



News & Views

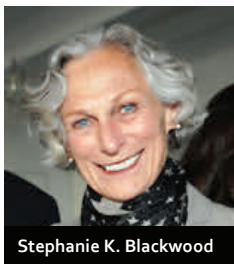
Greater Providence Chapter
Parents, Families, Friends and Allies United with
LGBT People to Move Equality Forward

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Thanksgiving Message from PFLAG National Director of Development, Stephanie K. Blackwood

Yes, Thanksgiving has passed, but the following message from Stephanie K. Blackwood, PFLAG National Director of Development, is still important to repeat as we enter the winter holiday season and to thank all of you for your involvement and support of our Greater Providence PFLAG Chapter.



Stephanie K. Blackwood

Thanksgiving. It always reminds me of coming out.

It was Thanksgiving 1973...in rural Kansas. My brother, whom I seldom saw because he was in the Air Force, was home for the holiday and picked up clues in my excitement about my new friend Sarah. He was curious in a

big-brother way. He asked a few questions, and encouraged me to tell Mom and Dad.

I told. They listened politely, asking no questions, saying little, and offering their standard comment: "Oh?"

Then, we drove to Grandpa and Grandma's for Thanksgiving dinner. We ate too much, we watched football, we napped, we drove home.

Nobody told me I was bad. Nobody judged or condemned. Nobody asked questions. Nobody offered support.

For the next 20 years.

Even after I moved to New York in 1986 and started a public relations agency that focused on gay issues.

Still, nothing was said by my family.

In my third decade of being the out, out, OUT profes-

sional lesbian daughter, my mother--without explanation--grew bold. She began talking... with family, with neighbors, with my high school classmates, with her minister...and talking with pride about my work and our relationship.

Mom never told me what had changed for her. But I can tell you what changed for me.

Mom's public affirmation freed me. She also sparked change in my little hometown. Today, a gay couple owns the floral shop, a classmate has boldly acknowledged her gay son, high school reunions are open and welcoming of what few LGBTQ classmates there are. And my hometown welcomes differences of all types...not saying much but also not judging.

We enjoyed a warm and close relationship in her later years. My mom wasn't a firebrand like PFLAG's founder Jeanne Manford but, like Jeanne, she knew that she needed to speak up. There was no PFLAG chapter in my hometown but now that I am part of PFLAG, I know without a doubt that she was a PFLAG Mom; in her own way, she quietly took a stand for equality.

So today, as you gather with your families--and I gather with my chosen family of LGBTQ and ally loved ones--I want to thank each of you for taking a stand for equality. Your courage has made the difference for so many people who, like me, needed affirmation to feel whole.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours,

Stephanie K. Blackwood
Director of Development
PFLAG National



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Parents, Families, Friends and Allies United with LGBT People to Move Equality Forward

Our Mission

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

SUPPORT: To support parents on their journey to understand and accept their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender children; and to help children, of whatever age, to understand and come out into loving relationships with their families;

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.

PFLAG is a volunteer grass-roots, tax-exempt, non-profit organization, not affiliated with any political or religious institution.

PFLAG is a welcoming place for parents and friends of all members of the LGBTQ community, but we are much more than that. Those who identify as gay, lesbian bisexual, transgender, or gender non-conforming are also encouraged to attend our meetings., with or without their family members. Parents and friends may come with or without their loved ones who are members of the LGBTQ community.

Confidentiality is assured.

PFLAG/Greater Providence

President: Sandra Richard

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**WE'RE
HERE
FOR YOU!**

news from our chapter



Stephen Alexander Scores as Speaker at October PFLAG Meeting

Stephen Alexander's name came to prominence about a year ago when a short documentary was produced about his coming out as the first transgender high school coach in the United States. The documentary is entitled "Transition Game" and can be viewed on YouTube at the following link: <http://youtu.be/NMTE1o1zLFk>.

A soft-spoken, charming young man who is passionate about sports, Stephen spoke to our group about his coming out process and the difference between gender identity and sexual orientation. He told about growing up in one of the most conservative rural areas of Rhode Island where he was the winningest athlete to go through the doors of Ponagansett High School, yet he was passed over being nominated into their Hall of Fame in 2013, which he mainly attributed to his being transgender. However, his perseverance in remaining true to himself and his values has helped win over a number of members of the small rural community into understanding that he is the same person he always was and that transitioning was vital to his survival and not a "choice."



Stephen Alexander

of Fame, he finally received the recognition he deserved, surrounded by his family.

In his presentation, Stephen explained that everyone's experience is different and he could only relate his own experiences to us. After high school, he attended Stonehill College on an athletic scholarship. He later studied abroad in Tasmania, Japan, India and Vi-

etnam, partly as a way of dealing with his dysphoria. After graduation, he attended the University of Connecticut School of Social Work where he earned his MSW. He then moved to New York City where he worked in the New York City Public School System.

Stephen feels the coming out process should be a celebratory event for people, which is not always the case today. We should all be supporting one another, especially those in the LGBTQ community; and calling them out when they don't.

He recently worked on a committee involved in developing a trans-inclusive policy for athletes in Rhode Island to participate in athletic programs in their identified gender. Stephen is currently in the planning stages of writing a two books, one of which is for children.

Ultimately, Stephen envisions a future where participation in athletic programs is based strictly on skill and performance, not gender, suggesting that perhaps one day we will have women participating in the NFL. He admits that it will require a shift in world consciousness for that to happen. But nothing is impossible.



New Regulations Make it Easier to Change Gender Designations on RI Birth Certificates

PROVIDENCE, RI—New vital records regulations, filed Wednesday, October 22, will modernize Rhode Island's birth certificate policies to allow transgender people to obtain accurate gender designations on their birth certificates. The change in regulations took effect on November 11, 2014.

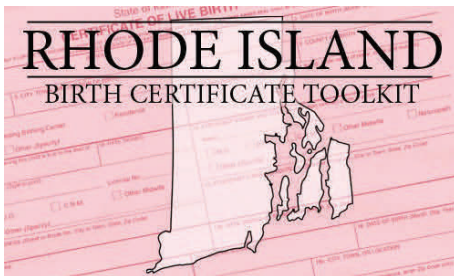
As a result of this change in regulations, the RI Department of Health will no longer require gender affirmation surgery in order to change the gender designation on birth certificates. Gender markers can now be changed with proof that the person has undergone "treatment appropriate for the individual for the purpose of gender transition based on contemporary clinical standards" provided by a physician, certified nurse practitioner, or physician's

assistant who has treated or evaluated them.

GLAD Senior Staff Attorney Janson Wu, who submitted testimony on GLAD's behalf in support of the change in regulations, said, "This change brings Rhode Island in line with contemporary professional standards of care along with the best practices of six other states and several federal agencies. It also aligns with The American Medical Association's call for the elimination of surgery requirements for changes to birth certificate gender markers, a stance based on the fact that gender transition is a highly individualized process, and surgical intervention is not an accurate benchmark for legal or social recognition of one's gender."

The new Rhode Island regulations are now comparable to existing policies in California, Iowa, New York, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, and the District of Columbia.

"The impact of this decision for transgender people born in Rhode Island is enormous," added Wu. "Birth certificates represent a necessary and vital document that is required throughout a person's life to perform various activities and access essential services." According to the National Transgender Discrimination Survey (NGTLD/NCTE Survey), 44% of 6,450 transgender respondents reported harassment, assault, or denial of service when they presented identifying documents that were incongruent with their visible gender expression.



GLAD has prepared a tool kit to assist Rhode Island residents in the process of requesting a gender marker change, which is available at www.glad.org/rights/toolkits.

Individuals seeking further information or assistance with the process should contact GLAD's legal information service, GLAD Answers, at www.GLADAnswers.org.

Through strategic litigation, public policy advocacy and education, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders works in New England and nationally to create a just society free of discrimination based on gender identity and expression, HIV status and sexual orientation.

Credit: News Release, TRT Editor, November 11, 2014 © Copyright The Rainbow Times, Boston LGBT Newspaper Serving New England, Gay News. All rights reserved.



2015 Trans* Medicine Conference

When: Saturday, January 10th from 8am - 4pm

Where: Brown University Warren Alpert Medical School

Purpose: To educate providers on important concepts related to caring for trans* patients, increasing provider's knowledge and the community's access to care

For: This conference is tailored to physicians, mental health professionals as well as allied health professionals. Students and community members are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Registration: A website page will be available soon for registration. Brochures will be available soon to give to health professionals and invite them to attend this conference.

Cost: \$40-\$60 for health professionals (CEUs will be available), \$25 for Residents and Fellows, \$10 Students, and \$20 for community members

Questions:

Email ritransconference@gmail.com



Holiday bells are ringing and everyone's singing!

Join the **Providence Gay Men's Chorus** in their holiday celebration of "I'll Be Home with Bells On." Join in as they sing of the most wonderful things that will warm your hearts and jingle your bells and make us all remember that very special place, a place called home.

Thursday, December 11 at 7:00pm

Friday, December 12 at 7:00pm (** **Benefit concert for AIDS Care Ocean State**)

Saturday, December 13 at 7:00pm

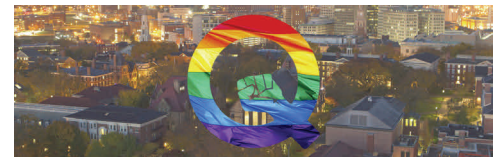
Sunday, December 14 at 4:00pm

Beneficent Congregational Church
300 Weybosett Street
Providence, RI

Throughout the years (since 1995) the PGMC has continued its commitment to musical excellence, and its ability to emotionally inspire its audiences, its members and the community through artistic, fun, high-quality choral concerts. The PGMC provides a unique entertainment experience found nowhere else in Providence.

Their director, Kim Kuda, says "The PGMC is an amazing and diverse group of men who are not only united in their love of music and desire to spread their message of equality and tolerance, but in their close friendships and support for each other. They are a family who take very good care of each other (and of me!) and I can't imagine anything more fulfilling and rewarding than making music with them."

For more information, go to their website: www.provgmc.org



New England Queer People of Color Conference: Call for Proposals

The NEQPOC '15 Conference strives to provide visibility, liberation, and empowerment for queer-identifying people of color in the New England area. The conference provides a space where self-identifying POC can build and strengthen social connections and critically engage in dialogue about the intersecting social, political, and theoretical dimensions of QPOC identity and community both in the New England area and beyond.

Proposal submission deadline: January 16th.

Proposal approval notification: January 23rd.

Submit at: <http://tinyurl.com/neqpoc15>.

This event is hosted by the Boston University Queer Alliance. Email: qpoc.ne@gmail.com. Website: qpocne2015.wordpress.com.



Email Sandie at svrichard@cox.net to sign up to receive the PFLAG newsletter by email only and help us save a tree (and postage too!)

news from all over

Why This Major Organization Is Changing Its Name

By Rea Carey, The Advocate, October 8, 2014

Being your authentic self is a revolutionary act for millions of LGBTQ people. Here's why one major organization is going to do the same. One of my early memories of feeling like I was fully and deeply me was during elementary school when my little tomboy self climbed up a tree in my Denver neighborhood and just hung out thinking about a girl I had a crush on. I felt strong in my body, climbing branch by branch; looking back on it, I realize I felt something that wasn't what I knew girls to be or what I knew boys to be, rather something in between; and, of course, the freedom to think about the girl. And I was deeply happy in all of my identities. That's how it feels to be fully you. To be all of you.

There's an identity revolution going on in our nation right now. It's a revolution that shows up in the way people share the many aspects of their identities through social media. It's apparent when we challenge assumptions others have about us and what issues we care about — like white citizens working on immigration reform or gay men working on reproductive justice or LGBT people working on voting rights. It's apparent when actress and transgender activist Laverne Cox appears on the cover of *Time* magazine. We have come a long way in making visible the many ways we live our lives and pursue our passions.

I am seeing a real palpable hunger in LGBTQ people's hearts not just to be out, but to bring their entire selves to every aspect of their lives: to be you without fear, without persecution, without discrimination, whether you're L, G, B, T, or Q. But there is also a deep hunger for more change with millions of us still facing formidable barriers in every aspect of our lives: at school, in housing, employment, in health care, in our faith congregations, in retirement and in basic human rights. And while we have yet to win full marriage equality — that fight isn't over — we must also look beyond marriage to continue the work that speaks to the many things we are as LGBTQ people.

For these and many other reasons, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is changing its name and upping its game to tear down any remaining barriers to full freedom, justice, and equality for all LGBTQ people. We want to create a world where you can be you, without barriers. Our new name is the "National LGBTQ Task Force," our tagline is "Be you," and our vision is a society that values and respects the diversity of human expression and identity and achieves freedom and equity for all.

The barriers we face today are far-reaching and they impact LGBTQ lives from childhood to retirement.

At school, LGBTQ students are still being bullied and denied an education for simply being themselves.

At work, LGBTQ employees are being fired for who they are and love. And the likelihood of your being fired is much higher if you are an LGBTQ person of color and higher still if you are a transgender person of color.

At places of worship, welcoming people of faith are being defrocked, excluded, and shouted down by opponents of LGBTQ



equality.

In our immigration system, more than 250,000 undocumented LGBTQ immigrants desperately want to stay here and pursue their dreams.

On the streets, thousands of homeless LGBTQ people need decent housing.

At medical centers, despite progress in the implementation of Obamacare, LGBTQ people aren't getting access to the specialized care they need.

In retirement, LGBTQ seniors are going back into the closet in fear of being discriminated against.

But we imagine a different world. A world in which each person can be fully themselves. Be fully free.

Being you is to be able to walk down the street holding hands and not fear that you will be hit over the head with a bottle.

Being you is to be able to live in any state you want and be legally recognized and honored as your children's parents.

Being you is to be able to enter a voting station as a black transgender woman and not worry that anyone will question you because of the color of your skin or because your ID card doesn't match what they see.

Being you is about being able to claim and stand proudly in all of your identities, not having to choose one over another, or denying any part of yourself.

We live in an exciting time where we have the power to define the future we want — and so much of that future is connected to creating a world where every LGBTQ person can be themselves without any barriers. What would it feel like to be fully you?

Let's seize this moment, let's be ourselves fully, and let's make a future together that's worthy of our struggle.

REA CAREY is the executive director of the National LGBTQ Task Force.



Same sex couples can now adopt in the state of Utah.

The Utah Supreme Court is lifting its hold on adoptions by same-sex couples. The high court halted all such adoptions in May as the state appealed a federal ruling striking down Utah's ban on same-sex marriage. But in October, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed that decision to stand, effectively legalizing same-sex unions in Utah and 10 other

states. The Salt Lake Tribune reports that the decision to lift the hold comes in the cases of four adoptions sought by wedded same-sex couples, and will presumably allow those adoptions and others to proceed.

Credit: LGBTQ Nation, October 24, 2014



Starbucks raises gay pride flag over Seattle headquarters.

The Most LGBTQ-Friendly City In America Has Been Declared

The most LGBTQ-friendly gay city in America has been declared. And while the classification is certainly up for debate, many people will doubtless be surprised to see which U.S. city snagged the top spot.

San Francisco, with its rich history of LGBTQ sensitivity and advocacy, was not number one. According to a data analysis announced in time for Pride Month in 2014, Seattle is the best place for LGBTQ folks.

This year the top five includes three California cities, cementing the state's domination as the gay abode. Despite its own reputation as a haven for gay people, New York didn't feature in the top 10, while Atlanta and Austin, Texas were the only cities from the south to make an appearance.

With a 100 percent score on the Human Right's Campaign index, Seattle topped the list and aced all three criteria the blog used in their data crunching. Seattle is also home to the highest percentage of same-sex households among all major cities in the U.S.; and the fact that gay marriage is legal in Washington helped its gay-friendly quotient.

Credit: Smriti Sinha, June 3, 2014, www.policymic.com



Billy Gilman Reveals He's Gay, Laments It's 'Not the Best Thing' for Country Career

Although he's only been an openly homosexual man in country music for one day, singer Ty Herndon's declaration that he is an "out, proud and happy gay man" has given

another male artist in the genre the courage to come out publicly – on the very same day.

In the YouTube video, 26-year-old Billy Gilman, whose 2000 debut album, *One Voice* sold more than two million copies, begins by explaining that he'd been plotting a public revelation for several weeks and that Herndon, a friend, made it easier for him. Although visibly nervous as the video begins, Gilman praises his fellow country star for his brave effort and thanks fans repeatedly for their support throughout his career. Discovered by Asleep at the Wheel bandleader Ray Benson at age nine, Gilman scored his first hit, the Top 20 "One Voice" when he was 12 years old, making him the youngest artist to ever have a Top 40 country hit. He and Herndon were both signed to Nashville's Epic Records, although Herndon's final album for the label was released just prior to Gilman's first.

"I took a long time to grow in country music, and I took a while to grow up and recently released some new music," he says in the five-minute clip. "We filmed a video for the single, 'Say You Will' in Rhode Island. I was getting ready to do an interview with a reporter... and coincidentally, I ran into this reporter at a local fall festival with my partner, someone who I am happily now sharing my life with."

After the reporter took a picture of the couple, Gilman realized he needed to tell fans himself, rather than having them read about it in an article that might not get the facts straight. He also acknowledged "rumors and whispers of, 'Is he or isn't he?'" that followed him during recent trips to Nashville to meet with record labels.

"Being a gay male country artist is not the best thing," Gilman laments. "If people don't like your music that's one thing, but after having sold over five million records... I knew something was wrong when no major label wanted to sit down and have a meeting and listen to the new stuff. I did a showcase in Nashville and no major label showed."

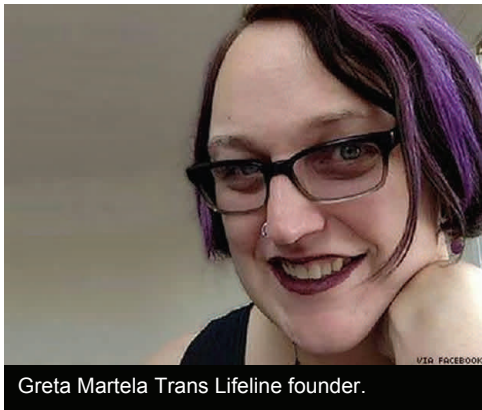
Gilman, who lives in Rhode Island, also deems it "pretty silly" to be "in a genre and in an industry that is ashamed of me for being me." But he goes on to praise fellow artists Keith Urban, Vince Gill and LeAnn Rimes for their support of his career. "Not that they knew," he adds.

The singer also gives fans a quick look at the new music video he's currently editing and will be releasing soon.

"It's been a crazy day," he concludes, "and I can honestly say I'm scared to death. But I thank each and every one of you for your support. I will always strive to be the best artist that I can be. Now that I know that I have finally found my place as a person, that only makes the music that much better. I know some people won't agree with this, and that's OK. To each his own. But it was time for me to be honest."

Credit: By Stephen L. Betts, November 20, 2014, Rolling Stone Country





Greta Martela Trans Lifeline founder.

New Suicide Hotline Dedicated to Trans People Now Open for Calls

Trans Lifeline, the first U.S. suicide hotline dedicated to transgender people, began taking calls this month, reports *Time*.

Created by a San Francisco group led by trans software developer Greta Martela, Trans Lifeline is entirely staffed by trans-identified volunteers. Its founders hope that the "by trans people, for trans people" approach will help address the staggering overrepresentation of trans people within suicide rate statistics.

Trans people are nearly 10 times as likely as cisgender (non-trans) people to attempt suicide, with 41 percent of U.S. trans people reporting an attempt to commit suicide, as compared to a 4.6 national average, according to a 2011 report by the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National LGBTQ Task Force. Trans Lifeline's founders hope that with more trans-specific suicide prevention tactics, this number could possibly be reduced.

The hotline's concept was influenced, in part, by Martela's own story. When the 44-year-old mother came out last year as a trans woman, she was faced with increasing anxiety and panic attacks that ultimately led to her calling a suicide hotline, she tells *Time*.

But, she says, the man on the other end of the line "had no idea how to deal with a trans woman." He went silent and simply told her to go to a hospital. Once Martela reached the hospital, she says she had to once again inform the staff about what it means to be trans.

Martela hopes that with Trans Lifeline, other trans people in crisis will no longer have to explain themselves to a hotline worker who simply doesn't understand them. "There are a ton of suicide hotlines. There's no shortage of them," she explains to *Time*. "But it's really difficult to get a person who isn't trans to

understand what it's like to be trans."

Right now, Trans Lifeline is awaiting its application for nonprofit status and operates with a small budget. Calls are forwarded by a computer program to volunteers' own phones wherever they are located. Callers can see which volunteers are available at any given time by logging onto Trans Lifeline's website.

Trans Lifeline can be reached at 877-565-8860. For LGBT youth (ages 24 and younger) contemplating suicide, the Trevor Project Lifeline can be reached at 1-866-488-7386. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 can also be reached 24 hours a day by people of all ages and identities.

Credit: Mitch Kellaway, November 25, 2014



The Importance of Trans Allies

"I can't do this alone."

I muttered those words to myself at several points during my transition, especially as I prepared to come out in my workplace. I can remember feeling as if I was staring up at Mount Everest wondering how, and if, I could ever make it over or around it. After four-plus decades of living someone else's life, putting up appearances and dealing with daily self-inflicted doses of shame, guilt and denial, I had had enough. I could no longer hide the real "me."

The only thing I knew to do was to enlist the support of those colleagues that were closest to me. Those that knew me best. Over a series of lunches, I came out to each of them in a highly personal way: one-on-one, explaining to them how I felt and that I needed to do this -- and I asked for understanding and support. I now realize that risks were taken on both sides of that conversation. For me, it was the risk of being rejected. For as much as I thought that they would respond positively to the news that I was changing my gender, there were simply no guarantees. On their side, it was risk in the form of making yourself vulnerable by being available to and showing compassion for someone who is opening up their soul right before your very eyes and asking for your help.

They could have chosen to turn away -- but

they didn't. I was fortunate. Others like me aren't so fortunate. While I can report that these intimate conversations, held in diner booths and on park benches, gave me the confidence and the resolve I needed to move forward with my workplace transition. For many others, they do not have an empathetic ear to turn to.

For me, the importance of allies can never, ever be overstated.

Depending on what research you read, the transgender and gender non-conforming communities make up no more than one percent of the U.S. population. That's approximately 3 million people. But in reality that number is quite deceiving, because not all of us make ourselves "visible" to others and fewer still make the highly personal decision to publicly transition. Practically speaking, the number is quite less. The bottom line: It's a numbers game. We simply cannot fight for our equal rights alone. There is an absence of critical mass. We do not have the numbers.

We cannot do this alone.

You may be reading this and thinking that you can't possibly be an ally. You may not even think of yourself as an ally, but you know what? You may already be an ally and just aren't aware of it. I sincerely doubt that my aforementioned colleagues would have seen themselves as an ally in those moments, but rather as a friend who is listening and trying as best they can to understand a subject that they are hearing about for the first time in their lives. A subject that seems quite foreign to them. But yet they seek to understand.

Has that happened to you? Has someone with the same history as me ever approached you about having *that* conversation? Have you actually *had* that conversation? Well, guess what? If you have, you're an ally. Now I ask you to take it to the next level -- and own it.

Jeanne Manford stepped up and owned it. Who is Jeanne Manford, you ask? Jeanne, the mother of Morty, her gay son, is the person credited with starting what has now become PFLAG, the organization that I am proud to say I recently joined as a National Board Member. Hopefully, PFLAG is an organization that is not foreign to you. Chances are it isn't because of the wonderful work that happens each and every day in more than 350 chapters across the United States.

It was 1972, and she proudly marched alongside Morty in the Christopher Street Liberation Day March in New York City. Did she take a risk? Did she put herself out there for all to see? Did she come out as the par-

ent of a gay son? Absolutely! I suspect that if you were marching with Jeanne that day and asked her if she was an "ally", she might answer in this way: "I'm his mother, he's my son, I love him and I just want him to live his life happily with the same rights as everyone else." Sure sounds like an ally to me. And that's my point.

You possess the power to change our world, and all you have to do is reach out and take the hand of someone who asks only that you understand, as best you can, what it means to walk in their shoes. Not sure where to start? I encourage you to visit **PFLAG National's Straight for Equality project**, and grab a free copy of their new resource: **guide to being a trans ally**. It might provide the information you need to give you confidence as an ally.

After all, as Christopher Robin once told Winnie the Pooh, "You are *braver* than you believe, *stronger* than you seem and *smarter* than you think."

To that I would add: You have the *courage* to change the ordinary into the extraordinary.

Credit: Stephanie Battaglino, Huffpost Gay Voices, November 26, 2014

In Memoriam: Transgender pioneer Leslie Feinberg remembered



Author of *Stone Butch Blues* dies at 65

You're more than just neither, honey. There's other ways to be than either-or. It's not so simple. Otherwise there wouldn't be so many people who don't fit.

— Leslie Feinberg, *Stone Butch Blues*

Transgender pioneer and author Leslie Feinberg has died after a difficult and lengthy battle with tick-borne infections.

Feinberg, who identified as female, used the gender-neutral pronouns "ze" and "hir." Feinberg is survived by hir spouse, activist and poet Minnie Bruce Pratt.

Perhaps best known for hir groundbreaking novel *Stone Butch Blues*, Feinberg was an intersectional activist and champion for a

great number of causes, including workers' rights, racial equality, transgender rights, lesbian rights and women's rights.

Born into a dysfunctional working-class Jewish family in Kansas City, Missouri, Feinberg's early life was coloured by much discrimination. Leaving home at 14, ze worked a series of low-wage contract jobs in Buffalo before becoming affiliated with the Workers World Party, a US-based Marxist-Leninist group that would stoke the flames of Feinberg's activism.

Moving to New York City not long after that, ze had a hand in organizing massive pro-labour, anti-war and pro-choice protests, and famously took on the Ku Klux Klan during a Martin Luther King Day demonstration held in Atlanta in the late 1980s.

Feinberg published six books over the course of hir lifetime, including *Transgender Liberation: A Movement Whose Time Has Come*, *Transgender Warriors: Making History*, *Trans Liberation: Beyond Pink or Blue* and a second novel, *Drag King Dreams*.

Feinberg spoke to *Xtra* back in 2006 during the promotion of *Drag King Dreams*, noting ze still faced considerable discrimination because of hir gender identity: "People call me 'sir' and they call me 'ma'am,' but I'm never passing."

"What people see when they see me is always gender queerness. When people are yelling, 'Go get him,' they're assigning the 'he' to me, but it's not because I'm passing, it's because I'm being pursued."

Feinberg was infected with Lyme disease in the 1970s but was properly diagnosed and treated only in 2008 — an error ze attributed to prejudice within the healthcare system toward transgender people.

Hir obituary in *The Advocate*, written by Pratt, mentions that at the time of hir death Feinberg was preparing a 20th-anniversary edition of *Stone Butch Blues* that would be available online and that ze remained invested in intersectional politics.

"[I have] never been in search of a common umbrella identity, or even an umbrella term, that brings together people of oppressed sexes, gender expressions, and sexualities," ze reportedly said.

Feinberg's final words reportedly were, "Remember me as a revolutionary Communist."

Credit: J. P. Larocque, Daily Xtra, November 18, 2014

44 Pro-LGBTQ Companies You Could Support This Holiday Season



The holiday season is officially here and with it comes one of America's favorite pastimes: engaging in unbridled consumerism. But what are the values of the companies that you'll be financially supporting while shopping for your friends and family (and possibly yourself) this year?

If you're a member or an ally of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBTQ) community, where you spend your money matters. Companies have agendas and they may or may not be working towards full rights and equality for the queer community.

So where should you be spending your hard earned money this holiday season? HuffPost Gay Voices is here to help you out with a handy list of companies who have shown their support for queers and queer causes in the past. Check out the list below and learn more about 44 different companies who have expressed support for the LGBTQ community over the years.

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Apple | 23. General Mills |
| 2. Target | 24. J. C. Penney |
| 3. Starbucks | 25. Walgreens |
| 4. Budweiser | 26. Kenneth Cole |
| 5. Levi's | 27. Absolut |
| 6. Microsoft | 28. Smirnoff |
| 7. Amazon | 29. Citi |
| 8. American Apparel | 30. Manhattan Mini Storage |
| 9. Disney | 31. Nike |
| 10. Ford | 32. Ben & Jerry's |
| 11. Home Depot | 33. Marc Jacobs |
| 12. Expedia | 34. Google |
| 13. Proctor & Gamble | 35. Ebay |
| 14. Gap | 36. Orbitz |
| 15. Pepsi | 37. Jet Blue |
| 16. Buitoni | 38. Mastercard |
| 17. Garofalo | 39. Facebook |
| 18. Bertolli | 40. Instagram |
| 19. Banana Republic | 41. AT&T |
| 20. Old Navy | 42. Safeway |
| 21. Mondelez Int'l (Oreos) | 43. Johnson & Johnson |
| 22. Macy's | 44. The Huffington Post |

Credit: James Nichols, The Huffington Post, November 29, 2014



Chapter Meetings

PFLAG/Greater Providence meets the first Wednesday of each month from 6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.:

The MET School (Unity Building)
325 Public Street
Providence, Rhode Island

Upcoming Meetings

January 7, 2015
February 4, 2015
March 4, 2015
April 1, 2015

Contact Us

PFLAG/Greater Providence
c/o 500 Angell Street, Apt. 212
Providence, RI 02906
(401) 751-7571

www.PFLAGprovidence.org
Email: PFLAGprovidence@gmail.com



Ideas for Topics/Speakers?

Do you have a specific topic you would like to have addressed by a speaker or know of anyone whom you would like to recommend as a speaker for our Chapter? If so, please contact **Scott at scmpmr33@gmail.com**.

Member Resources

Rhode Island Bi Resource Network

<http://www.ribinetwork.org>
<http://www.facebook.com/TheOtherBWord>

SAGE Rhode Island

235 Promenade Street, Suite 500, Box 18
Providence, RI 02908
401-528-3259
sageriinfo@gmail.com

TGI Network of Rhode Island

PO Box 40365, Providence, RI 02940
info@tginetwork.org
(401) 441-5058 (voicemail)
Family Support Group meets 2nd Monday each month from 6:30-8:30 pm at Bell Street Parish House, Bell Street, Providence

Youth Pride, Inc.

743 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 421-5626
info@youthprideri.org
<http://www.youthprideri.org>

LGBT Caregiver Support Group

Child & Family Elder Care
Calvary United Methodist Church
200 Turner Road, Middletown, RI 02842
jgrapentine@childandfamilyri.com
(401) 848-4119
1st & 3rd Tuesdays each month from 10:00—11:00 a.m.

Blogs of Interest

Faith Topics

Susan Cottrell

<http://www.FreedHearts.org>

Kathy Baldock

<http://www.canyonwalkerconnections.com>

LGBTQ Issues

Think Progress

<http://thinkprogress.org/lgbt/issue/>

The Huffington Post

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tag/lgbt-blogs>

Parenting a Transgender Child

Gender Mom

<http://gendermom.wordpress.com/>

Raising My Rainbow

<http://raisingmyrainbow.com/>

Facebook Groups of Interest

The Facebook Transgender Alliance

(Closed Support Group)

Parents of Transgender Children

(Closed Support Group)

The Rhode Island LGBT Center



Check us out on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/PFLAGGreaterProvidence, RI



**Greater
Providence
Chapter**

Membership Application

Yes! I want to be a supporting member of PFLAG.

Please provide the information requested below and make your check payable to: PFLAG/Greater Providence. You may bring this form with your payment to the next chapter meeting or mail to: PFLAG, c/o 500 Angell Street, Apt. 212, Providence, RI 02906.

☐

Household \$30

☐

Individual \$25

☐

Student/Limited Income \$15

☐

Newsletter Only \$10

☐

Additional Contribution \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone No. _____ E-mail _____

☐

I'll do my part to help save a tree. Please send me the newsletter via email only (.pdf format).



Memberships and contributions to PFLAG are tax deductible. All information will remain confidential. PFLAG does not sell, lease or lend mailing lists to any person or group.