



PFLAG
p h o e n i x

Parents, Families and Friends ^{And} of Lesbians and Gays
(and Bisexual, Transgender, and "Questioning" People)

PFLAG Phoenix Newsletter

Events and information

July 2016

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Greetings!

As we continue to reel from last month's horrible massacre at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, let this also be a reminder to us all that even though we've made great strides in equality these past few years, the forces behind this unspeakable act of violence aimed at the lgbt+ community still exist. We owe it to the victims and their families to make something positive come out of this tragedy. Let us take all of those intense emotions we are feeling and channel that energy into fighting the hate and ignorance that fueled this ugly hate crime. And let us not forget that acts like this have tremendous ripple effects, so let's not forget the other victims of this crime: all those parents, friends, family, first responders, hospital personnel, and others who were directly affected by this enormous tragedy that night. Their lives are forever changed too.

Wondering what is going on in July? Check out our new [PFLAG Phoenix website](#) where you can get information on our [support meetings](#), check out our [calendar](#) for events that may be of interest, [become a member](#), and so much more!

And remember, we love our volunteers! If you'd like to know more about ways you can help our chapter, email us at info@pflagphoenix.org or check out our [volunteer page](#) on our website.

Don't forget to "like" our [Facebook page](#) if you haven't yet!

Sincerely,

PFLAG Phoenix
602.843.1404

Announcing our new PFLAG Support meeting in Mesa



PFLAG
phoenix
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
(and Bi/Gender Transgender and Supporting People)

**Are you or is
someone in your life**

**Gay, Lesbian, Bi or
Transgender?**

JOIN US

For our first PFLAG Mesa Support Group

We provide a confidential support system for families and friends of the LGBTQ+ community in their efforts to understand, accept and support their loved ones with pride

We provide a confidential support system to LGBTQ+ individuals on their journey of coming out and issues of discrimination

We provide education for individuals and the community at large about LGBTQ+ issues

Please be respectful of all who attend these meetings. Everyone is in a different place in their journey and all are here for SUPPORT.

Date:

3rd Tuesday of Every Month.
Starting on **June 21, 2016**

Time:

7:00-8:30 PM

Location:

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
142 N. Date, Mesa, Arizona 85201

Contact:

(602) 843-1404 (*all contacts are kept confidential*)
Or
Email: info@pflagphoenix.org



July support meetings

Friday	July 1	7:00pm-8:30pm	Tempe
Saturday	July 2	Check their website	Native American
Wednesday	July 13	2:00pm-3:30pm	Beatitudes Campus
Thursday	July 14	7:00pm-8:30pm	North Scottsdale
Monday	July 18	7:00pm-9:00pm	Central Phoenix
Friday	July 22	7:00pm-8:30pm	Fountain Hills
Tuesday	July 19	7:00pm-8:30pm	Mesa

Attention: North Scottsdale Support Meeting Has A New Location



Please note the new address for our North Scottsdale support meeting. It has moved to [Desert Mission United Methodist Church](#), which is located at 7373 N. Dixileta Dr, Scottsdale, 85266. Please check out [our website](#) for more details about this meeting.

Hope to see you there!

Guest speaker at the Central Phoenix meeting on July 18th



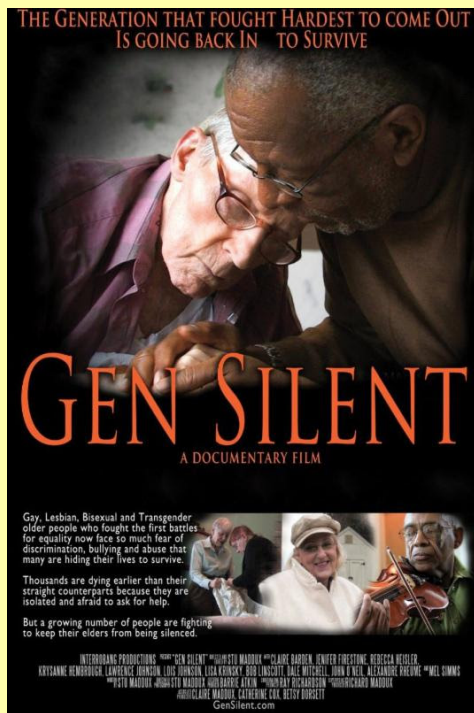
Please join us at our main meeting on Monday, July 18th at 7:00pm for our special guest, Rev. James Pennington. Rev. Pennington is Senior Pastor at First Congregational UCC church of Phoenix and spent years doing social justice work in immigration, marriage equality, and directing an LGBT center in Milwaukee before finding a new home in the UCC in 2007.

James' observations are peppered with the insights of a Minnesotan/Wisconsin's life in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona. He hikes the local parks and foothills with Jackson (photo at left), who is generally nearby at church, as well.

He is more likely to be encountered in sandals and shorts than his Sunday suits (with quirky socks); his leadership approach is low-drama, challenging people by speaking boldly while asking more questions than he tries to answer.

Our Central Phoenix meeting is held at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1407 N. 2nd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Join us for a very special screening of the documentary Gen Silent



Please join us on Tuesday, July 19th at 6:30pm at the Beatitudes Campus at 1610 W. Glendale Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85021 for the showing of "Gen Silent", a critically acclaimed documentary by the filmmaker Stu Maddux.

"What would you do if you were old, disabled or ill - and the person feeding you put down the spoon and said that you are going to hell unless you change your sexual preference?"

The film asks 6 LGBT Seniors this question, would they hide their friends, their spouses- their entire lives in order to survive in the elder care system. Their surprising decisions are captured through intimate access to their day-to-day lives over the course of a year. It puts a face on what experts in the film call an epidemic: gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender older people so afraid of discrimination by caregivers or bullying by other seniors that many simply go back into the closet.

Many who won the first civil rights victories for generations to come are now dying prematurely because they are reluctant to ask for help and have too few friends or family to care for them.

Gen Silent shows the disparity in the quality of paid caregiving from mainstream care facilities committed to making their LGBT residents safe and happy, to places where LGBT elders face discrimination by staff and bullying by other seniors.

You can get more information about the film and see a trailer [here](#).

News and Notes

- There were 14 people in attendance at our very first [Mesa PFLAG support meeting](#) , which is facilitated by Sari White. We are thrilled with this excellent beginning. Thank you Sari for all you did to make this support meeting a reality!



- As many of you know, Drake Hawkins has retired as facilitator of the PFLAG Tempe support meeting after 20 years of "first Fridays". We are so grateful to him for his 2 decades of service. Now it is time to welcome Crystal Asetta as our new facilitator for the Tempe support meeting. Crystal has volunteered to take over the position of facilitator and we are so grateful to her. We'd also like to give a special thanks to the Connections Group at [Dayspring United Methodist Church](#) for their many years of sponsorship of the Tempe Support Group.

- Pope Francis: Christians Owe Gays An Apology - [read more here](#).
- Vermont Joins Growing Number of Jurisdictions Protecting LGBTQ Kids from Conversion Therapy - [read more here](#).
- UTAH: Trans Woman Wins US Senate Primary - [read more here](#).
- The Pentagon plans to announce the repeal of its ban on transgender service members July 1, a controversial decision that would end nearly a year of internal wrangling among the services on how to allow those troops to serve openly, according to Defense officials. [Read more here](#).
- Navy Department officials are urging the thousands of sailors and Marines forced out of the military because of the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy in previous decades to come forward and appeal their discharge - in a step to restore benefits and right a historical wrong. [Read more here](#).
- In another historical moment for the Obama administration, the U.S. Senate confirms first openly gay Army secretary, Eric Fanning. Fanning will be the first openly gay leader of any U.S. military service. [Read more here](#).
- Missouri has its first openly gay Miss Missouri, and she will represent the state at the Miss America pageant later this year. [Read more here](#).
- Trump Vows To Rescind Obama's Pro-Trans Directives - [read more here](#).
- Possible breakthrough? Scientists have managed to remove DNA of the HIV virus from living tissue for the first time in a breakthrough that could lead to an outright cure. At the moment, treating the disease involves the use of drugs that suppress levels of the virus so the body's immune system can cope. [Read more here](#).
- Italy says 'yes' to gay civil unions! [Read more here](#).
- German Government To Annul Convictions Of 50K Men Charged Under Old Anti-Homosexuality Laws - [read more here](#).