



WISHING YOU A SAFE & JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON



## *The Voice of PFLAG Hartford*

# *Caring*

**Volume 18, No. 6**

**November/December 2009**

### IN THE PFLAG HARTFORD FAMILY:

**THANK-YOU** to our very special September meeting guest speakers, the **Rev. George Chien** and the **Rev. Julio Flores**, Pastor and Associate Pastor, respectively, of Metropolitan Community Church in Hartford. We appreciated hearing your stories of coming out to both your families and your church family. You were both an inspiration and a delight to have at our meeting.

**ANOTHER THANK-YOU** goes to our October guest speaker, Carol Buckheit, Executive Director for Love Makes a Family. Carol has had a variety of roles, from community organizing to fundraising. Her real love has been working with same-sex couples, parents, allies, clergy and families, helping them to tell their personal stories in the Connecticut media and in the community. She believes these "storytellers" have been the most effective agents for change in the LGBT civil rights movement. Thank you for telling us about this wonderful organization and your work there.

**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 at (860) 633-7184 or Becky & John at (860) 633-5111.

### **REFRESHMENT REMINDER:**

**November 18 – Jean C.**

**December 16 – Meghan & Bob**

**January 20 – Noreen W.**

**February 17 – Charlotte & Glen**

### **MEMBERSHIP DUES:**

Student/Limited Income: \$10

Household Membership: \$40

Individual Membership: \$25

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

**UPCOMING PFLAG  
HARTFORD  
BOARD MEETING  
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 12  
Hosted by Becky & John**

**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**

- **RAINBOWROOM:** (a program of the **Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective**) -- A welcoming place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and questioning "LGBTQ" teens (13-21 years old). RainbowRoom meets the third Sunday of every month, 3-6 p.m., 1841 Broad Street (Health Collective building), Hartford. For more information please visit our website at <http://www.hglhc.org/> or contact [lizy@hglhc.org](mailto:lizy@hglhc.org) or call 860/278-4163.
- **HGLHC TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP:** Group is currently not meeting. Updated information will be posted as changes are made. More Info at: <http://www.hglhc.org/> or [lizy@hglhc.org](mailto:lizy@hglhc.org) or call 860/278-4163.
- **TRANS SOFFA SUPPORT GROUP IN CONNECTICUT:** This is a group for Significant Others, Family, Friends and Allies of Transgendered, Transsexual and Gender Variant people (SOFFAs). Trans people who are SOFFAs are welcome. Meetings held on the 2nd 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.
- **CONNECTICUT CELEBRATES 1 YEAR MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY, Thursday, November 12,** at 3:30 p.m. on the north steps of the Capitol in Hartford for a group photo of all married and engaged same-sex couples in CT. Supporters welcome at a 3:45 p.m. reception in the Old Judiciary Room. The heroes who helped make marriage equality history, including Ben Klein, attorney in the *Kerrigan* case, will be there. RSVP at 860/525-7777 or visit [www.lmfct.org](http://www.lmfct.org) if you plan to attend.
- **ONE BIG EVENT,** Saturday, November 14, 6 p.m., Hilton Hartford Hotel. Cocktails; Live & Silent Auction; Dinner; Dancing; Entertainment. This is a fundraiser for the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective (HGLHC). Tickets: \$100/\$150/\$200. RSVP by October 30. Info at 860/278-4163 or [www.onebigevent.org](http://www.onebigevent.org).
- **TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE,** The CT TransAdvocacy Coalition and MCC/Hartford will observe Connecticut's 8th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance at 7 pm on Friday, November 20, at the MCC/ Hartford Church (155 Wyllys Street). We will remember twenty-one individuals murdered due to anti-transgender violence the past year. We are currently ascertaining logistics for an outside rally at the Capitol, preceding the inside event. Final details can be found at [TransAdvocacy.org](http://TransAdvocacy.org). All events are open to the public.

### **TRANSGENDER KIDS – NOT JUST A PHASE**

*From the Internet*

*Mommyblogger extraordinaire [Rita Arens](#) explores the unique situation of [transgender children](#) - and their parents - for [BlogHer](#).*

At [the] [BlogHer09 Conference](#), I sat down to lunch with friends in the basement of the Sheraton. A little later we were joined by a slim woman with short hair. She introduced herself, and we started talking about eco-stuff, as she is an eco blogger.

Then I sort of faded out of the conversation and snapped back in when she mentioned she is the parent of a transgendered child. A very young transgender child. I had to pause and shake off my initial thought, which I admit was, *But what if it's just a phase?* I might have said it. I hope I didn't. I'm sure [Jen Khatchatrian](#) hears that all the time. And before you click away from this post because it's off my normal beat, pull up a chair at this lunch table and join me to listen.

#### **Changing My Mind About Changing Gender**

I'd love to tell you that I'm the world's most open-minded person -- that I came out that way. But I didn't. I get messages every day from the media, from my life experiences, from friends, neighbors and family. I grew up thinking boys were boys and girls were girls and everyone was either Lutheran or going Straight To Hell. Nobody tried to brainwash me -- it was just the environment I grew up in. As I've traveled through my life, I've tried to stop and listen before making assumptions. I've tried and continue to try to let new facts filter in and shape my perceptions.

I went into the conversation thinking it was wrong to let a young child make the decision to change his or her gender. I came out of lunch thinking, *I have to help this woman find friends for her daughter. Her daughter who has a penis.* And I also thought, "This has to be the toughest parenting decision a person could have to make."

What changed my mind? Listening to Jen's story. She talked of her daughter's pain and isolation, how she asked, "Am I the only one?"

#### **How Far Would You Go to Help Your Kid?**

Can you imagine how you would feel if your child asked you if he or she was the only person in the world with such a primal problem? I thought of my own daughter and how I would do anything to help her grow up as secure and happy as possible. And I realized that if I were in Jen's place, I would be there at the therapist every week, just

like she is. I would be searching the world for other boys who believed they were girls. I would be traveling to transgender conferences wearing a T-shirt saying, "I'm from Chicago," just like Jen is.

We can't judge until we've walked in her shoes. Jen's certainly not crazy, and I doubt her kid is, either. We know many aspects of humanity operate on a spectrum, and gender is just another component of humanity.

▼

***(THIS ARTICLE IS LONG, BUT IT WILL MAKE YOU WANT TO STAND UP AND CHEER!)***

A personal manifesto of the brilliant Bible scholar, Dr. John Shelby Spong, retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, NJ.

**A MANIFESTO! THE TIME HAS COME!**

I have made a decision. I will no longer debate the issue of homosexuality in the church with anyone. I will no longer engage the biblical ignorance that emanates from so many right-wing Christians about how the Bible condemns homosexuality, as if that point of view still has any credibility.

I will no longer discuss with them or listen to them tell me how homosexuality is "an abomination to God," about how homosexuality is a "chosen lifestyle," or about how through prayer and "spiritual counseling" homosexual persons can be "cured." Those arguments are no longer worthy of my time or energy.

I will no longer dignify by listening to the thoughts of those who advocate "reparative therapy," as if homosexual persons are somehow broken and need to be repaired.

I will no longer talk to those who believe that the unity of the church can or should be achieved by rejecting the presence of, or at least at the expense of, gay and lesbian people.

I will no longer take the time to refute the unlearned and undocumentable claims of certain world religious leaders who call homosexuality "deviant."

I will no longer listen to that pious sentimentality that certain Christian leaders continue to employ, which suggests some version of that strange and overtly dishonest phrase that "we love the sinner but hate the sin." That statement is, I have concluded, nothing more than a self-serving /lie /designed to cover the fact that these people hate homosexual persons and fear homosexuality itself, but somehow know that hatred is incompatible with the Christ they claim to profess, so they adopt this face-saving and absolutely false statement.

I will no longer temper my understanding of truth in order to pretend that I have even a tiny smidgen of respect for the appalling negativity that continues to emanate from religious circles where the church has for centuries conveniently perfumed its ongoing prejudices against blacks, Jews, women and homosexual persons with what it assumes is "high-sounding, pious rhetoric." The day for that mentality has quite simply come to an end for me. I will personally neither tolerate it nor listen to it any longer.

The world has moved on, leaving these elements of the Christian Church that cannot adjust to new knowledge or a new consciousness lost in a sea of their own irrelevance. They no longer talk to anyone but themselves.

I will no longer seek to slow down the witness to inclusiveness by pretending that there is some middle ground between prejudice and oppression. There isn't. Justice postponed is justice denied. That can be a resting place no longer for anyone. An old civil rights song proclaimed that the only choice awaiting those who cannot adjust to a new understanding was to "Roll on over or we'll roll on over you!" Time waits for no one.

I will particularly ignore those members of my own Episcopal Church who seek to break away from this body to form a "new church," claiming that this new and bigoted instrument alone now represents the Anglican Communion. Such a new ecclesiastical body is designed to allow these pathetic human beings, who are so deeply locked into a world that no longer exists, to form a community in which they can continue to hate gay people, distort gay people with their hopeless rhetoric and to be part of a religious fellowship in which they can continue to feel justified in their homophobic prejudices for the rest of their tortured lives. Church unity can never be a virtue that is preserved by allowing injustice, oppression and psychological tyranny to go unchallenged.

In my personal life, I will no longer listen to televised debates conducted by "fair-minded" channels that seek to give "both sides" of this issue "equal time." I am aware that these stations no longer give equal time to the advocates of treating women as if they are the property of men or to the advocates of reinstating either segregation or slavery, despite the fact that when these evil institutions were coming to an end the Bible was still being quoted frequently on each of these subjects. It is time for the media to announce that there are no longer two sides to the issue of full humanity for gay and lesbian people. There is no way that justice for homosexual people can be compromised any longer.

I will no longer act as if the Papal office is to be respected if the present occupant of that office is either not willing or not able to inform and educate himself on public issues on which he dares to speak with embarrassing ineptitude.

I will no longer be respectful of the leadership of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who seems to believe that rude behavior, intolerance and even killing prejudice is somehow acceptable, so long as it comes from third-world religious leaders, who more than anything else reveal in themselves the price that colonial oppression has required of the minds and hearts of so many of our world's population. I see no way that ignorance and truth can be placed side by side, nor do I believe that evil is somehow less evil if the Bible is quoted to justify it.

I will dismiss as unworthy of any more of my attention the wild, false and uninformed opinions of such would-be religious leaders as Pat Robertson, James Dobson, Jerry Falwell, Jimmy Swaggart, Albert Mohler, and Robert Duncan. My country and my church have both already spent too much time, energy and money trying to accommodate these backward points of view when they are no longer even tolerable.

I make these statements because it is time to move on. The battle is over. The victory has been won. There is no reasonable doubt as to what the final outcome of this struggle will be. Homosexual people will be accepted as equal, full human beings, who have a legitimate claim on every right that both church and society have to offer any of us. Homosexual marriages will become legal, recognized by the state and pronounced holy by the church. "Don't ask, don't tell" will be dismantled as the policy of our armed forces. We will and we must learn that equality of citizenship is not something that should ever be submitted to a referendum. Equality under and before the law is a solemn promise conveyed to all our citizens in the Constitution itself. Can any of us imagine having a public referendum on whether slavery should continue, whether segregation should be dismantled, whether voting privileges should be offered to women? The time has come for politicians to stop hiding behind unjust laws that they themselves helped to enact, and to abandon that convenient shield of demanding a vote on the rights of full citizenship because they do not understand the difference between a constitutional democracy, which this nation has, and a "mobocracy," which this nation rejected when it adopted its constitution. We do not put the civil rights of a minority to the vote of a plebiscite.

I will also no longer act as if I need a majority vote of some ecclesiastical body in order to bless, ordain, recognize and celebrate the lives and gifts of gay and lesbian people in the life of the church. No one should ever again be forced to submit the privilege of citizenship in this nation or membership in the Christian Church to the will of a majority vote.

The battle in both our culture and our church to rid our souls of this dying prejudice is finished. A new consciousness has arisen. A decision has quite clearly been made. Inequality for gay and lesbian people is no longer a debatable issue in either church or state. Therefore, I will from this moment on refuse to dignify the continued public expression of ignorant prejudice by engaging it. I do not tolerate racism or sexism any longer. From this moment on, I will no longer tolerate our culture's various forms of homophobia. I do not care who it is who articulates these attitudes or who tries to make them sound holy with religious jargon.

I have been part of this debate for years, but things do get settled and this issue is now settled for me. I do not debate any longer with members of the "Flat Earth Society" either. I do not debate with people who think we should treat epilepsy by casting demons out of the epileptic person; I do not waste time engaging those medical opinions that suggest that bleeding the patient might release the infection. I do not converse with people who think that Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans as punishment for the sin of being the birthplace of Ellen DeGeneres or that the terrorists hit the United States on 9/11 because we tolerated homosexual people, abortions, feminism or the American Civil Liberties Union. I am tired of being embarrassed by so much of my church's participation in causes that are quite unworthy of the Christ I serve or the God whose mystery and wonder I appreciate more each day. Indeed I feel the Christian Church should not only apologize, but do public penance for the way we have treated people of color, women, adherents of other religions and those we designated heretics, as well as gay and lesbian people.

Life moves on. As the poet James Russell Lowell once put it more than a century ago: "New occasions teach new duties, Time makes ancient good uncouth." I am ready now to claim the victory. I will from now on assume it and live into it. I am unwilling to argue about it or to discuss it as if there are two equally valid, competing positions any longer. The day for that mentality has simply gone forever.

This is my manifesto and my creed. I proclaim it today. I invite others to join me in this public declaration. I believe that such a public outpouring will help cleanse both the church and this nation of its own distorting past. It will restore integrity and honor to both church and state. It will signal that a new day has dawned and we are ready not just to embrace it, but also to rejoice in it and to celebrate it.-- John Shelby Spong



**COMING OUT IN MIDDLE SCHOOL***By Benoit Denizet-Lewis, September 23, 2009*

Austin didn't know what to wear to his first gay dance last spring. It was bad enough that the gangly 13-year-old from Sand Springs, Okla., had to go without his boyfriend at the time, a 14-year-old star athlete at another middle school, but there were also laundry issues. "I don't have any clean clothes!" he complained to me by text message, his favored method of communication.

When I met up with him an hour later, he had weathered his wardrobe crisis (he was in jeans and a beige T-shirt with musical instruments on it) but was still a nervous wreck. "I'm kind of scared," he confessed. "Who am I going to talk to? I wish my boyfriend could come." But his boyfriend couldn't find anyone to give him a ride nor, Austin explained, could his boyfriend ask his father for one. "His dad would give him up for adoption if he knew he was gay," Austin told me. "I'm serious. He has the strictest, scariest dad ever. He has to date girls and act all tough so that people won't suspect."

Austin doesn't have to play "the pretend game," as he calls it, anymore. At his middle school, he has come out to his close friends, who have been supportive. A few of his female friends responded that they were bisexual. "Half the girls I know are bisexual," he said. He hadn't planned on coming out to his mom yet, but she found out a week before the dance. "I told my cousin, my cousin told this other girl, she told her mother, her mother told my mom and then my mom told me," Austin explained. "The only person who really has a problem with it is my older sister, who keeps saying: 'It's just a phase! It's just a phase!'"

Austin's mom was on vacation in another state during my visit to Oklahoma, so a family friend drove him to the weekly youth dance at the Openarms Youth Project in Tulsa, which is housed in a white cement-block building next to a redbrick Baptist church on the east side of town. We arrived unfashionably on time, and Austin tried to park himself on a couch in a corner but was whisked away by Ben, a 16-year-old Openarms regular, who gave him an impromptu tour and introduced him to his mom, who works the concession area most weeks.

Openarms is practically overrun with supportive moms. While Austin and Ben were on the patio, a 14-year-old named Nick arrived with his mom. Nick came out to her when he was 12 but had yet to go on a date or even kiss a boy, which prompted his younger sister to opine that maybe he wasn't actually gay. "She said, 'Maybe you're bisexual,'" Nick told me. "But I don't have to have sex with a girl to know I'm not interested."

Ninety minutes after we arrived, Openarms was packed with about 130 teenagers who had come from all corners of the state. Some danced to the Lady Gaga song "Poker Face," others battled one another in pool or foosball and a handful of young couples held hands on the outdoor patio. In one corner, a short, perky eighth-grade girl kissed her ninth-grade girlfriend of one year. I asked them where they met. "In church," they told me. Not far from them, a 14-year-old named Misti — who came out to classmates at her middle school when she was 12 and weathered anti-gay harassment and bullying, including having food thrown at her in the cafeteria — sat on a wooden bench and cuddled with a new girlfriend.

Austin had practically forgotten about his boyfriend. Instead, he was confessing to me — mostly by text message, though we were standing next to each other — his crush on Laddie, a 16-year-old who had just moved to Tulsa from a small town in Texas. Like Austin, Laddie was attending the dance for the first time, but he came off as much more comfortable in his skin and had a handful of admirers on the patio. Laddie told them that he came out in eighth grade and that the announcement sent shock waves through his Texas school. "I definitely lost some friends," he said, "but no one really made fun of me or called me names, probably because I was one of the most popular kids when I came out. I don't think I would have come out if I wasn't popular."

"When I first realized I was gay," Austin interjected, "I just assumed I would hide it and be miserable for the rest of my life. But then I said, 'O.K., wait, I don't want to hide this and be miserable my whole life.'"

I asked him how old he was when he made that decision. "Eleven," he said.

**DESPITE ECONOMY, BUSINESSES CONTINUE EMBRACING LGBT INCLUSION***By Michael Cole*

Today, we're releasing the **Corporate Equality Index 2010** — our eighth annual report that tracks policies and practices important to LGBT workers at major businesses across the U.S. I'm thrilled to say that, even after losing a handful of 100%-rated businesses to the economic downturn, we have a net gain of 45 businesses that have 100% over last year. That is, a total of 305 100% businesses. Even in a difficult economic climate, businesses continue to embrace LGBT inclusion, yet challenges remain in putting policy to practice.

You can read all about it at [www.hrc.org/cei](http://www.hrc.org/cei).

(From HRC website- This post comes from *Daryl Herrschaft*, director of the Workplace Project at the HRC Foundation)

**CLEVE JONES WOWS THE CROWD AT YALE**

On Tuesday night, October 6<sup>th</sup>, the ever fabulous Cleve Jones spoke eloquently and from the heart to an enthralled Levinson Auditorium audience on the Yale campus. Sponsored by GLBT's "Outlaws @ Yale Law School", the event successfully served as a local kick-off for this weekend's National Equality March on Washington, DC. Nearly a million queer activists and their allies are expected to gather for a wide variety of workshops and events, culminating in an enormous, peaceful march to the Capitol building on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> (National Coming Out Day). Cleve explained that the White House and Congress will take notice. Our demands are simple: **EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW** in **ALL** matters governed by civil law, in **ALL** 50 states. That means in EVERY area of our lives. What's so demanding about that? Isn't that what the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment already guarantees everyone?

Known best by many young audience members as the huggable young activist mentored by Harvey Milk in the Oscar nominated film "MILK", Cleve shared his personal history of gay rights activism amidst the onslaught of pandemic AIDS which quickly wiped out over a thousand gay men in his San Francisco peer group. The anger and despair felt in those early 80's days when the federal government completely ignored the epidemic because gays were first associated with HIV, is understandably evident as that history is revealed. Bumper stickers saying "AIDS is killing all the right people" made it clear that we were seen as 2<sup>nd</sup> class citizens, deserving of suffering, and staying under the radar of public support. A victim of a violent hate crime assault himself, he has remained committed to seeking common ground between ALL people (as taught to him by Harvey Milk), and continues his constant activism for total equality.

He shared his very personal story of how he started the Names Project – AIDS Memorial Quilt, with the first panel being made for his beloved, longtime friend Marvin Feldman. The quilt has since added thousands and thousands of 3' x 6' memorial panels honoring friends, lovers, family members, and strangers struck down far too soon by AIDS. He reminded this young crowd that although there are so many successful treatments now, it's not over yet! He lovingly warned us to please be safe, stay well, and protect ourselves and our partners.

Indeed, it was an evening we cannot forget. Although I am honored to have heard him address tens of thousands in the DC quilt presentation crowds in 1992 and 96, this was more powerful than ever, because it was so personal, so up front, and so very real. Meeting him was an honor that I will forever cherish. Just like anyone who has ever personally seen a display of The Quilt will tell you, they are "forever changed".

Donna Shubrooks, RN and proud PFLAG Mom  
Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective  
Be well. Be yourself.

**BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED AT THE SEPTEMBER ANNUAL MEETING:**

**John & Becky Glezen; Jean Cormier; Joan Jansen; Rose & Larry Pysh; David Owens; Donna Shubrooks, Connie Gallagher, Mike Renkawitz**

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**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.***



**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...*



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 Psychotherapist



The Canal House  
 128 Garden Street  
 Farmington CT

tel 860-985-7205  
 Fax 860-679-9271  
[ellenfranklin01@gmail.com](mailto:ellenfranklin01@gmail.com)

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## **Connecticut PFLAG Meetings**

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

Helpline: (860) 633-7184

Phone: (860) 633-5111

Transgender Issues: (860) 231-8582

### **PFLAG NORWALK/SOUTHWESTERN CT**

When: 7:30 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday (bi-monthly)  
Jan./Mar./May/July/Sept./Nov.

Where: Triangle Community Center  
16 River Street (lower level) Norwalk

Help Line: (203) 226-0257 - Sandy  
or (203) 322-5380 - Lester

Email: [PFLAGSWCT@yahoo.com](mailto:PFLAGSWCT@yahoo.com)

### **PFLAG NORTHWESTERN CT:**

Contact: Diane (860) 435-2738

### **PFLAG GREATER NEW HAVEN**

Meetings: Church of the Redeemer, 185 Cold Spring  
(Corner of Whitney Avenue.), New Haven

3rd Tues of the Month @ 7:30 pm

Phone/Help Line (203) 458-0493

Email: [greaternewhavenpflag@yahoo.com](mailto:greaternewhavenpflag@yahoo.com)

### **PFLAG SECT (SOUTHEASTERN CT)**

When: Second Monday of every month, 7:00 pm

Where: Noank Baptist Church,  
18 Cathedral Heights, Noank (Groton)

Helpline: (860) 447-0884

Email: [bjalthen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjalthen@sbcglobal.net)

Web site: [www.pflagsect.org](http://www.pflagsect.org)

## **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](mailto: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:** 15<sup>th</sup> of even numbered months. Send articles to: *Jean Cormier*

156 Randal Avenue,  
West Hartford, CT 06110



**LET US GIVE THANKS FOR OUR MANY  
BLESSINGS, ESPECIALLY OUR CARING  
PFLAG COMMUNITY!**

### **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](mailto:janenrosie48@yahoo.com) or at  
[www.straightspouse.org](http://www.straightspouse.org)

### **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](http://www.pflag.org).