



PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

April 2018

Col. Packard to Speak on LGBT Issues and the Military

Colonel Gary Packard, USAF Ph.D, is a long time professor at the Air Force Academy and a developmental psychologist. An Academy grad in 1982, he is currently the vice dean at the AFA. In 2010, he served in the Pentagon as a writer on the Secretary of Defense study that preceded the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT). He is currently actively involved in the implementation of transgender service policy and is active in a number of social justice issues to include gender and race relations, religious respect, and sexual violence prevention.

Col. Packard identifies as a cisgender, straight, white, male Air Force officer. In this presentation, he will share insights on the moral, religious, and social justice conversations that influenced the repeal of *Don't Ask, Don't Tell* and are still surrounding the discussions over transgender military service. He requests that this be an interactive presentation, so bring your questions, comments, and concerns. *The views expressed are those of the speaker and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the U.S. Air Force, the U.S.*



Colonel Gary Packard

Department of Defense, or the U.S. government.

PFLAG Colorado Springs is honored to host Col. Packard in a special program for the second time. His first appearance was in May 2012 presenting on *"Loyalty, Reason and Action: Lessons Learned from the Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell."* In that talk as well as this one he shares his long and expanding jour-

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APRIL PFLAG MEETING

**Tuesday
April 17, 2018
7:00 p.m.**

Colonel Gary Packard

"Morality, Religion, Social Justice and Military Service — A Don't Ask, Don't Tell and Transgender Military Service Journey"

**First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
20 East St. Vrain Street**

**Reception after program at:
The Dwelling Place, 508 North
Tejon (around the corner)**

Gender Spectrum Support

Are you looking for support for parenting your transgender, non-binary or gender-expansive child?

Do you need a Spanish-speaking parents group and resources in Spanish?

Are you a pre-teen or teenager looking to connect with peers about topics related to gender in a safe space?

PFLAG is proud to partner with Gender Spectrum, a national nonprofit working for gender-inclusive environments for all children and young people. We believe that Gender Spectrum's work provides a valuable complement to our chapter work that will help you in navigating gender with all children and teens.

For more than ten years, Gender Spectrum has worked with thousands of families with gender-expansive children. They connect with families nationwide—and even from around the

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Red Ribbon Ball—April 21 — Sit With PFLAG



The Southern Colorado Aids Project will honor community leaders Mary Ellen McNally and Mary Lou Makepeace at the annual Red Ribbon Ball on April 21. Plan to come to the

ball to support and celebrate the devoted volunteers who work with HIV/AIDS patients in our community.

It's happening! We will have a PFLAG Table. Tickets are \$125, and go up to \$150 after March 30. Register online at: <https://bit.ly/2pG2zKk> and ask to be seated at the PFLAG table with Jerry Albrent. Please send an e-mail to info@cspflag.org to let Jerry know you are coming.



A Life in Tension - By Mallory Everhart

This newsletter is published by the Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG.

PFLAG Vision Statement. PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

PFLAG Mission Statement: By meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG realizes its vision through:

Support for families, allies and people who are LGBTQ

Education for ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ

Advocacy in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ.

To join the local chapter and receive the newsletter regularly, complete and mail the membership form on page four. To receive complimentary copies of the newsletter, please contact us.

E-mail address: info@cspflag.org

Support Line: (719) 425-9567

P.O. Box 49131
Colorado Springs, CO 80949

PFLAG Colorado Springs website:
www.cspflag.org

PFLAG National Office website:
www.pflag.org

Newsletter Editor: Karen Flitton Stith
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To receive your newsletter by e-mail, send a request to info@cspflag.org

[The following are excerpts from a "Queer & There" column by Mallory Everhart in *The Independent*, July 5-11, 2017.]

The story of a queer kid raised in a conservative Christian context isn't uncommon. If they



come out, they do so to an archetypical scene with a likely cast of characters, parents, pastor, concerned church ladies, etc. -- who trot out the same tired dialogue. The word "abomination" gets thrown around a lot.

If [a queer kid] doesn't come out, the messages are still pervasive, heard and internalized. Being queer is completely incompatible with being Christian, the legalization of gay marriage is a sign of the apocalypse, Christians should love the sinner/hate the sin, and loving someone of a similar gender is definitely a sin.

The clash of doctrine and self-knowledge becomes an internal civil war.

For some of us, the answer is to wash our hands of religion... For some of us, the answer is to stay closeted...we camouflage ourselves and keep struggling.

Trans Youth Education and Support (TYES)

TYES is a PFLAG affiliate that offers education and support to families with gender variant children. TYES information is available at PFLAG meetings.

TYES families in the Pikes Peak region keep in touch by phone and through a private Facebook page. To contact the Colorado Springs TYES volunteers, call PFLAG at (719) 425-9567 or send an e-mail to info@cspflag.org.

The TYES program originated and is headquartered in Boulder, Colorado.

More information is available at the national TYES website www.TYES-Colorado.org

For some of us, including myself, the answer is to remain within the church, claim both identities, live in the tension and be fully understood by neither.

Many of my queer friends don't understand why I stay in a relationship

with an abusive God who doesn't love me, whereas many of my Christian friends are more than a little worried about my soul...

It's a simple question with a complex calculus: "Does remaining in this faith community help me more than it hurts me? No one can answer that question for you but you.

...The conservative, evangelical, patriotic Christian narrative rules this town... Here, Focus on the Family advocates for conversion therapy and lobbies against queer protections under the law. Here, Christians claim they're under attack when they have never had more power than they do now, and use this delusion to justify acts of oppression.

There is a deep wound here, and Christians have caused it.

If I know anything, though, it is that to be queer and Christian is to be in the healing business -- both of myself and the people around me. My work as a Christian and as a minister-in-training is to stand and say with conviction: "It does not have to be this way". It is, perhaps, to re-appropriate the question so many of us wore on bracelets in youth group: What would Jesus do?

Read Mallory's complete column at: <https://bit.ly/2pJutoX> and read columns by other writers for the Queer and There section in *The Independent*.

Thank You

To the Saponas Foundation, First Congregational United Church of Christ and the Ruskey/Bianchi Family for their significant, ongoing support of Colorado Springs PFLAG.



Col. Packard (cont.)

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ney embracing the values of diversity and inclusion.

An excellent background reference is the article Col. Packard authored in the Fall 2017 issue of *Diversity & Democracy*, a quarterly publication of The Association of American Colleges & Universities – “Diversity and Inclusion in the Military: Theoretical Perspectives.” <http://bit.ly/AACU-Packard> Quoting its introductory paragraph:

“For the first half of my adult life, I was immersed in the homogeneous cultures of small-town America and Air Force flying squadrons. If asked about diversity, I would have said I was color-blind. However, through many experiences over a thirty-five year military and academic career, I have learned to celebrate the rich diversity of human experience. Attending graduate school, commanding an AF flying squadron, leading an academic department, and participating in advocacy related to a variety of social justice issues have changed my perspective.

“Transgender: At War and In Love” is a short film that will be shown at this meeting. See p. 4 of newsletter.

..... “The 2012-17 Department of Defense Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan refers to diversity as a ‘strategic imperative.’ This report affirms that the military must foster a diverse and inclusive workplace and culture if we are to recruit the best talent and develop the most effective force possible.”

Later in the article Col. Packard talks about the value of *tempered radicalism*. “Tempered radicalism played out in my life most visibly during my work gently advocating for *DADT* repeal. As a long-serving senior AF officer, I am passionate about my service and my identity as a military professional. Pre-repeal, I was also concerned about the harm *DADT* was causing to those who simply wanted to serve without having to lie about themselves or their partners. As an officer I am under oath to uphold the law, even if I disagree with it. However, my loyalty does not require me to stand by

passively while people are harmed. In fact, I believe that my oath requires me to do the opposite: to work for change, but to do so in a way that does not cause more harm than good. This tension between loyalty to the organization and passion for social justice is at the heart of tempered radicalism. I continue to regularly speak about the process that led to repeal of *DADT* and to be a voice for inclusive approaches to transgender service, gender equality, and religious respect.”

April 17th is our regular “Third Tuesday” meeting night. In expectation of a large audience First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is providing its beautiful and historic sanctuary for this special presentation. We normally meet next door in the church-owned “Dwelling Place.” FCC is well known as an Open and Affirming congregation, and is the home of Out Loud, Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus.

Please be sure to join us, along with family and friends, for this informative and inspiring presentation by Col. Gary Packard. Per his request, bring and share your questions, comments and concerns.

Please enter the church from the corner of Tejon and St. Vrain. Free parking is available in the lot across the street on St. Vrain.

Gender Spectrum (cont.)

world—in several online forums that provide support, connection, information and a safe place where all parents and young people can be free to express their experiences, concerns and joys.

The Online Discussion Groups allow participants to interact, in real time, using video, audio, or chat. Group members engage in lively discussions, facilitated by Gender Spectrum staff and trained volunteers. No one is pressured to participate—the groups are fun and meaningful conversations that truly provide a safe space for all.

We know that these online discussion groups can make a tremendous difference; we all need community and a safe place to bring questions,



“Serenades and Showtunes” —PFLAG Ushers Needed

Out Loud will present its spring concert at the First Congregational Church UCC on May 11 at 7:30 p.m. and May 12 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

PFLAG has ushered for Out Loud concerts since the chorus was formed over ten years ago.

Tickets are available online at: <http://www.outloudcsmc.com/> So are lots of photos that showcase this delightful group of singers.

Sign up now to be a PFLAG usher. Call Cindy Waldmann at 488-9887.



Queer Prom 2018 — A Victorian Steampunk Tea Party!

Inside Out Youth Services is sponsoring this year’s Queer Prom on April 27th from 7-11 p.m. at the Palmer High School Gymnasium. Tickets are (\$5.00)

“Steampunk”?

Steampunk incorporates technology and aesthetic designs inspired by 19th-century industrial steam-powered machinery. Steampunk most recognizably features anachronistic technologies or retro-futuristic inventions as people in the 19th century might have envisioned them, and is likewise rooted in the era’s perspective on fashion, culture, architectural style, and art. (Wikipedia)

For more information, call 328-1056. Website: www.insideoutys.org.

concerns and experiences to share with others who understand. You can learn more and register to join the Online Support Groups for parents and caregivers, Dads, Spanish-speaking parents, Pre-Teens, Teens and others at <https://www.genderspectrum.org/groups/>.



BULLETIN BOARD

April 21 — Red Ribbon Ball — Honoring This Year's Heroes With a Touch of Magic. Honoring Mary Ellen McNally and Mary Lou Makepeace. Cheyenne Mountain Resort, 3225 Broadmoor Valley Road See article, p. 1. Purchase tickets at: www.RedRibbonBall2018.Kintera.org

April 27 — Queer Prom 2018 — A Victorian Steam Punk Tea Party 7—11 p.m.— Tickets \$5. Palmer High School Gymnasium. See p. 3.

May 11-12 — Serenades and Showtunes — Out Loud Colorado Springs Men's Chorus spring concert. May 11—7:30, May 12—2:00 and 7:30. First Congregational Church. 20 East St. Vrain Street

July 14-15 — PrideFest 2018 — America the Beautiful Park. Colorado Springs.

Transgender, At War and in Love

This film, to be shown at the PFLAG meeting in conjunction with Col. Packard's presentation traces the relationship of a transgender military couple., Logan and Laila. At the time the film was made in 2015, they were banned from serving openly. The film is listed on the New York times "Op Docs" forum for short, opinionated documentaries made by independent filmmakers. Watch the film at: <https://bit.ly/2pLCcDJ> .

Check out Op Docs Forum at <https://nyti.ms/2E2b5IS>

Love, Simon

Don't miss this recently released, beautifully made coming-out film, now in local theaters. In many ways, *Love, Simon* is a typical teen romance. Teen has normal family life--parents (still married, so maybe not THAT normal), a sibling, a group of fun and funny friends, the usual trials and tribulations--and then falls for another teen... This movie shows how really hard coming out, first to oneself and then to one's community, can be.

Colorado House Judiciary Committee Rejects Anti-LGBT Bill

A group of Colorado legislators recently introduced one of the most blatantly anti-LGBTQ bills our state has seen in years. This is how the American Civil Liberties Union described the bill:

"It was one of the most harmful attacks on gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people that we have ever seen.

"This so-called "Live and Let Live Act" (HB 1206) went as far, if not farther, than the infamous Amendment 2 in 1992 that resulted in Colorado getting a reputation as the "Hate State." HB 1206 would have rolled back protections for LGBTQ Coloradans and their families in nearly every facet of their lives. It would have:

- Allowed a business to fire an LGBTQ employee just because of who they are.
- Allowed LGBTQ people to be excluded from homeless shelters, housing, family emergency services, and more.
- Invited employers to discriminate against transgender people by adopting exclusionary dress codes and policies with respect to bathroom or locker room facilities.
- Allowed businesses open to the public to discriminate against same-sex couples seeking commercial services for weddings that those businesses provide to other couples in Colorado.
- Allowed government officials to pick and choose who to serve, by denying marriage licenses or other services to same-sex couples.
- Allowed mental health providers, even school counselors, to refuse care to LGBTQ Coloradans.
- Allowed healthcare providers to deny necessary care to transgender Coloradans.

The ACLU and One Colorado mounted a campaign against the bill. Many of us sent messages to the House Judiciary Committee opposing the bill, and on March 27 the Committee refused to let the bill move forward. Congratulations to One Colorado and ACLU for successfully opposing the bill.

Our PFLAG chapter urges you to get on the e-mail list for One Colorado so that you will receive timely information about future efforts to roll back the success of the movement for LGBT rights and can help One Colorado to resist them. - Editor.

One Colorado Website: <http://www.one-colorado.org/>

Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018.

Name: _____

____ New member ____ Renewing member

Address: _____

- ____ Regular Membership \$ 30
- ____ Supporting Member—Silver 40
- ____ Supporting Member—Gold 60
- ____ Supporting Member—Platinum 100

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail _____

Check here if you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail _____

Each year our chapter must contribute \$15.00 for each paid membership to the PFLAG national office to support its mission.

Make checks payable to Colorado Springs PFLAG and mail to P.O. Box 49131, Colorado Springs, CO 80949. Membership fees and additional donations are tax deductible. All information will remain confidential. PFLAG is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization.