



TRUE COLORS XIX ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Friday, March 16 & Saturday, March 17, 2012
University of Connecticut – Storrs, CT



The Voice of PFLAG Hartford

Caring

Volume 21, No. 2

March/April 2012

IN THE PFLAG HARTFORD FAMILY:

PFLAG HARTFORD & TRUE COLORS WILL AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS to LGBTI students or allies. Application forms for the Brill Scholarship will be available at the True Colors Conference, to be held at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, on March 16th and 17th as well as on our PFLAG Hartford website (www.PFLAGHartford.org). Just click on the True Colors link. **Deadline to apply is April 20.**

At our January monthly meeting, we were extremely fortunate and pleased to have as our guest speaker, Robin McHaelen. Robin has been our state's foremost advocate for sexual and gender minority youth for many years. True Colors, the organization she founded, and now leads as Executive Director, organizes the country's largest conference for LGBT youth and manages the only LGBT mentoring program in the state. She and her partner, Holly, are raising a wonderful daughter, Riley. Thanks for sharing your personal story, Robin.

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!

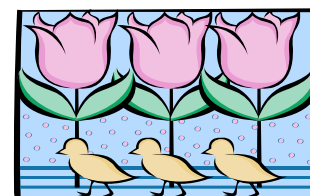
PFLAG HARTFORD MONTHLY SUPPORT GROUP MEETS: Third Wednesday of each month, 7:30 p.m., Immanuel Congregational Church House, 10 Woodland Street (Just North of Farmington Ave.), Hartford. For more information, please call Marie & Bob at (860) 633-7184 or Becky & John at (860) 633-5111.

REFRESHMENT REMINDER:

- March 21 - Connie & Mike**
- April 18 - Tom & Marybeth**
- May 16 - Susan S.**
- June 20 - Scholarship Presentation and Reception**

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

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



(Paid membership includes a one-year subscription to Caring and the National PFLAG newsletter.)

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 every Sunday from 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.
- **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.
- **XX CLUB "Twenty Club"** – The Transsexual Support Group of New England meets the 2nd & 4th Saturday of every month from 2-5 p.m. at The Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective, 1841 Broad Street, Hartford, CT www.twentyclub.net
- **LIVING SOULFULLY** (Men Loving Men In Community) meets the 4th Wednesday of every month, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at The Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective, 1841 Broad Street, Hartford, CT. 860/278-4163.
- **Mpower CT** – Social gathering for gay and bisexual men ages 18-35 meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at The Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective, 1841 Broad Street, Hartford, CT. 860/278-4163.
- **TRUE COLORS YOUTH CONFERENCE XIX**, "Celebrating Our Allies," Friday, March 16 & Saturday March 17, University of Connecticut, Storrs (see page 4 for details). PFLAG Hartford will have an information table at the conference. If you attend, please stop by our table to lend a hand distributing materials.

WASHINGTON STATE GOVERNOR GREGORIE SUPPORTS SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Internet 1/6/12

Rep. Ed Murray, D-Seattle, and Rep. Jamie Pedersen, D-Seattle, applaud as Gov. Chris Gregoire speaks at a news conference where she said that she wants Washington to become the seventh state in the nation to make gay marriage legal. Gregoire said she'll introduce legislation that would allow same-sex marriage in Washington State. The Democrat had previously supported efforts to expand domestic partner rights for gay couples, but had not previously come out in favor of full marriage rights.

Gov. Chris Gregoire, delivering a speech of unusual intensity, on Wednesday [1/4/12] argued that it is right and it is time for Washington to become the 7th state in America to legalize marriage between same-sex couples.

"I have sorted it out in my head and my heart," said Gregoire, who has signed previous "everything but marriage" laws extending legal protection to gay and lesbian couples, as well as legislation outlawing discrimination based on sexual preference. She joins New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo as a practicing Catholic urging state legislators to pass marriage equality even though it is opposed by the church hierarchy. The Empire State legalized same-sex marriage last spring. "My church, and any church, can exercise their freedom in deciding who to marry: The state should not engage in discrimination," Gregoire said. Same-sex marriage is currently legal in the states of New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, New Hampshire, and Vermont, as well as the District of Columbia. Canada has also made it legal.

In her speech Wednesday, flanked by four gay and lesbian legislators, Gregoire defined marriage equality as a civil rights issue. She evoked the memory of State Sen. Cal Anderson, the first openly gay member of the Washington Legislature (whose funeral mass was celebrated at St. James Cathedral.) "Throughout our history, we have fought discrimination," the governor added. "We have joined together to recognize equality for racial minorities, women, people with disabilities, immigrants. Please join today to support equality again in our great state. It is the right thing to do and it is time."

The path toward marriage equality in Washington has been carefully tended. Its chief advocate, State Sen. Ed Murray (Anderson's successor) has practiced legislative incrementalism. The state started extending rights to same-sex couples in 2008, and expanded domestic partnership in 2009. Religious right groups forced a statewide vote in 2009: Washington voters responded by passing Referendum 71, affirming domestic partnership rights.

A group called Washington United for Marriage has quietly begun a grass roots lobbying campaign in legislators' districts. It is urging same-sex couples to relate their personal experiences. The Washington State Senate is expected to be the toughest hurdle in the path of same-sex marriage. Groups that put the issue on the ballot in 2009

have also vowed to force a statewide vote if the Legislature enacts marriage equality. The votes of four Republican state senators made possible passage of marriage equality in New York last spring.

Ex-Solicitor General Ted Olson, who led the legal battle that made George W. Bush president, is co-counsel in a federal court challenge to California's Proposition 8, a 2008 ballot measure that rolled back same-sex marriage. (The Golden State still has domestic partnership laws.) But opposition to gay marriage has become an ideological litmus test for 2012 Republican presidential candidates. Typical was the attitude of GOP Rep. Michele Bachmann, who quit the race Wednesday, who once declared: ". . . The immediate consequence, if gay marriage goes through, is that K-12 little children will be forced to learn that homosexuality is normal, natural and perhaps they should try it."

Gregoire acknowledged that she has wrestled with the issue. She equated "everything-but-marriage" laws to the "separate but equal" statutes once used in Southern states to keep apart white and African-American schoolchildren. "When somebody asks me about my marriage to Mike, I don't tell them I have a legal contract," Gregoire said. Instead, referring again to her 36-year marriage, the governor said spousal relations should be defined by "love," "commitment" and "responsibility." "Our gay and lesbian families face the same hurdles as heterosexual families -- making ends meet, choosing what school to send their kids to, finding someone to grow old with, standing in front of friends and family and making a lifetime commitment," Gregoire argued.

The governor's actions were applauded by two gay members of the Seattle City Council. "The city of Seattle is on record supporting marriage for same sex couples and we will work with the Governor for passage this year," said Councilman Tom Rasmussen. Councilwoman Sally Clark called Gregoire's speech "a great step" and that Gregoire's "is a critical voice in recognizing that all people are created equal and should be treated as such by their government."

Update: February 13 - Marriage equality comes to Washington State today, with Governor Christine Gregoire signing the historic legislation that [passed](#) the State Legislature last week.



OBAMA ADMINISTRATION BANS LGBT HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

Posted Wednesday, February 1, 2012 by Graham White

Looking to buy a new home? In some cases, you could be denied based on your sexual orientation. At least, that was the reality that millions of LGBT Americans faced for many years—until the Obama administration announced new regulations recently that would make such discrimination in federally-funded or -insured housing illegal.

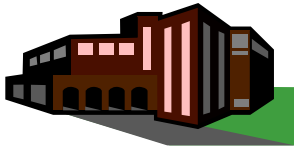
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan shared the news of the historic milestone during the 24th National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change, which was held in Baltimore over the weekend. "If you are denying HUD housing to people on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, actual or perceived, you're discriminating," Donovan said at the conference. "You're breaking the law, and you will be held accountable. That's what equal access means, and that's what this rule is going to do."

Mara Keisling, the executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, spoke with Campus Progress about the issue at Creating Change: The announcement comes on the heels of a survey co-sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Center for Transgender Equality that found 1 in 5 transgender and gender non-conforming Americans had been refused a home or apartment because of discrimination. One in 10 had been evicted for the same reason.

The new rules will prohibit owners and operators of housing that is insured or funded by the federal government, as well as lenders offering federally insured mortgages, from discriminating based on gender identity or sexual orientation. The new policy also clarifies the definition of "family" to ensure that LGBT families are included in HUD programs. "The federal government plays a huge role in housing for Americans," said Keisling. "HUD's really making an effort here to reign in [discrimination] and try to give people and advocates the tools to really end that."

For LGBT Americans, the announcement is a major achievement as they have often not been included as a protected class in federal anti-discriminatory legislation. Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, commonly referred to as the Fair Housing Act, guarantees equal opportunity in housing regardless of "race, color, religion, sex or national origin." More than four decades later, LGBT Americans are still not protected under Title VIII. And they face discrimination outside the home, too. In 29 states it's still legal for employers to fire someone because they're gay, lesbian, or bisexual. In 34 states, an employee can be fired solely for being transgender.

The recent announcement is a step forward, but as Donovan noted, "enacting a rule is not enough." "Let's keep creating change," he said. "This year, next and every year going forward."



**True Colors XIX:
Celebrating Our Allies
March 16 & 17, 2012
University of CT
Storrs, CT**



Friday, March 16th

8:00 – 9:00 AM Registration, Jorgensen Auditorium

9:00 – 10:00 AM Opening Session, Jorgensen Auditorium - **If These Halls Could Talk: Moving from Bystander to Ally**

10:30 – 11:45 Workshop Session I: - Choose from more than 40 workshops in general, professional and youth categories

Lunch: 11:45 – 1:00

1:00 – 2:15 PM Workshop Session II - Choose from more than 40 workshops in general, professional and youth categories

2:45 – 4:00 PM Workshop Session III - Choose from more than 40 workshops in general, professional and youth categories

4:15 – 5:00 PM Conference Close, Jorgensen Auditorium - **Telling Our Stories: Youth Speak-Out**

5:30 – 7:30 PM Presenter/Volunteer/Co-sponsor Dinner

Saturday, March 17th

8:00 – 9:00 AM Registration, Student Union

9:00 – 10:00 AM Opening Session, Student Union - **Dale Guy Madison, My Life In 3 Easy Payments**

10:30 – 11:45 Workshop Session I - Choose from more than 25 workshops in general, professional and youth categories

Lunch: 11:45 – 1:00

1:00 – 2:15PM Workshop Session II - Choose from more than 25 workshops in general, professional and youth categories

2:45 – 4:00 PM Workshop Session III - Choose from more than 25 workshops in general, professional and youth categories

4:15 – 5:30 PM Conference Close, Student Union

6:00 – 7:30 PM Drag Show, Student Union

8:00 – Midnight AM Dance, Student Union

REGISTRATION FEES:

One Day/Two Day:

Full Time Students: \$30/\$45

Adults \$80/\$95

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\$ _____ 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.

FYI: Here are some brief descriptions of other helpful organizations:

CT TRANSADVOCACY COALITION: Advocating for Freedom in Gender Identity or Expression.

Jerimarie Liesegang, Director (860) 983-8139 or email transadvocacy.org

GLAD: Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders - New England's leading legal rights organization, dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV status and gender identity and expression. Phone: (617) 426-1350 or email: gladlaw@glad.org GLAD legal InfoLine is open Monday-Friday 1:30-4:30pm.

GLSEN: The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network strives to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

Eliza Byard, Executive Director. www.glsen.org

HRC- Human Rights Campaign: HRC seeks to improve the lives of LGBT Americans by advocating for equal rights and benefits in the workplace, ensuring families are treated equally under the law and increasing public support among all Americans. **HRC Front Desk:** (202) 628-4160 **Toll-Free:** (800) 777-4723

THE TASK FORCE: The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force builds the power of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community from the ground up. The Task Force is the country's premier social justice organization fighting to improve the lives of LGBT people, and working to create positive, lasting change and opportunity for all. Rea Carey, Executive Director, Washington, DC. rcarey@theTaskForce.org 202/639-6302

TRUE COLORS: True Colors is a non-profit organization that works with other social service agencies, schools, organizations and within communities to ensure that the needs of sexual and gender minority youth are both recognized and competently met. Robin McHaelen, Executive Director. 860/232-0050 or OurTrueColors.org.



BAYARD RUSTIN

Excerpts from an article by Steve Hendrix, Washington Post, August 21, 2011

As we remember Dr. Martin Luther King, let's not forget BAYARD RUSTIN, a great civil rights organizer... an out gay man... perhaps ahead of his time - 2012 marks the 100th anniversary of his birth.

It was around this point in August 1963, in the sweltering days before the March on Washington, that Eleanor Holmes Norton was waiting for someone to say something really nasty about her boss. She was a march volunteer. The boss was Bayard Rustin, the march's chief organizer and the man widely viewed as the only civil rights activist capable of pulling off a protest of such unprecedented scale. And he was gay. Openly gay. That year again? 1963.

"I was sure the attacks would come because I knew what they could attack Bayard for," says Norton, now the District's nonvoting delegate to Congress.

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom will be forever known as the day that ensured the success of the civil rights movement and launched the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. into the highest pantheon of American champions. ... But for hundreds of civil rights veterans, Aug. 28 will also always be Bayard's Day, the crowning achievement of one of the movement's most effective, and unconventional, activists.

"When the anniversary comes around, frankly I think of Bayard as much as I think of King," says Norton. "King could hardly have given the speech if the march had not been so well attended and so well organized. If there had been any kind of disturbance, that would have been the story."

"He's like the Zelig of the 20th century — he pops up in so many places," says Bennett Singer, co-producer with Nancy Kates of "Brother Outsider," an acclaimed 2003 documentary about Rustin.

Rustin continued traveling and organizing until his death in 1987. But he faded from the shortlist of well-known civil rights lions. "It's amazing how many students we talk to at top colleges who come up and say they've never heard of him," Singer says. "It was his homosexuality that was always the rub."

But in the 1970s, the world began to catch up to Rustin's comfort with homosexuality, and he took up gay rights as his latest public movement. Gay men and lesbians adopted him as a profile in courage, and a new generation marveled at his remarkable story. Singer is invited to show his documentary at an increasing number of schools, government agencies, law firms. New biographies have come out, and a book of Rustin's letters will be published next spring.

"In a year in which we saw the end of 'don't ask, don't tell' and other changes, this is a propitious time to put the Rustin story back before the American people," says Henderson. His organization is part of the "Rustin Initiative," an effort to link the civil rights and gay rights communities. "Having him acknowledged as an extraordinary leader, who was himself gay, that shows where this broader movement for civil and human rights can go."

9TH U.S. CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS RULED PROPOSITION 8 UNCONSTITUTIONAL 2/7/12
In a monumental decision today, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Proposition 8 unconstitutional.

Their move upholds a lower court's decision that anti-gay bigotry was behind Prop. 8, the hateful law that denied gay and lesbian Californians the freedom to marry. This fight is about people like Kristin and Sandy and Jeff and Paul – the two courageous plaintiff couples in this suit who have sacrificed so much to help bring about this victory.

...

Prop. 8 does nothing to strengthen or protect any marriage. Instead, it singles out thousands of loving California families for different treatment, simply because they are gay and lesbian couples. The Ninth Circuit ruled on the right side of history by recognizing that our Constitution cannot tolerate such egregious discrimination.

Here's what the Court said in its decision: *Prop. 8 "served no purpose, and had no effect, other than to lessen the status and human dignity of gays and lesbians in California, and to officially reclassify their relationship and families as inferior to those of opposite-sex couples."*

The path ahead may still be long, but this case has helped propel the fight for marriage equality forward.

...

This monumental decision affirms what we all know to be true – our Constitution exists to protect the basic civil rights of *all* Americans – gay, straight, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.

Joe Solmonese, President, HRC



GLSEN RELEASES GROUND-BREAKING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RESEARCH & TOOLKIT

Three weeks after my oldest child started kindergarten, she threw a tantrum because I said "no" about something or other, and yelled, "Mama, you are a Sissy!" She clearly had little sense of the word's meaning, but had learned in her brief elementary school career that this was one of the worst epithets she could hurl in anger.

... GLSEN is proud to embark on an exciting new phase of our work in K-12 schools. We have released a groundbreaking new study that looks at school climate in the elementary grades. Further, we have created a critical new resource for teachers in grades K-5 - in partnership with our friends at the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

In our new report, *Playgrounds and Prejudice: Elementary School Climate in the United States*, we learn that the kind of language my daughter learned in only three weeks is far too common in our elementary schools. Name-calling and bullying in elementary schools reinforce gender stereotypes and negative attitudes toward people based on their gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion or family composition. Students and teachers report frequent use of disparaging remarks like "retard" and "that's so gay," and half of the teachers surveyed report bullying as a "serious problem" among their students. Students who do not conform to traditional gender norms are at higher risk for bullying, and are less likely than their peers to feel safe at school.

Previous GLSEN research has already demonstrated the high cost of such bias as students get older - consider the fact that nearly 40% of LGBT students in middle school report having been physically assaulted at school. It is absolutely critical that respect for others be part of the curriculum from day one if we are to end bullying, harassment and violence among youth. This report shows how far we still have to go.

There is, however, some good news. Elementary school teachers are alert to the problems that students face. A large majority report that their schools are taking action in some way to try to address bullying and harassment. Students report that they have at least heard some of the right messages about mutual respect and the equality of boys and girls. However limited their impact may be, these steps represent a foundation for the additional action urgently needed.


To support elementary school teachers, principals and school staff ready to build on that foundation, GLSEN is releasing a major new resource: *Ready, Set, Respect! GLSEN's Elementary School Toolkit*. Developed in partnership with NAESP and NAEYC - leaders in the field of elementary school education - Ready, Set, Respect! is part professional development and part curricular resource with lesson plans for addressing bullying and bias-based remarks, gender and inclusion of LGBT people in family diversity.

Awareness of the unacceptable price of prejudice is growing, as is the will to clear the path for a healthy and happy life for every child. I will do everything in my power to ensure that my daughters are free to thrive and follow that path. I hope you will join me and all of my GLSEN colleagues in the ongoing effort to ensure that every child is free to be their happiest, healthiest and best self.

Eliza Byard, Executive Director

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*.

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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

PFLAG GREATER NEW HAVEN

166 Lovers Lane, Guilford, CT 06437

Meeting: 3rd Tuesday of the Month, 7:30 pm

Church of the Redeemer

185 Cold Spring Street, New Haven

(Corner of Whitney Avenue)

Phone/Help Line (203) 458-0493

Email: greaternewhavenpflag@yahoo.com

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



WARMER WEATHER IS ON THE WAY!

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.