



# PFLAG

## Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

### Next Meeting

**Date:** May 7, 7 PM Program, 8 PM Support  
**Program:** *Just Call Me Kade* video

Please join us in viewing and discussing this video about the challenges our transgender friends and family members face. Stewart Anderson, a new board member, will facilitate the discussion

About the video: "Kade Farlow Collins is an FTM (female-to-male transgender) young person residing in Tucson, Arizona. This documentary tells the story of Kade's transition and the issues faced by Kade and his family, who agreed to have their lives documented in order to bring awareness to the subject of transgender identity." Running time: 26 minutes.

### PFLAG Volunteers Needed

PFLAG needs volunteers for three upcoming events:

1. PFLAG's booth at Fort Collins Pride in the Park on June 16
2. PFLAG's booth at Denver Pridefest on June 23-24
3. PFLAG's booth at the national conference of the American School Counselor Association, Colorado Convention Center, Denver, on June 24-25

Please contact Julie Wilson if you can help with these events ([jw6804@aol.com](mailto:jw6804@aol.com), 667-5236).

Local 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

**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 Pavilion, 5821 South Lemay Avenue, Fort Collins, 1:00-4:00.

**May 30, 5:00 PM:** Safe Schools coalition meeting  
 Please join us for a Safe Schools coalition meeting at Plymouth Congregational Church. The meeting features Jean Hodges, who has been instrumental in Boulder Schools' process of working toward Safe Schools. Jean will provide us with some guidance as we proceed. Jean has a lot of wisdom gained from their experience.

**Jun 16, 10-5:** Fort Collins Pride in the Park  
 Presented by Lambda Community Center, Pride in the Park will be held in the Civic Center Park in Fort Collins this year.

### Upcoming Regional Events

**May 12:** Queer Prom  
 Queer Prom 2007 is scheduled for May 12th, from 8p-12a at the Tivoli Turnhalle Ballroom on Denver's Auraria Campus. Youth ages 12-21 can purchase tickets and receive more information [The Center](#).

**May 15:** National Day of Action for Workplace Equality  
 May 15 is the first national day of action to advance workplace fairness for LGBT people and people with HIV. Dr. Glenda Russell (PFLAG's featured speaker last January) will speak on the topic of "Heterosexual Allies and Workplace Equality". The event will take place at The Gill Foundation, 2215 Market Street, Denver, from 6-8 PM. For more information, see <http://www.lambdalegal.org/clockin>.

**May 17:** Equal Rights Colorado House Party  
 Equal Rights Colorado will be hosting its annual, end-of-session spring [House Party](#) on Thursday, May 17 from 5:30-7:30 PM, and invites you to join the celebration! Tim Gill has pledged up to \$10,000 in matching funds for every dollar you donate to ERC during this fund raising celebration. Chris Meza and Brian Jacobson have volunteered to host the event at their beautiful home and gardens, located at 1625 Monaco Parkway, Denver. Partygoers can park on Leyden or 16th Street. Beer, wine, soft drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres are provided.

**May 19:** CAFÉ CommUNITY Summit  
 ■ **Objectives:** To connect our diverse gbt community; to work together to create social change; to advance legislative actions, civil rights, and ourselves as individuals; to create healthy and safe environments

for all ages of glbt folk; to bridge our differences with those faith communities willing to meet us halfway; and to learn from our past and move forward in new directions.

- **Keynote Speaker:** Benjamin Reynolds, former pastor of an African-American Baptist church in Colorado Springs who resigned when he came out as a gay man. Benjamin has a Master of Divinity from Iliff Theological School and spoke at a rally on the steps of the Denver City and County Building for Referendum I last fall.
- **Program tracks:** Diversity (promoting an appreciation for and cooperation with transgender individuals and people of color); Legislative/Legal: Health & Safety; The Movement: Past, Present, and Future; and Communities of Faith
- **Breakout Sessions** (confirmed): Legislative update (ERC); Gender Identity Center; Safe Schools/Anti-violence (PFLAG); Beyond Marriage (Soulforce); Peace and Justice (Colorado Progressive Coalition); Communities of Faith (The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado).
- **Date:** Saturday, May 19, 2007, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM
- Box lunch, coffee and light snacks will be provided
- Attendance is FREE (please thank the sponsors)
- **Venue:** St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 3350 White Bay Drive (9300 block of S. University Blvd., three miles south of C-470), Highlands Ranch, CO, 80126. 303-794-2683.
- **Registration:** Please register by May 11, 2007. Contact Judith Gooden at CAFESummit@aol.com or Chris Hubble at 303-482-1690.
- If you would like to help with the planning or share your ideas related to the Summit, please notify one of the co-chairs, Karen Kellen ([kark1022@msn.com](mailto:kark1022@msn.com)) or Lewis Thompson ([ljt236@aol.com](mailto:ljt236@aol.com)).

#### May 26: Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters meeting

The Spring Quarterly meeting of the Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters will be held in Durango on May 26. Any PFLAG member is welcome to attend. The agenda will include the following business:

- Report from Jean Hodges on the Regional Director's May 3-5 meeting in Washington, D.C.
- Organize for the June 23-24 Pride Fest
- Collaborate on staffing the National School Counselors Association Conference June 23-25 at the Colorado Convention Center, Denver
- Chapter Reports
- Report on outcomes of the CAFE CommUNITY Summit held on May 19th
- Discussion about how to increase PFLAG meeting attendance and outreach involvement
- Viewing "Fish Can't Fly", a video containing conversations about God and struggling to be gay

#### Jun 23-24: Denver Pridefest

The Center's PrideFest, the annual parade and celebration commemorating the launch of the modern Editor: Julie Wilson

gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) movement for civil rights, is set for Saturday and Sunday, June 23 and June 24 in Denver's Civic Center Park. Sunday's activities start with the biggest and most colorful PrideFest tradition, the Parade, which begins at 9:30 a.m. in Cheesman Park. **Please consider marching with PFLAG.** If you plan to participate, contact Julie Wilson, 970.667.5236. For more information, see <http://www.denverpridefest.org/>.

### Transgender in the News

On Apr 27, ABC's 20/20 devoted the entire program to three transgender youth. The program, entitled "My Secret Self: A Story of Transgender Children" had three segments. You can view portions of the show and read transcripts on the web:

1. [I'm a Girl—Understanding Transgender Children](#)
2. [Born With the Wrong Body](#)
3. [I Want to be Seen as Male](#)

One of the families in the 20/20 episode is active in PFLAG. Additionally, she has created a foundation, the TransKids Purple Rainbow Foundation, to help enhance the future lives of TransKids by educating schools, peers, places of worship, the medical community, government bodies, and society in general, in an effort to seek fair and equal treatment of all transyouth. For more information, see [www.transkidspurplerainbow.org](http://www.transkidspurplerainbow.org).

At the LA Times, a well-known sports writer named Mike Penner announced that when he returns from vacation, he will be Christine. [\[more\]](#)

### Safe Schools

Kevin Naff, an editor with the Washington Blade wrote an interesting editorial about how things have changed since he was in high school. The article touches on PFLAG, GSA's, equal rights, and many other topics of interest. [\[Washington Blade, Mar 30\]](#)

### GLBT-Friendly Greeting Cards

National PFLAG is proud to announce a new corporate supporter, Open Closet. Open Closet offers a family-friendly selection of cards for many occasions whether it is "Congratulations" on an adoption by two gay parents or a "Happy Birthday" card from a child's two Mommies or Daddies. From Grandma in Iowa...to gay families in West Hollywood...their selection offers everyone the opportunity to share their best wishes with loves ones. You can visit Open Closet online at [www.opencloset.org](http://www.opencloset.org).

### National PFLAG News

#### Plan Now To Attend National PFLAG Conference

The theme of PFLAG's 20th national convention is Family Voices: Moving Equality Forward. Held from October 11-14, 2007, at the Hilton McLean Tyson's Corner in McLean, Virginia, just outside of Washington, D.C., some 1,000 members and supporters from across the United States are anticipated to convene.

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

**Reasons to attend** for any PFLAG and family members:

- ◆ Exciting keynote speakers
- ◆ More than 50 dynamic workshops and training sessions
- ◆ Launch of the Straight for Equality program of outreach to allies
- ◆ Networking opportunities—meet people from all over the country
- ◆ Lobby legislators on Capitol Hill on May 11
- ◆ See the national's Capitol—optional night-time tour

**Registration costs:** Before June 1, PFLAG member, \$240 (includes reception, luncheon and banquet); (Cost increases as follows: June 1-Sept. 7, \$300; Sept. 8-Oct. 7, \$350; after Oct. 7, \$375.) Cost for Spouse/partner/family member and student rate, \$215 by June 1 and incremental raises to \$300 by Oct. 8. [Register on line.](#)

**Convention hotel:** Hilton McLean Tyson's Corner offers a special PFLAG discount rate of \$109/night plus tax whether it is single, double, triple or quad room. This rate applies three days before or after the convention for those who want to take advantage of touring D.C. The hotel is near airports and excellent Metro system into D.C. Book reservations at 703-847-5000. Mention PFLAG to get the special rate.

**News of National/Global Interest**

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act (LLEHCPA), legislation that would extend federal law to cover crimes motivated by hatred for people based on their gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. LLEHCPA was introduced into the House of Representatives as H.R. 1592, and passed with a vote of 237-180. President Bush has threatened to veto this legislation if it passes in the Senate. [\[cbc.ca, May 3\]](#)

In Indiana, a teacher's job is on the line for allowing an opinion column to run in the school's newspaper. The column advocated tolerance for people "different than you." [\[Advocate, Apr 24\]](#)

In New York, Governor Eliot Spitzer plans to introduce a bill in the coming weeks to legalize same-sex marriage, his spokeswoman announced, a move that would propel New York to the forefront of one of the most contentious issues in politics. If Mr. Spitzer does propose a bill, it is unclear how much muscle he will be willing—or able—to put behind it. [\[NY Times, Apr 23, link no longer works\]](#)

A victory against discrimination—The Southern Poverty Law Center brought a civil suit against four white men who were responsible for the brutal attack on Billy Ray Johnson, a mentally challenged black man. In the criminal trial, the men received very minor consequences for their actions. In the civil trial, the jury awarded \$9 million. [\[Texarkana Gazette\]](#)

In Georgia, a judge not only halted a Lesbian adoption, he put the child in foster care and put the Lesbian adoptive mother in jail. The judge supported his actions by interpreting the Georgia ban on same-sex marriage to also be a ban on single parent adoptions if the adoptive parent is in a same-sex relationship. [\[Southern Voice, Apr 11\]](#)

**Civil Unions—Are They Equal?**

Residents of New Jersey are finding that the new civil union law has not provided true equality. Problems include:

- Denial of health insurance coverage
- Denial of pension benefits
- Taxable health benefits
- Denial of benefits when the plans are federally funded
- Signing up females as male because the form doesn't allow for same gender, resulting in denial of female services such as a mammogram

The NJ court declared that the state's Constitution "guarantees that every statutory right and benefit conferred to heterosexual couples through civil marriage must be made available to committed same-sex couples." Based on the early data, the civil union law does not seem to be fulfilling this ruling. [\[NY Times, Apr 13, link no longer works\]](#)

**Workplace Equality**

Take action now to help end workplace discrimination. See national [PFLAG's information on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act](#) (ENDA). PFLAG encourages you to take a moment and write to your elected officials requesting their support for ENDA. To help you, you can download and print postcards for the cause.

Colorado is also addressing ENDA. To read about the current status of SB07-25, check the [Equal Rights Colorado action alerts.](#)

**PFLAG Advocacy**

A new feature on the PFLAG National website will help you start taking action on issues that help move equality forward. Use the [PFLAG 5-Minute Activist](#) feature to send letters to legislators in just a few minutes. Subscribe to receive PFLAG Action Alerts by providing your information on the [e-list sign-up page.](#)

**Religion and Homosexuality**

The HRC-sponsored Clergy Call for Justice and Equality was a huge success. More than 220 religious leaders from around the country and from every faith tradition spoke of their support for the Matthew Shepard Act and ENDA. [\[HRC, 365gay.com, Apr 17\]](#)

Responding to an ultimatum from the leaders of the worldwide Anglican Communion, bishops of the Episcopal Church have rejected a key demand to create  
Send news to share and feedback to [jw6804@aol.com](mailto:jw6804@aol.com)

a parallel leadership structure to serve the conservative minority of Episcopalians who oppose their church's liberal stand on homosexuality. [[NY Times](#), Mar 21, link no longer works]

Fortunate Families, an organization of Catholic families with lesbian daughters and gay sons wrote a letter to all U.S. Catholic bishops in response to the document, *Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination: Guidelines for Pastoral Care*. The web site now contains responses from 14 bishops, some supportive and some not. [[more](#)]

PFLAG's April newsletter contained an article about Pastor Bradley Schmeling who is in a committed same-sex relationship. The case is now being appealed within the ELCA. [[Info from St John's Church](#), info from [Lutherans Concerned/North America](#)]

### ***Moving Beyond Ex-Gay***

From June 26 - July 1, 2007, the Exodus International Freedom Conference will be in Irvine, California, promoting the false message that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people are disordered, sinful, and in need of change. In response, concerned citizens, mental health professionals, clergy, survivors of ex-gay ministries, and former directors of ex-gay programs from around the world will converge in peaceful solidarity for the Ex-Gay Survivor's Conference in Irvine, California, June 29 - July 1, 2007. Soulforce, BeyondExGay.com, and the LGBT Resource Center at the University of California-Irvine are proud to present this interactive, community-building conference. This conference is for everyone. [[Get more information here.](#)]

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

- ◆ "Former Christian Right Homophobe Sees the Error of His Ways" by Pam Spaulding [[AlterNet](#), Mar 30]
- ◆ "Gay People are People Like Anyone Else" by Pamela K. Taylor, co-founder of Muslims for Progressive Values [[washingtonpost.com](#), Mar 5]
- ◆ "PTA needs to clear air and minds" by Rebecca Walsh [[Salt Lake Tribune](#), Apr 12]
- ◆ In "The Real Sodomites" Scott Horton quotes a reform tradition rabbi, Marc Dworkin. The rabbi provides a review of the Sodom and Gomorrah story, including an accurate definition of a sodomite—"They are those among us who have a corrupted sense of justice, who demonize and abuse the outsider, who pronounce righteous pieties but whose conduct reflects a thorough contempt for one of the most fundamental lessons of scripture: of the sanctity of human life and our responsibility to treat all our fellow humans with dignity and respect." [[Harper's Magazine](#), Apr 18]
- ◆ PFLAG's executive director, Jody Huckaby, and his seven siblings were featured on the Oprah Winfrey show for national siblings week. What makes Jody's family unique? Four of the eight siblings are gay. [[more](#)]

#### **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.