



**HELEN & BOB BRILL & HGLHC
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED ON JUNE 15**
(Read about these amazing young people on page 3)



The Voice of PFLAG Hartford
Caring

Volume 20, No. 4

July/August 2011

IN THE PFLAG HARTFORD FAMILY:

JOHN D. BARLOW We are greatly saddened to report the passing of a long-time member of PFLAG Hartford and wonderful friend. John passed away on Monday, June 27, at Hartford Hospital. John was well loved by his many friends. His good humor and high spirits prevailed to the end. He will be greatly missed.

SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION: Our thanks to everyone who helped to make our annual Scholarship Presentation in June such a delightful event. Special thanks to Rose, Larry & Becky for the wonderful refreshments. The PFLAG scholarship committee members were: MaryBeth and Tom, Becky and John. Thank-you for your wonderful choices to receive the Helen & Bob Brill Scholarship - Sixto and Jenna are truly amazing young adults.

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:

July 20 - Alexis & Mitch

August 17 - Jean C.

September 21 - Debbie S.

October 19 - 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

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 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 or call 860/278-4163.
- **STONEWALL SPEAKERS** is an all volunteer speakers' bureau composed of LGBT people and allies dedicated to reducing violence and bias while promoting equality for all. We speak to thousands of Connecticut students and adults annually. Listeners will meet LGBT people and their allies in person; hear candid accounts of their lives; and receive honest, informed answers to any questions they have. Let your high school, college, business, religious group or community group know we are available. For more information please contact coordinator@stonewallspeakers.org.
- **CONNECTICUT PRIDE RALLY & FESTIVAL** will be held on Saturday, September 17, 2011, in Hartford's Bushnell Park. Look for more information in upcoming issues of *Caring*.

GLSEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ELIZA BYARD RESPONDS TO KOBE BRYANT CONTROVERSY*Posted May 14, 2011*

Hours before five-time NBA champion Kobe Bryant uttered an anti-gay slur during a basketball game Tuesday, NBA players Grant Hill and Jared Dudley entered the US Airways Center in Phoenix to serve as role models of a very different kind.

The Phoenix Suns teammates -- players who proved to be as gifted off the court as on it -- filmed a public service announcement for GLSEN, the Ad Council and the NBA as part of the "Think Before You Speak" campaign. The message is one we very dearly wish had been heard a few hundred miles away in Los Angeles.

Using anti-gay language is wrong. Always. Whether you mean for it to hurt someone or not.

The PSA, which will air during the NBA playoffs, is part of GLSEN and the Ad Council's effort to address anti-lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender language among teenagers. The NBA loved the campaign created by ArnoldNYC, which launched in 2008, and asked to get involved. We couldn't have asked for a better partner, in terms of passion for the message and commitment to its success.

None of us could have imagined how timely the campaign would become.

A huge amount of credit goes to the NBA for partnering with us long before Kobe's offensive and hurtful comment, just as the league deserves credit for its swift and stern response and \$100,000 fine.

But the fact that slurs like this one are even a part of his lexicon demonstrate how far we still need to go to teach respect of all people, particularly those who are or are perceived to be LGBT. We presume one of the big reasons is the tolerance -- in schools and society -- for language like the slur Kobe used.

Coincidentally, this Friday marks the 15th anniversary of the first Day of Silence, a day sponsored by GLSEN when hundreds of thousands of students at middle schools, high schools and colleges across the country take a voluntary vow of silence to raise awareness about anti-LGBT bullying in schools and on campuses. It is a problem that has been ignored for far too long, and we too often see the dire consequences of inaction on the lives of young people.

Nearly 9 out of 10 LGBT students said they'd been harassed in the past year because of their sexual orientation, in GLSEN's 2009 National School Climate Survey on the experiences of LGBT youth in schools. Three out of 5 said they felt unsafe because of who they are.

Until students on campus, or on teams representing their schools, feel they are protected no matter who they are, we cannot give up the fight to stop abusive language that targets children.

International sports superstars like Kobe Bryant are looked up to by millions of young people and are emulated, on and off the court. The NBA, Grant Hill and Jared Dudley made a real statement off the court this week by taking part in a campaign that will inform millions of youth that respect and acceptance are the values that they should bring to their lives -- and to the games they play.

All of us truly can make a difference -- from NBA stars to everyday people to young people in schools. It really is as simple as thinking before you speak.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2011 PFLAG/TRUE COLORS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Our scholarship fund was created eleven years ago to honor PFLAG Hartford founding members, Helen & Bob Brill. At our monthly meeting on June 15, the following two students received Brill Scholarships:

Sixto M. Cancel Bridge Academy, Bridgeport. Sixto will attend Virginia Commonwealth University to major in Political Science with a concentration in civil and human rights.

The best way to describe this amazing young man is to quote the scholarship recommendation from Bill Finch, Mayor of Bridgeport:

“As Mayor, I encounter many of the city’s young citizens, but, none have stories as compelling as that of Sixto Cancel. As a child of poverty, with a broken family living amidst violence in a [foster] home void of love or care, this young man has grown to be a compassionate adult. A product of a system that seems to doom our children to a life of failure, Sixto has emerged as a leader, passionate in his goals, channeling his anger into a driven perseverance dedicated to helping change the lives of other DCF children and to better his community.

As founder and CEO of Stellar Works Transitional Services, he helps to prepare others for a world that Sixto “figured out” on his own. This dedication led him to serve as a “Jim Casey Opportunity initiative Young Fellow”, which has allowed him to meet with elected officials in Washington, D.C., influencing policy and advocating for change to a system that he knows too well. Rather than becoming a statistic, Sixto has dedicated himself to impact; impacting his peers, his community and now our country.

...I believe Sixto Cancel is capable of changing our community, our nation and our world. Our system has, in many ways, failed him. We have not provided him with the childhood that each of our children deserve, yet, he stands prepared to give back to his community, leading us in a collective effort to be better.”

And, from Kamora Herrington, Mentoring Program Coordinator, True Colors:

“When I think of Connecticut’s young LGBT leaders, Sixto immediately comes to mind. His work to bridge the gap between the Bridgeport NAACP and the LGBT community is groundbreaking and amazes national leaders when they hear about his intersectional work.”

Jenna McPhail Hamden High School, Hamden. Jenna will attend Bentley University with a major in Global Studies and Nonprofit Management.

Jenna, an extraordinary organizer, honor student and student athlete is also an LGBT ally who “got involved” and stood up for a gay friend. Laura Rodriguez, House Principal of Hamden High School says, “Jenna is known for having high expectations for herself and for STTOP (Students Teaching Tolerance, Openness and Pride) Club. I believe the success of STTOP rests squarely on Jenna’s shoulders. As President this year she single handedly resurrected the club from a group of less than five students to a vibrant, lively association of over 100 members.”

...“I can honestly say that I am not only a better administrator, a better STTOP advisor, but also a better person because Jenna is in my life.”

Jenna says that her passion is helping others. She has helped to teach awareness, acceptance and internationalism to the people in her school and has taken full advantage of her school’s ethnic, cultural and religious diversity.

Some of Jenna’s accomplishments include being the founder of Hamden High’s Women’s Leadership Summit; she hosted National Ally Week activities to promote equality at her high school; organized a school-wide drive to provide necessities for the Columbus House Homeless Shelter in New Haven; organized students to attend a youth conference at Yale University; gathered students to attend a sexual health presentation by Planned Parenthood. She is an officer in the Human Relations Club; attended Yale University Summer Lecture Series where she created a proposal for America’s refugee policy. Jenna was the school delegate at a Prejudice Reduction Conference; a student facilitator at the Y.E.S. for Diversity Conference; co-founder and Vice President of the student-led Hamden Chapter of the ENOUGH Foundation, whose purpose is to promote peace and unity in the Middle East; Officer of the French Club; Captain of the Lacrosse Team. Jenna also initiated and organized a fundraiser for a fellow classmate with cancer and raised \$2,800. She has volunteered her time at Yale New Haven Hospital; the New Haven Road Race; an Anti-Bullying Program for fifth graders; the New Haven Historical Museum; the Animal Haven Animal Shelter; Make a Difference Week. Jenna has been recognized for many awards. She is a CAPT Scholar-State recognition for excellence in math, reading & science; CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents) for excellence in community service, leadership and academics; DAR Good Citizens Award 2011; selected by Hamden H.S. community for “Most Likely to Change the World”; Sportswoman of the Year by Hamden Women’s Sports Federation; Hamden Democratic Town Committee’s Gloria Sandillo Memorial Award for outstanding community service.

Congratulations to Jenna & Sixto. We know you will change the world!

COMING OUT TRANS TO YOUR PARENTS

.... Any parent or grandparent of a transgender person can join the Parents list at <http://www.transfamily.org/e-mail-discussion-groups> This is a VERY active list, with over 300 parents/families represented. It is moderated by the mothers of three adult trans people, including my wife Joan. Anyone who is introduced to the group by a moderator will suddenly find their inbox receiving helpful emails from members of this elist.

The list includes people with various ethnic, economic, and religious backgrounds, all believing in supporting their transgender children. There is no better personal support available than that of parents.

With reference to books for helping parents understand, PFLAG Transgender Network continues to offer all our publications—"Coming Out Trans" was recommended by June Horner—by direct inquiry to pflagnet@triad.rr.com.

If you are interested, please email a request for our abstract page and order form.

Dave Parker, President, PFLAG Transgender Network
5011 Harness Lane
Colfax, NC 27235-9808

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES FOR PARENTS:

As the proud parent of a 10 year old trans kiddo...I highly recommend "The Transgender Child" by Stephanie Brill and Rachel Pepper. Kate's counselor lent me a copy when she was transitioning and I loved it so much I began referring to it as "the bible" (no offense to the Good Book)...The book is not only very educational, it's sprinkled with vignettes from parents and youth that are priceless. I now buy the book 7-10 at a time and offer it to anyone who will take the time to read it. For older trans folks, I'd recommend "True Selves" by Mildred Brown and Chloe Ann Rounsley.

For whatever it's worth, part of the news story about Kate (our daughter) can still be found on cnn at: <http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/living/2009/05/18/dnt.ne.transgender.kid.ketv>

Barbara Walters did a great 20/20 episode on trans youth (of all ages) several years ago and I'd highly recommend that as well. It's on youtube in 5 parts:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Utpam0IGYac> (part 1)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j8F9CaPyQz8&feature=related> (part 2)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1W17z6KeiNY&feature=related> (part 3)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSkQIWUX_eI&feature=related (part 4)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ib_yE5WILJc&feature=related (part 5)

...

I would have given ANYTHING to speak with another parent when we were starting this journey with Kate and I'm a firm believer in paying it forward.

Joni Stacy, Regional Director
Central Region (NE, IA, KS, MO)

**Civil Unions Take Effect in Illinois**

by Dan Rafter

June 1, 2011

Today is the first day Illinois' new civil unions law takes effect, allowing same-sex and opposite-sex couples to enter into civil unions and receive the same benefits, protections, and responsibilities under Illinois law that are granted to spouses. Governor Pat Quinn signed the Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Unions Act into law in late January; the *Chicago Sun-Times* reports that officials expect to issue about 2,000 licenses today.

...

In addition to Illinois, twelve states plus Washington, D.C. have laws providing an expansive form of state-level relationship recognition for gay and lesbian couples. Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Washington D.C. provide marriage to same-sex couples under state law. New York and Maryland recognize out-of-jurisdiction same-sex marriages, and five other states – California, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon, and Washington – provide same-sex couples with access to almost all of the state level benefits and responsibilities of marriage, through either civil unions or domestic partnerships. Hawaii and Delaware have passed legislation for civil unions to begin taking effect next year. Illinois couples who enter into a civil union will not receive any rights or benefits under federal law.

GLSEN LAUDS PASSAGE OF CONNECTICUT ANTI-BULLYING AND NON-DISCRIMINATION BILLS *(Bipartisan support shows consensus to address school harassment)*

HARTFORD, June 13, 2011 - GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, and its GLSEN Connecticut Chapter praise the passage of both an enumerated anti-bullying bill that specifically addresses school harassment based on sexual orientation and gender identity as well as a non-discrimination bill that protects transgender people in jobs and public accommodations, including schools.

"GLSEN Connecticut thanks the Connecticut legislature for taking an important step in ensuring our schools are safe, welcoming and free of violence for all students," said GLSEN Connecticut co-chair Leif Mitchell. "We thank committee chairs Rep. Andy Fleischmann and Sen. Andrea Stillman for strengthening this bill by adding specific categories of students most often targeted by bullying."

The anti-bullying bill lacked enumeration when it came out of committee, but specific mention of the characteristics of students most often targeted by bullying were added by the Joint Education Committee, after hearing testimony from GLSEN Connecticut and other advocates from the Connecticut Safe Schools Coalition.

The passed bill includes, but is not limited to, bullying based on race, religion, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity, and includes protections against cyberbullying as well as training for educators.

With Governor Dannel Malloy's signature, Connecticut will become the 13th state to enact an anti-bullying bill that includes protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression.

Research shows enumerated bullying policies are essential to addressing anti-LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) bullying. Broad support for such policies in states like Connecticut has fueled optimism that the federal Safe Schools Improvement Act, introduced in both the Senate and the House, also will become law.

"While we celebrate a historic victory for the youth of Connecticut, the somber reality is that youth in most states still do not have adequate protections from bias-based bullying. The bipartisan support in Connecticut sends a strong message to Congress that political differences cannot and should not stand in the way of swift, comprehensive action to address bullying," said GLSEN National Executive Director Eliza Byard.

The 12 other states with anti-bullying laws that include protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity are Arkansas, Colorado, California, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Vermont and Washington.

The non-discrimination bill will add transgender protections to the state's anti-discrimination laws that apply to jobs, housing, public accommodations and schools. GLSEN Connecticut, under the leadership of the ctEquality coalition, supported the bill. Signing of the non-discrimination bill will make Connecticut the 11th state (in addition to Washington, DC) to protect students from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

THANK-YOU to our May monthly meeting speaker, Keith G. Keith is an art teacher and a proud gay dad to two great kids. Keith shared a very intimate story of a little boy growing up and feeling different at an early age. He did his best to please his parents and live a straight life as a married man and father, but came to a point where he could no longer deny who he really was. Keith and his wife divorced but he maintains a close relationship with his son and daughter. Keith, thank-you for sharing your personal story.

PFLAG NATIONAL CELEBRATES MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN NEW YORK!

June 14, 2011

We applaud Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State legislature for their historic vote in favor of marriage equality. This step towards equal civil rights -- in one of the largest states in our nation -- affirms recent polls that most Americans are now in favor of marriage equality for our LGBT loved ones. PFLAG mothers and fathers all over the state of New York will be celebrating with their sons and daughters, who can now legally marry the people they love in their hometowns.

Dale Bernstein, PFLAG National Board Member, PFLAG Mom, and New York resident says, "After years of actively fighting for marriage equality in New York State, I am elated that both of my sons -- gay and straight -- will now have the same basic civil right to marry the person they love in the state in which they were raised."

With a vote of 33-29, we have once again moved equality forward...in a truly historic fashion!

UN ADOPTS GROUNDBREAKING RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THAT LGBT RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

June 17, 2011

The United Nations' Human Rights Council's adoption today of a groundbreaking resolution addressing acts of violence and discrimination against LGBT people is the first official UN resolution to focus exclusively on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity. It is also the first time gender identity has been included in such a formal UN text.

The text calls on the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a global study outlining discriminatory laws, practices and acts of violence directed at LGBT individuals, with recommendations on how to put an end to such fundamental human rights abuses. The study will be reviewed by the UN Human Rights Council next year. The resolution was tabled by South Africa and it enjoyed strong support from the United States and a broad coalition of voting states from all regions of the world. It was adopted in Geneva today by a vote of 23 countries in support, 19 against and 3 abstentions.

The United States was represented at the adoption by U.S. Ambassador Eileen Donahoe and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Baer. Baer noted the importance the United States placed on this vote, emphasizing that "this resolution confirms to millions of people around the world that every person – every human being on this planet – matters. As Secretary Clinton said, 'Gay rights are human rights.' So are the rights of religious minorities, the disabled and so many others who have been historically ignored or persecuted, not for what they do but for what they are. This is an important step in the quest for dignity for all. And I am proud that the U.S. is a part of it."

Today's resolution is the first UN resolution ever to bring specific focus to human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and follows a joint statement on these issues delivered at the March session of the council. It affirms the universality of human rights, and notes concern about acts of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. This commitment of the Human Rights Council sends an important signal of support to human rights defenders working on these issues, and recognizes the legitimacy of their work.



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.*

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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Connecticut PFLAG Meetings

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

Helpline: (860) 633-7184

Phone: (860) 633-5111

Transgender Issues: (860) 231-8582

PFLAG SOUTHWESTERN CT

When: 7:30 pm, 1st Wednesday (bi-monthly)

Jan./Mar./May/July/Sept./Nov.

Where: Triangle Community Center

16 River Street (lower level) Norwalk

Help Line: (203) 226-0257 - Westport

(203) 322-5380 - Stamford

(203) 925-0445- Shelton

(203) 847-9183 - Norwalk

Email: PFLAGSWCT@yahoo.com

PFLAG SECT (SOUTHEASTERN CT)

When: Second Monday of every month,

Potluck at 6:00 pm; Meeting at 7:00 pm

Where: Noank Baptist Church,

18 Cathedral Heights, Noank (Groton)

Helpline: (860) 447-0884

Email: bjalthen@sbcglobal.net

Web site: www.pflagsect.org

Central and Western Massachusetts

PFLAG FRANKLIN-HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER

Northampton

When: Second Tuesday of every month

Where: Highland Valley Elder Services,
Cutlery Building, 320 Riverside Drive

Helpline: 413/625-6636

Email: jcmalinski48@gmail.com

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

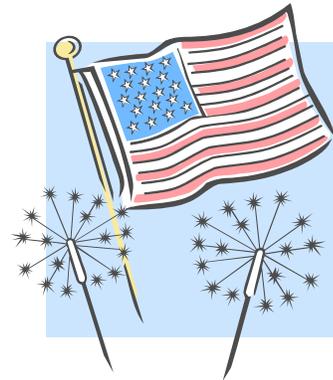
Caring welcomes articles, letters and other submissions for publication.

Deadline: 15th of even numbered months. Send articles to: *Jean Cormier*

156 Randal Avenue,

West Hartford, CT 06110

HAPPY SUMMERTIME



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

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
jcmalinski48@gmail.com
or at 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.