

2 1 O C T O B E R 2 0 1 2

# PFLAG<sup>of</sup> Door County

5-6:30PM THE 3RD SUNDAY AT HOPE CHURCH, STURGEON BAY



Advocacy, education and support for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, their families and friends.

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## ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK

### It's voting time again!

We will be having our annual meeting October 21. It's like our normal monthly meeting, but with food and voting!

There is a potluck, so please bring a dish to pass, whether its an old family recipe, or store bought, there's always plenty to share!

There is also the yearly business to attend to, voting for president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Also the yearly dues of \$20.

Hope to see you there!

## HOPE CHURCH TRANS\* SERIES

Hope Church will be doing a series of talks on gender identity at their adult forum. The forum begins at 9:00am and are held in the Fellowship Hall, the same location we usually have for our monthly meetings.

This is the current schedule for the adult forum:

1/27	Beth Mitchell	Transgender 101
2/3	Michael Munson	Anti-transgender Violence
2/10	Rudy and Shirley Senarighi	Film, "What's a Family"

## THANK YOU!!

Donations are starting to come in! Thank you to those individuals and businesses who have contributed to PFLAG of Door County!

## PFLAG AIMS FOR ACCEPTANCE

### National Coming Out Day Oct. 11

By [Matt Ledger](#) – [Peninsula Pulse](#)

This Oct. 11 marks the 25th anniversary of the 1987 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights and the 24th celebration of National Coming Out Day, an event created to celebrate and raise awareness of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

“I would like to emphasize the importance of coming out,” says Sandy Brown of PFLAG Door County, a local chapter of the national group that provides support and education for LGBT individuals and their loved ones. “A lot of people say, ‘I don’t care what people do in their bedrooms, and it’s not my business.’ But it’s way more than that that we’re talking about.”

Brown points to CNN correspondent Anderson Cooper’s recent coming out, and the rationale behind it, as an example of how and why coming out can make a difference.

“[Cooper] said that as long as we have inequalities, it’s important for people to come out. Visibility is the only way we can get to acceptance,” says Brown. “Gay and lesbian youth are three times more likely to attempt suicide. Transgendered youth are 50 percent more likely to attempt suicide. There’s rejection in their homes, there’s their own self-hatred or concern about who they are and how they fit into society, and then bullying is huge. So I think it’s for those kids...it’s kind of a real-life example of it gets better.”

Brown, who is a lesbian herself, says that when she approached her college counselor in 1967 with thoughts that she might be gay, being gay was still classified as a mental illness by psychologists.

“Certainly there’s a lot more acceptance now,” says Brown. “It was really in 1993 when President Clinton started talking about homosexuality, mainly through Don’t Ask Don’t Tell and the Defense of Marriage Act – and he signed [those] – but at least it got it out there for discussions.”

Brown says that President Obama’s support for marriage equality is a huge step forward for the LGBT community, but there are still large strides to be made towards full acceptance and equality.

“The more people who know somebody who is gay or lesbian, the more people realize the effects of the laws. Most of the states have laws against marriage equality; most of the states have laws that say you can be fired just because you’re gay,” says Brown, who notes that Wisconsin has specific anti-discrimination laws to protect gay, but not transgendered, individuals in the workplace and at schools. “I’m retired now so I don’t have to worry about that, but it is a constant worry.”

PFLAG Door County has meetings on the third Sunday of every month at Hope Church in Sturgeon Bay where parents, families, and friends of LGBT individuals, as well as LGBT individuals themselves, can come together and support each other. The organization also offers more informal support for those who, for whatever reason, don’t want to attend a meeting.

“We have brochures for parents and families, and we have lots of parents available to talk to other parents and even have coffee rather than come to a meeting,” says Brown.



## PFLAG Door County Parents, Family, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays



September, 2012

Dear Friend,

On behalf of the Board of PFLAG Door County, I thank you for your support of our organization. This is the group's first general request to the community and PFLAG membership. We need your financial support! PFLAG does have 501(c)(3) non-profit status and all contributions to PFLAG are tax deductible as allowed by law.

PFLAG - Door County (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) was formed 15 years ago because of a local young gay man who thought he was alone and was considering suicide. He wasn't alone. He also wasn't the only gay person who felt alone or considered suicide. A report in Pediatric in 1998 stated that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth have about a three times higher rate of attempted suicide than the general youth population. Studies also suggest that the coming out experience of 50% of GLBT teens was very negative and 25% were kicked out of their homes.

PFLAG's mission is to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons, their families and friends through

Support - support to cope with an adverse society,

Education - to enlighten an ill-informed public, and

Advocacy - to end discrimination and secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG provides opportunities to dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. PFLAG is not affiliated with any ethnic, religious, or political group.

Contributions will help PFLAG maintain a 24/7 phone to provide support and resources to callers and provide up-to-date educational resources to local schools and libraries.

Please be our partner in supporting the GLBT community and their friends and family members in Door County. We appreciate your generosity and look forward to your contribution! Thank you!

Sincerely,

Richard Gardiner, President

**PFLAG Door County, PO Box 213, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235, (920) 743-8146,**  
[www.pflagdoorcounty.org](http://www.pflagdoorcounty.org)

## “EX-GAY” THERAPY BAN

### California Passes Legislation Banning “Ex-Gay” Therapy for Minors Wyatt Buchanan - [SFGate](#)

On September 30, California outlawed the practice of providing therapy to children that aims to convert the sexual orientation of the minor from gay to straight. In signing the legislation, Gov. Jerry Brown stated, “These practices have no basis in science or medicine and they will now be relegated to the dustbin of quackery.” Governor Brown added that the practice, also known as “reparative,” has driven some young people to depression and suicide. Specifically, the legislation prohibits state-licensed therapists from using the scientifically discredited “therapy” on youth under 18 years old. The legislation is the first of its kind in the United States.

Two men who had endured such therapy, Ryan Kendall and Peter Drake, told the California assembly committee of business, professions, and consumer protection about their experiences.

“As a young teen, the anti-gay practice of so-called conversion therapy destroyed my life and tore apart my family,” Kendall said. “In order to stop the therapy that misled my parents into believing that I could somehow be made straight, I was forced to run away from home, surrender myself to the local department of human services, and legally separate myself from my family. At the age of 16, I had lost everything. My family and my faith had rejected me, and the damaging messages of conversion therapy, coupled with this rejection, drove me to the brink of suicide.”

True to their threat, advocates of the controversial therapy filed suit in federal court alleging that the law banning the therapy is unconstitutional. The Pacific Justice Institute, a California-based Christian group, is leading the move to declare the new law unconstitutional. The Pacific Justice Institute bills itself as “a nonprofit legal defense organization defending parental rights and religious freedom.”

The National Center for Lesbian Rights, which, along with Equality California and several other LGBT-rights organizations, lobbied in favor of the law, said the institute's suit is completely groundless.

“This lawsuit is a desperate, last ditch effort to defend the indefensible,” said Kate Kendell, NCLR executive director. “The plain fact is that every mainstream medical and mental health association in the country has warned that these practices are ineffective and dangerous. The state has a clear duty to protect minors from harm, and that is exactly what this law does. NCLR is committed to doing all we can to defend this law while, at the same time, we work to pass similar laws in other states. We will not rest until this ‘quackery,’ as Governor Brown has called this practice, is illegal throughout our nation.”

The legislation goes into effect on January 1, 2013.

# Calendar of Meetings and Other Events

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## Appleton

### **PFLAG of Appleton**

PFLAG of Appleton meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Appleton Harmony Café, 233 College Avenue at 6:30 p.m. For more information, please email: [pflagappleton@gmail.com](mailto:pflagappleton@gmail.com).

### **Valued Families**

(Support Group for LGBTQ parents with children)

Note: this group disbanded in late 2010. If anyone would like more information about this group or similar groups in the area, please call Jesse Heffernan, 920-734-CAFÉ (2233).

### **Spectrum**

(LGBTQ and allied social group 18 years and up) Spectrum meets Mondays from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Harmony Café--Fox Valley, 233 East College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911, 920 734-2233.

[See also under Green Bay below]

### **GBLT Partnership**

(Offers leadership development and support for teens ages 14-18)

GBLT Partnership meets weekly on Tuesdays from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Harmony Café--Fox Valley, 233 College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911. Tel. 920-734-2233.

[See also under Green Bay below]

## Door County

### **PFLAG Door County**

PFLAG Door County meets on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 5:00 p.m. at the Hope UCC Church, 12th and Michigan, Sturgeon Bay. For more information:

[www.pflagdoorcounty.org](http://www.pflagdoorcounty.org) or [richardgardiner2001@gmail.com](mailto:richardgardiner2001@gmail.com)

920-421-8815

# Calendar of Meetings and Other Events

## Green Bay

### Conversation Cafe

The following happens at the Harmony Café (West Mason Street (next to Toys R Us)):  
Conversation Café takes place every Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., hosted by Cricket.  
For a complete list of the services provided by the Harmony Café, click on the following link:  
[www.focol.org/harmonycafe/](http://www.focol.org/harmonycafe/)

### The Green Bay Transgender Group

(The Green Bay Transgender group meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Harmony Café.

### Spectrum

(LGBTQ and allied social group 18 years and up)  
Spectrum meets Tuesdays from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Harmony Café, Green Bay, 1660 West Mason Street, Green Bay, WI 54303. Tel. 920-569-1593.  
[See also under Appleton above.]

### Manitowoc PFLAG Manitowoc County

PFLAG Manitowoc County meets the 1st Thursday of the month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the St. James Church, 434 N. 8th St.  
[pflagmanty@gmail.com](mailto:pflagmanty@gmail.com)  
1-920-374-3524

### GBLT Partnership

GBLT Partnership (Offers leadership development and support for teens ages 14-18)

GBLT Partnership meets weekly on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Harmony Café-Green Bay, 1660 West Mason Street, Green Bay, WI 54303. Tel. 920-569-1593.

[See also under Appleton above.]

### LaCrosse PFLAG LaCrosse

PFLAG LaCrosse meets every Tuesday starting at 6:30 p.m. at the LGBT Resource Center of the 7 Rivers Region.  
[www.7riverslgbt.org](http://www.7riverslgbt.org)

### Adult-Gay/ Straight Alliance of Green Bay

A-GSA, Adult Gay/Straight Alliance of Green Bay, is a new advocacy group located

in Green Bay for families and friends of persons who identify as GLBT.

A-GSA provides opportunities for dialogue about topics related to sexual orientation. All sessions are respectful, nonjudgmental, and strictly confidential. A-GSA charges no fees. All are welcome.

Meetings are 6:00-8:00pm, second Tuesday of the month (September through May)

"The English Room" at the Union Congregational United Church of Christ

716 S. Madison St. Green Bay, WI 54301

Contacts: Michele Becker, 920-432-1283 or John and Karen Wirch 920-434-9960.



# Calendar of Meetings and Other Events

## Madison

### PFLAG Madison

#### Straight Spouse Group

PFLAG Madison meets the 3rd Sunday every month except June, July and August, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. The Straight Spouse Group meets at 4:00 p.m., immediately following the PFLAG Group meeting. See [www.pflag-madison.org](http://www.pflag-madison.org) for directions and agenda topics.

## Point

### PFLAG Point

PFLAG Point meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. No permanent meeting place has been determined. Link on the following for more information: [www.pflagpoint.com](http://www.pflagpoint.com) or phone 715-572-6922.

## Milwaukee

### PFLAG Milwaukee

PFLAG Milwaukee meets on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 5:00 p.m. at the Martin Luther Church in Milwaukee. See the following for more information: [www.milwaukee-pflag.org](http://www.milwaukee-pflag.org).

## Oshkosh

### PFLAG of Greater Oshkosh

PFLAG of Greater Oshkosh meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 137 Algoma Blvd. in Oshkosh. Contact information: [pflagoshkosh@gmail.com](mailto:pflagoshkosh@gmail.com).

## Newsletter Contact Information:

PFLAG Sturgeon Bay/Door County  
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235  
920-421-8875

Website: [www.pflagdoorcounty.org](http://www.pflagdoorcounty.org).

E-mail: [pflag@doorcounty.com](mailto:pflag@doorcounty.com)

Also find us on Facebook: PFLAG Door County

Editor/Secretary: Beth Mitchell [benmitche@mac.com](mailto:benmitche@mac.com)

If you would like to be removed from the PFLAG e-mail list, please let us know by replying to this e-mail and we will remove your address.

## Washburn

### PFLAG Washburn

PFLAG Washburn meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. on the lower level of the Washburn Public Library, 307 Washington Avenue, Washburn. For further information, please call 715-209-1100.