



PFLAG

Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

Next Meeting

Date: May 11, 7 PM Program, 8PM Support
Program: Coming Out to Mom

In honor of Mother's Day, our program this month takes a look at the coming out experience from a mother's perspective. Join our panelists to hear the stories of several PFLAG Moms. Come prepared to ask questions and share your experiences as well.

PFLAG Speaker's Bureau

PFLAG and Lambda Community Center have decided to coordinate Speaker's Bureau activities with Colorado State University (CSU). We invite you to become part of the Visible Voices Speakers' Bureau, sponsored by CSU. Visible Voices is one of CSU's educational outreach programs, and the training covers topics such as coming out stories, nonviolent communication, bisexual and transgender communities and issues, public speaking and more!

If you would like to be a part of this exciting program, please contact K. Foula Dimopoulos at foula.dimopoulos@colostate.edu or call 970.491.4857. You must complete an application and attend training to be a part of Visible Voices. And, remember: heterosexual allies have coming out stories, too! Applications are available at <http://www.glbts.colostate.edu/>.

PFLAG National Conference

The next PFLAG national conference is in San Diego from October 9-11. For more information, see the [National PFLAG website](#). Or talk to someone who attended the previous conference—Julie Wilson, Carl and Nancy Hane.

Events of Local/Regional Interest

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.

Month of June: Come Out as PFLAGers

PFLAG invites you to come out as a PFLAGer throughout the month of June. Everyday wear something with a PFLAG logo on it (such as a hat, Tshirt, pin, tote) or with a message of GLBT equality (such as a rainbow bracelet). When people look at our PFLAG wearables, we speak out about the equality our loved ones do not

have, or we do not have. When someone, anyone, glances at our symbols, tell them about PFLAG and share your story. If you do not own anything with PFLAG logos, see the [PFLAG Logo Store](#).

June 4: Film screening at Rialto

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 is \$5.00.

June 4-7: Pride in the Park Week

Events include film screening, PRide on the Poudre, Pride in the Park, Spirit in the Park, and much more. For information on this busy weekend, see prideinthepark.org.

News of Regional Interest

The Angie Zapata murder trial was completed this month. The Denver Post reported, "The murderer has indicated that his sole motivation to murder Angie was that she was a transgender woman. In fact, since being in jail, the murderer has been quoted saying, 'all gay things need to die.'" [\[Denver Post, Apr 12\]](#) Allen Andrade was convicted of first-degree murder and a bias-motivated crime. It was the first time in the nation that a state hate crime statute resulted in a conviction in a transgender person's murder. [\[CNN, Apr 23\]](#)

News of National/Global Interest

John Berry was confirmed unanimously as the director of the Office of Personnel Management. As the first openly gay man in this position, he said enacting "inclusive and fair" policies for federal workers will be among his biggest priorities. "That is something that I believe will produce benefit not only for LGBT people, but essentially for every community of interest, whether it be disability, African-Americans, Hispanics, Latinos—all the communities that need to be represented at fairer levels in our government," Berry said. [\[Advocate, Apr 3\]](#)

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act by a vote of 249 to 175. This act would add sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and disability status to the federal hate crimes statute. President Obama expressed his strong support for the bill and urged lawmakers to support it. Senator Kennedy (D-MA) along with Senators Leahy (D-VT), Snowe (R-ME), Collins (R-ME) and Arlen Specter (D-PA) introduced similar legislation in the

Senate – The Matthew Shepard Act. If you are curious as to how your representative voted, please visit this website: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2009/roll223.xml>. According to the Stonewall Democrats, a special thank you goes Representative Jared Polis who, by the account of Vice-Chair Karen Bachman "put forward a profound defense of this bill." Locally, Betey Markey also voted in favor of the bill. **Please send these representatives your thanks!**

Marriage Equality in the News

The Iowa Supreme Court issued a unanimous ruling finding that the state's same-sex marriage ban violates the constitutional rights of gay and lesbian couples, making Iowa the third state where marriage will be legal. The court reaffirmed that a statute inconsistent with the Iowa constitution must be declared void even though it may be supported by strong and deep-seated traditional beliefs and popular opinion. [[DesMoinesRegister.com](#), Apr 3] Throughout its history, Iowa has played the contrarian when deciding whether to accept popular opinion or to stand up for fundamental rights of oppressed minorities. Previous examples include overturning slavery two decades before the Civil War and striking down the notion of "separate but equal" schooling in 1868. [[DesMoinesRegister.com](#), Apr 5]

Vermont became the fourth state to legalize gay marriage — and the first to do so with a legislature's vote. The House recorded a dramatic 100-49 vote (the minimum needed) to override Gov. Jim Douglas' veto. Its vote followed a much easier override vote in the Senate, which rebuffed the Republican governor with a vote of 23-5. [[AP](#), Apr 7]

New Hampshire is on track to become the fifth state to grant equal marriage rights, after the state Senate on Thursday voted 13-11 to approve a marriage bill. [[Boston Globe](#), Apr 30] Likewise, the Maine Senate approved a marriage-equality bill by a 21-14 vote. [[Portland Press Herald](#), May 1]

The Washington D.C. Council unanimously voted to recognize gay marriages performed in other states on the same day that Vermont became the fourth state to legalize same-sex unions. Domestic partnerships are already legal in the nation's capital. This vote, billed as an important milestone in gay rights, explicitly

recognized relocated gay married couples as married. [[Washington Post](#), Apr 7]

Safe Schools and Bullying

On Wednesday, May 6, Oprah will interview the mothers of Jaheem Herrera and Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover, the 11-year-olds who committed suicide recently in Georgia and Massachusetts after being victims of anti-gay bullying. [[Oprah](#)]

An 11-year-old Massachusetts boy, Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover, hanged himself Monday after enduring bullying at school, including daily taunts of being gay, despite his mother's weekly pleas to the school to address the problem. This is at least the fourth suicide of a middle-school aged child linked to bullying this year. [[GLSEN](#), Apr 9]

In Georgia, a fifth-grader found a voice through suicide. Jaheem Herrera experienced constant bullying at his elementary school. The St. Croix native was bullied at Dunaire Elementary for "being different," and faced constant gay taunts. [[Southern Voice](#), Apr 29]

Hate Crime Resources

Fort Collins benefits from the presence of an organization called Not In Our Town Alliance (NIOTA). If you experience a bias incident, contact NIOTA at 970-797-1841 or niota.hotline@yahoo.com. For more information, see <http://www.ftcollinsnotinourtown.org/>.

Another resource is Families United Against Hate; FUAH provides support, guidance and assistance to individuals, families and communities dealing with incidents based on bias; and to the people, organizations and agencies who serve and support them. For more information, see <http://www.fuah.org/>.

Reading/Viewing Corner

- "A strange dual citizenship for gay couples" by Ellen Goodman discusses the tax situation now faced by legally married gay couples [[Boston Globe](#), Apr 17]
- "Gay marriage and the bigot card" by John Covino challenges the use of the word bigot for opponents of same-sex marriage [[365gay.com](#), May 1]

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
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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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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.