



PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

May 2018

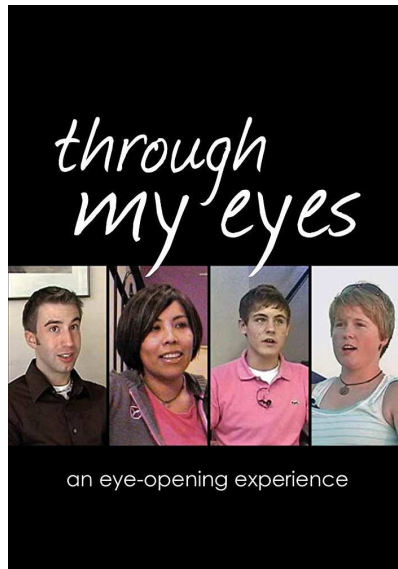
“Through My Eyes” - Video and Discussion

The May PFLAG meeting will present a 45 minute video, “Through My Eyes”, a conversation with Christian youth.

Filmmakers’ statement: “For this video, we travelled across the U.S. and Canada, asking Christians in their teens and twenties to talk to us about their experience with church debates on homosexuality.

“As many churches wrestle with their response to gay people, we asked these young Christians one big question: “What is life like through your eyes?”

PFLAG board member Bill Oliver will also talk about his experience at the Gay Christian Network convention in Denver in January.



MAY PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday
May 15, 2018
7:00 p.m.

“Through My Eyes”

A film produced by the
Gay Christian Network

The Dwelling Place,
508 North Tejon Street

Coffee, cookies—Everyone is
welcome.

PLAYBILL

First Congregational Church Sanctuary



“Serenades and Showtunes” - May 11-12

Don't miss it! The Out Loud Colorado Springs Mens Chorus will present its spring concert at the First Congregational Church UCC on May 11 at 7:30 pm, May 12 at 2:00 pm. and 7:30 p.m.

“It is important for us to be a voice of encouragement to everyone who works toward a freer and more just society. It's also OK to have a little fun! Join us for some inspirational serenades and a celebration of the Broadway stage spanning decades of hits from Oklahoma to Kinky Boots!” — Out Loud

Help a New PFLAG Chapter Celebrate PRIDE!



During the past 18 months, several of our Colorado Springs PFLAG board members have helped a group in Salida, Colorado, form a new PFLAG chapter. Ark Valley PFLAG leaped into action and held its first community-wide PRIDE celebration last summer.

We are all invited to Ark Valley (Upper Arkansas River Valley) PRIDE, a five-day event May 29—June 4. The Parade and Picnic will be on June 2 in Salida. They really appreciate our support. Who would like to go to the Parade and Picnic? Call Bill Oliver at 548-9280 for more information. See Calendar p. 4 for website.

Our friends in Out Loud have been presenting excellent concerts in May and December for over a decade. PFLAG has ushered for Out Loud concerts since its very first season. Contact Cindy Waldmann at 488-9887 if you would like to usher.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors, students and military. Children under 12 are free. Tickets are available online at: <http://www.outloudcsmc.com/> So are lots of photos that showcase this wonderful group. Tickets can also be purchased at the door.



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 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

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Exceptional April PFLAG Program—Col. Gary Packard

Air Force Academy Professor and developmental psychologist Colonel Gary Packard, USAF, PhD. spoke to an enthusiastic audience of 60 PFLAG members and friends on April 17th in the sanctuary at First Congregational Church.

His topic was "Morality, Religion, Social Justice and Military Service". A number of USAF cadets attended the talk, as well as members of FCC.

Special guests were Packard's friends, Laila and Logan, a transgender military couple. He showed a short documentary film about their relationship at the beginning of the program, and they came over to the Dwelling Place with him afterwards for coffee, cookies and conversation.

If you missed the program, be sure to take a look at the film, titled "Transgender, At War and In Love". At the time the film was made in 2015, they were banned from serving openly. Watch the film by using this link: <https://bit.ly/2pLCcDJ>

The film is listed on the New York times "Op Docs" forum for short,



Logan and Laila

opinionated documentaries made by independent filmmakers. More information about the Op Docs Forum is at <https://nyti.ms/2E2b5IS>

Thank you to Bill Oliver, for arranging this very special PFLAG program!

Volunteer Opportunities at Urban Peak Youth Shelter

Urban Peak in Colorado Springs is much more than a homeless shelter for youth. It is a dynamic institution

that focuses on the "Three R's" a Roof over their heads at the 20-bed facility; Resources, supporting youth in attending school or vocational training and providing them with the skills to transition to independent living; and Relationships with the safe, trusted adults on their staff and the well-trained volunteers who provide quality care and support.

It's a tremendous team. If this sounds like something you'd like to do, plan to attend the Volunteer Training on May 12 from 10:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Contact Julian.McGinn@urbanpeak.org

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.

The TYES program originated and is headquartered in Boulder, Colorado.

More information is available at the national TYES website 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.



Looking Back: PFLAG History

Eva McGeehan, Marilyn Davis and Pat Bass have written "Early History of PFLAG in Colorado Springs", included as a separate page in this newsletter. Eva and Pat met in 1990, after their sons had announced to their parents that they were gay. Within a short time Eva and Pat founded the Colorado Springs chapter of PFLAG.

Eva, whose son had graduated from high school, was the one PFLAG participant in her first Pride Parade, proudly marching while other parents, having closeted teenagers still in school locally, cheered from the sidelines but did not feel free to march.

Marilyn met Eva and Pat at PFLAG meetings, and has been a strong participant in the chapter for nearly 20 years, serving as President for several years. She has participated in the Coalition of Colorado PFLAG chapters, worked at PFLAG information booths in a wide variety of settings, and is the master of the chapter's participation in PrideFest. Thank you, Marilyn, Eva and Pat.

PFLAG National is celebrating its 45th anniversary this year.

"When I Grow Up"

Some events just beg you to make the trip to Denver, and this spring concert by the Denver Women's Chorus on May 18-19 is one of them! The concert is subtitled "Listening to the Voices of Our Youth".

The singers of DWC will perform with their guests, the Denver Children's Choir (Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m.) and the SOAR! Youth and Adult Choir (Saturday at 7:30 p.m.). Purchase tickets at: <https://www.rmarts.org/events/>

The performances will be at the Antonia Brico Stage of Central Presbyterian Church, an historic early Denver church built in 1891 and located in downtown Denver at 1660 Sherman Street.

With origins in the lesbian community, the DWC is open to anyone regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Its purpose is to build community through music, education and outreach.



Charlotte and Tom Saponas

Thank you to all the PFLAG folks who dressed up and attended the Red Ribbon Ball on April 21 at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort to support the Southern Colorado AIDS Project (S-CAP) and Colorado Health Network.

There were fourteen participants, exceeding our goal of filling a table of ten. Enjoying the dinner together were:

Jerry Albrent and Chris Garvin

Cheryl and Wes Prichard

Karen and John Stith

Bryan Seale and Michael Trottier

Jackie Thompson

Dr. Jeremy Chada

Charlotte and Tom Saponas

Alycia Erickson and Judy McNew

S-CAP honored community leaders Mary Lou Makepeace and Mary Ellen McNally, both strong advocates for the LGBT community for many years, and some PFLAGgers had fun bidding at the remarkable auction. Thanks to Jerry Albrent, our organizer and host.

PFLAG meetings are always a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear ...

Must remain strictly confidential.

Thank you.

"Raising Zoey" Puts a Latina Face on the Struggles Faced by Trans Youth

The regional premiere of the film "Raising Zoey", by Dante Alencastre, will take place at the Althea Center, 1400 Williams St., Denver, on Saturday, May 19, from 2 to 5 p.m.

"Raising Zoey" is a stirring documentary that celebrates the story of a 13-year-old transgender girl, Zoey Luna, and her highly supportive Latina, working-class, single mother, Ofelia. This award-winning film has been shown at film festivals all over the world.

A reception with the filmmaker and Zoey's mom will begin at 2 p.m., to be followed by the screening at 3 p.m. and a Q&A session at 4 p.m.



Zoey and Ofelia Luna

Watching Zoey become an unwitting and quite charming advocate for trans rights, equally at home posing next to *Orange is the New Black's* Laverne Cox at red carpets and comfortably speaking out about what she's been through to the press, is one of the great joys of *Raising Zoey*. That, of course, and seeing the great affection her mother has for her beautiful trans daughter in candid moments at home throughout the doc.

"Zoey isn't special because she's transgender," her mom says at one point in the doc, "Zoey's special because she's my daughter."

It's as simple and as empowering a message as trans youth need and precisely what makes *Raising Zoey* such an urgent and welcome project in 2017. The film was directed by **Dante Alencastre**, who's also behind the equally moving "Transvisible: the Banby Salcedo Story", yet another portrait of a fearless trans Latina activist who founded the Los Angeles-based TransLatin@ Coalition.



BULLETIN BOARD

May 11-12 — “Serenades and Showtunes” — Out Loud Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus spring concert. May 11— 7:30, May 12—2:00 and 7:30. First Congregational Church, 20 East St. Vrain Street. See p. 1.

May 12 — Urban Peak Orientation for Volunteers — 10:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Contact Julian.McGinn@urbanpeak.org and see article p. 2

May 18-19 — “When I Grow Up” - Spring concert of Denver Women’s Chorus. Fri. 7:30 p.m., Sat. 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Antonia Brico Stage of Central Presbyterian Church, 1660 Sherman Street in Downtown Denver. See article, p. 1

May 19—”Raising Zoey” Regional film premiere 2:00—5:00 p.m. At the Althea Center, 1400 Williams Street, Denver. See p. 3.

June 2 — Ark Valley PRIDE Parade and Picnic — March with the Ark Valley PFLAG chapter in Salida. Information at <https://www.arkvalleypride.com> and also at <https://www.gopfca.com/pflag> Article on p. 1.

July 14-15 — PrideFest 2018 — America the Beautiful Park. Colorado Springs. Save the date.!

July 19 — Off the Street Breakfast — Major fundraiser for Urban Peak, a program serving homeless youth. Save the date and plan to sit at the PFLAG table for this annual early morning fundraiser.

Amazon Smile Program

Colorado Springs PFLAG participates in the Amazon Smile program. When making purchases on Amazon, please enter the site through our portal:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-1281187>

When you do this, Amazon will send 0.5% of the value of your purchase to our chapter. Pick up a flyer on this program at PFLAG meetings.

**In the Legislature:
One Colorado Fights Anti-LGBT Bills**

One Colorado is an LGBT Rights advocacy group that monitors legislation and keeps us all informed.



On March 22, One Colorado sent out this message about House Bill 1206, introduced in the name of religious freedom and titled “The Live and Let Live Act”:

“This is ridiculous. Republicans in the Colorado House have introduced one of the most mean-spirited, blatantly anti-LGBTQ bills we’ve seen in the Colorado State Legislature in years.

“Whether it’s in the areas of adoption and foster care, health care, housing, marriage, employment, or public spaces, House Bill 1206 is designed to roll back protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer Coloradans and their families in nearly every facet of our lives.

“This proposal goes as far, if not farther, than the infamous Amendment 2, which resulted in Colorado getting a reputation as the “Hate State.” We don’t need to turn back the clock on all the progress we’ve made. Whether it’s obtaining a marriage license, adopting or fostering a child, working at a job, or accessing healthcare, House Bill 1206 will create a license to discriminate against LGBTQ Coloradans for practically any reason.”

This bill failed. But another bad bill has been introduced:

Senate Bill 241: “Colorado Children First Act”

This bill is an attack on LGBTQ persons who want to adopt or foster a child. If Senate Bill 241 passes, Colorado adoption and foster care organizations would be allowed to claim their religion gives them the right to deny children a loving family just because the prospective parents are LGBTQ.

On the positive side, LGBTQ supporters are trying again to ban conversion therapy in Colorado. Contact the legislative committee by using this link to ask them to support House Bill 1245 to ban conversion therapy. <https://bit.ly/2Kqcpw1>

Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018.

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