



# PFLAG BOULDER COUNTY

May 2015



## International Family Equality Day

*Celebrating the Rainbow of Families in our World!*

**Sunday, May 3rd at 1pm**

On May 3, 2015, LGBTQ family organizations from around the world will join forces, for the fourth time, to increase the international visibility of LGBTQ families. Regardless of different legal, political and social circumstances around the world, the dramatic increase in the numbers of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer (LGBTQ) people choosing to raise children is a global phenomenon.

Join PFLAG Boulder County in celebrating International Family Equality Day from 1-3 p.m. Please bring a potluck dish to share. There will be games for children of all ages, as well as LGBTQ Trivia for the adults.

**Location: Cairn Christian Church, 1700 Stonehenge Dr., Lafayette, CO.**

### Monitoring Proposed Anti-LGBT Laws

As noted in April's newsletter, over the past year, the pace of introduction of state legislative bills has intensified, mostly trying to stop bills protecting LGBTQ people and their families from discrimination, often times under the guise of so-called religious protection laws. Whether a gay or transgender person wants to join a college student group, seek counseling services, or a gay couple tries to obtain a marriage license from a government employee, or access basic medical care at some point in their lives, these bills would open the door to unequal treatment.

There are several resources that track proposed legislation that is potentially harmful to LGBTQ people if passed, but the only webpage updated weekly is found within the ACLU's website: <http://www.aclu.org/anti-lgbt-religious-refusals-legislation-across-country>.

It is updated every Wednesday and tracks all state bills that, if passed, would be harmful to LGBTQ people and other communities as well. You can scan by topic, look at states and know both the bill number and the status—whether they're active (and where), voted (and by whom), became law or failed for this legislative session.

### Meetings

*First United Methodist Church*  
1421 Spruce Street, Boulder  
303-444-8164

*Cairn Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)*  
1700 Stonehenge Dr, Lafayette  
303-442-1861

*The Heart of Longmont FUMC*  
11th and Emery, Longmont  
303-651-6125

**2pm - Support & Advocacy Groups Meet**

**3pm - Program**

At 2pm 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.

The public is always welcome to the main program at 3pm., usually on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

Our location rotates between the three above locations - see our program schedule for more info.

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

**May 3rd**  
International Family Equality Day

### **TYES - A Support Organization for Families with Gender Variant Children**

Meets, 2pm on second Sundays  
Same Locations as PFLAG Meetings  
E-mail: [TYES.group@gmail.com](mailto:TYES.group@gmail.com)

## **A Year of "A Note To My Kid"** *Paraphrased from PFLAG National*

If you follow PFLAG National on Facebook and Twitter, then #ANTMKTuesday probably looks familiar to you. If not, every Tuesday over at <http://www.anotetomykid.org>, PFLAG National shares a note, a photo, or a video from a parent, family member, friend, or ally expressing their unconditional love to one or more of the LGBTQ people in their lives. These posts are also shared through PFLAG National's social media channels, including Facebook and Twitter. Through these expressions of love, PFLAG maintains an online space where all LGBTQ people can find love, support, and affirmation.



Even before PFLAG National took ANTMK under its wing, it was proud to partner to make this supportive online space accessible to as many people as possible. Patrick Wallace, Mike Curry, and Michael Volpatt founded ANTMK in 2011, and Wallace, the executive director, reached out to PFLAG National shortly after due to both organizations' similar missions. After sharing ANTMK with its network of 200,000+ members and supporters for two and a half years, PFLAG National adopted ANTMK as an official PFLAG project in May 2014, and founders Wallace, Curry, and Volpatt made a generous \$10,000 donation to support it and create a 2014 scholarship. PFLAG National has cared for this cherished child for almost a year, and it is now an important part of the PFLAG family.

This project is sustained by stories from many different sources, but especially PFLAGers like you. An incredible wealth of stories have been shared, including pieces from [PFLAG Kansas City President Debi Jackson](#) and [an amazing Chinese New Year short film](#) from PFLAG China stressing the importance of family acceptance to LGBTQ people.

Your story could be next. The love PFLAGers have for the LGBTQ people in their lives is truly inspiring. It's the force on which PFLAG has built its foundation since that fateful day in 1972 when [Jeanne Manford proudly displayed a public sign of her unconditional love for her son](#). Why not share this love with the world? Submitting to ANTMK has far-reaching effects beyond showcasing your love for the fantastic LGBTQ people in your life.

Though there are more than 350 PFLAG chapters nationwide, PFLAG National cannot geographically reach everyone who needs our support. Our online projects and social media helps fill these gaps, and A Note to My Kid provides a unique opportunity for PFLAGers to truly personalize that support. By submitting content, you will not only show your unconditional love to your LGBTQ loved ones, but pass it along to others who need it as well.

If you would like to submit to ANTMK, please send your content to [antmk@pflag.org](mailto:antmk@pflag.org) or through the ANTMK submission page: <http://www.anotetomykid.org/p/submit.html>. All forms of media (written content, pictures, videos, etc.) are welcome.

## **What A Difference A Patch Makes** *by Paula Williams*

I was four and nothing if not optimistic. I just knew the day would arrive when I got to choose my gender. I had no doubt about what gender I would choose. I was just waiting for Selection Day to arrive so I could announce to the universe I was a girl.

Alas, there was no Selection Day. I tried to tell my mother, but she shushed me before my words could find air. I was a boy, and I'd better get used to it. My father was an Evangelical pastor and if my "ridiculous notion I was a girl" continued we could all be ruined.

## What A Difference A Patch Makes (continued)

by Paula Williams

So I kept it to myself. For decades I swallowed my voice and buried my heart. I married, had children, and became a pastor myself, a very successful pastor. I rose through the ranks to become one of the most influential leaders in our denomination. Occasionally I'd steal off into a corner of the local library to read Jan Morris's *Conundrum*, or one of the awful clinical texts about transvestism. (Could there be an uglier word?) But mostly, I just sped through life, numbing myself through ambitious activity.

Only my wife knew what I had chosen to keep private. I finally told a good friend, then my psychotherapist. And so it remained until I finally spoke the name I had refused to say. In *The Soul Lives Contented*, David White writes,



*"The soul lives contented by listening  
If it wants to change into the beauty of terrifying shapes it tries to speak  
That is why you will not sing, frightened as you are of who might join with you  
The voice hesitant and her hand trembling in the dark for yours  
She touches your faces and says your name in the same instant  
The one you refused to say, over and over, the one you refused to say"*

In the spring of 2012 I spoke my name. I applied a 0.1mg patch of estradiol and took 150 mg of spironolactone and began the most harrowing, challenging, difficult journey of my life. I lost all of my jobs—CEO of one of the nation's largest church planting organizations, editor-at-large of a 150-year-old leadership magazine, adjunct positions at two seminaries, preaching positions at two influential megachurches, guest preaching slots in three of the 10 largest churches in America. Within one year I went from sought after leader to unemployable pariah. All because I dared speak the name I had refused to say, the name I would have chosen had there ever been a Selection Day. All because I dared tell the world what my soul had known all along—I was Paula.

(This is the first of 12 columns in which Paula Stone Williams will share her recent journey from Paul to Paula. The author of seven books and two eBooks, you can read more of Paula's writing at <http://rebelstorytellers.com/> and <http://paulastonewilliams.com/>.)

## Out Boulder's Garden Party

Join Out Boulder for their Annual Garden Party. This year's theme is "VERY". As in you feel "Very Fabulous!" or you are "Very Fun" or we are all "Very Festive". Feel free to wear something that is very...

They will also award the Big Hearts Award and Allies in Action Awards. Food, Drink and Fun provided. The minimum suggested donation (tax deductible) is \$25, and every gift is appreciated. For private event address, please email your RSVP to [mmoore@outboulder.org](mailto:mmoore@outboulder.org).

**VERY** **The Garden Party 2015**  
Sunday May 31, 4PM-8PM  
For location and more info, contact:  
Mardi Moore at Out Boulder  
[mmoore@outboulder.org](mailto:mmoore@outboulder.org), 303 499 5777

Featuring:  
**Big Hearts Award**  
**Allies in Action Award**

RSVP Optional But Appreciated  
Minimum Suggested Donation: \$25  
All Tax-Deductible Donations  
to Out Boulder Gratefully Accepted





**PFLAG Boulder County**  
 PO Box 19696  
 Boulder, CO 80308  
 (303) 444 - 8164  
 www.pflagboulder.org

PFLAG Boulder meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at one of the three locations mentioned on the front page. Program starts at 3pm, and a confidential support group meets at 2pm.

**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**

- \$15.00 Student / Special Circumstances
- \$25.00 Individual
- \$35.00 Family
- \$50.00 Supporting
- \$75.00 Gold
- \$100.00 Platinum

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

**Advertising**

Business card size: \$15 monthly / \$130 annually. Please contact Rosemary Campbell, Treasurer, [recampbell1@msn.com](mailto:recampbell1@msn.com). Make out check to PFLAG Boulder, mail to our P. O. Box. Send camera-ready ad to [ragad3@gmail.com](mailto:ragad3@gmail.com)  
 < 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.*

**Volunteer Opportunities**



PFLAG Boulder County has a few volunteer opportunities. If you would like to be involved with PFLAG but are not ready for the responsibility of a Board position, these specific volunteer positions may be just for you.

**Membership Chair:** Responsible for record keeping of the current membership list by maintaining correct contact information for each member, as well as contact information for all organizations to which we supply complimentary copies of the PFLAG Boulder County monthly newsletter. Most of the responsibilities of the Membership Chair are during the membership drive in December and January, including contacting all current members and asking for renewal, as well as contacting prospective members. This also requires close contact with the Treasurer to determine who has paid for a membership. When the membership drive is complete, the Membership Chair reports membership information to National PFLAG through their user-friendly website. During the year, the Membership Chair maintains a membership list and communicates that to the Communications Director who is responsible for newsletter electronic distribution. The Membership Chair sends a hard copy of the newsletter to the few people who prefer it.

**Communications Director:** This person primarily handles e-blasts for PFLAG Boulder County, which most commonly include a description of, and location information for, PFLAG Boulder County's monthly programs, but can also include information about other events. The content is generally provided to the Communications Director by a member of the Board of Directors.

If you might be interested in either of these positions and/or would like more information, please contact Eleanor Hubbard at [hubbard@colorado.edu](mailto:hubbard@colorado.edu).

