



PFLAG

Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

Next Meeting

Date: May 12, 7PM Program, 8PM Support
Program: Open and Affirming: Making Church More Welcoming

Our program in May features a panel discussion with leaders from several local churches. The churches are either already open and affirming or going through the process to become a more welcoming church. Panelists include Rick Mawson, Lynn Stiles, Charles Milner, Rick Riddoch, and Jon Mendenhall.

Please join us for an insightful discussion on how churches can be more welcoming to our GLBT loved ones.

PFLAG News

In March, the Oklahoma City chapter took the lead in fostering an important conversation about family values, our GLBT loved ones and the power of speaking up. Responding to remarks by State Representative Sally Kern, calling gay Americans a "cancer" that "is just destroying this nation," chapter president Rev. Loyce Newton-Edwards organized a peaceful demonstration in the state capitol to call attention to Kern's statement and its impact on her constituents, and the entire country. [[PFLAG](#), April]

News of Local Interest

[PFLAGer's share trans issues on local TV show](#)
 Michelle Benzor-Marquez, our PFLAG chapter's trans coordinator and mother of a M2F teenager, was interviewed with Elizabeth Bethea, Boulder PFLAG's co-president on Channel 12's *Colorado OutSpoken* program on Sunday, March 30 and again on April 27. The programs featured insightful discussions about issues facing young people wrestling with gender identity. If you missed the shows, you can watch them online [at the show's web archives](#). The March program is currently available; the April program will post in about a month.

Events of Local / Regional Interest

May 10: PFLAG Coalition meeting
 The quarterly PFLAG Coalition meeting will be held in Denver at The Center. The meeting will focus on helping chapters to connect with NetCommunity, the national website, and setting up their own websites or blogs.

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.

May 17: 14th Annual Queer Prom

The GLBT Community Center of Colorado presents the 14th annual [queer prom](#) on Saturday, May 17 from 8 PM to midnight at the Tivoli Turnhalle Ballroom in Denver. Queer Prom is an event for queer youth who would otherwise not be able to fully enjoy a prom because of their sexuality or gender presentation.

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. The Pride in the Park all-day event at the Fort Collins Civic Center is Saturday, June 7 from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. 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 is \$5, free for students. You can buy tickets [online](#) or at the door.

Inlaws and Outlaws cleverly weaves together the true stories of couples and singles – both gay and straight -- 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.

Inlaws and Outlaws is an excellent movie for advancing dialog in our churches and in our communities. Invite your friends and join us for an outstanding movie.

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

Please 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

The conference theme will be "United We Can: An Intergenerational Call to Action". Co-sponsored by the Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters and the University of Colorado GLBT Resource Center, the conference will be held at the First United Methodist Church in downtown Boulder and at the University Memorial Center at CU.

The conference includes inspiring speakers, practical workshops, and valuable networking. Featured speakers include:

- ◆ Judy Shepard, Matthew Shepard Foundation
- ◆ Jody Huckaby and Kim Jones, PFLAG
- ◆ Mara Kiesling, NCTE

Workshop themes to be explored: Intergenerational Interactions; Growing Groups; Putting a T in PFLAG; Faith, Belief and Spirit; and the Politics of Equality. See the pflagmountainwest.org website for registration and conference details. Registration includes 4 meals and a reception. Cost is \$100, \$90 for students and seniors. Other cost options exist for portions of the conference. Entertainment from the new Colorado Springs OutLoud Men's Chorus and Mosaic, a new Denver GLBT youth chorus as well as other local entertainers is planned. This is turning into an exciting conference! Mark your calendars now!

Jan 28-Feb 1: National Conference on LGBT Equality
Save this date! The "[National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change](#)" will be held in Denver! It is the premier national grassroots organizing and skills

building LGBT conference. The conference attracts 2,500+ participants from within and outside of the LGBT community. The conference is well known for providing a unique environment where activists and leaders come together from diverse places and backgrounds to create a community that is both strengthening and inspiring to the participants.

News of National / Global Interest

Same-sex couples receive different benefits in different states. Recently, a same-sex couple moved from New Jersey to Idaho. Although the employee still worked for the same company, in New Jersey his partner received medical benefits and in Idaho he does not. The couple is getting help from the American Civil Liberties Union. [[Washington Blade](#), Mar 31]

Safe Schools

Many students face challenges when trying to conduct a Day of Silence in their school. The ACLU blog (Apr 23 entry) has an excellent article on what a [student's legal rights](#) are.

In Memphis, a high school principal who was fed up with public displays of affection in the hallways allegedly displayed a list of couples—including some who are gay—in the school, publicly outing the boys and violating their privacy, according to one of the students involved. [[ABC News](#), May 2]

Transgender Advocacy

The National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force announced a new joint publication, *Opening the Door to the Inclusion of Transgender People: The Nine Keys to Making Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Organizations Fully Transgender-Inclusive*. Geared for LGBT organizations of any kind (from communities of faith, to social clubs, to advocacy organizations), this guide covers both practical and big-picture ways we can all bring our goals of a fully inclusive movement into reality. [[Download](#)]

Reading/Viewing Corner

Why would gay men in their 20s rush to the altar? Read "Young Gay Rites" by Benoit Denizet-Lewis, a fun article about young gay married couples in Massachusetts [[NY Times](#), Apr 27]

MEETINGS:

2nd Monday each month, 6:45 pm
Plymouth Congregational Church
916 W. Prospect Rd.
Fort Collins, Colorado

CONTACTS:

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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.