



# PFLAG

## Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

### Next Meeting

**Date:** July 13, 7PM Program, 8PM Support

**Program:** Creating Families from Scratch

Foula Dimopoulos will lead us in a discussion about creating families from scratch—a collaborative effort between local and university communities. We will explore how PFLAG can work more closely with CSU in building a supportive network for GLBTQ students.

In 2006 K. Foula Dimopoulos was offered a position at Colorado State University serving as the director of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Student Services. Foula has been a community organizer and social justice educator for over 15 years, beginning as an undergraduate student at Berea College, in Berea, Kentucky. Ze holds a master's degree in social work and community organizing from the University of Michigan. In hir spare time, Foula reads, draws, and writes, sips chai tea, and plays with hir two cats.

### PFLAG Update

PFLAG had a great time marching in the Denver PrideFest parade. One person from our group even made the 9News web site.

Our next parade opportunity takes place on July 30. Please save the date and join us in marching in the Larimer County Fair parade.

### Events of Local / Regional Interest

**July 12-13:** *Colorado Gay Rodeo, Denver*

The Colorado Gay Rodeo Association invites you to attend the Rocky Mountain regional rodeo at Jefferson County Fairgrounds (6<sup>th</sup> and Indiana Streets) in Denver. The rodeo runs both Saturday and Sunday from 9AM to 7PM. For more information, see [www.cgra.us](http://www.cgra.us).

**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>.

**July 25:** *For the Bible Tells Me So* film showing Plymouth Congregational Church will show *For the Bible Tells Me So* at its next movie night. The screening begins at 6:30 and will be followed by discussion.

**July 25-28:** *Colorado ManREACH Statewide Gathering*

Colorado ManREACH is a growing group of loving, supportive gay/bi/queer men who are committed to

creating a healthy, holistic community. Multi-day gatherings are held regularly at retreat centers around the state. Each gathering offers a fun mix of social activities and educational workshops in a relaxing, accepting and nurturing environment. The July event takes place at the Cal-Wood Retreat Center near Boulder. For more information, visit [www.manreach.org](http://www.manreach.org) or email [info@manreach.org](mailto:info@manreach.org).

**July 30:** *Larimer County Fair Parade, Loveland*

Please plan to march with PFLAG in the Larimer County Fair parade. The parade kicks off at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, July 30. We will meet about 6:15 in the staging area at the parking lot north of the river on S.E. 3rd Street, south on Railroad Avenue.

All walkers should park in the Barnes ball field lots and walk to the parking lot north of the river on Railroad Ave. Walking groups will mix into the parade at the river bridge. Last year, PFLAG mixed into the parade early, and we plan to do so again this year. To see the parade route and check out other parade details, visit [http://larimercountyfair.org/lcfr\\_events.html](http://larimercountyfair.org/lcfr_events.html).

**Aug 6-10:** *Rendezvous 2008, Wyoming*

Sponsored by Wyoming Equality/UGLW, this multi-day event allows you to camp it up at Wyoming's pride event. The event takes place in the Medicine Bow National Forest between Cheyenne and Laramie, Wyoming. For more information, visit [www.wyomingequality.org](http://www.wyomingequality.org) or write [wyomingequality@bresnan.net](mailto:wyomingequality@bresnan.net) or call 307-778-7645 or 877-778-7641.

**Sep 13:** *Peace in the Park, Loveland*

Mark your calendar for Peace in the Park on Saturday September 13, noon to 5 PM at Foote Lagoon. PFLAG will staff a booth at this event. If you can help, please contact Julie Wilson, 667-5236.

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

Don't miss this great opportunity to attend a PFLAG conference close to home—in Boulder. The conference theme will be "United We Can: An Intergenerational Call to Action". Our local PFLAG chapter plans to offer scholarships to help people 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. Remember—scholarships are available.

**Jan 28-Feb 1: National Conference on LGBT Equality**  
 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).

be defined. TransFaith Online seeks to be inclusive of all spiritual traditions and orientation, while placing a particular emphasis on support and education within the Christian tradition and Christian communities.

**News of National / Global Interest**  
**Same-sex marriage legalized in California**

California legalized same-sex marriage beginning June 16, 2008. California is the second state to recognize same-sex unions. According to the Williams Institute at the University of California in Los Angeles, more than 102,000 same-sex couples live in the state, and more than 50,000 plan to wed in the next three years.

The US House of Representatives held its first-ever Congressional hearing on transgender issues. The hearing, *An Examination of Discrimination Against Transgender Americans in the Workplace*, was chaired by Congressman Rob Andrews (D-NJ), and helped to educate lawmakers about the challenges the transgender community faces in the workplace. You can read PFLAG's coverage of the hearing on [national PFLAG's blog](#).

Unfortunately, the story isn't over yet. In November, Californians will vote on a proposed state constitutional amendment that would define marriage as being strictly between a man and a woman. If it passes, there obviously would be no more same-sex marriages in the future. And the future of the marriages that gays and lesbians entered into between June and November is unknown. [[LA Times](#), Jun 30]

**Relevant Election Dates**

Jul 14	Last day to register for Primary Election
Aug 2-8	Early voting for Primary Election
Aug 5	Last day to apply for mail-in ballot for Primary Election if ballot is to be mailed to you
Aug 8	Last day to apply in person for mail-in ballot for primary election
Aug 12	Primary Election - balloting closes at 7 pm
Oct 6	Last day to register for General Election
Oct 20-31	Early voting for General Election
Oct 28	Last day to apply for mail-in ballot for General Election if ballot is to be mailed to you
Oct 31	Last day to apply in person for mail-in ballot for General Election

The LDS church took a firm and decisive stand on the same-sex marriage issue with a letter to its members asking the to all that they can to ensure the California amendment passes. [[LDS letter](#)]

On the national front, the federal marriage amendment is still alive. Marilyn Musgrave is co-sponsoring two new versions of a US Constitutional amendment barring same-sex marriage. [[365gay.com](#), Jul 2]

**Reading/Viewing Corner**

- ◆ For a lighter look at the founding of our country, watch "The Muppets on the Constitutional Convention." [[YouTube](#)]
- ◆ Check out what happens when American Family Association's homophobia uses an automatic search and replace for all instances of the word "gay" with "homosexual" in its news stories. [[Language Log](#), July 1]
- ◆ On June 26, 2003, the U.S. Supreme Court decriminalized sodomy. Celebrate the 5-year anniversary of this landmark ruling by reading People for the American Way's editorial. [[PFAW](#)]
- ◆ Should the US rethink its freedom of speech, including its freedom of hate speech? [[NY Times](#), June 12]

When it comes to same-sex marriage there are few differences in the positions of John McCain, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. All three are opposed but would grant varying rights to gay and lesbian couples. And all three oppose amending the US constitution to bar same-sex marriage. [[365gay.com](#), May 16]

And while we're on the topic of same-sex marriage, don't miss the excellent editorial by Jonathan Rauch entitled, "[Gay Marriage is Good for America](#)."

**Transgender Advocacy**

A web site of potential interest to the transgender community: [TransFaith On-line](#) seeks to be inclusive of Transsexuals, Intersexuals, Crossdressers, Transvestites, and all other Transgender individuals however they may

**MEETINGS:**

2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.pflagftc.org)  
 Email: [info@pflagftc.org](mailto: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.