



PFLAG

Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

Next Meeting

Date: February 11, 7PM dessert and discussion
Place: Foothills Unitarian Church

Program: PFLAG is eager to understand the issues important to GLBT youth and their families by hearing from our local and regional Gay-Straight Alliances, GLBT youth groups and campus organizations, as well as teachers, counselors, and parents. Please come talk with us!

Important Note: Our annual dessert and discussion with youth takes place in a different location—**Foothills Unitarian Church**, 1815 Yorktown Avenue, Fort Collins (on Drake between Shields and Taft Hill).

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.

PFLAG Thanks CGRA!

PFLAG wants to thank the Colorado Gay Rodeo Association for naming us one of their charity partners in 2007. We especially thank CGRA for its generous \$2000 donation to PFLAG Fort Collins. We love you guys! We look forward to using the donation to help us better fulfill our goals in 2008.

PFLAG Thanks Color Key Displays!

PFLAG wants to thank Color Key Displays, and especially Lori Beaty, for the redesign of our display board. We use the board at PFLAG meetings and also at all public events where PFLAG staffs a booth. The colorful new display does a wonderful job of highlighting our mission and services in a very attractive way.

GLBT Scholarships / Resources

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>
- ❖ Point Foundation scholarships due **March 1**
<http://www.thepointfoundation.org/scholarships.html>

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

"Kicked Out" Youth

National PFLAG's Communications Coordinator Adam Ratliff writes: "An editor I am in touch with is putting together an anthology that revolves around GLBT youth who have or are experiencing homelessness due to being kicked out by family members. The editor is looking to PFLAG for contributions, perhaps from parents who may have some experience in similar situations or people who have themselves been thrown out and wish to write their stories. If you or someone you know might be interested in contributing, contact me (aratliff@pflag.org)."

Events of Local Interest

Feb 12: *Anyone and Everyone* film, CSU, 7:00
 Come watch and hear families' stories of coming out!

Connected by having a son or daughter who is gay, parents across the country discuss their experiences in the documentary *Anyone and Everyone*. In it, filmmaker Susan Polis Schutz depicts families from all walks of life. Individuals from such diverse backgrounds as Japanese, Bolivian, and Cherokee, as well as from various religious denominations such as Mormon, Jewish, Roman Catholic, Hindu, and Southern Baptist, share intimate accounts of how their children revealed their sexual orientation and discuss their responses.

This film is especially important since up to 26% of gay teens who come out to their parents or guardians are

told they must leave home. Of the approximately 1.6 million homeless American youth, 20-40% identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. Nearly 40% of LGBT (GLBT) students report being physically harassed. In a 2001 Department of Health study of youth in Massachusetts, about 40 percent of gay and lesbian students attempted suicide, compared to about 10 percent of their heterosexual peers.

The film and discussion is co-sponsored by PFLAG, GUIDE, Lambda Center, and Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Student Services. Come watch the film on Tuesday, February 12th, at 7pm at the Durrell Center in DC Bottoms. Popcorn will be served. Discussion will follow. The Durrell Center is located at B2 on the [CSU campus map](#).

Feb 23: Freedom to Marry Day, 12:30

This annual event features keynote speaker Denise Hall, who is the intern minister at Foothills Unitarian Church. Freedom to Marry Day starts in Fort Collins Old Town at 12:30, followed by a march to Avogadro's Number for wedding cake.

Jun 14: Fort Collins Pride in the Park

Jun 19: GLBT film showing, Rialto, Loveland

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

Sep 19-21: *PFLAG Mountain West Regional Conference*

News of National / Global Interest

Florida's Attorney General has implemented a policy that allows his employees to use sick leave to care for their domestic partners. This pro-family policy takes an important step in recognizing the needs of non-traditional families. [[Echelon](#), Dec 26]

A team of researchers led by doctors from the University of California at San Francisco announced that gay men were more likely than others to acquire a new strain of drug-resistant staphylococcus, a nasty, fast-spreading and potentially lethal bacteria known as MRSA USA300. The report inadvertently offered ammunition for many antigay groups, including the conservative Concerned Women for America, which issued a release citing the "sexual deviancy" of gay men as leading to AIDS, syphilis and gonorrhea. [[SF Chronicle](#), Jan 15, [NY Times](#), Jan 20]

Uruguay's congress has approved a bill which would allow civil unions for both gay and unmarried straight couples. Under its provisions, couples who have lived together for five years will have rights similar to those already enjoyed by married couples. The Uruguayan President, Tabare Vazquez, is expected to sign the bill into law. [[BBC News](#), Dec 19]

Religion and Homosexuality

Fortunate Families continues to provide weekly updates to its educational curriculum entitled "Let's Talk About Homosexuality." The week 3 topic, "Putting a Human Face on Homosexuality" features five parents talking personally and poignantly about their experience of having a gay or lesbian child. [[more](#)]

Transgender Advocacy / Education

TransYouth Family Advocates, Inc. (TYFA) is proud to announce the launch of TYFA-TALK!

TYFA_TALK is an online support group and referral source for parents, grandparents and guardians negotiating the journey of raising gender variant and transgender children ages 3-18. Members will be able to ask questions, gather information and seek support and referrals from TYFA Board Members and other parents, grandparents and guardians who are also raising gender variant and transgender children.

Prospective members will be asked to provide a brief bio including their first name and the first name and age of their child, along with a phone number at which they can be reached. Prospective members may be interviewed via telephone at the moderator's discretion. All information will be held confidential, as TYFA_TALK is a members-only group.

You may request membership by emailing shannong@imatyfa.org or TYFA_TALK_subscribe@yahoo.com.

Reading/Viewing Corner

- ❖ Actor Heath Ledger, co-star in *Brokeback Mountain*, died at age 28 [[CNN.com](#), Jan 22]
- ❖ John Gibson should lose his talk show for his hate-filled mockery of actor Heath Ledger's death [[LA Times](#), Jan 26]

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
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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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