



PFLAG

Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

Next Meeting

Date: Sep 13, 7 PM Program, 8PM Support
Program: Film discussion—*When I Knew*

Inspired by the book of the same name by Robert Trachtenburg, *When I Knew* poses a simple question of interviewees from across the country and from a wide variety of backgrounds: when did you know you were gay? These entertaining, insightful and moving interviews capture not only the “Aha!” moments, but also the moments when people first felt radically different from their friends and family. Though some of the stories are told with a sense of loss, most are a proud affirmation of who these people are today, proving that recognizing and embracing one’s sexual orientation is essential to being true to oneself.

Stewart Anderson will facilitate our discussion of this film.

PFLAG News

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.

Heads up—memberships expire at end of September

PFLAG will soon begin its annual membership drive. Please consider renewing or beginning your PFLAG membership by sending a check to PFLAG Fort Collins/Northern Colorado, 305 West Magnolia, PMB 117, Fort Collins, 80521. A membership form is attached at the end of this newsletter.

Newsletter trivia

With this edition of the newsletter (Volume P, No. 12) I have now completed seven years of writing the newsletter. I started with volume J in honor of my name. At any rate, if anyone is ready to take on the mantle of Editor-in-Chief, I’ll happily pass the baton. Let me know.

Events of Local/Regional Interest

Sep 13: CE Roundtable Ballot Tour, 5:30-7:30

The Ballot Tour in Fort Collins will take place at Community of Christ Church, 220 East Oak Street. The Ballot Tour is a series of events intended to educate people about some of the upcoming ballot issues including Amendments 60, 61, 62 and Proposition 101.

The Civic Engagement (CE) Roundtable is a statewide coalition of non-profit organizations that is funded by the Gay and Lesbian Fund with the intention of increasing civic participation in the election process. Lambda Community Center is a member of the CE Roundtable and a local sponsor of the Ballot Tour.

Sep 15: PFLAG Boulder County presents TG film

World premiere of “Faces and Facets of Transgender Experience”, 7:00 pm, Boulder Public Library Auditorium, 1000 Canyon Blvd in downtown Boulder

Produced and presented by PFLAG Boulder County, co-directed by Gus Spheeris and Carol Christenson, with Jean Hodges as Executive Producer, this 23-minute film was locally produced. Eighteen people and their families share touching stories about the journey from despair and loss to the joy of being the gender they were meant to be. A panel of some of the interviewees in the film will answer questions and respond to the filming process. A reception will follow the film.

Sep 18: PFLAG Coalition meeting—focus on GLBT elders

Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters will hold its quarterly meeting on September 18 in Littleton. The afternoon session (1:00-4:00 p.m.) will include a preview of the PFLAG Boulder film on transgender issues. The majority of the afternoon will be spent learning about and discussing elder GLBT issues in our state/community. Ken Helander, coordinator of SAGE of the Rockies (Service and Advocacy for GLBT Elders), Rene Hickman (Project Visibility intern) and Jen Solms for DRCOG will present what is known about GLBT elders, as well as a look into the future of Colorado elders. Housing, care and other topics will be covered. Please contact Shari Wilkins at 303-807-4604 if you are interested in attending.

Sep 24: PFLAG Denver celebrates 30 years

PFLAG Denver is 30 years old and it is time to celebrate!! Their GALA EVENT will be on Friday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the EXDO Annex, 3090 Downing Street. Entertainment promises to be outstanding: Purnell Steen Trio, Somethin’ About Lulu, Nina Montaldo and a special guest appearance by Lannie Garrett. They will have raffle drawings throughout the evening, and there will be delicious food and drink! Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper has proclaimed September 24 PFLAG DAY in Denver!

Be sure to reserve your place before September 15; after that the ticket price increases from \$60 to \$75. Those 30 years of age and younger can buy tickets for \$30. For reservations contact the Denver PFLAG Office at 303-573-5861 or go to www.pflagdenver.org.

Sep 30: 8 The Mormon Proposition film screening

You have a wonderful opportunity to see this film at CSU in the Lory Student Center Theater. The event begins at 6:00PM with the screening at 7:00PM. More details will be provided later via email.

Oct 8: Lambda Center 17th Anniversary

The Lambda Community Center will soon be celebrating its 17th anniversary. It will be held at the Northern Hotel in downtown Fort Collins starting at 7:30. The event is free. RSVP: <http://www.tinyurl.com/LCCAnniversary>

Oct 8-10: Sage of the Rockies Regional Conference

"Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: Choosing to Live Well"

Because it's not about growing old ... it's about aging. Although it's something we're all doing, there are some compelling issues that require extra thought, diligent foresight and careful planning if an LGBT individual wants to grow older with confidence and choices. And it's never too soon to begin thinking about these issues.

The conference is designed to focus on some key questions that LGBT individuals ask when we think about growing older. If you're 65 or older, you get a special break on the cost. The host hotel, the wonderful Sheraton Denver Downtown, is offering a special conference rate of \$109/night. If you'd like more information, contact Ken at 303-951-5222 or via email at khelander@glbtcolorado.org.

News of National/Global Interest

Prop 8 Indecision in August

August was a busy month for California's Prop 8. The decision in *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* was handed down by Judge Walker on Aug 4. [[San Francisco News](#), Aug 4] However, the judge issued a temporary stay of his own order, so same-sex couples were not allowed to get married. On Aug 12 the judge lifted the stay on his Proposition 8 ruling. With the stay lifted, same-sex marriage could resume in California on Aug 18. [[IndyPosted](#), Aug 12]

But to keep the status of same-sex marriages in a state of flux, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals extended the stay, putting same-sex marriages on hold. [[LA Times](#), Aug 18]

Same-sex marriage gains GOP support

A growing number of Republicans are breaking with the party's traditional stance to publicly state their support for same-sex marriage, a shift strategists say stems as much from demographics as from the renewed focus on economics and the "tea party" movement. [[Washington Post](#), Aug 27]

Argentina legalizes same-sex marriage

Argentina legalized same-sex marriage in July, making it the first country in the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic region of Latin America to grant gay couples the same rights as heterosexual couples. After a long and emotional debate, the Senate voted 33 to 27, with three abstentions, to approve a measure that had passed Argentina's lower house. [[LA Times](#), July 15]

Civil partnerships bill passes in Ireland

A bill that would recognize the civil partnerships of same-sex couples passed the Dáil, the lower house of parliament in Ireland. [[Advocate](#), July 2] A week later Ireland's upper house ratified the bill after two days of debate. [[Pink News](#), July 9]

Sarah Palin supports Dr. Laura in recent controversy

If you are new to LGBT issues, you may not be familiar with the anti-gay stances taken by Dr. Laura Schlessinger on her radio show. In August the good news centered around Dr. Laura's decision to quit her radio show after coming under fire for repeatedly using the N-word while on air with a caller. The bad news centered around Sarah Palin's defense of Dr. Laura and her advice, "Don't Retreat, Reload." [[NY Daily News](#), Aug 19; [Newsweek](#), Aug 19]

Advocacy and Education

One Colorado asks for your story

Brad Clark, Executive Director, writes:

I've heard countless stories as we've traveled the state [townhall meetings]. We heard from a mom from Colorado Springs whose son was beat up for his perceived sexual orientation. We met a gay couple from Fort Collins who have been together for decades yet lack the recognition and protection of their love and commitment. We listened to the pain from a transgender Latina from Denver who feels excluded and isolated in our community.

These are just a few of the stories that inspire me to keep fighting and have made our team resolved and determined to create a fair and just Colorado. ... Whether you're a mom from Grand Junction, a transgender activist from Colorado Springs or a gay or lesbian couple from Boulder, your stories are the most convincing tool we have to affect the hearts and minds of Coloradans.

Today I'm asking for your help. Will you share your story? I am convinced that your stories will be the foundation of this statewide, grassroots movement. LGBT or straight, married or single, parent or student, Democrat or Republican, your story provides the inspiration and voice to create a fair and just Colorado.

[SIGN UP TODAY TO SHARE YOUR STORY!](#)

In the months ahead, we will engage a chorus of voices to have a conversation with Coloradans all across the state. Be part of the conversation today.

A beauty queen to believe in

According to a recent article in *The Advocate*, Claire Buffie, crowned Miss New York for 2010 in June, is the first Miss America contestant to compete on a gay rights platform. A trained dancer and Apple employee, having a lesbian sister and growing up in a family where being different was valued led Claire to choose for her speech, "Straight for Equality---Let's Talk," which focuses on school safety for gay youth. She is being mentored on the S4E message by Jody Huckaby, National PFLAG Executive Director. Let's hope she makes it to the Final 15 to be telecast in January. [[Advocate](#), July 15]

Religion and Homosexuality

Presbyterian court tries minister

A lesbian minister, who officiated at more than a dozen same-sex weddings during the brief window gay marriage was legal in California, faces trial before a Presbyterian court. She is charged with violating her denomination's constitution. [[LA Times](#), Aug 24]

Preschooler denied admission due to lesbian parents

St. Vincent's Episcopal School in Bedford, Texas, denied admission to the daughter of two lesbian parents. The

school's nondiscrimination policy does not include sexual orientation. The head of the school stated "it is their policy that we don't provide services *to individuals or families that do not behave properly.*" The school is affiliated with the Anglican Church in North America, one of the groups that split off from the U.S. Episcopal Church over the denomination's decision to consecrate openly gay bishops. [[Dallas Voice](#), Aug 20]

Students protest dean's resignation

In Springfield, MA, the dean and athletic director of Cathedral High School stepped down after 12 years of service. Christine Judd was forced to resign because she married her same-sex partner this summer. Dozens of students and friends protested her resignation. [[22News](#), Sep 5]

Focus on the Family criticizes anti-bullying efforts

Apparently Focus on the Family feels it is just fine to bully LGBT students in the classroom. "We feel more and more that activists are being deceptive in using anti-bullying rhetoric to introduce their viewpoints, while the viewpoint of Christian students and parents are increasingly belittled," Candi Cushman, Focus on the Family education expert, said. [[Denver Post](#), Aug 31]

Reading/Viewing Corner

- ❖ A lengthy engagement—During a chance second encounter in Baltimore in 1945, Henry Schalizki, 88, and

- Bob Davis, 89, met and fell in love. More than six decades later, the couple finally legalized their union. [[Washington Post](#), June 25]
- ❖ Prop 8 is simply unconstitutional—op-ed by Lisa Bloom [[CNN Opinion](#), Jan 12]
- ❖ A summer for gay rights—what do you think? Compare your ideas to those presented by Richard Socarides, former White House advisor to Bill Clinton. He believes we are at a tipping point. [[Huffington Post](#), July 18]
- ❖ The Transition—one mother's perspective on her daughter's transgender transition from daughter to son. Recommended by David Horowitz, vice-president of the PFLAG National Board of Directors [[Reform Judaism](#), Fall 2010]

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.

Support PFLAG Fort Collins / Northern Colorado—Become a Member

A membership in PFLAG extends a helping hand to families who have gay members, provides educational materials for families and the public, and offers a family voice that stands for equality and justice for all human beings. You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1 to September 30.

Name(s) of Member(s): _____	_____	Local, Student	\$15
_____	_____	Individual Membership*	\$30
Address: _____	_____	Family Membership *	\$45
City: _____	_____	Gold Membership*	\$75
State: _____ Zip Code: _____	_____	Platinum Membership *	\$100
Home Phone: _____	_____	Donation _____	
Other Phone: _____	_____	Email list only (no membership)	
Email: _____	*National Dues of \$15 is included with membership		

Make checks payable to **PFLAG Fort Collins** and mail to 305 West Magnolia, PMB 117, Fort Collins, CO 80521. Membership fees and contributions are tax deductible. All information will remain confidential. PFLAG is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization.

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
Email: 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.