



PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

October 2021

Ally Up! - Coming October 6th

Ally Up 2021: Equity, Access, Power is the major annual fundraiser for Inside Out Youth Services. Please plan to join the PFLAG community at this event which will be streamed live from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 6th. It will feature testimonials from youth, a keynote address by a youth leader, and a celebration of the Pike Peak Safe at Schools Coalition's 10th anniversary.



The Ally Up event has been a cornerstone of Inside Out's existence for many years. Covid concerns have resulted in it being offered as a virtual event in 2021 for the second time. However, this presents some great opportunities because anyone, anywhere, can watch it to meet the youth and learn about Inside/Out's amazing work with LGBTQ+ young people ages 13 – 24.

Supporters can donate at any time here: <https://insideoutys.org/allyup/>, and it will go live on Wednesday, Oct. 6th at 7:00 p.m. to livecast the program.

Stand With Trans Hosts Trans Empowerment Month

Throughout the month of October, Stand with Trans is hosting a variety of virtual presentations, panels and performances as well as some in-person events for trans youth, caregivers and anyone who works with transgender youth.

Talks include: "Getting it Covered: Navigating Insurance with TransFamily Support Services"; "Surgeon Q&A Trans Affirming Breast/Top Surgery" and "Steps Forward Towards Transgender Equality with the ACLU of Michigan".

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"Love Wins"

There will be a ticketed After Party at ICONS piano bar in downtown Colorado Springs. The ticket is \$100, most of which is a donation to Inside Out. Register at the link above to attend the After Party, which includes appetizers, libations, entertainment and an auction. Space is limited.

Take a look at the IOYS general website www.insideoutys.org to check out IOYS programs and sign up for its "Qmmunity" newsletter.

Advice for Grandparents

In partnership with friends at SAGE**, PFLAG has launched a new publication: *Supporting your LGBTQ+ Grandchild*.

This publication, available in both English and Spanish, features a forward by longtime PFLAG friend Abigail Van Buren ("Dear Abby") and offers support for grandparents about what to do when a grandchild comes out. It's full of useful knowledge including answers to common questions and helpful tips.

This is a must-read for any grandparent looking to learn more about

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October PFLAG Meeting Zoom Online

Tuesday, October 19
7:00 p.m.

To attend the meeting, please send an email message to: 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 send an email to:

information@cspflag.org

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

Our virtual meetings have been bringing together people from out of town and even out of state.

"We Are the Change" PFLAG Online Convention

From October 22-24, PFLAG leaders, members and supporters from more than 400 chapters will join online to participate in *We Are the Change: the 2021 PFLAG National Convention*. For three days, participants will network, share best practices, and learn strategies to fulfill the organizational mission of LGBTQ+ support, education and advocacy within their communities.

The biennial convention will feature workshops, networking and plenaries where leaders in the LGBTQ+ community provide insight, expertise and training for advocates and organizers. Learn more about PFLAG and be inspired to volunteer for our local chapter! The registration fee is \$25 for members and \$50 for non-members. Register online at www.pflag.org.

If you are thinking about visiting the convention, please call Karen Stith at (719) 351-1963 or send an email to information@cspflag.org.



Trans Empowerment Month

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Last year this event hosted over 700 registrants from all over the US and throughout the world. The month of virtual workshops and presentations is free for trans and non-binary youth 24 and under. The link for more information and registration is:

<https://bit.ly/37xXcTO>

Stand With Trans is a well-known national nonprofit group of parents and allies supporting the transgender community. www.standwithtrans.org

Advice for Grandparents

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how to support LGBTQ+ grandchildren... or looking for support themselves. Check it out on the PFLAG website www.pflag.org or use this link: <https://bit.ly/2YcDz2c>.

**SAGE is a national advocacy and services organization that has been looking out for LGBT elders since 1978. Its website says: "LGBTQ older people are twice as likely to be single and live alone and four times less likely to have children. If we don't look out for each other, who will?"

Read more: www.sageusa.org

Colorado Springs PFLAG

This newsletter is published by the Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG. PFLAG provides support, education and advocacy for people who are LGBTQ+, their families, and allies.

To receive this newsletter regularly, sign up on our website: www.cspflag.org.

To contact PFLAG, send email to: information@cspflag.org.

Colorado Springs PFLAG Support Line: (719) 425-9567

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

PFLAG National Office website: www.pflag.org

A Landmark Wedding

When Colorado Governor Jared Polis and his long time partner, Marlon Reis, were married, Polis became the first state governor to have a same-sex wedding in office. They were married on September 15th in a traditional Jewish wedding ceremony in Boulder.

During the ceremony, the couple's 7-year-old daughter served as the flower girl and their 9-year-old son was the ring bearer.

In 2018, Polis became the first openly gay man ever elected governor in the U.S. A decade earlier, he was the first openly gay man elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

When Polis and Reis first met eighteen years ago, they never thought they would be married. As recently as 2014, same-sex marriage was prohibited in Colorado. The U.S. Supreme Court made gay marriage legal across the country in 2015.

The New York Times story about the wedding (great photo!) is available online at: <https://nyti.ms/2Y8xioo>



Colorado Springs PFLAG will be the featured nonprofit organization on Monday, October 25th at Bishops Cuts/Color, 7587 North Academy Boulevard, Suite #110 in Colorado Springs. Each week, Bishops Cuts/Color hosts "Give Back Monday" to support a local nonprofit organization.

On Give Back Monday, the salon donates 20% of all service sales to the featured nonprofit. Call (719) 266-1612 to make an appointment for PFLAG Monday.

The salon's Facebook page is delightful. Go to: <https://bit.ly/3icKMYp> Thank you to franchise owner Joe Stuchel for giving back so generously to the community.

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.

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



LGBT History Month (October) was first celebrated in 1994 and was declared a national history month by President Barack Obama in 2009 to encourage openness and education about LGBT history and rights.

It was created in 1994 by Rodney Wilson, a high school history teacher in Missouri.

October was selected to coincide with National Coming Out Day (Oct. 11), which was already established, and the anniversary of the first march on Washington for gay and lesbian rights in October, 1979.

The month now also includes Spirit Day on Oct. 20, on which people around the country wear purple in support of LGBT youth; Ally Week, a week in which allies against LGBT bullying are celebrated; and the anniversary of 21-year-old Matthew Shepard's murder on Oct. 12, 1998, which led to the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act in 2009.

LGBT History Month celebrates the achievements of 31 lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender Icons. Each day in October, a new LGBT Icon is featured with a video, bio, bibliography, downloadable images and other resources. See <https://bit.ly/3mh3bU5>

The LGBT community is the only community worldwide that is not taught its history at home, in public schools or in religious institutions. LGBT History Month provides role models, builds community and makes the civil rights statement about our extraordinary national and international contributions.

SAGE LGBT Elder Hotline

The SAGE LGBT Elder Hotline is available for anyone 50 or over who wishes to discuss issues related to sexual orientation/ gender identity.

Staffed entirely by well-trained responders, the Hotline can be reached at 877-360-5428 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The hotline is available in English and Spanish, with translation to 180 languages is also available. For more information about SAGE, go to www.sageusa.org



BULLETIN BOARD



Oct. 6—"Ally Up" - Annual major fundraiser for our good friends at Inside Out. Please participate and donate.

Oct 22-24—PFLAG National Convention—This biennial event will take place online this year. Learn more about PFLAG when you participate/register to attend at www.pflag.org. See p. 1.

Oct 25—Bishop's Cuts & Color— Give Back Monday for PFLAG. Call 719-266-1612 for an appointment

Nov. 18—"Night Out" Project - The Place youth shelter will sponsor this annual fund-raising project to be held outdoors overnight at the First United Methodist Church. November is National Runaway and Homeless Youth Awareness Month. The Night Out Project is a first hand experience of what the youth served by The Place face on a day to day basis. Contact Nastassia Idahosa: nastassia.idahosa@theplacecos.org to sign up as a night out sleeper. For more information, see: <https://theplacecos.org/night-out-2021/>

PFLAG Membership

October marks the beginning of the PFLAG year. It's time to begin—or renew—your PFLAG membership.

Please fill out the form below and mail it with your check or sign up on our website www.cspflag.org and use a credit card.

Your support makes our work possible.

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.

Why Gender Pronouns are Becoming a Big Deal at Work—*Wall Street Journal*

When store manager Justin Trowbridge comes to work at Columbia Sportswear Co., he wears his commitment to diversity on his name tag, which includes the words "he/him/his".

Some big businesses are increasingly embracing the practice of sharing individual pronouns in the workplace as part of diversity initiatives to support co-workers who may be transgender, or nonbinary colleagues who identify as neither male nor female and may use they/them pronouns. A growing number of employees are adding their pronouns to everything from email signatures to Zoom profiles—often at their company's urging.

Adding pronouns to nametags can help create a more supportive atmosphere, one that backs the notion that a person's gender identity doesn't always match their physical appearance.

Justin commented: "If we make everyone feel more included, like they belong, that's where we're going to see a new shift in actual diversity."

Thank you to Bill Oliver for letting us know about this good article. - Here's the link: <https://on.wsj.com/3a8ssdn>

Jamie Lee Curtis—Actress

PFLAG Member Lori Vollmar recommends this article in the current issue of *AARP Magazine* that in which Curtis discusses her long and vibrant career and her response to the Covid lockdown. She says "Possibly one of the oldest fixed ideas that I have shed is the notion that gender is fixed." She reveals that she is the parent of a transgender child, at whose wedding she will soon officiate.

Link to the article: <https://bit.ly/3a2YqrK>

PFLAG Meetings

You don't always know where other people are on their journeys.

Therefore, PFLAG meetings, both in-person and virtual, must always be a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear

Must remain strictly 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, 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 PFLAG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.