Annual Meeting, Election of Board Members - Feb. 1

By Sara Winter

The annual meeting, which features election of Board members, distribution of the Annual Report, and the President’s presentation of upcoming projects and events, will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 1, at the CHUN mansion.

Up for election to a 2-year term are Brett James and Lisa Telk, both of whom have been serving temporary appointments pending the annual meeting. Their respective bios were published in the October and December issues of the newsletter.

Current members are Blanca Leos, Dustin Krier, Mia Furtado, Roxann Salem, and Crow Carag. Leslie Scotland-Stewart has resigned from the Board.

PFLAG Denver is seeking additional members for its Board of Directors. Someone with Treasury/Accounting experience would be well-
comed. The Board, which meets monthly, guides the organization in fulfilling its mission and represents PFLAG in the community. If you might be interested, please contact the office (303-573-5861, or pflagden@tde.com).

Chapter’s Archives Going to Denver Public Library

By Dustin Krier

The PFLAG Denver office has been working with David Duffield from the LGBT Colorado History Project to organize, catalog, and prepare records that have been sitting in the office. This has been an ongoing project since the summer and has finally been submitted for and approved by Denver Public Library. PFLAG Denver’s archive history is to be cataloged and preserved within the Western History/Genealogy Department of the library. The library plans to add our records to those already obtained from Elinor Lewallen and Nancy Keene.

The collection that was submitted includes all of the records found in the office located at 1290 Williams St. dating from the late 70’s through today. Newspaper clippings, event collateral, board meeting notes, email correspondence, and newsletters are just a few of the thousands of pieces that have been submitted. All sensitive information was destroyed during the catalog process by a member of the PFLAG Denver Board. All together, three totes and two file boxes of records were donated.

Jamie Seemiller, Acquisitions Librarian/Archivist for Denver Public Library, has encouraged the chapter to continue collecting and preserving information, as we can always add to the collection. The PFLAG Denver office has already started another tote to continue the preservation of our history. We encourage anyone who has any pieces that they would like to donate to our collection to please reach out. Any questions about the process can be directed towards the office.

David donated over 50 hours of his time to help catalog our stuff. We thank him immensely.

A Song Like No Other—— Carol White’s Legacy

Editor’s Note: Condensed from article by Hannah Gartner, published in Out Front on Jan. 12, 2018. Reprinted with permission.

Even over the phone, Carol White has a commanding presence. Her voice communicates the years she has spent conducting choruses and fighting for the rights of the LGBTQ community—two of her favorite things.

Not long after Trump was elected into office, Carol White attended her first meeting of Indivisible Denver, whose mission is to empower citizens to advocate for progressive values through nonviolent political activism and community-building. White took the stage and started belting out “America the Beautiful.” Soon the room of nearly 350 people had joined to help her finish.

No stranger to the spotlight, White clearly knows her own power to effect change, and her story shows how she has taken the initiative to use this power time and time again.

“Gay and lesbian people have always had a song,” she said. “The tragedy of it is that for so many years, we were never able to sing it, and the beauty of it is that now we can. So we sing because we have a song; we sing because we can sing it now, and because we can be out enough.”

Growing up in Louisiana during the 1940s and 1950s, White was unable to express her identity through song, as she hid her gayness from everyone, including herself. She was not able to come to terms with her homosexuality until she was in graduate school at Southern Methodist University. As a religious young woman, her first reaction was to think she needed to be (continued on p. 2)
February 1
New Families Support Group, 6:30 pm
CHUN Mansion, 1290 Williams St.

February 1
PFLAG Denver Annual Meeting
CHUN Mansion, 7:30 P.M.
(See article, page 1)

February 7
Jeffco Support Group, 5:30 pm
Jefferson County Courthouse
100 Jefferson Co. Pkwy., Golden
Kittridge/Pleasantview Combo Rooms

February 14
Transgender Community Circle, 6:30 pm
3405 N. Downing St., Suite D
Grupo de Alianza Familiar, 6:30 pm
CHUN Mansion

February 21
PFLAG Online Community, 6:30 pm
Go to web site www.pflagdenver.org

February 26
Lobby Day
(See News & Notes, this page)

February 28
Board of Directors Meeting
CHUN Mansion, 6:30 P.M.

Janet Bardwell’s Observations on
Transgender Community Circle — See Support Groups, previous column.

PFLAG Denver is a sponsor of Lobby Day, which will take place on February 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Scholarship Committee has decided to cancel its February 10th Love and Leadership auction. We will return soon with a more intimate fund raiser, so keep your eyes peeled for more information.

Our 2018 fund raising goal is $40,000, so in lieu of buying an auction ticket we are asking for donations to the scholarship fund to help meet our goal. The donation link is https://www.pflagdenver.org/scholarship. Alternatively, you can write a check to PFLAG Scholarship Fund and send to P.O. Box 18901, Denver 80218.

Carol White’s Legacy (Cont. from p. 1)
fixed. “I started going to a psychologist because I knew that I was homosexual and I did not want to be. I wanted him to cure me and I wanted to get over being gay, but instead he helped me to accept myself for who I was,” she said. Self-acceptance came after she had graduated from SMU with dual Master’s Degrees in Conducting and Sacred Music, and had taken a job as the minister of music at a Methodist church in Houston.

After working for four years at the church, the minister found out about White’s sexual orientation and fired her. Without a job, money, or a support system, a massive overhaul of her life was required. She let go of music, a difficult choice, since it had been her love and her passion for many years, became a court reporter, and eventually settled in Denver in 1973.

In 1980, White began feeling the draw to give back to the LGBTQ community in a more substantial way. She joined PFLAG, which was just getting started in Denver, and involved herself as deeply as possible. Through the support of PFLAG, White was also able to find the courage to come out to her parents. She wrote them a letter and sent it, along with five others written by friends of hers at PFLAG who were parents of LGBTQ people. Most importantly of all, though, PFLAG brought White back into music after 16 years.

She organized a new chorus to perform a massive show at the 1984 PFLAG National Convention that brought 70 women in to sing with the 70 men who made up the Denver Gay Men’s Chorus. After the concert, these women became the Denver Women’s Chorus. White conducted this chorus until 1986. Before resigning, she took them to the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses Festival where they were the only women’s chorus.

White then spent four years organizing the World Choir, a group of hundreds of men and women from all over the world, that performed at the Celebration ‘90: Gay Games and Cultural Festival in Vancouver, BC. She then saw the need for a mixed Master’s Festival where they were the only women’s chorus.

White retired from conducting in 1996 and stopped working as a court reporter in the early 2000s, and has since been enjoying retirement with her long-term partner Judith.

White came of age during a time and in a place where even the idea of homosexuality was barely acknowledged. Still, she was not only able to accept herself but also help hundreds of others find their voices through song. Her legacy lives on through the choruses she started, but for this powerful woman, that is not enough. She continues to push for what is right, and, of course, to sing.