



# PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

June 2021

## Joe Uveges Hosts Dialogue on Teen Suicide June 3

Well-known Colorado Springs musician Joe Uveges, who lost his fifteen year old son, Andrew, to suicide in 2016, has organized a discussion on the subject of teen suicide.

“Suicide” An Open Conversation – Raising Awareness, Creating Connections and Feeling Our Way Through”

Thursday, June 3  
Stargazers Theatre  
10 South Parkside Drive

This will be an open, wide-ranging conversation about suicide where participants will explore this topic, creating a sense of understanding and community where healing can begin.

This event is free. Free in-person tickets are limited to the first 100 people at the door on June 3 at 6:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 and the event begins at 7:00 p.m. For all other interested participants, the event will be livestreamed free. More information about the live and streamed event is at: [www.stargazerslive.com](http://www.stargazerslive.com)

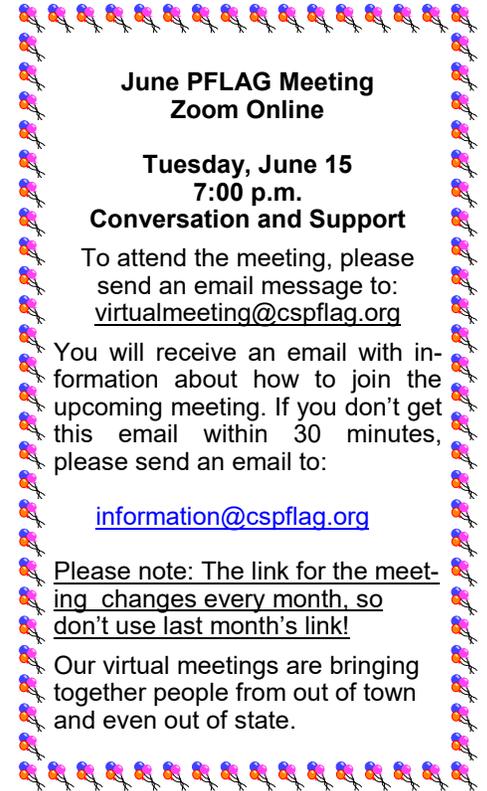


Joe Uveges

Joe Uveges will talk about his journey in the past five years since losing Andrew. Nancy April will share her story of fighting suicide thoughts for nearly 50 years, and Dawn Wiggins, whose son ended his life a year ago, will talk about her experience.

Suicide in our culture today is generally seen as a stigma and taboo. It is experienced as bad, abnormal, unspeakable, and frightening. Certainly, from this viewpoint, one might assume that something must be severely wrong with someone who would consider it. Most people

*(Continued on page 2)*



### June PFLAG Meeting Zoom Online

Tuesday, June 15  
7:00 p.m.

### Conversation and Support

To attend the meeting, please send an email message to: [virtualmeeting@cspflag.org](mailto:virtualmeeting@cspflag.org)

You will receive an email with information about how to join the upcoming meeting. If you don't get this email within 30 minutes, please send an email to:

[information@cspflag.org](mailto:information@cspflag.org)

Please note: The link for the meeting changes every month, so don't use last month's link!

Our virtual meetings are bringing together people from out of town and even out of state.



CUTS / COLOR

Colorado Springs PFLAG will be the featured nonprofit organization on Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at Bishops Cuts/Color, 7587 North Academy Boulevard, Suite #110 in Colorado Springs. Each week, Bishops Cuts/Color hosts “Give Back Monday” to support a local nonprofit organization. Franchise owner Joseph (Joe) Stuchel has reached out to PFLAG to offer our chapter the opportunity to participate in his program.

On Give Back Monday, the salon donates 20% of all service sales to the featured nonprofit. Current partners in the Give Back Monday project include Southern Colorado Health Network, Kids on Bikes and the Pike Peak Library District Foundation.

The salon's Facebook page is delightful: Look for Bishops.northacademy or use this link: <https://bit.ly/3ickMYp>

Thank you, Joe, for giving back so generously to the community.

## YDA Offers Free Film Screenings, Discussion in June

Filmmaker Tom Shepard, founder of the highly successful Youth Documentary Academy in Colorado Springs, has announced that YDA will present a series of films this month.



Tom is proud of being able to offer these films to the community, saying: “Join us each Tuesday evening in June at Kimball's Peak Theater for a special screening and intimate and in-depth conversation with notable documentary filmmakers from around the country. We will screen films and excerpts from five award-winning directors whose work has made a significant

impact nationally and internationally. Join us for screenings and conversation as they discuss their films, their creative and storytelling process, and the challenges and rewards of documentary filmmaking in the 21st Century.”

The screenings will take place on June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 6:30 p.m. at Kimball's Peak Theater, 115 East Pikes Peak Avenue. The events are free, but require an RSVP to reserve your seats. Click here for a description of the films and information about the filmmakers, and for reservations: <https://bit.ly/3fzQgur>

Of particular interest to the PFLAG community is Tom's celebrated film, “Unsettled: Seeking Refuge in America”, which follows LGBTQ+

*(Continued on page 2)*



Suicide Prevention

(Continued from page 1)

who are feeling suicidal will not discuss it because they are afraid of the consequences. Speaking out often leads to a cycle of mental illness diagnosis, medication, isolation, and even hospitalization.

Could a shift in perception, where we remove the judgment, offer us the opportunity to question the idea of suicide as a sickness and instead consider that it might be a natural human response to different challenges on the psychological, physical, spiritual, emotional and social levels? Suicide experiences, when met with respect and fearlessness, may reveal a new depth of wisdom, understanding and comfort for us all.

For information and support, call Pikes Peak Suicide Prevention Partnership 719-573-7447. Website: [www.pikespeaksuicideprevention.org](http://www.pikespeaksuicideprevention.org)

Queer Prom—June 18

The party of the year is BACK—in person and virtual!!! Queer Prom 2021, for youth ages 13-24 will feature a live DJ and live drag performance.

Dress up and be ready to DANCE! This year Queer Prom will be held at Hillside Community Center, 925 South Institute 7:00-9:30 pm. It is sponsored by Inside Out Youth Services and Pikes Peak Safe at Schools Coalition.

For more information and to get tickets, go to the IOYS Facebook page: <https://bit.ly/3g4pMQV>

Colorado Springs PFLAG

This newsletter is published by the Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG. PFLAG provides support, education and advocacy for people who are LGBTQ+, their families, and allies.

To receive this newsletter regularly, go to the website: [www.cspflag.org](http://www.cspflag.org).

To contact PFLAG, send email to: [information@cspflag.org](mailto:information@cspflag.org).

Colorado Springs PFLAG Support Line: (719) 425-9567

Facebook: PFLAG—Colorado Springs <https://www.facebook.com/PFLAGCS/>

PFLAG National Office website: [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

Film Series—Tom Shepard



Tom Shepard

(Continued from page 1)

immigrants in the San Francisco area as they seek to create a life in the United States. It will be screened on June 8.

Tom is a San Francisco filmmaker, who grew up in Colorado Springs and graduated from Palmer High School in 1987. His parents, Sally and Paul Shepard, were early supporters of the Colorado Springs chapter of PFLAG, and Paul served as its treasurer.

Last year the YDA program was curtailed because of the pandemic, but this summer it will be in full swing, with local high school youth making short films on a wide variety of topics under the guidance of experienced filmmakers. For more information about this film series and YDA, see : <https://bit.ly/3fEX8Xj>

Fox21 News Covers Billboard

Colorado Springs PFLAG thanks Daniela Leon of Fox21 News for her thoughtful and well-researched coverage of the PFLAG billboard mounted on Colorado Avenue in April-May.

Her May 7<sup>th</sup> report, titled “New Downtown Billboard Sparks Conversation about Transgender People” can be viewed by following this link: <https://bit.ly/3fAZGpg>

PFLAG Meetings...

You don't always know where other people are on their journeys.

Therefore, PFLAG meetings, both in-person and virtual, must always be a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear

Must remain strictly confidential.



The annual Off the Street Breakfast, a major fundraiser for The PLACE, has historically hosted as many as 900 people for breakfast under the Colorado Avenue Bridge. The pandemic turned it into a virtual event last year, but this year it is back, in a hybrid format, spanning two dates.

In Person Breakfast – Thursday July 15, 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. The PLACE anticipates having between 250 to 500 guests, so seating is limited. Reservations are by invitation only through a Table Captain and are on a first-come, first-served basis. To make a reservation through the PFLAG Table Captain, contact [karenfstith@gmail.com](mailto:karenfstith@gmail.com)

Virtual Breakfast – Saturday July 24, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. The PLACE is excited to also host a Virtual Off the Street Breakfast event this year. You can join as an individual or as a group from your home/viewing location. Only one person per viewing location needs to register at the link below.

Thanks to an amazing sponsor, Picnic Basket, breakfast delivery is available for viewing parties of 2 or more, to be delivered the evening of Friday July 23rd. If you would like to opt in for the breakfast delivery, be sure to complete your registration by Monday, July 19th.

Register for the virtual event at: <https://bit.ly/3g29CqW>

The Place is a highly successful shelter and program for youth experiencing homelessness. In the past two decades, 2,525 young people have permanently exited homelessness after engaging with The PLACE.

Transgender and nonbinary youth attempt suicide less when **respect is given to their pronouns** and they are allowed to officially **change their legal documents**.

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.



## BULLETIN BOARD

**June 1-8-15-22-29— Youth Documentary Academy Special Free Screenings and Conversation with Filmmakers—** Kimball's Theater 6:30 p.m. Every Tuesday in June. See p. 1

**June 3—Dialogue on Teen Suicide** — With Joe Uveges and others, 7 p.m. Stargazers Theatre, 10 South Parkside Drive. This free event is in-person and also virtual. See page 1.

**June 12 — “Fierce, Fabulous and Moving Forward”** — The Denver Gay Men’s Chorus will present a free online event at 7:30 p.m. Register to get the link at <https://bit.ly/3i4XwjC>

**June 18—Queer Prom**— Live and virtual 7-9:30 pm. See p. 2.

**July 15—Off the Street Breakfast—Fundraiser for The Place**— In-person breakfast 7:30—8:30 a.m. See p. 2.

**July 16-18 — PrideFest 2021**— Although the large weekend festival with thousands of people will not be taking place this year, the PrideFest committee is planning lots of fun pride events throughout the city the entire week of July 11-18. Stay tuned to <https://www.facebook.com/pridefest/> for details.

**July 24—Off the Street Breakfast—Fundraiser for The Place (Virtual Event)** 9:30—10:00 a.m. Online event and breakfast delivery. See p. 2.



“Fierce, Fabulous and Moving Forward” salutes the strong, bold and resilient LGBTQIA+ community.

This online event features newly recorded performances, a selection of archived favorites, multimedia elements, inspirational testimonials and an appearance from “Off Kilter!” PFLAG thanks you, DGMC ! (Details on the Bulletin Board)

### PFLAG Care Packages—Update

We have delivered a total of 23 care packages to date. 21 packages were delivered locally and 2 were mailed. Eight care packages will be delivered to clients of Inside Out that are receiving food boxes every other week. We also delivered 12 care packages to the staff at Inside Out based on Darolyn Stewart’s nomination. Thanks to Berni and Cindy for all your help. Nominate someone to receive a package by sending an email to [information@cspflag.org](mailto:information@cspflag.org) – Cheryl

## Anti-Transgender Activists Should Take a Lesson from Colorado

Excerpts from an opinion piece by Mario Nicolais in *The Colorado Sun* May 30, 2021:

“Just over a week ago, to comparatively little fanfare, Gov. Jared Polis signed into law a bill that will make discrimination against anyone based on Gender identity expression unlawful.

In particular, the bill will protect the rights of transgender Coloradans in the same manner as the law currently protects people based on race, sex or religion. Given the increase in anti-transgender legislation introduced recently across the country, Colorado is among the most equitable states in the nation.

“It is a far cry from where our state was just under a dec-

ade ago in the LGBTQ equality discussion. The civil unions saga at the state Capitol turned the statehouse chamber into anarchy and chaos. The resultant political ramifications swamped the Colorado GOP in the next election, a drubbing it has never recovered from.

“Republicans across the country may want to take note before continuing the current culture war. The short-term gain in engagement from their base could have devastating long-term consequences...

“The script seems eerily familiar to the “gay agenda” trope their predecessors trotted out 10 years ago. It didn’t work then, and it is not likely to work now.”

Read the complete column at <https://bit.ly/3fA5boj>

### Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.

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 contributes \$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 additional donations are tax deductible. Or pay by credit card online at website: [www.cspflag.org](http://www.cspflag.org) PFLAG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.