



PFLAG BOULDER COUNTY

PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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September 2011

PFLAG September Program: Segregation, Racism, and Homophobia *Tuesday, September 13th at 7pm*

Note: This Program will be at a different venue than our normal location!!

Co-sponsored with Out Boulder, the Colorado Latino Forum, and organized with the help of Jessy K. Pérez, our September meeting will feature a panel of diverse Latino/as from Boulder County sharing their own views and experiences of what it means to be a Latino in this community. With Daniel Escalante as moderator, the panelists will include:

- Victor Galván, a straight LGBT and immigrants' rights activist and leader of LYFE, Life Youth for Equality in Longmont.
- Nicole García, Transgender Latina woman of faith featured in our film, "Faces and Facets of Transgender Experience"
- Mauricio Shoup, a gay man born in San Luís, Potosí, Mexico, who immigrated to the U.S. at the age of 12. He is currently the Acting Program Director to Out Boulder.
- Ray Rodriguez, a gay Latino man native to Colorado, who among other activities, primarily serves on the board of the Colorado Latino Forum, el Comité de Longmont, and is a member to the One Colorado People of Color committee; and
- Jenny Rodriguez, mother of six children, originally of New Mexico and Colorado resident for over five decades.

A lively discussion is promised. This is a bilingual event.

This PFLAG meeting will be held at the Longmont Progressive Center, 732 Main St. in downtown Longmont because our hope is to attract members of the Latino population as well as our own members and the public in general.

Besides addressing cross-cultural concerns as PFLAG works to be a more diverse organization, choosing this venue also fulfills the board's commitment to expand our presence beyond the city of Boulder. We are grateful to Charles Hanson for granting permission for us to use the Center because we adhere to "progressive-democratic values" and to Dennis Coombs who made the contact for us.

PFLAG Program Preview: Out In the Schools *Tuesday, October 11th at 7pm*

A program to celebrate Coming Out Day on October 11. A panel of both LGBTQ students and staff from our two county school districts will share their perceptions of how safe it is to be "out" in school.

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.

September 13th
PFLAG Program
Segregation, Racism, and Homophobia

October 11th
PFLAG Program
Out In the Schools

It's Time for Membership Renewal

September 30th marks the end of our fiscal year. John Hoffman, our Membership Chair, hopes that you will decide to renew your membership with PFLAG Boulder County by paying on line with PayPal at www.pflagboulder.org or sending a check to our treasurer, Richard Butler, at P. O. Box 19696, Boulder, CO 80308. The rates have remained at a low cost to encourage everyone to join no matter their circumstances: \$25 for individuals; \$35 for family units; and \$15 for students and persons unable to pay the full amount, no questions asked.

Just so you know, the \$15 per member unit donation to National PFLAG brings in around \$80,000 toward a \$2+million annual budget. Not only do members have benefits of print resources, webinar leadership trainings, monthly teleconferences, weekly e-letters and available news and information on the www.pflag.org website, but individuals receive the PflagPole and have an opportunity to elect their national board and regional directors as well as attend that National Convention to be held on Nov. 3-6. National PFLAG does for us what we cannot do as individual chapters!

We count on your renewal and any extra donations our members so often provide to continue our work to move equality forward for LGBTQ persons in our community and the nation.

"Day of Silence" Film Showing in Longmont

Millions of students will return to their schools this week for the start of another school year. For most students the start of a new school year is full of excitement and anticipation.. For many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students, however, the start of a new school year marks a time of dread. They will return to environments where they are tormented by their peers. Some schools will blame the bullying on the victim. After school many LGBT students will return to homes where they don't receive much-needed support from their families, and on Sundays many will attend churches that condemn them. The start of a new school year is indeed a trying time for LGBT students, and last year we saw several highly-publicized national news stories that told us about the tragic suicides of LGBT students in the U.S. that have been far too common for many years.

The St. Vrain Safe Schools Coalition - with support from Out Boulder, PFLAG of Boulder County, and One Colorado - will be hosting an event to address these concerns. We will show the documentary "Out In The Silence" about a teen who was bullied out of his high school when he revealed that he was gay. **We are excited and proud to announce that documentary filmmakers Joe Wilson and Dean Hamer will be in attendance** to answer questions about the film and about how to mobilize toward making our communities safe and inviting for all. Following the film and Q&A session, there will be breakout sessions for those who wish to stay and find out more about how change can happen in our schools, churches and homes.

Cost: FREE! Potluck lunch will be provided.

Where: First Congregational United Church of Christ, Longmont

1500 Ninth Street, Longmont, CO 80501

When: Saturday, September 17, 2011.

10:00am to 12:00pm - Film and Q&A


12:00pm to 2:00pm - Lunch and breakouts

Please see event details and RSVP using this evite:

<http://new.evite.com/>

[#view_invite:eid=02F3AARBSZ35RYIKCEPAXGLMPBSGEA](http://new.evite.com/#view_invite:eid=02F3AARBSZ35RYIKCEPAXGLMPBSGEA)

Call 720-652-9874 with questions, or to RSVP without the evite link above.



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A Weekend of Remembrance, Healing, and Wholeness

September 9th - 11th

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of 9/11, Arts for the Soul and First United Methodist Church of Boulder will host **A Weekend of Remembrance, Healing and Wholeness**, September 9th – 11th, featuring locally, nationally and internationally renowned artists, musicians, and spiritual and community leaders including: Boulder mayor Susan Osborne, Grammy-nominated Tibetan musician Nawang Khechong, Evanne Browne conducting the Duruflé *Requiem*, and Matthew Fox, acclaimed theologian and author of “Original Blessing” and “The Pope’s War.”

Tickets are on sale now for Matthew Fox’s presentation *An Evening with Matthew Fox: Lessons Learned from 9/11* at www.fumcboulder.org.

All other events throughout the weekend are offered free and open to the public, though donations to the larger events, in particular, are encouraged. Additional information and a schedule of all events and artists is at www.fumcboulder.org. **All events are hosted at First United Methodist Church, 1421 Spruce Street, Boulder.** Free parking is available during these events at the corner of Pine and 15th Streets.

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

Where’s the T in Equality Work?

Excerpted from “We Want Cake Too” by Jennifer Boylan, NY Times Op Ed, Aug.11, 2011.

More than a few transgender people feel they’ve been sold out by the gay-rights movement and lament the way the “T” in “L.G.B.T.” always comes last. It makes me think, “A bunch of straight people in a room? That’s a conversation. A bunch of L.G.B.T. people in a room? That’s an argument.”

When you look at the staggering statistics concerning the struggles of transgender people, it’s easy to understand resentment over the amount of resources put into the fight for marriage rights. Transgender people, according to a nationwide study released early this year by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Center for Transgender Equality, are nearly four times more likely to live in poverty than the general population. Forty-one percent of respondents reported attempting suicide; of those who came out as students, 78 percent reported harassment, 35 percent physical assault and 12 percent sexual violence. Nineteen percent said they had been homeless. Among transgender people of color, the numbers are even worse.

The right to marry clearly isn’t the most urgent civil rights issue lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (L.G.B.T.) people face.

Celebrating Queer Identities: Living Good, Being Terrific!

Saturday, October 15th

Drs. Ellen Riggle and Sharon Rostosky, University of Kentucky, keynoters. 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. C.U. Leeds Business School & Center for Community Free.

Did You Know? History is Made in New York State

Granting the freedom to marry to same-sex couples in New York State doubles the percentage of the U.S. population living in states that extend this fundamental freedom.

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An Argument for Our Conservative Friends

David Brooks, the conservative columnist in a November 25, 2003 NY Times op-ed titled, "The moral case for gay marriage" wrote this;

"You would think that faced with the marriage crisis, we conservatives would do everything in our power to move as many people as possible from the path of contingency to the path of fidelity. But instead, many argue that gays must be banished from matrimony because gay marriage would weaken all marriage.

"...We (conservatives) shouldn't just allow gay marriage. We should insist on gay marriage. We should regard it as scandalous that two people could claim to love each other and not want to sanctify their love with marriage and fidelity...It's going to be up to conservatives to make the important, moral case for marriage, including gay marriage. Not making it means drifting further into the culture of contingency, which when it comes to intimate and sacred relations, is an abomination."

United Nation Resolution Affirms LGBT Human Rights

Press release from the US Department of State via Hillary Rodham Clinton

Recently the UN Human Rights Council adopted the first ever UN resolution on the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. This represents a historic moment to highlight the human rights abuses and violations that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people face around the world based solely on who they are and whom they love.

The United States worked with the main sponsor, South Africa, and a number of other countries from many regions of the world to help pass this resolution, including Brazil, Colombia, members of the European Union, and others. This resolution will commission the first ever UN report on the challenges that LGBT persons face around the globe and will open a broader international discussion on how to best promote and protect the human rights of LGBT persons.

All over the world, people face human rights abuses and violations because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, including torture, rape, criminal sanctions, and killing. Today's landmark resolution affirms that human rights are universal. People cannot be excluded from protection simply because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The United States will continue to stand up for human rights wherever there is inequality and we will seek more commitments from countries to join this important resolution.

TYES

A Support Organization for Families with Gender Variant Children

Meets, 6 p.m. on fourth Fridays
E-mail: TYES.group@gmail.com

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PFLAG NATIONAL STATEMENT ON CERTIFICATION OF DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL REPEAL

WASHINGTON – PFLAG National (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) has issued the following statement regarding the certification of the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” the law which bans gays and lesbians from openly serving in the military. “This is the end of government-supported discrimination against gay and lesbian service members who honorably serve their country and the beginning of a new chapter in our military history, one focused on the inclusion of everyone who nobly defends our nation and our responsibility to them when they come home. PFLAG National hopes that the Joining Forces program spearheaded by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden will be inclusive of all military families and reflect programs and outreach that are responsive to our gay and lesbian service members, their spouses and families, and the unique issues that they often face,” said PFLAG National Executive Director Jody M. Huckaby.

On September 20, 2011, the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" military policy will finally end once-and-for-all. However, even with this discriminatory law no longer on the books, many issues and questions still remain for LGBT service members. PFLAG National board member Col. Daniel Tepfer, USAF (ret.) says, “Beyond that, more waiting lies ahead, as legal partners and spouses of serving gays and lesbians will not receive any benefits or even recognition from the Department of Defense. Without that all-important U.S. military spouse identification card, these spouses and partners will have no medical coverage, no on-base housing and, perhaps most important, no survivor benefits or next-of-kin notification in case of death. Repeal of ‘Don't Ask, Don't Tell’ is a significant victory, but an incomplete victory. DOMA must be repealed to ensure that serving gay or lesbian is truly equal to serving straight.”

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Celebrating Diversity
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Fortunately, our friends at Servicemembers Legal Defense Network have released a first-of-its-kind guide, *Freedom to Serve: The Definitive Guide to LGBT military service*. Please share SLDN's resource widely to help protect LGBT service members and their families today!

Queer - A New Book for LGBTQ Teens

Teen life is hard enough with all of the pressures kids face, but for teens who are LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender), it's even harder. When do you decide to come out? To whom? Will your friends accept you? And how on earth do you meet people to date? *Queer* is a humorous, engaging, and honest guide that helps LGBT teens come out to friends and family, navigate their new LGBT social life, figure out if a crush is also queer, and rise up against bigotry and homophobia. *Queer* also includes personal stories from the authors and sidebars on queer history. It's a must-read for any teen who thinks they might be queer—or knows someone who is.

The author, **Marke Bieschke** is the former health and dating editor of Gay.com and PlanetOut.com, and the current senior editor at the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*. **Kathy Belge** coauthored the book *Lipstick & Dipstick's Essential Guide to Lesbian Relationships*, and writes on lesbian life for *Curve* magazine and About.com. She lives in Portland, Oregon.

The special Amazon pre-release price of \$9.52 probably won't last long, also available in a Kindle edition. This description was sent to us by Dave Parker, PFLAG Greensboro, NC.



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.

LAD Film Festival Set for Labor Day Weekend

“Life and Death Matters” is the theme of a special new film festival to be held on Sept. 1-4 at the Nomad Theatre, featuring movies that deal with life changing transitions. LADmatters Festival is an event where we explore our life journey through a combination of film, theatre and educational programming. Their goal with this platform is to inspire people to more closely examine the physical and spiritual challenges we face while at the same time, highlighting the courage and triumph of the human spirit. The Nomad is located two blocks east of Broadway on Quince Avenue. For information about the entire festival go to www.ladmatters.com.

Three of the thirty international films that make up the 2011 program focus on LGBTQ issues:

Undertow, the opening night film, (Thursday Sept 1st at 8:30), will be co-sponsored by PFLAG and BVSSC.

This film tells the story of Miguel, a young fisherman who is expecting his first child with his bride, Mariela. But Miguel is hiding a romance with his true love, Santiago. Ultimately, Miguel must choose between Santiago and his new family in this beautiful and touching film from Peru. .

Suicide Room, (Friday Sept 2nd at 12:00), a Polish film about a rich kid Dominik who accepts a dare to make out with classmate. Cell-phone footage of their kiss is posted online with snarky comments, giving rise to suspicions that he is gay — something his irritated parents dismiss, noting, “Even if you are, keep it to yourself.” Among the many themes of this film are bullying, questioning, and suicide.

The Grove, (Sunday, Sept 4th at 11:30), shows how one community responded to its overwhelming grief, and how the seeds of a few visionaries blossomed into something larger and more provocative than they could have imagined. How do we mark a time of unimaginable loss? And what does it mean to be a national memorial?

Volunteers Needed for LGBTQ Activism Study

If you are 18 or older and LGBTQ, please participate in a national and anonymous on-line survey study on the psychological effects of activism and forgiveness on LGBTQ people's mental health and identity. The purpose of the study is to better understand interrelationships among activism, forgiveness, self-esteem, personal mastery, experiences of shame, and the process of positive identity formation.

The study is being conducted by Dr. Darrell Greene and Dr. Paula Britton, through John Carroll University and the JCU Education and Allied Studies Department. The study will take about 20 to 30 minutes to complete. Benefit to you as a participant involves contributing to our understanding of the psychological effects of activism and forgiveness in our communities, and your knowledge of helping counselors to know how better to help LGBTQ people with positive identity development. Complete the survey, and be eligible to win from \$10 to up to \$50 in gift cards. If interested, please go to the following survey link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LGBTQ_Activism_and_Forgiveness_Survey