



# PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

August 2017

## 30th Anniversary AIDS Walk Colorado—August 19th!

You are encouraged to participate in the 30th Anniversary AIDS Walk Colorado in Denver's beautiful downtown Cheesman Park on Saturday, August 19th.



Over 8,000 people from all over Colorado will come together as a community at Cheesman Park to raise money for vital services for HIV/AIDS clients of Colorado Health Network (Colorado AIDS Project and Howard Dental Center) and other AIDS service organizations throughout Colorado.

The event serves as a day to remember those we have lost to the disease, with panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt and a 5K Awareness walk through Denver's Capitol Hill neighborhood. Following the walk, the Celebration of Life Festival honors those living with the disease and the progress we've made toward ending this disease. The festival includes numerous vendors, live entertainment, food, beverages, and the 9th annual AIDS Walk Colorado Volleyball Tournament, held in cooperation with the Colorado Gay Volleyball Association.

The annual local AIDS Walk in the Garden of the Gods, "A Walk In the Garden", which raises money for the Southern Colorado AIDS Project (SCAP) will not be held this year. Past participants are encouraged to support the Denver walk. S-CAP supports those living with HIV/AIDS in southeastern Colorado.

Your participation in AIDS Walk Colorado on August 19th benefits S-CAP's parent organization. And it's fun! Learn more and register or make a donation at the AIDS Walk Colorado website: <http://bit.ly/2v1ZND>

## An Excellent PrideFest

The *Gazette's* headline said it so well: "Event, City Have Evolved Over 27 Years as 'Diversity, Respect and Acceptance Valued'". Even at its most boisterous, PrideFest was a family affair, drawing an estimated 50,000 people to America the Beautiful Park. Thank you to



Pride Parade 2017— Photo by Tre Wentling

all the PFLAG supporters who marched in the parade and spent hours at the PFLAG booth handing out literature and talking to festival participants.

The topic most often raised by visitors to the booth was how to support transgender and questioning family members and friends. The most popular handouts were two PFLAG booklets titled "Our Trans Loved Ones" and Guide to Being a Trans Ally". Both are

available through the PFLAG National website: [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org) — Shop.

U.S. Rep. Jared Polis was the grand marshall of the parade. The 42 year old millionaire from Boulder has announced that he will run for governor of Colorado in next year's election. "This kind of visibility is so important, to show people of all ages there's a warm, welcoming community in Colorado Springs" said Polis.

**AUGUST PFLAG MEETING**

**Tuesday  
August 15, 2017  
7:00 p.m.**

**Summer Ice Cream Party**

**Bring your family!  
Celebrate summer with the  
PFLAG/ TYES community**

**The Dwelling Place  
508 North Tejon Street**

**Doors open at 6:30  
Everyone is welcome.**

## September PFLAG Program

Put the date on your calendar—September 19th — and plan to be at the September PFLAG meeting when Jennicca Mabe and her colleagues from Path2emPATHy will engage us in a new way to build empathy among children in the classroom. Developed by Pikes Peak area teachers and counselors, Path2emPATHy is sparking interest and receiving inquiries from educators across the USA.

## Transgender/ Military

"There is no reason to force service members who are able to fight, train, and deploy to leave the military -- regardless of their gender identity. We should all be guided by the principle that any American who wants to serve our country and is able to meet the standards should have the opportunity to do so." — John McCain 7/27/17



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.

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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](mailto:info@cspflag.org)

Support Line: (719) 425-9567

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## Protests Erupt Nationwide Following Trump's Transgender Military Ban Announcement

*National and Colorado Springs PFLAG have seen a coming-out surge in the transgender community in recent years. This has rapidly raised the visibility, acceptance and support of transgender persons across the country. The president's announcement on July 26th was met with street protests, statements of support for trans people from a wide range of national leaders, and intense media coverage. ABC News stated that there are currently 2400 active military and 1500 reserve military transgender individuals. Listen at: <http://abcn.ws/2w2tnGn>*

New York Times: "President Trump announced on July 26 that the United States will no longer "accept or allow" transgender people in the United States military, saying American forces 'must be focused on decisive and overwhelming victory' and therefore could not afford to accommodate them.

Mr. Trump made the surprise declaration in a series of posts on Twitter, saying he had come to the decision after talking to generals and military experts, whom he did not name."

*And what follows may be the reason, as described by Politico:*

### 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](mailto: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](http://www.TYES-Colorado.org)

Politico: "After a week sparring with his attorney general and steaming over the Russia investigation consuming his agenda, President Donald Trump was closing in on an important win. House Republicans were planning to pass a spending bill stacked with his campaign promises, including money to build his border wall with Mexico.

"But an internal House Republican fight over transgender troops was threatening to blow up the bill. And House GOP insiders feared they might not have the votes to pass the legislation because defense hawks wanted a ban on Pentagon-funded sex reassignment operations — something GOP leaders wouldn't give them.

"They turned to Trump, who didn't hesitate. In the flash of a tweet, he announced that transgender troops would be banned altogether. Trump's sudden decision was, in part, a last-ditch attempt to save a House proposal full of his campaign promises that was on the verge of defeat, numerous congressional and White House sources said."

One Colorado: Spokesman Daniel Ramos stated: "This is yet another example of the Trump Administration attacking the most vulnerable among us instead of bringing Americans together to fix the problems that face all of us. Transgender people — like all Americans — should be judged for their qualifications, nothing more, nothing less. As we learned in repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell, allowing service members to serve with integrity strengthens our armed forces.

"Our veterans and military deserve better and we will fight against this vicious attack on dignity and equality. Transgender people are our friends, neighbors, and coworkers. They are veterans who have served with honor, and active duty service members who have sacrificed to protect our freedoms. When it comes to being able to serve their country, earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business, transgender people should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against."



## Alphabet Soup— Reflection on Pride and the Pulse Nightclub Tragedy



Emma Oosterhaus 2017

### Indy Inclusion Awards July 2017

Anyone interested in diversity and LGBT issues in Colorado Springs really must take a look at the wonderful stories and photos from this year's Indy Inclusion Awards on *The Independent* newspaper website: <http://bit.ly/2uGQEOL>. These people powerfully challenge the community to embrace diversity in a city that is moving steadily away from its socially conservative past.

Winners: Jane Ard-Smith  
Butler Center at Colorado College  
Coronado High School  
Keep Colorado Springs Queer  
Ladyfingers Letterpress  
Nancy Jo Morris  
Poor Richard's  
Jack Ritchie  
Nori June Rost  
Lisa Schoenstein

Congratulations from PFLAG!

June 12, 2017

One year ago today, I dealt with the trauma of the Pulse massacre alone, in a foreign country, feeling for the first time how much people hated me, and reeling because this was not the first tragedy and it won't be the last.

Since then, my definition of pride has changed to encompass the cruel irony that 49 of us were slaughtered during Pride Month.

#### So here is what pride means to me now:

I'm so proud of us for turning grief into community, strength, and love, over and over again; I hate that we have to.

I'm so proud of us for finding each other across time and space, over and over again; I hate that we have to.

I'm so proud of us for waking up every morning and making it through another day of slurs and weird looks and jokes at our expense; I hate that we have to endure that.

**We do this shit over and over and over again. Every single day is the anniversary of something horrific and another day that we refuse to give up.**

**We exist in a world that says we should not, we love ourselves in a world that teaches us self-hate from the moment we are born, and that is the fiercest, bravest thing I can imagine.**

This Pride Month, I could not be more proud.

- Emma Oosterhaus

*Ed. Note: The first anniversary of the 2016 Pulse Nightclub tragedy in Orlando, Florida, was June 12. The message and cartoon were created by Emma Oosterhaus, the artist who has created "Alphabet Soup". She and her collaborators Will Hernandez, Angie Yu and Gustoph (Guus) produce the online comic series which has been featured several times in our Colorado Springs PFLAG newsletter. Emma is from Colorado Springs, and has been a student at CU in Boulder. She is a friend of our local Inside/Out youth. She has invited LGBTIQ and straight youth to submit themes for her queer-supportive cartoons. This cartoon and lament were posted in June. To see more of her work, go to: <http://alphabetsoupcomic.tumblr.com/>*

PFLAG meetings are safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear .

must remain strictly confidential.





**BULLETIN BOARD**

**August 14 and 21 — Out Loud Chorus Auditions** at First Congregational Church. See p. 4.

**August 19— Aids Walk Colorado**, Cheesman Park, Denver. Fund-raising walk for organizations that support those with HIV/AIDS in Colorado. See p. 1.

**October 3— Ally Up! Breakfast Fundraiser for Inside/Out Youth Services** 7:00 a.m., Doubletree Hotel, 1775 East Cheyenne Mountain Boulevard. Please Save the Date! Guest Speaker: Judy Shepard. of the Matthew Shepard Foundation. See p. 4.

**September 10 — Boulder Pridefest** 10:30 am—6:30 pm. It's a full day including Big Gay 5K Run and Pride March. For information, go to: <http://www.outboulder.org/pride2017>

**TYES Events**

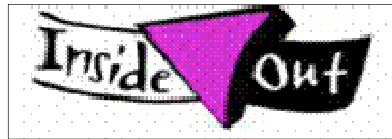
**August 11-13 - Statewide Second Annual TYES Family Campout** (Mountain camp)

**August 26 - Colorado Springs TYES Swimming Party**

TYES is a Colorado-based, statewide group supporting *all* gender expansive children and their families. To contact TYES in Colorado Springs or find out more about scheduled events, send an e-mail message to Shane and Jack at [tyes@cspflag.org](mailto:tyes@cspflag.org). More information can be found on the Colorado Springs PFLAG website: <http://www.cspflag.org> — under the tab "Trans Families".

**Amazon Smile Program**

Colorado Springs PFLAG participates in the Amazon Smile program. When you make purchases on Amazon, enter the site through our portal: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-1281187> and 0.5% of your purchase will be sent to our chapter. Pick up a flyer on this program at PFLAG meetings.



**Ally Up!**

Judy Shepard of the Matthew Shepard Foundation will be the featured speaker at the 7:00 a.m. "Ally Up!" Breakfast fundraiser for Inside/Out Youth Services on October 3. Don't miss it! Put your name on the list for the PFLAG table by calling Elaine Myers at 359-1462. More details will be in the PFLAG September newsletter.

The victim of an anti-gay hate crime, Matthew Shepard was murdered in 1998 in Laramie, Wyoming, His mother subsequently embarked on a crusade to educate people and reduce the incidence of LGBT bullying and hate crimes. See the Matthew Shepard Foundation website at: [www.MatthewShepard.org](http://www.MatthewShepard.org)

**An Invitation From Out Loud**   
**Colorado Springs Mens Chorus** 

Do you like to sing? Then we want you! Out Loud will be auditioning new members on **Monday, August 14th and Monday, August 21st** at First Congregational Church, 20 E. St. Vrain Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

Come be a part of this amazing group. You will make friends, share in the laughter and fun, and make incredible music. This is where you belong! Fill out the form below and we will contact you with more information and schedule your audition. (it's not that scary...honest!) Go to the Out Loud website to sign up for an audition. <http://www.outloudcsmc.com/come>

**Thank you**

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

**Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member**

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017.

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.