



PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

July 2017

TYES Leader to Discuss Joys, Challenges of Parenting Gender Expansive Children

TYES (Trans Youth Education and Support), a program of PFLAG which is headquartered in Boulder, Colorado, will be the focus of the July 18th PFLAG meeting.

Shane Phairchild, who leads the TYES group in Colorado Springs with Shelby Conques, will bring with him several guests who are LGBT advocates to discuss some of the issues faced by families with very young gender variant children. The term TYES uses to describe these children is "gender expansive".

Program topics include:

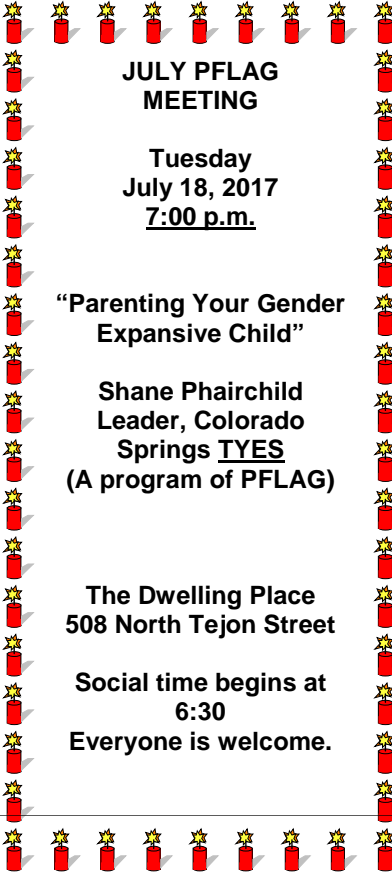
- A family's initial reaction to the gender expansive child. Parents in crisis.
- Finding medical and counseling resources. The importance of having affirming medical providers.
- Navigating the elementary school system. Advocating for a child with teachers and administrators.



Shane Phairchild

- Homeschooling as an alternative.
- Legal issues that can arise with regard to gender expansive children and youth.
- Support offered by TYES parents.

(Continued on page 3)



JULY PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday
July 18, 2017
7:00 p.m.

"Parenting Your Gender Expansive Child"

Shane Phairchild
Leader, Colorado Springs TYES
(A program of PFLAG)

The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street

Social time begins at 6:30
Everyone is welcome.

27th Annual PrideFest Celebration is July 8-9 at America the Beautiful Park



PrideFest is the official Colorado Springs LGBT Pride Festival, coming up on July 8-9 at America the Beautiful Park from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Adult admission is \$5. One sealed water bottle can be brought into the park, but no other outside beverages are permitted. Food for a picnic lunch can be brought into the park. Saturday is Family Day, with activities for children.

2017 marks the 27th annual PrideFest in Colorado Springs. Congratulations to Nic Grzecka of Club Q and his many supporters for continuing the PrideFest celebration each year after the Pride Center closed in January of 2015.

The theme of PrideFest 2017 is "L.ife G.ets B.etter T.ogether".

PFLAG will have an information booth staffed by PFLAG volunteers at the park on both days from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call Marilyn Davis at 310-6211 if you would like to help.

PFLAG Members and PFLAG Supporters - Please march with us in the Pride Parade!

We have the signs and the banner. We need a whole bunch of people to show up this year to carry them and

make a statement that PFLAG is a strong voice in the Pikes Peak region.

The parade will kick off earlier this year - at **11:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 9.**

Lineup begins at 8 a.m. You can enter the lineup area at the intersection of South Tejon Street and Cimarron Street. Look for the PFLAG group somewhere on Tejon Street between Colorado Avenue and Cimarron Street.

The parade route covers one mile, running north on Tejon to Colorado Avenue, then west on Colorado Avenue over the bridge to Cimino Drive and the park.

More information about PrideFest can be found online at:

www.coloradospringspridefest.com
<https://www.facebook.com/pridefest/>



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

Newsletter Editor: Karen Flitton Stith
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To receive your newsletter by e-mail, send a request to info@cspflag.org



On Thursday, July 20 we will celebrate the 9th Annual Off the Street Community Breakfast to support Urban Peak. Urban Peak is a highly successful program that empowers young people to move off the street and into a better life. Many of our local homeless youth are LGBTIQ individuals.

Meet the leaders of Urban Peak and hear youth tell their stories. This is a real downtown street breakfast, and it is huge. The breakfast is free. Donations to Urban Peak are requested.

Location: under the bridge at 218 West Colorado Avenue. Registration and networking 7-7:30 a.m. Breakfast and program 7:30—8:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary.

PFLAG usually has a good turnout for this important fundraiser. To reserve your place at a PFLAG table, please call Karen Stith at 634-4433.

PFLAG meetings are safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear

must remain strictly confidential.

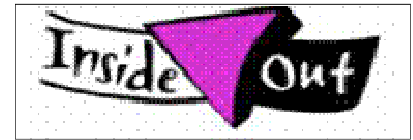
Trans Youth Education and Support (TYES)

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



Inside Out has Moved! — Inside Out has now moved to a larger space at 223 North Wahsatch Street. Suite 101.

Transformations. The transgender group, Transformations, meets at Inside/Out every Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. This group has been growing, with attendance between 15-20.

Transformations Parent Group. In August, Inside/Out plans to start a monthly group meeting to provide support for parents of transgender youth.

Library Outreach. Inside/Out is continuing to provide a meeting for youth from the northern part of Colorado Springs at Library 21C on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month from 3:30—6 p.m. Plans are underway to provide meetings at the library in Monument.

Open Hours for Youth: Mon. and Wed. 3:30—7 pm, Fri. 3:30—7:30 pm.

PrideFest— Be sure to stop by the Inside/Out booth at PrideFest in America the Beautiful Park July 8-9.

Donate—Through P.O. Box — Help Support all these activities. Send a tax-deductible donation to Inside/Out Youth Services. Always use Post Office Box 606, Colorado Springs CO 80901

Inside/Out provides social activities and support for LGBTIQ youth. Director Mary Malia can be contacted at 328-1056. Website: www.insideoutys.org

Amazon Smile Program
Colorado Springs PFLAG participates in the Amazon Smile program. When you make purchases on Amazon, enter the site through our portal: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-1281187> and 0.5% of your purchase will be sent to our chapter. Pick up a flyer on this program at PFLAG meetings.



Community Welcomes First Ark Valley Pride Celebration

By Bill Oliver



Marchers were invited to wear purple

On Saturday, June 3rd, the Upper Arkansas Valley's first-ever Pride event was celebrated in Salida, Colorado. Less than three weeks earlier our chapter was contacted by Shannon Nelson, a Salida mom of a gay teenager, inviting our participation and asking guidance in forming their own local PFLAG chapter.

Is that awesome or what!

We immediately responded in support, and Cindy and Steve Waldmann and I went down to join in the Pride march and to help staff a busy booth in Riverside Park with our literature.

With key support from One-Colorado, Shannon is concurrently leading the effort to form a local gay-straight alliance (GSA) in the high school.

On short notice I was able to identify and list the local Methodist, Presbyterian and Episcopal churches as welcoming and affirming.

The "Ark Valley Pride" parade and picnic event was advertised in posters all over town and through social media. However, it was anyone's guess as to how many, or few, folks might show up to march. Imagine our surprise and delight that there were over

300 exuberant marchers: young people, parents with baby strollers, seniors, some pastors – a really great mix from the community.

At our booth we chatted with people who had come down from Leadville and up from Crestone, all eager to be informed and supported. The local newspaper had full-page coverage with many photos following the weekend.

Our chapter is invested in helping our sister chapter form and grow, and they very much appreciate our experience and support. Shannon told me that their PFLAG steering committee wants their chapter to eventually be "just like the Colorado Springs Chapter."

For more information about the event, go to:

www.arkvalleypride.com

My photos from the event are online at my album: <http://smu.gs/2qWjCr3>

Editor's Note: Be sure to take a look at these heartwarming photos! Great job, Bill!

TYES Program (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

Calendar of upcoming TYES events:

- July 23 - Statewide TYES Summer Picnic 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in Denver (Lakewood)
- July 24 - Colorado Springs TYES workshop: "How to Advocate for Your Gender Expansive Child - Creating a Safe Folder". This workshop will expand on the legal issues discussed by Shane at the July 18th PFLAG meeting and will encourage parents to create a folder of critical documents for their child.
- August 11-13 - Statewide Second Annual TYES Family Campout (Mountain camp)
- August 26 - Colorado Springs TYES Swimming Party

To contact TYES in Colorado Springs or find out more about scheduled events, send an e-mail message to Shane & Shelby at: tyes@cspflag.org.

More information can be found on the Colorado Springs PFLAG website: <http://www.cspflag.org> under the heading "Trans Families".

Website Wizard Update—Sign Up to Receive Newsletter

Our website wizard, Jerry Albrent, has made it possible for anyone to quickly sign up online to receive the monthly PFLAG newsletter by e-mail.

It's as easy as 1-2-3:

1. Go to www.cspflag.org
2. Click on JOIN our Newsletter eMail List
3. Complete the form and hit SUBMIT

The Colorado Springs chapter of PFLAG sends about 100 newsletters out by U.S. Mail each month to those who prefer to receive a printed copy, but Jerry sends out many more newsletters by e-mail.

Please think about joining the e-mail list (all the internet links in the newsletter will work for you!) to help Colorado Springs PFLAG save money on postage expense.

Jerry has also announced that the website has a few new web pages specifically for TYES. They are under the heading TRANS FAMILIES (check it out today - don't delay).

TYES is also setting up a separate email list just for TYES families. It's easy to get on the TYES e-mail list:

1. Go to www.cspflag.org
2. Under the TRANS FAMILIES heading select EMAIL SIGNUP TYES
3. Complete the form and hit SUBMIT

These highly confidential requests will go directly to Shane Phairchyld and Shelby Conques. They will contact each person directly.

PFLAG thanks Shane and Shelby for their devotion to the TYES families.

Support PFLAG— Get a King Soopers Gift Card at PFLAG meetings.

The free card is already loaded with \$1.50 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, effective fundraiser!



BULLETIN BOARD

July 8-9 — Colorado Springs PrideFest — PFLAG has signed up for its booth. Plan to participate! See p. 1 for ways to get involved.

July 20— Urban Peak Off the Street Community Breakfast— Under the Colorado Avenue Bridge 7-8:30 a.m. Reserve your place at the PFLAG table by calling Karen Stith 634-4433. More details on page 3.

Anti-Hate Billboard Campaign Targets Springs

(KOA News June 14, 2017) A new anti-hate billboard went up on the south side of Colorado Springs this week. It says "Our families are stronger than your hate." It's taking aim at conservative groups like Focus on the Family, the Family Research Council



and even the Westboro Baptist Church. These are the same signs being put up in Washington D.C. and Topeka, Kansas, all by a national gay social network called "Hornet."

The company's President and Co-Founder Sean Howell says these unapologetic signs were brought to the Springs specifically to let Focus on the Family know that anti-LGBTQ stances will be resisted. "We wanted to really showcase that gay men are Americans too and that we are living our lives and building loving families," Howell said.

[Editor's Note: Rev. Nori Rost of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church was quoted in a Gazette story: "Hornet's assessment of the city is too harsh — and a few decades too late. I think that we have a reputation that isn't easily lost, but as someone who has lived here for 23 years as a queer person, I certainly have seen a lot of change."

Redesigned Pride Flag Recognizes LGBT People of Color

CNN, June 13, 2017 Philadelphia may be first city to symbolically recognize racism within the LGBTQ community. When the Supreme Court made same-sex marriage legal nationwide two years ago, the White House was illumi-



nated with rainbow lights reminiscent of the pride flag to celebrate. See <http://cnn.it/2tuC7XX>

For Amber Hikes and many others in the LGBT community, the lights were a powerful symbol of a government's support for a marginalized community that had historically struggled to be recognized, much less openly supported.

Now Hikes, a black queer woman, is excited about a new gay-rights symbol: a pride flag with additional black and brown stripes above the rest of the rainbow. The stripes represent LGBT individuals of color, a group that can often be overlooked within the overall LGBT umbrella. "To see this at City Hall is such a profound statement" Hikes told CNN.

Read the rest of this story about the City of Philadelphia promoting a new rainbow flag at: <http://cnn.it/2timFuE>

Thank you

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

Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017.

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: _____

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.