



# PFLAG Colorado Springs

March, 2015

## Local LGBT Festival Comes Under New Management —Nic Grzecka to Speak at PFLAG

In January, Colorado Springs businessman and entrepreneur Nic Grzecka, owner of Club Q and Vbar, announced that he and his partners would form a new 501(c)(3) tax exempt entity, Colorado Springs Pride Fest, Inc. for the purpose of taking over and running the vibrant Colorado Springs Pride Festival.

Grzecka will speak at the March PFLAG meeting about his determination to keep the Festival going after the Colorado Springs Pride Center closed in January.

A Colorado Springs native, Grzecka has been active in the LGBT community for over ten years, volunteering for the Pride Center and helping to manage and promote PrideFests in the past. In addition to running both Club Q and Vbar, he is engaged in real estate through his company, 1st Capital Realty, and helps



Nic Grzecka

his brother and sister with a family business, YoYogurt.

At the Pride Center's annual Pride Awards one year ago, Nic Grzecka was voted Businessman of the Year for his generosity to the LGBT community and, in particular, to the popular and effective nonprofit, Inside/Out Youth Services. Inside/Out supports gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning youth aged 13-22 and their straight allies throughout the Pikes Peak region.



The 25th Annual Pride Festival will be held in Colorado Springs on July 11-12

The Colorado Springs Pride Festival will celebrate its 25th anniversary this year with a two-day event in the America the Beautiful Park on July 18 and 19. Proceeds from the Festival will be donated to local LGBT nonprofits.

The Festival has grown significantly each year under the guidance of the Pride Center, reaching a record attendance of over 50,000 in 2014.

To learn more about this year's festival, volunteer to help, or to make a fully tax-deductible donation, see [coloradospringspridefest.com](http://coloradospringspridefest.com) or visit Colorado Springs Pride Festival on [Facebook.com](http://Facebook.com).

## Op Ed Piece: How to Be a Transgender Ally

"For the sake of the survival of people like Leelah Alcorn, it is imperative that we start to demystify the not-at-all secret world of people who are transgender. They are, after all, just human beings like we are, trying to do their best in this world where being different is, for many, a burden of imposed shame and rejection."

*(Continued on page 3)*

### MARCH PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday  
March 17, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Nic Grzecka  
Organizer of  
Pride Festival 2015

The Dwelling Place  
508 North Tejon Street

Coffee, cookies

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

## Come to S-CAP's HIV/AIDS Awareness Luncheon At the Pinery—March 10th

It's not too late to sign up to attend the S-CAP Luncheon on March 10th! Please register online at [www.s-cap.org](http://www.s-cap.org) as soon as possible and no later than March 6th. If you want to sit with other PFLAGgers, please call Valerie at S-CAP 578-9092 to say you want to sit with PFLAG.



In observance of National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, the Southern Colorado Aids Project (S-CAP) is hosting this 5th annual awareness day luncheon at the Pin-

*(Continued on page 2)*



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.

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**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.

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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](mailto:info@cspflag.org)

Support Line: (719) 425-9567

P.O. Box 49131  
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PFLAG National Office website:  
[www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

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**Break The Silence**  
*Morgan Martin, Age 14—Boulder PFLAG*

Innocent mockingbird, shot from her tree,  
Her wings spread wide, her body weightless,  
Making no noise as she falls to the ground.  
The other mockingbirds turn their heads,  
Their song stretches on like silence, stretches  
Like the mockingbird's wings.  
We are the people who make the silence  
Into a living being that will someday devour us all.  
Everyone is waiting for someone else to break the silence.  
Wait for what? For someone else to shout enough?  
But we are all someone else to someone else  
The turning of the world will not turn our heads  
To the faces of the broken.  
Time will not make us learn, will not open  
Our ears, our eyes, our minds  
To the silent cries and screams of the voiceless.  
It is our job! It is our prerogative to stand  
With open arms at the gates of love  
For those who strive to love one another,  
Are not afraid of two women holding hands.  
We are the people, we are the silence,  
We must shout, "Enough!"  
Enough of people worshipping in secret,  
Enough of men with dark skin trampled into the ground.  
We are the people. And we must break the silence

**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](mailto: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](http://www.TYES-Colorado.org)

**Op-Ed in Boulder's Daily Camera (cont.)**

*(Continued from page 1)*

ery at the Hill, 775 West Bijou Street. Tickets are \$25 per person, with the net proceeds benefiting S-CAP's Women & Girls HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention programs. Check-in at 11:30; Lunch and speaker 12:00—1:00 p.m.. Free parking is available.

**PFLAG Thanks —**

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



## The Importance of Allies to the Trans\* Community

By Jean Hodges, President of PFLAG National Board of Directors, with Jenny Martin  
*Boulder PFLAG Newsletter, Feb. 2015*

PFLAG Boulder County, and indeed PFLAG nationwide, has made a conscious effort in recent years to include the transgender community in our mission of support, education and advocacy.

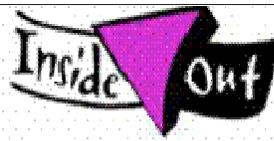
Without question, the LGB community has made great strides in social justice and equality and while we still have a long way to go, we cannot forget the transgender community has even farther to go. It is with this in mind that we note how much the transgender community needs our support, our help in educating society and our advocacy on their behalf.

In short, they need allies.

We have seen PFLAG membership decline in recent years and dues unpaid with the belief that PFLAG doesn't need support anymore. Additionally, some in the LGB community have expressed that PFLAG Boulder County focuses too much on transgender topics and they have shied away from programs and events with the sentiment, "It's not our issue."

We would suggest that the parents, friends and families of trans\* kids and adults are exactly where parents, friends and families of gays and lesbians were 25 years ago - scared of public rejection, fearful for their kids in school and on the street, and needing support and needing to learn more about how to navigate situations to keep their kids and themselves safe.

They need our support and we should provide that support in the same way it was provided to lesbians and gays - through a shared and steadfast commitment to stand together and work for progress.



"When We Knew Everything"  
 March 11th - 5-7 p.m.

An event presented by Inside/Out Youth Services. Brave souls read their childhood journal live on stage! Unfiltered and uncensored! Tickets (\$12) will be sold at the door. Proceeds will benefit Inside/Out's Queer Prom event this Spring.

Thank you to our journal readers (aka brave souls) Adison Petti, Eric Pizana, Kevin Dexter, Sarah Musick, Sloan Gonzales, and Rosemary Lytle. Thank you to Cottonwood Center for the Arts for allowing Inside/Out to utilize its space for this event at a very reasonable cost!

E-mail Eric Pizana [director@insideoutys.org](mailto:director@insideoutys.org) or call (719) 328-1056 for more

"I was a lonely, quiet, shy person before I started to come to Inside Out. I then realized that Colorado Springs was home because I found a safe place where I could be me, without being judged and to me that is a "home". I have accomplished so much within the Colorado Springs community: I have been to panels educating others on bullying and LGBTIQ issues, I have had opportunities that I would have never had without the support from Inside Out." - Mack James, 18, Student, Youth Liaison at Inside/Out Youth Services

Inside/Out Youth Services is a Colorado nonprofit that provides support to LGBTIQ youth in the Pikes Peak Region. See [www.insideoutys.org](http://www.insideoutys.org).

Concern over trans\* people and their issues has been a priority for our Boulder chapter for the past ten years. As we make progress for gays and lesbians, we cannot forget that the movement for LGBT equality and acceptance isn't over until EVERYONE is free.

History has repeatedly shown us that progress on behalf of any group is rarely made without the support of allies. Please join us in a shared commitment to care for trans\* issues as much as allies have cared for gay and lesbian issues over the years to make progress come to pass

### **Always Remember**

*That our PFLAG meetings are a safe space. Who you meet, and what you hear*

— *Keep it confidential.*

## Transgender Ally (cont.)

*(Continued from page 1)*

PFLAG President Jean Hodges wrote a great op-ed for the Boulder *Daily Camera* in response to its publication of a "Living Transgender" article and Leelah Alcorn's suicide.

See [http://www.dailycamera.com/guest-opinions/ci\\_27292984/jean-hodges-how-be-transgender-ally](http://www.dailycamera.com/guest-opinions/ci_27292984/jean-hodges-how-be-transgender-ally)

## CU to Cover Transition Surgery

The University of Colorado expects to begin covering the cost of transition surgery for transgender faculty and staff on July 1, a spokesperson has announced.

Faculty, staff and students already have health insurance coverage for hormone replacement therapy, CU says it "wants to make sure that its benefit offerings are competitive and comparable to what other universities are offering.



**BULLETIN BOARD**

**Mar. 10 — National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Luncheon** — Organized by Southern Colorado Aids Project (S-CAP). See article p. 1.

**Mar. 11— Inside Out Youth Services presents “When We Knew Everything”** — Brave souls read their childhood journals—Live, unfiltered, uncensored! A benefit for Inside Out Youth Services .Cottonwood Center for the Arts, 5:00—7:00 p.m. Tickets \$12 at the door. See article, p. 3.

**Mar 21— TYES Gathering** - TYES Families usually meet on the third Saturday of the month. For information, call Keria at (719) 425-9567 or send an e-mail to keria-jshaw@gmail.com.

**Mar. 21— Red Tie Affair — a Dinner Gala Event—** Organized by the Colorado Aids Project (includes S-CAP). An elegant night of cocktails and dinner kicking off the “Compassionate Connections Campaign” to find a new home for Colorado Health Network. Tickets are \$75 each. Make reservations online at [www.DenverCAP.org](http://www.DenverCAP.org)

**Apr. 24— Queer Prom** Sponsored by Inside/Out. For more information, see [www.insideoutys.org](http://www.insideoutys.org) or call 328-1056

**May 2—Give ‘Em Hope! The Story of Harvey Milk—** presented by Out Loud: The Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus, Concert featuring the Colorado Springs premiere of *I Am Harvey Milk* by Broadway’s Andrew Lippa, Out Loud will join forces with the Denver Gay Men’s Chorus to celebrate the life and legacy of San Francisco politician Harvey Milk. First United Methodist Church, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Save the date. PFLAG ushers are needed.

**July 11-12 — Colorado Springs 25th Annual Pride Festival—** America the Beautiful Park. See article, p. 1.

**Supreme Court to Hear from Thousands on Gay Marriage - Sign Online Now**

*USA Today* - By Richard Wolf

The Supreme Court is going to hear from a lot of people on same-sex marriage.

In an effort to win the hearts and minds of five or more justices, opponents of gay marriage bans being challenged at the high court this spring are inviting average citizens to sign a "friend of the court" brief that will be filed in early March.

The first name on the brief will be that of Edie Windsor, who won her lawsuit in 2013 when the high court struck down a key section of the Defense of Marriage Act that had denied federal benefits to legally married gays and lesbians. Her lawyer, Roberta Kaplan, wrote the brief in conjunction with the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay rights organization.

Americans interested in signing the so-called "amicus" brief can go to [HRC.org](http://HRC.org) and add their names. The brief must be filed with the court by March 6.

"The word 'amicus' comes from the Latin for 'friend,'" Kaplan said. "I hope that this brief will serve that function in helping to explain to the justices the remarkable sea change that our nation has experienced in terms of our understandings about gay people."

Dozens of briefs are certain to be filed before the case is heard in late April. A decision is expected by late June.



Edie Windsor will headline a supreme court brief supporting gay marriage that others can sign online.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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