



PFLAG of Cape Cod

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,
Transgender, Queer & Questioning People

NEWSLETTER July - September, 2016

Transgender Medicine Conference

PFLAG will hold a Transgender Medicine Conference for physicians and other healthcare professionals on Saturday, November 5. This 2 ½ hour conference is made possible by a grant from the GALE Fund.

Two physician experts will give presentations and respond to questions. The first presenter will be Dr. Jeremi Carswell, Director of the Gender Management Service at Boston Children's Hospital. Her learning objectives are for people to become comfortable with the current terminology in transhealth as it pertains to patient interaction, to understand the rationale for the current therapy, and to gain a basic understanding of treatments and their limitations on transyouth.

The second presenter will be Dr. Ciaran DellaFera, Director of the rapidly-growing Transgender Medicine Program at the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center. His objectives are to equip providers who work with adult transgender and gender nonconforming patients to be able to more effectively engage these patients, address their unique healthcare needs and risks, and to acquire resources and a core framework for the primary care management of transgender patients.

We are hopeful that this conference will lead to better and more sensitive care for transgender and gender nonconforming patients on the Cape. Continuing Medical Education credits will be awarded to participating physicians, and Continuing Education credits to nurses. It will not be open to the public.

Amy Mesirow

LGBTQ Conference

"Mourning Orlando, United in Love, Working for Change" invites faith groups, LGBTQ persons and friends for worship, education, and action. Friday September 30, from 4 - 8:30 pm.

Composer Glen Starner-Tate will present a portion of his musical biography, "My Music and Me," recently performed at the Cotuit Center for the Arts.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Mary Hunt, well known theologian, catholic activist, writer, and co-founder of Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER).

After a buffet supper, small groups will work to address healing and strengthening relationships to end violence and discrimination, and expand LGBTQ welcome in local communities. The conference will close with a reflective worship experience.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 310 Rt.137, Harwich (Exit 11). Sponsored by GAPS Ministries (Healthsigns Spiritual Life Center), Call to Action, Cape Cod, and Cape Cod Coalition of Welcoming Congregations.

Everyone Welcome! Please register by September 24; email amijr@comcast.net, or phone 508-375-0700. Suggested donation is \$10 - \$20.

Gender Conference East

Friday - Saturday Nov 11 - 12
DoubleTree by Hilton, Newark Airport

To learn more about our gathering, visit GenderConferenceEast.org or email info@genderconferenceeast.org.

Carnival Parade



This year's Provincetown Carnival theme was "Back to the 80's," and PFLAG made its appearance in the parade as The Love Boat! Thank you to our new friend and ally Adam (and his kids) for kindly driving his truck with boat in tow down Commercial Street. With The Love Boat theme playing along, the festively decorated boat and its five-member crew (PFLAG members in costume) drew loud cheers and applause from the crowd of onlookers, as well as singing and dancing to the beloved theme song! And if that wasn't good enough, our float also won the "Best Small Float" category!

Joe Lima

What's a Family? Program & Discussion for LGBTQ Families and Friends

Join us for an engaging talk and discussion featuring a video of Zach Wahls speaking to a conference last fall—discussing his growing up with two lesbian mothers.

Following the viewing, a panel of Cape Cod leaders will discuss their own experiences and entertain questions from the audience. Light refreshments will be served.

Thursday, October 27, 4 - 6 pm,
Barnstable Senior Center, 825 Falmouth Rd., Hyannis.

NEWS FROM ALL AROUND

ALABAMA: A state judicial panel refused to dismiss an ethics complaint against Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore, saying he will go to trial in September on accusations he urged 68 probate judges to defy the federal courts on same-sex marriage. Moore, 69, was ousted from office by the court in 2003 for refusing to remove a Ten Commandments monument from the state judicial building. He could be removed as chief justice for a second time if he loses the current case.

ARIZONA: Gay candidates won two congressional primary elections in Arizona, and if elected would make history as the first state with both a bisexual and gay in the House of Representatives.

CANADA: The country is exploring the use of gender-neutral options on identity cards. Australia, New Zealand and Nepal already allow the use of the "X" gender indicator.

COLORADO: Misty Plowright (D), 33, became the first transgender candidate to win a major party primary for the U.S. House of Representatives.

INDIANA: Kin Park Thaing may get away with severely beating her son with a coat hanger after she cited the state's new "religious freedom" law as justification for the abuse. The law says the government may not infringe on a person's religious liberty without a compelling interest. A previous ruling by the Indiana Supreme Court allows parents to use items like cords, and belts (and possibly coat hangers?) to punish their children.

IRAQ: Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr published a statement July 7 banning violence against LGBT people and those who do not conform to gender norms. [We hope someone is listening to him!]

MEXICO: Marriage equality has spread through many Mexico states with little controversy, but conservatives are taking to the streets now that the president has joined the cause.

Opponents are hoping to kill a proposal from President Nieto that seeks to override barriers remaining in 21 of Mexico's 31 states.

MEXICO: Juan Gabriel will be remembered as Mexico's greatest performer, singer, and songwriter. It was not widely known, however, that he was a gay man.

MILITARY: The Pentagon announced June 30 that transgender people will be allowed to serve openly in the U.S. military, ending one of the last bans on service in the armed forces. There will be a year-long implementation of the plan.

MISSISSIPPI: The anti-gay religious objection law is on hold during appeal. The law sought to protect three beliefs: that marriage is only between a man and a woman; that sex should only take place in such a marriage; and that a person's gender is determined at birth and cannot be altered.

MISSOURI: Miss Missouri, Erin O'Flaherty, will compete for the Miss America crown as the first openly lesbian contestant.

NEPAL: About a thousand members of sexual minorities and their supporters paraded in Kathmandu to demand equality and implementation of their rights under the country's new constitution. Participants said they still don't have equal rights despite a constitutional ban on discrimination on the basis of sexuality.

NEW JERSEY: A state insurance mandate requires most women under 35 to demonstrate infertility through "two years of unprotected sexual intercourse" before agreeing to cover infertility treatment. This mandate places an undue burden on lesbian couples, and one couple is suing the state.

NORTH CAROLINA: The trial over a North Carolina law restricting restroom access for transgender people is being pushed back by sev-

eral months while the Supreme Court considers whether to hear a Virginia case on transgender restroom access. The transgender plaintiffs in North Carolina received a favorable decision when a judge ruled in late August that they must be allowed to use restrooms conforming to their gender identity on the University of North Carolina campuses. They have asked an appeals court to expand the scope of the ruling to all transgender people in the state, not just those involved in the lawsuit.

NORWAY: King Harald V proclaimed a message of unity and inclusivity over division, and he included a touching message to LGBT youth: "Norwegians are girls who love girls, boys who love boys, and boys and girls who love each other."

POLITICS: Politicians who want to march in Calgary's Pride Parade now have to prove their support of the LGBTQ community. The change follows controversy over the participation of a former member of Parliament who voted against a federal transgender rights bill. Starting this year, politicians must write a one-page narrative highlighting the ways they've supported the LGBTQ community.

TRIVIA: In the New York Times's 9/1 crossword, several words are able to be filled out with either an "M" or an "F," and the long "revealer" answer at the heart of the puzzle is the word "gender fluid."

BOLIVIA: Feted by activists carrying a rainbow flag, transgender citizens in La Paz are celebrating their newfound right to register for identity cards with updated details under Bolivia's new gender law.

TRIVIA: List of the five worst states for LGBT Americans according to an article in *Rolling Stone*: Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, Louisiana, Michigan.

TRIVIA: Anderson Cooper will be the first openly gay man to moderate a presidential debate.

Gender in the Bible

[Excerpted from Mark Sameth, NYT, 8/12/16]

I'm a rabbi, and so I'm particularly saddened whenever religious arguments are brought in to defend social prejudices—as they often are in the discussion about transgender rights. In fact, the Hebrew *Bible*, when read in its original language, offers a highly elastic view of gender. In Genesis 3:12, Eve is referred to as “he.” In Genesis 9:21, after the flood, Noah repairs to “her” tent. Genesis 24:16 refers to Rebecca as a “young man.” And Genesis 1:27 refers to Adam as “them.” In Esther 2:7, Mordecai is pictured as nursing his niece Esther. In a similar way, in Isaiah 49:23, the future kings of Israel are prophesied to be “nursing kings.”

Why would the *Bible* do this? These aren't typos. In the ancient world, well-expressed gender fluidity was the mark of a civilized person. In Ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt, the gods were thought of as gender-fluid, and human beings were considered reflections of the gods.

The Israelites took the transgender trope from their surrounding cultures and wove it into their own sacred scripture. The four-Hebrew-letter name of God, which scholars refer to as the Tetragrammaton, YHWH, was probably not pronounced “Jehovah” or “Yahweh,” as some have guessed. The Israelite priests would have read the letters in reverse as Hu/Hi—in other words, the hidden name of God was Hebrew for “He/She.” Counter to everything we grew up believing, the God of Israel—the God of the three monotheistic, Abrahamic religions to which fully half the people on the planet today belong—was understood by its earliest worshipers to be a dual-gendered deity.

“If we are to have peace on earth, our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective.”

Martin Luther King



Tracey Norman, 64, is back in front of the camera, and it's a whole new world. The transgender woman whose career derailed in the 1980s after her “secret” was found out is now being proudly promoted by one of her first clients.

Tracy transitioned at age 18 and worked as a female model, but she was not “out” to the industry. Her first big contract was with Clairol, and her picture was on the box of Nice 'n Easy, dark auburn, box 512, with the tagline “Born Beautiful.”

She distinctly recalls the day everything changed: she was working at a magazine when someone came into the room and whispered something to the editor. “That was the day my truth was revealed and my work stopped right after that.”

Today, after some 40 years, Tracy is back where she started—on a box of Clairol hair color. This time as part of the Nice 'n Easy “Color as Real as You Are” line.

Standing Up for Rights

[Excerpted from *LGBTQ Nation*, 7/26/16]

The NYC Human Rights Commission ordered taxi driver Mohammad Dahbi to pay \$7,000 each to Christy Thornton and her partner as restitution for emotional damages.

The driver told them to stop kissing while they were in the back seat of his cab, and that they should “keep that for the bedroom or get out.”

He then pulled over and ordered them out, and when they refused to pay, he called them “cunts, whores” and “bitches.”

The Thorntons said they are willing to forgive the fines. “We never wanted to financially ruin him.... We want him to acknowledge what he did, say he's wrong, do the training, and be a better human.”

HRC Adopts Use of “LGBTQ”

“Queer” is a word with a complicated modern history—both used in a defiant chant originated by LGBTQ rights activists more than a quarter century ago to confront bigotry, and hijacked by hate-mongers doubling down on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

While we have been using the “Q” in much of our work for years, HRC has now officially embraced the word's positive evolution, joining other advocates, supporters and new-generation activists who are taking back “queer” from those who still use it as a slur.

In HRC's groundbreaking 2012 survey of self-identified LGBTQ youth, hundreds of respondents used “queer” to describe their sexual orientation or “genderqueer” to describe their gender identity, and many others wrote in their own descriptions of more fluid identities. The reality captured by the survey prompted HRC to begin using LGBTQ in its youth-related programs and work.

“Queer” serves as an umbrella term that encompasses many people as it intersects with sexual orientation and gender identity. It includes anyone who does not associate with heteronormativity—those who have non-binary or gender expansive identities.

Susan Has Come Out

[Excerpted from *Advocate*, 9/6/16]

For 21 years, “Susan's Place,” an online transgender support network, was a lifeline to men, women, and gender-queer folk in every stage of transition. [www.susans.org]

Susan Larson, 45, the commander of this ship, has seen the trans movement grow inside her online community. She's quietly watched trans people from every corner of the world use her site to make sense of life outside the gender binary. After years of helping strangers embrace their transitions, she's finally moving forward with her own.

“Fear is something every trans person has to overcome; for a long time, it got the best of me.”

PFLAG Board Members

Two long-time board members are retiring this year—President Amy Mesirov and Joann Figueras. Pending approval at our Annual Meeting, Drey Anachie will step into Amy’s shoes. Drey has served on the board for the past four years, most recently as vice president. She created and manages our Facebook page, and will continue to do so in the coming year. Drey has been particularly valuable as an active member of our Speakers Bureau and as a regular member and frequent facilitator of our Falmouth monthly meetings. Her insight, creativity, and people skills will serve her well as our new President.

We also welcome three newcomers to the board—Eric Nelson, Kasia Piaseca, and Grant Pike. Eric and his wife, Evas, have been active participants in our Falmouth meetings. Kasia is the reference librarian at the Falmouth Public Library and will bring her love of research and books as well as her youthful perspective. Grant, also bringing a youthful perspective, is a mental health counselor at Family Continuity Program. He facilitates our support group for transgender and gender nonconforming teens and young adults.

Remaining on the board—also pending approval—are Joe Lima (Treasurer), Diane Titcomb (Secretary), Sarah Carpenter, Denise LaBarre, Terry Norgeot, and Rona Robinson.

Amy looks forward to her retirement from the presidency, after serving for seven years, but plans to remain active in PFLAG of Cape Cod. Joann has served on the board for over 20 years, editing the newsletter and writing/maintaining the website for most of those years. She also plans to remain active with PFLAG, although this her last newsletter.

From the Treasurer’s Ledger

As the end of the current fiscal year draws to a close, I encourage you to renew your membership. Hopefully we will surpass the current number of 75 paid members next year so we can continue to fulfill our goals of providing support, education and advocacy!

A few events from this past summer that benefited PFLAG include a wine tasting at Falmouth Wine & Spirits which raised \$195, a donation of \$165 from No Place For Hate, Falmouth from the Pride Picnic, and \$116 raised at a WHAT performance of *Girlfriends*. In addition, the Peregrine Theater allowed PFLAG to have donation buckets at four performances of *The Full Monty* which brought in a total of \$651. “Thank you” to all of these fine organizations and businesses.

Thanks again for your continued support and have an enjoyable autumn!
Joe Lima, Treasurer

LGBT Group Meetings

PFLAG/Brewster: every 3rd Monday, 7pm, 1st Parish UU Church, 1969 Main St, Brewster (route 6A near route 124).

PFLAG/Falmouth: every last Tues, 7pm, Falmouth Jewish Congregation, 7 Hatchville Road, East Falmouth.

Parents of Transgender Youth Support Group: 3rd Sunday of each month, 3:30 - 5pm, West Barnstable Com. Bldg, Rte. 149 & Meetinghouse Way. Denise@pflagCapeCod.org.

Thrive at CIGSYA: 56 Barnstable Rd, Hyannis, open Wednesdays 4 - 6:30. www.cigsya.org.

Falmouth Gay Men’s Group: www.FalmouthMensGroup.org.

Lesbian Groups: www.meetup.com/CapeCodWomen.

Transgender Support: every 2nd Wed, 7pm, 1st Parish Winslow House, Rte 124 at 6A, winslowgroup2016@outlook.com

LGBT Seniors Group: 4th Fridays at 6pm, Orleans COA, 150 Rock Harbor Rd.

Dates to Remember

Sep 19, Oct 17, Nov 21: Brewster PFLAG, 7pm, 1st Parish UU

Sep 27, Oct 25, Nov 29: Falmouth PFLAG 7pm, Falmouth Jewish Congregation, 7 Hatchville Rd.

Sep 18, Oct 16, Nov 20: Parents of Transgender Youth Support

Sep 23: Orleans COA, dinner & film *A Welcoming Place for All*

Sep 30: LGBTQ Conference, Mourning Orlando (see p. 1)

Oct 27: What’s a Family? Barnstable Sr. Center (see p. 1)

Nov 5: PFLAG Transgender Medicine Conference (see p. 1)

Nov 11 - 12: Newark Gender Conference (see p. 1)

PFLAG of Cape Cod

PO Box 262, Marstons Mills, MA 02648

MISSION: By meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG realizes its vision through **Support** for families, allies and people who are LGBTQ, **Education** for ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ, **Advocacy** in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ.

MEMBERSHIP: Dues-paying members support the efforts of PFLAG locally and nationally. Fifteen dollars goes to PFLAG National. Our fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

OFFICERS & BOARD: President—Amy Mesirov, Vice-President & Secretary—Drey Annachie, Treasurer—Joe Lima, Sarah Carpenter, Joann Figueras, Denise LaBarre, Terry Norgeot, Rona Robinson, Diane Wilson Titcomb.

NEWSLETTER: Editor Joann Figueras Email newsletter@pflagCapeCod.org

WEBSITE: www.pflagCapeCod.org **FACEBOOK:** “PFLAG Cape Cod”

Membership Application PFLAG of Cape Cod

___\$45 Family ___\$30 Individual ___\$15 Limited income
\$_____ Additional donation for local chapter

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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Checks are payable to PFLAG of Cape Cod. Mail to Joe Lima,
PO Box 262, Marstons Mills, MA 02648

PFLAG fiscal year ends September 31; PLEASE renew your membership!