



**PFLAG Program - Two Spirit:
Seeing Through Native American Eyes**
Thursday, March 19th, 7:30pm

Cris Apache and others from the Two Spirit Society of Denver will present a program to increase our understanding of what it means to be gay or gender variant in indigenous culture. The term "Two Spirit" is a modern pan-Indian (universal) phrase that can be applied to Native American Gay, Bisexual, Lesbian, or Transgendered people. Two Spirit is generally felt to be a more culturally sensitive and more accurate term (as opposed to the older, more anthropological "berdache").

The use of the term Two Spirit carries with it the general inference of respect to the traditional role that a GLBT individual would have played among their peoples prior to colonization. While it is correct to use a name specific to a culture's term for their GLBT members, the term Two Spirit is useful when referring to Native American GLBT groups comprised of members from different or multiple native societies. Come join us to learn about the history and cultural roles and issues of Two Spirit people in Colorado.

**PFLAG Program Preview - Reflections on
Change: LGBT Images in the Media**
Thursday, April 16th, 7:30pm

April 16th program will be "**Reflections on Change: LGBT Images in the Media.**" Led by Logan Druckman, the program will explore how LGBT persons have been portrayed and featured in movies, television shows, and advertising since the mid-twentieth century.

Meetings

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

**6:45 PM - Support &
Advocacy Groups Meet**
7:30 PM - Program

At 6:45 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. At 7:00 p.m. refreshments will be served before the 7:30 p.m. program in the parlor. The public is always welcome to the main program at 7:30 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

March 19th, 7:30pm
PFLAG Program -
Two Spirit: Seeing Through
Native American Eyes

April 11th, 6pm
Open Door Fund Dinner

April 16th, 7:30pm
PFLAG Program -
Reflections on Change:
LGBT Images in the Media



Highlights from the Feb 5-6, 2009 National PFLAG Meetings

By Jean Hodges

New York City was the exhilarating setting for the National PFLAG RD and Board meetings, planned especially to coincide with the First Annual Straight for Equality GALA. Complete with VIP reception, a lovely banquet and after-party, some 680 corporate sponsors, their representatives and area PFLAG members gathered on Feb. 5th to honor the following outstanding Straight for Equality allies: Maya Angelou, Humanitarian Equality; Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, Education Equality; and Sigourney Weaver, star of "Prayers for Bobby", for Entertainment Equality. Soledad O'Brien from CNN was emcee. The amazing Gala Chair was IBM's Ted Childs, Jr., whose passionate efforts earned \$250,000 for PFLAG. Unaccustomed to such formal black-tie events, Jack and I enjoyed eating with the Kellogg's Cereal folks from Michigan.

John Cepak, National PFLAG President, and Jody Huckaby, Executive Director, both proclaimed: "PFLAG has reached a whole new level!" National staff has trained 2000 people in Straight for Equality in the Workplace in the past year. Fifteen new corporations have requested trainings in 2009. In addition, staff is working on S4E training modules for physicians as well as communities of faith and federal agencies.

PFLAG's "new level" also reaches beyond previous years in what is offered to affiliated chapters. 180 chapters were visited by national staff and 6 new chapters have been officially affirmed. 17 workshop topics for local chapters have been developed by the national staff. The following new resources and information can inspire us all to strengthen our own grassroots work in support, education and advocacy.

- PFLAG has opened its first West Coast office in L.A. with Cesar Hernandez, the Western Field and Policy Director. Cesar covers the Mountain West Region and all other states west of us including Alaska and Hawaii. He will be hosting our monthly MW Region teleconferences.
- After the Lifetime TV showing of *Prayers for Bobby*, hundreds of phone calls and e-mails were received by the national office, including some 25 requests to start new chapters.
- Straight for Equality Field Training is available for all chapters. New materials and handouts are available for individual chapters as well as mandatory S4E trainings to equip speakers to carry a consistent message in all outreach efforts.
- The National Board spent two hours discussing how to reach out to faith communities, especially in the face of the passage of Prop 8. I was able to share some of our chapter's history in sponsoring Social Justice Weekends in Boulder.
- The Safe Schools Initiative has taken a major step forward under the leadership of Suzanne Greenfield in producing a new publication, *Cultivating Respect: The top 10 Ways to make Schools Safer for All Students*. The Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters is having their training on April 4th in Colorado Springs.
- Seven national staff persons attended and presented at the NGLTF-sponsored Creating Change Conference in Denver in February---surely the crossroads of the LGBT movement. Suzanne and I presented a workshop on Safe Schools Strategies.
- \$23,500 will be awarded in National PFLAG Scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Applications must be submitted by March 13 and are available at www.pflag.org.
- The Diversity Outreach Project, directed by Kim Jones, has



awarded grants to 7 chapters totaling \$4500. In 2009 Kim will be creating curriculum to promote Cultural Competency for PFLAG chapters that will be piloted in five chapters across the country.

- Trans Education continues with a newly revised booklet, *Our Trans Children*. We viewed a new 20-minute film on “TransGender Basics” which I hope can be made available to chapters. We also learned the medical profession’s latest preferred term for Intersex—DSD, Disorders of Sex Development.
- Need media advice or talking points to address issues in your community? Contact Steve Ralls, sralls@pflag.org. He wants to hear about what’s concerning you and will help you get your blog on the national website.
- PFLAG’s legislative guru and lobbying guide is Rhodes Perry, rperry@pflag.org. Keep up with federal legislation by checking *Policy Matters* on the pflag.org website. Upcoming legislation needs us to lobby locally: Hate Crimes Prevention Act; Employment Non-Discrimination Act to include transgender; Freedom to Serve Act (Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell); Campaign to drop DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act passed 12 years ago) and Uniting American Families Act.



Pilot Presentation on S4E at Local Church

If you would like to observe a pilot presentation of Straight for Equality for Faith Communities, you are invited to attend the Adult Forum from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 15, in the parlor where we hold our PFLAG meetings at the First United Methodist Church, 1421 Spruce Street. "Making Equality Personal" is the topic to be led by Jean Hodges in collaboration with several members of PFLAG Denver who have created this presentation that the Denver group hopes to take to many faith community settings in the area and even to other towns in Colorado. Based on the Straight for Equality materials provided by National PFLAG, the format is an effort to reach out to those who would be allies to the LGBT community and don't know how. We hope that there will be volunteers from our chapter to be trained to do outreach in Boulder County to other religious groups.

At 10:30 a.m. Resonance Women's Chorus, directed by Sue Coffee, will sing in celebration of the church's 12th Anniversary of its decision to become a Reconciling Congregation, publicly welcoming LGBT persons to full inclusion. The public is welcome to join in this exciting morning.

NCLR Goes to Court to Challenge Proposition 8 on March 5

A Word from Shannon Minter, NCLR Counsel

On Thursday, March 5th, I will stand before the California Supreme Court and argue that Proposition 8 jeopardizes not just the right of same-sex couples to marry, but the rights of all Californians to be treated as free and equal citizens of this state.

It is difficult not to have a feeling of déjà vu. Last year, on March 4th, I stood before our state high court and argued that excluding same-sex couples from marriage violated the equal protection, privacy, and liberty guarantees of the California Constitution. While both cases directly concern the place of LGBT people in our constitutional system, the legal issues before the court in Thursday’s hearing are different – and in some respects, much broader – than in the marriage case.

Proposition 8 jeopardizes not just the right of same-sex couples to marry, but the rights of all Californians to be treated as free and equal citizens of this state. Our Constitution is based on the principle that majorities must respect minority rights. But if a majority can change the Constitution to take away a fundamental right even from a group that is otherwise entitled to the highest level of constitutional protection, then it can take away fundamental rights from any group. Our government will have changed from one that respects minority rights to one in which the power of the majority is unlimited.

A great deal is at stake on Thursday. Please join NCLR and follow the hearing on NCLR’s blog <http://overturn8.nclrights.org/>

GLAD Files Lawsuit in Federal Court Challenging DOMA!

By Kit McChesney

On March 3, 2009, GLAD (Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders) filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court in Boston on behalf of eight married couples and three surviving spouses from Massachusetts who have been denied federal legal protections available to spouses. Two of these couples will be filing suit after receiving rejections of their amended tax returns from the IRS. Each plaintiff is currently eligible for a particular program or benefit, applied for it, and was denied that legal protection because of Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act ("DOMA").

DOMA was enacted in 1996 before any state began issuing marriage licenses to qualified same-sex couples. It has two substantive parts. Section 2 authorizes states to establish policies with respect to marriages of same-sex couples. Section 3 deals with federal discrimination and is the only portion of DOMA challenged in GLAD's lawsuit.

Section 3 of DOMA applies to the federal government only. It overrides a state's determination that a same-sex couple is married and says that they are not married for purposes of all federal laws and programs, even though the federal government has always deferred to state determinations of marital status. Under this law, "the word 'marriage' means only the legal union of a man and a woman as husband and wife, and the word 'spouse' refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife." This law requires all federal departments and agencies to disrespect the valid state-licensed marriages of same-sex couples but not other married couples. As a result, only married same-sex couples are denied all rights, protections and responsibilities associated with marriage at the federal level.

This lawsuit challenges the federal government's denial of marriage-related protections and benefits to legally married Massachusetts same-sex couples, protections and benefits that are available to all other legally married couples.

The law in question, the "Defense of Marriage Act" deprives families of federally-created economic safety nets, to the detriment of those couples and their children or other dependents. It creates a system of first and second class marriages, where the former receive all federal legal protections, and the latter are denied them, even while taking on the responsibilities of legal marriage.

For more information, go to <http://www.glad.org/doma/lawsuit/>

Open Door Fund Dinner

Saturday, April 11th, 6pm

Join the PFLAG table for an evening of celebration & support for Boulder County's LGBT Community! Cost is only \$110 each if we fill a whole table. Send checks by March 25 made out to PFLAG Boulder to Jack Hodges, 4475 Laguna Pl. #207, Boulder 80303. Open Door Fund helps us fund our outreach projects. Now it's time to help them raise money!

Cocktails at 6 pm, Dinner at 7 pm
\$125 per person | \$1100 per table of 10
The St. Julien Hotel, 900 Walnut Street, Boulder

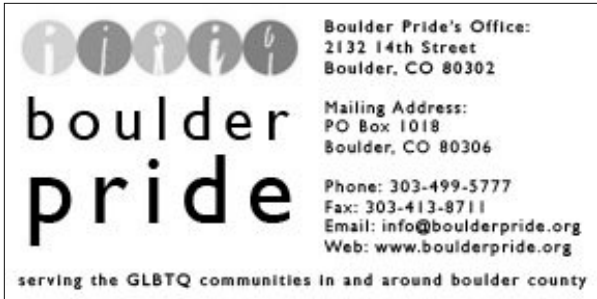
Guest Speaker Rea Carey is the executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. She has been a leading voice on LGBTQ rights, creating public policy and guiding governmental affairs. She has also been a critical player in developing the next generation of activists through the Youth Leadership Institutes and Creating Change Conferences. She was very active in the No on Prop 8 campaign and is now involved with the next steps toward achieving equality at state levels and on the national stage. We welcome her insights and enthusiasm as we move forward with the new administration in Washington.

PFLAG Action Alert

At our November PFLAG meeting we had a young couple who had become recently engaged. One was a citizen of Canada and both wanted to live together in the U.S. There were tears of frustration because of our current immigration laws that do not acknowledge same-sex relationships as valid for extending immigration rights. One of our Boulder members is the dad of a gay son who married a Russian man. They must live together in England because they are not allowed as a couple in either Russia or the U.S. These couples deserve to be together in our country. Your advocacy is needed.

Please read the note below and take action by adding your support by contacting Jared Polis or Betsy Markey, our newly election Congressional District representatives. Jared's D.C. phone: 202-225-2161; Boulder office: 303-484-9596; Betsy's D.C. office: 202-225-4676; Ft. Collins office: 970-221-7110.

If you have other stories to share contact national PFLAG at the email address below.
Uniting American Families Act. Representative Jerrod Nadler (NY-8th) seeks to introduce the Uniting American Families Act close to Valentine's Day – Feb. 14th. This bill will allow lesbian and gay Americans to sponsor their foreign-born partners for immigration. PFLAG National is working in coalition with Immigration Equality and several other organizations to help ensure the passage of this bill. If you know of an individual that this law may impact and are interested in helping influence your legislators, please contact rperry@pflag.org for more information.



Plan ahead to attend PFLAG National Convention

Make plans now to be in San Diego Oct. 8-11 for the 2009 PFLAG National Convention. Learn how to build bridges, organize coalitions, work with straight allies and advocate for change. No other organization is so uniquely qualified to take our struggle "From Christopher Street to Main Street," the convention theme.

Early bird registration (up to May 15) is \$275/\$285 which includes 1 reception, 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 gala dinner, 10 workshops, 3 plenaries and lots of free materials. Special discount rate of \$139 for a double room is available at the convention hotel, the Marriott Mission Valley (1-800-842-5329.) Oct. 8 is for pre-convention institutes for Straight for Equality and Safe Schools trainings. Go to www.pflag.org for more information.

Whether you are just getting started – or are a seasoned leader– there is no better way to gain valuable new perspectives and powerful tools, than to attend the 2009 PFLAG National Convention. (San Diego is closer than Washington, D.C the usual site!)

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 www.pflagboulder.org

PFLAG Boulder meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at First United Methodist Church, 14th and Spruce, Boulder, Colorado. Sharing time begins at 7:00 pm, program at 8:00 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.

Family Matters

Many Thanks to Ron Aarons who offered us the DVD of *Prayers for Bobby* that was shown on Feb. 25th at the Boulder Library Auditorium. It is now ours to share with other chapters or individuals who missed seeing this moving story of a mother whose family tragedy forces her to rethink her religiously founded prejudice against gays. Ron also provided us with a box full of copies of the book, written by his brother, to give away for a \$15 donation to benefit PFLAG.

Welcome to Ken Thurow, our newest board member, who will represent Faith Communities and help us do outreach with his new book, *A Place at the Table*. More about Ken in next month's newsletter.

Nominations Needed!

If you know someone, ally or LGBT community person, you would like to nominate for our Appreciation Awards to be presented on May 21st, the possible categories are: Education, Legislator, Business, Community Ally, Outstanding LGBT Community Activist, Youth, Artist/Entertainer. Please write or e-mail the reasons why you think this person deserves recognition and send to Jean Hodges, JeanInBldr@comcast.net.

Still Need a PFLAG Librarian

If you like to help us keep our small PFLAG library in order, please let Jean know ASAP.

Mountain Pride Connections is pleased to support PFLAG at the Boulder Farmers' Market this season ... come visit us!



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