



PFLAG

Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

Next Meeting

Date: November 13, 7PM Program, 8PM Support
Program: A TRANS-Forming M2F "Happy" Ending
Support: Personal support, discussion about election results

Our speaker, BJ Kamigaki, has experienced a life-long struggle with gender identity. From contemplating suicide to the loss of her marriage and disassociation with some family members and many friends, Billie's compelling story, along with educational information, will help you understand the challenges faced by people who deal with transgender issues.

Local PFLAG News

Dec 9: PFLAG Annual Planning Retreat

The PFLAG Fort Collins/Northern Colorado chapter will hold its annual planning retreat on Dec 9, beginning at 8:45 AM. The event includes a light breakfast and will adjourn at noon.

We plan to review 2006 results and discuss goals for 2007, including projects that PFLAG will undertake and programs for the monthly meetings. We welcome your inputs. Please plan to attend the meeting at the conference room in Harmony Library, 5616 South Shields, Fort Collins.

RSVP: Julie Wilson, 667-5236, jw6804@aol.com

Election News

As of this morning (Nov 8) the election results that we were hoping for did not materialize. Referendum I was defeated. Amendment 43 passed. [\[more\]](#)

On the other hand, Democrats made good progress on both the state and national scene. That should mean less support for anti-gay legislation such as the Federal Marriage Amendment. [\[more\]](#)

Additionally, anti-gay legislation received much less support than two years ago. Arizona may have become the first state to reject an anti-gay marriage amendment. The assessment from National PFLAG to election night results was that "Equality Moves Forward in Election – But Not Enough to Rest." [\[PFLAG, CivilRights.org\]](#)

News of Local Interest

Nov 10, 7:30 PM: Evening of Sweet Indulgence

This event, a benefit for the Northern Colorado Aids Project, takes place at the Fort Collins Hilton, 425 West Prospect. Tickets are \$30/person. The evening features delectable desserts, champagne, live music by the Schoastic Trio, and a silent auction. Contact Lucas Walker, 970/484-4469 ext. 19 for more information.

Nov 11, 8:00 PM: SOGLBT-Sponsored Drag Show

The theme is "Radio: the best of the 80s, 90s & today". SOGLBT is the student organization for Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, and the Transgendered at Colorado State University. They invite you to dress in your best, decade-appropriate, gender-bending attire. The event takes place at Lory Student Center Commons.

Nov 12: People of Faith for Fairness Reception

People of Faith for Fairness is hosting a volunteer appreciation celebration at 7:30 PM, at Fort Collins Mennonite Fellowship, 300 E. Oak, Fort Collins. Dessert and refreshments will be served (feel free to bring a dessert to share if you like). They hope to have an informal program of uplifting freedom and liberation music, as well as provide an open mic and forum for people to express their thoughts and feelings about the election, and support one another in whatever grieving or celebration is needed.

News of Regional Interest

The article "A Mega-Scandal for a Mega-Church" reports on the newly breaking story about Ted Haggard, former pastor of the 14,000-member New Life Church in Colorado Springs. [\[Time Magazine, Nov 3\]](#)

David Kuo, author of the NYT best-selling book *Tempting Faith* says, "The evangelical obsession with homosexuality makes this especially ironic. For many evangelical leaders, anything related to homosexuality is this special, dark sin. But that's not what the Bible says. Really it's a sin like gossiping to your neighbor. Jesus doesn't even mention it at all." [\[Time Magazine, Nov 4\]](#)

Mel White, the founder of SoulForce, wrote the book *Stranger at the Gate*, which outlines Mel's personal experience with struggling to reconcile his faith and his knowledge of himself. Soulforce urges the GLBT community to show compassion for Haggard and accountability from the evangelical community. [\[more\]](#)

News of National/Global Interest

New Jersey's Supreme Court opened the door to gay marriage, ruling that homosexuals are entitled to the same rights as heterosexuals, but leaving it to lawmakers to legalize same-sex unions. [CNN, Oct 25] However, the ruling does not include actual equality. [Time Magazine, Oct 25] Support for banning gay marriage in New Jersey grew in the days after the state Supreme Court ruled that gay couples should have the same rights as married heterosexuals, according to a recent poll. [Newsday, Nov 2]

The PFLAG Weekly Update addresses New Jersey's court decision. Jody Huckaby writes, "The decision from the New Jersey Supreme Court provided all of us with a reaffirmation of the fact that equal rights are the true values upon which this country was founded." [PFLAG weekly update, Oct 26]

The Reading/Viewing Corner

- ◆ "When Not Seeing Is Believing" an article by Andrew Sullivan on the rise of fundamentalism and why embracing spiritual doubt is the key to defusing the tension between East and West [Time Magazine, Oct 2]
- ◆ "And on the Eighth Day Dr. Dobson Created Himself" [5280 Magazine, July]
- ◆ "James and the Giant Jihad" [5280 Magazine, August]
- ◆ "Out in Scripture" web site provides weekly commentary with a GLBT-friendly perspective [http://www.hrc.org/scripture]
- ◆ Take two minutes to listen to Terence sing about his two fathers [Two Fathers]

About PFLAG: A Refresher Course

Our Vision

We, the parents, families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, celebrate diversity and envision a society that embraces everyone, including those of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. Only with respect, dignity and equality for all will we reach our full potential as human beings, individually and collectively. PFLAG welcomes the participation and support of all who share in, and hope to realize this vision.

Our Mission

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender 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 equal civil rights. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

Our Strategic Goals

- I. Build the capacity of our organization at every level so that we may have all the resources, in the form of information, people and funding, necessary to move forward in our work with the greatest possible effect.
- II. Create a world in which our young people may grow up and be educated with freedom from fear of violence, bullying and other forms of discrimination, regardless of their real or perceived gender identity or sexual orientation or that of their families.
- III. Make our vision and our message accessible to the broadest range of ethnic and cultural communities, ending the isolation of families with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender family members within those communities.
- IV. Work toward full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons within their chosen communities of faith.
- V. Create a society in which all GLBT persons may openly and safely pursue the career path of their choice, and may be valued and encouraged to grow to their full potential in the workplace.
- VI. Create a society in which all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons may enjoy, in every aspect of their lives, full civil and legal equality and may participate fully in all the rights, privileges and obligations of full citizenship in this country.

We welcome the participation and support of all who share in our Vision and Mission and who hope to realize our goals.

MEETINGS:

2nd Monday each month, 6:45 pm
Plymouth Congregational Church
916 W. Prospect Rd.
Fort Collins, Colorado

CONTACTS:

Local chapter: 970.407.0300
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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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In addition to parents, families, friends, and GLBT people, we welcome anyone involved in the coming-out process.

We welcome anyone who supports the PFLAG mission of **SUPPORT, EDUCATION and ADVOCACY** for GLBT people.