



PFLAG

Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

Next Meeting

Date: October 13, 7PM Program, 8PM Support
Program: Coming Out: When Parents Come Out

In honor of National Coming Out week, PFLAG will explore the family dynamics involved when a parent comes out as gay or lesbian. Please join us for an exciting panel discussion that includes gay parents and children of gay parents. Some parents came out after they had children; others chose to have children after they were out.

PFLAG Report—Candidate Forum

Last month the newsletter was so abbreviated that I neglected to include highlights from our August picnic. We had a great turnout and an excellent discussion with the candidates that attended. The following candidates attended the picnic in person:

- Betsey Markey, candidate for Colorado 4th Congressional District
- Bob Bacon, Senate District 14
- James Ross, candidate for House District 49
- John Kefalas, incumbent, House District 52
- Randy Fisher, incumbent, House District 53
- Steve Johnson, candidate for County Commissioner District 2
- Roger Hoffmann, candidate for County Commissioner District 3

The following candidates were unable to attend in person but sent a representative:

- Mark Udall, candidate for U.S. Senate
- Randy Eubanks, incumbent for County Commissioner, District 2

Additionally, Ben Manvel attended the picnic from the Fort Collins City Council. Everyone who attended really enjoyed the opportunity to meet the candidates in person, learn about their personal priorities, and share our concerns as GLBT persons and family members.

PFLAG Regional Conference

Northern Colorado had a great turnout at the PFLAG regional conference in September. We had 14 PFLAG members attend the conference, as well as four people from Lambda Community Center and two from CSU.

The conference itself was wonderful. Bev Webber, our PFLAG treasurer, did an outstanding job as registrar for

the conference. All of the speakers and breakout sessions were excellent. The attendees spread out to many different sessions, so we should have lots of new program ideas to share in the coming months.

Home Depot Helps Lambda Center

Lambda Community Center will be receiving a \$5,000 makeover courtesy of area Home Depot stores! LCC has been chosen as their service project for 2008, thanks to some lobbying by Diane Kaufman, who is a Lambda volunteer and a member of the PFLAG Board of Directors. The makeover will focus on green materials and energy savings. When you shop at Home Depot, express your thanks for their support of the GLBT community!

Commemorate Matthew Shepard

Oct 12: *Screening of "The Laramie Project" and community speak-out in memory of the tenth anniversary of Matthew Shepard's death*

October 12, 2008 marks the 10th year since the death of Matthew Shepard's at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins. Shepard was beaten by two men in Laramie, tied to a fence post and left to die in the harsh Wyoming wind.

His death prompted discussion and new legislation concerning anti-gay and hate-motivated crimes in this country. While we have seemingly come so far in the struggle for equality and anti-hate actions, our communities recently experienced another hit with the murder of Angie Zapata, an 18-year old Latina transgender woman in Greeley.

Colorado State's Residence Hall Association, CSU GLBT Student Services and local Lambda Community Center invite the community to share Matthew's story, celebrate his life and talk about what still needs to be done. Please join us as we screen *The Laramie Project* followed by open-mic discussion and sharing circle of how Shepard's tragic end became a beginning for our community.

Lory Student Center Theatre
 Sunday October 12, 2008
 7:00pm-10:00pm

For details please contact RHA at (719) 332-4407, GLBTSS at (970) 491-4342 or Lambda Community Center (970) 221-3247.

Other Events of Local Interest

Oct 7: *Screening of Journey to a Hate Free Millennium*

This documentary addresses issues of racism, homophobia, and hate crimes by exploring the tragic murders of James Byrd, Jr., Matthew Shepard, and the student shootings at Columbine High School. Journey attempts to weave an emotional response to the problem of hate in American and examine how such tragedies can be prevented, and how the attitudes of the prejudiced can be reoriented in more positive ways. The event is free and open to the public.

When: 7:00 PM

Where: Lory Student Center, Grey Rock Room, CSU

More information: [CSU Events Calendar](#)

Oct 10-12: *Widening Our Welcome conference*

The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry (www.clgs.org) is holding a conference in Denver that will explore ways in which Christian congregations can expand their welcome and inclusion of LGBTQ people.

More information: <http://ofdenver.eventbrite.com/>.

Oct 11: *Lambda Community Center anniversary party*

Join the Lambda Center on October 11th as they celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Lambda Community Center and National Coming Out Day at the historic Northern Hotel in downtown Fort Collins. The planning committee is pulling out all the stops to make this a glittering celebration! The event will feature guest speakers and entertainment, an open bar and a selection of aphrodisiac hors d'ouvres, all presented under the magnificent stained glass ceiling in the restored lobby of the Northern. Tickets are \$25 each and those who attend are asked to dress to impress. Festivities will start at 7:00 pm. Tickets will be available [on-line](#) or at the Lambda Center.

Oct 11: *Gaybutante Celebration*

The GLBT Community Center of Colorado is proud to announce the 10th annual Gaybutante celebration, benefiting Rainbow Alley. This year's event will be hosted at St. Cajetan's on the Auraria campus on National Coming Out Day, Saturday, October 11, 2008 from 6pm to 8pm. For tickets and further event information, see [The Center's web site](#).

Oct 18: *Vox Feminista*

Vox Feminista presents "And the Pursuit of Happiness" at Avogadro's Number, 650 S. Mason, Fort Collins. The performance begins at 8:00pm. Admission at the door is \$12-\$30 on a sliding scale. For more information, please visit <http://www.Voxfeminista.org>.

Oct 22: *Homosexuality and Religion, Rev. Dr. Mel White*

A scholar on the Bible, gay man, and former ghostwriter for influential members of the extreme religious right, Mel

White is the leading voice against the hateful lies about homosexuality. After almost three decades of counseling and "anti-gay" therapy, Mel White was able to reconcile his Christian theology and his sexual orientation. Come and hear Dr. White's powerful story. A Q&A will follow the presentation.

When: 7:00 PM

Where: University Center Panorama Rooms, UNC

More information: [UNC Event Calendar](#)

Oct 23: *ERC Legislative Roadshow*

Co-sponsored by Equal Rights Colorado and the Lambda Community Center, you won't want to miss this event. We are asking citizens of the Northern Colorado region to come join us for an evening of discussion on public advocacy on GLBT legislative issues and concerns present and future. We look forward to hearing the voices of this community so we may continue to lobby legislation on behalf of Colorado's GLBT citizens and our families.

When: 7:00 PM

Where: Lambda Community Center, 212 South Mason Street, Fort Collins

Nov 1: *PFLAG annual planning retreat*

I'll send more details later, but the PFLAG Board of Directors invites you to be part of our annual planning retreat. We'll spend the day at Diane Kaufman's mountain cabin, enjoy some great food and friendship, and make our plans for 2009. **YOU ARE INVITED.** Please contact Julie Wilson, 667-5236, if you plan to attend.

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.

Two Spirits: The Life and Death of Fred Martinez

The Fred Martinez Project is producing the documentary, *Two Spirits: The Life and Death of Fred Martinez*. Even before the film is finished (early 2009), the project was the recipient of this year's Distinguished Achievement Award from the Paul Monette/Roger Horwitz Trust for outstanding activism, research, and scholarship to combat homophobia. (The award was presented at the Lambda Literary Awards ceremony in Los Angeles on May 29, 2008.) The project's outstanding Web site is www.twospirits.org, a significant resource that is updated on a regular basis.

The Two Spirits documentary will be an effective anti-bullying educational tool dealing with "being different" — including issues of race, class, sexual orientation, and gender identity. As Paula Mitchell, Fred's mother, has asked, "Why are people killed for being who they are?" The Colorado chapter of GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and

Straight Education Network) will be developing curricula to be used with the documentary. PFLAG National and PFLAG Denver are formal Outreach Partners for the project, and the Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters has also made a financial contribution. Other state-based Outreach Partners include the GLBT Community Center of Colorado and the Gender Identity Center of Colorado.

In addition to seeing the completion of the documentary, one of Paula Mitchell's greatest wishes is to have a granite headstone for Fred's grave. A particularly poignant scene in the documentary is an interview segment with Paula sitting at Fred's grave, with its simple marker and collection of Fred's model cars and key chains. Paula has already worked with the monument makers to design the headstone that she wants, but she is very poor and unable to pay for it. The Matthew Shepard Foundation contributed an initial \$500 earmarked for this purpose, leaving a balance of \$1,200. Another \$150 was raised at the PFLAG Mountain West Regional Conference in Boulder in September.

We hope others will support this effort. Earmarked donations should indicate "Fred's headstone" on the memo line and be sent to:

Fred Martinez Project
150 South San Fernando Blvd. #303
Burbank, CA 91502

GLBT History Month

Each day in October, an Icon is featured with a video, biography, bibliography, images and other resources. The resources for GLBT History Month 2008 are available starting October 1st at glbtHistoryMonth.com.

Samples from the month:
1: Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon
7: Greg Louganis
17: Gene Robinson
31: Michelangelo

National Coming Out Day

National Coming Out Day is an internationally observed, civil awareness day for coming out and discussion about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) issues.

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

Members of the LGBT communities and their supporters celebrate the event on October 11.

In the United States, the Human Rights Campaign manages the event under the National Coming Out Project, offering resources to LGBT individuals, couples, parents and children, as well as straight friends and relatives, to promote awareness of LGBT families living honest and open lives.

For more information, check out the excellent resources at HRC: http://www.hrc.org/issues/coming_out.asp

Homosexuality and Religion

In Fresno, CA, a local priest may have given his last mass. Father Geoffrey Farrow of the Saint Paul Newman Center in northeast Fresno surprised parishioners Sunday morning when he came out against Proposition 8, an initiative that would eliminate the right for same sex couples to marry in California. [[ABC Local News](#), Oct 5]

At the other end of the spectrum, clergy and lay members of the theologically conservative Pittsburgh diocese voted overwhelmingly to break from the Episcopal Church. The diocese differs from the church on issues ranging from homosexuality to biblical teachings on salvation. [[AP](#), Oct 5]

A major milestone has now been reached—the Welcoming Church Directory just added the 5,000th welcoming Christian church. [www.gaychurch.org]

Relevant Election Dates

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
Nov 4	Election day

Reading/Viewing Corner

Inspired by the idea that one of the greatest gifts one generation can pass to another is the wisdom it has gained from experience, the Wisdom project seeks to create a record of a multi-cultural group of people who have all made their mark on the world. [[WisdomBook](#)]

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.