



PFLAG

Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

Next Meeting

Date: January 14, 7PM Program, 8PM Support
Program: Gay in the 21st Century

Our program features a panel consisting of two GLBT people in their 60s and 70s, two people in their 30s or 40s and a couple of GLBT teens. Each panelist will share a short story about their experience coming out and what being gay was/is like for them. The panel members' variety of life experience will help us understand how times are changing and, at the same time, how some things have not changed.

Join PFLAG Now!

It's membership time at PFLAG Fort Collins / Northern Colorado. Please complete and send in the membership form at the end of this newsletter.

What does joining the chapter or renewing your membership do for you? It makes you a vital part of PFLAG's continuing effort to provide support to, education about, and advocacy on behalf of LGBT individuals, their families and friends.

What does your dues payment do for the chapter? It helps us maintain a stable financial base so that the board of directors can focus on responding to community needs rather than fretting over money. It pays the bills for the helpline, publications, meeting space, program costs, and much more. The larger our membership, the more credibility PFLAG has in the community and the more able the chapter is to take on additional projects.

Does all of your membership payment stay with this chapter? Most of it does, but \$15 is sent annually to PFLAG National to support their organizing and educational efforts on a nationwide scale. As a member you receive their quarterly publication, *The PFLAGpole*.

How can you tell if it is time to renew your membership? If you aren't sure, you can contact Bev at 484-00113 or Julie at 667-5236.

How much does it cost to belong? Memberships are \$35 for an individual and \$45 for a family, but can go as high as you wish! Those on limited incomes should consider the "Local Only membership for \$10.

Is your membership donation tax-deductible? Yes!

PFLAG Board Meetings Open

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.

New Year Priorities

With the holiday season behind us, we traditionally face that list of New Year's resolutions. The beginning of January is an excellent time to take a serious look at our priorities for 2008. On the personal front, I plan to exercise more with a goal of improving my physical fitness and general health.

On the PFLAG front, our local theme for the year "Together for Equality" reminds us of the important role any election year plays. The presidential election began in earnest almost a year ago, and candidates in both parties have stumbled over how to talk about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. Congressional elections this year are expected to bring more attention to the family values we all cherish, yet many candidates seem unwilling or incapable of talking honestly about family values that include our GLBT loved ones.

That's where PFLAG's voice will be critically important. This election year, we have an opportunity to raise the bar in conversations taking place at the local, state and national levels. Whether it's the race to fill slots on local school boards, the state legislature, Congressional seats, or the battle for the White House, we must speak up now. In the face of so much competition (as well as the anti-equality ballot measures) being more open about being out and proud straight allies and GLBT people is more important than ever.

PFLAG believes that parents, family, friends, and GLBT persons need to work together to build stronger allies in the straight community. Our dream of equality will remain only a dream unless all of us commit to making the work of support, education and advocacy our top priority. Please join me this month in making PFLAG your top priority, committing to doing the work necessary to positively impact the 2008 elections, and providing PFLAG with the support necessary to ensure that the unique power of PFLAG will be strong to help move equality forward! [Text leveraged from Jody Huckaby's January 2008 PFLAG Update]

GLBT Scholarships

Scholarship deadlines are approaching quickly. If you know high school seniors who are deserving of a scholarship, please let them know about potential scholarships:

- ❖ PFLAG national scholarships due **March 15**
(<http://www.pflag.org/Scholarships.1236.0.html>)
- ❖ National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA) Leroy F. Aarons Scholarship Award due **January 14**
(<http://www.nlgja.org/students/aarons.htm>)
- ❖ Point Foundation scholarships due **March 1**
(<http://www.thepointfoundation.org/scholarships.html>)

Helpful GLBT College Resource

Featuring advice from students and administrators at more than seventy of the nation's top colleges, the [Gay and Lesbian Guide to College Life](#) lets you know how to thrive on campus as a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and/or questioning student. Including tons of student testimonials and dozens of parent tips, the [Gay and Lesbian Guide to College Life](#) offers no-nonsense guidance to LGBT students, their families, and allies on how to make the most of their college experience. Learn how you can:

- Find an GLBT-friendly school
- Evaluate administrative policies related to GLBT student life
- Deal with homo/bi/transphobia on campus
- Participate in GLBT student activism
- Get support for your health and safety needs
- Fully integrate yourself into the campus community

Resource for Gay Parents

There's a New Kid in Town.....
Say Hello to Buddy G and his Moms!

This is an exciting new year for all of our families. We finally have a cartoon star with two moms! He's fun, he's smart and he loves adventure. When Buddy G gets into "predicaments" like he always does, his moms are there with love and guidance to help him find his way. Find out more at wwwBuddyG.tv.

Events of Local Interest

Jan 21: Martin Luther King Day

Fort Collins MLK Day March and Celebration takes place from 12:00-1:30PM. Starting at the CSU Oval and traversing the city to Old Town Square, the march brings together hundreds of community members expressing their support of King's vision of equality, justice, peace, and service.

Loveland MLK Day Celebration takes place at Thompson Valley High School from 6:00-9:00PM. The event focuses on service and includes a program and

refreshments, with local organizations providing information on programs and volunteer needs.

Feb 23: Freedom to Marry Day

This annual event features keynote speaker Denise Hall, who is the intern minister at Foothills Unitarian Church.

Jun 14: Fort Collins Pride in the Park

Jun 21-22: The Center's PrideFest Denver 2008

Sep 19-21: PFLAG Mountain West Regional Conference Conference will be held from Friday evening through Sunday morning in Boulder. Theme is "United We Can: An Intergenerational Call to Action." Please stay tuned for more information, but SAVE THE DATE!

Leading Gay and Lesbian Stories

For an LGBT-oriented briefing on current news stories, viewpoints, and job opportunities, check out the [Gay and Lesbian Leadership SmartBrief](#). The web site collected the top 10 most-clicked stories of 2007:

- Will controversial study reveal why people are gay? (Aug. 14)
- Who made Out magazine's list of most powerful? (April 6)
- Samuel David Cheney born; far right wing cries (May 25)
- Senator pleads guilty to disorderly conduct, but denies he's gay (Aug. 28)
- Scientists: Males more likely to be born gay than females (April 13)
- Signorile: Merv Griffin's life shows how closet harms community (Aug. 14)
- In today's Hollywood, Jodie Foster free to be out (Dec. 14)
- High school, college athletes coming out to teammates (July 31)
- Are gay neighborhoods obsolete? (Oct. 30)
- First NBA player comes out (Feb. 9)

2008 Election News

For a non-partisan look at 2008 election dates and deadlines, check [Rock the Vote](#). January 7 is the last day to register to vote for the February 5th precinct caucus in Colorado. For more information on Colorado elections, see Colorado's [Elections Center](#).

Marriage Equality

The new Domestic Partnership law, slated to go into effect on Jan 1 in Oregon hit an unexpected snap late in December. A federal judge blocked the law from taking effect, saying opponents should have a chance to make their case for a statewide election on civil unions. [[The Oregonian](#), Dec 29]

In Rhode Island the Supreme Court ruled that a lesbian couple that married in Massachusetts cannot get divorced in their home state of Rhode Island. No law

specifically bans same-sex marriage in Rhode Island. To complicate the issue, Massachusetts restricts its unions to residents of states where the marriage would be recognized, and a Massachusetts judge ruled that Rhode Island is one of those states. [AP, Dec 7]

Religion and Homosexuality

Beginning January 7th, Fortunate Families will introduce on its website an informative 8-week series entitled "Let's Talk about Homosexuality." The series, originally created as an adult education program and carried for 14 weeks on the website of a Midwest Catholic parish, is intended for anyone interested in learning more about homosexuality and the pastoral challenges it raises for Catholics. The information should be relevant to other Christian denominations as well.

Transgender Advocacy / Education

TYFA (Trans Youth Family Advocates) board member "Just Evelyn" has just released the second edition of her amazing book [Mom I Need to be a Girl](#), which chronicles how she facilitated her teen daughter's transition more than 10 years ago. Evelyn, the determined single mom of 3, is the original pioneer of the work that TYFA is doing today. Her book is full of insight, wisdom and good old-fashioned common sense advice. In a marvelous demonstration of her commitment to gender variant and transgender children, their families and TYFA's mission

of advocacy and education, Evelyn has decided to donate all profits from the sale of her book to TYFA. When you purchase your copy, you not only get to enjoy a wonderful and informative book, but you can also take pleasure and pride in knowing that you have helped to support TYFA children.

As a result of HRC's recent position in support of an Employment Non-Discrimination Act that did not include transgender people, two of the leading transgender activists have resigned from HRC's business advisory council. Jamison Green and Donna Rose launched the Transgender Employment Partnership to continue the work they began at HRC. [Bay Area Reporter, Jan 2008]

A transgender incumbent councilwoman in Georgia lost her re-election bid, most likely due to allegations of gender fraud. [Southern Voice, Dec 7]

Reading/Viewing Corner

The military may be changing its stance on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", at least during wartime. A recent *60 Minutes* program featured the story of Army Sergeant Darren Manzella, a medical liaison for his division in Kuwait. The Army told him to go back to work after he revealed that he was gay. [60 Minutes, Dec 16]

Support PFLAG Fort Collins / Northern Colorado—Become a Member

A membership in PFLAG extends a helping hand to families who have gay members, provides educational materials for families and the public, and offers a family voice that stands for equality and justice for all human beings. You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2007, to September 30, 2008.

Name(s) of Member(s): _____	_____ Local Only	\$10
_____	_____ Individual Membership	\$30
Address: _____	_____ Family Membership	\$45
City: _____	_____ Supporting Membership	\$75
State: _____ Zip Code: _____	_____ Patron	\$100
Home Phone: _____	_____ Donation _____	
Other Phone: _____	_____ Email list only (no membership)	
Email: _____		

Make checks payable to **PFLAG Fort Collins** and mail to 305 West Magnolia, PMB 117, Fort Collins, CO 80521. Membership fees and contributions are tax deductible. All information will remain confidential. PFLAG is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization.

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.pflagftc.org
Email: 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.