



# PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

February 2018

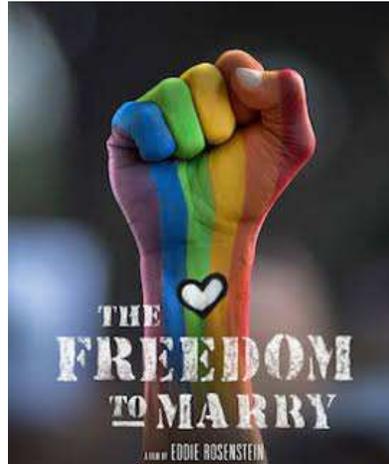
## "This is the Riveting Story of How We Won"

The week of Valentine's Day is a wonderful time to come to the February PFLAG meeting and watch "Freedom to Marry" with your friends. This is the story of the marriage rights campaign led by Evan Wolfson that culminated in victory with the 2015 Supreme Court ruling in favor of gay marriage.

The movie was shown, and Wolfson spoke, at the PFLAG national convention last fall. It's thrilling to watch the determination of Wolfson and his followers, and the rejoicing that erupted across the country when the ruling was announced.

The following is from a Courtney Linder review in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

"From the outset, it's clear that the namesake organization in 2016's "The Freedom to Marry" will become de-



"The biggest gay rights ruling -- EVER!

function following the June 26, 2015, U.S. Supreme Court decision in

*(Continued on page 2)*

## PFLAG Presents to Spectrum Club at United States Air Force Academy

*Four leaders from our PFLAG chapter met in November with the LGBTQ+ Spectrum Club at the Air Force Academy. The following report was provided by Bill Oliver.*

Enacted by Congress in 1993, the policy of "Don't Ask Don't Tell" (DADT) prevented gay and lesbian service members from serving openly. Under this policy, they would be discharged if their sexual orientation became known. Effective September 20, 2011, DADT was repealed. (At that time trans service members could still not serve openly. At present they can serve, thanks to court actions, but their status remains somewhat insecure.) Soon after repeal the Spectrum Club was formed at the USAFA, and similarly at the other military academies, in support of gay and lesbian

cadets. Since repeal, the Academy's leadership has always been very supportive of a fully inclusive cadet wing, from the Superintendent on down. Quoting from the USAFA website:

*Spectrum: Provides a support network for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Questioning (GLBQ) cadets and allies, and creates an educational experience for all cadets dedicated to the retention, development and commissioning of culturally and socially competent junior officers. Fosters concepts of active leadership, professionalism and respect for human dignity between all individuals with no bias against sexual orientation.*

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### FEBRUARY PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday  
February 20, 2018  
7:00 p.m.

### MOVIE NIGHT AT PFLAG

"The Freedom to Marry"

The Dwelling Place  
508 North Tejon Street

Social time begins at 6:30 p.m.

POPCORN, SOFT DRINKS,  
Coffee, Cookies  
Everyone is welcome.

## PFLAG Flag Bearer Award Goes to Jesuit Priest

The PFLAG *Flag Bearer Award* is given 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.

At the recent national PFLAG convention, this honor went to Jesuit priest and *New York Times* best selling author Fr. James Martin. 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."

In this book, Fr. Martin issues an impassioned plea for Catholic leaders to relate to their LGBT flock in a new way, one characterized by compassion and openness. His groundbreaking book also includes spiritual and biblical resources for LGBT people and their families, friends, and allies.



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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### Freedom to Marry



Evan Wolfson

*(Continued from page 1)*

*Obergefell v. Hodges.* The justices ruled 5-4 that same-sex marriage is a guaranteed right under the 14th Amendment's due process and equal protection clauses.

"The advocacy group won its case and closed shop. Love won.

"The film is a definitive history of the course gay marriage took in the United States, from a 1973 NBC poll — which cited 52 percent of Americans as homophobic — to the iconic moment when rainbow flag-wielding equal rights fighters bolted down the stairs in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in summer 2015."

How long did it take? As part of the campaign, The first Freedom to Marry Week was observed in February, 1998.

Watch the trailer: online at: <https://freedomtomarrymovie.com/> but don't watch it on Netflix - come watch it with PFLAG!

### 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)

### PFLAG Presents to Spectrum

*(Continued from page 1)*

Four of our PFLAG board members made their first presentation to Spectrum on the Academy campus in December 2013. Our primary intent was to make known the key resources PFLAG can offer to the families of cadets who are "coming out," especially its monthly chapter meetings throughout the country.

The same four of us (Elaine Myers, Jackie Thompson, Doug Kirkpatrick and myself) returned to the Academy for our second presentation this past November, invited by the two cadet co-chairs of the club and their faculty sponsor. This timing let us catch the cadets before they went home for the Thanksgiving holiday.



About twenty cadets were able to attend, out of a membership of about fifty (which number includes allies). Our three parents shared their personal stories of a child coming out, very beautiful and touching stories. Several cadets also shared their coming out stories, thankfully all positive. We also provided lots of our PFLAG literature and web resources, plus homemade cookies - a special treat. Additionally, we presented the club with a contribution of \$250, which was greatly appreciated.

A couple of the cadets mentioned that coming from a "super religious" family can make it harder to come out. I pointed out that I happen to be "super religious" and gay, and I provided a lot of relevant resources. It was a beautiful evening of learning and sharing together.

We are so fortunate to have such dedicated men and women, gay and straight, willing to commit themselves in service to our country.



## Four Films—March 3 — Do Not Miss this Event!

### Film Showing.

On March 3, Springs Equality, in collaboration with Inside Out Youth Services, PFLAG and BRIDGE/PAGE, will present four excellent short independent films that focus on transgender and gender nonconforming youth. The films are:

*I'm Just Anneke*  
*The Family Journey*  
*Creating Gender Inclusive Schools*  
*Becoming Johanna*

Screening will be at The Gallery Below, 718-B North Weber Street, 6-9 p.m. Discussion with representatives of the four organizations will follow the screening.

### Youth and Gender Media Project

The films are provided by an organization called "Youth and Gender Media Project". Its website provides the following statement:

*"At the Youth and Gender Media Project, we believe all young people should be encouraged to be themselves, free from the fear of bullying or discouragement. Our mission is to support educators, families and youth who want to create inclusive communities by providing them with groundbreaking videos and curricula about gender expansive youth. Our films open minds and hearts, and invite viewers to examine and challenge their ideas about young people and their relationships to gender. Our ultimate vision is to create a world where all people are free to express themselves fully and are celebrated for who they really are."*

These filmmakers are doing excellent work. "Creating Gender Inclusive Schools was shown at the November, 2016 PFLAG meeting. For more information, see their website: <http://youthandgendermediaproject.org>

### PFLAG meetings are a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear ...

must remain strictly confidential.

Thank you.



Jessie Pocock has just been chosen as the new Executive Director of Inside/Out Youth Services. Inside/Out is a nonprofit group that has provided support to LGBTIQ+ youth in the Pikes Peak region for over twenty years.

Jessie has held various roles in the nonprofit sector. Most recently, she was the Executive Director of the LEAD Foundation empowering students who struggle with learning disabilities and attention issues. She worked at UCCS as the Development and Events Director for the Galleries of Contemporary Art and was a Campaign Officer for Pikes Peak United Way.

Jessie is committed to a variety of pro-equality initiatives and campaigns. She spearheaded One Colorado's Southern Colorado grassroots efforts to advance statewide pro-LGBTIQ and equity legislation and to support pro-LGBTIQ candidates. In 2016, she was appointed by Governor Hickenlooper to the Colorado

### What Does the "OUT" Mean in Inside/Out?

*From Inside/Out Announcement—January 22, 2018*

The board and staff at Inside/Out recognize that providing a safe, affirming, and accepting space for LGBTIQ youth is critical.

We take this one step further by empowering youth to use their voices OUT in the community.

Every year our Youth Leadership Council takes their stories and current research about the issues LGBTIQ youth face OUT by speaking to education professionals, state employees, their peers, mental health workers, case workers and community stakeholders.

Brav/Bravo/Brava Inside/Out Youth Leadership Council and Inside/Out Program Manager, Maegan Brundage! Thanks for helping us promote individual, institutional, and systemic change to protect civil rights and foster the healthy development of all LGBTIQ youth.

Civil Rights Commission.

Jessie attended Colorado College where she earned her Bachelor Degree in Sociology. She went on to the UCCS School of Public Affairs where she earned a Master of Public Administration degree. She is passionate about equity, civil rights and youth.

Congratulations to the Inside/Out Board of Directors and to Jessie! We at PFLAG look forward to working with you.

Inside/Out will hold a Reception for the new director on February 8th—see PFLAG calendar p. 4 for details.

### Transman Camp in Colorado

Our friend at the PFLAG chapter in Salida, Leslie Henslee, went to a Transman Camp in LA last fall and found it "absolutely amazing". Leslie is strongly encouraging local transguys to come to the upcoming camp organized in Colorado by the same group. It will be held April 6-8 in Elbert, Colorado (southeast of Denver) To contact Leslie, send an e-mail to Colo. Springs PFLAG and we will forward it ([info@cspflag.org](mailto:info@cspflag.org)). Participants must be at least 21. If you are interested, don't delay. Sign up now at the camp website: [www.camplostboys.org](http://www.camplostboys.org)

### GSA Leadership Summit

One Colorado will host a day-long Gay-Straight Alliance Leadership Summit on February 17 from 9 a.m.—4 p.m. at UCCS. This is a FREE event and this year's theme is 'It Starts With Us' to remind us that we all have the power to make change in our community. Location: the University Center, 1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway. Registration: 8:30 a.m. For more information contact Kerianne Smith: [keris@one-colorado.org](mailto:keris@one-colorado.org).

### 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.



**BULLETIN BOARD**

**February 8— Inside/Out Executive Director Reception.** Meet the new Director, Jessie Pocock. at Inside/Out, 223 North Wahsatch Ave., Suite 101 6—7:30 p.m.

**February 17 — GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance Leadership Summit** at UCCS organized by One Colorado . See p. 3

**March 3 — Four Short Films —** PFLAG will be collaborating with Springs Equality, BRIDGE/PAGE and Inside/Out to present four independent short films about transgender and gender nonconforming youth. The Gallery Below, 718-B North Weber Street, 6-9 p.m. See p. 3.

**April 21 — Red Ribbon Ball — Honoring This Year’s Heroes With a Touch of Magic.** Honoring Heroes Mary Ellen McNally and Mary Lou Makepeace. Cheyenne Mountain Resort, 3225 Broadmoor Valley Road This event supports the Southern Colorado Aids Project (S-CAP). Purchase tickets at: [www.RedRibbonBall2018.Kintera.org](http://www.RedRibbonBall2018.Kintera.org) Let’s have a PFLAG table at the Ball this year! If you are interested, call Karen Stith at 634-4433.

**Policy Matters—From PFLAG National**

Take Action - Tell Scholastic Why You Love Their LGBTQ-Inclusive Kids' Books

The anti-LGBTQ group One Million Moms, part of the American Family Association (classified as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center) is telling people to complain to Scholastic for including LGBTQ topics in its children's books. Reach Scholastic; tell them you're a PFLAGer and thank them for being inclusive. Here's how to reach Scholastic:

Corporate Communications: (212) 343-6657  
E-mail via form on website: <http://bit.ly/2n6pvSM>  
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/scholastic>

PFLAG thanks our friend, Dana Rudolph, lesbian mom blogger at <https://www.mombian.com/> for organizing this effort and for bringing it to our attention. Read more about the Scholastic campaign on Dana’s website: : <http://bit.ly/2B84s6u>

**PFLAG: Best LGBTQ Stories in Film and TV**

There was so much more visibility for our community this year, it’s hard to pick favorites...but we will try. In film, the clear favorite for us was *Call Me By Your Name*. If you

haven't yet seen this festival-winning, Oscar-and-Golden-Globe contending work of art, now is the time: the film went into wide release on February 24 (see calendar at <http://bit.ly/2E8puoN> ). In television, the *Thanksgiving* episode of Netflix’s show *Master of None* was a don't-miss piece of storytelling, beautifully crafted from the life experience of writer Lena Waithe (one of this year's OUT 100 - see OUT 100 story at <http://bit.ly/2n94DJx> ), who won an Emmy Award for writing the episode (alongside series creator Aziz Ansari), the first black woman writer ever to take home the coveted award. (If you missed her incredible acceptance speech, check it out here: <http://bit.ly/2F8QEEo> ) Another favorite? The season opener of Disney Channel's *Andi Mack* and a coming-out story that moved us to tears...and got it so very, very right. Finally, take a look at PFLAG’s Top Ten Best and Worst of 2017 at <https://www.pflag.org/blog/top-ten-best-and-worst-2017>

**Support PFLAG**

**Pick up a King Soopers/ City Market Gift Card at a PFLAG meeting or ask us to mail one to you.**



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. To receive a card by mail, call Cindy Waldmann at (719) 488-9887.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Check here if you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ Regular Membership \$ 30
- \_\_\_\_\_ Supporting Member—Silver 40
- \_\_\_\_\_ Supporting Member—Gold 60
- \_\_\_\_\_ Supporting Member—Platinum 100

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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