



# PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

October 2018

## A Conversation about “TransParenting”

The October PFLAG meeting will feature a conversation with Danette Tritch, the facilitator of the TransParenting group at Inside/Out Youth Services.

“TransParent” is used to describe someone whose child is gender fluid or transgender. Since Inside/Out serves a significant number of transgender or gender dysphoric youth, a parent group was formed at Inside/Out to support the families of this special group of teenagers.

Danette and her husband, Tim, have a 27 year old son who came out as gay in 9th grade and then embarked on F to M transition when he moved to Denver six years ago. The family was living in La Crosse, Wisconsin, at the time. Danette and Tim were supportive from the outset and found support themselves through 7 Rivers LGBTQ Connection in La Crosse.

After retiring, Danette and Tim moved to Colorado Springs, where



they quickly became engaged as volunteers with Inside/Out. Tim worked in the Career Services Office of the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse, and now does workshops for Inside/Out youth.

Danette is a member of Ally Moms, a parent group within a Detroit foundation supporting trans youth called “Stand With Trans” <http://standwithtrans.org/>.

The Stand With Trans website states: “With more than 120 Ally Moms in 40+ states nationwide, there is love at the other end of the phone for you”.

## YDA Update— Annual Film Event November 4

At the July PFLAG meeting, students from the Youth Documentary Academy



(YDA) asked “What does it mean to be an Ally?” as they showed two riveting student films titled “Breaking Silence” and “Both Genders” as part of their community outreach campaign, “At the End of the Rainbow”.

Since 2013, YDA has provided an opportunity each summer for a small group of high school students to make individual short films about subjects that resonate for them. This summer, to celebrate the body of work already produced, YDA focused on teaching a new class of aspiring filmmakers to produce trailers and learn more about marketing their work to media compa-

nies and film festivals. The students produced film clips and trailers to frame sixteen of the best films in the YDA collection. These short pieces will be shown at the annual YDA Premiere event on November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. The time will be posted soon on the YDA website: <https://www.youthdocumentary.org/>

The sixteen films have been paired by subject matter into eight programs that touch on cutting-edge social issues such as Race and Stereotyping; Teen Suicide; First Generation Immigration and Gender and Sexuality. (The Gender and Sexuality films were associated with the summer outreach work “At the End of the Rainbow”.)

In 2019, these eight YDA programs will be shown in a new PBS series titled “Our Turn”. Congratulations, YDA! See the website for other awards received by YDA filmmakers.

### OCTOBER PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday  
October 16, 2018  
7:00 p.m.

“TransParenting”

A conversation with  
Danette Tritch  
Facilitator of TransParent Group  
at Inside/Out Youth Services

The Dwelling Place  
508 North Tejon Street

Social time starts at 6:30 p.m.  
Everyone is welcome.

### National Coming Out Day at UCCS October 11

The Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, and Transgender Resource Center at UCCS (LGBT+RC) welcomes all to come and celebrate LGBTQ culture on October 11 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in University Center 116.

This event will feature campus and community resources, connections with UCCS LGBTQ organizations, music, food, games, and activities. PFLAG volunteers will staff an information table with PFLAG literature.

For more information contact the organizers at [lgbtrc@uccs.edu](mailto:lgbtrc@uccs.edu)

### PFLAG Membership

October is the time to join PFLAG or renew your membership, if you have not already done so. The Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG membership year begins on October 1. Either mail in the form on page four of the newsletter or go to the PFLAG website [www.cspflag.org](http://www.cspflag.org) and make a secure payment online using a credit card.

Thank you to everyone who has already joined/renewed! Contributions to PFLAG are fully tax deductible.



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)

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### Transgender Military Film in Rocky Mtn. Women’s Film Fest

PFLAG is co-sponsoring a film titled “TransMilitary” at the annual Rocky Mountain Women’s Film Festival (November 9-11). The film tells the stories of four people, including Logan and Laila Ireland. See <http://www.transmilitary.org>.

A shorter film, titled “Transgender: At War and In Love” featuring the Irelands, was shown at the April 2018 PFLAG meeting to which Col. Gary Packard brought Logan and Laila. See: <https://bit.ly/2pLCcDJ>.

The annual three-day film festival is a rich collection of films by and about women. It is popular! Tickets need to be purchased well in advance. Tickets are on sale now at: <https://rmwfilmstitute.org/>

### New PFLAG Regional Director

Blanca Leos is the new Mountain West Regional Director for PFLAG, replacing Julie Wilson. Blanca is a Colorado native. When her son came out in 2000, she struggled with her religion and beliefs, and came to a support group at Denver PFLAG.

She soon became a volunteer, then a board member, and four years later she became President of the chapter. Blanca will coordinate communication and support among the mountain west PFLAG chapters. Colorado Springs PFLAG welcomes Blanca and thanks Julie Wilson for her years of service as our previous regional director.

### 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)

### Home: Street Requiem



The Denver Gay Men’s Chorus (DGMC), the Denver Women’s Chorus (DWC) and Out Loud Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus presented a joint concert featuring a complex and moving piece titled “Home: Street Requiem” at First United Methodist Church on Saturday, September 29.

Out Loud opened the concert with a series of moving and inspiring pieces and DGMC and DWC then sang the Requiem, an eleven-part work originally composed in 2014 in Melbourne, Australia by three choral directors to honor the homeless who have lived and died on the streets.

The Requiem combines a variety of musical styles, languages and cultural texts from Arabic prayers to African and gospel music. It is an amazing, beautiful piece of music.

The DGMC and DWC presented the Colorado Premiere of the Requiem at Trinity United Methodist Church in Denver on June 8-9 and may take it to Fort Collins in the future.

The Colorado Springs concert raised \$1,200 for four local charities: Westside CARES, Homeward Pikes Peak, Urban Peak and Care and Share Food Bank.

PFLAG ushers Lori Vollmar, Amy Long, Karen Stith and Bill Oliver handed out programs and collected donations.

PFLAG meetings are always a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear

Must remain strictly confidential.  
- Thank you.

### 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.



## ABCs of Gender - The ABCs of L.G.B.T.Q.I.A. +

By Michael Gold, *New York Times* June 21, 2018

When I came out as gay more than ten years ago, there were only four letters commonly used to group various sexual and gender minorities: LGBT.

These letters were an evolution toward inclusion — an expansion of the language used to represent a disparate group that had often just been called “the gay community.”

Despite their intent, the letters proved to be limiting.

Times and attitudes have changed, and the language used to discuss sexual orientation and gender identity has also changed. As a result, the established L.G.B.T. abbreviation has acquired a few extra letters — and a cluster of ancillary terminology around both sexuality and gender. Not everyone has adopted them yet.

Take, for example, the addition of “Q” that became increasingly popular as the 20th century turned into the 21st.

Some insisted this stood for “questioning,” representing people who were uncertain of their sexual orientations or gender identities. Others declared it was for “queer,” a catchall term that has shed its derogatory origins and is gaining acceptance.

Now there’s also I, for intersex; A, for ally (or asexual, depending on whom you’re talking to); and often a plus sign meant to cover anyone else who’s not included: L.G.B.T.Q.I.A.+.

That’s not all, however — that’s just the beginning. What follows is a by-no-means inclusive list of vocabulary.

**GAY AND LESBIAN** It’s important to start with the basics, and “gay” and “lesbian” are as basic as it gets. As “homosexual” began to feel clinical and pejorative, gay became the de rigueur mainstream term to refer to same-sex attraction in the late 1960s and early ’70s. Gradually, as what was then called the gay liberation movement gained steam, the phrase “gay and lesbian” became more popular as a way to highlight the similar-yet-separate issues faced by women in the fight for tolerance.

Gay is still sometimes used as an umbrella term, but these days, it also refers specifically to men, as in “gay men and lesbians.”

**BISEXUAL** Someone who is attracted to people of their gender or other genders. It is not a way station from straight to gay, as it had once been described.

The stereotypes around bisexuality — that it’s a transitional stage or a cover for promiscuity — have been at the center of fraught conversation within L.G.B.T.Q. circles for years. The musical television show “Crazy Ex-Girlfriend,” which features a bisexual male character, had an entire song refuting this.

As advocates speak out more about what they see as “bisexual erasure” — the persistent questioning or negation of bisexual identity — the term has become resurgent. But some people also argue that the prefix “bi” reinforces a male/female gender binary that isn’t inclusive enough.

**PANSEXUAL** Someone who is attracted to people of all gender identities. Or someone who is attracted to a person’s qualities regardless of their gender identity.

Once a more niche term used by academics, pansexual has entered the mainstream, pushed in part by celebrities bringing it visibility. The singer Miley Cyrus identified as pansexual in 2015. In April, after the singer Janelle Monae came out as pansexual in a “Rolling Stone” article, searches for the word on Merriam-Webster’s website rose 11,000 percent, according to the dictionary.

**ASEXUAL** Or “ace.” Someone who experiences little to no sexual attraction. They are not to be confused with “aromantic people,” who experience little or no romantic attraction. Asexual people do not always identify as aromantic; aromantic people do not always identify as asexual.

**CISGENDER** Someone whose gender identity matches the sex they were assigned at birth.

**TRANSGENDER** A wide-ranging term for people whose gender identity or gender expression differs from the biological sex they were assigned at birth.

**TRANSGENDERED** Not a word. Often used as one.

**TRANS\* OR TRANS+** Two umbrella terms for non-cisgender identities.

(Continued on page 4)

## Reading a Rainbow—Oct. 6

Drag Queen Story Time was a great success when it was first presented at the Penrose Public Library on September 1. The next one is set for October 6.

When 280 people showed up, Drag Queen Sara Bellum shortened her first story presentation to a room filled with parents and children so that she could provide a second reading for the overflow group that waited outside for a chance to hear her.

Four PFLAG volunteers brought Pride Parade signs and talked to the public outside in support of the event, which had drawn significant pushback from Family Policy Alliance, an ally of Focus on the Family.



The founder and director, Joseph Shelton, has announced that the next Drag Queen Story Time will be presented at Penrose Public Library on October 6th from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. He plans to provide a story time on the first Saturday of each month, with different drag queens reading stories.

Drag Queen Story Hour is the brainchild of the Writer Michelle Tea and Rada Productions. It began in San Francisco in December 2015 and is spreading around the nation.

Participants can order their very own book bags and other bling online at: <https://www.dragqueenstoryhour.org/>

**Correction:** In the September PFLAG newsletter, Joseph Shelton was incorrectly referred to as “Nick Shelton”.

### Senior Hotline

The SAGE LGBT Elder Hotline is available for anyone aged 50 or over who wishes to discuss issues related to sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Call 888-234-SAGE or go to: [www.LGBT hotline.org/SAGE](http://www.LGBT hotline.org/SAGE)



**BULLETIN BOARD**

**ABCs of Gender**

*(Continued from page 3)*

**October 3 — “Love the Skin You’re In” —”Ally Up!” Annual Breakfast Fundraiser for Inside/Out Youth Services—** Antlers Hotel. Special Guest speakers will be Transgender military activists Logan and Laila Ireland.

**October 6 — Drag Queen Story Time** — Penrose Public Library, 20 North Cascade Avenue, 1:00—2:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. See p. 3.

**October 11 — Coming Out Day Celebration at UCSS** — See p. 1.

**November 4 — Youth Documentary Academy** — Annual film premiere event. Fine Arts Center . See p. 1.

**November 9-11 — Rocky Mountain Women’s Film Festival** — Film “TransMilitary”. See p. 2. and April 2018 newsletter posted on the PFLAG website: [www.cspflag.org](http://www.cspflag.org).

**December 7-8 — Out Loud Christmas Concert** — 7:30 p.m. Dec. 7 and 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 8. Six PFLAG ushers are needed. To volunteer, call Cheryl Prichard 550-9235.

**GENDER NONCONFORMING, OR G.N.C.** One who expresses gender outside traditional norms associated with masculinity or femininity. Not all gender-nonconforming people are transgender, and some transgender people express gender in conventionally masculine or feminine ways.

**NONBINARY** A person who identifies as neither male nor female and sees themselves outside the gender binary. This is sometimes shortened to N.B. or enby. One notable example: Taylor Mason, a financial analyst on the show “Billions” who is believed to be the first gender nonbinary character on television and is played by the nonbinary actor Asia Kate Dillon.

**GENDERQUEER** Another term often used to describe someone whose gender identity is outside the strict male/female binary. They may exhibit both traditionally masculine and feminine qualities or neither.

**GENDER FLUID** A term used by people whose identity shifts or fluctuates. Sometimes these individuals may identify or express themselves as more masculine on some days, and more feminine on others.

**GENDER-NEUTRAL** Someone who prefers not to be described by a specific gender, but prefers “they” as a singular pronoun (the American Dialect Society’s 2015 Word of the Year) or the honorific “Mx.,” a substitute for “Mr.” or “Ms.” that entered the Oxford English Dictionary in 2015.

**M.A.A.B./F.A.A.B./U.A.A.B.** Male-assigned at birth/female-assigned at birth/unassigned at birth.

**INTERSEX** A term for someone born with biological sex characteristics that aren’t traditionally associated with male or female bodies. Intersexuality does not refer to sexual orientation or gender identity.

**+ Not just a mathematical symbol anymore, but a denotation of everything on the gender and sexuality spectrum that letters and words can’t yet describe.**

**One Colorado’s GSA Summit**

The Denver Metro Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) Leadership Summit on Saturday, October 6 will bring together organizations from around the state, all focused on fighting for safe and welcoming schools for all students, including LGBTQ youth. Click on this link to register for the Summit: <https://bit.ly/2OujwG6>

One Colorado sponsors several of these events each year, in communities around the state. The Summit is a free, day-long event that features workshops and speakers addressing topics that impact LGBTQ youth. By bringing together a wide range of voices and experiences, the summit will attendees to be the change that they seek in the world.

The Summit will be held on Saturday, October 6th from 9 am - 4 pm (registration begins at 8:30 am). Free lunch is included. Location: The Fred N. Thomas Career Education Center Middle College of Denver, 2650 Eliot Street, Denver.

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

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019.

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