



PFLAG

Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

Next Meeting

Date: March 8, 7 PM Program, 8PM Support
Program: Between XX and YY: Intersexuality

Our program this month features Dr. Gerald Callahan, local author and professor at Colorado State University. Dr. Callahan is an immunologist/pathologist with more than thirty years of experience in biomedical research. He is the author of "Infection: The Uninvited Universe," "Faith, Madness, and Spontaneous Combustion: What Immunology Can Teach Us About Self-Perception," and "Between XX and YY: Intersexuality and the Myth of Two Sexes."

A book review about Dr. Callahan's book, reads:

Chastity Bono's decision to physically become a man has left us to wonder: What happens to those who are physically one sex but want to be the other? Human sexuality then becomes something that has shades of gray, varied interpretations and repercussions far beyond the bedroom.

In "Between XX and XY: Intersexuality and the Myth of the Two Sexes," author Gerald Callahan breaks down the general belief that there is only the male and the female. He argues that the idea that there are only two sexes is a mere myth we hold on to to make sex simple. [[LA Times](#), Aug 21, 2009]

A short annual business meeting will precede the program (since the President forgot to conduct the business meeting last month).

PFLAG News

Engagement announcement—Jarod Wilson

Craig and Julie Wilson are proud to announce the engagement of their son Jarod to Mike Bierschenk, originally of Nacogdoches, TX. Both Jarod and Mike reside in Columbus, OH. Jarod is a graduate student at The Ohio State University and Mike is a staff member at the university. The engagement took place in western Nebraska on my family's homestead that was founded in 1884.



PFLAG annual meeting

Agenda:

- ◆ Thank you to outgoing board member Kelli Darland
- ◆ Treasurer's report
- ◆ Election of board members

Proposed slate for board membership:

- President: Julie Wilson (parent)
- Vice President: Stewart Anderson
- Secretary: CiCi Eberle
- Treasurer: Beverly Webber (parent)
- Librarian: Mareye Bullock
- Membership: Carl Hane (parent)
- Membership: Nancy Hane (parent)
- At large: John Case (parent)
- At large: Diane Kaufman (parent)
- At large: Jim Rath

Transportation to PFLAG meetings

If you are interested in attending PFLAG meetings but need transportation, please call Craig Wilson at (970)667-5236 prior to the day of the meeting.

National PFLAG board member receives award

Sam Theron (national PFLAG board member) and his wife Julia received the Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon Marriage Equality Award at Equality California's San Francisco gala, held inside City Hall on Saturday, February 13. Sam and Julia wrote and signed the ballot argument against Proposition 8 in CA. [[Bay Area Reporter](#), Feb 18]

Events of Local/Regional Interest

Mar 6: Freedom to Marry Day

This year's theme is "Celebrating Families and Community." As usual, our Freedom to Marry Day event begins in Old Town Square, Fort Collins (corner of Mountain and College Avenues) at 12:30 PM. After a rally in Old Town Square, we will march to a wedding-style reception at Avogadro's Number. For more information, contact andy@lambdacenter.org or call (970)221-3247.

Mar 9, 23: *Respect for All* film series

The *Respect for All* film series explores the roots of judgments among youth of all ages and demonstrates their link from subtle to unmistakable forms of violence. Naming these forces is one way to begin to change them in our community.

- *Let 's Get Real*
March 9, 6pm: Harmony Library
- *That's a Family!*
March 23, 6pm: Main Library

Mar 14: Boulder County PFLAG sponsors fundraiser

Boulder County PFLAG is sponsoring a fundraiser to be held on Sunday, March 14, at 4 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church sanctuary, 1421 Spruce, Boulder. The aim is to wrap up the financing for their transgender educational film, whose filming began in January. The video's title is *Trans Mission: The Faces and Places of Transgender Experience*, and it is co-directed by Gus Spheeris and Carol Christenson. Some clips will be shown at the fundraiser. Nearly \$10,000 has been raised for the film so far. The organizers hope to raise another \$2,000 to complete the 12-to-15 minute film.

Entertainment, which begins at 4 p.m., will include Somethin' About Lulu trio, Resonance Women's Chorus of Boulder, local magician Gregg Tobo, and the Low Lying Knobs, a lively marimba band. Dessert will follow the show. A suggested donation of \$20 will be collected at the door.

Jun 2: Queer Cinema at the Rialto, 7:00PM

The specific film will be announced soon.

Jun 4-5: Fort Collins "Pride in the Park" Weekend

Save the date. Look for more information later.

Jun 19-20: Denver PrideFest

Mark your calendars! Marking its 35th year in 2010, Denver PrideFest will be held on June 19 and June 20 at Civic Center Park. Produced by The Center and recognized as one of the top 10 Pride events in the country, PrideFest features a Dance Stage with DJs, a Latin Stage and Main Stage with live entertainment, and plenty of celebrating all day. Last year more than 275,000 people from Colorado and the region enjoyed a parade, rally, music, entertainment, food and much more.

New of Local/Regional Interest**Trial for "Denver Five" ends in near-total acquittal**

By Shari Wilkins, from Denver PFLAG newsletter

The Denver Five are the gay and lesbian individuals (Kate Burns, Lewis Thompson, Laurin Foxworth, John Ferguson, and I) who participated in an act of non-violent civil disobedience in the Denver County Clerk and Recorder's Office on May 26, 2009.

The action, which included the request for a marriage license for a same-sex couple, followed the California Supreme Court decision to uphold Proposition 8, thus rescinding the right of same-sex couples to marry in the future. The Denver action was organized by Soulforce Colorado's Christopher Hubble as a statement of solidarity with GLBT Americans in California and across the nation, regarding the rights of same-sex individuals to engage in civil marriage.

On Wednesday, February 10, 2010, our trial began at 8:30 a.m., in the City Hall Courtroom 117M. Motions and jury selection took place that day. Testimony began on Thursday, with the five of us and several police officers being the witnesses. The jury received instruction at around 4:30 p.m. Thursday and began their deliberations, continuing again on Friday morning at 10:00 a.m.

Some of my faith in the justice system was restored that day, when the six-person jury returned its verdict. Each of us had two charges against us: trespassing, and refusing to obey a lawful order. Four of us were acquitted of all charges! Kate Burns was found guilty of trespassing and sentenced to 40 hours of community service. She was, however, acquitted on the charge of failure to obey a lawful order. The conjecture is that only Kate was found guilty of trespassing because she had a prior conviction in a similar incident two years ago.

It was an intense three days. We were accused by the prosecution of all sorts of things, and I must say that being cross-examined is not much fun. Thank you all for your interest, your love, your support, your willingness to sit on hard benches for hours at a time, and most of all for being human beings who understand and appreciate human differences and similarities.

Soulforce Equality Ride – Sponsor Mac Simon

Mac Simon, from Ft. Collins, spoke at our last PFLAG meeting. He is embarking on a unique journey for justice with a group of his peers. The Soulforce Equality Ride is a bus full of young adult activists who travel across the country, stopping at religious colleges and universities that have discriminatory policies which negatively impact students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Their aim is to engage in dialogue, reach hearts and minds, and spark change. Mac is excited to join as a rider in this movement, but he needs help to enact change. If you are able to make a contribution to help make his Equality Ride possible, you can be a sponsor by going to <https://www.soulforce.org/mac>.

News of National/Global Interest**Census needs to count everyone**

Considerable dismay has accompanied the news that on the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau forms there isn't a single question that asks if someone is lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has initiated a campaign called "Queer the Census" to tell the Census Bureau: LGBT people must be counted!

The NGLTF has been successful in the past. For example, thanks in part to its efforts, the 2010 census will report same-sex marriages. Being counted in the census isn't just a numbers game. The data is used by researchers, advocates and policy makers to develop social service programs and make critical policy decisions. There's a lot at stake right now for the LGBT community, and it can't afford to be invisible. Go to www.queerthecensus.org to sign the NGLTF petition in support of a census that counts everyone.

President, lawmakers take stand against Uganda

The House and Senate have each unveiled a resolution that issues a call to Uganda to drop a proposed anti-gay bill that would punish gay men and lesbians with the death penalty and asks other countries to speak out against measures that would make being gay a crime. In related news, President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, in separate remarks at a National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C., each condemned the proposed legislation. [[Advocate](#), Feb 4] [[Reuters](#), Feb 4]

Hawaii Senate passes civil union bill

Hawaii's state Senate voted 18-7 to pass a bill establishing civil-union status that is equivalent for gay and heterosexual couples. The state's House of Representatives passed a same-sex civil-union bill in 2009 but is mulling a vote on the Senate version. [[Honolulu Advertiser](#), Jan 23]

Virginia governor rescinds sexual orientation protections

Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell issued an executive order that removed protection from employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. The message in Virginia now seems to be, "If you are gay or lesbian, you aren't welcome as a state employee." [[Blogging Blue](#), Feb 23]

Advocacy

Help repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell

Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-Conn.) introduced legislation to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" on Mar 3. Senator Carl Levin (D-Mich.), the powerful Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, joined Sen. Lieberman in introducing this landmark legislation. The Lieberman/Levin bill in the Senate effectively mirrors repeal legislation in the House of Representatives championed by Rep. Patrick Murphy (D-Pa.). Both call for DADT repeal and a new policy of nondiscrimination. Please call the Senate switchboard today at 202-224-3121. Ask to speak with each of your Senators and urge them to cosponsor the Senate's Military Readiness Enhancement Act.

Safe Schools

Thompson School District pursues "No Place for Hate"

The No Place for Hate® campaign is a year-long commitment that empowers schools to promote respect for individual and group differences while challenging prejudice and bigotry. School district employees have the opportunity to sign up for free training on becoming an ally and disrupting bullying.

U.S. schools drift back toward segregation

"We're back to buying into the belief that separate can be equal — and this time around we're not limiting segregated classrooms to race," says Lecia Brooks, Director of SPLC's Civil Rights Memorial Center. The latest issue of Teaching Tolerance reports that 50 years after Brown v. Board integrated classrooms, today's schools not only remain racially segregated, but are dividing along gender lines, sexual orientation and immigration status in the name of better education. [[Southern Poverty Law Center](#), Spring 2010]

Rep. Polis introduced legislation to protect gay students

Citing "relentless harassment and discrimination" and "life-threatening violence" faced by students "based on their sexual orientation," U.S. Rep. Jared Polis (D-Colo.) introduced the Student Non-Discrimination Act to prohibit such discrimination, as well as that based on gender identity, in public schools in the United States. [[Amplify Your Voice](#), Jan 29]

Religion and Homosexuality

Churches need more discussion of sexuality

Gender and sexuality have caused divisions in some church denominations. Same-sex unions are upheld in some churches and not in others; the same is true for gay clergy. While there are more than 3,300 churches that affirm lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender congregants, 57 percent of Protestant clergy hardly ever discuss issues specific to the gay and lesbian community. But according to "Sexuality and Religion 2020," a report released this week, they probably should. [[Statesman.com](#), Feb 12]

Don't kill U.S. gays—lock them up!

Family Research Council and the American Family Association recently made news for their position on sexual orientation. They wouldn't go as far as the anti-gay bill in Uganda, but they would outlaw homosexuality, like shooting up illegal drugs, here in the USA, according to Tobin Grant's weekly roundup of the latest from Christian activist groups, for Christianity Today. [[USA Today](#), Feb 8]

Lutherans see fallout from recent policy change

In August 2009 the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America relaxed its policies regarding sexual orientation—allowing clergy in committed relationships to serve openly. Since that vote, several hundred congregations are moving toward a permanent split with the ELCA. [[Washington Post](#), Feb 24]

Fortunate Families recommends support of New Ways Ministry

Fortunate Families is a support organization for Catholic Families with lesbian daughters and gay sons. They are meeting with New Ways Ministry on Mar 12-14 to discuss next steps for developing Catholic lesbian and gay ministry. [[Fortunate Families](#)]

LDS members struggle in the wake of Proposition 8

The LDS church actively worked to defeat Proposition 8 and that position has led many members to struggle with church policy and to feel embattled and alienated.

One mother stated, "I assured [Ross] of our love and understanding, our unwavering support and loyalty, but when, in absolute despair, he said, 'What's the point of going on? I can't ever marry in the temple and have a family. How do I get to the celestial kingdom? What happens to me?' I had no answers. I still don't.

"I could not advise him to keep coming to church, to hope for peace in the next life. There are graveyards full of young Latter-day Saints who have tried.

"I choose life for my child. I would rather have him alive, living an authentic life, true to who he is, than to live a stalwart steadfast lie that backs him into a suicidal corner." [[Salt Lake Tribune](#), Feb 5]

Talmud scholar shares that gay sex causes earthquakes

Conservative Jewish scholars claim that the Talmud. Additionally, a group of fundamentalist rabbis has blamed the Haiti earthquake on the end of "don't ask, don't tell." These ideas do not seem to be well-received by the Jewish community. [[The Atlantic](#), Feb 16]

Reading/Viewing Corner

Money tips for gay couples

Although many same-sex couples spend thousands of dollars on wills, powers of attorney and other paperwork intended to afford them the same rights and benefits as their married counterparts, these efforts still fall short of the protections of marriage. Sadly, in some cases pets get better company benefits than same-sex partners receive.

[[MoneyWatch.com](#), Feb 11]

A risky proposal: Petitioning the Supreme Court

This article takes an early look at the Proposition 8 case in California, as well as the unlikely role of Theodore B. Olson, the former solicitor general under President George W. Bush, and a prominent conservative. In the article Olson lays out the case for why the Supreme Court would rule in favor of same-sex marriage. [[The New Yorker](#), Jan 18]

PFLAG Holding Families Together video series

Produced by PFLAG San Diego, Holding Families Together looks at social problems that result when parents reject their LGBT sons and daughters. Teens that come out are more likely to become homeless and turn to drugs, prostitution and crime. When rejected, these gay, lesbian and transgender teens become depressed and suicidal. Many problems are avoided, however, when young people receive the support they need.

Holding Families Together introduces viewers to three young people and their families. One became homeless and turned to prostitution and drugs. Another young person and his family survived the news through the help of PFLAG (Parents,

Families & Friends of Lesbians And Gays). A third is transgender female-to-male, and the viewer gets an intimate glimpse of a family struggling to cope. Holding Families Together shares intimate moments with young people and their parents. It provides guidance from experts in the field and offers concrete solutions to the problems of families in crisis:

- ❖ Holding Families Together [Part 1](#)
- ❖ Holding Families Together [Part 2](#)
- ❖ Holding Families Together [Part 3](#)
- ❖ Holding Families Together [Part 4](#)

StoryCorps story features lesbian grandmother

MJ Seide talks to her granddaughter Genna Alperin about falling in love with her partner, who is Genna's biological grandmother. [[StoryCorps](#)]

A history lesson: 1967 news report on gays

The Advocate recently cited a pre-Stonewall TV feature in its article titled *The Bad Old Days*. "Annoyed by how gays are portrayed on television? Then you haven't seen *CBS Reports: The Homosexuals*." At least this old story helps us appreciate the progress that has been made in the last 40+ years. [[The Advocate](#), Feb 9; [Bilerico Project](#), Feb 10, 43 minutes long]

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 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.pflagftc.org
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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.