



# PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

October 2020

## LGBTQ History Project Records the Life Story of Robert Wingear

When his partner passed away, Bob Wingear of Black Forest was shaken and deeply sad. He and Walter had been together for forty-four years, had purchased wedding rings and intended to get married. Gay marriage became legal in Colorado in October, 2014. Walter died nine weeks earlier on July 31, just five days short of his 78<sup>th</sup> birthday.

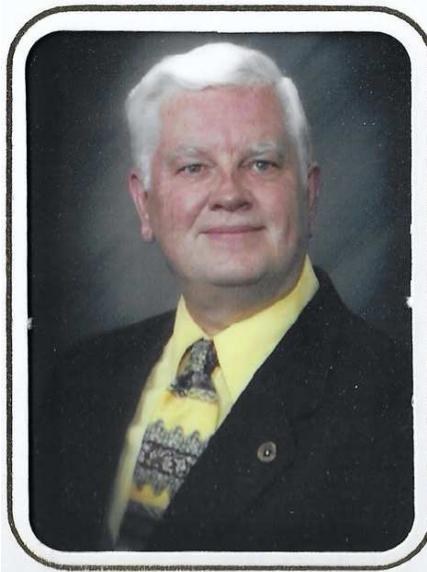
Through his bridge club, Bob was acquainted with long-time PFLAG mom Sally Shepard. After Walter's death, Sally convinced him to start coming to PFLAG meetings where he has shared his story as a gay man who was closeted in his work life as the country moved through the great changes achieved by the Gay Rights Movement. He lived a private, concealed existence because societal and legal restrictions on gay people could have threatened his work.

Bob recently let the PFLAG group know that he has been interviewed by History Colorado in Denver for the new LGBTQ History Project, which is collecting the voices and contributions of LGBTQ Coloradans. This group is currently underrepresented in the museum collection of History Colorado. With the enthusiastic support of Governor Jared Polis, the Project was launched in February of 2020 and will extend over two years, culminating in an exhibit expected to open in the new Ballantine Gallery at the Colorado History Center in Denver in 2022 and travel around Colorado in later years.

Born in 1939, Bob grew up in Harrisburg, PA, and entered military service at a time when LGBTQ people were in the closet. He joined the Army and was sent to Colorado Springs in 1965 where he began working with The Air Defense Command at the Chidlaw Building, a post requiring top secret clearance.

In 1980 the Air Defense Command was absorbed by NORAD. Bob was in charge of all operational data sys-

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Robert Wingear  
(2000)



## Please Support Inside/Out

Inside/Out Youth Services celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the most important fundraiser of the year, "Ally Up! 2020—Phoenix Rising" on October 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. This will be a virtual event on Zoom.

PFLAG has traditionally hosted one or two tables at the "Ally Up!" breakfast. This year supporters are asked to send their checks to Inside/Out Youth Services, 223 North Wahsatch Ave., Suite 101, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903.

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## October PFLAG Meeting

**By Zoom Online**

**Tuesday, October 20  
7:00 p.m.**

### Conversation and Support

To attend the meeting, please send an email message to:  
[virtualmeeting@cspflag.org](mailto:virtualmeeting@cspflag.org)

You will receive an email with information about how to join the upcoming meeting. If you don't get this email within 30 minutes, please let us know by sending an email to:  
[information@cspflag.org](mailto:information@cspflag.org).

Please note: The link for the meeting changes every month, so don't use last month's link!

**Everyone is welcome.**

## We Need Your Membership

To keep our chapter strong and supportive, we need your help! It is easy to sign up as a new member or renew your membership online at [www.cspflag.org](http://www.cspflag.org). You may also use the signup form on page three of this newsletter to mail a check. Thank you!

## StoryCorps

PFLAG board member Bill Oliver has recommended two new recordings created by StoryCorps.

"A Road Trip and Lost Time: A Father and Son Reconnect After 30 Years". <https://bit.ly/2Gv5d1B>

"Falling in Love During the Era of Don't Ask, Don't Tell" which fits with our story about Bob Wingear, above. <https://n.pr/2E19WaD>

StoryCorps is an American non-profit organization whose mission is to record, preserve, and share the stories

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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, go to the website: [www.cspflag.org](http://www.cspflag.org). To receive complimentary copies of the newsletter, please contact us by email.

E-mail address:  
[information@cspflag.org](mailto:information@cspflag.org)

Support Line: (719) 425-9567  
P.O. Box 49131  
Colorado Springs, CO 80949

PFLAG Colorado Springs website:  
[www.cspflag.org](http://www.cspflag.org)

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

PFLAG National Office website:  
[www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

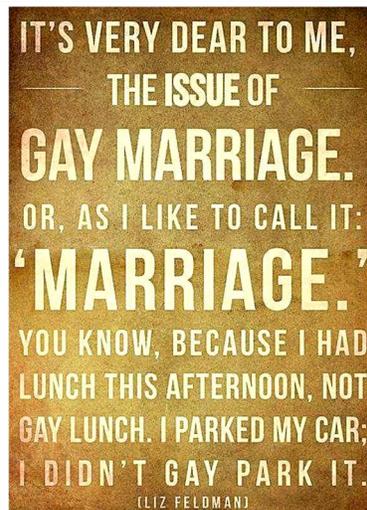
Newsletter Editor: Karen Flitton Stith  
E-mail: [karenfstith@gmail.com](mailto:karenfstith@gmail.com)

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### PFLAG Facebook Page

*Cindy Waldmann does a great job of managing our PFLAG Facebook page: PFLAG—Colorado Springs.*

*Here are two of her recent posts.*



### PFLAG Meetings Are a Safe Space

Who you meet, and what you hear must remain strictly confidential.

### TransParent Group

The TransParent group for parents of gender variant and transgender youth is meeting virtually on Zoom on the third Thursday of the month from 6:00—7:30 p.m. This group is offered by Inside Out Youth Services.

For more information, and to receive the Zoom meeting link, email [transparenting@insideoutys.org](mailto:transparenting@insideoutys.org) or call Inside/Out at (719) 328-1056.

### Inside/Out—Ally Up!



Dannette Tritsch

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Alternatively, one can donate through the Ally Up Go Fund Me page of PFLAG member and strong Inside/Out volunteer Dannette Tritsch at: <https://bit.ly/346wzDm>

On October 8th at 7 p.m., go to [www.insideoutys.org/allyup](http://www.insideoutys.org/allyup) to enjoy the 30th anniversary celebration.

Inside/Out has been providing services to LGBTQ+ youth ages 13-21 online via Zoom and also by phone since March. The pandemic has been hard on youth who are homeless, and also hard on those who live in homes that are not LGBTQ+ supportive. School closings and suspension of in-person programs at Inside/Out has kept youth away from their usual in-person sources of support.

Inside/Out provides clothing, toiletries and food to homeless youth, as well as emotional support and life experiences these youth would not otherwise be able to have.

Inside/Out is once again starting up the Pikes Peak Safe@Schools Coalition with a grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to protect LGBTQ youth at school. Informational meetings will be held on October 5 and 6. To participate, email [tyescha@insideoutys.org](mailto:tyescha@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.



## The Battle to Protect LGBTQ+ Homeless Youth



The Place and Inside Out Youth Services stand together in opposition to a proposed HUD rule change that would dismantle protections for transgender people experiencing homelessness by allowing publicly funded shelters and housing services to discriminate.

Read this passionate article by Inside/Out Youth Service's Executive Director, Jessie Pocock, in the August 23, 2020 issue of *The Advocate*, a major national LGBTQ+ magazine: <https://bit.ly/34eo4pT>

*Story Corps*

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of Americans from all backgrounds and beliefs. StoryCorps grew out of Sound Portraits Productions as a project founded in 2003 by radio producer David Isay.

Its headquarters are located in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York. ([www.storycorps.org](http://www.storycorps.org))

StoryCorps is modeled—in spirit and in scope—after the efforts of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) (see <https://bit.ly/2Shd5GY>) of the 1930s, through which oral history interviews across the United States were recorded. To date, StoryCorps has recorded more than 60,000 interviews among more than 100,000 participants in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and several American territories.

### “Boys in the Band”

Bob Wingear suggests that watching the new movie “The Boys in the Band” (available on Netflix) shows how different the legal and social attitudes toward gay life were when he was a young man in the sixties. The musical, a Broadway hit in 1968, has been made into a movie twice, in 1970 and in 2020. Bob notes that in the 2020 version, for the first time, all actors are gay. See article: “Boys in the Band Keeps Hurtful Language of Original” <https://bit.ly/2SiOAJq>

## Bob Wingear—LGBTQ History Project

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tems. His group watched Russian tankers on the Iceland-Cuba route, managed information about space objects and often were asked to answer UFO questions.

In 1970, he was spending time at a gay bar called Exit 21 when he met Walter, a young gay man who had recently arrived from Germany and was working as the pastry chef at the Penrose Room at the Broadmoor Hotel. Before long, they were living together in an apartment in downtown Colorado Springs. Walter was very enthusiastic about America and, living in the American West, he was eager to have a horse. Bob and Walter found a home on a five-acre property in Black Forest, and soon acquired Dolly, a palomino quarter horse. They learned something about horse-breeding, and nurtured many horses over the years, as well as raising miniature poodles.

Notwithstanding his love for this country, Walter had never applied for U.S. citizenship. That changed in 2008 when Obama ran for president. Walter decided that he had to become a citizen so that he could vote for Obama.

Bob's office moved to Peterson Field in 1987 and he retired in 1994 with thirty years of service. Walter worked as a chef at the Broadmoor until he retired, and both were never really “out” at work. They had a circle of LGBT friends in Colorado Springs, but lived quietly until retirement provided more personal freedom.

While he is proud of his highly successful military career, Bob counts his contribution to the ACBL (American Contract Bridge League) Bridge Club as his greatest achievement. In the early 1970s he persuaded several local bridge clubs to look for a home together. Bob found a secluded lot in a natural setting on the West Side near what is now Uintah Gardens Shopping Center, and led a group of twenty people who co-signed on a mortgage to purchase the property and build a building in 1978. Four of them, including Bob, are still living. He was on the national board of the American Contract Bridge League for nine years and has been on the Colorado Springs Bridge Club board on and off for six decades. He is a Diamond Life Master bridge player.

Bob continues to live at his home in Black Forest. The domestic animals are gone, but he enjoys the raccoons, wild turkeys, elk and moose that frequent the property now that it has been allowed to grow back to native vegetation.

### Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.

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 contributes \$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.