

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH--ELECTION DAY!

Voting issues will include: "Shall there be a Constitutional Convention?" PLEASE VOTE **NO**
Visit the website of Vote No: Protect Our Constitution (<http://www.ctvoteno.org/>)



CONNECTICUT GRANTS MARRIAGE RIGHTS TO SAME-SEX COUPLES!



The Voice of PFLAG Hartford

Caring

Volume 17, No. 6

November/December 2008

IN THE PFLAG HARTFORD FAMILY:

BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED AT THE SEPTEMBER ANNUAL MEETING:

John & Becky Glezen; Jean Cormier; Joan Jansen; Karen Pallotti; Rose & Larry Pysh; David Owens; Donna Shubrooks; John Currie. Thank-you to all for your continued contributions to PFLAG Hartford.

Stepping down after many years of faithful service are John Franklin and Gary Gianini. Thank-you for your dedication to our chapter.

OUR SPEAKER FOR THE NOVEMBER 19TH MEETING is Dennis J. Schleicher. (See article on page 5 for more information). Be sure not to miss it!

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

REFRESHMENT REMINDER:

- November 19 – Valerie P.
- December 17 – John B.
- January 21 - Charlotte & Glen
- February 18 – Chrissy & Mitch

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

- Student/Limited Income: \$10
- Household Membership: \$40
- Individual Membership: \$25

UPCOMING PFLAG HARTFORD BOARD MEETING
7:00 p.m., November 11
Hosted by Rose & Larry

*Please make your check payable to **PFLAG Hartford** and Send it to: Joan Jansen, 12 Colchester Commons, Colchester, CT 06415*

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 or contact us at 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 (860) 878-5256 or Kasha - 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 lizy@hglhc.org
- **CT TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE, Thursday, November 20.** For information, go to enews@transadvocacy.com

VICTORY! SAME-SEX COUPLES CAN MARRY IN CONNECTICUT

October 10, 2008

We are overjoyed that Connecticut’s highest court has fulfilled the hopes and dreams of so many by ruling that same-sex couples are free to marry.

Thanks to the Supreme Court’s momentous decision in *Kerrigan & Mock et al. v. Department of Public Health*, Connecticut is now a fairer, more equitable place for all. This historic ruling will provide additional security and respect to the thousands of loving, committed same-sex couples and their children living in our state.

Love Makes a Family applauds the wisdom and fairness of the Connecticut Supreme Court. More importantly, however, future generations will recognize this court’s foresight, which once again establishes Connecticut as a national leader in treating all its citizens equally in the eyes of the law.

Our friends and partners at GLAD—along with their local co-counsel—deserve tremendous gratitude for the passion and legal skill they brought to this case. Special thanks must also be given to the eight plaintiff couples who have been the public faces of this historic lawsuit for the last four years. Their willingness to share their lives and dreams with the court and the people of Connecticut made today’s victory possible.

Finally, we want to thank the thousands and thousands of Love Makes a Family members and supporters across this state. For eight years you have worked tirelessly to educate your friends, neighbors and elected officials. You have been the voices of equality, and today your voices have been heard and heeded.

Today same-sex couples, who have made a lifelong promise to take care of and be responsible for each other, celebrate being welcomed into one of society’s most fundamental institutions. And today, Connecticut can proudly and appropriately claim its nickname, “The Constitution State.”

Sincerely,

Anne Stanback, LMF Executive Director



“THAT’S SO GAY”

I’m proud to announce that the Ad Council has partnered with GLSEN, an organization for which I volunteer, to produce the **Think B4 You Speak** campaign to address teenagers’ use of “that’s so gay.” Three PSAs are being launched... One features Hilary Duff, another with Wandy Sykes, and my favorite with Emma & Julia. :-)

View all three PSAs here: [http://thinkb4youspeak.com/...](http://thinkb4youspeak.com/)

Peace,

Leif Mitchell

Co-chair, GLSEN Connecticut

“HOPE GOES INTERNATIONAL” A MESSAGE FROM JODY M. HUCKABY

September 2008

Dear PFLAG Family and Friends,

Although we each know just how much work remains to be done in our struggle for LGBT equality here at home, we often forget that, despite the obstacles before us, many other families around the globe face even more daunting hurdles. During the past month, PFLAG has been working on the international stage to bring our message of love and support for every family to every corner of the globe.

In August, PFLAG was the only national U.S. advocacy and support group at the World AIDS Conference in Mexico City. We partnered with the Family Acceptance Project, led by renowned researcher and social worker Caitlin Ryan of the Cesar Chavez Institute and Center for Research on Gender and Sexuality; Asociación Internacional De Familias Por La Diversidad Sexual; and Luis Perelman, a Mexico-based counselor and business leader. Thousands of people, from all walks of life, gathered in Mexico, where PFLAG was honored to convene a first-of-its-kind support circle at the conference.

PFLAG National president John Cepek, his wife Char, and Kim Jones, PFLAG’s newly appointed chapter diversity outreach manager, found people “moved to tears,” as Kim reported on our blog, as they considered the importance of family in their lives and the impact families can have in both positive and negative ways. “One mother named Rosa,” Kim wrote, “who became an activist after the death of her child from AIDS, shared her story in the press conference . . . She said, ‘I believe that my homophobia and the homophobia of my family contributed to my son contracting AIDS. If we had been more accepting, maybe he would be alive today.’”

Kim and the Cepeks were also joined in Mexico by Nila Marrone [a former member of PFLAG Hartford] and Carmen Robello, leaders of our PFLAG chapter of New York for Families of Color and Allies, who led a poignant discussion about including the transgender and gender-variant community in safe schools work.

Sincerely,

Jody M. Huckaby

Executive Director

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE GOOD WORKS OF PFLAG HARTFORD WITH A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION OF:

\$ _____ My name: _____

Please cut out this coupon and mail it with your check (made payable to PFLAG Hartford) to our Treasurer, Joan Jansen, 12 Colchester Commons, Colchester, CT 06415.

PFLAG Hartford has been available as a resource for support to families and friends of GLBTI people in Greater Hartford, and beyond, for over 20 years. We are staffed solely by volunteers, and depend heavily on contributions to enable us to continue to educate and advocate for an end to discrimination and to make this a safer world for our GLBTI loved ones.

Your help is greatly appreciated.



We have much to be thankful for, and we are especially thankful to those who fought so hard to gain marriage rights for same-sex couples in Connecticut. Sweet victory!



PEPSICO ANNOUNCES \$500,000 GIFT

In an extraordinary demonstration of its commitment to equality, progress and building allied communities, the PepsiCo Foundation has announced a record \$500,000 gift for PFLAG's Straight for Equality program. The Foundation's gift, which will be used to expand workplace training, support chapter-based projects and for the creation of new Straight for Equality outreach tools, will be distributed over the course of the next two years.

"PepsiCo has provided PFLAG with an enormous gift, and an unparalleled opportunity, to demonstrate the power we have to create change, no matter where we are, or who we are," said PFLAG executive director Jody M. Huckaby. "Because of the Foundation's generosity and commitment, we now have the resources to produce materials for our chapters to use in their communities, and to create critically important conversations, in every corner of our country."

PFLAG launched Straight for Equality in October 2007 in an effort to invite and engage new allies for equality. The program, designed to reach the straight ally who doesn't necessarily have a family connection in the traditional PFLAG sense, has been hailed as an effective and unique model for reaching new potential allies who share PFLAG's commitment to equality for all.

"The challenge wasn't just figuring out how to talk to these potential supporters," said PFLAG national president John Cepek. "It was about finding the place where, on a national level, we could get the conversation started, and keep up the momentum moving forward."

The PepsiCo Foundation gift, the company said, is intended to continue building and implementing the unique Straight for Equality approach to relationship building.

"We are delighted to continue our partnership with PFLAG," stated Jacqueline Millan, Director of PepsiCo Corporate Contributions. "The Straight for Equality in the Workplace training program is unique in that it is promoting the necessary message of inclusion to untapped groups within the local community, and that is a crucial step towards building a healthy working environment."

The PepsiCo and PFLAG partnership is the result of a strong commitment to Straight for Equality by Peggy Moore, PepsiCo's former Senior Vice President of Human Resources, who now serves as a PFLAG National board member. Moore began the relationship in 2005 as PepsiCo conducted a strategic assessment about targeted investments for increasing LGBT diversity and inclusion within the company. Moore, in partnership with PepsiCo's EQUAL LGBT employee group, has been a champion of PFLAG and Straight for Equality, and an integral contributor to the program's philosophy.

PepsiCo Foundation's funding will provide important resources, and create additional Straight for Equality programs for use by PFLAG chapters.

**ACTION FUND APPLAUDS AMERICAN AIRLINES FOR INCLUSIVE ENDA STANCE**

In a public letter to the U.S. Congress, American Airlines recently announced its public support of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) that includes sexual orientation and gender identity protections. The Task Force Action Fund commends American Airlines for its stance.

"At the Task Force, we make it a point to partner with companies we consider to be uncompromising leaders in the fight for LGBT equality. A longtime supporter of the Task Force, American Airlines was one of the first companies to implement domestic partner benefits and workplace nondiscrimination policies covering both sexual orientation and gender identity. By publicly supporting a fully inclusive ENDA, it moved its commitment to the LGBT community beyond the walls of the workplace and is truly demonstrating its corporate principles and values both inside and outside the workplace. We thank American Airlines for walking the walk and going that all-important extra step to ensure its LGBT employees and the rest of the LGBT community is protected by sexual orientation and gender identity nondiscrimination policies."

— *Task Force Action Fund Executive Director Rea Carey*

THANK-YOU TO ALL OF OUR WEDNESDAY MEETING SPEAKERS.

Our September meeting speaker was Paul Knierim.

Paul is a lifelong Simsbury resident who has been involved in various public service capacities for most of his career. He has served as Simsbury Judge of Probate since 1999 and will be assuming additional responsibilities for oversight of the probate system as Probate Court Administrator beginning on October 1. He also chairs the Ethics Committee of the Probate Assembly.

Paul served as a State Representative in the Connecticut General Assembly from 1991 to 1997, where he was Ranking Member of the Education Committee and Assistant Minority Leader. He also served on the Judiciary Committee and was co-Chair of the Governor's Commission on School Choice. From 1997 to 1998, Paul was Simsbury's Town Meeting Moderator.

Apart from his public office duties, Paul practiced law in the estate planning and probate field for eleven years. In 2000, Paul embarked on a career change to pursue his creative interests. He attended trade school to learn cabinetmaking and, after working at a local shop, started his own kitchen design and renovation business in 2003.

Paul has been together with his partner Greg for 14 years. Paul's father, a retired probate judge, performed a civil union ceremony for them in October 2005. In their free time, Paul and Greg enjoy hiking with their dog Jamie, and, in the summer, spending time in Rhode Island.

Paul is a graduate of Williams College and the Yale Law School.

Gannon Long spoke at our October meeting.

Gannon is a Community Organizer at Love Makes a Family, advocating for civil rights, particularly marriage equality, for the LGBT community. Before coming on board at LMF, she was a Communications Associate at The Institute for Community Research and Project Director for Readers as Leaders, both in Hartford. Born and raised in Hartford, Gannon graduated from Hartford Public High School in 2000 and The University of Chicago in 2004. Gannon is fortunate to have an extensive network of supportive friends and family who live in the Hartford area. Gannon's parents accompanied her to our meeting.

We were especially lucky to have Gannon speak to us at this time, since Connecticut just became the third state to allow same-sex couples to marry. As a community organizer for LMF, Gannon has been intimately involved with the work of achieving marriage equality in CT.

Dennis J. Schleicher will be our November 19th meeting speaker.

Dennis was launched into national prominence in 1990 as an international spokesperson for the gay community after a high school incident where he was beaten up by his peers because he was gay. At the time this happened, he was invited to 7 national TV talk shows including "Larry King Live" and "Sally Jessy Raphael" to tell his story, a story that ultimately became the impetus to write his now best-selling memoir, "Forbidden Love With a Married Man." In addition to working on his second book "The Other Man," he has a weekly radio call-in show, "Talk Is Cheap." Schleicher has become the international spokesperson for the genre of gay married men. He gets calls from all over the world from people who are like himself--dating a married man--and women who have been questioning their husbands' sexual orientations. He does an AOL chat room every Sunday for married men looking for guidance to come out, and for men like himself, who found themselves trapped in a triangular moral dilemma being "The Other Man."

His weekly confidential Internet chats offer a safe haven for gay and bisexual men who are married to women and unsure of their identity. Don't miss it!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

DONNA'S MOVIE REVIEWS*by Donna Gore***"NORMAL" 2003, HBO Films, 108 Minutes**

Even before I popped it into the DVD player I knew I was in for a moving experience with accomplished stage and screen actress, Jessica Lange in a title role. I was vaguely familiar with actor Tom Wilkinson. However, I saw his name more and more lately in my choices of movies.

I usually cannot really appreciate the talent of writer/directors. However, in this case, I cannot give enough praise to lesbian writer/director, Jane Anderson. This DVD offers an intimate look at how this movie, about a loving and long-lasting marriage just happened to be interrupted ...and nearly torn apart by the realization that the husband is transgender. Ms. Anderson's look behind the scenes is just as wonderful as the movie. Her sensitivity, desire to make this movie not about "doom and gloom", but about everlasting love with humor at times, says so much about her true understanding and respect for the transgendered community.

The movie's central characters are Roy and Irma Applewood, presumed from Ohio farm country. We are introduced to them at their 25th Anniversary party, which looks like your typical 1950's pot luck dinner with streamers. Roy is so overcome by the thought of revealing his new/true identity that he faints at his own party!

Throughout the movie, I marveled at Irma's incredible strength and loyalty. How does she do it? The why is obvious - she still loves her husband above anything else.

My question is, why was this movie relegated to the \$3.00 bin at Big Lots? It deserves multiple Academy Awards.

"WILDE" (The Story of The Life and Times of Oscar Wilde)

This is an enjoyable movie. Writers have attempted to remain true to actual events. The acting is top notch, particularly Stephen Fry, Jude Law and Tom Wilkinson. However, Oscar Wilde's plight in life is oh so sad. He was eloquent, caring, compassionate and a wonderful writer. He may have been the person who spearheaded the coming out process for gays and bisexuals. However, for his trouble, he paid a very high price for his salacious ways. Indeed, he made no apologies and related at his trial that, in particular, the affection toward a younger man by an intelligent older male is all part of nature. The spoiled and immature Bozie did not deserve his undying loyalty. Alas, Oscar lost his dedicated wife to illness and his two sons. Moral of the story, never give up everything for a "pretty boy," no matter how pretty!

ROAD TO TRANSEQUALITY IN '09**"17 Years And Counting . . . We've Waited Far Too Long Already!"**

It was 1991 when Connecticut's sexual orientation anti-discrimination bill was passed, without trans inclusion. It was 2008 when the Connecticut Supreme Court recognized Marriage Equality. It is quickly becoming 2009 and the Trans and Gender Non-Conforming Communities still lack basic human rights protections in Connecticut! The time has come for **TransEquality in '09...**

Over the last few days my heart has been lifted by people coming up to me and saying: "Now that we have Marriage Equality, we must work hard to secure Transgender Equality in Connecticut." And to this I say AMEN! Our motto as an inclusive community must be: Marriage Equality in '08, Trans Equality in '09!

Unfortunately the Trans and Gender non-conforming community and organizations do not carry the financial or even the sweat equity prowess that our Gay, Lesbian and ally organizations do. However we do have a passion and desire for Equality, as we have shown in our struggles hand in hand with our LGB sisters and brothers and allies in the Marriage Equality battle. And so we need to impose upon the dedication you showed to Marriage Equality to share this energy with the trans community to assure we achieve Transgender Equality in '09!

Two years ago we nearly passed the Trans inclusive anti-discrimination bill with nearly unanimous bi-partisan support. However we fell short in the final days of the session for a variety of reasons. We cannot allow this to happen in '09 and over the next few months we will need our community and our allies to work with us: to talk one on one with their legislators, to hold house parties, to partake in our lobby days, to visit, call and write your legislators, to engage your loved ones and friends in the Trans Equality movement, and many other steps to assure that we can truly say: **Marriage Equality in '08, Transgender Equality in '09!**

peace, love and solidarity,
jerimarie liesegang, director
Ct TransAdvocacy Coalition

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORY: If you would like to advertise your business/service in *Caring* for one year (6 issues), send your business card and a check for \$40 (made payable to PFLAG Hartford) to: Jean Cormier, 156 Randal Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06110. Your Patronage of our advertisers, who help us pay the costs of sending the *Caring* newsletter to you, would be greatly appreciated by them and by us. Please mention that you saw their advertisement in *Caring*.

Healing begins within the heart...



Elliott M. Strick, M.A.
 Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist
(860) 231-8459

2446 Albany Ave., Suite 304
 West Hartford, CT 06117
 www.elliottstrick.com

Couples, Individuals & Families
 AAMFT Clinical Member

HGLHC
Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective
Be well, Be yourself.

P.O. Box 2094
 Hartford, CT
 06145-2094
 tel 860/278-4163
 fax 860/278-5995
www.hglhc.org

Gregory Banks Counseling, LLC
 Licensed Professional Counselor



Providing professional counseling services for children and adults in individual, couples, and family settings.

Office: 318 Main Street in Farmington, CT
 Phone: 860.841.6574

Office@GBanksCounseling.com www.GBanksCounseling.com

ELLEN R. FRANKLIN, MA, LPC
 Psychotherapist

The Canal House
 128 Garden Street
 Farmington CT

tel 860-678-7206
 fax 860-679-9271
 ellenfranklin01@aol.com

mail PO Box 1614
 Avon CT 06001

Gary S. Gianini, LCSW
 Individuals, Couples & Families

Psychotherapy & Counseling
 674 Prospect Avenue
 Hartford, CT 06105

Ph: 806-655-1562
 FAX: 860-231-1960

strengthening the spirit, healing the heart

Jennifer Guarino
 Sales Executive




Prudential
 Connecticut Realty

7 North Main Street
 West Hartford, CT 06107
 Bus 860 521-8100 Fax 860 521-7604
 Cell 860 751-9773 VM 860 313-4773
 jenniferguarino@prudentialCT.com



An independently owned and operated member of Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.



Colburn Chiropractic, LLC
 Dr. Marla Colburn

310 Hartford Tpke
 Vernon, CT 06066

Ph: (860) 730-2996
 Fax: (860) 730-3236
 drncolburn@gmail.com

Connecticut PFLAG Meetings

PFLAG HARTFORD: Information on front page or at www.pflaghartford.org

PFLAG NORWALK/SOUTHWESTERN CT

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

PFLAG NORTHWESTERN CT:

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, 7:00-8:30
Where: Noank Baptist Church, 18 Cathedral Heights
Helpline: (860) 447-0884
Email: robertmarrion@sbcglobal.net
 or www.pflagsect.org

PFLAG GREATER NEW HAVEN

When: Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30 pm
Where: Church of the Redeemer
 Corner: Whitney Ave./185 Cold Spring St., NH
Help Line: (203) 458-0493
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:

Where: Agawam
Contact: (413) 732-3240 or (413) 783-7709

Greenfield, MA

Help Line: 413/625-6636
E-Mail: PFLAGPV@valinet.com

CARING IS THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PFLAG HARTFORD

Editor/Circulation Manager: Jean Cormier

Caring welcomes articles, letters and other submissions for publication.

Deadline: 15th of even numbered months.
 Send articles to: *Jean Cormier, 156 Randal Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06110*

VICTORY IN CONNECTICUT! SAME-SEX COUPLES NOW HAVE EQUAL MARRIAGE RIGHTS



WE DO!



STRAIGHT SPOUSE SUPPORT NETWORK:

*In Connecticut and Western Massachusetts
Monthly Support Group, Third Sunday,
West Hartford, CT.*

*Contact Jane Harris at (413) 625-6636 or
janenrosie48@yahoo.com or at
www.straightspouse.org*

*In Southern Connecticut
Call Joan Rolnick at (203) 438-0530 or
janenrosie@hotmail.com*

FOR OTHER PFLAG LOCATIONS

*Contact a Hartford Chapter Board Member or
call the National PFLAG office at (202)638-
4200. You may also sign onto PFLAG's Home
Page at www.pflag.org.*