



PFLAG BOULDER COUNTY

PFLAG Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

March 2010

Mental Stealth - The Art, Life, and Projects of Dylan Scholinski

PFLAG Program - *Thursday, March 18th, 7pm*

Transman Dylan Scholinski is an award-winning author, distinguished visual & performance artist, and public speaker. Dylan Scholinski has appeared on *20/20*, *Dateline* and *Today* to discuss his experiences when he was institutionalized as a teenager for his "gender identity disorder". Scholinski's work appeared in the National Queer Arts Festival (USA) in 2001. His written and artistic work not only portrays the anguish of his hospital years but also his ultimate triumph.

Born Daphne, as a young girl Scholinski grew up in the suburbs of Chicago, playing first base in Little League & with a preference for drawing rather than playing with dolls. From age fifteen, Scholinski was institutionalized (read: locked up in a mental hospital) for three years as a teenager with a diagnosed "gender identity disorder" for not showing appropriately "female" behavior. She spent the rest of her high school years "undergoing extreme femininity training." At eighteen, her medical insurance ran out and she was discharged. Daphne Scholinski co-authored the book, *The Last Time I Wore a Dress*, with Jane Meredith Adams, published in 1997. The book describes Scholinski's experiences of being in the mental institution.

A Special Event for Our April Meeting

PFLAG Program Preview - *Tuesday, April 13th, 7pm*

PFLAG is a co-sponsor of a book launch planned for Tuesday, April 13th at the Boulder Public Library Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. Note the change from our regular meeting time and place.

Torah Queeries: Reading the Bible Through a Bent Lens was edited by David Shneer and published by the New York University Press. This special event will replace our regular PFLAG meeting since it is a community-wide book launch in cooperation with the Jewish Community Center; Mosaic, the national support network for gay Jews; and the City of Boulder's Human Relations Commission. David Shneer, Associate Professor in the History Dept. and Director of the Program in Jewish Studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder, co-edited and wrote the introduction for this new book which provides weekly commentaries on the Hebrew Bible. He will explain the interfaith aspects of the work, why rethinking the Bible is important for human relations and intergroup dynamics. This event is free and open to the public.

Meetings

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

7:00 PM - Program

8:30 PM - Support & Advocacy Groups Meet

The public is always welcome to the main program at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of each month, held in the Parlor.

At 8:30 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.

First PFLAG meeting?
Need directions or more info?

E-mail **Melissa Druckman** at:
mellowhellow@googlemail.com

Or contact her at her cellphone number: (720) 299-1453.

Don't Forget!

Wed, March 3rd - Noon
Communities of Faith Luncheon

Sun, March 14th - 4pm
Trans Mission Fundraiser

Thur, March 18th - 7pm
Dylan Scholinski

PFLAG Needs You!

by Jean Hodges

Last May Jack and I announced that we would be stepping down from chapter leadership as president and treasurer which we have done since 1996. This is a huge step for us because we are deeply committed to PFLAG Boulder. It's part of a letting go process that is necessary for us. Jack has continuing health concerns now that he is in his 80's and Jean has national-level PFLAG responsibilities that require her attention, plus more time for Jack.

Beyond personal concerns, it is also essential for this chapter to bring in some new blood to keep this chapter vital and growing. For those who say, "We can't replace Jean", I say don't think of it as "replacing" anyone. We are ready for new faces, new ideas, new skills and persons who have a passion for the PFLAG mission of support, education and advocacy.

When this chapter began in 1993 there was a board of some six persons who did everything, but they just didn't do as much as we do now. Their work was to maintain and grow the chapter. In 1996 when the Open Door Fund grants were established, we began more community outreach, which has strengthened our visibility and impact on both straight and gay members of the Boulder County. Now we have a membership of over one hundred member units which means some 150 individuals. Surely out of that number we can find people willing to take pieces of the work that will sustain this chapter in the years ahead. We already have a board of nine persons and need to replace four of them including president, treasurer, and secretary. We also have a core of non-board leaders who carry the responsibilities of the helpline, membership, library, newsletter publisher. In addition to co-presidents, we need help with media, hospitality, advocacy and outreach to people of color.

The role of the president(s) requires three basic skills: organization and management; networking to connect and recruit; and enthusiasm for positive team results. I have written job descriptions for two co-presidents to make the tasks more manageable. The shared leadership will divide these essential tasks: preside at board meetings and general meetings, sign all official documents, appoint board and non-board leaders (with board approval), oversee monthly programs and represent or designate someone to represent the chapter before external groups. The officer positions of secretary and treasurer will also be open.

Although board members commit to monthly meetings preceding each PFLAG meeting, non-board leaders attend no board meetings and just do a specific job that fits their interests, time and energy. A full job description of all board and non-board leadership and liaison positions is available from Jean-InBldr@comcast.net.

As you consider volunteering, think of a two year commitment with the option of a second two year term. (I suggest that we consider adding a term limit to our by-laws to encourage expanding and sharing the leadership.) This way we can avoid the cult of personality that creates dependency. This has worked for other chapters where persons rotate back into leadership after shifting to other roles in the interim. I intend to stay involved in the work of this chapter when new leadership decides how I am needed, but Jack and I will stick with our decision to step-down from chapter leadership in May, 2010. Please help to keep this important volunteer-driven organization alive and well.

...continued on next page...

What's the pay off for taking on this volunteer work? Personal growth is guaranteed. You'll hone skills and discover new ones. You'll meet remarkable and caring people. You will be appreciated for making a difference in a cause that matters. I found this poem which I hope will speak to you, our faithful members, as it does to me.

I am only one, but still I am one.
I cannot do everything, but still I can do something.
And because I cannot do everything,
I must not refuse to do something I can do.
~Edward Everett Hale



When Your Grandchild is Gay (Who Says Grandparents Can't Take it?)

By Dr Ruth Westheimer (aka "Dr. Ruth")

This article was forwarded by June Horner, PFLAG leader, from a monthly newsletter put out by the Erickson Retirement Communities and the Retirement Community in Silver Spring, MD
<http://ericksontribune.com/2010/01/riderwood-first-retirement>

The passing decades often lead to a mellowing of your attitude toward life. The more you've seen and experienced over the years, usually the more you can take of what life throws at you with equanimity. And so if one of those curves is that a grandchild turns out to be gay, you're unlikely to get too upset. Whether that's also true of the young person's parents is another story, and if one or both takes a very negative view, what role might you then play?

I'm one of those who believes that grandparents shouldn't meddle too much, but if the news that one of your grandchildren is gay causes a lot of sturm und drang, then perhaps that advice needs to be revised. If the child is getting a lot of grief from his or her parents, as well as from the outside world, then he or she will need a shoulder to cry on, literally. But even more important, your grandchild may need an advocate.

Having one or both parents angry with their child is not the appropriate response. Your grandchild is having a difficult enough time coming to terms with this issue and needs support, not added pressure. But teens are often in a state of conflict with their parents, which stems from the tension of cutting the apron strings. But while you outgrow being a teenager, you never outgrow your sexual identity. And if that sexual identity drives a wedge between parent and child, it could end up being permanent.

Of course, as a grandparent you don't want to drive a wedge between you and your offspring, so I'm not advocating starting a fight. But if you go out of your way to welcome your gay grandchild, as the parent of one of the grandchild's parents you will have influence. You may not be able to turn your son or daughter's opinion completely around, but by acting as your grandchild's ally, it may help to reduce the level of hostility.

Accepting change is never easy, and there's no doubt the news a young person is gay is going to upset the apple cart. But if you're there to assist in righting that cart, then hopefully the family will be able to continue on its way bathed—more or less—in unity and love.

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, March 14, 4:00 p.m.

PFLAG presents a

TRANS MISSION FUNDRAISER

To support a new educational film produced by PFLAG Boulder County

Co-directed by Gus Spheeris and Carol Christenson

"Faces and Places of Transgender Experience"

Fantastic Entertainment followed by Dessert

Somethin' About Lulu

Gregg Tobo, magician

Low Flying Knobs, marimba band

Resonance Women's Chorus of Boulder

Kristi Bartleson, harpist (with guitar & drum)

Suggested donation range: \$10-\$20. Pay at the door.

First United Methodist Church sanctuary

1421 Spruce Street, Boulder

For more information contact JeanInBldr@comcast.net.

Donations of cookies, bars, or cupcakes are needed.

SPECIAL EVENTS IN MARCH!

Noon Luncheon for Faith Communities

Wednesday, March 3rd, Noon

An event in Longmont at First Congregational United Church of Christ will feature a lunchtime presentation by Rev. Erialou Roller, a United Methodist minister and Theologian-in-Residence at First United Methodist in Boulder who was married to a gay man and has a gay child. The presentation is aimed at helping faith communities support families of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered persons in coping with the hurt that often results from anti-gay attitudes in communities of faith. Clergy and lay folks are invited. The cost of the luncheon will be covered by our Open Door Fund Grant. Monday, March 1 is the registration deadline.

Our Trans Mission Fundraiser

Sunday, March 14th, 4pm

The First United Methodist Church is the site for a community gathering to support the making of the PFLAG-sponsored film, "***Faces and Places of Transgender Experience***".

Co-directors Gus Spheeris and Carol Christenson will show clips from the film that is currently in production. In addition five amazing acts will fill the two-hour concert: Kristi Bartleson, professional harpist, newly returned to Boulder from Switzerland, with drum and guitar; Gregg Tobo, well known local magician who philosophizes as he performs sleight of hand tricks; Resonance Women's Chorus of some 125 voices under the direction of Sue Coffee; Somethin' About Lulu trio who have delighted PFLAG potluck audiences and have a faithful fan base; and Low Flying Knobs, the energetic marimba band that gets an audience stomping with excitement. Donations at the door for adults can range from \$10 to \$20 to make it more affordable for more people.

The desserts that follow the program need some more donated cookies, bars or cupcakes. Please tell Melissa as mellowhellow@googlemail.com. Also needed are ushers, help with programs, publicity and purchasing advertising. To offer help or get posters via e-mail, contact JeanInBldr@comcast.net

Nominations Open for Appreciation Awards

Deadline: Thursday, March 18th

Each year at our annual May Appreciation Banquet where we elect new officers, we recognize the accomplishments of LGBT persons and allies both in PFLAG and in the wider community for their contributions to LGBTQ equality and acceptance. If you know someone in the community who is deserving of recognition, maybe as an unsung hero, in the areas of education, legislation, business, outstanding youth, outstanding LGBT activist as well as Community Ally, please write a nomination and e-mail to Rollie@safehousealliance.com or JeanInBldr@comcast.net by March 18th.

... more on next page ...



PFLAG Boulder County
 PO Box 19696
 Boulder, CO 80308
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. Program starts at 7:00 pm, sharing time begins at 8:30 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

Business card size: \$15 monthly / \$130 annually. Please send scans / digital images to info@pflagboulder.org. If special arrangements need to be made feel free to send an email.

< Please support our advertisers >

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.

PFLAG National Offers Scholarship

Deadline: Friday, March 12th

Scholarships of \$1000, \$2500, and \$5000 dollars are available to graduating high school seniors who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) or as a straight ally, and who have applied to an accredited higher education institution.

Get information and download an application at www.pflag.org/scholarships.

Deadline for submissions is March 12.

THE LAW OFFICE OF MARDI MOORE, P.C.

WILLS AND TRUSTS, ESTATE PLANNING

FAMILY & PROBATE MATTERS INCLUDING
GUARDIANSHIPS, CONSERVATORSHIPS &
ESTATE ADMINISTRATION

WWW.MARDIMOORELAW.COM
 4450 Arapahoe Avenue, Suite 100
 Boulder, CO 80303
 (303) 926 7317

You Can Place Your Ad Here!

Contact Jack Hodges
 303 - 443 - 4580

\$15/Issue
 \$130/Year