



# PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

December 2017

## Annual Out Loud Holiday Concert—December 8-9

From Out Loud Colorado Springs Men's Chorus:

The past year has hit the LGBTQ community like a blizzard. Uncertainty grows and piles up like snow, as we try to figure out which way the wind is blowing. There are certainly

forces that wish to roll back what progress LGBTQ people have made in recent years, but this community is nothing if not resilient. We have weathered these gales, and worse, before. We won't be blown off track now. In this, the darkest time of the year, it is even more precious to gather with friends and family to celebrate life and love and light.

Join with us this season as we present a most enjoyable BLIZZARD!

Friday, Dec. 8 - 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 9 - 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church - 20 East St. Vrain Street, Colorado Springs

Pueblo Concert: Saturday Dec. 16 - 7:30 p.m. at the First Congregational

### PFLAG Membership

Thank you to everyone who recently initiated/renewed their Colorado Springs PFLAG memberships. Your support makes possible PFLAG's participation in PrideFest and other conferences, pays for the newsletter and provides funds for the purchase of the hundreds of items of PFLAG literature handed out each year.

If you haven't yet sent in your membership, there's still time to send in a membership fee and/or donation before the year end and claim credit on your 2017 tax return. Just use the form on page four of the newsletter.

**OUT LOUD**  
COLORADO SPRINGS MEN'S CHORUS

PROUDLY PRESENTS

**BLIZZARD**

**OUR 2017 HOLIDAY CONCERT!**

United Church of Christ 422 West Evans Ave., Pueblo, CO.

BLIZZARD is a family friendly concert.

Ticket prices: \$20 Adults and \$18 Seniors, Military and Students. Children 12 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased online at: <http://www.outloudcsmc.com/hope>

Tickets will also be available for purchase before each of the concerts at the ticket center at the church.

*PFLAG will provide ushers to greet people and hand out programs at the Out Loud concerts. If you would like to usher, please call Cindy Waldmann at (719) 488-9887.*

### Point Foundation LGBTQ Scholarships Available

The Point Foundation, (Point), a nationwide LGBTQ scholarship fund, is looking for the next generation of LGBTQ leaders. Point provides not only scholarships for LGBTQ undergraduate and graduate students, but also mentoring and leadership training.

The application period for the 2018-2019 higher education scholarships runs from November 1, 2017 to January 29, 2018.

\_\_\_If you or someone you know might be interested in applying, take a look at the Point website right away. <https://pointfoundation.org>

**DECEMBER PFLAG MEETING**

**Tuesday**  
**December 19, 2017**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Supporting Our LGBT Family**

**Small group discussion and Holiday Desserts!**

**The Dwelling Place**  
**508 North Tejon Street**

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

### One Colorado to Offer Health Insurance Webinar on Dec.6

One Colorado and the Colorado Health Network will present a Webinar on navigating Colorado's health insurance as an LGBT individual. It will take place on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

During the webinar, you'll learn how to get enrolled in the best insurance plan for your needs, about the policies and protections in place for you as a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer patient, and get other important resources and deadlines for this year's open enrollment season. You'll also have the opportunity to ask a health navigator questions related to your care, and we'll review the 2018 Transgender Health Insurance Buyer's Guide.

To participate, one must register for the webinar at: <http://bit.ly/2zHDxc5>

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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

P.O. Box 49131  
Colorado Springs, CO 80949

PFLAG Colorado Springs website:  
[www.cspflag.org](http://www.cspflag.org)

PFLAG National Office website:  
[www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

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To receive your newsletter by e-mail, send a request to [info@cspflag.org](mailto:info@cspflag.org)

## Dec. 6 Health Insurance Webinar (cont.)

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Time is running out! You must enroll by December 15th if you want to have health insurance coverage as of January 1, 2018. Open enrollment ends for everyone else on January 12, 2018.



Questions? contact Cara Cheevers, MSW, Policy Manager One Colorado Education Fund [carac@one-colorado.org](mailto:carac@one-colorado.org)

### The 2018 Transgender Health Insurance Buyer's Guide

This simple one-page summary has been published by One Colorado. Locate it online at <http://bit.ly/2jso6TF>

### 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)

## Notes from PFLAG National Convention - Bill Oliver

On the weekend of Oct 20-21, I attended the National PFLAG Convention in Portland, Oregon as a representative from the Colorado Springs chapter of PFLAG. The theme for 2017 was "We are the Change." Convention website:

<https://www.pflag.org/2017convention>

I was able to personally meet PFLAG's new Executive Director, Jaime M. Grant, PhD, who presided over the convention. I had lunch with my old friend, Jean Hodges from the Boulder chapter, who is currently the national president of PFLAG.

I also met with many board members from the various Colorado chapters, as well as those from our Mountain West Region. Among the variety of sessions available, a few standouts that I attended included:

—A screening of the new film "The Freedom to Marry." Evan Wolfson was the founder and president of *Freedom to Marry*, the campaign that won marriage equality in the U.S. Following the screening Mr. Wolfson was available for Q&A.

<https://freedomtomarrymovie.com>

—A screening of the new film "Raising Zoey." It's a coming-of-age story of a transgender teen on a journey to find her voice. Following the screening Zoey's mom was present for Q&A. <https://www.pflag.org/raising-zoey-film-and-ga>

—A session led by Susan Cottrell, founder of *FreedHearts*, "Helping Faith Parents Unconditionally Love and Accept their LGBTQ Children." <https://www.freedhearts.org>

The PFLAG *Flag Bearer Award* is given at the convention in acknowledgement of the accomplishments of non-PFLAG individuals and organizations that have made lasting contributions to the safety or equality of our LGBTQ loved ones.

This year's honor went to Jesuit priest and *New York Times* best selling author Fr. James Mar-

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## Educating Children of Color Summit—January 13



PFLAG volunteers are needed to manage an information table by handing out PFLAG literature and talking to educators and parents at a one-day event at Colorado College on Saturday, January 13. If you can help, please call Cindy Waldmann at (719) 488-9887.

The Educating Children of Color Summit is an annual conference held each year at CC to help minority students and their parents find paths to higher education. The conference is attended by hundreds of middle and high school students, parents, teachers and counselors. We have found that

many of the participants, particularly the parents and educators, are engaged in LGBTQ issues and appreciate the opportunity to talk with representatives from PFLAG.

Educating Children of Color seeks to dismantle the cradle-to-prison pipeline for children of color and children in poverty through education.

The Summit is a powerful event, providing avenues to scholarships to students for higher education as well as scholarships for educators for their professional development.

The Summit is free for parents and students, 8th grade and above. Professionals pay a registration fee of \$35. If you know someone who might be interested, please forward this PFLAG newsletter to them. More information about the Summit and the opportunity for participants to register (before the December 23rd deadline) is available online at:

[www.educatingchildrenofcolor.org](http://www.educatingchildrenofcolor.org)

### Convention (cont.)

*(Continued from page 2)*

tin. Especially relevant is Fr. Martin's recent book, "Building a Bridge: How the Catholic Church and the LGBT Community Can Enter into a Relationship of Respect, Compassion, and Sensitivity."

I'm very grateful to our chapter's board of directors for covering my registration and part of my travel expense.

— Bill Oliver

### Alphabet Soup

Cartoons by and about LGBTQ+ youth. The founder and principal cartoonist is Emma Oosterhaus of Colorado Springs and Boulder:

[www.alphabetsoupcomic.tumblr.com](http://www.alphabetsoupcomic.tumblr.com)

### Editor's Note:

#### This Mom Really Gets It

A friend mentioned that her niece, Kimi Jones of Seattle, is raising her own M-F child, 17, and now also her brother's F-M child, 14, after his family situation cratered. Here's what Kimi told her aunt:

"My boyfriend asked the other day, 'how many more kids should I expect you to take on?' and I laughed and replied, 'depends on how many more need my help.'"

"We all give what we can, and really, if you have ever been faced with [either] being a trans ally or having a child commit suicide, it's not a hard choice."

"I only hope I can ingrain in all of my children, rainbow or not, that they are amazing human beings, worthy of love and acceptance. Give them a sanctuary to retreat to when they unapologetically interact with a world that will be cruel to them."

#### PFLAG meetings are a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear ...

must remain strictly confidential.

Thank you.

#### Amazon Smile Program

Colorado Springs PFLAG participates in the Amazon Smile program. When making purchases on Amazon, please enter the site through our portal:

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

When you do this, Amazon will send 0.5% of the value of your purchase to our chapter. Pick up a flyer on this program at PFLAG meetings.

#### Thank You to:

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



### Navigating the Holidays

- Provided by GenderSpectrum.

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, there is a post for parents at <http://bit.ly/2gcmdrz> in the Gender Spectrum Lounge to discuss navigating the holidays. Please share your experience or feel free to ask for advice.

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**BULLETIN BOARD**



**December 8—9 Holiday Concert — Out Loud Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus** — December 8—7:30 p.m.; December 9 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 20 East St. Vrain St., Colorado Springs. See article, p. 1.

**December 16— Holiday Concert in Pueblo — Out Loud Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus** — 2:00 p.m., First Congregational Church, 228 West Evans, Pueblo. See article, p. 1.

**January 13 — Educating Children of Color Summit** — Colorado College. PFLAG volunteers are needed. See article p. 3.

**April 21 — Red Ribbon Ball — Save the Date** — This event supports the Southern Colorado Aids Project (S-CAP).

**Gender Spectrum (cont.)**

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In November 2017, Gender Spectrum provided a series of articles and blog posts in acknowledgement of Transgender Awareness Week. They are available online at: <http://bit.ly/2jrKNYm>

Gender Spectrum’s mission is to create a gender-inclusive world for all children and youth. The Gender Spectrum website is: [www.genderspectrum.org](http://www.genderspectrum.org)

*Jennicca Mabe, founder of Path2Empathy, spoke at our September PFLAG meeting about the program she has created to undercut bullying and stereotyping in elementary, middle and high schools by teaching students how to experience empathy. The program has been used for several years in schools in the Pikes Peak region. Early research shows that it works. In November, PFLAG received the following message from Jennicca:*

Dear Friends,

We all know that an education in empathy is a proactive way to address aggression toward self and others. It breaks down cultural, racial, and economic barriers while helping shed at risk behaviors in order to see the world through the eyes of another. But could we prove its effectiveness with numbers?

We are excited to say we did! We are so grateful for all those involved in the research and proud to stand by Path2Empathy as it continues to shape both young and old through the power of experiential learning. Please stop by our website:

<http://path2empathy.com/research-based/> and read about the journey of our first year of collecting quantitative data. Also, send us any questions, tell a friend about Path2Empathy, and like us on social media to keep the powerful message of empathy spreading.

Jennicca Mabe  
Founder/P2E Crew

[www.path2empathy.com](http://www.path2empathy.com)  
[www.facebook.com/path2empathy](https://www.facebook.com/path2empathy)

**During the holidays, please remember to regularly reload and use your King Soopers Gift Card!**



**Support PFLAG— Pick up a King Soopers/ City Market Gift Card at a PFLAG meeting.**

The free card is already loaded with \$2.50 for groceries. You add money to the card using your credit card, and use the gift card to pay for purchases. King Soopers will donate 5% of your grocery, gas and pharmacy purchases to our local chapter of PFLAG. Now, that’s an easy, powerful fundraiser.

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

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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