



PFLAG

Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

Next Meeting

Date: June 14, 7 PM Program, 8PM Support
Program: Coming Out—Dad's Perspective

Back by popular demand, our PFLAG program for June will be a panel of dads who will share their perspective on the Coming Out process. Come prepared to ask questions and share your experiences as well.

PFLAG News

March with PFLAG at Denver PrideFest

Our PFLAG chapter will march in the Denver PrideFest parade on June 20. If you want to have an incredibly rewarding experience, please march with us. Join us at Cheesman Park no later than 9:00. The parade steps off at 9:30AM. For more information, contact Julie Wilson, 970.667.5236.

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.

Events of Local/Regional Interest

Jun 19-20: Denver Parade and PrideFest Celebration

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, the PrideFest is recognized as one of the top 10 Pride events in the country. The traditional PrideFest parade steps off from Cheesman Park and travels down Colfax to downtown Civic Center Park where attendees are welcome to enjoy a full day of live entertainment on several stages; stroll through 280 sponsor, health and wellness, retail and commercial booths; play in the family interactive area and refortify at the 40 food and beverage stands. Last year more than 275,000 people from Colorado and the region enjoyed a parade, rally, music, entertainment, food and much more.

News of National/Global Interest

June is officially LGBT Pride Month!

June is officially LGBT Pride Month, thanks to a Presidential Proclamation made by President Barack Obama on June 1st. In his proclamation, President Obama said "as we recognize the immeasurable contributions of LGBT Americans, we renew our commitment to the struggle for equal rights for LGBT Americans and to ending prejudice and injustice wherever it exists." President Obama used his proclamation to reaffirm his commitment to the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell and the passage of the fully inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act. [[White House](#), Jun 1]

Obama extends benefits of gay federal employees

President Obama extended a wider range of benefits to the same-sex partners of eligible federal workers, including access to medical treatment, relocation assistance, credit unions and fitness centers. The move goes beyond a memo Obama signed last June, which permitted same-sex partners to use the government's long-term-care insurance and other fringe benefits. The Office of Personnel Management said that same-sex partners will become eligible for such insurance next month. [[Washington Post](#), Jun 3]

Student Non-Discrimination Act introduced

HR4530: Under this bill, no school program that receives public funding would be allowed to exclude children because of their gender identity or sexual orientation, be they gay, transgender or straight. Harassment based on gender or sexual orientation, defined as "conduct that is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to limit a student's ability to participate," would also not be allowed as a sanctioned element of a public school program. If schools discriminate or sanction harassment in their federally funded programs, federal education agencies would be given the authority to terminate their funding. [[OpenCongress.org](#)]

Maryland Attorney General favors marriage equality

Attorney General Douglas Gansler, who is straight, is embracing marriage equality for gays and lesbians as a central issue in his campaign for re-election in Maryland. Politicos around the state warned Gansler about getting too far out in front of public opinion, but Gansler rejected the advice. "To me it just seems so wrong that we deny human beings the pursuit of happiness," he said. [[Baltimore Sun](#), Jun 2]

Tea Party supporters say GLTB have too much power

A new poll of tea party movement supporters finds more than half believe that the LGBT community has an inordinate amount of political power. Just 18% said gays and lesbians should be able to legally marry. [[Huffington Post](#), Jun 6]

Gay-friendly French McDonald's commercial goes viral

A new commercial for McDonald's in France is generating a tremendous amount of Buzz online. In the spot, a teenage boy sits in a McDonald's booth, looking at his class picture, when his phone rings. "I was just thinking about you," he says, with obvious affection. "I miss you, too" he replies, and then says that he has to go. His dad is coming to the booth with their food. Father sits across from son and comments that he was "quite the ladies' man" when he was his son's age. Dad then looks at the class picture and remarks that "it's too bad" that his son's class is all boys. The son can only smile. The point, of course, is that the son is gay. Following that reveal, a tagline reads "Come as You Are" in French.

"We wanted to show society the way it is today, without judging. There's obviously no problem with homosexuality in France today," Nathalie Legarlantezec, a McDonald's spokesperson, told French media. The ad airs only in France, but thanks to online video sites, it quickly went viral. It already has well over one million views on YouTube. [[Yahoo New](#), Jun 4; [YouTube](#)]

Religion and Homosexuality

Transgender Rabbinical Students Find Equality

Reuben Zellman became the first transgender rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) and, for that matter, in the entire Jewish community. After several weeks of study, Reuben has now been ordained as a Reformed rabbi. [[JewishJournal.com](#), May 11]

Oral Roberts' gay grandson speaks out

Randy Roberts Potts remembers his grandfather, the televangelist Oral Roberts, as an ambitious, distant man. In his first essay for Oklahoma-based publisher This Land Press, Potts offers behind-the-scenes glimpses into the surreal world of the Oral Roberts family. We learn that Oral Roberts voted for Obama. We hear about the life and fears in a sheltered family compound. And we find out what it's like to be gay in America's most popular evangelical family. [[This Land](#), May 25]

Lutheran Church struggles with fallout from LGBT ordination vote

At the end of last summer the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) voted to amend its ordination policies to include gay and lesbian clergy who are in committed, monogamous, lifelong, publicly accountable relationships. The assembly also voted to recommend a process whereby those pastors who had either left the ELCA or been forced out for violating the now-defunct ordination policies could be reinstated to the active clergy roster.

A year later, there are signs of pressure to rescind the decisions made in Minneapolis last summer, as memorials are currently making their way through some local conferences and synod assemblies asking for voting members of the next biennial churchwide assembly (to be held in Orlando in August 2011) to repeal the new ordination policies and revert to the discriminatory policies of the past. [[Religion Dispatches](#), May 25]

MEETINGS:

2nd Monday each month, 6:45 pm
Plymouth Congregational Church
916 W. Prospect Rd.
Fort Collins, Colorado

CONTACTS:

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Episcopal Church ordains 2nd openly gay bishop

Seven years after the Episcopal Church caused an uproar by consecrating its first openly gay bishop, it has done the same thing again — only this time with a woman. The Rev. Canon Mary Glasspool, of Baltimore, was ordained and consecrated on Saturday, making her the second openly gay bishop in church history and one of the first two female bishops in the Diocese of Los Angeles' 114-year history. She was installed at Long Beach Arena before 3,000 people, who burst into applause at the end, church spokesman Bob Williams said. [[MSNBC](#), May 15]

Reading/Viewing Corner

- ❖ *The Mormon Proposition: Equality for Some*, is an indictment of the Mormon Church's historic involvement in the promotion and passage of California's Proposition 8 and the Mormon religion's secretive, decades-long campaign against gay rights. According to Wolfe Video, "the film takes place in California and Utah as Mormons, following their prophet's call to action, wage spiritual warfare fought with money and lies against US citizens and their fight for marriage equality and the rights that come with marriage." [[Wolfe Video](#)]
- ❖ *In Good Conscience* was named to the 2009 Top 10 Religion/Spirituality Videos by the American Library Association's Booklist magazine. The file shares the story of a gentle American nun, Sister Jeannine Gramick, who is persecuted by Cardinal Ratzinger for refusing to back down from proving a compassionate ministry to gay and lesbian Catholics. [[InGoodConscience.com](#)]
- ❖ Researchers say "gaydar" may be real! Dutch scientists say gays and lesbians performed better at noticing very small details in tests designed to gauge perception. The keener perception skills may explain "gaydar". [[Mail Online](#), May 27]

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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.

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.