



PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

September 2016

Indy Journalist to Visit PFLAG

J. Adrian Stanley, a reporter with *the Colorado Springs Independent* who has written many well-researched pieces pertaining to the LGBT community in her nine years with the newspaper, will be our guest in September. She graduated from the University of Colorado in Boulder with a degree in journalism in 2002.

Her *Linked In* page describes her: "Consistent winner of multiple regional awards for stories that run the gamut from education to politics. Excellent at breaking down complex subjects and connecting with all walks of life. Hundreds of local contacts and well-developed writing skills. Multi-media master, problem solver, people person and information sponge." And avid cyclist.

Follow this link to a recent piece Adrian wrote on trans people seeking to change the gender on their birth certificates: <http://bit.ly/2bY1qbH>

Joining Adrian will be her friend, Heidi Beedle, a transgender woman and schoolteacher. Heidi will be accompanied by her wife and their three young



J. Adrian Stanley

children. A writer and a poet, Heidi is an active and well-known member of the Colorado Springs LGBT community.

An Open Letter to the Teachers of My Transgender Child

Letter by Amber Leventry published on the website of The Next Family: <http://bit.ly/2bSJRwd>. Do not settle for reading these excerpts. Read it all.

"My partner and I have done our best to keep you up-to-date, informed, and comfortable with the definition of transgender and what it means for our child. In anticipation of her entrance into your classroom, you have been a large part of our daughter's transition. (see article at <http://bit.ly/2cak4N8>)

"... I am terrified. As much as my gut and brain tell me it will be fine, I'm still scared. Kids are amazingly understanding and accepting, but I am afraid of the comments that will come out of their curious mouths. I am afraid of the comments streamed from the less accepting minds of parents, transferred from home to the classroom through their children. My daughter is so sure of who she is and is as confident as she has ever been in her young life, but she can't unhear words. They will stay with her and will remind her she is different."

Ally Up! 2016— October 4th "Creating. Safe. Spaces."

This dynamic annual fundraising breakfast for Inside/Out Youth Services is set for October 4th, at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, 1775 East Cheyenne Mountain Boulevard. Come and meet the youth and the passionate volunteers who work with them.

Reserve your seat at the PFLAG table by calling Elaine Myers at 598-7265. Doors open at 7:00 a.m., and the program runs from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. so you can get to work on time.

The Ally Up! breakfast is a free event. You will have an opportunity to make a meaningful donation at the conclusion of the program. Don't miss it.

Can't attend the breakfast?
Donate [online at www.insideoutys.org](http://www.insideoutys.org)

SEPTEMBER PFLAG MEETING

**Tuesday
September 20, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

**Conversation with
J. Adrian Stanley**

**Reporter
The Colorado Springs
Independent**

**Annual Meeting of PFLAG
Election of Board of
Directors**

**The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street**

**Social time begins at 6:30
Everyone is welcome.**

Daniel Ramos to Lead One Colorado

One Colorado has announced that, after a search led by its board of directors, Daniel Ramos has been chosen as the organization's new Executive Director. One Colorado led the campaign for marriage equality here, and is dedicated to building a fair and just Colorado. Congratulations, Daniel!

Walk in the Garden—September 24th

The annual fundraising walk in the Garden of the Gods supports the Southern Colorado AIDS Project (S-CAP). S-CAP works to slow the spread of HIV/AIDS and provides vital services to people living with HIV/AIDS in Southern Colorado.

Get your group together, or register as an individual. More information is online at <http://bit.ly/28YL4iZ> or call S-CAP at 578-9092.



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 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

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www.cspflag.org

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

Alphabet Soup

On the website for Inside/Out Youth Services, the LGBTQ support group in Colorado Springs, there is a link to www.alphabetsoupcomic.tumblr.com which is the website of Colorado Springs cartoon artist Emma Oosterhaus. Youth are invited to share their stories by sending them to Emma: alphabetsoupcomic@gmail.com. She transforms the stories into cartoons for the website. Emma is a sophomore at CU Boulder. Take a look at Emma's wonderful cartoons, and her sympathetic messages to the youth who send their stories and thoughts to her.



The only thing I want assigned to me at birth is a small dragon companion.

From Inside/Out Website: Support for Over-23 LGBTIQ Youth

As youth grow into young adults at Inside/Out Youth Services, they will no longer be able to attend upon turning

23. While such young adults are encouraged to pursue internships at Inside/Out if interested, they will be unable to apply as volunteers until they are age 25.

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.

The TYES program originated and is headquartered in Boulder, Colorado.

More information is available at the national TYES website www.TYES-Colorado.org

What to do in the meantime?? There are some links below that can be great starting points for young adults wishing to stay active and connected in Colorado Springs' LGBTIQ community.

The LGBT Resource Center MOSAIC at UCCS. See <http://bit.ly/2c7zLCD>

Colorado Springs Queer Collective was founded by Inside/Out youth-turned-young-adults. See Facebook page for Colorado Springs Queer Collective..

For transgender youth 18-30s : BRIDGE—Building Real Identities and Gender Expressions. Contact Diana Rife—bridgefacilitators@gmail.com.



A Small Wedding Story

One of our Colorado Springs PFLAG members was talking to Don McMaster of Denver at the GALA Choruses Festival in July. Don choked up a bit telling this story:

Last spring, he and his partner of 39 years planned an April 23rd wedding, a family wedding at which his six year old niece, Madison, who is already a princess to them, was to be the flower girl. Her mom took her to a bridal shop to pick out a dress. The clerk asked: "Who is the bride?" "There isn't a bride," Madison said, "my two uncles are getting married."

"Oh, that is so sweet!" said the clerk. I'm going to give you a special fifteen percent discount on your dress."

Lambda Legal Blasts Court

8/22/16: Statement by Lambda Legal:

A U.S. District Court judge today issued a preliminary injunction against the federal government's guidance to public school districts regarding their legal responsibility to allow transgender students to use the same restrooms as other students. The ruling came in a multi-state lawsuit, Texas vs. United States.

Five civil rights organizations who had submitted a joint amicus (friend of the court) brief in the lawsuit – Lambda Legal, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and ACLU of Texas; National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR); Transgender Law Center; and GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) – issued the following statement in response to U.S. District Court Judge Reed O'Con-

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Remember our easy fundraiser!

Pick up your King Soopers Gift Card at a PFLAG meeting.



King Soopers sends five percent of all purchases made with the card (groceries, gas, prescriptions) to our PFLAG chapter.

Indy Inclusion Awards Followup: "Gay Hill Mesa"

The Gold Hill Mesa community was an Indy Awards winner this year. Here's the rest of the story, by CS Independent reporter Matthew Schniper:

In the late 1990s, a developer named Bob Willard began planning a project on a hill of mine tailings now known as Gold Hill Mesa.

South of U.S. 24 between Eighth and 21st streets, the property was once home to Golden Cycle Mill, which processed an estimated 14.5 million tons of ore over 50 years, extracting gold and leaving a hill of tailings behind. It closed in 1949, and the property had been a brownfield afterward — the tailings contain arsenic.

Willard saw promise in this discarded property, and in the mid-2000s, following a long process to ensure development would be safe, a plan took shape for 600-plus homes and commercial development. By 2008, about 50 homes were built, the recession was hitting hard and people had doubts, despite the research that had gone into the project.

Fast-forward eight years. More than 300 homes have been built, and Stephanie Edwards, vice president of the development, says if current demand continues, all the planned homes should be built in two to three years, with the commercial portion getting underway perhaps in that same time frame.

Edwards says despite the downturn, Gold Hill Mesa has performed well with buyers due to smart, strategic moves. In the hard years, she says, the development went from being owned by a hedge fund to being owned outright by an ownership team including Robert Hadley and Monte McKeehan, both of Seattle, and Willard.

Something else happened: Gold Hill Mesa became really popular with the



Stephanie Edwards at Indy Awards

LGBT community. It's even known as *Gay Hill Mesa*. Edwards says whatever the reason, she's thrilled that the neighborhood has turned out to be diverse, accepting and community-oriented.

"We think it's a symbol of strength, having a community that's inclusive of everybody," she says.

John Singleton, owner of Design Works, has lived in Gold Hill Mesa with his partner for two years and says he was overjoyed to find a neighborhood where he feels completely welcomed as a gay man. He enjoys the stylish homes, up-to-date amenities, urban location and sense of community. He notes that he's constantly going to Gold Hill concerts or wine tastings, he knows all his neighbors, and everyone — whatever their politics — has been kind to him.

After the Orlando shooting, he says he noticed rainbow flags on the porches of his neighbors, many of whom he knew were straight. Even talking about it now moves him to tears.

"It's like its own little Twilight Zone, because it's so wonderful, he says.

Our PFLAG meetings are a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear—

Must remain strictly confidential.

Thank you

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



BULLETIN BOARD

September 24 — AIDS Walk: A Walk in the Garden— Annual fundraiser in the Garden of the Gods benefits the Southern Colorado AIDS Project (SCAP). More information online at <http://bit.ly/28YL4iZ> or call 578-9092.

October 4— Ally Up! 2016 — Fundraising Breakfast for Inside/Out Youth Services. Doubletree Hilton Hotel, 1775 East Cheyenne Mountain Blvd. Registration 7 a.m., Program 7:30—8:30 a.m. Reserve a place with PFLAG by calling Elaine Myers at 598-7265.

October 22 — Inside/Out Book Sale 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. When the Pride Center closed, a large collection of books was donated to Inside/Out Youth Services. These books have been sorted and reviewed by PFLAG mom Lori Vollmar, and many will be sold at this event to benefit the youth group.

Lambda Legal Blasts Court (cont.)

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nor's ruling:

"A ruling by a single judge in one circuit cannot and does not undo the years of clear legal precedent nationwide establishing that transgender students have the right to go to school without being singled out for discrimination. This unfortunate and premature ruling may, however, confuse school districts that are simply trying to support their students, including transgender students.

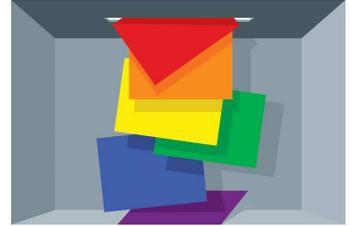
"So let us make it clear to those districts: your obligations under the law have not changed, and you are still not only allowed but required to treat transgender students fairly.

"The scope of this injunction has no effect on the ability of other courts or lawyers representing transgender people to continue to rely on the federal government's interpretations of Title IX or on prior decisions that have reached similar conclusions about the scope of federal sex discrimination laws.

"The court's misguided decision targets a small, vulnerable group of young people – transgender elementary and high school students – for potential continued harassment, stigma and abuse."

The Big Gay Sway Franl Bruni—*New York Times*

On a sweltering afternoon in late August, Stephanie Murphy, a Democrat running for Congress against a longtime Republican incumbent, stole a half-hour from a crammed schedule for something that grieving residents of this



metropolitan area still routinely do: She visited Pulse nightclub, where a gunman ended 49 lives in June.

The club itself has been closed since then, but a patch of the property in front brims with flowers, photographs and rainbow flags, which signal that Pulse was a place where many gay people gathered and many gay people died. It's an eye-catching, heart-stopping memorial.

Could it also be an omen of political change?

Prominent among the issues that Murphy, 37, is campaigning on is her 73-year-old opponent's dismal record on L.G.B.T. rights. And some Democrats are convinced that this could work powerfully in her favor, especially at this time, in this place. Her district includes much of Orlando, though not Pulse itself, and is home to victims' relatives and friends.

Murphy was at Pulse on this day to show it to United States Representative Barbara Lee, a California Democrat who belongs to a quickly swelling army of party leaders who have traveled to Florida to stump for Murphy or help her raise money, reflecting the party's identification of her contest as one that might flip a House seat from red to blue and help to erode the Republican majority.

"This is a very winnable race," Lee told me as we approached Pulse, adding that what happened there — and its exposure of the hatred that L.G.B.T. Americans still confront — is part of the equation. "I think people will see that as a defining moment and say: 'No more. My vote is going to be for human rights.' "

Read the rest of this excellent opinion piece, including analysis of the South Carolina governor's race, at: <http://nyti.ms/2c3hAOI>

Thanks to Carol Brown Oberg for forwarding this link to PFLAG.

Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017.

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