



PFLAG

Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

Next Meeting

Date: April 14, 7PM Program, 8PM Support

Place: Plymouth Congregational Church

Program: Adoption as an Option

Our speakers will be Cindy Sarai, Executive Director, and Cinda Lopez, Director of Development for **Adoption Dreams Come True** (ADCT). ADCT is a non-profit, private adoption agency that serves all of Colorado. The agency believes that people of any gender, religion, race, marital status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic level can be good parents and they support potential qualified parents in their pursuit of a family.

PFLAG Annual Meeting

PFLAG's annual meeting will be held on April 14 at 7PM.

Agenda:

- Introduction (President, Julie Wilson)
- Treasurers' Report (Treasurer, Beverly Webber)
- Announcements
- Election of Board

The nominating committee proposes the following slate:

- President: Julie Wilson (parent)
- Vice-President: Stewart Anderson
- Secretary: Jean Preslan (parent)
- Treasurer: Beverly Webber (parent)
- At-Large: Don Preslan (parent)
- At-Large: Jim Rath
- At-Large: Diane Kaufman (parent)
- At-Large: Carl Hane (parent)
- At-Large: Nancy Hane (parent)

Maria Swall and Michelle Benzor-Marquez are retiring from the Board but continuing to serve PFLAG in key leadership roles. Our current non-board leadership roles include:

- Safe Schools: Maria Swall
- Trans Coordinator: Michelle Benzor-Marquez
- Webmaster: Kenneth Camp
- Librarian: Mareye Bullock
- Mailings and email: Jon Mendenhall
- Support Facilitator: Bob Calkins
- Interfaith Council Liaison: Nancy Mendenhall

We always welcome additional volunteers. Please consider how you can serve. It does not require a lot of time, and it can add so much to the group and to your

own life. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED in volunteering in PFLAG, please let me know.

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
- Grant writing—help PFLAG extend its outreach in the community through special projects that require additional funding

PFLAG Chapter News

The PFLAG board of directors recently made the decision to switch our 970.407.0300 information and voice mailbox line to a cell phone line. Now when you call PFLAG for support, you stand a good chance of reaching a live person and receiving a personal, immediate response. *Thank you Bev Webber and Don Preslan for your work in making this transition.*

PFLAG Request for Input

Looking for parents and talking about sex ...

A woman who is writing a book called "My Teen Has Had Sex: Now What?" is looking for parents of GLBTQ youth for their perspective on how they talk about sex issues with their child. The book seeks to offer advice for parents, and wants to include GLBTQ children, as advice for them is often overlooked.

She would also like to hear from any GLBTQ teens for their advice on what works - and what doesn't. If you would like to be in contact with the author, please contact Adam M. Ratliff, Communications Coordinator for PFLAG National, aratliff@pflag.org, (202) 467-8180 ext. 212.

Looking for models ...

The fashion designer Kenneth Cole has a new add campaign called "We All Walk in Different Shoes," which features people from a wide array of backgrounds, with bold messages that celebrate diversity. To that end, they are seeking a transgender female / "M2F" (and possibly

the parents) who would be interested in modeling for this ad campaign. If selected, the company would provide transport and lodging in New York City. If interested, please contact Adam Ratliff, aratliff@pflag.org.

CSU Request for Input

Julie Metzger is doing a research paper on the experience of GLBT people in Fort Collins. She is interested in experiences on campus and in the community, specifically GLBT people of color because the paper is for an ethnic studies class. Another area of focus will be on the spiritual lives of GLBT people and how they resist hate from the religious right. She can be contacted at unicorn979@hotmail.com.

News of Local Interest

PFLAGer's share trans issues on local TV show

Michelle Benzor-Marquez, our PFLAG chapter's trans coordinator, and Elizabeth Bethea, Boulder PFLAG's co-president, were interviewed on Channel 12's *Colorado OutSpoken* program on Sunday, March 30 about transgender children and the impact on families and schools. If you missed the show, it should be posted in [the show's web archives](#) soon. After the taping, the producers were so excited about the excellent interview that they asked Michelle and Elizabeth to continue talking about this important topic. The second segment will air on *Colorado OutSpoken* at 10:00 p.m. Sunday, April 27.

Domestic partner benefits in Larimer County

Larimer County commissioners voted 2-1 to offer health insurance benefits to domestic partners of its employees, including same-sex partners. In contrast to the stand taken by the commissioners, Larimer County's sheriff stands in vocal opposition to the decision. If you feel strongly about this issue, now would be a good time to write letters to the editor and make phone calls to your county commissioners. [Coloradoan, [Mar 26](#), [Apr 3](#)]

Events of Local / Regional Interest

Apr 12: Rainbow Peaks Queer Prom

Rainbow Peaks Youth Group presents Queer Prom at the Northside Aztlan Center, 112 Willow Street, Fort Collins, at 7pm. For more information call the Lambda Center at 970.221.3247, or visit lambdacenter.org.

Apr 16: Health Care for All Colorado

Guest speaker Randall C Marsh, MD, will present "The US Health Care System: The Inevitable Demise of the Old and the Inevitable Future of the New," at Plymouth Congregational Church, 7-9 PM.

Apr 26: 3rd Annual Equality Gayla

Sponsored by the Lambda Community Center, the Equality Gayla takes play from 7-9 PM at Odell Brewing Company, 800 East Lincoln Avenue, Fort Collins. Tickets cost \$25 and can be purchased online at lambdacenter.org or by phone at 221-3247.

Apr 26: CSU Annual Drag Show

The annual drag show will be held on April 26 from 7-11 PM in the Lory Student Center Commons. The sign-up sheet for performers is in the GLBT Student Service Office, Room 174, Lory Student Center. For more information, please email soglb@gmail.com.

May 10: PFLAG Coalition meeting

The quarterly PFLAG Coalition meeting will be held in Denver at The Center, 1050 Broadway, Denver.

May 11: Lavender Graduation

CSU will host Lavender Graduation for December 2007 and later graduates. Friends and families are welcome. Lavender Graduation will be held in the Lory Student Center, 5:00-7:00 PM. Please RSVP by April 30 to [GLBT Student Services](#) and include number of guests.

Jun 5-8: Fort Collins Pride in the Park

Festivities start on Thursday evening, June 5th with karaoke and end Sunday morning June 8th with Spirit in the Park, an interfaith service featuring the New Community Choir. All day Pride in the Park is Saturday, June 7th. For more information, see prideinthepark.org.

Jun 19: *Inlaws and Outlaws*, Rialto Theatre, Loveland PFLAG and Lambda Community Center will jointly sponsor a showing of the film *Inlaws and Outlaws* at the Rialto Theatre in Loveland at 7:00 PM. Cost: \$5, free for students.

Inlaws and Outlaws cleverly weaves together the true stories of couples and singles – both gay and straight -- and all into a collective narrative that is as hilarious as it is heartbreaking. At the top of the film, you meet real people one on one. You don't know who's gay or straight or who's with whom. As their stories unfold and stereotypes fall by the wayside, you won't care because you'll be rooting for everybody. With candor, good humor, great music and real heart, *Inlaws and Outlaws* gets past all the rhetoric to explore what we all have in common.

We love. We lose. We all want to belong. And we're all making this up as we go along.

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

Please plan to join PFLAG as we march with other PFLAG chapters in the parade. The parade steps off at 9:30 AM from Cheesman Park and goes west on Colfax Avenue directly to Civic Center Park. If you can participate, please contact Julie Wilson at 667-5236.

July 5: Cyndi Lauper, True Colors Tour

PFLAG National is excited to announce Cyndi Lauper's second annual True Colors Tour in support of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) equality. The tour will feature five hours of non-stop music and entertainment by headliners Cyndi Lauper, The B-52s, and exciting special guests including Rosie O'Donnell, Wanda Sykes, Indigo Girls, Tegan and Sara, Regina

Spektor, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, Joan Armatrading, Nona Hendryx, Deborah Cox, The Cliks, and many more. The concert will be held in Morrison, CO at the Red Rocks Amphitheatre. For more information, see <http://www.truecolorstour.com/>.

Sep 19-21: PFLAG Mountain West Regional Conference

News of National / Global Interest

In Oregon, a happily married couple is breaking new ground because the transgender father is pregnant with their baby daughter. This couple has faced and continues to face challenges because many in our society, including in the medical community, aren't ready for a pregnant husband. [[The Advocate](#), Apr 8]

The California Supreme Court peppered both sides of the same-sex marriage debate with questions in a 3.5-hour hearing into whether the state law defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman is constitutional. The court has 90 days to make a decision on the case. [[San Francisco Chronicle](#), Mar 4]

The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that a roommate-finding site cannot require users to disclose their sexual orientation. "To inquire electronically about sexual orientation would not be different from asking people in person or by telephone if they were black or Jewish before conducting business," the panel of judges ruled. [[MSNBC](#), Apr 3]

The Norwegian government introduced legislation allowing same-sex couples to marry and have joint custody over children. The country already allows gay and lesbian couples to enter into civil partnerships, but the law does not go far enough and has created two classes of citizenship—one for heterosexuals the other for gays. The new legislation amends the definition of civil marriage to make it gender neutral and extends parenting rights to Lesbian partners "from the moment of conception." [[365Gay.com](#), Mar 14]

Safe Schools

Apr 25: Day of Silence

This year's Day of Silence will be held in memory of Lawrence King, who friends say was murdered in a California school February 12 because of his sexual orientation and gender expression. The event renews

attention to anti-LGBT bullying, harassment and discrimination in schools. Students observe the day in silence to echo the silence LGBT and ally students face every day.

For more information on conducting a Day of Silence, see <http://www.dayofsilence.org/>.

GLTB Resources

- ACLU of Colorado—www.aclu-co.org
- ColoradoOUTspoken, monthly show at 10:00pm on KBDI Channel 12—www.coloradooutspoken.net
- DENVER 24-hour Help Line, 303-333-0286
- Broadway Cares Equity Fights AIDS—www.bcefa.com
- The Center—www.glbtcOLORADO.org
- Equal Rights Colorado—equalrightscolorado.org
- Gill Foundation—www.gillfoundation.org
- GLAAD, Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation—www.glaad.org
- GLSEN, Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network—www.glsen.org
- Human Rights Campaign—www.hrc.org
- Lambda Community Center—lambdacenter.org
- Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund—www.lambdalegal.org
- National Gay and Lesbian Task Force—www.nglft.org
- PFLAG National—www.pflag.org
- Rainbow Peaks, GLBT youth group sponsored by Lambda Community Center—lambdacenter.org/skittles.html
- SAGE, Senior Action in a Gay Environment—www.sageusa.org
- Servicemembers Legal Defense Network—sldn.org

Reading/Viewing Corner

- ◆ GLAAD's "The Best and Worst of National News" features both well-done and negative news stories that feature GLBT persons. [[GLAAD](#), Mar 08]
- ◆ According to *The O'Reilly Factor*, the gay life style is being mainstreamed and this is cause for alarm. The April 4 episode contained a troubling debate about R Family Vacations. Read PFLAG's response on the [PFLAG National Blog](#).

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.