



PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

August 2022

This Was a Powerful Pride Weekend

A new group of organizers, Pikes Peak Pride, brought the Pride celebration back to Colorado Springs on July 23-24 with excellent planning and high energy after a two-year Covid hiatus.

Booths were set up in shady Alamo Square Park, around the Pioneers Museum building. PFLAGgers joined many other groups including some churches, Inside Out, ICONs, The PLACE and Pikes Peak Library District as they marched down Tejon Street past Acacia Park in the Sunday Pride Parade.



PFLAG Booth in Alamo Square Park

Onlookers clapped and cheered as they read the signs carried by the PFLAG marchers: "Being Gay is Like Glitter—It Never Goes Away", "Harry Potter Taught Us that No One Deserves to Live in a Closet" and "Gay Agenda: (1) Be Equal (2) Be Fabulous (3) Do Brunch". Once again, thank you to PFLAG mom Lori Vollmar for making these wonderful signs several years ago..

The PFLAG booth, anchored by volunteers Elaine Myers, Cindy and Steve Waldmann, Kathy Gutnayer and Bill Oliver, was challenged by a burst of wind on Saturday afternoon and a downpour at the end of the day on Sunday. Nonetheless, they talked to many families and youth and handed out many PFLAG brochures, including over 45 copies each of "Be Yourself" and "Trans Loved Ones".



Drenched at the booth at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Left to right: Cindy Waldmann, Kathy Gutnayer and Elaine Myers.

Thank you to everyone who joyfully marched in the parade with us and volunteered at the PFLAG booth.

PFLAG extends special thanks to the remarkable team at Pikes Peak Pride for the generous time and money they invested in making this an exceptional Pride celebration.

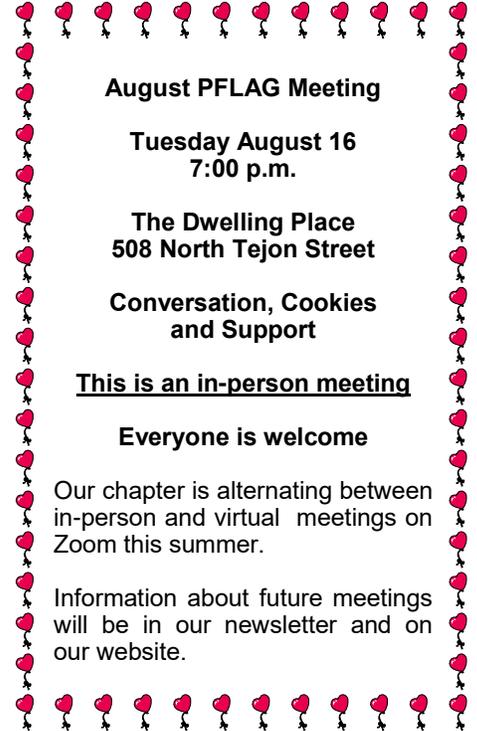
Pikes Peak Pride

"Flaunt Your Pride" was the theme of this year's event, organized by a new group, Pikes Peak Pride. The celebration featured 85 exhibitors, 45 groups in the parade and 8 food trucks. Admission was free.

This comment was posted on the Facebook page of Queer Friends Colorado Springs on Sunday evening:

"Now that we've had a few hours to recover from our amazing rainbow weekend, we want to take a second to thank our fantastic Pikes Peak Pride 22 event committee.

"As many of you know, this committee was brand new to planning Pride celebrations and didn't get formed until February of this year, but every member poured their heart, soul, and talent into their respective areas. And, well, we think we did a pretty OK job for our first ever Pikes Peak Pride! Maybe we should do it again next year, what do you think??"



August PFLAG Meeting

Tuesday August 16
7:00 p.m.

The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street

Conversation, Cookies
and Support

This is an in-person meeting

Everyone is welcome

Our chapter is alternating between in-person and virtual meetings on Zoom this summer.

Information about future meetings will be in our newsletter and on our website.



They're Back! Out Loud Colorado Springs Men's Chorus is conducting auditions on August 1 and August 8, and is planning a December concert.

Out Loud is a beloved nonprofit community chorus made up of members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies.

The following is from the Out Loud Facebook page:

"We'd love to have you! Our auditions are mainly to assure that you are able to match pitch and to test vocal range, so don't let the idea of an 'audition' stop you from joining. We accept all ranges of musical training from 'What's a bass clef?' to 'I was a music major'.

"Simply send an email to: info@outloudcsmc.com with your name, the voice part you usually sing (if you know it) and your contact information, and we will reach out to you to set up an audition."

For more information about auditions and membership, go to: <https://www.outloudcsmc.com>



PFLAG Supports Mental Health First Aid Training

Inside Out Youth Services (IOYS) will present a free program, "Youth Mental Health First Aid Training", an all day event for 30 youth-serving professionals/volunteers and parents and caregivers of LGBTQIA2+ children, youth and young adults on Saturday, August 6. Registration is full.

PFLAG volunteers are providing breakfast for this event.

Remember the Parking Meters

When attending a PFLAG meeting, remember that parking meters downtown are now active until 10 p.m.

There is free parking in the lot nearby on the Southeast corner of Tejon and St. Vrain Streets.

Colorado Springs PFLAG

This newsletter is published by the Colorado Springs chapter of 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 receive this newsletter regularly, sign up at www.cspflag.org.

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PFLAG Colorado Springs website:
www.cspflag.org

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

PFLAG National Office website:
www.pflag.org



New Advocacy Group Marches

A large new group called Neighbors For Education marched in the Pride Parade this year.

The group was formed in January by teachers, parents, students and community and business leaders, soon after the new board members elected last fall to the District 11 School Board took their seats.

The group was concerned about the downgrading (and ultimate dismantling) of the large Equity and Inclusion program in the District and realized that the politics of the new board members could (and soon did) result in the departure of District 11's liberal Superintendent, Michael Thomas.

The group has grown quickly and has partnered with CSEA, Citizen's Project, League of Woman Voters, El Paso County PTA and school districts D20, D49 and D38.

Two groups that are working in direct opposition to Neighbors For Education are "D11 Achievement Alliance" and "Moms for Liberty".

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TransParenting Support Group

TransParenting, a program of Inside Out Youth Services, is a monthly support group for parents/caregivers of transgender and gender nonbinary children, 3rd Thursday of every month, 6:00—7:30 p.m. MST by Zoom.

For more information and to get the Zoom meeting link, email transparenting@insideoutys.org or call Inside Out at (719) 328-1056.

Stand With Trans

Stand With Trans is a national support group of parents supporting the transgender community. See <https://standwithtrans.org>

Cirque du SO GAY!

Inside Out Youth Services (IOYS) will host its first annual donor Gay-La at Venetucci Farm on Friday, August 26th from 6:00—9:30 p.m.

The evening of fun and philanthropy will feature a VIP cocktail party at 5 p.m. in the Venetucci Farm Flower Field, a catered dinner, drinks, an exciting array of performances including aerialists and youth poets, a live and silent auction and dancing.

The event will honor those whose financial support of IOYS allows the young people it serves to thrive.

Tickets are \$125 per person. This event is sold out but you can sign up for the waitlist or donate to IOYS at:

www.insideoutys.org/gala



Pueblo Pride

The Pueblo Pride celebration will take place on Sunday, August 21, in Mineral Palace Park, 1600 North Santa Fe Avenue in Pueblo. Several individuals from Colorado Springs PFLAG are planning to carry our banner in the parade, which kicks off at 10:30 a.m.

The theme of this year's Pueblo Pride, organized by our allies in Pueblo, The Southern Colorado Equality Alliance (SCEA), is "Loud and Proud". With the current political backlash around LGBTQ issues, particularly transgender rights and GSA policies in schools, it's an important time to support Pride events.

To walk with the PFLAG group, call Cindy Waldmann (719) 488-9887.

SCEA: <https://www.socoequality.org/>

Facebook

Queer Friends Colorado Springs is a vibrant group eager to share advice.

LGBTQIA2+ Family Connection is a private Facebook group for LGBTQIA people, their families and allies in the Pikes Peak region. This page is organized and managed by Inside Out Youth Services.

PFLAG Membership

Please consider becoming a member of Colorado Springs PFLAG. Go to www.cspflag.org



BULLETIN BOARD

August 6 — Youth Mental Health First Aid Training — 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. at Hillside Community Center. See p. 2.

August 21 — Pueblo Pride Celebration — Mineral Palace Park in Pueblo. Organized by the Southern Colorado Equality Alliance. See p. 2 for details.

August 26 — Cirque du So Gay — Gay-la Fundraiser for Inside Out Youth Services. Venetucci Farm 6 p.m. See p. 2

September 28—“Exploring the Need to Grieve and Mourn” 6:30—8:30 p.m. (free) and September 29 — Exploring Grief After Suicide” 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. (\$25.00) Both will be at UCCS ENT Center for the Arts and are sponsored by UCCS and Pikes Peak Suicide Prevention.. For more information and to register, go to Voices of Grief Center website: <https://www.voicesofgriefcenter.org/>

Neighbors Advocacy Group Marches (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

This statement was posted on its Facebook page on the day of the Pride Parade: “Neighbors For Education acknowledges, affirms and celebrates all LGBTQIA+ members of our community! Today we walk in the [Pikes Peak Pride](#) Parade in joy and celebration of all of our D11 LGBTQIA+ students,

faculty, staff and community members   We love you and will continue to fight for your equitable access in our education system!”

More information is available on the Neighbors website: <https://neighborsforded.org/> where one can sign up to receive its newsletter. See also its Facebook page and [#publiceducation](#) [#coloradosprings](#) [#pride2022](#) [#weared11](#)

PFLAG Meetings

PFLAG meetings, both in-person and virtual, must always be treated as a safe space.

Who you meet and what you hear must remain strictly confidential.

Once seen as Epicenter of the ‘Hate State,’ What’s Changed in Colorado Springs?



A Rainbow crosswalk is supported by the Downtown Partnership

Kate Singh of Fox News interviewed Leah Witherow of the Pioneers Museum and Liss Smith from Inside Out Youth Services, among others, for this retrospective article published on July 12 in anticipation of the 2022 Pride celebration.

Singh traces the history of the local Pride celebration from its first parade in 1991 to the large festival it has become today. She explains the impact on this community of Amendment 2, a 1992 anti-LGBTQ voter-approved amendment to the state constitution that was ultimately overturned by the Supreme Court.

She touches on several of the LGBTQ-allied organizations and businesses that have steadily promoted visibility and acceptance of the local LGBTQ community over the past 30 years, from the Human Relations Commission to Inside Out, Club Q, ICONS and Ladyfingers Letterpress.

Singh credits the Colorado legislature and governor for the Colorado Transgender and Gender-Expansive Youth Bill of Rights that protects LGBTQ youth, standing in dramatic contrast to the legislation being passed by other states this year to limit or completely deny such rights.

Singh’s article will bring back memories for those who have engaged in the local gay rights movement over the years and it also provides a backdrop of Springs history for newcomers who are arriving with hopes of finding an accepting and empowering LGBTQ-friendly community. Be sure to read her whole article and enjoy the photos.

Link: <https://bit.ly/3PLqKsw>

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.

Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.

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 _____

Monthly newsletters are sent out by email.

Each year our chapter contributes \$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 additional donations are tax deductible. Or pay by credit card online at website: www.cspflag.org PFLAG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.