



Coming Out Faithful
PFLAG Program - *October 15th, 7pm*

Coming out faithful is the topic of discussion to be led by the Rev. Kenneth Thurow, author of *A Place at the Table*, a PFLAG Board member, and a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America which just voted to change their policy so that gay pastors in committed relationships can serve freely.

In addition, a panel of LGBT persons who are involved in their respective faith communities will share their personal journeys of coming out as both gay and "religious". Does one need to be closeted about being Christian in the gay community? Is it easier, more acceptable, to be spiritual but not religious? What can welcoming faith communities do to attract LGBT members? Some of the panelists will include R. J. Porter and Dora Peters and others to be confirmed. They will discuss the obstacles and affirmations they have experienced in various communities of faith.

**Straight for Equality:
Active Allies Show Us How**
PFLAG Program Preview - *November 19th, 7pm*

Non-LGBT people with involvement as youth, educator, legislator, community leader, and mental health worker will share their lived responses as "allies who are Straight for Equality." Come to be inspired, to gain insight and motivation for what you can do to make a difference for LGBT equality.

Save the Date! Holiday Feast
Thursday, December 17th

Our festive holiday feast will feature not only great food provided by the PFLAG board and you, but the *Somethin' About Lulu* trio has agreed to sing for us. Don't miss this occasion for a joyful and heart-warming evening.

Meetings

PFLAG Boulder County
First United Methodist Church
1421 Spruce Street
14th & Spruce - 303.444.8164

7:00 PM - Program
8:30 PM - Support & Advocacy Groups Meet

The public is always welcome to the main program at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of each month, held in the Parlor.

At 8:30 p.m. a support group, especially intended for newcomers and others dealing with personal LGBT-related issues, meets in the library as long as needed. Confidentiality is promised.

First PFLAG meeting?
Need directions or more info?

E-mail **Melissa Druckman** at:
mellowhellow@googlemail.com

Or contact her at her cellphone number: (720) 299-1453.

October 15th, 7pm
PFLAG Program:
Coming Out Faithful

November 19th, 7pm
PFLAG Program:
Straight for Equality

December 17th
PFLAG Holiday Feast

PFLAG Board News and Needs

By Jean Hodges, Mountain West Regional Director

Connie Coleman, long-time PFLAG mom, has returned to PFLAG involvement following the extended illness and death last spring of her husband Don. Connie was on our board for several years when her daughter Abby was active in OASOS and at C.U. and has now volunteered to take over the maintenance of our lending library. In a gesture of love and condolence, the board donated the cost of materials and Cathy Gaffney and Connie, using recycled materials, built new steps and a porch entrance to Connie's home.

Our Boulder County board is sorry to say goodbye to Kit McChesney who has served conscientiously for the past one and a half years. We are grateful that she set up a new website, provided program ideas, computer and writing expertise and with her spouse, Susan, initiated our presence at the Farmer's Market. Her skills and enthusiasm will be missed, but we understand her need to give full attention to her C.U. teaching load, her wife and teenage son, and her personal writing. Thank you Kit for your service to PFLAG.

Herb and Louise Crede moved to Longmont a year and a half ago from Illinois and joined PFLAG to honor their lesbian daughter and to work for LGBT equality. This summer they were among the first to join the newly formed St. Vrain Safe Schools Coalition. Herb has now agreed to join our board as a liaison to the SVSSC with an interest in helping us do more PFLAG outreach in Longmont. Herb is a retired health care administrator and United Methodist minister. He and Louise are committed to working to change United Methodist Church policy to be LGBT inclusive. We welcome them both and are grateful to Herb for joining the board even though he doesn't do websites.

Still Needed: someone to coordinate refreshments for our monthly meetings. This job is getting easier since we have sign-ups now to take us into 2010. The job would be to remind volunteers each month. This is not a board position. You can do it from home!



Connie Coleman stands on her new porch with her PFLAG "family" holding a picture made by Cathy Gaffney that reads "You always have a home in PFLAG."

Mother's Book about Matthew Shepard

Judy Shepard was in Boulder recently to sign her book, *The Meaning of Matthew: My Son's Murder in Laramie, and a World Transformed*, in which she shared 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.



Public Policy Watch

from J. Rhodes Perry, National PFLAG Staff

Education and Labor Committee's ENDA Hearing. On Sept. 23, U.S. Rep. George Miller (D-CA), chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee held the first full committee hearing in the House of Representatives on legislation to prohibit employers from discriminating against employees on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. You are encouraged to take action and share your support of ENDA with your legislators; Congress must hear from each and every one of us today, before they mark the bill up in Committee. No one anywhere should ever have to fear losing their job simply because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Please visit www.thomas.gov and type in **H.R. 3017** to see if your representative is a co-sponsor. If they are, please send a note to thank them, and let them know that you appreciate their work on behalf of LGBT workers.

Rep. Baldwin Remarks on Health Reform. Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), sat down with the National Stonewall Democrats, discussing the need for comprehensive, progressive and LGBT-inclusive health care reform. She specially outlines the importance of collecting data on LGBT health issues to address the disparities in health, health care access and health care outcomes between the general population and LGBT people and families. If incorporated into the final health reform legislation, the data collected may lead to more inclusive programs that meet the needs of our LGBT family and friends.

NO on 1 Campaign Releases Detailed Memorandum. The NO on 1/Protect Maine Equality Campaign released an extensive memorandum that examines and disputes the paid media claims regarding the so-called consequences of marriage equality made by proponents of Question 1. The memorandum was signed by Maine Senate President Elizabeth Mitchell, Maine House Speaker Hannah Pingree, former Maine Attorneys General Steve Rowe and James Tierney, House Chair of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee Representative Emily Cain, University of Maine School of Law Dean Peter Pitegoff and University of Maine School of Law Professor David P. Cluchey. Nonetheless, donations are still much needed for gay-positive advertising. Go to: <http://www.actblue.com/page/overthetop>

COUNSELING THAT HONORS YOU/FAMILY

JAYME L. PETA, MA
PSYCHOTHERAPIST

720.318.8018 WWW.JAYMEPETA.COM
741 PEARL ST BOULDER, CO 80302

WHEN A FAMILY MEMBER OR LOVED ONE COMES OUT, YOU MIGHT FEEL CONFUSED, SCARED, OR JUST IN NEED OF MORE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT. I OFFER COMPASSIONATE, ACCEPTING AND PRACTICAL COUNSELING FOR FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS; AND YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH LGBTQ YOUTH, ADOLESCENTS & ADULTS, AND THOSE WHO CARE ABOUT THEM.

THE LAW OFFICE OF MARDI MOORE, P.C.

WILLS AND TRUSTS, ESTATE PLANNING

FAMILY & PROBATE MATTERS INCLUDING
GUARDIANSHIPS, CONSERVATORSHIPS &
ESTATE ADMINISTRATION

WWW.MARDIMOORELAW.COM
4450 Arapahoe Avenue, Suite 100
Boulder, CO 80303
(303) 926 7317

Representative Frank Warns of Fallout over Same-Sex Marriage

Front Page National Headline

Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), one of three openly gay Congress Members and a leading gay rights advocate, warned his colleagues that their efforts to advance a bill to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act could hurt them politically. "I do think it can complicate things electorally for Members" supporting DOMA repeal legislation," Frank said. "People will interpret this as exporting marriage. That could complicate matters." Frank, whose name is noticeably absent from the bill's 92 co-sponsors (including Jared Polis), said he won't endorse the bill because he doesn't think it is achievable in the near term.

Sesquicentennial Drama Planned

A Play by Jean Hodges

In this year of celebration of Boulder's 150th birthday, retired theatre teacher and director Jean Hodges has written a play, "**Rolling Back—Growing Forward**", to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the First United Methodist Church where our PFLAG chapter meets. On Sat., Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. and Sun., Oct. 25 at 3 p.m., a cast of some thirty-five persons will bring to life the history of the First United Methodist Church in Boulder in the sanctuary at 1421 Spruce Street.

The image of the church as a stagecoach on a bumpy road is the metaphor to describe the past 150 years of this "church in the heart of Boulder." It began in 1859 with Jacob Adriance, the first circuit rider to preach in our area's gold mining camps. Did you know that John Chivington, was a Methodist deacon as well as the notorious colonel who ordered the U.S. militia in 1864 to "take no prisoners" in the Indian village of Sand Creek? That's an example of "the bumpy road" of history the drama will visit.

Of special interest to PFLAG members will be the twenty-year journey from 1976 the year Boulder first faced rampant homophobia when a human rights ordinance that protected same-gender orientation was defeated, through 1980 when FUMC youth minister Julian Rush came out as a gay man and split the church, through some tumultuous years when the congregation struggled with overcoming their fears, to 1996 when they voted to become a Reconciling Congregation to welcome LGBT persons to full inclusion.

This history will come alive with a series of dramatic vignettes as well as memories shared by some members. Projections of old photographs and the addition of music will bring the remembrances to life. In the Methodist tradition, the story will be punctuated by singing. Friends who are newcomers or old-timers to Boulder or FUMC are welcome to this free performance. There is much to be learned; much to remember; much to make you smile and appreciate about the growth of our city as well as this church. **Rolling Back—Growing Forward** will bring history alive—with a Methodist twist! This is a once-in-every-150-years event. Don't miss it!



Grant To Fund PFLAG Outreach

We are pleased to announce that PFLAG Boulder County has been awarded \$3000 from the Open Door Fund toward general operating expenses. Our annual dues allow us to maintain our monthly meetings. However, community outreach and education projects have been supported by Open Door Fund grants since its inception in 1996.

The board will decide how to allocate this year's money to support the following goals and projects for 2009-2010 that were set at our June Planning Retreat: expand our presence in east county communities through media advertising; sponsor two special events in Longmont; initiate a St. Vrain Safe Schools Coalition; reach out to parents of OASOS and GSA youth by providing a brunch and special programming; develop a Straight for Equality program for faith communities; encourage progressive county area clergy to work for more inclusive congregations; and help to fund the \$10,000 needed to produce a transgender education film to be co-directed by Carol Christensen and Gus Spheris.

Clearly the \$3000 will not cover all costs, but it does provide stimulus for making us brave enough to reach out to our Boulder County community in innovative ways.

Invisible Families by Terry Stewart

Heartflags Publishing; Reviewed by Dave Parker

This is the September 2008 reprint of the book *Invisible Families: a New Zealand Resource for Parents of Lesbian and Gay Children*, originally published 1993. It was revised and updated in 1996.

One of the things that parents of newly-out lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) children need most is the assurance they are not alone; that they are NOT the only parents with an LGB child. By today's standards, this seems obvious; in 1993 it did not. All PFLAG members know that this is still a problem for "new" parents - "Not my child!!" they insist. This book still fills a need to help these parents understand. Ms. Stewart blends her experience - which begins when her son comes out to her in 1987 - with excerpts from survey responses from parents, children, and siblings of GLB people. She also includes supportive information from respected medical professionals. She covers all aspects of the coming out process for the families - hearing those frightening words, "I'm gay," trying to accept, telling extended family members and friends, and easing common fears for the children and their families. Ongoing questions and legal issues are also touched upon, although some of them no longer apply today.

There is no mention of transgender children. At the time this book was written, virtually everyone considered them gays or lesbians in drag. Even so, most of the discussion could apply equally to the transgender community members and their families.

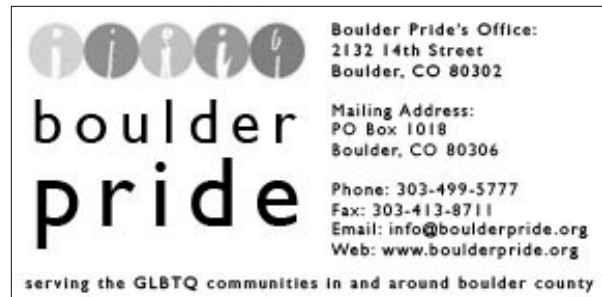
Invisible Families is easy to read and understand. It is separated into 16 chapters, all interspersing Ms. Stewart's and her family's experience with the comments from gays and lesbians, their friends, their siblings, and their parents. Not all of the comments are supportive or uplifting; they are the real feelings of real people.



Iowa Public Opinion Poll

Front Page National Headline

One of the most common arguments advocates use against marriage equality is that it will threaten the institution of traditional marriage. In April, Iowa's Supreme Court unanimously overturned a 10-year-old ban on same-sex marriage, which the far right decried as an undemocratic decision anathema to the views held by the majority of America. But a new Des Moines Register poll finds that despite the histrionics from conservatives, 92 percent of Iowans "say same-sex marriage has brought no real change to their lives." The poll also shows that residents are evenly split in their views toward same-sex marriage.



"Call Me Little Bridget"

T shirts that are fashionable with a slice of GLBTQ advocacy.

Our shirts are for anyone who wants to spread the word of love and acceptance. We believe that if people wear them... then the message will get through to others.

It's a subtle thing, people may not even know it's happening.

But, those are, sometimes, the most powerful.

Call Me Little Bridget - changing the world, one shirt at a time.

Visit: www.callmelittlebridget.com | Call: 303 588 3696



PFLAG Boulder County
 PO Box 19696
 Boulder, CO 80308
303.444.8164
 www.pflagboulder.org

PFLAG Boulder meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at First United Methodist Church, 14th and Spruce, Boulder, Colorado. Program starts at 7:00 pm, sharing time begins at 8:30 pm.

REMEMBER, our confidentiality pledge must not be broken.

Newsletter is published monthly. A subscription is included with each membership to PFLAG. Material related to PFLAG is welcome from any source. Deadline is the twentieth of each month. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject, or edit any material submitted.

Membership Categories

- \$25.00 Individual
- \$35.00 Family
- \$10.00 Student
- \$10.00 Newsletter Only
- \$50.00 Supporting
- \$100.00+ Sustaining

Membership dues are renewed on October 1st of each year. Send address changes and membership information to PFLAG, P.O. Box 19696, Boulder, CO 80308.

Advertising

Business card size: \$15 monthly / \$130 annually. Please send scans / digital images to info@pflagboulder.org . If special arrangements need to be made feel free to send an email.

< Please support our advertisers >

OUR MISSION

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gays, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons, their families and friends through:

- SUPPORT**, to cope with an adverse society;
- EDUCATION**, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and
- ADVOCACY**, to end discrimination and to secure civil rights.

PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

Membership Renewal Bonus

Many thanks to those of you who have paid your PFLAG dues promptly. In good faith that all of you plan to do so within the month of October, we are enclosing a PFLAG decal (courtesy of National PFLAG) for your car, a notebook, your front door—wherever you choose to identify as a proud PFLAG member.

Our loyal membership chair, John Hoffman, tells us that he has received 57 renewals for 2009-2010 in addition to 10 new members in recent months, which leaves just 42 remaining who have yet to renew. You know the drill: John will phone you. Save John's effort and send in your check for \$25 for individuals and \$35 for a family unit. If you receive your newsletter by e-mail, you will want to attend our Oct. 15th meeting to receive your decal. We really love it when we see you face-to-face!

Many Thanks To Give!

Many thanks to Kathleen Cain for often single-handedly staffing the PFLAG table four times this summer at the Farmer's Market. We also thank those folks who helped to staff the PFLAG booth at the Boulder Pride Block Party: Rollie and Richard Butler, Lynne Howard, Connie Coleman, Jean and Jack Hodges, Kit McChesney and Susan Hofer, Kristen Kinard, John Hoffman, Cathy Gaffney, Morgan McKenzie and Jimmy Stanley.

First Congregational's Tenth Anniversary

Congratulations to Longmont's First Congregational United Church of Christ that is celebrating their tenth anniversary of becoming Open and Affirming. To date they are the only Longmont faith community to publicly welcome LGBT persons.

Not just a directory anymore!
 Now a social and business network ...



LGBTQ Friendly Business Directory
 and Social Networking
 2008-2009 Edition Now Available
 303-442-2440 | www.mountainprideconnections.com