



PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

July 2016

PrideFest July 9-10
"Building Community"



Colorado Springs PrideFest is coming up on July 9-10 at America the Beautiful Park. This year we embrace the theme of "Building Community", celebrating the many triumphs the LGBT community has achieved in the past and honoring the ongoing effort to achieve true and lasting tolerance and equality. PrideFest runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days at the park.

In the wake of the Orlando shootings, PFLAG urges you to come out and show your support for our LGBT community in the Pikes Peak Region.

PFLAG Booth: Take a turn working at the PFLAG booth, where we talk to passersby about the supportive role PFLAG plays in the community. Hand out our literature and give a few hugs. It's very rewarding to help with this. To get on the list of helpers, call Doug Kirkpatrick at 598-6509.

Pride Parade: The Pride Parade is held on Sunday morning. Line up with PFLAG on Tejon Street between Colorado Avenue and Cimarron Street and march over the Colorado Avenue bridge to the park. We have signs and a banner. All you have to do is join us. Lineup begins at 8 a.m. and the parade kicks off around 11 a.m. The parade route is approximately one mile.

More information about Colorado Springs PrideFest is online at www.coloradospringspridefest.com/

Gala Choruses to Sing in Colorado Springs! See p. 4

Appreciating Associate Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy

At the July PFLAG meeting, PFLAG Board Member Bill Oliver will discuss the influence of Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy and will present "Overruled! The Case That Brought Down Sodomy Laws" a short film made by Lamba Legal about a landmark case for LGBT rights, *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003).

Nominated by President Ronald Reagan, Justice Kennedy took office in February 1988. Kennedy became the most senior Associate Justice on the court following the death of Antonin Scalia in February 2016. Since the retirement of Sandra Day O'Connor in 2006, he has been the "swing vote" (5-4) in many decisions.

He has written four major opinions in support of gay rights, and his was the swing vote in two of the cases.

JULY PFLAG MEETING

**Tuesday
July 19, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

**Short Film: "Overruled!"
Discussion with
Bill Oliver**

Ice Cream Social

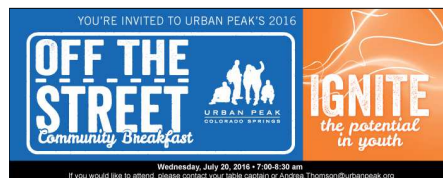
**The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street**

Social time begins at 6:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome.

We will celebrate midsummer at the July meeting with an ice cream social. Get to know other PFLAGgers better and enjoy making your own sundae!

"Off the Street" - Urban Peak Invites you to Breakfast



The PFLAG table(s) for Urban Peak's "Off the Street Breakfast" on July 20th are filling up! If you have never attended this inspiring fundraiser, reserve your place now with the PFLAG group. You will learn much more about Urban Peak and the amazing work it does in housing homeless youth and helping them move their lives forward.

The youth, many of whom are LGBTIQ, will tell their stories. Urban

Peak leaders will give participants a close look at the way this vital organization works under the competent leadership of Executive Director Shawna Kempainen.

Location: Under the Bridge at 218 West Colorado Avenue. It's an early breakfast event outdoors (7:00—8:30 a.m.), wrapped up in just an hour to get you to work on time. The breakfast is free, and significant donations are requested. Claim your seat with PFLAG by calling Karen Stith at 634-4433. She will turn in our guest list by July 12th.

Tours of Urban Peak are available every Wednesday at 2 p.m. Call Karen for more information.



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

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www.cspflag.org

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Pope Francis Says Church Should Apologize for Discriminating Against Gays, Ask for Forgiveness

Aboard the Papal Plane (Reuters) — June 25, 2016

Pope Francis said on Sunday that Christians and the Roman Catholic Church should seek forgiveness from homosexuals for the way they had treated them.

Speaking to reporters aboard the plane taking him back to Rome from Armenia, he also said the Church should ask forgiveness for the way it has treated women, for turning a blind eye to child labor and for "blessing so many weapons" in the past.

In the hour-long freewheeling conversation that has become a trademark of his international travels, Francis was asked if he agreed with recent comments by a German Roman Catholic cardinal that the Church should apologize to gays.

Francis looked sad when the reporter asked if an apology was made more urgent by the killing of 49 people at a gay club in Orlando, Florida this month.

He recalled Church teachings that homosexuals "should not be discriminated against. They should be respected, accompanied pastorally." He added: "I think that the Church not only should apologize ... to a gay per-

son whom it offended but it must also apologize to the poor as well, to the women who have been exploited, to children who have been exploited by (being forced to) work. It must apologize for having blessed so many weapons."

The Church teaches that homosexual tendencies are not sinful but homosexual acts are, and that homosexuals should try to be chaste.

Francis repeated a slightly modified version of the now-famous "Who am I to judge?" comment he made about gays on the first foreign trip after his election in 2013.

He said: "The question is: if a person who has that condition, who has good will, and who looks for God, who are we to judge?"

Vatican spokesman Father Federico Lombardi said that the pope, by saying "has that condition", did not imply a medical condition but "a person in that situation". In Italian, the word "condition" can also mean "situation".

"We Christians have to apologize for so many things, not just for this (treatment of gays), but we must ask for forgiveness, not just apologize! Forgiveness! Lord, it is a word we forget so often!" he said.

Francis has been hailed by many in the gay community for being the most merciful pope toward them in recent history and conservative Catholics have criticized him for making comments they say are ambiguous with regard to sexual morality.

He told reporters on the plane "there are traditions in some countries, some cultures, that have a different mentality about this question (homosexuals)" and there are "some (gay) demonstrations that are too offensive for some".

But he suggested that those were not grounds for discrimination or marginalization of gays.

Reprinted from the Huffington Post

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



Same-Sex Marriages Triple After Victories

Bloomberg News - 6/24/16

Three years after the U.S. Supreme Court forced the federal government to recognize same-sex marriages, and one year after the justices told holdout states to do the same, droves of LGBT Americans have been taking advantage of their new rights.

A Prudential Financial Inc. survey of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans has found that far fewer are single — and far more are married — than four years ago. While the drumbeat of coast-to-coast legalization was undoubtedly a driving force, the speed of this nationwide sprint to the altar has been remarkable, the study showed. Overall, 30 percent of LGBT respondents said they were married, up from just 8 percent in 2012.

The LGBT population is notoriously difficult to survey. It's hard for pollsters to find a group that is just a fraction of the overall population and that has historically had reason to be discreet. Prudential surveyed 35,000 Americans online to find 1,376 people ages 25-70 who identified as LGBT.

Indy Inclusion Awards—Thursday, July 7th “Al Fresco Under the Stars All-White Party”

The Third Annual Indy Inclusion Awards, to be held at The Briarhurst, 404 Manitou Avenue on July 7th, will celebrate those who devote their days, nights, hopes, dreams and resources to advancing



LGBT causes and creating a more inclusive and diverse Pikes Peak region. The event runs from 6—9 p.m., and the dress code is all-white cocktail attire. There will be complimentary hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine and a signature cocktail of the evening, along with entertainment by DJ Brandon Lee.

Tickets (\$25) are available at www.csindy.ticketleap.com. If your browser will not open this site because of its configuration, call the Colorado Springs *Independent* at (719) 577-4545.

Thank you

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

Our PFLAG meetings are a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear—

Must remain strictly confidential.

You and Your Gender Identity: A Guide to Discovery

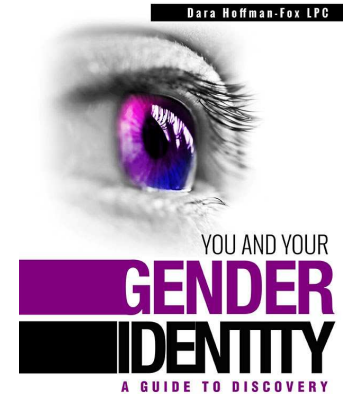
Local therapist and PFLAG friend Dara Hoffman-Fox, LPC, has just published her first book, *You and Your Gender Identity: A Guide to Discovery*. The book was created for those who are overwhelmed by their feelings of confusion and uncertainty surrounding their gender identity. Hoffman-Fox helps readers gain more clarity about their gender by leading them along a self-paced, three-stage approach to gender exploration.

“Gender identity confusion can complicate a person’s entire understanding of who they are,” explains Hoffman-Fox. “This can create stress, uncertainty of one’s place in the world, interpersonal

difficulty, not having a solid ‘sense of self,’ and many other issues. This is why it is important and needs to be explored.”

“The question I am asked more than any other is, ‘Can you please help me figure out my gender identity?’” Hoffman-Fox says. “This book is my way of doing something to help those who are in need of guidance, answers, and relief around questions they are having about this essential component of who they are.”

A Licensed Professional Counselor and gender therapist in private practice, she is a thought leader on transgender issues who frequently serves as a resource for the media. Hoffman-Fox’s website, articles, and videos are viewed worldwide. Dara’s book launch interview with KOAA can be seen at <http://bit.ly/28ZTxiG>. The book is now available at www.discoveryourgenderidentity.com and www.amazon.com.



Clickety-Click....

If you receive your PFLAG newsletter by e-mail, you can click all those lovely links to articles, websites and more! Also, you can easily forward it to a friend, and we hope that you will do that often. Finally, e-mailing the newsletter saves our PFLAG chapter \$\$\$ postage. Sooo...

Send an e-mail to info@cspflag.org and ask to be put on the e-mail list.

Remember our easy fundraiser!

Pick up your King Soopers Gift Card at a PFLAG meeting.



King Soopers sends five percent of all purchases made with the card (groceries, gas, prescriptions) to our PFLAG chapter!



BULLETIN BOARD

Gala Choruses to Sing in Colorado Springs!

When the big GALA Choruses Festival concludes in Denver, three of the choruses will come to Colorado Springs on July 8th. Out Loud, the Colorado Springs Mens Chorus, The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and the Denver Gay Men's Chorus will sing together in a concert at 7:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 420 North Nevada Avenue.

These are exceptional choruses. It is a wonderful opportunity to hear them right here in the Springs. The concert is free. Voluntary donations will be requested.

Classical Musicians Who are Out and Proud

Though she just graduated from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in 2014, Breanna Sinclairé has already made history. In 2015, Sinclairé became the first transgender woman to sing the "Star Spangled Banner" at a professional sporting event.



Sinclairé has funded her transition by hosting several recitals. She performed selections from Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Bizet's *Carmen*, and Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. Sinclairé's story has caught the attention of major news outlets like *The Wall Street Journal* and *OUT Magazine*. Watch her sing the national anthem at <http://bit.ly/291CyyZ>

See the full story on 15 musicians at: <http://bit.ly/28YKz8R>

Thanks to Carol Brown Oberg for sending interesting, unusual items for our newsletter.

Please feel free to send articles, program ideas to PFLAG. If you see an article you think we should share, or have an idea for a program for our monthly PFLAG meeting, please send it to in@cspflag.org.

July 2-6 Gala Choruses Festival in Denver—Colorado is hosting its second GALA Festival. In a row. Like the World Cup, GALA happens only once every 4 years. Out Loud sings with other Colorado choruses in the Galleria at the Denver Performing Arts Center on July 2 from 6:10—6:30, and again from 7:40—8:00. These are free. Out Loud will also sing on Sunday, July 3 at 12:00 in the Buell Theater. For more information and tickets, see <http://galachoruses.org>

July 7— Indy Inclusion Awards — Celebrate individuals and organizations that help to advance LGBT causes and create a more inclusive and diverse community. Briarhurst Manor. Information at www.csindy.ticketleap.com or call the *Independent* at (719) 577-4545.

July 8 — GALA Choruses in Colorado Springs — Concert at First United Methodist Church, 420 North Nevada Avenue at 7:30 p.m. See article on this page.

July 9-10—Colorado Springs PrideFest — America the Beautiful Park. 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. both days. Call Doug Kirkpatrick at 598-6509 to volunteer.

July 20— Urban Peak "Off the Street" Breakfast — Free, early morning fundraising breakfast event Under the Bridge, 218 West Colorado Avenue. 7:00 a.m.—8:30 a.m. Call Karen Stith 634-4433 to reserve your seat.

August 20— One Colorado Ally Awards —One Colorado will recognize some of the most important LGBT allies in Colorado at an elegant gathering at the Four Seasons Hotel in Denver, 1111 14th Street. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to: <http://www.one-colorado.org>

September 24 — AIDS Walk: A Walk in the Garden— Registration is now open for teams and individuals who want to participate in the annual Aids Walk fundraiser at the Garden of the Gods. The Walk benefits the Southern Colorado AIDS Project (SCAP). SCAP works to slow the spread of HIV/AIDS and provides vital services to people living with HIV/AIDS in Southern Colorado. More information online at <http://bit.ly/28YL4iZ>

Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016.

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.