



PFLAG Colorado Springs

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

October 2014

Colorado Aids Project President to Speak

Bill Mead, a staunch supporter of the Southern Colorado Aids Project, (S-CAP) and President of the Board of the Denver-based Colorado Aids Project, will tell his personal story at the October PFLAG meeting.. S-CAP is one of four regional groups working together.

An Air Force Academy graduate, Bill works as a financial planner and advi-



Xerox. After his partner died of AIDS in 1997, Bill has faithfully continued his support and encouragement for those living with HIV/AIDS.

sor in Colorado Springs. At one time he was a professional golfer, and he also worked in industry for

Sand Creek Chooses Homecoming Princess

Students at Sand Creek High School in Colorado Springs elected junior Scarlett Lenh as homecoming princess in September. Scarlett identifies herself as a transgender male to female. School officials were supportive, citing School District 49's policy:

"We do not exclude any person from participating in any program or activity on the bases of gender identity and gender expression."

PFLAG to Change Its Name This Month

From PFLAGPOLE—the PFLAG National Newsletter

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is becoming PFLAG.

PFLAG will no longer be an acronym for an extended name, but the official name of an organization with a long, rich history that has evolved over time to remain responsive to members, reflecting of its unique and critical role in the fight for LGBTQ equality, inclusion and affirmation.

Changes to PFLAG's name are not unprecedented. The original name of the organization was POG, or Parents of Gays. Over the years, the change in the social landscape ushered in modification to the name, moving from POG to Parents FLAG, (without mentioning friends), and finally to PFLAG

(where the "F" was designated to represent both family and friends.

For PFLAG members, the organization's work has been inclusive of everyone on the LGBTQ spectrum, although the lack of acknowledgement for bisexual, transgender and queer-identified individuals in the name has caused challenges.

Some have questioned how strong the commitment to inclusion is if the name doesn't reflect that commitment. Others — particularly in the chapter network, have attempted to address the challenge by developing their own taglines or explanations for what the organization is and who it serves.

"PFLAG is the place that is home for everyone engaged in moving equal-

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OCTOBER PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday
October 21, 2014

7:00 p.m.

Bill Mead
Colorado Aids Project
My Personal Story

The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street

Everyone is welcome.

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

September Meeting

The September meeting of the Colorado Springs chapter of PFLAG constituted its annual meeting. The following individuals were elected or re-elected to the board of directors:

Jerry Albrent
Marilyn Davis
Doug Kirkpatrick
Elaine Myers
Bill Oliver
Keria Shaw (TYES)
Karen Stith

At its next meeting, the board will elect officers for the upcoming year.

Thank you to Don DeAngelis, the Southern Colorado Organizer for One Colorado, for an inspiring presentation on his work with LGBTQ youth, gay-straight alliances (GSAs) in local schools, and his discussion of the recent One Colorado GSA Network Leadership Summit in Denver.



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.

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.

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

Support Line: (719) 425-9567

P.O. Box 49131
Colorado Springs, CO 80949

PFLAG Colorado Springs website:
www.cspflag.org

PFLAG National Office website:
www.pflag.org

Newsletter Editor: Karen Flitton Stith
E-mail: karenfstith@gmail.com

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

ALLY UP! Breakfast For Inside/Out

It's not too late to claim a place at the PFLAG table at the Ally Up! Breakfast, a fundraiser for Inside/Out Youth Services, at the Antlers Hilton Hotel from 7:00—8:30 a.m. on October 23rd. Learn more about this highly successful youth program and hear stories from youth and volunteers. The breakfast is free; a donation is requested. Call Doug Kirkpatrick at 963-9638 to join the group.

PFLAG Name Change

(Continued from page 1)

ity forward for everyone, inclusive of how you identify your sexual orientation, gender identity, or family status," said Jean Hodges, Member of the PFLAG Board of Directors, Chair of the PFLAG Regional Directors Council and longtime member of PFLAG Boulder.

PFLAG is also proposing an amended 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."

How PFLAG achieves that vision can be found in the proposed update to PFLAG's Mission Statement:

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. The national TYES website is www.TYES-Colorado.org

Thank you, Jackie, Lucky

PFLAG Colorado Springs thanks departing board members Jackie Thompson and Lucky Stoller for their years of support for the chapter.

Jackie will continue to work as both treasurer and "Mom" to the singers of the Out Loud men's chorus and board member and strong volunteer at the Metropolitan community Church. Lucky continues to be a link between PFLAG and Inside/Out, as a facilitator and a member of the very important Safe@School Coalition.

"Through our core values of meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG seeks to realize our vision through:

—*"Support for families, allies and people who are LGBTQ.*

—*"Education for ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges that people who are LGBTQ face.*

—*"Advocacy in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ."*

PFLAG will ask members to vote on the changes at the annual meeting of the membership on October 24, 2014 in Washington D.C.

Everyone who pays dues to a PFLAG chapter is a member and should receive the annual PFLAGPOLE publication in the mail in September. A mail-in ballot for election of the board of directors and any other member-driven issues is included.

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



TYES Founder Karen Adams Reviews, Promotes New Children's Book "I Am Jazz"

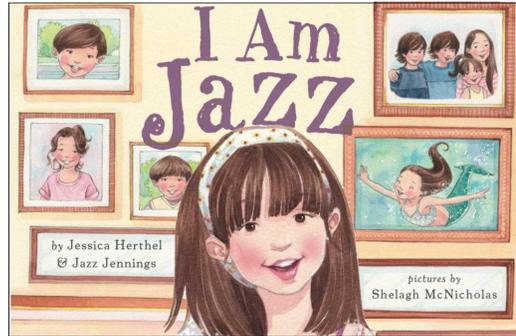
This essay was written by Karen Adams, founder of Trans Youth Education and Support (TYES), a program of PFLAG.

Ever since my daughter socially transitioned at age 7, I have been searching for books that are both affirming of transgender children, and educational. I'm excited to announce the release of a new book by Jazz Jennings titled I Am Jazz. It's a simple, elegant, story of Jazz's life told in her own voice.

In it Jazz explains how she declared to her family that she was a girl. It took time for her family to understand and support her. She shares how the teachers and students at school needed time to understand as well. Once they got this vital aspect of Jazz, her talents, character and reputation as "the nicest girl in the school" carried the day. In simple terms, Jazz describes not only her experience, but that of hundreds of other children across this country. The illustrations are as beautiful as the text.

In describing herself, Jazz says that "She has a girl's brain and a boy's body". At a Gender Spectrum conference years ago, a therapist explained that describing a transgender child's body this way may increase the dysphoria that lies at the heart of the trans* experience.

Believing this to be a radical idea, I went home to ask my child what it would feel like if we began using language like "This is YOUR girl's body". To my surprise, my daughter excitedly embraced this concept. The fact that her feelings of dysphoria decreased significantly afterward showed me that I still have much to learn. Since then, I have struggled to find any other introductory language for children, and have yet to find any.



"I Am Jazz"

"Girl's brain, boy's body" may still be the best way to start the conversation and a term that works well for Jazz and her family, but others find it helpful not to use this language with their child.

Transgender children need access to this affirming book. It is my hope that PFLAG chapters across the country will help make this book available to them by donating copies to their local libraries and schools.

In the years of facilitating support groups for transgender children of all ages, I have learned that the first thing they need is language to describe how they feel and the knowledge that they are not alone in the world. What a gift it would be to find it in a book.

And the Bullying Goes On

From the Argus Leader newspaper -Sept 24th

A 16-year-old Yankton, S.D. boy has filed a discrimination com-



plaint against Taco John's International for an incident that took place while he was working for a store in the southeast South Dakota city. He also has set up a web site to draw attention to the bullying of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered teens.

Tyler Brandt says he was forced by the restaurant's night manager to wear a name tag that read "gaytard" during a shift on June 23, 2014. Brandt, who is openly gay, says he wore the name tag because he feared losing his job, and that he was berated with the homosexual slur in front of customers and co-workers when he asked if he could take it off.

Region Loses Stalwart Supporter

(Excerpts from an article in the PFLAG Denver October newsletter)

Sadly, our region has lost one of its most stalwart supporters. Jack Hodges, dynamic member of PFLAG Boulder, died at home on September 2 at the age of 85.

Jack was the husband of Jean Hodges, formerly our Mountain West Regional Director and now Chair of PFLAG National's Regional Directors Council. Jack was always at Jean's side, actively involved in PFLAG and working for LGBT equality.

A native Pennsylvanian, he earned a doctoral degree in mathematics from Duke University. From 1960 until his retirement in 1995, Jack was Professor of Mathematics at the University of Colorado, Boulder. His success as a teacher was marked in 1968 with the student-initiated Teaching Recognition Award, and a Teaching Excellence Award from the Boulder Faculty Assembly in 1990.

Jack loved to share his love for mathematics, and he even created a course to help people get over their fear of it. He focused on a class for prospective elementary-school teachers, whose enrollees were often older women who had gotten a degree in something else. That "least prestigious course in the department" was called "The Spirit and Uses of Mathematics," and was in actuality a mathematics appreciation course.

For over 50 years he was active in the First United Methodist Church as teacher, choir member, and social justice activist. He represented his church on the Interfaith AIDS Coalition since its inception in 1992.

Jack and Jean were the parents of two sons and a daughter, and enjoyed several grandchildren. After their older son came out to them, they became passionately involved in PFLAG.

Jack's buoyant and benevolent spirit was a joy and an inspiration and he will be sorely missed. Our sympathy for her loss goes out to Jean.



BULLETIN BOARD

Oct. 11— Meeting of Coalition of Colorado PFLAG Chapters. Longmont. See article on this page.

Oct 23 — Ally Up! Breakfast for Inside/Out - Fundraiser 7:00-8:30 a.m. at the Antlers Hilton Hotel. See p. 2

Dec. 5-6 — “Haul Out the Jolly” — Out Loud Holiday concert. Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. PFLAG ushers will be needed for all three concerts.

Feb . 4-8—Creating Change Conference—This powerful national conference is coming to Denver. For more information, see www.creatingchange.org

Coalition Seeks Volunteers for Conference

The Coalition of Colorado PFLAG Chapters needs volunteers to help staff the PFLAG information table at the Colorado School Counselors Conference on November 6 -7 in Loveland. This is a great opportunity to meet PFLAG people from around the state. Please contact Doug at 963-9638 if you are interested.

Transgender Complete—a Virtual Handbook

Transgender Complete by Joanne Borden is a recently published ebook dealing with every aspect of transgender experience. Dr. Renee Richards, a transgender pioneer and icon said “I read it and was impressed with how comprehensive and erudite a discussion it was of all things “transgender”.



The book includes every facet of transgender experience — from children to seniors and immigration to sports.

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

Coalition of Colorado PFLAG Chapters

The next meeting of the Coalition of Colorado PFLAG Chapters will take place at Zion Lutheran Church, 815 East 16th Street in Longmont on Saturday, October 11 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.. Anyone interested in joining our chapter’s group for that meeting should call Doug Kirkpatrick at 963-9638 right away.

Doug recently volunteered to be the secretary of the Coalition, which meets several times a year in front range locations. The cities which have PFLAG chapters at this time are Boulder, Colorado Springs, Denver, Fort Collins, Highlands (SW Denver) and Littleton.

The morning meeting will involve chapter reports, coalition business, program ideas and discussion of resources. The program after lunch will feature Dr. Gerald Callahan, Professor of Biology at Colorado State University and author of the book *Between XX and XY: Intersexuality and the Myth of Two Sexes*. The program will also include a panel that includes both intersex and transgender individuals.

Yuma PFLAG Challenges Craigslist Posting

Carol and Bill Oberg spend each winter in Arizona, where they are active in the Yuma PFLAG chapter. They recently received the following e-mail:

To PFLAG Yuma Leaders,

The Concern&Request I sent to Craigslist Moderators last night (via PFLAG Yuma) was honored by Craigslist Moderators and the offensive, anti-gay ad is now removed. Thanks to anyone else who also took action to get that disturbing Craigslist posting deleted. Thanks to 'the informer' for letting me know about this posting.

Let's all watch for any other anti-LGBTQ rhetoric and notify PFLAG Yuma Executive Officers immediately so appropriate actions can be taken. At our Sept 28 3pm Business Meeting, we will discuss several anti-LGBT alleged incidents that have occurred just within the last month. - Adele

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.