Chapter Moderates Oppenheimer Panel Discussion

By Lisa Telk

On July 18 Oppenheimer Funds partnered with Rainbow Alley for a day-workshop for youth who are LGBTQ+.

Every summer, Rainbow Alley hosts a two-week career exploration and leadership camp to provide opportunities for youth to connect with LGBTQ+ and ally professionals in the community. During the summer camp, they go on field trips and attend fun workshops. One of the workshops they attended was an all-day excursion to Oppenheimer Funds.

Oppenheimer Funds is a corporate sponsor for PFLAG National. It is one of the leading companies that provide employees with the opportunity to connect with the diverse experiences of colleagues by joining its Business Resource Groups, which include the LGBTQ+ Network. As a part of their effort to be diverse and inclusive, they partner with different LGBTQ+ organizations. Thus, on July 18 they hosted this event, one part of which was a panel discussion with LGBTQ+ professionals from the community to discuss experiences of being “out” in the workplace. They invited PFLAG Denver to moderate the panel discussion, and I was the moderator and also a panelist. A new volunteer to PFLAG Denver, Mallory, was a member of the panel as well.

It was an exciting event, and we thank Oppenheimer Funds for inviting us to moderate and participate in the panel discussion. These types of outreach opportunities allow PFLAG Denver to engage with the business community. They are a part of the ongoing efforts of corporations that are expanding their diversity practices.

31st Annual AIDS Walk Colorado on August 18

By Sara Winter

The AIDS epidemic which struck in the 1980s is now a distant memory, but for families of gay men, and their supporters such as PFLAG, it was a time of unprecedented anxiety and sorrow.

In those early years, PFLAG Denver rose to the challenge and offered a separate support group to families dealing with the disease. We met parents who learned on the same day that their son was gay, and that he had AIDS and was dying. On all sides we were confronted by the stigma, the fear of divulging the cause of illness to anyone.

The Colorado AIDS Project, now known as Colorado Health Network (CHN), was founded in 1983 to provide services for those infected and to undertake education of high-risk groups to prevent further infections. AIDS Walk Colorado is CHN’s largest HIV/AIDS fundraiser, and PFLAG Denver has participated in the walks from the beginning.

This will be the 26th year that our chapter has been a beneficiary, which means that we receive back a large percentage of the money our team raises. With this money we provide financial assistance — for housing, dental work, and many other basics — to needy persons and families coping with HIV/AIDS. Over the years we have provided over $50,000! And the need continues, for the disease is still with us although it is under control.

This 31st annual AIDS Walk Colorado will take place in Cheesman Park on Saturday, August 18, starting at 9 a.m. Whether you walk that day or not, please join our PFLAG Denver Team, and help us raise funds. Just follow these steps:

- Go to www.aidswalkcolorado.org
- Click on “Walk or Run”
- Click on “Join a Team”

Scroll down the team list to PFLAG Denver. You can also send a check, payable to AIDS Walk Colorado, to PFLAG Denver, P.O. Box 18901, Denver 80218.

Invitation to Participate in Health Survey

LGBTQ Coloradans face discrimination, bias, and barriers to LGBTQ-competent care. It is harder to create change without data. Please consider helping One Colorado create awareness and improve access to quality, affirming health care for our community by completing their 2018 Health Survey.

One Colorado and their partners launched the first Colorado LGBTQ health survey in 2011, and so much has changed since then because of what was learned — including the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid expansion, and achieving nondiscrimination protections based on sexual orientation and transgender status in Colorado insurance plans. It’s time to update what we know about LGBTQ health here in Colorado, so we can tell lawmakers and healthcare providers what needs to change.

To take the survey, go to http://sgiz.mobi/s3/Colorado-LGBTQ-Health-Assessment.
**Call for Scholarship Committee Members**

By Brett James

We are looking for one or two new committee members who are in high school or college to join the Scholarship Committee. Members must be at least 16 years old and live in the state of Colorado. Responsibilities include reading applications and selecting finalists for our annual scholarship awards. This is highly rewarding work as you get to help applicants who have made the world a better place for the LGBTQ community go to college.

Other responsibilities are minimal, including 4 - 6 meetings per year and attendance at fund-raising events and the award ceremony in May.

To sign up for the committee or to find out more, send an email to me at brett@pflagdenver.org or call the office at 303-573-5861.

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**More Photos from Pride Parade**

Thanks to Gay Bossart.

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**PATT WYLDER REMPHEL**

**February 15, 1929 - May 9, 2018**

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**Invitation: A Celebration of Patt’s Life**

Aug 11, 2018 at 1:00 pm
Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church
1980 Dahlia Street, Denver CO 80220

A celebration of Patt’s life and a sharing of memories will be held in the Fellowship Hall downstairs, which will be followed by a light meal and time together.

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**Volunteer Voices**

By Lisa Telk

COMING IN THE FALL!

Calling All Volunteers! Get ready for another volunteer training session for our newest board member and for the new volunteers joining our PFLAG Denver team!

We are looking at the end of September through October to host another training session. So far we have approximately six attendees. Come to the training to learn more about the history of PFLAG, the national organization and local chapters, and what we do specifically at PFLAG Denver.

We are expanding our activities through the work and service of amazing volunteers who are joining our team! Two new facilitators have been trained: Rebecca, a board member, and Sarah, a new volunteer! Thank you, ladies!

If you are interested in being a volunteer and want to be a part of this training, email us at pflagden@ide.com or you can email me directly at lisa@pflagdenver.org.

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Our thanks to Mallory for being an outstanding representative of PFLAG Denver at the Oppenheimer Funds panel discussion (see article on page 1).

This is the story of two white gay men (Jerry and Frank) who meet at a seminary in St. Louis in the early 60’s and are studying to become Jesuit priests. For both of them it is also a period of exploring their sexuality. They first become friends and later lovers. Frank becomes a Jesuit priest, while Jerry leaves the seminary, moves to Denver and starts work as a counselor at a public high school. Frank’s superiors send him to Denver to teach at Regis High School. The two men move in together and more firmly commit to each other by deciding to start a family. Over a short period of years, they adopt four young African-American and/or multi-racial boys. In the middle of that process, the Archbishop of Denver discovers Frank’s unique family life, confronts him, and gives him an ultimatum: you can be made pastor of your own parish in Denver but you must leave Jerry and your children. This is their story.

Read more about the project and see the trailer at https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1509504892/the-golds-portrait-of-an-american-family-a-30-min.

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**Canadian Court Approves Class Action Settlement for LGBTQ Canadians**

Condensed from an article posted on CBC News, June 19, 2018. Thanks to Tim Wilson for bringing it to our attention.

A Canadian Federal Court justice has approved a settlement for Canadians who were persecuted or fired due to their sexual orientation while in the Canadian Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and federal civil service between 1955 and 1996.

Halifax lawyer John McKiggan launched a class action lawsuit on behalf of military members who served in Atlantic Canada and were investigated, harassed and purged from the military between 1969 and 1995. Alida Satalic, pictured, was the lead plaintiff in the class action lawsuit. While serving in 1989 as a Canadian Forces postal clerk, she was investigated and interrogated by the military’s special investigations unit. Because she acknowledged being lesbian, she was denied the top-secret clearance she needed to advance in her post, and was denied access to all future training. Instead, she opted to be discharged. Satalic rejoined the military in 1994 after the its ban on homosexuality was officially lifted.

Her lawsuit was merged with other class action claims on the road to today’s settlement. Satalic's lawyer, John McKiggan of the Halifax law firm McKiggan Hebert, said it is the largest LGBTQ settlement anywhere in the world and will involve between $85 million and $145 million in compensation, the final amount to be determined by how many Canadians emerge to make claims.

The LGBT community has historically been the subject of persecution and discrimination in the Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP and Federal Public Service. The campaign to identify and purge LGBT personnel in the civil service and military began in the 1950’s and continued for decades.

In 1969 Canadians saw the partial and limited decriminalization of homosexual acts in a very limited ‘private’ realm between two individuals aged 21 and over. There was general public outrage arising out of the Supreme Court’s ruling in the KlipPERT case, in which Canada’s Supreme Court found that all sexually active homosexuals could be classified as “dangerous sexual offenders.” Justice Minister Pierre Trudeau famously reacted by observing that “the state has no place in the bedrooms of the nations.” The outrage soon led to the decriminalization of homosexual acts between consenting adults. This change in the criminal law did not end the discrimination, however.

During the post-Cold War period, the Canadian Civil Service intensified its investigations into the lives of individuals who were suspected to be homosexuals. National Security agents viewed workers belonging to the LGBT community as a threat because they were perceived to have a tendency to sympathize with Communists. Another theory was that closeted gays and lesbians would be susceptible to blackmail by foreign agents. The LGBT Purge extended to the RCMP and other government agencies.

Michelle Douglas, a lesbian army officer, challenged the LGBT purge. The Canadian military only ended its official exclusionary policies in the early 1990’s as a result of Douglas’ court case.

Although no longer systematic, the purge and discrimination against members of the LGBT community continued for many years owing to an enduring culture of homophobia, bi-phobia and transphobia in parts of the Canadian civil service, especially the Canadian Armed Forces and the RCMP. The LGBT community’s pursuit of justice and calls for redress have long been overlooked by successive Canadian governments.