

PFLAG News & Views

Bridging GLBT and Allied Communities

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS & GAYS OF DENVER

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September 2011

MONTHLY MEETING

September Program: A Welcoming Evangelical Pastor

Thursday,
Sept. 1,
7:30 p.m.
Rev. Mark Tidd

Our speaker on September 1 will be the Reverend Mark Tidd, pastor of Highlands Evangelical Church in northwest Denver. This church departs from the usual evangelical practice by welcoming the LGBTQ community as full members of both the community and the church leadership.

This radical stance led to an (amicable) separation from the parent church, and in the loss of half of the people and 2/3 of the financial support the new church had planned on. Rev. Tidd was even defrocked. The first service of the breakaway church was held in September 2009, and after only two years, the church is thriving. Attendance has tripled, and the church now has over 400 members!

Tidd was raised a nominal Catholic in Boulder. He had a born-again Christian experience and joined the Jesus movement of the 1960s, which blended Christianity with hippie culture. Eventually he was ordained in the Christian Reformed Church

and shared its conservative views on homosexuality.

His change of heart began when, as a pastor in Boulder, a distraught couple sought his counsel when their young daughter began identifying as a boy – introducing him to the transgender issue. He began to question applying ancient Biblical teachings to here-and-now homosexuality. He came to believe that gay people can embrace their sexual orientation as God-given.

As always, the new families support group, facilitated by Deborah Stone and Jacci Unterseher, and the open-to-all group, with John Ferguson facilitating, will meet separately at 6:30 p.m. in the library area. All will gather in the McCollum Room for announcements and the program at 7:30.



Oct. 6 –
Nuns Opposing
the Catholic
Hierarchy



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OUR MISSION

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender 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 secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialog about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

Judy Trompeter Is Resigning the End of August

By Sara Winter

With heavy heart, we announce the resignation of Judy Trompeter, Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator, effective August 31.

Judy and Larry Trompeter lived in Midland, Michigan, for 26 years. When their youngest son Craig came out, they joined PFLAG Tri-Cities (Bay City, Midland, and Saginaw, MI). Soon after their move to Denver in 1998, they attended a PFLAG Denver meeting, joined our chapter, and began volunteering. Judy served on the Board of Directors from February to September 2000, then took a paid part-time position as Volunteer Coordinator in October 2000. In 2002 she succeeded Tim Wilson as Office Manager when the chapter realized it could afford only one half-time staff person.

Judy has been the sole employee of PFLAG Denver for the past nine years, during which time she has made innumerable friends for herself and for PFLAG Denver. She has maintained her good



humor in arranging for and directing the work of volunteers of all stripes, including many doing community service after law infractions. Month after month she has schlepped materials from the office for the first Thursday meeting. Month after month she has organized and written copy for the newsletter, and supervised its mailing. She has written flawless responses to a great number of mail and e-mail inquiries. She has maintained the database, sent out countless flyers and solicitations, seen that the bills were paid, and on many occasions counseled new parents whose calls came to the office rather than the Helpline. She has been known above all for her absolute dependability and devotion to the chapter.

Judy received the chapter's Swan Award in 2006 and a Special Recognition Award following the 30th anniversary gala in 2010.

And that's just Judy's record at PFLAG Denver. Before us, she devoted years of activism in Michigan to various causes, particularly domestic violence. She is one fine mensch! Good luck, Judy!

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Calendar of Events

September 1

PFLAG Denver Monthly Meeting
Montview Presbyterian Church
1980 Dahlia Street
Support Groups 6:30 P.M.
Program 7:30 P.M.
(See article, p. 1)

September 9

Deadline for PFLAG National Survey
(See article, this page)

September 11

9/11 Memorial Concert
Denver Gay Men's Chorus and Denver
Women's Chorus, 7 - 10 P.M.
St. Andrews United Methodist Church,
9203 S. University, Highlands Ranch

September 16

Newsletter deadline
Send copy to winternye@comcast.net

September 17 - 18

One Colorado's
LGBT People's Caucus
(See article, p. 4)

September 24

Black Tie/Red Carpet Gala, celebrating
The Center's 35th anniversary
www.glbtcolorado.org

September 29

Board of Directors meeting
6 P.M., The Center

October 6

PFLAG Denver monthly meeting
Speakers: Sr. Mary Ann Coyle and
Sr. Mary Ann Cunningham

November 3 - 6

PFLAG National Convention
Washington, D.C.
www.pflag.org/convention for a full
schedule and to register

Ian Stone Reports on Camp Pride Experience

When I assumed the VP position in the Colorado School of Mines' LGBT club Sigma Lambda, I realized just how intimidating activism could be. I've often felt overwhelmed by the amount of work needed to organize events and to change school policy. Fortunately, thanks to help from PFLAG Denver, I was able to expand my skill set by participating in the Camp Pride Summer Leadership program this July.

I arrived at Vanderbilt for camp not knowing what to expect. I had read that the program, developed by the organization Campus Pride, focused on teaching students how to make campuses LGBT friendly, but could only guess at the extent of this training. Little did I know, I was about to start one of the most rigorous and thorough programs I've ever been a part of.

Immediately, camp director Shane L. Windmeyer and the many camp counselors facilitated discussion and group activities on topics such as gender-neutral housing and the nature of identity. My fellow campers and I were quick to bond, for despite our diversity, we were all connected by our enthusiasm for LGBT activism. During the six-day camp, we heard lectures on many facets of campus activism, be that the simple maintenance of LGBT clubs, or the complex policy change needed in establishing campus diversity centers. By the end of the experi-

ence, camp advisors had helped us develop personalized action plans for each of our campuses.

Between these sessions, celebrity figures spoke to us about leadership and activism within the LGBT community. Among them were Mara Keisling, founder of the National Center for Transgender Equality, and Daniel Hernandez Jr., the young gay activist credited with saving Rep. Gabriel Giffords following the shootings in Tucson this January.

At night, we were treated to the best entertainment in the LGBT community. BeBe Zahara Benet, season one winner of RuPaul's Drag Race, graced us with her fierceness for several days of camp. Also present were singer/song-writer Randi Driscoll and professional slam poet Kit Yan. Their performances, while enjoyable, also enriched the camp experience, for each performer brought his or her own inspiring life story.

The lessons learned and the friendships forged at Camp Pride will be life-long. I now feel quite capable of serving my position back at CSM, and I know the skills I developed will help me enhance our community on campus, and ultimately the community at large. I want to thank PFLAG Denver once again for their support of this experience. It wouldn't have been possible without them.

More info can be found on Camp Pride at campuspride.org/camppride/.

Survey Underway by PFLAG National

PFLAG National continuously works to improve direct services and support to our large and expanding affiliate base across the country. One of our core functions is to provide leadership on the challenges and issues that chapters face, both internal and external, so that they can be as effective as possible in fulfilling the PFLAG mission – supporting families, educating communities, and advocating for equality.

The 2011 Chapter Needs Assessment Survey is an important tool for PFLAG National staff, regional directors, state coalition coordinators, and the board of directors to understand chapter needs and evaluate PFLAG National resources.

Everyone involved with PFLAG Denver is welcome to respond, meaning that more than one per household may take the survey. We hope to get input from people involved at all levels of the organization. Your feedback will help us improve our resources, training programs, publications, advocacy work, and so much more. All responses are anonymous and confidential and will not be linked to either IP addresses or chapter char-

acteristics. Your candor is appreciated.

To take the PFLAG chapter needs assessment survey, please go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2011PFLAG-chaptersurvey>. This link will stay open until September 9, at which time we'll close the survey and start analyzing the results. Chapter leaders and members will be informed of survey results and subsequent action plans to address identified problem areas at the 2011 PFLAG National Convention in November.

In appreciation for your feedback, we are offering a 75% discount on your next publication order from the PFLAG National Bookstore; how-to information will be provided at the completion of the survey.

Although online surveys are preferred, if you need to utilize a paper version of the survey, please contact the national office to have one mailed to you. Paper surveys can be mailed to Beth Kohm, Deputy Executive Director, 1828 L Street NW #660, Washington, DC 20036. If you use this method, please include your name, mailing address, telephone number and an email address to receive the bookstore discount codes.



Report: Children's Hospital Dialogue

By Olive Hinnant, M.Div., D.Min.

Two PFLAG members were invited to enter an important dialogue about health care treatment for GLBT patients and families on June 22, 2011, at Children's Hospital Colorado. An employee-run group within the hospital organized a program to address ways hospital staff can interact more effectively with the queer community. This involved inviting outside resources, including PFLAG, to enter the conversation at tables where case studies were presented to employees (included were administrative staff, chaplains, social workers, nurses and doctors).

The PFLAG representatives, Olive Hinnant and Margaret Collins, each had a different case study. Olive had a case referred by a rural pediatric endocrinologist to Children's Hospital about a family with a 10-year-old girl with gender identity issues. Debbie identifies as male and wants to be called Doug. Problems are arising in the family and they have not found anyone in their town to talk to or help them with options at this point.

Margaret had the case of a 14-year-old male whose mother has taken him to the doctor because he is getting beat up at school and his grades have fallen. Speaking alone with the doctor, the teen says he is being teased that he is gay and is afraid he may be, but doesn't want his parents to know.

So, if you were a hospital staff person, how would you proceed in addressing the concerns raised in these two (actual) cases?

Margaret's group was divided over whether the doctor has the right to share this information with the mother, or should keep loyal to the teen by providing safe space. Merits of both were debated among the tables and presented to the general audience for further discussion. The majority felt it was imperative that the doctor keep the teen's confidence; the doctor could offer the teen such resources as a counselor or a queer center for teen groups. Others thought that if the mother wasn't told and the boy harmed himself or was seriously harmed by bullies, that the doctor would/could be held responsible. They reasoned that more safety

could be provided if the mother knew. Privacy HIPPA laws may be involved here; that wasn't clear.

The case study at Olive's table was with two doctors, a social worker, an administrator, and an events coordinator. First Olive explained what PFLAG is. Then the employees began dissecting the case, which had been referred to an endocrinologist because of the option of hormone therapy at a crucial age for Debbie/Doug. The doctors balked at treating a "child" this young with any type of hormone blocker. The social worker wondered if this wasn't a phase the girl was going through, which really caused consternation and garnered a sharp rebuke from Olive. (How many of us, no matter what age, have been told, "It's only a phase"?!). The table sought further information from the presenting doctor to determine, in the end, that they would not consider treatment on this youngster. When this view was shared with the audience, a woman across the large conference room stood up and said, "My child was here in your psych ward for trying to kill himself because doctors didn't listen to what he was saying about his gender. That lack of understanding about gender identity can kill kids. I know. I went through it with my son."

This was a great learning moment. The mother of a trans youth testified about her experience at the hospital, and the doctors stuck to their medical concerns about treating a young child. After the discussions were over, the mother came to our table to share her experience of keeping her son alive and allowing him to transition to a female.

It was a privilege to represent PFLAG at this event, where minds were challenged and lives of GLBT people held center stage for a few hours one day in June. The best reward for me was having coffee weeks later with Margaret to exchange thoughts about the dialogue. Through this shared experience our lives were changed by sharing our stories with each other. Even within our ranks there is more to learn and understand about our individual lives underneath the umbrella term we call PFLAG.

News & Notes

News of Families and Friends

Welcome to these new volunteers who attended the orientation on July 19: **Cynthia Crook, Shay Galloway, Helle Hill, Jackie Hoffman, Georgena Jacoby, Clare Kennelley, Lainie Kirsch, Michael Rivera, and Nicole Young.**

Thanks to all who helped with the PFLAG Denver booth at the Denver County Fair: **Jody Applegate, Marzy Billingham, Joan Dugas, John Ferguson, Shay Galloway, Helle Hill, Clare Kennelley, Joe Moore, Judy Murray, David Reaser, Deborah Stone, Leanna Weston and her sister Melanie, Sandy Wilbanks, Sara Winter, and Joe Ziemann.**

Congratulations to **The Center**, which will celebrate its 35th anniversary on September 24; to **Yvonne and Bob Rosnik**, who'll celebrate their 50th anniversary on September 17; to **Gary Santangelo**, who placed second in the Drag Show Contest at the Denver County Fair; and to **Craig Trompeter**, whose new opera company premieres in Chicago on September 9.

Goodbye and good luck to **Juliet Letteney, Brenna Baker, and Karen Rojas**, our scholarship recipients who are off to college.

Get well wishes go to many members and friends this month: **Mary Dunn, Judith Nelson, Emily Dangel, Sander Talbot, Tom LaTourrette**, and several others are dealing with various broken bones, surgeries, and so forth, and we wish them all a speedy and full recovery.

Our condolences to **Duane Farnell** (P.O. Box 532636, Kihei, HI 96753), whose longtime spouse **Dr. Jerry J. Bigner** died on July 30 at age 67; and to **Marlene Wiske**, whose companion Dan Gossert, also a PFLAG supporter, died of a heart attack on August 10, at age 76.

Merlin and Barbara Logan are downsizing out of their house of 38 years to an apartment in Littleton. Chapter members **B.J. Peck and Norma Philipps** are planning to move in 2012 and are seeking suggestions for a diverse, welcoming, eco-friendly community somewhere in the USA; send leads to bjp1023@gmail.com or normaphil@yahoo.com.

One of PFLAG Denver's volunteers, **Mike Schulman**, works at Sutra on Lincoln St. The owner there wants to put on an art show, and they are soliciting a total of seven artists to show (and possibly sell) their work. There is no entry fee. A date has not yet been selected. If you are interested in learning more, e-mail Mike at ms9409778@gmail.com. (*Continued next page*)

KEEPING UP WITH CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Support – Education – Advocacy

SPEAKERS' BUREAU – No plus facilitators Jody Applegate and Jacci Unterseher. Two persons plus facilitators Helle Hill and Sara Winter were in

HELPLINE – July statistics are not available at press time. the open-to-all group.

SUPPORT GROUPS – There were 18 participants in the new families group on August 4,

AUGUST MEETING – There were 37 people in attendance.

News & Notes, cont.

Manners book available for loan – We've received a new book for our lending library. Billed as "the definitive guide to LGBT life," *Complete Gay & Lesbian Manners for Every Occasion* covers such areas as coming out, dating and sex, on the job, social occasions, relationships, tying the knot, and starting a family. Author Steven Petrow is a nationally syndicated columnist on LGBT manners for The Huffington Post, GayWeddings.com, and the Q Syndicate. To borrow the book, call 303-573-5861.

Free online film festival – The Independent Television Service is turning 20. To celebrate, they're launching the ITVS Indies Showcase July 25 to September 23, a free online film festival featuring a succession of 20 documentaries by independent filmmakers. Each full-length program will stream for free for three days on <http://itvs.org/indies-showcase>.

Save Date for LGBT People's Caucus

LGBT Coloradans and our allies have power. The power to create real, lasting change in



our communities, our towns, and our state. And that's what the LGBT People's Caucus is all about – coming together to harness our power to advance equality in Colorado. **PFLAG Denver is one of the sponsors of this event.**

Whether you're interested in advocating for civil unions or learning more about the intersections of immigration and LGBT equality, this two-day summit is for you: **Saturday and Sunday, September 17-18, in Estes Park, CO.**

The first day we'll learn about important issues affecting us all – from police brutality to health care to economic justice. On day two, we'll talk together about how to create change, starting within our own local communities and reaching out to impact the entire state.

Whether you've been an activist for years, or you're just getting involved, this statewide summit of equality advocates is a unique opportunity to get to know other LGBT and allied Coloradans and to engage in powerful work for justice.

Register at <http://www.one-colorado.org/news/caucus/>.

Overturing Same-Sex Marriage Ban

By Judy Trompeter

Mark Olmstead is a 19-year-old college student who wants to hurry equality along and thus has drafted a proposal for the November 2012 ballot that would overturn Colorado's ban on same-sex marriage.

His proposal has been okayed by the legislative counsel in the Capitol and given the number Proposition 37. Here is the exact wording: "Proposed initiative measure 2011-12 #37, concerning marriage, Be it enacted by the People of the State of Colorado: Section 31 of article II of the constitution of the state of Colorado is amended to read: Section 31. Marriages - valid or recognized. ~~Only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid~~

~~or recognized as a marriage in this state.~~ Marriage will have the same requirements and effects regardless of whether the parties are the same or different sex."

One Colorado and Senator Pat Steadman have indicated to Mark that they will not support his proposal, preferring instead to try to pass a civil unions bill in the next session of the General Assembly.

Mark is embarking on a campaign to get 86,154 voters to sign the petition, in order to have it appear on the ballot next year. He has six months to get this done and thus is seeking volunteers to assist. If you'd like to support this effort, please contact him at olmstead@seattleu.edu.

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS

Supporting Partnerships –

Mark H. Carson & Associates, CPAs

1790 30th St. #418, Boulder
303-449-3060, mark@bouldercpas.com

Bill Coleman Entertainment

www.bubbletower.com, stretch@stiltwalker.com
303-922-4655

Sandra Wilbanks, Ph.D., Psychotherapist

303-618-4449, sandrawilbanks@comcast.net

Deb-Ann Thomson, Ph.D., C.A.C.

Psychotherapist, 2755 S. Locust St. #207, Denver
303-758-6634

DLS Group, Inc., Deborah Stone

Cognitive psychologist and management consultant
303-333-4513, 303-810-4513,
Denver, CO and Washington, DC

Tim Wilson, Family Service Counselor

Fairmount Mortuary, Cemetery & Cremation Services
303-399-0692, twilson@fairmountcemetery.net
*** 10% back to PFLAG ***

Basic Partnerships –

Mike Albi, Master Electrician

Citywide Residential Electric/Fully Licensed and Insured
303-601-7734, mikealbi@earthlink.net

Denver Psychotherapy Care Tony Miles, Ph.D.

720-205-9752, tmilesphd@aol.com
www.denverpsychotherapycare.com

S. Stanley Gordon's True Love Story

My Two Wives and Three Husbands
\$16.95 at Amazon.com and all booksellers

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