



PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

April 2016

Metropolitan Community Church Pastor Alycia Erickson Heads April PFLAG Panel of Spiritual Leaders

At the May PFLAG meeting, Rev. Alycia Erickson of the Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church will chair a panel of spiritual leaders in a discussion of faith, sexual orientation and families.

Many of the struggles people have with coming to terms with a loved one's gender identity or sexual orientation come from religious beliefs or doctrine. The panel discussion will explore Christian and Jewish perspectives on different ways people have come to terms with spirituality and sexuality. Other panel members will include Rev. Diane Martin, a pastor in the United Church of Christ; and Joe Charnes, an authority on Judaism, who will share Jewish perspectives.

Rev. Erickson has been the senior pastor at Pikes Peak MCC since March, 2015. Before her call to this church, she served for six years at MCC Austin, Texas. She was ordained in MCC in 2010, and has served the church at the national level

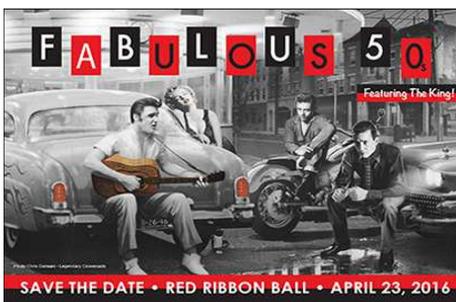


Rev. Alycia Erickson

on several teams including the Judiciary Team and the Clergy Well-Being Team.

**Out Loud Chorus
10th Anniversary Celebration
April 30th!
Details on p. 3**

Red Ribbon Ball—The Fabulous 50s—Featuring The King!



The 24th annual Red Ribbon Ball, celebrating and supporting the Southern Colorado Aids Project (S-CAP), is sure to be a blast from the past. This gala annual fundraiser featuring silent and live auctions, dinner, music and

dancing will be held at the Antlers Hotel on April 23, starting at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$125 per person.

This will be an outrageously fun evening filled with wonder, whimsy, delightful dining and dancing, and creative fundraising, all supporting S-CAP's education, prevention, and outreach programs to young adults and individuals in high risk populations, as well as directly benefiting individuals and families personally impacted by HIV and AIDS.

Tickets, are available online at <http://scapball2016.kintera.org/> or call 578-9092.



APRIL PFLAG MEETING

**Tuesday
April 19, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

**Spiritual Leaders
Panel Discussion**

**The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street
Everyone is welcome.**

Social time begins at 6:30 p.m.

LGBT Health Rights Workshop - April 5

One Colorado is providing an LGBT Health Rights Workshop at the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), 1102 South 21st Street in Colorado Springs on April 5th, starting at 7 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Coloradans face unique physical and mental health barriers. To dig a bit deeper into these issues, One Colorado is providing a workshop about the rights of LGBT patients, how they can access care, and how to fight discrimination in health care.

The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) and other state policies have increased LGBT rights in healthcare. The workshop will provide information about those rights, and will show how to manage insurance denials and appeals and navigate the health care system to get the best care without fear or retaliation.

A nonprofit corporation founded in 2009, One Colorado is the state's leading advocacy organization for LGBT people and their families.



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

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

Are You Facebook-Savvy?

Our chapter president, Doug Kirkpatrick, would like some help in learning how to manage the PFLAG Facebook account. He's been handling it, but he sure would like someone to help him bring it up to date and post a wider variety of material. If you can help, please call him at (719) 598-6509.

"Marked at Birth" March 30 Article in the *Indy*

J. Adrian Stanley, a reporter with *The Independent* weekly newspaper in Colorado Springs, has written an article about the issues attending the transition process for trans people with regard to birth certificates and identification.

A bill to make it easier for transgender people in Colorado to change their birth certificates passed the Democratic House but failed in a Republican Senate committee last week. The bill would have allowed the change without the person getting surgery, and the new birth certificate would not be marked "amended", as is the case now.

Read the story on the *Indy* website:
<http://www.csindy.com/coloradosprings/ArticleArchives?section=1064314>

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

The Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church

The Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church is part of the larger MCC denomination founded in 1968 to meet the needs and challenges of people of faith who had been alienated by their own home churches because of their sexual orientation.

MCC has been deeply involved in the issues of GLBTQ people, including the HIV/AIDS crisis, political challenges, and the rights of all people to live as God's children and to love and marry according to their orientation.

Homosexuality and The Church. The most beautiful word in the Gospel is "whosoever". All of God's promises are intended for every human being. This includes GLBT people.

How tragic it is that the Church has excluded and persecuted people who are gay! We are all created in the image of God to need personal relationships. Our quality of life depends upon the love we share with others, whether family or friends, partners or peers. Yet, GLBT people facing hostile attitudes in society are often denied access to healthy relationships.

Christ calls us to find ultimate meaning in life through a personal relationship with our Creator. This important spiritual union can bring healing and strength to all of our human relationships.

PPMCC Website: <http://ppmcc.org/>

Always Remember —
That our PFLAG meetings are a safe space.
Who you meet, and what you hear—
Must remain strictly confidential.

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



Out Loud Celebrates 10th Anniversary of First Concert



On a cool spring night ten years ago, twenty men walked onto the stage in the sanctuary at First Congregational Church and looked out in emotional amazement at the enthusiastic audience that filled every seat and overflowed out into the churchyard. That evening Out Loud, The Colorado Springs Mens Chorus, was born. The program included spiritual music and Broadway songs. After intermission, the members of the Denver Gay Men's Chorus, a surprise appearance, surrounded the stage and sang to them in joyful welcome. It was a brave act, in Colorado Springs in 2006, for these men to stand up and sing with a gay chorus, in a public concert. No-one who was there will ever forget that amazing evening.

Everyone is invited to Out Loud's 10th Anniversary Celebration on April 30th. at Gold Hill Mesa Community Center, 142 South Raven Mine Dr. *(continued on p. 4)*

"Our Witness" - An Outreach to Attendees of Q - An Annual Anti-LGBT Christian Conference in Denver

In an effort to reach out to evangelical Christians who downplay or ignore the experience of LGBT+ Christians, Brandon Robertson of Nomad Partnerships has put together "Our Witness - the Unheard Stories of LGBT+ Christians" to take place on April 23 from 1-4 p.m. at the Denver Community Church, 1595 Pearl Street, Denver.

This event will immediately follow the anti-LGBT "Q" Conference in Denver.

The Q Conference is an annual event which brings together evangelical leaders and influencers from across the country. At this year's Q Conference, April 21-23, the topic of "gender dysphoria" will be addressed specifically, and the topics of sexuality, gender identity, and LGBT rights are likely to come up in several other scheduled sessions.

However, **no** openly pro-LGBT+ Christian speakers will be present at the Q Conference.

Q has also recently spent over two months hosting a podcast series called "the Gay Conversation" (<http://gpodcast.org>) which has included interviews with some of the leading Christian opponents of LGBT+ rights in the U.S. Only four openly pro-LGBT+ people were invited to participate out of the 26 people interviewed in the series.

Because of this continual omission of the LGBT+ Christians, "Our Witness" is being offered immediately following the Q Conference to help the attendees of Q to experience the stories of LGBT+ Christians.

"Our Witness" will bring together 11 leading LGBT+ Christian authors, activists, psychotherapists and allies to share their stories in 15 minute TED-style talks. The purpose of this event is not to protest Q, but to give attendees of Q the chance to engage with real stories and perspectives of LGBT+ Christians in a safe and welcoming environment.

This event is not limited to Q attendees. It is open to the general public. Admission is \$12. For more information and to purchase tickets, Click here: [Our Witness](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/our-witness-denver-tickets-21790619329) (or type in: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/our-witness-denver-tickets-21790619329>).

Nomad Partnerships is a non-profit organization that seeks to equip and empower faith leaders to be fierce advocates for human rights. <http://www.nomadpartnerships.org/>

You must make a commitment.

Without it, you are just occupying space"

- Harvey Milk

The Military After the Repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

Col. Gary Packard to Speak at MOSAIC/UCCS— April 12

Colonel Gary Packard, Jr., Permanent Professor at the United States Air Force Academy, will give a presentation at UCCS on Tuesday, April 12th, at the invitation of MOSAIC/UCCS. He will provide an update on the status of LGBT service members in the military after the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy. His new information includes recent very positive developments in allowing transgender individuals to serve openly in the military. Check out this amazing video about a trans couple on active duty: [type address into browser:](http://www.nytimes.com/video/opinion/100000003720527/transgender-at-war-and-in-love.html)

<http://www.nytimes.com/video/opinion/100000003720527/transgender-at-war-and-in-love.html>

PFLAG members will recall that Col. Packard spoke about the repeal of DADT in an event organized by Bill Oliver for PFLAG at Shove Chapel on May 3, 2012.

MOSAIC is the multicultural center at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. Its website is at <http://www.uccs.edu/mosaic/index.html> The LGBT Resource Center @ MOSAIC exists as part of the university's ongoing commitment to fostering a positive and inclusive atmosphere for everyone on campus. As part of the Multicultural Office for Student Access, Inclusiveness, and Community (MOSAIC), the LGBT Resource Center is designed to provide resources and information to LGBT students, advocate for LGBT interests throughout campus, conduct outreach and education, and ensure that LGBT voices are represented among the campus at large.

Col. Packard's presentation begins at 6 p.m. in Room 124 in the University Center. This event is free and open to the public.



BULLETIN BOARD

April 5 — LGBT Health Rights Workshop — Sponsored by One Colorado. Metropolitan Community Church, 1102 South 21st Street, 7:00 p.m. Details on p. 1..

April 12 — Colonel Gary Packard at MOSAIC/UCCS
Col. Packard will provide an update on the military singe the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell". 6 p.m., University Center 124. Details on p. 3.

April 23— "The Fabulous 50s" — Red Ribbon Ball
Gala fundraiser for Southern Colorado Aids Project (S-CAP). Antlers Hotel, 4 South Cascade Avenue, 6:00 p.m. Details on p. 1.

April 23 — Our Witness Conference — Denver Community Church, 1595 Pearl Street, Denver 1—4 p.m. LGBT + Christian presenters. Follows two-day anti-LGBT Q Conference. Details on p. 3

April 30— Out Loud Colorado Springs Mens Chorus— 10th Anniversary Celebration — Gold Hill Mesa Community Center, 142 South Raven Mine Drive, 6:00 p.m.

May 20-21— Out Loud Colorado Springs Mens Chorus— Spring Concert. Friday evening, Saturday matinee, and Saturday evening. Reserve your slot as a PFLAG usher by contacting Cindy Waldmann 488-9887.

June 2 — Citizens Project "Creating Community" Breakfast. Antlers Hotel. Sit at the PFLAG Table!

June 18— Out Loud Colorado Springs Mens Chorus - Pre- GALA Festival Event. Save the date—details to be announced.

July 2-6 Gala Choruses Festival in Denver—Colorado is hosting its second GALA Festival. Like the World Cup, GALA happens every 4 years. See <http://galachoruses.org>

July 9-10—Colorado Springs PrideFest.

Easy King Soopers Fundraiser Supports Colorado Springs PFLAG

Join the 14 PFLAG-ers who have already purchased reloadable King Soopers Gift Cards at our meetings. Every time they reload the card and purchase grocer-



ies PFLAG receives 5%. Now that's an easy fundraiser! The The flyer enclosed with this newsletter answers frequently asked questions. It is a good idea to photocopy your gift card or keep a record of its unique number for security, since the card like cash. Please participate!

Celebrate Out Loud's 10th Anniversary—April 30

(Continued from page 3)

The celebration will begin at 6:00 p.m. There is no charge for this event, but donations to Out Loud are warmly encouraged and appreciated. . Appetizers and music will be provided, a cash bar will be available, and participants will enjoy remembrances from the past decade. Please note that the phone number in the flyer is not correct. For more information, send an e-mail to: OutLoud10th@gmail.com

PFLAG Ushers Needed for Out Loud Spring Concert

For the past ten years, PFLAG has provided ushers for Out Loud Concerts. Ushers are needed for the three performances of the spring concerts on May 20-21. Call soon to get on the usher list! Call Cindy Waldmann 488-9887.

Citizens Project "Creating Community" Breakfast

We need a table captain for the PFLAG table for this event to be held on June 2. There is a get-together for table captains on [April 26](#). If you can help, please send an e-mail to info@cspflag.org or talk to a board member.

Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016.

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