



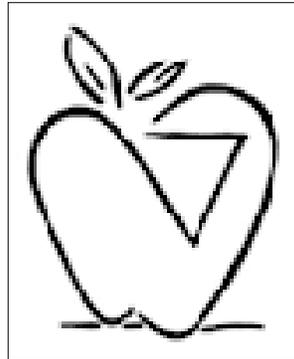
PFLAG Colorado Springs

August, 2015

Panel to Discuss "Safe@School" Efforts

The August PFLAG meeting will feature a panel discussion of the issues currently facing LGBT students in schools and what can be done to reduce bullying. Panelists include Anton Schulzki, social studies teacher, sponsor for many years of the Gay-Straight Transgender Alliance at Palmer High School and currently president of the board of directors of Inside/ut Youth services; Jan Tanner, member of the district 11 Board of Education; and Park Long, student in the International Baccalaureate Program at Palmer High School. Park is entering his senior year and is co-president of the GSTA..

Schulzki has been a leader in the Pikes Peak Safe@School Coalition, part of an international public-private Safe Schools partnership in support of



Safe Schools Partnership

LGBT youth which seeks to make schools safer and more welcoming for LGBT students and their peers. The Pikes Peak was founded at Inside/Out Youth Services under the

(Continued on page 2)

PrideFest PFLAG Float a Hit With Children, Crowd

PFLAG had its first-ever float in the July 2015 Pride Parade, thanks to the efforts of three families in our TYES program.

TYES leader Keria Shaw and her husband, Kevin, did a great job in creating the float so that the ten young children in the TYES families could ride in the parade.



There was music, there were bubbles pouring out of both sides of the float, and the crowd loved it. Thank you, Keria, Kevin, Jennifer, Angel and all the TYES siblings who worked to make this a very special PrideFest Parade for everyone involved with PFLAG.

Thanks, too, to those who marched in the parade and managed the booth for two days, especially Cindy and Steve Waldmann, Amy and Steve Long, Keria and Kevin Shaw, Angel, Jennifer, Marilyn Davis, Karen Stith, Bill Oberg, Bill Oliver and Doug Kirkpatrick.

AUGUST PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday
August 18, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Safe@School

Panel discussion

The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street

Everyone is welcome.

Social time begins at
6:30 p.m.

AIDS Walk in Denver 8/15

Colorado Springs PFLAG is invited to join the PFLAG Denver Team at the AIDS Walk Colorado on August 15th.

The Walk starts at 9 a.m. in Cheeseman Park.

This is the Rocky Mountain Region's largest one-day HIV/AIDS fundraiser, raising money for vital services for HIV/AIDS clients of Colorado AIDS Project (including S-CAP—Colorado Springs).

Join the team by walking, donating or both. To make a donation, go to www.aidswalkcolorado.org, click on Teams, then scroll down to PFLAG Denver. When the team's web page opens, sign up to join and make a donation specifically to the PFLAG team. Alternatively, write your check to AWC and mail to PFLAG Denver, P.O. Box 18901, Denver, 80218. For more information, call Denver PFLAG at (303) 573-5861.



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

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www.cspflag.org

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

Volunteer Opportunities With CSP PFLAG

There are currently several good volunteer opportunities available with PFLAG in Colorado Springs. What can you do to strengthen our outreach? We need your help.

Represent PFLAG - We need volunteers to represent PFLAG at meetings of the Equality Coalition, Citizens Project and Safe@School Coalition.

Colorado PFLAG Coalition - The Colorado Coalition of PFLAG chapters meets four times a year in different locations on the Front Range. Meet PFLAG volunteers from other parts of the state and learn more about what is going on. Doug is secretary of the Coalition and will be glad to have others join him at the meetings.

Tabling - Volunteers are needed to staff a PFLAG information table for the Colorado School Counselors' Conference at the Antlers Hotel on November 11-12-13. Other tabling opportunities arise from time to time.

If you can help, call Doug at 598-6509 or send him an e-mail at 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

Safe@School Panel (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

direction of former I/O executive directors Shawna Kemppainen and Eric Pizana.

The coalition involves school staff, parents, students and community organizations in an effort to make schools safer for all students, regardless of sexual orientation, transgender status or gender identity/gender expression. The coalition provides consultation and training, as well as general information and support about effective bias-based bullying intervention strategies.

For every LGBT student bullied because of their actual sexual orientation or gender identity, there are four "straight" students harassed because of their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. The Pikes Peak Safe@School Coalition collaborates in a statewide effort supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and all students who are targets of this type of bias-based harassment and discrimination.

Harassment, exclusion and violence no longer have to be rites of passage for young people at school. For more information on the Pikes Peak Safe@School Coalition go to: <https://www.insideoutys.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/PPSSCoalitionFlyer.pdf>

Facebook Pages

Remember to keep an eye on the new Colorado Springs PFLAG Facebook page, recently set up by Keria Shaw and Doug Kirkpatrick.

There is also an excellent Trans Youth Education and Support of Colorado (TYES) page on Facebook featuring links to stories pertaining to gender-diverse youth and families.

Take action to be an advocate for the LGBT community by clicking on "like" to share these pages with your Facebook friends.



“Do I Sound Gay?” - A Driveway Moment

Those who listen to National Public Radio (NPR) will recognize the “Driveway Moment” - when you are listening to an NPR story in your car, you reach your destination, and the story is so good that you have to just turn off the engine and sit there until it is finished. Several of our chapter members had this response to an NPR Fresh Air story on July 7th.

In his new film *Do I Sound Gay?*, filmmaker David Thorpe searches for the origin of the so-called “gay voice” and documents his own attempts (with speech pathologist Susan Sankin) to sound “less gay.”

Is there such a thing as a “gay voice”? For Thorpe, the answer to that question is complicated. “There is no such thing as a fundamentally gay voice,” Thorpe tells *Fresh Air*’s Terry Gross. But, he adds, “there is a stereotype

and there are men, to a greater or lesser extent, who embody that stereotype.”

“I’ve always been self-conscious about sounding gay,” Thorpe adds. “I think that that comes from childhood — I was always aware that my voice potentially gave me away to bullies.”

Thorpe describes the gay voice as one characterized by a sibilant S and a high pitch. “When I interview people,” Thorpe says, “they always say that to them the gay voice ... is a voice that’s high, that’s melodious, that’s hyper-articulate, that’s perhaps uncertain because it goes up at the end. All of those things kind of add up, essentially, to an effeminate stereotype.”

Thorpe continues, “One of the revelations of making this film was that this is something that had always bothered me and every time, basically, I talk to a gay man I would find out that he also had either spent a lot of time thinking about his voice or used to be self-conscious about his voice or still felt self-conscious about his voice. And it was so shocking to me that none of us had ever spoken to each other about it.”

“There’s a dinner party scene in the film with my two best friends for the last 15 years, and I learn in that dinner party that one of them has really struggled to accept his voice. And I learn that the other one has [not only] struggled with his voice but just with being gay in general. And he says, “I just have a generalized self-loathing.” And it was so shocking to me, this kind of casual confession of shame, because it really isn’t something we had ever talked about.”

To hear this intriguing interview, click on the link below.

<http://www.npr.org/2015/07/07/420627143/filmmaker-and-speech-pathologist-weigh-in-on-what-it-means-to-sound-gay?sc=ipad&f=1008>

Elsa’s Story — Family Learns to Let Girl Live as “Truegender”



The Denver Post recently produced an excellent in-depth video and article about a Boulder TYES family with a 9-year-old gender-variant child.

“It came easily to Kai McKenzie to tell her child, ‘You can be a boy who loves beautiful things and that’s a wonderful thing to be.’” It took six years for Kai to realize that wasn’t enough.

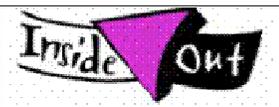
This is the child, who at the carefree age of 3, while tossing a penny into a Denver fountain, said, “I wish I was a girl.” And then after glancing at her mother: “I wish I was a boy. I wish I was a prince.”

That was six years ago.

Now, she has chosen the name of Elsa, for the Disney princess of ice who guarded a dark secret but then “let it go” and found a way to live as her true self. Her family says she is “truegender” — not transgender — because she is living true to the gender she has identified with as early as her toddler days, when she refused to put on anything that wasn’t beautiful. When she was teased for wearing headbands and hair pretties to preschool. When she played dress-up as a girl she called Ruby.

It is who she has always been. It was not a transition.

The article and video can be found at: <http://extras.denverpost.com/transgender/elsa.html>



New
Director!

Mary G. Malia became the new Executive Director of Inside/Out Youth Services in July 2015, replacing Eric Pizana, who is now with Care&Share.

Her background includes leadership positions with The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and The Residential Care Consortium. She’s also a woman who lives her lesbian life out loud after having stints of being in the closet professionally. She took a stand and founded a business coaching lesbian, bisexual and transgender women on strategic relationship skills, dating and how to run online businesses.

Mary is a “late to lesbian life” woman and has two grown children who reside on the East Coast. She loves hiking, biking and meetup groups.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING:

The Annual Meeting of Colorado Springs PFLAG will take place at the monthly chapter meeting on Tuesday, September 21. The board of directors for the coming year will be elected.



Sexual Orientation Discrimination Is Barred By Existing Law, Federal Commission Rules

By [Chris Geidner](#), BuzzFeed News Reporter, July 16, 2015

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has ruled that existing civil rights law bars sexual orientation-based employment discrimination — a groundbreaking decision to advance protections for gay, lesbian, and bisexual workers.

The ruling applies to federal employees' claims directly, but it also applies to the entire EEOC, which includes its offices across the nation that take and investigate claims of discrimination in private employment.

Only the Supreme Court could issue a definitive ruling on the interpretation, but EEOC decisions are given significant deference by federal courts.

While the EEOC had been pushing toward today's decision with cases addressing coverage under Title VII of specific types of discrimination faced by gay people, the July 15 decision states that "sexual orientation is inherently a 'sex-based consideration.'"

"The question is not whether sexual orientation is explicitly listed in Title VII as a prohibited basis for employment actions. It is not," the commission found. Instead, the commission stated that the question is the same as in any other Title VII sex discrimination case: "whether the agency has 'relied on sex-based considerations' or 'take[n] gender into account' when taking the challenged employment action."

The commission found that sexual orientation discrimination is sex discrimination because it "necessarily entails treating an employee less favorably because of the employee's sex" and "because it is associational discrimination on the basis of sex."

Tico Almeida, the head of Freedom to Work, celebrated the decision — and urged LGBT groups to go to the courts to seek codification of the ruling.

BULLETIN BOARD

August 15—AIDS Walk Colorado— in Denver. See p. 1

September 13— Boulder Pride Celebration— More information at Out Boulder: <http://www.outboulder.org/> Contact PFLAG in Boulder to participate. <http://pflagboulder.org/>

October 16-18— PFLAG National Convention, Nashville, Tennessee. Join PFLAG supporters from across the nation for two days and nights of honing skills, building relationships and celebrating. More information on the PFLAG website at: <http://community.pflag.org/2015convention>

November 11-12-13—Colorado School Counselors Conference, Antlers Hotel, Colorado Springs. PFLAG will have a table at the conference to acquaint counselors with the support services PFLAG and TYES offer. Volunteers are needed.

"Freedom to Work applauds this historic decision by the EEOC, and we encourage gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals who face harassment or discrimination on the job to consult an attorney and file Title VII claims with the EEOC and eventually the federal courts," he said. "Our LGBT movement should take this strongly reasoned legal victory and run with it by returning to the federal courts to win workplace protections in all fifty states.

The Human Rights Campaign's president, Chad Griffin, pushed for legislative action to confirm the protections.

"This historic ruling by the EEOC makes clear they agree workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, much like gender identity, is illegal," he said, adding, "It highlights the need for a comprehensive federal law permanently and clearly banning LGBT discrimination beyond employment to all areas of American life."

Almeida, however, shot back, "I bet we can get LGBT workplace or housing cases to the U.S. Supreme Court sooner than the U.S. House of Representatives will allow an up-or-down vote on a comprehensive LGBT non-discrimination bill."

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: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail _____

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

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.