



PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

2019 is Our 25th Anniversary Year!

May 2019

A Community Celebration—Fifty Shades of Gay

Out Loud Gay Men's Chorus will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and highlight the history of the Gay Rights movement in its "Fifty Shades of Gay"



concert on May 3, 4 and 11 under the leadership of music director Joshua Brown.

It is a musical trip back to 1969.

Out Loud President Kyle Crutcher says, "The concert will be fun. It will be heart wrenching. It will be suitable for families. The singers will be touching on some gay history that preceded Stonewall, and what has come after until now. There are some beautiful choral pieces, a number of popular gay anthems, and even some pop tunes that were on the jukebox at Stonewall the month of the uprising. It will be a powerful and entertaining concert".

Bringing Youth to the Concert.
PFLAG believes that it is important for LGBTQ+ youth to learn about the Gay Rights Movement in order to understand their role in these powerful social changes that are continuing in our culture. PFLAG has made a substantial donation to Out Loud and has received a large group of tickets for the concert, which PFLAG board member Jerry Albright has distributed to Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) clubs at Mitchell and Doherty High Schools and Horace Mann Middle School.

History of Out Loud. (excerpts from a 2017 article in *The Independent*)

A community chorus made up of auditioned volunteers, the Out Loud Colorado Springs Men's Chorus sits at a unique intersection of the LGBTQ, arts and faith communities of Colorado Springs. The story of how Out Loud came to be and where they're headed challenges stereotypes of all kinds.

"We're not the new kids on the block anymore," Out Loud founding member Guy McPherson, says. "I'm surprised how many people don't know we exist in this town."

Out Loud formed in 2006, after members of First Congregational Church were talking after service one Sunday. McPherson recalls the conversation: "We can all sing. Let's sing together."

And they weren't alone.

"People peeked their heads in after church," McPherson says of one of the first chorus gatherings.

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Performances featuring the Out Loud's trademark choreography, memorized music and a bit of showmanship for the audience will be May 3 at 7:30 p.m.; and May 4 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 20 East St. Vrain Street in Colorado Springs. A fourth performance will be on May 11 at 2:00 p.m. at Joshua's Covenant Presbyterian Church in the Denver Tech Center.

Tickets (\$20/\$18, under 12 free available online www.outloudcsmc.com and at the door.

MAY PFLAG MEETING

**Tuesday
May 21, 2019
7:00 p.m.**

**"From Selma to Stonewall—
Are We there Yet?"**

**Documentary Film
56 minutes**

**Followed by
Conversation/ Social Time**

**The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street**

**Light refreshments
Door open at 6:30 p.m.
Everyone is welcome.**

May PFLAG Meeting: "From Selma to Stonewall"

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of Stonewall, PFLAG will show the documentary film "From Selma to Stonewall — Are We there Yet? At the May 21st PFLAG meeting.

A black, straight preacher and a white, lesbian activist form an unusual bond as they seek to find the intersection between the Black Civil Rights and the LGBTQ Equality movements of today.

As the film unfolds, they come to know people who live at the intersection, black LGBTQ people, who then share their life stories of struggle, resistance, faith, determination and hope.

....Here is the revolution!

To hear a podcast recorded in 2017 when the film was completed, Click on this link:

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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.

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From Selma to Stonewall (cont.)

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<http://thisshowissoqay.com/node/899>

Ken Schneck of *This Show is So Gay* interviews Reverend Gil H. Caldwell and Marilyn Bennett about their documentary "From Selma to Stonewall: Are We There Yet?"

He covers their incredible careers in activism at that ever-crowded intersection of faith, race and sexual orientation.

Caldwell and Bennett are co-founders of Truth in Progress. See <http://www.truthinprogress.com/> for more information about their work and this film.

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.

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. The national TYES website is: www.TYES-Colorado.org.



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"They were like, 'Will you sing for the church?' And we were like, 'Oh, crap...'"

Without a director, they put together a concert for parishioners that ended with a standing ovation.

"The church just went crazy," McPherson says.

Gaining momentum, the group staged its first concert for the whole community, "A Night on Broadway." Making programs by hand and without a way to issue tickets, they expected a crowd of around 200 people to fill the pews. Come performance day, around 900 people — the largest event ever at the church — crowded in.

"There's something about our crowd," McPherson says. "We knew we were doing the right things. It was a little overwhelming with the response."

The chorus still utilizes First Congregational for all its rehearsals and many concerts, support which has been critical to the group's success.

"The joke is we're one of the few if not the only gay chorus to start in a church," McPherson says. "People here do care, and they care for us like we're family."

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



BULLETIN BOARD

May 3-4 and 11 — Concert — “50 Shades of Gay” celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Stonewall — Out Loud Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus. See p. 1

May 18, June 1, 7 and 8 — “Quiet No More” - A Choral Celebration of Stonewall — Denver Gay Men’s Chorus and Denver Women’s Chorus join for a series of concerts: May 18 at First United Methodist Church in Golden, CO at 7:30 p.m.; June 1 at the Broomfield Auditorium Broomfield, CO 7:30 p.m.; June 7 at 7:30 p.m. and June 8 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at King Center Concert Hall, Auraria Higher Education Center, 855 Lawrence Way in Denver. For more information, go to: <https://bit.ly/2TRVW9Y> For tickets, go to: <https://rmarts.org>

Jun 15-16 — Denver PrideFest — This is the largest celebration of LGBTQ pride in the Rocky Mountain region, featuring live entertainment on three stages, 250+ exhibitors, an array of food and beverage vendors, the Coors Light Denver Pride Parade and the Pride 5K race. The festival is hosted by The Center on Colfax, and will take place at Civic Center Park. For more information, see: <https://denverpride.org/pridefest/>

Jul 12 — One Colorado Statewide Tour—Featuring Gov. Jared Polis in Colorado Springs as a kickoff to PrideFest.

Jul 13-14 — PrideFest Colorado Springs — Save the Date —Help in the PFLAG booth and plan to march with PFLAG in the Pride Parade on Sunday morning. See the website: <https://www.cospridefest.com/>

Jul 18 — “Under the Bridge” - Urban Peak Breakfast. Save the date, plan to sit at a PFLAG table. 7-9 a.m.

Ban On Conversion Therapy

A ban on conversion therapy with anyone under 18 appears poised to pass through the Colorado Legislature and be signed into law by Gov. Jared Polis, the first openly gay governor elected in the U.S.

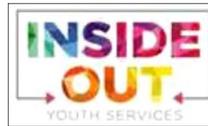
The Human Rights Campaign reports such “therapy” seeks to convert a homosexual or bisexual into being heterosexual through psychological or spiritual interventions or both. They say it’s dangerous, as it can lead to depression, anxiety, drug use, homelessness and suicide, especially among minors.

It also has been rejected “by every mainstream medical and mental health organization for decades,” the HRC says.

Colorado Springs PFLAG has long been aware of the profound damage done by organizations, religious and otherwise, that engage in conversion therapy programs. We have invited individuals who are still recovering from these experiences years later to speak with us at our meetings. We welcome this action by the legislature and hope to see the ban extended to protect those over 18 in the future.

A New Book by Kim O’Reilly is titled “We Love You, But You’re Going to Hell”. As a Christian, a lesbian, and the daughter of a conservative evangelical minister, Dr. Kim O’Reilly is uniquely positioned to write this book.

It's official...We are city-official! City Council Signs Queer Prom Proclamation



News from In-
side/Out Youth
Services:

“Joseph, our newest staff member, reached



out to the city council president to get a signed proclamation for us, ‘expressing gratitude to the staff and volunteers of Inside Out Youth Services who provide personalized attention to those in need and assist them in steps to a grander life.’

“It’s no coincidence that the proclamation recognizes us on April 26, 2019 -- same day as Queer Prom 2019! Huzzah! We are official and have come a long way in the Springs. Now’s the time to dance and celebrate! “ (Editor’s note) And they did! On April 26 Queer Prom was attended by 439 youth and 90 Inside/Out volunteers.



Farewell to gift cards! On April 1, King Soopers terminated the gift card fundraiser

program through which PFLAG has steadily been receiving 5% of the amount spent at King Soopers for groceries, prescriptions and gas by our members who used and kept reloading their gift cards which were linked to PFLAG.

Instead, King Soopers will let its customers link their personal King Soopers Loyalty Cards to Colorado Springs PFLAG. When you shop, the amount you spend at the store for groceries, prescriptions and gas will trigger a donation to our chapter and you don’t even have to reload a gift card to support us.

If you do not have a Loyalty Card, you will need to get one from Customer Service in order to participate.

To link your card to PFLAG

- Go to www.kingsoopers.com
- If you don’t have an account, create one.
- Click on “Welcome/ Sign In” (top right)
- Click on “Savings and Rewards”
- Scroll down to “King Soopers Community Rewards.
- Click on “Enroll Now”
- Use Search to find Colorado Springs PFLAG
- Click on “Enroll”

All done! Click on Logout (upper right)

THANK YOU!!