



PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

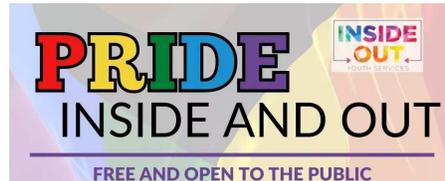
May 2022

Youth Pride Event and Queer Prom Set for June 4th

Inside Out Youth Services (IOYS) will sponsor "PRIDE Inside and Out!" on Saturday, June 4 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Hillside Community Center, located at 925 South Institute Street in Colorado Springs.

This is a free LGBTQIA2+ celebration for young people, their allies, families and "folx" of all ages.

PRIDE will be a sober event open to the public, with food trucks, resources and activities. PFLAG volunteers will staff an information table all day, talking to the youth and their families and providing PFLAG literature.



A Queer Prom for youth ages 13-24 will follow from 7-10 p.m. at the Hillside Community Center. This is a dance party for LGBTQIA2+ young people, with refreshments, drag performances and more. Tickets are \$10 per person. Purchase tickets at: <https://bit.ly/3MSYEms>

Youth Documentary Academy Premiere at CC June 2nd



Annual Film Premiere The annual premiere of new films made by Colorado Springs youth at the Youth Documentary Academy will be held at the Celeste Theatre at Colorado College on Thursday, June 2. The films to be shown (including a block of LGBTQ+ themed films) were made during the pandemic, in the summers of 2020 and 2021.

PFLAG and other nonprofit partners of YDA have been invited to set up a "connection corridor" at the event, essentially an area in the Cornerstone building with tables and booths pertaining to teen mental health, LGBTQ+ issues and family support.

PFLAG will provide volunteers and literature and may participate in some post-screening film discussion. Films will be screened in two blocks, at 2:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available through the YDA website: <https://bit.ly/3KMf92r>

YDA Wins Its First Emmy YDA is proud to announce the first Emmy Award for the Youth Documentary

Academy. The YDA-produced film, UNDER THE WIRE, was the foundation for an episode of "Insight with John Ferrugia" titled 'Surviving Suicide,' and won in the category, "Children/Youth/Teen Program/Special." Watch the full episode here: <https://bit.ly/3KIU6NZ>

About YDA. Founded in Colorado Springs in 2013, the Youth Documentary Academy (YDA) has pioneered youth-driven storytelling that seeks to discover and honor underrepresented stories while raising voices that have traditionally been overlooked. YDA offers intensive mentoring to aspiring teen filmmakers 14-18 years old in its 8-week long fellowship program.

Students accepted into the program receive free tuition and access to state of the art digital filmmaking equipment. The value of the fellowship is \$4,000.

Through rigorous hands-on training in both the technical and artistic aspects of filmmaking and storytelling, YDA students receive the tools and support to hone their stories and produce professional quality documentaries.

When films are complete, YDA works closely with filmmakers to distribute their work to local and national audiences. YDA's 100 films have become a go-to for educators, advocates and PBS programmers alike.

May PFLAG Meeting
Zoom Online

May 17th—7:00 p.m.

Conversation and Support

To attend the May meeting, please click this link:

<https://bit.ly/3vWtqpb>

The link changes each month. It is also available online on the PFLAG website: www.cspflag.org

If you need help to join the meeting, call Karen at 719-634-4433.

Everyone is welcome.

"LGBTQIA2+ Family Connections" on Facebook



LGBTQIA2+ Family Connections is a private Facebook group formed in April for parents, caregivers, and other family members of LGBTQIA2+ people in the Pikes Peak region.

Sponsored by Inside Out Youth Services, this Facebook group is sharing resources, successes, challenges, events and opportunities to support the LGBTQIA2+ families, connecting them with each other and making friends.

It is separate from the established IOYS TransParenting support group (see details of this group on page 2.)

For more information, and to join the group, search for the group by name on Facebook.



Opportunities for Volunteers!

At last, PFLAG is jumping into in-person activities again this spring, and that means we need volunteers who can help to staff information tables and participate in panels at various events over the next few months.

When you help to hand out literature and talk to passers-by at a PFLAG table, you are acting on your commitment to make our conservative city a better place for the LGBT community.

You don't need special training, just jump in and join us! Advocacy work is very rewarding.

If you would like to help, please call or text Elaine Myers at (719) 359-1462 or Karen Stith at (719) 351-1963.

Colorado Springs PFLAG

This newsletter is published by the Colorado Springs chapter of 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 receive this newsletter regularly, sign up at www.cspflag.org.

E-mail address:
information@cspflag.org

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P.O. Box 49131
Colorado Springs, CO 80949

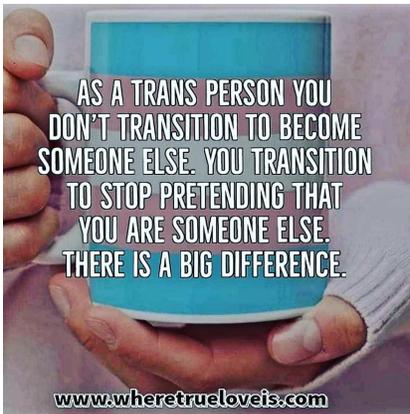
PFLAG Colorado Springs website:
www.cspflag.org

Facebook:
PFLAG - Colorado Springs
<https://www.facebook.com/PFLAGCS/>

PFLAG National Office website:
www.pflag.org

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

PFLAG's Facebook PAGE



Cindy Waldmann does a wonderful job of managing our Facebook page. She sometimes shares posts from this site: www.wheretrueloveis.com



Heather Thomas
@HeatherThomasAF

All my kids learned in preschool that you can have 2 mommies or 2 daddies or one of each. Gender identity to them is no different than having red hair or being left-handed. They only got anxious in school when the active shooter drills started.

[#SayGayAndVote](https://twitter.com/HeatherThomasAF)



PFLAG keeps on tackling this – one family at a time. You can too.

Inside Out Adds Free Mental Health Therapy Program

Inside Out Youth Services has embarked on a two year grant-funded project to provide free individual, family and group therapy at its location in Colorado Springs. Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) Chris Wade joined the group last month as its resident clinician. This significantly expands the group's reach beyond its traditional advocacy and support programs for LGBTQ+ youth.

The goal is to make counseling permanent after the two year pilot program ends.

"With all the anti-trans, anti-gay legislation and things of that nature on a national level, it's more important now than ever to provide the service to our community, to give parents and teens going through this journey an added layer of support, not just for gender and sexuality related things, but so that they can talk about anxiety without gender being the entire focus," Wade said.

"Not every mental health provider is versed in trans and nonbinary identity" he continued, "which can lead to misuse of pronouns and making comments that clients could interpret as microaggressions."

Wade is starting an in-person group for parents of LGBTQ+ youth, in addition to offering individual counseling. Anyone interested can make an appointment by calling him at (719) 401-3167 or sending an email to him at christopher@insideoutys.org.

See "Free Mental Health Therapy for LGBTQ+ Teens, Young Adults, Families Gets Underway in Springs" *Gazette*, April 19, 2022.
<https://bit.ly/3kEn5rZ>

TransParenting Support Group

TransParenting, a program of Inside Out Youth Services, is a monthly support group for parents/caregivers of transgender and gender nonbinary children, 3rd Thursday of every month, 6:00—7:30 p.m. MST by Zoom.

For more information and to get the Zoom meeting link, email transparenting@insideoutys.org or call Inside Out at (719) 328-1056.

Stand With Trans

Stand With Trans is a national support group of parents supporting the transgender community. See <https://standwithtrans.org>



Biases That Hurt People

A Letter to the Editor of the Gazette

Thanks to a recent letter alerting us to the good work by local educators, we can congratulate Air Academy High School in D-20 for providing students the opportunity to be aware of and participate in Transgender Day of Visibility.

They're catching up to the employees of many corporations, such as the one that employs a member of our family, that provides the opportunity to specify preferred pronouns in the company directory and encourages courteous and respectful treatment of all individuals regardless of origin or identity. Students hoping to be successful in the 21st century would do well to learn these lessons now. Denial and exclusion of transgender people is not good business.

Transgender people are not a recent invention. Nor are people an "ideology." They have been hidden in our culture, but they have been there all along.

Genetic sex, gender expression, and gender identity are distinct in all persons and not necessarily binary.

Transgender and nonbinary people are a normal part of human existence who has been with us probably as long as humanity has existed.

Many cultures have long recognized transgender and nonbinary persons. Based on the recent letter and other national news, it seems it's the Christian right that's having difficulty with this idea. If your religion prevents you from acknowledging and regarding people in the manner they choose, then maybe you should reconsider your religion.

Fortunately, many of the younger among us, to their credit, don't carry forward these biases that genuinely hurt people.

I look forward to the future with these enlightened people.

*Wes & Cheryl Prichard
Colorado Springs*

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.



This Letter to the Editor of the *Gazette* was published on May 4. It was written by PFLAG parents Wes and Cheryl Prichard in response to a scathing letter from a School District 20 parent that was published by the *Gazette* on May 1 after some teachers in the District marked the annual Transgender Day of Visibility by discussing it with their students.

The parent accused the District of "promoting a religion of agnostic progressive secularism" because teachers discussed the use of gender-appropriate pronouns by transgender and non-binary individuals and encouraged students to wear red on that day as a sign of support for the transgender community.

Presidential Proclamation

On March 30, President Biden issued this warm "Proclamation on Transgender Day of Visibility 2022"

"To everyone celebrating Transgender Day of Visibility, I want you to know that your President sees you.

"The First Lady, the Vice President, the Second Gentleman, and my entire Administration see you for who you are — made in the image of God and deserving of dignity, respect, and support.

"On this day and every day, we recognize the resilience, strength, and joy of transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming people. We celebrate the activism and determination that have fueled the fight for transgender equality.

"We acknowledge the adversity and discrimination that the transgender community continues to face across our Nation and around the world."

(Read the full Proclamation at: <https://bit.ly/38UgTJr>)

Reflections on Day of Visibility Panel at Peterson SFB

Queer Friends Colorado Springs is a Facebook social group for anyone on the LGBTQIA+ spectrum. Queer-friendly allies and friends are also welcome.

The following message was posted on March 31 by Amanda Post.

Transgender Panel at Peterson AFB

Today, myself and another trans woman (won't name her, as I don't want to out anyone, but she totally rocked it!) were a panel of two for a transgender symposium as part of a Women in Leadership Symposium at Peterson Space Force Base.

We were scheduled for a 50-minute talk, in a room with a max capacity of 25 people, but we had to move to another room with more capacity because so many people were interested, and we ended up talking, mostly a question and answer session, for almost two hours!

Everyone was super interested in what we had to say, with a whole lot of great questions, and complete respect and acceptance!

Overall, it was a really good time, and I think we did a great job educating people!

This was my part in educating and being visible, on today, Transgender Day of Visibility.

GLSEN—A Great Resource

GLSEN is a national organization that has been championing LGBTQ issues in K-12 education since 1990.

GLSEN states that Transgender Day of Visibility is an annual awareness day celebrated around the world. The day is dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments of transgender and gender nonconforming people while raising awareness of the work that still needs to be done to achieve trans justice.

Ongoingly, members of school communities can take these actions to help create trans-inclusive school environments, using these resources available for download:

Educators, use our gender terminology discussion guide and accompanying gender terminology discussion

(Continued on page 4)



BULLETIN BOARD

Inside a Home for L.G.B.T.Q. Seniors

Excerpts from New York Times article April 22, 2022)



Shunned when they were younger, older L.G.B.T.Q. adults have found a community at a senior home created for them by SAGE, a New York advocacy group.

She was a teenager growing up in Queens when her mother kicked her out of the house for

having a girlfriend. It was the 1960s, and being gay was “taboo,” Diedra Nottingham remembered. With nowhere to turn, she wound up sleeping in parks and hallways.

Over the years, Ms. Nottingham, now 71, struggled to maintain stable housing, sometimes living with friends or relatives, sometimes in a women’s shelter. Epileptic seizures kept her from holding a steady job, hampering her ability to pay rent. Finally she met a social worker who put her in touch with SAGE, a New York advocacy group for L.G.B.T.Q. older adults.

In 2020, Ms. Nottingham settled into a new one-bedroom apartment in the Stonewall House, the group’s L.G.B.T.Q.-friendly housing development in Fort Greene. “There are people like me in this building,” she said.

“L.G.B.T.Q. folks are much more likely to grow old single” because many never married or had children, said Michael Adams, the chief executive of SAGE. “What we have seen historically is that elders have been forgotten and they don’t have the support they need.”

SAGE was founded in 1978 to help address those challenges in three ways: support for elders, training for caregivers and advocacy of public policy. Its mission is still the same: “to lift up and honor and celebrate the elder pioneers of the L.G.B.T.Q. community.”

SAGE has affiliates in many parts of the country including SAGE of the Rockies, affiliated with The Center on Colfax, located at 1301 East Colfax Avenue in Denver.

SAGE of the Rockies builds a sense of community and provides tools for successful aging for the older LGBTQ+ community. See <https://www.sageusa.org/agemyway> and <https://lgbtqcolorado.org/programs/sage/>

June 2—Youth Documentary Academy—Annual Premiere of New Films — Celeste Theatre at Colorado College 2:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. See details, page 1.

June 4 — Youth Pride and Queer Prom — Joseph Shelton and Inside Out Youth Services are planning a big pride event for youth. It will conclude with a Queer Prom for youth ages 13-24. See details, page 1.

July 14 — Off the Street Breakfast —SAVE THE DATE Annual fundraiser for The Place, 6:45 a.m. check in, 7:30 program. The breakfast is free, but a meaningful contribution is requested. This is an in-person outdoor event under the Colorado Avenue Bridge. Meet youth from The Place and learn more about its programs for youth experiencing homelessness. Call Elaine Myers at 719-359-1462 to reserve your place at the PFLAG table. Website: <https://theplacecos.org>

July 23-24 — Pikes Peak Pride Festival and Parade— Pikes Peak Pride has announced that the Festival will take place in Acacia Park, with a downtown parade on Sunday. You can help bring the Pride celebration back this year by making a donation to the organizers. More information is at: <https://www.pikespeakpride.org/>

(Continued from page 3)

accompanying visual, plus our pronoun resource

Students, check out our Know Your Rights guide to learn about your rights protected in school

GSA members and advisors, check out our guide on making student clubs inclusive of trans and gender nonconforming students, as well as the GSA activity on telling trans narratives

Advocates, use our trans model policy in your advocacy. The GLSEN website can be found at www.glsen.org.

PFLAG Meetings

PFLAG meetings, both in-person and virtual, must always be treated as a safe space.

Who you meet and what you hear must remain strictly confidential.

Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.

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 _____

Monthly newsletters are sent out by email.

Each year our chapter contributes \$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. Or pay by credit card online at website: www.cspflag.org PFLAG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.