislation in 2012:

Let's count the 86 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives, more than double from last year, and 90 organizations who have joined our Every Child Deserves a Family Act coalition; the 15 members of Congress who committed to supporting anti-bullying legislation the day after the 2011 PFLAG National Lobby Day; or doubling the count of LGBT people who can marry when PFLAG National and our 15 chapters played a critical role in the engagement of parent, family and ally stories and voices to have marriage equality become law in New York State.

Remember your \$15 portion of chapter dues pays only 3% of the National budget. You can donate on line at www.pflag.org to help move equality forward.

The 2012 Open Door Fund Dinner Date Announced

Saturday, April 28th

Celebrating the Past, Challenging the Future

Cocktails 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm, Program 7:30 pm
 \$130 per person | \$1300 per table of 10
 The St Julien Hotel, 900 Walnut Street, Boulder

Dr. Eliza Byard, Executive Director of the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN), movement veteran, and historian, will address the historical milestones of the LGBT community's compelling us toward success in the future.

SAVE THE DATE! Parent's Day at the Capitol

Tuesday, March 29th, 8:30am - 1pm

One Colorado will be hosting a coffee and training in the morning -- and divide the parents/family into groups to visit legislators. The focus throughout the day will be to target legislators with LGBT family members. Given the emotional connection between parents -- we anticipate this day to be a really effective way to talk with some of our key legislators.

If a civil unions bill is to pass our legislature this year, your personal stories are needed. Never did this before? It's about time! Contact JeanInBldr@comcast.net if you plan to attend.