



# PFLAG

## Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

### Next Meeting—Plymouth

**Date:** December 10, 7PM Program, 8PM Support  
**Program:** WPATH: Working for Transgender Health  
**Location:** Plymouth Congregational Church

Our guest speaker for the December meeting will be Ms. Kelley Winters. She will be presenting information on the The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH). They are a professional organization devoted to the understanding and treatment of gender identity disorders. As a voting member of the WPATH, Kelley will be presenting what this organization is currently working on, how voting members are trying to make changes, and how their work affects the Trans community. If time allows, she will also be addressing the process for Trans individuals to be able to change their gender on their driver's license.

### PFLAG Board Meetings

PFLAG board meetings precede the general PFLAG meeting and start at 5:00. Board meetings are open, and you are welcome to attend. If you are interested in supporting PFLAG as a member of the board, please contact Julie Wilson, 970.667.5236.

### PFLAG News

Jean Hodges, the Mountain West Regional Director of PFLAG, and Julie Wilson, President of PFLAG Fort Collins / Northern Colorado were interviewed for a segment on "Colorado Outspoken", a GLBT program on KBDI Channel 12. The program aired Nov 25, and is posted on [video.google.com](http://video.google.com). We hope to add a copy of the program to our PFLAG library as well.

Please keep Christa Dinwoodie in your thoughts and prayers as she undergoes surgery on December 12.

### Shop for Christmas / Benefit PFLAG

[RainbowShoppingNetwork.com](http://RainbowShoppingNetwork.com) is an online marketplace featuring money-saving coupons and handpicked deals from top-name retailers, including a huge collection of gay-owned and gay-friendly online stores. It is designed to help GLBT shoppers make purchasing decisions they can feel good about. They donate 10% of the site's revenue to GLBT nonprofit organizations. At present and until the end of 2007, they are donating to PFLAG's national chapter. So shop online this Christmas.

### PFLAG Tips for Happy Holidays

The holidays can be a difficult time for both GLBT people and their families and friends. So PFLAG likes to provide a few tips to help make the holidays go more smoothly:

- ❖ Don't assume you know how somebody will react to news of your sexual orientation or gender identity — you may be surprised.
- ❖ If it is too difficult to be with your family, create your own holiday gathering with friends and loved ones.
- ❖ If you are partnered, discuss in advance how you will talk about your relationship or show affection with one another if you plan to make the visit together.

See the full list of tips for [GLBT people](#) and for [allies and families](#) on the PFLAG website. In addition to PFLAG's tips, Dear Abby provides excellent tips for dealing with the holidays each year. [[Dear Abby](#), Nov 26]

### Events of Local Interest

**Dec 4-6:** For the Bible Tells Me So  
 Can the love between two people ever be an abomination? Is the chasm separating gays and lesbians and Christianity too wide to cross? Is the Bible an excuse to hate? "For the Bible Tells Me So" is an independent film showing at Lyric Cinema Café, 300 East Mountain Avenue, Fort Collins at 4:00 PM. More information on the movie can be found at the Lyric Cinema Café Web site at [www.lyriccinemacafe.com](http://www.lyriccinemacafe.com).

### Events of Regional Interest

**Dec 5:** Equal Rights in Colorado  
 Join Boulder Pride and Equal Rights Colorado (ERC) to help create a new priority list for the voters of Colorado! The meeting will take place at Boulder Public Library 1000 Canyon Avenue at Arapahoe in the Boulder Creek Meeting Room from 6-8PM.

**Dec 7-8:** Denver Gay Men's Chorus  
 The Denver Gay Men's Chorus presents its holiday concert, Celebrate the Season, at 8:00 PM at Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church, Denver. For more information check their web site at <http://www.dgmc.org/>.

**Dec 8:** CGRA Night of Sharing, 7:00 PM  
 Please join the Colorado Gay Rodeo Association at their annual Night of Sharing. The evening features the annual royalty contest, followed by presentation of checks to charity partners. PFLAG is fortunate to be a

charity partner again this year. This fun event takes place at Charlie's, 900 E. Colfax, Denver.

#### **Dec 14:** Winter Lavender Gala

The Rainbow Elders and Dancing Divas will host a winter dance and party with catered food and door prizes. It takes place at the Avalon Ballroom, 6185 Arapahoe Avenue, Boulder CO from 6:00-10:00 p.m. All LGBT, friends and family are welcome. Please RSVP to Emily Lewis at [elewis@co.boulder.co.us](mailto:elewis@co.boulder.co.us) to help organizers plan for food. Open Door Fund, Aging Services Foundation, Gill Foundation and Boulder County Aging Services Division will sponsor the event. The email provided no information about cost.

#### **Nov 20-Dec 23:** La Cage a Folles

Don't miss the musical extravaganza of the holiday season, La Cage aux Folles, performed in the Main Stage Theater at the Arvada Center! This flamboyant and humorous musical follows Georges, manager of the St. Tropez nightclub featuring drag entertainment and his "friend" Albin, the club's star attraction, as their lives are turned upside down when Georges' son announces he is getting married to the daughter of a local morals crusader! The story's hilarity unravels as they collectively attempt to put their best faces on and the right foot forward to ensure their son's future happiness. For more information, visit [www.arvadacenter.org](http://www.arvadacenter.org).

### **Regional News: Marriage Equality**

As reported in a previous newsletter, Kate Burns and Sheila Schroeder applied for a marriage license and were subsequently arrested for civil disobedience in Denver. You can watch a report by Ron Zappolo from his "Colorado 2031" show that interviews Kate and Sheila, as well as Focus on the Family. [[more](#), 23 min]

Kate and Sheila did an outstanding job of stating their case very simply and calmly. In contrast, the Focus on the Family representatives quickly resorted to fear tactics (polygamy and group marriage), election results (why should this topic even still be discussed—the voters have spoken), legal options to establish similar rights, and changing your sexual orientation.

### **National News: ENDA**

On November 7, the House of Representatives passed a version of ENDA (HR 3685) that supports gay and lesbian equality but omits protection for gender identity. PFLAG, together with over 360 other organizations known as United ENDA, strongly encouraged the legislature to pass a transgender-inclusive version of the bill (HR 2015). The mainstream media sees this bill as a significant and long-overdue breakthrough for equality and fairness. [[NY Times](#), Nov 7]

In contrast, controversy reigns in the GLBT community, primarily between HRC and most other GLBT-based organizations, due to HRC's support of more limited protections. At best, this is a bittersweet victory. Right or

wrong, significant progress has been made, but at a high cost. Within the GLBT community, we need to remember that we are all on the same side, all working for equal rights, and equal protections, and each doing that in the way that seems best from our own perspective.

Jean Hodges, our regional PFLAG director wrote, "I watched C-Span this afternoon and heard the passionate speeches for ENDA passage for gay and lesbian equality with only a passing mention of regret that Gender Identity was not included. My heart fell and especially after Barney Frank's emotional appeal for personal support of his non-inclusive ENDA bill."

In a letter to HRC and specifically Joe Salmonese, Jean wrote:

*We are so disappointed in HRC. We watched the House debate today on C-SPAN and knew that you had abandoned the alliance of over 300 GLBT-related and allied organizations that stuck to the principle of "Leave None of Our Family Behind." And we were deeply saddened that HRC under your leadership has lost the trust of those of us who work in the trenches as parents and friends of all the GLBT community. Those of us who stand by our transgendered friends and loved ones feel betrayed for the sake of political gain.*

*We have lost hope that HRC and Barney Frank and other legislators will ever fight as hard for the trans community as they have for their own self-interest as gays and lesbians. Worst of all, as influential as HRC is, we now have a huge rift within our GLBTQ community, just in time for the 2008 election. We thought that having so many GLBT and allied organizations coming together to ask for the inclusive ENDA bill that the gay community had gained a sign of hope for the future. Apparently it is not to be. We are discouraged and disheartened and deeply saddened for our Trans loved ones who, by today's vote, have been more marginalized than ever.*

*What price "progress"?*

HRC defended its position by saying, "While the bill Congress passed this week was not the bill we wanted, the Human Rights Campaign decided to stay at the table with Congress to ensure that millions of Americans receive the protections they deserve, and because passage of this bill is a first and absolutely necessary step toward preventing discrimination based on gender identity. ... After twelve years of hostile leadership, we have come so far and changed so many hearts and minds. Only a year ago, it never seemed possible that we could pass any GLBT legislation. For the first time in history, both houses of Congress passed a hate crimes bill, and for the first time ever a workplace anti-discrimination law passed in the House. Even a year ago, we could not imagine this coming to fruition. Our fight will not be won overnight; it will be won one step at a time."

Jody Huckaby, PFLAG's executive director, stated in part, "While PFLAG applauds Congress for tackling GLBT workplace discrimination and is grateful for our stalwart champions of equality on Capitol Hill, it is clear that all of us must commit to more Congressional education on gender identity. We are particularly grateful to Representative Tammy Baldwin who worked with many of her colleagues in attempts to amend HR 3685 to achieve what everyone in the civil rights community wants—a fully inclusive and effective ENDA."

In Michigan, Governor Jennifer Granholm issued an order that bars discrimination against state workers based on their "gender identity or expression," which protects the rights of those who behave, dress or identify as members of the opposite sex. The order adds gender identity to a list that includes religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, height, weight, marital status, politics, disability or genetic information. [[Yahoo News](#), Nov 22]

### **National News: TG Lawsuit**

One of the few openly transgender elected officials in the U.S. faces a lawsuit from opponents who allege she deceived the public by identifying as female. Two losing candidates in the Nov. 6 Riverdale (Georgia) City Council election filed a lawsuit last week in Clayton County Superior Court against incumbent City Council member Michelle Bruce, accusing her of fraud for identifying as female. The lawsuit also alleges election fraud and seeks to stop a Dec. 4 runoff election between Bruce and the second-place finisher for her post. Bruce has represented Ward 2 since 2004. [[Southern Voice](#), Nov 23]

### **Advocacy**

Pat and Lynn Mulder have become activists the hard way—their son Ryan Skipper was murdered. Skipper was found stabbed to death on the side of a Wahneta (Florida) road March 15. The Polk County Sheriff's Office has called his slaying a hate crime after a witness told them the men charged in his killing did it because Skipper was gay. They recently taped a public service announcement in support of the Matthew Shepard Act for Equality Florida, a gay-rights group. Now, they have taken their cause to the Internet, asking Republican presidential candidates to take a stand for the lesbian,

gay, bisexual and transgender community. [[The Ledger](#), Nov 25] Unfortunately, the Mulders' question was not selected for the Republican debate.

### **Religion and Homosexuality**

TransFaith On-line was founded in 1999 by Chris Paige (former publisher of *The Other Side* magazine) in order to provide an index of internet resources that provide insight into the Transgender faith experience. While the old site was recently noted as the #1 Google search result for "transgender Christian," it was also in need of a dramatic makeover.

The new TransFaith website includes a fresh new design, hundreds of new and updated links, exclusive content, and new features. In addition to developing new content, TransFaith On-line is bringing back otherwise unavailable content, such as four articles originally published in *The Other Side* magazine's special issue on Transgender concerns (May/June 2001). See <http://www.transfaithonline.org/>.

### **Safe Schools**

GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) continues to be an excellent resource for building safer schools. For example, the GLSEN web site contains tools for students wanting to form Gay-Straight Alliances, a kit for creating a safe space at school, a train the trainers guide, and tools for launching and sustaining effective safe schools campaigns. See <http://www.glsen.org/> for more information.

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

- ◆ Most Clicked Gay & Lesbian Leadership SmartBrief Stories: <http://smartbrief.com/news/lgbt/TopStories.jsp>
- ◆ "Becoming a Man" by Nick Mwaluko, an African immigrant's story in honor of Transgender Day of Remembrance [[Huffington Post](#), Nov 20]
- ◆ "Gay Mormon calls on church for acceptance" by Robert Parker [[East Valley Tribune](#), Nov 15]
- ◆ [Empty Closets](#), a moderated online forum for people struggling to come out and would like to talk to people online who are going through the same thing

#### **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.