



PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

July 2021

PFLAG Celebrates PrideFest with New Billboard: "LGBTQ Support Equals Suicide Prevention"

Colorado Springs PFLAG has created a new and poignant billboard message to mark the July PrideFest celebration in Colorado Springs.

The large billboard is located downtown, in the same place as the earlier PFLAG billboard was



erected in April. It can be easily seen from the west-bound lanes of the Colorado Avenue Bridge, right under the "Iscariot" sculpture on the roof of the Traffic Management Center.

Once again, a local PFLAG family and their transgender child chose the message, carried out the design process and arranged for the billboard to be erected. PFLAG thanks this family

for their creative ideas and determination to raise awareness of Colorado Springs PFLAG and the LGBT community it serves.

The billboard will be up for the month of July. PFLAG thanks its members for their generous donations which have made the April and July billboard messages possible.

Local PrideFest Week Kicks Off on July 13



PrideFest organizers have once again crafted a full week of celebration for Colorado Springs, with a whole palette of events to choose from at a variety of venues. In 2020 the celebration in America the Beautiful Park was cancelled because of the pandemic. This year the park is not available because of construction, so the organizers have expanded on last year's playbook to create the events listed below.

Instead of the usual Pride Parade from South Tejon Street to the park, there will be a PrideFest Motorcade from Northern Colorado Springs to Southern Colorado Springs. Decorate your car and join the parade! One must register at the following website to

join the motorcade.
<https://www.cospridefest.com/>

Tuesday, July 13
Equality and Inclusion Training 6 p.m. at Stargazers
Karaoke 7 p.m. at Club Q
Trivia 7 p.m. at ICONS

Wednesday, July 14
Drag Queen Bingo Pride Edition 7 p.m. at Club Q
Pride Concert Series 8 p.m. at ICONS

Thursday, July 15
COS Pride Film Festival 7 p.m. at Stargazers
Drag Queen Bingo Pride Edition 7 p.m. at Club Q
Pride Concert Series 8 p.m. at ICONS

Friday July 16
Cabaret Drag Show 8 p.m. at ICONS
Pride Drag Show 8 p.m. at Club Q
Foam Party 9 p.m. at Club Q

(Continued on page 3)

July PFLAG Meeting

In Person

Tuesday, July 20
7:00 p.m.

Conversation and Support

The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street

Light Refreshments
Social time starts at 6:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome

PFLAG July Meeting Will Be In-Person

After 15 months of virtual meetings using Zoom, Colorado Springs PFLAG will return to The Dwelling Place, 508 North Tejon Street, on July 20.

The First Congregational United Church of Christ is now permitting groups to use this building for meetings and is currently requiring that any participant in a meeting who is not fully vaccinated wear a mask continuously while inside The Dwelling Place. Please cooperate with this requirement.

Parking meters near the building are operational through evening hours, so please either plug the meter or use the free parking available in the nearby lots at the southeast and southwest corners of Tejon and St. Vrain Streets.

When the Covid-19 pandemic began, the April 2020 PFLAG meeting was cancelled. By May, wonderful tech-savvy PFLAG parents had us up and running on Zoom, enabling us to host participants in Canon City, Salida and Castle Rock and even in other states. This has been so effective that we are considering a mix of virtual and in-person chapter meetings going forward. We warmly thank our Zoom host PFLAG parent who has made this possible, and look forward to seeing you online and in-person in the future.



Rev. Nori Rost Accepts New Position— Reflects on Local History



Rev. Nori Rost

Rev. Nori Rost, Minister at All Souls Unitarian Church for 13 years, previously the leader of the Metropolitan Community Church in Colorado Springs, and an outspoken, passionate evangelist for the LGBTQ+ community in the Pikes Peak Region, has accepted a position at the Ethical Society in New York City.

PFLAG salutes her great service in our community for so many years. One person can and does often make a huge difference. She will be missed, and we wish her well in her new position.

The following is a message she wrote titled "Nori Rost Says Goodbye" which appeared in The Independent newspaper, on June 9, 2021.

"I moved to Colorado Springs in January, 1994, in the wake of Amendment 2. Over 50 percent of voters passed that legislation two years earlier, making it illegal for state and local governments to include sexual orientation in their anti-discrimination clauses. I came to serve Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church as their minister specifically to speak out against this.

"At that time, Colorado Springs was known as Ground Zero. Colorado was called the Hate State.

"In my 12 years of service there, I led demonstrations outside of Focus on the Family when they held their anti-gay conferences, being a voice of faith for a community that had been cast out from their churches and homes.

"Then, in 2008, I made a 'UU-turn' (Unitarian Universalist), broadening my definition of faith to one that included Pagans, Buddhists, Atheists, Humanists, Theists, those who are

seeking. I became the minister at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, taking my activism with me, speaking out for justice in marginalized communities. We became the sole 'sanctuary' congregation, housing neighbors threatened with deportation so that they could continue seeking legal residency here.

"In my 27 years in Colorado Springs, the religious right groups that championed Amendment 2 have largely become irrelevant. Our city and our state have become more diverse and progressive. We now have a gay governor who seeks to include all at the table of justice. While those who would exclude others based on sexual orientation, race and other issues still hold sway politically, our city has shifted culturally to one of compassion and inclusion.

"As I prepare to leave Colorado Springs for New York City where I'll lead the New York Society for Ethical Culture, I'm proud of the work we have done here. Because we refused to abide by the bigoted views of some, we've changed our city. We've come a long way, but there is still much to do.

"Those of us with white privilege must continue the hard work of dismantling white supremacy. We must continue to fight the onslaught against women's agency over their bodies. If women and the BIPOC communities can gain true emancipation from white patriarchy, we will have set the stage for justice to come to all.

"I will continue the same in NYC. I am grateful for the activist communities in Colorado Springs. I was forged in the fire of justice here. I take that strength with me as I leave."

- Rev. Nori Rost

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.



The annual Off the Street Breakfast, a major fundraiser for The PLACE, has historically hosted as many as 900 people for breakfast under the Colorado Avenue Bridge. The pandemic turned it into a virtual event last year, but this year it is back, in a hybrid format, spanning two dates.

In Person Breakfast – Thursday July 15, 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. The PLACE anticipates having between 250 to 500 guests, so seating is limited. Reservations are by invitation only through a Table Captain and are on a first-come, first-served basis. To make a reservation through the PFLAG Table Captain, contact karenfstith@gmail.com

Virtual Breakfast – Saturday July 24, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. The PLACE is excited to also host a Virtual Off the Street Breakfast event this year. You can join as an individual or as a group from your home/viewing location. Only one person per viewing location needs to register at the link below.

Thanks to an amazing sponsor, Picnic Basket, breakfast delivery is available for viewing parties of 2 or more, to be delivered the evening of Friday July 23rd. If you would like to opt in for the breakfast delivery, be sure to complete your registration by Monday, July 19th.

Register for the virtual event at: <https://bit.ly/3g29CqW>

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, go to the 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



BULLETIN BOARD

July 15—Off the Street Breakfast—Fundraiser for The Place— In-person breakfast 7:30—8:30 a.m. See p. 2.

July 13-18 — PrideFest 2021— Although the large week-end festival with thousands of people will not be taking place this year, the PrideFest committee is planning lots of fun pride events throughout the city the entire week. See p. 1.

July 24—Off the Street Breakfast—Fundraiser for The Place (Virtual Event) 9:30—10:00 a.m. Online event and breakfast delivery. See p. 2.

PrideFest

(Continued from page 1)

Saturday, July 17

Stripped Burlesque Show 8 p.m. at Club Q
Cocktails/Piano/Concert 8 p.m. at ICONS

Sunday, July 18

Pride Motorcade 10:00 a.m.
Drag Queen Brunch at Club Q
Family BBQ 4-6 p.m. at Club Q
Pride Drag Show 8 p.m. at Club Q
Pride Dance Party 9 p.m. at Club Q

Information about the celebration is available on the PrideFest website: <https://www.cospridefest.com/> and also on its Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pridefest>.
Check venues: Stargazers <https://stargazerstheatre.com/>;
ICONs <https://www.icons-co.com/>
Club Q <https://clubqonline.com/>

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.

Flying the Pride Flag



Today is the last day of Pride month. This was the first one ever that we flew the Pride flag on our house; it's always felt too "risky", even though not justifiably so (probably just conditioning from years of paranoia and hypervigilance).



Anyway, this was a huge step for us and its just another reminder that being comfortable with ourselves as LGBTQ is pretty much a lifelong evolutionary process.

And THAT is why Pride exists: to celebrate wherever you are on that journey and to take comfort in knowing you are not alone in it.

Editor's Note: I was touched by this recent Facebook post from a friend of my daughter, now in her early 50s and retired from a successful military career that took her all over the world. Her reference to years of paranoia and hypervigilance rings so true.

Study Shows Queer Community Center a Top Priority for LGBTQ in Colorado Springs

A grant-funded study released on May 28 by Southern Colorado Health Network and Hey719 revealed that the local queer community is lacking physical, mental and sexual health services. Organizers surveyed 64 respondents in focus groups and interviews to gauge what lesbians, gays, bisexual, transgender and non-binary people in Colorado Springs want and need. The top priority is to find a space to establish a community center. Details are in a May 29 article in *The Gazette* at <https://bit.ly/2UpIATm>

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.

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: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Each year our chapter contributes \$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 additional donations are tax deductible. Or pay by credit card online at website: www.cspflag.org PFLAG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.