



TRUE COLORS 21ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE
 March 21 and 22, 2014, UConn campus, Storrs.
 Be sure to stop by the PFLAG Hartford Table



The Voice of PFLAG Hartford

Caring



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March/April 2014

IN THE PFLAG HARTFORD FAMILY:

TRUE COLORS 21ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE, March 21 & 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 March meeting. Please consider coming to enjoy the conference and giving Jim a hand at the PFLAG table.

PFLAG HARTFORD & TRUE COLORS WILL AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS to LGBTI students or allies at our June meeting. Application forms for the Brill Scholarship will be available at the True Colors Conference as well as on our PFLAG Hartford website (www.PFLAGHartford.org). Just click on the True Colors link. **Deadline to apply is April 25.**

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

- **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
- **THE SEVENTH ANNUAL TRANSGENDER LIVES CONFERENCE** will be held on **April 26, 2014** at the UConn Health Center in Farmington, CT.

GLAD
EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW

GAY & LESBIAN ADVOCATES & DEFENDERS
Making History, Changing Lives.

Join us to honor Becky and John Glezen for their advocacy and leadership of the Greater Hartford PFLAG Chapter for the past 15 years. Not only have Becky and John worked tirelessly to improve the health, safety, and well-being of the LGBT community, but they have also been great activists in federal legislative initiatives, communities of faith, and educational institutions.

When: Sunday, April 13, 2014, 1:00 pm -3:00 pm

Where: The Studio at Firebox Restaurant

539 Broad Street

Hartford, CT 06106

Complimentary Hors D'oeuvres - Cash Bar

Tickets \$75 - Student Tickets \$25

Call Aaron Miller to order tickets (860) 990-1225

THANK-YOU to our January meeting speaker, Rev. Dr. Derek Austin.

Rev. Austin is currently the Interim Senior Minister at Immanuel Congregational Church (our PFLAG "home"), having served churches as a transitional pastor for the last nine years, and in CT for the last five. Although having been raised in Albany, NY, Derek went to school on the west coast and lived most of his adult life in San Diego, CA, until relocating to New England in 2005.

With a Bachelors degree in Music and a Masters in Education, Derek also taught vocal music at a performing arts magnet school, and was the conductor of the San Diego Gay Men's Chorus, before pursuing his Doctoral studies at San Francisco Theological Seminary and entering ministry. Derek also serves on several committees in the CT Conference and New England that both resource and explore the changing nature of ministry, church life, and non-profit dynamics.

Having previously come from a conservative Fundamentalist Christian background, his "coming out" story in the midst of that environment echoes the pain and loss of many gay men and women who have had similar journeys – and brings to his pulpits today the growth and experience from such challenges.

We hope to see Derek at future PFLAG Hartford monthly meetings.



Kerry, a physical therapist dedicated to helping senior citizens, was so happy to marry her partner, Renee, and to be able to care for her and the family they were just beginning to plan. **Imagine Kerry's surprise and disappointment at learning that her employer, Brookdale Senior Living, would not allow her to cover Renee on her health insurance plan.**

Matt, a skilled food industry professional, was excited to put his years of experience to work planning and making healthy meals for students. **Imagine Matt's shock at losing his job as Food Services Director at Fontbonne Academy - because he is gay.**

I know you can imagine how both Kerry and Matt feel, because you know, as do I, that despite our many advances in the law, such unfair and illegal discrimination against LGBT people persists in far too many areas. **From employers refusing to provide equal benefits for same-sex spouses - even after the fall of DOMA - to institutions like Fontbonne Academy hiding behind claims of religious liberty as they blatantly violate non-discrimination laws, GLAD is fighting this discrimination head on.**

This week, we filed charges of discrimination in two cases:

Considine v Brookdale Senior Living - Filed with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission against Brookdale Senior Living for refusing to allow Kerry Considine to put her wife on her employer-provided health plan. The charge argues that Brookdale's action discriminates against Kerry on the basis of her sex, in violation of both the Connecticut Fair Employment Practices Act and Title VII of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Barrett v Fontbonne Academy - Filed with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination against Fontbonne Academy, a religiously affiliated college preparatory school in Milton, MA. The school terminated Matt Barrett from a job having nothing to do with religion after Matt listed his husband, Ed Suplee, as his emergency contact on a required form. Matt was told he was terminated because the Catholic Church doesn't recognize same-sex marriage.

GLAD is prepared to fight - and win - the battles against anti-LGBT discrimination on every front. With your continued support, we will keep up that fight until we've won true equality for all LGBT people in every facet of life.

Thank you for standing with us,
Lee Swislow, Executive Director

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 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, we encourage you to submit your proposal at your earliest convenience.

If you have any questions, please email us at conference@transadvocacy.org.

Transgender Lives Organizing Committee

SCOTLAND OVERWHELMINGLY PASSES GAY MARRIAGE BILL *2/5/14 The Hartford Courant*

Scotland voted overwhelmingly Tuesday [February 4] to allow same-sex marriages, becoming the 17th country to give the green light to gay weddings despite opposition from its main church organizations.

The Scottish government said passing the same-sex marriage bill was an important step for equal rights and paved the way for same-sex wedding ceremonies later this year.

The move was opposed by the Scottish Catholic Church and the Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

**MISSOURI DEFENSIVE LINEMAN, MICHAEL SAM, BECOMES FIRST ACTIVE ATHLETE IN A MAJOR TEAM SPORT TO COME OUT** *Excerpts from a 2/11/14, Hartford Courant article by Paul Doyle*

As NFL observers speculate on how Michael Sam will survive inside a professional football locker room, consider the way the openly gay senior was treated by his Missouri teammates over the past six months. Sam came out to the world Sunday night [2/9], but he told his team he was gay in August. The Tigers and their defensive leader went on to complete one of the great seasons in school history, winning 12 games and finishing No. 5 in the national rankings.

While Sam earned SEC defensive player of the year, he was embraced by his teammates and news of his sexuality was never leaked to the media. A distraction? Not in Columbia, Mo. “It’s another example of what we’ve been saying for years now, which is that you can be an out, gay athlete,” said Patrick Burke, co-founder of the **You Can Play Project**. “Whether you’re male or female, whether it’s collegiate, high school, pro ... the sports world is more welcoming than people think. Now Michael is living proof of that.” ... Not long after Sam made his announcement Sunday evening, talk centered on how he will be accepted by teammates and whether teams would be willing to take on the perceived “distraction” his presence will bring.

...

“When people talk about, ‘Well, he’s going to be a distraction, he’s going to be a problem,’ well, he wasn’t for Missouri,” Burke said. “He was team leader, his teammates responded to him, and when he came out, his team rallied around him. So I think that’s a great example of what can happen when coaches and players show leadership and support their teammates.” Professional athletes in team sports have come out after their careers ended, and NBA player Jason Collins came out last year, but he has not played this season. Sam would be the first openly gay player in one of the major team sports if he is on an NFL roster next fall.

...

The NFL issued a statement saying: “We admire Michael Sam’s honesty and courage. Michael is a football player. Any player with ability and determination can succeed in the NFL. We look forward to welcoming and supporting Michael Sam in 2014.” And various team owners expressed openness, including Robert Kraft of the Patriots. “We’re about winning and anyone who can come in here and help us win ... I’m happy to have him here,” he said, according to the Boston Herald.

...

The issue might be generational, said writer and Staples boys’ soccer coach, Dan Woog. “I don’t think there’s a kid in America in high school who doesn’t know somebody who is gay,” said Woog, who is openly gay. “Somebody at school, a relative... They know gay people. It’s just not a big deal. Look at the Missouri players. They didn’t say a word, they embraced him. If a bunch of 20-year olds can handle it, I think an NFL team ought to be able to handle it pretty well, too.”

Woog sees Sam as a potential role model for gay teens, but his presence is just as important for straight kids. “Clearly it’s great for gay kids, that they can see that they can be anyone they want to be, not just an interior decorator or a cop or a teacher or a politician,” Woog said. “They can be anyone they want to be. And there are plenty of kids – fewer now – who are good athletes but they get turned off by the environment and what they hear, so they don’t pursue it... or they hide who they are and they become either aggressively homophobic or they just have no life whatsoever.” “But I also think, and this is the part that is less examined, that it’s really important for the straight kids. That Michael Sam coming out is important for straight kids to know, ‘You know, I probably do have gay teammates, I might have a gay coach... It’s not right, it’s not wrong, it’s not good, it’s not bad, it simply is.’ So the message that that sends to kids who don’t even know they’re getting the message is as important as the one that’s being sent to the gay kids.”



February 13, 2014

A federal judge ruled today that Virginia's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional.

This victory makes Virginia the fifth state in recent weeks where courts have ruled in favor of marriage equality. **These five rulings are just the beginning of a battle that will almost certainly reach the U.S. Supreme Court – and which could lead to our ultimate goal of marriage equality in all 50 states.** The judge hasn't actually allowed marriages to begin yet – as in Oklahoma, they won't start while the case is on appeal. But the wheels have been set in motion.

This historic ruling would not have happened without two courageous couples who served as the plaintiffs in this case. They have a long road ahead to finally have the ability to marry – and they deserve our thanks. These two couples – Tim Bostic & Tony London, and Carol Schall & Mary Townley – are an inspiration for any family. They've been together for a collective 55 years.

...

This case was brought to the courts by our friends, the American Foundation for Equal Rights, and would not have been possible without Tim, Tony, Carol and Mary. As it winds its way through the appeals process, and hopefully to the highest court in the land, they need to know we've got their back.

This case has sent yet another clear message across the U.S. – that no American should have to wait for equality, no matter where they live.

We've still got a long way to go, but I know we'll get there together.

Sincerely,

Chad Griffin, President



“NO NAME CALLING” WEEK GLSEN often encounters adults who perceive name-calling and teasing in schools as something that isn't a big deal. That the problem is blown out of proportion, or that “kids will be kids.” But the students who live through it tell another story. Terms like “retard,” “spaz” and “that's so gay” are prolific in schools, and not much thought is given to their effect. But these words can have great impact.... research has found:

- 75% of elementary school students say other students are called names, made fun of or bullied on a regular basis;
- 46% of elementary school students regularly hear other students say things like “that's so gay” or “you're so gay”;
- 64% of middle and high school students say that name-calling, bullying or harassment is a serious problem at their school;
- 60% of middle and high school students regularly see their peers called names, bullied or harassed because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation.

...

Monday [1/20/14] marked the beginning of our 11th annual No Name-Calling Week, where we focus national attention on the problems of name-calling in schools and provide students, educators and administrators with the tools and inspiration to launch an ongoing dialogue about ways to eliminate name-calling in their communities.

GLSEN helps K-12 schools around the country plan events and activities aimed at reducing bias and celebrating kindness. Since we began No Name-Calling Week just over a decade ago, we have seen thousands of schools not only implement these programs successfully, but find new and creative ways to make them grow.

To learn more, check out our [No Name-Calling Week page](#) on the GLSEN website. Name-calling in our schools is anything but harmless, and we are working toward a day when *every* student feels safe, valued and respected in their school.

With sincere appreciation,

Eliza Byard, Executive Director

No Name-Calling Week was originally envisioned by children's author James Howe in his popular book, “The Misfits.” In the story, four middle school students – each of whom feels “different” in some way – band together to change the culture in their school. In 2004, GLSEN partnered with Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing to make No Name-Calling Week a reality.



January 30, 2014

Today, Maine's highest court ruled that denying a transgender girl the use of the girls' restroom at her school violated her rights under the state's Human Rights Act.

This is a huge victory for transgender young people!

The decision on behalf of GLAD's client Nicole Maines marks the first time a state court has ruled that transgender students must be allowed to use the bathrooms that match who they are.

We have been working with Nicole and her remarkable family for years, and are thrilled that their long battle has ended in victory.

...

As we successfully argued in court, schools have a responsibility to create a learning environment that allows every student to succeed. For transgender students this includes access to all school facilities, programs and extracurricular activities in a way that is consistent with their gender identity.

Today's victory marks a huge step towards making that a reality for transgender students everywhere.

In celebration,

Lee Swislow

Executive Director

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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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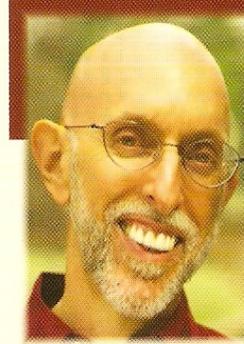


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Connecticut PFLAG Meetings

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 Email: greaternewhavenpflag@yahoo.com
No meetings

PFLAG HARTFORD

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 Phone: (860) 633-5111
 Helpline: (860) 633-7184
 Transgender issues: (860) 231-8582
 E-mail: HfdPFLAG@aol.com
 Web site: www.PFLAGHartford.org
 MEETINGS: 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 pm
 Immanuel Congregational Church
 10 Woodland Street, Hartford

PFLAG SOUTHWESTERN CT

Helplines: (203) 322-5380 (Stamford)
 226-0257 (Westport), 874-7365 (Milford),
 925-0445 (Shelton), 856-8631 (Norwalk)
 Email: PFLAGSWCT@yahoo.com
 Call for meeting information.

PFLAG SECT (SOUTHEASTERN CT)

Infoline: (860) 447-0884
 Email: pflagsect@snet.net
 Web site: www.pflagsect.org
 MEETINGS: 2nd Monday, 7:00pm
 (pot luck 6:00pm) Noank Baptist Church
 18 Cathedral Heights, Noank (Groton)

Central and Western Massachusetts

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
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Editor/Circulation Manager: Jean Cormier

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 submissions for publication.

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