PrideFest 2017 Was a Joyful Event!

In this year’s PrideFest Parade, PFLAG Denver was joined by several chapters from other parts of Colorado. An estimated 40 people participated in the PFLAG lineup this year, carrying flags, banners, and signs in support of PFLAG’s mission. The chapter had applied for and received a grant through Thrivent Financial to cover the cost of two convertibles, which transported several members down the parade route.

Organizers of the event estimated that a total of 385,000 people were in attendance at this year’s pride festival. The parade included almost 200 organizations, making it the largest parade yet, according to organizers at The Center.

Deborah Stone To Enter Hall of Honor on July 15

Join us on July 15 at the CHUN mansion for our second annual Hall of Honor Awards Brunch.

This year we will be honoring Deborah Stone for the amazing work that she has contributed to the chapter. Previously serving as the Board of Directors President, Deborah has long helped spread the word about PFLAG Denver and its mission of supporting the LGBTQ+ community. She was the prime mover in creating and implementing the PFLAG Denver Scholarship Program in 2010. The program has since flourished and has provided more than $30,000 in scholarship awards to LGBTQ+ youth.

Please help us honor Deborah by joining us for brunch in the CHUN community room and lawn next to Cheesman Park on Saturday, July 15, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The chapter will provide food and beverages, yard games, conversation, recognition, and more.

We look forward to seeing you there!
July 6
New Families Support Group
CHUN Mansion, 1290 Williams St.
6:30 P.M.

July 12
Transgender Community Circle
3405 N. Downing St., Suite D
Latino Support Group, CHUN Mansion
Both at 6:30 P.M.

July 15
Hall of Honor Awards Brunch
(See article, p. 1)

July 21
Newsletter Deadline
Send copy to winternye@gmail.com

July 26
Board of Directors Meeting
CHUN Mansion, 6:30 P.M.

August 19
30th Annual AIDS Walk Colorado

Orlando Tragedy Commemorated on June 12

By Leslie Scotland-Stewart

PFLAG Denver helped to organize an Orlando United event on June 12, the one-year anniversary of the Pulse tragedy in Orlando. The community came together at the pavilion in Cheesman Park in love and remembrance to honor the 49 victims taken too soon, as well as all those affected by this horrible incident.

About 150 attendees came to the event where there were speakers, song, a candlelight vigil and a very special tribute video dedicated to the Pulse tragedy. We also heard from two incredibly brave men who escaped Pulse that night and have been working to heal and live life to the fullest while loving each other over the past year.

Thank you to PFLAG Denver President Blanca Leos and Vice President Dustin Krier, who provided words of comfort and inspiration and read the names of the 49 lost.

We also want to thank our speakers and performers, including Daniel Ramos from One Colorado; Jean Hodges, National PFLAG President; Moms Demand Action; and the Denver Gay Men’s Chorus.

Finally, a big thank you to Noble Productions for providing sound for the event.
Remembering Stuart Gunckel

Former Chairman of the PFLAG Denver Board of Directors Stuart Gunckel died at his home in Highlands Ranch on June 10, 2017. Before illness confined him to his home, Stuart and his wife Pat were faithfully in attendance at PFLAG functions, and were longtime stalwart advocates for GLBTQ rights. Stuart served for six years on the Board, first as treasurer and subsequently as chairman.

The following obituary is from the Denver Post:

“The mountains are calling and I must go...” Stuart Gunckel loved the mountains, was devoted to family, and provided thoughtful leadership for many social and civic organizations. He sought out the high peaks, alpine wildflowers, and snowy slopes of the Rockies. He enjoyed hiking and skiing and shared his love of the mountains with his family. Stuart was also an avid tennis player, photographer, and lover of music. Born in Hays, KS to Clarence and Mary Elizabeth (Squier) Gunckel, Stuart grew up in Kansas City and graduated from the University of Kansas. In 1959, he married his high school sweetheart, Patricia Ann Painton. Stuart attended law school at the University of Michigan, then moved to Denver where he practiced law for 33 years. After retirement, he and Pat traveled extensively. His many civic contributions included serving as moderator of First Plymouth Congregational Church and Chair of Board of Denver PFLAG. Stuart is survived by his wife Patricia, daughters Kristin (Marcy Wood) and Stephanie, granddaughter Catherine Gunckel Talabere, sister Margaret Mahan (Ruth Swank), and nieces Francine Mahan and Jennifer Mahan (Elizabeth Lyman and children).

A moving memorial service was held at First Plymouth Congregational Church, 3501 S. Colorado Blvd, Englewood, CO, on Monday, June 26. The family designated PFLAG Denver, as well as Parkinson's Association of the Rockies, and Alzheimer's Association Colorado Chapter, as organizations to which memorial gifts could be made. Should you wish to make such a gift in Stuart’s memory, please direct it to PFLAG Denver, P.O. Box 18901, Denver, CO 80218-0901.

KEEPING UP WITH CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Support – Education – Advocacy

SPEAKERS’ BUREAU – Blanca Leos spoke at the United Methodist Reconciling Dinner.

FACILITATOR TRAINING on June 5; two people attended.

HELPLINE and TABLES – The office received a total of 47 calls from May 26 to June 21. Tables were staffed at the Resist Forward event, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, and the Community Reach Center.

SUPPORT GROUPS, JUNE –
• 1 attendee at New Families Group on June 1, facilitated by Debbie Gabriel.
• 4 at Latino/a support group led by Blanca Leos.
• 5 at Trans Community Circle led by Crow Carag and Jules Tybor.

News from PFLAG National

From Policy Matters, June 16, 2017

Following a recent Washington Post article about government efforts to dismantle key civil rights offices, PFLAG joined 105 groups calling upon the president and his administration to reverse course, and to demonstrate a greater commitment to civil and human rights and to the federal laws created to protect them.

The United Methodist Church has commissioned a transgender deacon. Appointed to the church's Northern Illinois Conference on June 4, M. Barclay is the first openly non-binary trans person to become a deacon for the UMC.

Four transgender candidates are campaigning for local and state office: Danica Roem of Virginia’s 13th district won her primary and would be the first openly trans elected state legislator; Phillipe Cunningham of Minneapolis’ 4th ward and Andrea Jenkins of the 8th ward; and Mel Wymore of New York City’s 6th district, have all announced their candidacies.

New York’s first openly gay member of Congress, Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, has introduced the LGBT PRIDE Act to combat violence and suicide in the LGBT community. On June 13, Rep. Maloney introduced a bill to improve data collection on the sexual orientation and gender identity of victims of violent crimes and suicide. The bill calls on the CDC to improve the process of data collection in the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS), and authorizes $25 million to fund the effort. PFLAG National endorses the bill and spoke at the news conference to launch it.