



PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

November 2017

Short Film, Small Group Discussion in November

The November PFLAG meeting will feature a very short film titled "Franswa Sharl", followed by an opportunity for small group discussion about supporting our LGBT family members during the often emotional holiday season.

The PFLAG meeting this month falls only two days before Thanksgiving. We encourage you to briefly set aside the preparations and join us.

"Franswa Sharl" (2009) is based on a true story told to filmmaker Hannah Hilliard by one of the grooms when she was filming a gay wedding in South Africa.

Synopsis: Keeping the position of number one son requires a certain amount of ingenuity. Twelve year old



Greg has inherited his father's competitive streak. On a family holiday to Fiji they have different ideas about where Greg should focus his talents. When his creative pursuits fail to amuse his father, Greg goes to bizarre lengths to win him back.



Our friend Christopher Garvin is going to sleep outside downtown on the ground November 9th to raise money for the Urban Peak youth program and shelter. This is the third annual *Night Out* sponsored by Urban Peak. You are invited to donate online as a friend of Chris Garvin, or...

Really get involved and sleep outside with Chris and many others on November 9th at First United Methodist Church downtown. Yes, it may be cold outside.

Urban Peak Executive Director Shawna Kemppainen confirms that, after a really chilly first *Night Out*, the number of participants has steadily grown.

November is National Runaway & Homeless Youth month, and your *Night Out* will bring more youth inside

safe shelter this winter. Here's how it works:

—Participants must be at least 14 years old.

—Adults are challenged to raise \$1,000 or more;

—Youth ages 14-21 are challenged to raise \$250 or more.

Bring: sleeping bag, sleeping pad or mat; tarp, cardboard or other covering for your sleeping bag; pillow; and warm clothes and a hat. (Participants may not bring a tent.)

Sign up soon on the Urban Peak website at:

<http://www.urbanpeak.org/colorado-springs/events/night-out-for-homeless-youth/> or click this link:

<http://bit.ly/2zeesvx>

Direct questions to:

Julian.McGinn@urbanpeak.org
Phone: 719-630-3223 x 2827

NOVEMBER PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday
November 21, 2017
7:00 p.m.

Short Film:
Franswa Sharl

Followed by small group discussion

The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street

Doors open at 6:30
Everyone is welcome.

Enjoy our
Thanksgiving treats.

Ally Advice From Mom

Judy Shepard, who has advocated passionately for the LGBT community since her son, Matthew, was murdered, has acknowledged that not everyone knows how to be an ally.

She commented that LGBT people are often hesitant to approach straight/cisgender people with their needs for fear of rejection. But this puts them in a "Catch 22" situation, as Shepard called it, since straight people may be afraid to ask their LGBTQ friends how to get involved at the risk of sounding ignorant.

"We both have to get over that", Shepard said.

"Everyone has the potential to be an ally, and with the world we're living in now, more people are starting to take up that responsibility."

"Cisgender" means a person whose birth sex and gender identity match.



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

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: karenfstith@gmail.com

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

California Bill Recognizes Third Gender Option

(Excerpts from *Buzzfeed*, Oct 16, 2017)

California Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill October 15 making his state the first in the nation to officially recognize a third gender.

Californians will soon be able to identify as nonbinary, in addition to male or female, on state-issued identity documents, including driver's licenses and birth certificates. The bill also eases the process of legal gender changes of any kind — male to female, female to male, and either male or female to nonbinary — by removing requirements to obtain a doctor's statement or appear in person in court.

"I want to thank Governor Brown for recognizing how difficult it can be for our transgender, nonbinary, and intersex family members, friends, and neighbors when they don't have an ID that matches their gender presentation," the bill's co-author Senator Toni Atkins, a Democrat from San Diego, said in a statement.

"The Gender Recognition Act will eliminate unnecessary stress and anxiety for many Californians, and it exemplifies the leadership role that our state continues to take in LGBTQ civil rights."

This summer, Oregon's Department of Motor Vehicles became the



Click this link to watch video:
<http://bzfd.it/2xHdkyX>

first in the nation to offer a nonbinary option, "X," on IDs and licenses.

A similar measure is pending in New York. California is the first to offer statewide legal recognition of nonbinary citizens — as supporters called it, "gender freedom."

Somewhere in the Middle

"Queer and There" column in *the Independent* 9/6/17—By Kelly Griego (excerpts)

I have been attracted to women throughout my life, just as I have been attracted to men, so when I came out of the closet when I was 19, I thought that I was bisexual. However, something about identifying as bisexual didn't seem to fit how I felt.

It wasn't until I found definitions for different sexual orientations that I came across the term "pansexuality", and I not only finally felt like my attraction to other people made sense, but I also felt validated because I had discovered that many other people felt the same.

The term "pansexuality" means: "not limited in sexual choice with regard to biological sex, gender or gender identity." So when someone identifies as pansexual, they are saying that they can be attracted to any person of any gender identity, including those who

(Continued on page 4)

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



Reparative Therapy Panel

At the October PFLAG meeting, four gay men and one trans man participated in a powerful panel discussion of reparative therapy and the effect it has had on their adult lives.

They shared their experiences of participation in Exodus International, Focus on the Family's "Love Won Out" and similar conversion programs that try to change an individual's sexual orientation.

Their stories were remarkably similar in that their parents rejected their gay/trans orientation and supported efforts at conversion. When conversion was not effective, family relationships became more tenuous or broke down completely and the gay or transgender person felt guilty or apologetic toward the parents, as in "I felt as if I had let my parents down". In one instance, an aunt became the lasting link with family because the aunt has continuously offered unconditional acceptance and love.

Panelists warmly thanked the PFLAG parents in the room for the affectionate and accepting atmosphere of the meeting, contrasting it with the rejection some of them had experienced from their own families.

One mother who was new to PFLAG (her son had come out only a few days before the meeting) expressed her fears. Panel members and PFLAG parents responded with encouraging advice to become informed, "show love for your child", "accept what your child is telling you" and "provide your child with plenty of encouragement and support".

The mother had a wonderful opportunity to experience the kindness, goodwill and camaraderie of a group of gay and trans men.

Thank you to Paul, Scott, Michael, Silas and Thomas for so generously sharing your personal stories and creating an extraordinary evening.

PFLAG meetings are a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear ...

must remain strictly confidential.

Thank you.

PFLAG National Names Jaime F. Grant As New Executive Director

(Excerpts from article in *The Advocate* by Ariel Sobel)

On September 12th, PFLAG National — America's leading organization uniting the families and allies of LGBTQ youth — named Jaime M. Grant as its new executive director. The group, which since its founding in 1972, has grown into nearly 400 chapters and over 200,000 members, selected Grant based on her three-decade-long track record of leadership in the LGBTQ and feminist movements.

A mother of two, including a proud bisexual son who spearheaded his high school gay-straight alliance, Grant previously was the Policy Institute director at the National LGBTQ Task Force and the founding executive director of the Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership. She has also been deeply involved in organizing for transgender justice as the founder and director of the Global Trans Research and Advocacy Project.

"The family-oriented organization is putting an impressive mother in the driver's seat."

"I've been 'in training' for this job my whole life," said Grant. "I survived an extremely painful coming-out process in my family — an estrangement that lasted over a decade."

Her struggle for acceptance as a queer woman led her to PFLAG's advocacy. "I believe so strongly in PFLAG and its work, which, over the past 45 years has created a tremendous cultural shift in parenting values, and fires up advocacy by families and allies," she said.

Grant holds a Ph.D. in women's studies from the Union Institute, where she studied beside LGBTQ scholarly activists Minnie Bruce Pratt, Barbara Smith, and John D'Emilio. A prolific writer who is grounded in women of color feminist theories, she has long worked to address patriarchy and white supremacy within and outside activist spaces.



Jaime F. Grant

When it comes to her new space, Grant's excitement to lead PFLAG is palpable. She admires its members, who she calls "foot soldiers for change."

Her vision for their future? "I think for the next chapter of PFLAG, we'll be asking, 'Are we in the places where the most fragile and the most vulnerable, the most targeted LGBT kids are so that we can be sharing the tools of acceptance and support in the places we're most needed?'"

To Grant, those places include the foster care system, as well as juvenile rehabilitation and detention centers, where she feels LGBTQ youth are overrepresented and underacknowledged.

Link to complete *Advocate* article: <http://bit.ly/2ikdGFj>

Thank You to:

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

Amazon Smile Program

Colorado Springs PFLAG participates in the Amazon Smile program. When you make 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.



BULLETIN BOARD



November 4—Youth Documentary Academy World Premiere— The 2017 class of young filmmakers presents its work for the first time. Fine Arts Center. More information at www.youthdocumentary.org

November 9 — Night Out to End Youth Homelessness — See p. 1.

December 8—9 Holiday Concert — Out Loud Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus — December 8—7:30 p.m.; December 9 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. First Congregational Church, 20 East St. Vrain St., Colorado Springs. For up to date information, take a look at their Facebook page.

December 16— Holiday Concert in Pueblo — Out Loud Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus — 2:00 p.m. First Congregational Church, 228 West Evans, Pueblo

Somewhere in the Middle (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

are women, men, intersex, nonbinary, agender, genderfluid and genderqueer...

The number of people who identify as pansexual seems to be on the rise, especially along LGBTQ youth. According to Maegan Brundage, MSW, Youth Health Educator and Program Coordinator at Inside/Out Youth Services, of youth intakes to date in 2017, twenty-seven percent of youth between the ages of 13-22 have self-identified as pansexual.

Out Loud Holiday Concert

PFLAG always provides 2-3 ushers for each performance of the Out Loud Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus.

There are three performances in Colorado Springs and one in Pueblo this year. If you would like to usher please call/text Cindy Waldmann at (719) 488-9887.

Ticket information should be available soon on the website: www.outloudcsmc.com or on Facebook. And while you are there, keep up to date by signing up for their newsletter on the website and spread the word to your Facebook friends by “liking” their Facebook page.

2018 Transgender Health Insurance Buyer’s Guide

From now until January 12th, 2018, Coloradans can shop for health insurance on our state’s own marketplace, [Connect for Health Colorado](http://ConnectforHealthColorado.com). Despite the best efforts of the Trump Administration and Congress to repeal the Affordable Care Act, it is still the law of the land, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer Coloradans are protected from discrimination in health care and health insurance in Colorado.

Still, if you’re a transgender Coloradan, finding coverage that meets all your health care needs can be complicated. That’s why One Colorado is releasing its [2018 Transgender Health Insurance Buyer’s Guide](http://2018TransgenderHealthInsuranceBuyersGuide.com) so that transgender people across the state can make informed decisions about which insurance companies provide them with coverage that meets their needs.

For more information, follow this link to the One Colorado website: <http://bit.ly/2AdMbpD>
Or call One Colorado at (303) 396-6170.



Support PFLAG— Pick up a King Soopers/ City Market Gift Card at a PFLAG meeting.

The free card is already loaded with \$2.50 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 grocery, gas and pharmacy purchases to our local chapter of PFLAG. Now, that’s an easy, powerful fundraiser.

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