



# PFLAG

## Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

### **Next Meeting / Different Location**

**Date:** August 10, 7:00 ice cream, 7:30 discussion

**Location:** Rolland Moore Park, Shelter #2

**Program:** Ice cream social with discussion

Enjoy some ice cream together with discussion of how congregations can become more fully welcoming of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons and their families. Our invited guests are pastors and members of local faith communities.

PFLAG will provide the ice cream, bowls, spoons, etc. If you can bring something to augment the ice cream—such as your favorite topping, cookies, dessert bars—that would be excellent but not required.

Rolland Moore Park is located west of Shields between Drake and Prospect in Fort Collins

### **Events of Local/Regional Interest**

#### **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/>.

#### **Aug 15-16: New West Fest**

PFLAG plans to co-sponsor a booth with Lambda Community Center at New West Fest 2009. If you can help staff the booth, working a 2-hour shift, please contact Julie Wilson (667-5236, [jw6804@aol.com](mailto:jw6804@aol.com)) or CiCi Eberle (685-4065, [ceeceee@comcast.net](mailto:ceeceee@comcast.net)).

#### **Aug 15: AIDS Walk Colorado**

Time: 7:30-4:00

Location: Cheesman Park, Denver

More information: [www.aidswalkcolorado.org](http://www.aidswalkcolorado.org)

#### **Aug 22: Transgender Community Potluck, 12:00-2:00**

The Center (1050 Broadway, Denver) invites you to a potluck for the Transgender Community and allies. The Center will provide plates, silverware, drinks, and dessert. If you are able, please bring a dish to share (an appetizer, main dish, or side dish would be great). The potluck will be a great chance to make new friends and learn what's happening at the GLBT Center.

If you would like more information or to RSVP, please contact The Center's Transgender Advocate, Crystal Gray, at [cgray@glbtcolorado.org](mailto:cgray@glbtcolorado.org). An RSVP is appreciated but is not required.

#### **Aug 29: Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters**

The next meeting of the Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters will be in Denver from 9:00-4:00. The morning will be devoted to Coalition business, chapter sharing and discussion about the Coalition sponsorship of Colorado Queer Straight Alliance. The afternoon session will be a candid discussion with transgender PFLAG members: their stories, their needs, our hopes and our combined futures. If you are a member of the transgender community, please consider attending this meeting and sharing your story.

#### **Sep 12: Boulder Pride PrideFest Block Party**

Boulder will hold its annual PrideFest Block Party from 11:00-5:00 at the Pearl Street Mall and Boulder County Courthouse lawn.

### **News of Local/Regional Interest**

Lambda Center is starting a young adult group for GLBT persons age 18-29. Meetings are every Thursday evening from 5-7PM. For more information, call 970.221.3247.

### **News of National/Global Interest**

President Obama, attempting to spotlight those who have acted as "agents of change," named 16 recipients of the 2009 Presidential Medal of Freedom, which is the nation's highest civilian honor. Recipients include the late San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk and lesbian tennis great Billie Jean King. It is believed to be the first time that openly gay and lesbian people have received the Medal of Freedom. [[LA Times](#), July 31; [Bay Area Reporter](#), Aug 6]

The Quakers recently sanctioned gay marriages and called on the government to give same-sex couples who marry in their ceremonies the same standing as heterosexual people. It is a decision that will be welcomed by gay and lesbian Christian groups worldwide as a breakthrough in their campaign for justice and equality. [[Times Online](#), Aug 1]

Gay and lesbian couples in Niagara Falls, Ontario, will soon be able to have their marriages blessed by Anglican priests under a new rite introduced by Bishop Michael Bird, head of the Niagara diocese. For the bishop and his church, the change is a matter of inclusiveness. But for disgruntled Anglicans, it has led to a deep divide in the church and the formation of the conservative Anglican Network in Canada. [[Niagara Falls Review](#), July 29]

Five lawsuits filed in federal courts seeking marriage rights for same-sex couples face varying odds of success. Ultimately, it will come down to whether the lawyers pushing the cases can convince five members of the Supreme Court to side with them. LGBT legal activists, who have been very picky about what lawsuits they enter into which courts, have long considered going the federal legal route risky. [[Bay Area Reporter](#), July 30]

## **Gays in the Military**

Great Britain lifted its ban on gays in the military nine years ago. In the latest edition of *Soldier* magazine, the army has put an openly gay soldier on its cover. [[The Independent](#), July 27]

In contrast, the U.S. continues its “Don’t ask, don’t tell” policy preventing gays and lesbians from serving openly in the military. Recently the Supreme Court rejected a gay Ohio soldier’s challenge to the law, with the legal backing of the Obama Administration. [[Time](#), June 9]

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand has secured the commitment of the Senate Armed Services Committee to hold hearings on “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” this fall. It would be the first formal re-assessment of the policy since Congress passed it into law in 1993. [[The Daily Beast](#), July 27]

## **Reading/Viewing Corner**

- [In Their Boots \(Effects of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” video \(+36 minutes\)](#)
- Keith Olbermann interview of author and activist Dan Savage on whether President Obama is stonewalling on “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (6 minutes) [[Huffington Post](#), Aug 3]
- “Friendly fire on ‘Don’t Ask’” by Ben Smith [[Politico](#), July 28]
- [Service Members United](#) is a non-partisan and non-profit organization whose primary goals are 1) to engage in education and advocacy on issues affecting gay and lesbian troops and veterans; 2) to serve as an associational organization for the gay and lesbian military, veteran, and defense community; 3) to represent the voice of Iraq/Afghanistan-era gay and lesbian troops and veterans; and 4) to forward and inform public debate on the U.S. military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy.
- “Gay in America (Color Lines Across Rainbow Skies) [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#), [Part 4](#)

## **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](mailto:RCKaufman01@comcast.net) or 223-0041 for more information.

### **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.pflagfc.org](http://www.pflagfc.org)  
Email: [info@pflagfc.org](mailto: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.