

IT'S A CELEBRATION TO HONOR BECKY & JOHN GLEZEN FOR 15 YEARS AS
CO-LEADERS OF PFLAG HARTFORD

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

6:30-7:30 P.M., PRIOR TO OUR REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

(details on page 2)



The Voice of PFLAG Hartford

Caring

Volume 23, No. 5

September/October 2014

IN THE PFLAG HARTFORD FAMILY:

NOTE: We will hold a brief ANNUAL MEETING of our membership at the beginning of our September 17th 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, 2014 to September 30, 2015. For your convenience, a membership form and envelope are enclosed. The schedule of dues is listed below. Thank-you for your prompt membership renewal or enrollment.

PS: You will now be able to enroll or renew your membership by paying your dues at our monthly meetings. We are going "high tech" and now have a "square" that will take your credit card. All you have to do is swipe and your dues are paid. See Lori if you want to pay your dues in this convenient way.

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 Donna at 860/505-7346 or Lori at 860/305-2743.

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Student/Limited Income: \$15

Household Membership: \$40

Individual Membership: \$25

MONTHLY MEETING REMINDER

September 17 – 7:30 p.m.

October 15 – 7:30 p.m.

November 19 – 7:30 p.m.

December 17 – 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:

PFLAG Hartford, P.O. Box 260733, Hartford, CT 06126-0733

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning 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
- **SAT., SEPT. 20: PRIDE NEW HAVEN. 4 to 10 p.m., Crown Street.** Join us for New Haven's most fabulous event! Crown Street will be closed to traffic from Church to Orange for our Pride New Haven celebration.

**OCTOBER 11, 2014 - 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.

**IT'S A CELEBRATION!**

**6:30-7:30 P.M., PRIOR TO OUR REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING,
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**



JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE 15 YEARS OF HARD WORK AND DEDICATION THAT BECKY & JOHN GLEZEN HAVE SO GRACIOUSLY GIVEN TO LEAD PFLAG HARTFORD. SINCE STEPPING UP AS OUR CO-PRESIDENTS IN OCTOBER 1999, OUR CHAPTER HAS BECOME ONE OF THE LARGEST IN NEW ENGLAND. SO MUCH HAS CHANGED FOR THE BETTER IN CONNECTICUT OVER THOSE YEARS AND JOHN AND BECKY WERE AT THE FOREFRONT OF MUCH OF THAT CHANGE.

COME EARLY ON THE 17TH TO THANK THEM FOR ALL THEY HAVE DONE TO MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR OUR LGBT LOVED ONES.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

THE TORCH IS PASSED

While we are sad that Becky & John are stepping down as our Co-Presidents, we do have some great news! Lori and Donna have agreed to take over the reins as Co-Presidents of PFLAG Hartford beginning the first of October. We know they will continue our outstanding tradition of service to the LGBT community.

PFLAGers and Friends,

July 27, 2014

This great news is a bit old by now, but we have been away this week. This is a wonderful action that affects, potentially, over 1/5 of the nation's workforce.

Becky and John

OBAMA SIGNS BAN ON LGBT DISCRIMINATION BY FEDERAL CONTRACTORS

President Barack Obama signed an executive order Monday prohibiting discrimination by federal contractors on the basis of gender identify and sexual orientation, winning praise from LGBT rights groups and fulfilling a longtime promise to Democratic activists.

"Thanks to your passionate advocacy and the irrefutable rightness of your cause, our government - a government of the people, by the people and for the people -- will become just a little bit fairer," Obama told supporters at the White House.

The measure also ensures that federal employees will be formally protected from discrimination on the basis of gender identity. The order does not contain an exemption for religious organizations, dealing a blow to faith groups who say it hampers religious freedom.

Obama also backs broad legislation that would bar discrimination against LGBT employees nationwide. The Senate passed such a measure last year but it has not been taken up in the GOP-led House.

From: Headlines July 22, 2014

President Obama has signed an executive order banning workplace discrimination against LGBT people employed by the federal government or firms with federal contracts. President Obama: "It doesn't make much sense, but today in America millions of our fellow citizens wake up and go to work with the awareness that they could lose their job, not because of anything they do or fail to do, but because of who they are: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender. And that's wrong." The order will reportedly impact about 28 million workers.



Today the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit upheld a sweeping ruling striking down Virginia's ban on marriage equality. This pivotal decision, which could be applied to Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia, is the third appeals court ruling to strike down state marriage bans in just one month.

Not only does this case contribute to the momentum for marriage equality that is sweeping our nation, but one of the plaintiff couples, Mary Townley and Carol Schall, are HRC members. ...

Before they joined this case, Mary and Carol reached out to HRC and detailed the discrimination they faced when their home state of Virginia refused to recognize their legal California marriage. HRC connected them with the American Foundation for Equal Rights so that they could take their case to federal court alongside the other plaintiffs in this case, Tim Bostic and Tony London. HRC is proud to support the Bostic case and AFER as they work to secure marriage for all Americans.

U.N. TO RECOGNIZE ALL LEGAL GAY MARRIAGES OF ITS STAFF

The Hartford Courant 7/8/14

UNITED NATIONS – U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon announced Monday that the United Nations will recognize all same-sex marriages of staff members at the world body.

Previously, a staff member's personal status was determined by the laws of their country of nationality, said U.N. spokesman Farhan Haq. But now the United Nations will recognize all same-sex couples married in a country where it is legal, regardless of their nationality.

PFLAGers,

Our good friend, Dave Knapp, is highlighted in this uplifting Times article about the 2014 NY PRIDE parade and the prominent role the Boy Scouts of America played in it. Way to go Dave!

John & Becky

**BOY SCOUTS MAKE PROVOCATIVE STATEMENT AT GAY PRIDE PARADE**

With Rainbow Neckerchiefs, Celebrating Pride and Progress at Parade by Vivian Yee, *New York Times* 6/29/14

The color guard leading the annual Gay Pride March down Fifth Avenue in Manhattan on Sunday carried flags of sky blue, navy blue, red-white-and-blue and rainbow. But, for these marchers, the colors that mattered most were the ones they wore. Khaki shirts, olive pants and rainbow neckerchiefs: the Boy Scout uniform, pride-style — a uniform that had never been seen on a group of marchers in New York City’s pride parade before.

They had come to mark progress — the Boy Scouts of America’s breakthrough vote last year to end a decades-old policy of prohibiting openly gay youths from being scouts — and to call for more. However, the organization, a touchstone of traditional America, still bars openly gay adults from participating as troop leaders or volunteers. Ending that ban has become a signature cause for the gay-rights movement.

“I want gay parents to have the opportunity to scout with their children,” said Greg Bourke, 56, who said he was forced to step down as a leader of his son’s troop in Kentucky two years ago after local Scouts officials learned he was gay and threatened to revoke the troop’s charter. “Adult leaders should have the same opportunities as everyone else has to take part in an organization that’s a bedrock of America.” ...

David Knapp, on the other hand, sported olive-green tube socks, black sneakers and a neckerchief from the National Scout Jamboree of 1993, the year Scouts officials in Connecticut knocked on his door and expelled him from scouting after decades as a scout, professional staff member and volunteer. The black-and-white sign Mr. Knapp carried said it all: “Boy Scout leader kicked out for being gay.” Yet his and the other marchers’ uniforms were a provocative statement. Boy Scout officials have said that scouts are forbidden to wear their uniforms in events that support social or political positions, including gay pride events, and have disciplined scouts and scoutmasters in other states for doing so. But the New York area council has adopted a nondiscrimination policy that leaders of the parade group, called Scouts for Equality, said they believed would protect them.

A spokesman for the national organization declined to comment on the group of marchers, which included parents and straight supporters of the gay rights movement as well as gay and straight scouts and leaders. (In addition, a contingent of tiny Daisy Scouts and Cub Scouts trotted around, waving marriage equality flags).

Mr. Knapp has spent the years since his ouster agitating for gay rights in scouting, and has marched in the parade for years with Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, or PFLAG, a national group, carrying a version of the same sign and wearing his uniform. “I was in total shock, because everything I’ve ever done in scouting has been good,” Mr. Knapp said of the day he was expelled.

Recalling how he first fell in love with scouting as a 12-year-old in 1938, he added: “I wasn’t an athlete, but I loved the outdoors and camping and all that. I was more of the introverted, studious intellectual — I didn’t have many friends. So it was wonderful to have friends.” As he spoke, his boyfriend of 14 years, Stan Wright, 82, fussed over him, handing him water, a juice box and a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. “I’m very proud,” Mr. Knapp said, smiling between bites. “Very excited.”

Nearby, Pascal Tessier, 17, of Kensington, Md., who is believed to be the first openly gay Eagle Scout, patiently awaited the start of the festivities. “I woke up that morning very nervous, thinking, ‘This could be the last day I can call myself a scout,’ ” he said, referring to the day of last year’s vote to allow gay youths. “Looking back, I know scouting shaped my childhood. It made me who I am today. It taught me how to lead, taught me how to be respectful and responsible.”

The scouts did not take their “marching” lightly. No meandering on the asphalt for them, no dancing and high-fiving the spectators. As they stepped off to frenzied cheers from the crowd, lifting their flags, Peter Brownstein conducted their progress in low, determined tones, as if he were directing a military procession: “Left, right, left, right, left, right.” As the group passed the Stonewall Inn, the West Village bar known as a landmark in the gay-rights movement, he and the other marchers paused and gave the Scout salute.

Mr. Brownstein, a Boy Scout leader from Utah, was forced to leave his troop after marching in the Salt Lake City pride event last year. That did not deter him in the least from coming to New York’s celebration. “We’re showing,” he told his fellow scouts, “that we belong.”

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Treasurer, P.O. Box 260733, Hartford, CT 06126-0733.***

PFLAG Hartford has been available as a resource for support to families and friends of LGBTQ 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 LGBTQ loved ones. *Your help is greatly appreciated.*

LAVERNE COX HERALDS 'TRANSGENDER TIPPING POINT' ON COVER OF TIME

Orange is the New Black actor explains “There’s not just one trans experience” in article about “America’s next civil rights frontier.”



Laverne Cox attends the Orange is the New Black premiere in New York. Photograph: Theo Wargo/Getty Images

Time magazine unveiled its latest cover on Wednesday, [June 9, 2014] featuring transgender actor Laverne Cox.

Cox, who is best known for her role as Sophia Burset in the Netflix series Orange is the New Black, is featured under the headline 'The Transgender Tipping Point'. Cox has received several awards for her work as the first transgender black woman to have a leading role on a mainstream US television show.

Despite these groundbreaking achievements, Time’s annual list of the 100 most influential people failed to include Cox when it was unveiled in April. Before the list was announced, Cox had received considerable support in the website’s 100 most influential people reader’s poll. Time’s omission of Cox prompted a backlash, and a social media campaign that used the rallying cry: #whereisLaverneCox.

Cox’s appearance on [the] cover seems to be the magazine’s answer to that criticism. Though its audience is declining, Time remains one of the most popular magazines in the US, and its circulation was 3.3 million in the second half of 2013.

Cox, who is also a popular speaker on gender roles, spoke to Time about how transgender people are often misunderstood:

“There’s not just one trans story. There’s not just one trans experience. And I think what they need to understand is that not everybody who is born feels that their gender identity is in alignment with what they’re assigned at birth, based on their genitalia. If someone needs to express their gender in a way that is different, that is OK, and they should not be denied healthcare. They should not be bullied. They don’t deserve to be victims of violence ... That’s what people need to understand, that it’s okay and that if you are uncomfortable with it, then you need to look at yourself.”



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Connecticut PFLAG Meetings

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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

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

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.

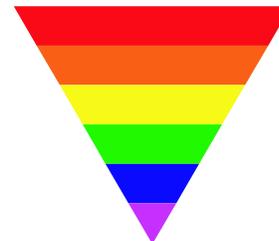
Deadline: 15th of even numbered months.

Send articles to: *Jean Cormier*

156 Randal Avenue,

West Hartford, CT 06110

NO GAY PRIDE CELEBRATION SCHEDULED FOR HARTFORD



THERE WILL BE A PRIDE CELEBRATION IN NEW HAVEN ON SEPTEMBER 20 4 to 10 p.m.

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.