



# PFLAG

## Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

### Next Meeting

**Date:** December 14, 7 PM Program, 8PM Support  
**Program:** How to Respond to Difficult Conversations

PFLAG recognizes that many people in our community find holidays to be a stressful time, due to the attitudes of family members. Dr. Janet Pipal, psychologist and long-time ally of the LGBT and PFLAG communities, will facilitate our discussion on how to respond when we suddenly find we are facing a difficult conversation.

In addition to the guidance Pipal will offer us on responding to difficult conversations, PFLAG offers resources for the holidays:

- [Tips for a Happy Holiday](#) for LGBT persons
- [Tips for a Happy Holiday](#) for family members and friends

### January Meeting

Save the day of our next PFLAG meeting: January 11  
 Our program will feature The Reverend Gilbert H. Caldwell of Asbury Park, NJ. He 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. Rev. Caldwell has a wealth of experience—from civil rights efforts as an African-American to work as an LGBT ally within his faith community. As the newest member of the PFLAG national board of directors, Rev. Caldwell is looking forward to lending his insights and experience to PFLAG efforts for equality throughout the country.

### Local PFLAG News

One of the privileges of writing the newsletter is getting to choose the content. Many of you have met my son Jarod who now attends Ohio State University in Columbus. He and his boyfriend are members of the Columbus Gay Men's Chorus and the elite sub-group Vox. Vox was recently featured on the Good Day Columbus, the morning news show. The YouTube clip is six minutes long and contains samples of four numbers from their Christmas concert. Jarod is the center of the back row. Mike is second from the right in the second row. Enjoy the YouTube clip: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1QP2Njo7YOI>

### Benefit PFLAG When You Travel

National PFLAG reminds us to take advantage of some of the discount codes and special booking links that our sponsors offer to PFLAG members when you travel. And when you have the opportunity to choose the company that you'll use, please support the corporate sponsors who support PFLAG's work. Travel sponsors include [Orbitz](#), [American Airlines](#), and

[Kimpton](#) Hotels and Restaurants. For more information, see [PFLAG Corporate Sponsors](#).

### Events of Local/Regional Interest

#### Jan 5: Meeting about Northern Harmony

For many years The Rainbow Chorus of Northern Colorado and Southern Wyoming provided a bridge between the "straight" and GLBTQ communities. Economic hard times caused the Chorus to fold, creating a void for singers and the community at large. Several attempts were made to revive a GLBTQ-friendly chorus, but were unsuccessful.

The Rainbow Chorus's sister organization Harmony Chorale, a Colorado chorale, began around the same time and has shared a similar mission. Harmony, based in Denver, is also an all-inclusive, non-auditioned chorus. The board, staff and members of Harmony are interested in beginning "Northern Harmony", an extension of the Denver chorus that would rehearse in northern Colorado, and join together to perform concerts in Denver and in northern Colorado.

Rehearsals are tentatively scheduled for Tuesday nights. An organizational meeting for all prospective members will be held at the Lambda Community Center in Fort Collins on Tuesday, January 5th, 7 p.m. For more information, contact Bill Loper, Artistic Director at 303.832.1491, [williamloper@me.com](mailto:williamloper@me.com).

### News of Local Interest

On Sunday, November 22, the Fort Collins Community of Christ congregation became a Welcoming and Inclusive congregation by unanimous vote! For more information on their resolution, see [their website](#).

### News of National/Global Interest

**Georgia Elects Nation's First Black Lesbian Legislator**  
 Voters in Georgia have elected the first openly lesbian African-American state legislator in the United States. Atlanta voters elected the first gay Asian-American to the city council. [[GayPolitics.com](#), Dec 1]

#### Same-Sex Couples Are Gaining Legal Protection

Although the marriage movement has suffered notable losses this year in Maine and now New York, much progress on recognizing the rights of LGBT couples has been made since 2000. Public opinion is changing in support of gay rights, but it resists being pushed too fast. [[NY Times](#), Dec 2]

#### D.C. Same-Sex Marriage Bill Causes Religious Issues

The Washington D.C. City Council continues to move forward on hits plan to allow same-sex marriage in the nation's capital. The Archdiocese of Washington has threatened to

withdraw millions in funding for D.C. social services to the poor and homeless if gay marriage is legalized in D.C. The Catholic Church wants to be exempted from having to pay spousal benefits to any gay employees and wants to avoid being forced to handle gay adoptions. Threatening to make the poor and homeless suffer seems like a rather odd choice though ... [[NBC Washington](#), Dec 3]

### Utah Cop Makes Smooth Gender Transition

Born female, Kerry Bell dreamed of growing up to become a policeman—both a police officer and a man. Bell came out as transgender about 1.5 years ago and started a transition to a new life as a man. His transition in Bountiful, Utah has gone well. [[Salt Lake Tribune](#), Nov 30]

### Irish Lawmakers on Track to Pass Civil Partnerships

Ireland's lawmakers are on track to pass a bill granting marriage-style rights to gay couples. If the bill passes, it would be a social milestone in a country long observant of Roman Catholic opposition to homosexuality. As recently as 1993, homosexuality was a criminal offense in Ireland. [[AP](#), Dec 3]

### Surprising Vatican Rebuke for Anti-Gay Comments

A Roman Catholic cardinal received an unusual rebuke from the Vatican for saying that homosexuality is "an insult to God" and "transsexuals and homosexuals will never enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." The Vatican spokesman said that the website should not be considered an authority on Catholic thinking. [[Baltimore Sun](#), Dec 3]

### Why is Uganda Attacking Homosexuality?

Uganda is considering legislation that would impose the death penalty for some gay Ugandans, and their family and friends could face up to seven years in jail if they fail to report them to authorities. Even landlords could be imprisoned for renting to homosexuals. The measure was proposed in Uganda following a visit by leaders of U.S. conservative Christian ministries that promote therapy for gays to become heterosexual. [[SFGate](#), [CNN](#), Dec 8]

### Honor Killing of Gay Man by His Father in Turkey

For Ahmet Yildiz, a stocky and affable 26-year-old, the choice to live openly as a gay man proved deadly. Prosecutors say his own father hunted him down, traveling more than 600 miles from his hometown to shoot his son in an old neighborhood of Istanbul. Until recently, so-called honor killings have been largely confined to women, who face being killed by male relatives for perceived grievances ranging from consensual sex outside of marriage to stealing a glance at a

boy. A recent government survey estimated that one person dies every week in Istanbul as a result of honor killings. [[NY Times](#), Nov 25]

## Advocacy

### Send the First Family a Christmas Card

PFLAG National joined with national and regional lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) family rights groups to launch the "From Our Family to Yours Campaign" to introduce the First Family to thousands of LGBT families. Our families will send holiday cards to the First Family, sharing their photos and holiday greetings. Currently there are an estimated 2 million children being raised by lesbian or gay parents, living in 99.9 percent of counties across the United States. For more information on this program, see the "[From Our Family To Yours](#)" web site.

### Gay and Lesbian Leadership Institute

The Gay and Lesbian Leadership Institute (GLLI) is a tax-exempt, 501(c)3 organization with a long history of helping LGBT people learn how to run for office, come out while in office, get appointed and sharpen their leadership skills. GLLI's award-winning training and executive development programs have helped produce leaders like Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin and Congressman Jared Polis. We need a lot more like them. As you plan your end-of-year-giving, consider a tax-exempt gift to GLLI. [[GLLI](#), [Donation](#)]

## Reading/Viewing Corner

"The messengers of God can't get arrested in this town" by Dana Milbank takes a look at a recent assembly by Conservative Christian ministers trying to test the bounds of a new law that punishes anti-gay hate crimes. They did not succeed in getting arrested. [[Washington Post](#), Nov 17]

## Thank You PFLAG Sponsors



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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)  
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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.