



# PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

May 2017

## May PFLAG Meeting Will Feature LGBT+ Student Groups *Spectrum* and *Transmission* From UCSS

Samantha Adrian, an instructor in the biology and chemistry department at UCSS, will bring several of her students to the May PFLAG meeting to discuss gender diversity on campus and in their personal lives and families.

They are members of *Spectrum* and *Transmission*, two student groups on campus they describe as follows:

"*Spectrum* is a wonderful place for wonderful people! You might be wondering "Why are people so darn wonderful?" Well, it's quite simple, actually. *Spectrum* is an LGBT+ community club where we meet, grow, share and care together. Allies are always welcome! Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in University Center. When you're here, you're family."



"*Transmission* is a student organization dedicated to providing support and community for UCSS's transgender and gender non-conforming students. All members of the

*(Continued on page 3)*

### MAY PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday  
May 16, 2017  
7:00 p.m.

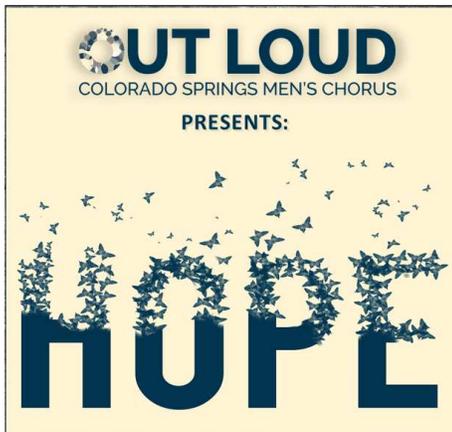
*Spectrum* and *Transmission*  
LGBT+ Student Groups at  
UCSS

Samantha Adrian, Instructor  
and  
UCSS Students

The Dwelling Place  
508 North Tejon Street

Social time begins at 6:30  
Everyone is welcome.

## Out Loud Spring Concert—May 5-6



*A Message from Out Loud Colorado Springs Men's Chorus:*

"Spring is a time of renewal, but it is always unpredictable and uncertain. If you live in Colorado, glorious 70-degree days can lead to spring snow the next day. This uncertainty and volatility in the springtime weather mirrors how many of us feel about these uncertain and troubling times we are living in today.

"Huge leaps back after so many hard-fought steps forward? Dark skies after so much sunshine? The LGBTQ community is no stranger to threats, hardship, prejudice and violence. But far from suffocating us, adversity has always fueled our formidable fierceness and strength. In these uncertain and troubling times Out Loud presents **HOPE**. By uniting our voices, by joining hands, by standing together, and by reaching out instead of shutting out, **HOPE** will fill you with passion, energy, and resilience."

**Harvey Milk said: 'Hope will never be silent.'**

Friday, May 5th - 7:30 p.m.,  
Saturday, May 6th 2 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

First Congregational Church, 20 East St. Vrain Street, Colorado Springs.

Tickets( \$20) are available online at <http://www.outloudcsmc.com> or at the door.

## Join PFLAG on June 8th At Citizens Project Breakfast

*Citizens Project is a fearless bold advocate and an engaging voice that empowers and challenges our entire community to embrace equality, diversity and separation of church and state.*

You are invited to attend the 2017 Creating Community Breakfast to learn more about Citizens Project.

PFLAG congratulates Citizens Project on its anniversary — 25 years of passionate effort in the Colorado Springs community.

This event will be held at The Antlers Hotel, 4 South Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Check in between 7 and 7:30.

Breakfast is free, and donations to Citizens Project are encouraged. Reservations are necessary. Call Lori Vollmar at 520-9198 to reserve a seat with the PFLAG group.

The Citizens Project website is:  
<http://www.citizensproject.org/>



## Caitlin Jenner Interview on NPR

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.

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To join the local 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

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[www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

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To receive your newsletter by e-mail, send a request to [info@cspflag.org](mailto:info@cspflag.org)

Caitlin Jenner, who came out as a trans woman two years ago in a widely-publicized interview with Diane Sawyer, has just published a memoir titled *Secrets of My Life*. On April 26 she was interviewed on the program IA broadcast by National Public Radio.

Jenner noted that, in making her transition public, she also came out as a Republican and has received significant push back from those in the LGBT community who are passionate liberals. She has said that it was easier to come out as transgender than as Republican.

Jenner is measured, articulate and strongly committed to the trans community, which she describes as "very marginalized". Her status as an Olympic athlete and, more recently as a Kardashian family member promoted by the media on TV gives her access to a wide range of conservative friends and contacts. "Most of what I am doing is behind closed doors", she said.

Over the past two years, she has been working for greater visibility and acceptance of the trans community within the GOP. She has had quite a few conversations with high-level Senators, Representatives, all conservatives and Republican s.

"You've got to be on the inside", she says, "To make change, you make friends, you have to be able to talk to these people."

### Trans Youth Education and Support (TYES)

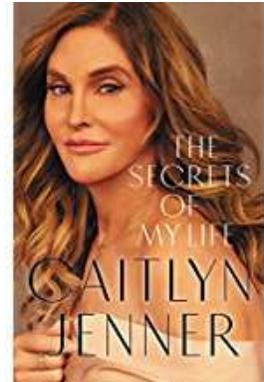
TYES is a PFLAG affiliate that offers education and support to families with gender variant children. TYES information is available at PFLAG meetings.

TYES families in the Pikes Peak region keep in touch by phone and through a private Facebook page. 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, Colorado.

More information is available at the national TYES website [www.TYES-Colorado.org](http://www.TYES-Colorado.org)

She commented that she's not going to make a difference by standing on the street corner with a sign. "You have to be in the room with them."



Most of the Republicans she has met have never met anybody who is trans. "they don't know my community at all." "I want them to get to know me." "I want them to know that people in the LGBT community are not crazy. they're smart, intelligent, they run businesses and raise families just like anyone else."

"My heart and my soul are in this thing", she says, "and I'm going to learn from my mistakes, and I'm going to get better at this."

She says that she had never even met a transgender person before announcing her own transgender identity and that she consequently had so much to learn. "The vocabulary!" she exclaimed, "sexual orientation, sexual identity, cisgender!" She learned about the high murder rate in the trans community and the high suicide rate. "It's nine times the national average!" "You have to live this life to learn about it", she said, "I've learned more from my trans women friends than I ever could just by reading about it."

The Jenner interview includes a poem called *My Mirror Does Not Define Me* written before he died by Kyler Prescott, a 14 year old trans boy who completed suicide in May of 2015.

The Prescott family was featured in the premiere episode of Caitlyn Jenner's docu-series *I Am Cait*, in hopes of raising awareness of transgender struggles and the consequences of bullying. [The poem is on page 3](#)

Listen to the interview at:  
<http://n.pr/2p2FKTX>



## Spectrum and Transmission

(Continued from page 1)

LGBTQ+ and queer communities, including allies, are also welcome!"

Samantha grew up in Memphis, TN, and graduated from Drew University after majoring in biology, chemistry and physics. She did her graduate work at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, earning a biophysics degree.

Since 2015, she has been teaching at UCCS. During this time, she has also transitioned on campus and describes the campus environment as progressive. For example, the administration allows gender-variant students the option to use a preferred name in all electronic platforms.

## My Mirror Does Not Define Me

My mirror does not define me,

Not the stranger that looks back at me,

Not the smooth face that belongs to someone else,

Not the eyes that gleam with sadness

When I look for him and can only see her.

My body does not define me,

Not the slim shoulders that will not change,

Not the hips that give me away,

Not the chest that I can't stand to look at

When I look for him and can only see her.

My clothes do not define me,

Not the shirt and jeans that would look sooo perfect on him,

But I know would never fit me,

When I look for him and can only find her.

And I have been looking for him for years,

But I only seem to grow farther away from him with each passing day..

## Gender Identity Center

The Gender Identity Center of Colorado, Inc. (GIC) is a nonprofit corporation organized in 1978 and incorporated in June 1980.

The organization was formed to provide support to anyone gender variant in their identity and expression. GIC is also an informational and educational resource to the community, with drop-in hours from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week.

In addition to support groups and education, GIC provides a list of Colorado physicians, therapists and surgeons who offer services and encouragement to individuals with regard to gender identity.

The Gender Identity Center has moved to a new location at 120 Bryant Street, Denver, CO 80219. For a full listing of its services and programs, go to [www.GICColorado.org](http://www.GICColorado.org) or call (303) 202-6466.



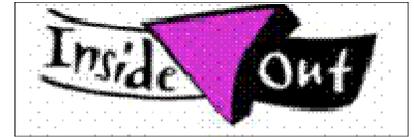
### Gilbert Baker

Gilbert Baker, the creator of the rainbow flag that has become a widely recognized symbol of gay rights, died March 31 at his New York City home at the age of 65. Baker had served in the U.S. Army from 1970 to 1972.

He was stationed in San Francisco in the early days of the gay rights movement and continued to live there after his honorable discharge. According to his own website, he taught himself to sew and began making banners for gay and anti-war marches, creating the rainbow flag in 1978.

He refused to trademark it, seeing it as a symbol that was for the LGBT community. He said during a 2008 interview that he knew instantly from the way people reacted to the flag that it was "going to be something. I didn't know what or how, but I knew."

*Thank you to Judy Trompeter of Denver PFLAG for this story.*



### Inside/Out Transgender Group

This support group meets on Wednesdays from 6—7 p.m. This is a confidential group open to youth 13-22 who are trans-identified. The group meets in a separate room while Movie Night is going on.

### Dinner and a Movie

Youth are welcome to come to a Wednesday weekly dinner between 3:30 and 5:00 p.m., after which a movie is shown.

### Donate—Through P.O. Box

Please support Inside/Out by making a tax-deductible donation. Always use Post Office Box 606, Colorado Springs CO 80901 Mail addressed to the Tejon Street address will be returned to you by the Post Office.

Inside/Out provides social activities and support for LGBTIQ youth. Director Mary Malia can be contacted at 328 -1056. Website: [www.insideoutys.org](http://www.insideoutys.org)

PFLAG meetings are a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear

Must remain strictly confidential.

### Support PFLAG— Get a King Soopers Gift Card at PFLAG meetings.

The free card is already loaded with \$1.50 for groceries. You add money to the card using your credit card, and use the gift card to pay for purchases. King Soopers will donate 5% of your purchases to our local chapter of PFLAG!

### Thank you

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



**BULLETIN BOARD**

**May 5-6—Out Loud Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus—Spring Concert.** First Congregational Church, 20 East St. Vrain Street, Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

**June 8 — Citizens Project 25th Anniversary Breakfast**  
The Antlers Hotel 7:30—8:30 a.m. See p. 1 for details.

**June 15-17 — The BIG Gay SING!** During Pride Week-end, the Denver Gay Men’s Chorus will present its 35th Anniversary Celebration concert, "The BIG Gay SING!" Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on June 15 and 16 and at 2:00 p.m. on June 17 at Central Presbyterian Church in Denver. For more information, go to [www.dgmc.org](http://www.dgmc.org).

**June 17-18 — Denver Pride —** The Pride Parade is the morning of Sunday, June 18th. It’s a special time to be together. March with PFLAG. For more information, call Denver PFLAG at (303) 573-5861 or e-mail [pflagden@tde.com](mailto:pflagden@tde.com).

**July 8-9 — Colorado Springs PrideFest —** PFLAG has signed up for its booth. Plan to participate! Save the date.

**July 20— Off the Street Community Breakfast—** Sponsored by Urban Peak. Save the date and plan to come.



7:00 registration, 7:30-8:30 Breakfast and Stories of the Youth. The highly successful Urban Peak program provides a path for homeless youth to leave the street for a more stable life. Free Breakfast, donations to Urban Peak are requested. Reservations are necessary. To reserve your place at a PFLAG table, call Karen Stith at 634-4433.

**ACLU Calls for Protest**



ACLU 5/3: We just got word that President Trump has resurrected his outrageously misnamed “religious freedom” executive order and plans to sign it tomorrow.

**I promise you – we’re ready to sue.**

So while the ACLU prepares to wage lawfare, we need you to fight this with all you’ve got.

Send a message directly to the White House to declare your opposition: <http://bit.ly/2p6Rbov>

Religious freedom does NOT mean the right to discriminate against or harm anyone. The ACLU fights to protect the rights of individuals to practice their religion without government interference – as long as religion isn’t used as an excuse to trample on people’s rights.

But this White House thinks it can actively encourage and legitimize discrimination against LGBT people, women, and religious minorities. The ACLU won’t stand for it – and I know you won’t either.

Make it clear that there’s no room for taxpayer-funded discrimination in this country.

Thanks for resisting discrimination,  
American Civil Liberties Union Action Team

**Financial Aid Resources for LGBTQ Students**

This isn’t just a list of scholarships (although they have those too!). This guide includes actionable strategies to assess a school on its inclusivity and programs to help make the transition to college easier for LGBTQ students.

AffordableColleges’s mission is to help students earn their degrees without taking on thousands of dollars in debt. This site is a free resource designed to help everyone address the costs of college while pursuing their goals.

<http://www.affordablecolleges.com/#resources>

Thanks to Denver PFLAG for this information

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

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017.

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