



PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

2019 is Our 25th Anniversary Year!

February 2019

UCCS Students to Discuss “Beyond Binary”, Pronouns

“Beyond Binary” “Gender Variant”, “Gender Queer” – we’ve now moved well beyond the LGBT categories of the Gay Rights Movement.

The February 19th PFLAG meeting will feature a conversation with representatives of the LGBT Resource Center at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. They will discuss their experience of gender diversity on campus and how the Center supports students across the spectrum.

The tent is growing. Are gay and lesbian students continuing to engage with the Center as more gender variant students reach out for support? Are students generally willing to use the pronouns designed to sidestep binary identity?

And what do they think about the conservative view expressed in the *Wall Street Journal* in January about “Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria” that tags youthful gender exploration as a fad supported by overly permissive educators and medical providers? Here’s a little background:

Preferred Name and Gender Presentation. The Registrar’s website provides the following information: The University now permits a student to list a “preferred name” on the ad-



missions application in addition to their legal name. Adding a preferred name to the application will only change how a student is addressed by the Office of Admissions. If they wish to designate their preferred name in additional university systems, they may do so in their personal information page in the university’s online system.

Furthermore, while gender is listed as an option on the application, it is completely optional and applicants do not have to give an answer. Gender is only collected for demographic and statistical purposes and does not factor into admis-

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Join OneColorado for LGBTQ Lobby Day on February 13th



Once a year, the LGBT advocacy group OneColorado organizes an LGBTQ Lobby Day, when many LGBTQ people

and their allies head up to Denver to talk to their legislators.

Lobby Day will take place from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, February 13th. The location is First Baptist Church of Denver, 1373 Grant St, Denver, CO 80203 (please note the new location this year). Participants can sign up on the OneColorado web-

site: <https://bit.ly/2MDgTP3>

Message from OneColorado:

“The only way we can shape the future of equality in Colorado is by making sure our elected representatives hear from us, so make sure you mark your calendar and sign up to join us! And, don’t worry if it’s your first time at Lobby Day, we’ll train you AND feed you.

“This year, we will be asking legislators to support banning conversion therapy for minors in Colorado and to support a bill to make it less burden-

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FEBRUARY PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday
February 19, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Beyond Binary,
Gender Variant, Gender Queer
and a Rainbow of Pronouns

A Discussion With
Members of the
LGBTQA+ Center at UCCS

The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street

Light refreshments

Social time starts at 6:30 p.m.
Everyone is welcome.

Father James Martin at CC

Colorado Springs PFLAG is supporting Colorado College in the presentation of a live video appearance by Father James Martin at Colorado College on April 3.

Fr. Martin is a Catholic Jesuit priest who received PFLAG’s “Flag Bearer Award” at its national convention in 2017. His recent book, *Building a Bridge: How the Catholic Church and the LGBT Community Can Enter Into a Relationship of Respect, Compassion and Sensitivity*, has received widespread praise.

PFLAG acknowledged his work as “A shining example of the power of faith leaders to unite those who have too often been on opposite sides of a conversation and haven’t often seen a path forward to truly seeing each other, achieving unity and experiencing the blessing of healing.”

Plan to come and join in the discussion with Fr. Martin. Cornerstone Arts Center, 7 p.m..



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

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Colorado Springs Breaking Boundaries is the new name of the group that started a Drag Story Time program at Penrose Public Library last September under the leadership of Joseph Shelton.

According to its new website, www.csbreakingboundaries.org, the group has created a new logo and has chosen a new name "to celebrate the way that Drag Kings and Queens are rising above and inspiring others to do great things in life".

The group is led by LGBTQIA+ members who are dedicated to creating a welcoming space and organization for young people in the Colorado Springs community to express and be who they are.

Drag Story Time at Penrose Library is scheduled on the first Saturday of each month. Bella Winters will be the reader on Saturday, February 2 from 10:30—11:30 a.m.

Current information is available on Facebook at *Colorado Springs Breaking Boundaries*.

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. The next meeting is on February 21 at Inside/Out, 223 North Wahsatch Ave. For more information, call Inside/Out at 328-1056.

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 young 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.



The OneColorado Educational Fund will present the 2019 Ally Awards at a cocktail reception at the Mining Exchange Hotel, 8 South Nevada Avenue, starting at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 2.

The award recipients are Dawn Di Prince and Stephany Rose Spaulding, who have done so much for LGBTQ Coloradans and their families. Additional information and tickets (\$40 per person) are available online at: <https://bit.ly/2DEPcSU>

Proceeds from this event support the work of OneColorado in Southern Colorado and across the state.

Editor: Sorry I didn't know about this in time for the January PFLAG newsletter.

Lobby Day

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some for transgender Coloradans to update the gender on their birth certificate.

"For folks bringing their kids, we will have a table with some activities for them to do during the training and then we want them to come to the capitol with us!

"If you sign up to be a lobby leader, we have a training that will happen on February 5th at 5:30pm (there will be in-person and dial-in options to attend). Being a lobby leader means you will have a group of folks that you help take to the capitol, find legislators, etc.

"If you are traveling from somewhere outside the Denver Metro area, limited scholarships are available for anyone who needs assistance making it to LGBTQ Lobby Day. Email Sarah Clark for more details at sarahc@onecolorado.org.

"Please bring a refillable water bottle to help us reduce waste with plastic water bottles."

Editor's Note: To see who else from Colorado Springs PFLAG might be planning to attend Lobby Day, or to link up with others from a similar organization to join a carpool, please send an e-mail to info@cspflag.org



Outstanding Transgender Conference in Boulder



Colorado Springs Counselor Dara Hoffman-Fox LPC highly recommends the TRANSforming Gender Conference to be held on March 9-10 at the Koelbel Business School Building at CU in Boulder.

This vibrant conference, now in its 13th year, is dedicated to celebrating trans identities in all their forms. It hosts workshops, panels, discussions and other conference sessions over two days. Presenters and participants include academics, health professionals, community organizers, performance and visual artists, students, faculty, staff, youth, family members and community members.

There is a great deal of variety including sessions for trans people, family members, educators, and mental/medical health care professionals.

The conference is FREE and open to the public. Participants should register online in advance. For more information and an opportunity to register online, go to: <https://bit.ly/2BbHC0G>

PFLAG Volunteers On the Go

Six PFLAG volunteers will take turns staffing our information table at the UCCS GSA Summit on February 2.

PFLAG thanks all the volunteers who staffed information tables in 2018 at the Educating Children of Color Conference at Colorado College, the GSA Summit, an El Paso County Department of Human Services event, Arkansas Valley Pride in Salida, Pueblo Pride and Colorado Springs PrideFest, AAA Pride Day, the Lewis-Palmer School District Health Expo, the Pueblo Community Peace Summit, and the Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival. Our wonderful donors enable the chapter to purchase and hand out a generous amount of PFLAG literature.

AND...PFLAGgers ushered at seve
en Out Loud Chorus concerts in 2018!

Special thanks to Elaine Myers, Cindy Waldmann and Cheryl Prichard!

UCCS Students Discuss Beyond Binary, Pronouns, ROGD

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sions decisions.

Pronouns. The Resource Center provides a detailed explanation of new pronouns which have come into common use, and the importance of respecting a student's preferred pronouns. (See article on p. 4)

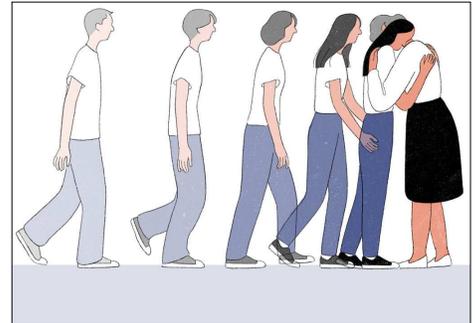
"ROGD: Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria." The *Wall Street Journal* printed an opinion piece by Abigail Shrier titled "When Your Daughter Defies Biology" on January 7, 2019. Shrier is a member of the conservative Federalist group.

Read this article online at: <https://on.wsj.com/2ReWs0n>
Shrier claims that "ROGD is a social contagion that comes on suddenly in adolescence, afflicting teens who'd never exhibited any confusion about their sex". She laments the "affirmative care" provided by Planned Parenthood and other medical providers for teens who identify as gender variant. She concludes "Under the influence of testosterone and the spell of transgression, ROGD daughters grow churlish and aggressive. Under the banner of civil rights, they assume the moral high ground."

Rebuttal: Colorado Springs counselor Dara Hoffman-Fox LPC responded to an inquiry from our PFLAG chapter about this article by saying that this theory has been floating around for several months now, and that parents are starting to hear about it and wonder if it has any merit. She pointed us to an article in the *New York Times* which came out on the very next day, January 9, 2019, which should dispel the concerns raised by Shrier. The opposing opinion piece by Jennifer Finney Boylan is titled "Coming Out as Trans Isn't a Teenage Fad". The

subtitle is "Conservatives are Inventing a "Syndrome" to Undermine Young People's Transitions."

Boylan states: "An abundance of scientific research makes clear that gender variance is a fundamental truth of human biology, not some wacky dance craze... ROGD is not a clinical term. It's a political one, designed to



Artwork by Jun Cen, *New York Times*

undermine the validity of these young people's transitions"

She continues, "The term originated a few years ago on three blogs with a history of promoting anti-trans propaganda. There has been only one study on it, in the journal *PLOS One*. But the study wasn't about the children in question; it was about their parents, who were recruited for the study by ads placed in the conservative blogs that had invented the concept of ROGD in the first place."

Boylan concludes: "[There's] a lesson that people my age need to learn. Being queer is no longer something that needs to be tolerated, or accepted, or forgiven. It never was. What it is, is one more way of being human. And the proper response to our children's humanity should be love." Please be sure to read the complete NYT article at:

<https://nyti.ms/2DFSSE4>

This is Important!

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

THEREFORE, PFLAG meetings are always a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear

Must remain strictly confidential.

- Thank you.

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.



Pronouns 101—Primer (CU Boulder Website)

The Importance of Pronouns

Pronouns are one of the ways we portray our identities. When someone asks you to use their pronouns, they are asking for you to respect their identity. When someone refers to another person using the wrong pronouns, especially on purpose, that can cause that person to feel disrespected and leads to dysphoria, exclusion and alienation.

It is never safe to assume someone's gender. Living a life where people will naturally assume the correct pronouns for you is a privilege that not everyone experiences. Choosing to ignore or disrespect someone's pronouns is not only an act of oppression but can also be considered an act of violence.

Pronouncing the Newer Ones

When a person introduces themselves to you with their pronouns, they'll normally pronounce it themselves. However, don't be afraid to ask. Ze is pronounced like Americans pronounce the letter "z," like "zee." Hir is pronounced like "here" and hirs is similar, but with an "s" on the end.

If You Don't Know a Person's Pronouns

Sometimes people just don't want to share their pronouns and that's fine. Usually it's safe to use they/them/theirs unless that person tells you otherwise. Try to introduce yourself with your own pronouns so that everyone you meet knows that you're a safe space and that you won't assume a person's pronouns. It also prompts them to provide pronouns without it being awkward. (Ex. "Hello, my name is Alex and I use they/them/theirs pronouns.")

You can ask that person, as long as you do so politely (i.e. "Hey, what are your pronouns?"), but it is generally preferred that gender non-conforming people come out with their own pronouns on their own terms. Knowing a person's pronouns is not the most important thing in the world but respecting a person is, so try not to demand something of someone when they're not comfortable giving it.

BULLETIN BOARD

Feb 2 — 2019 Southern Colorado Gay-Straight Alliance Leadership Summit - Berger Hall, UCCS, 9 a.m.—4 p.m. This event is free. Workshops and networking opportunities for middle school, high school and college students who are, or would like to be, involved with a Gay-Straight Alliance at their school. Parents and Educators are welcome. For more information about the Summit, and to register, see its online Facebook page: <https://bit.ly/2VAIYvn>

Feb 2— Drag Story Time— Penrose Library, 20 North Cascade Avenue, 10:30—11:30 a.m. The story reader will be Bella Winters.

Feb 2 — 2019 Southern Colorado Ally Awards — 5:30 p.m. Mining Exchange Hotel, 8 S. Nevada. See article p. 2.

Feb 13 — Lobby Day in Denver. See article, p. 1.

Mar 9-10 — TRANSforming Gender Conference — CU Boulder. See article p. 3.

Apr 3— Father James Martin— Live Video Appearance at Colorado College — Cornerstone Arts Center 7 p.m. See article p. 1.

Apr 20 — "One Hot Night in Havana" - Red Ribbon Ball — Southern Colorado Health Network's (SCHN) (formerly S-CAP) signature fund raising benefit, raising \$50,000 supporting HIV services and programs throughout southern Colorado. Antlers Hotel. For more information see PFLAG March newsletter or call (303) 837-0166. Save the date.

<p>she/her/hers</p> <p>She is calling. Her family is nice. That car is hers. When in doubt, ask the woman herself.</p>	<p>he/him/his</p> <p>He is calling. His family is nice. That car is his. When in doubt, ask the man himself.</p>	<p>they/them/theirs</p> <p>They are calling. Their family is nice. That car is theirs. When in doubt, ask the person themselves.</p>	<p>ze/hir/hirs</p> <p>Ze is calling. Hir family is nice. That car is hirs. When in doubt, ask the person himself.</p>	<p>There are many, many more than these out in the world. These are simply the most common. If you want to see more, Google is your best friend.</p>
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Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019.

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.