



# PFLAG

## Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

### Next Meeting

**Date:** June 8, 7 PM Program, 8PM Support  
**Program:** Coming Out to Dad

Last month, we looked at the coming out experience from the perspective of mothers. In honor of Father's Day, our program this month takes a look at the coming out experience from a father's perspective. Join our panelists to hear the stories of several PFLAG Dads. Come prepared to ask questions and share your experiences as well.

### PFLAG & CSU's Visible Voices

This past weekend, eight PFLAG parents and three LGBT community members participated in CSU's Visible Voices training. This training is an outstanding opportunity to learn more about telling your personal coming out story in a more powerful, effective way. In addition to practicing your story, you also learn about current issues, challenges, and terminology in the LGBT community. You learn how to listen, affirm, and respond to challenging questions. Taken together, all of this training helps prepare you to be a more effective speaker.

CSU will offer this training again in September. If you would like to be a part of this exciting program, please contact K. Foula Dimopoulos at 970.491.4857 or [foula.dimopoulos@colostate.edu](mailto:foula.dimopoulos@colostate.edu). You must complete an application and attend training to be a part of Visible Voices. And, remember: heterosexual allies have coming out stories, too! Applications are available at <http://www.glbttss.colostate.edu/>.

### Come Out as PFLAGers!

PFLAG invites you to come out as a PFLAGer in the month of June. Everyday wear something with a PFLAG logo on it (such as a hat, Tshirt, pin, tote) or with a message of GLBT equality (such as a rainbow bracelet). When people look at our PFLAG wearables, we speak out about the equality our loved ones do not have, or we do not have. When someone, anyone, glances at our symbols, tell them about PFLAG and share your story.

If you do not own anything with PFLAG logos, please obtain a PFLAG pin at one of the following events this week:

- June 4: PFLAG booth at Rialto Theater, Loveland
- June 6: PFLAG booth at Pride in the Park
- June 8: Monthly PFLAG meeting

### National PFLAG Conference Cancelled

Unfortunately, the PFLAG national conference scheduled for October 9-11 has been cancelled. Enrollment was lower than normal and, given the current economic climate, national PFLAG decided to invest resources in assisting with regional events.

### Pride in the Park

**Jun 4: Queer Cinema at the Rialto Theater, 7:00**  
 Join PFLAG and Lambda Community Center at the Rialto Theater in Loveland for the movie, *Doin' Time in the Homo No Mo Halfway House*. The movie features Peterson Toscano in his one-man comedy about surviving life in the Ex-Gay movement. Cost—\$5.00.

**Jun 5: Shenanigans, Kick-off Karaoke**  
 You have two choices of activities on Friday. One is the Shenanigans variety show at the Lincoln Center, 7:30 PM. Sponsored by Northern Colorado AIDS Project and Lambda Community Center, tickets cost \$15 at the door. Your second choice is Karaoke at Choice City Shots, 9:00 PM. Cover charge is \$5. Prizes will be awarded for best performances in various categories.

**Jun 6: Pride Ride, Pride in the Park, Pride After Party**  
 On Saturday you have at least four activities from which to choose. If you join the Pride Ride at 8:00 AM, you can take a short Poudre Trail ride or a longer Horsetooth 19.5-mile ride. Pride in the Park takes place at the Civic Center Park, Fort Collins, from 11:00-5:00. You can cap the evening with the Pride After Party at the Sunset Event Center. Tickets to the after party are \$25.

**Jun 7: Spirit in the Park, Picnic in the Park**  
 Finally, you can celebrate at a non-denominational, interfaith service in Civic Center Park at 12:00 noon. Following the service, take part in a community picnic at Civic Center Park at 1:00 PM. Hamburgers, hotdogs, and platicware is provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Volunteers are still needed. Contact Jen Lowe at [jenniferjlowe@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferjlowe@gmail.com). For more information, see <http://prideinthepark.org/>.

## News of Regional Interest

### Jun 28: Parade and PrideFest Celebration

We need you! Please join PFLAG for its annual march in the Denver PrideFest parade. This year PFLAG will be honored as the grand marshals of the parade! For more about the parade and other festivities that weekend, see <http://gbtcolorado.org/renderContent.aspx?contentId=16>.

## News of National/Global Interest

Last month, the U.S. House of Representatives passed hate crime legislation. Unfortunately, the legislation has stalled in the Senate and is likely to be attached as an amendment to the 2010 defense authorization bill. Such a decision makes both bills more difficult to pass.

[[Washington Blade](#), May 29]

The California Supreme Court has upheld Proposition 8. The ruling preserved existing same-sex domestic partnership rights for California's gays and lesbians, but it provided little protection from future ballot measures that could cost gays and other minorities more rights.

[[Los Angeles Times](#), May 27]

When the District of Columbia city council recently voted 12-1 to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other jurisdictions, a raucous protest led by African-American ministers erupted in the hallway outside council chambers. A coalition of ministers and others opposed to gay marriage, and led by an African-American bishop from Maryland, plans to force a referendum in D.C. that, if successful, would block the council's decision. [[NPR](#), May 31]

A bill declaring a Harvey Milk Day in California—to honor the slain gay rights figure—passed the state Senate with a vote of 24-14. The bill goes to the California Assembly. [[Sacramento Bee](#), May 19]

## Equality Arizona Radio Interview

*Highly recommended:* An Equality Arizona radio interview features Kim Pearson, Executive Director of Trans Youth Family Allies (TYFA). The interview discusses an 8-year-old trans-youth from Colorado, as well as Kim's experiences as a parent of a male-affirmed child. [[Listen](#)] [[TYFA](#)] (Length = 61:37)

## Safe Schools

Check out "Beyond the Binary", a resource to help make schools safer for all students. Its special focus is on increasing understanding of the needs of gender-variant children. [[Transgender Law Center](#)]

## Resources for Children of LGBT Parents

- Families like mine by Abigail Garner (<http://www.familieslikemine.com/>)

- Colage—Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (<http://www.colage.org/>)
- Out of the Ordinary: Essays on Growing Up With Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Parents by Noelle Howey and Ellen Samuel (<http://www.powells.com/biblio/1-9780312244897-2>)
- "Rainbow Rumpus", a magazine for kids with LGBT parents that brings great stories and a sense of community (<http://www.rainbowrumpus.org/>)

## Research Study for Lesbian Women

Seeking lesbian and bisexual women who are at least 18 years old...

If this sounds like you, then we invite you to participate in a study focusing on your life experiences as a lesbian, bisexual, or queer woman, the challenges you have faced, and how you deal with these challenges. Participants will have the opportunity to enter a drawing for one of several cash prizes of \$50.

The goal of the Rainbow Women's Project is to better understand the specific experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer women and promote their health and well-being. We are especially interested in hearing the diverse voices within our communities.

This is an anonymous, web-based study run through the Department of Psychology at the University of Washington. For more information, please go to [https://www.surveymonkey.com/rainbow\\_women](https://www.surveymonkey.com/rainbow_women), or contact the Rainbow Women's Project at [wproject@u.washington.edu](mailto:wproject@u.washington.edu) or (206) 543-9151.

Rainbow Women's Project is funded by the Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues.

## Reading/Viewing Corner

- *Oh the Things Mommies Do*, a new book coming this summer by Crystal Tompkins, is a bouncy and playful look at the joys of a two-Mom family. With its catchy rhymes and vibrant illustrations, it is a pleasure for children and parents alike. [[more](#)]
- "Is My Marriage Gay" by Jennifer Finney Boylan This interesting op-ed article takes a closer look at "differently married" couples—those who started marriage as an opposite-sex couple but who remain legally married through a sex transition which results in a same-sex marriage. [[NY Times](#), May 11]

## Thank You PFLAG Sponsors

- Hewlett-Packard Company, Corporate Sponsor

If you would like to become a PFLAG sponsor, please contact Diane Kaufman at [RCKaufman01@comcast.net](mailto:RCKaufman01@comcast.net) or 223-0041 for more information.

## High School Summer Reading List

A recent PFLAG email thread yielded the following ideas for high-school aged readers interested in LGBT topics:

### CLASSICS

- ◆ *Rubyfruit Jungle*, Rita Mae Brown
- ◆ *A Boy's Own Story*, Edmund White
- ◆ *And the Band Played On*, Randy Shilts
- ◆ *Conduct Unbecoming*, Randy Shilts
- ◆ *The Mayor of Castro Street*, Randy Shilts
- ◆ *The Front Runner*, Patricia Nell Warren
- ◆ *Another Country*, James Baldwin
- ◆ *Bastard Out of Carolina*, Dorothy Allison
- ◆ *Brokeback Mountain*, Annie Proulx
- ◆ *Giovanni's Room*, James Baldwin
- ◆ *Maurice*, E.M. Forster
- ◆ *Stone Butch Blues*, Leslie Feinberg
- ◆ *The Color Purple*, Alice Walker
- ◆ *Orlando*, Virginia Woolf
- ◆ *Tales of the City* (series), Armistead Maupin

### MINOR/CONTEMPORARY CLASSICS

- ◆ *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe*, Fannie Flagg
- ◆ *The Lost Language of Cranes*, David Leavitt
- ◆ *The Folded Leaf*, William Maxwell
- ◆ *The Best Little Boy in the World*, Andrew Tobias
- ◆ *Latter Days*, C. Jay Cox
- ◆ *The Object of My Affection*, Stephen McCauley
- ◆ *At Swim, Two Boys*, Jamie O'Neill
- ◆ *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, Manuel Puig
- ◆ *The Persian Boy*, Mary Renault
- ◆ *Sacred Lips of the Bronx*, Douglas Sadownick
- ◆ *Becoming a Man*, Paul Monette
- ◆ *Middlesex*, Jeffrey Eugenides

### OTHER SUGGESTED BOOKS

- ◆ *Am I Blue? Coming Out From the Silence*, 16 original stories by various authors.
- ◆ *Leading the Parade: Conversations with America's Most Influential Lesbians and Gay Men*, Paul D. Cain
- ◆ *Trailblazers: Profiles of America's Gay and Lesbian Elected Officials*, Ken Yeager
- ◆

- ◆ *Gay Men and Women Who Enriched the World*, Thomas Cowan
- ◆ *Crisis: 40 Stories Revealing the Personal, Social, and Religious Pain and Trauma of Growing Up Gay in America*, Mitchell Gold and Mindy Drucker
- ◆ *And Say Hi to Joyce: America's First Gay Column Comes Out*, Joyce Murdoch and Debbie Price
- ◆ *Rainbow Boys, Rainbow High, Rainbow Road*, Alex Sanchez
- ◆ *My Heartbeat*, Garret Freymann-Weyr

### TRANS BOOKS

- ◆ *Luna*, Julie Ann Peters
- ◆ *She's Not There*, Jennie Boylan
- ◆ *The Misfits*, James Howe
- ◆ *Genderqueer: Voices from Beyond the Sexual Binary*, Joan nestle, et al
- ◆ *Drag Queen Anthology: The Absolutely Fabulous But Flawlessly Customary World of Female Impersonators*, Steven P. Schacht and Lisa Underwood
- ◆ *Growing Up Gay/Growing Up Lesbian: A Literary Anthology*, Bennett L. Singer
- ◆ *Revolutionary Voices: A Multicultural Queer Youth Anthology*, Amy Sonnie

### PLAYS AND MOVIES

- ◆ *Angels in America*, Tony Kushner
- ◆ *Edward II*, Christopher Marlowe
- ◆ *Prayers for Bobby*, Mary Griffith
- ◆ *Just Call Me Kade*, directed by Sam Zolten
- ◆ *The Laramie Project*, Moisés Kaufman

Web sites with good resource lists:

- ◆ [Safe School Coalition](http://www.safe-school-coalition.org/)
- ◆ <http://mattviews.wordpress.com/moleskine-book-reviews/>
- ◆ <http://jclarkmedia.com/gaybooks/>
- ◆ "Beyond the Binary", page 44

### MEETINGS:

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month, 6:45 pm  
Plymouth Congregational Church  
916 W. Prospect Rd.  
Fort Collins, Colorado

### CONTACTS:

Local chapter: 970.407.0300  
Julie 970.667.5236  
Bev 970.484.0031  
Diane 970.223.0041

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Web site: [www.pflagftc.org](http://www.pflagftc.org)  
Email: [info@pflagftc.org](mailto:info@pflagftc.org)  
Mail: 305 W Magnolia, PMB 117  
Fort Collins, CO 80521

In addition to parents, families, friends, and GLBT people, we welcome anyone involved in the coming-out process.

We welcome anyone who supports the PFLAG mission of  
**SUPPORT, EDUCATION and ADVOCACY** for GLBT people.

## Matters of Pride—Standing Up and Speaking Out

by Jean Hodges, PFLAG Mountain West Regional Director

June 2009

***For this newsletter 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* before she came 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.

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.

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.