



PFLAG Colorado Springs

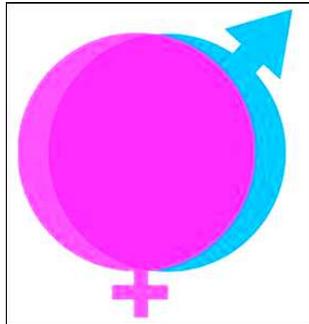
June, 2015

June Program: TYES Parents Discuss Ways to Support Families with Gender Nonconforming Children

At the June PFLAG meeting, parents who participate in TYES (Trans Youth Education and Support) will speak about their experiences with their children and will offer ideas about how their PFLAG allies can support them in their journey.

TYES, which became a satellite program of PFLAG at the national level in the spring of 2014, was founded in Boulder by Karen, the mother of a child who did not fit into conventional gender norms. Within a short time, over 70 Colorado families facing similar challenges with their young children joined the TYES network.

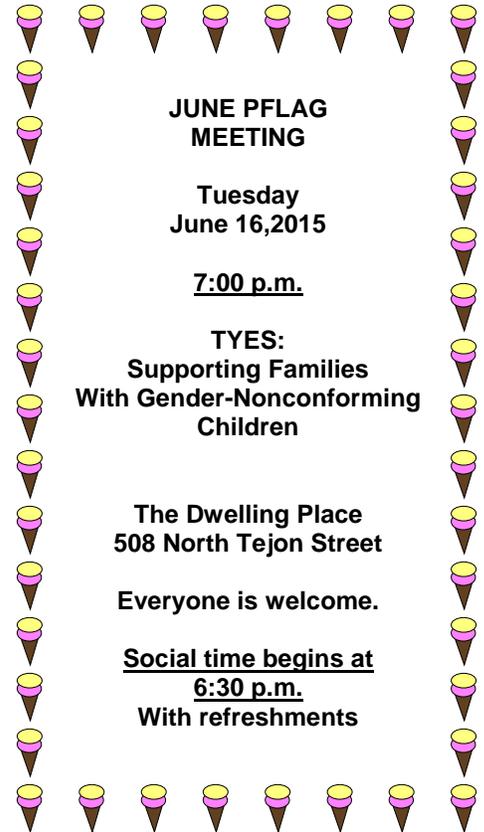
Patti is a TYES mom who has been speaking on OUT Boulder panels doing presentations for allies for the past year. TYES parents seek to educate allies in PFLAG chapters, schools and the medical community in particular to



deal sensitively and effectively with their children.

TYES empowers and supports families and caregivers of gender nonconforming youth by providing resources, education, outreach, and advocacy, in order to create supportive environments that allow youth to experience the joy of authenticity.

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JUNE PFLAG MEETING

**Tuesday
June 16, 2015**

7:00 p.m.

**TYES:
Supporting Families
With Gender-Nonconforming
Children**

**The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street**

Everyone is welcome.

**Social time begins at
6:30 p.m.
With refreshments**

Out Loud to Perform at Denver Pride Concert June 17th

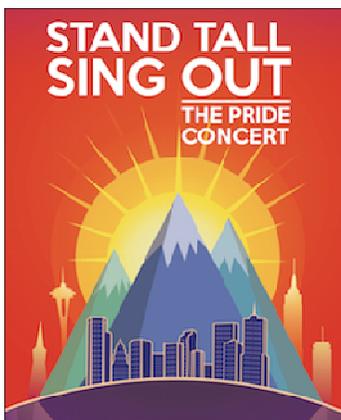
Out Loud: The Colorado Springs Men's Chorus, will perform with the Denver Gay Men's Chorus (DGMC) on June 17th at the Denver Pride Concert, titled "Stand Tall, Sing Out".

The following message is from the DGMC:

"Last year's SOLD OUT, standing room only concert was a testament to the popularity of this Denver event. It is time to get your PRIDE on as we joyously share our love for the LGBT community in song. Out Loud: -The Colorado Springs Men's Chorus, our brother chorus will join forces with DGMC and special guests from the Denver School for the Arts in an electrifying, empowering evening of remarkable tributes to our past, present and future.

"A centerpiece of the concert will be "Testimony" by "Wicked" and "Pippin"

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"Off the Street" Breakfast July 22 — 7:30—8:30 a.m.

Urban Peak of Colorado Springs will host its 2015 "Off the Street" Breakfast on July 22 to support its work with homeless youth.

The breakfast is free. A short program about the Urban Peak's programs that to house and counsel youth who have been living on the street will be presented by Urban Peak volunteers and some of the youth. Donations will be requested.

Join us for this excellent event. Register to sit with the PFLAG group by calling Karen at 634-4433. The breakfast will be at a new location: 218 West Colorado Avenue, under the bridge, west of the railroad tracks.



Sharing Our Stories—in the Workplace

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.

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



June has always been the busiest month for PFLAG National's Straight for Equality® in the Workplace program and 2015 will be no different.

PFLAG National staff members Jean-Marie Navetta and Jody Huckaby will spend the month on the road, traveling to 11 different states, to help more than 16 different corporations, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations create more inclusive workplaces for their LGBTQ employees. And this year we're expanding our reach even further by offering organization-wide webinars in a number of places.

So why is this work so important? Equality & Diversity Partnerships Manager Jamie Henkel had this to say:

Trans Youth Education and Support (TYES)

TYES is a PFLAG affiliate that offers education and support to families with gender non-conforming 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. They hold monthly family meetings. 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,

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

“While it is true that we have seen major progress when it comes to workplace nondiscrimination policies at the company, local, state, and even federal level the fact remains that only about half of LGBT people feel comfortable being out to most or all of their coworkers. That’s the challenge today: culture change.”

Research consistently shows that LGBT people who are in the closet at work often lie about their personal lives, avoid work events, coworkers and clients, and even miss days of work because of the stresses of perceiving an unwelcoming work environment.

And that’s where PFLAG comes in. Through a series of more than a dozen different courses developed since 2007, PFLAG National staff has worked with more than 100 different companies and organizations providing practical advice for allies who want to create more inclusive and welcoming space for their LGBTQ colleagues.

These courses cover topics that range from making the business case for LGBTQ equality to navigating the complex intersections of LGBTQ issues and religion in the workplace and are customized to meet the unique needs of employees in various industries.

Beyond all else, remember that sharing your story is a powerful force at work. Whether it is in a more formal panel presentation during Pride month about your journey to acceptance or just sharing stories about your LGBT loved ones in everyday conversations with colleagues, you’re reframing what LGBT inclusion looks like.

Telling your stories to others creates the culture change that we need to ensure that policies and laws are effective



Out Loud to Perform at Denver Pride Concert (cont.)

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composer Stephen Schwartz with lyrics taken from Dan Savage's 'It Gets Better Project'."

June Swaner Gates Concert Hall is located in the Newman Center for the Performing Arts on the University of Denver campus at 2344 E. Iliff Avenue in Denver, Colorado ([see map](#)).

You can purchase tickets for this performance by calling (303)-871-7720 or online at the [Newman Center Website](#).

Out Loud and the DGMC have drawn closer through their collaboration a month ago in a joint production of "Milk", which received rave reviews at performances in Colorado Springs, Denver and Laramie, Wyoming.

Several of our PFLAG chapter members travelled with the choruses to Laramie and described an emotional performance there that touched both singers and the audience. Laramie has become a touchstone for the LGBT community since Matthew Shepard was murdered there in a hate crime in 1997.

E! Airst First Two Episodes of Keeping Up with the Kardashians: About Bruce

Two episodes of the TV series, *Keeping Up With the Kardashians*, aired May 17 and 18, began to deal with Bruce Jenner's transition.

Since coming out as transgender in an interview with Diane Sawyer last month, Jenner, Jenner's ex-wife, Kris, and their entire family have been speaking publicly about working together as a family through the transition.

To help other families and educate interested viewers, PFLAG is very pleased that PFLAG has been included as a resource on the **E!** website for the show.

Defining Nemo: Sex Without Preconceptions

From Boulder PFLAG newsletter

After the birth of a child, the first question is often: "What is it, a boy or a girl?" For many species that question makes no sense at all. Turtles have no sex at birth. Neither do crocodiles, alligators and caimans. Spotted hyenas all appear to be males. Clownfish, like Nemo, may undergo multiple sex changes during the course of their lives.

And of course, labeling an infant human as a boy or a girl is a pretty iffy and sometimes arbitrary action. In the real world, life, sex, gender, and sexual orientation come in a variety of hues beyond black and white. Here's an article listing some instances in nature that break gender stereotypes and illustrate gender fluidity: <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/symbiartic/2013/05/17/is-homosexuality-natural-yes-so-is-male-lactation/>

TYES Parents (cont.)

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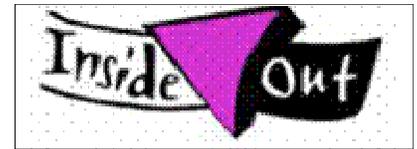
The following three steps are key in becoming an ally for gender nonconforming youth and their families.

Accept another person's reality -

Accept what this person is telling you about their gender identity as truth. If this person identifies as female, she is female. Respect a person's wishes for what name they would like to be called, what pronouns they would like used, and what terminology they choose to describe themselves.

Educate yourself - Being an ally means being informed. Ask questions when appropriate but take advantage of the wealth of information available on gender identity. Consider these reputable resources:

- *Transgender Law Center*—www.transgenderlawcenter.org



Inside/Out Youth Services, a vital local nonprofit that supports LGBT youth ages 13-22, is conducting a fund-raising campaign in June with a goal of \$45,000.

All donations are tax-deductible because Inside/Out is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. If you can help to support the work of Inside/Out, please send your check to:

Inside/Out Youth Services
412 South Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Several of our PFLAG parents work as volunteers with the youth on a regular basis.

To learn more about volunteering, contact Eric Pizana at Inside/Out (719) 328-1056.

- *TransAdvocate*- <http://www.transadvocate.com>.
- *Gender Spectrum*- www.genderspectrum.org
- *Trans Youth Family Allies*- <http://www.imatyfa.org/>

Speak up - Speak to friends and relatives about what you've learned about gender differences. Challenge transphobic comments heard in public spaces. Consider the "T" in LGBT when discussing issues with others. Add your voice on social media or in the comment sections of news items related to transgender student rights. New families of gender nonconforming kids too often read these comment sections and hear negativity from people who are misinformed.

Voices of PFLAG members can help them know they are supported. Support and thank businesses who provide gender-neutral public restrooms.



BULLETIN BOARD

June 9 — Meeting to Plan PFLAG Float for Colorado Springs Pride Fest - If you can help, call Karen 634-4433.

June 17— Out Loud Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus— guest appearance at “Stand Tall, Sing Out” concert of the Denver Gay Men’s Chorus. 7:30 p.m. at Gates Concert Hall, Newman Center at University of Denver. Be sure to purchase tickets in advance. See. p. 1.

June 20-21—Denver Pridefest—40th Anniversary — year 365,000 people attended this festival, making it one of the largest Pride celebrations in the country. For information, go to <http://www.glbtcolorado.org/pridefest/>

June 22—Gay Days at Elitch Gardens and Water World in Denver. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

July 11-12 — Colorado Springs 25th Annual Pride Festival— America the Beautiful Park. Visit Colorado Springs Pridefest on Facebook.

July 10-11-12—Gender Spectrum Conference and Professionals Symposium—Moraga, CA. Focusing on Children, teens. See www.genderspectrum.org

July 22—Urban Peak “Off the Street” Breakfast— 7:30 a.m.—8:30 a.m.—new location 218 West Colorado Avenue under the bridge, west of the railroad tracks. Reservation required. Free breakfast, donation requested. To sit with the PFLAG group, call Karen 634-4433.

August 22—One Love — A Million Stars—The 2015 Ally Awards—Sponsored by One Colorado, Four Seasons Hotel, Denver.

PFLAG Thanks

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

News Briefs

Oregon Bans Conversion Therapy

On May 19, Oregon Governor Kate Brown signed into law the bill, passed by large margins in both houses of the legislature, that bans conversion therapy for minors. This makes Oregon the third state (after California and New Jersey) plus Washington D.C., with such a law in place.

Indiana Modifies RFRA—PFLAG Members Delighted
News bulletin from PFLAG National Office

Governor Michael Pence of Indiana on Thursday signed into law revisions in the state’s divisive Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) aimed at removing fears that it would allow businesses to discriminate against gays and lesbians.

While much of the original law (giving people permission to discriminate against others by citing their religious beliefs) has been preserved, the [amendment](#) now clarifies that RFRA does not “authorize a provider to refuse to offer or provide services, facilities, use of public accommodations, goods, employment, or housing to any member or members of the general public on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, age, national origin, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or United States military service.”

We are so proud of Indiana PFLAGers who have been relentless, vocal, and organized in letting all other Hoosiers know the real impact of the Indiana law. On CNN, on local news, in social media, and even organizing and leading the charge at rallies, PFLAGers are sending an unequivocal message that PFLAG’s values are America’s values.

PFLAG members are standing alongside business and industry leaders who are raising their voices—and in some cases, closing their wallets—to send a powerful message that writing discrimination into the law is bad for our country and bad for business.

Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015.

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: _____

Each year our chapter must contribute \$15.00 for each paid membership to the PFLAG national office to support its mission.

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