



# PFLAG

## Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

### Next Meeting

**Date:** March 12, 7PM Program, 8PM Support  
**Program:** "Coming Out of the Pulpit"

Prior to our program, we will have a short annual meeting.

Our program, "Coming Out of the Pulpit," features Lisa Miller, a former Presbyterian pastor, who will share her experience as a Lesbian pastor in a mainstream church.

Lisa Miller is Associate Director, University Counseling Center and Director, DAY (Drugs, Alcohol & You) Programs at Colorado State University. She also serves as an instructor in the Student Affairs and Higher Education master's program. Currently, she is working on a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership at CSU. Her research interests include students with substance abuse/dependency issues, women's issues, campus ecology, and the LGBT community.

### PFLAG Annual Meeting and News

Agenda:

- ◆ Introduction (President, Julie Wilson)
- ◆ Treasurers' Report (Treasurer, Beverly Webber)
- ◆ Announcements
- ◆ Election of Board
- ◆ Approval of revised by-laws

The nominating committee proposes the following slate:

- ◆ President: Julie Wilson (parent)
- ◆ Secretary: Jean Preslan (parent)
- ◆ Treasurer: Beverly Webber (parent)
- ◆ Safe Schools: Maria Swall
- ◆ At-Large: Don Preslan (parent)
- ◆ At-Large: Stewart Anderson / Jim Rath (job-shared position)

Christa Dinwoodie is retiring from the Board this year. She has been a Board member for many years. We accept her decision to retire from the Board with deep regret, but count on her on-going involvement with PFLAG in other capacities. Kenneth Camp is also retiring from the Board. He has agreed to continue as Webmaster.

We have several volunteers in other leadership roles:

- ◆ Trans Coordinator: Michelle Benzor-Marquez
- ◆ Webmaster: Kenneth Camp
- ◆ Librarian: Mareye Bullock
- ◆ Mailings and email: Jon Mendenhall

Editor: Julie Wilson

- ◆ Support Facilitator: Bob Calkins
- ◆ Interfaith Council Liaison: Nancy Mendenhall

We always welcome additional volunteers. Please consider how you can serve. It does not require a lot of time, and it can add so much to the group and to your own life. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED in volunteering in PFLAG, please let me know.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- ◆ Publicity—notify local newspapers and radio stations about upcoming PFLAG events
- ◆ Hospitality—organize PFLAG members to bring goodies to PFLAG meetings
- ◆ Greeters—help new attendees feel welcome and comfortable; follow up with them after the meeting
- ◆ Speaker's bureau—willingness to represent PFLAG and GLBT concerns at various speaking opportunities and community events
- ◆ Membership—track PFLAG members and send membership renewal requests

Check out PFLAG's information on the Colorado Gay Rodeo Association's web site. PFLAG is one of their 2007 [Charity Partners](#).

### News of Local Interest

**Mar 21:** Next Safe Schools Coalition meeting  
 PFLAG will host its next Safe Schools Coalition meeting on Wed, Mar 21, at Plymouth Congregational Church at 7:00 PM. Please join us and learn how you can get involved.

A new group is forming at First United Methodist Church for members of the lesbian and gay communities and their friends and family. The group meets at 6pm on Tuesdays in the Upper Room of the church at 1006 Stover on the corner of Stover and Elizabeth. They will be discussing the book We Were Baptized, Too by Marilyn Alexander and James Preston (books will be available at the meeting). If you are looking for a church home or just want to be part of this discussion, First United Methodist invites you to join them. Questions, contact Martha Conant at 227-5659.

### News of Regional Interest

**Very soon:** HB07-1330 SECOND PARENT ADOPTION OF A CHILD OF A SOLE LEGAL PARENT  
 HB07-1330 allows a child to be adopted by a specified second adult parent upon the written and verified consent of a single parent, if the child has no other legal parent. It

Send news to share and feedback to [jw6804@aol.com](mailto:jw6804@aol.com)

also allows the use of the same home study report in cases where the sole legal parent adopted the child within 6 months prior to the second adoption and the second adult parent was involved in that home study report. Go to [ERC's Web site](#) for more information.

**Mar 26:** Annual Equal Rights Colorado Lobby Day will take place at The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center of Colorado, 1050 Broadway, Denver (free metered parking on the Presidents Day holiday) from 8:00-1:30. Cost is \$10 per person and includes a continental breakfast. Learn about LGBT issues in this year's Colorado General Assembly session and how to effectively lobby your representatives in the legislature. Tour the capitol and contact your legislators. RSVP to Michael Brewer, [mbrewer@glbtcolorado.org](mailto:mbrewer@glbtcolorado.org), 303-733-7743 x105.

**May 19:** CAFÉ CommUNITY Summit  
Colorado Alliance for Family Equality is planning a statewide meeting on May 19, 8:30-3:30 at St. Andrew Methodist Church in Highlands Ranch. They hope to have broad participation from throughout the state.

## Survey Requests

Coleen Speno, GLBT Tobacco Consultant at the Lambda Community Center, is conducting a survey of GLBT smokers. You are invited to participate in the GLBT Tobacco Needs Assessment. Smokers, let your voice be heard! Take the survey at [www.smokefreeglbt.org/](http://www.smokefreeglbt.org/). For more information, contact Coleen at [cspeno@lambdacenter.org](mailto:cspeno@lambdacenter.org).

Kimberly Garland ([kgarland@email.smith.edu](mailto:kgarland@email.smith.edu)) of Smith College School for Social Work is seeking LGBT military veterans of recent conflicts to participate in an online survey:  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=74423133653>

Christina De Roulhac ([cderoulh@ucla.edu](mailto:cderoulh@ucla.edu)) and Christina Natale ([cnatale18@ucla.edu](mailto:cnatale18@ucla.edu)) at UCLA are seeking heterosexual participants for a study of societal attitudes: [www.ucla-attitudes-study.com](http://www.ucla-attitudes-study.com).

## News of National Interest

Where will you be **Oct 10-14, 2007**? PFLAG invites you to the national PFLAG National Convention to be held near Washington, D.C. Mark your calendars now!

John Amaechi has become the first former NBA player to publicly say he's gay. The reaction to Amaechi's announcement varied widely, from indifference to homophobic to ignorant. [[Washington Post](#), Feb 9]  
Tim Hardaway was subsequently banished from All-Star weekend in Las Vegas because of his anti-gay remarks. [[Sports Illustrated](#), Feb 15]

Depending on whom you ask, it's debatable whether it should be harder to come out at the University of Georgia

or on a hockey team. Joey Fisher did both. [[Outsports Campus](#), Feb 21]

A new Washington-based, national organization for Latino gays has formed and announced its board of directors. The group's first meeting is tentatively planned for April. Unid@s board member Pedro Julio Serrano describes the organization as a grassroots, national advocacy group that will function as a liaison between resource providers and local organizations. [[Washington Blade](#), Feb 9]

Civil unions began in New Jersey in February. For couples who are not already in civil unions from other states, there is a 72-hour waiting period after applying for a license, just like with marriages. [[ABC News](#), Feb 19]

Barbara Gittings, a seminal gay activist, died on Sunday, February 18. She was 75 and resided in Wilmington, Delaware. Her death was announced by her partner of 46 years, Kay Tobin Lahusen. The Metropolitan Community Churches has posted a tribute to her life. [[MCC](#), Feb 26]

## News of International Interest

The authorities in Nepal have granted a man who dresses and behaves as a woman both male and female citizenship. The unprecedented legal status was given to 40-year-old Chanda Musalman. [[BBC News](#), Feb 4]

For the very first time, an official United Nations human rights report released last week has confirmed the "violent campaigns" against Iraqi gays and the "assassinations of homosexuals in Iraq." [[Gay City News](#), Jan 25]

## Building Safer Schools

USA Today ran a special about gay teens and the fact that they are coming out earlier to peers and family. [[USA Today](#), Feb 11] The articles include information about Gay-Straight Alliances, personal stories, Q&A. A subsequent letter to the editor pointed out the importance of PFLAG in helping youth. [[USA Today](#), scroll to letter]

The story of Michael Anthony Castro is the story of how one person can make a big difference, even in a very short life. "I never had the pleasure of meeting Anthony, but when I read about his story, tears filled my eyes -- in large part because he died so young, but also because he lived so courageously. Michael Anthony Castro, a three-sport star athlete and most popular kid in school, was openly gay. He came out when he was a sophomore. [[ESPN.com](#), Jan 30]

## GLBT Workplace Rights

[GLBTWorkplace.com](http://GLBTWorkplace.com) is seeking stories from straight allies about your experiences in GLBT employee resource groups, why you joined, how you have benefited, bridges that have been built, etc.

## Religion and Homosexuality

In January, the first National Transgender Religious Summit was held at the Pacific School of Religion, an

Send news to share and feedback to [jw6804@aol.com](mailto:jw6804@aol.com)

ecumenical seminary that prepares students for ordination in the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church and the Disciples of Christ. The conference, open to members of all faith traditions, was a joint project of the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) in Washington, D.C., and the Pacific School's own Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry (CLGS). Sixty-five religious leaders attended, from Lutheran, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Unitarian, Quaker, Jewish and Agnostic communities across the country. On the agenda: denominational policy and outreach to transgender communities. [[Newsweek](#), [Associated Baptist Press](#), [Seattle Gay News](#), Jan 23]

The February 2007 *In the Life* news magazine presents "THE PRINCIPLES OF YOUTH," an episode dedicated entirely to stories about LGBT youth. Hosted by Grammy® award-winning songwriter and performer Ani DiFranco, the episode gives voice to an often unheard and overlooked population—gay youth. One of the segments, "I am Emily" is a profound witness to what our children continue to have to face. Emily is a 15-year-old faithful Christian. This is a powerful report on what happened when she came out to her family, friends, school, community, and church in a rural town in Iowa. Another episode, "Miss Elizabeth Latex" explores the transgender experience (M2F) from a Latino perspective. [[In the Life](#)]

In St. Paul, Minnesota, an evangelical pastor took a stand against anti-GLBT politics. As a result, about 1/5 of the congregation left. However, the pastor's feedback ran 99 to 1 passionately in favor of his position. See "Disowning Conservative Politics, Evangelical Pastor Rattles Flock" [[NY Times](#), Jul 30, 2006].

In an excellent follow-up to her NY Times article, you can hear Laurie Goodstein's Oct 16, 2006, lecture/podcast dealing with evangelical disillusionment in political engagement (given at Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs). [[University Channel](#)]

### Reading/Viewing Corner

- ◆ In Newsweek's My Turn, Nadine Chaffee writes about her gay son's decision for love over country and his upcoming immigration to Canada. She states, "Our reluctance to accept gay marriage forces people to move away from their homes and their families." [[Newsweek](#), Feb 5]
- ◆ The Spitzer Study of Ex-Gays: Flaws and Abuse – [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#) [posted Feb 1]
- ◆ "Come Out, Come Out, Wherever You Are" by Dr. Rick Pimental-Habib, a psychotherapist, minister, and educator, in private practice in Chattanooga [[Chattanooga Pulse](#), Feb 21]

## Support PFLAG Fort Collins / Northern Colorado—Become a Member

A membership in PFLAG extends a helping hand to families who have gay members, provides educational materials for families and the public, and offers a family voice that stands for equality and justice for all human beings. You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from January 1, 2007, to December 31, 2007.

Name(s) of Member(s): _____	_____ Local Only	\$10
_____	_____ Regular Member	\$30
Address: _____	_____ Supporting Member—Silver	\$45
City: _____	_____ Supporting Member—Gold	\$75
State: _____ Zip Code: _____	_____ Supporting Member—Platinum	\$100
Home Phone: _____	_____ Donation _____	
Other Phone: _____	_____ Email list only (no membership)	
Email: _____		

Make checks payable to **PFLAG Fort Collins** and mail to 305 West Magnolia, PMB 117, Fort Collins, CO 80521. Membership fees and contributions are tax deductible. All information will remain confidential. PFLAG is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization.

#### 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.

## What year is it?

### Why do we waste so much time fighting the diversity within each of us?

The following story has been shared with PFLAG Fort Collins/Northern Colorado. The incident occurred last Halloween in Fort Collins at the Cinemark Theaters.

#### Maria writes:

It's Halloween night; the boys are off to enjoy a movie; I settle down with the phone within reach because my son is not home and I guess no matter how old he is I will always be a "mom". I am not worried because they are great young men, soft spoken, kind, well mannered and definitely not out with trouble on their minds. I guess I need to look beyond them, at the hate of others. At approximately 12:15 a.m. I am startled out of a light sleep with a phone call; the boys are very upset and ask if I would be up when they get home – Tony gives me an abbreviated version of the story and of course, I am there to give them support and love when they arrive, thank God safely, home. I have learned from this incident that it is not SAFE for young men and women who God chose to create with a "not mainstream" sexuality. My son is gay...and here is a story of the first and hopefully very isolated incident that these young men should have never had to experience....

I had hoped we had moved on from the hate that killed Matthew Shepard in 1998...But I guess I am wrong.

---

#### Tony writes:

My boyfriend and I went to Cinemark 16 in Fort Collins, Colorado to see "The Grudge 2" on Halloween night.

We were one of about 8 customers in the auditorium.

About 20 minutes into the movie, a man came over to our seats, stood very menacingly in front of us and says that he finds "faggots" disgusting and if we did not leave, he would take us outside and kill us.

I immediately went out to get a manager and waited for her in the hall outside the auditorium. She and another individual came and by that time, the man was also outside of the theater. This man reeked of alcohol, his eyes were bloodshot and it was clear that he was intoxicated.

The manager (with a nametag which I believe said Ms. Saenz) never introduced herself or really did anything to aid in the situation. The only thing she said is that we should all try to get along. The man kept spouting off about how "he lived in Louisiana for years and never had to put up with fags" "fags are almost as bad as a woman" and that "fags are disgusting". I suggested to the man that we should just go back in; he sit at one end of the room, we sit at the other end. He stated that he would not even be in the same building as faggots.

The manager ended up sending my boyfriend and me back in and a minute or so later, sent the man back in. I guess the manager took this time to make up her mind to side with an intoxicated hateful man.

A couple minutes after that, the manager came in and told us that she would have to ask us to leave immediately as the man visited the theater about 5 times a week and she did not want anyone or anything to disturb him. I could not imagine that CINEMARK would support hate. May I also state that my family and I have frequented CINEMARK THEATERS about 2-3 times a month but I can assure you that will change.

We then left without an apology or offer to refund our money. We were very shaken up and disturbed because neither of us had ever been in such a situation. As we went out, no management or staff made sure we got to our car safely. Keep in mind this man threatened to kill us and this was told to the manager.

I would like to note that we were not moving around, being loud, making out or even sitting close to this man. He went out of his way to come over and disturb us.

---

#### Maria writes:

All my family, friends and acquaintances will be encouraged by me not to patronize CINEMARK THEATERS until they resolve their issues in their choice and training of theater managers. I also believe CENEMARK should make a public statement on just how they feel about the large gay community throughout the country that financially supports CINEMARK.