



PFLAG BOULDER COUNTY

PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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Sept 2009

Hate Violence: Getting to the Root of the Issue PFLAG Program - Thursday, Sept 17th, 7pm

With the murder of Angie Zapata, a transgender teenager from Greeley, hate crimes have received increased media attention in our state. Crystal Middlestadt, Director of Training & Education for the Colorado Anti-Violence Program, is excited to facilitate this discussion about what is needed to stop the violence against LGBTQ persons. We will explore hate violence impacting the LGBTQ community in Colorado, share critiques of hate crimes legislation and begin unpacking the complexities of addressing the root causes of such violence.

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

Our October program will be led by the Rev. Kenneth Thurow, author of *A Place at the Table*, 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

Membership Renewals Due Sept 30th By John Hoffman, Membership Chair

Thanks to all of you who have supported PFLAG with your membership dues and extra contributions over the years. Enclosed you will find a membership renewal form. If you are a recent new member, your dues will be due September 30th, 2010. Those who receive the newsletter via e-mail will receive a renewal form by mail. If I don't hear from you in October, I will call/email you to make sure you want to drop your membership. Please make your check out to **PFLAG Boulder** and mail it to: **PO Box 19696; Boulder, CO 80308.**

You can contact John Hoffman at 303-443-6429

Join us at the Pearl Street Block Party Saturday, September 12th - 10am to 4pm

The annual Boulder Pride Block Party will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12th, on the Courthouse Lawn and Pearl Street Mall where PFLAG will have a strong presence from 10 a.m. set up to 4:00 p.m. In addition to our free print materials, some of our OASOS youth friends plan to do a video interview project that will offer a chance for passersby to interact. If you would like to volunteer to help staff for a couple hours, please contact Rollie Butler, rollie@safehousealliance.org.

State PFLAG Coalition Met

On August 29th, the Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters held its quarterly meeting in Denver. PFLAG leaders from Colorado Springs, Evergreen, Fort Collins, Littleton/South Suburban, Denver, Boulder, and representatives from New Mexico gathered to conduct business in the morning and to learn from a special program in the afternoon. The afternoon portion of the day was devoted to a candid discussion between members of the Trans community and PFLAG representatives. Gus Spheeris, co-director of the upcoming PFLAG Boulder produced trans education film, led a discussion focused first on the needs of the Trans community and then questions that straight people would like the film to include. We gained some insight into what PFLAG is doing right for the Trans community, and what we might improve.

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.

September 12th, 10am
Pearl Street Block Party

September 17th, 7pm
PFLAG Program:
Hate Violence: Getting to the Root of the Issue

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

Highlights from National PFLAG

By Jean Hodges, Mountain West Regional Director

>> Read the blog on the national website, . www.pflag.org and then write your own (c/o ewilliams@pflag.org) about something neat your chapter has done.

>> Time to collect membership dues for your chapter; match fiscal year with national, Oct. 1 to Sept.30; national dues @\$15 per member unit are due between Oct. and Dec. \$88,000+ in dues was collected for 2008-2009, short of the \$100,000 goal.

>> PFLAG staff was invited to meet with the U.S. Dept. of Education and GLSEN representatives to discuss LGBT issues. *Know Your Rights*, a publication about school safety as part of health care reform to include LGBT in survey, is the result.

>> Executive Director Jody Huckaby shared a variety of exciting news:

1. *Prayers for Bobby*, nominated for two Emmy Awards, evoked interest in starting many new chapters across the country;
2. Even though it cost us \$100,000 to cancel the national convention, losses for a poorly attended convention would have been \$200,000+.
3. Jody and a mother and gay son were selected to meet with President and Mrs. Obama at the White House at a meeting of many LGBT leaders. The President praised PFLAG, but not to be diverted, Jody pressed him about the importance of passing LGBT equality legislation.
4. Jody attended the NAACP Convention. At LGBT-related sessions, he proposed that "family acceptance" be a focus of the organization's work with the African American community.
5. Cleve Jones is heading up a call for an LGBT gathering in Washington on National Coming Out Day, Oct. 11 to focus attention on LGBT equality to pressure the President and Congress. It will not be a march but speeches on the lawn by the Capitol. Oct. 12th is a national holiday so there will be no congress people around to lobby. No decision has been made about whether PFLAG will endorse the gathering.



Earn a Bike with Community Cycles

By Cathy Gaffney

I recently peddled into Community Cycles and discovered a real treasure of our green community. They have a full bicycle shop where you can learn to fix your bike, regardless of skill level. There is an opportunity to earn a bike by volunteering fifteen hours in a six-week after school program where each student learns to fix a bike and on completion gets to keep the bike. Other programs are "bikes abroad," "rolling bike clinics" and "bike give-aways" where affordable refurbished bikes are available.

A new program called "Wrenching Wenches and Handy Trannies" held on Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m. encourages women and transgender folks to learn about bike maintenance and repair in an empowering and supportive environment. Contact Susan at wench@communitycycles.org or phone 720-565-6019 for more information about location, discounts and annual memberships. Check out their website, www.communitycycles.org.

OASOS Youth Support Group

OASOS is currently running a peer-support group for LGBTIQ youth ages 15 and under. This group is specifically designed to meet the developmental needs of this age group. This bi-monthly group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 4:30-5:30. For the address and more information please contact Sherry at sbiskup@bouldercounty.org or (303) 678-6259.

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serving the GLBTQ communities in and around boulder county

My People to People Presidential Leadership Conference: Thanks to PFLAG, Ron Braun, and my Community

By Brad Anderson

My name is Brad Anderson. I am 19, a junior at Metropolitan State College of Denver, studying English with a minor in Secondary Education. I am also queer, gay, homoflexible, pansexual, or omnisexual, depending on what day you ask me. When I was in 7th grade I attended a Leadership conference through a wonderful organization called People to People. This spring I was invited to attend their first ever college program called **People Presidential Leadership: In the footsteps of Presidents Obama and Lincoln**. The conference was held in Chicago on the University of Chicago campus, with a day spent in Springfield Illinois studying Lincoln. I had never stayed in Chicago before. I was thrilled but had a major problem; I had no way to cover the cost of the trip. After talking to OASOS program directors, where I am currently co-chair of their youth board, they urged me to apply for a scholarship through PFLAG. I applied for the **Kathie Braun Youth Leadership Development Fund** with much encouragement from Ron Braun... and then I waited.

Then, not to exaggerate or dramatize, I received one of the few phone calls I have had in my life that changed my life. Ron Braun told me that thanks to PFLAG (\$500) and the scholarship fund, (\$1500) that I would be receiving a grand total of \$2000, almost the entirety of the trip's cost. I cannot believe more youth don't know that such financial support does exist. After everything had been arranged, I left for Chicago at 8:30am on August 2nd 2009.

While I was on the trip I learned a lot of information, but not entirely about Obama, or Lincoln. I had a rather hard time adjusting at first and realized that it was because I was once again in the closet. I had a hard time coping with this the first day or two until a girl came out to me as being homoflexible/bisexual. After this I was able to open my cocoon and really connect with people because I was out. This little incident taught me that **I should be out wherever and whenever I can be because there is always a scared and closeted person nearby just waiting for someone to pioneer that rocky road**. I learned a lot about myself and how to be a leader within my community. I learned the importance of recognizing who the best leader is for a job and when it isn't me to step down gracefully. I also learned that someone tried to kidnap Lincoln's body... who wouldda known? I could not have made this personal growth, leadership growth, citizen growth, or academic growth without all the wonderful people who helped me!

Back in Colorado I am now faced with the responsibility of imparting my knowledge that I have learned from my trip to other youth and my community. My courses of future action are to change the wording of OASOS youth board from "co-chair," "secretary" and other hierarchal speech to make every single leader to stress the importance each individual plays. I also plan on taking my newly nurtured voice to the St. Vrain Valley Safe School Coalition and make sure that I am a voice for every single student in both the Coalition, my teaching education, career, and life.



CU GLBT Alumni Chapter will present 'Boulder's Gay History: Out of the Shadows' Saturday, September 26th, 1pm to 5pm

"Boulder's Gay History: Out of the Shadows," a Sept. 26 colloquium that will delve into the status and lives of Boulder's gay population, will look into decades of both progress and setbacks for that largely hidden group. "We will make the hidden more visible when we discuss gay history in Boulder County," Dr. Glenda Russell, colloquium director, said.

Tim Fuller--a gay city councilman who was recalled in 1974 in an angry election reacting to the council's granting protections for gay, lesbian and bisexual citizens--will keynote the event. Penfield Tate III, whose father, Mayor Penfield Tate II, was a strong and vocal supporter of those protections, will introduce Fuller. Mayor Tate was very nearly recalled in that same election. A panel will follow Fuller's talk. There will be time for questions and answers throughout the afternoon.

The colloquium is one of a series of public programs noting Boulder's 150-year anniversary. The free event will be Saturday, Sept. 26, 1-5 p.m. at Old Main on the CU campus, followed by a reception at the Koenig Alumni Center. The colloquium and reception are sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender chapter of the CU-Boulder Alumni Association with support from an Open Door Fund grant and assistance from IBM Boulder, Boulder Pride and the CU-Boulder Office of Counseling & Psychological Services. 303-492-2280





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.

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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.

Somethin' About Lulu

The Lulu's, PFLAG's favorite lesbian trio, will present their long-awaited CD Release Concert on Sat. Sept. 29, at 7:30 p.m. at the Nomad Theatre, 1410 Quince, Ave. in North Boulder off of Broadway. General admission tickets \$10, cash or check, are available only at the door. No pre-sales. The CD will be available for purchase at the concert for \$15, cash or check. www.nomadstage.com.

Longmont Church Celebrates Anniversary

On Sunday morning, 10.15 am, September 27th, 2009, First Congregational United Church of Christ (FCUCC) of Longmont will celebrate the 10-year anniversary of becoming an Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation. ONA is the designation for congregations, campus ministries, and other bodies in the United Church of Christ which make public statements of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

The special service of celebration will include music by members of the Resonance Women's Chorus of Boulder. Reverend Rick King will conduct the service and share his thoughts on what it means to be an ONA congregation. A luncheon will follow, everyone is welcome. For more info visit ucclongmont.org or call 303.776.4940. The address is 1500 9th Avenue, Longmont.

Members Urged to Join Advocacy Drive

The 2009 guide, *Bringing the Message Home*, provides all the most recent federal legislation introduced in the 111th Congress. Download this guide which will empower you to begin meeting with your representative and senators about important issues. It features issue briefs, talking points about critical pieces of transgender inclusive legislation, and information to help you set up a lobby visit.

Download at <http://community.pflag.org>

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