



PFLAG

Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

Next Meeting

Date: July 13, 7 PM Program, 8PM Support
Program: *I Can't Marry You* film and discussion

This month, we will view the documentary film, *I Can't Marry You*. The documentary is narrated by Betty DeGeneres and explores same-sex marriage issues through the personal experiences of twenty gay and lesbian couples who have been in long-term relationships of 10-55+ years. Their poignant and powerful testimonies put faces to, and actual examples of, the painful impact of discrimination on our daughters and sons, sisters and brothers, parents, aunts and uncles, loyal friends, coworkers and tax paying neighbors.

Although the film was released in 2003, its topic remains relevant to most LGBT couples today. Stewart Anderson will facilitate our discussion.

PFLAG Marches in Denver Pridefest

This year the Colorado Coalition of PFLAG chapters had over 150 marchers in the Denver Pridefest parade. PFLAG was also honored as the grand marshals of the parade.

PFLAG & CSU's Visible Voices

CSU will offer its Visible Voices training again in September. Through this training, you will become part of CSU's speaker's bureau, as well as become more confident and ready to speak at PFLAG events. If you would like to be a part of this exciting program, please contact K. Foula Dimopoulos at 970.491.4857 or foula.dimopoulos@colostate.edu. 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.glbttss.colostate.edu/>.

Events of Local/Regional Interest

July 11-12: Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo
 Join the Colorado Gay Rodeo Association at its annual rodeo, Jefferson County Fairgrounds (6th and Indiana Streets), Golden, CO. The rodeo runs both Saturday and Sunday beginning at 9AM. For more information, see www.cgra.us.

July 19: Colorado Springs Pridefest and Parade
 Support the LGBT community in conservative Colorado Springs by attending their Pridefest and Parade. For more information, see <http://www.yourpridecenter.org/>.

July 25: Celebrating 50 Years with the Webbers

Larry and Beverly Webber and their family invite you to help celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary at an old-fashioned ice cream social on Saturday, July 25 from 2:00-4:30 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1709 West Elizabeth Street, Fort Collins. They request no gifts please.

July 29: Larimer County Fair Parade, Loveland

Your participation is needed! Please plan to march with PFLAG in the Larimer County Fair parade. Thousands of people watch this parade, and it provides PFLAG with an outstanding opportunity to build awareness and acceptance of our organization and its mission in the community. We invite PFLAG members, allies from other organizations and supportive churches, and LGBT community members to help us build a positive presence through a large turnout for the parade.

This year, the parade theme is "1879-2009, 130 Years of Fair Time". The parade kicks off at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, July 29. We will meet about 6:15 in the staging area at the parking lot north of the river on S.E. 3rd Street, south on Railroad Avenue. All walkers should park in the Barnes ball field lots and walk to the parking lot north of the river on Railroad Ave. Walking groups will mix into the parade at the river bridge. Last year, PFLAG mixed into the parade early, and we plan to do so again this year. To see the parade route and check out other parade details, visit <http://larimercountyfair.org/eventsattractions.html#july29>.

Aug 5-9: Rendezvous, Wyoming's Pride Event

Rendezvous is a 5-day campout at Medicine Bow National Forest between Cheyenne and Laramie. For more information see <http://www.wyomingequality.org/>.

News of Local/Regional Interest

Beginning July 1, same-sex partners will be able to establish Designated Beneficiary Agreements in the state of Colorado. It's a convenient and low-cost way to designate your loved one as the person entitled to certain financial protections and decision-making powers in major life events. Learn more about five laws that protect LGBT people in Colorado at <http://www.therightsfive.com/>.

National PFLAG News

President Obama, who ran on the campaign promise that he would be a "fierce advocate" of the LGBT community, officially proclaimed June as LGBT Pride

Month. It was an important first step in sending a clear message that his Administration would be more inclusive than those of the past. Disappointingly, not long after, the Department of Justice issued a brief defending the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), using inflammatory language and questionable arguments that rightfully infuriated many of us. PFLAG spoke out and pleaded with the President to remember his campaign promises to the millions of LGBT Americans, parents and allies who believed him then.

PFLAG National President John Cepek called on all PFLAGers to contact President Obama to thank him for declaring June LGBT Pride Month, and to ask him to keep to his promises to move equality forward for all Americans. [[PFLAG Update July 2009](#)]

News of National/Global Interest

Same-sex marriages performed in other states and countries became legal in the District of Columbia when Congress completed its 30 legislative day review of a marriage recognition law passed by the D.C. City Council in May. [[Washington Blade](#), July 7]

The Census Bureau has gotten clearance to include same-sex married couples in the 2010 count, but the agency must now overcome logistical hurdles, such as redesigning computer programs and testing the changes for data accuracy. Additionally, the federal marriage ban shapes how many agencies earmark funds and enforce federal law, and the addition of married same-sex couples to the total count will affect how families are defined. [[USA Today](#), July 6]

Under new rules scheduled to take effect in the next few months, transgender federal workers will gain protections from discrimination in the workplace. The move by the Obama administration is considered by advocates to be a major advance for transgender rights. "The president is making a very clear statement that transgender people won't be discriminated against," said Mara Keisling, the executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality. [[NY Times](#), June 23]

In a landmark ruling that could usher in an era of greater freedom for gay men and lesbians in India, New Delhi's highest court decriminalized homosexuality. Homosexuality has been illegal in India since 1861, when British rulers codified a law prohibiting "carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man,

woman or animal." The decision applies only in the territory of India's capital city, but it is likely to force India's government either to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court, or change the law nationwide, lawyers and advocates said. [[NY Times Asia Pacific](#), July 2]

Under a landmark measure, same-sex couples in Ireland have gained many of the rights of married couples, but not the ability to marry. "This is an historic civil rights reform that will resolve many immediate and pressing issues faced by lesbian and gay couples and the minister and the government are to be congratulated," said Kieran Rose, chairman of the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network. [[Reuters](#), June 26]

Web Site Worth Remembering

- <http://www.fortpride.org/>
An excellent resource for local and regional information including upcoming events, current news, supportive churches, and much, much more.
- <http://lambdacenter.org/>, the GLBTIQQA Resource Center for Northern Colorado
- <http://www.coqueerstraightalliance.ning.com/>
Colorado Queer Straight Alliance is an online social and political network of LGBTQI and straight Coloradoans working together for equality.
- <http://equalrightscolorado.org>
A non-partisan, issue-oriented organization focused on equal rights for the LGBT community.
- <http://www.pridedepot.com/>, an international LGBT directory, news, and information resource.
- <http://www.smartbrief.com/lgbt/>, gay and lesbian leadership new briefings that come twice a week

Reading/Viewing Corner

"The Same-Sex Future" by David Cole [[The New York Review of Books](#), July 2]—Writer David Cole, in this piece about four new books on marriage and the marriage-rights movement, makes the case that marriage as an institution not only will survive but will thrive if all same-sex couples gain access to it.

Thank You PFLAG Sponsors

- Hewlett-Packard Company, Corporate Sponsor

If you would like to become a PFLAG sponsor, please contact Diane Kaufman at RCKaufman01@comcast.net or 223-0041 for more information.

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

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.