



PFLAG

Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

Next Meeting

Date: July 9, 7 PM Program, 8 PM Support
Program: Reparative Therapy—Just Say No

Our program features Jim East, an evangelical, charismatic Christian, who personally experienced reparative therapy. Jim writes: "While the general manager of a conservative religious radio station in Maryland, I began to consider that God could embrace me as both a Christian and a homosexual. But, before I could accept my orientation and quit fighting it, I needed to know if it were possible to change. I began attending a reparative therapy group in Philadelphia. Once a week, for nine months, I drove four hours, each way to go to these sessions. ... Reparative Therapy focuses on behavior...because it cannot change orientation, and the result is that it encourages people to live lives of disconnect, dishonesty and discord. I was in my late 30's before I finally accepted myself as I am. I credit the superficiality of Reparative Therapy and the deceptions of the Religious Right for helping me to see that God loves me 'Just as I Am.'"

Congratulations Jake!

Congratulations to Jake Joseph, regional recipient of a PFLAG \$1000 scholarship. Jake is a graduate of Rocky Mountain High School and plans to attend Grinnell College in Iowa next year.

Quotes from Jake's scholarship essay:

"I think of being gay as a being a piece of a puzzle that makes up the whole of who I am. I don't let people define me by it, nor do I allow them to discount it."

"From the first time my little scared voice squeaked out the words 'I am gay,' to today when I have no shame giving sermons about it in front of my congregation during Youth Sunday, I have been on a mission to make change a reality."

"I believe that hatred stems from ignorance, and that said ignorance cannot be reversed without standing firm with conviction."

"From being Student of the Quarter to being Student Most Likely to Go to Hell, I have never lost faith in the overall goodness of people."

I know many people in the community join PFLAG in congratulating Jake on this honor. We're proud of you and know you will continue to be a wonderful leader, wherever life takes you. Best wishes, Jake!

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

PFLAG Picnic Coming Soon

Next month please join PFLAG for its annual picnic. We will meet on August 13 at Rolland Moore Park, Shelter #2 at 6:00 PM. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. PFLAG will provide the main course and drinks.

Regional Event: Gay Rodeo

July 14-15: The Colorado Gay Rodeo Association is sponsoring two days of gay rodeos at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Golden, Colorado. PFLAG Fort Collins/ Northern Colorado is a charity partner, meaning CGRA will donate a portion of their profits to us. You can support your GLBT rodeo community and benefit PFLAG at the same time!

You can help in two ways:

1. Buy tickets and attend the rodeo.
2. Volunteer to help.

In the event of bad weather, the rodeo will be moved to the Jefferson County Events Center, which is an indoor arena. For more information, see their [rodeo page](#).

National PFLAG News

PFLAG National Convention—Oct 11-14

Where will you be Oct 11-14, 2007? PFLAG invites you to the national PFLAG National Convention at the Hilton McLean Tyson's Corner in McLean, Virginia, just outside of Washington, D.C. Don't wait to reserve your place for this special event -- go to the [PFLAG website](#) today to get more information on the events and register!

Become a 5-Minute Advocate

National PFLAG encourages you to become a 5-minute advocate. At the moment, PFLAG has four action alerts:

- ◆ Tell your Senator to support the Matthew Shepard Act
- ◆ Urge your Senator to oppose nominee Leslie Southwick
- ◆ Take action on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)
- ◆ Urge your Senator to support hate crimes legislation

Sign up as a 5-minute advocate at the [PFLAG Advocacy website](http://www.pflag.org/advocacy).

Check the PFLAG National Blog

Blogs (short for "web logs") are a highly popular cross between news and online diary. Blogs are increasing in popularity because of their personal touch to current events. The [PFLAG National Blog](http://www.pflag.org/blog) is where you can turn for news about what our National Office is doing in the national and local news outlets, what our Field and Policy staff are up to in your communities, and other assorted fun tidbits.

American Airlines Sponsors PFLAG

American Airlines has been a strong supporter of PFLAG for many years by providing round-trip airline tickets for staff. The amount of donated tickets from American Airlines directly correlates to the number of PFLAG members who purchase flights. This means that the more you fly with American Airlines, the more donated tickets PFLAG will receive allowing our staff to travel more. When booking travel, please consider using American Airlines. You'll find that their pricing is very reasonable. For PFLAG to get credit for a flight, you must enter the PFLAG Business ExtraAA Account Number—527590 (either on www.AA.com or booking on the phone).

Reparative Therapy

Truth Wins Out Video

In preparation for our July topic, you might want to watch the Truth Wins Out [YouTube video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) that examines the religious right's "Day of Truth" campaign.

In response to GLSEN's "Day of Silence" where gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth remain silent to protest the silencing effect discrimination and

harassment has on LGBT youth, the far right Alliance Defense Fund created a "Day of Truth" one day after the pro-gay "Day of Silence." The "Day of Truth" aims to push gay youth into 'ex-gay' conversion programs.

Truth Wins Out is a non-profit organization that counters right-wing propaganda, exposes the "ex-gay" myth and educates America about gay life. For more information, visit <http://www.TruthWinsOut.org>.

Former Ex-Gay Leaders Apologize

Three former leaders of Exodus International, often described as the nation's largest ex-gay ministry, publicly apologized for the harm they said their efforts had caused many gays and lesbians who believed the group's message that sexual orientation could be changed through prayer. [[LA Times](http://www.latimes.com), Jun 28]

Ex-Gay Survivor's Conference

Soulforce has posted video clips from the Ex-Gay Survivor's conference, held in Irvine, CA, on June 29-July 1. Beyond Ex-Gay has posted links to news articles and blogs about the conference.

[[Soulforce](http://www.soulforce.org), [Beyond Ex-Gay](http://www.beyondexgay.com)]

CNN Poll: Gays' Orientation Can't Change

A majority of Americans believe that gays and lesbians could not change their sexual orientation even if they wanted to, according to results of a recent CNN/Opinion Research Corporation poll. Fifty-six percent of about 515 poll respondents said they do not believe sexual orientation can be changed. In 2001, 45 percent of those responding to a CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll held that belief. In 1998, according to a CNN/Time poll, the number was 36 percent. [[CNN](http://www.cnn.com), Jun 27]

SBC Still Thinks Gays Can Change

The Southern Baptist Convention has created a new job of national strategist on gender issues, who will work with gays and lesbians who believe they can overcome their homosexuality. [[Clarion Ledger](http://www.clarionledger.com), Jun 23]

The Reading/Viewing Corner

- ◆ Carol Lynn Pearson's play, *Facing East*, examines Mormonism and homosexuality [[USA Today](http://www.usatoday.com)]
- ◆ CNN "Paula Zahn NOW" video features TYFA Advocate Shannon, Ashley and family [[TYFA](http://www.tyfa.org)]

MEETINGS:

2nd 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
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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.