



PFLAG

Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

Next Meeting

Date: December 8, 7PM **Support**, 8PM **Program**

Program: Home for the Holidays

PFLAG recognizes that many people in our community find holidays to be a stressful time, due to the attitudes of family members. The Rev. Peggy Christensen, chaplain and director of the Geller Center for Spiritual Development, will facilitate our discussion on how to talk about difficult subjects and how to deal with the stress the holidays bring.

In addition, PFLAG offers resources for the holidays:

- [Tips for a Happy Holiday](#) for LGBT persons
- [Tips for a Happy Holiday](#) for family members and friends

Anthony Romero, Executive Director of the ACLU, urges us to confront the issue of same-sex marriage equality with our friends and loved ones. He writes, "Don't shy away from the conversation. Do what I'm hoping thousands of ACLU supporters will do over the holidays. Talk to someone you've never talked to about same sex marriage and explain that it's just not right to deny someone their freedom because of who they are or who they love." [[ACLU Blog](#), Nov 26]

PFLAG Reports

Michelle Benzor-Marquez, Julie Wilson, Carl Hane, and Beverly Webber all had the opportunity to staff a PFLAG Coalition booth at the Colorado School Counselor's Association conference in November. This conference provided PFLAG with an excellent opportunity to talk with educators who are truly interested in improving the school environment for LGBT students. Counselors from all grade levels—elementary, middle school, and high school faced challenges in their school and desired the type of resources that PFLAG could provide.

Larry and Beverly Webber, Carl and Nancy Hane, Diane and Rick Kaufman, and Michelle Benzor-Marquez shared their personal stories as parents of LGBT loved ones on a PFLAG panel for the Loveland Unitarian Universalist Congregation Community Forum on Nov 23. Additionally, Melaina shared her story as a female-affirmed teenager who transitioned in eighth grade. Vicki Clark, the event organizer wrote, "The panel was fantastic last night. I so appreciate your willingness to round up everyone and get them on board for our forum."

Events of Local/Regional Interest

Dec 10: *Day without a Gay*

Join the positive protest on Human Rights Day. On Dec. 10, the gay community will take a historic stance against hatred by donating love to a variety of causes. [Day Without A Gay](#) seeks to shift our strong feelings about injustice toward service! Let's fight for equality by out-loving those who would deny us rights.

LGBT community centers across Colorado's Front Range are organizing food drives that day. You can bring your non-perishable food donations to the Lambda Community Center anytime between Monday, December 1st and Tuesday, December 9th. All food will be delivered to agencies that currently serve families and individuals in need. If you already volunteer take this day to be VISIBLE as a GLBTQA person who gives back to our community. Volunteer...wear your pride shirt, ally button, rainbow flag...start the conversation!

For more information please contact the Lambda Community Center at 970-221-3247.

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.

News of National/Global Interest

Above and beyond the standards of the federal government, the Obama transition web site contains the following non-discrimination policy: "The Obama-Biden Transition Project does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, veteran status, *sexual orientation*, *gender identity*, disability, or any other basis of discrimination prohibited by law." [[Office of the President-Elect web site](#)]

In an order issued on Nov 19, the California Supreme Court agreed to hear a challenge to Proposition 8, a ban on same-sex marriage, as early as March 2009. In the interim, the court has declined to issue a stay. The court challenge was brought by a coalition of organizations working in California, including The American Civil Liberties Union, Lambda Legal and The National Center for Lesbian Rights. The City of San Francisco is also challenging the measure. [[PFLAG](#), Nov 20]

California voters passed Proposition 8 by a vote of 52% to 48%. The proposition read "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

For an interesting analysis of the black vote, see the NY times op-ed column entitled "Gay Marriage and a Moral Minority". [[NY Times](#), Nov 29]

A Florida judge has ruled against Florida's gay adoption ban, stating that the ban is unconstitutional. The judge ruled that there is no rational, scientific or moral reason that sexual orientation should be a barrier to adopting children, finalizing the adoption of two siblings by their gay foster father. [[NPR](#), Nov 25]

In Syracuse, NY, the victim of a brazen murder has been identified as transgendered. Latiesha Green and her brother had just arrived at a party and were still in their car when guests began yelling homophobic epithets at them. One of the guests, Dwight DeLee, went into the residence, returned with a 22-caliber rifle, and fired into the car, killing Latiesha. Per the local PFLAG chapter, Latiesha's brother is gay and the family fully accepted and supported Latiesha and want to see this crime tried as a hate crime. [[365Gay.com](#), Nov 18]

Advocacy through Postcards

President-elect Barack Obama has made a lot of [promises](#) to the LGBTQ community. To help ensure that he follows through, you can join Project Postcard. The plan is simple—send him a postcard with your reminder. For more information, see [civilrightsfront.com](#).

Advocacy through Boycott

According to published lists, Cinemark Theater Group's CEO (Alan Stock) donated \$10,000 to help ban same-sex marriage in California. Ironically, the movie *Milk*, a biography of Harvey Milk, one of the first openly gay elected officials in the country, has been booked to show in several Cinemark Theatre chains. LGBT activists recommend that you DO see the movie, but NOT at a Cinemark chain (Century Theatres, Tinseltown Theatres, CineArts Theatres). You could also take a minute and let Cinemark know why you're going elsewhere: <http://www.cinemark.com/help.asp>.

Religion and Homosexuality

Parents involved in Fortunate Families, a Catholic organization to support families with LGBT loved ones,

were recently featured in a National Catholic Reporter article. [[NCR](#), Nov 28]

Survey Opportunity

David Lick, a student researcher at the University of Virginia, is seeking survey participants. He writes, "I am working with psychology professors Charlotte Patterson and Karen Schmidt on a project about adults who grew up with gay or lesbian parents. I am currently advertising my project and reaching out to potential participants. We are interested in the everyday experiences of children growing up with gay and lesbian parents. As I'm sure you know, the psychological literature has repeatedly shown that children with queer parents have no "abnormalities." Having made this point, it is now important to move on to study the more complex lives and experiences of these children, both positive and negative. By learning about the lives of young adults who have grown up with lesbian and gay parents, I hope to provide a deeper breadth of knowledge for counselors that are in contact with the children of queer parents." Anyone interested in participating should contact David Lick at queerfamilystudy@email.virginia.edu for the study link and password.

Reading/Viewing Corner

Nature's Choice: What Science Reveals about the Biological Origins of Sexual Orientation

The true role of biology in determining sexual orientation is an oft-debated issue in both the popular media and scientific communities, and evaluating the literature on the topic can be daunting. *Nature's Choice: What Science Reveals about the Biological Origins of Sexual Orientation* offers both a comprehensive review of the scientific literature and a fresh perspective on this complex and politically charged subject. Respected researcher, speaker, and author Dr. Cheryl Weill, Boulder County resident, offers readers of all backgrounds an enlightening analysis of findings from over twenty years of research on the factor of biology in the determination of sexual orientation. The book brilliantly distills complicated studies and research findings dealing with brain anatomy, genetics, sex-typical behavior in children, auditory, startle reflex, and many other areas. [[Informaworld](#)]

MEETINGS:

2nd 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.