



PFLAG BOULDER COUNTY

PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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May 2010

PFLAG Annual Appreciation Banquet

Thursday, May 20th, 6:30pm

A delicious potluck banquet in the First United Methodist Church parlor will kick off a festive evening that will include election of new officers, distribution of a written annual report, and recognition of special people in our chapter and in our community. The board will provide a baked ham, turkey, a vegetarian main dish, spinach salad, table service and beverages. Please bring salads, side dishes or desserts to complete the meal.

The officers to be elected are: Ken Thurow, President; Kristen Kinard, Vice-President; Melissa Druckman, Secretary; and Richard Butler, Treasurer. Retiring from leadership are Jean and Jack Hodges, co-founders, and Rollie Butler, long-time board member.

Appreciation Awards will be given to the following community honorees:

Faith Community Allies: Rev. Keith Thompson and Rev. Claire Childress, retiring co-pastors of the First United Methodist Church who have strongly supported use of the church properties by PFLAG, Resonance Women's Chorus, BCAP, and Boulder Pride.

Education Ally: Dr. Charles Serns, principal of Eisenhower Elementary, for his exemplary leadership in helping a family with a transgender child to find acceptance in his school community.

Education Ally: Dr. Andre Lanier, Director of the Equity Office (whose position has been eliminated through BVSD budget cuts), for his strong support for the Boulder Valley Safe Schools Coalition to change school climate to be more accepting of LGBT students.

Outstanding Youth: Maria Delmonico, PFLAG board member and graduating senior from Longmont High School, for her leadership in OASOS and her drive to make changes in her school by being a co-founder of the St. Vrain Valley Safe Schools Coalition.

LGBT Spirit Award: Somethin' About Lulu, the trio of remarkable musical lesbians, Bylo Farmer, Angie Holley, and Patty Jackson, who bring great harmony and hilarity to both gay and straight alike.

LGBT Community Service: Gus Spheeris and Carol Christenson, co-directors of our film project, "Faces and Places of Transgender Experience", as well as long-term contributions through Bent Lens Cinema leadership and pro-bono film-making for the Open Door Fund and other LGBT-related causes.

PFLAG Program Preview

Thursday, June 17th, 7pm

The premier screening of "Faces and Places of Transgender Experience," where we will celebrate Pride Month. Open to the public.

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.

First PFLAG meeting?
Need directions or more info?

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

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

May 8th
Open Door Fund Dinner

May 20th
PFLAG Appreciation Banquet

June 17th
PFLAG Program: "Faces and Places of Transgender Experience"

Notice!

Beginning on July 13th, PFLAG Meetings will move to the second Tuesday at 7pm.

Meet Your New PFLAG Leaders

Nominee for President: Ken Thurow

Ken Thurow is a retired Lutheran pastor who was drawn to PFLAG Boulder County as an ally in 2008. He joined the Board in 2009 because he is committed to act on his belief that LGBT equality is a matter of moral integrity and social justice. A native of South Dakota, Ken and his wife Marlys have three children and six grandchildren. After being called to churches in South Dakota from 1963 to 1990, Ken and his family moved to Boulder where he served Atonement Lutheran Church as pastor for ten years. Retiring in 2000, he has served as interim pastor in six churches in the area.

Two things led Ken to become a passionate ally about LGBT issues. First he heard the Bible being (ab)used to justify anti-gay beliefs and he was incensed by the poor and uninformed use of scripture, so he wrote a paper to argue for accurate biblical scholarship. Then he met a lesbian couple in his church who were wonderful people and he understood from their perspective that he needed to do more. In 2009 he completed a book entitled *A Place at the Table: Scripture, Sexuality, and Life in the Church*. A member of his congregation has given him a grant to distribute copies of the book free to other Lutheran pastors. Nothing has given Ken more joy than the recent decision by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Church Council to abolish its anti-gay policies, effective immediately (after 25 years of deliberation!).

Although PFLAG is non-sectarian, Ken's organizational, management, and people skills have prepared him well for the tasks of leading our PFLAG organization forward.

Nominee for Vice-President: Kristen Kinard

Born in the midst of the 'baby boom' era, Kristen grew up and went to school in the Pacific Northwest. She married Dennis Coombs from West Seattle and they moved to Colorado in 1980 for the '2-3 year adventure away from the Northwest' that is now in its 30th year. Dennis and Kristen have two children, age 28 and 25, who grew up in Longmont.

After the shock of learning she had a gay son, Kristen joined PFLAG in late 2001. Aaron is now a successful lawyer in Washington DC. Kristen, a substitute teacher in the St. Vrain schools, also does book-keeping for the Pumphouse Restaurant, where her husband, Dennis Coombs is a partner. She loves her family, church, gardening, recycling, and PFLAG. When she and Dennis are not traveling to do bicycling tours, Kristen will be balancing her local PFLAG leadership jobs, which include managing the resource supplies for tabling at PFLAG meetings and events and overseeing monthly programs, with being Secretary for the Colorado Coalition of PFLAG chapters.

She is glad to be Vice President, and is willing to assist in the work of PFLAG Boulder County because she says, "There is no end in sight for our mission."

Transgender in the Workplace

A Book Review by Dave Parker, TransNET

As we move forward on ENDA and corporations try to embrace transgender employees respectfully, there need to be guides to help them. This seems like a good one.

The Complete Guide to Transgender in the Workplace

by Vanessa Sheridan

Enlightened self-interest and moral responsibility have led hundreds of cities, numerous states, and many corporations - including nearly 1/3rd of the Fortune 500 - toward expanding their employment policies to prohibit discrimination against their transgender employees. More are incorporating gender identity and expression in these policies every day. As I write this, an inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) is moving through Congress on its way to (hopefully) becoming law.

Writing a law or establishing a policy is not enough to generate an open and accepting workplace. In many of those places where these non-discrimination policies have been generated, one or more transgender employees have been active in creating them. Now corporate officers, managers, and employees must work together to make acceptance of and respect for transgender employees reality. The question is how - how does the company convince ALL of its employees that respect for and acceptance of their transgender coworkers is in their best interest? And how many managers even fully understand transgender and what this means to their company?

Ms. Sheridan's new book is an excellent guide. Beginning with chapters "What is Transgender?" and "Who Are Transgender People?" she goes on to explain why transgender inclusion DOES matter to your business. Several chapters deal with the restroom debate, coming out at work, benefits of transgender-specific awareness training. Her book includes a series of tools and tips for managers and human resource professionals. All these topics are covered thoroughly, often in both her own words and quotes from other referenced articles and books.

Transgender in the Workplace is written not only to educate, but also to be used as a reference. As a reviewer, I sensed some redundancy as I worked through the book, but concluded that it was or would be helpful when using the book as a reference manual. That is, I felt the redundancies were there in order that the person only referring to one or two chapters would have all the necessary information within those chapters.

This book is also useful for the transgender employee who needs to show his or her management that inclusion IS possible without excessive distraction, and that inclusion WILL lead to higher productivity. Employees who feel safe and respected are far more valuable and productive than those who must continually hide significant portions of their identity.

Available on Amazon.com \$31.96



Lt. Dan Choi to Speak at Open Door Fund Dinner

Saturday, May 8th, 6pm

Please join us for an evening of celebration & support for Boulder County's LGBT Community! Saturday, May 8th, at the St. Julien Hotel, 900 Walnut Street, Boulder. Cocktails are served at 6 pm, Dinner at 7 pm. Black Tie is optional. Cost: \$125 per person. \$60 is tax deductible.

Lt. Dan Choi, a West Point graduate and Iraq veteran fluent in Arabic, announced that he was gay on The Rachel Maddow Show in March 2009. Because of those words - "I am gay" - Lt. Choi's life changed forever. Despite his extreme value as an Arabic speaker able to communicate quickly and clearly with the Iraqi people, one month after his announcement Lt. Choi was notified that the Army had begun discharge proceedings against him. Ever since, he has appeared in numerous media interviews challenging the American military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

The Open Door Fund, a permanent endowment of The Community Foundation, supports the Boulder County community by raising money and distributing grants for programs that enhance the lives of its lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. About \$30,000 is raised annually for LGBT services in Boulder County. PFLAG has been a grantee nearly every year since the funding began in 1996. Tickets are \$125—10 to a table. A portion is tax deductible.

Reservations can be made online:

<http://www.regonline.com/opendoordinner2010>

Request to sit with PFLAG.

Boulder County Aging Services Sponsors Symposium

Thursday, May 13th, 8:45am-1pm

Aging from a Transgender Perspective:

A Symposium for Service Providers and Community Members

Featuring nationally renowned transgender advocate and researcher, Loree Cook-Daniels.

When: Thursday, May 13

Where: Houston Room, Boulder County Clerk & Recorder

Time: 8:45am-1:00pm, including coffee, snacks, and box lunch

Cost: no charge

Registration: required by Tuesday, May 11, 5pm to

Rene Hickman, Event

Intern, 303-441-1585

For further information, contact: Nancy Grimes,

LGBT Programs Specialist at 303-441-3583 or

ngrimes@bouldercounty.org

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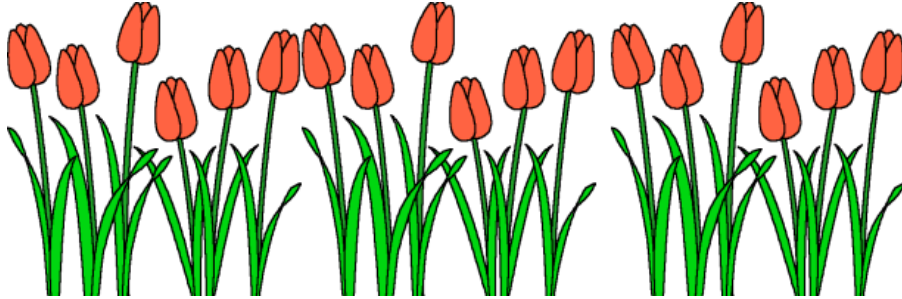
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(303) 926 7317

Save the Date: Boulder Pride's Garden Party

Sunday, May 23rd

Please join us as we gather to celebrate Spring, Boulder Pride and our fabulous Community! It's free to attend - donations to Boulder Pride are gratefully accepted. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Dave at dave@boulderpride.org.



News Beyond Boulder County

LGBT Activists Protest Turkish Minister

A handful of activists interrupted a meeting on gender equality last Thursday, demanding that a Turkish official apologize for saying recently that homosexuality is a disease. The minister, Aliye Kavaf, was giving a speech when the demonstrators began shouting slogans, asking her to apologize for last month's remark. LGBT people aren't criminalized in Turkey, but many pro-equality activists say they lack legal protections and face stigmatization in the predominately Muslim nation. LGBT groups have been calling on the government to amend the criminal code to state clearly that discrimination on basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is a crime.

Gay Teen to Serve as NYC Pride Parade Grand Marshall

Constance McMillen, the lesbian teenager from Mississippi who challenged her school district's ban of same-sex prom dates, will serve as grand marshal of the annual LGBT pride march in New York City on June 27 as announced by Organizer Heritage of Pride, Inc. The event commemorates the 1969 Stonewall riots in which patrons at a Greenwich Village gay bar fought back against a police raid. The 18-year-old senior says she's honored to be part of the celebration. School administrators canceled the prom rather than allow Constance and her date to attend.

ENDA Advocacy Action Alert

The House Democratic leadership had indicated that it intends to move forward on long-awaited legislation banning employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The inclusive measure offered by Representative Barney Frank (D-MA) already has 199 co-sponsors, including six Republicans. Seventeen more votes are needed to pass the bill and we are confident other lawmakers will sign-on in support. Please take action today and urge Maggie Markey and Jared Polis to vote for the bill.



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.

Judge Overturns Arkansas Adoption Ban Law

A state judge on Friday struck down an Arkansas law approved by voters that banned gay couples and other unmarried people living together from serving as adoptive or foster parents. A group of families, represented by the American Civil Liberties Union, sued in 2008 to overturn the ban. They argued that there are too few families willing to adopt or foster in Arkansas, which has an average of 1,600 children on waiting lists, and that good homes were being arbitrarily cut from the list.

The law effectively banned lesbian, gay and bisexual people from adopting or fostering children because they are unable to legally marry in Arkansas.

Obama Hospital Decision Helps Same-Sex Couples

On April 15, President Obama signed a directive that grants hospital visitation rights for same-sex couples, making clear that designated visitors, including individuals designated by legally valid advance directives (such as durable powers of attorney and health care proxies), should enjoy visitation privileges that are no more restrictive than those that immediate family members enjoy. The directive applies to every hospital across the country that accepts federal funding via Medicaid and Medicare. You can find out more and download sample forms of the proper legal documentation at:

<http://www.hrc.org/issues/protect-your-visitation-and-decision-making-rights.htm>

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