

*PFLAG, True Colors & the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective  
Scholarship Presentations & Reception*

**June 20, 2007, 7:00 p.m. (prior to our regular 7:30 meeting)  
All are welcome to stay for our monthly meeting.**

**Refreshments will be served.**



## ***The Voice of PFLAG Hartford***

# *Caring*

**Volume 16, No. 3**

**May/June 2007**

**IN THE PFLAG HARTFORD FAMILY:**

Thank-you to everyone who helped out at the True Colors Youth Conference on March 23 & 24. Special thanks to Rose and Larry for setting up and taking down our PFLAG table and for being there much of the time, along with their two daughters. Special thanks also go to Larry P., Gary G., John B. & Jack F. for helping out on Friday. Thanks also to Saturday's staff: Rose & Larry P., Donna G., Jean C., John B., Sheila L., Bob & Karen P., Steve B. and Dan V.

Thank-you to Rev. Alice O'Donovan for speaking at our April 18 meeting. Her topic was "Is the Bible a Word of Death or a Voice of Hope for LGBT People?" Thanks for your wonderful inspiration.

**PFLAG is a welcoming place for parents and friends of lesbians & gays, but we are much more than that. Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex people are also encouraged to attend our meetings. GLBTI people come with or without their family members, and parents and friends come with or without their GLBTI loved ones. PFLAG is for YOU!**

**PFLAG HARTFORD MONTHLY SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS:** Third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m., Immanuel Congregational Church House, 10 Woodland Street (Just North of Farmington Ave.), Hartford. For more information, please call Marie & Bob at (860) 633-7184 or Becky & John at (860) 633-5111.

**REFRESHMENT REMINDER:**

**May 16 – Diane & Leo**

**June 20 – Scholarship Presentations  
& Reception**

**July 25 – John B.**

**August 15 – Nina & Heather**

**MEMBERSHIP DUES:**

Student/Limited Income: \$10

Household Membership: \$40

Individual Membership: \$25

**UPCOMING PFLAG BOARD  
MEETING**

**Monday, June 18, 7 p.m.**

**Hosted by  
Rose & Larry**

*Please make your check payable to **PFLAG Hartford** and Send it to:  
PFLAG Treasurer, 12 Colchester Commons, Colchester, CT 06415  
For questions concerning dues, e-mail [treasurer@pflaghartford.org](mailto:treasurer@pflaghartford.org).*

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and their families and friends through:

**SUPPORT:** To cope with an adverse society

**EDUCATION:** To enlighten an ill-informed public

**ADVOCACY:** To end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

*PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.*

## **UPCOMING /ONGOING EVENTS**

- **RAINBOW ROOM** (a program of the **Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective**) – a welcoming place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and questioning “LGBTQ” teens and young adults (up to 21 years old). Sundays, 3-6 p.m., 1841 Broad Street (the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective building). For more information please visit our website at [www.hglhc.org](http://www.hglhc.org) or contact us at [sensae@aol.com](mailto:sensae@aol.com) or call 860/278-4163.
- **Trans SOFFA Support Group in Connecticut:** This is a group specifically for Significant Others, Family, Friends and Allies of Transgendered, Transsexual and Gender Variant people (SOFFAs). Trans people who are SOFFAs are welcome. Meetings will be held on the second Sunday of each month and are facilitated by Kristal Barnes and Kasha Ho. Contact Kristal - [u2kristal@yahoo.com](mailto:u2kristal@yahoo.com) (860) 878-5256 or Kasha - [kho@afsc.org](mailto:kho@afsc.org) or call (860) 523-1534 for more information.
- **HGLHC Transgender Support Group:** This professionally facilitated group offers an affirming non-judgmental environment for Transgender folk to explore issues and concerns that matter to them, and to give and take support. Each participant decides what to do with emotions and personal life-choices or body image, sexuality, relationships, HIV issues and anything else of concern. As with all other HGLHC Support groups, all participants must register in advance to determine whether this group is right for you. Location: Hartford. Contact HGLHC at (860) 278-4163 X21 or e-mail [ljzy@hglhc.org](mailto:ljzy@hglhc.org)
- **PFLAG'S 20TH NATIONAL CONVENTION, Family Voices: Moving Equality Forward, Oct. 11 - 14** at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner in Virginia, just outside of Washington, D.C. Approximately 1,000 members and supporters from across the United States will attend this event. The PFLAG National Office is committed to providing a wide range of workshop opportunities (50) for our members and allies that address the interests and needs of first-time attendees as well as those who are ready for more advanced sessions. For details about the application process, submission review criteria, timelines and registration, please visit our online instructions and submission at [https://www.letsmeet.net/forms/pflag\\_session/](https://www.letsmeet.net/forms/pflag_session/) One \$240 registration is being offered to our chapter members (hotel and transportation not included). Speak to John or Becky Glezen by May 16 if interested.



*"As a teenager, I had to struggle alone to learn about myself and what it meant to be gay. Now for 44 years I've had the satisfaction of working with other gay people all across the country to get the bigots off our backs, to oil the closet door hinges, to change prejudiced hearts and minds, and to show that gay love is good for us and for the rest of the world too." "It's hard work, but it's vital and it's gratifying and it's often fun." - Barbara Gittings, Gay Rights' Pioneer*

## **BARBARA GITTINGS, EARLY GAY RIGHTS ACTIVIST, DIES AT 75**

*By Robin Brown, The News Journal*

National gay rights pioneer Barbara Gittings, formerly of Wilmington, has died after a long fight with cancer.

Gittings, an activist since the 1950s, died Sunday night after lapsing into a coma earlier in the day at an assisted living center in Kennett Square, Pa., said friend Mark Segal, editor of the Philadelphia Gay News... Gittings, 75, succumbed to breast cancer with her partner of 46 years, Kay Lahusen, by her side, he said. The couple, who also lived in Philadelphia, had a longtime home on Harrison Street in Wilmington.

In the late 1950s, Gittings helped organize the first East Coast chapter of the pioneer lesbian rights group, Daughters of Bilitis. Elected the New York City chapter's first president, Gittings edited *The Ladder*, a groundbreaking lesbian publication, and went on to fight the federal government's policy of firing homosexuals in its employ, according to *Gay American History* by Jonathan Katz.

It was through the New York City group that Gittings met Lahusen and, together, they "played important roles in the gay liberation movement emerging in the 1950s," according to the Cornell (N.Y.) University Library, which has a collection about the couple in its Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections.

**BOOK REVIEW****Conversations and Cosmopolitans:  
How to Give Your Mother a Hangover***By Robert Rave and Jane Rave*

From the moment author Jane Rave received her son Robert's momentous letter announcing he was gay, both their lives changed.

While compiling the stories of their evolving relationship, Robert and Jane pondered whether unconditional love between a parent and child was possible after coming out. The resulting conversations and confessions, fraught with laughter and tears, helped them deal with their emotions. In *Conversations and Cosmopolitans: How to Give Your Mother a Hangover*, Robert and Jane cover a diverse range of subjects, such as: "point-if-ication," being brainwashed into counting everything you eat and putting it into a point system; "me but Latin," what most gay men are looking for in a potential mate; and a "M'Lynn moment," based on Sally Field's character in *Steel Magnolias* who lashes out at her friends in a fit of despair.

*Conversations and Cosmopolitans* chronicles an extraordinary friendship that grows stronger as mother and son learn to be more honest with each other-and more honest with themselves.

**Learn more about PFLAG's partnership with Amazon.com**

Dear PFLAGers and Friends:

April 12, 2007

Today was a good one for the recognition of the relationships and civil rights of our loved ones.

The CT Judiciary Committee, after a very lengthy debate, voted 27-15 to report out to the full General Assembly the bill that would extend to same-sex couples the right to marry. Make that **...marry!!!**

The speeches ran the gamut - some unlistenable and some, like those of Chair Andrew McDonald, Chair Mike Lawlor, Sen. Mary Ann Handley, Rep. Tong and, most notably, "our own" Beth Bye of W. Hartford (our guest speaker at a Hartford PFLAG meeting last fall), were insightful, instructive, properly emotional, and absolutely thrilling, complete with a few tears in all the right places (that includes some of us in the audience). Some of the debate, but unfortunately very little of the emotion of it, was captured on the MyLeftNutmeg site: <http://www.myleftnutmeg.com/showDiary.do?diaryId=6534>. Check it out, including some of the videos... In the end, those who favored fairness, diversity, nondiscrimination and equal treatment under the law prevailed. We are not sure that this could have happened in any other state in our nation. Tonight we are grateful that we live in Connecticut, where even the opponents of marriage equality seem to be saying that, "It's probably the right thing to do, and it probably will prevail in the not-too-distant future, but my constituents think that we're not ready yet," etc.

We have no idea whether this bill will win the approval of the House and Senate, or even whether it will advance to the floor of those chambers. But we do know that a substantial number of our elected officials have been persuaded that continuing the discrimination against same-sex couples is not in keeping with the progressive tradition of our state. For that we are very thankful.

Here is the breakdown of the vote.

**Yes: 27**

McDonald, Lawlor, Handley, Fox, Barry, Bye, Coleman, Dillon, Geragosian, Godfrey, Gomes, Gonzalez, Green, Hamm, Hurlburt, McCluskey, McMahan, Meyer, O'Brien, Olson, Roraback, Serra, Spallone, Staples, Tong, Walker, Wright

**No: 15**

Kissel, O'Neill, Adinolfi, Aman, Berger, Cappiello, Fritz, Giegler, Hamzy, Hovey, Labriola, Morris, Powers, Rowe, Stone

**Absent: Klarides**

If you would like to help advance this important bill, please identify your senator or representative, or one who you know or have some connection with, and contact him/her to tell him/her that you strongly agreed, or disagreed, with his/her vote on this issue. Legislators pay attention to these indications of approval/disapproval. All in all, it was a very good day. Let's keep it moving. - Becky and John

### *More About Becca Lazarus and Her Family: Our March 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting Speakers.*

**BECCA LAZARUS** is 12 years old, and an honor student in 7th grade at Sage Park Middle School in Windsor Connecticut. She is an only child with two dogs and one cat, and enjoys history, science, math and music. She plays alto saxophone in the competition jazz band in school, and is a member of the Windsor Fife and Drum Corps. She is also an avid sport player of many kinds. She loves softball, football, basketball and volleyball. But the one thing that Becca is most impassioned about is human rights and civil justice. Her passion comes from the fact that she has been raised by her two dads for the past 8 years.

Becca's life started out like that of many children, with one Mom and one Dad, but at the age of 2 her mother was diagnosed with a terminal disease and she died shortly after Becca turned 3. After her Mother died her father brought her to Mary's Place, a center for grieving children. Here she learned that she was not the only child that had lost a parent at an early age. It also was the first time that she was asked to speak on National Public Radio. She spoke after Princess Diana's death on a radio station, on how she was dealing with the loss of her mother.

She lived with her father alone for two years, and then at the age of 5 her other Dad, which she refers to as Pops, moved into the house. This was a very difficult time, as well as a very happy time for Becca. Many in her family, and the town in which she lived made very negative comments about her Dad and his partner, but even at the age of 5 she knew just what to say to make people understand. People may have not agreed with her family's make-up, but they never questioned that her two Dads weren't great parents to her.

At the age of 9 Becca and her family took their first trip to Provincetown, MA for Family Week. Much to their surprise they were surrounded by 500 other families that were similar to theirs. At this point Becca became involved with COLAGE for the first time. COLAGE stands for "Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere". And when they say everywhere, they mean everywhere: USA, Canada, and Europe. At this point Becca acquired her voice, and started to understand that there were people out there that not only disagreed with her family's way of life, but also were vocal, and sometimes could be physical about it. When she was 10 years old, during Family Week, there were a few bus loads of angry Family Institute people who were handing out bags of goodies to children with gay parents, and trying to tell them that their parents were going to burn in hell. This made her so angry that people felt this way about her parents without them even knowing them, that she has made it her lifelong goal to educate all people about families like hers, and to fight for human rights in any way she can.

#### **Highlights of Becca's life from age 10:**

1. Age 10- Becca started a chapter of COLAGE in CT. She started with 4 other members, from all over the state.
2. Age 11-Her COLAGE Chapter, due to many different ways of getting the word out, has 10 families as members. They go bowling, hiking, have picnics at each other's house and get together in a safe space to talk with other kids like themselves.
3. Age 12-COLAGE Chapter now has 20-25 families
  - She has spoken on one National Public Radio station out of Atlanta and on February 15<sup>th</sup> spoke at another.
  - Parents held a Legislative house meeting with their Representative, Faith McMahan, to try and get her to help with the Marriage Equality legislation. After Becca spoke she not only said she would help, but asked if Becca would talk to the house and the senate when the bill is introduced.
  - Asked to attend a youth leadership conference in Dallas from Family Pride and COLAGE. At this meeting she met with other COLAGE Leaders (most over the age of 18), and was asked to talk about how she started her successful group, got involved with politics, and gets the word out to everyone in her state. She was also asked if she is thinking of joining the board for COLAGE. She was the youngest person in the country asked to do this. Although this was a great honor, and she would make a great contribution to COLAGE chapters all over the country, her parents said no, for now.
  - Asked by Love Makes A Family to speak about her family at a press conference for Marriage Equality.
4. As of today, Becca has been quoted in 12 newspapers, on the Associated Press Wire, and has been discussed on at least 3 internet blogs.

Becca continues her fight for civil and human rights and hopes to someday be a human rights' attorney.

***Our thanks to Becca, and her dads, for speaking at our March meeting, and for your courage to advocate for equal marriage rights!***

**PARENTING - ACCEPTING AN IDENTITY, AND GAINING STRENGTH***The New York Times, April 1, 2007**By Michael Winerip*

MADISON, Conn.

One month before Zach O'Connor, a seventh grader at Brown Middle School here, came out about being gay, he was in such turmoil that he stood up in homeroom and, in a voice everyone could hear, asked a girl out on a date. It was Valentine's Day 2003, and Zach was 13. "I was doing this to survive," he says. "This is what other guys were doing, getting girlfriends. I should get one, too."

He feared his parents knew the truth about him. He knew that his father had typed in a Google search starting with "g," and several other recent "g" searches had popped up, including "gay." "They asked me, 'Do you know what being gay is?'" he recalls. "They tried to explain there's nothing wrong with it. I put my hands over my ears. Yelled: 'I don't want to hear it! I'm not, I'm not gay!'"

Cindy and Dan O'Connor were very worried about Zach. Though bright, he was doing poorly at school. At home, he would pick fights, slam doors, explode for no reason. They wondered how their two children could be so different; Matt, a year and a half younger, was easygoing and happy. Zach was miserable.

The O'Connors had hunches. Mr. O'Connor is a director of business development for American Express, Ms. O'Connor a senior vice president of a bank, and they have had gay colleagues, gay bosses, classmates who came out after college. From the time Zach was little, they knew he was not a run-of-the-mill boy. His friends were girls or timid boys. "Zach had no interest in throwing a football," Mr. O'Connor says. But their real worry was his anger, his unhappiness, his low self-esteem. "He'd say, 'I'm not smart. I'm not like other kids,'" says Ms. O'Connor. The middle-school psychologist started seeing him daily. The misery Zach caused was minor compared with the misery he felt. He says he knew he was different by kindergarten, but he had no name for it, so he would stay to himself. He tried sports, but, he says, "It didn't work out well." He couldn't remember the rules. In fifth grade, when boys at recess were talking about girls they had crushes on, Zach did not have someone to name.

By sixth grade, he knew what "gay" meant, but didn't associate it with himself. That year, he says, "I had a crush on one particular eighth-grade boy, a very straight jock. I knew whatever I was feeling I shouldn't talk about it." He considered himself a broken version of a human being. "I did think about suicide," he says.

Then, for reasons he can't wholly explain beyond pure desperation, a month after his Valentine date - "We never actually went out, just walked around school together" - in the midst of math class, he told a female friend. By day's end it was all over school. The psychologist called him in. "I burst into tears," he recalls. "I said, 'Yes, it's true.' Every piece of depression came pouring out. It was such a mess."

That night, when his mother got home from work, she stuck her head in his room to say hi. "I said, 'Ma, I need to talk to you about something, I'm gay.' She said, 'O.K., anything else?' 'No, but I just told you I'm gay.' 'O.K., that's fine, we still love you.' I said, 'That's it?' I was preparing for this really dramatic moment."

Ms. O'Connor recalls, "He said, 'Mom, aren't you going to freak out?' I said: 'It's up to you to decide who to love. I have your father, and you have to figure out what's best for you.' He said, 'Don't tell Dad.'" "Of course I told him," Ms. O'Connor says. "With all our faults," Mr. O'Connor says, "we're in this together."

Having a son come out so young was a lot of work for the parents. They found him a therapist who is gay, 20 miles away in New Haven. The therapist helped them find a gay youth group, OutSpoken, a 50-minute drive away in Norwalk. Dan Woog, a writer and longtime soccer coach at Staples High in Westport, helped found OutSpoken in 1993. He says for the first 10 years, the typical member was 17 to 22 years old. "They'd come in saying, 'I'm gay. My life is over,'" Mr. Woog says, "One literally hyperventilated walking through the door." But in recent years, he says, the kids are 14 to 17 and more confident. "They say: 'Hi, I'm gay. How do I meet people?'"

For the first 10 years, Mr. Woog never saw a parent; meetings were from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, so members could get out of the house without arousing suspicion. Now, he says, parents often bring the child to the first meeting. He believes teenagers are coming out sooner because the Internet makes them feel less isolated and they're seeing positive role models in the media. Indeed, Zach says he spent his first therapy session talking about the gay characters on the TV show "Will and Grace" as a way to test the therapist's attitudes before talking about himself.

Still, seventh grade was not easy. "We heard kids across the street yelling 'homo' as he waited for the school bus," Mr. O'Connor says. Zach says classmates tossed pencils at him and constantly mocked him. "One kid followed me class to class calling me 'faggot,'" he says. "After a month I turned and punched him in the face. He got quiet and walked away. I said, 'You got beat up by a faggot.'"

The O'Connors say middle-school officials were terrific, and by eighth grade the tide turned. Zach was let out 15 minutes early and walked across the football field to Daniel Hand High School to attend the gay-straight club.

Knowing who he was, he could envision a future and felt a sense of purpose. His grades went up. He had friends. For an assignment about heroes, a girl in his class wrote about him, and Zach used her paper to come out to his Aunt Kathy. He still wasn't athletic, but to the family's surprise, coming out let out a beautiful voice. He won the middle school's top vocal award. ...

Now, as a 17-year-old 11th grader, Zach has passed through phases that many gay men of previous generations didn't get to until their 20s, 30s, even 40s. "Eighth grade was kind of his militant time," Mr. O'Connor says. "Everything was a rainbow," says Ms. O'Connor. These days, Zach is so busy he rarely has time for the gay-straight club. He's in several singing and drama groups and is taking an SAT prep course. "I've been out so long, I don't really need the club as a resource," he says. "I'm not going to say I'm popular, but I'm friendly with nearly everybody. Sophomore year, my social life skyrocketed." In music groups he made male friends for the first time. "They weren't afraid of me," he says. "They like me." ...

As for his parents, they're happy that Zach's happy. "Coming out was the best thing for him," Ms. O'Connor says.



### **OUR PREJUDICES, OURSELVES**

*By Harvey Fierstein, Published: April 13, 2007*

AMERICA is watching Don Imus's self-immolation in a state of shock and awe. And I'm watching America with wry amusement. Since I'm a second-class citizen—a gay man—my seats for the ballgame of American discourse are way back in the bleachers. I don't have to wait long for a shock jock or stand-up comedian to slip up with hateful epithets aimed at me and mine. Hate speak against homosexuals is as commonplace as spam. It's daily traffic for those who profess themselves to be regular Joes, men of God, public servants who live off my tax dollars, as well as any number of celebrities. In fact, I get a good chuckle whenever someone refers to "the media" as an agent of "the gay agenda." There are entire channels, like Spike TV, that couldn't fill an hour of programming if required to remove their sexist and homophobic content. We've got a president and a large part of Congress willing to change the Constitution so they can deprive of us our rights because they feel we are not "normal."

So I'm used to catching foul balls up here in the cheap seats. What I am really enjoying is watching the rest of you act as if you had no idea that prejudice was alive and well in your hearts and minds. For the past two decades political correctness has been derided as a surrender to thin-skinned, humorless, uptight oversensitive sissies. Well, you anti-politically correct people have won the battle, and we're all now feasting on the spoils of your victory. During the last few months alone we've had a few comedians spout racism, a basketball coach put forth anti-Semitism and several high-profile spoutings of anti-gay epithets.

What surprises me, I guess, is how choosy the anti-P.C. crowd is about which hate speech it will not tolerate. Sure, there were voices of protest when the TV actor Isaiah Washington called a gay colleague a "faggot." But corporate America didn't pull its advertising from "Grey's Anatomy," as it did with Mr. Imus, did it? And when Ann Coulter likewise tagged a presidential candidate last month, she paid no real price. In fact, when Bill Maher discussed Ms. Coulter's remarks on his HBO show, he repeated the slur no fewer than four times himself; each mention, I must note, solicited a laugh from his audience. No one called for any sort of apology from him. (Well, actually, I did, so the following week he only used it once.) Face it, if a Pentagon general, his salary paid with my tax dollars, can label homosexual acts as "immoral" without a call for his dismissal, who are the moral high and mighty kidding?

Our nation, historically bursting with generosity toward strangers, remains remarkably unkind toward its own. Just under our gleaming patina of inclusiveness, we harbor corroding guts. America, I tell you that it doesn't matter how many times you brush your teeth. If your insides are rotting your breath will stink. So, how do you people choose which hate to embrace, which to forgive with a wink and a week in rehab, and which to protest? Where's my copy of that rule book?

Let me cite a non-volatile example of how prejudice can cohabit unchecked with good intentions. I am a huge fan of David Letterman's. I watch the opening of his show a couple of times a week and have done so for decades. Without fail, in his opening monologue or skit Mr. Letterman makes a joke about someone being fat. I kid you not. Will that destroy our nation? Should he be fired or lose his sponsors? Obviously not. But I think that there is something deeper going on at the Letterman studio than coincidence. And, as I've said, I cite this example simply to illustrate that all kinds of prejudice exist in the human heart. Some are harmless. Some not so harmless. But we need to understand who we are if we wish to change. (In the interest of full disclosure, I should confess to not only being a gay American, but also a fat one. Yes, I'm a double winner.)

I urge you to look around, or better yet, listen around and become aware of the prejudice in everyday life. We are so surrounded by expressions of intolerance that I am in shock and awe that anyone noticed all these recent high-profile instances. Still, I'm gladdened because our no longer being deaf to them may signal their eventual eradication.

The real point is that you cannot harbor malice toward others and then cry foul when someone displays intolerance against you. Prejudice tolerated is intolerance encouraged. Rise up in righteousness when you witness the words and deeds of hate, but only if you are willing to rise up against them all, including your own. Otherwise suffer the slings and arrows of disrespect silently.

*Harvey Fierstein is an actor and playwright.*

## **OUT FILM CT RECEIVES 2007 CONNECTICUT CULTURE & TOURISM AWARD**

Out Film CT, producer of the Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival is pleased to announce that the Festival has been selected to receive the 2007 "Outstanding Project Award" by the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism. This award is in recognition for bringing twenty years of outstanding LGBT Films to Connecticut audiences.

The Connecticut Culture & Tourism Awards recognize outstanding achievement and lasting contributions to the Arts, History, Film and Tourism Fields in our state. The award will be presented as part of the 2007 Governor's Conference on Culture & Tourism, by the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, in partnership with the Arts Council of Greater New Haven and the Greater New Haven Convention and Visitors Bureau. Held on May 1st and 2nd, this year's conference theme, "Turn It On...The Power of Connecticut," illuminates the strong alliance among the state's arts, history, film and tourism industries.

"This conference brings together the great minds of professionals in the culture and tourism fields and provides them the opportunity to further collaborate in promoting all Connecticut has to offer," said Governor M. Jodi Rell. "Gaining knowledge and inspiration from one another is critical to continuing the great work that sustains the state's economic vitality."

"These awards recognize the individuals who work tirelessly to improve and enhance the arts, history, film and tourism in Connecticut," said Karen Senich, acting executive director of the Commission on Culture & Tourism. "Their work and passion speak to everyone in the tourism and culture industries."

Festival Director Dan Millett stated, "This award recognizes the Film Festival's reputation as Connecticut's longest running and one of the most respected cultural organizations in the state. At the same time, the award is an acknowledgement of the important role that GLBT organizations play in Connecticut's cultural landscape." He went on to say, "It is particularly meaningful that we have received this award in 2007 as the festival celebrates its 20th year. It has truly been a labor of love for the many volunteers involved in the organization of the festival."

In addition, on May 2nd, Shane Engstrom, Secretary of Out Film CT will be given a Culture & Tourism Distinguished Advocate Award. Recipients of the Distinguished Advocate Awards are Connecticut residents who, without monetary compensation, have worked to strengthen, preserve or promote the arts, history, film and tourism in the state and made a significant impact on one or more organizations, or have made important contributions to their communities, regions or the state.

**The 20th Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival will be held June 1-9, 2007 at Cinestudio, on the campus of Trinity College in Hartford.** It will feature nine days of LGBT feature films, documentaries and short films, with Opening and Closing Night parties, a silent auction and other special events to be announced.

### **POETRY CORNER**

*After the words, a quiet.*

*After the songs, the silence.*

*After the crowd has scattered, only the trampled grass recalls the gathering.*

*Peace and justice have need of you after the words and the music and the gathering.*

*God grant you the depth for dedication to justice.*

*God grant you the will to be a solitary apostle of peace.*

*Words by Max Alden Coots*

**Connecticut PFLAG Meetings**

**PFLAG HARTFORD:** Information on front page or at [www.pflaghartford.org](http://www.pflaghartford.org)

**PFLAG NORWALK/SOUTHWESTERN CT**

When: First Wednesday of every month, 7:30 pm  
 Where: Triangle Cmnty. Center, 16 River St. Norwalk  
 Help Line: (203) 226-0257 or (203) 438-0530  
 Email: PFLAGSWCT@yahoo.com

**PFLAG NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT:**

Contact: Diane (860) 435-2738

**PFLAG MADISON/SHORELINE**

No Meetings  
 Email: davidwinthropknapp@yahoo.com  
 Help Line: (203) 453-1395

**PFLAG GROTON (NOANK) /SOUTHEASTERN CT**

When: Second Monday of every month  
 5:30-6:30 Potluck Dinner  
 6:30-8:00 Meeting  
 Where: Noank Baptist Church, 18 Cathedral Heights  
 (Childcare is available)  
 For Information call Mike (860) 447-0884

**PFLAG GREATER NEW HAVEN**

When: Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30 pm  
 Where: Church of the Redeemer  
 Corner: Whitney Ave./Cold Spring St., NH  
 Help Line: (203) 907-0518  
 Email: greaternewhavenpflag@yahoo.com

**Central and Western Massachusetts**

**Williamstown Area:**

When: Second Sunday of every month, 2 pm  
 Where: First Congregational Church, Williamstown  
 Contact: (413) 243-2382

**Springfield Area:**

When: Last Wednesdays, every month, 7 pm  
 Where: South Congregational Church  
 45 Maple Street, Springfield  
 Contact: (413) 732-3240 or (413) 783-7709

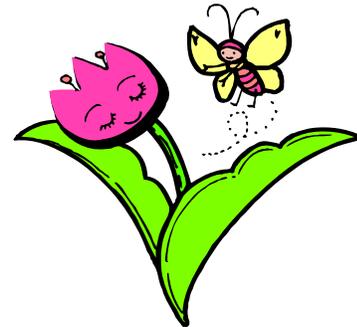
**Greenfield, MA**

Help Line: 413/625-6636  
 E-Mail: [PFLAGPV@valinet.com](mailto:PFLAGPV@valinet.com)

**CARING IS THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PFLAG HARTFORD**

*Caring* welcomes articles, letters and other submissions for publication.

**Deadline:** 15<sup>th</sup> of even numbered months.  
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