



HAPPY 2014 AND HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO ALL PFLAG PARENTS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS



## The Voice of PFLAG Hartford

# Caring

Volume 23, No. 1

January/February 2014

IN THE PFLAG HARTFORD FAMILY:

**SINCERE CONDOLENCES** to the Murphy family on the recent passing of Tom's mother.

**TRUE COLORS 21ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE**, March 21 and 22, 2014, UConn campus, Storrs. The theme this year is playing on an equal field in school, in healthcare, in the community and in the systems that touch the lives of youth. Jim W. has graciously agreed to set up and run the PFLAG Hartford table but he will need volunteers to help on Friday and Saturday. We will circulate sign-up sheets at our January, February and March meetings. Please consider giving Jim a hand at the conference. Look for details in the March/April issue of *Caring*.

**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



*(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](mailto: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](mailto:coordinator@stonewallspeakers.org).
- **XX CLUB "Twenty Club"** – The Transsexual Support Group of New England meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month from 2-5 p.m. at The Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective, 1841 Broad Street, Hartford, CT [www.twentyclub.net](http://www.twentyclub.net).
- **LIVING SOULFULLY** (Men Loving Men In Community) meets the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at The Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective, 1841 Broad Street, Hartford, CT. 860/278-4163
- **THE SEVENTH ANNUAL TRANSGENDER LIVES CONFERENCE** will be held on **April 26, 2014** at the UConn Health Center in Farmington, CT.
- **2ND FUNDRAISER "CRANES REVISITED"** to benefit **The Ali Forney Shelter, NY** (which was destroyed by hurricane Sandy). Organized by our own Justin K./Hall High School GSA. Program will be held on February 13 at 7:00 pm. at "The Grounds," 740 North Main Street, West Hartford. Tickets: \$5. Any additional contributions would be appreciated. For information about "The Grounds," go to [www.westhartfordgrounds.com](http://www.westhartfordgrounds.com). Refreshments will be served.



Almost 25 years ago, a small dedicated group of teachers came together to improve an education system that frequently turned a blind eye to discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students.

Today, through support from people just like you, the vision of that small group has grown into **GLSEN** – the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network – which is now recognized as the **leading national education organization** focused on ensuring safe schools for all students.

As a nation, we face a pervasive problem when 8 out of 10 LGBT students report harassment in their school. That's why GLSEN works tirelessly to change the educational system by:

- **Conducting extensive and original research**
- **Authoring developmentally appropriate resources**
- **Partnering with decision makers and national education organizations**
- **Empowering students to create change in their schools and communities**
- **And training educators to create safe classrooms for all students and address anti-LGBT behavior**

At GLSEN, we want every student, in every school, to be valued and treated with respect, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

### **OUR GOALS FOR 2014 INCLUDE:**

- **Releasing the seventh biennial National School Climate Survey, which includes a broader range of questions;**
- **Increasing efforts to make 2014 the year the Safe Schools Improvement Act (SSIA) is passed in Congress;**
- **Expanding the role and level of interaction between GLSEN Student Ambassadors and our growing media contacts to amplify the student voice of GLSEN.**

With your help, we can accomplish these ambitious goals and more in 2014.



November 7, 2013

This IS a truly historic moment. For the first time ever, a trans-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) has passed in the Senate

It wasn't easy. The Task Force organized all over the country and with your help we moved both Democrats and Republicans to support ENDA. But, at the end, we had to fight dangerous amendments designed to kill or weaken this vital legislation. It's been a tough fight, but we have momentum on our side and, with your help, we can pass ENDA in the House and protect everyone in all 50 states.

Getting ENDA through the Senate is a huge victory, but once we've celebrated we'll have to roll up our sleeves and continue the fight. Getting the bill through the House will be even more of a battle.

...

Speaker John Boehner has said that ENDA will not see the light of day in the House. We can't let that happen! There's an incredible amount of support for ENDA in the House, and if we get a vote scheduled, we can win. ...

We know the opposition will be out in full force telling lies about what ENDA means. We'll counter these lies and lobby the House to make sure that legislators know a vote for ENDA is the right thing to do. This vote is not only on the right side of history, it's also good for America's workers and good for business.

...

Sincerely,

Rea Carey, Executive Director

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund

*More from the Task Force...*

### **WOW. WHAT A WEEK IT'S BEEN!**

It may seem like change happens in the blink of an eye, but we all know that the changes we've lived through recently happened only after years of hard work.

We're making amazing progress. More than half the people in the U.S. now live in a place with non-discrimination protections for LGBT people. Just last week, this number got bumped up a little when we won LGBT civil rights protections at the ballot box in Royal Oak, MI. Yesterday, Governor Abercrombie signed marriage equality into law in Hawaii. And next week, Illinois will legalize the freedom to marry.

**Since Election Day 2012 we've won the freedom to marry in 10 more states, bringing the total number of states with marriage equality to 16 plus the District of Columbia!**

It's not just marriage equality. Last week the U.S. Senate passed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) by a vote of 64-32. That historic vote was the first time that the Senate has passed a transgender inclusive nondiscrimination bill of any kind. Now it moves on to the House.

So we'll keep working for that day when no one can be fired for who they love or who they are. And for that day when anyone who wants to can get married – anywhere. And when that happens, it'll be a moment of radical change that's been decades in the making.

The Task Force has been working for forty years to create equality for LGBT people and we're not going to stop until everyone everywhere is free to live their lives openly and honestly without fear of discrimination.

Sincerely,

Rea Carey, Executive Director

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force



**OUR SPECIAL NOVEMBER MEETING GUEST SPEAKER** was one of our own "regulars," Janis Booth. Janis is a trans-woman who has had two full careers. Her first career was as an RN practicing in the fields of cardiology, emergency medicine, and IV therapy. She is now a software developer and is currently employed by WebMD. A native of Connecticut, she lived in California for a couple of years in the 1970s. She resides in Thomaston, Connecticut. Janis, thank-you for sharing your personal journey to becoming your true self.



November 5, 2013

At its core, the freedom to marry is about loving couples being able to make a public commitment to share their lives together. Today, we've made that a real possibility for gay and lesbian couples in the state of Illinois.

Just moments ago, Illinois became the 15th state to pass the freedom to marry. The bill will soon head to the desk of Governor Pat Quinn who has promised to sign it into law.

This incredible victory in Illinois adds to a transformational year in which together we have won the freedom to marry in six states, created the climate for the Supreme Court to overturn a key section of DOMA and grew public support to the highest levels ever. As I write, we have opportunities to win in Hawaii and New Mexico before the end of 2013.

Freedom to Marry staff is on the ground in these states and others providing expertise and leadership in lobbying, media and digital organizing -- all crucial components for winning campaigns. As we take the lessons learned from the victory in Illinois and 14 other states where we have won, we are focused on doing everything possible to make lives better for the millions of same-sex couples who want to be able to marry in their home states.

This single-minded dedication is what has brought us to this moment and what fuels our ambitious plans for winning marriage for gay and lesbian couples nationwide. ...

Marc Solomon, National Campaign Director  
Freedom to Marry



### **MARRIAGE ADVANCES IN UTAH!**

Not only has a federal district judge struck down the state's constitutional ban on marriage equality, but now gay and lesbian couples are successfully obtaining marriage licenses in at least some parts of the state.

It's likely that the state's Attorney General will appeal this ruling to a higher court and stop any new weddings, but now families in the state have renewed hope for equality.

This is a rapidly developing situation. And if we've learned anything in the past year, things can change with a moment's notice. ...

Chad Griffin, President

### **CT TRANSADVOCACY COALITION**

The Seventh Annual *Transgender Lives: The Intersection of Health and Law Conference* will be held on **April 26, 2014** at the UConn Health Center in Farmington, Ct. In preparation for this conference we are announcing our CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS for the conference. You can submit your workshop electronically this year. There is an online form titled: **Submit Your Proposal**. This will give you all relevant details for submission and importantly will allow you to fill out your proposal online. We encourage you to submit your proposal as soon as possible.

We also encourage you to forward this Request for Workshop proposals to any colleagues, friends, family or distribution lists you feel would be interested in doing a workshop at the 2014 Transgender Lives: The Intersection of Health and Law Conference.

As this conference has dramatically grown over the years, we recognize that many of you have very important topics and experience which fold into our theme of *The Intersection of Health and Law*. Workshop space is *limited* and all proposals will be reviewed for applicability and relevance to the Conference theme and audience.

If you feel you have a workshop that would benefit the conference then we encourage you to submit your proposal at your earliest convenience.

If you have any questions, please [email us](mailto:conference@transadvocacy.org) at [conference@transadvocacy.org](mailto:conference@transadvocacy.org) |  
Transgender Lives Organizing Committee

**ON TRIBAL LAND, GAY WEDDINGS INCREASE***by Amanda J. Crawford, Bloomberg News,**as printed in the Hartford Courant, 11/18/13*

PHOENIX – At least four American Indian tribes have legalized same-sex marriage this year – in some cases creating islands of marriage equality in states that otherwise ban the unions. As a growing number of states have moved to allow gay couples to wed, with Illinois poised to bring the number to 16 soon, so have tribes, which are sovereign governments not subject to state laws. At least seven perform same-sex marriages, including those in Oklahoma, Oregon and Michigan, where voters constitutionally banned gay marriage in 2004.

“The federal government recognizes it, but the state I reside in doesn’t,” said Tim LaCroix, 53, a member of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians in Michigan. LaCroix wed his non-Indian partner of 30 years on tribal land in March. “We should be accepted in the state of Michigan. We pay taxes like everyone else,” he said.

The Supreme Court’s decision in June striking down a ban on federal benefits for same-sex couples has emboldened marriage rights activists nationwide, including those on reservations. The ruling that invalidated the core of the Defense of Marriage Act didn’t force states to recognize marriages performed elsewhere, including by tribes within their borders, said Ron Whitener, executive director of the Native American Law Center at the University of Washington. Still, the high court’s action has a direct effect on American Indians who may deal directly with the federal government about reservation land and other issues, he said.

“It’s going to speed up the uptake of same-sex marriages in tribes because it clears up that issue that, for Indians, is a bigger deal than even for non-Indians,” he said. There are 566 federally recognized tribes in the U.S. The two largest, Cherokee Nation and Navajo Nation, banned same-sex marriage in 2004 and 2005, respectively, as similar laws swept through states. Other tribes, like Whitener’s Squaxin Island Tribe in Washington state, don’t have laws governing domestic relations and defer to the state, he said.

During the past 20 years, there has been a push by tribes to rewrite their laws to better reflect their customs and culture, Whitener said. As that process continues, he said, more tribes will allow same-sex couples to wed. Some tribes traditionally regard homosexuals as highly spiritual people, sometimes referred to as “two-spirited,” he said.

It’s not known how many tribes explicitly allow gay marriage in their statutes or have been performing ceremonies. Generally, at least one of the spouses would have to be a member of the tribe to qualify for marriage, Whitener said.



In the fall of 2010, GLSEN embarked on a monumental campaign to provide *every* middle and high school in the country – 63,000 schools — with a GLSEN Safe Space Kit by the end of 2013. The Kit, which includes Safe Space stickers and posters and a 42-page guide to being an ally to LGBT students, empowers teachers to make a difference in the lives of LGBT youth.

Earlier this month, the last batch of Safe Space Kits began arriving at the remaining few hundred schools, meaning every secondary school in the country now has access to a resource that helps teachers make classrooms and hallways safer for LGBT students.

GLSEN could not have reached every secondary school in the country without the support of hundreds of corporate and community partners, GLSEN’s 38 chapters and many of you – from donating Kits to voting for us in the Pepsi Refresh Challenge and helping us win \$250,000 toward the campaign.

Here are a few of the people and partners who helped us reach this goal:

- Eddie, a high school student and GSA leader in Portland, Oregon, purchased 12 Safe Space Kits out of his own pocket and hand-delivered them to schools in his area.
- Wells Fargo made a historic financial and volunteer investment in the campaign, allowing GLSEN to take the initiative to scale and achieve our ambitious goal.
- Deborah Gist, Rhode Island Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, wrote to educators in the state: “Ask yourself what you can do and begin by identifying yourself, your classroom and your office as safe spaces for LGBT students. It can change a life – and in some cases, save one.”
- Our GLSEN Phoenix chapter hosted district-wide trainings to maximize knowledge and impact of the Kits.

All told in the past three years, we’ve distributed close to 100,000 Kits (schools need more than just one) and 1 million Safe Space stickers.

But the completion of the Safe Space Campaign is just the beginning. We are committed to making sure every LGBT student can identify not just one but many supportive educators, which our research shows leads to higher grade point averages, greater educational aspirations and less fear-based absenteeism. That is something we *all* can support.

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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.***

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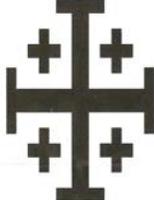
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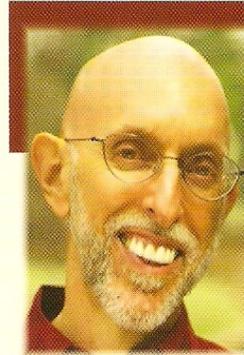


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Helpline: (860) 633-7184

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](mailto:bjalthen@sbcglobal.net)

Web site: [www.pflagsect.org](http://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](mailto:greaternewhavenpflag@yahoo.com)

**Central and Western Massachusetts**

**PFLAG FRANKLIN-HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER**

**Northhampton**

When: Second Tuesday of every month

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

Helpline: 413/625-6636

Email: [jcmalinski48@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:PFLAGPV@valinet.com)

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*Caring* welcomes articles, letters and other submissions for publication.

**Deadline:** 15<sup>th</sup> of even numbered months.

Send articles to: *Jean Cormier*

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*Winter*



**STRAIGHT SPOUSE SUPPORT NETWORK:**

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Contact Jane Harris at (413) 625-6636 or  
[jcmalinski48@gmail.com](mailto:jcmalinski48@gmail.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).