



# PFLAG

## Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

### Next Meeting

**Date:** January 12, 7 PM Program, 8PM Support  
**Program:** Project Visibility: Supporting older GLBT adults

Katie Steiber will facilitate our discussion of the Project Visibility video. Katie has lived in Fort Collins for ten years. She is active with the Lambda Community Center and works for the Fort Collins Senior Center.

### Transportation to PFLAG Meetings

If you are interested in attending PFLAG meetings but need transportation, please call Craig Wilson at 667-5236 prior to the day of the meeting.

### PFLAG News

High school seniors—it is time to consider applying for PFLAG scholarships. The deadline is March 13. For more information, check [PFLAG Scholarship Programs](#).

Hewlett-Packard Company has become our chapter's first corporate sponsor for 2009. HP Leadership is supportive of PFLAG's charter and is excited to be able to support it with a donation of \$500. Thank you HP, and thank you Stewart for the leg work involved.

### Events of Local/Regional Interest

**Jan 10:** Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters meeting  
 The Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters will meet in Evergreen at the United Methodist Church, 3757 Ponderosa Drive. The event begins at 9:00 AM and wraps up by 4 PM. In the morning, we have a business meeting. The afternoon features two presentations. The main program will be delivered by Julie Graves, PhD candidate at CU Boulder. She will be describing her work in the field of straight identities as related to homosexuality. She also will be telling us about the Colorado Queer Straight Alliance, a state-wide network she oversees. We will also have a speaker from Equality Colorado, who will tell us about the upcoming Lobby Day in Denver. All interested PFLAG members are invited to attend. If you are interested in car pooling, please contact Bev Webber, 484-0031.

### Jan 13: Screening of *Prayers for Bobby*

You are invited to a special advance screening of *Prayers for Bobby* on Thursday, Jan 15 at 7:00 pm. The screening takes place at Shwayder Theater at the Jewish Community Center of Denver, 350 South Dahlia Street. This private event is hosted by Executive producer Daniel Sladek. Please RSVP by January 13 to

[asst@sladektaaffe.com](mailto:asst@sladektaaffe.com). For more information on this film, check the "Reading/Viewing Corner" later in this newsletter.

### Jan 26: Welcoming Church Sunday

Each year, the fourth Sunday in January is designated as "International Welcoming Church Sunday." This is a time when congregations in many different denominations celebrate their commitment to diversity – and in particular to affirming God's love for persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities. If you know of a local church that plans such a celebration, please let Julie Wilson know.

### 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 Local/Regional Interest

Cause for celebration—The Loveland Reporter Herald published its **first** same-sex engagement on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Even more exciting, the paper did not publish any negative RH Line calls following the announcement. It isn't possible to know if they exercised discretion or if no one called—either way, Loveland achieved a major, but long overdue milestone.

### News of National/Global Interest

Newsweek's December 15<sup>th</sup> cover story "Our Mutual Joy" explains in great detail why what the Bible teaches us about love can be used as an argument in favor of marriage equality. The article also describes how the arguments used by our opposition in citing scripture are not accurate. The author, Lisa Miller, helps to spread the PFLAG message of supporting and strengthening families. We encourage you to read the article and then **contact Newsweek** to let them know that you enjoyed and agreed with it. Opposition groups are currently bombarding Newsweek with negative comments about this article. It is important to show our support of this honest and accurate account of the Bible and the inappropriate way that our opposition is using it to make their argument. [[Article](#), [Letters to Editor](#)]

PFLAG has expressed grave concern about President-Elect Obama's choice of Rev. Rick Warren to deliver the invocation at his inaugural ceremonies. [[PFLAG Blog](#)] For other perspectives, check out the [NY Times](#) and the [Washington Post](#).

## Advocacy

Our newly elected members of Congress were sworn in today, January 6. Let's make sure the first thing they hear about is the importance of an Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) that protects all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and have them connect you to your Representative (based on your zip code). Tell them: "I am a constituent and I would like you to please tell Representative \_\_\_\_\_ that I strongly support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act that would ban discrimination against all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people."

Then, call back and leave messages with your two Senators too!

## Safe Schools

According to research by Caitlin Ryan, a family's acceptance is a critical factor in the health of GLB youth. Young gay people whose parents or guardians responded negatively when they revealed their sexual orientation were more likely to attempt suicide, experience severe depression and use drugs than those whose families accepted the news. One of the most startling findings was that being forbidden to associate with gay peers was as damaging as being physically beaten or verbally abused by their parents. [[International Herald Tribune](#), [Pediatrics](#), Dec 29]

In December PFLAG launched a new safe schools program entitled *Cultivating Respect*. The program includes training seminars for local parents and allies, empowering PFLAG supporters at the local level to work directly with their community leaders and school administrators to protect LGBT students. PFLAG plans trainings across the country in 2009, following initial training sessions held earlier this year in Ohio and Tennessee. [[PFLAG Online](#)]

## Religion and Homosexuality

Remember [TransFaith On-line](#), a resource dedicated to supporting transgender folks in their faith journeys, while providing useful resources to help people of faith become better educated trans-allies. A new

InterSections area of the website compiles basic transgender health information that is not easily accessible in any other place on the internet. Initial InterSections include topics ranging from Prostate Cancer, Smoking, and Suicide to Intersex Identity and Finding a Spiritual Home. Special thanks go out to Christian Lesbians Out Together, who sponsored our 2008 Breast Cancer Awareness effort.

The research for these InterSections has been terribly sobering, as we have realized just how little transgender-specific information on health and wholeness is readily available, beyond basic issues of gender transition. In the coming year, watch for InterSections on TransKids, Osteoporosis, Cardio-Vascular Disease, Safer Sex, and more. We've just launched January's Cervical Cancer Awareness InterSection -- and as you move through your New Year's Resolutions, check out our new Healthy Weight InterSection.

## Reading/Viewing Corner

- On January 24, the TV movie *Prayers for Bobby*, based on the book by Leroy Aarons, will be broadcast at 9 pm EST. The movie stars and is produced by Sigourney Weaver. Many of you will remember when Jana Thomas conducted the Rainbow Chorus in a performance of the music based on the book.

*Prayers for Bobby*, nominated for a 1996 Lambda Literary Award, is the story of the emotional journey that led Bobby to take his own life. But it is also the story of Bobby's mother, a fearful churchgoer who first prayed that her son would be "healed," then anguished over his suicide, and ultimately transformed herself into a national crusader for gay and lesbian youth. As told through Bobby's poignant journal entries and his mother's reminiscences, *Prayers for Bobby* is at once a moving personal story, a true profile in courage, and a call to arms to parents everywhere.

- More analysis on Proposition 8 [[Huffington Post](#), Nov 15]
- Marriage for ALL: "It's About Love" [[You Tube](#)]
- Another marriage equality video, this one from SoulForce: "Don't Tell Me Who To Love" [[You Tube](#)]

### 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  
Diane 970.223.0041

### 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.