



# PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

January 2020

## Psychologist Dan Johnson to Visit PFLAG in January

Daniel E. Johnson, PsyD, will come to the January PFLAG meeting to provide his perspective on topics of concern in the local LGBT community and engage in discussion with the group.

Dan is a founding board member of the Rocky Mountain Humanistic Counseling and Psychological Association. Dan had a fifteen-year career in social services, primarily in program management for people with disabilities, and wraparound services for adolescents, before returning to graduate school and becoming a psychologist.

As a psychologist Dan worked in a local community mental health program focused on serving children and adolescents in open abuse and neglect cases, then in a college counseling center supporting queer and trans students, and now in a full-time private practice in Colorado Springs.



Daniel E. Johnson, PsyD

Dan's practice is diverse, emphasizing service to clients of varied gender, sexual, and romantic identities and lifestyles. Dan also works with military veterans.

Dan won their graduate school's Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Scholarship for research on the experiences of transgender people with microaggressions that occur in psychotherapy. This research and practice background has led to numerous invitations to present in academic, mental health, and social service settings on a variety of subjects regarding transgender identity and support. (Preferred pronouns are: they, their, them.)

## Resources for Non-binary and Trans Individuals and Their Families

Support for non-binary and transgender individuals and their families has developed rapidly in recent years.

GenderSpectrum provides detailed and very readable educational materials and research on its website [www.genderspectrum.org](http://www.genderspectrum.org). A particularly sensitive and well written part of its website on understanding gender can be found at this link: <http://bit.ly/36n51tv>

The GenderSpectrum website also provides The "Lounge", a space for teens, parents, and professionals to connect with one another. Members can form their own groups and participate in the broader online GenderSpectrum community.

The Transgender Center of the Rockies in Denver, a successor organization to the Gender Identity Center (GIC), provides a wide range of services for transgender and gender-expansive individuals that can be accessed through its website by following this link: <http://bit.ly/2QPnQin>

The TransParent Group at Inside Out Youth Services in Colorado Springs provides a regular opportunity for parents to meet, and TYES, located in Boulder, provides a parent network for parents of younger gender-expansive children. Both are described on p. 2 of the newsletter.

### JANUARY PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday  
January 21, 2020  
7:00 p.m.

Discussion of  
Topics of Concern in the Local  
LGBT Community

With Psychologist  
Dan Johnson, PsyD

The Dwelling Place  
508 North Tejon Street

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

### Remember to Plug the Meter!

Parking meters downtown are now active until 10 p.m. There is free parking in the lot nearby on the South-East corner of Tejon and St. Vrain Streets.

### ECOC Summit—January 18

Ten powerful speakers will be featured at the 13th 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. Late registration is available on the day of the event.

The mission of ECOC is to dismantle the cradle to prison pipeline for children of color and children in poverty through education. For more information, go to: <http://educatingchildrenofcolor.org/>

PFLAG volunteers are needed to staff a PFLAG information table in two hour shifts. To volunteer, call Elaine Myers at (719) 598-7265.



## Creating Safe and Welcoming Schools

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

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

Newsletter Editor: Karen Flitton Stith  
E-mail: [karenfstith@gmail.com](mailto:karenfstith@gmail.com)

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



Welcoming Schools, a program of the Human Rights Foundation, is the nation's premier professional development program providing training and resources to elementary school educators to embrace family diversity, create LGBTQ and gender inclusive schools, prevent bias-based bullying, and support transgender and non-binary students.

In 2004, Greater Boston PFLAG, led by Pam Garramone, called together a group of community members, including an elementary school principal, a social worker, teachers, same-sex parents, safe school trainers and a social-emotional program consultant to examine how LGBTQ

topics affected elementary students.

Simultaneously, in 2005, the Human Rights Campaign, at the time focused primarily on political lobbying, realized that the organization also needed a public education and outreach component to increase understanding of LGBTQ people and the importance of LGBTQ-inclusive policies and practices. This became the HRC Foundation.

Ellen Kahn, while working to build the HRC Foundation's Children, Youth, and Families program, was eager to develop a program to help elementary schools support children with LGBTQ parents. Ellen organized a meeting of experts from across the country, including Kathy Pillsbury, who was part of the Boston group leading Welcoming Schools. It quickly became clear that Welcoming Schools would be a perfect addition to the program. In 2006, the volunteers who developed Welcoming Schools transferred ownership from Greater Boston PFLAG and GLSEN Boston to the HRC Foundation.

The HRC Welcoming Schools team of staff and training consultants provided trainings to schools and districts from 2006 to 2014. During this time, HRC Welcoming Schools developed partnerships with national, regional and local education and safe school organizations and created a website to make resources accessible to elementary schools, educators and parents across the country.

In 2015, HRC Welcoming Schools inaugurated a Facilitator Certification program. The facilitators spent three days at HRC headquarters in Washington, D.C to learn to provide elementary schools and districts with professional development on the HRC Welcoming Schools approach to foster an LGBTQ- and gender-inclusive school climate so that all children can thrive.

Program schedule and opportunities:  
[www.welcomingschools.org](http://www.welcomingschools.org)

### 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](mailto:info@cspflag.org). The national TYES website is:  
[www.TYES-Colorado.org](http://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](mailto:transparenting@insideoutys.org)

### Stand With Trans

Stand With Trans is a national support group of parents supporting the transgender community. See  
<https://standwithtrans.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.LGBTHotline.org/SAGE](http://www.LGBTHotline.org/SAGE)



## Meet Marvel's First Transgender Hero: 12 Year Old "Mighty" Rebekah

Rebekah was only 10 years old when the Trump administration rolled back its protections for transgender students — but she, as a transgender student, felt compelled to act on behalf of herself and her community.

"I can change the world," Rebekah asserted in a new episode of *Marvel's Hero Project*, a Dis-



ney Plus series that profiles youth who are making a difference. Each installment celebrates the accomplishments of the young hero and presents them with a comic book illustrating their "selfless acts of bravery and kindness."

And indeed, Rebekah did help change the world with bravery and kindness. Natives of New Jersey, she and her family partnered with organizations like Garden State Equality to give speeches and demonstrate that trans people are not the villains that federal government and right-wing media make them out to be.

To enact change on a local level and change hearts and minds, Rebekah even appeared before the New Jersey legislature to lobby for Assembly Bill 1335, legislation that would mandate LGBTQ history curriculum in public schools.

"I've never seen myself in the history they're teaching," Rebekah told legislators, pointing to LGBTQ figures like Harvey Milk, Marsha P. Johnson — and possibly, one day, herself — as figures that young people need to learn about.

Her voice made a difference. N.J. Gov. Phil Murphy signed the bill into law in February, and LGBTQ-inclusive lessons will begin in 2020..

*Marvel's Hero Project* — the first nonscripted production from the superhero studio — recounts Rebekah's remarkable journey as a young activist. The docuseries shows that, in addition to a being public advocate, Rebekah is a role model for other young trans people in a support group and a singer in her Christian church, where her father is a pastor. She even spoke about her story at a youth conference organized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 2018.

*From a story by Daniel Reynolds in The Advocate, December 6, 2019*

## The Navy made Harvey Milk resign for being gay. Now they're going to name a ship after him.

By the time Harvey Milk's supervisors in the U.S. Navy officially questioned his sexuality, he had graduated from officer school and served as a diving officer on a submarine rescue ship during the Korean War.

Then his supervisors caught him in a park that was popular with gay men, his nephew said. The sighting raised questions about Milk's sexual orientation in an era when the military banned gay, lesbian and bisexual service members, Milk was forced to resign.

In a move that signaled an about-face on the issue of gay rights, the Navy has begun this month to construct the USNS Harvey Milk, a fleet oiler that will provide fuel to ships and aircraft. The Navy announced in 2016 that Milk's name would appear on a ship.

It wasn't until more than a decade after he was shot on November 27, 1978, that the Navy would have been

barred from forcing Milk out for being gay. President Bill Clinton signed a policy in 1993 of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" which banned harassment of "closeted" service members but still banned openly LGBTQ people from the armed forces.

President Barack Obama repealed the policy in 2011, opening the door for LGBTQ service members to reveal their sexual orientation.

"When Harvey Milk served in the military, he couldn't tell anyone who he truly was," Scott Weiner, then a San Francisco supervisor, wrote in 2016 when the Navy announced the ship's name. "Now our country is telling the men and women who serve, and the entire world, that we honor and support people for who they are." *Washington Post* — December 15, 2019. (Excerpts) Read complete article at <https://wapo.st/2ZTvpZo>

## In Memoriam: Judd Lynn

Jeanie and Judd Lynn, parents of four children, one of whom is gay, were co-chapter presidents of Colorado Springs PFLAG for several years in 1997–2003. They were warm, welcoming, energetic and very effective in building the group and nurturing newcomers. They moved to California to be near their children when Jeanie became ill, and she died a few years later. Judd passed away on December 15, 2019 at the age of 82. He sent us this message in November to acknowledge the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of our PFLAG chapter.

*To PFLAG Colorado Springs —*

*Congratulations on your 25<sup>th</sup>. PFLAG gives people an opportunity to rise to their best selves. At age 82 I look back to realize that PFLAG was the single most important thing that Jeanie and I did in our lifetimes. I am so grateful to the people who made that possible and to those who continue what we had a small part in creating.*

*Carry on,  
Jeanie and Judd Lynn"*

## In Memoriam: Therese Van Overbeke



Therese Van Overbeke passed away on December 15, 2019 at the age of 81. She moved to Colorado Springs to be near her daughter, Pam, and quickly

sought out PFLAG. When Pam came out over 30 years ago, Therese was warmly supportive and encouraged her daughter to see a counselor to help her grow as a strong, capable person. Therese also saw a counselor to help her be the most supportive and nurturing influence she could be for Pam.

Therese and Pam were both strong volunteers at Inside/Out Youth Services, where Therese took charge of the clothes closet, organizing the clothing donated for the youth. Ever active, she went to her first PrideFest in 2018 in a wheelchair.

There will be a rosary for Therese on Friday, January 24 at 7 p.m. and a Mass on Saturday, January 25 at 10 a.m. at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, 2318 North Cascade Ave.



**BULLETIN BOARD**

**Denver Woman’s Chorus Concert Celebrates Women’s Right to Vote**

**Make Them Hear You  
Your Vote Matters  
Our Voices Matter**

**January 18 -- Educating Children of Color Summit—** One-day event at Colorado College. See p. 1.

**January 18 — Make Them Hear You** — Concert by the Denver Women’s Chorus, Armory Performing Arts Center, Brighton, CO, 7:30 p.m.

**January 24-25 — Make Them Hear You** — Concert by the Denver Women’s Chorus, Central Presbyterian Church, Denver, Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday, 2:00 and 7:30 p.m.

**Utah Moves Toward Conversion Therapy Ban**

*November 29, 2019* Utah Gov. Gary Herbert says stakeholders, including the Mormon Church, have agreed to rules implementing a ban on the practice of conversion therapy in the state. The practice seeks to convince teenagers who think they are or might be LGBT that they’re really not.

“I have learned much through this process,” Herbert said in a press release. “The stories of youth who have endured these so-called therapies are heart rending, and I’m grateful that we have found a way forward that will ban conversion therapy forever in our state.”

The Republican governor this summer promoted “ethical regulation” of the controversial practice. Now the state has worked on implementing rules based on House Bill 399, proposed in this year but not passed, which sought to bar mental health therapists from providing conversion therapy to minors.

But as recently as October, leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints remained publicly opposed to a ban. The church released a statement that the “proposed professional licensing rule is ambiguous in key areas and overreaches in others.”

That’s apparently changed, and the church has now released a statement supporting Herbert’s regulations.

*Editor’s Notes: Utah’s ban will not go through the legislature. Republicans have safe majorities in both the Utah House and Senate. The Governor announced that the Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing will propose the new administrative rule preventing licensed mental health professionals from practicing conversion therapy on minors. Colorado’s legislature passed a ban on conversion therapy for minors last spring.*

The Denver Women’s Chorus will present a concert, “Make Them Hear You” on January 18<sup>th</sup> at the Armory Performing Arts Center in Brighton, Colorado at 7:30 p.m., and on January 24-25 at Central Presby-



terian Church in downtown Denver, Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

This concert celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the struggle to win voting rights for ALL women. For tickets online, go to the website: [www.denverwomenschorus.org](http://www.denverwomenschorus.org) (Rocky Mountain Arts Association) or call (303) 325-3959.

For vibrant stories, photos and more information about the chorus, go to its Facebook page: Denver Women’s Chorus.

**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.

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

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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](http://www.cspflag.org) PFLAG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.