



PFLAG BOULDER COUNTY

PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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May 2011

Appreciation Banquet Set for May 10th

Tuesday, May 10th at 6:30pm

Beginning at 6:30 p.m. with a delicious potluck banquet in Mead Hall in the parlor of First United Methodist Church, a festive evening of recognition of special people in our community will be the highlight of our PFLAG year. You will not want to miss the roast turkey, baked ham, mashed potatoes, corn pudding, drinks, all provided by the PFLAG Board. You are asked to bring salads, side dishes and desserts to complete the meal. Feel free to bring friends and family (and enough food) to this joyful celebration of community.

A short business meeting will elect the following officers: Kristen Kinard, President; Maureen Cassulo, Vice-President; Louise Crede, Secretary, Richard Butler, Treasurer.

The following persons will be our 2011 Appreciation Award honorees:

PFLAG Service Award:

Dan Mestas, retiring Youth Board member

Outstanding LGBT Youth:

Bradley Steinmeyer and
Ace (aka Arielle)Eckstein, both OASOS leaders

Education Ally:

Alicia Upton, Health teacher at Frederick High School

Community Ally:

Mandy Blumreich, website designer for BVSSC and SVVSSC

Outstanding LGBT Activist:

Melissa Marsh, Program Director, OASOS, Boulder County Public Health

Denver Pride Festival and Parade

Saturday June 18th & Sunday June 19th, 9am - 5pm

Plan to march with PFLAGers from all over Colorado, Sunday from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Volunteers are needed to staff the PFLAG table on both Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 to 5:00pm Contact Kristen, kkinard@comcast.net to offer to do a two-hour staffing shift.

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.

May 10th
Appreciation Banquet

June 18th-19th
Denver Pride

Report on Family Acceptance Presentations

By Jean Hodges


Understanding the Family Acceptance Project research will change the paradigm of how PFLAG provides support. “Families love their children and want the best for them” is the premise of Caitlin Ryan’s work. Those families include parents who are not able to accept their child who may be gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. Her ten years of research provides a path toward acceptance for those parents. That was what made Caitlin Ryan’s presentations so exciting!

An estimated total of 250-275 persons heard Caitlin Ryan during her seven presentations in three days, April 2-4, during her recent visit to Boulder County and Denver. New parents and service providers who have never been to PFLAG came to hear Dr. Ryan speak in Lafayette, Longmont and Boulder. Maybe the most gratifying session was Monday night at Skyline High School. (See photo of some of the participants that included several families, one was three generations!)

We learned what our intuition already knew: that family rejection affects the physical and mental health of young LGBTs in ways that can have serious long-term risks and consequences. Dr. Ryan told us what Rejecting Behaviors include: physical abuse, verbal harassment or name calling; excluding access to LGBT friends, events and resources’ blaming the child when they are discriminated against, pressuring the child to be more or less masculine or feminine; telling the child God will punish them because they are gay telling the child that the parents are ashamed of them; making the child keep their LGBT identity a secret or not letting them talk about it. Her research also described what Accepting Behaviors look like which can be a road map to help parents change.

A key point is that when parents and caregivers can be even a little less rejecting and little more accepting that it makes a significant difference in reducing a young person’s risk for serious health problems, including suicide and HIV. The PFLAG Board Planning Retreat will be discussing an action plan to do outreach to parents using FAP materials. Volunteers are needed to be part of this plan because we learned that we can’t wait for parents to come to PFLAG; we need to go into the community to share this information. That is our challenge!

Profuse thanks go to the many people who made these events happen because this, with the financial support of the Open Door Fund, was indeed a collaborative community event.



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Policy Matters

by J. Rhodes Perry, Associate Director of Policy and Programs National PFLAG

Twelve Senators Write on Behalf of Bi-National Same-Sex Couples

On March 31, Representative Rush Holt (D-NJ) sent a letter to the Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano seeking a stop on deportations of married, same-sex bi-national couples until a final judicial decision can be reached on the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Following up on this correspondence, a significant group of senators joined the cause in April in support of Representative Holt's request to stop deportations stating that it was "the right thing to do."

IOM Releases Foundational LGBT Health Study

On March 31, the influential Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a groundbreaking report entitled, *The Health of LGBT People: Building a Foundation for Better Understanding*. The report recommended that researchers collect more data about the demographics of LGBT communities, improve methods for collecting and analyzing data, and increase participation of LGBT individuals in research. Building a more solid evidence base for LGBT health concerns will help bolster our advocacy for stronger families at the local, state and federal levels.

ENDA Reintroduced in Congress

On Wednesday, April 6, Rep. Barney Frank, introduced an inclusive version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), HR 1397, and on Wednesday, April 13, Senator Merkley introduced the Senate version of this bill (S. 811). The bill would make it illegal to fire, refuse to hire or refuse to promote an employee based on the person's sexual orientation or gender identity. Currently, it is legal to fire someone because of their sexual orientation in 29 states, and it is legal to fire someone because of their gender identity in 38 states. Clearly, the uniform employment protections ENDA would provide nationwide are vital and long overdue. PFLAG members are needed to educate over 100 new representatives and senators about how LGBT are affected by discrimination. Please take action by sending an email to your members of Congress today.

Uniting American Families Act Needs Your Action

Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Congressman Jerry Nadler (D-NY) have announced that they will reintroduce the Uniting American Families Act which allows gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Americans to sponsor our foreign-born spouses/partners and children for residency in the US. Passage of this bill would prevent more LGBT families from being torn apart or forced into exile to stay together. UAFA would end immigration discrimination against all LGBT families, regardless of where they live in the United States or abroad, and regardless of whether their local government or state recognizes marriage.

We need to increase our record number of cosponsors over last year's numbers Send a letter or phone them, add your testimonials, personal experiences and points of view – they are an extremely powerful way to let Congress know how critical passage of UAFA is for our families. Ask them to be original co-sponsors: Sen. Mark Udall: 202-224-5941; Sen. Michael Bennet: 202-224-5852; Rep. Jared Polis: 202-225-2161.

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

Exciting PFLAG National Convention Set

November 3rd - 6th, Washington DC

The PFLAG National Convention will take place in Washington, DC, from November 3-6. Previous conventions have been a strong part of PFLAG's past, and the 2011 Convention will be a strong step toward our work in the future.

Here are a few of the reasons you should attend:

Learn, learn, learn! Whether you are new to PFLAG or a seasoned member, there is always more to know about how to be a powerful advocate to move equality forward. The convention is the place to build on and develop your skills.

Outstanding speakers will give you the latest info on the most current topics. Betty DeGeneres has just been confirmed in addition to Caitlin Ryan!

Visit your representatives on Capitol Hill. No matter how many times you do it, there is something thrilling about walking the halls of Congress and having your voice heard.

Make connections. PFLAG chapters and members are an incredible source of information to each other. Past PFLAG National Conventions have sparked lasting relationships between chapters from coast to coast.

Have fun! It won't just be educational, it will be fun too. There will be lots of time to socialize and enjoy all that the DC area has to offer.

Meet and get to know the PFLAG National staff, National board members and Regional Directors. This is your chance to match faces to names and to share our ideas.

Registration before May 31 costs \$250 for members, then rises steeply, so register early! Go to www.pflag.org. Contact Richard Butler to apply for partial aid for our PFLAG Boulder volunteers. (rarbutler@comcast.net)

LGBT Lawmakers Help Move Equality Forward

Of America's 7,382 state legislators, only 85 are openly gay or lesbian. They are, however, playing an outside and often impassioned role when the agenda turns to recognizing same-sex couples with civil unions or full marriage rights:

- Gay state representatives were lead sponsors of civil union bills signed into law in Hawaii & Illinois.
- Gay lawmakers are co-sponsoring pending bills to legalize same-sex marriage in Maryland and Rhode Island.
- A gay senator in New York is preparing to be a lead sponsor of a marriage bill in his chamber.
- Two openly gay lawmakers in Colorado sponsored the Colorado Civil Unions bill.

Gay lawmakers have impact because they evoke personal themes that can sway wavering colleagues, and they can forge collegial relationships even with ideological foes through day-to-day professional and social interaction.

My Experience of the Open Door Fund Dinner
By Chloe Doherty, a 7th Grader at Manhattan Middle School

The Open Door Fund was held on Sunday April 10th, and I have to admit, not only was the St. Julien intimidating but the amount of people was also daunting. I was the first to arrive of four others, and as I wandered around I became increasingly more scared. Soon though, I realized these people were very friendly and happy to see me. When our party of five had gathered together, us kids stayed in a clump, forcing anyone who wanted to talk to us to come to us. We talked to many amazing people, and we all felt at ease.

The guest speaker, Megan Kennedy, was inspirational and insightful. Her movie, *Re-teaching Gender and Sexuality*, is certainly something that should go on everyone's To Watch list. Her time spent with LGBTQ youth has given her a window into the minds of bullied teenagers, and this is not something to be sniffed at. There should be more attention given to these children. The It Gets Better videos, while inspiring and helpful, are just the tip of the iceberg. LGBTQ youth should not have to wait until they are older to have a harassment-free life. Hopefully, we can achieve that.

After dinner there was an auction, and so much money was raised we couldn't even count it. The people, the food, the discussions, all were wonderful. I would love the chance to go again, and my friends also want to, but just this was enough to convince me there is hope. There are people fighting for LGBTQ youth, and I guarantee there will be change.

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THREE HUSBANDS"**

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**Make a Special Mother's Day Gift
to PFLAG National**

There is nothing like a mother's love, especially the love of a tenacious mother of a gay child. And for those of us who care about equality, there is no better way to celebrate this love than by supporting the work of National PFLAG. Donate at www.pflag.org.



Tell Everyone in Boulder, "Thanks from New Orleans!"

Our chapter showed "Faces and Facets" last night at our meeting. We had a panel of 3 trans people (m2f) to lead a discussion and answer questions. It was great! There was a lot of interest. One person from another organization wants to use the DVD for his group and another asked to borrow it for something to do with the City Council.

Signed,
Julie Thompson, President, PFLAG New Orleans



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.

Area Happenings Not To Be Missed

May 7- 8

Sound Circle, the 17-voice Boulder-based women's a cappella ensemble will collaborate with pianist Deborah Schmit-Lobix to offer "Take Me to the Moon". Performances on Saturday will be at 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm and Sunday at 3:00 at Columbine Unity Church, 8900 Arapahoe Ave. Buy tickets ahead because the show will sell out. Tickets at brownpapertickets.com / Info at 303-473-4525 or soundcirclesings.org.

On May 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Harmony Chorale will celebrate twenty years of memories with a program entitled: *Singing Our Mission*. Director Bill Loper and the chorus will welcome the return of former directors: Carol White, Dr. Vicki Burrichter, Lee Ann Bryce and an alumni chorus. The performance is at a new location: L2 Arts & Culture Center (1477 Columbine St, Denver). Tickets are \$20-\$22, adults; \$15/\$17 seniors, students. Order on line through Brown Paper tickets.

Wed., May 18th, 6 – 8 p.m.

Screening of the documentary, "Ballot Measure 9" followed by discussion looking back over the past 20 years of gay history led by Dr. Glenda Russell and Donna Red Wing at the Lafayette Public Library, 775 West. Baseline.

Through May 22

You can still see the special exhibit, "Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals, 1933-1945" in the art gallery of the Boulder Public Library.

May 26-27, 7 pm

Brad Anderson is directing a student production of "The Laramie Project" at Jefferson County Open School off of 10th and Wadsworth in Lakewood, Colorado. Brad received a Kathie Braun PFLAG Youth Leadership Scholarship and is currently student teaching at the school. He'd love for you to attend.

Wed., June 8, 7:00 pm

Facets 2011 OASOS Queer Youth Cabaret

Come to enjoy the talented OASOS youth share their talent in poetry, song and original acts at Old Main Theatre (across from Macky Auditorium). Free!

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