

Life as a work in progress— *People often say that, this or that person has not yet found himself. But the self is not something that one finds. It is something that one creates.*—Thomas Szasz, *The Second Sin*.

I whole heartedly agree with this statement. World leaders, movie stars, great authors, thinkers, inventors, and all individuals who left significant impressions on the world due to things they were able to create. Some good and others horrible. But— They created something and by doing so:

- Created a legacy
- Enriched relationships
- Contributed to health
- Affected morale

As you read through our April Newsletter you will find opportunities to create, meet new people, impact someone maybe for a day or for life, enrich the health of another, and create a legacy. I hope that you enjoy this month's programming. We took special care in creating new partnerships and expanding on old ones to bring you new opportunities to grow and create. - Jason

The Return of Queer Woke

March welcomed the return of Queer Woke. This program's goal is to assist the community with understanding and gaining respect for the life experiences of others. To kick off this year's series, Phil Nash returned to The Center to talk about the history of the organization.



Phil led a constructive conversation, highlighting the political climate at the time of the organization's inception, the struggles The Center faced over the years, and why the founders felt The Center was necessary. Phil welcomed 48 individuals to his presentation. Half of them were new to The Center. Thank you Phil for a wonderful presentation! Our next Queer Woke will feature Activist and Para-Athletes Kyle Stepp & Hailey Danz on April 27th.

In This Issue

Events-

- AARP TAX AID pg. 2
- Older/Sexually Smarter STI—pg. 2
- Disability Community Outing—Brewability pg. 3
- Movie Night pg. 3
- What is fair about Housing? Pg. 3
- Creating Queer Legend & Legacy pg. 4
- Queer Woke pg. 5**
- The Center's Got Talent pg. 6**
- Calendar of Events pg. 8

Coulter & Social -

- Life as a work in progress pg. 1
- The Return of Queer Woke pg. 1
- Taking & Giving pg.1
- The Award Goes To..... SCARLET! Pg. 2
- The Center's Got Talent Auditions pg. 2
- An interview with Ashley S. pg. 3
- Saying Good bye pg. 4
- Word Search pg. 7

Taking & Giving — We at The Center love supporting our community! That is why we were created! But there is a give and take to this relationship. It is not the organization's responsibility to provide a specific type of sweetener for coffee or provide bottled water at weekly groups.

Please bring a water bottle to weekly groups. If you forgot your water bottle we will give you a cup. If you would like bottled water for groups, you are more than welcome to donate a case to West of 50 and we will share it with the community. The same goes for specialty sweeteners or creamer please donate it to the program and we will put it out for all to enjoy.

Thank you to the members who donate money or items to the coffee bar! A large portion of our budget is spent on this and it's nice to see that people notice when we are running low on something, simply pick it up, and replace it themselves. — Jason

The Award Goes TO..... SCARLET- In honor of International Transgender Day of Visibility on March 31st and all our local Transgender heroes, Park Hill United Methodist Church has created the Patrice Santiago Award. This historic Denver church gives this award annually to one Metro Denver young adult between the ages of 18 and 29 who identifies as Transgender and has demonstrated exceptional community service. It comes with artwork and a small stipend.



annually to one Metro Denver young adult between the ages of 18 and 29 who identifies as Transgender and has demonstrated exceptional community service. It comes with artwork and a small stipend.

We are delighted to give this inaugural award to Scarlet Holiday for her dedication and assistance to Elders at The Center. She has helped the Senior community and by extension our larger Metro Denver community in innumerable ways. Congratulations and thanks, Scarlet!

The award is named for a courageous Transgender woman who with humor, music and faith helped hundreds of folks from all walks of life in her mere 26 years in this world. She worked steadfastly to bring awareness, equality and compassion to Transgender people through her love of God. We strive to commemorate and continue her work. “

The Center’s got Talent Auditions– This past March the community group hosted auditions for the upcoming talent show. The two day auditions were a hoot! The group enjoyed witnessing our community’s amazing talents. Auditions ranged from individuals who could sing, play instruments, read monologues, do drag, and much more. Steve and Avis had a blast! Thank you for all who tried out! The Center’s Got Talent is set to hit the stage on April 28th!



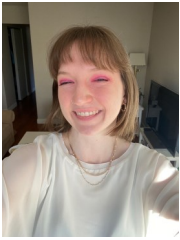
AARP Foundation **GOT Taxes? AARP Tax-Aide**
TAX-AIDE Tax-Aide's return preparation and electronic filing service operates every Thursday from February 2nd through April 13th. **Appointments are required.**
Free tax assistance for those who need it most

Every Thursday, taxpayers with the proper documentation will be provided with an appointment. The building will not be open for individuals waiting for their appointment. Clients will have to leave and return at their set appointment time. Looking for Property Tax Credits (PTC)? Those needing monetary assistance with their rent and heat expenses will also need to follow the same appointment process. To learn more visit aarp.org/findtaxhelp **ENDS - April 13th Hours: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm**



Older, Wiser, Sexually Smarter—Join the group on April 11th to learn from Denver Health’s STI testing team. Jesse from Denver Health, will be teaching the group about current terminology, risks to the community, and ways to protect yourself. This is your opportunity to be with your peers and to ask questions and learn the most up to date treatments for those pesky sex bugs and what sex bugs you can’t be treated for. **When: Tuesday, April 11th, 2p—3:30p.**

Did you know that The Center partners with Denver Health and provides FREE STI testing? Check with the front desk to learn more.



An interview with Ashley S. —One of the Center’s newest team members. What do you do for The Center? “I am the Communications and Marketing Manger, I work with the various programs and create the marking campaigns that go out through things like email and social media”.

Is cereal soup? Why or why not? “That is a good question... honestly... I don't think so. Because milk is not a broth and also you can eat cereal without milk”.

What made you want to work for The Center? “I would say my interest with the nonprofit world was sparked with my last job. I became really excited about working at The Center because as a member of the queer community the opportunity to get to contribute to the community was very exciting”.

What sport would be the funniest to add a mandatory amount of weed to? “OMG! Woo! I feel like golf. I feel like everyone would be enjoying the outdoors at that point and I would like to see how it would impact their accuracy”.

What is the best part of your job? “Woo! I would say my favorite thing about The Center is that it is a fun work environment and I am excited to go to work. As far my position... I get to work with all of the programs and I get to stay up to date with all of the fun things going on at The Center”.

How many chickens would it take to kill an elephant? “Humm are we talking a full grown elephant or a baby? I kind of think 12 chickens if they were angry.-Laughing really hard”.

Movie Night—It is time to do “*Fosse, Foss, Fosse! You do Martha Graham, Martha Graham, Martha Graham! Or Twyla, Twyla, Twyla! Or Michael Kidd, Michael Kidd, Michael, Kidd Michael! Or Madonna, Madonna, Madonna, Madonna, Madonna*”!... But keep it all inside. OR, you can join us at The Center April 14th to watch **The Birdcage** starring Nathan Lane and Robin Williams. Watch worlds collide as the children of a Drag Club Owner and of a Conservative republican congressman get engaged and set off an adventure of wigs, love, and politics. Snacks, sweets, and drinks will be provided. Seating available, with priority given to our 50+ community members, as well as space if you want to bring or use the provided, blankets, bean bags, or pillows of your own! **Contact Bryant or Jason to RSVP. When: Friday April 14th, doors open at 5:30 with movie starting at 6pm**



Disability Community Outing— Calling all Trivia Wizards! The Center’s Disability Program will be attending Trivia Tuesday at Brewability in Englewood. Enjoy food and drink specials while you work with our team to win gift cards, drinks and more. You are responsible for the cost of your own drinks and food. Trivia begins at 7pm.

When: Tuesday April 18th, 6—8pm. Please RSVP with Bryant or Jason in advance.
Where: Brewability, 3445 S. Broadway, Englewood CO 80113



What is so fair about housing? Join the Denver Metro Fair Housing Center as they demystify your housing rights. John Paul will be able to answer your questions and provide you with resources on how to navigate instances of discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, family status, sex, disability, or national origin. John will also go over what happens when you are falsely denied housing based on availability and other forms of discrimination that our community often times experience.

When: Thursday, April 20 at 1:00pm



Denver Metro Fair Housing Center

Creating Queer Legend & Legacy

- is an invitation for you to participate in the creation of a Legacy Wall inside the Center on Colfax. Facilitated by award winning poet, end-of-life doula and multi-media artist Confidence Omenai, this eight-week workshop guides participants through writing, recording, and creating a self-portrait using collage that illustrates the legend they wish to leave. The unrelenting barbarity that stalks the intersections of queer communities creates an atmosphere of impermanence. This leaves many of us questioning how many will rise or fall before dawn and if we will be remembered. We rarely know the day or hour of our demise. Creating Queer Legacy aims to give agency and allow us the opportunity to be immortalized while leaving a rich inheritance to our community.



Group information— Thank you Think 360 for collaborating with us on this wonderful project!



This is a temporary-closed group. Once the 8-week program is completed the group will conclude. This art group is open to individuals 50 years and older and **you must be able to attend all 8 weeks.** Space is limited to 20 participants. Upon completion of the project, participants will have created an art piece & a recording of your story in your own words for people to enjoy. The art will then be put on display at DenverPRIDE, hopefully on display in the community outside of The Center, will be the main exhibit of The Center’s Holiday Art show and Party, and lastly hung on the walls of The Center for visitors to see.

Start date & Time: Thursday, April 20th – Thursday, June 15th; 1:00p – 2:30pm

About Confidence, the classes instructor

— Confidence Omenai is a queer Nigerian American multi-hyphenate creative, entrepreneur, end of life doula, mother of five, and breaker of chains. Her work explores cycles of death, rebirth, systemic oppression, martyrdom on the altar of motherhood and marriage. As the CEO of Only Confidence Inc. for the last 16 years, she’s created curriculum, facilitated writing workshops, and also specializes in program development, grant writing, and encouraging radical self-interrogation around the country at universities, high schools, middle schools, maximum security prisons, juvenile facilities and more. She is a TEDx MileHigh Performer and Host, Pink Door Fellow, and Oklahoma State University Alum. Her work appears in A La Palabra: The Word is a Woman: Mothers & Daughters, Listen to Your Skin Queer Anthology and “Did You Die Though?” her debut mixed media art installation at The Leon Gallery. Confidence currently resides in Denver, creating transformative work across genres, crafting indigenous medicine, calling on the Ancestors and clearing the way for her rebellious great granddaughters, who will defend the earth in her name.



Saying good bye

— Accepting social work interns is one of the highlights of my job. Beyond being able to practice social work with a focus on program development, leadership, and group work— all were in my area of study. I choose to bring on social work interns because I believe it’s important to give back to the profession. My goal is to provide a field placement that is creative, innovative, and fun. The hardest part of the field experience is when we go through what is called *termination*. The goal of Termination is for the consumer to not feel abandoned, as well as the clinician knowing we have been able to do our job effectively and assisted in aiding the client in achieving and/or developing the skills they need to move forward in life.

Like all internships they must conclude and that time has come for Zac and Scarlet. The pair’s last week will be in early May and over the next several weeks they will start to talk about termination, and should you need them to, they will process with you. For some of you it will not be a big deal and for others this will have an impact.— That is okay. For me, I am sad and don’t want them to go. To say thank you and celebrate their hard work the pair will be hosting a **Lunch & Learn on Tuesday, May 2nd Start time 11:45 am—1p** RSVP with Jason or Bryant.



-Queer Woke-

Join West of 50 as we welcome two-time silver medalist from USA National Paratriathlon Team Hailey Danz and Kyle Stepp, an Elite Paratriathlete. The pair will unpack their stories and share how they bonded over the sport of triathlon and discovered how remarkably similar their stories were. As survivors of the same type of childhood cancer and the same level of amputation, the duo found triathlon to be a place for purpose and healing.

As openly gay elite athletes with a disability, Hailey and Kyle have faced unique challenges and are advocating for greater LGBTQ+ inclusion in sports. Despite facing numerous obstacles in the competitive world of sports, Hailey and Kyle have never let their disability or sexuality define them or limit their ambitions. Together they have shown that disability and sexuality are not barriers to success but rather sources of strength and resilience.

During the event, you will hear firsthand how Hailey and Kyle have navigated their unique intersectionality and learn about their work to build inclusion and access for the LGBTQ+ and disabled communities in elite sports.

When: April 27th

Doors open and pizza served at 5:00pm with the presentation starting at 5:30 –7:30p.

RSVP strongly encouraged as space is limited! RSVP with Jason or Bryant.



About the speakers:

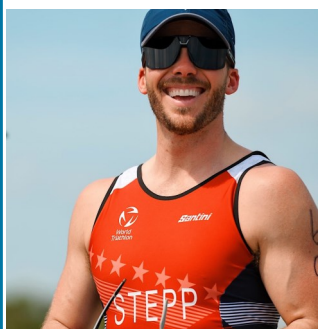


Hailey Danz

USA National Paratriathlon Team
2016 & 2020 Paralympian Triathlon
@hailstormusa on Instagram

Hailey Danz was diagnosed with bone cancer at the age of 12, and underwent an elective above-knee amputation at 14. While interning at an adaptive sports nonprofit in college, she discovered the sport of triathlon. She quickly fell in love with the community surrounding the sport and never looked back.

Hailey went on to represent USA in paratriathlon at the 2016 and 2020 Paralympics, and earned a silver medal at both Games. She is currently based in Colorado Springs, where she is training for the 2024 Paralympics. As an openly gay woman with a physical disability, Hailey is passionate about making sport more accessible and inclusive for all.



Kyle Stepp

Elite Paratriathlete
@KyleStepp on Instagram

Kyle Stepp is an openly gay, internationally ranked elite para-triathlete, community leader, and activist for equitable healthcare, disability rights, and LGBTQIA+ communities. After growing up in foster care, surviving stage four cancer at 14, and overcoming the challenges of being an

amputee after losing his left leg less than two years ago after a downhill mountain bike accident – he made it his personal mission to use those unfortunate circumstances to help others facing the same hardships. He's often pursuing his passion for international para-triathlon competition, cycling for cancer research & disability rights, rock climbing new routes, advocating for important legislation, or shredding the slopes of the Rockies on a beautiful powder day.



The Center's Got TALENT!

Friday, April 28
5:30 - 8:00 PM
690 Colorado Blvd
Denver, CO 80206

A variety show for
LGBTQ+ older
adults & friends.

Hosted by
Steve-Anne,
CowPoke Avi, &
August Celestial.

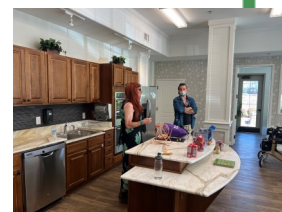
RSVP with
Jason or
Bryant

 **THE
CENTER**
ON COLFAX
lgbtqcolorado.org

April 10th is Bryant's 82nd Birthday!
 To Celebrate Bryant's birthday we created
 this awesome word search!
Happy Birthday Bryant!



L W M L N O T H W A Z R P F C
 J F R E E E I P P T B D T I I
 V A K B R I N G Y Y O U U Z I
 E T R E A T S Y C H S O X O U
 H N O L M L N P I D A I R Y W
 C A R X C A Q E V N E J A V F
 L T M B X J R Q V O D R A P J
 G D E B D Q L Y J E U D B F I
 Q O R N U R H C S I R X S C V
 N H M E T R A U T G S Y U A G
 A I E O X H G G A P E W N N T
 P M Z T P A D E H T E W D U H
 R U T H I N K I R S Y V A J E
 I P E B R Y A N T S M O Y V B
 L B I R T H D A Y P R S U A X



hamburger
 treats
 think
 marys
 you
 go
 at

Birthday
 Sunday
 every
 tenth
 you
 or

Bryants
 dairy
 bring
 April
 so
 the


drag
 free
 can
 him
 at
 see



Build your own custom worksheet at [education.com/worksheets-generator](https://www.education.com/worksheets-generator)

© 2007 - 2023 Education.com

April 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Key: Story – Telling our Story DPSG – Disability Peer Support Group Trans – Trans Support Group Sex – Older, Wiser, Sexually Smarter Vet – Veterans Support Group SS Yoga – Silver Sneakers Yoga Stitch – Stitch & Bitch Q-Art – Think 360 Queer Legend Art Move – Movement Art – Open Art Studio						1
2	3 10Coffee 1:30 Story 5 DPSG 6:15 Stitch	4 10M-Coffee 2p Sex 1:30 Trans 2 Sex 6 Vet	5 10:30 Yoga 1:30 AARP	6 10 Tax 10 Open art	7 10:30 Move 11:45 Med 1:30 DPSG	8
9 HAPPY EASTER 	10 10C- Coffee 1:30 Story 5 DPSG 6:15 Stitch	11 10M- Coffee 1:30 Trans 2 Sex-STI 6 Vet	12 10:30 Yoga 1:30 AARP	13 10 LAST Tax DAY 10 Open art	14 10:30 Move 11:45 Med 1:30 DPSG 5:30 Movie	15
16	17 1:30 Story 5 DPSG 6:15 Stitch	18 10M-Coffee 1:30 Trans 2 Sex 6 Vet 6 Brewability	19 10:30 Yoga 1:30 AARP	20 10 Art 1:00 Housing 1:00 Q Art	21 10:30 Move 11:45 Med 1:30 DPSG	22
23	24 1:30 Story 5 DPSG 6:15 Stitch	25 10M- Coffee 1:30 Trans 2 Sex 6 Vet	26 10:30 Yoga 1:30 AARP	27 10 Art 1:00 Q Art	28 No programming	29
30						

