



The Voice of PFLAG Hartford

Caring

Volume 25, No. 2

March/April 2016

Speakers inform, entertain at PFLAG meetings

At our January meeting we were pleased to hear from David Bielski, Jr., also known to his friends simply as "Skeeter". Dave is a Connecticut native and community leader. On his way out of the closet, he discovered the Bear movement and was promptly outed by a Hartford Courant photographer at the 1994 Hartford Pride March. David served as President of the Northeast Ursamen from 2008 through 2012, and is currently the President and Executive Producer of the Mr. Connecticut Bear contest. In 2006, David co-founded the Baden-Powell Service Association,



David Bielski, Jr.

an inclusive, traditional, co-ed Scouting organization, which is open to all ages, all genders, which has spread to many states across the country.



Jenn Grace, Professional Lesbian

At the February meeting we were honored to have Jenn T. Grace speak to us. Jenn teaches straight people how to market to gay people and gay people how to market themselves. Upon noticing a need in the marketplace for educational tools aimed at well meaning straight allies, she set out to fill the void in 2012. In addition to educating straight audiences, she also coaches gay entrepreneurs in one-on-one settings to help them grow their businesses. She has written two Amazon Best Selling books and is currently working on a third.

PFLAG Hartford Gets Around...

The cold winter days of January and February did not stop PFLAG Hartford from getting out to educate and advocate on behalf of LGBTQ folks and their families:

On January 30 we provided information and resources via our literature table at the Real Art Ways Event "**Kate Bornstein** – Beyond the Trans Tipping Point". Kate Bornstein is a trans advocate, author, and comedienne, and many laughs were had by all!



The infamous Kate Bornstein with PFLAG Secretary Amanda Klatt

That same morning, PFLAG Hartford presented a workshop on "Overcoming Adversity – Gender Identity" at the **BBYO New England** Regional Conference, which encourages Jewish Youth to perform community service, and pursue social justice. The attendees came away from the workshop impressed with the need for society and families to recognize and support youth who express gender identities "outside of the gender binary M-F box".



State Senator Beth Bye with student panel at The Capitol

On February 10 PFLAG members attended a **Legislative Breakfast** at the State Capitol to dialogue on sexual orientation protections in Connecticut. Hosted by [True Colors, Inc.](#), the Commission on Children, the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, and Senator Beth Bye, the breakfast featured a panel of CT high schoolers who shared their stories as LGBTQA students and leaders.

PFLAG Presidents Jane Ferrall (New Haven) and Lori Davison (Hartford) visited **Sikorsky Aircraft** on February 24th to present a parent panel lunchtime discussion on supporting our LGBTQ kids. The discussion was recorded to help employees who may be struggling or need resources upon learning that their child is LGBTQ.

The CT Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce got a treat at their January networking breakfast when Lori Davison and Amy Emery from PFLAG Hartford hosted an LGBTQ Ally Bingo Game. Prizes included PFLAG Hartford bracelets and a grand prize of the coveted PFLAG Hartford mug....



CTGLC Members anxiously await the next Ally Bingo call-out from Lori

Calling All PFLAG Hartford Youth Members!

Your Newsletter Editor wants you! I would like to establish a part of the newsletter that will address news, issues, events etc... that are of interest to you. If you would like to write an article to be put in to the newsletter, have recently read an article, blog or post you find interesting or have announcements relative to events for youth please see me, Tracy Martinez, or email me at News.Pflaghartford@gmail.com. All contributions welcome! Have questions? Just ask me via email or at a meeting. I'm really a nice person and won't bite!

Brill Scholarship Application Now Online



Brill Scholarship Recipients 2015

Spring will be here soon, and for many, that means finalizing plans for college. Every year at this time, PFLAG Hartford is proud to honor our founders, Helen and Bob Brill, by awarding yearly scholarships to deserving young people working for the LGBTQ community and its allies.

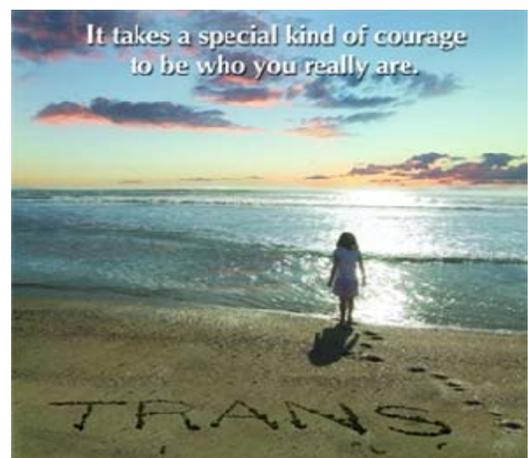
With our partner, True Colors, we select scholarship recipients to receive \$1000 and to be honored at our yearly reception in June. Scholarship information and application can be found at <http://www.pflaghartford.org/brill.html>. Deadline for submission is Friday, April 22. Please spread the word!

Brill Scholarship Fundraiser - Save the Date!

On Saturday, May 7, we will be hosting a fundraiser for the Brill Scholars by showing the movie *TRANS* at Immanuel Church in Hartford. Moving, informative, and inspiring, this documentary follows various individuals through their journey towards living their lives authentically.

The producer of *TRANS*, Mark Shoen, will our special guest at a VIP reception proceeding the viewing of the movie. All proceeds from the event and the movie viewing will go towards funding Brill scholarships.

For more information and to purchase tickets to the movie and/or VIP event, go to pflaghartford.org. Early bird pricing of \$12/movie, \$35/VIP event is available through April 15!



All proceeds from the May 7 event "TRANS" will go towards our Brill Scholarships

In the PFLAG Family

Our sincerest condolences go out to the family of Joan Gagliardi who passed away on January 25th after a long illness. Joan and her husband Al have been members of PFLAG Hartford for many years.

Upcoming Events

March 2nd – “You Can Play Day” with The Bridgeport Sound Tigers Sponsored by GLSEN and True Colors, the cost is \$20 per person and all proceeds go to support the You Can Play Project. The You Can Play project promotes equality in sports. There will be a pre-game panel of LGBT athletes to discuss LGBT issues in sports. Go to <http://www.ourtruecolors.org/Programs/Events/other.html> for more information.

March 19th – Girl Twirl LBGT Dance Party Connecticut’s longest running LGBT dance party for people over 21 years of age. The dance begins at 9:00 pm with DJ B Love. The event will be held at the Mattabeset Canoe Club, 80 Habor Dr., Middletown, CT. Cost is \$10 per person. For more information contact Jesse Meucci at (860) 995-0007.

March 18, 19 – Annual True Colors Conference: The largest LGBTQ youth conference in the world will be held at UCONN in Storrs, CT with two days of workshops for students, parents, educators, and other professionals. Registration closes on March 4. See www.ourtruecolors.org to register.

The SPOT: PFLAG Hartford will be a large presence at the True Colors Conference, with the **PFLAG “SPOT”** – a support place for parents of LGBTQ children. We will also hosting two panel discussions – one made up of PFLAG parents, the other comprised of PFLAG youth – and running a literature table. Come see us!

Additionally, PFLAG folks Lori Davison, May Tuscano, and Sharon Glassburn will be holding workshops at The True Colors Conference. For more information on all these True Colors Conference Events, see: <http://www.ourtruecolors.org/Programs/Conference/PDF/TC-23-conference-guide-final.pdf>

April 30th – Tenth Annual Transgender Lives: The Intersection of Health and Law Conference

Held at the UCONN Medical Center in Farmington, this conference boasts workshops to help trans and gender non-conforming people and their families navigate health, law, and their relationships. This year, there are more family-track workshops than ever, on medical options for pre-teens and teens, navigating schools, and considerations for surgery. The conference will include two PFLAG Hartford panels, workshops led by PFLAG Hartford presenters Kaylee Zheng, Janis Booth, and Lori Davison, and a PFLAG Hartford table of information. The all-day conference is only \$25 and includes lunch if you register by April 25. For more information go to <http://www.transadvocacy.org/transgender-lives-conference>

Who is PFLAG Hartford?

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning persons and their families and friends through:

SUPPORT: To cope with an adverse society

EDUCATION: To enlighten an ill-informed public

ADVOCACY: To end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.



PFLAG Hartford offers support groups, a lending library, help lines, speaking engagements, special events, and resources. For more information on what we do, or to become a member or to make a donation, go to pflaghartford.org, or contact us at pflaghartford@gmail.com.

Monthly Meeting Reminder

Tuesday, March 1 – 6:30 p.m. Manchester

Tuesday, April 5 – 6:30 p.m. Manchester

Wednesday, March 16 – 7:30 p.m. Hartford

Wednesday, April 20 – 7:30 p.m. Hartford

Hartford meetings are held at Immanuel Congregational Church, 10 Woodland St., Hartford
Manchester meetings are held at the Manchester Youth Services Bureau, 63 Linden St., Manchester

Ongoing Events

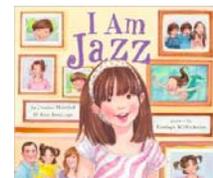
- **THE CT GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER (CTGLC)** holds monthly business breakfast networking meetings and social events. For more information or to become a member of the chamber, see <http://www.ctglc.org>
- **STONEWALL SPEAKERS** is an all volunteer speakers' bureau composed of LGBT people and allies dedicated to reducing violence and bias while promoting equality for all. We speak to thousands of Connecticut students and adults annually. Let your high school, college, business, religious group or community group know we are available. For more information please contact coordinator@stonewallspeakers.org.
- **TRUE COLORS** - Friday evenings events 6:30-8:30pm at 30 Arbor St., Suite 201A, Hartford, CT.
1st Friday: Pagan Discussion Group, **2nd Friday:** Movie Night, **3rd Friday:** Gayme Night
4th Friday: Craft Night (Mentoring Activity).
 For more information please email Kimora@ourtruecolors.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 <http://www.twentyclub.net>
- **CONNECTICUT OUTREACH SOCIETY** - Support meetings twice a month for trans folks and allies in West Hartford. For information go to <http://www.ctoutreach.org/>
- **STRAIGHT SPOUSE SUPPORT NETWORK** - In Connecticut and Western Massachusetts monthly support group meets every third Sunday in West Hartford. For more information go to www.straightspouse.org or contact Jane Harris at (413) 625-6636, email jcmalinski48@gmail.com.
- **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

Current Articles from the News:

National Day of Action to Support Transgender Youth Announced at Time To Thrive

By Haley Miller, Human Rights Campaign

This morning at Time to THRIVE, HRC Foundation, the National Education Association and the National Coalition Against Censorship announced an initiative to host *I Am Jazz* readings nationwide as part of a bold call to action to support transgender youth. The book *I Am Jazz*, by transgender teen and [HRC Youth Ambassador Jazz Jennings](#) and coauthor Jessica Herthel, helps increase understanding and build more inclusive environments for young people who need to know they are welcomed and loved.



Teachers, parents and other allies all across the nation are signing up for a national day of action on Thursday, April 28, 2016, in support of transgender youth. The readings can take place in schools, libraries, bookstores and even your own home. To get involved, text Jazz to 30644 or visit hrc.org/readjazz.

Additionally, you can sign a pledge to join our day of action, download our organizing kit to prepare for your event and grab a copy of the critically acclaimed "I Am Jazz" and get ready to read at hrc.org/IamJazz.



New HRC Report Reveals Unprecedented Onslaught of State Legislation Targeting Transgender Americans - By Stephen Peters

Today, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization, released a report detailing an alarming onslaught of legislation nationwide targeting transgender people, and particularly children. An unprecedented 44 anti-transgender bills are being considered in 16 states, and the quantity of these harmful bills is as striking as their diversity: some undercut the ability of transgender people to access gender-affirming health care; some create state-sanctioned avenues of anti-transgender discrimination; and others deny transgender people access to bathrooms, locker rooms, and athletic teams consistent with their gender identity. The disturbing proliferation of anti-trans bills, including 23 that target children in schools and school sports, is part of a stunning surge of more than 175 anti-LGBT bills in 32 states this year.

"This deeply disturbing trend is a stark reminder of just how vicious and deplorable opponents of equality are in their relentless attacks against our community," said HRC President Chad Griffin. "HRC will continue to work with our state and national partners to vigorously oppose and work to defeat legislation that threatens the fundamental human rights of transgender people. As we work to defeat these discriminatory bills, we will also continue our efforts to advance critically-needed protections at the state, local, and ultimately the federal level for LGBT people all across this country."

In 2015, at least 125 anti-LGBT bills were introduced in state houses all across the country. Twenty-one specifically targeted transgender people, though none became law. This year, the South Dakota legislature has already approved legislation that would, with the stroke of Gov. Dennis Daugaard's pen, prevent transgender students in public schools from using restrooms and other facilities consistent with their gender identity. Dozens of other anti-trans bills across the country target transgender people, and in particular kids, in myriad ways, among them:

- Bills targeting transgender children at school and on school sports teams by forbidding them from having equal access to bathrooms, locker rooms, and other facilities. These measures would compromise the physical and emotional safety of transgender youth, and put them at increased risk of attack and abuse;
- Bills that would deny transgender people equal access to restrooms in public places, from the coffee shop to city hall. Nearly a third of the anti-equal access "bathroom bills" would apply statewide to multi-user restrooms, locker rooms and similar facilities. If passed, some impose criminal penalties on transgender people who use restrooms consistent with their gender identity;
- So-called First Amendment Defense Act (FADA) bills codifying discrimination against transgender people by explicitly permitting publicly-funded programs to refuse service on the basis of "sincerely-held religious beliefs" that a person's gender is determined by their anatomy at the time of birth;
- And measures preventing transgender people from changing their gender marker on their birth certificates; from legally marrying; and from accessing medically necessary care.

These deeply disturbing bills are surfacing around the country, in states with gender-identity inclusive non-discrimination laws, and those without; in states led by Democrats and those led by Republicans. Many of the proposals are in conflict with other important state laws on the books. And many could put schools in violation of federal Title IX civil rights law prohibiting gender identity discrimination in education -- potentially placing them at risk of losing federal funding. Fear and a lack of understanding of transgender people are driving these egregious measures, which are addressing phantom problems, and have the potential of risking the safety, security and well-being of transgender people, including children, across the nation.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORY: If you would like to advertise your business/service in *Caring* for one year (6 issues), send your business card and a check for \$50 (made payable to PFLAG Hartford) to: Tracy Martinez, 85 Hilton Drive, East Hartford, CT 06108. Your Patronage of our advertisers, who help us pay the costs of sending the *Caring* newsletter to you, would be greatly appreciated by them and by us. Please mention that you saw their advertisement in *Caring*.

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



HGLHC
Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective
Be Well. Be Yourself

☎ 860- 278-4163
✉ info@hglhc.org
🖱 hglhc.org
👆 facebook.com/hglhc

Grace Episcopal Church
55 New Park Ave.
Hartford, Ct. 06106
(860) 233-0825
GraceHartford@sbcglobal.net

Absolutely everyone is welcome at this parish where we hope you will find a community of faith to support and encourage you.

We worship God through a traditional liturgy, celebrated with open minds and generous hearts.



Sunday - 8:00 A.M. Low Mass
10:30 A.M. Sung Mass or Solemn High Mass
Tuesday - 5:30 P.M. Low Mass or Healing Mass
Wednesday - 7:15 A.M. Low Mass
Thursday - 5:30 P.M. Low Mass
AMPLE FREE PARKING AVAILABLE ON SUNDAYS AND AFTER SCHOOL HOURS



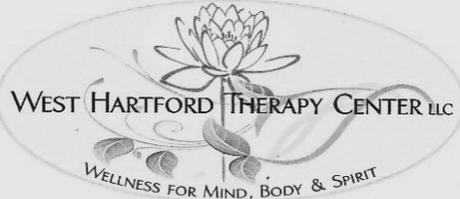
MARY BETH MURPHY, CIC, AAI

SHIMKUS, MURPHY & LEMKUIL, INC.
INSURANCE - REAL ESTATE
380 New Britain Ave. - Hartford, CT 06106
Office: (860) 249-1396 Ext. 125
Fax: (860) 246-0512
marybeth@shimkuscompanies.com
www.shimkuscompanies.com



Since 1934

Elliott Strick MA, LMFT



WEST HARTFORD THERAPY CENTER LLC
WELLNESS FOR MIND, BODY & SPIRIT

10 North Main Street • Suite 214 • West Hartford, CT 06107
860-231-8459



Girl Twirl

Jesse Meucci : CT's Longest Running Dance
Event Promoter : Supporting the LGBT Community
JesseMeucci@gmail.com : 860-995-0007

LIKE ME ON FACEBOOK @
GIRL TWIRL - CT'S LEGENDARY LGBT EVENT



Take the weight of the world off your shoulders

**ATLAS
THERAPEUTIC
MASSAGE**

MARK RICHARDS JR, LMT
Traveling Massage Therapist
(860) 483-1719

 Atlas Therapeutic Massage



Best In Show

PET SPA

Jason Charette
Owner/Founder

250 Main St. Unit D4
Windsor Locks,
CT. 06096

860-386-0590
bestinshowpetspa@yahoo.com

CARING IS THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PFLAG HARTFORD

Editor: Tracy Martinez

Caring welcomes articles, letters and other submissions for publication.

Deadline: 15th of even numbered months.

Connecticut PFLAG Meetings

PFLAG in HARTFORD:

Third Wednesday of every month, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
10 Woodland Street, Hartford
Contact: (860) 785-0909 pflaghartford@gmail.com
www.pflaghartford.org
www.facebook.com/pflaghartford

PFLAG in MANCHESTER

First Tuesday of every month, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
PFLAG and Youth Group
63 Linden St., Manchester
Contact : (860) 785-0909 pflaghartford@gmail.com

PFLAG in GUILFORD

Second Tuesday of every month, 7:00-8:00 pm PFLAG and Youth Group
Guilford Youth Services, 36 Graves Street
Contact: greaternewhavenpflag@yahoo.com

PFLAG in NOANK (GROTON)

Second Monday of every month, 7:00 pm PFLAG and 6:00 pm optional potluck
Noank Baptist Church, 18 Cathedral Heights, Noank
Contact: (860) 447-0884 bjalthen@sbcglobal.net
www.pflagsect.org

PFLAG in NORWALK

2nd Sunday of every month, 3:00-5:00 pm PFLAG and Youth Groups
Triangle Community Center, 618 West Ave Norwalk
Contact: pflagnorwalk@gmail.com

Central and Western Massachusetts

PFLAG in NORTHAMPTON

Second Tuesday of every month from 6-8 pm Where: Northampton at Northampton Crossing 325 King St. (Pioneer Valley Family Medicine conference room)
Contact: 413-625-6636 or jcmalinski48@gmail.com



HAPPY EASTER!

OTHER PFLAG LOCATIONS

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