

Oct.
'25

THE
CENTER
ON COLFAX
lgbtqcolorado.org

WEST OF 50

An inclusive LGBTQ+ older adults space focused on creative aging, healthy living, and social connection.

Unmasking Ourselves: Living Authentically at Any Age

October is a month of masks and costumes. Whether it's children trick-or-treating, friends dressing up for a party, or neighbors decorating their porches, we're surrounded by playful disguises. But for many in the LGBTQ+ community, masks have carried a much deeper meaning—hiding parts of who we are to stay safe, to fit in, or simply to survive. That's why National Coming Out Day, celebrated on October 11, is so important. It's a reminder that authenticity is a lifelong journey, and that "taking off the mask" can look different for everyone. For some, it might mean sharing their identity with family or friends for the first time. For others, it's about embracing changes in identity or attraction later in life. And for many, it's simply living day to day with honesty and pride.

At The Center, our programs are designed to create spaces where older LGBTQ+ adults can be their authentic selves—without fear, without judgment, and without needing to hide. Whether it's through community discussions, creative workshops, or programs like Older, Wiser, Sexually Smarter, we celebrate the power of living openly and the courage it takes to remove the masks we've worn.

This October, as the costumes come out and the masks go on, we invite you to reflect on the masks you've shed in your own life—and the freedom that came with setting them aside. Together, we honor the many ways our community chooses authenticity, resilience, and pride at every age. *-Jason*

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A BUS TRIP IDAHO SPRINGS

Itinerary:

9:30 AM Building opens

10:00 AM Bus leaves for Idaho Springs

11:15 AM Arrive in Idaho Springs.

Free to explore the town at your leisure

3:45 PM meet at the bus and head back to town.

5:00 PM Arrive at the Center.

West of 50's hitting the road and going to Idaho Springs.

About Idaho Springs - Colorado's Mining history began in Idaho Springs. The states first gold was discovered there in 1859. Today the town is home to hot springs, ziplines, museums, trails and more.

RoundAbout

Is a free bus service that can help you get around town

Things to do in Idaho Springs

Argo Mill and Tunnel - Historical mine tour with hands-on gold and gem panning experiences, providing insight into mining history and activities. \$30.00 per person

Indian Hot Springs - Hot springs, caves, and a spa. Prices vary depending on what you choose to do.

The town boasts several shops and restaurants. Including Beau Jo's Pizza and Tommyknocker Brewery & Pub, as well as The Spice & Tea Exchange, The Majestic Gallery, and the Squatch Store.

Date: Wednesday, Oct 8th

Cost: 15.00 - Nonrefundable and due at time of RSVP.

RSVP due at signing.





Our West of 50 team provides free, short-term case management services to help adults ages 50 and better maintain their independence in the community. Our team connects individuals with essential resources such as community benefits, healthcare, transportation, and mental health support.

We also assist with navigating Colorado's complex housing options and help individuals access employment opportunities.

Contact us at 303-733-7743 or visit the website to schedule an appointment or visit us during our walk-in hours. Walk-in sessions are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note that we may not be able to accommodate you after walk-in hours unless you have scheduled an appointment with a team member in advance.

Walk in hours -

Mondays, 2:30 - 5:00 PM

Tuesdays, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Wednesdays, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Thursdays, 10:30 - 12:30 PM



Agenda:

Thankful 4U planning

Bus Trip Oct. 8

Holiday Party

Date: Wednesday, October 1st

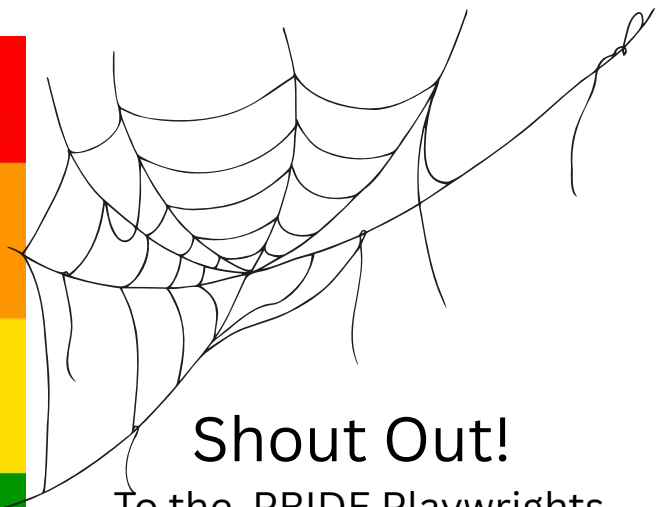
Time: 1p

Big Apple Bodega a local deli that started out as an award winning food truck. This tasty restaurant is known for its Chopped Cheese, Burgers, Hot dogs, and tasty sides.

Date: Thursday, Oct. 30th

Time: 12:30p

Address: 2231 S. Broadway, Denver, CO 80210



Shout Out!

To the PRIDE Playwrights and the Adult program for all their work on this program.

We look forward to seeing the show **Oct. 11th at 3p.**

Lunch & Learn:

iChange with the Colorado Health Network

Date: Thursday, October 23rd 12-1pm

The Colorado Health Network Healthy Aging Staff, Erin Burk-Leaver (she/her) and Haley Sanner (she/her), will give an overview of Colorado Health Network's two aging programs: PATH2Wellness and iCHANGE, designed for older adults age 50+ living with HIV. The Integrative Care for Healthy Aging and Navigation of Geriatric Effects (iCHANGE) intervention is a comprehensive care model that aims to improve the quality of life and health outcomes for people aging with HIV. The program is designed to identify aging needs including cognitive and functional impairments, sensory-related changes (vision and hearing), and social isolation. The intervention provides patient-centered care, with an emphasis on what "Matters Most," to inform the development of individualized care. As part of care planning, participants in the intervention are empowered to co-create milestones relevant to improving their quality of life based on screened needs, while receiving continued support and guidance throughout the process. This model ensures that case management and care planning support participants in continuing to live in a way most meaningful to them as they age. We hope this session can inspire ways we can age more intentionally and be supportive for folks living with HIV, caring for folks living with HIV and folks aging in general.

Flash

Do you feel hopeless, confused, angry, or overwhelmed when you watch the news or discuss current events with family and neighbors? In today's political climate, learning about conflicts occurring on a state, federal, and global level can leave us with many concerns. Beginning October 22nd, join your West of 50 intern, Hannah, as she leads a discussion on current events that are affecting us as individuals and in our communities. This program will allow time to share relevant topics, learn new information about events from reliable sources, and understand what each of us can do in our communities to make small but effective changes.

Date: Oct. 22nd. Then moving to the 3rd wed. of every month.

Time: 1 p - 2:30 p

This group is Hybrid, register online for the Zoom Link.

If there is a specific topic you would like to discuss. Please submit ideas a week before the group meets to Hannah at hjenkins@lgbtqcolorado.org

Halloween Movie Night *ELVIRA: MISTRESS OF THE DARK*

Happy Halloween from West of 50. We are going to be watching the cult classic comedy *Elvira: Mistress of the Dark*! Starring Cassandra Peterson, who revealed in her 2021 memoir that she has been in a relationship with a woman for 20 years, this film follows Elvira as she attends the reading of her late aunt's will to receive an inheritance. Set in conservative Fallwell, Massachusetts Elvira immediately causes a stir and brings her camp excellence to the small town. Featuring a shapeshifting poodle, a Las Vegas dream, and a great pair of legs this movie will have you asking, how's your head? Popcorn, soda, and light snacks will be available.

Join us at 6pm for a preshow talk hosted by Andy Might from Rainbow Cult. Before *Elvira, Mistress of the Dark* lights up the screen, join us for a spirited talk tracing Cassandra Peterson's creation of Elvira, the character's roots in drag and camp performance, and why she embodies the unruly woman in horror. We'll connect her playful defiance to a deeper tradition of witches fighting back against warlocks and patriarchal authority—making the film's final showdown as satisfying as it is hilarious. The preshow will also feature a costume contest. Come dressed in your Halloween best to win a prize.

Date: Friday, October 31st

Time: Doors Open 5pm

Preshow Costume Contest starts at 5:30pm

Special Talk on Elvira by Andy Might from Rainbow Cult 6pm

Movie Starts at 6:30



Over Our Dead Bodies – Yikes! Now What?!?

Pushin' Pansies – October 15th Presentation

Oh, boy! We thought this day would never come! But gosh darn it, in spite of having made other plans, here we are ...we're dead! Now, what the heck do we do?

Well, oops, scratch that! What do our closest people do with what's left of us?

Now that our spirit has danced on across the rainbow bridge or wherever it's wandered off to, someone needs to deal with this body ...this sack of skin and bones and fluids that can no longer take care of itself, make decisions and pay bills.

Well, if our loved ones are lucky, those decisions have already been made, and everything was paid for ahead of time.

But not to worry if you're not there yet ...'cause we've got you covered when Karen Keeran from Golden Heart Transition returns. She'll be giving us the low down on all the Colorado end of life options from burials to cremations, and donations to services.

Not only will she share about all the traditional funeral home offerings, but she'll be sharing the latest intel on the greener and non-traditional options too.

If you've been curious to learn more about terramations, water cremations, green burials, body donations and more, this is your chance. Don't hesitate to come on down on the **3rd Wednesday of October (the 15th) instead of our normal 2nd Wednesday**. This is another great gift that your loved ones won't be excited about now. But trust us, they'll thank you and their lucky stars later!

Housing project update:

Unfortunately, due to challenges with the land purchase, Pennrose was not able to submit the Lytec application this year. This application is required for the project to move forward and can only be submitted during the August cycle. As a result, the project is currently on pause until next year.

If The Center and Pennrose resume work on the project, we will be sure to share updates with you.

Emergency?

Don't know her

Make emergencies as unfamiliar as your ex.

Disasters don't discriminate — they impact us all, whether natural or man-made. In this lively two-hour workshop, we'll dive into the latest disaster trends, help you assess your personal preparedness needs, and equip you with practical tools to conquer chaos like a pro. Can't make the September date or the group fills up fast? Don't stress, we'll be offering the group again in October.

Complete the program and receive your very own fire safety box to kick start your emergency readiness!

Space is limited to 10 attendees per session.
Participants must be 50 and better.

Dates

Thursday, August 14th 1:00p - 3:00p

Saturday, September 20th 1:00p - 3:00p

Thursday, October 9th 1:00p - 3:00p



HALLOWEEN = QUEER CHRISTMAS?

Did you know that Halloween is a sacred queer holiday? For years on years, Halloween was a safe and monstrous way to express oneself. In the latter half of the 20th century, when 'cross-dressing' was illegal in public, Halloween was the one exception where people could dress however they pleased, and it wasn't attacked but celebrated. Queers truly expressed who they were and not be seen as a threat to heteronormative society. It's no surprise that

Halloween has long been known as the Queer Christmas!

Beyond that, it was also a perfect opportunity for queer people to gather en masse for huge Halloween balls, parties, and bashes. In the latter half of the 19th century all over the country the hubs of queer life began developing their own ways of celebrating. Philadelphia had a famous "Bitches Christmas" where drag queens would move from gay bar to gay bar and huge crowds of people would follow them, forming their own parade. Let's just say, the queers know how to do Halloween, everything from high drag shows to massive costume parties, nothing was too much for them. Unfortunately, greater visibility leads to greater oppression, and these events were targeted by politicians and bigots, forcing many to shut down.

In this era of renewed suppression and attempts to silence or remove queer people from being visible, it is more important than ever to use this holiday to be clearly and queerly yourself. Whether haunted houses or raucous costumed celebrations, this Halloween, let's honor those that came before us by remembering the reason for the season.

Happy Halloween Everyone!

Bryant





THE SCHULE OF DRAG RETURNS

Have you ever wanted to know what it takes to be a drag artist? The Schule of Drag is a two-weekend comprehensive workshop that will introduce participants to the fundamentals of drag performance, makeup techniques, costuming, and more. The workshop culminates in a final showcase opportunity to perform what you've learned for friends, family, and community.

This workshop series focuses on topics like storytelling, costuming, movement, and more. Participants will also receive mentorship from local Denver drag artists. All forms of drag are welcome, so whether you're interested in becoming a drag queen, king, monarch, or monster, The Schule of Drag is the perfect space to take to the stage and give it a go.

The Schule of Drag will be taught by August Celestial (they/them) a local drag artist with over 8 years of drag experience. Originally created in Bloomington, Indiana, August started their career at a Turnabout Show supporting the South-Central Indiana AIDS Walk and now is thrilled to be bringing their expertise to the community at The Center on Colfax. August has been working at The Center on Colfax for over three years and this is their second time running the Schule of Drag.

Ages: 21+

Series Dates - Please note that participants must be able to attend all four days in order to register for the program

Saturday, Oct. 11, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Introduction, Storytelling, and Movement

Sunday, Oct. 12, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Makeup and Costuming

Saturday, Oct. 18, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Show Run Through and Practice

Sunday, Oct. 19, 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM | Final Show Prep and Final Showcase at Ballyhoo

Workshop Location: The Center on Colfax, 1301 E Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80218

**Join us Sunday, October 19th at 4pm for the
final showcase! No RSVP required**

**Final Showcase Location: Ballyhoo - 3300
Tejon St, Denver, CO 80211**

THANKFUL 4

YOU

Friday, November 7th

West of 50's Annual Thanksgiving celebration

12:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Texas de Brazil
8390 E Northfield Gte. 1800
Denver, CO 80238

RGVP required along with a
nonrefundable \$10.00

Community - Recognition - Celebration

Acknowledging Thanksgiving

As we gather this Thanksgiving, we recognize the holiday's history of colonization and oppression of Indigenous peoples. We honor their resilience and encourage reflection and respect this season.

WOF October Puzzle



Across

- [5] Golden _____ Transitions
 [6] _____ 4U
 [7] The first name of the person who plays the main character in WOF's Movie Night
 [8] Schule of Drag Final Showcase location

Down

- [1] Queer Christmas
 [2] _____ don't discriminate
 [3] Philadelphia's historical Queer Halloween, _____ Christmas
 [4] Colorado Health Network Support Program for Adults w/ HIV
 [7] National _____ Day
 [8] Small Grocery Store

2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30 SS Yoga 10-12CM Walk In 1 Club50	2 10 Open Art 10:30-12:30 CM	3 10:30 Move.	4
5 	6 10 Lesbian 1:30 Story 2:30-5CM Walk In 6:15 Stitch	7 10 Men's Coffee 10-12CM walk-in 2 Sex	8 No Yoga 10 Bus Trip	9 10 Open Art 10:30-12:30 CM 1 Emergency	10 10:30 Move. 12 Med.	11 10 Schule of Drag 10:30 Pride Playwright 3 Out in 60sec
12 10 Schule of Drag	13 10 Lesbian 1:30 Story 2:30-5CM Walk In 6:15 Stitch	14 10 Men's Coffee 10-12CM walk-in 2 Sex	15 10:30 SS Yoga 10-12CM Walk In 1 Push'n P	16 10 Open Art 11:45 L & L 10:30-12:30 CM	17 10:30 Move.	18 10 Schule of Drag
19 11 Schule of Drag 4pm Final Showcase	20 WOF closed	21 WOF Closed	22 No Yoga 1p News Flash	23 10 Open Art 10:30-12:30 CM 11:45 L&L	24 10:30 Move.	25 10:30 Pride Playwright
26 	27 10 Lesbian 1:30 Story 2:30-5 CM Walk In 6:15 Stitch	28 10 Men's Coffee 10-12CM walk-in 2 Sex	29 10 SS Yoga	30 10 Open Art 10:30-12:30 CM 12:30Lunch Bunch	31 10:30: Move 5pm Movie Night 	

HEADS UP

No West of 50 programming on Oct. 8th due to bus trip. No groups on 20th & 21st

Lesbian - Lesbian Lounge
Story- Telling Your Story
Stitch- Stitch & Bitch
Sex- Older Wiser Sexually Smarter
SS Yoga - Silver Sneakers Yoga
Move - Movement
Med - Meditation with Quana
CM Walk In - Case Management Walk in hours

