



PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

December 2019

Out Loud Presents "A Midwinter Mitzvah"

Singers of the Out Loud Colorado Springs Men's Chorus will bring us another fine winter concert, "A Midwinter Mitzvah" on December 13-14 at First Congregational Church under the leadership of its Artistic Director, Joshua Kai Brown.



"Mitzvah" - a precept or commandment (Judaism) - a good deed done from religious duty.

The concert will be a celebration of the many contributions Jewish composers and artists have made to America's favorite holiday—Christmas!

PFLAG will provide ushers at each of the three concerts: Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. This is a family friendly concert. Tickets are \$20, and the chorus offers a discount (\$18) to seniors, military, and students. Children 12 and under are free (no ticket required). Purchase tickets in advance at the Out Loud website: <https://www.outloudcsmc.com/>. They are also available at the door.

Out Loud sings at PrideFest and multiple other events throughout the year. The chorus has been building community through music since 2006. For more information about the auditions for new members to be held in January, send an e-mail to info@outloudcsmc.org.

To keep in touch and support the chorus, go to the website to sign up for Out Loud's free newsletter and to make a donation to keep the chorus strong.

DECEMBER PFLAG MEETING

**Tuesday
December 17, 2019
7:00 p.m.**

**PFLAG
"Conversation: Managing
The Holidays"**

Holiday Treats

**The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street**

**Light Refreshments
Social Time starts 6:30 p.m.
Everyone is welcome.**

Educating Children of Color Summit—January 18th

Ten powerful speakers will be featured at the annual Educating Children of Color Summit, a day-long meeting of educators, parents and students with multiple tracks and workshops. It will take place on Saturday, January 18, 2020 at Colorado College. All students and their parents attend for FREE.

Six scholarships will be awarded. The scholarship application deadline is December 23, 2019. All scholarship applicants must also be registered and attend the conference in order to be considered.

Late registration will be available on the day of the event.

Registration cost:
\$35 for professionals registered prior to the day of the Summit
\$50 for professionals registered at the door on the day of the Summit.

The mission of ECOC is to disman-

(Continued on page 4)

Bill Oliver Receives Award at AFA Blue Alliance Dinner



Bill Oliver with Blue Alliance board member Trish Heller

PFLAG's treasurer, Bill Oliver, recently received a significant award at the Air Force Academy. Here's how he let us at PFLAG know what happened that evening.

"On Saturday, November 2, I attended the annual *Blue Alliance* dinner at the Air Force Academy's golf clubhouse. It always follows the home football game in which AF plays either Navy or Army, the latter this year. BA is the LGBT cadet alumni group at the AFA. It was founded in 2007, while Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT) was still in effect. I've attended since 2012, soon after the repeal of DADT, so the dinner could then include the new cadet Spectrum club. Doug Kirkpatrick joined me once 2-3 years ago. Both the Academy's superintendent and commandant always come by for about a half-hour to greet everyone.

"Annually they give their *Flight of Heroes* award. Our friend Col. Gary Packard, now vice dean, got it in

(Continued on page 3)



AIDS Quilt Moves to San Francisco; Archive Goes to D.C.

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 this 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

PFLAG Colorado Springs website:
www.cspflag.org

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

PFLAG National Office website:
www.pflag.org

Newsletter Editor: Karen Flitton Stith
E-mail: karenfstith@gmail.com

To receive your newsletter by e-mail, send a request to info@cspflag.org



Library of Congress Announcement:

On Wednesday, November 20, 2019, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Representative John Lewis, and Representative Barbara Lee joined with other Congressional leaders, executives from the National AIDS Memorial, The NAMES Project Foundation, Library of Congress, and HIV/AIDS organizations to announce that The AIDS Memorial Quilt ("The Quilt") is moving from Atlanta to its permanent home in the San Francisco Bay Area in early 2020.

TYES

Transgender Youth Education and Support (TYES) is a Boulder-based parent group that provides information and a community of support for parents of gender dysphoric and gender variant younger children.

PFLAG collaborates with TYES to provide support to parents in the Pikes Peak region. For more information, call (719) 425-9567 or send an e-mail to info@cspflag.org. The national TYES website is: www.TYES-Colorado.org.

TransParent Group

The TransParent group at Inside/Out for parents of gender variant and transgender youth usually meets on the third Thursday of the month from 6:00—7:30 p.m. at Inside/Out Youth Services, 223 North Wahsatch Ave.

For more information about the meetings, call Inside/Out at 328-1056 or send an e-mail to: transparenting@insideoutys.org

Stand With Trans

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

As part of the transition, the NAMES Project and the National AIDS Memorial have agreed to jointly gift care and stewardship of The Quilt's archival collections to the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, making this collection available through the largest public library in the world.

This decision has been part of the long-term planning and vision of the NAMES Project to transfer the care of The Quilt, its related archival collections, and programs to new institutional partners, and in doing so, secure not only the legacy of The Quilt, but also its ability to teach for generations to come.

The National AIDS Memorial and The Quilt, through their very existence, have had a tremendous impact in telling the story of the AIDS crisis and the AIDS movement, a story of social justice. Both the AIDS Memorial Quilt and the National AIDS Memorial invoke compassion and dispel discrimination and stigma.

Much like the thousands of volunteers who have created and maintained the National AIDS Memorial's ten acres for nearly three decades, the panels of The Quilt were hand-sewn by members of the public as a way to transform loss and heartbreak into healing and hope.

Each year, thousands of panels of the Quilt are displayed throughout the United States and world, serving as both a memorial and a storyteller. Each panel, along with its archival collections, visually documents the evolution of one of the nation's ongoing civil rights struggles.

Tragically, since 1981, close to 636,000 people have died from AIDS in the U.S., with more than 15,000 people having died from AIDS in 2016. Today, there are more than 1.1 million people living with HIV in the U.S., with the number of new cases having dropped by nearly 20% since 2008. For more information, see: <http://bit.ly/37Ytzdr>

Thanks to Carol Oberg for this story.

SAGE LGBT Senior Hotline

The SAGE LGBT Elder Hotline is available for anyone 50 or over who wishes to discuss issues related to sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Staffed entirely by highly trained LGBT volunteers, the Hotline can be reached at 888-234-SAGE from 4 p.m. to midnight Monday through Friday, and on Saturday from noon to 5 p.m., eastern time. It can also be found at: www.LGBTHotline.org/SAGE



Books for Gender Variant Children and Their Parents

Parents looking for age-appropriate reading material for younger children who are transgender, gender expansive, or simply have a lot of questions, might think that their options are limited. Happily, that's not the case. The books below each offer a different way to affirm, to learn, and to start important conversations.

[Be Who You Are](#) by Jennifer Carr: This charming children's story, written by a mom, tells of her experience of raising and supporting her transgender child, and how she helped the school to support her as well.

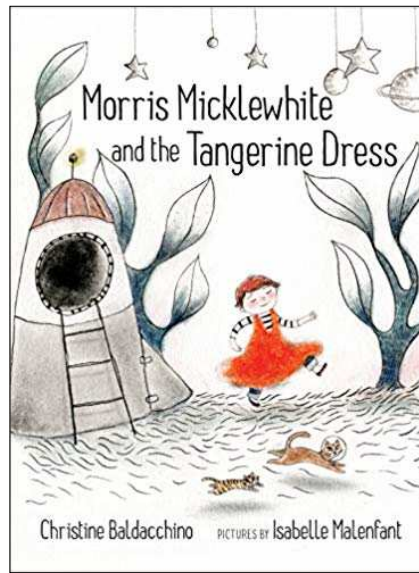
[Gender Now Coloring Book](#) by Maya Gonzalez: A coloring book meant to provide reflection and support unity by showing multiple genders standing together. Inside are stories, pictures, games and more to encourage and remind you that you are free to be!

[I Am Jazz](#) by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings: The story of a transgender child based on the real-life experience of Jazz Jennings, who has become a spokesperson for transgender kids everywhere.

[If You Believe in Mermaids...Don't Tell](#) by A. A. Phillips: Todd Winslow has just finished seventh grade. He has always struggled with his own identity and what it means to be a boy, being perpetually measured against what his father views as the 'perfect son.' Phillips presents a difficult gender issue to readers in a delicate manner.

[Jacob's New Dress](#) by Sarah Hoffman: This heartwarming story speaks to the unique challenges faced by boys who don't identify with traditional gender roles.

[Meet Polkadot](#) by Talcott Broadhead: Polkadot as well as Polkadot's big sister Gladiola and best friend Norma Alicia, introduce readers to the challenges and beauty that are experienced by Polkadot as a non-binary, transgender kid.



[Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress](#) by Christine Baldacchino: Morris is a little boy who loves using his imagination. But most of all, Morris loves wearing the tangerine dress in his classroom's dress-up center. The children in Morris's class don't understand. One day when Morris feels all alone and sick from their taunts, his mother lets him stay home from school. Morris dreams of a fantastic space adventure with his cat, Moo.

[Pinky and Rex and the Bully](#) by James Howe: Pinky's favorite color is pink, and his best friend, Rex, is a girl. Kevin, the third-grade bully, says that makes Pinky a sissy. Deep down, Pinky thinks Kevin is wrong, but he's still worried. Does Pinky have to give up his favorite things, and worse, does he have to give up his best friend?

[Pugdog](#) by Andrea U'Ren: Mike and his pup are great friends. But Mike doesn't know very much about dogs. Not only is Pugdog not a pug—Pugdog is not even a he, as Mike had thought all along, but a she! Mike feels obliged to give Pugdog a crash course on how to look and act the way a girl dog should. The only problem is Mike doesn't know much about this subject either.

This is Important!

You don't always know where other people are on their journeys.

THEREFORE, PFLAG meetings must always be a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear

Must remain strictly confidential.

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.

Bill Oliver Award

(Continued from page 1)

2014. Saturday I was stunned when I was named as the awardee. The theme this year related to the importance of having community allies. The person presenting it was giving some background on the awardee, and as I paid more attention it sounded like someone with whom I may have a lot in common, so I was looking forward to meeting him/her. I could remain in comfortable denial, however, as (1) I was sure the awardee always knows in advance, and (2) I knew I wasn't in the same league as past winners. However, when it was mentioned that this person had participated in an LGBT Catholic pilgrimage to the Vatican, I knew I was in deep trouble. Well, shoot - I was the only Bill Oliver present so I up and accepted. I'm not sure if PFLAG had been mentioned but I spoke briefly about PFLAG and our value to cadets and their families, and I accepted the award in its name.

"I'm waiting to hear back from the faculty lady in charge of Spectrum - looking for a date for us to attend their meeting again. If possible, ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday, when cadets go home."

Bill Oliver has been the treasurer of the Colorado Springs chapter of PFLAG for nine years. He provides a vibrant voice in discussions at monthly chapter meetings, and often introduces himself to the group by saying that he is a Christian who happens to be gay. He adds that being gay is a small part of who he is; being Christian is a big part.

He is a member of Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. He serves as a key resource for two other parents groups: one Christian and one just for Catholics, and he maintains a list of local Welcoming Churches, available on our website. Bill is active in the outreach of the chapter, visiting Spectrum, engaging the chapter volunteers in events such as Educating Children of Color, and reaching out to the LGBT support group in Salida.

Bill is an avid outdoor adventurer. In 2002 he transferred within his aerospace company to Colorado Springs from Los Angeles, then later retired here. He also keeps busy volunteering in two prison ministries and as a CASA advocate.



BULLETIN BOARD

December 2 — Premiere of 2019 Youth Documentary Academy Films Cornerstone Center at Colorado College 6:00—9:30 p.m.

December 13-14 — "A Midwinter Mitzvah" — Out Loud Colorado Springs Men's Chorus concerts at First Congregational Church, 20 East St. Vrain Street. Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. See p. 1.

December 19 — Open House at Inside/Out Youth Services — 223 North Wahsatch Avenue, Suite 101, 3:00—5:30 p.m. Join Inside Out for an Open House and learn more about the programs offered at Inside Out and ways that you can take part as a community member, whether that be volunteering or becoming a donor. Questions? Contact Joy Armstrong at Joy@insideoutys.org

January 11 — PFLAG State Coalition Meeting—Denver Representatives from PFLAG chapters in the Rocky Mountain Region will meet with regional director Blanca Leos for a day of workshops and networking. If you would like to attend, please talk to Bill Oliver or send an e-mail to info@cspflag.org.

Use Your King Soopers (Kroger) SooperCard To Support Colorado Springs PFLAG

It costs nothing to link a SooperCards (the card you swipe to get the sale prices on groceries when you are checking out) to Colorado Springs PFLAG on the King Soopers website. Every time you shop and swipe the card., a portion of what you spend for groceries, gas and prescriptions will come to our PFLAG chapter.

- To link your card, go to: www.kingsoopers.com;
- Click on "Sign In" and sign in if you already have an account or create a new account if you don't.
- Go to "My Account" and click on "Community Awards".
- Click on "Enroll Now".
- From the list of participating organizations, choose "Colorado Springs Chapter P-Flag, Inc."
- You're finished! Sign out.

Questions? Send an e-mail to info@cspflag.org.

Educating Children of Color Summit Jan 18

(Continued from page 1)

tle the cradle to prison pipeline for children of color and children in poverty through education. To register to attend, and see scholarship information see:

<http://www.educatingchildrenofcolor.org/>

PFLAG volunteers are needed to staff a PFLAG information table in shifts. If you can help, call Elaine Myers at (719) 598-7265.

Congratulations

To the Place (formerly Urban Peak in Colorado Springs) and its Executive Director, Shawna Kemppainen on receiving the El Pomar foundation's 2019 Aware for Excellence, which included a \$25,000 grant for their work with homeless youth.



**Happy Holidays to Everyone
From Colorado Springs PFLAG**

End of the Year Reminder: Membership

Remember to renew your PFLAG membership if you haven't already done so, or sign up to become a new member of PFLAG.

Please use the form below or go to the PFLAG website www.cspflag.org to make a secure payment online through PayPal using a credit card. Thank you to our wonderful PFLAG members who have renewed for 2020!

Amazon Smile Program Supports PFLAG

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

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

Amazon will send 0.5% of the amount you spend to our chapter. Flyers on this program are available at PFLAG meetings.

Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.

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. Or pay by credit card online at website: www.cspflag.org PFLAG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.