



PFLAG Colorado Springs

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

September 2014

2014 S-CAP AIDS Walk/Run in the Garden—Sept. 27

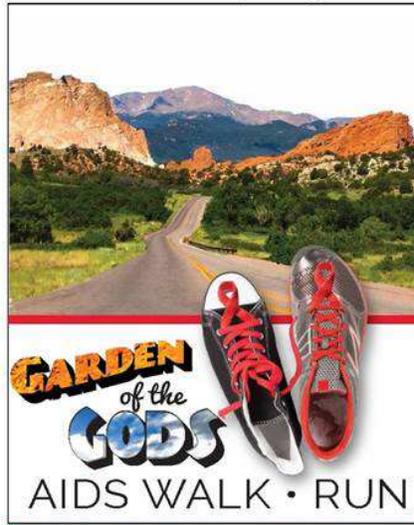
Join hundreds of others in making a difference in the fight against AIDS in southern Colorado.

This highly anticipated annual event brings people together in the scenic Garden of the Gods Park to raise much needed funds that support services for individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS, as well as support important outreach, education, and prevention programs. The walk and run are both 5K, all within beautiful Garden of the Gods Park.

The event also provides a special day to remember those we have lost to the disease and to celebrate the ongoing advances in care and prevention.

HIV still affects thousands of people yearly. While the number of new infections in Colorado decreased slightly last year, nearly 300 new infections were diagnosed.

Southern Colorado AIDS Project provides direct services to more than 600 individuals and families every year ranging from age 3 to 70+!



Prevention efforts and communication are key to curbing the spread of the disease. Please help support S-CAP's efforts to continue to provide much needed direct services and to help stop the spread of HIV.

Please register to walk, and make a pledge. Call S-CAP at 719-578-9092 or 1-800-241-5468. For more information, go to www.s-cap.org

Gay-Straight Alliances Encourage Student Leadership

The One Colorado GSA Network is hosting its fourth annual GSA Leadership Summit, a statewide event that brings together students, advisors, and other stakeholders committed to making schools safer for LGBTQ and allied students. We encourage all who work with gay-straight alliances across Colorado to register for this event.

It is free to attend and will take place on Saturday, September 27, 2014, from 9:00am – 5:30pm, at the Auraria Campus in Denver.

Leaders will share best practices for creating active and effective GSA programs, while highlighting the Network's areas of focus: projects to cultivate a new generation of civic leaders, train LGBTQ and allied leaders to run for student government, and help develop community service opportunities to connect GSAs with other student clubs.

Students in middle school, high school, and college are welcome to attend, as well as adults who support and advise GSAs. Registration is now open at www.cogsanetwork.org



SEPTEMBER PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday
September 16, 2014

7:00 p.m.

Discussion:
Gay Straight Alliance Clubs

The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street

Everyone is welcome.

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

PFLAG Opportunities

Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the Colorado Springs chapter of PFLAG will be held at the monthly meeting on September 19. The board for the upcoming fiscal year will be elected.

Membership! Plan to renew your PFLAG membership when a request is sent to you with this September newsletter. We need your financial support. If you have been receiving the newsletter but have not yet become a member, please join now!

Volunteers. Our chapter needs help with staffing PFLAG tables at various events, developing relationships with LGBT-friendly healthcare providers, contacting gay-straight student alliances, ushering at concerts and participating in the Safe@School coalition. Please call Doug at 963-9638 or Elaine at 598-7265 to volunteer.



Update on Rapidly Changing Marriage Scene

From Policy Matters, PFLAG National

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

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It has been quite the year for marriage equality in the United States. There are currently 19 states along with the District of Columbia that provide marriage equality to their residents, with lawsuits pending in every state that does not yet allow same-sex marriage. The courts have been in a whirlwind, making decisions that overturn same-sex marriage bans left and right.

The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals struck down Oklahoma's ban on same-sex marriage on July 18. The decision was immediately stayed by the judges. Oklahoma was the second state to have its same-sex marriage bans struck down by the Tenth Circuit, preceded by Utah. Colorado, also within the jurisdiction of the Tenth Circuit court, is awaiting a definitive ruling on the state's same-sex marriage ban by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The New Mexico Supreme Court struck down that state's ban on same-sex marriage last December. The U.S. District Judge of Louisiana announced on July 23 that he needs no more arguments or briefs to make a decision regarding the two marriage equality cases that are in his court, and he will likely also make a decision on the constitutionality of the state's ban on same-sex marriage as a whole.

Also in July it was announced that the U.S. District Court of Alaska will hear a case on marriage equality on October 10. The case being presented to the court was filed on behalf of five same-sex couples to overturn the state's 1998 amendment, which defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman. This is one of the many cases that will be heard all over the country in the upcoming months. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which includes Alaska, is full of cases that are challenging the constitutionality of same-sex marriage bans.

On July 25 the Circuit Court Judge of Miami-Dade County ruled that Florida's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional, but her ruling was immediately stayed by Florida's Attorney General. Similarly, in Monroe County the state's ban on same-sex marriage was struck down, but the ruling was stayed.

On July 28, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Virginia's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. This followed a U.S. District Court Judge's ruling on Valentine's Day of this year that struck down the state's ban. The majority judges wrote that "inertia and apprehension are not legitimate bases for denying same-sex couples due process and equal protection of the laws."

Much like the Tenth Circuit, the Fourth Circuit is now waiting on an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. North Carolina is also in the Fourth Circuit, and following this decision, North Carolina's Attorney General announced that the state will no longer oppose lawsuits that are challenging the constitutionality of the statewide ban, effectively paving the way for same-sex marriage to become legal in the state. South Carolina's Attorney General, on the other hand, announced that he will continue to enforce the state's ban on same-sex marriage pending the U.S.

(Continued on page 3)

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



California Considers LGBT-Friendly Birth Certificates

The California State Legislature is considering a bill that would make California birth certificates more LGBT friendly. The legislation, AB 1951, would require all birth certificates to provide parents with a gender-neutral option rather than just the traditional mother and father ones.

Currently, California birth certificates have two options for parents—one labeled “Name of Mother” and one “Name of Father.” This restrictive wording has forced same-sex couples to inaccurately define their status—for example, a lesbian couple may have to choose one partner to sign as the child’s father.

If passed, AB 1951 would change birth certificates to simply label both lines as “Name of Parent”; following the parent’s name would be three boxes from which they could choose, labeled “mother,” “father,” or the gender-neutral option “parent”.

Update on Marriage

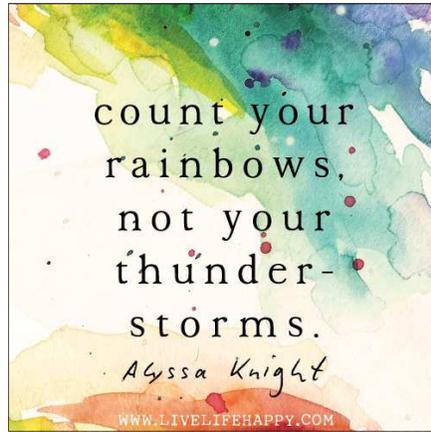
(Continued from page 2)

Supreme Court’s final decision regarding marriage equality.

West Virginia, also a part of the Fourth Circuit, may be influenced by the July 28 decision. Maryland already has full marriage equality.

PFLAG filed *amicus curiae* (“Friend of the Court”) briefs in the Tenth Circuit, Ninth Circuit, and Fourth Circuit.

States that have legalized marriage equality are: Connecticut/ 2004; Massachusetts/2004; Vermont/2009; Iowa/2009; New Hampshire/2010; New York/2011; Maine/2012; Washington/2012; California/2013; New Jersey/2013; New Mexico/2013; Delaware/ 2013; Hawaii/2013; Illinois/2013; Minnesota/2013; Rhode Island/ 2013; Maryland/2013; Oregon/ 2014; and Pennsylvania/2014.



Holly Webster’s work schedule made it impossible for her to come to the August PFLAG meeting to discuss her transition experience from male to female, so she created an hour-long video for us. Articulate, passionate, thoughtful, wise—everyone who saw it learned more about this extraordinary journey and was touched by her candor and courage. Thank you, Holly, for the gift of this presentation. You are counting rainbows.

From the PFLAG Office: Convention Set for 2015

PFLAG is pleased to announce that the 2015 PFLAG National Convention will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, October 16-18, 2015.

We heard your concerns about the costs of attending the 2013 convention in Washington, DC. Moving the convention to Nashville will allow for lower costs overall and a savings to you. In addition, low hotel room rates, free parking at the hotel, and other lower out-of-pocket costs will make attendance even less expensive. There will be incredible learning opportunities and networking with PFLAGers from across the country. Take advantage of Early Bird rates, as registration begins this month. More information on the PFLAG website: www.pflag.org.

Creating Change Conference

The Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change is coming to Denver, at the Sheraton Denver Downtown, February 4–8, 2015. See www.creatingchange.org.

Inside/Out Outreach: Beyond the Binary

The following message is from Eric Pizana, Executive Director of Inside/Out Youth Services, a local nonprofit organization serving LGBTIQ youth. Inside/Out has organized the anti-bullying effort known as the Safe@School Coalition. PFLAG is a member of the Coalition.

“In the first week of school, members of the Pikes Peak Safe @ School Coalition Lauren Cikara of One Colorado; Sloan Gonzales of Girl Scouts of Colorado; Sarah Musick of Pikes Peak Equality Coalition; and Eric Pizana of Inside/Out Youth Services visited a local high school and conducted their Beyond the Binary training for all of the faculty.

“Together we raised awareness of LGBTIQ terminology, LGBTIQ harassment statistics, shared methods of what they could do to make all students safe and much more!

“This was one of our favorite presentations because afterward the faculty started an open dialogue on current scenarios they were seeing at their school, and created solutions on the spot.”

Eric Pizana

Ally Up! Breakfast Oct 23

Mark your calendar now and plan to sit at a PFLAG table at the annual Inside/Out Ally Up! Breakfast on October 23 at the Antlers Hilton Hotel.. This is a fundraiser, so breakfast is free and donations are requested. Inside/Out youth provide the program. To reserve a place with the PFLAG group, call PFLAG table captain Doug Kirkpatrick at 963-9638.

Always Remember

That our PFLAG meetings are a safe space. Who you meet, and what you hear —

Keep it confidential.



BULLETIN BOARD

Sept. 14— Boulder Pridefest —The 11th Annual Boulder Pridefest, on Sunday, Sept. 14, at Boulder's Central Park, will feature vendors, live entertainment, beer and wine garden, youth and family area, VIP tent and much more. Through celebration, community activities, and fun events the local community comes together every September to elevate awareness and visibility in the continuing journey towards social justice.

Sept. 27— S-CAP AIDS Walk/Run in the Garden
Annual fundraiser for the Southern Colorado Aids Project. See p. 1

Sept. 27— "Everything's Coming Up Broadway!" - Denver Gay Men's Chorus and Denver women's Chorus concert at Boettcher Concert Hall with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra 1:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. SEE offer from Tim Wilson of Denver PFLAG, this page.

Sept. 27—GSA Leadership Summit—Auraria Campus, Denver—see p. 1.

Oct. 3-5—The Pacific Northwest PFLAG Conference will be held in Boise, Idaho. . This conference is open to PFLAG members and others interested in an opportunity to grow their support, education and advocacy. Please register as soon as possible at <http://bit.ly/1mC55fR> If this does not take you to the registration form, try cutting and pasting it into your browser.

Oct. 11— Meeting of Coalition of Colorado PFLAG Chapters.

Oct 23 — Ally Up! Breakfast for Inside/Out - Fundraiser 7:00-8:30 a.m. at the Antlers Hilton Hotel. See p. 3.

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

Colorado Springs Pride Center to add LGBTQ TV to Already Successful LGBTQ Radio



Sally Hall, Founder of Equality News Network (ENN), is providing just that, LGBTQ TV. The goal is to put a voice, face and personality to the LGBTQ community. With a new and dynamic TV Team in development, ENN is partnering with the Colorado Springs Pride Center to create PrideNet TV, a streaming portal designed by/ for the LGBTQ community.

ENN and PrideNet TV is looking for funding ,sponsors, and advertisers now. If you're interested in being a founder of a growing network that links the Colorado Springs LGBTQ community together, please call Sally Hall at [619.727.0288](tel:619.727.0288) or visit the GoFundMe page at <http://www.gofundme.com/bfjp3o>

cosPRIDE NET Radio is already a reality, broadcasting a program live from Colorado Springs on Thursdays from 2-3 p.m. each week. It is streamed over the internet via the Pride Center website: www.cospride.org. Audience members can call in to the show, and can talk with hosts about topics in advance of the broadcast. Previously recorded shows are available on the website.

CONCERT DISCOUNT Arranged by Tim Wilson/PFLAG

The Denver Gay Men's Chorus and the Denver Women's Chorus will be performing "Everything's Coming Up Broadway!" with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra at Boettcher Concert Hall on Saturday, Sept. 27, at 7:30 p.m.

I've reserved 23 tickets in the first two rows of Mezzanine 7 at the group price of \$37 (regularly \$46). If you would like to be part of this group, please contact Tim immediately. He can be reached at 303-321-0694, or tkwdco@comcast.net.

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.