



PFLAG Colorado Springs

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

May 2020

May PFLAG Meeting— We're Going Online

With support from the National Office of PFLAG, the Colorado Springs PFLAG chapter will engage in its first monthly online meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19. The platform used will be the videoconferencing program known as Zoom.

To ensure the privacy and safety of participants, the link that will allow individuals to join the meeting will be sent individually by email to those who wish to attend the meeting. It will not be posted on our website or displayed in this newsletter.

To attend the May 19 meeting, please send an email message to: virtualmeeting@cspflag.org. Please provide the first name and last initial that you will use for the meeting. Participants need to identify themselves this way to join the meeting—your full name is not required.

You can participate in the way that makes you feel most comfortable whether that is on video or by phone.



We will send you our guidelines for participating in a PFLAG meeting. An invitation with a link to the meeting will be sent the day before the meeting (May 18) to those who have told us they want to attend.

Please remember that PFLAG meetings are always a safe, confidential space.

This spring, the February and March PFLAG meetings were cancelled because of weather, and the April meeting was eliminated by the Stay at Home order related to the COVID19 crisis.

We've missed you, and we look forward to getting together on Zoom in May.

* PFLAG Monthly Meeting *
* By ZOOM Online *
* Videoconference *
* Tuesday, May 19th *
* 7:00 p.m. *
* To attend the meeting, please *
* send an email message to: *
* virtualmeeting@cspflag.org *
* You will receive information *
* about how this works. *
* Everyone is welcome. *

Workshop on Name Change Process for Minors

The Colorado Name Change Project will offer another workshop online, using Zoom, on Saturday, May 23, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. This is a free workshop for youth, parents and the community, focusing on the process of legally changing the name of a minor. To join the meeting on May 23, click on this link: <https://bit.ly/35oOsO8>. Also see the organization's website: <https://www.namechangeproject.org>.

The Colorado Name Change Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed in 2018 to help Coloradans with name change and gender issues. Our friends at Inside Out recommend it.

PrideFest 2020 is Cancelled

Nic Grzecka and his excellent PrideFest staff have had to cancel PrideFest 2020 in Colorado Springs because of the Coronavirus situation. This would have been the 30th annual PrideFest.

PFLAG knows that this was a heartbreaking decision for Nic and his supporters to have to make, and we look forward to the resurgence of PrideFest in 2021. Nic, thank you for all your work to keep this celebration strong. Visit <https://www.cospridefest.com/> or send a note to Colorado Springs Pridefest on Facebook.

Announcing — Virtual Queer Prom!



Congratulations to Inside Out Youth Services for figuring out how to celebrate its annual Queer Prom. Here's a message from I/O:

"With the closure of all Colorado school districts for at least the remainder of this year, Inside Out is unable to host the annual Queer Prom in person. But through the magic of technology, the party will go on! Saturday, May 16th 7-9 PM, join us for live DJ sets and drag performances.

"Come in your prom attire or your pajamas, and celebrate with us. Because of the nature of the virtual platform, Queer Prom 2020 is now FREE OF CHARGE and we welcome ALL AGES!

"Visit our website and social media channels for more details and a link, coming soon."

I/O thanks these fine sponsors for bringing Virtual Queer Prom to the community:

Down Dentist; Pepsi, Colorado Springs Bike Shop; PFLAG, Studio G Events, Parker Secret Closet, T Rowe Price; United Court of the Pikes Peak Empire; Blue Sass Custom Creations; Coquette's Bistro and Bakery; Root Center for Yoga and Sacred Studies and individual donors.

See what I/O is offering during the crisis. Go to: www.insideouttys.org



From the PFLAG—Colorado Springs Facebook Page

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 this 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 Colorado Springs on Facebook:
PFLAG - Colorado Springs
<https://www.facebook.com/PFLAGCS/>

PFLAG National Office website:
www.pflag.org

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

Cindy Waldmann does a great job of managing the PFLAG Facebook page at PFLAG—Colorado Springs.

Here is a recent post.

Anderson Cooper is a dad!

The longtime gay CNN news anchor, 52, revealed the happy news on Instagram alongside a slideshow of videos of his son, Wyatt Morgan Cooper. See: <https://bit.ly/3d3QtC2>
The surrogate who carried the baby is a friend who is married, with children.

Cooper welcomed Wyatt — who is named after the journalist's father — on Monday via surrogate, he said. The host also revealed his big news on his show *Anderson Cooper 360°*. Wyatt weighed 7.2 lbs. at birth, "and he is sweet, and soft, and healthy and I am beyond happy," the proud new dad said in his emotional announcement on CNN.

"He is named after my father, who died when I was ten," Cooper explained. "I hope I can be as good a dad as he was. My son's middle

name is Morgan. It's a family name on my mom's side. I know my mom and dad liked the name Morgan because I recently found a list they made 52 years ago when they were trying to think of names for me. Wyatt Morgan Cooper. My son."

Cooper shared that he never thought fatherhood would be a possibil-

PFLAG Academy Online:

The Role of Parents in Protecting Youth From Conversion Therapy

A message from PFLAG National:

Please join us for this very special session of PFLAG Academy Online presented by our friends at the Trevor Project (www.thetrevorproject.org) on May 13 from 6:30—7:30 p.m.

This session is part of a three-part series about conversion therapy and LGBTQ+ youth for PFLAG leaders, members, and parents nationwide. Part one will cover the history of conversion therapy in the United States.

There are nearly 700,000 LGBTQ survivors of conversion therapy; 16,000 LGBTQ youth are at risk of receiving conversion therapy from a licensed mental health professional in the next few years.

Although every major medical organization has declared that conversion therapy is a discredited and dangerous practice, The Trevor Project witnesses its harm to LGBTQ youth every week, which is why Trevor is working to address the harms of conversion therapy through its 50 Bills 50 States campaign.

In this special session of PFLAG Academy, you'll learn more about:

- 1) The legislation, litigation, and public education components of The Trevor Project's 50 Bills 50 States Campaign;
- 2) The special role parents have to play in the effort to protect LGBTQ youth;
- 3) The progress we've made working to end conversion therapy;
- 4) The latest research on its harms;
- 5) The best ways for PFLAG members and chapters to advocate for protections against it.

We will also reserve plenty of time for Q&A so bring your questions! Click here to register:

<https://bit.ly/2KVSZ4>

TYES

Transgender Youth Education and Support (TYES) is a Boulder-based parent group that provides information and a community of support for parents of gender dysphoric and gender variant younger children.

PFLAG collaborates with TYES to provide support to parents in the Pikes Peak region. For more information, call (719) 425-9567 or send an e-mail to info@cspflag.org. The national TYES website is:

TransParent Group

The TransParent group at Inside/Out for parents of gender variant and transgender youth usually meets on the third Thursday of the month from 6:00—7:30 p.m. at Inside/Out Youth Services, 223 North Wahsatch Ave.

For more information about the meetings, call Inside/Out at 328-1056 or send an e-mail to: transparenting@insideoutys.org

Stand With Trans

Stand With Trans is a national support group of parents supporting the transgender community. See <https://standwithtrans.org>



ONE VOICE MIXED CHORUS
PRESENTS

**BAYARD RUSTIN:
THE MAN BEHIND
THE DREAM**

MINNESOTA'S LGBT
ONE VOICE
MIXED CHORUS

www.OneVoiceMN.org
Info@OneVoiceMN.org

May 6, 2020 at 7:00 pm
TUNE IN AT WWW.ONEVOICEMN.ORG/LIVE

A SPECIAL BROADCAST FEATURING
VocalEssence SOTA Youth Choir plus
interviews with Composer Steve Millroy
and Guest Artists Vanessa German,
Phillip Schoultz & Isaiah Bates

Link for SOTA youth:
<https://www.vocalescence.org/vocalescence-singers-age-sota/>

Inside Out Initiates Direct Services

Message from Executive Director Jesse Pocock 4/28/20:

“Let me cut right to the chase... **Inside Out has received limited funding to support NEW DIRECT SERVICES to include: financial aid for housing and food insecurity and to assist with medical and pharmaceutical access!**

“We are grateful for the support of the El Pomar Foundation, the Pikes Peak Community Foundation, and the Colorado Health Foundation, as well as individual donors like you who support our mission on a monthly basis or have contributed to our emergency fund. As always, we are resilient and our phoenix rises!

“This week, we opened a landing page and application for aid in response to the expressed need to receive direct services. Our goals are to alleviate stress and suffering amongst the LGBTQ+ community, prioritizing our current youth and their families. If you or someone you know needs financial assistance during this challenging time or if you can contribute to our emergency fund, please visit www.insideouttys.org/covid19-updates

“After Inside Out initiated a public survey in early April to assess the needs of our community, it became evident that we must expand our mission to include direct services to young people and their families experiencing

acute financial need, specifically housing/food insecurity.

“Responses overwhelmingly indicated increased stress from lost wages, fear of eviction and mounting debt, all exacerbated by insufficient nutrition. One respondent noted that they “haven’t had a real meal in



more than three weeks” and this sentiment is echoed repeatedly by others.

“At this time, our survey is the only source of data about El Paso County provided to the state—as decisions about relief funding are made, we must make our voices heard to ensure care for our most vulnerable populations.

“Our respondents represent groups who are disproportionately affected by COVID-19: young people and families living in poverty or experiencing homelessness, youth who are isolated in unsupportive or abusive households, people who are immune compromised, and those who are suffering from mental or physical illness.

“The negative impacts of loneliness and fear of the present and the future cannot be underestimated, and the current disruption in social connection will likely lead to an uptick in mental health crises.

“Our work is designed to provide upstream prevention of suicide, substance use, and violence against our young people; the isolation and financial ramifications of COVID-19 exacerbate mental health and safety concerns, making our work more important than ever.

“We are stronger together, and we thank you for walking alongside us in the fight for gender and sexual equity. And please remember... we are here for you, too.”

One Voice, Minnesota’s LGBT mixed chorus, presented a concert earlier this year titled “Bayard Rustin: The Man Behind the Dream”. The concert will be broadcast over the internet on May 6th at 7:00 p.m. CST (6:00 p.m. in Colorado). Follow this link: <http://www.onevoicemn.org/live/>

Bayard Rustin (1912–1987) was an American leader in social movements for for civil rights, Socialism, nonviolence and gay rights. Rustin was a gay man who had been arrested early in his career for engaging in public sex. Due to criticism over his sexuality, he usually acted as an influential adviser behind the scenes to civil-rights leaders. In the 1980s, he became a public advocate on behalf of gay causes, speaking at events as an activist and supporter of human rights.

This is a wonderful opportunity to hear a concert by one of the leading LGBT choruses in America. Its mission statement is “Building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song”. One Voice mixed chorus has been a powerhouse in promoting the LGBT community in the Twin Cities for many years.

During this Stay Home Stay Safe period, they will lift your spirits as they and their guest artists celebrate the life of one of our country’s most passionate advocates for civil rights.

Get acquainted with One Voice at www.onevoicemn.org. And here’s a special treat: watch a preview piece from the concert called “Rainbow Round My Shoulder” online at <https://bit.ly/2yY5NBn>

Mental Health Awareness Town Hall—May 12

This message is from Daniel Ramos, Executive Director, One Colorado.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month—and it couldn’t have come at a more relevant time. We are all struggling to stay positive, healthy, and mentally well. We know from data in our Closing the Gap health report (see <https://bit.ly/2zLHW8j>) that LGBTQ Coloradans are about three times more likely to have been diagnosed with anxiety or depression than non-LGBTQ folks. Especially in this time of crisis, we need to bring awareness and support to our community.

Join One Colorado for our LGBTQ Mental Health Awareness Town Hall on Tuesday, May 12th at 5:30 PM. Our panelists will discuss the mental health needs of LGBTQ folks in Colorado, offer information about programs and services available, share tips for accessing care through your insurance provider, and much more! Click this link for details and to register for the Town Hall. <https://bit.ly/3d6lyUk>



BULLETIN BOARD

May 3-10-17-24-31—Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church— Services online with Pastor Alycia Erickson. Watch on Pikes Peak MCC Facebook page or go to www.ppmcc.org.

May 12 — LGBTQ Mental Awareness Town Hall—5:30 p.m. Online. Organized by One Colorado. See invitation p. 3.

May 13 — PFLAG Academy Online — Protecting Youth From Conversion Therapy—6:30 to 7:30 p.m. See p. 2.

May 16—Queer Prom — 7:00—9:00 p.m., online. See p. 1. Check www.insideoutys.org and the Inside/Out Youth Services Facebook page for updates.

May 19 — Colorado Springs Online PFLAG Meeting — 7:00 p.m. See p.1

June 20-21—Virtual Denver PrideFest — To be celebrated online. Check the website: <https://denverpride.org/pridefest/> for up to date information.

July 16 — Off the Street Breakfast — Fundraiser for The Place. 7:00—8:30 a.m. See details on this page.

August 7-8—Out Loud Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus Concert “Why We Sing” — First Congregational Church, 20 E. St. Vrain Street. PFLAG will provide ushers.

This is Important

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

THEREFORE, PFLAG meetings must always be a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear
Must remain strictly confidential.

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.

“When You Go Out...”

When you go out and see the empty streets, The empty stadiums, the empty train platforms, don’t say to yourself. “It looks like the end of the world.”

What you’re seeing is love in action.

What you’re seeing, in that negative space, is how much we do care for each other, for our grandparents, for our immune-compromised brothers and sisters, for people we will never meet.

People will lose jobs over this. Some will lose their businesses. And some will lose their lives.

All the more reason to take a moment, when you’re out on your walk, or on your way to the store, or just watching the news, to look into the emptiness and marvel at all of that love.

Let it fill you and sustain you.

It isn’t the end of the world. It is the most remarkable act of global solidarity we may ever witness.

- Author Unknown

“Off the Street” Breakfast - Date Set

The Place, formerly known as Urban Peak, where youth living on the street can find a way back to safety and a stable life, has announced that its major summer fundraiser, the Off the Street Breakfast, is tentatively scheduled for July 16th from 7:00 – 8:30 a.m.

In a slight change of location, it will be held under the Colorado Avenue Bridge, east of the railroad tracks. The Place is working with the city to block off South Sierra Madre Street which runs behind the Antlers Hotel and under the bridge.

The organizers recognize that the date might have to change to honor social distancing guidelines driven by the Coronavirus, and PFLAG will keep you informed if that should happen.

Please put July 16th on your calendar and plan to sit at a PFLAG table.

Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.

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