



PFLAG

Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

Next Meeting

Date: November 9, 7 PM Program, 8PM Support
Program: Lambda Update

Andy Stoll, Executive Director of Lambda Community Center, and Lindsay Melsen, Director of Adult Programs and Community Education, will give us an update on the programs and services that Lambda is offering to our community. As you know, Lambda is a very important resource in our community, and we are excited to learn more about the current state of the community center.

Local PFLAG News

We held our annual PFLAG planning meeting this past weekend and decided to carry forward last year's theme for another year: *Building Bridges to Equality*. This year the theme carries an added emphasis of building bridges one person at a time through relationships.

We set three goals for the year which tie closely to the PFLAG mission of support, education and advocacy:

- 1) Nurture chapter health and support one another
- 2) Increase education and awareness of GLBT issues
- 3) Advocate for GLBT equality

As always, your help is invaluable in helping us to fulfill our plans for the year. Please consider being involved in PFLAG—through membership, through participation in meetings, through volunteering your time at events, and through taking time to make your voice heard on local, regional and national issues that impact our LGBT loved ones.

National PFLAG News

PFLAG National has announced the election of a prominent United Methodist minister to the national board of directors. The Reverend Gilbert H. Caldwell of Asbury Park, N.J., is a straight, African-American retired minister and will focus his work with PFLAG on outreach to faith communities and to LGBT people and their families in the African-American community. [[PFLAG](#), Oct 26] [[Caldwell's letter to the editor of the Boston Globe about same-sex marriage rights](#), Oct 26]

Events of Local/Regional Interest

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 Local/Regional Interest

Know Your Own Superpowers!

Colorado now has five laws that protect and enrich the lives of LGBT people. The Rights 5 website is a fun approach to educating Coloradans on the state laws. [<http://www.rightsfive.com/>]. Through the website, you can create and send your own superhero to your friends and family so that they too can become informed. Check it out. It's fun, it's easy, and it's important.

News of National/Global Interest

Presidential Speech at HRC

If you missed President Obama's speech at an HRC dinner in Washington, D.C., please take time to listen to it now. The clip features President Obama telling the story of PFLAG. [[YouTube](#), Oct 10]

Hate Crimes Bill Signed

President Obama has signed into law the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. The expanded federal hate crimes law, hailed by supporters as the first major federal gay rights legislation, was added to a \$680 billion defense authorization bill that Obama signed at a packed White House ceremony. [[CNN Politics](#), Oct 28]

Other Governmental Good News

A Family Victory! On Thursday, October 15, Rep. Pete Stark (D-Calif.) introduced H.R. 3827, the Every Child Deserves a Family Act, which would restrict federal funds for states that discriminate in adoption or foster programs on the basis of marital status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

A Health Victory! On Wednesday, October 21, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced plans to create the first national resource center for LGBT senior citizens (over age 60), a group estimated as high as 4 million.

A Housing Victory! On Wednesday, October 21, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan discussed the housing agency's series of proposals to ensure that its core housing programs are open to all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. [[PFLAG](#), Oct 22]

Census Results for Same-Sex Marriages

Nearly three in 10 same-sex couples describe their relationship as being like a marriage, U.S. Census Bureau figures show. The data indicate almost 150,000 same-sex couples—out of the 564,743 gay couples identified by the census—compare their union to that of a husband and wife. [[MSNBC](#), Sep 21; [AP](#), Oct 23]

Advocacy

Petition to Repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell

Colorado Senator Mark Udall has organized a petition asking President Obama to end Don't Ask Don't Tell. If you would like to lend your voice to this campaign, please sign his petition. [[Petition](#)]

Making Schools Safe for Gay Youth

Gay youth continue to face challenges as they come out. For example, one teenager chose to have her senior portrait taken wearing a tuxedo instead of a drape. Her photograph will not be included in the school's yearbook. [[Clarion Ledger](#), Oct 25]

Fortunate Families—Listening Parents

There are now 94 Listening Parents (in 66 households) in the Fortunate Families Listening Parents Network, almost double the number when the Network was launched on January 28, 2009. These Listening Parents are in 26 states and 3 Canadian provinces, and in 50 dioceses.

The list of Catholic parents of LGBT daughters and sons who are willing to listen to and share their experiences with other such parents is posted on the Fortunate Families website. [[Fortunate Families](#), Sep 21]

Maine's Vote for Marriage Equality

The "No on 1 Protect Maine Equality" campaign recently featured Philip Spooner, a World War II veteran who spoke in favor of same-sex marriage. [[WGME](#), Oct 22; [YouTube](#), Oct 21] For a California look at the marriage equality battle in Maine, check the [LA Times](#).

Reading/Viewing Corner

- *Oy Vey! My Son is Gay*—a romantic comedy with a very strong and human message of equality and unconditional love. The movie has a great ensemble cast, including Lainie Kazan, Saul Rubinek, Bruce Vilanch, and Carmen Electra. [[OyVeyMySonsGay.com](#)]

- *The Meaning of Matthew: My Son's Murder in Laramie, and a World Transformed*—new book by Judy Shepard in which she shares her story about her son's death and the choice she made to become an international gay rights activist. Today, the name Matthew Shepard is synonymous with gay rights, but before his grisly murder in 1998, Matthew was simply Judy and Dennis Shepard's son. For the first time in book form, Shepard speaks about her loss, sharing memories of Matthew, their life as a typical American family, and the pivotal event in the small college town that changed everything. [[Matthew Shepard Foundation](#)]
- *A Manifesto! The Time Has Come* by John Shelby Spong, who is a Biblical scholar and author of many books that address the subject of religion and homosexuality [Oct 15]
- *Sex, Lies and Gender*—The gender of a newborn child is not always clearly male or female. For parents of gender variant children, the decisions they face have lifelong and sometimes horribly conflicting consequences. National Geographic investigates the science behind gender, how doctors and parents approach gender decisions, and explores traditional and controversial therapies. [[National Geographic DVD & Video Store](#)]
Note: This video has been added to the PFLAG library and Mareye says it is excellent.
- *When the Sexes Collide*, a video clip from The Dr. Oz Show about intersex, gender-variant children.
- The first three segments of Dr. Cynthia Chappell's presentation on Biology and Human Sexual Orientation are now on YouTube. Dr. Chappell and her husband are PFLAG Houston parents. More segments will be posted over time. [[Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part III](#)]
- "A Step in Faith"—Evangelical Christian Brent Childers explains his journey from believing that homosexuality was an abomination to marching in a pro-gay march on Washington [[Newsweek](#), Oct 8]

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:

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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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.