

Youngstown  
Chapter  
Spring  
2016

# PFLAG Rag

Visit our website at  
[www.youngstownpflag.org](http://www.youngstownpflag.org)



## Calendar

Tue. June 14, 6:30 PFLAG Meeting, St. John's  
Tue. July 12, 6:30 PFLAG Meeting, St. John's  
July 13-14: NABWMT National Convention,  
Memphis, Tennessee. "Convention activities  
will reflect our theme Voices from our past,  
Voices for our future."  
July 16: Pride Youngstown Festival noon - 9 p.m.  
E Federal Street Downtown Youngstown  
Tue., Aug. 9, 6:30 PFLAG Meeting, St. John's

## Mineshaft Calendar

Saturday, June 18: Daddy's Day Party  
Sunday, July 4: Picnic and fireworks  
Saturday, July 23: Christmas in July  
The Mineshaft opens at 3 p.m. on Sundays, 5 p.m.  
all other days.  
Sunday's special pricing of food:  
\$1 Hot Dogs  
\$1 Sliders  
\$2 Hamburgers  
\$5 NY Strip Steaks  
\$1 Sides: Small fries, small salad, baked potato,  
baked beans, green beans, chili

## Vigil for Orlando Slain

There will be a vigil at 9 p.m. Monday  
night, 6/13, on the steps of the Mahoning County  
Courthouse in memory of our brothers and sisters  
killed at the Pulse Bar in Orlando.

## PFLAG Elections

Youngstown Area  
PFLAG held their annual  
election on May 10, 2016.  
The nominating committee  
presented the slate of officers.  
As there were no nominations  
from the floor, the slate was unanimously  
approved. See current officer list on the right.

President:  
Marguerite Felice  
Vice-President:  
Toni Schildcrout  
Secretary:  
Sandy Driscoll  
Treasurer:  
Steven Schilderout  
Trustees:  
Tom Beck  
Jeff Varga  
Newsletter Editor:  
Tom Copeland

## From "The President and Liberation Theology"

— Steve Jordahl, OneNewsNow, 4/1/16

President Obama invited a lesbian pastor[,  
Jasmine Beach-  
Farrara,] to read  
scripture at the  
White House's  
Easter Prayer  
Breakfast.



## Gay Secretary of Army

After a series of  
delays Eric Fanning  
has been confirmed  
as 22nd Secretary of  
the Army (also gay).



# Dues Are Due

—Steven Schildcrout

We welcome new memberships as well as renewals that were not made at the regular time last fall. Donations, of course, are welcome any time.

PFLAG's new fiscal year runs October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016. To join or to renew your membership, take advantage of paying electronically and securely by credit or debit card through PayPal from our Website <http://www.youngstownpflag.org/> Just click the "Donate" button, and proceed. If we don't have your current contact information, please send an email to [youngstownareapflag@gmail.com](mailto:youngstownareapflag@gmail.com) with the information requested below. A similar information form can be downloaded from the Website and attached to your email.

If you prefer to mail us a check, please include also the information requested below.

From your \$25 dues (per household), we send \$15 to National, and our chapter uses the remaining \$10. There is no extra charge to receive our quarterly newsletter by email. Please consider an additional tax deductible donation, which will fund our local programs, awards, brochures, supplies, and meeting expenses. We depend on your continuing support. Thank you!

- New
- Renewal
- Change of contact information. Please fill in form below.
- \$25.00 Household membership for fiscal year 2015-16
- \$5.00 Newsletter postal subscription (if you don't receive it electronically)
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Additional donation

Total payment \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to Youngstown Area PFLAG.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to

Youngstown Area PFLAG  
2201 Goleta Ave.  
Youngstown, OH 44504

If you have a question about dues or your membership status, please contact us at [youngstownareapflag@gmail.com](mailto:youngstownareapflag@gmail.com).

# What Is PFLAG?

## Our Vision

We, the parents, families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, celebrate diversity and envision a society that embraces everyone, including those of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. Only with respect, dignity and equality for all will we reach our full potential as human beings, individually and collectively. PFLAG welcomes the participation and support of all who share in, and hope to realize this vision.

## Our Mission

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

## Our Strategic Goals

1. Build the capacity of our organization at every level so that we may have all the resources, in the form of information, people and funding, necessary to move forward in our work with the greatest possible effect.
2. Create a world in which our young people may grow up and be educated with freedom from fear of violence, bullying and other forms of discrim-

ination, regardless of their real or perceived gender identity or sexual orientation or that of their families.

3. Make our vision and our message accessible to the broadest range of ethnic and cultural communities, ending the isolation of families with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender family members within those communities.
4. Work toward full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons within their chosen communities of faith.
5. Create a society in which all LGBT persons may openly and safely pursue the career path of their choice, and may be valued and encouraged to grow to their full potential in the workplace.
6. Create a society in which all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons may enjoy, in every aspect of their lives, full civil and legal equality and may participate fully in all the rights, privileges and obligations of full citizenship in this country.

We welcome the participation and support of all who share in our Vision and Mission and who hope to realize our goals.

—See more at <<http://community.pflag.org/page.aspx?pid=237#sthash.WpB2s9T6.dpuf>>.

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## Join Us

If you are joining as a new member, please send your name, email, postal address, and phone number to [youngstownpflag@aol.com](mailto:youngstownpflag@aol.com). You may submit your dues payment of \$25 per household plus any optional donation using PayPal at our website: <http://www.youngstownpflag.org>.

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## Submissions

*The Youngstown Area PFLAG Rag* needs your input. There are four issues annually, having the following deadlines: March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1. Send submissions (including pictures) to [tcpoland@neo.rr.com](mailto:tcpoland@neo.rr.com) or to

Youngstown Area PFLAG  
313 N. Belle Vista Ave.  
Youngstown, OH 44509



### Disclaimer

The views expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of the executive board, editor, or chapter.

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 in the Parish House of St. John's Episcopal Church (lower level), 323 Wick Avenue, Youngstown, OH.

# SLDN Inductees to Hall of Heroes

—emails from Matt Thorn, 4/12-13/16

Paula Neira, who “made naval history by becoming the first transgender Navy veteran to have her discharge documentation updated to reflect her correct name by order of the Board for the Correction of Naval Records. . . . served in mine warfare combat during Operation Desert Storm. . . . and was a leader in the repeal of the Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell policy. For more than a decade, she has been recognized as one of the nation’s leading experts on transgender military service. As part of her role at Hopkins, she lectures nationally on the need for improved transgender cultural competence in healthcare.



Eric Alva, “the first American wounded in the war, and the war’s first Purple Heart recipient,” came out in 2007 after retirement and “joined Congressman Martin Meehan in introducing the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, a bill designed to repeal the military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy.



Both of these individuals have been inducted to SLDN’s Hall of Heroes.

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## Conversion Therapy

— “Heidi Hess, CREDO Action” <act@credoaction.com>, 3/10/16

Last year, the Southern Poverty Law Center successfully sued a company performing conversion therapy in New Jersey for consumer fraud for offering fraudulent and unconscionable services it claimed could change clients from gay to straight. The judge in the trial blocked conversion therapy “experts” from testifying because their opinions were based on the assumption that being gay is a disorder. It was a landmark ruling that highlighted just how

dangerous this “therapy” can be.

Sens. Patty Murray and Cory Booker, together with Reps. Ted Lieu and Jackie Speier, are calling on the FTC to ban conversion therapy.

## Useful Sources

- Jesse McKinley, “Cuomo Moves against Therapy That Claims to Make Gay Children Straight,” *New York Times*, February 6, 2016.
- Letter from Sens. Murray and Booker and Reps. Lieu and Speier to Edith Ramirez, Chair of the Federal Trade Commission, February 10, 2016. *Conversion Therapy*, Southern Poverty Law Center.
- #BornPerfect: The Facts About Conversion Therapy, National Center for Lesbian Rights.

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## Methodist Crisis

Mark Tooley, president of the Institute on Religion and Democracy, says, according to OneNewsNow, that “for the first time at the general conference [held in May of this year], . . . a number of prominent liberals were openly suggesting a division from the United Methodist Church” because they do not have the votes necessary to change church policy concerning same-sex weddings and expect an increase of African delegates to lessen the chance of change in the future (Bill Bumpas, 6/8/16).

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## AIDS Resource Center Ohio Expands

—Equitas Health



AIDS Resource Center Ohio (ARC Ohio) announced on April 11th an expansion of their mission, scope of services, and a change to its name to meet the increasing needs of the communities it serves.

# Stonewall Inn Set to Be First LGBTQIA National Monument

—Charline Jao, *The Mary Sue*, 5/4/16

President Barack Obama is preparing to approve a proposal that would make New York’s Stonewall Inn the first national monument to be honored for its role in the gay liberation movement. The June 28, 1969 riots which occurred against a police raid was a significant moment in the movement, and the space continues to promote LGBTQIA rights today. Prior to that, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and last year it was declared a New York City landmark.



# Credo Mobile, America’s Progressive Phone Company, Is LGBTQ-Friendly

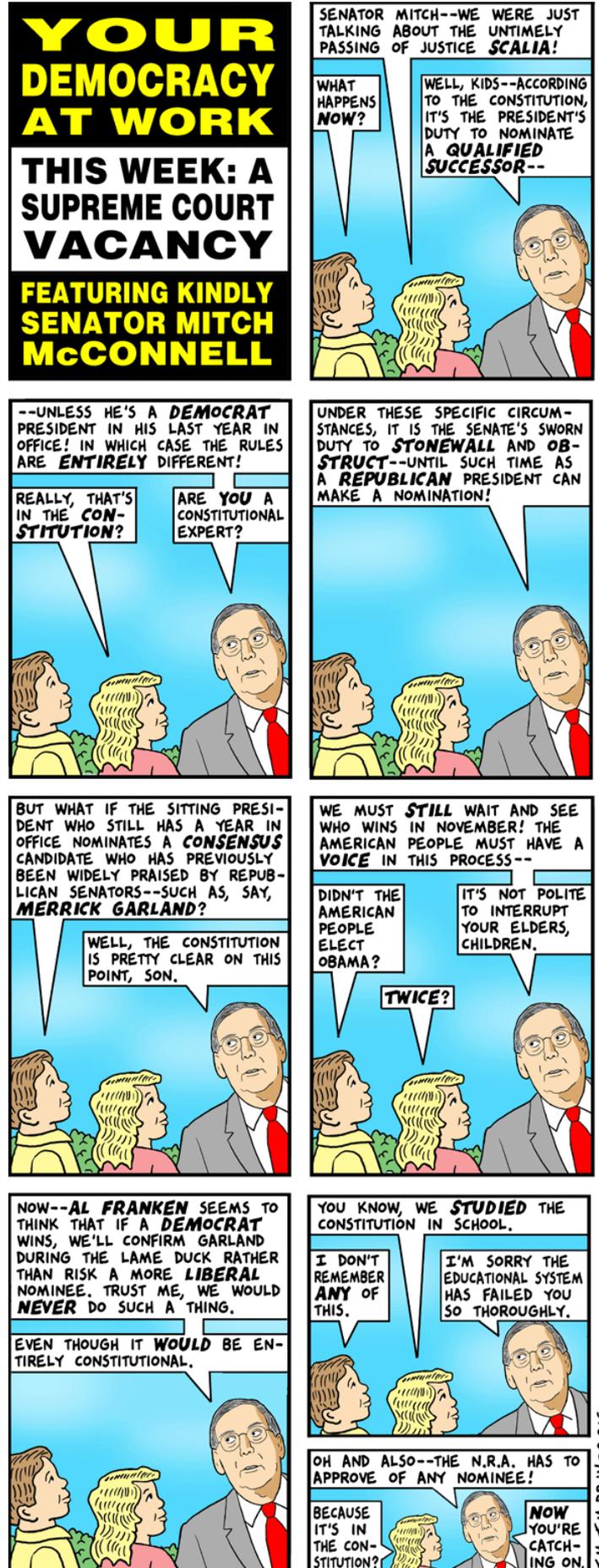
—April 2016



Credo Voice reports, “Deputy executive director Russell Roybal briefed us on the Task Force’s many

active campaigns for LGBTQ rights. Afterwards, he accepted a donations check for \$44,992 from CREDO CEO Ray Morris.”

On left: new comic by Tom Tomorrow: ‘A Supreme Court Vacancy,’ an “all new, CREDO-exclusive comic.”



# Mind Your Own Business

—email to Steve Schildcrout, May 15

On May 13, Rep. Alan Grayson addressed the House:

“I rise today to address the Great American bathroom controversy. This is a picture, on my right, of someone who may or may not be recognizable to many Americans today. I’ll say her name; the name may be more recognizable to some. Her name is Christine Jorgensen.

Christine was born in 1926; she grew up in the Bronx like I did. She went to Columbus High School, near the public housing where I grew up in the Bronx. In fact, my father taught history at Christopher Columbus High School. I don’t know whether he taught Christine or not. But it is possible.

In 1945, Christine was drafted and served in the U.S. military. Now that may be a puzzle to some of you listening to me right now, who say, ‘I didn’t realize that women were drafted in the 1940’s.’ Well, at that time, Christine’s name was George. George Jorgensen. That’s the name she was born with. She was, in fact -- on her birth certificate -- male. Something she struggled with greatly all through the time she was growing up, being a male. Something she struggled with, being in the military.

And then after leaving the military service in 1951, she heard about the possibility of changing her gender, so she went to Denmark and underwent three or more surgeries, plus a very substantial amount of estrogen treatments; she came back to the United States, and then forever thereafter, after 1953, was known as Christine Jorgensen. Christine Jorgensen was “out,” she

was well known in America as someone who was transgender.

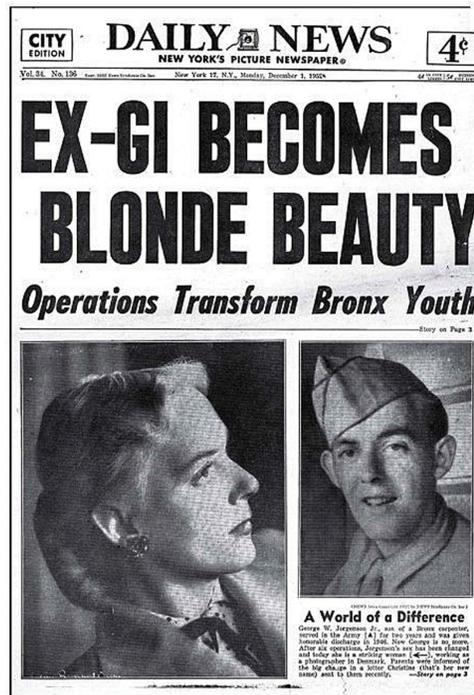
I knew about her story when I was growing up in the 1960’s and 1970’s. She made no effort to hide it. She didn’t feel any shame about it. She

was proud of the fact that she’d been able to take advantage of what medicine had to offer, and live the life that she felt she would have been able to have, if at the beginning, she had had the proper gender.

She had some degree of fame. Republican Vice President Spiro Agnew referred to her once in a speech to mock one of his opponents. She performed both as a singer and as an actress all through the 1950’s, through the entire 1960’s, and well into the 1970’s. She was the most famous transgendered person in America, probably to this day.

Now, I have to tell you, I don’t know exactly where she went when she “had to go.” I don’t know exactly whether she went into a men’s room or ladies room, but here’s the interesting thing: Even though this was something new under the sun, even though America never had to address this issue before, no one ever even bothered to ask. I don’t remember anybody saying, ‘Christine Jorgensen, she ought to go to the men’s room, she was born a male.’ Or for that matter, ‘Christine Jorgensen, she identifies as a female, she should go to the ladies room.’ Isn’t it odd that America in the 1950’s seems to have shown a lot more maturity than America is showing today, with our great bathroom controversy right now -- where the cisgender people of America try to dictate to the transgender people of America where they can go to the bathroom. Or at least, frankly, the more bigoted among us.

We had a law pass recently in North Carolina. I’m going to go out on a limb and say it passed almost exclusively with cisgendered Republican votes. They tried to dictate to which bathroom



Christine Jorgensen would have to go, if she were alive today and had to relieve herself. And amazingly enough, they decided in their 'wisdom', that Christine Jorgensen, if she were alive today, like all other transgender brothers and sisters, Christine Jorgensen would have to go to the bathroom she didn't identify as, but instead, the bathroom on her birth certificate.

This is particularly ironic. There was one form of discrimination that Christine Jorgensen did face in her lifetime. She was not allowed to get married. Not allowed to get married to a man because her birth certificate said that she was a male, and she was not issued a marriage license on account of the fact that a male was trying to marry a male.

My goodness! Here in America, just in the past 12 months or so, we finally managed to solve that problem, and Christine Jorgensen could get married today to her lover. Now we have a whole new problem. Now, thanks to Republicans, bigots in North Carolina, we have a law that would require Christine Jorgensen to go to the men's room. Think about that. Think about that.

In fact, the natural consequence of that law is what I'm about to show you right here.

So you folks in North Carolina who are obsessed with where transgender people go to the bathroom, this is the result you've come up with.

People who self-identify as women, people who look like women, people who act like women, they somehow are being driven into the men's room. And the same thing is true of transgender people who identify as men. You're going to force people who look like men, act like men, you're going to force them into a ladies room.

My God, what's wrong with you? That doesn't make any sense at all.

Now, let me tell you something. If I had been, back in the day, growing up in New York, and Christine Jorgensen happened to walk into the men's room -- never happened, but let's say it did -- I would have thought, 'that's odd,' but I wouldn't have said a word about it. I wouldn't have gone over to her and said, 'excuse me;

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I don't think you're supposed to be here.' On the contrary, I would have made an appropriate mental note, assume she probably found herself in the wrong room, and would have let it go.

I would not have felt any fear. I would not have felt hatred. I would not have felt anything that would indicate to me that somehow I should discriminate against this person. I just would have thought it was odd.

What this [NC] law does is guarantee that experience, or worse. Have people who identify and look and dress and act like women, forced to go into a men's room. Have people who identify and look and act and dress like men forced to go into a ladies room. Are you nuts?

Listen, I have heard that the Republican Party is the party of small government. I've also heard that on the issue of abortion, the party of small government wants government small enough to fit into a woman's uterus. Now it turns out the party of small government wants a government small enough to fit underneath the toilet seat. Can't we all be adults about this? Can't we all be adults about this the way we were in the 1960's and 1970's and 1980's?

Do we need a new law on this subject, much less a stupid law, a bad law, a ridiculous law? Now, you know, I understand that it's possible, even with the absence of this law, that there might be some conceivable problems about this kind of situation. I'm not sure exactly what they are. I'm pretty sure if everybody acted as an adult that we could get beyond them, without having to litigate over it. And I'm wondering, how do you even enforce a law like this? What are we going to do, have to give saliva samples every time we go to the bathroom, to see what gender we were born with?

Bear in mind, there's a law against loitering. A law against wide stances in a bathroom -- a Republican Senator learned that a few years ago. There's a law against disorderly conduct. There's a law against voyeurism. There's a law against indecent exposure. In fact, in a really bad situation, there are laws against assault and even rape. So why do we need a law to dictate

that people who identify as men have to go to the ladies room, and people who identify as ladies have to go to the men's room?

We had laws like that once. We used to say that we didn't want white people to have to be uncomfortable going to the bathroom with black people. I represent part of the state of Florida. I can remember that when we had laws like that. And then somehow or other we pulled ourselves together, and realized how ridiculous that was. How is this any different?

Thank goodness, the Attorney General recognizes that people who are cisgender who have no right to dictate where people who are transgender urinate, any more than people who are white have the right to dictate where people who are black do it. That's not America. Let's show some common sense.

Now, if we did actually want to deal with real problems, we could deal with this one. A little boy and a little girl, both looking into their diapers. And the caption is, 'oh, that explains the difference in our wages.'

Now, if we want to talk about gender in America in the early 21st century, we could start with that. Why is it that women still make only 79 cents for every dollar that a man makes, in countless occupations and professions, even today? Why is that? If we want to get to the heart of what's really going on between the sexes in America today, why don't we do something to address that problem?

And if we want to be more dramatic about it, let's remember the fact that in America today, 91% of the victims of rape are women. Could we take our legislative energy, and possibly apply it toward dealing with that problem -- which actually is a problem that affects countless women across the country.

Let's not 'protect' them from having to go to the same bathroom as a transgender person by insisting that people who look and act and identify as men, go to the bathroom with them. Let's instead try to pass wise laws that would equalize pay between men and women -- oh, and if we possibly could, reduce the incidence, the terrible

incidence of rape.

But getting back to this North Carolina law, there is a deep legal principle that this law offends. It offends me; it offends a lot of people with a good conscience. And that deep legal principle is this: It goes by four letters. MYOB. That's an even higher law than the law that was passed by the North Carolina legislature.

MYOB. Mind Your Own Business."

## What's It All About, Alfie?

A viewer of OneNewsNow (SrGigante) had a query about Bruce Jenner on 5/10/16: "By 'undergoing surgery to make him appear more female' does that mean he's no longer 'intact'? I'm a little confused by this article. He can now use the women's bathroom with no issues if the surgery has removed the genitalia. Just curious.

### Tom's reply:

This is the most interesting question in the minds of persons to whom the concept of gender identity is new. It's perfectly natural, of course, but it's hardly the most significant issue in the minds of transgender people. Since surgery is expensive and not without risk, many transgender folks postpone it, sometimes indefinitely. The main issue in their minds is to behave in accordance with their deepest sense of who they are. This behavior includes dressing and moving and speaking—all matters over which they have control, in that they have for many unhappy years been disguising themselves with unnatural movements, speech habits, and dress. They find an exhilarating freedom in casting aside these masks, although they may continue to bear the burden of wearing bodies that conflict with their sense of their true selves. In the old terminology, they are transvestites or cross-dressers, but in the new millennium they can hope to adopt these personae permanently rather than for an evening out. That hope makes their actions qualitatively different from those of yesterday's transvestites.

## How Rigid a Definition

When SCOTUS approved same-sex marriage, the definition of the word “family” was formally changed, delivering a death-blow to *Father Knows Best* and *Leave It to Beaver* as the archetype of the nuclear American family. We are now seeing the backlash we knew was coming. Most of it has appeared among those who are asked to facilitate weddings: marriage license officers, florists, bakers, and the like. But the magnitude of the public outrage against being forced to take this fork in the road can be seen when children are added to the family. Concern for preserving the archetype trumps concern for kids’ welfare.

*AJC.com* reports how a church has withdrawn support from an agency that helps homeless families simply because it chose to help a family having same-sex parents. “Family Promise of Hall County[, GA], a non-profit agency in Gainesville that helps homeless families, was about to accept a same-sex couple with children into its program. That’s when several board members of the agency resigned last week, apparently in protest. . . . The church also cut ties with the non-profit, which has affiliates across the nation. ‘We’re just not going to comment, we need to protect our families, our clients and our churches,’ said a woman answering the telephone at Family Promise’s Gainesville office on Thursday before hanging up on an *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reporter” (Rosalind Bentley, 5/12/16).

Clearly this church’s mission to aid homeless families regards protecting them from contamination by unworthy families as more important than protecting them from penury, exposure, and hunger. These people are not hypocrites; they are compassionate people with an active interest in serving their community. We cannot afford to oversimplify the motives of our opponents. That they are willing to subvert their own mission to make a point does not prove how stupid they are; it shows how much they have been frightened by the rapidity of the social change into which they have been swept up.

## *Times* Countenances Doublespeak

A March 7 article in *Fair* criticizes the way the *New York Times* treated the many conservative bills which aim to sanction discrimination against LGBT persons under the aegis of freedom of speech (see *NY Times*, “Conservative Lawmakers Push New Legal Protections for Opponents of Gay Rights,” 3/3/16).

The *Times* article explains that “the new bills generally guarantee protection from any penalties . . . for those who, on religious grounds, oppose same-sex marriage (qtd. by Jim Naureckas in “Don’t Say, . . .” *Fair*, 3/7/16).

Naureckas goes on to say, “It’s worth pointing out the obvious here: There are no penalties for opposing same-sex marriage. You are free to speak out against it, write articles criticizing it, organize protests denouncing it, and attend religious services condemning it. In short, the full spectrum of First Amendment activities is available to opponents of marriage equality and requires no special defense.

“What you aren’t allowed to do—in some situations—is discriminate against LGBT people, and these bills are an effort to make it O.K. to do so. Discrimination has not generally been seen as a First Amendment–protected activity; if it had been, the civil rights movement would have been effectively stymied. But the organized homophobia movement is trying to rebrand discrimination as a kind of speech—hence the marketing of these pro-discrimination bills as ‘First Amendment Defense Acts.’

“By framing the story as an attempt by conservatives to get ‘legal protections for opponents of gay rights,’ the *Times* is in effect siding with those conservatives, assisting them . . . to repackage discrimination as speech.”

Similarly, Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore said in a press conference that the furor aroused by his February administrative order prohibiting probate courts from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples was “about the right of a justice to ‘speak about the law’” (Walter Einkenkel, *Daily Kos*, 4/29/16).

# The Bathroom Controversy

## Causes

The Bathroom Controversy must be seen from multiple points of view.

**View #1 (Homophobia):** At the end of a rally in support of NC's HB2 (Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act), North Carolina State Senator Buck Newton revealed his belief that this was no mere bathroom bill: "Go home. Tell your friends and family who had to work today what this is all about, and how hard we must fight to keep our state straight" (Hunter, Daily Kos, 4/26/16).

**View #2 (Fear for Safety):** The masses actually do fear that creepy men in skirts mean to prey on Brownies in the lavatory if persons suspected of being genetic males are not kept out of ladies' rooms.

**View #3 (Historical Objectivity):**

- There is no basis for such fears. *The New York Times* reports, "School administrators from 23 school districts and four universities across the country with trans-inclusive nondiscrimination policies have debunked conservative horror stories about allowing transgender students to use school facilities that correspond with their gender identity (Erin Fitzgerald, "What Reporters Should Know," May 13, 2016). Carlos Maza adds that the vanity of these fears has also been attested by "law enforcement experts, government officials, and women's safety advocates in cities and states across the country" (see *Fair*, "Media Asking Wrong Questions," 4/14/16).

- Gender identity has been recognized since 1972 as a student's "sex" for the purpose of enforcing Title IX of the Educational Amendments prohibiting discrimination against students on

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the basis of sex, and this has repeatedly (2010 and 2014) been pointed out in directives to school districts by the Department of Education (*ibid.*).

- "Several [lower] federal courts have [already] ruled that discrimination against transgender people is illegal sex discrimination" (*ibid.*).

**View 3 (Spite):** But those who actually make decisions, although more sophisticated than the masses, are willfully indifferent to the facts. For them, I think, the whole matter boils down to simple backlash from the legalization of same-sex marriage.

Justice Scalia correctly recognized (see winter *PFLAG Rag*) that because Americans think they live in a democracy, they will naturally resent having a small handful of people dictate to them who may marry whom. Still more, then, do they resent a presidential order that school administrators must ensure that "all students, including transgender students, can attend school in an environment free from discrimination based on sex" (press release from depts. of Education and Justice, 5/13/16). Oligarchy or tyranny—it will not be tolerated.

The extremism of the states' responses probably has less to do with the bathroom problem than with how they imagine the solution to have been imposed upon the country. Consider this amazing news clip: "DALLAS (May 13, 2016) — Texas' lieutenant governor says the state is prepared to forfeit billions of dollars in federal funding for public schools following an Obama administrative directive over bathroom access for transgender students" (OneNewsNow). Governors don't allow their school systems to go bankrupt to preserve modesty, but they will cut off their noses to spite a president.

## Results and Responses

Although North Carolina's draconian and unenforceable bathroom law has already cost the city jobs, money, and lucrative concerts from

musicians including Bruce Springsteen and Ringo Starr, it has hurt trans people far more severely. Daily Kos reports, “Since this law passed, calls to transgender suicide hotlines have doubled. Trans people already face alarming rates of harassment and violence because people want to force them to conform to commonly accepted gender norms” (campaigns@dailykos.com, 4/27/16).

Gretchen Peters, a Grammy-nominated songwriter and singer and mother of a transgender son in Nashville, writes, “As a parent, I am horrified by the vitriol swirling around [Tennessee’s bathroom bill]. The opposition is actively threatening parents like me who support transgender children, accusing us of not caring about children’s welfare. The hypocrisy here is staggering—these people are the ones trying to make a law that explicitly targets students for discrimination.

“When we institutionalize this kind of discrimination, we

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force transgender kids deeper into the closet and shut them off from the support they so desperately need. We impart to them the message that they are ‘born wrong’—and that is the very last thing that parents should want for our children” (aclu@aclu.org, 4/5/16).

## There Is Really Only One Remedy:

Target has put in place a policy of using whichever bathroom or changing room suits one’s sexual identity and has stood up to a two-month boycott by The American Family Association supported by 1,100,000 signatures as of May

5. When asked by an AFA spokesperson, Abraham Hamilton III, “whether Target had done a cost-benefit analysis prior to pursuing its bathroom policy,” Target replied in the words of the AFA reporter, “Basically, No, we believe it’s the best thing for our company, so we’re going to do it.” The AFA is hopping mad at this display of adherence to principle (Chris Woodward, “Target to AFA rep: We don’t care,” OneNewsNow, June 8 2016).

### A Matter of Principle

—Dan Forest, NC Lieutenant Governor  
Twitter, qtd. by Bill Bumpas and Billy Davis,  
“Media Discriminates,” One NewsNow 4/11/16

If our action in keeping men out of women’s bathrooms and showers protected the life of just one child or one woman from being molested or assaulted, then it was worth it. North Carolina will never put a price tag on the value of our children. They are precious and priceless. If a corporation wanting to do business in North Carolina does not see the worth of our children in the same light, then I wish them well as they do business somewhere else.

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## Anniversary Edition of *The Gilda Stories*

—Fm. book review by Eleanor J. Bader, *Truthout*,  
6/5/16

Jewelle Gomez’s novel about an escaped slave and time-traveler, who happens to be a lesbian vampire, was reissued in April 2016 by City Lights Books. Gomez says, “Vampires contain the angst that runs through most teenagers. The idea that they belong, but don’t belong, courses through them and you can sense their sexual uneasiness. Vampires ask how you fit into the world.”

## Asian Family Acceptance Campaign

May 31: Right on the heels of Asian/Pacific Islander (API) Heritage Month, the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) has just announced the launch of their new, and incredibly empowering, initiative: the Asian Family Acceptance Campaign. In a news conference on May 17th, NQAPIA shared an influential series of television ads, in various languages, entitled “Family is Still Family,” which will be airing throughout the month of June .

## Accommodation, the GOP's Trojan Horse

Bathrooms are only the envelope; the effects and indeed even the very intent of the bathroom bills is more far-reaching. NC's HB 2, for example, includes "language that strips North Carolina workers of the ability to sue under a state anti-discrimination law, a right that has been upheld in court since 1985," says Nina Martin, *ProPublica*, 4/5/16). "If you were fired because of your race, fired because of your gender, fired because of your religion, you no longer have a basic remedy," she writes, quoting Allan Freyer, head of the Workers' Rights Project at the North Carolina Justice Center in Raleigh.

The hidden sentence that broadens the application of the law is as follows: "[No] person may bring any civil action based upon the public policy expressed herein." This sentence, says Martin, "does not repeal North Carolina's job-bias law, which continues to ban discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, religion, or disability. But it forces workers seeking redress for discrimination into the federal system, where access is more difficult, the rules are much more complicated, and businesses often have significant advantages."

Another far-reaching bill was signed into law on 4/27 by Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam: "that says no licensed counselor or therapist must serve a client whose 'goals, outcomes or behaviors' conflict with the counselor's 'sincerely held principles'" (Kerry Eleveld, *Daily Kos*, 4/27/16).

The emendation of the original wording, "sincerely held religious beliefs" to "sincerely held principles" broadens the scope of the law's application. "In addition to sanctioning discrimination against LGBT patients," it permits "a therapist opposed to war or US military policy [to] refuse to treat a veteran with post-traumatic stress syndrome," according to Art Terrazas, director of government affairs for the American Counseling Association" (Rachel Percelay, "What You Need . . .," *Media Matters*, 4/14/16).

## Accommodation, the GOP's Achilles' Heel

The Associated Press observes, "For a party already being torn apart by the presidential contest, the state legislative efforts [to accommodate those with sincerely held religious reservations about LGBT rights] have exposed deep rifts between the GOP's social conservatives and its pro-business wing. Business leaders worry that such measures will allow discrimination and scare away companies and major events" (4/6/16).

For example, "PayPal is dropping its plans to base a global operations center in Charlotte. That's \$3.6 million in infrastructure (according to AP) and more than 400 jobs gone" (Wes Morgan, *Daily Kos*, 4/5/16). Likewise, Mississippi's right-to-discriminate law was greeted with a scolding from General Electric, PepsiCo, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Hyatt Hotels Corporation, Levi Strauss & Co., and Whole Foods: "We are disappointed to see the legislature and governor's office pass discriminatory legislation. The business community, by and large, has consistently communicated to lawmakers at every level that such laws are bad for our employees and bad for business. This is not a direction in which states move when they are seeking to provide successful, thriving hubs for business and economic development" (Kerry Eleveld, *Daily Kos*, 4/8/16).

"In Indiana, the tourism industry took a \$60 million hit after the state legislature passed an anti-LGBTQ law. Major corporations, including Salesforce and Disney, have made it clear that they are questioning doing business in states that discriminate against the LGBTQ community" (Signforgood.com).

The British government has issued travel warnings to LGBT persons visiting North Carolina and Mississippi, including advice to avoid excessive public demonstrations of affection and to call ahead to see whether a motel accepts reservations for same-sex couples (Jen Hayden, *Daily Kos*, 4/21/16).

## Trudeau Fights Homophobia



Aaron Wherry, CBC News, quoted Prime Minister Justin Trudeau: “I am proud to announce that tomorrow, on the International

Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, we will be tabling [presenting] a bill in the House of Commons to ensure the full protection of transgender people” (5/16/16). Trudeau made this statement in Montreal, where he was accepting the Laurent McCutcheon Award for his commitment to fighting homophobia and transphobia. The Fondation d’Emergence affirms that “Mr. Trudeau will be the first sitting Prime Minister to participate in a gay pride parade this summer” (Daniel Leblanc, *The Globe and Mail*, 5/15/16).



## A Community Will Be Stronger If It Includes All Its Members

CBC News correspondent Lenard Monkman reports that before indigenous Americans came into contact with Europeans, tribal life was all-inclusive; there was a place for individuals who did not identify with their biological sex (“2-Spirited Indigenous People: Opening Up the Conversation”).

Mae Louise Campbell explains, “It was quite an honour to have a child that was two-spirited to be born in the community . . . because of the gifts that they carried as two-spirited people to have better understandings of male and female energies.” For that reason, “many of them became leaders in the community, leaders in the elder capacity. People went to them because they were revered, actually,” said Campbell, whom Monkman describes as “an Ojibwa/Métis from Kississing Lake in northern Manitoba and the elder in residence at Red River College in Winnipeg.”

However, according to Albert McLeod, co-director of Two-Spirited People of Manitoba Inc., “Residential schools displaced indigenous students from their communities and put them into segregated, gender-specific dormitories. . . . It was very methodical in terms of reprogramming how indigenous people saw gender and identity. . . . Residential school periods created this very Christian-oriented, intolerant attitude that the settlers picked up in the last 100 years” (ibid.).

Monkman quotes McLeod to the effect that “one-third of the suicides in indigenous communities are committed by people who are LGBT/two-spirited.”

But times are changing in Canada’s First Nations communities. “David Blacksmith, the Sundance chief, spoke of having a place for two-spirited people in our community to pray and be welcomed back into the community.” McLeod says, “A welcoming-in ceremony for the . . . two-spirited relatives in our community is one of the more powerful memories I have of being at a Manitoba Sundance last year.”

**Apple is a corporate leader in diversity. Sure, CEO Tim Cook is the most powerful out-gay person in the corporate world, if not the entire country, but the company itself has long been a champion for gay rights, even excluding anti-gay material from the iOS app store. It seems that unlike conservative orthodoxy, tolerance and respect for people’s private life are good for business.**

**Daily Kos, 4/28/16**