



# PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

November 2016

## November Film: *Creating Gender Inclusive Schools*

The November PFLAG meeting features a brand new film, directed by award-winning filmmaker Jonathan Skurnik of The Youth and Gender Media



Project, that will take us into the heart of the work a nonprofit organization called Gender Spectrum is doing with elementary schools. Parents of young children in the TYES (Trans Youth Education and Support) program through PFLAG will join in a discussion after the film.

Politicians and 24-hour news outlets spend a lot of time talking about gender and schools, yet most people are left wondering: how are schools talking about gender with students in grade-appropriate ways? *Creating Gender Inclusive Schools* shows how one school approached this important subject, and along the way demonstrates the power of having a conversation with youth about gender.

The film is ideal for anyone who wants to understand some of the ways gender is discussed in classrooms, including parents, school district administrators, principals, teachers, counselors

and school staff members, because it demonstrates that creating an inclusive environment for all children, regardless of where they fall on the spectrum of gender identity and expression, is achievable and fun.

The film also reminds us that children are teachers too.

All children and teens encounter gender roles, stereotypes, and definitions related to gender throughout their childhood and especially in school. Gender Spectrum works with school districts and schools to support educators seeking to create accepting environments that recognize the gender diversity of all students.

Gender Spectrum provides education and support to gender diverse and transgender individuals and their families. See:

<https://www.genderspectrum.org/>

## Save the Date — PFLAG Volunteer Opportunities

Colorado School Counselors Conference Wednesday—Friday November 9-11. The Antlers, a Windham Hotel. The Coalition of Colorado PFLAG Chapters will have an information table at the annual conference of schools counselors, which is held in Colorado Springs this year. Volunteers will work with PFLAG volunteers from other chapters, hand out literature and talk with counselors.

Out Loud - Colorado Springs Mens Chorus Holiday Concert December 9 -10 at First Congregational Church. PFLAG ushers are needed for the evening concert Friday at 7:30 p.m.; matinee at 2:00 p.m. Saturday and evening concert 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

If you would like to volunteer, call Cindy Waldmann at 488-9887

### **NOVEMBER PFLAG MEETING**

**Tuesday  
November 15, 2016  
7:00 p.m.**

**Film:**

***Creating Gender Inclusive Schools***

**The Dwelling Place  
508 North Tejon Street**

**Social time begins at 6:30  
Everyone is welcome.**

## **Remember to Reload Your Grocery Card**

Always remember to reload your King Soopers gift card, if necessary, before letting the clerk start ringing up your groceries. Five percent (!) of your total bill will be sent to our PFLAG chapter.

Thank you to everyone who is currently using a King Soopers gift card that is linked to Colorado Springs PFLAG.

You can obtain a reloadable gift card from Cindy Waldmann at PFLAG meetings and use it not only for groceries, but also for prescriptions and gas.



The card is free, and comes with \$2.50 credit already on it.



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

P.O. Box 49131  
Colorado Springs, CO 80949

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PFLAG National Office website:  
[www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

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### American Faith Based Organizations Stand Unequivocally Against the Export of Hateful Anti-LGBTI Rhetoric

*Message from Soulforce - September 27, 2016*

We're passing along news of a big win from activists in South Africa!

LGBTQI organizers and their allies in South Africa have been banding together to have Steven Anderson, an anti-gay pastor from Arizona whose sermons have been described as "hate speech" banned from entering the country this weekend.

South African gay and lesbian groups - including organizations like Triangle Project and Gay South African Radio - collected more than 60,000 signatures opposing Anderson's visit, where he was expected to preach and seek converts to his church.

This morning, they received good news from Minister of Home Affairs Malusi Gigaba.

"We have a duty to prevent harm and hatred in all forms against LGBTI people, as any other person in a democratic state," said Minister Gigaba. "Steven Anderson and members/associates of his church

are prohibited from entering the Republic of South Africa."

Activists were also able to have Anderson banned from the UK, *unable to even board a connecting flight through their airports.*

Too many U.S.-based Christian Right Wing leaders are traveling the Global South, infusing their brand of fundamentalist theology into already heated situations. It is the responsibility of U.S.-based activists to intervene and keep these actors at home before their toxic ideologies spread farther.

To learn more about Soulforce, visit its website: <http://www.soulforce.org/>

### Denver PFLAG Initiates Transgender Support Group

Starting in November, PFLAG Denver is happy to provide a monthly gathering for Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming individuals, their parents, family members, friends and allies in the Denver and the Front Range.

This will be a safe and welcoming space to ask questions and have honest and frank discussions about gender and gender identity. Participants will collaborate in our journeys and our many perspectives and issues surrounding our gender-diverse and gender-expansive communities.

This support group will meet on the second Wednesday of every month, at 6:30 p.m., at 1290 Williams Street, Denver. For more information, contact the PFLAG Denver office (303) 573-5861. The Denver PFLAG website is at [www.pflagdenver.org](http://www.pflagdenver.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](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)

New PFLAG Chapters In 2016, PFLAG announced the formation of 19 new chapters nationwide. Four are in the Rocky Mountain region: Greeley, CO; Prescott, AZ; Sandpoint, ID; and Boulder City, NV.



## Colorado School Counselors Association Conference

PFLAG volunteers attend the annual Colorado School Counselors Association Conference



each year to talk with attendees about LGBT issues in schools and share PFLAG literature with counselors. The Colorado School Counselors Association (CSCA), which serves over 1,500 counselors statewide, represents school counselors at all levels in Colorado. Its purpose is to serve its members and the public through programs that advance guidance and counseling in all school work settings: elementary, middle/junior high, high school, and post-secondary. This year the conference will be held at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs, November 9-11.

## It's Time to Renew Your PFLAG Membership

Please be sure to send in your new or renewing membership or a donation in any amount to our Colorado Springs PFLAG chapter soon. Our fiscal year ended on September 30.

Thank you to our faithful members for ongoing support that enables PFLAG to work hard in our community. In the past year, volunteers staffed information tables, handed out literature and talked with many families at PrideFest, the statewide Conference of School Counselors, the Educating Children of Color Symposium and diversity events at several schools and Peterson Air Force Base.

PFLAG also publishes a newsletter, maintains a telephone hotline and hosts monthly meetings and speakers on a wide range of topics.

Become a member ...AND... Consider becoming a PFLAG volunteer.



## Out Loud Seeks Artistic Director - Notice

Out Loud, the Colorado Springs Men's Chorus is currently seeking an Artistic Director. We are in our 11th season and we are currently preparing for our holiday concert. The Artistic Director will start on January 1st, 2017.

Out Loud performs two major concerts each year (three performances per concert series) as well as several outreach events throughout the year. We rehearse on Monday nights from 6:45 p.m. - 9:45 p.m. at First Congregational Church in downtown Colorado Springs. If you would like to hear/see some of our earlier performances, please view us on YouTube

Please check out the complete job posting on our website [www.outloudcsmc.com](http://www.outloudcsmc.com) and if you have further questions, please email [info@outloudcsmc.com](mailto:info@outloudcsmc.com)

[Job Posting Closes 10/31/2016](#)

### Amazon Smile Program

Colorado Springs PFLAG participates in the Amazon Smile program. When you make purchases on Amazon, enter the site through our portal: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-128118> and 0.5% of your purchase will be sent to our chapter. Pick up a flyer on this program at PFLAG meetings.

### PFLAG meetings are a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear  
Must remain strictly confidential.

### Thank you

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

## TYES and PFLAG Support Gender-Variant Children

Trans-Youth Education and Support (TYES) is a satellite chapter of PFLAG Boulder County, with a presence in Colorado Springs. TYES was formed in 2007 by a mother in an effort to find a friend for her six year old transgender daughter, to help her feel less alone in the world. Through TYES, families across the state of Colorado find the support, friendship and resources to support their child's journey to authenticity that is uniquely their own.

*From the TYES web page:*

A TYES parent writes: "My daughter transitioned over a year ago. We were living in another state at the time and I couldn't find any resources for parents. Luckily we moved to Colorado and found TYES. I was immediately relieved to have found that such a group exists!

"Connecting with TYES has been invaluable to us. It is so nice to talk with other parents who understand what

we are going through. I really appreciate the fact that it's local, live, in-person support. It has been such a boost to my daughter's sense of self worth and belonging to play with other kids like her.

"I am also so appreciative of the parents who have walked before us here in our home town and state and share their specific experiences with doctors, procedures, schools, policies, etc. I felt very overwhelmed at first. Now that I have talked to other TYES parents and benefited from TYES guest speakers, I have a much better grasp of what to do to support my daughter.

"I truly feel supported by being a part of TYES. I encourage any and all parents who have gender non-conforming or transgender children in Colorado to join us as we work together to make the world a better place for our trans kids and to support our children and each other."



**BULLETIN BOARD**

**Items of Interest from PFLAG National**

**November 9-11 - Statewide School Counselors' Conference**  
- The Antlers Hotel, 4 N. Cascade. PFLAG volunteer opportunity.

**December 9-10 — Out Loud Holiday Concert** — Evening concert Friday at 7:30 p.m.; Matinee at 2:00 p.m. Saturday and Evening concert 7:30 p.m. Saturday. First Congregational Church, 20 East St. Vrain Street, Colorado Springs. This will be a joyful celebration! Tickets available at [www.outloudcsmc.com](http://www.outloudcsmc.com). PFLAG ushers are needed. Call Cindy Waldmann at 488-9887.



**Save the Date!**

Out Loud, our newly independent Colorado Springs Men's chorus, is preparing a wonderful holiday program. Don't miss this very special concert.

**Donate to Out Loud!**

The chorus needs our support!. Plan to make an extra donation this holiday season to support the singers.

**Follow on Facebook!** Here's a September 17 post:

"First rehearsal of the season, 13 new members and many former members returning. Holy crap do these guys sound AWESOME! It's going to be an AMAZING season with great music, new adventures, and tons of outreach!

"Speaking of Outreach...got an event you'd like to have outloud sing for? Ideas for how we can spread the music and the love around town? Hit me up ([outloudcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:outloudcouncil@gmail.com))! "

**New website!** [www.outloudcsmc.com](http://www.outloudcsmc.com)

PFLAG National is excited to announce that the 2017 PFLAG National Convention will be held in Portland, Oregon, at the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront. The dates are October 20-22, 2017.

Media Matters. A record number of out LGBTQ athletes competed in this year's Olympic Games in Rio, 49 in total. They performed extremely well, with nearly half of this group winning medals in their respective categories.

A kiss -in was staged on August 13 in a London grocery store after a gay couple holding hands was asked to leave. Hundreds of community members showed up in support.

Court Matters. In January, Illinois passed a ban on conversion therapy. Now some Illinois pastors have sued the state over passage of this law. Their lawsuit aims to exempt clergy from the ban on grounds of religious liberty.

State and Hemispheric Matters. Wyoming - Gillette has become the state's third city to protect LGBTQ city employees from discrimination. On Sept. 22, the non-discrimination resolution passed with a 6-1 vote. Local PFLAGers led the way on this years-long effort.

Canada -Prime Minister Justin Trudeau plans to issue a formal apology for the country's past poor treatment of LGBTQ people. The apology will set a historical precedent in Canada, pardoning all imprisoned and apologizing to Canadians previously fired or otherwise persecuted because of their sexual orientation.

Mexico - Marriage equality has generated unprecedented backlash in Mexico. While 10 states in Mexico approved marriage with little controversy this year, conservatives are now taking to the streets since the president now seeks to override the remaining 21 bans in its 31 states.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Each year our chapter must contribute \$15.00 for each paid membership to the PFLAG national office to support its mission.

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail

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.