



PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

January 2018

Film Explores Transgender Families' Journeys

The January PFLAG chapter meeting will feature "Faces and Facets of Transgender Experience", a film produced several years ago by the Boulder chapter of PFLAG.

Eighteen people and their families share touching stories about the journey from despair and loss to the joy of being the gender they were meant to be. Diversity of ages, ethnicity and background of the interviewees put many faces on what it means to be gender variant.

Some topics include how family relationships changed, employment discrimination and coming out at work, issues with law enforcement, interactions after transition, being the parent of a gender variant child and dealing with schools.

The emphasis is on positive adjustment and the healthy choices trans people make to work with the challenges, without ignoring them. The purpose of this film for a general non-trans



audience is to create awareness, reduce discomfort and prejudice about transgender persons, and help people see gender variance as just another aspect of human experience.

Boulder PFLAG won a Special Recognition/Outstanding Contribution Award at the PFLAG National Convention in 2011 for creating the film.

This film was funded by the following: The Open Door Fund, the Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters, Susan Polis Schutz, the Brett Family Foundation, PFLAG Denver, the Boulder Valley Safe Schools Coalition, and Boulder County Safehouse Alliance.

Beyond the Letters Gala—January 27th



Join Springs Equality at its Beyond the Letters Gala at The Gallery Below on January 27th from 7-10 p.m. Admission is \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Enjoy a night of music, dance, drinks, and hors d'oeuvres, to celebrate the New Year with the fabulous community of LGBTQIA+ in Colorado Springs. Cocktail attire is appropriate.

Springs Equality is a network within various facets of the Colorado Springs community. It partners with Allies and other LGBT organizations. There is a Springs Equality Center of Colorado Springs, and also a Springs Equality Chamber of Commerce.

Springs Equality volunteers provide many hours of community service work to local organizations and businesses each year.

The board and volunteers work to keep equality awareness alive and to provide understanding and mentorship to those in need. The mission is simple - Connect, Enrich, and Inspire the LGBT and greater Allied Community. For more information, see <http://www.springsequality.org/> and also Springs Equality on Facebook.

JANUARY PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday
January 16, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Faces and Facets of
Transgender Experience

Short film and discussion

The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street

Social time begins at 6:30 p.m.

Coffee, Cookies
Everyone is welcome.

Educating Children of Color Summit—January 13

Chapter volunteers will hand out PFLAG literature and talk with participants at the Educating Children of Color Summit at Colorado College on Saturday, January 13 8 a.m.—4 p.m.

Educating Children of Color seeks to dismantle the cradle-to-prison pipeline for children of color and children in poverty through education.

This is an excellent opportunity for PFLAG to reach into minority communities with information about supporting their LGBTIQ youth. If you can volunteer to help for a couple of hours, please call Cindy Waldemann at (719) 488-9887.

Sing with Out Loud!

The Out Loud Colorado Springs Men's Chorus will be holding auditions for new members on January 8-15-22. For more information and to schedule an audition call Richard Ortiz at (719) 313-6473.



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 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

Support Line: (719) 425-9567

P.O. Box 49131
Colorado Springs, CO 80949

PFLAG Colorado Springs website:
www.cspflag.org

PFLAG National Office website:
www.pflag.org

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

TYES Offers Necessary Support to Transgender Children and Their Families

By Heidi Beedle in *The Indy*

Note: Heidi Beedle wrote a very good column on TYES in the "Queer & There" section of the November 22-28, 2017 Colorado Springs Independent. TYES is a nonprofit group headquartered in Boulder, Colorado. It is affiliated with PFLAG.

To contact TYES leader Shane Armstrong, who is also on the board of the Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG, call PFLAG at (719) 425-9567 or send an e-mail to info@cspflag.org.

Excerpts from the article:

"Within the last three years America has seen an explosion of awareness and acceptance of transgender people. With this changing social tide, more trans people are coming out, and at younger ages. Depictions of trans children abound: TLC's *I Am Jazz*, Amy Ellis Nutt's new book *Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family*, and the documentary *Growing Up Coy*, which chronicles the civil rights struggle of Colorado's own Mathis family.

"Parents of trans children face a variety of unique challenges. In Colorado we are lucky to have Trans Youth Education and Support (TYES), a state-wide education and advocacy organization that supports transgender and gender expansive children and their families.

"The Colorado Springs chapter of TYES is led by Shane Armstrong, who is trans himself, and is the father of trans children... 'The biggest thing parents need is that initial support and contact', according to Armstrong. He and TYES are also currently partnering with Inside/Out Youth Services to provide a monthly TransParenting support group for parents of transgender or gender expansive youth.

"As a trans person, Armstrong can help families come to terms with the

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Research Study Opportunity

PFLAG has been approached by a Professor in the Department of Family Studies and Gerontology at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, who is doing a study on how people come to accept same sex marriage.

Prof. Aine Humble, PhD, CFLE, is interviewing Canadians and Americans to learn how people change their minds about same-sex marriage over time, particularly after a family member announces that they are marrying their same-sex partner.

This is not the same as accepting a person's sexual orientation. For example, a person might feel OK with a brother being gay but still have difficulty with the idea of their brother (formally or publicly) marrying another man, and these emotions may come to the surface when that family member announces they are marrying.

If you or a family member are interested and might like to participate in the study, contact Aine.Humble@msvu.ca Learn more about her on her Facebook page under Aine Marie Humble, or visit her personal website: <http://users.eastlink.ca/~ainehumble/>

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.

The TYES program originated and is headquartered in Boulder, Colorado.

More information is available at the national TYES website www.TYES-Colorado.org

PFLAG meetings are a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear ...

must remain strictly confidential.

Thank you.



Four Films—March 3

On March 3, Springs Equality, in collaboration with Inside Out Youth Services, PFLAG and BRIDGE/PAGE, will present four 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* and *Becoming Johanna*. Screening will be at The Gallery Below, 718-B North Weber Street, time to be determined. Discussion with representatives of the four organizations will follow the screening. More information on this event will be provided in the February PFLAG newsletter.

TYES Offers Support (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

reality of their situation and understand what their child is going through.

"A lot of parents think their child is just going through a phase and that they can just humor them until it passes' Armstrong says, which unfortunately is a common misconception.

"TYES hosts an annual three-day summer camp for trans youth and their families, especially geared toward parents with younger kids."

Read the complete *Indy* article at: <http://bit.ly/2ERF1Jq>

*Footnote: the Trans*Parenting support group for parents of transgender youth meets at Inside/Out Youth Services, 223 North Wahsatch Avenue Suite 101, in Colorado Springs at 6:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month.*

However, the January 2018 meeting has been postponed to January 11th. Contact Inside/Out at 328-1056.

King Soopers Gift Card

Remember to reload your King Soopers gift card, if necessary, before the clerk begins ringing up your groceries. Five percent (!!!!) of your total bill will be sent to our PFLAG chapter.

Thank you to everyone who is currently using a King Soopers gift card linked to Colorado Springs PFLAG. This program provides significant funds for our chapter. Details on p. 4.



ROLLING THE STONE AWAY

Generations of Love and Justice

St. Louis, MO — October 2017

- Bill Oliver

The Rolling the Stone Away conference in St. Louis last October was intended to "Celebrate LGBTQIA Saints and Prophets—generations past and present—to honor our history and empower our future".

Bill Oliver attended the conference and has provided the following report:

"I was privileged to attend this special one-time event honoring the religious elders/prophets of the LGBT movement. Conference Website: <https://rollingthestoneaway.org>

"It was very inspiring and so good to meet some of these saints who are yet still among us. Early prophetic voices present included clergy and lay leaders in the Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian and Catholic churches, the United Church of Christ and Metropolitan Community Church, plus *Soulforce* and *Believe Out Loud*. Youthful

voices included Matthew Vines, executive director of *The Reformation Project* and the author of "God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical Case in Support of Same-Sex Relationships." <https://www.reformationproject.org>

"As a former Catholic, I especially appreciated meeting Sr. Jeannine Gramick, co-founder in 1977 of *New Ways Ministry*. Website:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org>

I also met Casey Lopata, co-founder in 1992 of *fortunate Families*, in support of Catholic parents of LGBT children. <https://fortunatefamilies.com>."

Note: Please take a look at the links Bill has provided. The gay rights movement inspired many deeply religious individuals to get involved and to urge their churches and synagogues to embrace the LGBT community. This dialogue continues, as some of our PFLAG parents struggle to reconcile support for their children with the positions taken by faith communities.

Point Foundation Offers LGBTIQ Scholarships

We are reprinting this information from the December newsletter—the application deadline for scholarship help is January 29th.

The Point Foundation, (Point), a nationwide LGBTQ scholarship fund, is looking for the next generation of LGBTQ leaders. Point provides not only scholarships for LGBTQ undergraduate and graduate students, but also mentoring and leadership training.

The application period for the 2018-2019 higher education scholarships runs from November 1, 2017 to January 29, 2018.

If you or someone you know might be interested in applying, take a look at the Point website right away. <https://pointfoundation.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.

Amazon Smile Program

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

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

When you do this, Amazon will send 0.5% of the value of your purchase to our chapter. Pick up a flyer on this program at PFLAG meetings.



BULLETIN BOARD



PFLAG Membership

IF...you missed sending in your PFLAG membership during our year-end renewal effort, please make it a New Year's gift to yourself and to your chapter. We treasure your support, and, in fact, we couldn't do all of our steady community outreach without it. Not sure if your membership is current? Send an e-mail to info@cspflag.org and our Membership Coordinator, Jerry Albrent, will get right back to you promptly (even though he has now retired (again!)) and is enjoying frequent trips to warmer places).



Inside/Out News:

Maxwell Poth, a Los Angeles-based photographer/filmmaker who grew up in Colorado Springs, will be paying a visit to Inside/Out this month to interview and film the young people who have volunteered to participate in his project. He is making a black and white documentary film about the challenges faced by of LGBT youth who are growing up in conservative communities.

Mary Lou Makepeace is continuing to serve as interim executive director while the board of directors interviews prospective candidates for the executive director position.

Facilitator Orientation. Interested in becoming a facilitator and working with the youth? Contact Maegan Brundage 328-1056 to learn more. The next facilitator training is scheduled for Saturday, January 20 from 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

January 13 — Educating Children of Color Summit — Colorado College. PFLAG volunteers are needed. See p. 1.

January 20 — Facilitator Training at Inside/Out. 10 a.m.—2 p.m. See article on this page.

January 27— Beyond the Letters Gala— The Gallery Below, 718-B North Weber Street, 7-10 p.m. See article, p. 1.

March 3 — Four Short Films — PFLAG will be collaborating with Springs Equality, BRIDGE/PAGE and Inside/Out Youth Services to present four independent short films about transgender and gender nonconforming youth. The Gallery Below, 718-B North Weber Street, time TBD. See article, 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 Let's have a PFLAG table at the Ball this year! If you are interested, call Karen Stith at 634-4433.

Newsletter Links. The links in this newsletter make it easy for anyone who has the electronic (.pdf) version to click on the links and easily access websites and articles on the internet. However, we have discovered that anyone using Microsoft Windows 10 will encounter a bug in the associated Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) program that disables the links. The bug has been acknowledged by the programmers, so we're waiting for Adobe and Microsoft to resolve this problem. In the meantime, Windows 10 users can type the text of the links into their browsers to open them.



Support PFLAG— Pick up a King Soopers/ City Market Gift Card at a PFLAG meeting.

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.

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: _____

- _____ 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.