



# PFLAG BOULDER COUNTY

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

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March 2011

**PFLAG Program**  
**Spotlight on LGBT Youth Activism**  
*Tuesday, March 8th, 7pm - Program in Mead Hall, FUMC*

*Throughout history, youth have been at the forefront leading social justice struggles. Join us as we offer support by listening to our young people.*

Dan Mestas, PFLAG Board Youth member, will gather a panel of area young people 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 was held on Saturday, February 26th in Denver at Mi Casa. Dan Mestas was one of the youth leaders who organized this state-wide event which seeks to provide tools for affecting social change. The organizational sponsors were Boulder County OASOS, Inside Out in Colorado Springs, YHAC, Youth Alley, Lambda in Fort Collins and the University of Denver. The PFLAG Board made a donation of \$250 to support these efforts.

**PFLAG Program Preview**  
**The Graying of Gays**  
*Tuesday, April 12th, 7pm*

Issues about aging as LGBT will be the focus of speakers from Boulder County Aging Services and Rainbow Elders.

**Save the Date:**  
**Caitlin Ryan is Coming To Town!**  
*April 2nd - 4th*

Learn how families and communities can respond when youth come out.

Find out how to promote well-being for LGBT children and adolescents..

For LGBT people, parents, people who work with youth, and everyone who cares about building a strong, healthy community! Ryan's Family Acceptance Project uses a research-based, culturally grounded approach to help ethnically, socially and religiously diverse families decrease rejection and increase support for their LGBT children.

**All events are free and open to the public!**

PFLAG Boulder thanks the Open Door Fund for providing financial support.

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

**March 8th**  
PFLAG Program:  
Spotlight on LGBT Youth Activism

**April 12th**  
PFLAG Program:  
The Graying of Gays



## Always Our Kids: A Path to Family Acceptance

*Presented by Dr. Caitlin Ryan*

*How families and communities can respond and adapt when gay youth come out .*

Parents, educators, all who work with families are invited to hear Caitlin Ryan, Director of the Family Acceptance Project, San Francisco State University, the only community research, intervention, education and policy initiative that works to promote family acceptance and to decrease major health and related risks for LGBT youth in the context of their families.

Dr. Ryan will be presenting several times in Denver and Boulder County during her visit to Colorado:

**Sat. April 2 - 10:30am to noon**

Lafayette Public Library, 775 W. Baseline

**1:00 to 4:30pm**

Jared Polis Auditorium  
Johnson and Wales University, Denver

**Sun. April 3 - 2:00 - 4:30pm**

First United Methodist Church, Boulder

**Mon. April 4- 6:00 - 8:30pm**

Skyline High School, Longmont  
600 E. Mountain Ave.  
Food and child care provided



Ryan's research has identified specific behaviors that families and caregivers use to express acceptance and rejection of their LGBT children's identity and how these behaviors link with depression, substance abuse, suicidal thoughts and attempts, and sexual health risks, as well as health and well-being in their LGBT children in young adulthood. Dr. Ryan's research gives guidance on how families can decrease specific rejecting behaviors and, instead, engage in supportive behaviors even when their traditional culture and religion might pull them toward rejection.

Sponsored by: PFLAG Boulder County, PFLAG Denver, the Coalition of Colorado PFLAG Chapters, Out Boulder, Boulder County Public Health, the Boulder Valley Safe Schools Coalition, St.Vrain Safe Schools Coalition, First United Methodist Church, Skyline High School, Parent Education Network, the Boulder Valley School District and in cooperation with the Lafayette Cesar Chavez Celebration. For more information contact JeanInBldr@comcast.net.

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## Groundbreaking Study Reveals Discrimination

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) recently released a comprehensive new report, "Injustice at Every Turn," revealing the depth of discrimination against transgender and gender non-conforming people in a wide range of areas, including education, health care, employment, and housing. The study, based on the results from the National Transgender Discrimination Survey (NTDS), was based on responses from over 6,450 participants. The NTDS is the first large-scale national study of discrimination against transgender and gender non-conforming Americans, and paints a more complete picture than any prior research to date.

Among the key findings from "Injustice at Every Turn":

- Respondents were nearly four times more likely to live in **extreme poverty**, with household income of less than \$10,000.
- Respondents were **twice as likely to be unemployed** compared to the population as a whole. Half of those surveyed reported experiencing harassment or other mistreatment in the workplace, and one in four were fired because of their gender identity or expression.
- While **discrimination was pervasive for the entire sample, it was particularly pronounced for people of color**. African-American transgender respondents fared far worse than all others in many areas studied.
- **Housing discrimination was also common**. 19% reported being refused a home or apartment and 11% reported being evicted because of their gender identity or expression. One in five respondents experienced homelessness because of their gender identity or expression.
- An astonishing **41% of respondents reported attempting suicide**, compared to only 1.6% of the general population..
- **Discrimination in health care** and poor health outcomes were frequently experienced by respondents. 19% reported being refused care due to bias against transgender or gender-nonconforming people, with this figure even higher for respondents of color. Respondents also had over four times the national average of HIV infection.
- **Harassment by law enforcement** was reported by 22% of respondents and nearly half were uncomfortable seeking police assistance.

Despite the hardships they often face, **transgender and gender non-conforming persons persevere**. Over 78% reported feeling more comfortable at work and their performance improving after transitioning, despite the same levels of harassment in the workplace.

### First United Methodist Church of Boulder

is proud to host the PFLAG monthly meeting

[www.fumcboulder.org](http://www.fumcboulder.org)

Education Hour 9am - Worship 10:30am

Celebrating Diversity

Embracing Inclusivity

Sharing God's Unconditional Love

## **New Book Idea: The Woman I Was Not Born to Be**

*By Aleshia Brevard - Temple University Press, Philadelphia PA*

For those of us who became acquainted with the transgender experience only recently, this wonderful book is an eye-opener. In the 1950s and 1960s, most of us had never heard of a transsexual. Then there was Christine Jorgenson and the lurid press around her gender-related surgery.

“The Woman I was Not Born to Be” is Aleshia Brevard’s memoir as she travelled from a rural Tennessee “sissy boy” through her female impersonator days to her career as a highly regarded stage, screen, and TV actress and beyond. Honestly written with self-deprecation as well as appreciation and humor, this book shines a bright light on the early years of transsexual surgery and its aftermath.

Have any of my readers realized that a 1950s solution to excessively feminine boys was super-doses of testosterone? Did you know that in the early 1960s a male-bodied individual had to be castrated prior to SRS – else the testicles would be placed inside the body? Do you recall that policy, if not law, required female impersonators/cross dressers to wear at least three articles of gender-appropriate clothing or face imprisonment? No wonder so many transsexuals hid their reality and went stealth in their lives!

“The Woman I was Not Born to Be” shows how Aleshia’s low self-esteem in her youth was reinforced by her father and almost every male father or husband figure for many years, leaving her self-consciously striving to reflect the subservient female role required by the mid-1900s society. While quite successful in her theatrical life, her interpersonal relationships with many males – from boy-friends, neighbors, and husbands to various Hollywood agents and actors - also reinforced her lack of self-confidence as a woman. It was largely with the support of her mother, Mozelle, and her close friend Stormy Lee (a fellow transsexual/drag queen) that she eventually realized that she did not need to define herself as a woman based on the misogynistic social customs of the mid-twentieth century. Highly recommended!

*Reviewed by Dave Parker*

## **Ugandan LGBT Advocate Murdered**

David Kato knew he was a marked man. As the most outspoken LGBT rights advocate in Uganda, a country where homophobia and transphobia is so severe that Parliament is considering a bill to execute LGBT people, Mr. Kato had received a stream of death threats, his friends said. A few months ago, a Ugandan newspaper ran an anti-LGBT diatribe with Mr. Kato's picture on the front page under a banner urging, "Hang Them." On Wednesday afternoon, Mr. Kato was beaten to death with a hammer. Police officials were quick to chalk up the motive to robbery, but members of the small and increasingly besieged LGBT community in Uganda suspect otherwise. President Obama issued a statement decrying the act, stating Kato "was a powerful advocate for fairness and freedom. The United States mourns his murder, and we recommit ourselves to David's work." (From *Policy Matters, National PFLAG*)

## Thanks Mr. President! Administration Refuses to Defend DOMA

The Department of Justice has issued a letter saying it will no longer defend the constitutionality of a federal law (DOMA) that bans recognition of same-sex marriage. In July of 2010, a federal district court ruled that Section 3 of DOMA, the section that defines marriage as one man and one woman, as unconstitutional. The letter issued today means that the administration will not appeal that case. If the courts rule DOMA unconstitutional, married same-sex couples may be eligible for the federal benefits given to married couples.

## Longtime LGBT Advocate Wins Appointment

President Barack Obama has named former National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) Executive Director Roberta Achtenberg to a seat on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. The White House announced the appointment of the San Francisco resident, a California State University trustee, to the commission on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Achtenberg co-founded NCLR and was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1990. In 1993, she became the first openly LGBT person to be confirmed for a federal appointment when the Senate approved President Bill Clinton's nomination of Achtenberg as assistant secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

## The 5th Annual TRANSforming Gender Symposium *At CU Boulder - FREE - Friday, April 1st and Saturday April 2nd*

This year's Symposium will offer an array of talks, trainings, and film screenings to increase visibility and education about transgender identities and experiences, and to bring together the local transgender and ally community. **The conference is open to the public and completely free to attend.** Speakers this year include **Dean Spade, Dr. Marci Bowers, Dr. Nick Gorton, Rabbi Reuben Zellman, and Ignacio Rivera.** This will be their first multi-track program, including workshops specifically for providers as well as a film track, which begins on Saturday with the popular new film "Faces & Facets," produced by PFLAG Boulder County.

Please visit

<http://colorado.edu/GLBTRC/tgs.html> more information and the schedule.

Please register to attend at

<http://colorado.edu/GLBTRC/symposiumregistration.html>



Open  
7am—3:30pm



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

PFLAG Boulder meets the 2nd 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.*

## **Appreciation Award Nominations Open**

The 2011 PFLAG Appreciation Awards will be presented on May 10 at the annual banquet and business meeting. Nominations are now open for the following categories: community allies or LGBT persons in business, education, faith communities, legislators, outstanding youth and community activists. Please email nominations by March 28 to [klkinard@comcast.net](mailto:klkinard@comcast.net). Include name, contact information and a paragraph with specific accomplishments or reasons why you believe the person(s) is/are deserving.

### **Did You Know?**

Research published in the journal *Pediatrics* found significantly higher rates of mental and physical health problems among LGBT young adults who experienced high levels of rejection from their parents while they were adolescents. Compared with LGBT young adults who experienced very little or no parental rejection, LGBT young adults who experienced high levels of rejection were:

- Nearly 6 times as likely to have high levels of depression
- More than 8 times as likely to have attempted suicide
- More than 3 times as likely to use illegal drugs, and
- More than 3 times as likely to engage in unprotected sexual behaviors that put them at increased risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

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