



TRUE COLORS 22 - ANNUAL CONFERENCE
 "When Pink and Blue are not enough"
 Friday, March 20 & Saturday, March 21, 2015
 University of Connecticut, - Storrs, CT





The Voice of PFLAG Hartford

Caring

Volume 24, No. 2

March/April 2015


IN THE PFLAG HARTFORD FAMILY:

Speaking OUT: Reception and Chat with photographer Rachelle Lee Smith, Wednesday, March 18, at 6:00 p.m. The author's chat begins at 6:30. The reception and chat precede PFLAG Hartford's regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. Speaking OUT: Queer Youth in Focus is an ongoing photographic essay that gives members of the LGBTQ community a voice. Over the last decade Racheele Lee Smith has worked both as artist and activist to use photographic portraits with the subjects' own words to highlight the differences and commonalities of queer identity. Speaking OUT will be available for purchase at the reception. For more info. <http://www.pmpress.org/content/article.php?story=RachelleLeeSmith>.

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 24.**

PFLAG is a welcoming place for parents and friends of lesbians & gays, but we are much more than that. Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people are also encouraged to attend our meetings. GLBT people come with or without their family members, and parents and friends come with or without their GLBT 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.

<u>MEMBERSHIP DUES:</u>		<u>MONTHLY MEETING REMINDER</u>
Student/Limited Income: \$15		March 18 – 7:30 p.m.
Household Membership: \$40		April 15 – 7:30 p.m.
Individual Membership: \$25		May 20 – 7:30 p.m.
		June 17 – Scholarship Presentation & Reception
<i>(Paid membership includes a one-year subscription to Caring & The National PFLAG newsletter.)</i>		
Please make your check payable to <u>PFLAG Hartford</u> and send it to: PFLAG Hartford, P.O. Box 260733, Hartford, CT 06126-0733		

Parents, Families, Friends and Allies united with LGBTQ people to move equality forward 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.
- **TRUE COLORS CONFERENCE**, March 20 & 21, 2015, UConn Storrs Campus. PFLAG Hartford will host an information table. Volunteers needed both days to man the table for an hour or two. Please sign up to help during our regular March 18 meeting. (See pg. 4 for Conference details)
- **The 9th Annual Transgender Lives: The Intersection of Health and Law Conference** will be held April 25, 2015 at the UConn Health Center in Farmington, Ct. For more information please call (860) 255-8812 or e-mail conference@transadvocacy.org
- **FREE MOVIE SCREENING – "GEN SILENT" Friday, April 24th, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.**, University of Hartford, Auerbach Auditorium, 200 Bloomfield Ave., W. Hartford. Free parking available in Lots A & B - PERMIT REQUIRED & provided with on-line registration or at door. *Gen Silent* shares the stories of LGBT older adults in Greater Boston dealing with the challenges of growing older. Since 2010, this landmark movie has inspired a world-wide movement of LGBT & aging advocates to create safe & welcoming experiences for older adults & caregivers in the community. Registration & Light Dinner 6:00-6:30pm. Panel discussion will follow the 1-hour film.
To register call 1-877-926-8300 or register online at: <http://aarp.cvent.com/GenSilentUofH>.

JUDGE LIFTS STAY ON GAY MARRIAGE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

The Huffington Post, By Ashley Alman - Posted 1/5/15

A circuit judge lifted the stay on gay marriage in Miami-Dade County Monday, making it the first county to allow same-sex marriages in the state of Florida.

Circuit Judge Sarah Zabel ruled the ban on gay marriage unconstitutional in July, but stayed the order. Following her Monday decision, same-sex marriages will begin in the county at 2 p.m. EST.

The case in Miami-Dade County, Pareto v. Ruvin, was brought by six same-sex couples in January of 2014, and Zabel heard the case in early July. She issued her initial ruling and stay at the end of that month.

"Preventing couples from marrying solely on the basis of their sexual orientation serves no governmental interest," Zabel wrote in her July decision striking down the state's ban on gay marriage. "It serves only to hurt, to discriminate, to deprive same-sex couples and their families of equal dignity, to label and treat them as second-class citizens, and to deem them unworthy of participation in one of the fundamental institutions of our society."

The case's namesake, Catherina Pareto, and her partner of more than 14 years, Karla Arguello, expressed relief following Zabel's Monday announcement.

"I feel good. I am relieved. I feel vindicated," said Pareto, according to The Miami Herald.

The decision comes just hours before gay marriage will be legal statewide. U.S. District Judge Robert L. Hinkle similarly ruled the state's ban on gay marriage unconstitutional in August, staying his order until Jan. 6 to allow time for the state to appeal his decision. The Supreme Court declined to intervene in December, and gay marriage will become legal across the state of Florida at 12:01 a.m. EST on Tuesday.

The people of Florida approved a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage in a 2008 vote. On Sunday, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R) expressed his disapproval of the court's decision to allow same-sex marriages in the state, saying it should be up to the voters to decide.

PFLAG Friends,

In large part, this Jennifer Finney Boylan piece in today's NY Times is about lifelines. It made us think once again about what an important lifeline PFLAG has been, is, and can be -- for so many. May it always be so.
Becky and John

HOW TO SAVE YOUR LIFE - A Response to Leelah Alcorn's Suicide Note

By Jennifer Finney Boylan, January 6, 2015, New York Times

THEY placed an unlit candle in my hands. Hundreds of people sat quietly in chairs. This was at the L.G.B.T. Community Center in Greenwich Village in November, at an event called the Transgender Day of Remembrance.

It happens every year, people coming together to mourn trans individuals lost to murder or suicide. As a trans woman, I wish that the one day on the calendar that recognizes transgender experience was about celebrating the successes of our diverse community, rather than counting the lives we've lost. But the losses go on, year after year. And so I lit that candle.

The weekend after Christmas, 17-year-old Leelah Alcorn left her house in Kings Mills, Ohio, in the middle of the night. She made her way to Interstate 71, where she stepped in front of a tractor-trailer. A note she left behind on Tumblr read, in part, "Please don't be sad, it's for the better. The life I would've lived isn't worth living ... because I'm transgender."

Leelah's conservative Christian parents were not supportive of her urgent pleas to live her life openly. "I told my mom, and she reacted extremely negatively, telling me that it was a phase, that I would never truly be a girl, that God doesn't make mistakes, that I am wrong. If you are reading this, parents, *please* don't tell this to your kids." She added: "That won't do anything but make them hate them self. That's exactly what it did to me." Leelah was no mistake. The world abounds with all sorts of ways of being human, one of which is being trans. It is a tragedy that Leelah was never given the chance to be proud of who she was, and that she thought the only way to change the world was through her death.

Suicide is a constant among transgender people; we are one of the most at-risk groups in the country. One study suggests that over 40 percent of us attempt it during the course of our lives. I was among that number. In 1986 I stood at the edge of a cliff in Nova Scotia, looking down at the Atlantic, considering the plunge into the sea below. Then I turned back. Somehow, here I am.

Early transition is usually best for trans people. But for many of us it's impossible, because of unsupportive families, because of a lack of resources, because we do not yet have the courage to embark upon what seems like a frightening path. In that scenario, the best strategy may simply be having faith in the future, and finding a way to survive until you're able to control your own destiny. I don't know if the things that helped me are of any use to someone born, as Leelah was, in 1997. But the last week has given me occasion to think back on how it was I got this far.

My own life was saved in part by books. When I found Jan Morris's 1974 memoir, "Conundrum," it was as if I'd found a wormhole to another universe, a galaxy where people like me could thrive. I wish I could have also given Leelah two more recent works: Janet Mock's "Redefining Realness" and Kate Bornstein's "Hello Cruel World." They might have made a difference. If reading provided me with solace, so did writing. Keeping a journal, telling stories, inventing worlds gave me comfort until the time came when I had the agency to make my own choices. Narrative helped me find a through-line in the chaos of my life.

There were other times, quite frankly, when simply making a lot of noise saved me, too. I pounded my family's piano until the strings broke; I played in a band that played two songs, one of which was "Turn on Your Love Light," and one of which was not. Making noise helped me know I existed, helped me in some inarticulate way express the pain I felt inside. There were winter nights when I shouted at the sky. Sometimes my own voice echoed back at me.

Read, Write, Scream is not exactly "Eat, Pray, Love," but it worked for me. And there are lots of other resources available now that I did not have in the 1970s, including the hashtag #RealLiveTransAdult that leads to many stories of people who survived and thrived.

It may still be possible to fulfill at least one of Leelah's wishes. In her note, she wrote: "My death needs to mean something. My death needs to be counted in the number of transgender people who commit suicide this year. I want someone to look at that number and say, 'that's [expletive] up' and fix it. Fix society. Please."

Jennifer Finney Boylan, a contributing opinion writer, is a professor of English at Barnard College and the author of "Stuck in the Middle With You: A Memoir of Parenting in Three Genders."

True Colors 22: When Pink & Blue are Not Enough

Friday, March 20 & Saturday, March 21, 2015
University of CT - Storrs

NO WALK-IN REGISTRATIONS will be allowed

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Friday, March 20

Registration:	8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Jorgensen Theater
Opening Session	9:00 – 10:15	Jorgensen Theater
Workshop Session I:	10:30 – 11:45	Various Buildings
Lunch:	Noon – 1:00 p.m.	North & North West Dining Halls
Workshop Session II:	1:15 – 2:30	Various Buildings
Workshop Session III:	2:45 – 4:00	Various Buildings
Close:	4:15 – 5:00	Jorgensen Theater

Saturday, March 21

Registration:	8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Student Union Theater
Opening Session	9:00 – 10:15	Student Union Theater
Workshop Session I:	10:30 – 11:45	Various Buildings
Lunch:	Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Student Union Ballroom 331
Workshop Session II:	1:15 – 2:30	Various Buildings
Workshop Session III:	2:45 – 4:00	Various Buildings
Close:	4:15 – 5:30	Student Union Theater
Drag Show	6:00 – 7:30	Student Union Theater
Dance	8:00 – Midnight	Ballroom

REGISTRATION FEES:

From February 14 - March 13, 2015	1 Day	2 Days	From March 14, 2015 on	1 Day	2 Days
Student	\$45	\$60	Student	\$60	\$75
Adult	\$95	\$110	Adult	\$110	\$125

(If you volunteer at the PFLAG table, there is no registration fee.)

Lunch:

If you have not pre-ordered your lunch, lunch is on your own. Limited options in the food court in the Student Union will be open both days, or you may bring your own.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
November 20, 2014

REFUSE TO LIVE IN FEAR

by Donna Shubrooks

Every year we gather,
 on this November day
 to mourn the dead and speak their names
 and honor what we say.

Those trans folks killed were strangers;
 not family or our friends,
 yet their loss touches each of us,
 their absence never ends.

But as one global family,
 could we have done much more?
 If hate is taught, then so is love;
 a fact we can't ignore.

We can't save lives in foreign lands,
 but we can change lives here.

Honor every person met,

REFUSE TO LIVE IN FEAR.

Begin in our own households.
 Peace starts with you and me.
 C'mon, we ALL know that's true.
 Respect what needs to be.

Let each of us find our own path,
 identity to explore,
 guided by experience
 of those who walked before.

Let's mentor others starting out
 who need to see it's fine;
 to be yourself just as you are,
 to bravely walk the line.

Let's vow to be the best support,
 to be that new true friend;
 to one who did not first believe
 their struggle all could end.

Let's step outside our comfort zone,
 expand what we hold dear,
 protect each other from the pain,

REFUSE TO LIVE IN FEAR.

It's easy to be jaded
 by these lives which have been shattered.
 But who was there for them before
 to tell them that they mattered?

Who modeled true acceptance
 to the warriors of hate?
 Who showed the bullies they were wrong
 before it was too late?

Who offered shelter from the fear?
 Who said you're welcome HERE?
 Who told the victims they were loved?
 Who made their safety clear?

Who taught all kids right from Day One
 that they were dearly treasured,
 no matter who they would become
 our love could not be measured?

As teachers, pastors, neighbors
 doctors, parents, friends
 we have a job that must be done
 before a young life ends.

We can't just be discouraged.
 We have to stop the hate.
 The world is harsh and violent,
 but it is not too late.

We still have time to fix this,
 but it must start right here;
 in every home, on every street
REFUSE TO LIVE IN FEAR.

Be proud of whom you have become.
 Be open to all change.
 Find strength in those who understand.
 Seek those who are estranged.

Please know you are important;
 that others truly care
 about the journey you are on.
 Support is always there.

Reach out for it when needed.
 Extend your hand as well.
 We're all in this together.
 Find someone you can tell.

We'll likely need to meet again,
 this purpose made so clear;
 to honor those who taught us this:
REFUSE TO LIVE IN FEAR.



WITH FLORIDA, 70 PERCENT OF AMERICANS LIVE IN MARRIAGE EQUALITY STATES

The Sunshine State is now the latest where same-sex couples can legally marry. Currently 216 million Americans—roughly double the number from last year—live in states with marriage equality.



IT IS ALWAYS HARD TO SAY GOODBYE TO FRIENDS

February has been a difficult month, and we are saddened to let you know of the passing of two of our PFLAG Hartford members:

Ron Georgeff: Ron passed away on February 7. Although Ron wasn't able to attend meetings for the past few years, he continued to be a loyal member of PFLAG Hartford. Ron was a loving and passionate father, and a long-time PFLAG member.

Bill Higgins: On Sunday, February 22, we received news of the sudden passing of one of our PFLAG Hartford regulars. Bill was part of the "Windsor contingent." He enriched our meetings for years with his wit, compassion, and large laugh. He will be sorely missed.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the families of Ron Georgeff and Bill Higgins.

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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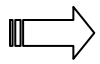
Grace Episcopal Church
 55 New Park Ave.
 Hartford, Ct. 06106
 (860) 233-0825
 GraceHartford@sbcglobal.net

Absolutely everyone is welcome at this parish where we hope you will find a community of faith to support and encourage you.

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

AMPLE FREE PARKING AVAILABLE ON SUNDAYS AND AFTER SCHOOL HOURS



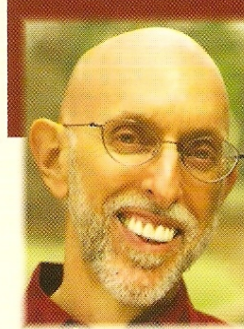


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Connecticut PFLAG Meetings

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Contacts: (860) 505-7346 or (860) 305-2743

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

Contact: David Knapp 203/453-1395

Email: davidwinthropknapp@yahoo.com

Central and Western Massachusetts

PFLAG FRANKLIN-HAMPSHIRE CHAPTERS

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



Let's all spring into spring!

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.