



PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

December 2016

Out Loud— Annual Holiday Concert Dec. 9-10

Now in its 11th year, Out Loud, the Colorado Springs Mens Chorus invites you to a choral celebration at First Congregational Church with two evening concerts and a Saturday matinee on December 9-10.

The family friendly spectacular includes wintry and wonderful holiday music from traditional favorites like "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "In the Bleak Midwinter" to modern classics like "Everybody Rejoice" and a hilarious look at how technology affects the holidays. There will also be a special appearance by Out Loud's acclaimed quartet, "Forte".

Come join us for a cup of wassail and cookies made by Santa's Elves and don't miss the audience Christmas Carol sing along.

PFLAG ushers are lined up and ready to go. PFLAG volunteers have ushered at Out Loud concerts from the beginning.

Amazon Smile Program

Apology and Correction: The name of the Colorado Springs PFLAG portal for participation in the AmazonSmile program was incorrect in our recent newsletters. The correct portal is:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-1281187>

When you use this portal, 0.5% of your purchase will be sent to our chapter. In every other way, the shopping experience is the same.

When making your holiday purchases, please consider participating in the AmazonSmile program to support the work of PFLAG in Colorado Springs. Flyers describing this program are available at PFLAG meetings.



These concerts will be popular, so it's a good idea to purchase tickets in advance. Tickets are available online at:

<http://www.outloudcsmc.com/>

Tickets are \$20, \$18 for seniors, students and military. Children under 12 free. Tickets are available at the door.

The holiday concerts will be a homecoming celebration for the chorus, which is now an independent non-profit organization after stepping out from the Rocky Mountain Arts Association (RMAA). RMAA managed its finances and provided its artistic director for most of the chorus's ten year existence. Since announcing in September that members were "Thrilled to be Flying Solo" the chorus has grown, under the leadership of interim artistic director Joey Young

The new artistic director, Joshua Brown, will be introduced at the concerts. He will begin working with the chorus in January.

Please consider making a holiday end of year gift to the chorus. All donations are fully tax-deductible.

DECEMBER PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday
December 20, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Supporting our LGBT Family

Small group discussion
and
Desserts!

The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street

Social time begins at 6:30
Everyone is welcome.

Kory Phairchyld Joins Board, PFLAG Has New Co-Presidents

Kory Phairchyld, who has been an active volunteer in the LGBT community, has joined the PFLAG board as the TYES coordinator. Trans Youth Education and Support, headquartered in Boulder, is program of PFLAG which provides support to the families of gender-variant children. Kory has also been active in the Safe@School program. TYES can be reached through PFLAG at 425-9567 or by e-mail to info@csflag.org. Welcome, Kory!

Board members were elected at the September annual meeting. Marilyn Davis and Cindy Waldemann will serve as interim Co-Presidents. Marilyn was first treasurer and then president of the chapter for a total of nine years. She also chaired the Colorado Coalition of PFLAG chapters during part of that time. Bill Oliver and Karen Stith will continue as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Other board members are Membership manager Jerry Albrent and Elaine Myers and Jackie Thompson, who provide support to 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

P.O. Box 49131
Colorado Springs, CO 80949

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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

Doug Kirkpatrick Retires

Doug Kirkpatrick, president of Colorado Springs PFLAG for the past two years, has retired from the board. Doug worked tirelessly to promote awareness of PFLAG in the Pikes Peak area. From information tables at school and college events and conferences to appearances at diversity events at Peterson AFB, Doug became a familiar face in the LGBT community. He was a faithful volunteer at Inside Out Youth Services, attended Safe@School Coalition meetings, and served as secretary of the Colorado Coalition of PFLAG chapters. Thank you, Doug.

He and Bill Oliver recorded an interview for StoryCorps when the StoryCorps recording team visited Colorado Springs. StoryCorps honors and celebrates the lives of everyday Americans by collecting their stories for the Library of Congress. This was a conversation between Doug, an Air Force Officer and Mormon father of a gay son, and Bill, his contemporary, an out gay man and PFLAG friend.

A career Air Force officer, Doug taught Space Engineering at the Air Force Academy for 13 years, retiring in 1996. He continues to enjoy flying. *Aviation Gazette* reported on November 30th that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is recognizing Doug by placing him in the prestigious FAA database, which appears on the agency's website at www.faa.gov. This list names Kirkpatrick and other certified pilots who have met or exceeded the high educational, licensing and medical standards established by the FAA. Airmen Certification Database.

In Good Faith: Post Election Discussion November 16, 2016

A panel of spiritual leaders, including a tearful Rev. Nori Rost of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, joined host Rev. Dr/ Ahriana Platten of Unity Church on community radio KCMJ 93.9 FM for a poignant post-election discussion of the pain many are feeling. Listen to the podcast at www.kcmj.org (click on the "On Demand" section of the website.)



Navigating the Holidays

The holidays are almost here. Along with the joy of seeing family and friends, holidays can be a time when parents and caregivers of transgender, non-binary and otherwise gender-expansive kids need to negotiate issues around their child's gender. To help you prepare, we created a three part series on Navigating the Holidays: <http://bit.ly/2gw9hjW>

Part 1— Sharing your child's gender with family and friends

Part 2 — Preparing your child for seeing family and friends

Part 3 — Toys and gifts

If you have questions or other feedback for these programs, please let us know. We have a post for parents at <http://bit.ly/2gcmdrz> in the Gender Spectrum Lounge to discuss navigating the holidays. Please share your experience or ask advice.

In acknowledgement of Transgender Awareness Week in November, genderspectrum has provided many detailed discussions on its website. See www.genderspectrum.org

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



Two Responses to Post-Election Fears

Post-election anxiety and despair in the LGBT community has been intense, as bullying is on the rise and the possibility of losing hard-won rights looms. But we have allies:

ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) Statement—November 9, 2016:

This morning, Donald J. Trump was elected the 45th president of the United States, and the ACLU has a message for him.

"President-elect Trump, as you assume the nation's highest office, we urge you to reconsider and change course on certain campaign promises you have made. These include your plan to amass a deportation force to remove 11 million undocumented immigrants; ban the entry of Muslims into our country and aggressively surveil them; punish women for accessing abortion; reauthorize waterboarding and other forms of torture; and change our nation's libel laws and restrict freedom of expression.

"These proposals are not simply un-American and wrong-headed, they are unlawful and unconstitutional. They violate the First, Fourth, Fifth, Eighth, and 14th Amendments. If you do not reverse course and instead endeavor to make these campaign promises a reality, you will have to contend with the full firepower of the ACLU at every step. Our staff of litigators and activists in every state, thousands of volunteers and millions of card-carrying members and supporters are ready to fight against any encroachment on our cherished freedoms and rights.

"One thing is certain: We will be eternally vigilant every single day of your presidency. And when you leave the Oval Office, we will do the same with your successor as we have done throughout our nearly 100 years of existence. The Constitution and the rule of law are stronger than any one person, and we will see to that. We will never waver."

Posted on Facebook November 27, 2016

"On Wednesday, I was standing in line at the grocery store. It's the day before thanksgiving, so it is quite literally a 45 minute wait. I'm standing by those dreaded magazines with all the horrible headlines, which I always try to ignore.

Everyone is keeping to themselves mostly, except for... Behind me, stands the personification of privilege -- a white male (I'm assuming cis-gender and straight.) He (a total stranger, mind you) has the audacity to elbow, point to Hilary and Michelle Obama on the cover of one magazine, and quite loudly state: "I can't believe that loser c#nt thinks she can steal the win from Donald. Her and that n!gg#r are such whiny bitches." Then he laughs heartily.

When I say that he spoke loud, I mean bellowing. I look around -- and everyone not only in my aisle but the aisle on both sides of me has heard. They grimace...and then they look down. Men, women, white, black... They look down.

I suddenly flash to a remembrance of me as a 6-year-old child. A family member once owned a home that was part of the Underground Railroad. We'd sit behind this concrete slab under their deck and talk about what happened here. Even as a small child -- a young, white man myself -- I said I would die before I let that kind of open hate live in my world. I made the same resolution when I learned about the holocaust in junior high. And I felt that exact same fire now -- in the grocery store.

I found myself, like everyone else, looking down...but I couldn't continue to do that. After about 30 seconds, something in me snapped. I put down my basket, turned around and looked that man in the eyes. I was shocked by how badly I was shaking, but words began spilling out of my mouth, loudly and fiercely.

I asked everyone: "I'm sorry, everyone, but I must ask for some support in addressing this hateful and ignorant man. Look up, please. Someone look up because I can't do this alone."

People began to look up. I began to cry and I don't know why but I couldn't stop. I continued staring the man down... "Those comments were inappropriate and i will not allow them in my world."

His reply? "Dude, calm down. I wasn't calling you a c#nt or a n!gg#r."

By now, everyone was looking up. I continued, shaking uncontrollably. "You will stand in this line and you will keep your mouth shut. You won't speak. You will not address any of us. You will pay for your items and you will leave."

He kept trying to respond, and I kept cutting him off by calmly repeating "You're done. Shut your mouth." By now, people were clapping. Eventually, he got quiet and looked down. We were all looking up and now He was the one looking down.

Immediately, everyone began talking. Not about him, but the holidays. Joyous, laughing. And it wasn't out of embarrassment or to pretend what happened didn't just happen.... But it was because we were instantly bonded in this weird but beautiful way.

I openly talked about the Friendsgiving my partner and I were prepping at home for our LGBT family, as well as the pre-Thanksgiving we had earlier in the week for transgender youth who weren't invited home... Us strangers even hugged upon checkout.

Together, we silenced ignorant hate. We made the choice to look up. And we shared a moment. I was overwhelmed with emotion and fear before I decided to speak, but I asked for help...and help came forth, strongly and beautifully.

[#LookUp](#) [#SpeakOut](#)"



BULLETIN BOARD

December 9-10 — Out Loud Holiday Concert — Evening concert Friday at 7:30 p.m.; Matinee Saturday at 2:00 p.m. Evening concert at 7:30 p.m. First Congregational Church, 20 East St. Vrain Street, Colorado Springs. Tickets available at www.outloudcsmc.com. See article p. 1.

January 14—Educating Children of Color Summit at Colorado College 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. See article, below.

March 25 — 25th Annual Red Ribbon Ball— This elegant fundraiser for Southern Colorado AIDS Project will be held at the Antlers Hotel. Save the date!

**Educating Children of Color Summit
January 14 at Colorado College**

The annual Educating Children of Color Summit is a day-long meeting of educators, parents and students with multiple tracks and workshops. It will take place on Saturday, January 14th at Colorado College.

Participants of every color are invited. The mission of this organization is to dismantle the cradle to prison pipeline for children of color and children in poverty through education. At least ten \$500 educational gifts and 20 laptops will be given away to students. For more information, or to register to attend, see the ECOC website: <http://www.educatingchildrenofcolor.org/>

PFLAG volunteers are needed to staff an information table. If you can help, call Cindy Waldemann 488-9887.

Thank you

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

**Stand Against the Rising Tide of Violence
Against Minorities**

The genderspectrum organization offers links to two New York Times articles that explore the impact of the election on minorities and, in particular, the LGBT community.

Hostile Acts Against Minorities Erupt on U.S. Campuses
<http://nyti.ms/2fhEQwB>
New York Times, 11/11/16

Trump Victory Alarms Gay and Transgender Groups
<http://nyti.ms/2fVONnc>
New York Times, 11/10/16

Creating Gender Inclusive Schools—Film

At its November meeting, PFLAG showed a film about work being done to make elementary schools a safer place for gender variant or non-binary children. The film is thought-provoking and inspired a lively discussion at the meeting. We will be happy to share this film with local educators upon request. Contact us at info@cspflag.org.



Safety Pin Solidarity

After the election of Donald J. Trump, fears are growing that segments of his base may physically or emotionally

abuse minorities, immigrants, women and members of the L.G.B.T. community. As a show of support, groups of people across America are attaching safety pins to their lapels, shirts and dresses to signify that they are linked, willing to stand up for the vulnerable. A good article that discusses the Brexit origin of this symbol can be found at <http://nyti.ms/2eyMvYt>

PFLAG meetings are a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear

Must remain strictly confidential.

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.