



# PFLAG

## Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

### Next Meeting

**Date:** October 12, 7 PM Program, 8PM Support  
**Program:** A Call to Quiet Conversations and Public Debates

In the spirit of National Coming Out Day, this month our program will help you learn about how you can more effectively come out as a PFLAG ally in your local faith community. Our speaker is Donna Redwing, Chief of Staff from Interfaith Alliance.

“Same-Gender Marriage and Religious Freedom: A Call to Quiet Conversations and Public Debates” offers a diversity of ideas based on Interfaith Alliance’s unique advocacy for religious freedom and interfaith exchange. This projects’ cross-denominational nature is at the core of Interfaith Alliance’s effort to spark national conversation and action.

While many faith traditions have grappled with issues of equality, including same-gender marriage, much of that work has been viewed through a scriptural lens. Interfaith Alliance seeks to shift the perspective on LGBT equality from that of problem to solution, from a scriptural argument to a religious freedom agreement, and to address the issue of equality as informed by our Constitution.

For more information about this project, see <http://www.interfaithalliance.org/equality/>.

### PFLAG News

#### Oct 31: PFLAG annual planning retreat

The PFLAG Board of Directors invites you to be part of our annual planning retreat. We’ll spend the day at Jim Rath’s and Stewart Anderson’s mountain cabin, enjoy some great food and friendship, and make our plans for 2010. **YOU ARE INVITED.** Please contact Julie Wilson, 667-5236, if you plan to attend.

### Events of Local/Regional Interest

#### Oct 9: Lambda Community Center 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

You’re invited to attend a very special event! The Lambda Community Center is celebrating its 16th Anniversary on Friday, October 9th at the Sunset Event Center (232 Linden Street, Fort Collins). Doors open at 7:00 for drinks and free munchies. Jill Brzezicki and Liz Barnez will be performing live! We’ll also be presenting information about the LCC and its work for the northern Colorado LGBTIQQ and Ally community.

Dancing starts at 9:00 and goes until 12:30. Admission is \$20 for the show and the dance. The price includes two soft drinks or one adult beverage. Dance portion only: Admission is \$10 and includes two soft drinks or one adult beverage.

Dress to impress! Invite your friends and let’s celebrate our community!

#### Oct 7-11: Two Spirit Gathering

The Two Spirit Society of Denver will host the 21st Annual International Two Spirit Gathering from October 7 to 11, 2009. All Two Spirit LGBT Indigenous or Native peoples and friends are invited to participate. See [TSO Blog](#) for more information.

#### Nov 19-20: Colorado School Counselors conference

If you are interested in volunteering for the PFLAG coalition booth, please contact Julie Wilson, 667-5236.

### News of National/Global Interest

#### Don’t Ask Don’t Tell (DADT)

Data show nearly 50% of fired gay service members are minorities: Racial minorities made up nearly half of those fired because of the military gay ban in 2008, the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute has found. Women account for 15% of all military personnel but represented one in three discharges under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy. [Advocate](#), Sep 10]

Recently, even the Pentagon has criticized the DADT policy. The article in the upcoming issue of *Joint Force Quarterly*, which is published for the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was written by an Air Force colonel who studied the issue for months while a student at the National Defense University in Washington and who concludes that having openly gay troops in the ranks will not hurt combat readiness. The views do not necessarily reflect those of Pentagon leaders, but their appearance in a publication billed as the Joint Chiefs’ “flagship” security studies journal signals that the top brass now welcomes a debate in the military over repealing the 1993 law. [Boston Globe](#), Sep 30]

#### Domestic Partnerships in Nevada

Nevada’s constitution bans same-sex marriage, but its new domestic partnership law extends rights similar to those held by married couples—including community property and the right to seek financial support after a breakup—to cohabitating couples. The measure was vetoed by Gov. Jim Gibbons, but overridden by lawmakers in May. [AP](#), Oct 1]

### Decriminalization of Being Gay

A United Nations resolution calls for the decriminalization of being gay. However, the resolution is meeting significant opposition from Muslim countries. [[On Top Magazine](#), Sep 30]

### Uruguay Allows Same-Sex Couple Adoptions

Uruguay has become the first nation in Latin America to allow adoptions by same-sex couples. The groundbreaking move follows lawmakers' decision last year to approve civil unions for gay and lesbian couples. [[AFP](#), Sep 9]

### Gay German Power Broker Emerges

The politician everyone was talking about in the German capital the morning after national elections was not Chancellor Angela Merkel, whose party won the most votes, but the small-party kingmaker set to solidify the chancellor's hold on power. And soon, the rest of the world will become acquainted with the new leading figure, the Free Democrats' Guido Westerwelle. Mr. Westerwelle, who is gay, came out in 2004 by bringing his partner to Mrs. Merkel's birthday party, while she was still in the opposition and the year before she became chancellor. [[NY Times](#), Sep 28]

### Advocacy—Safe Schools

When my cousin came out to himself, he was 25 years old. When my son came out to us, he was 15 years old. In the intervening 11 years, the coming-out age continues to get younger. Schools now need to deal with the safety and well being of GLBT students in junior high and elementary school. For an interesting perspective on this issue, check out the NY Times article, "Coming Out in Middle School". [[NY Times](#), Sep 23]

### Reading/Viewing Corner

#### Do Ask Do Tell—Outrage, an HBO Documentary

Beginning October 5, HBO will be showing the documentary film, *Outrage*. An official selection of the 2009 Tribeca Film Festival, *OUTRAGE* investigates the hidden lives of some of the country's most powerful policymakers—from now-retired Idaho Senator Larry Craig, to former New Jersey Governor Jim McGreevy—and examines how these and other politicians have inflicted damage on millions of Americans by opposing gay rights. Equally disturbing, the film explores the

mainstream media's complicity in keeping those secrets, despite the growing efforts to "out" them by gay rights organizations and bloggers. [[HBO Synopsis and Schedule](#)]

### The High Price of Being Gay

Much of the debate over legalizing gay marriage has focused on God and Scripture, the Constitution and equal protection. However, this article looks at the issue of legalizing gay marriage from the perspective of money. In the worst-case scenario, the hypothetical cost of being gay is \$467,562. The extra costs fall to almost zero when gay marriage is legalized. [[NY Times](#), Oct 2]

### Congregation Embraces Transgender Minister

The sermon the Rev. David Weekley delivered in late August to his congregation in Portland, OR, took "more than half a century to write." Calling it the most "deeply personal message" of his career, Weekley told his congregation that the man who had ministered to their spiritual needs, married them, buried their parents and baptized their children -- was actually born a girl. Members of Epworth's 220-strong congregation have been "overwhelmingly supportive" and "took the news really well," but Weekley worries that his coming out could cause a rift in the global United Methodist Church. [[ABC News](#), Sep 30]

### LDS Church Steps Backward on Gays

Some Mormon Church observers view a recent speech by a church elder, who likened homosexuality to a mental illness, as a "big step backwards" in its efforts to adopt a more tolerant stance on gay issues. In the past decade, the church has moved away from 1970s teachings that emphasized psychosocial causes of homosexuality, including parenting, toward a "we don't know" approach—not denying the possibility of biological factors. The recent speech steps away from this position. [[Salt Lake Tribune](#), Sep 25]

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