Greetings!

June is traditionally Pride month, but here in the desert, we celebrate Pride in April. (Can you imagine marching in a parade in Phoenix in June?!) We hope you can join us in the parade this Sunday, where the weather will be perfect! Don't forget your sunscreen!

Wondering what else is going on in April? Check out our calendar at www.pflagphoenix.org where we list all our support meetings, plus other events that may be of interest.

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 the many volunteer opportunities available on our website.

Don't forget to "like" our Facebook page if you haven't yet!

Sincerely,

PFLAG Phoenix
602.843.1404
Do you support what PFLAG does for the LGBTQ community? Well, show that support by joining us in the Phoenix Pride Parade! Bring your own sign if you have one.

**WHEN:** This Sunday, April 3rd. Step-off is at 10am, so please find our group no later than 9:00 to 9:30am.

**WHERE:** Our staging area is on the east side of 3rd Street, usually south of Virginia. Give yourself plenty of time to get there because many surrounding streets are closed, and parking may be hard to find. The lightrail is a good option!

**WHO:** Anyone that wants to walk a mile with PFLAG to show the Phoenix LGBTQ community that we love them and support them. If walking is difficult for you, we will have a couple cars in the contingency that you are welcome to ride in if there is room.

**WHY:** Because there is no feeling like walking in a Pride parade with PFLAG.

**NOTE:** Pride Festival runs both April 2nd & 3rd. Hours are noon-9pm. More info can be found [here](#). Tickets can be bought [here](#).
More info on support meetings can be found here.

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THANK YOU DRAKE HAWKINS!

Is there anyone here in the PFLAG Phoenix family who can remember anyone other than Drake being the facilitator for the Tempe Support Group Meeting? Drake was fulfilling this function when Donna and I moved to Chandler in the early fall of 2005, but has now served notice his last meeting will be the first Friday of May, 2016.

So what does this mean? First a rousing ovation of thanks to Drake for reliable, dedicated, and continued service over these past years! THANK YOU DRAKE! Secondly, someone must step up to fill this vacancy in order for the Tempe meeting to be continued. I am not suggesting a replacement, but a successor. And thirdly, it would be nice, but not required, for this facilitator to become an active member of the PFLAG Phoenix Board of Directors. And finally, we should let Nancy, Chuck, and the entire Connections group of Dayspring know how much we appreciate their support and sponsorship of this support group.

Drake, please know we all love you, our lives have been enriched by you, and we wish you great happiness (and wealth) in all you do. Please come back to visit us often. Thanks again for all of these “first Fridays.”

Al Ellis, President, PFLAG Phoenix

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Spotlight on Carly Frieders-one of our two amazing 2016 scholarship winners

NOTE: This month we are profiling Carly, in next month’s issue we will focus our attention on our second scholarship winner, Chandler L. Barteau.

On March 21st, at our PFLAG Central meeting, we awarded one of the two PFLAG Phoenix Boots & Ray Reed Memorial Scholarships we offer to Carly Frieders.

Carly comes to us from Sahuarita, AZ and is a senior at Walden Grove High School. Carly tells us her mom had taken her to equal rights rallies when she was a youngster, so she had a good example of what it meant to be an ally. Before eighth grade, she had been selected from over 500 nationwide applicants to be an ambassador for GLSEN. She has flown to both coasts for training, spoken on panels, and written about her experiences.
As a freshman, Carly and some of her friends went to their chemistry teacher to ask if she would sponsor a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) club at their school. The town is small and not always LGBTQ+ friendly, so it wasn't an easy thing to accomplish, but Carly was already an ambassador for GLSEN. She was elected president of the GSA and has been president of it all four years of high school. Carly's leadership has helped educate the community and faculty about LGBTQ+ issues.

Carly is also well-known in the arts. Not only is a social activist and student of the highest caliber, but she is also a dancer, musician, and artist. She teaches ballet to share her love of dance with young people.

Carly wishes to become a public service attorney and work with a non-profit or government agency to provide legal services to vulnerable populations.

The list of awards, honors, and extracurricular activities on Carly's application is so long and impressive that we just don't have the space to list them all. Needless to say, Carly is an amazing and deserving young lady and PFLAG Phoenix could not be more proud to award this scholarship to her. We know she will achieve her goals and go on to make this world a more inclusive and just place in which to live. Congratulations Carly!

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New "Trans Teens Online Talk Group" Is Now Live

The GLBT National Help Center is a 20 year-old non-profit organization, which operates, among other programs, the GLBT National Youth Talkline and it is with great excitement that they are announcing this new program. They have launched a new transgender youth program called the Trans Teens Online Talk Group.

On their national hotline, they receive calls from trans youth from all across the country who don’t have access to any local resources and are feeling severely isolated and alone. To meet this need, they have expanded their services for trans youth through a new moderated online talk group, helping to end isolation and loneliness for trans youth.

The Trans Teens Online Talk Group is a live, moderated group chat for trans youth ages 12 thru 19, operating each Wednesday from 4-6 pm, pacific time. It is available at www.GLBThotline.org/transteens.

This new program is designed to be a safe place that allows trans youth to talk freely about concerns and issues, with others their own age, providing support for one another, and helping each other know they are not alone.
Everyone is invited!
The Sound of Music; A Gong Karaoke Revival
And it benefits PFLAG Phoenix!

The Grand Canyon Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Proudly present Sera Nade's, The Sound of Music, A Gong Karaoke Revival hosted by Sister Navi Ho & Novice Sister Sera Nade, featuring Voices of the Desert. There will be a 50/50 raffle and Jello Shots and it will benefit PFLAG Phoenix! Hope to see you there! Check out their Facebook page here.

Where: At Kobalt, 3110 N Central Ave, Phoenix, Arizona 85012
When: Saturday, April 9th at 3 PM - 6 PM
Special Screening of Gen Silent!

Please join us on Thursday, May 12th at 7:00pm 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](https://inbox.google.com/).

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**HERO Trans* Celebration Brunch**

Please join HERO for the Trans* Celebration Brunch on Sunday, April 17, at 11am, at Harley's Italian Bistro, 4221 N 7th Ave, Phoenix, Arizona 85013!

It will be an afternoon of local entertainment, awards and delicious unlimited food and drinks! We will also be raising funds for the new Julian Melson Trans* Scholarship Fund which will raise money to help local trans* folks going through transition and will be awarded annually. Julian Melson will be the first recipient!

Please come join us for a very special afternoon! This will be HERO’s last event!

Tickets available at [Eventbrite](https://inbox.google.com/).

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**April 28th is Dining Out For Life**

On Thursday, April 28, 2016, be fabulous by grabbing your friends and eating out at one of our participating restaurants. Whether it's breakfast, lunch or dinner, let's make [here](https://inbox.google.com/).
A percentage of proceeds from all participating DOFL restaurants from that stuffed full night will be donated to Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS in the metropolitan Phoenix Arizona area and Northland Cares in the Prescott Arizona area.

More information on participating restaurants can be found [here](https://inbox.google.com/).
• Corporate America comes out swinging AGAINST all these hateful so-called 'religious freedom' laws Read more here.

• In Tennessee a bill that would strip the University of Tennessee of $100,000 a year in state funding for certain diversity and inclusion operations began advancing in a House subcommittee and an amendment was then added that would take that $100,000 a year and use it instead to pay for decals bearing the national motto "In God We Trust" on law enforcement vehicles. Read more here.

• Indiana: In front of a crowd filling both council chambers and the City Hall lobby, Kokomo's Common Council voted 5-4 Monday to approve legislation that would protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens from various forms of discrimination. Yay Kokomo!

Correcting a BIG flub, Hillary Clinton may have just issued the most extensive presidential platform on HIV/AIDS ever. Read more here.

• World's Largest Psychiatric Association Calls For End To Ex-Gay Torture And Legalization Of Homosexuality. Read more here.

• Pope fires Vatican ambassador to U.S., staunch conservative and vocal opponent to same-sex marriage and the person responsible for setting up Kim Davis meeting, Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò. Read more here.