



PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

2019 is Our 25th Anniversary Year!

April 2019

April PFLAG - Community Bursting With Spring Events

PFLAG. At the end of a PFLAG meeting, participants always stay longer to enjoy talking. So in April, conversation is the plan. There will be no speaker or presentation, just an opportunity for PFLAGgers and guests to talk about—anything.

Part of the evening will be spent in small group discussion so that everyone has a chance to be heard. The April PFLAG meeting will provide an opportunity for PFLAG members and guests to engage in confidential conversations.

Let us know how you like this idea—shall we do it more often? Respond to info@cspflag.org

There's plenty coming up in the next two months. Here's brief rundown:

Father James Martin at CC



Fr. James Martin, a Jesuit priest, will participate in a free live video presen-

tation at Colorado College on April 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Celeste Theatre in the Cornerstone Arts Center (Cascade@ Dale Street). This video link will be exclusive to CC and will facilitate a live Q&A session with Fr. Martin.

His most recent book is *"Building a Bridge—How the Catholic Church and the LGBT Community Can Enter into a Relationship of Respect, Compassion and Sensitivity"*.

PFLAG will provide ushers as well as a table sharing PFLAG literature. You are encouraged to attend this vibrant discussion.

Vanessa Dion Fletcher at FAC

Fine Arts Center—April 2—12 noon. Vanessa Dion Fletcher is a Potawatomi and Lenape two-spirit



artist who draws upon her role as a woman in a colonial world to create performances that chal-

lenge preconceived notions of identity. In this lunchtime talk, Fletcher will present an overview of her non-performance work, which incorporates materials such as porcupine quills, Wampum belts, and menstrual blood to reveal the complexities of what defines a body physically and culturally. The event is free and open to the public. Lunch is provided. Seating is limited and will be offered on a first-come, first served basis.

Gala Red Ribbon Ball Apr. 20



It's time to dress up and enjoy Cuban rhythms and exotic island food with SCHN (Southern Colorado Health Network—formerly S-CAP) at "One Hot Night in Havana" - the annual Red Ribbon Ball. This glamorous fundraiser will be held on April 20 at the Antlers Hotel, 4 South Cascade Avenue in Colorado Springs.

All funds raised support S-CAP's HIV/AIDS services, including education, prevention and outreach programs to young adults and individuals in high risk populations.

To purchase tickets, check the website at <https://bit.ly/2Hlirqx> and/or call (303) 837-0166.

APRIL PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday
April 16, 2019
7:00 p.m.

An Evening of Conversation and

Small Group Discussions With Members of PFLAG

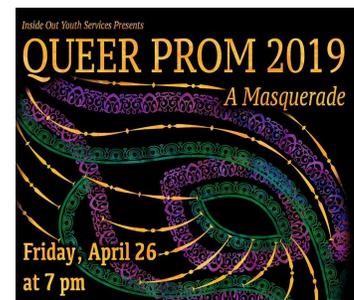
The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street

Light refreshments

Social time starts at 6:30 p.m.
Everyone is welcome.

"The Masquerade" Apr 26 The Inside/Out Gay Prom

Inside/Out Youth Services will present its 2019 Gay Prom on Friday, April 26 at 7 p.m. at the Palmer High School Gym. Last year, 325 youth came to the Prom. Organizers say attendance this year may top 500. Queer Prom Rocks!



A message from Inside/Out:

"Inside Out Youth Services is proud to present Queer Prom – "A Masquerade". Queer prom is for our young lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,

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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 this 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 Colorado Springs on Facebook:
PFLAG - Colorado Springs
<https://www.facebook.com/PFLAGCS/>

PFLAG National Office website:
www.pflag.org

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To receive your newsletter by e-mail, send a request to info@cspflag.org

PFLAG Board Welcomes New Members

Colorado Springs PFLAG recently welcomed Wes and Cheryl Prichard as new board members.

Wes and Cheryl are the parents of two awesome millennials and are enjoying their empty nest. When not attending PFLAG meetings you might find Cheryl leading a tour at the Fine Arts Center, reading, traveling, or practicing yoga. When not working as an engineer, Wes enjoys cycling, gardening, and training with their rescue dog Ranger. They both want a world where diversity is appreciated and all people are respected and valued for who they are.

The other current board members are Jerry Albrent, Karen Stith, Bill Oliver, Elaine Myers, cCndy Waldemann and Jackie Thompson.

This is Important!

You don't always know where other people are on their journey.

THEREFORE, PFLAG meetings are always a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear

Must remain strictly confidential.

- Thank you.

TransParent Group

The TransParent group at Inside/Out for parents of gender variant and transgender youth usually meets on the third Thursday of the month from 6:00—7:30 p.m. at Inside/Out Youth Services, 223 North Wahsatch Ave. For more information, call Inside/Out at 328-1056.

TYES

Transgender Youth Education and Support (TYES) is a Boulder-based parent group that provides information and a community of support for parents of gender dysphoric and gender variant young children.

PFLAG collaborates with TYES to provide support to parents in the Pikes Peak region. For more information, call (719) 425-9567 or send an e-mail to info@cspflag.org. The national TYES website is: www.TYES-Colorado.org.

Queer Prom 2019 "The Masquerade"



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intersex, questioning (LGBTIQ)+ allied people ages 13-22.

"This is YOUR opportunity to be who you are, express yourself as you are, dance, dress up, + have Queer prom by YOU for YOU. Seriously, people tell us this is one of the best events of their life. You don't want to miss it!

"Drop by Inside Out Youth Services, located at 223 North Wahsatch Avenue, during our open hours to pick up prom attire from our clothing closet. OR drop off your donated Queer Prom attire and accessories!

"Tickets are \$5 in advance and at the door. Call 719-328-1056 to pick yours up!"

Many dedicated I/O staff and volunteers work to support Queer Prom. To sign up to volunteer as a chaperone or to help with set up/tear down, contact Sophie:

Sophie@insideoutys.org

See also Inside Out Youth Services on Facebook and its website:

www.insideoutys.org

Queer Prom is co-sponsored by Palmer GSTA, Z-Luxe Photography, Pepsi, Concrete Couch and International Salon and Spa Academy.

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.

SAGE LGBT Senior Hotline

The SAGE LGBT Elder Hotline is available for anyone aged 50 or over who wishes to discuss issues related to sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Staffed entirely by highly trained LGBT volunteers, the Hotline can be reached at 888-234-SAGE from 4 p.m. to midnight Monday through Friday, and on Saturday from noon to 5 p.m., eastern time.

The Hotline can also be accessed at: www.LGBTHotline.org/SAGE



Calvary United Methodist Church Takes a Powerful Stand

The past month has been a difficult one for the United Methodist Church. Its General Conference—the global representative body that makes decisions for the entire denomination—voted on February 26 to strengthen bans on same-sex marriages and the ordination of LGBTQ+ clergy. Calvary United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs has been and continues to be a welcoming and affirming congregation for LGBT people. The church recently published the following message on Facebook:

AN OPEN LETTER

To our Gay and Lesbian Brothers and Sisters and their Partners and Friends at Calvary United Methodist Church and in Colorado Springs.
March 10, 2019

Almost two weeks ago, our denomination adopted a plan that denies full inclusion to our brothers and sisters in

Christ who happen to also be members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

We can only imagine the sense of betrayal you have experienced and the hurt and anger you might be feeling.

We said God loves you without exception. We said your loving, committed relationships are blessed by God. We said your calls to ministry would be affirmed. We said it was safe for you to be here. The majority of delegates representing the global membership of the church did not agree.

So, to you and your partners and your friends, we say:

-We reject any suggestion from anyone that some of us are less worthy of full inclusion in the church than other people. Jesus wouldn't do it. We won't either. We are all equally flawed and equally beloved. That makes all of us equally worthy of being a part of the body of Christ and a leader within the church of Christ.



-We apologize to you who have been hurt by our denomination's struggles with drawing the circle wider. As a church, our denomination has not been faithful to the Way of Christ, and we are sorry.

-We pledge to do all we can to continue welcoming and nurturing any gay and lesbian person in our congregation and community. Because our denomination has singled you out for exclusion, we now single you out for inclusion. All means All, and we mean it.

-We pledge to work for the full inclusion of all people in The United Methodist Church and in the world at large, beginning right here at Calvary United Methodist Church. As we have been loved, so we will love.

We are profoundly sorry for the hurt you feel and the pain caused by The United Methodist Church.

Please let this letter convey both our words of consolation and solidarity and our commitment to be the Blessed Community for all persons. Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and soul and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself." To the best of our ability, we intend to do just that.

With All Our Love,
Your Neighbors and Friends
at Calvary United Methodist Church

Editor's Note:

On its website, www.cspflag.org, Colorado Springs PFLAG maintains a list of churches in the Pikes Peak Region that are welcoming and affirming of the LGBT community.

Bill Oliver keeps this list current. To contact Bill, send an e-mail to: info@cspflag.org.

Out Loud Chorus Celebrates 50th Anniversary of Stonewall Riots



Fifty years ago, the Stonewall Riots were a series of spontaneous, violent demonstrations by members of the gay community against a police raid that took place in the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of Manhattan, New York City.

The riots are widely considered the most important events leading to the Gay Liberation Movement and the modern fight for gay rights in the United States. On Day 2 there were 500-600 supporters outside the Inn; on Day 3, there were 1,000.

An excellent, detailed story of the Stonewall Riots can be found on Wikipedia: <https://www.wikipedia.org/>

Out Loud, the Colorado Springs Men's Chorus, will celebrate the Stonewall anniversary and highlight the history of the Gay Rights movement in its spring concert, "50 Shades of Gay". The dates are: May 3 at 7:30 p.m. and May 4 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 20 East St. Vrain, Colorado Springs. A fourth performance is set for May 11 at 2 p.m. at Joshua's Covenant Presbyterian Church in Denver.

Out Loud President Kyle Crutcher provided this preview:

"The concert will be fun. It will be heart wrenching. It will be suitable for families. The singers will be touching on some gay history that preceded Stonewall, and what has come after until now. There are some beautiful choral pieces, a number of popular gay anthems, and even some pop tunes that were on the jukebox at Stonewall the month of the uprising. It will be a powerful and entertaining concert".

Tickets will be available soon online at www.outloudcsmc.com and will also be sold at the door.



BULLETIN BOARD

Apr 2 — Vanessa Dion Fletcher — Two-spirit artist lecture at Fine Arts Center, 30 West Dale Street. 12:00 p.m. See p. 1.

Apr 3— Father James Martin— Live Video Appearance at Colorado College — Cornerstone Arts Center, 7 p.m. See p. 1.

Apr 20 — Red Ribbon Ball —“One Hot Night in Havana” Antlers Hotel. See p. 1.

Apr 26 — Inside/Out Queer Prom —“The Masquerade” at Palmer High School Gym. 7 p.m. See p. 1.

May 3-4 and 11 — Concert — “50 Shades of Gay” celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Stonewall — Out Loud Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus. See p. 3.

May 18 — “Quiet No More” - A Choral Celebration of Stonewall — Denver Gay Men’s Chorus—First United Methodist Church of Golden, CO 7:30 p.m. (Concert will be repeated June 1 in Broomfield; June 7, 8 in Denver. For more information, go to: <https://bit.ly/2TRVW9Y> For tickets, go to: <https://rmarts.org>

Jun 15-16 — PrideFest Denver — Civic Center Park

Jul 12 — One Colorado Statewide Tour—Featuring Gov. Jared Polis — In Colorado Springs as kickoff to PrideFest.

Jul 13-14 — PrideFest Colorado Springs — Save the Date —Help in the PFLAG booth and plan to march with PFLAG in the Pride Parade on Sunday morning.

PFLAG Needs Ushers!

Colorado Springs PFLAG has provided ushers for the concerts presented by Out Loud Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus since Out Loud was founded in 2006.

You can do it! To volunteer, call Cindy Waldmann at 488-9887.

Ally Moms Provide A Critical Lifeline for Trans Youth and Their Parents

By Heather Dockray

From *Mashable.com* Jan. 4, 2019

When 17-year-old transgender teen Leelah Alcorn died by suicide in 2014, it made national headlines — and hit some parents painfully and particularly hard.

Roz Keith was one of those parents. Keith's teenage son had just come out to her as trans a year earlier. She was in the middle of her own parenting journey, and it was "devastating and heartbreaking," Keith told Mashable, to think that Alcorn may have died by suicide "in part because she didn't have parent support."

Alcorn's parents wouldn't refer to Lee-lah as a girl. See story at <https://cnn.it/2CwgPFY>

They sent her to conversion therapy to help correct her gender identity. See <https://bit.ly/17qj6cR>

At the time, Keith was participating in a Facebook group for parents of trans youth. She and another mother started thinking about ways Leelah's parents and even they, as strangers, could have done more to help youth like Leelah.

That's how Keith and her friends came up with Ally Moms, <https://standwithtrans.org/ally-parents/> led specifically by mothers of trans youth. The network provides a list of personal phone numbers of allied moms. Anyone can call an Ally Mom for support at any time.

"Transgender youth need unconditional parent love," Keith told Mashable. "Any trans youth or parent for that matter should be able to call and [...] hear love at the other end of the line."

Keith is now executive director of Stand With Trans, <https://standwithtrans.org/> a Michigan-based nonprofit that operates Ally Moms. Four years after Keith founded the network, the need for caring, informed adults like her is just as acute as it was when she first started.

ALERT—Changes are Coming to the King Soopers Gift Card Fundraising Program. Colorado Springs PFLAG has been participating in this program for years. The program is being revised to drop the gift cards and link the customer's regular King Soopers Card directly to his or her charity of choice. No more reloading gift cards! We'll tell you how to set up this link in the May PFLAG newsletter.

Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019.

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: _____

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

E-mail _____

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

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.