PFLAG Denver Awards 2019 Scholarship Recipients

By Brett James, Scholarship Committee Chair

On May 9th PFLAG Denver proudly recognized four Colorado high school students for excellence in social justice, education, and advocacy. Twenty-four students from across the state applied for one of four $2,500 scholarships recognizing students for work they completed in their LGBTQ+ communities and for a promise to continue that work throughout their lives.

It was a truly incredible evening held at the Chun Mansion at Cheesman Park. Each recipient was introduced by a scholarship committee member with the recipient making a speech of their own on a topic of their choosing. These future leaders left the audience in awe with speeches that were poignant, funny, moving, honest, meaningful.

To read their application packet is to know them on one level, but to meet them and hear their speeches is to be moved by their work to make ours a safer, healthier, and more loving world.

Each applicant submitted three essays, two letters of recommendation, and a transcript before being considered for a scholarship. The scholarship committee worked hard over a nine-month period to create a fair and just application and scoring process. Scoring each application packet and choosing finalists always proves a challenging task with such an impressive pool of applicants.

This year PFLAG Denver was honored to present awards to the following four high school students:

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Nicolas Bell, PFLAG Denver Scholar. Nicolas graduated from New Vista High School and is heading to Carleton College in the fall. Nicolas writes, “I could choose to not tell people about being transgender, but I no longer feel ashamed of being me. At college, I look forward to sharing my story and using my life to show those around me the importance of intersectional identities and being true to oneself.”

Macy Gosh, PFLAG Denver Hope Scholar. Macy graduated from George Washington High School and is heading to Grinnell College in the fall. Macy writes, “It’s become clear to me that members of the LGBTQ+ community are often not treated with the dignity that all people deserve, and throughout high school I have been devoted to doing something about the issue.”

C.J. Hendrie, PFLAG Denver Scholar. C.J. graduated from Rocky Mountain High School and is heading to CU-Boulder in the fall. C.J. writes, “I want to help build a world where my community isn’t stifled by ignorance. Education is the key to doing away with ignorance, replacing it instead with compassion and understanding.”

Natalie Loring, PFLAG Denver Scholar. Natalie graduated from Stargate High School and is heading to Metropolitan State in the fall. Natalie writes, “My understanding of how hard it can be to ask for help has increased my empathy and determination allowing me to not only chase my own dreams, but to empower others on their journeys.”

Our award ceremony would not have been possible without the generosity of Pam Sims, Cerebral Brewing, Argonaut Liquor, and Natasha Rigg Photography. Thank you all so very much for your largesse in providing food, beverages, and photography.

Finally, the PFLAG Denver Scholarship Program is 100% donation dependent. Please consider helping a future leader fund their college education by visiting the Scholarship Tab at our web site, https://www.pflagdenver.org/scholarship, or by writing a check to PFLAG Denver with “Scholarship Program” on the memo line.

By Lisa Telk

Hello, PFLAGers!

PRIDE is coming soon, and we are so excited to have so many volunteers sign up to help us this year in the booth. We look forward to working with all of you! It will be an exciting and fulfilling day. I always enjoy meeting all the youth who come to our table asking what we do. Last year there were numerous times that I got choked up hearing about their stories and journeys. We look forward to seeing all our wonderful volunteers come support and help us that weekend.

Remember to come join us for the parade on Sunday, June 16th.

For more details or information about how to volunteer with us, please email our office at pflagden@tde.com.
We sorrowfully inform you that Marcus Rosnik, son of Yvonne and the late Bob Rosnik, completed his life journey on April 8 in San Francisco. For over 30 years Marcus carried the heavy burden of mental illness, and he did so with great courage, dignity and grace, sustained by his loving family. He was a person with a huge, loving heart, with compassion and empathy for others and with a wonderful sense of humor. He was a prolific writer and his creativity was a true gift! The entire PFLAG community extends its deep condolences to the Rosnik family and especially to Yvonne.

On Friday, May 31, at 9:30 am, on the West Steps of the Colorado Capitol, a public bill-signing ceremony will celebrate the passing by the Colorado General Assembly of both Jude’s Law and the bill to ban conversion therapy.

There will be a screening of the PBS documentary American Experience: Stonewall Uprising on May 31 at 7:00 pm at Metropolitan Community Church of the Rockies, 980 Clarkson St., Denver. This movie chronicles the historic event that launched a worldwide rights movement. The event is a Denver Women’s Chorus fundraiser; the suggested donation is $10 at the door.

The Denver Gay Men’s Chorus and The Denver Women’s Chorus are proud to be among the 22 gay and lesbian co-commissioning choruses throughout the United States that will simultaneously premiere Quiet No More: A Choral Celebration of Stonewall to mark this milestone in gay rights history and launch World Pride 2019. The first performance was given on May 18 in Golden. There will be three June performances:
- Broomfield Auditorium, 3 Community Park Road, Broomfield, on June 1, 7:30 pm
- The King Center Concert Hall, Auraria Higher Education Center, 855 Lawrence Way, Denver, on June 7 @ 7:30 pm, and June 8 @ 2:00 and 7:30 pm.
- The DGMC and DWC are making available (go to DGMCVicePresident@smarts.org) complimentary tickets to students and educators.

Harmony: a Colorado Chorale is pleased to announce that Joy Jenkins has accepted an offer from the Board of Directors to become the new permanent Artistic Director.

On May 17 The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Equality Act, a historic moment marking the first time a chamber of Congress has approved comprehensive federal protections for the LGBTQ community. The Equality Act would provide national, consistent non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ people in all aspects of life, amending current civil right laws to explicitly prohibit discrimination against the LGBTQ community and strengthen non-discrimination protections for women and other minorities. This is only the first step, however, as the Equality Act faces a long battle in the U.S. Senate.

Radically Inclusive 2nd Annual LGBTQ+ Resource Fair will be held at Mile Hi Church, 9077 W. Alameda Avenue in Lakewood, on June 9 from 8:30 am -1:30 pm. It is free.

A Name Change Project hosted by the Transgender Center of the Rockies, 3460 S. Federal Blvd. in Sheridan, will be held on June 22 at 3 pm. Come learn how to file your name change petition in Colorado, as well as correct your gender marker! The workshop will be led by an attorney who can answer your questions and guide you through the process. Also available will be information for low-cost/pro bono attorney referrals and micro-grants. (303-761-0200).

Kick off Pride weekend on Thursday, June 13, by supporting the PFLAG Denver Scholarship Program at Cerebral Brewing’s pint night. $1.00 from every pint goes to the scholarship fund. Stop by after 4:00, socialize with the PFLAG board and scholarship committee, pick up some cool stuff, and help kids go to college!

Special Pride Church Service – On Pride Sunday, June 16, at 7:45 a.m., St. Barnabas Episcopal Parish will hold a special liturgy commemorating PrideFest weekend and the 50th anniversary of Stonewall. Fr. Jeffrey Nelson will lead the service, followed by a brief reception with food and then a walk to the Pride Parade. The church is located at 1280 Vine St. at 13th Avenue, two blocks east of Cheesman Park.

At Denver Zoo, Pride goes way beyond lions. Join us on June 15 at True Colors Safari, the zoo’s very first celebration of the LGBTQIA+ community, complete with Community Conversations moderated by PFLAG and Matthew Shepard Foundation, with special performances by Offkilter, 5280, Denver Gay Men’s Chorus and more! June 15, 6:00-9:30 pm, $10-$15 (please reach out to Rebecca@pflag-denver.org if you need financial assistance).

Mariposa 1st Wednesday Diversity Dialogues – at Althea Center, 1400 Williams St., 6-9 pm, (reception 6-7 pm), $10.
- June 5 — FILM SCREENING: After Stonewall at 7:00 pm. Exploring the milestones of the lesbian/gay rights movement, the film chronicles key events from 1970 to the end of the 20th century, including sexual liberation, conflicts with the feminist movement, AIDS, and political organizing after the 1969 Stonewall Riots in NYC.
- June 19 — PANEL DISCUSSION at 7:00 pm. A diverse panel of LGBTQ individuals plus one parent will share their personal journeys to find “Pride and Authenticity.”