




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

**Thursday, June 18, 2015, 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 24, No. 3

May/June 2015

DUE TO A CONFLICT OF DATES WITH ANOTHER GROUP USING THE CHURCH, OUR USUAL JUNE MEETING/ SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE NEXT NIGHT, THURSDAY, JUNE 18 – SAME TIMES/SAME PLACE. HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE.

SINCERE CONDOLENCES:

To the family of Charlotte Harris. Charlotte passed away on March 5. As many of you know, Charlotte and Glen have been very dedicated supporters of PFLAG for over 20 years. Their loyalty to PFLAG and what it stands for has been second to none. Although Charlotte had a gentle and quiet demeanor, she stood strong for fair and equal treatment of our LGBT loved ones.

OUR CONDOLENCES, also go out to Connie Gallagher and her family. Connie is our PFLAG Hartford Co-Librarian. Connie's mother recently passed away at the age of 90.

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	May 20 – 7:30 p.m.
Household Membership: \$40	7 pm, <u>Thursday</u>, June 18 – Scholarships & Reception
Individual Membership: \$25	July 15 – 7:30 p.m.
	August 19 – 7:30 p.m.
<p><i>(Paid membership includes a one-year subscription to Caring & The National PFLAG newsletter.)</i></p> <p>Please make your check payable to <u>PFLAG Hartford</u> and send it to: PFLAG Hartford, P.O. Box 260733, Hartford, CT 06126-0733</p>	

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.
- **THE PROM 4 U** LGBTQIA dance and party! West Hartford Town Hall, Friday, June 26, 7-11 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Kids 13-17 welcome! The best party in town is coming on June 26th. Fully Chaperoned, safe space. Photo booth and food included. The Queer Prom is always a great evening. If you like good food, a fun time, hot music, fantastic drag queens and lots of dancing, this night is for you! Tell your friends and classmates that they should join you for a great night out. The Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective welcomes you! Go to prom.hglhc.org for more information.
- **WE ARE THE CHANGE – 2015 PFLAG NATIONAL CONVENTION, October 16-18, Nashville, TN**
PFLAG's work started with one mother from New York City who raised a sign...and changed the world. As a catalyst for change, she inspired others to step up and advocate for change in their own communities, home states, and at the federal level. Now, for 43 years, more families, friends, and allies have united their voices with those of their lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer loved ones, standing up together in support of civil rights and equality and against discrimination and hatred. **Register now for the 2015 PFLAG National Convention, where that legacy of change will continue.**

TRUE COLORS WAS FABULOUS!

Thanks so much to those who stopped by the PFLAG Hartford table at the True Colors Conference March 20 and 21st! Amanda and Jim did a great job planning the table, and 500 wrists at the conference were sporting our PFLAG Hartford rainbow bracelets! And the table couldn't have happened without volunteer table sitters Eric and Becca Lazarus, Mary Borden, Bev, Bob & Kelli Huber, Stephanie C, Tracey & Maeve Martinez, Carole MacKenzie and Donna Shubrooks!

PFLAG Hartford also had a large presence at the conference by offering "the SPOT" with New Haven support group TransPACT. The SPOT was THE place at the conference for parents of LGBTQ kids to come for support, resources, and to just hang out! We met a lot of great folks both Saturday and Sunday. Thanks to Don Arsenault & Susan Richards of TransPACT and PFLAGers Donna Shubrooks, and Lori Davison for manning the SPOT!

Additionally, PFLAGers Carole MacKenzie, Janis Booth, Lori Davison & Dave Breitsprecher ran various workshops for kids, parents, and professionals at the conference. PFLAG Hartford truly makes a difference!

Even our little Kaeleigh teamed up with keynote speaker, Jazz Jennings, to present a popular panel session called Middle School Stories: When Pink and Blue is not Enough.

PFLAG May 20th Meeting Speaker: Stephanie Hertz is the Assistant Project Director of the CT Office of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). In her role, Stephanie oversees anti-bias and diversity training programs for school communities around Connecticut. Stephanie developed and now co-facilitates Connecticut ADL's first Jewish-Muslim Community Dialogue initiative. Prior to coming to ADL, she was the Program Coordinator for the Office of International Programs at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Stephanie has a BA in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania and a MA in International Communication from American University.

Even though it's happened before, I'm always taken aback when I hear about another transgender student who feels harassed, humiliated and hopeless at school. It breaks my heart. And it reminds me why I work here.

GLSEN is committed to empowering transgender and gender nonconforming students, while ensuring that their school communities are equally committed to supporting them.

Through our **Trans and Gender Nonconforming Student Resource Center**, students, educators and families can find answers to commonly asked questions, policy guidance, classroom materials and research findings. Our youth-led **Transgender Student Rights** group connects transgender students and their allies nationwide and provides opportunities for leadership development. While last week's International Transgender Day of Visibility was an example of how we all can come together in celebration and unity, one day a year is hardly enough. If you haven't visited these pages recently, I encourage you to take a look today.

No matter your connection to the cause, we must all work together to develop school climates where our differences are not only understood, but *valued* for the positive contribution they make in creating more vibrant and diverse communities.

Sincerely,

Jenny Betz, Director of Education & Youth Programs



Presbyterian Church (USA) formally recognizes same-sex marriage in their constitution. On March 17th, after a majority vote of the churches regional bodies, the Presbyterian Church became the largest Protestant denomination in the country to formally recognize same-sex marriage by making an amendment to its constitution defining marriage as “a unique commitment between two people”. Due to tensions between different factions of the church, the amendment states that marriage “traditionally” occurs “between a man and a woman”.

New York St. Patrick's Day Parade criticized for not being LGBTQ-inclusive enough. Though one LGBTQ organization (Out@NBCUniversal) marched in the parade on March 17th, many, including Mayor Bill de Blasio, do not feel the parade has made enough inclusive change. Irish Queers, an advocacy group of LGBTQ Irish-Americans, also applied to march in the parade, but never received a response from parade organizers. Two men were arrested for throwing toilet paper at Out@NBCUniversal during the parade.

LGBT groups march in Boston's St. Patrick's Day Parade for the first time on March 15th. OUTVETS, a group of LGBT veterans, and Boston Pride historically marched. Mayor Marty Walsh also marched, making him Boston's first mayor to participate in the parade in 20 years. The late former Mayor, Tom Menino, refused to march due to the long-standing former discriminatory exclusion of LGBT organizations.

Reform Judaism's rabbinical arm installs first openly gay president, leading the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Rabbi Denise Eger was historically installed into this position on March 16th. Her rise, which she says shows the arc of civil rights, reflects the path of inclusion of same-sex marriage and openly trans people that Reform Judaism has. It seems like light years between today and when she began a gay and lesbian student group in 1980 but held meetings in another borough of New York than where people lived. Reform Judaism is the largest American Judaism movement.

**NOTE: JUNE SCHOLARSHIP MEETING CHANGED TO THURSDAY, JUNE 18.
SAME TIMES/ SAME PLACE**



MODERNIZING THE PROCESS FOR UPDATING IDENTITY DOCUMENTS

Late last year, **Rhode Island** adopted new vital records regulations to allow transgender people to obtain accurate gender designations on their birth certificates without requiring gender affirmation surgery. The change brings Rhode Island in line with contemporary professional standards of care along with the best practices of six other states and several federal agencies. **Massachusetts** and **New Hampshire** have also made recent changes to the process for updating gender designations on birth certificates and drivers licenses, respectively, and GLAD is working with advocates in **Connecticut** to propose modernizing the process for amending birth certificates there.

FIGHTING WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION AT WALMART

GLAD is representing Jackie Cote in her fight to demonstrate that her employer, Walmart, discriminated against her because she is a woman married to another woman, when they refused to let her put her wife, Diana, on her health insurance. Diana is currently battling ovarian cancer and the couple have accumulated more than \$100,000 in medical bills. In late January, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued a notice of probable cause indicating that Walmart's refusal to allow Jackie to include Diana on her health insurance did constitute discrimination on the basis of sex, and the case is moving forward.



- Yesterday evening (April 8) President Obama condemned the practice known as “conversion” or “reparative” therapy for the medical and psychological harm it causes to LGBTQ youth. Obama's statement referenced Leelah Alcorn, the 17-year-old transgender girl from Ohio who committed suicide last December after being subjected to years of reparative therapy by parents who did not accept her female gender identity.
- We're applauding the White House for their efforts to make bathrooms accessible to everyone, including trans and gender non-conforming people. The Task Force's Trans Civil Rights Program, directed by Kylar Broadus, worked directly with the White House to implement their first gender-neutral bathroom. President Barack Obama's



staff and visitors now have the option of using a gender-neutral restroom, a White House spokesman said Wednesday — the latest in a series of symbolic steps the Obama administration has taken...

- **VICTORY!** The Florida State Senate has nixed anti-LGBTQ discriminatory language from an adoption bill. Using faith as an excuse to denigrate loving same-sex parents is not about religious liberty--it's about legitimizing prejudice to justify discrimination, and we won't let it stand, in Florida or anywhere.

THE MANCHESTER YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU IS PARTNERING WITH PFLAG HARTFORD to host PFLAG meetings in Manchester!

PFLAG is the nation's largest family and ally organization. PFLAG is committed to advancing equality and full societal affirmation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people through its threefold mission of *support, education and advocacy*. By supporting this mission, PFLAG aims to make our community a healthier, more well-informed, safer, fairer and happier place for LGBTQ people, their families and their loved ones.

Meetings are open and designed to support families with LGBTQ youth. Meetings will be structured to include a LGBTQ youth group and a parent support group. All are welcome; especially families who would like to give PFLAG a try!

Meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of every month from 6:30-8:00 pm. The first meeting will be held on May 5, 2015 at the Manchester Youth Service Bureau, 63 Linden Street. Meetings are a great way to connect with others in a fun, supportive environment!

For more information on the youth group, call Kellie Sheridan at (860) 647-5263

For the parent group, contact Lori Davison at pflaghartford@gmail.com

BISEXUALS HOPEFUL AS 1 OF THEIR OWN POISED TO LEAD *By David Crary, Associated Press*

NEW YORK – “LGBT” has become a household term amid sweeping advances for gay rights, and yet the “B” sometimes seems like an awkward fit. The sudden advent of America’s first openly bisexual governor may provide a chance to ease the awkwardness and broaden understanding of the bi community.

Kate Brown, Oregon’s secretary of state, is in line to replace Democratic Gov. John Kitzhaber when he steps down ... amid an ethics scandal. Brown, serving her second term, lives in Portland with her husband and two step-children and has been open throughout her political career as being bisexual. Her progress has been followed closely by bisexual activists across the country, including Ellyn Ruthstrom, who now serves on the board of the Boston-based Bisexual Resource Center after 10 years as its president. “There are so few bi political leaders out there, so we pay attention to them,” said Ruthstrom, citing Rep. Krysten Sinema, D-Ariz., as the other prominent example.

Gary Gates, a demographer at the UCLA School of Law’s Williams Institute, estimated in 2011 that about 1.8 percent of the adult population, or a little more than 4 million Americans, identifies as bisexual – slightly more than the number identifying as gay or lesbian.

A vice president of one of the largest LGBT-rights groups, Fred Sainz of the Human Rights Campaign, said bisexuals may in some respects face greater challenges than gays and lesbians. “To the extent that they’re out, they may well be more so the victims of scorn because they get it from both gay and straight people,” Sainz said.

Kate Brown, after entering politics in 1991 as a member of Oregon’s House of Representatives, wrote an essay about what it was like for her to come out as bisexual to her parents, her gay and straight friends, and her fellow lawmakers. Her parents’ response: “It would be much easier for us if you were a lesbian.” “Some days I feel like I have a foot in both worlds, yet never really belonging to either,” she concluded.

(Kate Brown was sworn in as Oregon’s Governor on March 11, 2015!)

IMPRESSIONS FROM THE DIANE SAWYER INTERVIEW WITH BRUCE JENNER

D: Are you a woman?

B: “...for all intents and purposes, I am a woman.” “No, I am not gay. I am, as far as I know, a heterosexual.” “In my heart and my soul, and everything I do in life is part of me - that female side is a part of me.” Bruce stated that he has always been confused about his gender identity since he was very little. He said he secretly tried on his mother’s dresses and didn’t know why that felt so good. He said, “Bruce lives a lie, ‘she’ is not a lie.” “...I cannot do it anymore. ...It is not that I am trying to dress like a woman, it’s that my whole life I have been dressing as a man.”

Thank you to Diane Sawyer for this interview, and thank you to Bruce for his honesty and for giving us insight into his life and for bringing transgender issues out and into the light.

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

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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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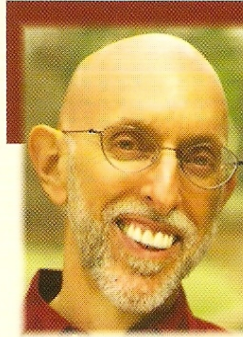


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**CARING IS THE BI-MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER OF
PFLAG HARTFORD**

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

Connecticut PFLAG Meetings

PFLAG HARTFORD: Information on front page or on our website: www.pflaghartford.org

Email: pflaghartford@gmail.com

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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

PFLAG/MANCHESTER YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU

When: First Tuesday of every month, 6:30-8:00pm.

Where: 63 Linden Street, Manchester

Contacts: Youth Group, Kellie Sheridan (860) 647-5263

Parent Group, Lori Davison pflaghartford@gmail.com

NORWALK

Support Group for PARENTS of trans/gender creative children of all ages, and of all our LGBTQ children!

When: 2nd Sunday of every month, 3:00-5:00 pm

Where: Triangle Community Center
618 West Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06850

Central and Western Massachusetts

PFLAG FRANKLIN-HAMPSHIRE CHAPTERS

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



*FIRST DAY OF SUMMER
SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2015*

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.