



# POLYGAMY

October 2007

## News and Views from the Child Protection Project

### Jeffs Found Guilty on Two Counts Sentencing Phase Underway

The jury deliberated sixteen hours before handing down their verdict. Jeffs was found guilty on two counts of rape as an accomplice in Utah. Sentencing will take place November 20th.

The central point of law in the jury's instructions was whether Jeffs "enticed" the young woman, then 14, into marriage and sex with a 19 year-old cousin.

After jury deliberations began, the young woman, now 21, revealed her identity as Ellissa Wall. She is to be lauded for her courage in standing up for her convictions when hundreds of young women from Colorado City were denied justice.

The Child Protection Project (CPP) recognizes Brock Belnap, Washington County (Utah) Attorney for his commitment and professionalism in handling the case and sensitive matters re-

garding the young woman.

During jury selection 5th District Judge James L. Shumate commented that while the FLDS knows polygamy is contrary to state laws, members have engaged in "civil disobedience". He equated their actions to Afro-Americans who "refused to sit in

bench.

The CPP after examining a number of court cases discovered that Judge Shumate has a record of handing down light sentences to sexual assault offenders. In one case, a defendant was sentenced to five years while the sentence was suspended to 18 months of probation. It appears that polygamists receive preferential treatment under Judge Shumate. The CPP is concerned that Jeffs will likewise receive a light sentence.

Jeffs will be tried next in Mohave County, Arizona on eight counts in two separate cases related to alleged incest and sexual misconduct with a minor for arranging marriages between two underage girls and relatives of theirs.

After being tried in Arizona, Jeffs will face federal charges of fleeing to avoid prosecution on Utah sex charges. ▲



the back of the bus" or to drink from water fountains designated for coloreds only. The comments were made in context that polygamy should not be considered by jurors. The CPP found this remark offensive to Afro-Americans and calls for Shumate's removal from the

Verdict reached after 16 hours of deliberation

Washington Co. Attorney Brock Belnap's professionalism commended

Judge James Shumate's actions criticized

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#### Write Judge James Shumate On what sentence Jeffs should receive

In your letter include your relationship to the convicted and how he has affected your life.

##### Contact information:

Honorable Judge James L. Shumate  
Fifth District Courthouse  
Washington County  
220 N. 200 E  
St. George, UT 84770

##### Salutation:

Dear Judge Shumate:

#### November 20th March St. George Courthouse

A peaceful march is planned on Jeffs' sentencing date in front of the 5th District Courthouse in St. George, Utah.

Theme: Our determination and demand for stronger sentences for sex offenders.

Make your own signs keeping to the theme of child abuse issues and demanding justice for children: "No probation for child molestation."



### Child Protection Project

**T**he **Child Protection Project** is dedicated to raising awareness about issues of child abuse within polygamy and other religious organizations. We are particularly interested in how institutions, especially churches, ignore child abuse reporting requirements; and thus cause unnecessary suffering and pain to children and families. Our religious institutions must be good corporate citizens because their mandate as tax-exempt, beneficial and charitable organizations requires that children entrusted to their care be safe.

One major focus of our organization is to expose the abuses inside polygamous groups in an effort to free the victims and also to demand action on the part of government and law enforcement.

The CPP works in alliance with...

**Justice for Children** functions as the voice of the abused and neglected child. Their purpose is to advocate and intervene on behalf of the abused and neglected child at any stage of an abused child's case. Eligible children are victims of documented criminal abuse. JFC's advocacy for a child is not dependent on a court appointment. Therefore, the advocacy for the child's safety and protection can become a reality long before the case even goes to court.

Individuals call asking for assistance and guidance through a system that is often overwhelming, especially due to the emotional and traumatic events that are taking place in an abused or neglected child's life. Often, protective parties have nowhere else to turn through the maze of bureaucratic agencies and a legal system that is often stacked against the child. ▲

### From the Executive Director

With the conviction of Warren Jeffs in Utah, I am concerned that he will receive too light a sentence (see lead article).

I have visited various women's shelters for ideas to incorporate into a transitional facility for women and children escaping polygamy. I liked Maggie's Place in Phoenix, a center for wayward pregnant young women based on Catholic Social Service principles .

If you hear of any property for sale such as an apartment complex, senior home or cluster of small dwellings, please let me know. At this point, I am in the preliminary stages of looking for a property that would provide a viable solution for a transitional facility.

Flora Jessop

### From the Editor

I recently visited Colorado City and Hildale and was impressed with a few things in particular. I was surprised that few people were walking about given the pleasant weather that day. They were obviously remaining within their homes, separated from the outside by eight-foot walls. These high walls surrounded many of the houses and most were of truly innovative design. The layout of the town is described in 'Colorado City Landscape' on page 5.

I was happy to meet the directors of the Healing Circle. They are inspiring people truly dedicated to their mission.

In the next issue, we will report on the sexual assault cases involving the "Lost Boys".

Your feedback to *Polygamy News and Views* is most welcome.

Credits are due to the *Deseret News*, *Salt Lake City Tribune*, *Prescott Daily Courier* and the *New York Times*.

Doris Miller

### Coaching at the Healing Circle

**A** healing setting on a hillside of Hildale, Utah provides coaching for polygamy survivors. A labyrinth of trees, bushes, terraces and edible plants makes for an environment fostering healing from the fear based cult of polygamy.

The center directors offer individual and group sessions. They do not provide counseling—coaching is their mission. Their goal is to serve disempowered

women and men and women from forced marriages and plural unions.

A campfire surrounded by the healing circle rests on the lower terrace of the property. On an upper terrace a garden of heirloom vegetables features Navajo red seed watermelon. The atmosphere is definitely low key.

In a past pow wow creating a safe environment, women were given "talking

sticks" to help them express their hurt and anger about being trapped in polygamy.

Future plans call for shelter in a large teepee. The directors are in need of office equipment and a laptop computer. So far their compensation has been received through bartering.

Directors of the Healing Circle can be contacted at:

P.O. Box 840752  
Hildale, UT 84784 ▲



## Jenny Jessop Larson's "From Brainwash to Hogwash"

Long before the world started paying any attention to the polygamists of southern Utah, "Aunt Jennie" stood up to them. This book is her account of growing up in the polygamist community, of escaping from its influence, then of doing what she could to aid other girls out.



The narrative is simple and honest. "Aunt Jennie" just tells it like it is. Her sense of humor and upbeat world view come across very well.

If you want a simple, straight shooting witty account of what life growing up in a polygamous community in the 1950s was like, then there is nothing better than Aunt Jenny's "Brainwash to Hogwash". She is a delightful lady and she has written a delightful book.

Jim Ashurst  
Goodyear, AZ

To order her book call:  
1-877-536-6999  
\$19.95 plus \$3.50 for shipping and handling

## Colorado City Landscape



Colorado City is a tiny, scenic community divided from the rest of the country by the Colorado River and Grand Canyon in an area called the Arizona Strip.

Colorado City is the most populous town in the isolated wedge of chalky red desert north of the Grand Canyon and south of the Utah border. Situated in the Vermillion Cliffs many of which are studded with juniper, the town straddles the two states, materializing out of nowhere along a barren stretch of highway.

Its seclusion is no accident. When mainstream Mormons were forced to renounce polygamy in 1890 in exchange for Utah statehood, many refused to give up the practice of polygamy. Instead they settled into this isolated area.

Colorado City and the adjoining community of Hildale, Utah comprise the land held by the Fundamentalist

Latter Day Saints (FLDS) in a trust called the United Effort Plan.

The UEP was based on the concept of a "united order", created in 1831 by Joseph Smith, the founder



of the Mormon Church. Members deeded everything to the church and received according to their needs.

The UEP land is covered by a patchwork of pavement

and red soil. Most of the roads are still unpaved. Some homes are grand, with stately brick, spiraling staircases, ornate fences and multiple entrances. Others are tiny, run-down trailers.

Unfinished houses appear as massive honeycomb shells looking to be constructed almost haphazardly.

Eight-foot walls, many of innovative design, in front of the houses keep the women and children separated from the outside world.

Few children play or ride bicycles along the dirt pathways. Pets are forbidden.

The sun has bleached the color of the landscape as if to destroy the life of the land.

The buildings so devoid of life are analogous to the vacant stares of women and children peering through the windows of their houses. The wind sounds like the cries of victims awaiting justice that is long overdue. ▲

"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

Martin Luther King, Jr.



# Fleeing the Taxpayers

## Welfare, Medical Care and Food Stamps

How would you like for the state to pay your food bill, especially if you had dozens of mouths to feed? Would \$2,000 a month be OK? This is not uncommon among the FLDS. Some families get more.

Among polygamists only the first marriage is legally recognized – after that they're called "plural marriages" or "spiritual unions". So, even though a man may have five wives and 40 kids, the state considers most of them to be in single parent families. The concern on the part of the state and federal governments is the number of people living together. Thus women, as single parents, are usually eligible for food stamps, child care and medical care.

The following numbers

are estimates based on 2002 statistics.

The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) program provides most of the medical insurance for residents in Colorado City. In 2002 more than 4000 residents were enrolled, costing the state about \$8 million a year.

Thirty-three percent of Colorado City and Hildale residents receive food stamps, compared to 6.7 percent in Arizona and 4.7 percent in Utah. This costs the state and federal governments over \$3 million a year for those in Arizona, that is in Colorado City.

Colorado City gets back about \$8 in benefits for every dollar paid in state taxes, while for the rest of Mohave County it's about

one to one.

In the well-publicized case of Tom Green and his five wives in Utah, the state documented that the Green family received \$647,000 between 1989 and 1999. Refer to the chart below showing benefits paid to plural wives and their children.

Fundamentalists call fleeing the government "bleeding the beast" in retaliation for government crackdowns on Mormon settlements in the nineteenth century.

In 1996 Congress passed sweeping welfare reforms including a lifetime limit of five years for receipt of benefits. However this reform was not applied to welfare system for Colorado City. ▲

## Commentary

It is the opinion of the editor that welfare benefits extended to the polygamists should be greatly reduced.

A deeply concerned and informed public in Arizona and the US could apply pressure for welfare reform—applying to Colorado City—in aftermath of the system overhaul in the mid-nineties. New reform could limit benefits on the number of children. Restrictions on the number of children covered by welfare benefits in New Jersey in the late nineties reduced the birth rate.

Under this proposal the polygamists would be unable to support their large families on entitlement programs. Perhaps then they would drastically reduce their contributions to the prophet and FLDS church leaders in order to support their own families. ▲

### Food Stamps, Cash Assistance, Medical Care and WIC<sup>1</sup> - 2005

For a plural wife (treated as a single mother) with 1 to 9 children

	Single Mother + 1 Child	Single Mother + 3 Children	Single Mother + 5 Children	Single Mother + 7 Children	Single Mother + 9 Children
Food Stamps	\$249.00	\$449.00	\$649.00	\$849.00	\$1049.00
Cash Assistance	\$249.00	\$449.00	\$649.00	\$849.00	\$1049.00
Medical Care	Value undetermined				
WIC <sup>1</sup>	Formula, milk, bread, eggs, cheese and cereal, dried beans or peanut butter				
TOTAL	\$449.00 <sup>2</sup>	\$898.00	\$1298.00	\$1698.00	\$2098.00 <sup>3</sup>

1. WIC (Women, Infants and Children) provides Federal grants to States for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.
2. An additional benefit will be given for a disabled child.

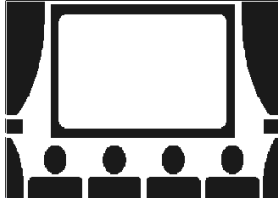
**3. Example: For a husband and 5 wives with 9 children each, the total benefits would be:**

**5 x \$2098.00 = \$10,490.00 per month excluding medical care and WIC.**



## "Damned to Heaven" Documentary Features Cult Survivors

The documentary film, "Damned to Heaven," was shown at the Electric Theatre in St. George, Utah on September 20<sup>th</sup>. The viewing was followed by a question and answer session with panelists Flora Jessop, Buster Johnson, Jenny Jessop Larson and filmmakers Pawel



Arizona. Elliott and Gula had the foresight to begin filming months before Jeffs' capture came to the attention of the American public. The documentary contains exclusive interviews with former cult survivors, many of whom came forward to tell their story for the first time.

Gula and Thomas Elliott.

Buster Johnson is a Supervisor on the Mohave County Board of Supervisors. Jenny Larson is the author of *From Brainwash to Hogwash* (see review on page 3).

"Damned to Heaven" is the story about the polygamist religious sect on the Utah and Arizona border, headed by self proclaimed prophet, Warren Jeffs. Co-directors Elliott and Gula conceived the film, which details the sexual and physical abuses of polygamy as well as marriages of underage girls in Colorado City,

The film was also shown at the Tamecula, California International Film Festival September 12 - 16th. Jessop and Johnson sat on the discussion panel.

The film premiered at the 47th annual Krakow Film Festival in Krakow, Poland, May 31 - June 5, as one of 10 (out of 300 submissions) that appeared in the World Panorama program on human rights issues. The Krakow Film Festival is one of the oldest and most respected documentary film festivals in Europe. ▲

## Freedom...

Hoping for a miracle, waiting for the day  
Wishing I was not afraid, searching for a way  
Keeping all that pain inside, like all the others do  
Begging for a fighting chance, freedom from abuse

The children that surround me, all scared from what we live  
Our mothers and the father, this lifestyle forced to give  
The threat of "Blood Atonement" eternal damning of our souls  
For failing to obey the prophet, every edict we are told

The fifth grade is the limit, us girls need no more  
The boys must forego schooling too; it is labor they are for  
If you try to leave and get away, "Apostate you become"  
Forever giving up salvation, a traitor, unloved and shunned

When the girls reach twelve, to the prophet they are shown  
To wed some old man, the only choice they've known  
Required to bear a child, one in every year  
For building of a kingdom, full of poverty, abuse and fear

The sister wives are jealous, the husband does not care  
Feelings are forgotten in these women who now must share  
A home of hate and loneliness, and often of shame  
When children fail the prophet, it's the mothers they blame

You wonder what I speak of, can it really be this way  
Where the male is the owner and the women without say  
It is "polygamy" I reference and the horrors are all true  
And I am but a lucky one of the survivors, who are too few.

by Flora Jessop  
2002

## Women Committed to Psychiatric Facilities Psychotropic Drugs Given to Make Them Subservient

To curtail women and young girls from acting on independent ideas, the threat of commitment to a psychiatric facility looms heavily. The FLDS use the nineteenth century term "mental institution".

Women who are stripped of their children become very distraught and are candidates for psychiatric commit-

ment. They are sent to the police who drive them to the Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Facility (NARBHF). Previously they would be transported in the school district's plane.

Assessed by the intake



doctor to be of danger to themselves or others, the women are admitted involuntarily on a 72-hour hold. They are administered high doses of psychotropic medication.

In the CPP's view the state of being very

distraught is not a compelling reason for admitting these women to a psychiatric facility. We question the judgments made by the intake doctors.

To make them more subservient to their husbands, women in the FLDS are given Lithium and Prozac. Licensed nurse practitioners prescribe the medications. ▲



# Child Protection Project

*Like the tiger we fight turning sexual predators into prey.*

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Send tax deductible donations to:  
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555 S. Flower Street, Suite 4510  
Los Angeles, CA 90071

www.childpro.org

Also:  
www.helpthechildbrides.com  
www.justiceforchildren.org  
www.childrenshealthcare.com

*Discover your own claws—  
Become your own hero...  
Be a survivor of experience  
Not a victim of circumstance.*

Doris Miller, Editor  
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Ron Miller, Associate Editor

Back issues available

## Call to action

- Share *Polygamy News & Views* with friends and family
- Make a contribution for the Transition Center
- Write the editor
- Write your legislators

### **Are the public schools open in Colorado City and Hildale?**

Yes, but few children attend. The problem is that the parents do not support their children attending school. The FLDS believes that education breeds rebellion.

There will be quite a few children enrolled in first grade, but few complete through the end of the school year.

### **Is there a coming of age ceremony for boys in the FLDS?**

At age 12, boys in the FLDS take their priesthood vows. They prepare for this event throughout their childhood and adolescence.

Accompanied by his father, a boy meets with the Prophet privately. The boy takes a blood oath to kill and die for the Prophet.

There is no family celebration of this event as the FLDS do not want it known who is initiated into the priesthood.

He will also tithe \$1000 to the FLDS by signing over his paycheck to the prophet.

### **Do the polygamists use electronic devices characteristic of our modern age?**

### **teristic of our modern age?**

Women are seen carrying up to three cell phones.

Women clad in the long dresses were seen in St. George and Las Vegas waiting to buy the iPhones late June.

They use iPods to listen to Warren Jeffs' sermons.

### **Where are other polygamous compounds located?**

One of the two largest is near El Dorado, Texas named "Yearn for

There are also polygamous communities in Pringle, South Dakota and Idaho. Some FLDS have recently moved to Mesquite and Las Vegas, Nevada. Property in Mancos, Colorado held by the FLDS is unoccupied at present. Mexico's state of Chihuahua is home to the historic polygamous colonies of Colonia Juarez and Colonia Dublan.

### **Has the United Nations ever been informed about the abuses of human rights in Colorado City?**

Linda Walker, former director of the CPP, studied the high child death rates inside polygamy. She reported her findings to local, state and federal officials without much response.

In February 2004, she wrote the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The high death rates of children were documented from graveyard burials and limited death records.

An appeal was made to the international community to protect the rights of people in these polygamous communities. No significant response was received. ▲



Zion" (YFZ). Designed for near seclusion of its inhabitants, the compound is being built up rapidly.

The other largest is located off the Idaho border in Bountiful, British Columbia in Canada.

There has been trafficking of girls between Colorado City and Bountiful for a long time. Since 2001 there has been significant movement between compounds.

*To find your federal, state and local officials:*  
<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/directory/congdir.tt>