



OCTOBER 11, 2013
NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY

While this day is set aside for those now comfortable with their homosexuality to “come out,” it is also an opportunity for PFLAG parents to “come out” to their friends and family.)

The Voice of PFLAG Hartford
Caring



Volume 22, No. 5

September/October 2013

IN THE PFLAG HARTFORD FAMILY:

NOTE: We will hold a brief ANNUAL MEETING of our membership at the beginning of our September 18th regular monthly meeting. The principal business is election of the Board for the coming year.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

It's that time of the year, and membership dues are now due and payable for fiscal year October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014. For your convenience, a membership envelope was enclosed with our mailed copies. A separate letter will be sent to those members who receive Caring via e-mail. The schedule of dues is listed below. Thank-you in advance for your prompt membership renewal or enrollment.

(See page 2 for additional information on membership.)

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.

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

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



Closets are
for clothes;
not people.

(Paid membership includes a one-year subscription to Caring & 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

- **RAINBOW ROOM:** (a program of the **Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective**) - - A welcoming place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and questioning "LGBTQ" teens (13-17 years old). Rainbow Room meets the first Sunday of every month from 2-5 p.m., 1841 Broad Street (Health Collective building), Hartford. For more info. please visit our website at <http://www.hglhc.org/> or contact donnas@hglhc.org or call 860-278-4163 x13.
- **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.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGE: Due to the increased cost of printing our *Caring* newsletter and the cost for postage, we regret that we have had to make a decision that only dues-paying members will receive a hard copy of *Caring*; all others will be able to access *Caring* via e-mail. While we hope that everyone who takes advantage of our monthly meetings will join Hartford PFLAG, if you do not join and still want to get our newsletter, please make sure that the Glezens have your e-mail address.

FYI: PFLAG Hartford paid members also receive the National PFLAG newsletter.

DID YOU KNOW? PFLAG Hartford is the largest PFLAG chapter in all of New England. We have averaged over 50 attendees per meeting, and broke an attendance record over the winter with 74 participants.

GAY MARRIAGE LAW CLEARS LAST HURDLE IN ENGLAND

Tribune Newspapers and news services

LONDON – Gay marriage is to become legal in England and Wales after the lower house of the British parliament approved the final changes ... to a law that had Prime Minister David Cameron's backing but split his ruling Conservative Party.

The law had the support of both Labour and the Liberal Democrats, Britain's two other main political parties, but damaged Cameron's standing within his own party with many of his own lawmakers criticizing him for being too liberal. His own members of parliament had previously twice voted against it.

After a two-hour debate, the House of Commons passed the bill, meaning it only needs to be approved by Queen Elizabeth II, a formality.

"The title of the bill might be 'Marriage,' but its fabric is about freedom and respect," said Culture Secretary Maria Miller, adding that traditionalists should not feel their concept of marriage had been undermined: "Freedom to marry regardless of sexuality or gender, but also freedom to believe that marriage should be of one man and one woman, and not be marginalized," she said

The prime minister endorsed the bill to try to show his party was progressive, but that upset some Conservatives who said their Christian beliefs led them to oppose marriage other than between a man and a woman.

Gay couples may already obtain "civil partnerships," conferring the same legal rights as marriage.

NEW ZEALAND: With a vote in April, New Zealand became the 13th country in the world to legalize same-sex marriage. The law took effect in August.



I'm proud to share that the Office of Civil Rights at the Department of Education (DOE) recently announced plans to collect information on LGBT bullying in schools across the country. This is truly a breakthrough worth celebrating because it means LGBT student experiences will now be recorded and analyzed to help drive school policy.

GLSEN has been pushing for the inclusion of this data for some time, and helped lead the conversation that resulted in this action by the DOE.

At the official announcement, a senior official from the Department approached GLSEN Student Ambassador Liam Arne. "I need to shake your hand," he said. "Because of you, the Secretary of Education is adding LGBT students to the most important Department of Education data collection instruments."

This development, championed by our GLSEN Student Ambassadors and other student leadership teams, is critical to informing government and helping our lawmakers take action to ensure that LGBT students have equal access to quality education.

Thanks to [our supporters], we are able to share our story in Washington D.C. and across the nation to bring about real change and develop school climates where difference is valued for the positive contribution it makes in creating a more vibrant and diverse community.

Thank you for being a part of this success and for making a difference.
With sincere appreciation,



*Liam Arne,
Student Ambassador*

Sincerely,
Eliza Byard, Executive Director

MORE FROM GLSEN

GLSEN is proud to announce that it is strengthening its longstanding support for transgender and gender nonconforming students with the addition of the student-created grassroots organization Transgender Student Rights (TSR) to its family of programs.

Founded in 2009, TSR is an online community that provides support and resources to transgender and gender nonconforming students. The TSR student leaders have produced resources and grown a large community of transgender and gender nonconforming youth, and those seeking to support them.

As a part of GLSEN, TSR will become a vehicle for resources, actions, events and support at GLSEN.org while continuing to provide a community of engagement on Facebook and Twitter, supported by transgender and gender nonconforming youth.

Visit GLSEN's TSR page to learn more about TSR and download GLSEN resources designed to support and empower transgender and gender nonconforming students, such as Know Your Rights: A Guide for Trans and Gender Nonconforming Students, Where is the "T" in GSA: Making Your School Trans-Inclusive and our Model District Policy on Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students.

You can also sign up for news and updates about TSR and our work related to transgender and gender nonconforming youth.

Sincerely,

Kristi Leimgruber
Co-Chair, GLSEN Connecticut

Anthony Brisson
Co-Chair, GLSEN Connecticut

PRESSURE MOUNTS ON IOC AMID BACKLASH ON RUSSIA ANTI-GAY LAW**Next president will inherit controversy after election next month** *By Ian Munroe, CBC News Posted: Aug 12, 2013*

Growing international criticism of a new Russian law against gay "propaganda" has left some observers wondering whether the Sochi Games will leave an indelible mark not only on the host nation but the Olympic movement itself. Rights groups say Russia is in the midst of a period of repression, particularly since the reelection of President Vladimir Putin last year. They point to a raft of repressive new laws, the most recent of which involves a vaguely worded ban on "propaganda for non-traditional sexual relations," under threat of steep fines or jail time.

In recent weeks, the new measure has sparked ever-louder calls to boycott the Olympic Games in Sochi this February, or to relocate them to a country that is more amenable to gay rights. The controversy has even prompted public statements from Western leaders including Prime Minister Stephen Harper and U.S. President Barack Obama.

The contentious Russian legislation poses a problem for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and not only because of the negative publicity it has been generating. It also appears to contravene the "fundamental principles" of the Olympic Charter, which promotes non-discrimination. Finally, it could potentially threaten the safety of those who will attend the Sochi Games.

At a news conference on Friday, IOC president Jacques Rogge said he had received "written assurances" on the issue from his Russian counterparts. "But there are still uncertainties and we have decided to ask for more clarification," he said. "The Olympic Charter is very clear. It says that sport is a human right and it should be available to all."

Olympic officials are likely working quietly to convince leaders in the Kremlin that they need to do more to guarantee the anti-gay law won't threaten the safety of Olympic athletes, officials or fans, said Dick Pound, a former senior member of the IOC and ex-head of the World Anti-Doping Agency. "The answer is to get it done, and not to stand up on some pulpit and start preaching," he said in a phone interview with CBC News.

Legitimacy at risk?

Others who have been involved with the Games in the past say they would like to see the IOC take a firmer public stance on the matter. "The Olympic movement has got to take the lead in opposing this outrageous law and ensuring in the very least that the Winter Games go ahead with the full recognition of human rights," said Bruce Kidd, a former Olympian and professor at the University of Toronto who has written a book on IOC reform. "That's not happened recently. That didn't happen in China," he added. "At the very least it has to happen in Sochi or the Olympic movement will lose considerable legitimacy among lots of people, including lots of people in sport."

Kidd said he hopes that Russia's anti-gay law becomes an issue next month when the IOC's 104 members converge at the Buenos Aires Hilton hotel to elect a new president. Rogge is due to step down after 12 years at the helm of the international body, paving the way for a new top official. Kidd said he believes the incoming president will determine to a large extent how the IOC will handle the escalating controversy. "This is like a major change in government in what is a one-party state," he said.

Calls for reform

Minky Worden, the director of global initiatives with Human Rights Watch (HRW), said her organization and other like-minded advocacy groups will be lobbying for the IOC to elect a president next month "who's actually going to enforce the human rights requirements of the Olympic charter."

Last week, HRW released a report listing abuses it has documented in Sochi, a city of 300,000 in southern Russia, as preparations for the Games move ahead. The report cites "government efforts to intimidate several organizations and individuals who have investigated or spoken out against abuse of migrant workers, the impact of the construction of Olympic venues and infrastructure on the environment and health of residents, and unfair compensation for people forcibly evicted from their homes," as well as harassment of journalists who are reporting on the preparations.

When Olympic Pride House, a group which had set up a gay-friendly facility at the previous Games in London and Vancouver, applied to do the same in Sochi the report says the application was turned down by a Russian judge who wrote that hosting Olympic Pride House would "contradict the foundations of public morality."

"It's fair to say that Russia is going to give the Beijing Olympics a run for the money on human rights abuses, particularly the crackdown on the LGBT community and civil society," Worden said in a phone interview. "This will be the first homophobic Olympics, certainly. That's without precedent."

WAL-MART SAID IT WILL OFFER HEALTH COVERAGE TO SAME-SEX PARTNERS NEXT YEAR*The Advocate 8/27/13, by Tiffany Hsu*

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the largest private employer in the country, plans to start offering health coverage next year to domestic partners of full-time employees – including those in same-sex relationships. The extension, outlined in a postcard sent to workers this week, follows a series of recent court rulings in favor of gay marriage around the country.

Though spokesman Randy Hargrove said it's unclear many people may sign up for the program, he said that more than half of the company's 1.3 million U.S. associates are covered by the retailer's health insurance plan. That equates to 1.1 million associates and family members, he said.

To qualify for Wal-Mart's coverage, associates must "live together in an ongoing, exclusive, committed relationship similar to marriage" with a same- or opposite-sex spouse or unmarried partner and "have been together at least 12 months and intend to continue sharing a household indefinitely," Hargrove said.

"Since we operate in all 50 states, we thought it was important to develop a single definition so we can ensure consistency for all our associates across the country," Hargrove said.

The Bentonville, Ark., retail giant also noted that 2014 comes with a new vision plan, including eye exams, glasses and contacts. Wal-Mart also said employees would see the lowest medical premium increases in years – somewhere between 3% and 10% from last year, Hargrove said.

*August 27, 2013***FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

I am currently on my way to D.C. for tomorrow's Let Freedom Ring Commemoration and Call to Action Ceremony. In less than 24 hours - sometime between 12:15 and 12:30 ET - I will stand on the very stage that A. Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin, John Lewis and Martin Luther King Jr. spoke from on that amazing day 50 years ago. I won't really believe it until I'm standing there.

Today, many have heard of Bayard Rustin, one of the March's primary organizers, and President Obama has awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously. But if you look at the original program of speakers for the March, you won't find his name listed. As a Socialist and an openly gay man, Rustin was not given an opportunity to speak for himself in 1963.

A. Philip Randolph, Rustin's mentor and friend, made sure that Rustin had a moment on stage in the end - but his role was carefully circumscribed: He would read out the demands of the March in a symbolic call-and-response with the crowd.

In assembling their program, The King Center wanted to be sure to include LGBT voices. While GLSEN will be the only LGBT organization represented on the stage, all of the speakers will bring their whole selves to this event, no matter who they are.

I am honored to participate in tomorrow's commemoration, and come to this call to action to pledge GLSEN's full commitment to the fight that must continue. We are in a fight to hold hard-won ground, while still fighting for real equity and equality of opportunity for so many. We need all hands on deck, together, and all voices in the fight to reach a point where freedom truly rings equally for all.

We have such work to do to make sure that the doors of opportunity are open wide for every single child in this country. The barriers to progress are many and varied, and our work will not be done until they all are swept away. Thank you for being part of the fight and for making our work possible.

Dr. Eliza Byard

Executive Director, GLSEN

THANK-YOU TO OUR PFLAG REGIONAL DIRECTOR: We were privileged to have a very special speaker join us at the July meeting. Amy Mesirov, of the Cape Cod PFLAG chapter, is the new Regional Director for PFLAG's New England Region. Amy shared both her personal story and information about the important position she holds. Amy let us know what is happening on PFLAG's regional and national scenes. In a thank-you note to Becky and John, Amy said:

"I can't tell you how impressed I am by your chapter – it's size, it's diversity, it's welcoming atmosphere, it's huge library, etc. On our recent Regional Director's conference call, each RD was asked to identify the "roses and thorns" in their chapter, and your chapter was one of my two "roses"! I'm planning to nominate your chapter for a PFLAG Chapter Award."

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*.

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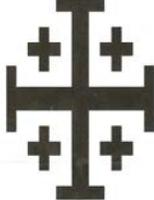


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Absolutely everyone is welcome at this parish where we hope you will find a community of faith to support and encourage you.

We worship God through a traditional liturgy, celebrated with open minds and generous hearts.



Sunday - 8:00 A.M. Low Mass
 10:30 A.M. Sung Mass or Solemn High Mass
 Tuesday - 5:30 P.M. Low Mass or Healing Mass
 Wednesday - 7:15 A.M. Low Mass
 Thursday - 5:30 P.M. Low Mass

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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

Hot Line: (203) 874-7365

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.

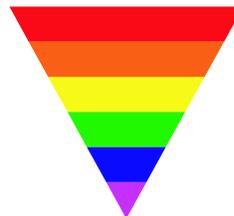
Deadline: 15th of even numbered months.

Send articles to: *Jean Cormier*

156 Randal Avenue,

West Hartford, CT 06110

HARTFORD GAY PRIDE CELEBRATION 2013



AT THIS POINT, A HARTFORD PRIDE FESTIVAL HAS NOT BEEN SCHEDULED FOR THIS YEAR.

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.