



# PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

November 2019

## PFLAG Board Members Attend National Convention

Bill Oliver and Cheryl Prichard attended the “We Are the Change” National PFLAG Convention in Kansas City on October 25-27, for three days of learning, connecting and celebrating. They participated in workshops and enjoyed networking with PFLAG chapter leaders from around the country.

At the November PFLAG meeting, Bill and Cheryl will reflect on this experience and bring us ideas and insights for our own chapter.

Those at the October PFLAG meeting engaged in intense conversation and did not have time for the four short films that were advertised for that meeting. We might get to some of them this month.

They include the celebration of Pride; Indigo Girls promoting the Equality Act; PFLAG Moms—Making a Difference which is the story of a powerful



PFLAG National President Kathy Godwin opens “We Are the Change” 2019

PFLAG Mom in Rockford, IL; and “Love Calls Back” about estranged family members reaching out and reconnecting.

## “Unsettled: Seeking Refuge in America” PFLAG Sponsors Tom Shepard Film at RMWF Festival



Colorado Springs PFLAG and Lori and John Vollmar of our chapter are sponsoring the showing of Tom Shepard’s new film titled *Unsettled: Seeking Refuge in America*, which will be shown at the Rocky Mountain Women’s Film Festival on Saturday, November 16.

*Unsettled* follows the stories of LGBT refugees and asylum seekers from Africa and the Middle East as they flee persecution in their countries of origin to seek better and safer lives in the U.S.

The following are excerpts from a story by Jessica Zack in the *San Francisco Chronicle* in

April 2019 when the film premiered at the San Francisco Film Festival:

“Given the extent to which Subhi Nahas would one day use his voice to spread awareness about the staggering obstacles facing Middle Eastern LGBT refugees like himself, it’s remarkable that his journey to a new life in the United States began with the critical decision to keep his mouth shut.

“It was late 2012, and the 25-year-old Nahas was finally fleeing Syria with a taxi driver he had bribed to take him to the Lebanon border and, if stopped, to go along with the ruse that Nahas couldn’t speak. After a lifetime of persecution

(Continued on page 2)

### NOVEMBER PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday  
November 19, 2019  
7:00 p.m.

#### Program

Notes from the PFLAG National Convention

and

Four Short 2019 Videos  
Produced by PFLAG

The Dwelling Place  
508 North Tejon Street

Light Refreshments  
Social Time starts 6:30 p.m.  
Everyone is welcome.

### Rocky Mountain Women’s Film Festival

For over 30 years, the RMWFF has showcased documentary, narrative, shorts and animated films that are thought-provoking and life enriching to encourage both global awareness and personal growth.

The festival will take place on November 15-17 at Colorado College. For the full festival schedule and ticket information for this very popular event, go to its website:

<https://rmwfilm.org/>

The website also lists the free screenings of very special films from the current year’s lineup that are provided at various community locations in the two weeks before the festival opens.

**Unsettled: Seeking Refuge in America (cont.)***(Continued from page 1)*

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 this newsletter regularly, complete and mail the membership form on page four. To receive complimentary copies of the newsletter, please contact us.

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and escalating danger in a country where homosexuality is illegal — and where gay men were being killed by the Islamic State after the outbreak of civil war — Nahas had grown accustomed to hiding his personality and natural affect, “silencing myself, shielding myself,” he said, to all but disappear.

“I pretended I was deaf and mute, because I knew the moment I opened my mouth to speak they would pick up my sexual orientation,” Nahas said during a recent interview at the Mission District home of filmmaker Tom Shepard. “If I talked, I would sound too effeminate. I would have been killed immediately.”

Nahas is one of four LGBT refugees striving to make new lives for themselves in San Francisco who are profiled in Shepard’s new documentary “Unsettled: Seeking Refuge in America.” The stirring, timely film had its world premiere at the SFFilm Festival on Wednesday, April 17.

“Director and producer Shepard met Nahas and Junior Mayema, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in 2014 while volunteering with Jewish Family and Community Services of the East Bay.

“The nonprofit’s parent organization, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, had just received a sizable federal grant to support LGBT refugee resettlement.

“I thought it was an important time to make a film that humanizes the gay refugee experience,” Shepard said. “People hear a lot of news about the refugee crisis, but most really don’t understand their lived experiences. All refugees are vulnerable, but LGBTQ refugees are doubly vulnerable.”

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**TransParent Group**

The TransParent group at Inside/Out for parents of gender variant and transgender youth usually meets on the third Thursday of the month from 6:00—7:30 p.m. at Inside/Out Youth Services, 223 North Wahsatch Ave.

For more information about the meetings, call Inside/Out at 328-1056 or send an e-mail to: [transparenting@insideoutys.org](mailto:transparenting@insideoutys.org)



Tom Shepard

Tom has been directing and producing documentary films for nearly 20 years. His film *Scout’s Honor* won two top awards at the Sundance Film Festival and was broadcast nationally on the PBS program *P.O.V.*

He also directed and produced *Knocking*, a film about Jehovah’s Witnesses, which was broadcast nationally on the PBS series *Independent Lens*.

His recent film *Whiz Kids* is a coming-of-age documentary about youth who find their voice through science. It also aired on PBS.

Tom’s collaboration with filmmaker Andy Abrahams Wilson resulted in *The Grove* about the AIDS epidemic and the politics of remembrance. His films have received acclaim in dozens of publications including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, *Miami Herald*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Denver Post*.

In its first six months since the April premiere, *Unsettled* has won top awards at nine film festivals, including the New York Cinematography Awards, the Tel Aviv International LGBT film festival and Outfest in Los Angeles.

A graduate of Palmer High School and Stanford University, Tom is the founder and director of the Youth Documentary Academy in Colorado Springs. For many years, he and his parents have been part of Colorado Springs PFLAG.

**Thank You**

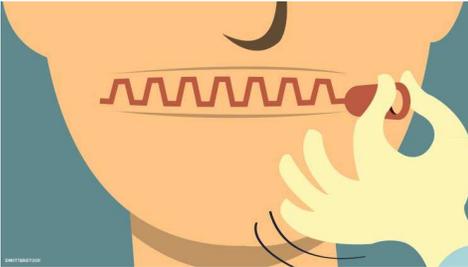
To the Saponas Foundation, First Congregational United Church of Christ and the Ruskey/Bianchi Family for their significant, ongoing support of Colorado Springs PFLAG.



## PFLAG-Colorado Springs Facebook Page

For those who are not Facebook participants, here are a few recent items from the PFLAG-Colorado Springs Facebook page.:

### Ten Words Transgender People Want You to Know (But Not Say)

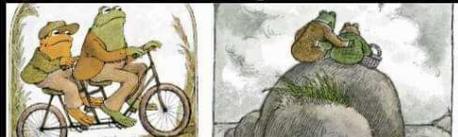


Here's a guide to words well-known throughout the transgender community and yet misunderstood, misused, or unknown in the world outside the T.

They are: Doxxing, Terf, Deadnaming, Clocking, Misgendering, Passing, Transgenderism, Sex Change, Triple T and Tranny Chaser. Read this article from *The Advocate* (Feb 24, 2016 ) at: <http://bit.ly/2pvQsn5>

### did you know?

Frog and Toad were probably more than just friends. Author Arnold Lobel told his family he was gay 4 years after publishing his first Frog and Toad book, and, according to his daughter, the pair are 'of the same sex, and they love each other.' Though he never publicly linked them with his sexuality, she thinks 'Frog and Toad was really the beginning of his coming out.'



### "I Don't Have to Hide" — LGBTQ Seniors Find Comfort in Affirming Housing Facilities



This is an NBC News story dated Oct 25, 2019. To read it, click on: <https://nbcnews.to/2WvyyNr>



### "Our Time" Youth Documentary Academy Series on PBS

Don't miss the final three episodes of "Our Time," which will be shown on Rocky Mountain PBS at 8:30 p.m. on Nov. 7, 14 and 21. This has been a 7-part series featuring films made by youth at the Youth Documentary Academy (YDA) in Colorado Springs. Check the RMPBS schedule for additional airings of the films: <http://www.rmpbs.org/schedule/>

Teen suicide, race, disability, gender and sexuality, domestic violence. These are some of the hot-button topics teens touch on during their time at YDA, a seven-week summer class for students ages 14 to 18 to learn documentary filmmaking from professional filmmakers, faculty and guest artists.

### Premiere 2019 YDA Films

The newest set of films produced by students of the Youth Documentary Academy will be shown at the 2019 Premiere on Monday, December 2 from 6:00 – 9:30 p.m. at the Cornerstone Center for the Arts at Colorado College, located at Cascade Avenue and Cache la Poudre Street.

For more information about YDA, see its Facebook page and website: <https://www.youthdocumentary.org/>

### Thank You, Cindy!

If you are a Facebook user, please take a look at the Facebook page for PFLAG – Colorado Springs. Cindy Waldemann is doing an amazing job of bringing in all sorts of LGBTQ stories, homilies, cartoons and irreverences. Please "like" the page so that you can see her posts regularly.

Board member Cindy and her husband, Steve, are strong advocates who march in Pride parades, do outreach in the community, and usher regularly for concerts of the Out Loud C.S. Men's Chorus.

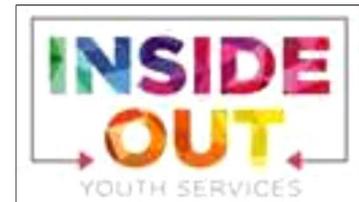
### Transgender Day of Remembrance

Everyone is cordially invited to attend the Annual International Transgender Day of Remembrance sponsored by Peak Area Gender Expressions (PAGE).

Come show your support for our local Transgender community while memorializing those who have been murdered due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. This observance includes a keynote speaker with a message of reflection and encouragement.

This is a free community event, open to the general public – invite your friends & family!

Traditionally, the ceremony is held on November 20th. The actual date and time will be announced soon. See Calendar, p. 4. for the PAGE website link.



### Help the Inside/Out Food Pantry

In the winter months, the pantry at Inside/Out Youth Services is particularly important. Inside/Out provides support for LGBTQ youth ages 13-22, some of whom are homeless. Bring the following foods to the PFLAG meetings and a PFLAG volunteer will deliver them.

- Tuna/cracker packets;
- Individual size ravioli, chili, noodles ramen, or any kind of comfort food that can be microwaved;
- Canned meat or tuna;
- Small containers of peanut butter;
- Nutrition bars; trail mix; cookies;
- Gatorade and bottled water.

Especially at this time of year, please let's put Inside/Out on our grocery shopping lists.

### This is Important!

You don't always know where other people are on their journeys.

THEREFORE, PFLAG meetings must always be a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear

Must remain strictly confidential.



**BULLETIN BOARD**

**Nov. 7 — Night Out Project** — Fundraiser for The Place, formerly known as Urban Peak. To make a pledge in support of the Night Out, please contact Courtney Deuser: [courtney.deuser@urbanpeak.org](mailto:courtney.deuser@urbanpeak.org) or call (719) 338-9257.

**Nov. 15-17 — Rocky Mountain Women’s Film Festival** — at Colorado College. See p. 1.

**Nov. — Transgender Day of Remembrance** — Usually held at All Souls Unitarian Church on November 20. For confirmation of the date and program, see Peak Area Gender Expressions (PAGE) website: <http://bit.ly/2C1q5lw> Also see p. 3.

**December 2 — Premiere of 2019 Youth Documentary Academy Films** Cornerstone Center at Colorado College 6:00—9:30 p.m. See p. 3.

**December 13-14 — “A Midwinter Mitzvah”** — Out Loud Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus concerts at First Congregational Church. Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. PFLAG ushers are needed for the concerts. Call Cheryl Prichard at 719-550-9235 or send an e-mail to [info@cspflag](mailto:info@cspflag) if you are interested in ushering.



The Out Loud Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus will present its winter concert “A Midwinter Mitzvah” on December 13 and 14. Tickets will be available at the door and at: <https://www.outloudcsmc.com/>. Also, check the Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus Facebook page.

*“Mitzvah” - a precept or commandment (Judaism) - a good deed done from religious duty.*

**Urban Peak Becomes “The Place”**

Shawna Kempainen, Executive Director of Urban Peak, a Colorado Springs shelter



supporting homeless youth seeking to exit homelessness and lead self-determined, fulfilled lives, has announced that Urban Peak is no longer formally affiliated with the Urban Peak organization. On October 1 its name changed to The Place. The name refers to early plans for the shelter when it was set up 19 years ago.

“We just thought it was such a great way to honor the original intent of ensuring that there’s always a place for youth to find hope and help and get off the streets here in El Paso County” said Kempainen.

All of its programs and projects will remain the same, and the nonprofit will continue to collaborate with Urban Peak in Denver. The Place, which works with homeless teens and youth ages 15 to 24, served almost 700 individuals from September 30, 2017 through October 1, 2018. Kempainen will continue as its Executive Director. For more information check out its website at:

<https://theplacecos.org/>

**Outreach—Two Spirit Students**

When Elaine Myers and Cheryl Prichard took PFLAG literature to the coming Out Day celebration at UCCS on October 8, they met students who are in the LGBTQ Two Spirit group. They were invited to visit PFLAG.

Two Spirit is a modern, pan-indian, umbrella term used by some indigenous North Americans to describe certain people in their communities who fulfill a traditional third gender (or other gender variant) ceremonial role in their cultures.

**Renew Your Membership or Join PFLAG!**

Now is the time to send in membership forms for the upcoming year if you haven’t already done so. Our devoted members enable PFLAG to reach out into the community year-round in many ways, supporting LGBTQ youth, promoting PFLAG in the community, hosting monthly meetings, sending out monthly newsletters, and maintaining a website, Facebook page, e-mail access and a telephone support line.

**Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member**

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ New member \_\_\_ Renewing member

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

- \_\_\_ Regular Membership \$ 30
- \_\_\_ Supporting Member—Silver 40
- \_\_\_ Supporting Member—Gold 60
- \_\_\_ Supporting Member—Platinum 100

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

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. Or pay by credit card online at website: [www.cspflag.org](http://www.cspflag.org) PFLAG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.