



# PFLAG BOULDER COUNTY

**PFLAG** Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

June 2010

## Meet & Greet followed by PFLAG Program

Thursday, June 17th, 6pm

**6:00 p.m.** there will be a meet-and-greet reception to introduce our newly elected PFLAG leaders, Ken Thurow, President, and Kristen Kinard, Vice-President, to key leaders in the LGBT community. This is intended to help Ken and Kristen network with the wider community as they assume the reins of PFLAG Boulder County leadership. Refreshments will be served

**7:00 p.m.** the public and our members are invited to this year's PFLAG Pride Program which will feature a preview of the new film, *Faces and Places of Transgender Experience*, co-directed by Gus Spheeris and Carol Christenson. Following the screening of this 15-minute documentary there will be an opportunity for input from viewers as a "focus group" to help in refining the final cut before its world premiere in September.

## Sister Jeanine Gramick Coming to Boulder!

Sunday, June 6th, 3:30pm

Boulder PFLAG is co-sponsoring with Bent Lens Cinema, Boulder Pride and parents from Sacred Heart, a special community-wide event to bring the nationally known activist Catholic nun, Sister Jeannine Gramick to Boulder. On **Sunday, June 6 at 3:30pm** at the Boulder Main Library auditorium (1000 Canyon Blvd., Boulder), there will be a free screening of the documentary, *In Good Conscience*, followed by an inspirational talk by Sister Jeanine Gramick and opportunity for Q & A.

*In Good Conscience* chronicles the true story of Sister Gramick, who defied a Vatican edict that she shut down her compassionate ministry to gay and lesbian Catholics, and silence herself permanently on the subject of homosexuality. Her battle takes her all the way to Rome where she attempts an audience with her key adversary over the years - none other than Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger - the Inquisitor who would become Pope Benedict XVI. "I choose not to collaborate in my own oppression by restricting a basic human right," she says. "To me this is a matter of conscience."

LGBTQ people and our allies, family and friends are encouraged to this family-friendly attend. DVD's may be purchased for \$20 after the screening. For questions or more information, please contact JeanInBldr@comcast.net.

## 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 Tuesday 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.

Contact [info@pflagboulder.org](mailto:info@pflagboulder.org) with questions, concerns, or requests for support to get a personal response.

### Sunday, June 6

'In Good Conscience' with Sister Jeanine Gramick

### Wednesday, June 9th

Facets Cabaret

### Thursday, June 17th

6pm - PFLAG Reception  
7pm - Preview of 'Faces and Places'

### Sunday, June 20th

PFLAG in Pride Parade

## From My Corner - Drama, Dreams and Delights

By Jean Hodges



May 2010 was a month of some dramatic events in the life of Jean (and Jack) Hodges. It began on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, when Jack and I were among thousands of people whose lives were disrupted when an SUV outside our New York hotel on Times Square was discovered to have within it the makings of a bomb. I had spent the day at the Marriot Marquis Hotel participating in National PFLAG Board meetings. I was elected by my fellow Regional Directors to be their new RD Council chair which makes me also Vice-President of National PFLAG beginning in October. That might have been enough personal drama for one day, but there was more to follow.

On Saturday night after midnight, three security guards knocked briskly on our hotel room door and told us that we had to evacuate to the 5th floor. We had just called our internet-connected son in Denver to have him tell us more about the bomb scare. The hotel staff bustled to provide us each with a rollaway, clean linens, a pillow, and a bottle of water to make sure we were comfortable in the hallway outside an already full ballroom. How efficient, competent, and compassionate the staff and security forces were! There was no panic, just an orderly atmosphere that took care of business. About 3:00 a.m. we returned to our room. With adrenalin flowing, I spent much of these early morning hours thinking about the events of the day and what it had to do with PFLAG and the rest of my life, now that I felt assured we had escaped a potential sudden death.

The fundraising GALA earlier in the evening in the hotel ballroom brought together over 400 corporate representatives who all support PFLAG and participate at some level in the Straight for Equality in the Workplace trainings offered by the National staff.

I hoped that the live auction held before the award ceremony was going to help make up some of the \$700,000+ deficit in the national budget. Corporate donations, which provide many times the measly 3% our annual dues add to the \$2 million annual budget, have been affected by the economic downturn of the past two years. Bequests make all the difference and they are down too.

I reflected on the words shared by Straight for Equality Award winners. We honored Sodexo, Inc. for its commitment to straight for equality in Business, Scott Anthony Fujita, NFL football player now with the Cleveland Browns and formerly a member of the Super Bowl winning New Orleans Saints for his commitment to straight for equality in sports and Liza Minnelli for her commitment to being straight for equality in entertainment.

Scott Fujita said of gay rights and equality, "There should be no debate anymore. The issue of gay rights and equality should be past the point of debate. For me in my small platform as a professional football player...my time in the spotlight is limited. The more times you have to lend your name to a cause you believe in, you should do that." That is the momentum that drives Straight for Equality. We all use our voices to make a difference. That is PFLAG's mission.

And, Liza Minelli spoke words that speak to and beyond Gay rights; "Dream on it. Let your mind take you to places you would like to go, and then think about it and plan it and celebrate the possibilities. And don't listen to

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anyone who doesn't know how to dream."

Dreaming is what I have been doing for the past year as Jack and I transition out of local PFLAG leadership. My dream has been to find new faces, new voices, new energy to maintain the strength of PFLAG Boulder County. Ken Thurow, ally and professional administrator and people person as a retired Lutheran minister, and Kristen Kinard, long-time PFLAG mom from Longmont, have volunteered to lead our county-wide chapter. Nearly half of our board now comprises newcomers. Richard Butler, spouse of Rollie and himself a PFLAG dad is our new treasurer. Connie Coleman, experienced PFLAGer, is rotating back on to the board after an absence of several years. Tsunemi Maehara Rooney, from Boulder County Safehouse Alliance, brings a wealth of experience outreaching to ethnic and racial minorities and working with social agencies and law enforcement. Dan Mestas is a student at Front Range Community College and an active OASOS leader who will be our youth liaison. We are grateful that Melissa Druckman, Louise and Herb Crede have agreed to continue their service to complete an amazing new board.

I thought all my dreams had come true when we celebrated an evening of Appreciation Awards on May 20<sup>th</sup>. There was a record crowd of some 75 persons present. The evening was electric with love energy after awarding all the community ally and LGBT awards and listening to their inspiring responses. But it wasn't over yet. To our total surprise, Jack and I listened as Ken announced that over 40 people as of that date have made pledges totaling \$2700 to build a Jean and Jack Hodges Fund as a legacy to continue the work of outreach that has been the strength of our PFLAG work over the past fourteen years. Words cannot express how moved we both were. How grateful we are for those who have shared our dreams and lived our commitment with us to bring LGBT support, education and advocacy to Boulder County.

### **Historic Civil-Unions Bill Passes in Hawaii**

Fifteen years ago, Carolyn Golojuch, president of PFLAG O'ahu and other O'ahu residents with gay or lesbian relatives formed an advocacy group to push for equal rights for their family members. Over the ensuing years, they regularly lobbied the Legislature in the name of equal rights. After the House passed a controversial civil-unions bill in the eleventh hour of their legislative session, Golojuch was all smiles. "I'm ecstatic," she said. "Perseverance does work. When you're right, you cannot quit."

Hawai'i has been wrestling with the divisive issue of same-sex marriage since the early '90s, longer than any other state. In 1993, the Hawai'i Supreme Court issued a landmark ruling that said denying same-sex partners the right to marry violated their equal protection under the state Constitution. It was the first time any state high court had taken such action. In 1997, lawmakers approved a measure allowing the public to vote on a constitutional amendment on whether to grant the Legislature the power to reserve marriage for a man and a woman which was approved by voters in 1998 by a 70% majority. Since then, attempts have been made regularly at the Legislature to expand the rights of gay couples, and many of those attempts faltered for lack of support. The recent action was the first time a civil-unions bill giving same-sex couples the same rights and protections as married opposite-sex couples overcame bitter opposition.

Elizabeth Bethea, former Board member of our chapter, who now lives in O'ahu and regularly lobbies for the city's mayor with the legislature, was also ecstatic. A letter of "mahalo" was sent by our chapter to all the legislators who supported this bill.

## **Advocacy and the Power of One**

In early May, Rollie Butler who recently retired from the PFLAG Boulder Board, saw the news from Channel 9 about how a man in Casper wrote an ugly anti-gay message on his fence and refused to remove it, even when he knew that a lesbian student passed the sign every day on her way to high school. A Casper City Councilman was quoted to say that any response to the hateful fence message was barred due to freedom of speech. Well, Rollie wrote a letter to all the Casper City Council urging them to pass a city ordinance to protect persons who are victims of name-calling, harassment and discrimination. She went further to send attachments of ordinances, researched by the City of Boulder's Office of Human Rights, to give them language and ideas to move them forward.

This is the letter Rollie wrote to two Casper City Council members which exemplifies a rational, compassionate letter that advocates without being adversarial. She received an appreciative response from one person who will pursue council action and a negative response from the other. Win one, lose one. Thank you Rollie! You demonstrated the "power of one" and what it means to be a Straight for Equality activist.

"I appreciate your responses to my concerns regarding the hate language & homophobia exhibited by the fence painting in Casper. The Boulder City Council was kind enough to email the attachments which they have developed over the years with regard to hate crimes. I don't know if any of these will apply to your city, but I hope they might be helpful in developing a policy toward eliminating discrimination & homophobia in Casper. As in the justice system, we must have as much concern & protection for the victims as we do for perpetrators, especially children who are victimized by such actions & have no power to do anything about them.

Hate, racism & homophobia exist in all communities including Boulder. Our community feels supported in our efforts by a City Council that stands up for intolerance of hate speech as well as acts of violence. I wish you well in your efforts to eliminate hate & homophobia in your community.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Rollie Butler  
PFLAG Boulder County member"

## **Support Youth in the FACETS Cabaret**

*Wednesday, June 9th, 7pm*

FACETS, the annual Queer Youth Cabaret is on June 9th at 7 p.m. at Old Main Theater on the CU Boulder Campus! This annual event showcases some amazing talent by local LGBTIQ youth. It is one of the OASOS highlights of the year.

Your presence at this fun & inspiring night, is one of the simplest ways to let queer youth know that you support them and their creativity. Think of how empowering it is as a youth to perform for a packed house! Help to fill Old Main! Pick up a pen, write it on your calendar, type it in your Blackberry, commit it to memory, then invite all of your friends! Due to restrictions about food serving in Old Main, PFLAG will not provide refreshments this year as we have for many previous years.

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## News Beyond Boulder County

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### **PFLAG Denver Anniversary**

*Thursday, June 3rd*

**PFLAG Denver celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary** with a special concert at 7:30 p.m. by the Denver Gay Men's Chorus, the Denver Women's Chorus and Mosaic Youth Chorus.

Location: Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia (corner of Montview)

Free admission

### **Fort Collins "Pride in the Park" Weekend**

*June 2nd - 6th*

Lambda Center's annual Pride in the Park weekend has been voted one of the top pride celebrations in the nation. For more information on this year's event, see [prideinthepark.org](http://prideinthepark.org). When you join the fun, please be sure to stop by the PFLAG booth.

### **Denver PrideFest**

*June 19th & 20th*

Mark your calendars! Marking its 35th year in 2010, Denver Pride Fest will be held on June 19 and June 20 at Civic Center Park. Stop by the Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters booth, G08-G09, on either Saturday or Sunday. Produced by The Center, PrideFest features a Dance Stage with DJs, a Latin Stage and Main Stage with live entertainment. Thousands of LGBT persons and allies gather to celebrate their unity in working for progress toward equality.

### **Colorado Springs Pride Fest**

*July 18th*

Pikes Peak Pride Center sponsors Colorado Springs Pride Fest, including over 100 vendors, a beer garden, and fantastic entertainment for everyone.





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

PFLAG Boulder meets the 3rd Tuesday 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.*

**Join Denver's Pride Fest and Parade**

*June 19th - 20th*

June 19-20 is the Annual Pride Fest in Civic Center Park. All PFLAG members and allies are urged to march in the Pride Parade on Sunday morning for a heartwarming experience. Meet in Cheesman Park at 9:00 a.m. in time for a 9:30 step off which will proceed down Colfax to the Capitol and Civic Center Park. To carpool to Denver, meet at the Table Mesa Park n Ride at 7:45 a.m. Call 303-444-4580 if you want a ride or can offer one.



**New Longmont LGBT Support Group**

Starts Tuesday, July 13, 6:00-7:30 p.m. at 500 Coffman, #115. Cost: \$10/group with 50% of proceeds going to Boulder Pride. Call Christie Baryames, 303-817-4330 for details.

**OASOS's Longmont group is starting again!**

First meeting: Thursday June 17th.  
 When: Thursday's 4-6  
 Where: 1030 Boston Avenue,  
 Longmont (Public Health Building)  
 Who can attend: LGBTIQ youth ages 13-20

**You Can Place Your Ad Here!**

Contact Jack Hodges  
 303 - 443 - 4580

\$15/Issue  
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