



*PFLAG, True Colors & the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective
Scholarship Presentations & Reception*

June 18, 2014, 7:00 p.m. (prior to our regular 7:30 meeting)

All are welcome to stay for our monthly meeting.

Refreshments will be served.



The Voice of PFLAG Hartford



Caring

Volume 23, No. 3

May/June 2014

IN THE PFLAG HARTFORD FAMILY:

Thank-you to Jim W. for once again agreeing to take charge of our PFLAG table at the True Colors Conference on March 21 & 22 at the UConn Storrs campus. Jim had lots of help handing out materials to those who stopped by to find out what PFLAG does for the LGBT community. Jim's wonderful volunteers were: Madison M., DD; Bev & Bob H., Shelly F., Kelli H., Mary B., Val C., Janet B., Lori D., Mike R., Ruth H., Tracy M. and Stephanni C.

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.

<u>MEMBERSHIP DUES:</u>	<u>UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS:</u>
Student/Limited Income: \$10	May 21 – 7:30 p.m. – Monthly Meeting
Household Membership: \$40	June 18 – 7:00 p.m. – Scholarship Presentations 7:30 p.m. – Monthly Meeting
Individual Membership: \$25	July 16 – 7:30 p.m. – Monthly Meeting
	Aug. 20 – 7:30 p.m. – Monthly Meeting

(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

IN PRAISE OF OUR HARTFORD PFLAG CHAPTER CO-PRESIDENTS:

Following is a copy of a letter written to our National PFLAG Director, by the wife of our former Hartford PFLAG President, Bob Calvin:

September 26, 2013

Jody Huckaby
Executive Director, PFLAG
1828 I. Street NW, Suite 660
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Jody,

As you know, PFLAGers are special people. I am writing to tell you about two dedicated and very exceptional PFLAGers, Becky and John Glezen.

Becky & John have been co-leaders of our Hartford chapter for 14 years. They took over a rather lackadasical gathering of perhaps 20 folks and grew it to a now robust 60 person group with maybe half being trans- or trans-related. Our trans friends have found a caring and supportive home at Hartford PFLAG.

They not only run a caring support meeting, but often plan for a speaker to augment the support part of the meeting with education and advocacy.

The Glezens are great community advocates for LGBTQ issues. They have appeared a number of times before the CT state legislature on a variety of issues, the most recent being excellent testimony on gay marriage. The oldest of their three adult children is an MD and a lesbian who lives in Rochester, NY with her wife Cara. Becky and John played an important role when Sharon and Cara were married. These two women each have biologically given birth to a child. The daughter is now a sophomore in college and the son is a junior in high school.

Becky and John are activists in many ways – they speak to many groups, appear on panels, serve on helplines, and I've never known them to turn down a request of any kind to support gay issues. They have long been active in their UCC church and were instrumental in ushering their church through the Open and Affirming process.

So, I'm writing because I felt you'd like to hear of some of your "support people" in the field.

My husband, Bob, and I have been PFLAGers for twenty-five plus years. We are no longer active except for participating on the chapter "helpline." Age has crept upon us – Bob is 89 and I will follow in a few months.

Very sincerely,

Marie M. Calvin

MANFORD FAMILY AND PFLAG TO BE HONORED WITH STREET CO-NAMING

On Saturday, April 26, 171st Street (between 33rd and 35th Avenues) in Flushing, Queens, was named the "**Jeanne, Jules, Morty Manford PFLAG Way**" in honor of PFLAG and its founding family.



One word: wow.

What Academy Award-winning actress Sally Field said last week about her son Sam made us not merely really like her. **We love her!** We couldn't have said it better than Sally about what's really at stake in the battle for LGBT civil rights – and why YOUR support is so important. ...

Sincerely,
Chad Griffin

Here are Sally's words:

The three things I'm most proud of in my life are my sons, Peter, Eli and Sam. They are kind, loving and productive people. Each with their own list of talents and accomplishments.

Sam is my youngest son, by 18 years, and he's gay. To that, I say: So what?

Growing up, Sam wanted desperately to just be like his older brothers – athletic, rambunctious and even a little bit macho. He wanted to beat Eli at tennis, trounce Peter at computer football and learn everything about every basketball player on the court.

But Sam was different. And his journey to allow himself to be what nature intended him to be was not an easy one. When I saw him struggling, I wanted to jump in. But his older brothers held me back. They told me I couldn't travel that road for Sam. It was his to travel, not mine. I had to wait for him to own himself in his own time. I could make it easier only by standing visibly to the side, clearly loving him, always being there and always letting him know.

Finally, at 20, long after he beat his brothers at tennis and computer games and knew as much as anyone about basketball, Sam was able to stand up proudly and say, "I am a gay man."

As his mother, I consider it one of the great privileges of my life to have been allowed to be a part of Sam's journey and I've tried to be careful to never make his voice my voice, but with his approval, I've decided to get involved in the fight for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equality by joining the Human Rights Campaign.

Sam knows that if he ever marries, he'll have my full support. After all, I like to believe I raised him with the good sense to choose a great partner.

But there are people out there – organizations and politicians, strangers who have never even met Sam – who would rather devote themselves to denying his happiness.

Why would anyone want to prevent my son – or anyone's son or daughter – from having basic legal safeguards like family medical leave, Social Security survivors benefits, or health insurance?

It doesn't make any sense – but it won't change until people speak out. **I'm proud to stand with HRC to add my voice.** ...

Whether you are LGBT yourself, a parent or grandparent of an LGBT child, or just a great person with strong convictions about what's fair and right, I hope I've convinced you to stand with HRC for equality. You'll be glad you did!

Sincerely,
Sally Field



I am so happy to let you know that moments ago Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton signed an anti-bullying bill into law — a bill GLSEN has championed for a decade — that explicitly prohibits bullying based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, along with other characteristics most often targeted for bullying.

Minnesota is now the 16th state, plus Washington, DC, to enact an LGBT-inclusive anti-bullying law.

All my best,

Eliza Byard, Executive Director

PS: On 4/24, Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick signed an anti-bullying law to become the 17th state to enact an LGBT-inclusive anti-bullying law.

THE QUICKLY SHIFTING LANGUAGE OF THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

When Facebook announced in mid-February that users would be able to display 56 gender options beyond “male” and “female” in their profiles, the response was largely positive outside of a few skeptical Fox News anchors. But there was also head scratching. What exactly did words like “neutrois” and “two-spirit” mean? And why were quite so many words necessary? Various media sites, including Time, the Daily Beast, and Slate, published translation guides for those who might never have encountered “cisgender,” “androgynous,” or “genderqueer” before. “Confused by Facebook’s new gender options?” a Washington Post headline asked, helpfully.

Not long ago, two genders were seen as sufficient for pretty much any form or sign-up page. But as trans or transgender people – umbrella terms encompassing both people who feel at home as members of the opposite sex of their birth, and people who feel their gender can’t be reduced to male or female – have become more prominent and more vocal in America, the language is bending to accommodate more possibilities.

In just the past few years, people such as actress Laverne Cox, writer Janet Mock, screenwriter and director Lana Wachowski, and activist Chaz Bono have become household names. Major shifts in trans rights have happened even more recently. In 2013, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, psychiatry’s bible for diagnoses, replaced “Gender Identity Disorder” with “Gender Dysphoria” (implying that trans identity wasn’t a problem, but profound unhappiness about gender could be). The Senate passed the Employee Non-Discrimination Act, including protections for transgender people, in November.

This means that more and more Americans, even those who have always taken gender for granted, are reaching for words to talk to and about people in this group in an appropriate way. And it’s not always easy: The transgender community tends to put considerable energy into thinking about how our understanding of gender and identity is shaped by language, and to tailoring and policing language accordingly. As the movement goes increasingly mainstream, it’s entailing a new effort to translate its fast-evolving lexicon to outsiders – and even well-intentioned people may struggle to keep up.

Part of the difficulty in adjusting pronouns comes from the rigid, binary nature of English when it comes to gender. “In English you can’t refer to an individual in the third person without either gendering them or referring to them with a word that generally connotes lack of humanity – you’re either a he or a she or an it,” said Susan Stryker, director of the Institute for LGBT Studies at the University of Arizona.

Some transgender people transition from one category to the other – he to she or vice versa – and that’s that. For others, however, a sense of existing outside those categories has inspired new words or usages altogether. One approach to the pronoun conundrum has been the singular use of “they/them”; another is the creation of neutral third-person pronouns like “ze/hir,” and some college newspapers, including the Wesleyan Argus, allow for either depending on a source’s preference.

The myriad of new gender options on Facebook represent both a playfulness about language and an attempt to offer everyone a choice that feels right. They also reflect the speed with which words come and go. “Transgender” itself came into broad use only in the mid-1990s, a moment when the old words – “transsexual,” which implies surgical intervention; “transvestite,” a perjorative term referring to people who dressed as the opposite gender, or even the acceptable “cross-dresser” – were viewed as too narrow. “The word [transgender] was a way... of encompassing that variety of people who really wanted to do different things with gender than simply just have an operation,” Don Kulick, a University of Chicago anthropologist who’s studied trans communities, told me.

Many of the words on the Facebook list, such as “trans*” (the asterisk indicates a “wildcard” search term, so the word means, basically, “trans-anything”), “genderqueer,” “gender questioning,” or “neutrois,” come largely from younger people and online forms and suggest a much more fluid approach to gender. For newcomers, as the various media guides suggest, they may be puzzling. “Most of America probably hasn’t experienced those words yet, and some of those just are very new,” said Mara Keisling, founding executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality.

So what’s a would-be “ally” (the term for a nontransgender supporter of transgender rights) to do? Start by not presuming anything – like anyone else, transgender people have individual desires about the language they choose for themselves, including both how they describe themselves and what pronouns they use. Once you learn the language someone prefers, embrace it, as more and more publications, workplaces, and schools are beginning to do. “If someone says they are a man, and they don’t want to be called a transgender man or a ‘man who used to be a woman,’ I think that’s really important. That’s just about respect,” Keisling said. This is one area where words can either be a weapon or a powerful means of self-determination. *Britt Peterson, Globe, Washington, D.C. 3/9/14*



A new policy in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati means a simple act in support of LGBT equality – like being a member of HRC, attending LGBT pride with your daughter, or even *receiving this email* could get you fired.

The so-called “morality clause” of the new contract for the 2014-2015 school year takes anti-LGBT discrimination to a new level, calling not only for the firing of gay and lesbian school employees, but also citing **support of the “homosexual lifestyle” as grounds for dismissal**. More than 2,200 educators at 94 parochial schools in the archdiocese will be affected by this new contract.

This is a matter of conscience. Why are leaders of the Roman Catholic Church in Cincinnati enacting draconian restrictions on Catholic school employees?

A majority of Roman Catholics in the pews and our communities support lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equality. They are a significant part of a chorus of millions of fair-minded people who have shown their support for LGBT equality with their friends and family.

Since his papacy began, Pope Francis has demonstrated increased tolerance – even acceptance – toward LGBT people, going so far as to say “who am I to judge a gay person of goodwill who seeks the Lord.” But the US Conference of Catholic Bishops have dug in their heels and have refused to listen to either their laity or their Pope, and policies like this are a clear sign that in many cases, they are moving further backwards.

...

We each have to speak up and make a clear case for equality, whether or not we're Catholic. Dozens of LGBT teachers have already lost their jobs in schools across the country, but this is taking it even further. Now, parochial school teachers risk losing their jobs just *for being willing to stand up for justice and equality*. It's appalling, and it's wrong. And it's up to us all to speak out about it. Thank you for adding your voice.

Sincerely,

Chad Griffin, President



BECKY & JOHN GLEZEN HONORED BY GLAD

On Sunday, April 13, Becky & John were honored “for their persistent effort advocating on behalf of the LGBT community.” Ben Klein, Senior Staff Attorney and AIDS Law Project Director, was the speaker. The well attended event, a fundraiser for GLAD, was held at The Studio at Firebox Restaurant in Hartford.



John & Becky Testify on behalf of LGBT Equality

Becky and John Glezen have been strong advocates and leaders 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.

We thank Becky and John for their early commitment to Love Makes a Family, longtime support of GLAD, and recent advocacy to secure insurance coverage for transgender related treatment in Connecticut.



Receiving their award on April 13



One of the most important lessons we ever learn in school isn't taught in classrooms, but in hallways, cafeterias and locker rooms: *if you're different, it can be hard to make friends.*

GLSEN research shows that the presence of a Gay-Straight Alliance (or GSA) on campus helps students feel safer, creates a greater sense of belonging and results in fewer missed school days.

That's why GSAs are such a lifeline for LGBT students, and why GLSEN is proud to support them in our schools. In fact, GLSEN supports and engages over 4,000 GSAs across all 50 states.

They provide a way for students to support one another, and to work together to create a more accepting and diverse school climate. By welcoming *anyone* who feels different, they help prevent bullying and promote respect for all.

And it's about more than changing individual schools. Past GLSEN GSA of the Year award winners have shown us how a simple piece of paper can spread equality all over the world, and that no matter where you go to school, bias and discrimination may exist.

GLSEN provides a variety of information, materials and networking opportunities that empower GSAs to be a force of change. Whether they're just getting started or looking to take their Day of Silence, No Name-Calling Week or Ally Week activities to the next level, we are honored to serve as the premier resource for these young leaders.

Sincerely,

Eliza Byard, Executive Director

P.S. Millions of young people in the U.S. hide their differences – hide the very essence of who they are. GSAs allow students to celebrate and embrace their true selves.

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*.

the hartford gay and lesbian health collective helps people save their lives

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 Tuesday - 5:30 P.M. Low Mass or Healing Mass
 Wednesday - 7:15 A.M. Low Mass
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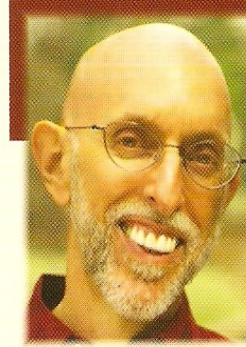


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Connecticut PFLAG Meetings

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 Email: greaternewhavenpflag@yahoo.com

No meetings

PFLAG HARTFORD

1335 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033
 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
 PFLAG HARTFORD**

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Caring welcomes articles, letters and other
 submissions for publication.

Deadline: 15th of even numbered months.
 Send articles to: *Jean Cormier*
 156 Randal Avenue,
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**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP
 WINNERS! BE SURE TO READ ABOUT THESE
 AMAZING YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR
 JULY/AUGUST ISSUE OF CARING.**

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.