



PFLAG Colorado Springs

May, 2015

“Facing Fear” - Academy Award Nominee 2014

“Facing Fear”, a short documentary nominated for an Academy Award, will be shown at the May PFLAG meeting. PFLAG chapters all over the U.S. have been offered the one-time opportunity to show this movie at their May PFLAG meetings.

Synopsis of Documentary: As a 13 year-old, Matthew Boger was thrown out of his home for being gay. While living on the streets of Hollywood, he was savagely beaten in a back alley by a group of neo-Nazi skinheads. Boger managed to survive the attack and escape life on the streets. Twenty-five years later, Boger found himself in a chance meeting with a former neo-Nazi skinhead, Tim Zaal. The two men soon realized that they had met before...Zaal was one of the attackers who beat Boger and left him for dead.

With their worlds turned upside down, the two embarked on a journey of forgiveness and reconciliation that chal-



lenged both to grapple with their own beliefs and fears. Neither could imagine that it would lead to an improbable collaboration...and friendship.

FACING FEAR retraces the haunting accounts of the attack and the startling revelation that brought these men together again. Delving deep into their backgrounds, the roots of the ideologies that shape how they handle the reconciliation process are exposed.

<http://www.facingfearmovie.com/index.html>

MAY PFLAG MEETING

**Tuesday
May 19, 2015**

7:00 p.m.

Film:

“Facing Fear”

**The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street**

Everyone is welcome.

**Social time begins at
6:30 p.m.
Refreshments**

In the Afterglow of the Bruce Jenner Interview: So Where Do We Go From Here?

Message from PFLAG President Jean Hodges of Boulder:

This is an excellent response to the two hour interview that Diane Sawyer did with Bruce Jenner last Friday night. I hope you will read it and pass it on to anyone you think would appreciate it. Stephanie Battaglino is a trans woman who is on the [PFLAG] National Board and does trainings on trans is-



sues for corporate businesses. She is a vice-president for New York Life Insurance (if I remember right) and an amazing person in her own right.

As I settle in to write this, 48 hours have passed since the airing of the Diane Sawyer interview with Bruce Jenner. 17 million viewers, over 675,000 tweets and innumerable Facebook posts (including mine!) later, I feel compelled to ask the question: so what has the transgender and gender non-conforming community gained as the afterglow of this past Friday's watershed event ever so slowly begins to fade? In a word: Plenty.

To better substantiate my claim, let

me first take you back to Tuesday of last week when I found myself at the ABC studios in Manhattan in a conference room with Diane Sawyer and her production team. We were all gathered together that evening to screen, for the first time, the program in its entirety.

I was asked to serve as a consultant to the team at ABC because it was very important to them that a trans person not involved with the production itself had a chance to provide input and offer insights on the show. From the moment I met everyone, it was very apparent that Diane and her entire team had a sincere

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Afterglow of the Interview (cont.)

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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.

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.

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

Support Line: (719) 425-9567

P.O. Box 49131
Colorado Springs, CO 80949

PFLAG Colorado Springs website: www.cspflag.org

PFLAG National Office website: www.pflag.org

Newsletter Editor: Karen Flitton Stith
E-mail: karenstith@gmail.com

To receive your newsletter by e-mail, send a request to info@cspflag.org

desire to make sure that the finished product was a genuine, honest and human portrayal of not only Bruce's journey, but of the myriad issues that the transgender and gender non-conforming community face. And you know what? They hit it completely out of the park in all respects.

The point that I made that evening that thankfully was not lost on anyone in the room was the importance of not losing sight of the larger context within which Bruce's story was being told. To be sure, the main drawing card of the show is Bruce's story: to finally hear what he had to say - his feelings, his emotions, and his journey thus far - it provided a much needed counterpoint to the tired, overblown and all-too-intrusive tabloid coverage that we've had to endure of late.

But the program would have done a horrible disservice to the trans/gnc community if it did not employ the forum that the story of Bruce's journey to embrace his authentic and true self provided. Thankfully, that was not the case at all - and that's a very good thing.

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.

The TYES program originated and is headquartered in Boulder,

More information is available at the national TYES website www.TYES-Colorado.org

The legacy that the show will leave behind has yet to be fully written. For one thing, Bruce's transition is far from over. In so many ways, it is only just beginning. Months from now, when we look back on what transpired last Friday night, that fact will be quite apparent. But the immediate - and I hope lasting impact - is its ability to instantaneously create a public discourse - a conversation about not only the issues facing the trans/gnc community, but who we are as human beings - in places where perhaps it has never happened before across the country. The opportunity this presents for our community to simply tell our stories, have them be heard and, most importantly, to educate - is what the real legacy of this moment is.

As I was rushing home on Friday night from another commitment I had in New York City, I had one eye on my Facebook feed to see what people's reaction to the interview was. Honestly, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. Having already seen the show I knew that it was a solid, non-sensationalistic portrayal, but that was just one trans person's opinion, and obviously mine was just a bit biased.

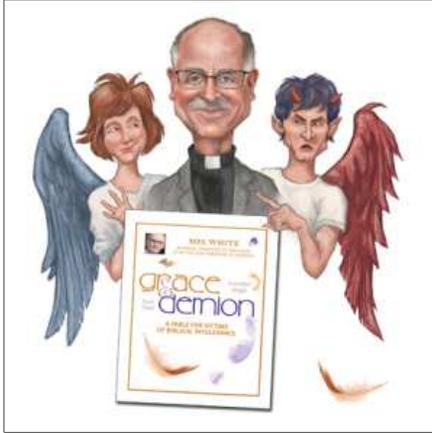
What I saw amidst the repeated ping-pong and buzzing of my phone was one very obvious truth: people were all talking to each other about what was unfolding before them on the television screen. They were sharing their stories. They were sharing their feelings. They were teaching. Teaching everyone that we share one common desire: to be happy. The pursuit of happiness - a concept our founding fathers got a long time ago. - - - - -

Follow this link for the rest of the Battaglino article: www.linkedin.com/pulse/afterglow-bruce-jenner-interview-so-where-do-we-go-battaglino-mba



Grace and Demion: Mel White Writes Fable for Youth

A Confession by the Author



"During my teenage years I was told that my homosexuality was 'from the devil' and that being Gay would send me 'straight to hell.' Sixty years later well-meaning Christians still misuse the Bible to warn LGBTQ teenagers that their sexual orientation is 'from the devil' and that accepting themselves as they are will send them 'straight to hell.'

"If those same well-meaning Christians are so determined to misuse heaven and hell, angels and demons to scare LGBTQ teenagers into believing that God won't love them unless they "change," I'm equally determined to use heaven and hell, *Grace and Demion* to show my sisters and brothers that God has created them and loves them exactly as they are.

"Sixty-one years have passed since I first met Grace, the guardian angel of God's LGBTQ creations and Demion, her hunky little adversary. I was a thirteen-year-old Boy Scout experiencing my first crush on another Boy Scout when they suddenly appeared in my life.

"I have to admit that six decades later there are still times I'm hassled by Demion. At the same time Grace has never failed me. Every day she reminds me that as an out gay man I am loved unconditionally by my Crea-

tor and just knowing that has made all the difference."

From the Desk of Steve Krantz, Ph.D. /PFLAG L.A. Board Member

'About 15 years ago, I read Mel White's great book "*Stranger at the Gate*", his memoir about growing up gay in an Evangelical household - it inspired me to become a gay rights activist.

'Through my activism with another organization, The Lavender Effect, I just met Mel in person (he lives with his husband Gary in Long Beach) and read his newest book "*Grace and Demion*." It is a personal fable that is targeted at LGBTQ youth wounded by anti-gay religious teachings.

"Some day you will be old enough to start reading fairy tales again." -
C.S. Lewis

"Net: I loved it and agree with Mel that it is a valuable tool for use by PFLAG chapters especially with members and guests who have been victims of religion-based intolerance. Mel has offered a copy of *Grace and Demion* to every PFLAG chapter nationwide. "

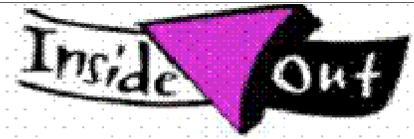
"Mel's book is lovely, touching. I was moved by it. It reminds me in tone and purity of The Little Prince. Grace and Demion could become a classic."

—Frank Schaeffer author of "*Why I Am an Atheist Who Believes in God*"

The Colorado Springs PFLAG chapter will have a copy of the book soon.

For more about Mel White and his long career as minister, teacher, activist and spiritual leader, go to his website (where you can order your own copy of *Grace and Demion*) go to:

<http://melwhite.org/grace-demion/>



Inside/Out Gay Prom Report, Summer Street Breakfast

Queer Prom 2015: Under the Sea was a magical event! The Inside/Out youth were gushing days after about how it was the best night of their lives!

We saw youth from all over Colorado Springs, including youth who traveled all the way from Aurora, Colorado.

We heard from youth who ditched their own high school prom to attend Queer Prom. Queer Prom is an event welcoming of every young person regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity, and is for ages 13-22.

The ticket price is kept low at \$7. This low price allows many youth who cannot not afford the high cost to experience prom. If the ticket price is still a barrier we provide free tickets and ask in return for their help planning, decorating or with clean up.

Help Inside/Out keep this event alive in our community by making a financial gift!
<https://www.insideoutys.org/>

Thank you to Palmer High School for allowing us to use their space, Cheetah Printing for our prom posters and tickets, Valdamar from Red Frame Photography for capturing our memories, the Inside/Out Queer Prom Committee and Palmer High School Gay Straight Transgender Alliance!

Always Remember

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

— Keep it confidential.



BULLETIN BOARD

PFLAG National Urges Support for Anti-Bullying Act

May 9—23rd Annual Red Ribbon Ball “Journey Into Wonderland” Fund-raiser for S-CAP (Southern Colorado Aids Project) at the Antlers Hilton Hotel. Music: Phat Daddy and the Phat Horn Doctors. For information and tickets go to: <http://scapball.kintera.org>

June 4 - Citizens Project Creating Community Breakfast—DoubleTree Hotel, 1775 East Cheyenne Mountain Road. Check in at 7:00 p.m.—Breakfast and program 7:30—8:30. To sit with PFLAG group, contact Karen at 634-4433. Citizens Project promotes Diversity, Equality and Religious Freedom.

June 20-21—Denver Pridefest—40th Anniversary — year 365,000 people attended this festival, making it one of the largest Pride celebrations in the country. For information, go to <http://www.glbtcOLORADO.org/pridefest/>

July 11-12 — Colorado Springs 25th Annual Pride Festival— America the Beautiful Park. Visit Colorado Springs Pridefest on Facebook.

July 10-11-12—Gender Spectrum Conference and Professionals Symposium—Moraga, CA. Focusing on Children, teens. See www.genderspectrum.org

PFLAG Thanks —

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

From PFLAG National “Policy Matters” April 2nd

Please contact your two U.S. Senators and one U.S. Representative and ask them to cosponsor the bicameral Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Act of 2015.

Death by suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people ages 10-24. LGBT youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide as their non-LGB peers, and questioning youth are three times more likely to do so. Each episode of LGBT victimization, such as physical or verbal harassment or abuse, increases the likelihood of self-harming behavior by two and a half times that of the average youth.

This can be curtailed, and you can help. Thanks to The Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Act of 2015, named for a college student who died by suicide in 2010 after harmful harassment, there is a way to address the high incidence of harassment and violence that many youth experience in colleges and universities, too often leading to risk of attempting suicide. This bill would ensure that federally funded colleges and universities receive federal aid to implement anti-harassment policies based on recognized protected classes, including race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual

orientation, gender identity, and religion. There is both a House version (H.R.1421) and a Senate version (S.773) of this bill, making it bicameral.

Consider using this suggested PFLAG message, and please remember to include your name, street address and zip code:

“As your constituent and as a member of PFLAG, I urge you to cosponsor The Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Act of 2015 (S. 773 and H.R. 1421), introduced by Sens. Patty Murray (WA) and Tammy Baldwin (WI) in the Senate, and Rep. Mark Pocan (WI-2) in the House. PFLAG’s values are America’s values, and that includes establishing policies in federally funded colleges and universities that make all of our youth safer where they should be invested in learning, not dealing with harassment.

We needlessly lose too many of our young people, including those who are LGBT, to death by suicide as a result of harassment. This bill would address the safety gap that many youth experience in higher education environments.

Please cosponsor this bill, and if you have already done so,

Thank you very much!

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: _____

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.