



PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

November, 2015

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Everyone is invited to come to the Transgender Day of Remembrance Service at All Souls Unitarian Church, 730 North Tejon Street, on Thursday, November 19th at 6:30 p.m.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance honors the memory of those murdered in acts of anti-transgender violence. (The designated remembrance date is Nov. 20.) The community marks the occasion with prayer, candlelight vigils and stories about the pervasive problem of violence against transgender people honoring the diversity and resilience of the community in the face of harassment and violence.

For more information on the history of this event, visit www.glaad.org/tdor.

Transgender Youth — Out in High School



High school counselor Colleen McElvogue and Letty Burr, an English teacher and the faculty sponsor

of the gay straight alliance, both from Coronado High School, will be our guests at the November PFLAG meeting for a discussion of the growing number of high school students identifying themselves as gender dysphoric or transgender.

School District 11 has been widely praised for its anti-discrimination policy with regard to LGBT students.

NOVEMBER PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday
November 17, 2015

7:00 p.m.

“Transgender Youth — Coming Out in High School”

The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street

Everyone is welcome.
Social time begins at 6:30

Our Family Outing Author Reading at MCC

Joe Cobb, co-author of *Our Family Outing*, will speak and read selections from his book at Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church at 6:30 p.m. on November 16. This event is free and open to the public.

A truly unique love story, the book *Our Family Outing* is riveting in its honesty and openness as a family faces the reality their husband/father is gay. Told in two eloquent narrative voices -- Joe, a husband/pastor/father who faces the truth about his sexuality and Leigh Anne, a wife/church musician/mother

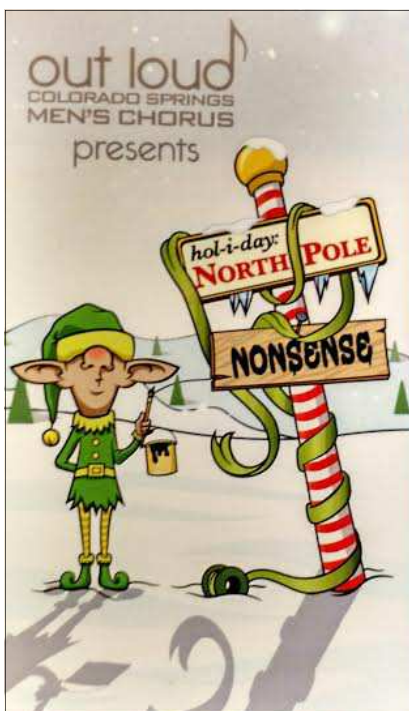
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Membership Reminder

If you have not yet renewed your PFLAG membership, please do so now! Just use the form on p. 4 of this newsletter to join/renew at whatever level is right for you. All donations to PFLAG are tax-deductible.

Member support is essential to operation of our PFLAG chapter. Thank you!

“North Pole Nonsense” - Out Loud Holiday Concert



Out Loud, The Colorado Springs Men's Chorus, will celebrate its 10th year with "Hol-i-day: North Pole Nonsense". Kick off the season with a performance sure to warm your heart and tickle your funny bone. Santa has banned show tunes at the North Pole! The elves are in revolt! Oh my! What will happen? !!

PFLAG ushers are needed for the three concerts: Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 12, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 20 East St. Vrain Street.

Please call Cindy Lou Waldmann at 488-9887 if you would like to be a PFLAG usher.

In the spirit of the season, Out Loud invites you to help our neighbors in need. Please bring non-perishable food items or donations to the concerts! Donations support the Ecumenical Social Ministries Food Pantry.

Visit www.rmarts.org for tickets or call (303) 325-3959.



Fighting Online Bullying, One Emoji at a Time

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

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

NPR—Oct. 23, 2015—Alina Selyukh

When it comes to anti-bullying campaigns, Kortney Peagram has seen many: Wear this bracelet if you're not a bully, respond to something mean with something nice. They come and go like fads, she says.

Peagram is a psychologist who works with more than 30 schools in Illinois to help teachers and students deal with bullying and confrontational behavior — in other words, what most kids would call drama.

Much of it is now online, where mercurial, youthful emotions fly at double-speed.

"It happens so fast and it never stops," Peagram says. "Because of the invisible audience online, you think everybody saw that post and it basically becomes mass harassment. ... And when things are really bad, kids, they read all the comments over and over and they can't step away from it."

The collective digital community has struggled to catch up with cyberbullying — and how do you?

One in four teens told the Pew Research Center they frequently witness people "stirring up drama" on social media, in a [study released earlier this year](#). And according to Pew's similar study from 2011, the most common response to mean behavior on social media is to ignore it.

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.

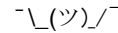
The TYES program originated and is headquartered in Boulder, Colorado.

More information is available at the national TYES website www.TYES-Colorado.org



The latest Apple iOS update includes a mysterious "eye-in-speech-bubble" emoji that has puzzled developers. The symbol is part of the Ad Council's new digital anti-bullying campaign, "I Am A Witness."

What's a good response when you don't really have something to say?



It was the developers picking apart Apple's latest iPhone operating system update who noticed it first: a new, weird emoji that looked like a cross between an eye and a speech bubble.

It's the [first-ever social awareness emoji](#). Or, as Ad Council CEO Lisa Sherman describes it, a digital arm wrapped around a cyberbullying victim.

"When you think about it, the emoji gives teens a way to say something when they don't know what to say," she tells All Tech Considered.

The idea of the "I Am A Witness" campaign is to get the invisible bystanders to speak up against mean things on the Web. It comes wrapped in all kinds of social media packages: the emoji itself (one of a new batch with the new iOS update), [a colorful website](#) with more downloadables (including [a special emoji keyboard](#) + stickers), plus pushes on [Twitter](#), Snapchat (ISeeBullying + geo tags + photo filter), [Instagram](#) (#IAmAWitness), [YouTube](#) and Facebook.

The Ad Council has tested the emoji with 30 boys and girls between the ages of 13 and 16 who do a lot of things online and had witnessed cyberbullying over the previous month. The organization tells All Tech that the teens said they were somewhat or very likely to use the emoji keyboard and generally liked the campaign. "Everyone is using emoji, so it may be a gateway to open up a new way of communication" about cyberbullying, Peagram says. "But we're not doing the preventive things, like how to be a good citizen online, or what not to post."



One Colorado Event Nov. 12th - Freedom in Every Corner



A Message From One Colorado:

Eleven weeks. Nearly 20 cities and towns across the state. Hundreds of LGBT Coloradans and their allies. The Freedom in Every Corner Tour is coming to Colorado Springs on November 12th!

One Colorado is hitting the road to talk about how we are building on our victories to continue to advance equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Coloradans and their families.

Don't miss this event at the Metropolitan Community Church 11021102 South 21st Street, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

While the freedom to marry has finally come to Colorado -- and the nation -- we have a lot more work to do until full, lived equality is realized for everyone. Our goal is to let you know about all the work One Colorado is doing, answer any questions you have, and let you know about ways to get involved!

Transgender in Colorado— A *Denver Post* Series

The Denver Post has started a Transgender in Colorado series of articles chronicling people's experiences of being transgender. Recently, the series focused on the Kluzek family whose youngest child came out to them as transgender two years ago.

As thoughtfully detailed in the article, Erik, a conservative Lutheran, and Vicki, a Mormon, were stunned, to say the least. The article begins with noting the Kluzeks' previous belief that things like this only happened in ultra-liberal families, that transgender children were influenced by wayward parents. But a teenager's announcement that she is transgender sent her family on a journey of faith that resulted in a simple answer: unconditional love.

We encourage anyone who hasn't done so to read and share the article, titled "Alison's Story" which can be found at <http://extras.denverpost.com/transgender/alison.html>

The Kluzeks discuss their own struggles with knowing without question they would support their child but not being clear what the right support would look like, as well as their internal conflict with their individual faiths. In the end, after watching the depth of their child's struggles and counseling with his pas-



tor, Erik "decided that the Christian approach was to love our daughter unconditionally, even though I didn't understand it."

The article illustrates the positive changes in Allison after she transitioned to a female, not only from her own point of view but as observed by her family. Erik and Vicki hope that their story will be helpful to other Conservative Christian families who need a way to move forward in supporting their LGBT family members, without feeling like they have to betray or in any way give up their faith to do so.

PFLAG Boulder County is proud to know the Kluzeks and so lucky to have the family working with us as we find ways to support LGBT individuals and their families. We are also grateful to The Denver Post for its poignant and thoughtful series.



Youth
Services

"Ally Up!" Breakfast a Success

Congratulations to our table captain, Elaine Myers, who organized two PFLAG tables—20 people in all—for the Ally Up! Breakfast fundraiser for Inside/Out Youth Services on Nov. 5.

It was a touching, memorable event for the 340 supporters who met new Executive Director Mary Malia and heard personal stories from some of the youth who attend meetings regularly. Inside/Out is now in its 25th year of serving 13-22 year olds in the Pikes Peak Region. Having Out Loud, the Colorado Springs Mens Chorus, sing to you over breakfast really launches your day!

Organizers were very pleased with the turnout, including a significant number of new donors and potential volunteers. The event raised over \$36,000.

Our Family Outing

(Continued from page 1)

who finds her way to acceptance and forgiveness.

When Leigh Anne met Joe she never imagined thirteen years into their marriage he would come out as a gay man. When Joe came out to Leigh Anne he never imagined that thirteen years after their divorce he and his partner James would name her Godmother for their second child.

We all have family experiences and traumas — from marriages to child-bearing and death to divorce.

In *Our Family Outing*, authors Joe Cobb and Leigh Anne Taylor show us how individuals can lovingly join together to create a new way of being family.

THANK YOU TO:

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



BULLETIN BOARD

November 11-12-13—Colorado School Counselors Conference, Antlers Hilton Hotel. PFLAG volunteers will be staffing the PFLAG information table.

November 12 — One Colorado — Freedom in Every Corner Metropolitan Community Church, 1102 South 21st Street, 6:00—7:30 p.m.

November 16 — “Our Family Outing” Book Reading — 6:30 p.m., Metropolitan community Church, 1102 South 21st Street.

November 19— A Transgender Day of Remembrance Service will be held at 6:30 p.m. at All Souls Unitarian Church, 730 North Tejon Street.. All are welcome.

Winter Concerts

December 3-5 — Denver Gay Mens Chorus — “Tinsel & Treasure” — Santa, cowboys and priates in DGMC’s signature style.

December 11-12—Out Loud Holiday Concert—”Hol-i-day: North Pole Nonsense” First Congregational Church, 20 East St. Vrain St., Friday Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m.; Sat. Dec. 12 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m..

January 23 — Denver Women’s Chorus — “Classically Reconstructed” — You’ll get a fresh look at some familiar songs by Brahms, Bach and Beethoven along with drinking songs, U-Haul madrigals, and a nod to some famous dancing hippos.

For more information about or to purchase rickets, visit www.rmarts.org for tickets or call (303) 325-3959.

Pikes Peak Equality Coalition/ Citizens Project

Our PFLAG chapter still needs one or two individuals who are interested in the work of the Pikes Peak Equality Coalition and Citizens Project and who would be interested in serving as PFLAG liaison(s) to these groups. To learn more about this and other volunteer opportunities, contact chapter president Doug Kirkpatrick, 598-6509.

Media Matters—

Internet News Links from PFLAG National

[Largest movement of Judaism in the U.S., passes most far-reaching resolution in support of transgender rights of any major religious organization.](#) As a continuation of a tradition of inclusion in the Reform Jewish movement, on November 5th, members of the Union for Reform Judaism attending its biennial meeting in Orlando approved on a voice vote the resolution. It calls for several actions, including advocating on behalf of the transgender community.

California - [California becomes first state to set process for inmate gender reassignment surgery, announced on October 22nd.](#) California has instituted a new review process for transgender inmates seeking gender reassignment surgery. The California Correctional Health Care Services established the policy that sets a formal process for transgender people seeking taxpayer-funded gender reassignment surgery — a procedure endorsed by major medical and psychological organizations.

Texas - [Houston's Proposition 1 \(the HERO Ordinance\) loses at ballot box on November 3rd.](#) The referendum vote followed previous passage by Houston’s City Council but placed on the ballot in this off-election year where it was defeated 61-39%.

Russia - [Russian legislators introduce bill to ban public expression of homosexuality.](#) On October 29th, a bill introduced in the Russian Duma by two members of the Russian Communist Party has critics saying that if passed, would effectively ban gay and lesbian people from coming out. Authorities would fine people who engage in “public expression of unconventional sexual relationships” and in some cases, would also spend 15 days in jail. The lawmakers say that the measure is “primarily aimed at” preventing “pedophilia in Russian society.”

Always Remember

That our PFLAG meetings are a safe space.
Who you meet, and what you hear —

Please keep it 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, 2015 to September 30, 2016.

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: _____

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.