



PFLAG

Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

Next Meeting

Date: September 14, 7 PM Program, 8PM Support
Program: Suicide Awareness and Prevention

Dana Lindsay, Executive Director of The Suicide Resource Center, will be our guest speaker. The Suicide Resource Center works to prevent suicide through education, awareness, and support. Dana will discuss suicide prevention in general, as well as the special issues associated with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender teens.

For more information on The Suicide Resource Center of Larimer County, see www.suicideresourcecenter.org.

More Info ... Suicide & LGBT Teens

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth are up to four times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers, according to the Massachusetts 2006 Youth Risk Survey. A 2007 San Francisco State University Chavez Center Institute study shows that LGBT and questioning youth who come from a rejecting family are up to nine times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers. And for every completed suicide by a young person, it is estimated that 100 to 200 attempts are made (2003 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey). [Source: About.com: Gay Life]

Other sources include:

- Gay Teens and Attempted Suicide [[Narh](#)]
- Stopping Gay Teen Suicide [[Healthy Place](#)]
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Suicide [[Suicide.org](#)]

PFLAG News

I loved this botanical trivia from a PFLAG member. She wrote:

I'm learning about how to identify native Colorado plants. Botany has it's own strange lingo to learn. Tonight I learned the difference between "perfect" and "imperfect" flowers.

- *Perfect = bisexual, having both male and female parts*
- *Imperfect = having either male or female parts but not both*

What a contrast to attitudes toward humans. It made me smile.

Events of Local/Regional Interest

Sep 12: Peace in the Park

The festival's theme is "Teach peace, live peace." PFLAG will staff a booth at Peace in the Park in Loveland (Civic Center Park near Adams and 4th Street). If you can help staff the booth, please contact Bev Webber, 970.484.0031. We will set up the booth at 10:30 and tear down at 5:00.

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.

Sep 26-27: Visible Voices Training

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.glbtrc.colostate.edu/>.

Application deadline: September 18, 2009

National Equality March Weekend

PFLAG joins other leading lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organizations in supporting the National Equality March and related advocacy activities across the country on October 10-11, 2009.

Organized by Equality Across America, the march focuses on full equality for all LGBT people in all matters governed by civil law in all 50 states. The march will be held in Washington, D.C. [[more](#)]

News of National/Global Interest

Six LGBT people have been nominated to become at-large members of the Democratic National Committee. They are:

- ◆ Terry Bean, co-founder of The Victory Fund
- ◆ Earl Fowlkes, president of the International Federation of Black Prides and a board member of the Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute
- ◆ Evan Low, a member of the City Council in Campbell, CA
- ◆ Lupe Valdez, the sheriff of Dallas County, Texas

- ◆ Barbra Casbar Siperstein, president of New Jersey Stonewall Democrats
 - ◆ Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO
- [GayPolitics.com, Sep 5]

The national assembly of the 4.7 million-member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) gave local congregations the authority to choose pastors or lay leaders who are in "lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships." 55 percent of the delegates voted to overturn a ban that prohibited gays and lesbians from ministerial positions, unless they took vows of celibacy. [ELCA.org, Aug 21]

Israeli police say a gunman entered a youth club for gay teens in central Tel Aviv and sprayed the interior with automatic rifle fire, killing three people and injuring 11. "This was a hate crime, a premeditated attack," witness Yaniv Weisman told Channel 10 TV. He said Cafe Noir, the basement club, was popular with youth. [[Huffington Post](http://HuffingtonPost), Aug 1]

The tiny town of Campillo de Ranas—the Little Field of Frogs—with around 60 full-time residents, most of them over 60, has been transformed into the unofficial gay wedding capital of Spain. In June 2005, Spain's socialist government passed a law legalizing gay marriage and conferring the exact same rights and nomenclature to both homosexual and heterosexual unions. However, most mayors publicly declared that they would not perform gay marriages. Not so in Campillo de Ranas. What happened next is now the subject of a documentary film, "Campillo Sí, Quiero" ("Campillo Yes, I Do"). [[NY Times](http://NYTimes), Sep 6]

Advocacy

Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR), joined by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME), Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME), introduced the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) in an important show of bipartisan support. This bill, which would extend the existing federal law prohibiting employment discrimination to protect people on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, is much needed and long overdue. This bill marks the first time ever that a trans-inclusive bill has been considered in the Senate. [[Washington Blade](http://WashingtonBlade), Aug 5]

While this bill has a good chance of passing, your help is needed. It is essential that you contact your Senators and urge them to support this bill and ask them to become a co-sponsor. Becoming a co-sponsor shows other members of Congress that your Senator will stand in solidarity with our community, which helps build momentum for the bill's passage.

Religion and Homosexuality

Rev. Dr. Mark Lee pointed out an excellent article entitled, "Why Gay Guys Are Churchier Than Their Straight Brethren" by David Gibson. Mark writes, "This article on the rich prevalence of religious commitment among GLBT people is very good! While many of us have sometimes felt it as difficult to be Christian in the GLBT community as it is to be gay in the Christian community, this survey and discussion certainly provides room for hope on both fronts. Enjoy!" [[Politics Daily](http://PoliticsDaily), Aug 10]

Reading/Viewing Corner

- "Trans Health Care Reform: It's About Life and Death" by Eleanor J. Bader offers insights into the medical treatment challenges that transsexuals face. [Conducive, Aug/Sep 2009]
- "Hope and History" by Michael Gross asked the question of whether the GLBT community's impatience with Obama is justified. The article's in-depth look at the LGBT community's success and failures since the early 1990s is interesting and well written. [Advocate, Sep 2009]

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.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.

Letter to PFLAG Asking For National Equality March Support

Dear Friends,

We are so pleased and grateful for yesterday's National PFLAG's formal endorsement of the October 11th National Equality March in Washington DC. See <http://equalityacrossamerica.org/blog/?p=3583>.

First, thanks to you personally and to PFLAG. At every GLBT March; the early ones before PFLAG was formed when only a handful of parents marched and now when the PFLAG contingent passes; you draw the loudest cheers and bring the most tears. You represent all our parents, especially the ones who can't or won't march with us.

Here in Washington State as in other places in the country like California, Iowa and Maine, we are gearing up to fight local or state wide ballot measures that attempt to take away even the limited rights we have been granted. It is of course a major concern to me and my partner of 31 years that even the 'everything but marriage' domestic partnership rights that officially codify us as second class citizens might be taken away. But we are more concerned about the repeal of DOMA. As a 71 year old, in a relationship of 31 years, I am especially aware of how the ramifications of my second class citizenship status will impact my partner who is 10 years younger than me, if I should predecease him. The tax consequences are enormous. Call it marriage, call it a union, I don't care what it is called as long as state-sanctioned relationships are called the same thing for and available to all our citizens. But this is a national issue and demands a national demonstration.

So I am grateful that GLAAD and HRC and especially PFLAG have endorsed the March. But frankly, just endorsing the event doesn't cut it. GLAAD and HRC and many local organizations have not publicized this March. Their silence is deafening! I think this silence is because GLAAD and HRC and other organizations are afraid that if they publicize the NEM, it will funnel money away from donations that could be used to fight what they consider more pressing issues. But I believe that just the opposite will happen; people will come away so energized that they will not only support local causes, but national ones as well with renewed vigor. I know we did after attending the march in 1993.

The bottom line is that this March is happening. The only question now is how many people will attend. If there is not a good turnout, our ability to raise money will indeed be impaired. But if a million people show up in DC, they will make an impact and perhaps even more of an impact if we must spill over into the streets because there is not room enough on the Capitol lawn.

Like many of you, my mother fought for women's rights in the 20's. Both my parents fought for civil rights for Afro-Americans. And I have marched for the rights of women and Afro-Americans and other people of color as well as for LGBT rights since the 50's. I don't want to march down Pennsylvania Avenue alone and if only 50,000 people come to DC, I might as well be marching alone. Won't you please help me and your children in our fight for equality? PFLAG has the ability to get us out in huge numbers.

What you can do:

Ask the members of your chapter to take a bus, a plane, a train, a car and to take their children, grandchildren, a hundred of their best friends and if no one's left at home to watch over them, their dogs, but get everyone they can to DC. Only an overwhelming presence will impress the nation. Contact friends, family and supporters outside of your area and urge them to go to DC. Find out if there is a local march in solidarity with the National March planned by a local GLBT organization and urge those who can't get to DC to march in solidarity with us locally. If none are being planned in your area, help them organize one for people who can't make it to DC. I know that marches are being planned in Boston, Seattle and Portland, OR. (See http://equalityacrossamerica.org/blog/?page_id=19.)

The time is now! Come march with me and bring the supporters of PFLAG with you.

Stuart Wilber and John Breitweiser
410 26th Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98112

206-714-7004
journysseattle@comcast.net