



PFLAG

Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

Next Meeting—Different Location

Date: October 8, 7PM Program, 8PM Support
Program: "Thank God I'm Gay: Coming Out Faithful"
Location: Foothills Unitarian Church

PFLAG has organized an excellent panel discussion in honor of National Coming Out Day. The panel includes two gay men and one lesbian woman who will share their faith stories and how their sexual orientation has impacted their faith journeys and their relationship with their faith community. Dr. Bob Calkins will moderate the panel. As always, there will be opportunity for questions.

Since renovations continue at Plymouth, our meeting will be held at Foothills Unitarian Church, 1815 Yorktown Avenue, Fort Collins (on Drake between Shields and Taft Hill).

This panel discussion provides an outstanding opportunity for faith communities to better understand the impact of non-supportive stances. Please invite your friends and family to hear this discussion.

PFLAG Annual Planning Meeting

Oct 20: The PFLAG Fort Collins/Northern Colorado chapter will hold its annual planning retreat on Oct 20, beginning at 8:45 AM. The event includes a light breakfast and will adjourn at noon.

We plan to review 2007 results and discuss goals for 2008, including projects that PFLAG will undertake and programs for the monthly meetings. We welcome your inputs. Please plan to attend the meeting at Plymouth Congregational Church, Fort Collins.

RSVP: Julie Wilson, 667-5236, jw6804@aol.com

Events of Local Interest

Oct 10: GLBT Rights in Colorado
 The Lambda Community Center, Equal Rights Colorado, and CSU GLBT Student Services invite you to help create a new priority list for the voters of Colorado! This free event takes place Wednesday, October 10, 7-9pm, in the Virginia Dale Conference Room, Colorado State University Lori Student Center.

For more information, contact Rob Short of ERC at eibbor4@comcast.net or Jen Lowe of the Lambda Center at jenniferlowe@gmail.com.

Oct 17: Presentation at Thompson R2J Board Meeting
 PFLAG will present Todd Ball and the Bill Reed Middle School faculty and staff with certificates of appreciation for their support of Melaina, a M2F transgender student who transitioned as an 8th grader. *We encourage PFLAG members to attend the Board Meeting and show our appreciation for the support this school provided.*

R2J board meetings are held in the administration office at 800 South Taft Avenue, Loveland. The meeting begins at 7:00, and the presentation will be early in the meeting.

Events of Regional Interest

Oct 3: CENTUS Counseling, Consulting & Education is presenting a free class entitled "Come Out, Come Out, Whoever You Are! Coming Out 101 For Self, Friends & Family." The class will be held on Wed, Oct 3 from 7:00-8:30PM at CENTUS, 1325 S. Colorado Blvd., Conference Room B-018, Denver. The class will be presented by David Johns, M. Coun., NCC, and Judi Spindelaw, PsyD.

Seven Straight Nights, a Walk and Vigil for Equal Rights
 Soulforce is hosting an equal rights walk in Denver on **Oct 13**, 5:30-9:00. The goal is to publicly bring to together heterosexual allies of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender friends, neighbors, family members, and coworkers to demand equal rights. LGBT-identified individuals are encouraged to attend, but in a supportive role. This is a chance for allies to come together and speak out. The event begins at the First Unitarian Church in Denver and includes a walk to the Capitol Building. For more information, contact Nichole Moorman, (513) 885-3565, funkynichole@hotmail.com.

News of Regional Interest

Colorado experienced an historic sit-in that resulted in national and international coverage for a Denver Lesbian couple. Sheila Schroeder and Kate Burns sat in protest of Colorado's Amendment 43, that says marriage is a union between only a man and a woman. The sit-in took place on Sept. 24 after the couple were denied a marriage licence because they are both female. When the clerk's office closed at 5 p.m., Kate and Sheila continued to sit. They were arrested, arm-cuffed and led out of the building carrying their bouquets. [[Rocky Mountain News](#), Sep 24; [Nic & the City](#), Sep 26]

The former head of Colorado Stonewall Democrats has become the first openly gay man to sit in the state legislature. Mark Ferrandino was appointed to replace Rep. Mike Cerbo (D). "I'm proud to be representing my constituents and the GLBT community," Ferrandino said. "I'm a qualified Democrat who wants to do good, who also happens to be gay." [365Gay.com, Sep 21]

News of National/Global Interest

San Diego mayor Jerry Sanders announced his support for same-sex marriage and will sign the resolution passed by the San Diego city council. Two years ago he believed that a separate, but equal institution—civil unions—was a valid and fair alternative. The unexpected announcement, filled with emotion, included the fact that his daughter Lisa is a lesbian. [CBS video, Sep 19]

At the first transgender career expo, men and women met companies that accept them for who they are becoming. The Career Expo—organized by the Southern Comfort Conference, the country's largest annual gathering of transgender people—drew recruiters from more than 20 major corporations and provided an opportunity for companies to showcase their transgender-supportive policies. [LA Times, Sep 16]

Transgender Advocacy

ENDA legislation is up in the air in the House of Representatives. After a week that started out looking like it would become a historic marker in the struggle for LGBT equality, the ENDA legislation was split in two parts. Representative Barney Frank agreed to divide the sexual orientation and gender identity inclusive version of ENDA into two separate bills. Unfortunately, the resulting bills not only make it unlikely that transgender protections will pass but also introduce loopholes for gay and lesbian workers.

TransYouth Family Advocates, Inc., a national non-profit dedicated to advocating for the rights of transgender and gender variant children, youth and their families asks us to take action. TYFA believes the successful passage of an inclusive ENDA will very positively impact the lives and self-esteem of transgender children and families. PFLAG stands with TYFA, believing that legislation needs to be inclusive of both sexual orientation and gender identify. As PFLAG parents, we share the hope

that our children will be judged on their talents and skills instead of the possible prejudices of their future employers.

Thanks to pressure from GLBT groups, the House is reconsidering its actions. Take a moment right now, to support fairness for our transgender and gender variant children and youth, as well as, the entire LGBT community. PFLAG and TYFA recommend that you call your representative, as well as Representative Barney Frank and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi to express your support for a fully inclusive ENDA. PFLAG's Take Action website: www.capwiz.com/pflag. [More information: 365Gay.com, Oct 1]

Safe Schools

A new book, *The God Box*, will be published on October 9 as part of National Coming Out Week. Lambda Literary Award-winning author Alex Sanchez tackles a tough subject in this exciting and thought-provoking exploration of what it means to be both religious and gay.

Gay and lesbian college faculty members are no longer finding it necessary to hide their sexual orientation, but many colleges do not yet offer equal benefits, such as health insurance, for their partners. No full tally exists, but a survey this year by the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources found that 40 percent of 544 institutions responding — or 217 — extended health insurance to same-sex domestic partners. The Human Rights Campaign has identified a larger number: 304 institutions, up from 178 five years ago. [Chronicle of Higher Education, Sep 28]

Religion and GLBT Issues

Fortunate Families, an organization for Catholic parents of GLBT children, just posted its "[Parents Voice Project](http://Parents Voice Project report)" report which documents the feelings, hopes, and experiences, of Catholic parents of LGBT children.

The Reading/Viewing Corner

- ◆ "Gay or straight? Watch his walk" –Is gaydar real? A new study suggests body movement gives clues to male sexual orientation. [MSNBC, Sep 13]
- ◆ "Divorced from Reality", an editorial on the improving stability of marriage [NY Times, Sep 29]

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
Bev 970.484.0031
Don 970.278.0261

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Web site: www.pflagfc.org
Email: info@pflagfc.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.