

June '25



WEST OF 50

DENVER PRIDE®



Pride Month, which should be 24/7 365 days a year, is a demonstration of the resilience of a community that has struggled to be seen as equal, worth protecting, and highlights the community's tangible impact on the world.

If it weren't for those who fought for our rights, we would not have the rights and protections we continue to fight for to this day. Each of us have our own take on what pride means and how impactful it is. Lets see what our community has to say...

Q: How do you see more/less acceptance of LGBTQ in society?

"The acceptance of the LGBTQ community in which I am a part has grown tremendously over the years since I learned I was gay. Just Positive growth ... all the way all the time." -Ken



Where was your first Pride festival? *"I have never been to a Pride Festival. This will be my first year... I am looking forward to the whole experience. I just came out this year".* - Peggy

What does it mean to embrace LGBTQ+ pride? *"It means being your authentic self and living in your truth".* -Mary.

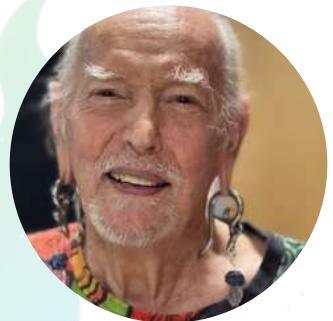


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How can you get others to be more open-minded about LGBTQ people? “As an intersex girl who was raised by two lesbians. People often don’t realize that I am part of this community. Oftentimes, all it takes is me reminding them that I am”. – Josephine

What do you love about Denver PRIDE Fest ? “I like to go around the booths and see what is there. Some years are more interesting than others. Its festive! The entertainment is okay. Since I am tone deaf its much better. There are people whom you can't believe. I enjoy all the costumes. I like spending time at the West of 50 booth watching people. I just sit there and ask questions and people always answer”. -Michael



Who are some of your LGBTQ+ role models? “I love Gila Moonstar, she performed for one of the Center’s Holiday Parties. StarChild is so funny! I know they both volunteer and support the community. Hunter, who is the current Mr. Leather Colorado was so nice. He came and talked to one of our groups. Sable... The Director of the Trans program. I have known her for years. And the gentleman from Colorado Health Network he is so funny and I love his reels”. - Steve



Why are “firsts” important to note? What barrier breakers have you witnessed in your lifetime? “First show you how much progress has been made over time. Being able to go to the Creating Change Conference and meeting Miss. Major and having the opportunity to discussing all of the things she went through and the barriers she had to break through while risking her own life was life-changing for me. I don’t know how that women is still alive.” - Jaylin

Be Proud & Happy PRIDE!

In This

Issue

JUNE 2025

365 days of pride pg. 1 & 2

Next CEO of The Center pg.4-5

Meet Nick pg. 5

Queer Woke pg. 6

Rooftop PRIDE party pg. 7

Health Watch pg. 8

Tea Dance pg. 9

A Note to the family, pg. 10

June Program highlights pg. 11-12

Coming this Summer pg. 11

Program Line up pg. 13-14

Denver PRIDE Fest
performers pg. 15

West of 50 Pride Line up pg. 16

Calendar of Events pg. 17

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Pennrose Housing update:

This past May, West of 50 and Pennrose Brick and Mortar hosted a kick off event to celebrate the organizations' joint effort to raise money for the new space.

The event was attended by donors and key community members. The evening boasted drinks, light appetizers, and remarks from Natalie, Jason, board members, Pennrose staff, and funders.

Over the next several months the group will continue to seek out funders to help pay for the space.

We're excited to announce our new CEO -Kim Salvaggio



The Center on Colfax is proud to welcome Kim Salvaggio (she/her) as our next Chief Executive Officer. Kim will officially step into the role on May 27, 2025, bringing with her a dynamic blend of leadership, lived experience, and an unwavering commitment to LGBTQIA+ advocacy. Kim Salvaggio, CEO of The Center on Colfax “I am honored to step into the role of CEO at The Center on Colfax,” said Kim. “The Center’s rich history is not just a testament to our progress but a powerful reminder of the work still to be done.

Together, we will build on this legacy, fostering a future where everyone is empowered, valued, connected, and inspired.” “The Center’s rich history is not just a testament to our progress but a powerful reminder of the work still to be done. Together, we will build on this legacy, fostering a future where everyone is empowered, valued, connected, and inspired.”

Following a national search, Kim was enthusiastically recommended by a diverse executive search

committee composed of board members, staff, and community leaders — a testament to the trust and excitement surrounding her appointment.

“We are thrilled to welcome Kim as our next CEO,” said Kyle Long, board co-chair. “Her experience and vision will lead The Center into an exciting new chapter.” “Kim brings a powerful combination of strategic vision, lived experience, and community-centered leadership,” said Amalia Sax-Bolder, board co-chair. “Her deep commitment to equity and her ability to build trust across diverse communities make her the right leader for this moment in The Center’s evolution.”

With more than two decades of experience in media and nonprofit leadership, Kim most recently served as Chief Community Equity and Access Officer at Rocky Mountain Public Media. There, she led transformative projects like Above the Noise, a statewide listening and civility initiative that built trust between local communities and Colorado newsrooms.



continued on next page.

More about Kim... Our new CEO!

During her time at Rocky Mountain Public Media, Kim worked under the leadership of Amanda Mountain, president and CEO of Rocky Mountain PBS, who shared: “Kim is a visionary leader who is committed to and capable of making the world a better place through her direct efforts,” said Mountain.

“Especially right now as LGBTQ+ communities are under threat of having hard-fought rights reduced or removed, Kim’s strong and collaborative leadership style can bring people together to protect the most vulnerable among us.”

Kim is also a certified mediator and facilitator, known for bringing people together to navigate challenging conversations and create lasting understanding. Her leadership centers LGBTQIA+ communities — especially Trans Youth — and reflects a deep belief in the power of inclusive, compassionate storytelling.

She lives in Erie, Colorado, with her wife Alex, their four children, and a lively household of beloved pets.

An interview with our new Adult Program

Manager, Nick (he/him).

Jason- What do you do for the Center?

Nick - *“That is a fun question... I’m currently focusing on soft skill development with ages 18 -24. In time, I will start to focus on adults past the age of 24. I am also looking forward to our upcoming speed friending event. I have also been seeking out organizations that are queer owned. I want to build a support network with the goal of being able to connect community members quickly should I need to.”*

Jason- What are three items you might purchase at the grocery store to get strange looks from the cashier?

Nick - *“Um, let’s see... I love candy. Will have a shopping cart full of it. I love Pokémon cards... I love cooking. So, sometimes the ingredients might look odd. But I am known for making tasty meals.”*



Jason -What do you think your last words will be?

Nick - *Huh... “the first thing that comes to my head was oh, shit not you again.*

Jason -Do you think the sea is salty because the shore never waves back at it?

Nick - *He laughs... “um, so I grew up at the beach. I was told that the ocean was salty because all the whales peed in it.”*



Queer Woke: The Lavender Scare

In the 1940s and 50s, after the conclusion of World War II, the Red Scare was in full effect. Suspicion and paranoia had taken hold of the U.S. government in the pursuit of removing communists from their ranks. However, from this panic arose another more insidious movement that began targeting and rooting out suspected homosexuals from public service.

Later coined The Lavender Scare, this period is marred by opportunist politicians, intense homophobia, and the mass removal of an unknown amount of people suspected of being homosexual. In times of unrest, it benefits us to look back on our history and learn from what has come before.

Join Bryant Mehay as he facilitates a conversation about the history of The Lavender Scare, the long-lasting impact it had on the U.S. government, and those who fought back against it.

Please note that RSVPs are required to attend this hybrid event.

Date: Friday, June 6th, 2025

Time: Pizza served at 5:30 PM. Presentation runs 6:00 – 8:00 PM

In-Person Location: The Center on Colfax, 1301 E Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80218

Virtual Location: Via Zoom – Joining link provided upon registration in a confirmation email

ROOFTOP PRIDE PARTY!

Hosted by West of 50 & Denver Public Library

You're invited to a rooftop party to kick off Pride Month! This third annual collaboration between West of 50 and Denver Public Library, held on the rooftop of The Center on Colfax, will be a fun-filled afternoon of dance, bingo, karaoke, prizes, music, and more. Light refreshments will be provided and don't forget to explore the DPL Craft Table.

Event Line Up

3:45 PM: Chair Voguing and Line Dancing - Instructor Cristina Michaels will lead participants in a fun and accessible Chair Voguing and Line Dancing lesson. No experience required!

5:00 PM: Pride Bingo with Prizes!

6:00 PM: Karaoke hosted by Cowpoke Avi and Steve-Anne

Ages: 50+

Date: Thursday, June 12th, 2025

Time: 3:30 PM - 7:30 PM

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

Health Watch



HIV-Associated Neuroactive Disorder (HAND)

The LGBTQ+ older adults are a community of firsts. The first to come out, the first to fight for rights, and the first to be long-term survivors of HIV. Survivors of HIV who were diagnosed over 15+ years may develop a spectrum of cognitive, motor, and/or mood problems collectively known as HIV-Associated Neurocognitive Disorder (HAND).

Risk Factors

- Increasing age
- Lack of viral suppression
- Low CD4 count
- Substance use disorders
- High Cholesterol
- Hepatitis C
- High blood pressure
- Diabetes

Symptoms

Cognitive

- Concentration issues
- Memory concerns
- Planning or organizational problems
- Trouble making decisions

Mood

- Loss of motivation
- Irritability
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Sleep disturbances
- Mania

Physical

- Slowed movements
- Tremors
- Poor coordination or unsteady gait

Diagnosis is difficult, many providers tend to chalk up the symptoms as basic aging. HAND is a diagnosis of exclusion, meaning the clinician must rule out other reasons for the changes noticed. Neuropsychological (thinking and memory) testing is used, such as the MOCA, Modified HIV Dementia Scale or International HIV Dementia Scale. HAND differs from Alzheimer's as the main symptom of HAND is rarely the inability to remember. Physical symptoms are often present and can stabilize over time. Be sure to talk with your health care provider should this be something you are concerned about. (Source: A healthcare Providers Guide to HIV-Associated Neurocognitive Disorder (HAND)). (Alzheimer's Association of MC).

WEST OF 50'S TEA DANCE

HOSTED BY - AUGUST CELESTIAL
BEATS DROPPED BY - DJ BLAQUE GURL
PERFORMANCES BY
- JUICCY MISDEMEANOR -
- KAPTAIN INHERPANTS -



JOIN US ON
THE ROOFTOP
OF THE CENTER

WEDNESDAY, JUNE
25TH
3:30 PM - 8:00 PM

RSVP OPEN EARLY
JUNE!

THE CENTER'S MIXOLOGIST WILL KEEP
YOU LUBRICATED AND FILLED!

AUGUST CELESTIAL WILL BE GIVING
AWAY VIP TICKETS TO DENVER PRIDE
AND WHO KNOW WHAT ELSE!

A NOTE TO THE FAMILY

BY AVIS.

Well. Yer 'ol Auntie did it again...

I knocked 'em dead at a Swallow Hill

recital today (where I take voice lessons) !! I did "Heard It In A Love Song" by Marshall Tucker.

My voice teacher helps me to REALLY get INTO what the song is about - and express that, like acting. In the case of this song, the guy (me) is a DICK.

It's not until the end that I open up and tell you WHY I'm a dick.

Barry, my teacher, recently instructed me to work on being more "expressive" with my harmonica playing.

I took it to Hamburger Mary's on Thursday for a test run...

The atmosphere was great. Mary's was more than half full when I played. There was a party table of about 12 female types. Two of them were married. They wore matching long white cotton dresses. It was one of their birthday. They were each singing karaoke, getting high, and having a blast.

So I get up and play. The crowd loves the harmonica. Comes time for my harmonica solo - I step into the audience - the crowd loves it - I'm going, "Drat." Remember I said Mary's wasn't full? There was NO ONE in the front row to schmooze with. I had to walk a ways to these nice young men. I'm standing at their table just a suckin' an a blowin' AND wiggling just a bit, and they are trying to eat their food.

THANK THE GODS !!

From the crowd, by the party table, the Wife and others are pointing to the Birthday Girl and pleading,

"DO HER ! DO HER !"

IT'S HER BIRTHDAY !

So yer 'ol Auntie went over there and

DID HER !!

I done her Wife too,

'an a couple of young cuties
at the party table.

"Showin' my ass." as Grandma used to say, then winking at them over my shoulder...clearly turns 'em on !!



Wed. June 4th 1:30p

Agenda:

- Pride Prep
- Bus Trip Recap
- Tea Dance
- More!



Friday. June 20th

12:30 P

Tocabé

3536 West 44th Ave.



Tocabé is currently the only American Indian owned and operated restaurant in Metro Denver Specializing in Native American cuisine.



Tuesday, June 17th

11:45 to 1 p.m. RSVP required

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is stopping by West of 50 to talk with us about how Medicare and the state Drug Assistance programs work cohesively. Information will be provided on the 2025 Medicare changes, enrollment/late enrollment penalties, and the new SDAP Mobile App.

coming this summer

Pride Compass

Short-term case management services to help adults aged 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.

Eligibility

These services are available exclusively to LGBTQIA+ community members who are 50 years and better.

Emergency Preparedness

When natural disasters strike, you need to have a strategy to navigate this crisis. Starting in July, we will host a session focused on helping our older adults get ready for what can come. Attendees who participate in a session will receive a fireproof document box. Participants must be 50+





When we want more Choice – MAiD & VSED Option in Colorado

Wed. June 11th, 1- 2 p

While most pain and discomfort from end-stage diseases can be greatly reduced and minimized with the aid of hospice medications, there are times when it cannot, and the overall quality of life is impacted. There are also times when pain is not an issue, but there are still concerns about becoming dependent on others ...either physically, financially or both.

Determining the quality of our life, especially as we're nearing the end, is one of the most personal decisions any of us will ever make. Being unable to live on our own and losing control and agency over a once vibrant and independent life can be sad, but navigable for many. For others, that prospect can seem intolerable.

In Colorado, we have 2 additional options available when we find ourselves facing untenable end-stage, quality of life circumstances. One is Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD), and the other is Voluntary Stopping Eating and Drinking (VSED).

In this presentation, we'll explore these options in greater depth to understand:

- What factors should be weighed in deciding if one of them is right, or not right, for us
- Commonalities and differences between them
- Requirements and processes for both
- Where to get support and find resources when one of these options is chosen.

If having more options for your end of life choices is important to you, then you won't want to miss this session!



Lesbian Lounge

Monday's, 10 AM – 12:00 PM, in-person

In need of a little conversation, fun, learning, and community? This weekly group is focused on supporting queer-identifying women through conversation, creativity, and learning. These peer-led conversations will focus on anything from relationships to health to current events, with the occasional workshop.

Telling Your Story

Monday's, 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM, Hybrid

Participants are provided with a weekly topic that sparks memories, connections, and friendships. We welcome all and are open to people who compose their stories or tell others about their experiences.

Stitch & Bitch

Monday's, 6:15 PM – 7:45 PM, In-Person

Do you have a sewing or crafting project you've been meaning to get done but don't have the motivation or time? Do you enjoy creating in a group? Do you want to have a Kiki? If our answer is yes to any of these questions, then join us for Stitch & Bitch!

Men's Coffee Group

Tuesday's, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Hybrid

A weekly group that is focused on supporting queer-identifying men through conversation and friendship.

Older, Wiser, Sexually Smarter

Tuesday's, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM, In-Person

This weekly discussion group is facilitated by a West of 50 staff members and focuses on dismantling sexual misconceptions and introducing evidence-based topics to help older adults engage in their best sex-positive selves.

Silver Sneaker Yoga

Wednesday's 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM,

Hybrid

A certified Silver Sneakers® instructor will lead participants through a complete series of chair assisted yoga poses designed to increase flexibility, balance and range of movement. Silver Sneakers® membership is not required.

Club50

First Wednesday of each month, 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM, In-Person

Club50 drives West of 50 programs, creates volunteer opportunities, and makes meaningful change whenever possible.

Push'n Pansies

2nd Wednesday of each month, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM, In-Person

Death is not a topic that many like to discuss. But the end of the rainbow is inevitable. Push'n Pansies is a brave space for individuals to come together and discuss the end of life, learn about resources, and discover the strength to normalize aging and death.

Open Art Studio

Thursdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, In-Person

A free drop-in Art space with all the tools you will need. The only thing you need to bring is yourself and a creative mind.

Lunch Bunch

Check the Center's website for dates, 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM, In-Person

Location varies from month to month. A monthly gathering around food with friends. Attendees are responsible for the cost of their meals and getting to and from the restaurant.

Movement Therapy

Friday's, 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM, Hybrid

This class focuses on meditation, movement, and breathing, meeting participants where they are at with their bodies. Each session introduces breathing techniques, stretching, healthy movement strategies, and more.

Disability Peer Support Group

2nd and 4th Fridays; 1:30 PM – 3 PM, Hybrid
created for individuals who have a disability and identify as a member of the LGBTQ+ community. This is a drop-in space that provides conversation, social support, and resource sharing.

PRIDE Playwright

2nd & 4th Saturday of each month, 10:30-12:30PM, In-Person

Join us as we create a community of writers focusing on old and new pieces including monologues; scenes; one-act plays; and more! This supportive space will nurture the writer's growth by providing historical references, educational perspectives, and constructive feedback. Eventually, we will prepare pieces to present to an audience including full or partial staging with actors from the larger community to provide authentic voices for our work. Pride Playwright every other Saturday, moving to once a week as the work develops.

PERFORMERS



From her infamous early exit on RuPaul's Drag Race to becoming one of the biggest drag stars in the world, **Vanessa "Miss Vanjie" Mateo** knows how to make her mark. her distinct voice and ultra fierce dance moves are known worldwide. She's starred in MTV's All Star Shore and her very own dating series 24 Hours of Love. She's toured the world several time over.

Detox is an American drag performer, recording artist, model, and founder of Fleuressence Supplements. She/they gained recognition on RuPaul's Drag Race season 5 and All Stars season 2. She/they are known for their unique style and drag skill.



Pattie Gonia retunes to the Main Stage! Pattie is a critically acclaimed drag queen, environmentalist, and advocate for inclusivity and diversity in the outdoors. Named Outside Magazine's Person of the Year, a National Geographic Traveler of the Year, and *TIME* magazine Next Gen Leader 2023, Pattie uses the art form of drag to educate, entertain and empower people from all walks of like to join the environmental movement.

Chika is an American rapper who first garnered attention on social media. Chika is known for blending introspective, socially conscious hip-hop with R&B. This cutting edge rapper received her first Grammy nomination for Best New Artist in 2020. Want to her her beats? You can find Chika on NPR Music Tiny Desk Concert



-WOF PRIDE EVENTS-

June 6th, 5:30-8pm Queer Woke - Lavender Scare

June 8th, 11am-2pm Denver Sweet Charity Show supporting West of 50

June 12th 3:30-7:30pm Rooftop Pride Party with Denver Public Library

June 25th, 3:30-8pm Tea Dance

June 28th, 11am - 7:00pm

11 West of 50 Pride tent opens & Erotic Yard Games start

12-12:45 BINGO with Cow Poke Avi & Steve Anne

1 Pup play - 101

2:15-3:15 BINGO with Cow Poke Avi & Steve Anne

3:30-4:30 Brush Up on Anatomy with the Sexploratorium

4:45-5:45 BINGO with Cow Poke Avie & Steve Anne

6-7 BINGO with the WOF team

June 29th, 10am - 6:00pm

9:30 a.m. The Coors Light Denver Pride Parade has moved to 17th Street.

10 West of 50 tent opens & Erotic Yard Games start

11-12 BINGO with Steve Anne & Cow Poke Avi

12:15-1:15 Brush Up on Anatomy with the Sexploratorium

1:30-2:30 BINGO with Steve Anne & Cow Poke Avi

2:45-3:45 BINGO with the WOF team

4-5 BINGO with Steve Anne & Cow Poke Avi

5:15-6 BINGO with WOF team

2025

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 10 Lesbian 1:30 Story 6:15 Stitch	3 10 Men's Coffee 2 sex	4 10:30 SS yoga 1:30 Club 50	5 10 Open Art	6 10:30 Move 11:45 Med. Q-WOKE	7
8	9 10 Lesbian 1:30 Story 6:15 Stitch	10 10 Men's Coffee 2 sex	11 10:30 SS yoga 1 Push'n P	12 DPL PRIDE PARTY	13 10:30 Move 1:30 DPSG	14 Pride Playwright 12p
15	16 10 Lesbian 1:30 Story 6:15 Stitch	17 10 Men's Coffee 2 sex 11:45 Lunch & Learn	18 10:30 SS yoga	19 Closed for Juneteenth	20 10:30 Move 12:30 Lunch Bunch	21
22	23 10 Lesbian 1:30 Story 6:15 Stitch	24 10 Men's Coffee 2 sex	25 No Groups TEA DANCE	26 No Groups	27 No Groups	28 PRIDE
29 PRIDE	30 No Groups	Calendar Key: Lesbian = Lesbian Lounge Story = Telling Your Story Stitch= Stitch & Bitch				Sex= Older Wiser Sexually smarter SS Yoga= Silver Sneakers Yoga Push'n P= Push'n Pansies Move= Movement Med - Meditation w/ Quana DPSG= Disability Peer Support Group

- Disability Peer support group will now be on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month.
- No Pride Playwright June 28th.
- We will not have regular groups June 25th - 30th
- The Center will be closed July 4th & 7th

Heads
up