



PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

February 2020

Growing Up Transgender, and With Love



"It Shouldn't be Scary to be Who You Are" — Kaysen Ford with his mom.

In February, with Valentine's Day coming up, here's a heartwarming conversation from StoryCorps.

Parents and children often come to StoryCorps to share the most important moments in their lives. That's just what Kaysen Ford had in mind when he sat down with his mother, Jennifer Sumner, to talk about his experiences as a 12-year-old kid who happens to be transgender, and the love and support he's received from his family along the way.

Listen to their 3 1/2 minute conversation by clicking on this link: <http://bit.ly/2RwMMwE>

Southern Colorado Leadership Summit— February 29th



Calling everyone who wants to work to make schools safer for our LGBTQ students! One Colorado, an advocacy group based in Denver, is organizing the 2020 Southern Colorado Leadership Summit. This is a one-day free

StoryCorps is an American non-profit organization whose mission is to record, preserve, and share the stories of Americans from all backgrounds and beliefs. StoryCorps grew out of Sound Portraits Productions as a project founded in 2003 by radio producer David Isay. (Wikipedia)

To learn about StoryCorps, listen to podcasts or subscribe to the "Story of the Week" delivered by e-mail on Fridays, go to <https://storycorps.org/>.

The Mission of StoryCorps is "To preserve and share humanity's stories in order to build connections between people and create a more just and compassionate world".

conference for those who want to make sure that every Colorado school is safe and affirming for all students. Complimentary breakfast and lunch will be provided. Pre-register now to make sure you have a place by going to this website: <http://bit.ly/2uECbXG>.

Details

Saturday, February 29
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.)
Air Academy High School, 6910
Carlton Dr., Air Force Academy, CO

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FEBRUARY PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday
February 18, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Loving Our LGBT
Community
Conversation/ Support

The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street

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

Inside Out Trusted Adults Event

How can we, as trusted adults, start having difficult conversations and build trust?

Inside Out Youth Services presents a FREE training for community members, parents, teachers, educators and youth agency professionals about youth and marijuana. Funded by the Trusted Adults program of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, this training aims to build new avenues and systems of support between youth and adults.

Tues. February 18 – 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Deerfield Community Center
4290 Deerfield Hills Road

Please email tyescha@insideout.org to RSVP to this FREE opportunity!

Remember to Plug the Meter!

When attending a PFLAG meeting, remember that parking meters downtown are now active until 10 p.m. There is free parking in the lot nearby on the Southeast corner of Tejon and St. Vrain Streets.



From the Colorado Springs PFLAG Facebook Page

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

Cindy Waldmann does a wonderful job of bringing us all sorts of LGBTQ stories, homilies, and rants by posting them on our Facebook page. Some excerpts. The first was posted with a photo of a hand-scrawled note:

Dad's Note to Gay Son Who Hasn't Come Out Yet

Nate – I overheard your phone conversation with Mike last night about your plans to come out to me. The only thing I need you to plan is to bring home OJ and bread after class. We are out, like you now. I've known you were gay since you were six. I've loved you since you were born.

– Dad

P.S. Your mom and I think you and Mike make a cute couple.

Queer People

"Queer people do not grow up as ourselves. We grow up playing a version of ourselves that sacrifices authenticity to minimize humiliation and preju-

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>

dice. The massive task of our adult lives is to unpack which parts of ourselves are truly us and which parts we have created to protect us."

- Alexander Leon

If you are a Facebook user, please take a look at the Colorado Springs PFLAG Facebook page, respond to Cindy's posts and be sure to "like" the page to help it reach further into the community.

GSA Conference Feb. 29

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Be aware that sometimes only the North Gate to the Air Force Academy is open to the public. You can check in advance to see if the South Gate will be open on February 29 by calling 719-333-2025.

One Colorado believes that everyone should be able to live their lives as their authentic selves – and this is especially important for Colorado students. For many lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) young people, living authentically is no easy task. One Colorado's organizers know that the presence of a Gay-Straight Alliance or Gender and Sexualities Alliance (GSA) in a school can significantly decrease the chance of an LGBTQ young person experiencing discrimination or harassment in classrooms and hallways.

From middle school student to college scholar, from parent to allied community member – all are welcome. Spend the day with One Colorado and the GSA Network to meet with other advocates in this area and learn how you can make your impact even bigger.

General information about One Colorado can be found online at:

<https://one-colorado.org>

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.LGBT hotline.org/SAGE



Volunteers Needed for LGBTQ Lobby Day in Denver Feb. 24th

Let's see if our PFLAG chapter can send some representatives to Lobby Day! If you are interested in joining others to go together to Denver, send an e-mail to info@cspflag.org. Let's make our voices heard!

On Monday, February 24th PFLAG volunteers and members of the One Colorado advocacy group will gather at the State Capitol building in Denver to talk with legislators. They will encourage the legislators to support LGBTQ priority bills, like increasing access to HIV prevention and medications.

They will also be talking to legislators about the bad bills that should not be passed, like the anti-transgender bill that would send doctors to prison for up to 12 years for providing transgender youth with affirming healthcare.

--- YES, that really is a bill that was introduced this year!

When: Monday, February 24 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Where: Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Central Presbyterian Church, 1660 Sherman Street, Denver.

Participants will receive training and free brunch/ lunch. Just bring your own refillable water bottle. To register, go to: <http://bit.ly/2tOIRm3>. If you have questions, contact Sheena Kadi, Deputy Director, One Colorado at (303) 396-6170 or send an e-mail to: info@one-colorado.org

Sam Pancake's Plea to "Respect Gay Elders" is a Cry From the Heart

The Advocate, Jan. 29 '20 – By Tracey E. Gilchrist

Sam Pancake, who's been an out working actor since he first started in the business in 1990, has delivered a speech about the toll of HIV and AIDS that ended with an impassioned plea for young LGBTQ people to "respect your elders," which is now going viral on Twitter.

During an episode of *Lovett or Leave It (The Rural Jurors)*, Pancake, 51, delivered an incendiary rant about a young gay man in the comedy business who said he'd rather be dead than be Pancake's age.

Read the story at: <http://bit.ly/2uFUpbk>



Governor Jared Polis takes a selfie with Lobby Day participants in 2019

Robert J. Barnes, R.C.
January 10, 1934—January 17, 2020

Robert Barnes passed away this month at the age of 86. He was a familiar face at our meetings over the years and was very proud of his long time association with PFLAG.

Rest in peace, Robert.

1st Annual El Paso County Suicide Prevention Conference

PFLAG board member Jerry Albrent was honored to be a panel member as part of the First Annual El Paso County Suicide Prevention Conference on January 17 at UCCS. He represented Inside/Out Youth Services and the LGBTQ population. Thank you, Jerry!

Jenny Bender commented: "I sit on the Colorado Department of Public Health Child Fatality Prevention team and from a policy level, this a big focus area again this legislative session. Not surprisingly, EPC is significantly the highest in the state for suicide rates. On a community level, there is SO much we can do together."

Over 600 people attended this event. To see a KOAA report on the conference, go to: <http://bit.ly/2GxTVGX>





BULLETIN BOARD

February 18—Inside/Out Trusted Adults Event — Deerfield Hills community Center 5:30—7:30 p.m. See article on p. 1

February 24— Lobby Day at the State Capitol — 8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Meet at Central Presbyterian Church, 1660 Sherman Street in Denver. See details on p. 3.

February 29 — Southern Colorado GSA Leadership Conference. Air Academy High School 10 a.m.—5 p.m. See article on p. 1.

March 14-15 — 9th Annual TRANSforming Gender Conference. — University of Colorado, Boulder. Free two-day event. See article on this page.

Planning Ahead— Colorado Springs Pridefest will be celebrated on July 14-15, 2020.

No Shortage of LGBT-Related Legislation

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minors. On the positive side, there is a bill that would make HIV medications more readily accessible. There's plenty to support – and oppose.

Please read this excellent article by going to: <http://bit.ly/2S470Ni> - - - and then decide to come to Lobby Day with PFLAG on February 24!

What's Bitly?

We use www.bitly.com, a free online program that shortens an internet address, providing an alternative route to the website.

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.

TRANSforming Gender Conference: Punking Gender



The Center for Inclusion and Social Change at the University of Colorado in Boulder will hold its 9th annual TRANSforming Gender Conference (TGC) on March 14-15 at the Wolf Law Building on campus. The conference is free and open to the public. The conference website describes this as “A conference to increase visibility and education about transgender identities and issues, bringing together the trans and allied communities”.

The TGC offers over 50 workshops, presentations and panels designed to help attendees explore transgender identities, experiences and issues.

Presenters include two individuals well-known in this field, Kay Ulanday Barrett and Alok Vaid-Menon. Barrett spoke at a special event at the Butler Center at Colorado College in 2018. Registration is required. To register, or for more information, go to <http://bit.ly/2Ua7ELM>

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.

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: _____

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