



PFLAG

Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

Next Meeting

Date: April 13, 7 PM Program, 8PM Support
Program: Transgender Workplace Issues

Our program features Mindy Barton, Legal Director at The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center of Colorado and member of the Board of Directors of Equal Rights Colorado. Mindy will speak on recent changes in Colorado laws to include protections based on gender identity and expression. Mindy will also address key issues of transgender employment law and provide best practices both for the employer and employee when someone transitions in the workplace.

In addition to Mindy's presentation, two PFLAG members, Kelli Darland and CeeCee Eberle, will share personal insights from their own workplace transitions.

PFLAG Birthday Celebration

Anyone who has been influenced or inspired by Denver PFLAG Mom and **former National PFLAG President Elinor Kirby Lewallen** is invited to participate in a *Surprise Card/Email Shower* celebrating her 90th birthday on May 17th. Please send cards at any time to:
 Elinor Lewallen c/o Janet Lewallen
 PO Box 200203
 Denver CO 80220-0203.

Or send emails to JanetKL@aol.com. Elinor will receive all cards and emails during her birthday weekend. Thanks for helping celebrate this special birthday for a most special friend of our community. If you would like to attend the May 16th party, let Janet know. Everyone is welcome.

National PFLAG News

In the weeks and months following the passage of Proposition 8 in California, the phones began to ring. Throughout the United States, there is renewed interest in forming new PFLAG chapters. Every year, more and more people turn to PFLAG not only for support when a loved one comes out ... but also to learn how they can stand up for their own families and move equality forward for those they love. The April PFLAG Update from Jody Huckaby includes many exciting examples of the progress PFLAG is making around the country. [[PFLAG Update](#), April 2009]

Events of Local/Regional Interest

April 17: National Day of Silence

The National Day of Silence brings attention to anti-LGBT name-calling, bullying and harassment in schools.

The event has grown each year and now has hundreds of thousands of students coming together to encourage schools and classmates to address the problem of anti-LGBT behavior. [Get involved](#).

April 24: Queer Prom at UNC

UNC hosts its annual Queer Prom from 9:00PM to midnight in the UNC University Center Ballrooms. Cost: Free! For more information, contact the UNC GLBTA Resource Office at 970.351.2906, glbta@unco.edu, or www.unco.edu/glbtl/.

April 26: Lavender Graduation at CSU

CSU hosts its annual Lavender Graduation for LGBT students at 5:00PM in the Greg Rock Room.

May 30-31: Visible Voices Training

Sign up for Visible Voices training and become part of the PFLAG Speaker's Bureau. If you would like to be part of this exciting program, please contact Foula Dimopoulos at foula.dimopoulos@colostate.edu or 970.491.4857. Applications are available at <http://www.glbts.colostate.edu/>.

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.

June 4: Join PFLAG and Lambda Community Center at the Rialto Theater in Loveland at 7:00 for the movie, *Doin' Time in the Homo No Mo Halfway House*. The movie features Peterson Toscano in his one-man comedy about surviving life in the Ex-Gay movement. Cost--\$5.00.

News of Local/Regional Interest

As you will remember, Angie Zapata, an 18-year-old transgender woman from Greeley, was brutally murdered last July. The trial for her alleged killer, Allen Ray Andrade, is set to begin on Tuesday, April 14, in Weld County. The GLBT Community Center of Colorado (The Center) has initiated a print and online advertising campaign to educate and inform Coloradoans about Angie's story, what it means to be transgender and the importance of hate crime laws.

News of National/Global Interest

Sometimes the best news is when a story makes no news. In Harlem, a 32-year-old math teacher invited the entire seventh grade class to his upcoming commitment ceremony. [[NY Times](#), Mar 22]

Senator John Kerry has asked the Obama administration to grant asylum to a gay man who married an American citizen in Massachusetts and was later forced to return to Brazil. Additionally, Senator Kerry has co-sponsored a bill that would allow gay men and lesbians from other countries to become legal residents based on their permanent relationships with American citizens. Wouldn't that be a great change! [[NY Times](#), Mar 21]

In another look at this same issue, Shirley Tam faces likely deportation to the Philippines. Her case touches off two flashpoint issues, immigration law and same-sex marriage, that are combining in a way that shows the unfairness of this country's laws. [[SFGate](#), Apr 1]

In Oklahoma, a high school teacher was fired for studying *The Laramie Project* in her classroom. The incident began when Debra Taylor showed students at Grandfield High School the film about the murder of Matthew Shepard. Students decided to film selected scenes themselves for an in-class project. Ms. Taylor got her principal's permission before beginning the project, but was suddenly fired anyway. [[USA Today](#), Mar 17]

United Nations News

The United Nations declaration on sexual orientation and gender identity is a French-initiated, European Union-backed statement presented to the United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 2008. The declaration condemns violence, harassment, discrimination, exclusion, stigmatization, and prejudice based on sexual orientation and gender identity. It also condemns killings and executions, torture, arbitrary arrest, and deprivation of economic, social, and cultural rights on those grounds. The declaration was praised as a breakthrough for human rights, breaking the taboo against speaking about LGBT rights in the United Nations. Opponents criticized it as an attempt to legitimize pedophilia and other "deplorable acts."

As of December 2008, homosexuality is illegal in 77 countries and punishable by death in seven. Sixty-six of the United Nations' 192 member countries signed the declaration, including every member of the European Union and every major Western nation except the United States. *The Obama administration announced on March 18 that the United States, in a reversal of the position taken by the Bush administration, would support the UN*

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.pflagftc.org
Email: info@pflagftc.org
Mail: 305 W Magnolia, PMB 117
Fort Collins, CO 80521

declaration on sexual orientation and gender identity.
[[Wiki News](#), Mar 19]

Advocacy

The American Family Association continues to [boycott Pepsi](#) for "promoting the homosexual agenda in the workplace" and for its donations to organizations like The Human Rights Campaign and PFLAG. So please take the time to call Pepsi (914-253-2000 or 1-800-433-2652 x0) and **thank the company** for standing against America's anti-gay forces! From the PFLAG email I've seen, Pepsico really appreciates the phone calls and support.

Safe Schools

South Carroll High School in Maryland set a great example this year when it broadened the focus for its Unity Day beyond cultural diversity and included other aspects of diversity, such as sexual orientation and disabilities. Through personal stories, ripping up pieces of paper upon which hurtful words were written, and diversity of music and food, the entire student body experienced diversity in a new and impactful way. [[Gazette.Net](#), Mar 26]

Recently LGBT students had the opportunity to meet with Secretary Arne Duncan of the US Department of Education. [The Advocate](#) published the original article. The reader comments on the Truthout website (which contains a reprint of the article) reveal how much work we still have to do with regard to education (both in schools and with the public.) [[Truthout](#), Mar 24]

Support Resources for Catholics

[Fortunate Families](#) ministers primarily with Catholic parents of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender daughters and sons—but welcomes families of all faiths. Their [March 2009 newsletter](#) contains some excellent articles. Two examples include:

- Strategies for Making Gay and Lesbian People and their Families Feel Welcome in Your Parish
- Redefining Marriage? Or Expanding It?

Thank You PFLAG Sponsors

- Hewlett-Packard Company, Corporate Sponsor

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.