



The Voice of PFLAG Hartford

Caring

Volume 26, No. 5

September/October 2017

PFLAG Hartford Speakers

Kari Nicewander will be speaking at our **October** meeting. Reverend Kari Nicewander, a native of Michigan, earned a B.A. from the University of Michigan and her Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School. Her diverse ministry experience in United Church of Christ congregations includes Associate Pastor in Watertown, MA; senior pastor in Manchester, MI; and co-pastor in East Lansing, MI. In January of 2015, she completed a three year commitment working with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Synod of Zambia, living in Lusaka with her family. In addition to serving as Senior Minister at Immanuel, she is currently on the Board of Directors for the Racial Justice Ministries of the Connecticut Conference, UCC. She has written articles in numerous publications and was a contributing author for *Trans-Kin: A Guide for Family and Friends of Transgender People*, which won the 2013 International Book Award for Gay and Lesbian Non-Fiction. Kari has worked on issues of racial justice, poverty, LGBT rights, HIV/AIDS, and gender equality in domestic and international contexts, including Zambia, Ethiopia, Dominican Republic, and Nicaragua.

Reminder - We will hold a brief ANNUAL MEETING of our membership at the beginning of our September 20th regular monthly meeting. The principal business is election of the Board for the coming year.



Thanks to Sarah Prager our July speaker for sharing your experiences with us!



In the PFLAG Hartford Family... This month PFLAG lost a dear friend and longtime PFLAG member, Janis Booth. Janis brought laughter, love and insight to PFLAG meetings, and compassion and comfort to many in the LGBTQ community. Janis prided herself on being a believer in science and logic. She put her faith in the upcoming young generation, and passionately served on the board of True Colors, focusing on LGBTQ youth. Janis loved imparting her knowledge to others, and she excelled at bringing knowledge of trans issues, and cultivating compassion for transfolks, through the Stonewall Speakers, and at conferences. She especially enjoyed speaking to medical professionals, having worked as a nurse and at WebMD.

We will be posting service details as they become available on our facebook page: www.facebook/pflaghartford

The annual membership drive has started! Please consider renewing your membership, or becoming a member, to help us pay for all the things PFLAG Hartford does. Renewing your membership is easy! You can download a form to pay by check, or pay online, at pflaghartford.org.

The membership levels are:

PFLAG Superhero	\$200.00	PFLAG Hero	\$160.00
PFLAG Waver	\$100.00	Supporting Member	\$ 80.00
Basic Household	\$ 50.00	Basic Individual	\$ 30.00
Student/Limited Income	\$18.00		

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:

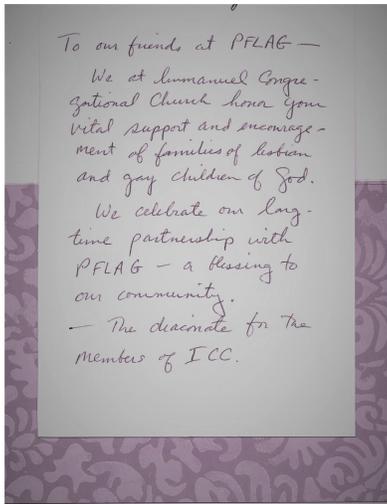
- SUPPORT: To cope with an adverse society
- EDUCATION: To enlighten an ill-informed public
- ADVOCACY: To end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

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.

<u>Monthly Meeting Reminder</u>	
Tuesday, Sept 5th - 6:30 p.m. Manchester	Wednesday, Sept 20th - 7:30 p.m. Hartford
Tuesday, Oct. 3rd - 6:30 p.m. Manchester	Wednesday, Oct. 18th - 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	

Savers Fundraiser for PFLAG Hartford

Thank you to all who donated their used clothing to our Savers fundraiser. We were able to raise \$51.60 for PFLAG Hartford. Thank you Karen Mezaros, Fundraising Chair for setting it up!



A NOTE OF THANKS was received by PFLAG Hartford from Immanuel Congregational Church. They had Elijah Neeley do a sermon "Is God Transgender" and then recognized PFLAG. PFLAG Hartford appreciates all they do to support our organization!

A PATH FORWARD THROUGH DARK AND DANGEROUS TIMES, MAGA

By Lorelei Erisis, The Rainbow Times

We live in scary times. But, I don't need to tell you that. I'm sure you know.

We have, as trans and queer people, won some measure of progress over the last several years. During which we were helped by an administration, and a political atmosphere, that was more friendly to us than those of the past.

By the measure of how far we have to go, our progress has been fairly slight. And most of the best benefits of it have been inside of certain bubbles of progressiveness.

Compared to what we've had before though, it is leaps and bounds. And one thing is certain: Those leaps have landed us firmly inside the public spotlight, which is an incredibly dangerous place to be in right now.

The present administration, and the political atmosphere that brought it to power, is not nearly as friendly to us, or those who might be allies to us, than it was this time last year. And I'm sure any of you who own a TV or have access to the internet, already know what I'm talking about.

The slogan splashed across their social media profiles (the modern equivalent of an armband) is, "Make America Great Again!" Colloquially many folks refer to them as "MAGAs." And "they" are the sitting President and his supporters.

But here's what I want to talk to you all about. We cannot afford for this to become, "Us vs Them." Most especially because, due to our position in the spotlight, we make for a very convenient "Them" ourselves.

Throughout history, every popular movement has needed an "Other" to galvanize its supporters around. It's a sad statement, but generally true. For the Romans, it was the Barbarians. For the Chinese, it was the Mongols. For the French Revolutionaries, it was the Aristocracy. For the English, it was ... well, the rest of the world. And for the Nazis, it was the Jews; also, the Gypsies (Romani), the Communists, and homosexuals.

For the MAGAs, it's us. It's also, black people, immigrants, and Muslims—fine company, if you ask me. But I digress.

It is incredibly convenient and useful to make us the scapegoat that explains, simply, all of the complex problems facing the world. We make a very nice "Other" to distract from the machinations and manipulations of those who stand truly to benefit from the current atmosphere. We as "They" make for a fine enemy with which to justify the worst exploitation and injustices committed, by a relative few, against the whole of the country, and the world.

And this is what's important. That "whole" who are being exploited, is not just us, nor is it just people of color, Muslims, women, or immigrants, or even the poor and the starving of this world—though we may bear the worst of it. The small minority at the top seeks to control and exploit all of us, even many of the folks who proudly proclaim themselves "MAGAs."

When we fight among ourselves, we do not fight the true exploiters.

And this is why I would urge you to stop thinking in terms of "Us vs Them." Start thinking in terms of, "We." The line that begins our Constitution does not read, "Us the People ..." It reads, "We the People ..." And that's all of us. Every single person who draws breath, whose heart beats. Certainly I realize this is easier said than done. I know what I'm asking you to do is not easy. It is in fact terribly difficult.

The only way forward that does not end in bloodshed, terror and repression is, "We." We cannot afford to fight among ourselves. Especially those with whom we may have more in common than not. We must support each other and stand up for each other. Gay people must fight for trans people. Trans people for people of color. People of color for Muslims. Muslims for women. Women for immigrants. We must all fight for each other, not against.

But also, we must not allow ourselves to be, "othered." We cannot withdraw from the MAGAs and let them take space from us in which they may nurture their mistaken ideologies. As much as is possible, we need to participate; speak up when we are spoken against; be part of both our larger and local communities; join civic organizations; run for public office, even if it's just the local library or school

board. Go out. Be seen. The local bar is your bar too. The local park is for all of us as is the courthouse, the statehouse, and the White House. These are the People's Houses, which means they are ours.

It's not going to be easy, or even safe. You will almost certainly be made to feel unwelcome and unwanted in many of these spaces. Just remember, you belong there just as much as anyone else. Without you, there is no one to speak up, no one to oppose malicious ideologies and insidious untruths.

And if you make space and create visibility, then others will feel they might belong too. It takes one person to claim a foothold, so that we all might claim a space. It takes participation and inclusion to become a community. It takes "we" to make it strong.

And I have to believe that we can do this. Because the alternative is scary, indeed.

Ongoing Events

GENDER DISCUSSION GROUP AT MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL A monthly Gender Discussion Group, sponsored by Middlesex Hospital's Transgender Medicine Program. The focus is to connect transgender, gender non-conforming, and questioning individuals in the community with a safe, supportive space to openly discuss key issues. The group is facilitated by medical staff with special expertise in transgender care. Meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Bengtson-Wood Conference Room, 28 Crescent St., Middletown. For more information contact Dr. Angel Rubin at (860) 358-3460 or www.middlesexhospital.org.

THE HARBOR in GRANBY A free Sunday night gathering for community members and LGBTQ members to come together and share community, dinner and a short service. Meetings are held at First Congregational Church of Granby. Dinner preparation starts at 4:45pm, service at 5:30pm and dinner at 5:45pm. For more information contact Elliot Altomare on Facebook [facebook.com/GranbyHarbor](https://www.facebook.com/GranbyHarbor) or via email at GranbyHarbor@gmail.com.

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

Translation and TransPACT Support Groups (Tony Ferraiolo) A support group for Transgender Youth and their Parents, Meetings are held in New Haven. Please contact Don at imdonny@yahoo.com for information.

Upcoming Events

September 14th-17th - New Haven Pride Weekend PRIDE New Haven is meant to celebrate, educate, and honor the rich culture and history of New Haven's LGBTQ+ community. With activities that include performances by both Connecticut-based and nationally recognized artists, cultural tours, receptions, and community conversations, PRIDE New Haven brings the entire community together. For more information go to Pride New Haven's Facebook page.

September 24th - Life's a Drag, Let's Do Brunch! Join Mini and Morgana DeLuxe from Noon to 4pm at the lovely Pond House Cafe in West Hartford for their 11th Life's a Drag...Let's Do Brunch! Enjoy a fabulous brunch served by the incredible Pond House Cafe set in picturesque Elizabeth Park on a beautiful early fall day. Along with brunch, there will be performances by some great local talent, a fashion parade,

all culminating in the crowning Miss Drag Brunch 2017! Proceeds from the event will go to support St. Philip House. For more information go to www.pondhousecafe.com for information and tickets.

September 28th - Triangle Community Center/Westport Playhouse LGBT Nite Out - Come for the performance of Sex with Strangers and enjoy a night out! Cocktails are at 6:30pm and the show starts at 8:00pm. Enjoy mingling with friends, meeting up with colleagues and family or chatting with someone new. For more information go to www.ctpridecenter.org.

October 28th - HGLHC One Big Event - The Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective's 15th One Big Event is coming to the Connecticut Convention Center this Oct. 28. The evening starts at 6pm with cocktails. There is a silent auction where folks can browse and bid on items. Dinner is served at 7pm. After dinner there is a live auction. The evening ends with dancing with Party Pro DJs. Tickets are \$150. All proceeds go to help fund the programs and services of the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective, a nonprofit health agency devoted to the LGBT(and straight too!) and HIV/AIDS communities. Go to www.onebigevent.org for more information.

November 3rd-4th - Gender Conference East, Newark, NJ. Gender Conference East was established to Welcome families and caregivers of all kinds; Connect families and caregivers to one another as well as to providers and resources; Create fun and safe spaces for children, tweens and teens of all gender identities and expressions; Welcome young adults, students and professionals to learn from one another and deepen their understanding of gender; Welcome thought-partners to keep us accountable as we learn year after year the practices that build and sustain inclusive schools, families, and communities. For more information on this event go to www.genderconferenceeast.org.

November 20th - Transgender Day of Remembrance is an annual observance that honors the memory of those whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. More information will be provided in the next newsletter regarding events to honor those who lost their lives.

PFLAG Hartford's CARING Newsletter is coming to an end.

After careful consideration the board for PFLAG Hartford has decided to stop publication of our Caring newsletter at the end of the year. The times they are a changing and much of what is published is now done online rather than on paper and sent through the mail. Accessing information online provides a more real time experience and can be done at your convenience. Most of what you read in CARING can be found on our website www.pflaghartford.org or on our Facebook page. There will be one more issue of CARING to look forward to for November/December which will be the final issue. I hope you have enjoyed reading our newsletter and look forward to seeing you at a monthly meeting.

Tracy Martinez - Editor

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

☎ **860-278-4163**
✉ **info@hglhc.org**
🌐 **hglhc.org**
👤 **facebook.com/hglhc**

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

Elliott Strick MA, LMFT



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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 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, 3:00-4:30 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

WATERBURY

4th Tuesday of every month, 7:00-8:30 pm
 South Congregational Church, 160 Piedmont St.,
 Waterbury For more information contact Len Discenza
 at PFLAGWaterbury@gmail.com.

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
 Fourth Wednesday of the month from 7-9 pm Where:
 Baystate Franklin Medical Ctr., 164 High St., Greenfield,
 MA Contact: 413-625-6636 or FHCPFLAG@gmail.com
 and check their website <http://fhcpflag.weebly.com>

**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.



**HAPPY
 HALLOWEEN!**

OTHER PFLAG LOCATIONS

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