



AT THANKSGIVING TIME, AND THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, WE ARE THANKFUL FOR PFLAG AND FOR EVERYONE WHO WORKS TO OBTAIN EQUAL RIGHTS FOR OUR LGBT LOVED ONES.



## The Voice of PFLAG Hartford



# Caring

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November/December 2013

IN THE PFLAG HARTFORD FAMILY:

**PFLAG HARTFORD BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTED AT SEPTEMBER MEETING:** John & Becky Glezen, Co-Presidents; Donna S., Vice President; Joan J., Treasurer; Lori D., Secretary; Jean C.; Connie G.; Mike R.; Eric L.; Mary Beth M.; Tom M.; Carole M. Congratulations and thank-you.

Thank-you to our three new Board members, Lori, Eric and Carole, for agreeing to serve.

A big THANK-YOU to Rose & Larry P. for their many years of service on our Board. Larry & Rose now spend the winter months in Florida. While we will miss them, we know they will be a valuable asset to their Florida PFLAG Chapter.

**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



*(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](mailto: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](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.

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## **FROM THE DESK OF JODY HUCKABY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PFLAG**

Wonderful news from the United States Department of Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service today, where it was announced that same-sex married couples will be treated the same as all other married couples for federal tax purposes, regardless of where they reside.

This is a **huge** step forward for equality for our LGBT loved ones: it is just and fair treatment for loving married same-sex couples and their families to have equal standing, rights, responsibilities, and protection in the eyes of our federal government.

We know that you, our members and supporters, will continue to urge all federal agencies to follow the lead of those which have already taken steps to equally recognize and respect all legally married couples and their dependents.

Together we will work fervently toward full federal understanding that without exception love is love, family is family, and marriage is marriage.

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**TODAY IN AWESOME PARENTING NEWS:** A father, who learned that his daughter disowned his grandson because he was gay, responded in the most amazing way. *from the internet, October 3, 2013*

*Dear Christine,*

*I'm disappointed in you as a daughter. You're correct that we have a "shame in the family", but mistaken about what it is. Kicking Chad out of your home simply because he told you he was gay is the real "abomination" here. A parent disowning her child is what goes "against nature." The only intelligent thing I heard you saying in all this was that "you didn't raise your son to be gay." Of course you didn't. He was born this way and didn't choose it any more than he being left-handed. You however, have made a choice of being hurtful, narrow-minded and backward. So, while we are in the business of disowning our children, I think I'll take this moment to say goodbye to you. I now have a fabulous (as the gays put it) grandson to raise, and I don't have time for a heart-less B-word of a daughter. If you find your heart, give us a call. – Dad.*

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## **SENATE CONFIRMS FIRST OPENLY GAY APPEALS JUDGE**

*from the Hartford Courant*

WASHINGTON – By a unanimous vote ..., the Senate confirmed the first openly gay judge to sit on a U.S. court of appeals. Todd Hughes, 46, a veteran Justice Department lawyer, will serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, a Washington-based court that decides appeals and claims involving patents, trademarks and other issues. Although his sexual orientation was noted when he was nominated, it did not figure in his confirmation.

**CT TRANSADVOCACY COALITION**

The Seventh Annual *Transgender Lives: The Intersection of Health and Law Conference* will be held on April 26, 2014 at the UConn Health Center in Farmington, Ct. In preparation for this conference we are announcing our CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS for the conference. You can submit your workshop electronically this year. There is an online form titled: **Submit Your Proposal**. This will give you all relevant details for submission and importantly will allow you to fill out your proposal online. We encourage you to submit your proposal as soon as possible.

We also encourage you to forward this Request for Workshop proposals to any colleagues, friends, family or distribution lists you feel would be interested in doing a workshop at the 2014 Transgender Lives: The Intersection of Health and Law Conference.

As this conference has dramatically grown over the years, we recognize that many of you have very important topics and experience which fold into our theme of *The Intersection of Health and Law*. Workshop space is *limited* and all proposals will be reviewed for applicability and relevance to the Conference theme and audience.

If you feel you have a workshop that would benefit the conference then we encourage you to submit your proposal at your earliest convenience.

If you have any questions, please [email us at conference@transadvocacy.org](mailto:conference@transadvocacy.org) |

Sincerely,

Transgender Lives Organizing Committee

**MPOWERCT MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT PFLAG HARTFORD**

*from the HGLHC website*

Our MpowerCT guys are out there making things better!

A few of the guys - all bi/gay men between 18-35 - recently gave a talk at PFLAG Hartford (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), on September 18 about their experiences growing up, coming out, and how they are now helping to give back to the community.

They might be young but the MpowerCT guys - part of the international Mpowerment HIV Prevention project - are impressive! They regularly volunteer in outreach events, organize HIV prevention and education programs, work to reduce the rate of HIV among friends and peers, and help educate others on the dangers of trans-phobia within the LGB community.

The MpowerCT members include everyone from men with physical and intellectual challenges to a successful entrepreneur and a PhD student recently published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

If you're 18-35 and bi/gay, and looking for somewhere you can make a difference, somewhere you can meet great like-minded guys, check us out! We meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 7pm at the Health Collective. More info at: [www.mpowerct.org](http://www.mpowerct.org)

*Thanks guys, for sharing your personal and professional lives. We enjoyed learning more about MPower and the HGLHC. Keep up the good work.*

**OLYMPIC DIVER GREG LOUGANIS MARRIES JOHNNY CHAILLOT**

*By Patrick Gomez, 10/12/2013*

Greg Louganis is no stranger to gold medals, but now he is getting used to a wedding band. Louganis, 53, married paralegal Johnny Chaillot, 52, Saturday evening at Geoffrey's in Malibu.

"It was amazing because I have so many people from all facets of my life here tonight and they are all here and celebrating; it is all wonderful," Louganis told PEOPLE immediately following the sunset ceremony. "I already feel different. The ceremony was so reflective and representative of who we are."

The recent *Splash* coach and Chaillot began dating in 2012 after finding each other on the online dating site Match.com and became engaged almost exactly a year later on April 8.

"It has been an incredible journey," Louganis said in an interview Thursday of his relationship with Chaillot. "I feel like we've been through a lifetime in a very short time."

The couple is also hoping to make a difference with their celebration by asking for donations to charities in lieu of a traditional wedding registry. "We are both in our mid fifties and don't need another blender so we really wanted to give back," Chaillot said of asking their guests to donate to the Human Rights Campaign and Mending Kids International.



## **HONORING LAWRENCE'S MEMORY**

On February 12, 2008, all of us at GLSEN got word of a terrible tragedy unfolding in Oxnard, California. An eighth-grade student named Larry King was on life support after being shot in the head by a classmate, Brandon McInerney, during their first period computer science class. Why? Larry had asked Brandon to be his Valentine.

Larry died two days later, on Valentine's Day.

As the justice system began its slow grind through Brandon's case, we learned the agonizing details of Larry and Brandon's lives, and their collision at E.O. Greene Junior High School. GLSEN responded to calls from students across the country and supported the organization of hundreds of vigils for Larry. GLSEN's Day of Silence that April was dedicated to Larry's memory, and millions learned of his story online or in person on the day.

Valentine Road, the documentary that explores the murder and trial, will air ... on HBO, reviving painful memories and calling us all to action.

The film raises tough questions about bias and violence directed at lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and gender non-conforming youth in K-12 schools; about the power of gender norms and the ways they are enforced; about the ability of schools to respond to the full complexity of students' lives, providing support to enable their success; and about the ways that schools and adults must support students in crisis before tragedy strikes.

GLSEN is partnering with HBO to make sure that Valentine Road reaches the right audiences and drives urgently-needed action. Over the next week, several of our Student Ambassadors will blog about the film and Larry's story. GLSEN will also release a guide to discussing the film and the underlying issues with both youth and adult audiences. It is critical to frame the difficult emotional issues raised by the film, help create safe environments for productive conversation, and suggest directions for action in response.

We have made significant progress on LGBT issues in K-12 schools since Larry's death, in part as a consequence of public outrage and distress at his murder. Yet our embattled schools still struggle to provide every student with the support and the opportunities that they deserve. GLSEN will keep fighting to ensure that Larry King has a legacy beyond our enduring sadness. We invite all advocates for safe schools to start a conversation and help direct your community toward action. Let us find common cause in the effort to help every student thrive, whoever they may grow up to be.

Eliza Byard, Executive Director



***"Every child should have the right to normal parents: a father and a mother." – Brian Brown***

Brian Brown, President of the National Organization for Marriage and one of the most outspoken figures in the American anti-LGBT equality movement, is at it again, spreading hate and damaging lies. Only this time – he's taken his bigotry abroad to Russia.

Brown traveled to Moscow to advocate for a bill that bans the adoption of Russian children by gay and unmarried couples at home and abroad, as well as single people in countries where same-sex marriage is legal. With Brown and his fellow anti-LGBT antagonists facing a losing battle for discrimination here at home, he's decided to take his hateful lies on a worldwide jaunt

Brown's efforts were unfortunately successful, and President Vladimir Putin signed this discriminatory bill into law. Already, Russians can be arrested or fined just for promoting pro-LGBT causes, making Russia a battleground country in the fight for equality. Meanwhile, thousands of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Russians are being targeted and harassed by hate groups and physically harmed while videos of their torture are posted to YouTube. Amid this hatred, new legislation has been introduced that would make being gay (or being *presumed* to be gay) a basis for denying parental custody. Yes, children could be ripped from their families simply because their parents have been *suspected* of being gay.

**As the situation in Russia escalates, support for equality in America is growing, which is why we can't let extremists like Brian Brown misrepresent our views abroad. Brown and his organization's hateful agenda isn't welcome at home. We can't stand by and allow him now to spread it to the rest of the world.**

*Chad Griffin, President*

**SAME-SEX COUPLES IN NEW JERSEY WILL BE ABLE TO WED STARTING ON MONDAY, after the state's highest court unanimously denied Governor Chris Christie's request to put gay marriage on hold while the state's appeal is heard.**

(Reuters) 10/18/13 by Joseph Ax

The governor had asked the New Jersey Supreme Court to freeze a state judge's ruling allowing gay marriage until the top court hears the case in January and issues a final decision. But in a signal that the court may be prepared to accept gay marriage permanently, all seven judges on the court ruled that the state had "not shown a reasonable probability it will succeed on the merits."

New Jersey on Monday will become the 14th state to permit gay marriage, along with the District of Columbia.

In a statement, Christie's spokesman reiterated the governor's position that gay marriage should be subject to a voter referendum but said Christie had ordered local officials to begin allowing gay marriage in accordance with the ruling.

Superior Court Judge Mary Jacobson in Trenton ruled three weeks ago in favor of gay couples who had challenged the state's civil union law, finding that it unfairly restricted federal benefits that are guaranteed for married couples. Jacobson's decision made New Jersey the first state to lift a gay marriage ban as a result of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in June to strike down the federal law defining marriage as between a man and a woman.

...

After the U.S. Supreme Court ruling, the New Jersey plaintiffs went back to court arguing that civil unions no longer guaranteed equal rights because couples in such unions were deprived of federal benefits available to married couples, such as tax breaks and Social Security survivor benefits. "The state's statutory scheme effectively denies committed same-sex partners in New Jersey the ability to receive federal benefits now afforded to married partners," Chief Justice Stuart Rabner wrote for the court.

In asking for a stay, the New Jersey attorney general's office argued that the state would suffer harm if gay marriage were not put on hold pending the appeal. But the court said the state had failed to explain how it would be injured, while gay couples had shown they would miss out on crucial benefits until marriage was permitted. "Like Judge Jacobson, we can find no public interest in depriving a group of New Jersey residents of their constitutional right to equal protection while the appeals process unfolds," Rabner wrote.

... The Democratic-controlled state legislature passed gay marriage legislation last year only to have Christie, considered a leading candidate for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination, veto the bill.

*(Reporting by Joseph Ax; Editing by Scott Malone and Leslie Adler and Alden Bentley)*



**IT ONLY WENT SO FAR**

There's no question that the Supreme Court decision gutting the so-called Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was a major victory for same-sex couples, including military families like ours. But we still have a long way to go.

Our home state of Oklahoma -- where we grew up, fell in love, and are now living -- still doesn't allow same-sex couples to marry even though the federal government recognizes our marriage. Oklahoma's not alone: 37 states continue to deny the freedom to marry to loving and committed couples.

Heather has spent the last nine months in Afghanistan with the Oklahoma National Guard, and when she returns home next week, we'll finally be getting a military ID card for Kasey declaring us spouses. But once we step off the military base in Oklahoma, our home state will not respect our marriage -- and we'll continue to face other hurdles, including the governor's order this month that the Oklahoma National Guard deny protections and benefits to married gay couples like us.

Without state recognition of our marriage, we'll continue to face challenges, delays, and uncertainty when it comes to state taxes, home ownership, and what would happen if Heather were not employed by the U.S. military.

We call each other "wife" and the federal government recognizes our marriage, but our home state still views us as "single." That is wrong.

From a loving military couple in Moore, Oklahoma, we thank you for your support.  
Heather and Kasey Britt-Davis

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**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*.

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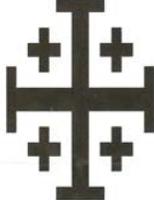
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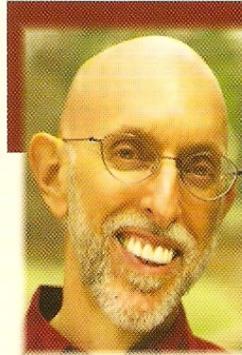


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## **Connecticut PFLAG Meetings**

**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**

Hot Line: (203) 874-7365

### **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**

#### **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](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**

Editor/Circulation Manager: Jean Cormier

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

**Deadline:** 15<sup>th</sup> of even numbered months.

Send articles to: *Jean Cormier*

156 Randal Avenue,

West Hartford, CT 06110

***HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO PFLAGERS  
EVERYWHERE***



Hanukkah, November 28

Christmas, December 25

## **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).