



# PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

2019 is Our 25th Anniversary Year!

March 2019

## Urban Peak— Powerful Help for Homeless Youth

At this month's PFLAG meeting, Executive Director Shawna Kempainen and Case Manager Shannon Scanlon from Urban Peak will share new data about what's working to help youth exit homelessness and where local gaps need to be addressed.

The discussion will examine how biases in youth and adults can heighten hurdles to getting off the street.

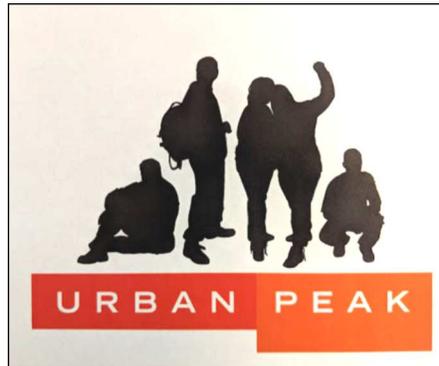
Finding the path from homelessness to stability is a complex path for anyone, and especially young people on their own. With compassion and support, Urban Peak Colorado Springs works to break down barriers and unravel the biases that can keep youth stuck in the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

In the Pikes Peak Region, on average 22 new youth *per month* are falling into homelessness, and the total list of youth ages 18 to 24 who seek housing monthly is more than 120.

Trends both locally and nationally show that youth homelessness is a growing challenge, especially for young people of color and those who identify as gender diverse or LGBTQ.

Urban Peak Colorado Springs worked with nearly 700 youth age 15 through 24 last year, providing shelter, housing, street outreach, job assistance, support with school, and healthcare.

While not always simple, the solutions to helping youth exit homelessness are clear: improve access to whole healthcare; link youth to safe adult connections; provide more of the right types of housing options; and



build opportunities for gaining employment and continuing their education.

We look forward to expanding these solutions in the Pikes Peak Region, and hope you join us for the discussion on March 19!

### MARCH PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday  
March 19, 2019  
7:00 p.m.

Urban Peak  
Discussion With

Shawna Kempainen  
and  
Shannon Scanlon

The Dwelling Place  
508 North Tejon Street

Light refreshments

Social time starts at 6:30 p.m.  
Everyone is welcome.

## Father James Martin at Colorado College—April 3rd

By Bill Oliver

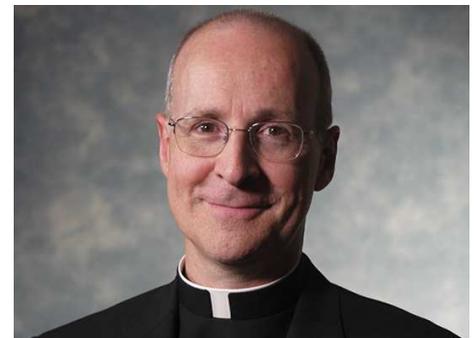
As briefly mentioned in our February Newsletter, PFLAG is supporting a free presentation by Fr. James Martin at Colorado College on Wed, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 pm, in the Celeste Theatre in the Cornerstone Arts Center (Cascade @ Dale).

His appearance will be by live video just to CC, and there will be an opportunity for Q&A at the end.

Fr. Martin, a Jesuit priest (as is Pope Francis), is a prolific author of several best-sellers, including his most recent: *Building a Bridge – How the Catholic Church and the LGBT Community Can Enter into a Relationship of Respect, Compassion, and Sensitivity.*

In recognition of this book PFLAG National in 2017 bestowed its "Flag Bearer Award" on Fr. Martin. First published in 2017, the book was revised and expanded in 2018.

Fr. Martin's book has been lauded by several Catholic archbishops and cardinals but has also drawn criti-



Fr. James Martin

cism from others.

A few of his appearances have been cancelled due to outraged protests by very conservative Catholic elements. His CC presentation will be similar to one he was invited by the Vatican to give at the Catholic Church's "World Meeting of Families" in Dublin last August.

(Continued on page 3)

## Outstanding Transgender Conference in Boulder



For more information and an opportunity to register online, see the Bulletin Board on page 4.



### LGBTQ+ — Young Folks in Action

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 this 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](mailto:info@cspflag.org)

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<https://www.facebook.com/PFLAGCS/>

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Inside Out went up to Denver again for LGBTQ Lobby Day, February 19th!

Our young LGBTQ leaders have been active in LGBTQ politics. From attending Governor Polis's historic inauguration as the first openly gay elected governor in January to having testimony tweeted (and retweeted) by Rep Brianna Titone for the HB-1032 on state-wide comprehensive sex education earlier this



month, our youth have been engaged in important policies and LGBTQ history for the state of Colorado! Inside/Out is so proud of this group of young leaders!

*Ed. Inside Out Youth Services is a nonprofit organization in Colorado Springs that has been supporting LGBTQ+ youth ages 13-22 for over 20 years.*

#### This is Important!

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

THEREFORE, PFLAG meetings are always a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear

Must remain strictly confidential.

- Thank you.

#### A Way Home America

At the March PFLAG meeting, Urban Peak representatives will discuss "A Way Home America", an organization that seeks to end youth homelessness. It is a national pool of organizations working with homeless youth.

It was launched 19 months ago to share data and ideas month by month, and is already proving to be a great resource for Urban Peak. For more information about A Way Home America, go to: <https://bit.ly/2HfyVX5>

#### TransParent Group

The TransParent group at Inside/Out for parents of gender variant and transgender youth usually meets on the third Thursday of the month from 6:00—7:30 p.m. at Inside/Out Youth Services, 223 North Wahsatch Ave. For more information, call Inside/Out at 328-1056.

#### TYES

Transgender Youth Education and Support (TYES) is a Boulder-based parent group that provides information and a community of support for parents of gender dysphoric and gender variant young children.

PFLAG collaborates with TYES to provide support to parents in the Pikes Peak region. For more information, call (719) 425-9567 or send an e-mail to [info@cspflag.org](mailto:info@cspflag.org). The national TYES website is: [www.TYES-Colorado.org](http://www.TYES-Colorado.org).

#### 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.

#### SAGE LGBT Senior Hotline

The SAGE LGBT Elder Hotline is available for anyone aged 50 or over who wishes to discuss issues related to sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Staffed entirely by highly trained LGBT volunteers, the Hotline can be reached at 888-234-SAGE from 4 p.m. to midnight Monday through Friday, and on Saturday from noon to 5 p.m., eastern time.

The Hotline can also be accessed at: [www.LGBTHotline.org/SAGE](http://www.LGBTHotline.org/SAGE)



## Fr. James Martin at Colorado College (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

In his talk Fr. Martin is likely to mention that if a Catholic LGBT person happens to live near a welcoming congregation, he/she is in luck and, if not, then out of luck – and “that is a scandal in the church.” Quoting now from an April 2018 article in *America* (a biweekly Jesuit magazine) by Fr. Martin:

“*Building a Bridge* intentionally steered clear of issues of sexual morality, since I hoped to foster dialog by focusing on areas of possible commonality; and the church hierarchy and the majority of LGBT Catholics remain far apart on these issues.

“It also makes little sense to begin a conversation with topics on which the two sides are the farthest apart. Overall, the book was about dialog and prayer, rather than moral theology.”

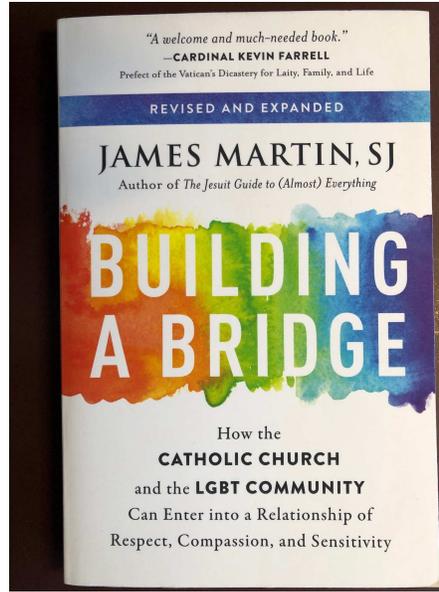
Although the Catholic Church still holds that homosexual acts are wrong, simply having a gay orientation in itself is not sinful, and indeed the orientation is now known to not be chosen. Such persons, however, are called to lives of celibate chastity. For many this remains a bridge too far, especially when the Catholic Catechism describes even the homosexual orientation as “objectively disordered” – referring not to the person but to the orientation.

I (Bill) don’t know what it would take for the church to drop the demeaning term “disordered.” Let it be noted that the Catechism also teaches that every sign of unjust discrimination against gays and lesbians must be avoided, and they must be treated with the virtues of “respect, compassion and sensitivity” – thus the subtitle of Fr. Martin’s book.

Catholics look to the church for the informed formation of their consciences. In the end, however, the conscience is the final arbiter of moral decision-making, even if over some teachings of the church.

In this same article Fr. Martin notes: “The most fundamental of all church teachings about gay and lesbian people is this: God loves them.

“They are beloved children of God, created by God and in need of God’s loving care and mercy – as all of us are. ... Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Catholics are probably



the most marginalized group in the church today, and so I believe Christ loves them with a special love.”

Quoting now from the book’s introduction as to one of the five reasons Fr. Martin felt the need for a revised edition:

“I realized that I needed to be clearer about one specific topic: where the onus for the bridge building lies. So let me say it more clearly: the institutional church bears the main responsibility for the ministry of dialog and reconciliation, because it is the institutional church that has made LGBT Catholics feel marginalized, not the other way around – it is the clergy and other church officials who bear responsibility.”

A “bridge” goes both ways and it begins in dialog and accompaniment. May both sides rise to the challenge, trusting that the Holy Spirit is at work among us and through us.

Please join us for this engaging presentation by Fr. James Martin. PFLAG will be providing ushers and cookies.

[For more info contact Bill: gnarlybill@hotmail.com]

PFLAG Ushers/hosts are needed for this event.

If you would like to usher for this event, please contact Bill Oliver.

## Red Ribbon Ball—April 20

Colorado Springs PFLAG strongly encourages you to support the Red Ribbon Ball, a glamorous annual fundraiser for Southern Colorado Health Network (known as S-CAP). S-CAP provides HIV/AIDS services and programs in Southern Colorado.

Cuban Sounds, Fantastic Dancing, Exotic Food and more! Antlers Hotel, 4 South Cascade Ave. Don’t miss it! For more information call (303) 837-0166 and ask to speak with a member of the Development Department.

All funds raised at this event support SCAP’s education, prevention, and outreach programs to young adults and individuals in high risk populations, as well as directly benefiting individuals and families personally impacted by HIV and AIDS.

### Special Event: April 2

Vanessa Dion Fletcher is a Potawatomi and Lenape two-spirit artist.dealing with identity.

Her lunchtime talk at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. is free and open to the public. Lunch is provided. Seating is limited and will be offered on a first-come, first served basis. For more information see: <https://bit.ly/2NA1tM1> or contact the Fine Arts Center at 634-5581.

### Queer Prom—“Love Is...”

Thanks to community support last year, Inside/Out had 325 young people dancing their hearts out. The consensus - Queer Prom rocks!

I/O needs your help to make the 2019 Queer Prom on April 26 the best one yet. Donations help with

the costs of renting the facility, catering the food, covering photography, and advertising the event.



I/O is also collecting donations of **formal wear, costume jewelry, and accessories** to make this year’s Queer Prom the most glamorous one yet! Contact [Sophie@insideoutys.org](mailto:Sophie@insideoutys.org) for any **inQUEERies** about donations for this year’s Queer Prom.

**#Love Is Respect** The Youth Advisory Board at Inside/Out is promoting its “Love Is...” campaign on social media, spreading messages of what Love means to LGBTQ young people.



**BULLETIN BOARD**

**Mar 9-10 — TRANSforming Gender Conference —** CU Boulder. See PFLAG February newsletter online at [www.cspflag.org](http://www.cspflag.org) for a detailed article on this excellent conference. For more information and an opportunity to register online, go to: <https://bit.ly/2BbHC0G>

**Mar 31 — “Celebrating Trans Voices” —** University of Denver, 4:00—5:30 p.m. See below.

**Apr 2 — Vanessa Dion Fletcher —** Artist lecture at Fine Arts Center, 30 West Dale Street. See note on p. 3.

**Apr 3— Father James Martin— Live Video Appearance at Colorado College —** Cornerstone Arts Center 7 p.m. See article p. 1.

**Apr 20 — Red Ribbon Ball —“One Hot Night in Havana”** Antlers Hotel. See p. 3.

**Apr 26 — Inside/Out Queer Prom —“The Masquerade”** at Palmer High School Gym. See p. 3.

**Celebrating Trans Voices (Denver Event)**

Celebrate Trans Day of Visibility at a powerful event lifting up the trans community of Colorado at the University of Denver, on March 31 from 4—5:30 p.m. Sponsored by Youth Celebrate Diversity, ACLU, One Colorado and The GLBT Center of Colorado. For information and to purchase tickets (\$25.00) go to : <https://bit.ly/2GTS0yz>

This event features three compelling conversations that educate and inspire:

Listen to a panel of high school, college and graduate trans students share their experiences;

Hear from **Laila Ireland**, transgender veteran and activist who served for 12 years in the US Army;

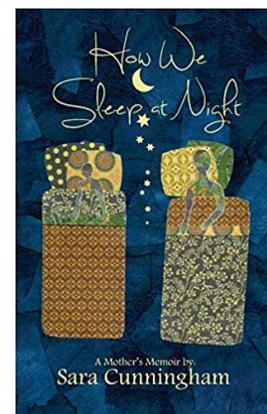
Join **Rep. Brianna Titone**, the first trans legislator elected in Colorado's history, in identifying actions allies can take to support trans people;.

AND... participants will hear a powerful performance by **Phoenix**, Colorado's trans community choir.

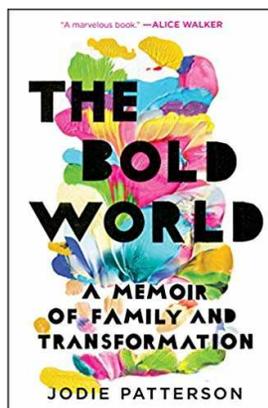
**Book Reviews— Memoirs by Moms**

By Cheryl Prichard, Colorado Springs PFLAG

Sara Cunningham’s book "How We Sleep at Night" (2014) is a real, often raw spiritual and emotional memoir of her personal journey regarding her son’s homosexuality. Her honest account of the fears, pain and deep love of a church-going parent dealing with a confusing situation may resonate with many. She is an important voice in the current dialogue of our society and especially the ongoing discussions in the religious world. Her book gives insight into the real people involved and deeper understanding of family.



Sara Cunningham is the founder of **Free Mom Hugs** spreading love for the LGBTQ+ community through hugs and grassroots action. ( [www.freemomhugs.org](http://www.freemomhugs.org) ) She recently traveled to Los Angeles to meet with Jamie Lee Curtis and they are currently talking strategy for a movie.



In the book "The Bold World – A Memoir of Family and Transformation" (2019) Jodie Patterson is a wonderful new voice that explores identity, gender, race and authenticity. We are witness to a mother of five reshaping her attitudes and beliefs as well as those of her community to meet the needs of her transgender son, Penelope. Her courage and tenacity should make us all ponder our own unconditional acceptance of others.

Jodie Patterson was appointed by the United Nations as a Champion for Change and sits on the board of a number of gender/family/human rights organizations, including the Human Rights Campaign.

**Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member**

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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