



PFLAG

Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

Next Meeting

Date: August 9, 7 PM

Location: Rolland Moore Park, Shelter #2

Program: Ice Cream Social

Please join us at 7 p.m. on Aug. 9 in Rolland Moore Park for ice cream, desserts and lively conversation with other PFLAGers. We will move away from our normal structure of a program, small group discussions and support to enjoy a purely social event. This end of summer gathering is a great way for everyone to get to know the other PFLAG attendees.

PFLAG will provide the ice cream, bowls, spoons, drinks, etc. If you can bring something to augment the ice cream—such as your favorite topping, cookies, brownies, dessert bars—that would be an excellent addition, but certainly not required to attend.

Rolland Moore Park is located west of Shields between Drake and Prospect in Fort Collins. We hope to see all of you there!

PFLAG News

Local PFLAGers featured at Lifetree Café

John and Barbara Case were featured in a Lifetree Café discussion on July 18. In the film clips, John and Barbara shared their experiences as their son came out to them and as they faced rejection in their family and in their faith community as a result of supporting their gay son.

To my knowledge, the video is not publicly available, but I was very favorably impressed with how Lifetree Café, a religious-based organization, handled this issue that is typically problematic in a faith-based forum. Lifetree Café seems to base its ministry on open, non-judgmental discussions of provocative topics. If you are ever interested in attending one of their events, I think you'll find it to be a safe place. For more information, see <http://lifetreecafe.com>.

Transportation to PFLAG meetings

If you are interested in attending PFLAG meetings but need transportation, please call Craig Wilson at (970)667-5236 prior to the day of the meeting.

Events of Local/Regional Interest

Aug 4: Larimer County Fair Parade, Loveland

Your participation is needed! Please plan to march with PFLAG in the Larimer County Fair parade. Thousands of people watch this parade, and it provides PFLAG with an outstanding opportunity to build awareness and acceptance of our organization and its mission in the community. We invite PFLAG members, allies from other organizations and supportive churches, and LGBT community members to help

us build a positive presence through a large turnout for the parade.

The parade kicks off at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, Aug 4. We will meet about 6:00 in the staging area at the parking lot north of the river on S.E. 3rd Street, south on Railroad Avenue. All walkers should park in the Barnes ball field lots and walk to the parking lot north of the river on Railroad Ave. Walking groups will mix into the parade at the river bridge. Last year, PFLAG mixed into the parade early, and we plan to do so again this year. Larimer County requires each participant sign a waiver form this year, so please allow time to complete the paperwork by arriving at 6:00. Look for John Case when you arrive. He will be organizing our group.

Aug 13: Free screening of 8: The Mormon Proposition

Lambda Community Center is screening this film at 6:00 pm. RSVP is required. See lambdacenter.org.

Aug 14: Aids Walk Colorado, Cheesman Park, Denver

AIDS Walk Colorado is the Rocky Mountain Region's largest and most successful HIV and AIDS fundraiser. More than 8,000 people from throughout the state come together as a community, fueled by donations from more than 13,000 individuals, to raise money for vital services for HIV/AIDS clients of Colorado AIDS Project and more than 20 other outstanding AIDS service organizations. For more information, see www.aidswalkcolorado.org.

News of National/Global Interest

Target backs anti-gay candidate

In Minnesota, one of the gubernatorial candidates is a descendant of the founder of Target. Pro-gay former U.S. senator Mark Dayton is leading in the Democratic primary for governor and is the great-grandson of George Dayton, who opened the first Target discount department store in 1962. Rather than support Mark Dayton, Target donated \$150K to a conservative PAC that supports anti-gay Republican Tom Emmer. Some in the LGBT community are calling for a boycott of the retailer. [[Advocate](#), July 30]

Supreme Court settles anti-bias rules in colleges

The U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision settled a key question about the anti-bias rules of public colleges and universities. Under the ruling, public colleges and universities may limit recognition to student groups that abide by anti-bias rules—even when the groups are religious and they object to rules on religious grounds. [[Inside Higher Ed](#), June 29]

Federal gay marriage ban ruled unconstitutional

A U.S. district judge in Boston ruled that the federal gay marriage ban is unconstitutional because it interferes with the right of a state to define marriage. If the ruling is upheld on

appeal, it could have broader implications than just gay marriage in Massachusetts. [[AP](#), July 8]

CA County settles suit by elderly gay couple

The new frontier of gay rights is to gain rights for gay seniors. A recent law suit in California took a step in the right direction. The same-sex couple was sent to different nursing homes, their possessions were sold, and they were not allowed to see each other. However, the county and nursing home have now agreed to a \$653,000 settlement. "This victory sends an unmistakable message that all elders must be treated with respect and dignity, regardless of their sexual orientation, and that those who mistreat elders must be held accountable," said attorney Amy Todd-Gher of the National Center for Lesbian Rights in San Francisco. [[SFGate](#), July 25]

Anti-gay student removed from counseling program

"A federal judge upheld the right of a counseling program at Eastern Michigan University to kick out a master's student who declined to counsel gay clients in an affirming way—as required by the university program and counseling associations. The judge found that the university was enforcing a legitimate curricular requirement, namely that counseling students learn to work with all kinds of clients in ways that did not judge their values or orientations." [[Inside Higher Ed](#), July 28]

Advocacy and Education

What do you say when your teenager says he/she is gay?

According to an article in the Wall Street Journal, the medical community is providing conflicting recommendations to schools. The American College of Pediatricians (ACP) released a resource entitled "Facts about Youth" that states:

Rigorous studies demonstrate that most adolescents who initially experience same-sex attraction, or are sexually confused, no longer experience such attractions by age 25. In one study, as many as 26% of 12-year-olds reported being uncertain of their sexual orientation, yet only 2-3% of adults actually identify themselves as homosexual. Therefore, the majority of sexually-questioning youth ultimately adopt a heterosexual identity. [[ACP, Facts about Youth](#)]

In contrast, the far larger American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) posted a statement saying it is in no way affiliated with the ACP and referred schools and parents to its own publications that urge acceptance of gay, lesbian and bisexual youth. [[AAP, resources for teens](#)]

The article states, "While the development of same-sex attraction isn't completely understood, most medical and mental-health professionals have long concluded that being gay is not an illness and that people cannot choose their true sexual orientation." Researchers at the Family Acceptance Project have found, "young adults ... who reported high levels of family rejection during adolescence were more than eight times as likely to have attempted suicide; nearly six times as likely to report high levels of depression; more than three times as likely to use illegal drugs and more than three times as likely to be at high risk for sexually transmitted diseases." The conclusion: what you say and how you support your child can have a dramatic and compelling impact on your teenager's health and well-being. [[WSJ](#), May 11]

Transgender woman fights to inherit husband's estate

The widow of a male Texas fire fighter is fighting to inherit her portion of her husband's estate. She is a M2F transgender woman who legally married her husband in Texas. The husband's parents are trying to block her inheritance as a beneficiary on the basis that same-sex marriage is not allowed in Texas. [[ChicagoPride.com](#), July 24]

Research show gay parents are good parents

Several recent studies have shown that children raised by same-sex parents are at least no worse off than children raised by heterosexual parents. The most recent study goes a step further—the researchers conclude that their new findings should lead to the end of existing bans on adoption by same-sex couples in the United States. [[NY Times](#), July 28]

What about the Boy Scouts of America?

PFLAG recently had an active email thread about the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). The bottom line is that this organization has the right, as a private organization, to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation and religion. For PFLAG's position, see [pflag.org](#). For guidance about what you can do, see <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/RG-boyscouts.html>.

Thank You PFLAG Sponsors



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If you would like to become a PFLAG sponsor, please contact Diane Kaufman at RCKaufman01@comcast.net or 223-0041 for more information.

MEETINGS:

2nd Monday each month, 6:45 pm
Plymouth Congregational Church
916 W. Prospect Rd.
Fort Collins, Colorado

CONTACTS:

Local chapter: 970.407.0300
Julie 970.667.5236
Bev 970.484.0031
Diane 970.223.0041

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Web site: www.pflagftc.org
Email: info@pflagftc.org
Mail: 305 W Magnolia, PMB 117
Fort Collins, CO 80521

In addition to parents, families, friends, and GLBT people, we welcome anyone involved in the coming-out process.

We welcome anyone who supports the PFLAG mission of **SUPPORT, EDUCATION** and **ADVOCACY** for GLBT people.