

OCTOBER 11, 2008
NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY!

(While this is a day set aside for those now comfortable with their homosexuality to “come out”, it is also an opportunity for PFLAG parents to “come out” to friends and family.)



The Voice of PFLAG Hartford
Caring

Volume 17, No. 5

September/October 2008

IN THE PFLAG HARTFORD FAMILY:

CONDOLENCES go out to Ted & Ross Zachs and family on the recent death of Ted’s mother, Mary (Hyman) Zachs, 97, of West Hartford. Mary worked at her family’s business well into her 90s.

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, 2008 to September 30, 2009. For your convenience, an envelope, addressed to our Treasurer, is enclosed. The schedule of dues is listed below. Thank-you in advance for your prompt membership renewal or enrollment.

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 Marie & Bob at (860) 633-7184 or Becky & John at (860) 633-5111.

REFRESHMENT REMINDER:

September 17 – Rose & Larry
October 15 – Joan J.
November 19 – Valerie P.
December 17 – John B.

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Student/Limited Income: \$10
Household Membership: \$40
Individual Membership: \$25

**UPCOMING PFLAG
HARTFORD
BOARD MEETING
7:00 p.m., November 11
Hosted by Rose & Larry**

*Please make your check payable to **PFLAG Hartford** and Send it to:
PFLAG Treasurer, 12 Colchester Commons, Colchester, CT 06415*

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex 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

- **RAINBOW ROOM** (a program of the **Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective**) – a welcoming place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and questioning “LGBTQ” teens and young adults (up to 21 years old). Sundays, 3-6 p.m., 1841 Broad Street (the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective building). For more information please visit our website at www.hglhc.org or contact us at sensae@aol.com or call 860/278-4163.
- **TRANS SOFFA SUPPORT GROUP IN CONNECTICUT:** This is a group specifically for Significant Others, Family, Friends and Allies of Transgendered, Transsexual and Gender Variant people (SOFFAs). Trans people who are SOFFAs are welcome. Meetings will be held on the second Sunday of each month and are facilitated by Kristal Barnes and Kasha Ho. Contact Kristal - u2kristal@yahoo.com (860) 878-5256 or Kasha - kho@afsc.org or call (860) 523-1534 for more information.
- **HGLHC TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP:** This professionally facilitated group offers an affirming non-judgmental environment for Transgender folk to explore issues and concerns that matter to them, and to give and take support. Each participant decides what to do with emotions and personal life-choices or body image, sexuality, relationships, HIV issues and anything else of concern. As with all other HGLHC Support groups, all participants must register in advance to determine whether this group is right for you. Location: Hartford. Contact HGLHC at (860) 278-4163 X21 or e-mail lizy@hglhc.org
- **BUSTED AGAIN – A TRANSADVOCACY FUNDRAISER - Fashion Show for the trans and gender non-conforming community, its allies and friends,** 8 p.m., September 12, at Tommy’s Restaurant, 825 Saybrook Road, Middletown. \$10 at the door or pay what you can, no one turned away. Free food, cash bar. Call 860/983-8139 or diana@transadvocacy.com for more info.

TALKING ABOUT

PFLAG has partnered with GLAAD, HRC and Lake Research on a new series of brochures which cover talking points and tips for speaking with diverse audiences about issues and topics important to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and ally communities.

The Talking About series is now available online, and features the following publications:

- * Overall Approaches for Talking About Gay and Transgender Issues
- * Talking About Employment Protections for Gay and Transgender Americans
- * Talking About Marriage and Relationship Recognition for Gay Couples
- * Talking About Inclusive Hate Crimes Laws
- * Talking About Adoption and Gay Parents
- * Talking About "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

You can download each publication, in .pdf format, and learn more about the series online at

[http://www.glaad.org/talkingaboutseries/.](http://www.glaad.org/talkingaboutseries/)

ACTION FUND APPLAUDS HISTORIC INCLUSION OF LGBT ISSUES IN DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL PLATFORM

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund Executive Director Rea Carey spoke at an audio press conference yesterday (8/10) about the proposed Democratic National Platform, which was hosted by the National Stonewall Democrats and featured U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), a member of the Platform Committee.

“The vision put forth in the 2008 Democratic National Platform is historic in its embrace of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans. Never before in our country’s history has there been a national party platform that is so inclusive of our entire community. ... Is the platform perfect? No. ... Is it a good foundation? Unequivocally yes,” Carey said.

DONNA'S MOVIE REVIEWS

by Donna Gore

Losing Chase ☆☆☆☆☆

What a gem of a movie...Helen Mirren and Kyra Sedwick are electric in their performances. The themes of coming of age/self-discovery and mental illness are interwoven. Helen's character is the queen of mean initially, until a wonderful, explosive, and pivotal scene in the garden begins a relationship that changes both females. We love to hate Helen in this movie, or as a raging alcoholic police inspector! A previous reviewer panned it for the "everything has to be gay". It isn't really a gay film. It has its elements and that contributes to the growth of who Mrs. Philips really is. However, this will definitely appeal to the LGBT audiences. The scenery of Martha's Vineyard is captivating and the ultimate goodbyes are touching. Beau Bridges plays his character with understated expertise - fearing her mental illness and wanting to get love and show love to his mother throughout the movie. Neither mother nor son is capable of this. Her eldest son, "little Richard" ultimately sets her fate, and hates her all the more. Maybe, Martha's Vineyard has a very good PFLAG support group! Mr. Philips apparently cannot fight for his wife and we are left to speculate if there can be another Kyra Sedwick in the future. All in all, I loved it and can see why we have to wait so long to take our turn to see it!

The Children's Hour ☆☆☆☆☆

What a gem of a movie...and certainly ahead of its time for the early 60's. Yes, the main characters of MacLaine, Hepburn and Garner were wonderful.... How about that wretched little girl who spun the lie and started all of the trouble? It seems highly unlikely that adults of today would not see through her agenda. How could any of them take her word? I'm left wondering, what if MacLaine's character had survived? Would they indeed still have been friends? My one regret is that there were no interviews with MacLaine and Hepburn discussing the movie. I do recall MacLaine saying that they had no idea it would create such an impact, nor were they aware of what they were doing in terms of it being such a groundbreaking topic. See this movie - at least once!

**A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION FOR CONNECTICUT? - A NOVEMBER BALLOT QUESTION**

This November, voters will be asked, "Shall there be a Constitutional Convention to amend or revise the Constitution of the State?"

Holding a convention in Hartford isn't change, it's politics as usual. State legislators decide who goes to the convention. It will be a convention of lobbyists, politicians and special interests.

The public has no say on what the lobbyists propose to do to the Constitution. [from the website of Vote No: Protect Our Constitution www.ctvoteno.org]

The ctvoteno.org website also carries material from The Hartford Courant:

- Robert Satter's thoughtful July 29, 2008 OpEd piece titled, "Why Voters Shouldn't Pass Laws;" and
- John K. Currie's Letter to the Editor published on July 3, 2008, under the caption, "Tyranny Masked As Populism." (Excerpt of John's letter follows.)

TYRANNY MASKED AS POPULISMby John K. Currie: *Hartford Courant*, Letter to the Editor, July 3, 2008

"There is a move afoot in Connecticut to seek a constitutional convention. Your first gut reaction might be to support this move. Considered reflection, however, calls for a **no** vote in November.

Judge Robert Satter [Commentary, June 29, "Why Voters Shouldn't Pass Laws"] was correct. The ballot initiative process is not a method to empower regular citizens. It is, rather, a system used by the traditionally powerful, the wealthy, to exert their dominance in the guise of a populist device. During the 1998 election cycle there was more than a quarter-billion dollars spent on initiatives and counter initiatives!"

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JOHN MCCAIN ANNOUNCES OPPOSITION TO ADOPTION RIGHTS FOR LESBIAN AND GAY COUPLES

July 14, 2008, Steve Ralls, PFLAG National

"McCain Would Deny Loving Homes to Children Who Desperately Need Them," Says PFLAG

WASHINGTON, DC – In an interview published in Sunday's New York Times, Senator John McCain (R-AZ), the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, announced his unequivocal opposition to adoption rights for lesbian and gay couples. "I think that we've proven that both parents are important in the success of a family so, no, I don't believe in gay adoption," McCain, who with his wife Cindy is a foster parent, told the paper.

"In a country where more than 125,000 children are waiting for foster parents, Senator McCain would deny loving homes to children who desperately need them simply because of an outdated prejudice about what a family may look like," said Jody M. Huckaby, executive director of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). "We are disappointed and saddened that a public leader who is himself an adoptive father would deny the children in America's foster care system the opportunity to thrive as part of a welcoming family. Love makes a family, but short-sighted positions like Senator McCain's can certainly tear families apart, too."

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "A growing body of scientific literature demonstrates that children who grow up with 1 or 2 gay and/or lesbian parents fare as well in emotional, cognitive, social, and sexual functioning as do children whose parents are heterosexual." The AAP has also noted that, "Overall, there are more similarities than differences in the parenting styles and attitudes of gay and non-gay" parents. Children raised by same-sex couples "seem to develop normally in every way," the group has reported.

"In fact," the Academy has said, "growing up with parents who are lesbian or gay may confer some advantages to children. They have been described as more tolerant of diversity and more nurturing toward younger children than children whose parents are heterosexual."

"Senator McCain's position is out of synch with the research and science and out of step with what is in the best interests of children waiting for a home and a family," Huckaby said. "PFLAG knows the pain inflicted upon families due to misinformation about LGBT issues. We implore Senator McCain to take a serious look at the overwhelming evidence and listen to the stories of the countless children raised by loving lesbian and gay couples. The evidence is clear: children should not be denied access to the loving homes of gay couples."

PFLAG NATIONAL

PFLAG opposes "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and joins seventy-nine percent of Americans who support the repeal of this oppressive law. It dissuades talented Americans from serving their country, which ultimately deprives the armed forces of qualified, committed, and talented Americans who can boost military readiness.

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" has inflicted immeasurable damage to our armed forces and our country. Desperately needed military linguists, pilots, doctors, intelligence analysts, nurses, and others with critical skills are in high demand but continue to be dismissed under the law. At last count, more than 300 language specialists have been dismissed under the law, including five dozen who were proficient in Arabic.

It's clear that there is a real need for our LGBT loved ones to have the ability to serve openly and honestly. Sexual orientation is not a factor in one's commitment to protecting the nation and defending freedom for all. Every qualified American who wants to serve and make our military more effective should be allowed to do so regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Congress must repeal this discriminatory, wasteful and counter-productive law and welcome patriotic Americans who wish to serve our country. PFLAG urges you to speak with your congressional representatives and encourage them to sponsor the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, a bill that would repeal this discriminatory practice and end anti-gay discrimination in our nation's largest employer, the U.S. armed forces.

To learn more about how you can encourage your representatives to support the Military Readiness Enhancement Act or to learn more about "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," please log onto www.pflag.org and visit the following sites:

- [Military Readiness Enhancement Act of 2007](#)
- [Servicemembers Legal Defense Network](#)
- [The Michael D. Palm Center](#)
- [Don't Ask, Don't Tell Documents](#)

THANK YOU to Paul Quin who joined us as our July guest speaker. Paul is a speech language pathologist at the CT Children's Medical Center School. He was reared in Central Pennsylvania and has childhood and adult experience in Presbyterian and Lutheran churches. His life story includes discrimination, after he came out, at work and in his then church setting. He has since found his way to the Unitarian Society of Hartford and is active there. Paul married at age 21, at which time both he and his wife understood that he was bisexual. He divorced in 1996 and shortly thereafter met the man who is his husband. Paul has a wonderful daughter named Erica, who came out as a lesbian during her high school years. We very much appreciate Paul's sharing his story and, in doing so, helping us in carrying out PFLAG's important mission.

ALSO, THANK YOU to Gail M. Syring, our August guest speaker. Gail made us laugh and she made us cry!

A Connecticut native, Gail grew up in Windsor and attended the University of Connecticut. While earning a degree in Human Development and Family Relations and Women's Studies, she was a volunteer at the Women's Center and an activist in sexual assault prevention and eventually a member of the Hartford Pride Committee. For eight years, Gail was employed at the University of Hartford as the Director of the Women's Center, the Assistant Director of Residential Life and a presenter for "It Takes A Team", an organization designed to educate coaches and student athletes about GLBT issues. In those roles, she was an advocate for GLBT students, lectured on GLBT issues and student development, and spearheaded a pilot program to design gender-neutral housing options. Currently, Gail is the Director of Religious Education at the Unitarian Society of Hartford and a member of the Welcoming Congregation/Interweave chapter. Gail is a student at Hartford Seminary, pursuing a Master of Divinity degree with the aim of becoming a Unitarian Universalist minister.

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THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (APA) recently released the final report of its Task Force on Gender Identity and Gender Variance. The report is available at:
<<http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/transgender/2008TaskForceReport.pdf>> .

Following is an excerpt from a press release concerning the report, and the APA's adoption of resolutions recommended by the report. The complete press release is available at:
<<http://www.apa.org/releases/genderC08.html>>.

APA RESOLVES TO PLAY LEADING ROLE IN IMPROVING TREATMENT FOR GENDER-VARIANT PEOPLE

Gender Identity Task Force Calls for Nondiscriminatory Guidelines, Better Research and Training

BOSTON—The American Psychological Association urged psychologists today to take a leading role in ending discrimination based on gender identity, calling upon the profession to provide "appropriate, nondiscriminatory treatment to all transgender and gender-variant individuals" and encouraging more research into all aspects of gender identity and expression.

The action came at APA's Annual Convention when the association's governing Council of Representatives adopted a resolution supporting full equality for transgender and gender-variant people. The resolution also calls on APA to:

- support legal and social recognition of transgender individuals consistent with their gender identity and expression;
- support the provision of adequate and medically necessary treatment for transgender and gender-variant people;
- recognize the benefit and necessity of gender transition treatments for appropriately evaluated individuals;
- call on public and private insurers to cover these treatments.

In addition to adopting the wide-ranging resolution, the Council of Representatives received a report by APA's Task Force on Gender Identity and Gender Variance. The six-member task force spent more than two years reviewing the scientific literature, as well as APA policies regarding transgender issues. It was also charged with developing recommendations for education, professional training and further research into transgenderism, and proposing how APA can best meet the needs of psychologists and students who identify as transgender or gender-variant.

Noting that transgender people, their families, friends and employers are increasingly turning to psychologists for help, "this trend underscores the need for psychologists to acquire greater knowledge and competence in addressing transgender issues," the report states.

THANK HALLMARK FOR THEIR SAME-SEX WEDDING CARDS TODAY!

Take the Time to Send Your Very Best to Hallmark

Hallmark has announced that they will be selling congratulations cards specifically for same-sex weddings. Unfortunately, our opposition is flooding Hallmark with angry calls and e-mails demanding that they stop selling these wonderfully supportive cards. Please take a moment out of your day to call or email Hallmark and let them know you support this new line of same-sex wedding cards. Below you will find a sample phone script and the number at Hallmark. Don't let the only voices that Hallmark hears be anti-family and anti-marriage equality!

Call: 1- 800-425-5627, Dial: 4 and then 5 to reach an operator to leave your message.

Suggested Message: Hi, my name is _____. I am calling from (your city and state). I am a member of the _____ chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, or PFLAG. I am calling to let you know how supportive my family and I are of your new line of wedding cards for same-sex married couples. Thank you so much for creating them and thinking of all families!

Better yet – in addition to your call, write to: Consumer Letters, Hallmark Cards, Inc., P.O. Box 419034, Kansas City, MO 64141-6034. The written word is most powerful.

NATIONAL GAY & LESBIAN TASK FORCE ANNOUNCES \$1.2 MILLION GRANT FROM EVELYN AND WALTER HAAS, JR. FUND TO SUPPORT PRO-LGBT FAITH WORK

The Task Force Foundation's Institute for Welcoming Resources (IWR) and five partner organizations have been awarded a total of \$1.2 million from the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund to work jointly to expand the number of churches that are welcoming and affirming of LGBT people and to strengthen their internal capacities. This funding is significant not only because of its dollar amount, but also because it marks a breakthrough in secular foundation support for LGBT faith organizing efforts.

"The more than 2.5 million individuals in the 3,100 congregations supported by the Institute for Welcoming Resources and these partner organizations are some of our movement's most valuable advocates in promoting understanding, reclaiming what unfortunately has become a narrow view of 'moral values' espoused by those who seek to divide, and advancing LGBT equality. We thank the Haas, Jr. Fund for not only recognizing this, but for providing the critical resources to advance these pro-LGBT faith organizing efforts."

— *Task Force Executive Director Rea Carey*

LIBRARY NOTE:

Kids of Trans Resource Guide, the first ever resource guide written by and for people with transgender parents, has been ordered and will be available for you to borrow from our PFLAG library. The guide features Transgender 101 for KOTs, Frequently Asked Questions, Transition, Family Shifts, Finding Support and Community, Coming Out as KOT, and more. This Guide will provide a valuable resource to people with transgender parents. For more information, or to get your own copy of the Guide, contact Monica at kidsoftrans@colage.org.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE GOOD WORKS OF PFLAG HARTFORD WITH A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION OF:

\$ _____ My name: _____

Please cut out this coupon and mail it with your check (made payable to PFLAG Hartford) to our Treasurer, Joan Jansen, 12 Colchester Commons, Colchester, CT 06415.

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.

Connecticut PFLAG Meetings

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

PFLAG NORWALK/SOUTHWESTERN CT

When: First Wednesday of every month, 7:30 pm
Where: Triangle Community Center
 16 River Street Norwalk
Help Line: (203) 226-0257 or (203) 438-0530
Email: PFLAGSWCT@yahoo.com

PFLAG NORTHWESTERN CT:

Contact: Diane (860) 435-2738

PFLAG MADISON/SHORELINE

No Meetings
Email: davidwinthropknapp@yahoo.com
Help Line: (203) 453-1395

PFLAG GROTON (NOANK) /SOUTHEASTERN CT

When: Second Monday of every month, 7:00-8:30
Where: Noank Baptist Church, 18 Cathedral Heights
Helpline: (860) 447-0884
Email: robertmarrion@sbcglobal.net
 or www.pflagsect.org

PFLAG GREATER NEW HAVEN

When: Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30 pm
Where: Church of the Redeemer
 Corner: Whitney Ave./185 Cold Spring St., NH
Help Line: (203) 458-0493
Email: greaternewhavenpflag@yahoo.com

Central and Western Massachusetts

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*

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY



OCTOBER 11, 2008

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 janenrosie48@yahoo.com or at www.straightspouse.org

In Southern Connecticut
Call Joan Rolnick at (203) 438-0530 or janenrosie@hotmail.com

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.