



HAPPY NEW YEAR AND HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO ALL OF OUR PFLAG PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS.



## The Voice of PFLAG Hartford

# Caring

Volume 22, No. 1

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### IN THE PFLAG HARTFORD FAMILY:

True Colors' 20th Anniversary Conference, "Celebrating our Heroes of the Past, Present & Future," will be held at The University of Connecticut, Storrs, on March 22-23, 2013. PFLAG Hartford will once again sponsor an information booth. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at our monthly meeting. Please sign up to staff our table for an hour or two during the Friday or Saturday session. Our thanks to Jim W. for agreeing to take over Larry P's duties and set up and take down our booth. Larry has done this for several years but will be soaking up the sunshine in Florida this year.

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:

January 16 - Bev & Bob

February 20 - Len & Tom

March 20 - Krista

April 17 - Eric & Jason

### MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Student/Limited Income: \$10

Household Membership: \$40

Individual Membership: \$25

*(Paid membership includes a one-year subscription to Caring & the National PFLAG newsletter.)*

Please make your check payable to **PFLAG Hartford** and send it to Joan Jansen, 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

- **RAINBOWROOM:** (a program of the **Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective**) - - A welcoming place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and questioning "LGBTQ" teens (13-21 years old). RainbowRoom meets every Sunday from 3-6 p.m., 1841 Broad Street (Health Collective building), Hartford. For more information please visit our website at <http://www.hglhc.org/> or contact [lizy@hglhc.org](mailto:lizy@hglhc.org) or call 860/278-4163.
  - **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](mailto:coordinator@stonewallspeakers.org).
  - **XX CLUB "Twenty Club"** – The Transsexual Support Group of New England meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month from 2-5 p.m. at The Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective, 1841 Broad Street, Hartford, CT [www.twentyclub.net](http://www.twentyclub.net)
  - **LIVING SOULFULLY** (Men Loving Men In Community) meets the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at The Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective, 1841 Broad Street, Hartford, CT. 860/278-4163.
- **TRANSGENDER LIVES: THE INTERSECTION OF HEALTH AND LAW CONFERENCE** will be held April 27, 2013 at the UConn Health Center in Farmington, Ct. If you have questions, please email us at: [conference2013@transadvocacy.org](mailto:conference2013@transadvocacy.org).
- **TRUE COLORS YOUTH CONFERENCE XX**, "Celebrating Our Allies," Friday, March 22 & Saturday March 23, University of Connecticut, Storrs. Details coming in March/April *Caring*.



November 6, 2012

It's an equality landslide! The dreams of millions of fair-minded people were realized today as discrimination crumbled at the ballot box and equality prevailed.

**Our community racked up so many wins it's hard to know where to begin.** Obviously we are elated that our Ally-in-Chief, President Barack Obama, is returning to the White House for four more years of progress. We have our first openly gay Senator in Tammy Baldwin. We've won marriage at the ballot box in Maine and Maryland, Minnesota defeated a discriminatory amendment, and we are optimistic about our chances in Washington. We've picked up new allies in the House and Senate and have more openly lesbian, gay and bisexual members of Congress than ever before.

I hope you're as fired up as I am at these amazing accomplishments.

**.... When the history books are written, 2012 will be remembered as the turning point when LGBT Americans won decisively at the polls.**

Our community has flexed our political muscle with exit polls showing lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans increasing our presence at the polls from 4 percent of the vote in 2008 to 5 percent this year. And the President gained many more supporters among lesbian, gay, and bisexual voters – jumping seven points to garner 77% of our vote.

Further down the ballot, voters in Iowa voted to retain Justice Wiggins who decided for marriage equality there and leadership changes in the Colorado and Minnesota legislatures mean progress may be on the horizon for relationship recognition laws there.

For the past two years, HRC has been laying the groundwork for our largest mobilization effort ever to ensure 2012 is the turning point for LGBT equality. HRC and our energetic supporters have raised and contributed more than \$20 million to reelect President Obama and to advance marriage equality and other electoral priorities this cycle. On marriage equality, HRC invested \$8.4 million this cycle to include \$5.5 million in the four marriage ballot measure states.

Tonight we celebrate, but tomorrow morning we get up and get back to work so that the victories that moved us tonight are felt everywhere across this great country. Too many people are still denied the ability to marry. Too many people go to their jobs without workplace protections. Too many young people go to bed at night and stare at the ceiling, sleeplessly wondering what awaits them the next day at school or at church or in their own home. We have a long way to go, my friends, but tonight we took a giant leap towards full equality in this great country.

....

Thanks to all the hard work in achieving tonight's victories. We're not going to slow down – we're going to double down. We finally have momentum on our side and we will not rest until the promise of equal justice under the law is realized for every single person living in every single corner of this vast country.

With deep gratitude,  
Chad Griffin, President  
Human Rights Campaign

Washington has declared a winner: The freedom to marry triumphs in Washington State! That means we've gone four for four! Our Director of Organizing, Thomas Wheatley, commented on the win, saying, "This victory is a joyous step forward for millions of gay and lesbian people in Washington and around the country who have dreamt of someday being able to marry the person they love. Washingtonians know that marriage means something important and special to all couples, their families, and their friends - including gay couples and their loved ones. Washington's campaign mobilized unprecedented support from businesses, faith leaders, and young voters, demonstrating that the freedom to marry matters to all people and setting a powerful example as we continue to work to win marriage nationwide."



### **THE EXPERIENCES OF RURAL LGBT YOUTH**

*by Eliza Byard, GLSEN Executive Director*

This past spring, Lenoir City High School, a school in rural Tennessee, featured a section of short articles on student life in its yearbook. One article, entitled "It's OK to be Gay," profiled openly gay student Zac Mitchell. Apparently, as far as Lenoir City School Board is concerned, it is not OK to be gay -- or at least not OK to talk about it.

Although the yearbook's student staff and faculty advisors felt the article was a perfectly legitimate and inclusive depiction of life at the school, members of the school board were vocal in their opposition. "I don't think that that type of material has any place in a yearbook," said Board member Glenn McNish. Board Vice Chairman Rick Chadwick added, "It should not have been put in the yearbook, and it split our community, and we are going to straighten it out."

The story highlights the challenges facing many LGBT students who attend schools in rural and small town areas, but also points to a resiliency and determination to use the resources available to them to make their schools safer for everyone. It is this complex reality that we see reflected in GLSEN's new report on rural and small-town LGBT students.

*Strengths and Silences: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Students in Rural and Small Town Schools* underscores the need for educators and policymakers to do more to address the safety risks for LGBT students in rural and small town schools. Rural LGBT students are far less likely to have access to LGBT-related resources at school. Nonetheless, they benefit substantially when such resources are present. GLSEN will continue to do all we can to bring those critical in-school supports to every community in the country. As familiar as this call may now be, it will continue until all students, in every type of school and of every demographic, have access to the school-based supports that can transform the LGBT student experience and enable every student to thrive.

**UPS ENDS GRANTS TO BOY SCOUTS OVER DISCRIMINATION** *Associated Press, November 13, 2012*

The philanthropic arm of shipping giant UPS said it will no longer give money to the Boy Scouts of America as long as the group discriminates against gays, the second major corporation to recently strip funding from the scouts. The UPS Foundation made the change Thursday after an online petition protesting its annual grants to the Boy Scouts attracted more than 80,000 signatures. UPS, based in Atlanta, follows computer chip maker Intel in withdrawing corporate support for the Boy Scouts. ...

The UPS Foundation gave more than \$85,000 to the Boy Scouts in 2011, according to its federal tax return. Federal tax returns for 2011 for Intel, the world's largest chip maker, were not immediately available. Some media reported the Santa Clara, Calif.-based company as giving hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years.

UPS spokeswoman Kristen Petrella said groups applying for the foundation grants will have to adhere to the same standards UPS does by not discriminating against anyone based on race, religion, disability or sexual orientation. "We promote an environment of diversity and inclusion," Petrella said Monday. "UPS is a company that does the right things for the right reasons." The UPS Foundation distributed \$45.3 million in grants last year. Petrella said she was not aware of any other current grant recipients who would be affected by the new policy. Petrella said the company had been concerned about discrimination by the Boy Scouts before the petition drive.

The Boy Scouts said this summer it was sticking with the divisive, long-standing policy of excluding openly gay youth and adults as members and leaders. Deron Smith, the director of public relations for the Irving, Texas-based Boy Scouts of America, said the group was disappointed about the decision from UPS. "These types of contributions go directly to serving young people in local councils and this decision will negatively impact youth," Smith said. "Through 110,000 units, scouting represents millions of youth and adult members in diverse communities across the nation, each with a variety of beliefs on this topic."

UPS and Intel changed course after Zach Wahls, an Eagle Scout and founder of the group Scouts for Equality, began online petitions this fall at Change.org calling for corporations to end their financial support of the Boy Scouts. That call has been echoed by such groups as the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, which has highlighted the case of an Ohio mother barred from volunteering with her son's Cub Scout pack because she is a lesbian. "Corporate America gets it better than most: policies that discriminate aren't simply wrong, they're bad for business and they're hurting the scouting community," Wahls said Monday. "You would think that after all the Boy Scouts have lost as a result of this policy, they would understand that."

The policy of excluding gays has also come under increased scrutiny within the last month, as thousands of confidential files released as part of a lawsuit show top Boy Scout leaders for decades carefully tracked thousands of scoutmasters and volunteers who sexually abused boys in their care but routinely failed to report those individuals to law enforcement.

**WHAT A YEAR IT'S BEEN!***December 7, 2012*

With 2012 quickly coming to a close, many will look back over what has happened in these past twelve months and be thankful for what they have. At GLSEN, we are thankful for you.

It has been a great year for GLSEN and the safe schools movement, full of benchmarks and achievements. To give you a sense of some of our successes this year, GLSEN has put together a short montage capturing many of our 2012 highlights. I hope you will take a minute to watch.

Everything we have achieved this past year has been possible because of you. And everything we hope to achieve going forward will be as well.

On behalf of all of us at GLSEN, and the hundreds of thousands of LGBT and allied students we serve every day, thank you.

Eliza Byard, Executive Director of GLSEN  
(Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network)



**SUPREME COURT TO HEAR DOMA, PROP 8 CHALLENGES**

*December 7, 2012*

Today, the United States Supreme Court announced that it will hear arguments in *United States v. Windsor* which challenges the constitutionality of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). The Court also granted a hearing to *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, the challenge to California’s Proposition 8. Arguments before the Court are likely to take place in March 2013.

“DOMA creates a gay-only exception to federal recognition of state-licensed marriages, and we believe that the federal government should stop discriminating against same-sex couples legally married by their states. We know from working with legally married same-sex couples since 2004 in Massachusetts that *Gill* plaintiffs are married couples and widowers from Massachusetts, which became the first marriage equality state after GLAD’s 2003 victory in *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*. *Pedersen* plaintiffs are married couples and a widower from Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

DOMA denies federal recognition of the lawful marriages of same-sex couples, thereby denying legally married same-sex couples critical federal protections that other married couples receive.

DOMA undermines their security in every aspect of life and death,” said Mary L. Bonauto, director of GLAD’s Civil Rights Project.

GLAD’s two DOMA challenges, *Gill v. Office of Personnel Management* and *Pedersen v. Office of Personnel Management* were also considered at today’s Supreme Court conference but were not granted certiorari. GLAD filed *Gill*, the country’s first strategic challenge to DOMA in 2009; and filed *Pedersen* in 2010. *Gill* was the first case in which DOMA was found unconstitutional by a federal District Court, and also achieved the first appellate ruling that DOMA is unconstitutional in May 2012.

Of California’s Prop 8 case, Bonauto said, “The ability to commit in marriage to the person you love is profoundly important and should not have been taken away from committed same-sex couples. GLAD has been leading the fight for marriage equality for two decades, including the historic marriage equality breakthroughs in Massachusetts and Connecticut, and we are committed to the success of this case. That the issue will soon be heard by the Supreme Court is a vindication of our work to achieve equal protection under the law for same-sex couples. This day has been long in the making, and we are committed to the success of this case.”

*Gill* was held by the Court and will most likely be addressed by the Court in June.

The *Windsor* case was brought by the American Civil Liberties Union and Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. The *Perry* case was brought by the American Foundation for Equal Rights.

For more information about DOMA, visit [www.glad.org/doma](http://www.glad.org/doma).

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**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.**

**STRAIGHT WEDDINGS SHOWING SUPPORT FOR GAY MARRIAGE***PFLAG Greater Providence Newsletter**Without the right to choose to marry, one is excluded from the full range of human experience.*

Those words appear in the 2003 decision of the Massachusetts Supreme Court that called same-gender marriage a legal and civil right, making that state the first in the nation to permit it. Many gay and lesbian couples include those lines in their wedding ceremonies. What is new lately is that heterosexual couples are including the lines in their own rites.

One couple in Chicago, the Vitts, had their officiant read the words at the start of their ceremony. They also wore white wristbands showing their support for same-gender couples, as did many of their 140 guests. The bands are an adaptation of the white-knot logo for the marriage-equality movement.

Social change is being advanced by newly-weds using the moral and religious force of the wedding ceremony. Ms. Vitt recalled in a recent interview: "When we were planning the wedding, we kept asking ourselves, 'How do we convey the weight and significance of this issue?' We wanted everything in the ceremony to mean something." And Mr. Vitt thought about one of his groomsmen, who was raised by a lesbian couple.

The Vitts have some illustrious company. When the actress Anne Hathaway married her long-time boyfriend, Adam Shulman, last September, she authorized the sale of wedding photographs to benefit the national advocacy group Freedom to Marry, as well as three charities. Freedom to Marry created a marital registry two years ago, and since then most of the contributions to it have come from heterosexual couples.

Many such couples hand out lapel pins with the white-knot logo, which are produced by the advocacy organization White Knot.org. Some ask guests to sign petitions or open letters supporting same-gender marriage. Said Evan Wolfson, director of Freedom to Marry, "When people think about gay marriage at a straight wedding, they understand why it is important for us to have that right."

**FROM PFLAG NATIONAL:****PFLAG National statement in support of the "stop harming our kids" resolution -**

Today, November 28, 2012, PFLAG National issued a statement in support of a federal resolution, introduced by CA Congresswoman Jackie Speier, banning so-called reparative therapy on those under 18 years of age.

**Following is the full statement:**

*PFLAG National—the nation's oldest and largest organization for parents, families, friends, and allies of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people—applauds Rep. Jackie Speier's introduction today of a resolution that would express at the federal level what we have seen firsthand: that reparative therapy is harmful to our kids, and must be banned as a practice. The doctrine espoused by some therapists—that gay people can and should change their sexual orientation—has been condemned by every mainstream professional medical and mental health association, including The American Medical Association, The American Psychiatric Association, The American Psychological Association, The American Counseling Association, The American Academy of Pediatrics, and The National Association of Social Workers. This resolution would simply support what has already been proven: that what LGBT youth need is the love, support, and acceptance of their parents, not to be told to change who they are.*

**THE HISTORY OF PFLAG'S BEGINNINGS:**

40 years ago, Queens, New York schoolteacher Jeanne Manford marched with her gay son, Morty, in New York's Christopher Street Liberation Day Parade carrying a sign that read "Parents of Gays Unite in Support for Our Children." She took this historic step after learning of an assault on his life due to his sexual orientation, while police stood by and did nothing to help him. The response to Manford's public support of her son was overwhelming and she was begged by parade participants to speak to other parents and families. Through the next year, this grassroots family and ally movement spread like wildfire and in 1973 Manford, along with a small group of dedicated parents, founded PFLAG, an organization for parents, families, friends, and straight allies to unite with LGBT people in a shared mission of support, education, and advocacy. That this movement spread so quickly—long before the age of the Internet and mobile phones—was clear evidence of the need for this organization, the first and only of its kind.

Over the next 12 months, we will celebrate PFLAG's 40th Anniversary by looking back at where we were, where we are now, and how far we still must go in our fight for the health and wellbeing of our LGBT loved ones.



**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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**Connecticut PFLAG Meetings**

**PFLAG HARTFORD:** Information on front page or at our website: [www.pflaghartford.org](http://www.pflaghartford.org)

Helpline: (860) 633-7184

Phone: (860) 633-5111

Transgender Issues: (860) 231-8582

**PFLAG SOUTHWESTERN CT**

When: 7:30 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday (bi-monthly)  
Jan./Mar./May/July/Sept./Nov.

Where: Triangle Community Center  
16 River Street (lower level) Norwalk

Help Line: (203) 226-0257 - Westport

(203) 322-5380 – Stamford

(203) 925-0445- Shelton

(203) 847-9183 - Norwalk

Email: PFLAGSWCT@yahoo.com

**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](mailto:bjalthen@sbcglobal.net)

Web site: [www.pflagsect.org](http://www.pflagsect.org)

**PFLAG GREATER NEW HAVEN**

166 Lovers Lane, Guilford, CT 06437

Meeting: 3rd Tuesday of the Month, 7:30 pm  
Church of the Redeemer

185 Cold Spring Street, New Haven  
(Corner of Whitney Avenue)

Phone/Help Line (203) 458-0493

Email: [greaternewhavenpflag@yahoo.com](mailto:greaternewhavenpflag@yahoo.com)

**Central and Western Massachusetts**

**PFLAG FRANKLIN-HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:PFLAGPV@valinet.com)

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

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*Caring* welcomes articles, letters and other submissions for publication.

**Deadline:** 15<sup>th</sup> of even numbered months. Send articles to: *Jean Cormier*

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**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](mailto:jcmalinski48@gmail.com)

or at [www.straightspouse.org](http://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](http://www.pflag.org).