



# PFLAG BOULDER COUNTY

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

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

September 2012

## All are Welcome at our PFLAG Program: Hot or Cold: Is School Climate Changing?

Tuesday, Sept 11th, 7pm

Karina Doyle, teacher and activist, will bring together teachers, counselors, and LGBTQ students from St. Vrain and Boulder Valley Schools to share their plans for the year and perceptions of how their respective school climates are changing. Karina will present some of her PowerPoint, *“Keeping Families Together”* based on the Caitlin Ryan Family Acceptance Project which provides recent data from our county-wide Youth Risk Behavior Survey and national GLSEN. A goal for this coming year is to create a core group of trained speakers to do Community Outreach with this presentation in schools, parent groups and churches.

In addition to Karina who was an “out” on-line teacher in BVSD and other nearby districts this past year, other panelists will include Barb Miller, librarian at Manhattan Middle School and sponsor of the Allies Club which now numbers some 70-80 middle schoolers, and Sarah Demmel, teacher, ally, and Gay Straight Alliance leader at Niwot High School, who dealt with a relevant controversy last year. Time for discussion will be included.

## PFLAG Program Preview: The New Frontier

Tuesday, October 9th, 7pm

### Support for Transgender and Gender Diverse Children and their Families .

Karen Adams with her husband co-founded TYES (TransYouth Education and Support) after their daughter transitioned her gender identity in elementary school. Their traumatic experience in a conservative community at a school unprepared to deal with children who were gender non-conforming led them to move to Boulder County to find an accepting school situation. Since then, Karen has reached out to other families to offer support, some of whom will join us to share their stories and concerns.

Over the past year, the PFLAG Board has welcomed TYES families to extend our PFLAG support. Karen will provide an inside look at the phenomenal growth of families in Colorado and nation-wide who are eager to come together to deal with the many issues that arise. This program is open to the public as part of our goal to expand understanding of the T in PFLAG.

### Meetings

PFLAG Boulder County  
First United Methodist Church  
1421 Spruce Street  
14th & Spruce - 303.444.8164

#### 6:00 to 7:00 PM - Support & Advocacy Groups Meet

#### 7:00 PM - Program

At 6 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.

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.

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

#### September 11th

PFLAG Program:  
Hot or Cold

#### October 9th

PFLAG Program:  
The New Frontier

*Founded in 1972 with the simple act of a mother publicly supporting her gay son, PFLAG is the original family and ally organization. Made up of parents, families, friends, and straight allies uniting with LGBT people, PFLAG is committed to advancing equality through its mission of support, education and advocacy. Now in its 40th anniversary year, PFLAG has more than 368 chapters and 200,000 supporters crossing multiple generations of American families in major urban centers, small cities, and rural areas in all 50 states.*

To learn more, please visit <http://www.pflag.org>.

## National Trainers Visit Colorado

Jean-Marie Navetta, National PFLAG Director of Equality and Diversity, assisted by Jamie Henkel, made four presentations in Colorado on July 9-11. An outstanding corporate trainer for PFLAG's Straight for Equality in the Workplace, everyone present agreed that Jean-Marie is an amazing speaker.

In addition, Kathy Godwin, president of the Salt Lake City Chapter and the Mountain West Regional Director, made her first trip to Colorado as the Mountain West Regional Director. These three day events were held in Ft. Collins, Longmont, Boulder and Denver and were arranged in collaboration with four Front Range chapters.

Most exciting was the first national training to launch the new Straight for Equality in Faith Communities Campaign which was presented at a luncheon for 51 clergy and active laity from eleven different faith communities in Boulder County.

Louise and Herb Crede organized the luncheon at the First United Methodist Church in Longmont where they are working to help their congregation become officially welcoming and affirming of LGBTQ persons. After Jean-Marie and Jamie's power point presentation, each luncheon guest received a copy of the new publication: "Be Not Afraid--Help Is on the Way". Some faith leaders were introduced for the first time to PFLAG as well as to this national initiative.

"This event was the highlight of the week for me because we reached out to persons in so many different faith communities. Hopefully this new resource will offer our PFLAG chapter the opportunity to meet with many new faces in faith communities we've never known before," said Jean Hodges who coordinated this three-day visit.



*At the Longmont Faith Communities event were the following PFLAG leaders: L to R Jean Hodges, Herb Crede, Kathy Godwin, Louise Crede, Jean-Marie Navetta, Kristen Kinard and Jamie Henkel.*

## A PFLAG Connection Pays Off

Imagine that you are Melissa Druckman who still calls Boulder "home" but now lives in Pennsylvania to be where husband Howard is now working. Your gay son, Mike, in law school at Columbia University in NYC announces that he and his boyfriend want to get married on December 28th and they want a beach wedding in Naples, Florida. And you are in charge of making arrangements. You know nothing about Naples, Florida. Where do you begin? What else? You call on the PFLAG network of friends you don't even know. Here's Melissa's report on what has happened after making contact with PFLAG Naples folks.

"Naples PFLAG people have been so helpful and enthusiastic. I planned my wedding venue scouting trip to coincide with their monthly meeting so I could attend, meet them and say thank you in person. What a fun and interesting experience. They are a 10 year old chapter but have only advertised their meetings in the last two years. Before that it was word of mouth because Naples is such a conservative community. Several gay men were there and participated as if it were a relatively rare opportunity. Much more emphasis, or at least solemnity, on confidentiality pledges and being "out" than in Boulder.

"I was struck simultaneously by how very exactly like Boulder PFLAG meeting parts were and how very different. Weird, huh? The chapter president had a brand new, unread copy of TransGender 101 in her pile of belongings but we talked about Gays and Lesbians, GLB's only. In retrospect, I probably shared too much when it came time to tell my story, but now they know a face to go with having two children, one gay, one trans, and if they decide they need some expertise later to learn about transgender, maybe they will remember. The whole thing made me love PFLAG even more -- what a wonderful thing we are part of!!!!"

***“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” — Martin Luther King Jr.***

**Help Needed - PFLAG Boulder County Booth at Pridefest Block Party**  
*Sunday, Sept 16th, 11am - 7pm*

Central Park, 13th Street & Canyon

Rollie Butler, Volunteer Coordinator, needs you to help set up and/or take down the tent, table and 2 chairs from the PFLAG booth at Boulder Pride Fest. She can email instructions. Regular 2 hour shifts to give out free Care with Pride Campaign brochures need volunteers. Please contact [Rollie@safehousealliance.org](mailto:Rollie@safehousealliance.org) to do your part.

**Fall is PFLAG Membership Renewal Time**

**September 30<sup>th</sup>** marks the end of our fiscal year. Your PFLAG Board hopes that you will decide to renew your membership with PFLAG Boulder County by paying on line with PayPal at [www.pflagboulder.org](http://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 nearly \$3 million dollar annual budget. Not only do members have benefits of print resources, webinar leadership trainings, monthly teleconferences, weekly e-lets and available news and information on the [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org) website, but individuals receive the PflagPole in the mail and have an opportunity to elect their national board and regional directors as well as to attend the National Convention held biannually. National PFLAG does for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

We count on your renewal to continue our work to move equality forward for LGBTQ persons in our community and the nation. *We still need a volunteer to be our membership chair to replace our faithful John Hoffman who resigned in May.* Contact [klkinard@gmail.com](mailto:klkinard@gmail.com) if you are willing to serve in this non-board position, which is basically a three-month (fall) responsibility.

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Name(s) of Member(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
I prefer to receive my newsletter electronically \_\_\_\_\_

Membership fees and contributions are tax deductible. All information will remain confidential. PFLAG is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization.

Thank You!!

- \_\_\_\_\_ Student \$15
- \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership \$25
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership \$35
- \_\_\_\_\_ Supporting member \$50
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gold Membership \$75
- \_\_\_\_\_ Platinum Membership \$100
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other Donation \_\_\_\_\_



## Letter to the Editor: CHICK-FIL-A Controversy

From Jean Hodges, printed in the Daily Camera on Aug. 6, also sent to the Longmont Times-Call but not printed

The unconscious and sub-conscious hate of many heterosexual Americans towards LGBT Americans surfaced to an incredible extent in recent days through their demonstrable support of Chick-Fil-A. It made me more sad than angry to witness this display of intolerance.

As a committed member of PFLAG Boulder County and a leader in the national organization, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays—the largest grassroots-based non-profit for families, friends, and allies of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people—I feel it is imperative that I respond to the Chick-fil-a controversy.

While we find his beliefs and actions to be deeply damaging, PFLAG supports Chick-fil-a President Dan Cathy's right to freely express those beliefs, religious or otherwise. And no matter how destructive the action, or how much we disagree with it, we support his right to funnel profits from his company into that company's charitable arm (WinShape) which subsequently donates over five million dollars to groups that openly work to deny basic rights to LGBT loved ones. However, it is also the right of LGBT people and their families, friends, and allies to use this same right to free speech to protest that position, and to educate the public as to just where the revenue from Mr. Cathy's business is going.

Dan Cathy may say that his company has never discriminated against an LGBT person, but WinShape's massive financial contributions have funded numerous organizations that oppose efforts to protect LGBT youth from bullying in schools, support "ex-gay" groups, and bankroll efforts to allow international laws enabling the execution of LGBT people to stand. Educating people as to this reality isn't about crushing freedom of religion— it is about exercising the right to free speech...just as Mr. Cathy has done.

As this issue continues to be discussed, PFLAG members will continue to exercise their right to free speech, sharing the truth about this situation: Chicken, speech, religion...these are simply a distraction from the real issue: a well-funded campaign against equality for all people.

## The Times They Are A'Changin'

Maybe Bob Dylan's song is about more than social change in the 60's. In an essay on July 4<sup>th</sup>, Lynne Gerber asserts that the idea that gays and lesbians could be "cured" appears to be changing.

Lynne Gerber is a scholar in residence with the Beatrice Bain Research Group at the University of California, Berkeley. She is the author of *Seeking the Straight and Narrow: Weight Loss and Sexual Reorientation in Evangelical America* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011).

In a June interview with *The Atlantic*, Alan Chambers, president of Exodus International, made it unequivocally clear that the nation's largest ex-gay organization no longer considers itself in the business of changing sexual orientation.

Chambers acknowledged that most Exodus members are single and remain so, that those who are married are trying to salvage an existing marriage rather than starting new, straight ones, and that homosexual desire stays homosexual desire. "In the past," he said, "we've been aligned with organizations that believe feelings can completely change, temptations can completely go away. We now believe that's an unrealistic and unhealthy expectation that can cause a lot of damage." Rather than insisting on change, the organization now claims to help support those who wish to align their sexual lives with their religious faith. "We're here to support those who are in conflict at the place where their sexual attractions meet their faith," Chambers said. Of course that means to encourage celibacy. To read more: [http://www.religiondispatches.org/archive/sexandgender/6142/is\\_change\\_possible\\_shifting\\_the\\_ex-gay\\_question](http://www.religiondispatches.org/archive/sexandgender/6142/is_change_possible_shifting_the_ex-gay_question)

**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

## News from the National Center for Transgender Equality

### Trans No Longer 'Mental Illness'

Transgender people are no longer considered 'mentally ill' by the American Psychiatric Association. The mental health organization's decision to replace the term 'gender identity disorder' with 'gender dysphoria' means transgender is no longer categorized as a mental illness and comes after years of campaigning by activists.

The change will have an impact on legal cases, with courts unable to use a person's gender identity against them, but also meaning trans people can't use their 'disorder' as a defense.

### More Progress for Transgender Equality

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has confirmed that anti-transgender discrimination in Federally-funded health care services is sex discrimination and illegal. If you are experiencing harassment or discrimination from a health care provider, please use the NCTE health care "[know your rights](#)" guide to advocate for respectful care.

### You Can Place Your Ad Here!

Contact Richard Butler  
rabutler@comcast.net

\$15/Issue, \$130/Year  
Paypal, Cash, or Check

## Hot Off the Presses: Trans-Kin: A Guide for Family and Friends

This newly published book co-authored by dear PFLAG Boulder County friends, Cameron Whitley and Eleanor Hubbard, is divided into five sections: significant others, family members, friends, allies and trans people with a wide diversity of stories in each section. The stories are poignant, thought-provoking, and may help readers experience their own profound feelings. All the stories illustrate a "way through" the difficulties of loving a transgender person as well as the joy and satisfaction of doing so. The appendix has a glossary of words that help the reader understand the transgender experience, a list of books and video resources, as well as a guide to organizations that might be useful in their journey. Frequently Asked Questions begin each section as well as an interview with a SOFFA (Significant Other, Family, Friend or Ally). Within the book you will find lots of artwork and poetry.

*Trans-Kin: A Guide for Family and Friends* is now available for purchase at [www.Trans-Kin.com](http://www.Trans-Kin.com) and on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) for \$17.95 plus s and h. If you want to purchase at least five copies for family and friends, order directly from Bolder Press for \$12.00 which includes shipping and handling.



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## First Openly Gay Woman Promoted to General

*Adopted from the New York Times, 8/13/2012*

Here's a hopeful sign that dropping the "don't ask, don't tell" policy in 2011 has made a difference.

An Army officer being promoted to brigadier general openly acknowledged her sexuality on Friday by having her wife pin her star to her uniform, thus becoming the first openly gay officer of flag rank in the US military.

The officer, Brig. Gen. Tammy S. Smith, 49, a 26-year veteran of the Army, was promoted in a ceremony at the women's memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. The star was affixed by her wife, Tracey Hepner, who was a co-founder last year of the Military Partners and Families Coalition, which "provides support, resources, education and advocacy for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender military partners and their families," according to its website. The couple married in March 2011 in the District of Columbia.

### TYES

**A Support Organization for Families with Gender Variant Children**

Meets, 6 p.m. on fourth Fridays  
E-mail: [TYES.group@gmail.com](mailto:TYES.group@gmail.com)



**PFLAG Boulder County**  
 PO Box 19696  
 Boulder, CO 80308  
**303.444.8164**  
[www.pflagboulder.org](http://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 6pm.

**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.  
 < 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.*

**Boulder Author of *Theft* to Have Book Signing**

*Tuesday, September 18th, 7:30pm*

BK Loren, another one of our local authors, will speak about and sign her new book, ***Theft***, on Tuesday, September 18th at 7:30pm at Boulder Book Store, 1107 Pearl St, downtown Boulder. Although more about a troubled sibling relationship, a cop chase, and introducing wolves to the Southwest, the main character *is* gay. For more description go to: City:

<http://www.boulderbookstore.net/event/bk-loren-theft>

**Is Having Kids Now a Social Pressure?**

The pressure to have kids has now moved into the world of same-sex marriage. A New York Times' article of August 10<sup>th</sup>, describes this two-edged sword. Acceptance of marriage brings with it expectations about parenting for same-sex couples. And some couples don't like the pressure.

Here are the stats to show the movement toward acceptance. Support for same-sex parents is growing steadily among Americans. A Pew Research Center survey conducted in July found for the first time that a majority of people surveyed — 52 percent — said that gay men and lesbians should be allowed to adopt children, up from 46 percent in 2008 and 38 percent in 1999.

**Grassroots Campaign Planned**

Greg Smith, a community organizer from Georgia ([www.SpeakOutGeorgia.org](http://www.SpeakOutGeorgia.org)) is organizing a Chick-fil-A Sit-In Campaign as a non-violent grassroots effort patterned after the 1960's lunch counter sit-ins. Greg believes that Chick-fil-A is waiting for the controversy to fade and he wants to turn the heat up. Contact him at (404)707-0864 or [gregorysmith@yahoo.com](mailto:gregorysmith@yahoo.com) if you would like to join this effort.



Open  
 7am—3:30pm



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