



# PFLAG BOULDER COUNTY

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

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September 2010

## **PFLAG Program: World Premiere of "Faces and Facets of Transgender Experience"**

*Wednesday, Sept 15th, 7pm  
Boulder Public Library Auditorium*

**Produced and presented by PFLAG Boulder County; Co-directed by Gus Spheris and Carol Christenson - Jean Hodges, Executive Producer**

If you saw the rough cut on June 17<sup>th</sup>, you will love seeing this 23 minute film in its polished form. Eighteen people and their families share touching stories about the journey from despair and loss to the joy of being the gender they were meant to be. A panel of some of the interviewees in the film will answer questions and respond to the filming process. A reception will follow the film.

DVD's will be available for sale at a discounted price as part of this opening celebration. Open to the public, free of charge, so please invite friends and neighbors to see this heart-warming film. For a colorful PDF flyer to share electronically, contact JeanInBldr@comcast.net for the file. Publicity cards will be available at the Block Party PFLAG booth. Support for this event includes the following co-sponsors: the City of Boulder Human Rights Office, Bent Lens Cinema and Out Boulder (formerly Boulder Pride).

**Note: The regular meeting time of Tuesday, Sept. 14, has been moved to Wed. Sept. 15 to accommodate library scheduling of this special community event.**

## **PFLAG Program Preview: Coming Out Non-Violent -- Working for Change**

*Tuesday, October 12th, 7pm*

This program will include voices from Safehouse Progressive Alliance and the Colorado Anti-Violence Project. The speakers will discuss current issues related to LGBT abuse, illness and hate crimes and ways to stop ignorance and hatred toward individuals and families in the LGBT community.

## **Out Boulder Block Party on Pearl St Mall**

*Saturday, September 11th, 10am - 5pm*

Please stop by to pick up a card to advertise "Faces and Facets" at the PFLAG booth or volunteer to take a shift by contacting Rollie Butler, rollie@safehousealliance.org. We need your support and your presence!

## **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.

### **Sept 11th**

Out Boulder Block Party

### **Sept 15th**

PFLAG Program: World Premier of "Faces & Facets.."

### **Oct 12th**

PFLAG Program  
Coming Out Non-Violent

## **News Flash!**

**Joanne Arnold received the Stan Black Award for her many years of community activism at the annual Community Foundation's Friends Party on Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>. She has designated that her \$1000 award be designated for PFLAG Boulder County. Thank you, Jo!**

## **"Collaboration and the Courage to Succeed"**

*By Jean Hodges, Mountain West Regional Director*

Distances may be great between chapters in our Mountain West Region, but nothing beats an in-person visit to witness first hand the unique dynamics of respective chapters. This summer has offered me the opportunity to visit two diverse chapters, each finding rebirth after a period of dormancy.

Donna Hochmuth, parent (with her husband Carl) of a gay son, was a co-founder of the Grand Junction PFLAG chapter some years back. Established to offer support, primarily to LGBT persons living in this conservative community, the chapter seemed to run its course and for lack of fresh leadership faded four years ago. I was delighted when Donna offered to revive the chapter because she knew that there was no other PFLAG presence on the Western Slope. She said she'd give it a year and since last fall has led a one-woman crusade to attract families and LGBT members.

In July Jack and I drove over to Grand Junction to offer life support to a floundering chapter and encourage a conscientious but very discouraged Donna. At a picnic she organized most people in attendance were LGBT and allies active in Western Equality. It became clear that this was the organization with energy and infrastructure in place for Donna to find what she needed---a phone line, a knowledgeable webmaster willing to include PFLAG in their social networking, volunteers eager to have PFLAG provide the educational arm of this activist hub of LGBT advocacy. As we left we witnessed generous folks from Western Equality offering to share their Farmer's Market table with PFLAG and even buy a PFLAG banner to provide an identity for Donna's effort to create a sustainable PFLAG presence in Grand Junction. Collaboration in conservative communities is key to survival and growth. It's a win-win solution. Much gratitude to Donna for her willingness to make a difference.

After a hiatus of several years, new enthusiasm for reviving the PFLAG Taos chapter came in the form of Annouk and Chris Ellis, parents of a gay son, who were outraged when their son finally told them how bad it was to be gay in his local high school. Off to a roaring start on May 2 with over forty people in attendance, volunteers had organized a fundraiser called "The Gayest Dog and Car Wash Ever" for July 31<sup>st</sup>, the day we drove in to Taos. Responding to many new members' challenge to make their local schools safer for LGBTQ students, I was invited to present the story of how the Boulder Valley Safe Schools Coalition was formed and share lessons learned about how to work with a school district in positive ways to assure acceptance of LGBTQ individuals and inclusion of their issues in teacher trainings. Some 28 people turned out on a Sunday evening, including the superintendent of the Taos public schools who stayed after the general meeting for a strategic planning session with a developing Safe Schools task force.

Cheers to Annouk for her can-do spirit, her amazing organizational skills, her boundless energy, her compassionate caring, and her beautiful smile. Fearless leadership that spells success! If you'd like to meet Annouk, she plans to attend the Sept. 18 Coalition meeting.



## **PFLAG Goes to Latin America**

Cesar Hernandez, Western Field and Policy Director, will be attending the Fourth Convention of the Asociación Internacional de Familias por la Diversidad Sexual (FDS), representing PFLAG National. FDS's mission is very similar to ours. Here is their mission verbatim in English: "The FDS is an organization that aims to keep all families together, fighting for the safety and welfare for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people, providing support to enable them to face a hostile society, promoting information and education as tools to eradicate hatred, misinformation, prejudice, homophobia and all forms of discrimination."

This international convention, led by FDS, will be held in Santiago, Chile. It is expected to attract folks from the U.S., Spain, and Latin America. A native Californian, Cesar is excited to present a Straight for Equality training as a representative of National PFLAG. This is an outreach program that will be very new to most people attending the conference.

## **Out Boulder Announces New Leadership Model**

Dave Ensign, president of the Out Boulder (formerly Boulder Pride) Board is excited to announce a new shared leadership model for the organization. Aicila Lewis, who has been the sole Executive Director of Out Boulder since 2008, believes that a shared leadership model which is grounded in a strong, community-driven organization reflects and honors the grassroots history and values of Out Boulder. Cathy Busha's coming to work at Out Boulder in December 2009, brought with her almost 15 years of experience working in the LGBT movement and a strong commitment to Out Boulder. A perfect match! The BP Board voted in April to make both women Co-Executive Directors.

## **Denver Chapter Celebrates 30 Years**

*Gala Event - Friday, September 24th, 7:30pm*

PFLAG Denver is 30 years old and it is time to celebrate!! Their GALA EVENT will be on Friday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the EXDO Annex, 3090 Downing Street. Entertainment promises to be outstanding: Purnell Steen Trio, Somethin' About Lulu, Nina Montaldo and a special guest appearance by Lannie Garrett. They will have raffle drawings throughout the evening, and there will be delicious food and drink! Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper has proclaimed September 24 PFLAG DAY in Denver!!

Be sure to reserve your place before **September 15**; after that the ticket price increases from \$60 to \$75. Those 30 years of age and younger can buy tickets for \$30. For reservations contact the PFLAG Office at 303-573-5861 or go to [www.pflagdenver.org](http://www.pflagdenver.org).

## **Coalition Meeting Set for September 18th**

*By Shari Wilkins, chair, Colorado Coalition of PFLAG*

Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters will hold its quarterly meeting on September 18 in Littleton. The afternoon session (1:00 - 4:00 p.m.) will include a preview of the PFLAG Boulder film on transgender issues. The majority of the afternoon will be spent learning about and discussing elder GLBT issues in our state/community. Ken Helander, coordinator of SAGE of the Rockies (Service and Advocacy for GLBT Elders), Rene Hickman (Project Visibility intern) and Jen Solms for DRCOG will present what is known about GLBT elders, as well as a look into the future of Colorado elders. Housing, care and other topics will be covered.

Please contact Shari Wilkins, at 303-807-4604, if you are interested in attending.

## **Lesbian Dismissal Protested**

*Editor's Note: With input from the PFLAG Denver Board and others, Shari Wilkins and Deborah MacNair drafted this letter to the Denver Post in response to Susan Greene's column of 6-17-10 about the dismissal of a lesbian employee at a Catholic church. The letter was not published in the Post but it deserves wide readership.*

Once again the Catholic Church has selectively used scripture to enforce dogma. In trying to avoid a scandal, it has shown us the unchristian approach of the institution. When they dismissed Toni Talarico (an exemplary teacher of theology, for 28 years), Guardian Angels Catholic Church did so on the basis of a [www.match.com](http://www.match.com) listing she had posted, seeking female companionship. They dismissed her without severance, benefits, or even her own 401K funds (since regained).

Pastor Kaiser was less than truthful when he told the congregation that Ms. Talarico had left to "pursue other opportunities." Could there be anything less Christ-like in the church's treatment of this loyal employee? There is no mention of any inappropriate behavior by Ms. Talarico, toward students, parents, or other parishioners.

Under Colorado law, job discrimination, based solely on sexual orientation or gender identification, is now prohibited, but the Church is exempt from adhering to the civil law. The Church appears to feel the dismissal action was justified in order to avoid a scandal. Guardian Angels is losing parishioners as a result of this latest attempt to preserve the image of the Church, which has learned not to move child molesters to other positions, but has yet to learn that lesbians are worthy of inclusion. This unchristian, uncompassionate policy is truly scandalous according to the Church's own definition of the Sin of Scandal, in causing a person to lose their Faith. Multiple Catholic-dominated countries (for example, Spain and Mexico) recognize same-sex marriage, allow gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military, and follow Christ's teachings in accepting and loving all people.

We urge Catholics here in the U.S. to oppose the U.S. Catholic Church's stance on GLBT issues, just as Catholics have in Spain, Mexico and other countries. Only strong opposition from the laity will bring change.

Denver PFLAG Board of Directors

## **A Beauty Queen to Believe In**

According to a recent article in *The Advocate*, Claire Buffie, crowned Miss New York for 2010 in June, is the first Miss America contestant to compete on a gay rights platform. A trained dancer and Apple employee, it was having a lesbian sister and growing up in a family where being different was valued that led Claire to choose for her speech, "Straight for Equality---Let's Talk," which focuses especially on school safety for gay youth. She is being mentored on the S4E message by Jody Huckaby, National PFLAG Executive Director. Let's hope she makes it to the Final 15 to be telecast in January.

## **GLBT Friendly Pilgrimage**

*March 20th - 27th*

Sister Jeannine Gramick, SL, will be leading a GLBT friendly pilgrimage, "The Spiritual Treasures of Northern Italy," March 20-27, 2011.

Further information visit:

[www.pilgrimages.com/gramick/](http://www.pilgrimages.com/gramick/) and [www.newwaysministry.org/pilgrimage.html](http://www.newwaysministry.org/pilgrimage.html)

or phone Sister Jeannine at 301-864-3604 or e-mail her at [gramick@juno.com](mailto:gramick@juno.com)

## Recommended Books

### "Letters For My Brothers: Transitional Wisdom in Retrospect."

Transmen are the focus of this new book which features essays from respected transmen mentors who share the wisdom they wish they would have known at the beginning of their journey into manhood. **Denver residents Matt Kailey and the Rev. Malcolm Himschoot are two of the featured authors, and Denver resident Dylan Scholinski provided artwork for the book.** The book is available at [www.wilgefortis.com](http://www.wilgefortis.com)

### "Outloud: The Best of Rainbow Radio"

Joyce Harrison, PFLAG Spartanburg, SC, commends "a wonderful, insightful, beautifully written book I've just finished reading: *Outloud: The Best of Rainbow Radio*." In August 2005, Rainbow Radio began broadcasting in Columbia, SC. Its purpose was to give voice to gay and lesbian South Carolinians, providing an opportunity for them to share their own stories, their lives, and how they were working to change our state. *Outloud* is a collection of many of those stories.

The stories in *Outloud* might have originated in South Carolina, but the experiences shared are universal: coming out, gay shame, powerful poetry, relationships with parents and partners, lessons learned from standing up for gay rights, bullies, religious gays, fighting the anti-gay right, and much more. The stories are poignant and haunting. The titles alone draw you in: "Out at the State Fair", "Sheila Gets a Shave", "At the Corner of Sex and Dixie", "Smear the Queer: Lessons from the Playground", "Leaving Exodus", "Labels and the Gay Soldier", "Lesbians of a Certain Age", "The Power of One", "Walking Down the Street, Holding My Son's Hand: Gay Pride 1990." There are many more and none are disappointing.

*Outloud* will appeal to parents, friends, and relatives, gays, and straights, helping to develop understanding, insight, empathy, and compassion. *Outloud* is a great read and would be a wonderful addition to any PFLAG library." Cost is \$14.95; [www.hubcity.org](http://www.hubcity.org)

## Sage of The Rockies Regional Convergence

October 8th - 10th, Denver

### "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: Choosing to Live Well"

Because it's not about growing old ... it's about aging. Although it's something we're all doing, there are some compelling issues that require extra thought, diligent foresight and careful planning if an LGBT individual wants to grow older with confidence and choices. And it's never too soon to begin thinking about these issues. The conference is designed to focus on some key questions that LGBT individuals ask when we think about growing older.

**If you're 65 or older, you get a special break on the cost.** The host hotel, the wonderful Sheraton Denver Downtown, is offering a special conference rate of \$109/night. If you'd like more information, contact Ken at 303-951-5222 or via email at [khelander@glbtcolorado.org](mailto:khelander@glbtcolorado.org)

#### 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



**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.*

**Heads Up - Memberships EXPIRE in October**

This is a reminder that PFLAG memberships will expire next month. When you renew your local membership of \$25, for an individual, and \$35 for a family, \$15 of that will be mailed to the national organization in Washington, D.C. The board has chosen not to increase dues, as most chapters have, so that we can retain our long-time members. New members who have joined in the last 9 months will not have to pay dues till 10/11 of next year.

Our faithful Membership Chair John Hoffman will send renewal notices by U.S. mail in October to those who receive the newsletter by email. If you want to help us save postage, mail your dues in September to: PFLAG Boulder County, PO Box 19696, Boulder, CO 80308. For any questions contact John at 303-443-6429 or johnrhoffman@comcast.net

**Favorite Quotes**

From *"Why Jews Should Rejoice at the Overturn of Prop 8"* by Rabbi Michael Lerner in the Huffington Post, Aug. 8, 2010.

*One must be compassionate and forgiving toward others with whom we disagree on ethical issues, but forgiveness does not require us to stop struggling against the policies and institutions that wounded people have created to dominate our lives, and against their oppressive beliefs and behaviors.*

From Federal District Judge Vaughn R. Walker in the decision to strike down Proposition 8

*"Proposition 8 was premised on the belief that same-sex couples simply are not as good as opposite-sex couples. Whether that belief is based on moral disapproval of homosexuality, animus toward gays and lesbians, or simply a belief that a relationship between a man and woman is inherently better than a relationship between two men or two women, this belief is not a proper basis on which to legislate. The Constitution cannot control private biases, but neither can it tolerate them."*

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