



Bridging the LGBTQ+ and Allied Communities

Volume XXXVI, Number 11 — November 2016

QUARTERLY MEETING

October Program Addresses White Privilege/Fragility

By Sara Winter

PFLAG Denver board member Mia Furtado, the speaker at the October meeting, challenged her audience to confront “white fragility” in a thought-provoking presentation. The queer community has historically been guilty of neglecting queer voices of color. In a broader context, so have we all.

Mia recommended a web-posted article, “White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard to Talk to White People about Racism,” by Dr. Robin DiAngelo. To condense and paraphrase:

While individual whites may be against racism, they still benefit from the distribution of resources controlled by their group. We have organized society to reproduce and reinforce our racial interests and perspectives. Further, we are centered in all matters deemed normal, universal, benign, neutral and good, and this becomes our identity.

*Challenges to this identity — to our concepts of individualism/meritocracy, of white authority and white centrality — become highly stressful and even intolerable. Not often encountering these challenges, we withdraw, defend, cry, argue, minimize, ignore, and in other ways push back to regain our racial position and equilibrium. I term that push back **white fragility**.*

This concept came out of my on-going experience leading discussions on race, racism, white privilege and white supremacy with primarily white audiences. It became clear over time that white people have extremely low thresholds for enduring any discomfort associated with challenges to our racial worldviews.

The antidote to white fragility is on-going and life-long, and includes sustained engagement, humility, and education. We can begin by:

- *Being willing to tolerate the discomfort associated with an honest appraisal and discussion of our internalized superiority and racial privilege.*
- *Challenging our own racial reality by acknowledging ourselves as racial beings with a particular and limited perspective on race.*
- *Attempting to understand the racial realities of people of color through authentic interaction, not through the media or unequal relationships.*
- *Taking action to address our own racism, the racism of other whites, and the racism embedded in our institutions—e.g., get educated and act.*

The website is <https://goodmenproject.com/featured-content/white-fragility-why-its-so-hard-to-talk-to-white-people-about-racism-twlm/>.

Got privilege?

Chapter President Speaks in Fort Morgan

By Blanca Leos

In this day and age we want to believe that the coming out process is a lot easier for individuals and that there is acceptance in the world. However in some rural areas, coming out is not as common as we think. When I was asked recently to speak in Ft. Morgan to a group of Latino parents and family members, I was shocked to find out how little they knew about the LGBTQ community.

There were about 25 people who came to this speaking event that took place in the Team Ready program. Most were parents, and some were counselors and teachers of the Ft. Morgan High School.

When introduced to the idea that their child might be a part of the LGBTQ community, the parents who had been invited were clueless about what to ask or do. Most of them have little or no education, don’t have the accessibility to research about the LGBTQ community, and aren’t able to seek out resources. It was an eye-opening moment for them, to think that they could have a child that could be part of the LGBTQ community.

I began by explaining about the PFLAG Denver chapter and the work we do in the community, and I told them my personal experience when my child came out. Mostly I wanted them to know

that I too had hesitations and concerns as a Latina mother, but was able to get the assistance on how to cope and educate myself without losing my faith. In this small town they don’t have the resources we have in the Denver metro area, so for them to get information about the LGBTQ community was tremendous. Although there was some hesitation at first, once they heard me speak on why the acceptance of family is so important and the statistics of individuals who have no support, they were able to open up a little more. Before I knew it they were engaged and asking a ton of questions.

At the end of the event I was approached by a young man who was in tears and was extremely grateful to me for coming and talking to them. He expressed that he had come out to his mother who had not been as accepting and was grateful to know that there is an organization such as PFLAG to help parents. It was then that I realized that although we have come a long way in this process, we still have a ton of work to do, and I saw the importance of PFLAG continuing to exist. In areas such as Ft. Morgan our work is just beginning, and I am grateful that PFLAG Denver is able to help in that process.

Look for us on Facebook!



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PFLAG Denver

P.O. Box 18901

Denver, CO 80218-0901

Helpline: 303-333-0286

Latino/a Help: 303-333-0286

Office: 303-573-5861

E-mail: pflagden@tde.com

Web: www.pflagdenver.org

OUR VISION

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.

OUR MISSION

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.*

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Calendar of Events

October 26

Board of Directors Meeting
CHUN Mansion, 6:30 P.M.

November 3

Project Homeless Connect
(See News & Notes, p. 3)

November 3, 9, 14

PFLAG Denver Support Groups
CHUN Mansion, 1290 Williams St.

Nov. 3 – Regular/New Families

Nov. 9 – Latinos/as

Nov. 9 – Transgender

Nov. 14 – Educators

All at 6:30 P.M.

November 11

CSCA Conference
(See News & Notes, p. 3)

November 17

Drag Show & Resource Fair
(See News & Notes, p. 3)

November 18

Newsletter Deadline
Send copy to winternye@gmail.com

November 20

Red Ball
(See News & Notes, p. 3)

December 1

PFLAG Denver Holiday Party
CHUN Mansion, 6:30 P.M.

December 1 - 3

DGMC Concerts
(See News & Notes, p. 3)

PFLAG Denver is currently looking for new board members. If you would like to help us out, or know someone who may want to be a board member, please email us for more details, pflagden@tde.com.

SAVE THE DATE! FEBRUARY 11, 2017, 7 PM!

RING IN YOUR VERY HAPPY & PROSPEROUS CHINESE NEW YEAR WITH US!

HELP OUR FUTURE LEADERS!

The PFLAG Denver Chapter has distributed \$29,000 in scholarship awards since 2011, to 17 amazing students, and this year we want to provide scholarship awards to keep pace with rising college costs. We plan to offer two \$2,500 awards and one \$5,000 scholarship to LGBTQ+ high school seniors and their straight allies to recognize these beacons in our communities, to encourage them to pursue post-secondary education, and to promote leadership and a positive image of LGBTQ+ youth.



Can you help us in 2017-2018?

Our expectation is that these exceptional students will continue to create meaningful change on campuses and in their communities.

We will create a new generation of advocates and leaders for the LGBTQ+ community with this local, one-of-a-kind program.

We believe that identifying students who desire to increase their learning, while advancing the health and prosperity of our diverse community is of the utmost importance.

Your ticket provides hors d'oeuvres, two drink tickets, exciting local speakers, scholarship application highlights, music, and exciting performances in the 9 p.m. hour!

**Our event theme of the Chinese Red Rooster is sure to delight you.
We'll see you there!**

PFLAG National Announces 19 New PFLAG Chapters in 2016 !

Eastern Region

Annapolis/Anne Arundel County, MD
Norwalk, CT
Hampton, CT
Johns Creek, GA
Attleboro, MA
Bel Air, MD
Salisbury, MD

Central Region

Oskaloosa, Iowa
Tinley Park, Illinois
Decatur, Illinois
Corydon, Indiana
Port Huron, Michigan
Grand Island, Nebraska
Tahlequah, Oklahoma
Brenham, Texas

Western Region

Greeley, CO
Prescott, AZ
Sandpoint, ID
Boulder City, NV

News & Notes

We extend our heartfelt condolences to **Dick and Jeanette Bowers**, whose son **Richard, Jr.** died suddenly on October 3 while working at his desk, at the age of only 48. The cause of death was a massive stroke brought on by rare moyamoya disease (which causes constriction of arteries in the brain) diagnosed 18 years ago. He leaves a wife Cherise and two teen-age children, Alex and Madison. Dick and Jeanette are the founders of the Highlands Ranch PFLAG chapter.

Project Homeless Connect (PHC) is a one-day event where individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness connect with needed services and resources under one roof in an effort to help them move toward self-sufficiency. Services provided include Basic Medical Care, Legal Services and Homeless Court, IDs, Birth Certificates, Food Stamps, Wellness Services and many other community resources. This year's event, PHC15, will be held on Thursday, November 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St., Denver. We ask volunteers to commit to serving anytime between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., depending on the shift(s). Descriptions for all volunteer opportunities can be found at www.bit.ly/denverphc. This event is a joint effort between the City & County of Denver (Denver's Road Home) and Mile High United Way.



The annual **Colorado School Counselors Association Conference** will be held on November 11, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., at The Antlers Colorado Springs, 4 S. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

UC Denver Genders and Sexualities Alliance: Drag Show/Resource Fair will take place at 6 p.m. on November 17 at Tivoli, 900 Auraria Pkwy., Denver.

The Colorado AIDS Project's **Red Ball** – Denver's premiere hair and fashion runway event to raise awareness for World AIDS Day and to support services provided by Denver Colorado AIDS Project – will be held at 6 p.m. on Nov. 20 at the EXDO Event Center, 1399 35th St., Denver. Visit www.RedBallDenver.org for more information.



The Denver Gay Men's Chorus will present **Merry and GAY! A DGMC Holiday Spectacular** on Dec. 1 (7:30 p.m.), Dec. 2 (7:30 p.m.), and Dec. 3 (2:00 & 7:30 p.m.) at the Central Presbyterian Church, 1660 Sherman St., Denver.

KEEPING UP WITH CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Support – Education – Advocacy

SPEAKERS' BUREAU – Blanca Leos spoke at two events in September (see article, p. 1).

HELPLINE – There were 10 calls into the office and Helpline in September.

SUPPORT GROUPS – A record ten people came to the New Families Support Group on October 6.

Debbie Gibson facilitated. One came to the Oct. 3 Educator Support Group, facilitated by Mia Furtado. The October Latino/a group was cancelled.

OCTOBER MEETING – Eleven people attended Mia Furtado's program on White Privilege (see article, p. 1).

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS

Supporting Partnerships –

Sharon S. Russell, D.D.S.

3300 E. First Ave. #580
303-320-1640, linda@friedmanrussell.com

Bill Coleman Entertainment

www.bubbletower.com, stretch@stiltwalker.com
303-922-4655

Denver Psychotherapy Care

Tony Miles, Ph.D., 720-205-9752
Tony@DenverPsychotherapyCare.com
DenverPsychotherapyCare.com

Erica Johnson, Estate Planning Attorney

950 S. Cherry St. #1650, 303-321-1267
erica@ambler-keen.com

Tim Wilson, Family Service Counselor

Fairmount Mortuary, Cemetery & Cremation Services
303-399-0692, twilson@fairmountcemetery.net
*** 10% back to PFLAG on all pre-need contracts ***

Basic Partnerships –

Trilogy Financial

Wade Frisbie, Financial Advisor
Wade.frisbie@trilogyfs.com – 303-999-1847
101 University Blvd., Ste. 450, Denver 80206

TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP INITIATED

Starting in November, PFLAG Denver is happy to provide a monthly gathering for Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming individuals, their parents, family members, friends and allies in our community.

This will be a safe and welcoming space to ask questions and have honest and frank discussions about gender and gender identity. Let's collaborate in our journeys and our many perspectives and issues surrounding our gender-diverse and gender-expansive communities.

This support group will meet on the second Wednesday of every month, at 6:30 p.m., at 1290 Williams Street, Denver.