



# PFLAG

## Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

### Next Meeting

#### **PICNIC—different time, different location**

**Date:** August 11, 6 PM picnic, 7 PM discussion

**Location:** Rolland Moore Park, Shelter #2

PFLAG will hold its annual picnic in Rolland Moore Park, Shelter #2, west of Shields between Drake and Prospect in Fort Collins. **Attendees are invited to bring salad, side dish, or dessert. PFLAG will provide the main course, beverage, and table service.**

This year, we have invited the candidates for state and national elective positions, candidates for county commissioner, as well as current Fort Collins and Loveland city council members. Our goal is to discuss important social and political issues affecting gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) persons and families in a casual setting. Each candidate will have the opportunity to share his/her values and goals, as well as give PFLAG members the chance to share feedback on how laws impact GLBT lives and the lives of their families and friends.

Our picnic will have something for everyone—great fun, great program, games for children. Please make this special PFLAG event part of your plans for Monday, August 11. Join us and help the candidates understand the issues important to GLBT persons, their family and friends.

### PFLAG Update

Greeley PFLAG meets at 7:00PM on the third Saturday of each month in the Hope Room at First Congregational Church UCC, 16th Street at 22nd Ave in Greeley. They will soon become an official PFLAG chapter. For more information, contact Rick at 346-1204 or 371-2230 or send email to [pflag-greeley@comcast.net](mailto:pflag-greeley@comcast.net).

### Volunteers Needed

**Aug 16-17: Lambda/PFLAG booth at New West Fest**  
The Lambda Community Center and PFLAG will jointly be sponsoring a booth at the New West Fest in Fort Collins. With two days of staffing needed, please contact Diane Kaufman at 223-0041 or [RCKaufman01@comcast.net](mailto:RCKaufman01@comcast.net) if you can help.

### News of Local / Regional Interest

Angie Zapata, an 18-year-old transgender teen, was murdered in her Greeley apartment on July 17. On July 30, Greeley police arrested Allen Ray Andrade for

Angie's murder after they traced Angie's stolen car to him. According to police reports, the two met on a social networking site and they were on a date when Andrade attacked Angie with a fire extinguisher after discovering she was a transgender woman. On July 31, Andrade was charged with first-degree murder and bias-motivated crime. [[9News.com](http://9News.com), July 30]

A candlelight vigil to remember and honor Angie Zapata will be held on August 9, 7:00-9:00PM, at the Garden Theater on the UNC campus. For more information, call 970.221.3247 or 970.491.4342.

### Events of Local / Regional Interest

#### **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.

#### **Aug 9-10: HRC offers Camp Equality**

Join Human Rights Campaign in Denver the weekend of August 9-10 for an exciting training that will put you in position to help make 2008 the Year to Win for GLBT individuals across the country. Register now at [www.hrc.org/campequality](http://www.hrc.org/campequality)! Registration for Camp Equality is \$35 and includes a one-year HRC membership.

#### **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).

**News of National / Global Interest**

New research shows that gays in the military do not hurt our armed forces' ability to fight. Four retired military officers, including the three-star Air Force lieutenant general who in early 1993 was tasked with implementing President Clinton's policy that the military stop questioning recruits on their sexual orientation, conducted the research. [CNN, July 7]

Senator John McCain took a public stance against adoption by same-sex couples during an interview with the New York Times. He later qualified his position by stating that he does not seek a federal ban on the practice. [Examiner, July 15]

The Massachusetts Senate voted to repeal a 1913 statute prohibiting out-of-state couples from marrying in Massachusetts if their marriage would be considered void in their home state. This action brings the state closer to allowing same-sex couples from across the country to get married in Massachusetts. [Bay Windows, July 15]

A former Justice Department official violated federal non-discrimination laws according to findings of an internal DOJ investigation. The investigation found that Monica Goodling, senior counsel to former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and the department's liaison to the White House, told subordinates in 2006 that she denied extending an appointment of former Assistant U.S. Attorney Leslie Hagen of Michigan to a post at the Justice Department in Washington because she disapproved of Hagen's sexual orientation. [Southern Voice, Aug 1]

A gunman in Tennessee targeted a Unitarian church, killing two people. The note he left behind suggests that he targeted the congregation out of hatred for its liberal policies, including its acceptance of gays. [AOL News, July 28] The *Out and About Newspaper* contains a [first-hand report](#) of the incident.

*Religion Dispatches* contains an interesting [open letter to Sean Hannity](#), an author who encourages hate of liberals. News reports say Hannity's book, along with books by other conservative authors, was found in the Tennessee gunman's home and may have contributed to his twisted idea that "liberals" are to blame for the world's woes.

For yet another view on the Unitarian church shooting, read David Gibson's article suggesting that it is past time for churches to take a stand on gun control. [Huffington Post, July 29]

**GLBT-Focused Election News**

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) maintains a Newsroom '08 website. It provides resources to help you to read between the lines and get

the inside scoop on how the media is talking about GLBT issues throughout the election year. [GLAAD]

**Relevant Election Dates**

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

**Intersex: What Is It?**

Intersex is not a term that most people hear frequently. The term refers to individuals who display sexual characteristics of both male and female. In front of approximately 20 people, the Atlanta Police Department's LGBT liaison, Officer Darlene Harris, shared for the very first time in a public forum the journey to discovering being intersex. At the age of 35, Officer Harris learned that she had much higher testosterone levels than the range for the average male. Chromosome testing revealed Harris had the XY chromosome — the male chromosome. Yet Harris also has ovaries and now plans to have a hysterectomy. [Southern Voice, July 4, July 11]

**Safe Schools**

Boulder Valley Public Schools are featured in an ABC News story about LGBT pre-teens. Students are coming out much earlier, and they are proud but not safe. [ABC News, July 16]

A Florida federal court ruled that school officials in Okeechobee, Florida, must allow a gay-straight alliance (GSA) club to meet on campus. In a precedent-setting order arising in a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union, Judge K. Michael Moore upheld his earlier ruling that GSAs do not interfere with abstinence-only education and, in a legal first, held that schools must provide for the well-being of gay students. [Oasis Magazine, July 30]

**GLBT Help Line**

The GLBT National Help Center provides free and confidential telephone and email peer counseling, information, and local resources for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning callers throughout the U.S. For more information, see their web site at [glbnternationalhelpcenter.org/](http://glbnternationalhelpcenter.org/).

## Religion and Homosexuality

Five years ago, Gene Robinson was elected the first openly gay Christian bishop, causing the greatest crisis the modern Protestant community has ever faced. Will his love for another man rip the church in two? The Episcopal Church continues to struggle with this issue. [GQ, July 2008]

## Transgender News

Religious conservatives are hoping a referendum on a Montgomery County Maryland law protecting transgender people could become a template to repeal similar measures across the country. The Family Research Council Web site showed it is activating prayer networks to kill new laws ("including one in a D.C. suburb") that ban discrimination against transgender people.

These anti-transgender efforts are not limited to Maryland. Focus on the Family and other groups are actively fighting recent Colorado ENDA legislation that protects transgender people. Their campaign focuses on bathroom access. [Examiner, Aug 4]

Our transgender friends and family members continue to need our support in helping win equal rights for all, including the "T" in GLBT.

## Transgender and the Military

PFLAG, along with other leading LGBT organizations, continues to work towards decreasing exclusions from the military and change the institution in a number of ways in the years to come. At present, however, we are working to help LGBT people navigate the military's current rules and regulations. As such, we are proud to share a new resource developed by the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) entitled, "Transgender People and the Selective Service." Since 1917, the Selective Service requires all "men" to register and exempts all "women," but it fails to account for the transgender experience. Transgender people often seek to understand how to stay in compliance with the Selective Service because registration can affect government-backed financial aid, access to US citizenship, federal employment and other federal-related benefits.

To learn more about the Selective Service as it relates to the transgender experience please visit:

<http://www.nctequality.org/Resources/resources.html>

For more information on how military eligibility affects transgender people, please visit the [Servicemembers Legal Defense Network's Survival Guide](#) (page 16).

## Reading/Viewing Corner

- ◆ One of our PFLAG mailing list members invites us to read a new adult novel that has just been published by her partner Susan Gabriel. The book, *Seeking Sara Summers*, has a later-in-life lesbian theme. You can read more about the book at [seekingsarasummers.com](http://seekingsarasummers.com).
- ◆ A gay tourism ad in London that features South Carolina caused quite an uproar and resulted in one employee's resignation. Similar ads for Atlanta, Boston, Las Vegas, New Orleans and Washington, D.C. did not result in a similar backlash. [MSNBC, July 15]
- ◆ Bisexual Species: Unorthodox Sex in the Animal Kingdom [Scientific American, July]
- ◆ Finally, there's data to prove what the LGBT community has known for years—gay and lesbian adults are trendsetters. The news comes from Harris Interactive's latest survey, which reveals that gay men and lesbians are more trend-conscious than straight consumers. [Harris Interactive, July 21]
- ◆ After breaking barriers all their lives, LGBT baby boomers are getting serious about retirement and looking for mature-living complexes that don't require them to go back into the closet. These days, they don't have to look too far. From Delaware to California, LGBT business owners and nonprofits are building attractive condo complexes to woo savvy investors and retirees with everything from sumptuous facilities to hiking trails to live entertainment. [NGLCC Retirement]
- ◆ A new study finds a vast generational shift among LGBT people. The survey found that 79% of gay people think it's important to integrate into the greater culture and 64% are open about their sexual orientation to at least their family members. It also found that less than half of gay people want to live in a city and a majority wants to live in suburbia or small-town America. [365Gay.com, Aug 5]

### 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.