October Program To Address White Privilege

By Mia Furtado

On Thursday, October 6, PFLAG Denver will present its quarterly program on dismantling white privilege within the queer community. In light of the recent troubling murders of people of color, the goal of this program will be to help white individuals identify their white privilege and how they can become allies to communities of color. The queer community has rightfully come under scrutiny for “whitewashing” tragic events such as Orlando, as well as historically neglecting queer voices of color.

Mia Furtado, a PFLAG board member, will present definitions of ‘privilege’ and explain how this applies to the white population and how white individuals can become aware of their innate privilege so they do not directly and/or indirectly pass on their ignorance and prejudice.

The program will be held at the CHUN Mansion, 1290 Williams St. in Denver, from 7:30-8:30.

The New Families Support Group will meet as usual at 6:30 p.m. and all will move to the Community Room at 7:30 for the program.

Three Elected to PFLAG Denver Hall of Honor

On July 30 the PFLAG Denver Board of Directors hosted an elegant Membership Appreciation Brunch, at which the election of three new members to the Hall of Honor was announced: David Reaser, Roxann Salem, and John Venhoff.

The PFLAG Denver Hall of Honor — the highest volunteer award — was created in 1994 to recognize outstanding leadership and major long-term contribution to the chapter.

David Reaser has a long record of service not only to PFLAG Denver but to the entire GLBT community, which began after his retirement in 1996, when he moved to Denver. From 1996 to 2001 he served on the board of the Gender Identity Center of Colorado, during which time he also variously served as the board secretary, vice president, president, director of grants, and editor of the GIC’s in-house newsletter and its trans-prisoner newsletter. He has also served on the board of Gender Pac, a national public advocacy group that worked to end discrimination and violence caused by gender stereotypes, on the Denver Mayor’s GLBT Commission, and on Gay and Gray in the West, one of the early advocacy groups serving Colorado’s elder LGBT community. From 1999-2007 he was a board member of Equal Rights Colorado. He served on the board of PFLAG Denver from 2008 to 2014. Throughout, he has made generous financial contributions.

Roxann Salem has been keeping the chapter’s books for nearly ten years, for which she received the Cygnet Service Award in 2009. She has served on the PFLAG Denver Board for four years, mostly in the office of treasurer. Roxann was born a male and raised in a small town in northern Colorado. She earned B.S. degrees in both finance and accounting. She was on the Board of the Gender Identity Center for 11 years, served as a group facilitator for a additional 7 years, and received their Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008. She was drawn to PFLAG because of its support for transgenders.

John Venhoff was one of those lucky people who in the early 1980s noticed, in the Denver Post, an ad reading “Someone in your life may be gay,” placed by the new organization Parents and Friends of Gays (PFG, now PFLAG). John, having recently moved to Denver from Louisville, KY, was not out to his own parents and was so inspired that he immediately made a donation to the new chapter. John’s initial donations were to help the chapter run more ads showing how gays were supported by their parents and friends. But that’s not all, John so believes in PFLAG Denver’s goals and efforts that he has continued to make generous monthly donations ever since.

(See photos on p. 2)
September 1, 12, 14
PFLAG Denver Support Groups
CHUN Mansion, 1290 Williams St.
Sept. 1 – Regular/New Families
Sept. 12 – Educators
Sept. 14 – Latinos/as
All at 6:30 P.M.

September 14
Film Two Spirits
Denver Museum of Nature & Science
6:30 – 8:30 P.M.
(See News & Notes, p. 3)

September 16
Summer Happy Hour
The Center, 6 - 9 P.M.
(See News & Notes, p. 3)

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

September 24
Suicide Prevention Walk
Coors Field, 8:30 A.M.
(See News & Notes, p. 3)

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

Benefactors of Note
By Blanca Leos
For several years Fairmount Cemetery has been a sponsor of PFLAG Denver. Over the years, longtime PFLAGer Tim Wilson, who is a Family Service Counselor at Fairmount, has been gracious enough to contribute a percentage when families choose Fairmount for pre-planning. We at PFLAG Denver have been really happy to have such a great partnership with them, and appreciate them for all the support they have given to the chapter.

In the month of July we were given a donation on behalf of the Hansen family for carrying out their pre-planning at Fairmount.

We hope to continue to grow the relationship with Tim Wilson and Fairmount Cemetery, and hope our members will think about choosing them when doing their pre-planning. Remember, when you choose Fairmount Cemetery, you will also be supporting PFLAG Denver.

Thank you, Fairmount Cemetery, Tim Wilson, and the Hansen family for your continued support of PFLAG Denver.

UMC Elects Lesbian as New Area Bishop
By Gay Bossart
The Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto has been elected to office of Bishop to serve the United Methodist Church for the area including Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and Montana starting September 1. She will be the first openly gay or lesbian bishop of the whole international United Methodist Church. The Bishop’s office will be at the United Methodist headquarters in Greenwood Village, and the term of service will be 2016-2020. Bishop Oliveto is transferring from serving as pastor of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco which has a congregation of thousands! Her higher education includes B.A. from Drew University, Master of Divinity at Pacific School of Religion and Ph.D. from Drew University.

The election of a lesbian bishop will likely result in a mixed response within the denomination. There will be celebration and rejoicing. There will be resistance and conflict regarding human sexuality and ministerial appointment. May a vision for inclusiveness and diversity be achieved. Rev. Oliveto’s response to the call to the episcopacy is, "My experience and skills as a senior pastor of a large church, scholar of UMC studies and extensive ministry with and for marginalized communities may serve the denomination well at this time. My job is to listen, plan, implement and empower in service." Karen Oliveto is a scholar, activist, voice for justice and reconciliation.

The installation service for Bishop Oliveto will take place September 24 at 3:00 p.m. at Arvada United Methodist Church, 6750 Carr Street, in Arvada. It will be followed by a reception with the Bishop and her wife. All are invited to attend and take part in welcoming the new Bishop to the Rocky Mountains.
The film *Two Spirits* will be shown on Wednesday, Sept. 14, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (Phipps Theater East Entrance). Free and open to the public (consider a small donation).

The Center offers Summer Happy Hour on Friday, Sept. 16, from 6 to 9 p.m., on the rooftop at 1301 E. Colfax. $15 for 3 drink tickets, $20 for open bar (proceeds benefit The Center).

The *Out of The Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk* will take place on Saturday, Sept. 24, starting at 8:30 a.m., at Coors Field, 1663 Parke Ave West.

As PFLAG Denver strives to become a more diverse and powerful chapter, we are starting a Trans Support Group. It will be not only a support group for families and loved ones, but also a place where one of our facilitators will offer educational information about the trans community. Please look for more information about this group in the months to come!

Update on AIDS / 29th AIDS Walk

The 29th annual AIDS Walk Colorado took place on August 20, with PFLAG Denver participating as always (pictured at finish line: Susan Billette, Elisa Starble, Sara Winter). Fundraising was outstanding this year, and we are grateful for all the support.

**Other AIDS News**

Denver was only the fourth U.S. city to sign on to a global effort to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030, and it has attained the first major milestone of this effort: having 90 percent of people living with HIV know their HIV status. The announcement was made at the 21st International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2016) that took place last month in Durban, South Africa.


The Paris Declaration Agreement was launched in Paris on World AIDS Day in 2014 as part of an effort to dramatically reduce new HIV infections and future AIDS-related deaths through increasing testing, treatment and education.

In signing the Paris Declaration, Denver agreed to meet the following targets:

- 90% of people living with HIV know their HIV status
- 90% of HIV-positive people are in care
- 90% of people in care have suppressed viral loads
- Zero discrimination, including stigma.


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Keeping Up with Chapter Activities

**Support – Education – Advocacy**

**SPEAKERS’ BUREAU** – There were no speaking engagements in July.

**HELPLINE** – There were 14 calls into the office and Helpline in July.

**SUPPORT GROUPS** – Four people came to the New Families Support Group, facilitated by Blanca Leos and Steve Lee-O’Neal, on August 4. One came to the Aug. 1 Educator Support Group facilitated by Mia Furtado. No one came to the Latino/a group on Aug. 10.