



PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

October 2019

Colorado Springs PFLAG—25th Anniversary

PFLAG members and friends of PFLAG gathered at Red Gravy restaurant in Colorado Springs on September 21 for a dinner celebrating the 25th anniversary of the founding of Colorado Springs PFLAG. Present were Lori Vollmar, who was among the founders of the chapter, former chapter presidents Doug Kirkpatrick and Marilyn Davis, and current board members Bill Oliver, Wes Prichard, Cheryl Prichard, Cindy Waldmann, Elaine Myers, Jerry Albrent and Karen Stith.

A large quilt made by the founding members of PFLAG and showing names of the members in the mid-1990s was on display, as well as photographs from past events and other memorabilia.

Elaine Myers read a letter from one of our early leaders, Linda (Knutson) Crear, recounting the story of the founding of the chapter in response to the passage of "Amendment 2", the notoriously anti-LGBT amendment to the Colorado constitution passed by voters in 1992. A copy of Linda's letter is included with this newsletter.

For 25 years, Colorado Springs PFLAG has been embracing parents

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As part of our 25th Anniversary celebration, several short videos released by PFLAG National will be shown at the October meeting.

"It's About Pride" kicked off the season of Pride celebrations in June with references to the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, and PFLAG founder Jeanne Manford.

"Indigo Girls ... Equality Act" stresses the importance of the Equality Act passed by the House of Representatives and sent to the Senate on May 20, 2019 where it was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. Nothing has happened to the

(Continued on page 2)

PFLAG Membership—Join Us!

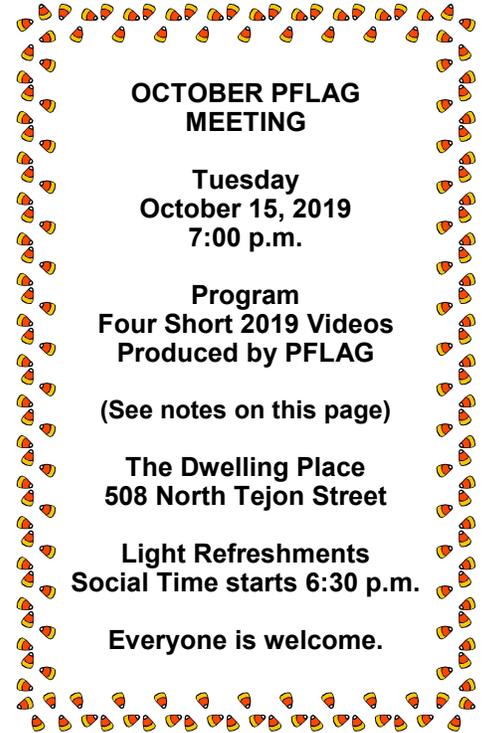
October is the time to join PFLAG or renew your membership, if you have not already done so. The Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG membership year begins on October 1. Either mail in the form on page four of the newsletter or go to the website www.cspflag.org and make a secure payment online through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

The Colorado Springs chapter of PFLAG has organized monthly meetings for 25 years, publishes a monthly newsletter, provides phone support for anyone seeking help with LGBT issues, sponsors Inside/Out youth who attend GSA conferences and other events, marches in the Colorado Springs, Den-

ver and Pueblo Pride Parades, and maintains an active outreach program in the community, with information tables each year at PrideFest, the UCCS Coming Out Day, the Diversity University's Children of Color event and others. We have good connections with the Air Force Academy and Peterson Air Force Base.

You can help us continue our outreach by becoming a member of PFLAG, and also by participating in the King Soopers Rewards program (get information at PFLAG meeting).

Note: It is not necessary to be a member to receive our newsletter. Just send your e-mail address to: info@cspflag.org.



OCTOBER PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday
October 15, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Program
Four Short 2019 Videos
Produced by PFLAG

(See notes on this page)

The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street

Light Refreshments
Social Time starts 6:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome.

"Ally Up" Now! - October 3

Don't miss hearing featured guest Roz Gould Keith, Executive Director and Founder of *Stand With Trans* when she speaks at the Inside/Out Youth Services fundraising breakfast coming up quickly on October 3 at the Antlers Hotel, 4 South Cascade Ave.

The "Ally Up: You Belong!" breakfast is an opportunity to learn more about the excellent work of Inside/Out and also find out how powerfully the *Stand With Trans* organization supports transgender youth and their families

The breakfast is free, but requires advance registration quickly. Call PFLAG board member Cheryl Prichard at 719-332-5740 ASAP or e-mail her at cheryl.prichard@comcast.net.

The schedule: Registration and networking 7:00 – 7:30 a.m., Breakfast 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Guests will be asked to make a donation to Inside/Out.

For more information about *Stand With Trans*, go to: <https://standwithtrans.org/> and Keith's blog: www.callhimhunter.com.



UCCS National Coming Out Day Celebration - October 8

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 this 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 Colorado Springs on Facebook:
PFLAG - Colorado Springs
<https://www.facebook.com/PFLAGCS/>

PFLAG National Office website:
www.pflag.org

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

The LGBTQ+ Resource Center at MOSAIC welcomes all to join in celebrating and affirming LGBTQ+ culture and identities. This year's Coming Out Day Celebration will be held on October 8th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the University Center, #116.

The event will feature campus and community resources, connections with UCCS LGBTQ organizations, music, food, games, and activities. Elaine Myers and Cheryl Prichard will be representing PFLAG.

In the Beginning, There Was a March. On Oct. 11, 1987, half a million people participated in the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. It was the second such demonstration in our nation's capital and resulted in the founding of a number of LGBTQ organizations, including the National Latino/a Gay & Lesbian Organization (LLEGÓ) and AT&T's LGBTQ employee group, LEAGUE.

The momentum continued four months after this extraordinary march as more than 100 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer activists from around the country gathered in Warrenton, Va., about 25 miles outside Washington, D.C.

Recognizing that the LGBTQ community often reacted defensively to anti-LGBTQ actions, they came up with the idea of a national day to cele-



brate coming out and chose the anniversary of that second march on Washington to mark it.

The originators of the idea were Rob Eichberg, a founder of the personal growth workshop, The Experience, and Jean O'Leary, then head of National Gay Rights Advocates.

From this idea the National Coming Out Day was born. Each year, National Coming Out Day continues to promote a safe world for LGBTQ individuals to live truthfully and openly. For more information on its history, go to: <http://bit.ly/2kNflIS>

October Program: Videos

(Continued from page 1)

bill since. This bill prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in a wide variety of areas including public accommodations and facilities, education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system. Specifically, the bill defines and includes sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation.

"PFLAG Moms – Making a Difference in Their Local Communities", a video released in June, traces the journey of a PFLAG mother in Rockford, Illinois who walked a difficult path with her transgender son.

"Love Calls Back". PFLAG and Verizon teamed up in June to make this three minute video about estranged family members reaching out and reconnecting. It's never too late for love to call back.

This is Important!
You don't always know where other people are on their journey.
THEREFORE, PFLAG meetings are always a safe space.
Who you meet, and what you hear
Must remain strictly confidential.
- Thank you.

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

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.



25th Anniversary (cont.)



PFLAG Board (L-R) Elaine Myers, Wes Prichard, Bill Oliver, Jerry Albrent, Karen Stith, Cheryl Prichard. Missing: Cindy Waldmann

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and their LGBT family members, educating, supporting and loving this community and helping to repair relationships and save lives, one family at a time. Our chapter salutes the PFLAG National organization, now in its 46th year and going strong.

PFLAG thanks chef-owner Eric Brenner for a delicious buffet in the restaurant's private room. Red Gravy offers upscale casual modern Italian cuisine. Chef Eric has spent a decade in the industry inside Italian kitchens.

A Note on the Nonbinary "They" — It's Now in the Dictionary

Merriam-Webster announced in September (see <http://bit.ly/2mxxDWY>) the addition to its dictionary of the non-binary use of *they*—that is, *they* as it's used to refer to a single person whose gender identity is nonbinary—and a lot of people had some questions, "why?" being primary among them.

The answer to that question is no different than it is for any other word. All new words and meanings that we enter in our dictionaries meet three criteria: meaningful use, sustained use, and widespread use.

Nonbinary *they* has a clear meaning; it's found in published text, in transcripts, and in general discourse; and its use has been steadily growing over the past decades. English speakers are encountering nonbinary *they* in social media profiles and in the pronoun stickers applied to conference badges.

There's no doubt that it is an established member of the English language, which means that it belongs in

Youth Films Now a Series on Rocky Mountain PBS

The Youth Documentary Academy has announced that "Our Time", a new series for public television stations, will premiere on Rocky Mountain PBS on October 3 at 8:30 p.m.

The films to be shown in the series were made by Colorado Springs high school students who have participated in the Youth Documentary Academy (YDA) over the past eleven years. YDA is a summer film program in Colorado Springs which selects a dozen local students each year and teaches them how to make a short documentary film.

Founded by Tom Shepard (Palmer HS 1987), YDA provides an opportunity for youth to work with professional documentary filmmakers using high quality equipment to produce films on topics of their own choosing.

Films in the series feature character-driven stories that address social



issues around race, colorism, disability, teen suicide, gender and sexuality, domestic violence, family life and immigration, all through the eyes of the students.

PFLAG supports the work of YDA and congratulates the filmmakers on this exciting milestone.

Merriam-Webster's dictionaries.

Nonbinary *they* takes a plural verb, despite its singular referent, which can make the grammatically conservative uncomfortable. It's helpful to remember that the pronoun *you* was initially plural, which is why it too takes the plural verb even when it's referring to a single person.

"You are" has, of course, been perfectly grammatical for centuries, even when the "you" is an individual. The language's lack of an exclusive gender-neutral pronoun is a famous deficit, and *they* has been quite ably filling in for more than 600 years.

Its use largely goes unnoticed in such constructions as "No one has

The Butterfly Project

The Butterfly Project, featuring world renowned transgender advocate, educator and TransRights activist Jessica Lynn, will take



place on Wednesday, October 23 at 6 p.m. in Berger Hall at UCCS. This event is open to the public and is presented by the UCCS LGBT+ Resource Center at MOSAIC and the Department of Sociology.

The goal of The Butterfly Project is to engage the campus and broader Colorado Springs communities in a dialogue around transgender, gender non-conforming, and genderqueer identities and experiences through an event that highlights the creative voices of those who identify in gender non-conforming ways.

The event will highlight a panel of local trans* identified poets, musicians, writers, and other artists, as well as health professionals who work with transgender people, creating a public forum where campus and community members can hear the stories of triumph and transcendence of trans* identified individuals from the Rocky Mountain region. The keynote speaker, Jessica Lynn is a transgender Kinsey Institute Global Ambassador and Stonewall School Role Model.

For more information about Lynn and the Butterfly Project, go to: <https://www.jessicalynn.website/>



Colorado Springs Breaking Boundaries was originally created as Colorado Springs Drag Story Time by Joseph Shelton in September 2018 as a Drag Story Time group. In December 2018 it went under the name Colorado Springs Breaking Boundaries to show how Drag Kings and Queens are rising above and inspiring others to do great things in life. See the Bulletin (p. 4) for information on the October Drag Story Time

to use it if they don't want to"—a use that has long been covered in our dictionaries—and it's quite possible that the nonbinary *they* is headed for a similarly unremarkable fate.



BULLETIN BOARD

“Trapped: The Alex Cooper Story”

Oct. 3 — Ally Up! Annual Fundraising Breakfast for Inside Out Youth Services — Antlers Hotel, Cascade and Pikes Peak Avenues. Call quickly to reserve a spot at the PFLAG table(s) See article p. 1.

Oct. 8 — Coming Out Day—UCCS — The community is invited to the UCCS celebration of Coming Out Day 11 a.m.—2:00 p.m. in University Center #116.

Oct 12 — Drag Story Time — Everyone is welcome at Drag Story Time with Miss Anita at the Zodiac Bar and Venue, from 3-5 p.m. More information at <https://csbreakingboundaries.org/>

Oct 23 — The Butterfly Project — UCCS — 6 p.m. in Berger Hall. The Butterfly Project features international speaker, educator and advocate, Jessica Lynn in conversation with local LGBT community leaders. (See article, p. 3.)

Oct. 25-27—PFLAG National Convention — Kansas City, MO. Several members of Colorado Springs PFLAG will attend. If you are interested in joining them, send an e-mail to info@cspflag.org. Early registration costs less. More information is on the national website: <https://pflag.org/>

Nov. 7 — Night Out Project — Fundraiser for Urban Peak (see below). To make a pledge in support of a PFLAG person who is sleeping out, send an e-mail to info@cspflag.org.

A new film, “Trapped: The Alex Cooper Story” will be shown on the *Lifetime* channel on Saturday September 28 at 8:00 p.m. Mountain Time.

It is based on a harrowing true story. When 15-year-old Alex revealed she was gay to her devout Mormon parents, they feared so deeply for her soul that they took her from their Southern California home and placed her against her will in a conversion therapy home in Utah.

Trapped for eight months with strangers, Alex faced horrible punishments and beatings that were intended to cure her homosexuality. After realizing she would have to submit to their rules in order to survive, Alex was eventually allowed to attend school, where she became friends with a boy who was the president of the gay-straight alliance. He helped Alex get in touch with an attorney who later helped orchestrate her escape.

A preview of the film can be seen online at: <http://bit.ly/2lggwRl>. On September 28, tune in to the Lifetime channel and learn more about the urgent need to protect LGBTQ youth from this dangerous and discredited practice.

Note: There is no credible evidence that conversion therapy can change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. Rather, research has clearly shown that these practices pose devastating health risks for LGBTQ young people such as depression, decreased self-esteem, substance abuse, homelessness and even suicide.

NIGHT OUT PROJECT

Start gathering your cold weather gear and sleeping bag!

Urban Peak invites you to join in its Night Out Project on November 7th from 6 p.m. until November 8th at 7 a.m. Participants will gather pledges and sleep outside overnight by First United Methodist Church to raise funds for Urban Peak.

This event also raises awareness of the work done by Urban Peak to bring homeless youth off the street and into productive lives. Its 20-bed facility, provides meals, showers and a health clinic link for youth ages 15-20, and a program that helps youth toward a stable future. For more information about the Night Out, contact Courtney Deuser: courtney.deuser@urbanpeak.org or 719-



URBAN PEAK
COLORADO SPRINGS

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: _____

- ___ 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. Or pay by credit card online at website: www.cspflag.org PFLAG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



A Letter to Colorado Springs PFLAG from Founder Linda (Knutson) Crear
25th Anniversary Celebration—September 28, 2019

I joined PFLAG in 92-93 when my daughter Stacy came out as a lesbian. Living in the Briargate Area of Colorado Springs we were dealing with Will Perkins who was a hateful, creepy car dealer who hated gay people. Focus on the Family, New Life Church and Cook ministries. At the time there were 80+ fundamentalist religious organizations headquartered in and around Colorado Springs.

When I found PFLAG it was an amazing organization made up of wonderful people like Bonnie and Buz Frum, Eva and Hugh McGeehan, Pat Phiffer and Lori Vollmar and at the time the President was Gerta Fletcher. Later on Inside Out Youth Services started.

Ground Zero was founded by Frank Whitworth who worked with various groups to mobilize the community to work together and fight the hateful Amendment 2 which the Supreme Court ultimately overthrew.

As president I had the opportunity to be liaison with the media and other organizations that included the Pikes Peak Court, Gay Rodeo, and some of the local night clubs (True Colors & Hide & Seek. My family and I had the opportunity to represent a very conservative-looking traditional family when they were trying to make us all look like villains. We used our privilege to advocate and educate on behalf of those who most needed it. We all came together to sponsor and promote our GLBT Parade and Pridefest in Acacia Park in downtown Colorado Springs. An emotional moment for us was having GLBT people come up and hug the PFLAG parents saying their parents wouldn't hug them and they need a "mom" or "dad" hug.

One of the biggest and most successful events was having the author Reverend Mel White come to Colorado Springs and protest at Focus on the Family. I believe he was there for a full month and fasted during that time. One of the favorite things I remember was he wanted to change the interstate sign on I-25 to Focus on the Family - Extreme Right. One of the most powerful activities was when we (all the GLBT groups) walked in a huge circle around the entire FOTF property protesting their hatefulness.

I left the chapter in 2006 when I moved to Minneapolis for work.

My daughter Stacy transitioned to my son Samuel in 2008. Since then, Sam has been an advocate for transgender rights and for youth since his family has been loving and supportive of his transition. He has done inclusion training for the large insurance company he worked for and continuously provides input to the company he works for now as they develop transgender insurance coverage and benefits within their organization. Sam has become the absolute best uncle that ever walked the earth. He is cherished by all immediate and extended family in that role. He also is the best dog father that ever happened and currently is raising Murphy.

My daughter Jessica who many of you remember as being an activist in high school has continued in that role throughout her career. After graduating with a masters degree from the University of Nebraska in Political Science, she relocated to Tucson where she led the campaign to defeat an anti-marriage amendment in Arizona. Her life's work has become ensuring all have access to healthcare with the American Cancer Society and now Be The Match the national marrow donor program. She and her husband Adam are the proud parents of 2 1/2 yr old Abbi, who is already on the road to becoming an outspoken active feminist leader following in her Great grandmother, grandmother and mother's footsteps.

I transitioned in my career into organizational training and development. And had the opportunity to work for several excellent organizations here in Minnesota. I retired from that career in March 2017 to become a full-time granny nanny to Abbi. My every day is filled with joy spending time with her.

As Sam and Jess and I discussed writing this information for you we realize how important each of you and our time in Colorado Springs was to helping us become the people we are today. We wish you all the best and thank you for continuing on the amazing work you do.

I'm sorry I can't be there with you tonight.

All the best, hugs and love,

Linda