



# PFLAG

## Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

### Next Meeting

**Date:** January 8, 7PM Program, 8PM Support  
**Program:** LGBT and Allies Staying Strong

Our program features Dr. Glenda M. Russell, a clinical psychologist from Boulder who specializes in LGBT and ally issues. She will share her research into the motives, costs, and rewards of working for LGBT rights.

After the recent election, Dr. Russell's perspectives on anti-LGBT politics will provide us with important insights on how we can best pull together as a community. Her message is targeted for both LGBT persons and allies. Please invite your friends to participate in this important discussion.

### Local PFLAG News

PFLAG Fort Collins/Northern Colorado held its annual planning retreat on December 9. Fifteen people attended the retreat. Our theme for 2007 will be "Family Voices for Equality" because we want to strengthen our voice in the community on all three PFLAG focus areas—support, education, and equality.

Our goals for next year include:

1. Increased outreach to schools, colleges, faith groups, service groups, and the general public
2. Work with Greeley to explore establishing a new PFLAG chapter
3. Work with our local schools to build safer schools for GLBT youth
4. Enhance support for those who come to PFLAG or contact PFLAG for help
5. Establish a speaker's bureau
6. Increase the volunteer base and the dues-paying membership

We also have a need for at least one new board member who is gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered. If you are willing to consider being a member of the PFLAG board of directors, please contact Julie Wilson, [jw6804@aol.com](mailto:jw6804@aol.com), (970) 667-5236.

### News of Local Interest

The Larimer County Office on Aging and the City of Fort Collins will be holding community discussion groups to help identify the gaps in services for the "older" LGBT community in Larimer County. The forums will be held on:

Editor: Julie Wilson

- Monday, January 8th, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- Tuesday, January 9th, from 1:00pm to 2:30pm
- Friday, January 12th, from 10:00am to 11:30am

At the Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Drive Fort Collins. Your input will help the City of Fort Collins and Larimer County identify the strengths, needs, challenges and expectations of LGBT elders in our community.

If you have any questions, please contact Tina Barker, (970) 498-6803, or Linda Rumney, (970) 498-6806. Both contacts work at the Larimer County Office on Aging.

### News of Regional Interest

From CAFÉ Lately, December 2006, Vol. 1, No. 12

What's on tomorrow's menu?

As the aftershocks subside from last month's election, as the pain of rejection begins to fade, as the need for further healing across the state of Colorado asserts itself, the future of CAFÉ itself is shrouded in the fog of disillusionment and fatigue. Your steering committee has met to stroke our collective psyches, share tales from the hustings, and plot next steps. Candid expressions of sadness, regret, blaming, hope, and determination were openly displayed. Lessons from the 1992 Amendment 2 loss were shared. One thing we all agreed upon—CAFÉ is not going to fold up its cabaret tent and go home.

Our community came together as never before during the twelve months of this campaign. From Ft. Collins to Durango, from Pueblo to Grand Junction, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, queer, intersexed, and questioning folks and their supporters gathered signatures, planted yard signs, made phone calls, knocked on strangers' doors, and drove voters to their voting place doors in the vain hope that Referendum 1 would pass and Amendment 43 would be defeated. The raw score of that effort—0 for 2—doesn't begin to do justice to what has been achieved. The coming legislative year will see rights for the gay community advance, despite the vote. Democrats widened their margins in both chambers of the state Assembly, notwithstanding their vote last year to put a vote on family equality on the November ballot. With the tectonic shift in the balance of power in Congress, the stentorian voices of our opponents have been severely muted, if

not stifled. The campaign for Referendum I heightened citizens' awareness of the fact that same-sex couples exist, that we want the same recognition of our relationships that they want for theirs, and that we will fight for our rights against the odds. We will not slip back into our closets, no matter how hard some may pray for it. The only question is: Can they hang on to their unreasonable fear and suspicion longer than we can hang on to our love?

A few months after the 1992 defeat, the gay community came together for a statewide meeting to discuss "Where do we go from here?" It was an opportunity for everyone's thoughts to be heard publicly. There was time to vent, time to grieve, time to share ideas for future action. Out of it came a rejuvenated, more focused movement.

CAFÉ would like to repeat that experience in late winter/early spring of 2007 with the active participation of you and other members of your organization in the planning and execution of a series of meetings across the state. We can only pull this off with full and broad engagement of people like you. We would like very much for you to add your voice to the initial discussion at our next general membership meeting on **Saturday, January 6, 2007, at 10 AM in The Center, 1050 Broadway, Denver.**

CAFÉ Lately is the monthly newsletter of the Colorado Alliance for Family Equality. CAFÉ is an organization of organizations, a coalition of GLBT and allied groups working to achieve civil marriage and family equality in Colorado. CAFÉ, founded in 2003, now has over thirty member organizations, including many churches. Individuals are welcome to attend our Membership Meetings, usually held on the first Saturday of the month at 10am at The Center, 1050 Broadway, Denver.

### **National PFLAG News**

On Wednesday, Dec 6, the Cheney family had the opportunity to share some good news with the public: Mary Cheney, lesbian daughter of Vice President Dick Cheney and his wife Lynne, is expecting a child. [[PFLAG News](#), Dec 7]

New Jersey continues to establish itself as one of the most progressive states in moving equality forward. Its legislators voted to officially establish civil unions for same-sex couples as well as pass a law that makes New

Jersey the third most populous state to outlaw discrimination based on gender identity or expression. [[PFLAG News](#), Dec 14]

Speaking of New Jersey, you really should watch this great NJ ad on marriage equality: <http://www.bluejersey.com/thinkequal/>

### **News of National/Global Interest**

Howard Dean, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, encourages LGBT persons to run for public office. This year, about 70 LGBT candidates won election at the state and local level. [[365Gay](#), Nov 19]

The Israeli Supreme Court has ordered its government to recognize same-sex marriages that are performed in other countries. [[Advocate](#), Nov 22]

Norway, together with 54 other countries, issued a statement requesting discussion and action on a significant human rights issue—human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity. [[ILGA Files](#), Dec 1]

The NGO (non-governmental organizations affiliated with the United Nations) commended Norway for its leadership, building on similar initiatives by Brazil, New Zealand and others. "It is hard to imagine that any State committed to human rights could disagree with the principle that no person should face death, torture or violence because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. We look forward to further dialogue with, and support from, those States which did not yet feel able to join the statement, but which share the concern of the international community at these systemic human rights abuses." [[ILGA Files](#), Dec 6]

### **The Reading/Viewing Corner**

- ◆ "When religion loses its credibility" by Oliver "Buzz" Thomas [[USA Today](#), Nov 19]
- ◆ Conservative Judaism approved a rabbinic opinion allowing ordination of gay and lesbian rabbis and sanctioning same-sex unions. [[The Jewish Daily Forward](#), Dec 6]
- ◆ Challenging the historic authority of the Archbishop of Canterbury as well as the Episcopal Church in the U.S., 21 American churches joined Nigeria's Anglican Church [[NY Times](#), Dec 25]

#### **MEETINGS:**

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

#### **CONTACTS:**

Local chapter: 970.407.0300  
Julie 970.667.5236  
Bev 970.484.0031  
Don 970.278.0261

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Web site: [www.pflagftc.org](http://www.pflagftc.org)  
Email: [info@pflagftc.org](mailto:info@pflagftc.org)  
Mail: 305 W Magnolia, PMB 117  
Fort Collins, CO 80521

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.