



PFLAG BOULDER COUNTY

PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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February 2011

PFLAG Program
I'm Really a Woman: Deconstructing Gender
Tuesday, February 8th, 7pm

Presented by Nicole Garcia.

If you've seen the film, "Faces and Facets of Transgender Experience", you might remember Nicole telling the story of coming out to a co-worker and friend: "Jen, here's the deal. I'm really a woman." Her friend replies, "Get outta here!" With her sense of humor a major strength, Nicole has forged ahead as the woman she was meant to be.

Although she transitioned when she was employed in law enforcement, Nicole is now a graduate student at University of Colorado in Denver. She is currently working on her thesis which is looking at the way individuals who live outside the traditional "binary gender system" formulate a self-identification of gender.

Nicole will share her own personal and spiritual journey and discuss the terms associated with gender identity and expression as well as the impact of living as a gender variant person impacts the individual socially and psychologically. There will be time for Q and A to conclude the meeting.

PFLAG Program Preview
Spotlight on LGBT Youth Activism
Tuesday, March 8th, 7pm

Dan Mestas, PFLAG Board member, will gather a panel of area youth to talk about what their GSA's are planning for the National Day of Silence in April and their experiences at the Queer Youth Summit. This state-wide event planned by and for LGBT youth will be held on Saturday, February 26th in Denver at Mi Casa. Dan Mestas is one of the youth leaders organizing this state-wide event. The organizational sponsors are Boulder County OASOS, Inside Out in Colorado Springs, YHAC, Youth Alley, Lambda in Fort Collins and the University of Denver.

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 2nd 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 with questions, concerns, or requests for support to get a personal response.

February 8th
PFLAG Program:
I'm Really a Woman

March 8th
PFLAG Program:
Spotlight on LGBT Youth Activism

SAVE THE DATE!
November 3rd-6th is the National PFLAG Convention in Washington DC!

National PFLAG Needs Your Support *By Jean Hodges, National PFLAG Vice-President*

Did you know that the \$15 from your chapter membership dues that is sent to National only raises some \$80,000 nation-wide to support an over \$2 million annual budget? Major funding from corporations and grants has diminished over the past two years of economic downturn, so there is currently an \$800,000+ deficit to do the work of PFLAG. Unexpected bequests have saved the day. However, I am writing this because I think that we as individuals or as chapters can do more. My husband and I have increased our monthly giving to National to be in our top three non-profit donations. Please consider what you can do.

Here are some of the highlights of 2010 to help you know what the National PFLAG staff of 16 does for us:

PFLAG National conducted **10 state and regional conferences** across the country this year reaching members in their communities with trainings and resources;

They helped make schools safer by conducting **7 Cultivating Respect Safe Schools train-the-trainer workshops** which allow our members to go into schools and engage school personnel on issues of harassment and bullying;

At the Federal level, they worked with the Department of Education (DOE), Office of Civil Rights to launch the **Claim Your Rights Campaign** with GLSEN which educates families on how to file claims with DOE when their child has been the victim of bullying and harassment. To date, they have already had families across the country filing claims on behalf of their kids;

In the Spring, a **full-time diversity outreach associate was hired** to help engage more diverse communities in PFLAG's work and began advertising PFLAG's diversity outreach grants which help establish best practices for chapter's doing diversity outreach work;

37 Straight for Equality in the Workplace provided consultation and training sessions in corporations across the country, helping them to invite, educate and engage straight people to become allies for equality. They launched our **Straight for Equality in Healthcare** resources and provided consultation and training sessions in a variety of healthcare venues; and they piloted a new **Straight for Equality in Faith** training for our chapters in California, laying the foundation for new national resources for all of our chapters in 2011;

This year, PFLAG staff had an amazing presence on Capitol Hill with a **record 245 lobby visits** on issues as varied as the **Every Child Deserves a Family Act** and the **Safe Schools Improvement Act** to the **repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell** and working towards the passage of the **Employment Non-Discrimination Act**. Additionally, they facilitated numerous in-district meetings by PFLAG members in targeted Congressional districts, showcasing the powerful influence that PFLAG families have in their local communities. PFLAG members used the 2010 edition of **Bringing the Message Home**, PFLAG's guide to how to lobby on issues to make their meetings effective.

PFLAG National launched the **First Annual Los Angeles PFLAG Event** to elevate the profile of PFLAG in the entertainment industry, and held the **2nd Annual Straight for Equality Awards Gala**, the only national event designed exclusively to honor PFLAG's straight allies in their work on LGBT equality.

This work was able to happen because of the support that people like you provide PFLAG National. The PFLAG Boulder County board voted to give \$1000 to national in this time of need. What tax-deductible gift will you send in National PFLAG in 2011? Even \$25 will help to keep families together, educate the public and advocate for equal rights and fair treatment for LGBT people and their families. Donate on line, www.pflag.org or mail donations to: National PFLAG, 1828 L Street, NW, Suite 660, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Winds of Change Sweep Board

As 2010 ended, an extraordinary thing happened with the PFLAG Boulder County Board when four of our nine board members needed to be replaced. It is important for our membership to know that these resignations were all for legitimate personal reasons and not because of any conflicts on the board. Ken Thurow has accepted an interim pastorate in Colorado Springs which means that he commutes and is unable to offer the hands-on leadership the presidency requires. Connie Coleman's new management role with Special Transit is taking all her time and energy. Melissa Druckman has moved to New York State to be with her husband. Tsunemi Rooney has personal issues unrelated to PFLAG. We hope that all these individuals will find time, energy and the will to return to PFLAG when the time is right.

The good news is that we are pleased to announce the following new board members who have volunteered to increase our board membership to eight: Sandi Zeigler, founding president of this chapter (1993-1996); Jessie Nelson, FUMC intern pastor until May; and Maureen Cassulo, parent of a gay child. Kristen Kinard, Vice-President, will step into the presidency.

However, for the first time ever, we have only one LGBT person on the board. We really need balance to reflect our membership which is 48% LGBT. Our current needs are for a secretary, a librarian to organize our lending library, a marketing person to help with advertising, someone to coordinate program planning, and someone who is interested in heading advocacy with focus on upcoming state legislation. Neil Fishman has volunteered to work with Ron Braun with the Youth Leadership Development Endowment Fund. These roles can be either board or non-board positions. Please contact Kristen, klkinard@comcast.net, to talk about volunteering.



Open
7am—3:30pm



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Be Part of the Family Album

Making civil unions a reality in Colorado won't be easy. To achieve this victory, we must demonstrate to our legislators that thousands of Coloradans—LGBT or straight, single or in relationships, young or old—support civil unions.

That's why One Colorado is creating a Family Album of Coloradans who support civil unions. Once created, we'll deliver these albums to legislators all across the state so that they can see the faces of people like you who support giving all committed couples the critical protections they need to be able to care for their families.

Being a part of the Family Album is easy. Go to www.onecolorado.org to fill out a simple form telling your Representatives and Senators why you support civil unions and e-mail it back to us (to jessicaw@one-colorado.org) with a photo.

PFLAG National's 2011 Scholarship Season is now Open!

To apply, simply visit www.pflag.org and click on the Education and Programs tab. Graduating senior high school LGBT students and student allies are encouraged to apply online, print supporting documentation and review the biographies of the 2010 scholarship recipients. Pass the word! ALL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2011.

First United Methodist Church of Boulder

is proud to host the PFLAG monthly meeting

www.fumcboulder.org

Education Hour 9am - Worship 10:30am

Celebrating Diversity

Embracing Inclusivity

Sharing God's Unconditional Love

Reflections on the Signing of the Repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell

by Dan Tepfer, National PFLAG Board Member, Midwest R.D.

On December 22, 2010 I had the great honor of attending President Obama's Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell bill signing ceremony. When my daughter came out and I became more and more involved in PFLAG, I realized that advocacy was where I could work best. Then late in 2008, I was challenged, as a retired military officer, to advocate for repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

As I became more and more involved, I remembered that while on active duty, my boss (a full colonel) said that if I needed his help to get something done, that I could always refer to him. In effect I was to put on his eagles and plow ahead to get what I needed. It was now 20 years later and I had my own eagles (as a retired USAF Colonel) and I decided to use them. I feel that the

op eds, the letters to the editor, the appearances representing PFLAG to such events as Diversity Day luncheons, or to the Service Members Legal Defense Network (SLDN) event on the Capitol steps was my way of using my "eagles" to cry for repeal. What could be stronger than a retired senior United States Air Force officer calling for repeal?

I was pleased to be present when the President signed the bill to repeal. What a great feeling! Members of congress were there, Marine Sgt. Eric Alva, but it was Rep. Murphy (D-PA) who got a standing ovation for his effort to reintroduce repeal. When he introduced Admiral Mullen, President Obama quoted the Admiral's comments last spring that "people in the military sacrifice a lot, but they should never have to sacrifice their integrity."

Often I have felt that I did not do enough in the fight for repeal. I was there when someone asked me to give an update on the repeal or explain how things were going, to represent PFLAG, or their chapter at an event. I spoke out, posted regularly on my Facebook page. But I was not involved 24/7 as so many others have been. It was not something, if not repealed, that was going to have a great impact upon me as it was to so many others. But at the signing as I greeted people or mentioned a name or saw someone I met along the way, when they recognized me and introduced me to their friends, I realized that I had done something to help make this happen. I had a stake in the success of the repeal, however small. As the tears dropped from my cheek, I felt proud to be on the right side of the fight.

Senator to Introduce Civil Unions Bill

During the 2011 legislative session, State Senator Pat Steadman plans to introduce a bill establishing civil unions for same-sex couples in Colorado.

Civil unions are a form of state-level relationship recognition that provides same-sex couples with the same protections and responsibilities given to married couples under state law. All across the state, thousands of committed same-sex couples are doing the hard work of building strong families, and yet they lack the critical legal protections they need to be responsible for one another.

According to a poll by Greenberg Quilan Rosner in January 2010, 72% of Colorado voters support legal recognition for lesbian and gay couples, believing that two people in a committed relationship, gay or straight, should be able to take care of and be responsible for each other. Civil unions allow committed same-sex couples to do just that.

*Allies and LGBT folks are all needed to lobby their legislators for this bill to pass. **At 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 8th, prior to the 7 p.m. meeting, Jean Hodges will share talking points and language to use when talking about this bill to friends, family or legislators.***

Keeping Up With Our Youth

The first Boulder County GSA summit happened on December 4 at the Niwot Grange! Forty youth with an average age of 15 attended from all over the county. Schools that were represented include Centaurus, New Vista, Niwot, Erie, Fairview, Manhattan Middle School, Monarch and Nederland.

The participants attended youth led workshops that included: How to Sustain Your GSA, an LGBTIQPP youth “coming out” speakers panel; Bisexuality and Biphobia; a screening and discussion of “Faces and Facets of Transgender Experience”, discussion of leadership skills and how to date and have healthy relationships.

The youth who attended the summit expressed excitement over the connections they made with other GSA's and youth in the county. Some are planning an ongoing meeting to talk more about county and district wide policy and ways to create change in the county. Some youth from the Boulder Valley School District will be working with the Youth Leadership Institute to put on their GSA event at the University of Colorado on Wednesday February 2nd.

On February 26th LGBTQ youth from across Colorado are putting together the 3rd annual Colorado Queer Youth Summit. The youth summit is an all-day event that hosts workshops, performances and all together creates a space for LGBTQ young people to connect with each other, learn about social justice and continue to build a queer youth movement. Visit their website for details, www.coqueeryouthsummit.org.

“Faces and Facets” Goes to Conferences

On Feb. 4-6 Gus Spheeris and Jean Hodges will attend the Creating Change Conference in Minneapolis to show “*Faces and Facets of Transgender Experience*” and lead a discussion about the film and how it can be used effectively.

They will also do a session with some of the film’s “stars” at the Colorado's premier gender conference, Colorado Gold Rush, which takes place from February 25-28 at the Renaissance Hotel in Denver. Presented by the Gender Identity Center of Colorado (GIC), Colorado Gold Rush is a regional conference that draws people from many states for workshops, outstanding speakers and social cohesion.

LGBT Lobby Day 2011

LGBT Lobby Day 2011 is your chance to tell your legislators what matters to you. Learn about important LGBT legislation, get trained on how to discuss the issues with your elected officials, and head to the Capitol with One Colorado and company at LGBT Lobby Day 2011!

February 21, 2011

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The Center (1301 E Colfax, Denver, CO 80218)

LGBT Lobby Day 2011 is a time to contact your representative to support civil unions and to press for bully-proofing schools to be a high priority for our state’s leaders. Contact shannonm@onecolorado.org for schedule details.

Co- sponsors of Lobby Day are: One Colorado, Lambda Community Center, The Center, Out Boulder, Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center, PFLAG, Four Corners Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Diversity, Keshet, Western Equality, Southern Colorado Equality Alliance

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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 contact Richard Butler (303-530-2156). 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.

Support for Parents of Trans Children

by Karen A.

Trans Youth Education and Support (TYES), a support organization for families with gender variant children, is now meeting in the Boulder area. Meetings are held at 6 p.m. on the fourth Friday of every month, as well as occasional social gatherings. For more information please email TYES.group@gmail.com.

It was clear from a very early age that my child was different from her male cousins. Born in a boy's body, she loved playing with girl toys and taking on female roles. As she grew older her level of anxiety grew and it became more obvious how different she felt from her classmates. I began to seek out other children for her to socialize with who understood her need for cross-gender play. From that pursuit, TYES was born. Over the past 3½ years of our group's existence, I have watched my child and several others flourish. It made an enormous difference when they realized they were not alone in the world and that there was a community of people that loved and understood them.

TYES has been meeting for over 3 years in the Denver area and an associated group is now forming near Boulder. The intent of the group is to support family members as well as the children themselves. Our children currently range in age from 8 to 18, and we encourage families with even younger kids to participate. We often have parents who attend our group without their children in order to learn from others in similar situations. The group is only open to parents and siblings of gender variant children.

Nuns Lead the Way

In a recent press release, the **National Coalition of American Nuns** issued a press release to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, stating they were "appalled at the lack of sensitivity" to LGBT people... Since the media broke the news about a series of gay suicides...not one bishop's voice was raised to condemn a culture where youths are bullied for being who God created them to be and are sometimes pushed by society's judgments to attempt suicide..." You can read the entire press release at www.newwaysministry.org. [Thanks to the PFLAG Northeastern Newsletter for this information.]

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