



# PFLAG

## Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

### Next Meeting

**Date:** June 9, 7PM Program, 8PM Support

**Program:** Creating a Safe Space

Everyone deserves to live in a safe space—whether you are at work, at school, at church, or in a social setting. Our program this month will explore what safe space is and the elements of good Safe Space training. We will provide examples from existing training programs for the workplace and for schools.

Our presenters will be BJ Kamigaki from Hewlett-Packard Company, Samantha Stevens from UNC, and Maria Swall from PFLAG. Please join us as we explore how we can consciously work to build a safe space wherever we are.

### PFLAG Safe Schools Update

[Order your PFLAG T-shirt now](#)

PFLAG will have T-shirts for sale at Pride in the Park on June 7. T-shirts cost only \$10. Take advantage of this great price to acquire a T-shirt and volunteer to help with PFLAG activities such as marching in the Denver PrideFest parade and the Larimer County parade. Be sure to stop by PFLAG's booth!

### Safe Schools Update

PFLAG's meeting with the Thompson School District (TSD) Diversity Council on May 13 went very well. Maria Swall, Michelle Benzor-Marquez, and Julie Wilson represented PFLAG. Additionally, the GSA sponsor from Mountain View High School, Melaina (a transgender student and member of PFLAG), and two other MVHS students attended to share their experiences and perspective.

Our goals were to:

- 1) Address the need for school district non-discrimination policies to include sexual orientation and gender identity.
- 2) Update the diversity council on the state of Gay-Straight Alliances in TSD.
- 3) Take a deep dive into the experience at one high school--MVHS.
- 4) Address the need for safe space training throughout the school district.

Although there are no guarantees as to future success, we identified an ally on the school board and had a

positive reception to the idea of safe space training. I know hard work remains. But we made a positive start. I've already followed up with the school board member, providing links to school district policies that are written inclusively, as well as links to other helpful resources (specifically, [safeschoolscoalition.org](http://safeschoolscoalition.org) in Washington). Michelle and I will pursue meeting with the new superintendent in July as part of his effort to visit 100 homes.

### News of Local / Regional Interest

The Colorado legislature successfully added language that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, including transgender status, in housing practices, public accommodation, eligibility for jury service, availability of family planning services, and many other areas. [[Denver Post](#), May 29]

### Events of Local / Regional Interest

**June 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](http://prideinthepark.org).

**June 14-15:** *Harmony Presents Magic!*

Harmony: a Colorado chorale brings out the magic in everyone with a new adventure based on a classic tale. On June 14<sup>th</sup> (2 pm and 8 pm) and 15<sup>th</sup> (2 pm) Harmony will present three performances of another original musical, *Magic!* at the Lakewood Cultural Center. See [harmonychorale.org](http://harmonychorale.org).

**June 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.

**June 21-22: The Center's PrideFest Denver 2008**  
Please join PFLAG as we march with other PFLAG chapters in the parade on June 22. 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. For more information, see [denverpridefest.org](http://denverpridefest.org).

**July 5: Cyndi Lauper, True Colors Tour**  
For more information, see [truecolorstour.com](http://truecolorstour.com).

**July 20: Colorado Springs PrideFest and Parade**  
The event, entitled "Unmask Your True Colors," takes place from 10-6 in Downtown Acacia Park. See <http://yourpridecenter.org/pridefest.php>.

**Sep 19-21: PFLAG Mountain West Regional Conference**  
The conference theme will be "United We Can: An Intergenerational Call to Action". Our local PFLAG chapter plans to offer scholarships to people who plan to attend. Please contact Julie Wilson at 667-5236 if you are interested in a scholarship.

See the [pflagmountainwest.org](http://pflagmountainwest.org) website for registration and conference details. Registration includes 4 meals and a reception. Cost is \$100, \$90 for students and seniors.

**Jan 28-Feb 1: National Conference on LGBT Equality**  
Save this date! The "National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change" will take place in Denver! See [http://www.thetaskforce.org/events/creating\\_change](http://www.thetaskforce.org/events/creating_change).

## News of National / Global Interest

More than 50,000 homosexuals were convicted during the Nazi reign of terror. Thousands were tortured and killed in concentration camps because of the way they chose to live their lives. A monument in the capital of Germany now pays tribute to the victims - and calls for greater tolerance. [[Die Bundesregierung](#), [Tate](#), May 27]

A federal appeals court ruled that the military cannot automatically discharge people because they're gay in the case of a decorated flight nurse who sued the Air Force over her dismissal. [[AP](#), May 22]

## Same-Sex Marriage

In a decision at once common-sensical and profound, a New York State appeals court ruled that same-sex marriages validly performed in other jurisdictions are entitled to recognition in New York. It was common sense because it simply accorded same-sex marriages the same legal status as other marriages. It was profound because of the way it could transform the lives of gay people. The new decision still leaves considerable work to be done. New York's ban on performing same-sex marriage remains in force. And there is a chance that the marriage-recognition decision will be appealed. [[NY Times Editorial](#), Feb 8]

In Illinois, House Bill 1826, the Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act, employs a new approach to civil unions. The legislation opens civil unions to all adult couples (including opposite-sex, same-sex and senior couples) and affords these couples the state-level protections and responsibilities essential to all families. Illinois seniors argue that without civil unions legislation, heterosexual couples who choose not to marry could be barred from making critical decisions for their partner, such as health care or funeral arrangements. [[May 16](#)]

The attorneys general of 10 states are urging the California Supreme Court to delay finalizing its ruling to legalize same-sex marriage. [[365gay.com](#), Jun 1]

## Safe Schools

For students heading to college, you can check the LGBT-friendly campus climate index. Unfortunately, the website requires registration and only rates 155 campuses. See [www.campusclimateindex.org](http://www.campusclimateindex.org).

## Reading/Viewing Corner

- ◆ [Silent "T" Party](#), a short video about the federal ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act) that does not include the transgender community
- ◆ [What's "normal" sex?](#)—an article addressing controversy in the American Psychiatric Association
- ◆ [GLAAD's Best and Worst of National News](#), May

### MEETINGS:

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

### CONTACTS:

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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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.