



PFLAG BOULDER COUNTY

PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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July/August 2011

**PFLAG June Program:
State of Our State: Wins, Losses,
and What's Ahead**
Tuesday, July 12th at 7pm

Brandon Shaffer, president of the Colorado Senate, and Brad Clark, Executive Director of One Colorado, will lead a discussion about the 2011 Colorado legislative session that ended in May. One-Colorado is the newly formed state-wide organization that leads lobbying efforts for LGBT issues, as well as bringing together LGBT-related organizations in Colorado for sharing information about common concerns. Brandon is also a member of PFLAG Boulder County and a past recipient of our Appreciation Award as a Legislator Ally.

**PFLAG August Program:
An Ice Cream Social and Time to Meet
Your Neighbors**
Tuesday, August 9th at 7pm

Come meet some important leaders in the LGBT community. Special guests will include Jared Polis, our Congressman; Kevin Correa, Interim Director of the University's GLBT Resource Center; and Aicila Lewis and new staff and board members from Out Boulder. Entertainment will be provided along with ice cream and toppings. Bring your own neighbors to get acquainted with PFLAG and more.

**PFLAG Program Preview:
Segregation, Racism, and Homophobia in
Boulder County: A Latino Perspective**
Tuesday, September 13th at 7pm

A panel of diverse Latinos will share their experiences of being an ethnic minority. Out Boulder is partnering with PFLAG to sponsor this program with the help of Jessy Perez. We are seeking a venue that is familiar to a Latino audience. Watch for further announcements!

Note that this is a two-month issue in order to give our newsletter team a summer break. Please save both the July and August program information on your calendar.

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.

July 12th
PFLAG Program
State of Our State

August 9th
PFLAG Program
Ice Cream Social

September 13th
PFLAG Program
Segregation, Racism,
Homophobia in Boulder:
A Latino Perspective

Planning Retreat Proved Productive

Hosted by President Kristen Kinard and led by Melissa Marsh, Boulder County Public Health Coordinator for OASOS, our annual PFLAG Board spent a productive planning retreat together. Melissa was skilled in getting people involved at a deeper level and the decisions for next year's projects grew out of high participation and group consensus of what was important to do. A high priority was to increase PFLAG activity in Longmont. The board is excited about the upcoming year. Here are some highlights:

- Karina Doyle, a professional teacher, member of the St. Vrain Safe Schools Coalition and new to PFLAG, has volunteered to develop the Family Acceptance Project designed by Caitlin Ryan in Boulder County. She will be trained by Caitlin to train presenters to take FAP materials into the community to meet parents in a variety of settings over the next year.
- Youth and Parent Outreach—PFLAG and OASOS will co-sponsor a fall and spring brunch for parents, one in Boulder, one in Longmont. Sandi, Richard Butler and Maureen Cassulo will work with OASOS co-directors to make his happen.
- Sandi Zeigler has volunteered to facilitate a monthly support meeting in Longmont with special emphasis on new parents;
- Outreach to Faith Communities in Longmont will continue under the initiative of Herb and Louise Crede through collaboration with “evolving” welcoming churches.
- A Scholarship Committee (Maureen Cassulo, Neil Fishman and Kristen Kinard) was formed to work with Ron Braun to provide more structure and publicity with a goal to provide three or four \$500 scholarships annually to high school students, one to attend the Creating Change Conference and the others for college scholarships using the earnings from the Kathy Braun Youth Leadership Endowment.
- Monthly programs were planned (with input from Cathy Busha) for the year with follow-up by respective board members to confirm specific speakers and dates.
- The Board has set aside \$1000 to pay for registration and necessary expenses for three new persons to attend the National Convention. The Hodges and Kristen Kinard and Dennis Coombs already plan to attend the convention on Nov. 3-6.

Help Needed! (PFLAG Really Needs You!)

1. A person to design: occasional flyers (ex. the Aug. Ice Cream Social, the Sept. Latino program); a take-away book mark for our Family Acceptance Project; an updated PFLAG brochure. (2-3 hours a month)
2. Two (or more) LGBT persons to join the board. Specific qualifications: a passion to give back, a commitment to attend monthly meetings and matching your skill set and time with PFLAG jobs. (3-4 hours a month)
3. A Facebook manager to enter PFLAG events each month. (1 hour/month)
4. A person to coordinate refreshments for monthly meetings (or we may forego the usual soda and munchies). (1/2 hr. outside the meeting time)

The above jobs can be either board and non-board roles. To volunteer, contact Kristen Kinard:

klkinard@comcast.net



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Getting to Know your PFLAG President

Kristen didn't start out to be president of PFLAG any more than she planned to spend the last thirty-one years living in Longmont. The Northwest feels like "home" to Kristen. Although she was born in Oregon, Kristen calls Colville, Washington, where she spent her youth, "home". Educated in Washington State with a science major, Kristen taught one year before marrying Dennis Coombs, an aerospace engineer who took a job with Ball Aerospace in 1980, promising Kristen "a two or three-year adventure" in Colorado.

With two children, Alison now 26, and Aaron, 29, (both law school graduates), Kristen has filled her 31 years in Longmont with a variety of activities: LaLeche leader, active parent in her kids' schools, eco-cycle block leader, Democratic precinct captain, substitute teacher, and book-keeper for the Pumphouse where she and Dennis are currently part owners. Did we mention that Kristen is something of a health nut? She eats healthy food and exercises regularly with Dennis who is most often seen in his retirement riding his bicycle.

In 2001 after Aaron came out to the family as a gay young man, Kristen came to PFLAG Boulder County for her own "unexpected journey" and never left. Her journey was not so much working for acceptance of her gay son as much as finding PFLAG a place where she could discover new awareness to connect the dots about how she knew and understood Aaron. Kristen is passionately committed to LGBTQ equality. That has kept her active in PFLAG, involved in the open and affirming First Congregational UCC in Longmont, and part of the St. Vrain Safe Schools Coalition. Kristen doesn't think of herself as a people person as much as a doer. She is happiest when doing a job that is defined and achievable, which means that taking on the leadership of PFLAG is a whole new challenge. She is grateful for the working PFLAG board that assists in many tasks, is hopeful for new LGBT board members and is dedicated to working hard to continue to grow PFLAG Boulder County. Thank you, Kristen, for your willingness to serve!



Ace Eckstein, Outstanding Queer Youth Leader and Poet

Ace Eckstein performed her own poetry at the Facets Cabaret in June. We gratefully share her remarkable talent by printing one of her poems which will also appear soon on the www.pflag.org website in "Focus on the Field".

Ace is involved in OASOS youth leadership and Out Boulder's BOLD program. In addition to receiving the PFLAG Outstanding Youth Award in May, she also received the Human Rights Campaign's Colorado Outstanding Youth Award a week later. She is passionate about activist work in the queer community as reflected in her poetry which she began writing a little over a year ago after hearing Andrea Gibson read. She graduated from Catalyst High School in 2010 and will be a freshman at CU in the fall where she plans to major in Sociology to prepare to do social work with queer identified youth.

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A Love Letter to My Queer Community

By Ace Eckstein

*There's a rainbow flag hanging above my bed
I bought it when my family went to San Francisco
I didn't know a soul there
The giant rainbow flag waving over Harvey Milk Plaza
I whispered to my brother
"I am home"
Tonight, this stage is my home
The light in your smiles tell me there is joy inside
And with the moon as my witness, I swear
I can stop waiting for stars to fall
Because everything I wish for is in the twinkle in your eye
It's called pride, ya know
In second grade,
They told me to hold a crystal to the light
I looked through it to see the room covered in rainbows
I was convinced god was trapped inside that tiny prism
Finger-painting his heart across the walls of our classroom
I am dipping my hands into my soul
To finger-paint the color back into this black and white world
I am floating paper airplanes on the ends of your breath
I don't need to know where we are going in order to get there
We will get there*



*When cupid's arrow gets caught between two boys kissing on prom night
We will get there*

*When we stop waiting for it to get better
I have written too many poems*

That waste too many lines

Fishing for acceptance in someone else's definition of normal

When I have this

Our love and acceptance filling the gaps

We call that community

So when they ask me if it is a choice,

I will say yes

I choose to love myself

I choose to embrace my community as they come to me

I always loved that saying

"Not gay as in happy, queer as in..."

Thank you

For catching my breath just before it slipped away

For believing in my voice before I even knew it existed

For being my back bone when I was ready to fall

I have open arms

Offering nothing but an open heart

Because this is my home

And I am never even thinking about writing our break up poem

Photos From Pride Events

PFLAG Boulder Joins Denver Pride Parade 2011



Mary Wohl Haan, foreground (and husband Brian, not pictured) joined the Colorado PFLAG contingent.



Five Additional Hodges Join Pride Parade for a Family First (l to r): Kate, John, Denise, Beth, and Rae. (Jack rode this year and Jean was photographer.)

Family Pride Fest, OASOS Gay Olympic Games



On Sunday, June 26th Family Pride Fest in Longmont at Flanders Park was co-sponsored by PFLAG, Boulder County Public Health and the St.Vrain Safe Schools Coalition. OASOS youth planned "Gay Olympic" games for all ages. (Photo does not reveal faces to protect youth privacy.)



Open
7am—3:30pm



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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.
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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.

August 20th: One Colorado Ally Awards

On Saturday, August 20, One Colorado Education Fund will host The Ally Awards, a festive garden party to celebrate straight allies who are advancing equality in our state. Also, on this special summer evening, we'll honor four Coloradans who have made a substantive difference in the lives of LGBT people. Today, we're proud to announce our 2011 Ally Award recipients:

- Veronica Barela, President/CEO of NEWSED
- Bruce Deboskey, former Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League's Rocky Mountain States Region
- **Jean Hodges, National Vice President and Regional Director Chair, PFLAG**
- Wilma Webb, former Colorado State Representative of House District 8 and former First Lady of Denver

Help applaud and thank these four incredible allies---get your early bird tickets now, and join One Colorado at The Ally Awards.

Where: Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York Street, **When:** 6:00-9:00PM

Requesting Your Participation

Dr. Ellen Riggle and Dr. Sharon Rostosky will be keynoting at a BVSSC-sponsored fall event -- now officially called "Celebrating Queer Identities (**Living Good, Being Terrific!**)". They are taking the next step in their research on positive views of LGBTQ experience. Specifically, they are interested in hearing from parents of LGBTQ youth.

So, if you are such a parent or if you know someone who is, please feel free to com-

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

Survey for Parents of LGBT Individuals

Researchers studying the positive perceptions and experiences of parents of LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) children are seeking participants to answer a short online survey. The study is being conducted by Ellen D.B. Riggle, PhD, and Sharon S. Rostosky, PhD, at the University of Kentucky. If you are a parent of a person who identifies as LGBT, and you are over age 18, please go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/ParentofLGBTChildSurvey for more information about the study. If you volunteer to participate, the survey will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.

If you are not eligible for this study but know someone who is, please help us by passing this information along! Thank you!! For more information about this research team, visit www.prismresearch.org