

# Out BOULDER 2013 Program Highlights

2132 14th Street Boulder, Colorado 303.499.5777 outboulder.org

## From the President

My name is Ann Noonan, and I am the new President of the Executive Board for Out Boulder. I've been a member of the board for four years and took over as president in January, 2014. I've been a long-time volunteer and supporter of Out Boulder, stretching back to the early days of the Boulder Pride.

There are many, many reasons I love being part of Out Boulder: our social justice outreach, the programming we do for youth and trans\*people, the role we play in our community when Lesbian Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) issues arise, and most of all, the great people I have met .

2013 was a year of firsts, and here is a list of some of them:

The first civil unions were granted on May 1, 2013. We saw 53 couples receive their civil unions that night. There were over 300 people in attendance, and the party lasted until well after two in the morning.

A few weeks later, the Supreme Court ruling in the **Edie Windsor/DOMA** case was announced, and within a few hours, a celebration gathering at Fate Brewery was set up. There were about 50 people there, hugging and smiling. Again, Out Boulder was in the middle of creating a celebratory space for people to gather.

Then, there was September 15, 2013, the day selected for our tenth annual Pridefest celebration. It didn't happen; we were flooded out. We rallied and held our **first indoor Pridefest in November**.

We began planning to secure the **first funding for trans\* specific programming** from the Human Rights Commission at the City of Boulder.



Boulder Pridefest 2013 at the Boulder Theater

And, I am almost forgetting one of the best things Out Boulder has managed to pull off this year. We hired the most amazing Executive Director the organization has ever been privileged to have. Mardi Moore came to us this fall, and has been a fireball of activity since she arrived. If you haven't met her yet, you will. I have lived here over 35 years, and I swear, Mardi has already met and made friends with more people than I have in all my time here. She is personable, energetic, full of great ideas and supremely passionate about the work we are doing in our community to support the LGBTQ causes and communities.

This work and all the other work we undertake at Out Boulder is supported by people like you. Thank you and please continue your commitment to Boulder County's LGBTQ community by supporting Out Boulder.



I couldn't be more pleased to have returned home to Colorado to work alongside others to move our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer communities forward. The programs and services Out Boulder provides are unmatched in Boulder County. We fill gaps for those in need, create social and

recreational activities, provide space for gatherings and advocate for equal rights and social justice.

Yes, there is still much to do, but with you by our side I know that in the near future we too will enjoy all the rights and responsibilities that full citizens enjoy.

To the future,

## 2013 Program Highlights

Out Boulder led the **4th Annual Trans\* Awareness Week: Educating and Empowering Our Communities** in Boulder County. The mission of Trans\* Awareness Week is to unite and educate the trans\* community and its allies through workshops, social gatherings, and other events to create a truly inclusive community to inspire and embrace the multigender experience. The events offered this week were a collaboration between many local organizations and community members.



Speaking Out at a local school

**Speaking Out** continues to give 40+ panel discussions and community engagements each year at local schools, community organizations and businesses. The all-volunteer Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Allied (LGBTQA) educational speakers bureau uses story-telling and personal connections to cultivate awareness and understanding of LGBTQA lives and experiences. Surveys of students are collected after the panels and here are a few responses to questions asked: What information did you hear that was new or helpful to you: **"I learned it was okay to be different. I also learned to always be an ally and be supportive."** What changes are you likely to make? **"Find out what gender pronouns people would like."** **"Come out to my parents."** Two trainings are held per year for new volunteers to get involved.

"I am so proud of our [GSA] group; kids are beginning to feel safe in talking about their sexual orientation in numbers I have not seen in the previous five years I've been with the school. We really appreciate your support."

~ South Hill Middle School teacher,  
after a Speaking Out panel

Out Boulder's **Health & Wellness Program** continued to offer a variety of activities including the LGBT Health Fair, held at Boulder Center for Conscious Community (BC3), and reached 100 participants. Other activities included hikes, lectures, and our weekly yoga class.

2013 was another great year for Out Boulder's youth program which is aptly called **Boulder Out Leadership Development** or BOLD. BOLD develops leaders and provides many artistic outlets for Boulder County's LGBTQA youth and serves close to 100 individuals in our community through programming that includes: a regularly scheduled youth drop-in program centered on arts as activism, a film-making project, and creation of 'Zines which are Do-It-Yourself magazines.

In the seventh year of existence, our amazing flagship youth project, **The Directors' Journey**, produced eight original short films and premiered their work to a standing room only gathering at the Boedecker Theater.



Additionally, BOLD youth produced two 'Zines. The first 'Zine focused on consent, safer sex for all genders, allyship and self-care and was titled **"In Flux: The Voices**

**Rising Edition."** The second Zine of the year, **"In Flux: Too Punk for This"** examined the targeting of LGBTQ youth by big tobacco. This project was done in partnership with the City of Boulder's Tobacco Education and Prevention.

In 2013, youth drop-in focused on: self-care, self-empowerment, and activism through artistic mediums. Bringing in adult members of the community to lead projects that included: self-expressive paper dolls, a lead with your heart project, self-portraits and pendant-making.

BOLD youth are a strong and vital part of our community. **When you support Out Boulder you are supporting our future.**

### Out Boulder Staff

**Mardi Moore**, Executive Director  
**Jen Spolnik**, Program & Marketing Manager  
**B Mann**, Youth Coordinator

Printed in partnership with:

