



HELEN & BOB BRILL SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED ON JUNE 19, 2013
 (Read about these amazing young people on page 5.)



The Voice of PFLAG Hartford



Caring

Volume 22, No. 4

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IN THE PFLAG HARTFORD FAMILY:

BRILL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS: PFLAG Hartford and True Colors were pleased to present Brill scholarships to four amazing high school graduates: Kaeleigh, a member of PFLAG Hartford; Casey, a graduate from East Lyme High School; Shanique, from Classical Magnet School in Hartford; Jose, a graduate of New Britain High School. Please check out, on page 6, why they were chosen to receive Brill Scholarships.

The Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective also presented a scholarship that evening to Matthew, a graduate of Wethersfield High School.

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.

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

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

BREAKING NEWS!

JUNE 26, 2013

***IT'S A GREAT DAY FOR MARRIAGE
 EQUALITY - D.O.M.A IS DEFEATED
 AND PROP. 8 IN CA IS CRUSHED!***

(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

- **RAINBOW ROOM:** (a program of the **Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective**) - - A welcoming place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and questioning "LGBTQ" teens (13-17 years old). Rainbow Room meets the first Sunday of every month from 2-5 p.m., 1841 Broad Street (Health Collective building), Hartford. For more info. please visit our website at <http://www.hglhc.org/> or contact donnas@hglhc.org or call 860-278-4163 x13.
- **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.

HISTORY WAS MADE TODAY AS THE U.S. SUPREME COURT RETURNED MARRIAGE EQUALITY TO CA. 6/26

The Court also invalidated the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) – so *finally* couples in the growing number of marriage equality states will also get the federal rights and benefits they deserve. And though today will be remembered as a watershed moment in the fight for equality, the Court unfortunately stopped short of a broader decision on the fundamental right to marry. Millions of us have been fighting for years – first to stop Prop. 8 from passing, and then to reverse it. Today's victory, while joyous, is a reminder of the long road to win marriage equality nationwide.

RHODE ISLAND JOINS NEW ENGLAND STATES FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Governor Chafee's message says it all. Good for Rhode Island. Now all of New England can show the way to equality. – John & Becky

It's an incredible day in the Ocean State.

May 2, 2013

Moments ago, I signed into law legislation granting marriage equality to all loving, committed couples in our state. And now it's official: Rhode Island is the 10th state to secure the freedom to marry for all families.

Rhode Island is no longer an island of inequality in New England. We affirmed our shared principles of diversity, inclusion, and equality, which have defined what it means to be a Rhode Islander since Roger Williams landed at India Point in 1636. I couldn't be more proud.

When we began this legislative session, I called upon members of the General Assembly to quickly consider and adopt this legislation -- in honor of our forefathers who risked their lives and fortune in the pursuit of our "lively experiment." I'm incredibly grateful to our legislators who, after an open and honest debate, decided our state will prosper when all families are recognized and protected. They stood on the side of love and sent these important bills to me for my signature.

But above all, I'm grateful for you and the tens of thousands of marriage supporters across the state. When some said that it couldn't be done, that marriage equality would never pass in Rhode Island, you didn't back down. You kept pushing forward. You knocked on more than 25,000 doors and worked alongside your neighbors and friends to build a campaign unlike any other our state has ever seen.

Simply put: today would not have been possible without you.

Today, Rhode Island is a better place for all who call this great state home. Years from now, generations of Rhode Islanders will look back to this historic moment -- and I will be forever indebted to you and every single person who helped move us forward.

Thank you,

Governor Lincoln D. Chafee



Today (May 10) is Military Spouse Appreciation Day...

On this day, we thank all the husbands and wives around the world for the sacrifices they've made, for their undying support that allows their spouse to serve our country so bravely.

While we celebrate, we should also remember that not all military spouses are treated equally. The so-called Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) prohibits the federal government from respecting the marriages of same-sex couples and prevents the military from treating those families equally. Major Shannon McLaughlin, her wife Casey and their twins Grace and Grant, are just one military family that has been harmed by DOMA.

As the wife of a service member, Casey should be treated the same way other military spouses are treated. As Shannon puts it:

"A military spouse is someone who holds the family together, holds together that military family and allows the military member to go out to be able to do their mission or training that is necessary."

What Casey and Shannon want for their family is simple: to be recognized and treated as equal to every other military family. They want their children to know that their marriage and their family is no different than any other military family.

Michael Crawford

Director of Online Programs, Freedom to Marry

Now that DOMA has been struck down, this situation will change for our military families.

[MORE FROM FREEDOM TO MARRY:](#)

DELAWARE VOTES FOR SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

May 7, 2013

It's a spectacular day for marriage nationwide, especially for thousands of loving same-sex couples in Delaware.

Moments ago, the Delaware Senate voted in favor of the freedom to marry, and the bill is headed straight to Gov. Jack Markell, who has promised to sign it into law.

This win in Delaware builds on the amazing momentum we have experienced this year nationwide. Just last week, Rhode Island became the tenth state to end the restriction on marriage for same-sex couples, and we've already seen the legislatures in Illinois, Minnesota, and Nevada take huge steps forward this year.

Today's victory and all of these other accomplishments **would not have been possible without your commitment and support.** With your help, Freedom to Marry has deployed key staff and expertise to Delaware, contributing nearly \$200,000 to fund lobbying, media, and a strong grassroots organizing effort in the state.

...

We're proud of the time, energy, and effort that so many of you have devoted to winning marriage in Delaware. We're excited to celebrate this phenomenal day with you, and we know that we have many more incredible victories ahead of us.

If you continue standing with us on the Right Side of History, we know that we can win marriage in more states and overturn the so-called Defense of Marriage Act.

Thank you,

Marc Solomon

National Campaign Director, Freedom to Marry

FROM THE TASK FORCE:

Today [May 29] is an historic moment in Puerto Rico.

Governor Alejandro García Padilla signed into law civil rights legislation that finally provides sweeping nondiscrimination protections for LGBT people and their families and protects same-sex couples under Puerto Rico's domestic violence law.

The Puerto Rican Legislature yesterday finished its legislative process by approving these two bills.

...

The Task Force has been at the forefront of this struggle, working alongside the Puerto Rican LGBT community for the past seven years, speaking out against hate crimes and anti-LGBT violence. And last year the Task Force's National Religious Leadership Roundtable met in Puerto Rico as a demonstration of the support of the faith community.



The historic news just keeps coming – **Minnesota just passed marriage equality, becoming the third state in just 11 days to decide to treat all love equally.**

Last fall, we were working to stop a statewide marriage *ban* in Minnesota. Now, six months later, marriage equality is the law of the land in Minnesota.

...

We set out to win in four states before the Supreme Court ruling, and we're well on our way. There are now *56 million* people living in states with marriage equality. ...

Sincerely,
Chad Griffin, President



As you may have heard, the Boy Scouts of America today passed, with a 61%-39% vote, to change their policy regarding openly gay scouts. While we applaud the BSA for taking this step forward, we hope they will continue this path of understanding about the meaning of inclusivity as it relates to openly gay and lesbian leaders as well.

The following is our official statement on the vote. It can also be found on the PFLAG National Blog here: <http://blog.pflag.org/2013/05/pflag-national-statement-on-boy-scouts.html> - Becky & John

PFLAG NATIONAL STATEMENT ON THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA NEW SCOUTING POLICY

5/23/13 *PFLAG National has issued the following statement regarding today's vote which has officially changed the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) policy and will now allow openly gay youth to become Boy Scouts:*

PFLAG National believes that, while the BSA has today taken a step in the right direction, the new policy is still, at its heart, discriminatory against our gay and lesbian loved ones.

Inclusion, by its very nature, cannot be selective: either you are a welcoming organization or you are not. In going halfway with this policy, the BSA suggests that their members are only capable of being trustworthy, loyal, helpful, courteous and kind until their 18th birthdays. Once taught, do these traits diminish or disappear once a child comes of age? Shouldn't being a scout serve as the best training to then lead other scouts in the future? And for same-sex parents who want to participate as leaders in their children's troops, should the message be that their commitment to their child's scouting activities is suspect?

At PFLAG National, we are troubled by the message this sends to ALL youth and adults about what it means to be a truly inclusive organization. We hope that the BSA will quickly realize that the organization is still on the wrong side of history, and take the necessary step to do the right thing by ALL of its members, denying no person membership or a position in the scouts based solely on their sexual orientation.



SOCIAL SECURITY MODERNIZES GENDER MARKER POLICY

SSA has announced the modernization of the medical requirements transgender people must show to update the gender marker on their social security record.

This means that transgender people will no longer have to meet an archaic surgery requirement because the SSA has replaced that requirement with "appropriate clinical treatment" the way several other federal agencies already have done.

As a transgender woman, I can't adequately express to you how exciting this news is for the transgender community. **This policy change is potentially the largest federal win our community has ever had!**

I work every day with transgender people who are navigating the bureaucracy required to change their documentation and this change will have a tremendous impact on their lives. When trans people apply for jobs, seek health care, housing or travel they often face discrimination when their ID documents don't match up. Because Social Security documents feed into other federal systems, this change will have a tremendous impact and make it easier for their ID documents to match their gender identity. ...

While we're extremely excited by this major victory, we know there's still more work to do and will continue to work with federal agencies to fight for policies that will benefit the entire LGBT community.

Barbara Satin, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

BRAD TAYLOR AND DYLAN MEEHAN, THE 'CUTEST COUPLE' THIS HIGH SCHOOL DIDN'T EXPECT

Posted: 06/01/2013

When 18-year-old Chelsea posted a photo of her classmates Brad Taylor And Dylan Meehan [to her Tumblr blog](#) this week, she did not anticipate the incredible response it would receive -- within 24 hours, the entry had been shared almost 100,000 times.

The image was taken from her high school yearbook, and she included this caption:

"Two of my best friends won Cutest Couple of our senior class. First time in my school history a same sex couple has even been able to run for this category, not to mention winning it. So proud of them, and my school."



No one was more surprised, however, than the couple themselves. In an email to The Huffington Post, Taylor and Meehan shared their reaction to the image -- and relationship -- being shared around the world.

This whole thing has been a bit surreal for us because we have been raised to believe that love is love. We never realized that our happiness and openness would inspire so many individuals. The support we have received from our family, friends, and even strangers has led us to believe that our affection for each other is normal ... When we started dating a year [ago], the thought of a photo of us traveling throughout the world would be a bit frightening, but now we are proud to be part of the LGBT community.

Not only are they the cutest, but if there were a "most inspiring couple" award, we'd venture to guess that these guys would be a shoo-in.



HELEN & BOB BRILL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Kaeleigh – Kaeleigh graduated from Hall High School in West Hartford and she will attend The University of Connecticut this fall, where she will study psychology, specifically aimed at work with LGBT youth. Kaeleigh has received many awards and participated in Hall's GSA (2010-2012) and the Action Club (2011-2012). Kaeleigh also participated in several media interviews regarding transgender youth, including **In the Life's** "Becoming Me" and the Rhode Island Monthly Magazine's issue on trans youth. She is our media STAR! Kaeleigh and her family are PFLAG Hartford members.

Casey – Casey is a graduate of East Lyme High School. She will attend The University of New Hampshire this fall with a major in Equine Studies. Casey worked with her GSA and Diversity Club where she led the Day of Silence and also put on an Ally Week to educate the school about LGBTQIA issues and to enlist students to become Allies and stand up to bullying. She was also instrumental in setting up gender-neutral bathrooms to create a safe space for everyone in her school. Casey's awards and accomplishments are too many to list but she has been a very enthusiastic student and community leader.

Shanique – Shanique is a graduate of Classical Magnet School in Hartford. Shanique will attend Lasell College to study for a Bachelors degree in Business Marketing and Fashion Communications. Shanique is a member of Youth Health Service Corps; Safe Space President; A.C.T.I.O.N. Officer. She attended the Uof H Summer Art program and was a facilitator for the Names Can Hurt Us program. She facilitated a workshop at the True Colors Conference about life as a feminine lesbian and the adversities that feminine lesbians face. This well-rounded student also was a member of her school's Indoor Track & Field CSC Champions' team; Volleyball Captain. This very busy young woman has participated in 13 community service projects.

Jose – Jose graduated from New Britain High School and will attend Tunxis Community College this fall and his courses will have an emphasis on Social Work. Jose has successfully juggled his coursework with extracurricular activities and a part-time job. Jose was President of his school's GSA his junior and senior years, and participated in Ally Week, the Day of Silence, and raised money for World AIDS Day. In addition to advocating for LGBT issues, Jose has helped to collect books for children in the pediatric ward of the Hospital of Central Connecticut, and he sold ribbons during Domestic Violence Awareness month for the Prudence Crandall Center.

Congratulations to all of our scholarship winners. We know you will be successful in your studies and career choices.

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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.*

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*.

the hartford gay and lesbian health collective helps people save their lives



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Connecticut PFLAG Meetings

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

Helpline: (860) 633-7184

Phone: (860) 633-5111

Transgender Issues: (860) 231-8582

PFLAG SOUTHWESTERN CT

When: 7:30 pm, 1st 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

Web site: 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

Central and Western Massachusetts

PFLAG FRANKLIN-HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER

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

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

HARTFORD GAY PRIDE CELEBRATION 2013

No event was planned for 2012, but organizers are aiming to develop a new Connecticut Pride event in 2013. "Stay tuned for further developments."



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.