**PFLAG Denver’s 2017 Scholarship Winners**

We are thrilled to present the seven awardees of the 2017 PFLAG Denver scholarships:

**Amaranta Lopez Olivares** is being awarded the Elinor and Tom Lewallen Memorial Scholarship in the amount of $5,000. She has defied the odds of oppression and marginalization within the U.S., and is the first person in her family to win a scholarship.

Amaranta currently attends Colorado State University in Fort Collins, where she belongs to several organizations including Queer Women Engaging in an Encouraging Nexus (QWEEN), COLORS, First-Year Networking Groups, and Campus Connections.

As a participant in QWEEN and COLORS, she has worked to create a safe, friendly environment for "all the women under the rainbow and queer people of color." She provides support, friendship, and connections to anyone who comes to these groups, which feature such discussion topics as sex education, empowerment, and relationships. As a Network Leader in the First-Year Networking Groups (under the supervision of the Orientation and Transitions Programs Office), Amaranta assists first-year students in their transition to CSU, helping them to build a community through an interest in art. As a volunteer with Campus Connections, she mentors teenagers who are referred from the juvenile justice system of Larimer County, local schools, community agencies, and directly from families.

Amaranta hopes to become a counselor for minorities.

Each of the six winners presented below is being awarded a scholarship in the amount of $2,500 for their work in LGBTQ activism, social justice, and community leadership. All have maintained high academic standards while pursuing their generous volunteer work.

**Tess Buchanan** currently attends Polaris Expeditionary Learning School in Fort Collins. Tess has volunteered in several community service organizations, including the Sexual Assault Victim Advocacy Center, where she has served as a team leader to educate youth in her school district on the dangers of sexual assault and harassment. She is also involved in the organization "Fort Collins for Progress," (cont. on p. 2)
Calender of Events

May 4 & 10
PFLAG Denver Support Groups
May 4 – New Families/Regular Group
CHUN Mansion, 1290 Williams St.
May 10 – Latino/a Support Group
Community Care Collective
CHUN Mansion, 1290 Williams St.
May 10 – Transgender Community Circle, 3405 N. Downing, Suite D
All groups meet at 6:30 P.M.

May 4
PFLAG Scholarship Award Ceremony
CHUN Mansion, 7:30 - 9:00 P.M.
(See article, p. 1)

May 5-6
Tyler’s Suite
(See News & Notes, p. 3)

May 6
Rainbow Alley Queer Prom
(See News & Notes, p. 3)

May 12
Cabaret Unleashed: Love for Sale!
RMAA Fundraiser
(See News & Notes, p. 3)

May 19
Newsletter Deadline
Send copy to winternye@gmail.com

May 24
Board of Directors Meeting
CHUN Mansion, 6:30 P.M.

June 3
I Want to Be a Cowgirl’s Sweetheart
Denver Women’s Chorus Concerts
(See News & Notes, p. 3)

June 12
Orlando United Event
(See News & Notes, p. 3)

June 15-16
The BIG Gay SING!
Denver Gay Men’s Chorus Concerts
(See News & Notes, p. 3)

June 17-18
PrideFest!
(See box, p. 1)

Scholarship Recipients (continued from p. 1)

where her contribution has largely been to coordinate events targeting youth involvement. Tess has also been involved with Northern Colorado Equality, where she has done everything from fundraising to running pride events to recruiting volunteers to attend board meetings.

Tess has also been involved in SPLASH (Supporting Pride Learning and Social Happenings) Youth Group. This non-profit group first gave her a safe space and now she is giving back by ensuring a safe space for other LGBTQ youth. She moved up the ladder from member to Ambassador to, currently, Board Chair. She plans to expand the outreach of the organization to more youth, and to educate others on such issues as how to effect political change and how to celebrate identity.

Tess plans to attend Reed College in Portland, Oregon, where she will pursue a degree in economics.

Bridget Galaty currently attends the Denver School of the Arts (DSA) in Denver. Bridget is Co-President of the GSA program at her school and has helped double the membership of the organization. Last year she created a short documentary film on microaggression as well as a short documentary called TRANSactions: stepping out of the closet to give a real-life look at the experiences of transgender students while wardrobe shopping. TRANSactions has already been accepted by two film festivals.

Bridget also co-founded the Denver School of the Arts Volunteer Leadership Committee (VLC) which is a student-run organization that performs community outreach, arts education, and peer-to-peer mentorship for an underserved local elementary school. Over the past three years she has pioneered a program working with 30+ students to develop portfolios, résumés, arts portfolios, and interviewing skills. She is currently working with her vice-principal to develop promotional and audition-related materials for prospective student applicants to DSA. In 2015 she was awarded the “Bright Futures” Leadership Award from Goodwill Industries in recognition of her efforts.

Bridget was selected as a student representative from her high school to sit on Denver Public Schools Student Board of Education. In 2016 she was elected to the 5-member Executive Leadership Team. In addition, she has been a student leader for the annual “Challenge 5280” competition. She is working to create a more comprehensive sex education program to include information on sexuality and gender identity. Additionally, she accepted a 2-year position on the DSA Collaborative School Committee as a student body representative and is currently serving as Co-Chair.

Arin Moriarty currently attends the University of Colorado in Boulder, and is involved with several different groups. (Although a singular entity, Arin prefers the use of the plural pronouns “they, them, their”).
Arin founded the Asexuality and Aromanticism Student Group at CU Boulder, a group designed as a space for asexual and aromantic students to come together and be themselves. They are also a member of the Gay Straight Alliance on campus.

Outside of student organizations, Arin spends several hours each week volunteering at the Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC) on campus. They serve the front desk, act as liaison with the Director and Assistant Director, and belong to the GSC’s Peer Education team, which gives presentations on gender and sexuality to groups around campus to promote education and awareness of the LGBTQ community. Arin created a presentation called Nonbinary Gender Identities 101 and assisted in the creation of another presentation, Asexuality and Aromanticism 101. They presented both at the GSC’s annual TRANSforming Gender Conference in March.

Arin is also involved as a member of Crew911, a local Boy Scout Venture Crew dedicated to education and provision of emergency medical services in the community. They were awarded the Venturing Leadership Award for their involvement with Crew911.

Arin is pursuing a degree in biology and gender studies and hopes to work in a women’s clinic or trans clinic.

**Jeferson Sofoifa** currently attends Morgan Community College in Fort Morgan, CO. Since his sophomore year in high school, Jeferson has supported himself, taking on a fulltime job while attending high school and taking college courses. He completed not only his high school education but also certification as a Certified Nurse Aide from Morgan Community College, all while working a minimum of 40 hours per week.

Jeferson has also been involved in the Colorado Trust, an organization working to improve health equity in Fort Morgan. The group meets to consider the causes of specific problems facing the community on issues related to housing, education, recreation, etc., and strives to include viewpoints of all resident groups. The goal is to improve Fort Morgan and make it a welcoming place for all races, religions, and sexual orientations. Jeferson is working with the Colorado Trust to ensure that the needs of Fort Morgan’s LGBTQ community are not forgotten. He is educating his neighbors that despite their differences, they share many of the same goals and are stronger because of their differences.

Jeferson plans to continue his education at Morgan Community College in pursuit of a degree in nursing so that he can continue giving back to the community.

**Alethea Tyler** currently attends New Vista High School in Boulder. As a high school freshman, Alethea became a campus organizer for Peers Building Justice (PBJ). PBJ is a youth-led group that promotes healthy relationships and social justice through arts-based activism. During her time with PBJ, Alethea launched a self-love campaign with the support of other members. The campaign was displayed at various pride festivals and other events.

Alethea scored a significant achievement when her talents were recognized by National Novel Writing Month or NaNoWriMo. NaNoWriMo is a program encouraging writers all over the world to complete a 50,000+ word novel in the month of November. Alethea has earned "Winner" status in each of the three years that she has participated. She incorporates the LGBTQ community in all of her work in hopes of normalizing homosexuality in literature. Two of her three works have been self-published and she currently is attempting to publish her most recent work professionally for her senior project.

Alethea has also volunteered her time with several organizations including Habitat for Humanity, Harvest of Hope Pantry, Community Food Share, Blue Sky Bridge (an advocacy program for sexually abused children), Boulder Parks, a local elementary school, and a local flood recovery program. In addition, she has co-taught an equity class at New Vista that focused on the systematic oppression of minority groups.

**Sophia Ulmer** currently attends Grandview High School in Aurora. The several organizations that she has been involved in include the Key Club, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and No Place for Hate. Through these organizations she has tutored students in various subjects, organized and managed cultural and other events in the Latino community, and taught students antibullying skills. Additionally, as a member of her school’s GSA, she has worked to educate others on the struggles faced by the LGBTQ community. As co-president of the GSA, she organized events to foster a sense of community among the GSA members of different schools. She takes special interest in ensuring that the information provided through her school’s GSA program is accurate and reflects the diverse nature of the LGBTQ community. Sophia’s message is one of inclusivity regardless of gender identity or orientation.

Sophia plans to attend CU Boulder in pursuit of a degree in biochemical engineering.
We appreciate the call from Barbara Morgan to inform the PFLAG membership of the death of Betty Antonelli in Grand Junction on February 16. Betty was a good friend and an active PFLAG member serving the organization in many capacities.

Thanks to Judy Trompeter for alerting us to these two items:

1—Gilbert Baker, the creator of the rainbow flag that has become a widely recognized symbol of gay rights, died March 31 at his New York City home at the age of 65. Baker had served in the U.S. Army from 1970 to 1972. He was stationed in San Francisco in the early days of the gay rights movement and continued to live there after his honorable discharge. According to his own website, he taught himself to sew and began making banners for gay and anti-war marches, creating the rainbow flag in 1978. He refused to trademark it, seeing it as a symbol that was for the LGBT community. He said during a 2008 interview that he knew instantly from the way people reacted to the flag that it was “going to be something. I didn’t know what or how... but I knew.”

2—AARP Colorado has partnered with GeoTourist for a free app, which is intended to inspire residents and tourists to explore sites that have played a role in shaping Denver. One of the two tours offered highlights Denver’s LGBT history, including Cheesman Park (where the first “gay-in” was held in 1974) and Smiley’s Laundromat (where many LGBT community members worked when no one else would hire them). Smiley’s, by the way, is in danger of being torn down. Visit historicdenver.org and/or aarp.org/cowalk for more information.

Tyler’s Suite will be performed by Harmony: a Colorado chorale, the Denver region’s all-inclusive LGBTQA chorus, and Sine Nomine, on May 5 at Broomfield Auditorium and on May 6 at Denver Central Presbyterian Church. Go to harmonychorale.org for more information and ticket details.

The Rainbow Alley Queer Prom, for ages 11-24, will take place on Saturday, May 6. The theme is Mythical Creatures. Listed on Facebook events page or check out www.glbcolorado.org/rainbow-alley.

The Rocky Mountain Arts Association will present Cabaret Unleashed: Love For Sale! on May 12 at the Mercury Café. This is a fundraiser benefitting the non-profit programs of RMAA, including Denver Gay Men’s Chorus, Denver Women’s Chorus, and the Mosaic Youth Program. www.RMArts.org.

The Denver Women’s Chorus will present I Want To Be A Cowgirl’s Sweetheart at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. on June 3 at Central Presbyterian Church. www.denverwomenschorus.org.

Orlando United Event – PFLAG Denver invites you to join us on Monday, June 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Cheesman Park Pavilion, for the one-year anniversary of the tragedy at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida.

This event is organized and sponsored by PFLAG Denver. It is time to bring the community together in love and remembrance. Since the tragedy, the strength of the LGBTQ+ and ally community has grown. It is more important now than ever to continue to come together. Join us for an evening of support, reflection and hope as we honor the 49 victims. There will be songs, speakers, and most importantly, a community of individuals committed to love and kindness.

For additional information see PFLAG Denver’s June newsletter or the PFLAG Denver Facebook Event Page for June 12.

During Pride weekend the Denver Gay Men’s Chorus will present The BIG Gay SING! A DGMC 35th Anniversary Celebration at 7:30 p.m. on June 15 and 16 and at 2:00 p.m. on June 17, at Central Presbyterian Church. www.dgmc.org.