



# PFLAG BOULDER COUNTY

**PFLAG**  
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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June/July 2009

## **Pride Program - A Fair to Remember: Ice Cream and LGBT Community Sampler**

*Thursday, June 18th, 7pm*

Let's celebrate Gay Pride Month with "A Fair to Remember"! Free ice cream sundaes will set the tone for an informal festive evening. Co-sponsored with Boulder Pride, our June meeting will be a community gathering of many LGBT-related groups where we will learn about some of the many resources available in Boulder County for fun, support, music, outdoor interests, and networking. If you are part of a group that wants to table at this event, contact [alewis@boulderpride.org](mailto:alewis@boulderpride.org). Or just come and enjoy a social evening with our annual Ice Cream Social in the church parlor, open to the LGBT community and its allies. At 6:15 prior to the event a newcomers' support group will meet in the First United Methodist Church library.

## **PFLAG Program: Book Discussion - Whipping Girl**

*Thursday, July 16th, 7pm*

In an effort to encourage more interaction among our members, how about reading one book together and discussing it? For our mutual education we have selected *Whipping Girl: A Transsexual Woman on Sexism and the Scapegoating of Femininity* by Julia Serano. Copies in paperback will be available at our June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting and at Left Hand Books, 1200 Pearl Street, Suite 10 (303-443-8252). Discussion leader Kit McChesney assures us that the book is a compelling read and will provoke a stimulating discussion. Plan to attend even if you don't read it or can't finish the book.

## **Meetings**

*PFLAG* Boulder County  
First United Methodist Church  
1421 Spruce Street  
14th & Spruce - 303.444.8164

**6:45 PM - Support & Advocacy Groups Meet**  
**7:30 PM - Program**

At 6:45 p.m. a support group, especially intended for newcomers and others dealing with personal LGBT-related issues, meets in the library as long as needed. Confidentiality is promised. At 7:00 p.m. refreshments will be served before the 7:30 p.m. program in the parlor. The public is always welcome to the main program at 7:30 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

**June 18th, 7pm**

A Fair to Remember

**June 27th-28th**

PrideFest

**July 16th**

PFLAG Program:  
Book Discussion -  
*Whipping Girl*



**From My Corner**  
**Matters of Pride—Standing Up and Speaking Out**



*By Jean Hodges*

***For this Pride issue I want to share reflections on two experiences of “Courage in Action” by those that some might deem to be unexpected allies. I was moved with admiration for Claudia and Ethan as I hope you will be.***

Claudia Bradshaw spent many years as a loyal Mormon while her family grew up in St. George, Utah, a town where outlying polygamist compounds are not uncommon and nearly everyone is a Latter Day Saint. After her son came out to her, it took Claudia ten years until she read *Prayers for Bobby*, leading her to come out as an irate mom who wasn't going to sit by silently any more. She started the only PFLAG chapter in the whole southern part of Utah. “I'm so glad you came to be with us,” she greeted me as I made my first trip in May as Regional Director to visit the two chapters in Utah. “I've felt so alone in this work,” she added. “I can't get many parents to come because they'll be excommunicated from the church if it is learned that they belong to PFLAG.” Claudia's basement is where she provides food, compassion and a safe place for LGBT persons to meet for support. The gays and lesbians don't refer to her as “the Mother Teresa of St. George” for nothing!

More than a tender-hearted mother and friend, Claudia is an activist in her own way. When a lesbian student from Southern Utah State University shared how alone and isolated she felt as graduation neared, especially because the president of the LDS Church was to be the commencement speaker, Claudia decided on a bold plan of action. She found an ally on campus, the Vice-President for Student Affairs, who arranged for PFLAG to have space on a grassy mound called a Free Speech Zone next to where all the faculty and graduates would march on their way to the morning graduation ceremonies. Claudia made signs for a “demonstration of love for LGBT graduates” and food for a reception later that afternoon.



*The crowd goes wild!*  
*photo: Melanie Asmar*

A group of some sixteen of us, who drove the hour from St. George to Cedar City, called out “Congratulations!” to all who paraded past us. We were answered with cheers, applause and expressions of gratitude from some marching cap and gown-clad students - a few wearing hot pink ribbons and scarves signifying PFLAG support. The watchful eyes of six law enforcement officers from various agencies posted about 20 feet away observed the exchange.

Doug, who faced incredible harassment when he started a Gay Straight Alliance on the Mormon-dominated campus of Dixie State College in St. George, walked next to me as we left the demonstration. He seemed astonished to learn I traveled from Boulder to be with them: “You came all that way just to be with us? That's wonderful!” I smiled

with admiration at an “out” gay man who chooses daily to be persecuted by hateful prejudice. “I wouldn’t have missed this for anything! It’s the most fun I’ve had in a long time,” I replied. All the rest of the day he kept asking me if I was still having fun. And I was.



*Ethan reads his speech.  
photo: Melanie Asmar*

Two weeks later on the steps of the Colorado Capitol, I searched among the children scurrying up and down the steps for Ethan, the third grader who had invited me to speak on behalf of PFLAG at the Marriage Equality Rally he organized. Many of his friends joined him in carrying signs that read: “Separate is not Equal”. I found his mother, Tracey, who told me that sometime in January after discussing incidents of name-calling at school and learning that his lesbian neighbor was not allowed to marry, he said, “Mom, that’s not right! I want to do a protest---next week!” Tracey talked with Ethan’s teacher, Kyle Kimmel, to see if Ethan could forego a math project and organize a protest rally about Marriage Equality instead. After a proclamation from Mayor Hickenlooper and several short speeches by some of us elders, Ethan was the final speaker.

Before more than a hundred people, many waving rainbow flags, who cheered when he got up to read from his crinkled piece of paper: “I believe everyone’s equal,” he began. “Everyone deserves the choice to get married.” He concluded his talk by saying, “There is a lot more work to be done regarding marriage equality and equal protection. I hope this rally will make an impact and let our voices be heard.” When Ethan finished, the crowd whooped, cheered and clapped with their hands in the air. The adults thanked him for his vision. “Ethan is part of a generation that understands equality,” I had said in my speech. “It is the young who will win this battle.” My heart filled with hope.

Claudia, a feisty, older voice, spoke out in love in the face of religious oppression. Ethan, the young and earnest voice of an ally, spoke as the hope for a future that leads to equality. They are role models for the Power of One, of individuals who choose to stand up and speak out. Their courage gives us reason to feel proud. May we each in our own way follow their lead.

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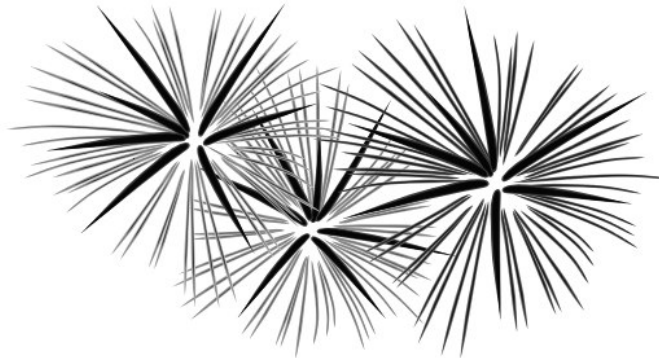
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ABOUT THEM.

## Come Join the PrideFest on June 27-28

The largest Pride event of the year happens in Denver on June 27-28 and PFLAG has been invited to be the Grand Marshal for the parade on Sunday morning. This honor means that we will lead the fourth largest Gay Pride Parade in the U.S. The mile-long walk leaves Cheesman Park at 9:30 a.m. and walks the distance down Colfax to Civic Park where the two-day PrideFest is held. Every person and family is welcome to march with us as we join with other chapters around the state. Let us know if you need to ride instead of walk. If you want to carpool, meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Table Mesa Park N Ride. Let Jean know if you plan to carpool: JeanInBldr@comcast.net. We will park near the Capitol and walk to Cheesman Park to gather at the front of the parade with the PFLAG contingent around 9:00 o'clock. Bring your sign or get one there.

On Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. there will be a Colorado Coalition booth at PrideFest in Civic Park. Help is needed to staff the PFLAG table on both days, June 27-28. Call Ron Braun, 303-828-1404, to volunteer 2 hours either day.



### FACETS GALA Set for June 10th

FACETS, the annual queer youth cabaret, will happen in Old Main Theater on CU's campus on June 10th at 7 p.m. Admission is free! You are guaranteed to laugh, cry, and be in awe at these hilarious, touching, and talented acts. One of the best ways to support OASOS youth is to pack Old Main with supportive allies so bring your friends, bring a date, and bring yourself to this fantastic event! As we do every year, PFLAG will provide refreshments following the show. Cookie donations are appreciated. Contact Melissa Druckman, mellowhellow@googlemail.com, if you can help out.

Mountain Pride Connections is pleased to support PFLAG at the Boulder Farmers' Market this season ... come visit us!

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## Sound Circle Concert

June 5th, 6th - 8pm, and June 7th - 2pm

Join Sound Circle at their spring concert, *Enter the Garden*, on June 5, 6, and 7, 2009 at the Dairy Center for the Arts, 2590 Walnut St., in Boulder. The Friday and Saturday performances are at 8:00 p.m. and the Sunday performance is at 2:00 p.m.

This is a concert about imagination, color, and energy. The foundation of the concert is Boulder composer Gary Grundei's setting of Diane diPrima's *Rant* ("The only war that matters is the war against the imagination.")

*Enter the Garden* tickets are \$16 for general admission and \$11 for seniors and children. They can be purchased at the Community Box Office at the Dairy Center for the Arts. Online ticketing is available at [thedairy.org](http://thedairy.org) and the phone number is 303-440-7826 or 303-444-7328. Tickets will also most likely be available at the door.



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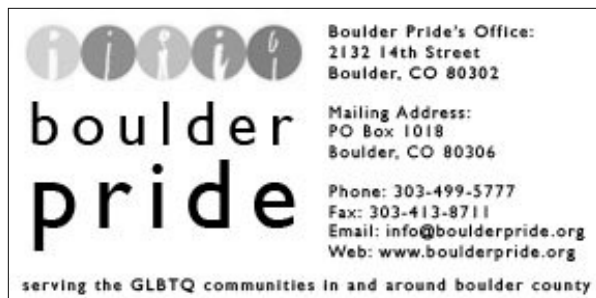
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## Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Recommends GLBT-Friendly Resolutions

Our newest board member, Rev. Ken Thurow, reports that in May, the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), meeting in Assembly made a formal request that the Churchwide Assembly, which meets in August in Minneapolis, take formal actions to recognize the service of GLBT clergy in the ELCA. Several proposals are under consideration, among them resolutions to find ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support, and hold publicly accountable life-long, monogamous, same gender relationships. Though the ELCA has no specific rites to recognize same-gender relationships, some of the resolutions under consideration open the door for congregations who choose to do so to establish rites on their own. Other proposals being considered allow ELCA congregations who choose to do so to allow ordinations of pastors and consecration of diaconal ministers who are GLBT. Part of the resolution provides for the respect of diversity of opinions on these issues. The key resolution under consideration provides for the church to remove provisions that prohibit the service of otherwise-qualified GLBT candidates. This provision is the most important, and one that bodes well for GLBT people, if approved.



**boulder pride**

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serving the GLBTQ communities in and around boulder county



**PFLAG Boulder County**  
 PO Box 19696  
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**303.444.8164**  
 www.pflagboulder.org

PFLAG Boulder meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at First United Methodist Church, 14th and Spruce, Boulder, Colorado. Sharing time begins at 7:00 pm, program at 8:00 pm.

**REMEMBER**, our confidentiality pledge must not be broken.

Newsletter is published monthly. A subscription is included with each membership to PFLAG. Material related to PFLAG is welcome from any source. Deadline is the twentieth of each month. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject, or edit any material submitted.

**Membership Categories**

- \$25.00 Individual
- \$35.00 Family
- \$10.00 Student
- \$10.00 Newsletter Only
- \$50.00 Supporting
- \$100.00+ Sustaining

Membership dues are renewed on October 1st of each year. Send address changes and membership information to PFLAG, P.O. Box 19696, Boulder, CO 80308.

**Advertising**

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**OUR MISSION**

*PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gays, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons, their families and friends through:*

- SUPPORT**, to cope with an adverse society;
- EDUCATION**, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and
- ADVOCACY**, to end discrimination and to secure civil rights.

*PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.*

**FAMILY MATTERS**

**Many thanks to Kathleen Cain** who saw our “help wanted” notice and volunteered to help staff the Farmer’s Market table on five Saturdays this summer from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. She needs some company to do this Straight for Equality outreach. Please contact her (kmcain@q.com) if you can spend a few hours on any of these remaining Saturdays: June 6, July 4, Aug. 22 and Sept. 5.

**Volunteers needed:** Looking for the person who just wants to do one job to give back to PFLAG. Does not need to be on the Board. We need a librarian to keep our books in order and display a few at each meeting. We need a Hospitality person to coordinate refreshments donated by others for monthly meetings and a couple of special events. Of course, we can also decide to forego refreshments if no one steps forward....we’re just saying....

**Congratulations to Pat Steadman** who was selected by the Democratic caucus to be the new State Senator for District 31. Pat, who for many years has been the LGBT lobbyist with the Colorado Legislature, will replace Jennifer Veiga who resigned to move to Australia with her partner. Good luck to Jennifer and let’s work as individuals to support Pat’s election for a full term!

**Good news for Cathy Gaffney**, a long-time PFLAG member, who received our support when she struggled to overcome cancer three years ago. Now healthy, Cathy is working on a book based on her own experience to help people overcome trauma, especially traumatic brain injury.

**Sad news for Connie Coleman** who has served PFLAG in many capacities over the past 8 years. Her husband Don died on May 20<sup>th</sup> after a 4 1/2 year battle with cancer. Connie is a very private person but would appreciate a note sent to 4500 19<sup>th</sup> St. #78, Boulder, CO 80304. She plans to march with us in the Pride Parade on June 28<sup>th</sup>! What a friend!

We also remember our good friend and PFLAG supporter, **Dean Damon**, former superintendent of the Boulder Valley Schools, who was largely responsible for the 1994 inclusion of sexual orientation in the BVSD non-discrimination policy. Dean had a lung transplant in January and never left the hospital because of complications. His family, former wife Linda, two children, and life partner Bill were at his side constantly for the past five months. We join them in mourning the loss of a truly fine human being.

