



PFLAG BOULDER COUNTY

PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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October 2011

PFLAG October Program: Out In The Schools

Tuesday, October 11th at 7pm

A program to celebrate Coming Out Day on October 11th. A panel of representatives of LGBTQ students and staff from both St. Vrain Valley and Boulder Valley school districts will share their perceptions of how safe it is to be "out" in school. We return this month to our regular venue, the First United Methodist Church at 15th & Spruce Streets, downtown Boulder. A Support Group for new parents and others with special concerns will meet following the program at 8:30. Refreshments will be served. Invite your friends who care about how safe our county schools are for LGBT youth and adults.

Screening of "Photos of Angie"

Wednesday, November 9th at 7pm

November is the month of Transgender Remembrance. PFLAG Boulder County, in partnership with the Office of Human Rights and Community Relations, will co-sponsor the screening of a new film entitled: "*Photos of Angie*". It is a documentary about the murder of Angie Zapata, a transgender woman, in Greeley in 2007 and the trial of her murderer which was the first use of the enhanced sentencing for hate crimes law. The filmmaker, Alan Dominguez, and Sandhya Luther, Director of Advocacy from the Colorado Anti-Violence Project, will be present for the showing and will be available for discussion afterwards.

Plan to arrive by 6:45 p.m. for open seating. The film will be shown promptly at 7 p.m. Free and open to the public. **Note the change of both venue and day.**

Are Your PFLAG Membership Dues Paid Yet?

In the month since annual dues notices were sent out, only 26 out of our 110 member units have responded. Our 2012 fiscal year begins on October 1. Please make our diligent membership chair, John Hoffman, smile by paying up without any more reminders. After 16 years of his conscientious efforts that can take as long as three months, John's getting tired.

You know what to do. Either go to www.pflagboulder.org to use your credit card to pay via Pay Pal or send a check for \$25, individual; \$35 family unit, to: PFLAG Boulder; PO Box 19696; Boulder, CO 80308. If you can't afford that much, just send \$15 and we will renew your membership, no questions asked. PFLAG is counting on you. Please do it now.

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.

October 11th
PFLAG Program
Out In the Schools

November 9th
Photos of Angie Screening

The New PFLAG Boulder County Facebook Page is Up!

Please "like" the new page, which will strive to stay current with events and news. Mandy Blumreich is the administrator: (mandy.blumreich@gmail.com) You can post notices through her.

[Facebook.com/pages/Pflag-BoulderCounty/215818361811418](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pflag-BoulderCounty/215818361811418)

Latino Panel Shares Stories of Exclusion and Harassment

By Jean Hodges

This article was published on the National PFLAG blog, Focus on the Field

How can we address the cultural gap between the white majority in our city with the marginalized people of color in our county? That has been a perennial concern of our chapter, just as it is for many PFLAG chapters around the country. PFLAG has for too long been an organization of white, mostly middle class persons, working within a traditional model of expecting LGBT persons and their families to come to us. It's worked well since our national founding in 1972 to serve people who are like us. The times are different since we have come to realize that there are many people who need the support that PFLAG offers but whose culture or religion makes it difficult for them to come to a traditional PFLAG meeting.

PFLAG Boulder recently made a huge step toward walking our talk to reach out to our largest marginalized group, the Latino families and individuals of all ages in our county. We decided to meet where Latinos would be comfortable and more likely to attend a PFLAG program. We changed our venue last month from the usual downtown Boulder church parlor to the storefront "Progressive Center" on Main Street in Longmont, some 12 miles from our habitually comfortable space.


We entitled the program "Segregation, Racism and Homophobia: Latino Perspectives" a topic we hoped would draw a large cross-section of persons to listen and respond to a panel of five uniquely different Latino persons. We partnered with Jessy Perez, a young woman who is committed to LGBT equality and reaching out to a diverse community, and asked her to invite the panelists she thought would best represent a spectrum of experiences to be shared. Jessy also used her networking capacity to spread the word via email and posting flyers within centers and organizations that served Latino persons.

The panelists were amazing—honest in sharing the pain of how they felt excluded from social circles in public schools. One panelist share that there were only four or five Mexican heritage kids, all of them cousins in a high school of 1500 whites with one token black student. Attending the University of Colorado in the 1980's was no better when Chicano activism demonstrating for civil rights brought harsh retaliation. The resulting internalized oppression in those settings made family cohesion even more important. Retreating to family unity was about safety and self-esteem.

A very bright, charismatic, young Mexican-American who moved to the U.S. when he was younger, told how he struggles everyday with his sense of exclusion because of economic hardship which required moving often when he was a child. He attended ten different schools because his family couldn't pay the rent increases as Denver neighborhoods became more gentrified. An ally to the LGBT community, he told us that a gay cousin helped him to come out as "undocumented". He now works courageously for social change. He challenged us to look at our privilege as citizens and become involved in immigration reform.

Another panelist moved from Mexico with his mother when he was twelve. He trained himself to lose his accent to become more American in speech, dress and mannerisms. His resulting new friendships made his Mexican peers accuse him of being "too white". Even so, he was aware that he was treated differently from his white friends. Once again we heard, "Diversity is not welcome or appreciated in 'progressive Boulder'".

The story that deeply touched me in particular was about a boy who attended a local high school where he was harassed for being perceived as gay. He mostly sat quietly and tried to be invisible because he was afraid of being "outed". Even though he didn't learn Spanish at home, he held the anti-gay Latino beliefs of his mother. He had no role models to help him to understand what "gay" meant or how to accept himself. He felt suicidal and desperately alone. He visited the family doctor and asked to be castrated so he



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wouldn't have to deal with his "bad" sexual attraction. The doctor told him that there was nothing wrong with him and handed him a PFLAG pamphlet. That was his first experience in learning to accept himself just as he was born. He said he would be eternally grateful to PFLAG for helping him to accept himself. It took some ten to fifteen years for his family to accept him, but his mother spoke up at the meeting to say that she has moved from her anti-gay religious position of denial to accepting that being gay is not a choice. She understands that her son was "born that way" and "I love him just the way he is." Her fervent support made me smile because she was the picture of a "PFLAG mom".

I looked around the room as the panelists finished to observe that the crowd had grown to some fifty people of all ages, two-thirds of whom were Latino. I rose quickly to tell them that this was only a beginning, that PFLAG was all about keeping families with LGBT children together. "We all love our kids!" I said. I told them that we wanted to start a support group where parents could come, talk to one another in Spanish or English to know that they were not alone. We want to bring Caitlin Ryan's Family Acceptance Project to Longmont! That is our dream—to grow our chapter by reaching out to where the people are who need PFLAG. Four mothers signed up to show their interest. Our dream will surely become a reality because a new door has opened.

TYES

A Support Organization for Families with Gender Variant Children

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

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

Celebrating Queer Identities: Living Great, Being Terrific
Saturday, October 15th, CU Campus

Celebrating Queer Identities: Living Great, Being Terrific! is a day-long event designed to recognize and celebrate the positive elements in the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people. Join us for the celebration on October 15, 2011, on the University of Colorado-Boulder campus. The event is free and open to all LGBTQ people, their friends, families, and allies, including care providers.

Early registration (by October 10) will guarantee you a free lunch and a free conference logo water bottle.

For more information and to register, visit:
<http://www.colorado.edu/GLBTQRC/cqi.html>



"Queer" Joins Resource Center Name at CU
By Kevin Correa, Interrim Executive Director

Our C.U. campus center for LGBTQ persons is excited for another outstanding year of programs, services, and advocacy. We are also excited that this is our first year operating as the **Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Queer Resource Center**. We officially announced at our Lavender Graduation celebration on May 3rd, 2011 the addition of the word "Queer" to our name. After over a year of work, including a survey of over 200 students in the community, approval for the name change was received from CU Student Government Legislative Council and the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. More information about the name change and the rationale behind it is available on our website:

<http://www.colorado.edu/glbtrc/GLBTQRcname.pdf>

PFLAG and SAGE - Such a Natural Fit

By Shari Wilkins

I am living a dream. I have the honor of serving as the Chair of PFLAG Denver, CO. I also have the privilege of serving as the Program Coordinator for SAGE of the Rockies (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders). This is a perfect storm, and I am pleased to see the statement on aging issues from PFLAG National.

As a career K-12 educator I have heard for 33+ years about the effects of bullying in schools. As a non-closeted lesbian I have personally experienced and witnessed the impact of bullying on the mental and physical health of GLBT youth.

Do you realize that GLBT elders are on the receiving end of bullying as well? A transgender person in a nursing home is perhaps more vulnerable than a middle school student. We know that GLBT elders are five times less likely to access existing services, resulting in premature death, isolation and early institutionalization. Between one and three million Americans over 65 are lesbian, gay, bi or trans. By 2030, over 4 million will be part of the GLBT population.

These seniors are "twice hidden" due to social discrimination on two levels: ageism and homophobia or heterosexism. Within the GLBT orientation on youth, the elder population is invisible. Ageism is built into the LGBT community. Compounding internal community invisibility are the facts that GLBT elders are twice as likely to be single and three or four times more likely to without children than their heterosexual counterparts. The support network just shrunk considerably.

Despite paying into Social Security in the same manner as their heterosexual peers, LGBT elders are not equally eligible for Social Security benefits, due to the lack of spousal and survivor benefits accorded to married couples under Federal law. This unequal eligibility applies to military benefits and Medicaid programs, as well.

As Coordinator of SAGE of the Rockies, I hear the pain and see the results of a full lifetime of bullying, isolation, discrimination and rejection. I experience, daily, the coming out stories of lesbians, gay men and transgender elders who are coming out at 73, or 80, or 83 years of age.

I would encourage PFLAG members to consider the plight of the invisible GLBT aging population. PFLAG has long carried the banner for equality for all, and for safe schools. We have also stood for same sex partner recognition and inclusion in communities of faith. The current thrust for health care reform and the PFLAG Straight for Equality in Healthcare is a perfect fit around GLBT aging issues. Now is the time to combine our forces and work across national organizations, such as PFLAG and SAGE to be inclusive of not only the sexual orientation and gender identity continuums, but also across the generations.

New Play "14" Looks at Reparative Therapy

Oct 19th - 22nd, 7:30pm // October 22nd - 23rd, 2pm

The University of Colorado Department of Theatre & Dance is proud to present University of Iowa playwright John Cameron's new play *14*, that looks into the controversial and horrific "reparative therapy" experiments of the 1970s.

Based on true events in the author's life, Cameron takes a hard look at "therapy" that used electroshocks in an attempt to change the homosexual desire of 14 young men, and the effects this trauma had on their lives. Sometimes humorous, sometimes heartbreaking, *14* examines one man's journey to find truth and forgiveness. In this memory play, the adult Ron (in 2000) looks back twenty-five years to his younger self as Aaron grapples with his relationship to the church, his girlfriend, his sexuality, and his dreams and ideals.

Directed by department chair, Bud Coleman, the production will be held in the Loft Theatre, in the third floor of the University Theatre building on campus. Tickets are \$8-\$10 and maybe reserved by phoning the box office, 303-492-8181

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Gender Born, Gender Made

by Diane Ehrensaft, PhD - The Experiment, Ny, Ny

In **Gender Born, Gender Made** Dr. Ehrensaft introduces a new gender paradigm. It includes and accepts the immutability of each child's inherent knowledge of their own gender while acknowledging that each child blends it with adaptations to environmental and social pressures to conform.

Dr. Ehrensaft posits several new concepts of gender variation, each representing that child's adaptation of their self-knowledge with society's attempt to enforce a binary gender identity. Along with transgender children – those that self-identify with the gender opposite the gender assigned at birth – she adds gender-fluid children, gender hybrids, gender smoothies, and the gender-queer youth who reject binary categories altogether. Beyond these, there are also protogay and prototransgender children. All are gender non-conforming, as none of them fit the typical societal gender norms.

The new paradigm offers several “gender selves” for gender non-conforming children. Their knowledge of their inherent, immutable gender that they are born with is referred to as True Gender Self. The shell or act that they adopt in order to fit in with their family and other members of society is referred to as their False Gender Self. Gender Creativity refers to the very creative ways in which these children see themselves in society and adapt themselves to fit in.

This well-written book belongs in the hands of every therapist and family doctor that may have reason to treat these children. Every parent who knows or suspects their child is gender non-conforming should keep **Gender Born, Gender Made** right next to their copy of “The Transgender Child” by Stephanie Brill and Rachel Pepper – these books complement each other.

Gender Born, Gender Made provides us with a better – and more realistic – explanation of gender non-conforming children that any binary explanation could. It leads us further away from the Gender Identity Disorder (GID) concept toward Gender Identity Creativity (GIC), which is far from NOT have a mental disorder. As Dr. Ehrensaft describes GIC, it reflects “an integrated and cohesive sense that being male, female, or other is based not on anatomy but on a mental discovery of one's true gender self, whose original kernel is there at birth.”

Nina Here Nor There

by Nick Kreiger - Beach Press, Boston, MA

Reviewed by Dave Parker, PFLAG Greensboro, NC and National Board member

This is a wonderful window into the mind of an “in between” transgender person.

As an activist ally in the transgender community, I have discussed the “gender continuum” many times during educational presentations. While realizing academically that the majority of us are not at either end of the male – female continuum, I have not fully understood the complexity of those whose transitional “end point” is somewhere in the middle. “Nina Here Nor There” provides a great deal more awareness and understanding of this position and those who occupy it.

There have been a great many transition memoirs written and published. Most imply that the only “real” trans person wants to change completely from the persona they were assigned at birth to the persona they feel they are. Some leave room for others to feel differently, and a few express themselves as being neither – nor.

Nina Here Nor There does this very well. Nick Krieger welcomes the reader into his most private thoughts and actions during several years of his life. He takes us along as he moves along the continuum from a not-quite-comfortable butch lesbian who hates her breasts toward a not-quite-male guy without them. He tells his story honestly and with good humor as he questions everything he has experienced and observed in the Castro neighborhood of San Francisco during this period in his life.

This story brings to mind a different definition of transgender than most people are accustomed to. To me, the prefix “trans” can also mean past or beyond; with this interpretation, “transgender” can also mean “beyond gender” as we know it.



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 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.

2nd Annual Boulder County GSA Summit

December 3, Time and Place T.B.A.

All Boulder and St. Vrain GSA members are welcome to attend and help plan this day of workshops designed to enhance youth leadership skills and growth of local GSA's. For more information, please contact Amy at awinchester@bouldercounty.org.

OASOS Community Potluck

November 9th, 6pm to 8pm, Boulder County Public Health

Join OASOS youth and community members for our annual gathering. Please bring a dish to share. We'll provide the turkey and pies! For more info, please contact Sherry at sbiskup@bouldercounty.org

TransKids Project

Do you have a child whose gender identity and/or expression differs from societal expectations for her/his sex assigned at birth?

Is your child 6 to 12 years old?

If you answered "yes" to the above two questions, you are invited to participate in a longitudinal study of transgender/gender-variant children and their families.

This longitudinal study is being conducted by researchers at Miami University of Ohio, the goal of which is to learn about the experiences of families with transgender and gender-variant children and to identify protective factors that promote the well-being of these youth. As the parent of a transgender/gender-variant child, you will be asked to complete standardized questionnaires and to participate in a 60-minute telephone interview every other year for at least the next 10 years. After the first phase of the study (and every phase thereafter pending funding), you will receive a \$25 gift card to a local retailer as a thank you for your participation. Participants' identifying information will be kept confidential. This study has been approved by the Miami University Institutional Review Board: 10-029.

If you are interested in participating and/or have any questions about this study, please contact:

Kate Kovalanka, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Studies and Social Work at Miami University, at kuvalanka@muohio.edu or (513) 529-8058

Walnut Cafe
 Open
 7am—3:30pm
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