



# PFLAG Colorado Springs

November 2014

## Pizana, Gonzales to Discuss Safe @ School Coalition

The November PFLAG meeting will explore the excellent work of the Pikes Peak Safe @ School Coalition, with Coalition members Eric Pizana and Sloan Gonzales discussing their work.

Eric is the Executive Director of Inside/Out Youth Services; Sloan is volunteer manager of the Girl Scouts in Colorado Springs, where she runs a bully prevention program.

The Safe @ School Coalition consists of representatives of various community groups, including PFLAG, Inside/Out, Girl Scouts, Planned Parenthood, OneColorado, Citizens Project and School District 11 that have come together to address bullying, particularly anti-GLBT bullying, in the Pikes Peak region.

Eric and Sloan have conducted educational trainings for school counselors, teachers, fire and police person-



nel, and other individuals engaged in work with local youth.

The Coalition involves school staff, parents, students and community organizations in an effort to make schools safer for all students, regardless of sexual orientation, transgender status or gender identity/gender expression. The Coalition provides consultation and training, as well as general information

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## Jean Hodges of Boulder now PFLAG National President

At its October 24th meeting in Washington D.C., the PFLAG National Board of Directors chose Jean Hodges to lead the organization as its new president.



Jean Hodges

A Boulder PFLAG mom, Jean Hodges is well known to chapter volunteers throughout Colorado for her many years of passionate leadership as president of the Boulder chapter of PFLAG and as founder and former

head of the Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters. Jean was instrumental in bringing the TYES (Trans Youth Education and Support) group into PFLAG at the national level in 2013-2014.

The evening she was elected, Jean wrote the following message to PFLAG chapters:

"2014 has been an incredible year for the LGBTQ community...and for PFLAG. We're entering a new era of equality, where our loved ones' enduring relationships are being legally recognized, offering new

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### NOVEMBER PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday  
November 18, 2014

7:00 p.m.

Representatives from the  
Safe@School Coalition

The Dwelling Place  
508 North Tejon Street

Everyone is welcome.

Coffee, cookies  
Social time begins at  
6:30 p.m.

## Out Loud Holiday Concert: Call for PFLAG Ushers

Out Loud Colorado Springs Men's Chorus, will present its holiday concert, "Haul Out the Jolly" on Friday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 6 at 1:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church and Saturday, December 6th at 7:30 p.m. at the Broadmoor Community Church. .

PFLAG members have been privileged to serve as ushers for Out Loud concerts, as friends and supporters of the chorus since its formation in the fall of 2005.

Get into the holiday spirit by participating as an usher - three are needed for each concert. Call Karen at 634-4433.

Rocky Mountain Arts Association manages four LGBT choirs on the Front Range. For ticket information, go to <http://www.rmarts.org/outloud.php#>



### Jean Hodges Of Boulder (cont.)

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protections for families everywhere.

And yet, as our chapter numbers grow, as our membership numbers rise, and as the sprint towards full national marriage equality nears the finish line, there is so much more that needs to be done...and that's when PFLAGers really kick into high gear.

"They roll up their sleeves, dig in deep, and do what must be done to move equality forward--and push for full societal affirmation--in the classroom, the boardroom, the locker room, and of course, living rooms in communities across the country.

"Tonight our membership voted to change the official name of our organization from Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays—for which 'PFLAG' was an acronym—to PFLAG, reflecting the organization's inclusiveness.

"We also voted on and passed an updated mission and vision, both of which clearly define PFLAG's unique role and value within the movement for LGBTQ equality and affirmation....

#### **Trans Youth Education and Support (TYES)**

TYES is a satellite program of PFLAG offering education and support to families with gender non-conforming children. TYES information is available at PFLAG meetings.

The TYES program headquarters is in Boulder, Colorado. 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 national TYES website is [www.TYES-Colorado.org](http://www.TYES-Colorado.org)

"Together, they represent more accurately our unique and inclusive family and ally voice, a voice that has been affecting change now for 42 years...

"Friends, the challenges ahead are exciting: to remain relevant as we continue to work for legal protections in every state, to grow our capacity to do outreach to communities of color, to collaborate with other LGBTQ organizations in our common struggle to make schools safe, to help make churches accepting, to eliminate employment discrimination for our trans friends, to advocate for gender neutral bathrooms in schools for gender variant children, and to increase our visibility with new branding for PFLAG that will represent our unique family and ally voice.

I look forward to taking these challenges on together.

Warmly,

Jean Hodges, Board President  
PFLAG National

The members of the Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG congratulate our long-time friend and mentor on her election to the presidency of PFLAG. Jean, your devotion to the goals and ideals of PFLAG has inspired all of us for many years. We are happy for you and very proud of you!

**Always Remember**  
*That our PFLAG meetings are a safe space. Who you meet, and what you hear —  
Keep it confidential.*

This newsletter is published by the Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).

#### **PFLAG Mission Statement:**

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) persons, their families and friends through:

- √ **support**, to cope with an adverse society,
- √ **education**, to enlighten an ill-informed public, and
- √ **advocacy**, to end discrimination and secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

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#### **PFLAG IS FOR EVERYONE**

If you've never been to one of our meetings, we feel you will find it rewarding and may find it leads to a new sense of family.

Membership is not required.  
All are welcome.

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To join the 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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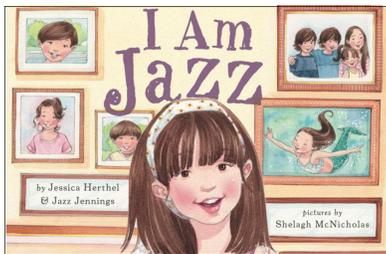
To receive your newsletter by e-mail, send a request to [info@cspflag.org](mailto:info@cspflag.org)



## Volunteers Can Help PFLAG Promote Children's Book

TYES (Trans Youth Education and Support) founder Karen Adams wrote a column for our October newsletter about an excellent new children's book, [I Am Jazz](#), by young author Jazz Jennings.

Karen wrote: "It's s simple, elegant story of Jazz's life told in her own voice." It provides language to describe how gender-variant children may feel at an early age."



Karen has asked that PFLAG chapters across the country help make this book available to children through schools and libraries. TYES, which has a local support group in the Pikes Peak region for families with young, gender-variant children, is a program of PFLAG.

If you have a relationship with a school or library or are interested in helping with this project in any way, please contact us by sending an e-mail to [info@cspflag.org](mailto:info@cspflag.org).

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**Boulder County HHS Seeks LGBT Foster / Adoptive Parents**  
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 The Boulder County Department of Health and Human Services is seeking LGBT foster and adoptive parents in the Boulder area. PFLAG Boulder advertised a Foster Parent Orientation aimed specifically at the LGBT community, on November 5th from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. at 3482 Broadway in Boulder.  
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 For more information, see [www.Boulder.county.Kids.net](http://www.Boulder.county.Kids.net) or call (303) 441-1081.  
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## ALLY UP! Inside/Out Breakfast Disrupted

In an ironic twist, Inside/Out Youth Services hit a snag at its Ally Up! Breakfast on October 23rd when a brief electrical fire required evacuation of the Antlers Hilton just as the breakfast registration was getting underway.

Community members will recall that Inside/Out suffered significant losses of computers, records and furniture when its former office was destroyed a year ago in a fire.

At the recent event, conflicting information was given to tenants and visitors to the Antlers who had been evacuated. As a result, many Inside/Out guests left, but 190 others stayed at the scene. After a brief delay, the building was re-opened and the Antlers staff jumped into action to serve the breakfast. Approximately half of those who planned to attend the event were there for the shortened program.

A new video of the program, showing the youth Inside/Out supports, is now available on the program's website at [www.insideoutys.org](http://www.insideoutys.org).

This breakfast is an important annual fund-raiser for Inside/Out. If you can help Eric Pizana and his staff to meet their goal, please send your tax-deductible donation to Inside/Out Youth Services, Post Office Box 606, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.

Inside/Out is also a participant in the Indy Give! Fund raising campaign. Between November 1 and December 31, 2014, donations to Inside/Out made on the GIVE! website at [www.indygive.com](http://www.indygive.com) will be matched by sponsors who are supporting the youth in the Indy GIVE! Campaign.

### Movie Recommendation—PRIDE

Based on a true story, PRIDE takes place during the Wales miners' strike in 1985. A group of London gays and lesbians raises money to help out. really moving and funny.

From Lori Vollmar

## Apple CEO: "I'm Proud to be Gay"

*New York Times* - October 30, 2014

Timothy Cook, Apple's chief executive, likes to tell people that his predecessor, Steven Jobs, urged him to be himself when he took over the company.

Mr. Cook is taking that advice. On October 29th, he said he was gay — the most striking example of how he is in many ways making Apple a more open, less secretive company.

"Let me be clear: I'm proud to be gay, and I consider being gay among the greatest gifts God has given me," Mr. Cook wrote in the essay, published by *Bloomberg Businessweek*. <http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-10-30/tim-cook-im-proud-to-be-gay>

The public declaration makes Cook the highest-profile business CEO to come out. Cook wrote in the column that it wasn't an easy choice to publicly disclose that he is gay but that he felt the acknowledgement could help others.

"I've come to realize that my desire for personal privacy has been holding me back from doing something important," he wrote.

## Safe @ School (cont.)

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and support for effective bias-based bullying intervention strategies.

The training provided by Eric and Sloan can include an exploration of the experiences of gender variant youth and the terminology developed to express sexuality that is outside of common binary norms.

Anyone interested in learning more about the issues faced by LGBT youth and the incidence of bullying in this community is welcome to attend the PFLAG meeting and join in the discussion.



**BULLETIN BOARD**

**Dec. 5-6 — “Haul Out the Jolly”** — Out Loud Holiday concert. Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at Broadmoor Community Church. (See p. 1.)

**Feb . 4-8—Creating Change Conference**—This powerful national conference is coming to the Sheraton Denver Downtown. For more information and early registration, see [www.creatingchange.org](http://www.creatingchange.org)

**PFLAG Outreach**

On October 4th, Bill Oliver attended the Blue Alliance dinner at the Air Force Academy, sitting with Col Gary Packard (who gave our special program on Repeal in Shove Chapel, May 2012) and Holly Webster, who provided a personal video for our recent August program. . Blue Alliance is an association of gay and lesbian Air Force Academy graduates.

Bill is talking to Spectrum, the gay-straight student alliance at the Air Force Academy about a PFLAG visit to one of their meetings before the end of the year. Last December, Doug Kirkpatrick, Elaine Myers and Jackie Thompson visited the student group.

Doug Kirkpatrick represented our chapter at the October 11th meeting of the Coalition of Colorado PFLAG Chapters in Longmont. Doug is now the Secretary of the Coalition.

On October 23, nine PFLAGgers were scheduled to attend the Ally Up! Breakfast for Out Loud. Most saw the program.

On November 6-7, Doug will help to staff the PFLAG Coalition's table at the annual Colorado Conference of School Counselors in Loveland.

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

**Radio report on Military LGBT integration  
Three years after DADT**

*Our PFLAG chapter received the following e-mail from Charles Henry on October 4th. It pertains to the repeal of the ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ policy used by the military.*

“As a former Marine now working as a journalist with CBS Radio, I wanted to draw your attention to a just-completed radio documentary benchmarking progress — on the third anniversary of the DADT repeal — of the Defense Department’s integration of openly-gay military service members.

“The report was recently broadcast in Washington, D. C. on All News 99.1 WNEW — and is posted here:

<http://chashenry.com/almost-equal-the-u-s-military-three-years-after-dont-ask-dont-tell>

“Please feel free to share the link with anyone you think might find the report of interest.”

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The following comment is from PFLAG Chapter president Doug Kirkpatrick:

Folks,

I read this article and was amazed at the good details about the effects of repealing DADT. Of course I related to the military situations, but the lack of problems or complaints in the military is wonderful. One comment from the Palm Center research group stands out to me: a large group of high-ranking officers from all services who stated the repeal of DADT would be detrimental were polled a while after the repeal and all of them said it has been a non-problem!

I want to make that comment a national headline, so our naysayers can learn that their negative comments are not coming true in our culture (at least not in our military). I recommend this article to everyone.

— Doug

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

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015.

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.