



# PFLAG

## Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

### Next Meeting

**Date:** April 9, 7 PM Program, 8 PM Support

**Program:** The Coming Out Process—How Schools Can Support GLBT Youth

Dr Laurie Carlson will talk about some new national initiatives to help GLBT youth in school and how Colorado State University trains school counselors. Her presentation will give us the opportunity to better understand the coming out process and how schools can better support GLBT youth.

Dr. Carlson holds a Ph.D. in counselor education from the University of Arkansas and is an associate professor at Colorado State University, where she has trained school counselors since 2000. Laurie has written for a number of books and journals related to children and education. She recently had a book released titled *Critical Incidents in Counseling Children*. Laurie served for several years as the co-chair of ACA's Sexual Minority Youth Taskforce and is one of 12 counseling professionals serving as national trainers for the APA/CDC-DASH Healthy Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Student Project.

### PFLAG Volunteers Needed

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

### Upcoming Local Events

**April 9-14, 18:** CSU's Transgender, Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian Awareness Days (TBGLAD)  
Contact DJ Lawrence, 970-227-5293 for information.

**April 14:** Equality Brewfest

The Lambda Community Center is sponsoring its second annual Equality Brewfest. The event takes place from 7:00-10:00 PM on April 14 at Odell Brewing Company,

800 E. Lincoln Avenue, Fort Collins. Tickets cost \$25. For more information, call 970-221-3247.

**April 17:** Not In Our Town Community Forum  
Fort Collins has no room for racism, hate or violence. On Tuesday, April 17, Jeffrey Sizer of the Poudre School District will be the keynote speaker, presenting "Strategies on Bullying and Harassment Prevention". The forum will be held at Community of Christ Community Center, 220 East Oak Street, Fort Collins at 7:00-8:30 p.m. Forum attendees will actively participate in small groups dealing with prevention, response and stories to refute hate in our community.

**May 20:** End of the School Year Picnic  
Together with Lambda Community Center and FortPride, PFLAG is sponsoring an end-of-school-year picnic for all GSAs, GLBTQ youth, faculty sponsors and allies. The picnic will be held at Fossil Creek Lake Pavillion, 5821 South Lemay Avenue, Fort Collins, 1:00-4:00.

**Jun 16:** Fort Collins Pride in the Park

### News of Local Interest

On April 4, the Fort Collins Coloradoan ran a Soapbox article by Elaine Boni on behalf of the Fort Collins Human Relations Commission. The article, "HRC, police unite to reduce hate crimes" speaks to the efforts to make Fort Collins a safer place for everyone. [[more](#)]

### News of Regional Interest

**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. A separate email sent to the Fort Collins PFLAG mailing list provided more detail.

**Jun 23-24:** Denver Pridefest

### National PFLAG News

**April 10:** Tune in to *The Oprah Winfrey Show* on Tuesday, April 10 to see PFLAG National's Executive Director Jody Huckaby! Jody, along with several of his siblings, will be featured in one of the segments on Tuesday's show. The topic is "Super Siblings" and the Huckaby clan will talk about their experiences as four of eight children came out as gay. While the show is not primarily about PFLAG, it will be a great opportunity for

visibility and to get the message out that our families, regardless of our differences and challenges, know that what matters is unconditional love and keeping families together.

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!

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

Google has implemented a new reverse phone directory search. If you go to Google and type in your phone number in this format (555-555-1212), you will see your name, address, and a link to MapQuest to find your home. If you have privacy concerns about this feature, simply click on the link to your phone number and then click on the removal form. Removal takes 48 hours.

Upscale New York City-based discount apparel chain Loehmann's has agreed to add "gender identity and gender expression" to its corporate non-discrimination policy as part of an agreement ending a discrimination complaint against the company by New York transsexual woman. In addition to adding trans people to the company's non-discrimination policy Loehmann's has adopted a policy allowing shoppers to use fitting rooms, restrooms and other store facilities that are consistent with their gender identity or gender expression. [[365Gay.com](http://365Gay.com), Feb 15]

CNN featured a story about an Army recruiter whose anti-gay rhetoric was rather extreme. [[The Raw Story video](#), Apr 4]

### **Advocacy—National**

A reshaped Congress may pass the first major federal gay-rights bills. The bills under consideration are:

- ◆ A hate-crimes bill that would cover offenses motivated by anti-gay bias
- ◆ A measure that would outlaw workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation (Employment Non-Discrimination Act)
- ◆ A measure to repeal the "don't ask, don't tell" policy that bans openly gay and lesbian Americans from serving in the military

Track these issues and contact your legislator if you want to influence the outcome.

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

### **Advocacy—Colorado**

The Colorado State Senate will be considering HBO7-1330: Second Parent Adoption of a Child of a Sole Legal Parent. This bill has already passed in the House. Equal Rights Colorado expects the opposition to actively mobilize and work hard to defeat this important legislation. Please contact your senator now. [[more](#)]

### **Web Site for Youth**

Check out Youth Guardian Services at <http://www.youth-guard.org/>. They provide internet services and resources to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and supportive youth.

### **Workplace Equality**

"Becoming Susan Shouldn't Cost Steve His Job"—In Largo, FL, the city manager lost his job because of transitioning from male to female. Earlier, Julie Nemecek of Michigan lost her job at Spring Arbor University, which said her sex change is "inconsistent with the Christian faith." Congress could change this by expanding ENDA to protect transgender workers. [[AlterNet](#), Mar 12]

### **Religion and Homosexuality**

In Atlanta, a clerical jury of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America voted to remove Pastor Bradley Schmeling from the ELCA clergy roster by Aug. 15, 2007 [[Southern Voice](#), Feb 9]

In Independence, Missouri, the delegates to the Community of Christ World Conference voted overwhelmingly to add a passage to church doctrine that, among other things, says scripture should not be interpreted in ways that lead to discrimination. [[more](#)]

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

- ◆ In the Life "Leading Ladies" feature <http://www.itl.tv/inthelife/episodes/?episode=51>
- ◆ "Religious right's reign about over" by Bonnie Erbe [[Seattle PI](#), Apr 2]
- ◆ "Homosexual Tendencies: How the H Word leads to more hatred against LGBT folks"—changing terminology increases support for equality according to surveys [[New York Blade editorial](#), Mar 30]
- ◆ PFLAG member Paul Hesson's published letter about Focus on the Family [[Denver Post](#), Feb 23, scroll down]

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.