



**HELEN & BOB BRILL SCHOLARSHIPS**  
**AWARDED ON JUNE 18, 2014**  
 (Read about these amazing young people on page 4.)



# *The Voice of PFLAG Hartford*

# *Caring*

**Volume 23, No. 4**

**July/August 2014**

IN THE PFLAG HARTFORD FAMILY:

**SINCERE SYMPATHY** to Bob Calvin and family. Bob's wife, Marie, passed away on May 28. Please read Becky & John's tribute to Marie on page 2.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Donna S. on her recent retirement from the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective. We wish her many happy, fun-filled retirement years.

**ALERT:** If you have received a membership letter from National PFLAG stating that your membership has expired, please disregard. This letter was mailed in error. All dues-paying members of PFLAG Hartford are automatically considered members of our national organization. Most of these letters were sent to people who also make an annual financial contribution to National PFLAG.

**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 Becky & John at (860) 633-5111.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES:**

Student/Limited Income: \$15  
 Household Membership: \$40  
 Individual Membership: \$25

**UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS:**

July 16 – 7:30 p.m.  
 August 20 – 7:30 p.m.  
 September 17 – 7:30 p.m.  
 October 15 – 7:30 p.m.



*(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](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

*Dear PFLAGers and Friends,*

*On Wednesday, May 28, PFLAG Hartford lost a mighty force for equality and understanding by the passing of Marie Calvin. Marie was 89, and for the past 20 years was the PFLAG Hartford helpline voice. She loved this "job" and when approached only a week ago, said emphatically that she wished to continue. Her calm voice and knowledgeable responses to the many phone calls over the years have brought greater understanding into hundreds of lives.*

*Marie is survived by her husband Bob and three adult children. The Calvins succeeded our founders Helen and Bob Brill as chapter leaders, and although Bob Calvin had the title of President, he and Marie led the chapter as a true and equal partnership.*

*Some of you may remember the remarkable full page Hartford Courant picture (in color) of Marie, Bob and their daughter Kate and the article by Susan Campbell about this affirming family ... 25 years ago! They were true pioneers in moving equality forward.*

*Marie's remarkable empathy and wonderful sense of humor were a gift to all of us.  
Becky and John*

**JUDGE STRIKES DOWN WISCONSIN BAN ON GAY MARRIAGE**

MILWAUKEE – A federal judge deemed Wisconsin's ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional Friday to the delight of gay couples, who began rushing to county offices to wed as word of the ruling spread.

The ruling marked the latest in a string of decisions by federal judges who have struck down gay marriage bans in a number of states, although the Wisconsin ruling sparked some confusion over whether such marriages could go ahead.

Clerks in two counties issued marriage licenses to same-sex couples Friday night, and in response Wisconsin's attorney general filed an emergency motion in the federal court to stay the ruling.

In the ruling, U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb said a state constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, which Wisconsin adopted in 2006, violates gay couples' fundamental rights to marry and their equal protection rights under the Constitution.

"Quite simply, this case is about liberty and equality, the two cornerstones of the rights protected by the United States Constitution," Crabb wrote in the 88-page decision.

Milwaukee County's executive ordered the courthouse to remain open late Friday to allow couples to marry. Officials said marriage licenses would also be handed out in Dane County.

"We will continue to defend the constitutionality of our traditional marriage laws and the constitutional amendment, which was overwhelmingly approved by voters," state Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen said in a statement.

**JUNE PRIDE MONTH EVENT**

On June 4, four PFLAGers were privileged to attend a “Diversity Speaks” event at Travelers Insurance in Hartford. The speaker was PFLAG National’s Executive Director, Jody Huckaby, and the topic was *Straight for Equality in the Workplace: Creating a Healthy & Productive Climate for Everyone*. Jody’s presentation focused on providing clarity for potential and existing straight allies. He also provided tips for people who are LGBT on what to do (and not do) to help more people become allies in the workplace. In order to experience full inclusion and equality at work, people who are LGBT need the help of straight allies who are engaged in the effort to create change. Identifying as a straight ally is not always easy and, even among many who do identify as allies, what “support” looks like at work often is not clear.

It was so gratifying to see so many employees attend this event, and I’m sure everyone was impressed by Jody’s informative and enthusiastic talk.



*Jean C., Larry P., Jody Huckaby, Donna S. & David O.*

**THANK-YOU** to our May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting speakers, Chion Wolf and her mother, Pamela Morrison-Wolf.

Chion is a producer, photographer and announcer for the Colin McEnroe Show on WNPR, Connecticut Public Radio. She is also the trash can bass drummer for the Hartford Hot Several marching band, and the host of The MOUTH, a storytelling event at the Mark Twain House and Museum.

Pamela is a spiritual director affiliated with the Spiritual Life Center of West Hartford, where she served as President of the Board. She graduated from the Women’s Leadership Institute of Hartford Seminary, and is an active member of the St. Patrick/St. Anthony Roman Catholic Church Community and participates in their Families and Friends of the Gay & Lesbian Community.

Chion and her mother shared Chion’s coming out story with such humor and grace. They were a wonderful addition to our May meeting.



*June 12, 2014*

This weekend the Texas Republican Party approved a platform endorsing so-called “reparative therapy”—also known as “conversion therapy” or “sexual orientation change efforts”—for gay people. That’s right—many delegates in Texas still believe that gay Americans *need to be cured*.

I’m from a proud Texan family and I’m outraged that some Texas politicians continue to discriminate against their LGBT constituents—*people like me*. And to add fuel to the fire, Texas Governor Rick Perry waded into the debate. According to press reports, when asked whether he believes homosexuality is a disorder, Perry responded that, “whether or not you feel compelled to follow a particular lifestyle or not, you have the ability to decide not to do that.” Shame on you, Governor Perry, for fanning the flames of discrimination.

This backwards platform was voted on without providing an opportunity for debate—and two gay GOP groups, Log Cabin Republicans and Metroplex Republicans, were denied formal participation in the annual convention where the language was approved.

**The Texas GOP thinks that being gay is a choice, but this has no basis in scientific reality.** Republicans in other states have already awakened to this reality. Last summer, New Jersey joined California when Republican Governor Chris Christie signed a law banning reparative therapy on minors in New Jersey.

*So shame on you Texas GOP.* We have evolved as a nation past this harmful, discriminatory way of viewing sexuality or gender identity as something that can or should be changed. LGBT people don’t need to be cured.

...

Lindsey Twombly, Deputy Director, Online Strategy & Social Media

**BRILL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS:** PFLAG Hartford and True Colors were pleased to present Brill scholarships to four amazing high school graduates: Justin K., a member of PFLAG Hartford; Heather, a graduate from Wethersfield High School; H.P, a graduate of Trumbull High School, and Tonya S., a graduate of Newington High School.

The Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective also presented a scholarship that evening to Jennifer O. who will attend St. John's College. Another HGLHC scholarship went to Joshua F., who was unable to attend the ceremony. he will attend Nazareth College.

Following are just some of the reasons these bright young students were chosen to receive Brill Scholarships:

**Heather C.** has been an honors student all four years of high school. When she saw her best friend struggling with his sexuality, and seeing the bullying and threats he received, she decided to take action. Heather started the Wethersfield Action Team (Aka, SWAT) to prevent bullying and provide a safe place for all. She was also instrumental in having the organization, Athlete Ally, make a presentation at her school. Athlete Ally is an organization focused on ending homophobia by enlisting athletes, coaches, school administrators and fans to stand up as allies for the LGBT community. And, as she said, "I am an ally and will always be an ally. No one should have to be ridiculed for their sexual orientation. This is why educating others is so important; we have to open their eyes before we open their minds." Heather plans to go into special education because, having worked with special education children the past three years, it has become her passion.

**Justin K.** will attend UMass Amherst, with a double major in Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, and Social Thought & Political Economics. During her freshman year, Justin received the Hall Star award for her work with students suffering from mental illness and also for her revival of the Gay/Straight Alliance. Justin received the Principal's Leadership Award for her work and leadership of the social justice groups at Hall High School. This past semester, she also received the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) Youth Human Relations Award. Among her many activities, Justin made a short but powerful presentation at a faculty meeting, and successfully answered all questions about transgender identification and gave suggestions as to how teachers should engage with students about such topics. Her GSA advisor said that Justin, "made a profound difference." Justin also collaborated with the HGLHC to create a Winter Dance for LGBTQ & Youth. She also presented workshops at the GLSEN Massachusetts and True Colors conferences. Justin created and has been president of Hall's GSA for four years. Among the many activities of the GSA were fundraisers held for the Ali Forney Center in New York, which suffered major damage from Hurricane Irene. (Several PFLAG members attended and supported Justin's efforts to assist the Ali Forney Center.)

**H.P.** will be attending St. Anselm College's School of Nursing. She is already a licensed Certified Nursing Assistant here in Connecticut, and will work towards becoming a Registered Nurse. She is a member of the National Honor Society and President of her High School's GSA. H. is an advocate for tolerance and equality and enjoyed handing out "Be Kind" stickers to students as a gentle reminder to be careful with their actions and words. When her High School was told by some members of the community that they could not do a production of RENT: High School Edition due to the themes of HIV/AIDS, drug use and homosexuality, she was part of a small number of students who had the courage to speak during a public town meeting in support of the play. H. is also a volunteer at a local nursing facility. She completed her clinical experience at the Jewish Home for the Elderly. She currently works at Bridgeport Healthcare Center where she also shadows an APRN. H. wants to work in the field of geriatrics where her kindness will make her a great advocate for her patients. H. said that the highlight of her high school years was being a member of the award winning Trumbull High School Eagles Marching and Symphonic Band. She will consider playing in some form when in college.

**Tonya S.** is currently enrolled at Middlesex Community College with a double major in Graphic Design and Multimedia/Digital Arts. She graduated with both Associate degrees in May and plans to continue on to a four-year school - perhaps The University of Hartford or Central Connecticut State University. Tonya has been on the Dean's list during her three years at Middlesex Community College. She has a 3.66 GPA and was asked and accepted membership in Phi Theta Kappa, the school's honor society. Tonya was an active member of SPEAK (Students Promoting Education, Acceptance and Knowledge) where she served as secretary for over a year. She helped in organizing events to spread knowledge on LGBTI issues in her school communities - from presentations on the Day of Silence in high school to a recent workshop presentation (as a representative of MxCC), at the 2014 True Colors Conference on "Building and Maintaining a GSA at a Community College."

*(We wish all of our scholarship winners much success for the future.)*



June 16, 2014

**In a huge victory for equality, the White House just announced it intends to protect 16 million more Americans from discrimination in the workplace.** The President plans to sign an executive order that will provide protections to people working for federal contractors nationwide who could face every day job discrimination. The news also provides huge momentum to our efforts to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) in the U.S. House of Representatives.

...

President Obama is taking this bold step thanks to people like you pushing for what's right. The news is the culmination of six years of advocacy by the members and supporters of the Human Rights Campaign. After five million emails, principled advocacy by our allies in the civil rights community and on Capitol Hill and a mountain of compelling evidence, our efforts paid off. We won!

The number of people affected by this historic decision is staggering. Federal contractors employ more than 20 percent of the American workforce. According to the Williams Institute, an executive order would protect **11 million more American workers from discrimination based on sexual orientation** and up to **16.5 million more American workers from discrimination based on gender identity**.

The executive order will also require companies that have historically turned a blind eye to workplace discrimination to change their policies. Exxon Mobil Corporation—*whose shareholders voted for the 17th time to reject an anti-discrimination policy for its LGBT workers just days ago*—will now have to provide non-discrimination protections to its LGBT employees and prospective hires. Year after year, Exxon has held the lowest spot in HRC's Corporate Equality Index, with a score of negative 25 out of a possible 100 points. No other company has ever received a negative score. Not only will this order protect LGBT workers in companies like these—it will also speed up the pace of change by declaring that our government will only award taxpayer dollars to companies with pro-equality workplace policies.

Of course, this is not the end of the fight for comprehensive workplace protection nationwide. **We still need our more than 1.5 million members and supporters to speak out and push for a vote on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act in the House to make workplace equality the law of the land.** But today is proof that the momentum from ENDA's strong, bipartisan passage in the Senate last fall is unyielding.

Together, we are pushing the country we love to treat everyone equally—and today promises great progress. Thank you for all that you do, and for sticking with us through to the day when workplace equality is a reality for *all* Americans.

Sincerely,  
Chad Griffin, President  
Human Rights Campaign

#### ***MORE FROM THE HRC:***

#### **TWO MORE HISTORIC MARRIAGE WINS**

June 25, 2014

In our line of work, there is never a dull moment.

Just as we were getting ready to send [a]very special note from our friends Kris & Sandy and Paul & Jeff, two more historic decisions regarding same-sex marriage in Utah and Indiana were handed down. The decision from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit regarding Utah represents the *broadest appellate court ruling in favor of a constitutional right for same-sex couples to marry*—another huge step forward in favor of justice and equality for LGBT Americans. These two decisions now constitute what we know for certain—the U.S. Constitution guarantees the basic civil rights of all Americans, not just some.

Our progress over the past year has been unprecedented, but the message from our friends below remains true: much remains to be done, and we will not rest until full equality is the law of the land.

....

Sincerely,  
Sarah Warbelow, Legal Director  
Human Rights Campaign





**BREAKING NEWS FROM THE CDC FOR LGB YOUTH!**

For the first time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will make sexual orientation items standard on their national and state/local high school Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) questionnaires, providing first-of-its-kind national data on youth’s sexual identities and allowing for identification of same-sex sexual behaviors!

**Why is this so important?**

Inclusion of these questions in the standard survey instead of the optional question bank will mean that most states and localities will include them, and we will have state and local data for most places. And importantly, the YRBS national survey will include these questions, ensuring the collection of national-level health data on lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) adolescents and allowing for comparisons with non-LGB youth’s health-related behaviors.

**What’s next?**

Of course, our work in this area continues as we press on in developing the best way to ask about gender identity/transgender status in the general population of adolescents, as well as continue our advocacy with states and localities with the capacity to ask the currently-optional YRBS question on gender expression that we tested with youth. But for now, it’s great to take a moment to celebrate this victory! Many thanks to the CDC and our partners in the All Students Count Coalition, who have been working on LGBT-inclusion in YRBS for many years.

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

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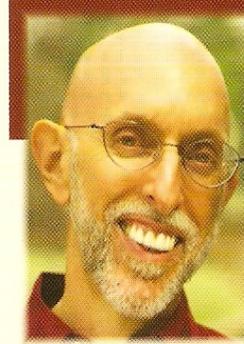


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## **Connecticut PFLAG Meetings**

### **PFLAG GREATER NEW HAVEN**

Phone and Helpline: (203) 458-0493

Email: [greaternewhavenpflag@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:HfdPFLAG@aol.com)

Web site: [www.PFLAGHartford.org](http://www.PFLAGHartford.org)

MEETINGS: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:PFLAGSWCT@yahoo.com)

Call for meeting information.

### **PFLAG SECT (SOUTHEASTERN CT)**

Infoline: (860) 447-0884

Email: [pflagsect@snet.net](mailto:pflagsect@snet.net)

Web site: [www.pflagsect.org](http://www.pflagsect.org)

MEETINGS: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](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)

## **CARING IS THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PFLAG HARTFORD**

**Editor/Circulation Manager: Jean Cormier**

*Caring* welcomes articles, letters and other  
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**Deadline:** 15<sup>th</sup> of even numbered months.

Send articles to: *Jean Cormier*

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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  
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