



The Voice of PFLAG Hartford

Caring

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July/August 2016

PFLAG Hartford Thanks Volunteers

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers that helped to make our Brill Scholarship Fundraiser and the awarding of scholarships at our June meeting a success. There are too many to name but please know that your efforts are appreciated. Also thank you to Bears Barbeque, Get Baked and Best in Show Pet Spa for providing the wonderful food for the VIP reception and to the Mark Twain House for hosting. Our first fundraiser for the scholarship was a HUGE success! Special thanks to our Fundraising Chair, Kai Berzinskas for organizing this fundraiser! Thanks to Mark Schoen for attending and signing his DVD "Trans". See the article on the Brill Scholarship recipients in this newsletter!

Calling All PFLAG Hartford Youth Members!

Your Newsletter Editor wants you! I would like to establish a part of the newsletter that will address news, issues, events etc... that are of interest to you. If you would like to write an article to be put in to the newsletter, have recently read an article, blog or post you find interesting or have announcements relative to events for youth please see me, Tracy Martinez, or email me at News.Pflaghartford@gmail.com. All contributions welcome! Have questions? Just ask me via email or at a meeting. I'm really a nice person and won't bite!

Who is PFLAG Hartford?

PFLAG 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 Hartford offers support groups, a lending library, help lines, speaking engagements, special events, and resources. For more information on what we do, or to become a member or to make a donation, go to pflaghartford.org, or contact us at pflaghartford@gmail.com.

MONTHLY MEETING REMINDER

Tuesday, July 5 – 6:30 p.m. Manchester

Wednesday, July 20 – 7:30 p.m. Hartford

Tuesday, August 2 – 6:30 p.m. Manchester

Wednesday, August 17 – 7:30 p.m. Hartford

Hartford meetings are held at Immanuel Congregational Church, 10 Woodland St., Hartford
Manchester meetings are held at the Manchester Youth Services Bureau, 63 Linden St., Manchester

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.
- **TRUE COLORS** - Friday evenings events 6:30-8:30pm at 30 Arbor St., Suite 201A, Hartford, CT.
1st Friday: Pagan Discussion Group, **2nd Friday:** Movie Night, **3rd Friday:** Gayme Night
4th Friday: Craft Night (Mentoring Activity).
 For more information please email Kamora@ourtruecolors.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.
- **CONNECTICUT OUTREACH SOCIETY** - Support meetings twice a month for trans folks and allies in West Hartford. For information go to <http://www.ctoutreach.org/>
- **STRAIGHT SPOUSE SUPPORT NETWORK** - In Connecticut and Western Massachusetts monthly support group meets every third Sunday in West Hartford. For more information go to www.straightspouse.org or contact Jane Harris at (413) 625-6636, email jcmalinski48@gmail.com.
- **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.

Upcoming Events

July 16th - Red, Hot and Blue Bingo sponsored by the CT Gay Mens Chorus will take place at The Annex Club, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven, CT. Doors open at 6:00pm with games starting at 7:00pm. Admission is \$20 with contests and giveaways all night long. PFLAG Hartford will be tabling at this event! For information go to www.ctgmc.org/bingomainia.htm or call 1-800-644-2462.

July 26th - Movie night at Ocean Beach Park with Our True Colors at 8:00 pm. Go to www.outct.org and click on youth information for more information.

August 26-27th – New London Pride Festival downtown and on the Sound. Friday events are at Hygienic Art Park and Saturday's events are at Ocean Beach Park. PFLAG will be there so stop by to see us! Go to www.newlondonpride.com for more information and a schedule of events.

September 10th – Hartford Capital City Pridefest LGBTQ+ Festival celebrating PRIDE in Connecticut. All Ages Event • Free and Open to the Public. CLARO and Hartford Capital City Pride will celebrated their second annual PrideFest that includes events in various locations throughout Hartford. The activities include music, a Studio 54 themed party, a bar crawl, and much more during the festival. PFLAG Hartford will be tabling at this event. For more information or to make a donation go to www.hartfordpride.com

Brill Scholarship Recipients Announced at June Meeting

At our June 15th meeting the recipients of the Brill Scholarship and the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective Scholarship was announced. Thanks to the committee members for all of their hard work during the selection process. Committee members for the Brill Scholarship were: Lea Dantz, Amy Emery, Sherry Lowe, Tom Murphy, and Donna Shubrooks. Committee members for the HGLHC Scholarship were: Miguel Gonzalez, Jason Scappaticci and Jenn Tate.



**AND
NOW**

OUR RECIPIENTS!

Valentina Connell – Valentina attended Deerfield Academy in Deerfield, MA. During her time at Deerfield Academy she was active in the school’s GSA, serving as President during her senior year. She also founded the Feminism Club which addresses gender and social issues. She served as an Environmental Proctor and Sustainability Leader and was also active in theatre, music and dancing.

Katalina Connors - Kate attended Greenwich Academy in Greenwich, CT, and is planning on attending the University of Chicago where she plans on studying Human Rights and Public Policy. During her high school years Kate was active in the GSA serving as its President in her Senior year. She was also a Student Organizing Team Board Member for GLSEN and founded the Queer Students Organization (QSO) which she is also serves as President. Kate also was active in her schools Theatre, choirs, robotics team and worked at various volunteer jobs during her summers.

Maeve Martinez - Maeve attended the R.J. Kinsella Magnet High School for the Performing Arts and will be going the University of Connecticut to study puppetry. During her high school years Maeve studied Costume Design and was the head designer for The Exonerated, Distracted and No Child. During her time at Kinsella she saw a need for an LGBTQ support group. Through working with faculty and administration the Queer Without Fear group was formed. Maeve has also been an active member of PFLAG Hartford for the past few years and served on a teen panel at the True Colors Conference and the Transgender Lives Conference.

Anthony Moran – Anthony currently attends Middlesex Community College and is working towards becoming a State Trooper with the Connecticut State Police. Anthony has received a Presidential Citation from President Obama as well as another citation from Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman. Anthony is a Senator at Large and President with the college's Student Senate and also serves as a Representative on Students Promoting Equality, Acceptance and Knowledge (SPEAK). He has served on a panel at the True Colors Conference talking about how being out in college is better than being out in high school.

Deijah Williams - Deijah attended Hamden High School and plans on attending Brown University to become an internal medicine physician. Deijah was active in her schools PRIDE (Promoting Respect, Individuality, Diversity and Equality) serving as the Publicity Officer during her sophomore and junior years then as Co-President in her senior year. She was also active in the schools PAWS (People for Animal Welfare and Shelter) club serving as Treasurer during her senior year. Her other activities included the Science Team and tutoring chair of the National Honor Society for her school.

Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective Scholarship – The recipients of the HGLHC Scholarship are Katalina Connors and Jesus Medina.

Congratulations to all of the recipients!

¡Hablemos de la comunidad LGBT!

PFLAG Hartford's Lori Davison got to brush off her Spanish skills to speak to students of the 5th/6th grade bilingual class at Fair Haven Middle School in New Haven. The students are newcomers (0-10 months) from Spanish-speaking places (Puerto Rico, Ecuador, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic) with limited English proficiency. Their teacher, Mr. David Weinreb, describes them as having "a lot of enthusiasm, and a fair amount of open-mindedness." The students were very interested in learning about LGBT issues, had lots of questions, and made many connections with their unit on human rights.



Current Articles from the News:



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN

On One Month Anniversary of Orlando Attack, House will Hold Hearing on Anti-LGBTQ Legislation By Stephen Peters

Next Tuesday morning, on the one month anniversary of the horrific attack at an Orlando nightclub where 49 LGBTQ people and allies were murdered and 53 others wounded, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee is set to hold a hearing on the so-called First Amendment Defense Act (FADA) -- radical legislation that would sanction unprecedented taxpayer-funded discrimination against LGBTQ people. Earlier today, HRC joined over 50 national organizations and 20 local and state organizations in a [letter](#) to Chairman Jason Chaffetz urging him to cancel the hearing.

“Congress should be holding hearings on the needs of the victims, their families, and survivors of the Orlando attacks, or on ways to better protect the LGBTQ community from bias-motivated violence or discrimination. But instead, only a month after the attack, they are unconscionably holding a hearing on harmful legislation that singles out the LGBTQ community,” said HRC Government Affairs Director David Stacy. “The misleadingly named First Amendment Defense Act has nothing to do with the First Amendment and everything to do with sanctioning

taxpayer-funded discrimination against LGBTQ people. Enough is enough. It's far past time to stop the legislative attacks on LGBTQ people and their families.”

FADA is tantamount to state sanctioned discrimination. On its face, this legislation purports to prohibit discrimination by the federal government based on individual beliefs about marriage between loving, same-sex couples. In reality, this bill would allow individuals, many businesses, and nonprofit organizations—even those nonprofit organizations and businesses contracting with the federal government—to circumvent critical federal protections designed to protect LGBTQ families from harmful discrimination. Following the U.S. Supreme Court decisions in *U.S. v. Windsor* and *Obergefell v. Hodges*, same-sex married couples are entitled to all federal spousal benefits regardless of where they live. Under FADA, however, individual businesses could run roughshod over the civil rights of these couples and deny them the spousal benefits they are entitled to under the law. FADA would allow individuals and businesses using taxpayer dollars to ignore the few federal policies that do exist to protect them if they claim the protections aren't in line with their personal beliefs.

Among the legislation's many harms, FADA could even allow any privately owned business to refuse to let an employee take time off to care for their same-sex spouse, in violation of family and medical leave laws – a particularly appalling aspect given the many families currently caring for those who were injured in the Orlando shooting.

A similar anti-LGBTQ measure that was signed into law in Mississippi was blocked by a federal judge on June 30 as a violation of both the Establishment Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

A FEW QUICK PICS FROM PFLAG HARTFORD AT NYC PRIDE PARADE!



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 \$50 (made payable to PFLAG Hartford) to: Tracy Martinez, 85 Hilton Drive, East Hartford, CT 06108. 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



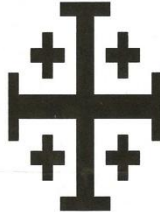
HGLHC
Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective
Be Well Be Yourself

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🖱 hglhc.org
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Grace Episcopal Church
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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.

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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
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CARING IS THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PFLAG HARTFORD

Editor: Tracy Martinez

Caring welcomes articles, letters and other submissions for publication.

Deadline: 15th of even numbered months.

Connecticut PFLAG Meetings

PFLAG in HARTFORD:

Third Wednesday of every month, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
10 Woodland Street, Hartford
Contact: (860) 785-0909 pflaghartford@gmail.com
www.pflaghartford.org
www.facebook.com/pflaghartford

PFLAG in MANCHESTER

First Tuesday of every month, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
PFLAG and Youth Group
63 Linden St., Manchester
Contact : (860) 785-0909 pflaghartford@gmail.com

PFLAG in GUILFORD

Second Tuesday of every month, 7:00-8:00 pm PFLAG
and Youth Group Guilford Youth Services, 36 Graves
Street Contact: greaternewhavenpflag@yahoo.com

PFLAG in NOANK (GROTON)

Second Monday of every month, 7:00 pm
PFLAG and 6:00 pm optional potluck
Noank Baptist Church, 18 Cathedral Heights, Noank
Contact: (860) 447-0884 bjalthen@sbcglobal.net
www.pflagsect.org

PFLAG in NORWALK

2nd Sunday of every month, 3:00-5:00 pm
PFLAG and Youth Groups
Triangle Community Center, 618 West Ave Norwalk
Contact: pflagnorwalk@gmail.com
Web: www.pflagnorwalk.org

PFLAG in HAMPTON

3rd Thursday of every month, time unknown
178 Main St., Hampton email: pflaghampton@gmail.com
Web: www.pflaghampton.org

Central and Western Massachusetts

PFLAG in NORTHAMPTON

Second Tuesday of every month from 6-8 pm Where:
Northampton at Northampton Crossing 325 King St.
(Pioneer Valley Family Medicine conference room) or the
fourth Wednesday of each month at Baystate Franklin
Medical Ctr., 164 High St., Greenfield, MA Contact: 413-
625-6636 or FHCPFLAG@gmail.com and check their
website at <http://fhcpflag.weebly.com>



OTHER PFLAG LOCATIONS

Call the National PFLAG office at (202)638-4200.
or go to www.pflag.org and click on "find a chapter"