



PFLAG Colorado Springs

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

January 2014

How a Love Story Led to the Supreme Court: Edie and Thea's Long Engagement

The January PFLAG meeting will feature a film titled *Edie and Thea—a Very Long Engagement*. The following article from the *Advocate* was written by Diane Anderson-Minshall and published April 22, 2013.

The first that many Americans heard of Edie Windsor is when the 83-year-old spitfire's discrimination case, *Windsor v. United States*, came before the Supreme Court in 2013.

She's no stranger to film lovers and LGBT activists: The 2009 documentary *Edie & Thea: A Very Long Engagement*—which chronicles her 40-year engagement to her wife, the late Thea Spyer—won 21 audience and jury awards on the festival circuit and continued to garner fans when it was released on DVD in 2010.

Directed by Susan Muska and Greta Olafsdottir (who also made the sad but riveting film *The Brandon Teena Story*), *Edie & Thea* follows the development of Edie and Thea's relationship from the closeted 1960s through their decades of adventures and world travels, creating a portrait of a life that was what reviewer Brian Orndorff called "a sensation of romantic flight before medical realities grounded the couple."

After Spyer starts experiencing multiple sclerosis, her mobility is affected but the couple's love never is, and her last flight takes her and Windsor to Toronto, where they finally legally tie the knot. The film changed not only Edie's public profile but also the lives of viewers and the filmmakers.

(Continued on page 2)



Edith Windsor. In her ninth decade, she started a judicial odyssey, fighting a battle she never expected to wage—let alone win. Now she's the matriarch of the gay-rights movement.

PFLAG Chapter Members Say "I DO"

PFLAG Colorado Springs is delighted to announce that Jerry Albrent and his partner for nine years, Christopher Garvin, were married in Taos, New Mexico, on December 30th.

Jerry has served on the board of PFLAG for many years, as membership chairman and as webmaster. He has supported parents by sharing his own coming-out stories, providing a warm and sympathetic presence for those who are struggling.

Chris, a gourmet cook, has cooked memorable dinners for board meetings when it is Jerry's turn to host the meeting.

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JANUARY PFLAG MEETING
Tuesday
January 21, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Group Meeting and Film
Edie and Thea—a Very Long Engagement
The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street
Everyone is welcome.
Social time begins at 6:30
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Jerry and Chris on their wedding day, with Ordained Interfaith Minister Susan Varon in Taos, New Mexico

Congratulations, Jerry and Chris, from everyone at PFLAG! We wish you many joyful years together.



This newsletter is published by the Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).

PFLAG Mission Statement:

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) persons, their families and friends through:

- √ **support**, to cope with an adverse society,
- √ **education**, to enlighten an ill-informed public, and
- √ **advocacy**, to end discrimination and secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

PFLAG IS FOR EVERYONE

If you've never been to one of our meetings, we feel you will find it rewarding and may find it leads to a new sense of family.
Membership is not required.
All are welcome.

To join the 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.

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www.cspflag.org

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Edie and Thea (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

"In Washington on [March 27]," recalls Olafsdottir, "I met an older woman who was waiting on line to get into the Supreme Court for Edie's case. She told me that she was there because she had seen our documentary *Edie & Thea: A Very Long Engagement* and has been following Edie's case since then. She had also lost her longtime partner just few months ago.

When she found out that I was one of the directors for the film, she burst into tears and thanked me profoundly. It's responses like this that make you very happy about what you do and the stories you tell as a documentary director and producer."

Muska concurs "The film has had a tremendous impact on all of our lives — it debuted in 2009, and we, along with the film, were immediately drawn into the marriage equality movement," she says. "We're really proud that we are able to contribute strength to the movement in this way."

The filmmakers say the documentary has "become a kind of international emissary for marriage equality," and it's been shown in many places to increase awareness, such as Bosnia, Slovakia, Lithuania, and more.

"On a more personal level," says Muska, "people often write to us and tell us that their mother or father or aunt or siblings have watched the film and it changed their view on gay marriage. One guy told us at a screening that 'I didn't know lesbians could be like this.'

A friend's teenage son told us, 'I hope I find love like this one day.' And we even cut in Italian subtitles for an Italian woman's future mother-in-law, who ended up writing to us praising the film and the insight it offered her about her daughter's marriage."

Feisty, funny and vibrant at 84, Edie Windsor was a runner-up for *Time* magazine's Person of the Year in 2013. For more on her life story, see the excellent *Time* article online at <http://poy.time.com/2013/12/11/runner-up-edith-windsor-the-unlikely-activist/>

Editor's Column

The pace of the gay rights movement accelerated incredibly in 2013, with the overturning of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), establishment of the right to marry in an increasing number of states, and even some movement on the long-stalled Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) bill in Congress.

Our PFLAG chapter will kick off 2014 by showing a film about the couple whose relationship led to the Supreme Court decision on DOMA. Programs this spring will focus on the transgender community, the work of Transgender Youth Support Services (TYES) and PFLAG's relationship with families of color,

Our first priority at the moment, however, is to help Inside/Out Youth Services recover from its disastrous fire last fall. Inside/Out has provided support to GLBTIQ youth for 24 years, and its dynamic group of volunteer facilitators continues to connect with the youth powerfully every week.

Please consider making a special donation to help Inside/Out as it moves into its new downtown location (see p.3). And please consider bringing items for the I/O pantry to PFLAG meetings regularly.

PFLAG will be working hard in 2014 to promote and celebrate the GLBT community. Join us!



PFLAG Outreach: Educating Children of Color Summit

PFLAG chapter volunteers will be manning a table at the Educating Children of Color Summit at Colorado College on Saturday, January 11th.

If you would like to help with this sort of outreach in the future, please let us know by sending an e-mail to info@cspflag.org.

The summit is sponsored by the Fourth Judicial District Best Practices Court. In 2007, the Minority Overrepresentation Committee of this court decided to adopt a new approach to address the issue of minority over-representation across its systems. Research shows that children and youth of color are more likely to be poor than their white peers; more likely to be involved in the child welfare system; more likely to age out of the foster care system without permanence; less likely to graduate on time; more likely to be involved in the juvenile justice system; and ultimately more likely to be involved in the adult system of justice.

The Committee decided to focus on ensuring that children and youth have support to successfully achieve educational milestones as a key to escaping poverty and “the systems.” The Committee set a goal of encouraging all youth to pursue higher education, supporting teachers to be successful educators, and educating parents on what it takes to be college ready and to hold your child and your child’s school accountable.

As a result, the first Educating Children of Color Summit took place in January of 2008. Approximately 350 educators, students, parents, and juvenile justice and child welfare professionals attended the first summit. Over the course of the past six years, attendance has increased dramatically. In January 2013, there were 900 attendees, 500 of whom were youth, at the one day summit. Over the years, the Committee has given away \$61,500 in scholarships to students to support their access to higher education as well as 56 laptops.



The University of Colorado-Boulder's TRANSforming Gender Symposium is celebrating its eighth year. The Symposium on March 14-15, 2014 will host national and local transgender, genderqueer, and intersex activists and scholars to raise awareness of how we can celebrate the diversity of gender and biological sex. In addition to nationally recognized speakers, there will be workshops and panels throughout the Symposium.

The Symposium was founded in 2006 by the Women and Gender Studies Program and the GLBTQ Resource Center at the University.

The Symposium organizers are calling for workshop and paper proposals. The deadline for proposals is January 31. For more information please call 303-202-6466. The Symposium is free and open to the public.



A special message from Program Manager Eric Pizana:

A New Home for 2014!

We are happy to announce that Inside Out Youth Services has found a new home at 414 South Tejon Street!

Thank you to the amazing community we live in and to everyone who gave in 2013 who made this move possible. Thank you for providing the lesbian, gay, transgender, intersex, and questioning youth we serve in our community with what they most need: a home for our programs.

We are beyond excited to be back downtown, and with the move comes a great deal of opportunity and responsibility. For the first time, we will be in a location clearly visible to the community to experience, see and learn about the work we have been doing since 1990.

We also write with a special request. We are seeking financial contributions to help build an office cubicle in our new space. Our office is not just used as a work station for staff, but for volunteers to speak with youth who have had a bad day or are in crisis situations, confidential HIV testing and providing referrals.

Please visit our website to make a donation today: www.insideoutys.org

Auditions this Month for Out Loud, The Colorado Springs Mens Chorus
Out Loud holds auditions in January for men interested in joining the chorus. Rehearsals are on Mondays. For more information, contact chorus member Jerry Albrent at 229-9263.

The Pantry

Inside/Out maintains a Pantry for its youth, some of whom are homeless or near-homeless. Non-perishable items for the Inside/Out Pantry can be brought to PFLAG meetings and PFLAG volunteers will deliver them promptly to Inside/Out.

Favorite items are individual size ravioli, chili, noodles, ramen, or any kind of comfort food that can be heated in a microwave oven. Other items are tuna/cracker packets, pouches of tuna, canned meat, small containers of peanut butter, nutrition bars, trail mix, cookies, Gatorade and bottled water.



BULLETIN BOARD

January 25— Denver Women’s Chorus Concert

30 Rock! The concert will be presented twice on January 25, at 2:00 and at 7:30 p.m., at the First Baptist Church, 1373 Grant St., Denver. More information and tickets at www.rmarts.org.

February 15—13th Annual Pride Awards—Black Tie event, Antlers Hilton Hotel, 4 South Cascade Avenue, 6-11 p.m. Tickets \$75 each of \$125 per couple. For more information go to www.cospride.org or call 471-4429.

March 14-15 - TRANSforming Gender Symposium. See article, p. 3. More info in our February newsletter.

13th Annual Pride Awards

PFLAG Colorado Springs has been nominated for the Organization of the Year award at the upcoming Pride Awards event sponsored by the Pride Center. The other nominees in this category are Inside/Out Youth Services, Southern Colorado AIDS Project (S-CAP) and Seeds Community Café. Please take time to vote! You may vote online by going to www.cospride.org by January 19th. Ticket details above. If you would like to sit at the PFLAG table, please call Karen at 634-4433 (soon).

The 13th Annual Colorado Springs LGBT Pride Awards celebrates individuals, organizations & groups which the local community feels deserve special recognition for their support, efforts and actions toward connecting, supporting and empowering the local LGBT community.

PFLAG Thanks The Saponas Foundation and First Congregational United Church of Christ for their significant, ongoing support of the Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG.

U.S. Postal Service will issue a postage stamp in 2014 to Commemorate Civil Rights Pioneer Harvey Milk

Thirty-five years after Harvey Milk made history as California's first openly gay elected leader, he's closing in on another historical first: The U.S. Postal Service said that the late San Francisco supervisor and gay rights activist will join the likes of John F. Kennedy, Rosa Parks, and Jackie Robinson by being recognized with a commemorative stamp, an honor apparently never before bestowed on an openly gay politician.



There are two films that explore the life of Harvey Milk: *Milk* (2008) and *The Times of Harvey Milk* (1984). Both are excellent,.

PrideNet Radio Network—LGBT Radio

PrideNet Radio airs live in Colorado Springs each week through a link on the website of the Pride Center (www.cospride.org). Previously aired shows are also available on this site. During live broadcasts you can speak with the show hosts by calling (646) 716-9729.

Tune in weekly and hear what LGBT America is talking about! PrideNET LGBT Radio Network features radio talk shows about national headlines, political commentary, hot topics, lifestyle and interesting interviews from the LGBT community all over the US.

Always Remember --- That PFLAG meetings are a safe space for participants. Who you meet and what you hear - **Be sure you keep it 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, 2013 to September 30, 2014.

Name: _____

____ New member ____ Renewing member

Address: _____

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

City: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail _____

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

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