



PFLAG

Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

Next Meeting

Date: February 9, 7PM dessert and discussion

Place: Foothills Unitarian Church

Program: PFLAG is eager to understand the issues important to GLBT youth and their families by hearing from our local and regional Gay-Straight Alliances, GLBT youth groups and campus organizations, as well as teachers, counselors, and parents. Please come talk with us!

Important Note: Our annual dessert and discussion with youth takes place in a different location—**Foothills Unitarian Church**, 1815 Yorktown Avenue, Fort Collins (on Drake between Shields and Taft Hill).

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](#).

PFLAG's annual meeting will be held on March 9. Please save this date and attend this important meeting. More information will follow in a special email.

PFLAG Durango is celebrating the fact that, beginning in 2009, the city of Durango will join more than 60 Colorado municipalities and some of the region's largest employers by offering its employee benefits package to same-sex domestic couples. [[Durango Herald](#), Nov 30]

On January 21, we held a special PFLAG planning meeting with three topics—starting a Speaker's Bureau, reaching out to faith communities, and continuing to build our safe schools coalition. Each of these areas now has a small group that will continue to drive future efforts. If you are interested in being part of one or more of these efforts, please let the following people know:

- ❖ Speaker's Bureau—Beverly Webber, 970.484.0031
- ❖ Faith community outreach—Julie Wilson, jw6804@aol.com
- ❖ Safe schools coalition—Andy Stoll, andy@lambdacenter.org

Events of Local/Regional Interest

Feb 12: Safe Schools Coalition meeting

The Safe Schools Coalition will meet at 5:30 pm at the Lambda Community Center, 212 South Mason Street, Fort Collins. Please join us as we discuss next steps and strategies for building safer schools.

Feb 16: Equal Right Colorado Lobby Day

Join Equal Rights Colorado, The Center, and PFLAG Denver in voicing your issues! Learn effective techniques to make a difference on the issues you care about. The workshops starts at The Center hearing from various speakers, including state senators and representatives, learning about current bills impacting the GLBT community, and finding out what actions you can take to make a difference. Then participants will go together to the Colorado State Capitol and have a chance to interact directly with those on the floor and express the importance of their votes on GLBT issues.

The event takes place Monday, Feb. 16th at 8:00AM-12:00noon at The Center, 1050 Broadway, Denver. This is a free event. Please email Mindy Barton at mbarton@glbtcolorado.org to RSVP. For more information, see <http://www.equalrightscolorado.org/>.

Feb 21: Freedom to Marry Day, 12:30-3:30PM

Fort Collins' 10th annual Freedom To Marry Day Rally takes place on Feb 21 in Old Town Square, followed by a procession to Avo's on Mason and Laurel. This year's theme: Civil Marriage is a Civil Right! Speakers begin at 1:00. For more information, see lambdacenter.org.

April 4: Safe Schools Cultivating Respect training

The primary focus of the next Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters meeting is Safe Schools training by National PFLAG. Training will be held in the conference room at the Care and Share warehouse, located 0.4 miles east of Powers Blvd. on Constitution Ave. in Colorado Springs. Please RSVP to Julie Wilson, jw6804@aol.com, if you plan to attend.

June 4-7: Pride in the Park

Early plans for Pride in the Park cover four days, including the usual park event on Saturday. Stay tuned for more details. Save the weekend now.

News of Local/Regional Interest

Senate Bill 88, introduced by Sen. Jennifer Veiga, would allow state employees to apply for health insurance for their domestic partners. Already one-third of all states,

17 Colorado cities and five Colorado counties offer health insurance for their employees' same-sex partners. SB 88 would allow the State of Colorado to catch up, while reducing the number of uninsured and helping our state government recruit and retain talented workers.

SB 88 is an important bill and it needs our support. Please contact the members of the Senate Business, Labor and Technology Committee to let them know that you support this bill! Also, please contact your state senator and tell them that this bill matters to you.

Sen. Jennifer Veiga (D - Dist 31) 303-866-4861
jennifer.veiga.senate@state.co.us

Sen. Lois Tochtrop (D - Dist 24) 303-866-4863
lotochtrop@aol.com

Sen. Rollie Heath (D - Dist 18) 303-866-4872
rollie.heath.senate@state.co.us

Sen. Joyce Foster (D - Dist 35) 303-866-4875
joyce.foster.senate@state.co.us

Sen. Ted Harvey (R - Dist 30) 303-866-4881
ted.harvey.senate@state.co.us

Sen. Shawn Mitchell (R - Dist 23) 303-866-4876
shawn.mitchell.senate@state.co.us

Sen. Mark Scheffel (R - Dist 4) 303-866-4869
mark.scheffel.senate@state.co.us

Inaugural News

The kickoff ceremony before Obama's inauguration took place on Sunday, Jan 18, at the Lincoln Memorial. The Right Rev. Gene Robinson, the gay Episcopal bishop, gave the invocation. [[YouTube](#), [Concord Monitor](#), [Invocation Text](#)]

Later Heather Headley and Josh Groban sang "My Country 'Tis of Thee," backed by the D.C. Gay Men's Chorus. It brought tears to my eyes to see the Gay Men's Chorus participate in this event. [[YouTube](#)]

In his speech at the kickoff ceremony, Barack Obama mentioned gays in his list of people who should come together. [[365Gay.com](#), Jan 18]

The Lesbian & Gay Band Association (LGBA), which comprises 34 bands all over the United States, applied to march in the inaugural parade and was accepted. A precision marching band grew out of the 177 musicians from all across the United States. This band proudly took its place in the inaugural line-up with bands from every branch of the armed services and made its historic march past America's new president. [[YouTube](#)]

Transgender Advocacy

News just in from the Creating Change conference in Denver—the Rev. Justin Tanis has written "Teaching Transgender: A Guide to Leading Effective Trainings" which is a great resource, particularly for transgender people in the position of leading a Transgender 101 workshop. The guide provides its own curriculum for a transgender 101 workshop that is general-purpose and not specific to faith communities. You may use the guide as a base for developing your own presentation for faith communities, but it also provides a variety of more generic wisdom about leading such discussions that should be a useful reference for any transgender person talking in public. The guide is available as a [free PDF](#) from the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) website.

The long-anticipated transgender curriculum from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is now available. Barbara Satin has led the development of "transACTION," a fantastic new curriculum targeting faith communities. The curriculum is intended to help communities that may already be on board with lesbian and gay issues to take the next steps of moving from understanding and acceptance to full welcome. You can access the free PDFs for the curriculum (with participant and leaders guides) at the website for the [Institute for Welcoming Resources](#).

Reading/Viewing Corner

- "The Psychological Harm of Anti-Gay Ballot Campaigns" by Gregory Herek [[Beyond Homophobia](#), Nov 25]
- Al Sharpton decries churches pushing California's proposition 8 [[Southern Voice](#), Jan 12]

Thank You PFLAG Sponsors

- Hewlett-Packard Company, Corporate Sponsor

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
Diane 970.223.0041

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Web site: www.pflagfc.org
Email: info@pflagfc.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.

Colorado's Anti-Discrimination Laws: Making Colorado a Better Place By Linda Lidov

It is hard to imagine that less than two years ago, it was actually legal in Colorado to discriminate against gay and transgender people simply for being who they are. But thanks to legislation that has passed under the Democratic-led legislature and Governor Bill Ritter, LGBT people in Colorado are now protected from discrimination in areas of employment, public accommodations, and housing.

We can be proud that Colorado now joins 19 other states and the District of Columbia that have updated their nondiscrimination protections to include sexual orientation. Thirteen of these states, including Colorado, also include gender identity/expression.

Here is a brief summary of each law:

EMPLOYMENT: Passed in May 2007, the Employment Nondiscrimination Act expands Colorado's employment nondiscrimination protections to include sexual orientation, defined as heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, transgender status, or perception thereof. It makes it illegal to consider these things when making employment-related decisions or to make any inquiries about an applicant's sexual orientation, inclusive of transgender status. The law applies to employers, employment agencies, labor organizations, on-the-job training, and vocational training programs and schools.

PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS: Passed in May 2008, the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or transgender status in public accommodations. Covered entities may not deny a gay or transgender person participation, entry, or services. A place of public accommodation is any place of business that offers sales or services of any kind to the public, or that offers facilities, privileges, advantages or other accommodations to the public, such as hotels, restaurants, stores, hospitals, clinics, and health clubs.

HOUSING: Also passed in May 2008 as part of the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, this law prohibits unfair housing practices on the basis of sexual orientation or transgender status. It applies to landlords, lessors, sellers, homeowner associations, lenders, real estate agencies, insurers, advertisers, cities, counties, government agencies, and others involved in showing, selling, renting, transferring, or leasing housing or residential real estate.

Individuals who have experienced discrimination and would like to file a complaint should contact the Colorado Civil Rights Division at 303-894-2997 or by visiting the web: www.dora.state.co.us/civil-rights/complaint_process.htm.

Additional information can be found at www.ColoradoProtectsAll.info.