



PFLAG Colorado Springs

April, 2015

Suicide Prevention Hotline and The Trevor Project

The April PFLAG meeting will feature the Pikes Peak Suicide Prevention Hotline and the short film, *Trevor*, which inspired the Trevor Project, a nationwide effort to reduce teen suicide. Janet Karnes, Executive Director of Pikes Peak Suicide Prevention will be the speaker.

Her organization has run a 24-hour suicide prevention hotline (844) 493-8295 for many years, and maintains multiple weekly support groups for at-risk individuals and their families.

The Suicide Prevention office is located at 704 North Tejon Street in Colorado Springs. (719) 573-7447. Information is available on the web at www.pikespeaksuicideprevention.org and also on Facebook.

The Film: In 1994, producers Randy Stone and Peggy Rajski saw writer/performer James Lecesne bring to life

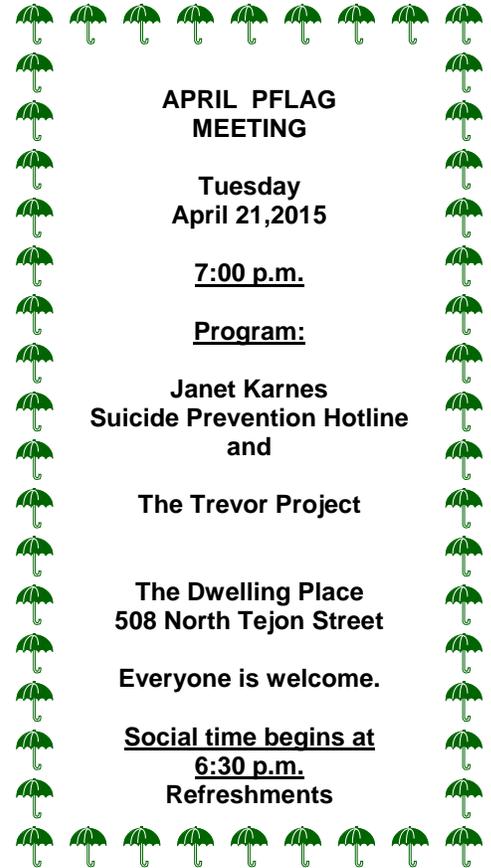
(Continued on page 2)



If someone listens, or stretches out a hand, or whispers a word of encouragement, or attempts to understand a lonely person, extraordinary things begin to happen."

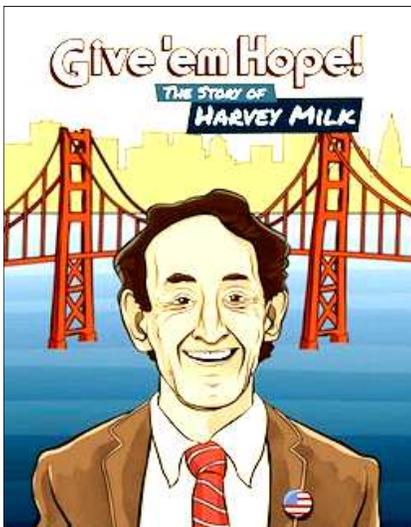
- Loretta Girzartis

StoryCorps will be coming to Colorado Springs in mid-May. We have received a special invitation for PFLAG and TYES families. The deadline is April 30. Details on page 4.



APRIL PFLAG MEETING
 Tuesday
April 21, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Program:
 Janet Karnes
 Suicide Prevention Hotline
 and
 The Trevor Project
 The Dwelling Place
 508 North Tejon Street
 Everyone is welcome.
Social time begins at 6:30 p.m.
 Refreshments

Out Loud Spring Concert: May 2nd: "Give 'Em Hope—The Story of Harvey Milk"



On May 2, Out Loud: the Colorado Springs Men's Chorus will present two performances of its spring concert featuring the story of San Francisco politician Harvey Milk.

"I Am Harvey Milk," an original song cycle by Broadway veteran Andrew Lipka, weaves the story of Harvey Milk's life from boyhood to his rise as the first openly gay man to hold public office in California to his assassination in 1978. Part choral work, part theater piece, "I Am Harvey Milk" is an emotional celebration of an American icon.

For this Colorado Springs premiere, Out Loud will join forces with the Denver Gay Men's Chorus and the

magnificent Colorado Springs Chamber Orchestra. The first half of the concert will showcase Out Loud with songs that inspire and uplift including "Proud," "Request," and "The Quest Unending" (based on Tennyson's work, *Ulysses*).

Performances are scheduled at the First United Methodist Church, 420 North Nevada Avenue in Colorado Springs on Saturday, May 2 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at the Rocky Mountain Arts Association website: <http://www.rmarts.org> or at the door. PFLAG members will be ushering at both concerts.

(Continued on page 2)



Out Loud Concert: Harvey Milk

(Continued from page 1)

Politics and gay activism were not his early interests; he was not open about his homosexuality and did not participate in civic matters until around the age of 40, after his experiences in the counterculture of the 1960s.

Milk moved from New York City to settle in San Francisco in 1972 amid a migration of gay men to the Castro District. He took advantage of the growing political and economic power of the neighborhood to promote his interests, and ran unsuccessfully for political office three times. His theatrical campaigns earned him increasing popularity, and Milk won a seat as a city supervisor in 1977, part of the broader social changes the city was experiencing.

Milk served almost 11 months in office and was responsible for passing a stringent gay rights ordinance for the city. On November 27, 1978, Milk and Mayor George Moscone were assassinated by Dan White, another city supervisor who had recently resigned but wanted his job back. Milk's election was made possible by and was a key component of a shift in San Francisco politics.

Despite his short career in politics, Milk became an icon in San Francisco and a martyr in the gay community. In 2002, Milk was called "the most famous and most significantly open LGBT official ever elected in the United States". Anne Kronenberg, his final campaign manager, wrote of him: "What set Harvey apart from you or me was that he was a visionary. He imagined a righteous world inside his head and then he set about to create it for real, for all of us." Milk was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009.

"Give 'Em Hope: the Story of Harvey Milk" will also be presented by the joint choruses at 2:00 p.m. on May 10th in Laramie, Wyoming.

(Reprinted in part from Wikipedia)

Suicide Prevention (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

Trevor, a character he created as part of his award-winning one-man show WORD OF MOUTH. Convinced that Trevor's story would make a wonderful short film, Stone and Rajski invited Lecesne to adapt it into a screenplay. Rajski directed the movie and TREVOR went on to win many prestigious awards including the 1995 Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film.

When it hurts to live, it helps to talk.

The Trevor Project. Founded in 1998 by the creators of the film, The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) young people ages 13-24.

A trained counselor can be reached through the Trevor Lifeline at any time, 24/7, by calling (866) 488-7386. The Trevor Project website provides education and support resources for youth and also for adults. <http://www.thetrevorproject.org/> Volunteer opportunities and outreach to schools and educators are offered on the site as well.

This newsletter is published by the Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).

PFLAG Mission Statement:

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) 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 secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

PFLAG IS FOR EVERYONE

If you've never been to one of our meetings, we feel you will find it rewarding and may find it leads to a new sense of family.

Membership is not required.

All are welcome.

To join the 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
E-mail: karenfstith@gmail.com

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

Trans Youth Education and Support (TYES)

TYES is a PFLAG affiliate that offers education and support to families with gender non-conforming 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. They hold monthly family meetings. 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,

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



RFRA: Religious Freedom or Discrimination?
Panel Discussion at UCCS
Monday, April 20 7:15 p.m.

The Center for Religious Diversity and Public Life at UCCS is hosting a timely event, "Religious Freedom or Discrimination?" that addresses the controversy over RFRA in Indiana, Arkansas and elsewhere.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) intends to protect the First Amendment right to free exercise of religion. Yet it recently has been accused of permitting discrimination against members of the LGBT community, amongst others.

The public is invited to this free panel discussion on RFRA—what it is and what its implications are for Colorado and the country. Panel members are:

Timothy Fuller, Professor of Political Science, Colorado College;

Martin Nussbaum, Attorney, Lewis Roca Rothgerber, Colorado Springs

Mark Silverstein, Attorney, Colorado ACLU

Nori Rost, Reverend, All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, Colorado Springs

The event will take place on Monday, April 20th, 7:15-8:30 p.m. in the University Center Theater, Room 302, on the UCCS campus. There is free parking in Lot 222,

For more information, contact Jeffrey Scholes, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Director, Center for Religious Diversity and Public Life, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs jscholes@uccs.edu .

Always Remember
That our PFLAG meetings are a safe space. Who you meet, and what you hear

— Keep it confidential.

White House Supports Efforts to Ban Conversion Therapy

On April 8th, the Obama Administration came out in support of efforts to ban the dangerous, discredited practice known as conversion therapy.



As reported by *The Advocate*, The White House formally responded to a petition on WeThePeople.gov

seeking a ban on efforts to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of young people.

The petition called for the creation of "Leelah's Law," ideally national legislation that would prohibit licensed therapists from engaging in the scientifically discredited practice of so-called conversion therapy. [The petition on the government's We the People website](http://ThePetitionOnTheGovernment'sWeThePeopleWebsite) was authored in the

wake of transgender Ohio teenager Leelah Alcorn's suicide.

In a note that went viral after she scheduled it to post to Tumblr after her death, the 17-year-old Alcorn detailed the harm she endured when subjected to conversion therapy by a Christian therapist she was taken to by her parents. The petition obtained more than 100,000 signatures in January, triggering a formal response from the White House.

Noting that the practice is often used on minors, "who lack the legal authority to make their own medical and mental health decisions," senior White House adviser Valerie Jarrett offered full-throated support from the administration toward efforts to ban such "therapy," which has been denounced by every major medical and mental health organization in the country as not only ineffective but likely to harm.

Amanda Simpson, Executive Director, U.S. Army Office of Energy Initiatives released a statement and video link on April 10th. The statement and link were immediately forwarded to PFLAG chapters by PFLAG President Jean Hodges of Boulder with the following comment:

The statement from the White House this week about conversion therapy has been followed up below. Please take a moment to watch the video. It is pretty amazing both in content and the statement that is being made from the White House about American ideals. I have said it before and will say it again and again, PFLAG's values are America's values.

Simpson's statement:

"Across the country, there are doctors working to convince people to change their sexual orientation or gender identity. It's known as "conversion therapy", but it could also be called brainwashing or reprogramming.

"Loving and compassionate parents and ministers who are trying to do the right thing are doing just the opposite. They are influenced by bad science, not grounded in fact. This so-called "conversion therapy" is harmful.

"A couple of days ago, the White House came out in support of efforts to ban the use of conversion therapy. And, as a transgender woman, this is especially personal to me. No one should be forced to be someone they're not. Everyone should be valued for their authentic, true self - who they are - regardless of the gender with which they identify, or who they love.

"I recently talked with a few other people in the Administration about why conversion therapy is so dangerous, and why it was so important for the White House to take a strong stance against the practice. **Here's what we have to say:** " (Click to follow link. Or go to www.whitehouse.gov/share)



BULLETIN BOARD

Apr. 20— “RFRA— Religious Freedom or Discrimination?” Panel discussion 7:15—8:30 p.m. at University Theater Center. See p. 3.

Apr. 24— Queer Prom Sponsored by Inside/Out. For more information, see www.insideoutys.org or call 328-1056.

May 2—Give ‘Em Hope! The Story of Harvey Milk—Out Loud spring concert. First United Methodist Church, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. See p. 1.

May 9—23rd Annual Red Ribbon Ball “Journey Into Wonderland” Fund-raiser for S-CAP (Southern Colorado Aids Project) at the Antlers Hilton Hotel. Music: Phat Daddy and the Phat Horn Doctors. For information and tickets go to: <http://scapball.kintera.org>

June 20-21—Denver Pridefest—40th Anniversary — Last year 365,000 people attended this festival, making it one of the largest Pride celebrations in the country. For information, go [to](http://www.glbtcOLORADO.org/pridefest/)

July 11-12 — Colorado Springs 25th Annual Pride Festival— America the Beautiful Park. Visit Colorado Springs Pridefest on Facebook.

July 10-11-12—Gender Spectrum Conference and Professionals Symposium—St. Mary’s College, Moraga, California. Gender Spectrum provides education, training and support to help create a gender sensitive and inclusive environment for all children and teens. See www.genderspectrum.org

**StoryCorps Coming to Colorado Springs May 21 – June 19
A Time-Sensitive, Special Invitation to PFLAG Families**

- By Bill Oliver

StoryCorps is a national, nonprofit oral history organization that provides people of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share and preserve the stories of their lives.

StoryCorps OutLoud is its special initiative to celebrate and preserve the diverse stories of LGBT communities.

The heart of *StoryCorps* is a 40-minute conversation between two people who know each other. At the end of the conversation, participants take home a free CD recording to share with family and friends as they see fit. With the participants’ permission, a copy will be archived in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, as well as in a community archive.

Many of us are familiar with the 3-4 minute *StoryCorps* program airing on National Public Radio (KRCC 91.5 FM) every Friday as part of Morning Edition. Understand that there is about a 1% chance of your conversation being broadcast nationally. It’s our understanding, however, that some of our stories will be aired locally on KRCC. In either case, the 40-min talk would be edited to a far shorter piece, and

you would be contacted about providing permission for the airing. It’s best to look upon this program as simply a way to record and preserve what two friends or relatives have that is special to share with each other about their lives.

The *StoryCorps* mobile booth will be making a single stop in Colorado – which will be four weeks in Colorado Springs, May 21st – June 19th. The recording sessions will be Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat & Sun; in one-hour slots from 10:30 – 6:30. PFLAG is especially looking for pairs of people to participate in the *OutLoud* context. Examples and more info here: <http://storycorps.org/outloud/>

We are being given the special opportunity to sign up in late April, about two weeks ahead of the general population.

Please contact Bill Oliver, gnarly-bill@hotmail.com, to discuss signing up through PFLAG.

***PFLAG Thanks* —**

The Saponas Foundation and First Congregational United Church of Christ for their significant, ongoing support of the Colorado Springs PFLAG Chapter.

Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015.

Name: _____

_____ New member _____ Renewing member

Address: _____

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

City: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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 contributions are tax deductible. All information will remain confidential. PFLAG is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization.