



P. O. Box 24565 Los Angeles, CA 90024 (888) PFLAG88 <http://www.pflagla.org>

SUMMER 2008

Newsletter 252

OUR MISSION

Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) promotes the health and well-being of Gay, 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 equal civil rights. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

Our meetings are always held on the **3rd Wednesday** of each month at the Westwood United Methodist Church, 10497 Wilshire Bl., NE corner of Wilshire and Warner. Take the 405 Freeway to the Wilshire Bl. East exit. Continue 1.5 miles. The entry on Warner has an elevator; another entry is through the sanctuary to the corridor, then upstairs to the Fellowship Hall - 3rd floor. There is also easy access from the north driveway. Doors open at 7:00 pm; general meeting begins at 7:30 pm.

Our meetings typically include rap groups where individuals can share their concerns, questions, and understanding about the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered person(s) in their families, and invited guest speakers on topics pertinent to our families. There is a short refreshment break between the rap session and the speaker(s).

For upcoming speakers, please check our website www.pflagla.org

Mark your calendar
and march with us in the Pride Parade!

Please join us on **Sunday June 8**
for the annual Christopher Street West Parade
to celebrate Pride Weekend in West Hollywood.

Please plan to line up near the corner of Crescent Heights and Santa Monica Blvd
at 10AM. Parade steps off at 11AM.

Wear a red T-shirt if you can.

This is a wonderful event you will not soon forget!!!

HELPLINES, CHAPTERS & CONTACTS 9 am to 9 pm

Area Code 310

West LA: 454 6681 (Liz)
LIZARM@aol.com
West LA: 472 8952 (Adele)
South Bay Chapter: 546 2721 (Dick)

Area Code 562

Long Beach Chapter: 403 1234

Area Code 626

Pasadena Chapter: 798 3794 (Brian)
linus_blanket_2001@yahoo.com

Area Code 661

Santa Clarita Chapter: 254 2177 (Dave)

Area Code 714

Orange County Chapter: 997 8047

Area Code 805

Ventura Chapter: www.pflagventura.org
647 0588
Thousand Oaks 498 4964 (Rita & Steve)
Ventura / Ojai: 646 5318 (Tom & Nanette)

Area Code 818

San Fernando Valley: 788 8678 (Lynette)
Lynette114@aol.com
Woodland Hills: 340 8945 (Irene)

Area Code 909

Redlands Chapter: 335 2005 (Kathy)
Colton: 825 8368 (Norma)

Area Code 949

South Orange County: 459 2834 (Karyl)

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

If there is anything you would like to see in the newsletter, please e-mail me at haichi87@sbcglobal.net, call me at (818) 985-9319, or just drop me a note at our PFLAG meetings!

Regards, Chris Haiss

OTHER HELPLINES / RESOURCES

PFLAG/LA Speakers Bureau / Contact Ron & Andy
andynron@adelphia.net

Asian Pacific Islander:
Harold Kameya, HKameya@gmail.com, (818) 368 2008
Bev Toyama, btoyama@ca.rr.com

Transgender: (818) 985 9319 (Chris)

PFLAG's Transgender Special Outreach Network (TSON):

Karen Gross (216) 691 HELP / KittenGr@aol.com
www.transfamily.org

LA Gay & Lesbian Center:
(323) 993 7400

Straight Spouses:
(510) 595 1005 (Amity Pierce Buxton)

The TREVOR PROJECT
24-hour nationwide suicide prevention line for
GLBT and Questioning youth.
(866) 4 U TREVOR / (866) 488 7386
www.thetrevorproject.org

PFLAG National
(202) 467 8180 www.pflag.org

Find more resources
on our website at
www.pflagla.org

NEW!!!

Hablamos español!

Leonor 818 243 5306 (home)
818 378 6406 (cell)

Julio 310 500 8645
espanol@pflagpasadena.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is the season of new growth, and we have some hopeful signs to report. Our meeting attendance has been up, stimulated by some exciting events. In February, George Takei spoke to a gathering of 85 people. Despite, or perhaps because of, experiences of discrimination both as an Asian American and a gay man, he urged each of us to work to make equality and justice available to all Americans. Visit our website, www.pflagla.org, to read about his talk and see photos from the event.

In March we screened the new documentary, *For the Bible Tells Me So*, to a larger than average audience. The moving film brought a number of new straight allies to our meeting, and prompted deeply personal discussions of both negative and positive experiences with organized religion.

We are deeply grateful to Stuart Huggins, his partner (and our Web master York Knowlton), to Harold and Ellen Kameya, and Beverly Toyama for their help with these events. We'd also like to express our gratitude to Becky Kolodchak, pharmacist, who gave a very informative talk about HIV/AIDS treatments in April.

We have an energetic board and plans for the future, but we can't make these plans a reality without you. Below is a list of five specific areas where we need help. Please pick just one, and give us a hand.

- 1) Help Spanish Language PFLAG; Leonore Holstrom is single-handedly running two PFLAG meetings in Spanish each month. She has lost her assistant. If you are a Spanish speaker and/or a person of Latino heritage and would like to help, look for her meetings on our website and attend one meetings, introduce yourself, and ask what you can do. Alternately, contact us through the website or at msawchuk-pflag@earthlink.net. We'll put you in touch with her.
- 2) Donate money for Spanish language publications or to support a phone helpline for Leonore. (Just a note on the memo line of your check will direct the funds to her.)
- 3) Give a few hours of your time to staff an event. PFLAG LA is invited to attend many interesting and important conferences, information days, etc. Among upcoming events are Latino Family Day at the Gay and Lesbian Center and the Models of Pride Conference in the Fall. We just don't have enough people to accept all the invitations we get. If our members would be willing to volunteer for just one morning or afternoon a year, we could go many more places. Please contact Mariette at msawchuk-pflag@earthlink.net. Provide your name and email and we'll put you on a volunteer list.
- 4) Join the Hospitality Committee. It's amazing how reassuring a cup of coffee, a soda, and a doughnut can be to a family walking into PFLAG LA for the first time. Food and drink don't need to be fancy, and PFLAG LA has lots of supplies. Send Mariette your name and email, and offer to bring goodies for one meeting a year.
- 5) Come to a meeting. You may be just the person a new parent or LGBT person needs to talk to.

With your support, we can make PFLAG LA bloom again.

Mariette Sawchuk

**When you don't need PFLAG any more
that is when PFLAG needs YOU!**

LEGISLATIVE CORNER

Lesbian and Gay Couples Win Freedom to Marry in California California Supreme Court Issues Historic Ruling

San Francisco, CA, May 15, 2008—The California Supreme Court ruled today that the state can no longer exclude same-sex couples from civil marriage.

In a 4-3 decision, drafted by Chief Justice Ronald George, the court ruled: "In light of the fundamental nature of the substantive rights embodied in the right to marry — and their central importance to an individual's opportunity to live a happy, meaningful, and satisfying life as a full member of society — the California Constitution properly must be interpreted to guarantee this basic civil right to all individuals and couples, without regard to their sexual orientation."

The court also noted: "Furthermore, in contrast to earlier times, our state now recognizes that an individual's capacity to establish a loving and long-term committed relationship with another person and responsibly to care for and raise children does not depend upon the individual's sexual orientation, and, more generally, that an individual's sexual orientation — like a person's race or gender — does not constitute a legitimate basis upon which to deny or withhold legal rights. We therefore conclude that in view of the substance and significance of the fundamental constitutional right to form a family relationship, the California Constitution properly must be interpreted to guarantee this basic civil right to all Californians, whether gay or heterosexual, and to same-sex couples as well as to opposite-sex couples."

"This is a historic and landmark day for those who value fairness and opportunity," said Shannon Price Minter, legal director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, who argued the case on behalf of 14 same-sex couples and two organizations, Equality California and Our Family Coalition. "The court's decision today upheld the highest ideals of equality that are embodied in the California Constitution." "There is no more important and deeply personal decision than whether to take on the commitment of marriage," he added. "With today's ruling, the California Supreme Court declared that lesbians and gay men have an equal right to make that cherished commitment."

<http://www.nclrights.org>



Conservative Groups Attack Families Under The Guise Of "Family Values"

From the editor: As we celebrate California's victory for ALL families, right-wing organizations, some funded by out-of-state organizations, are attempting to take away our right to marry. They have submitted signatures for a ballot initiative in November's election that would ask voters to change California's constitution by denying gay and lesbian couples the right to marry their partner. The Secretary of State is currently determining if this initiative qualifies for the ballot.

**PLEASE SPEAK OUT AGAINST THIS BLATANTLY DISCRIMINATORY INITIATIVE
THAT TRIES TO DIVIDE OUR GREAT STATE AND CALIFORNIA FAMILIES!**

Keep in mind that when THEY try to make "historical" or "traditional" claims, those are usually made up. FYI, it is only 31 years ago (1977) that the California legislature explicitly defined marriage as a legal tie between **a man and a women**. Prior to 1977, California Civil Code defined marriage as "a personal relation arising out of a civil context, to which consent of the parties making that contract is necessary."

SPREADING THE WORD IN THE COMMUNITY

through speaking engagements/education, activism & advocacy:

- Joseph Harounian, Steve Krantz, Terry McIntyre and Mel Schwartz spoke to a Sociology class at Cal State Northridge.
- Maurie Davidson, Joseph Harounian and Marla Weiss spoke at Pressman Academy.

Latino Gay Family Day!

*A day-long community fair with food, workshops,
family games and entertainment for LGBT Latino/as
and their families and friends!*

When: *Saturday, May 31, starts at 10am*

Where: *East LA Civic Center Park
4801 E Third Street, LA CA 90022
(corner Mednik, just west of Atlantic Bl)*

This event is sponsored by Latina/o Coalition for Justice Los Angeles, in association with the LA Gay & Lesbian Center's Family Services Program, Bienestar, CA Faith for Equality, Lambda Legal, Oportunidad, LUCES and The Wall/Las Memorias.

This Day in Gay History

By Lisa Diguardi

May 15, 1988:

In Texas, Richard Lee Bednarski and nine friends went out looking for gay men to harass. Bednarski killed 34-year-old Tommy Trimble and 27-year-old Lloyd Griffin. He would be found guilty, and the judge would be criticized for giving him a light sentence. Explaining the reason for the sentence, the judge stated that killing gay men was not a serious crime.

Please help us reduce costs
by signing up to receive our
newsletter
electronically!

Just send an e-mail to Barrybarrym@yahoo.com, list name and address under which you currently receive our newsletter by snail mail so that we can delete that address from our mailing list, and we'll make sure that you'll receive the next newsletter by e-mail.

Read our **newsletter online** at

http://www.pflagla.org/PFLAGLA_Newsletters.html

and check out our **MYSFACE** page at

<http://www.myspace.com/pflagla>

It's that time of the year again!

We've attached our membership envelopes to this issue of the newsletter.

For those who contributed at the first of the year, we thank you.

Please fill out the information for renewal or consider making a contribution or tribute for someone you care about.

We'd also love to send our newsletter to someone you care about.

All contributions go to help our operating costs and expenses. PFLAG Los Angeles is a 100% volunteer operation.

We thank you for your continued support!

T r a n s A c t i o n

Outrage over trans-phobic doctor

By Rachel Cook
Melbourne Community Voice, Australia
Wednesday, 14 May 2008

Trans activists have expressed concern over appointments to a task force which will oversee revisions of the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Diagnosis of Mental Disorders (DSM-V).

The manual lists different categories of mental disorders and the criteria for diagnosing them. It is used worldwide by clinicians and researchers, as well as insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies and policy makers.

There is particular concern is over the appointment of Dr Kenneth Zucker to the task force.

Zucker, who has been selected to chair the Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders working group, is an advocate of reparative 'ex-gay' therapy to 'cure' gender-variant children.

TransActive Education & Advocacy, a US group which supports transgender and gender variant youth, has released a media statement opposing Zucker's selection.

"[Our] position is based upon his approach to clinical treatment of transgender and gender non-conforming identity in children and youth," the release states.

The group also cites a statement made by Zucker on US National Public Radio, in which he said, "It is legitimate for parents to establish limits for their children on cross-gender behaviours. If not, the behaviour is, in effect, being reinforced."

A spokesperson from TransGender Victoria told MCV that Zucker believes gender variant children should be classed as homosexual and therefore could 'benefit' from reparative 'ex-gay' therapy.

"His aim is that they display what he believes is hetero-normative gender conforming behaviour. His appointment is essentially negative for trans people based on the queer phobic views he has exhibited."

The Stanford Daily
April 8, 2008

Gender-neutral housing plan unveiled

By Joanna Xu

Students campaigning for gender-neutral housing scored a victory yesterday, when Student Housing and Residential Education announced a pilot program for gender-blind housing in the coming fall quarter.

The new program puts Stanford in line with several colleges across the nation that are also considering or have already implemented gender-neutral housing policies, including Wesleyan, Oberlin, Clark, Dartmouth, Brown and the University of Pennsylvania.

Great piece on NPR!

Two Families Grapple with Sons' Gender Preferences
Psychologists Take Radically Different Approaches in Therapy
By *Alix Spiegel*

Read and/or listen to this two-part story at
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=90247842>

"I thought she was gonna hyperventilate and faint because she was so incredibly happy. ... Before then, or since then, I don't think I have seen her so out of her mind happy as that drive to Target that day to pick out her dress." -- Pam, Jonah's mother

Why outrage over Dr. Zucker?

On August 14, 1997, the American Psychological Association Council of Representatives adopted a resolution on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation.

Gregory M. Herek, Ph.D.:

Attempts to use psychological interventions to change sexual orientation are based on the discredited claim that homosexuality is a disease, a notion that represents an attempt to use the language of science to promote antigay prejudice. **That view is completely inconsistent with the bulk of scientific research and with the official policies of the American Psychological Association (APA) and the American Psychiatric Association.**

It is highly doubtful that the so-called "conversion therapies" and "reparative therapies" are actually able to change a person's sexual orientation. Claims about their success are based on scattered anecdotal reports, not on rigorous scientific studies that have been subjected to review by other scientists.

Read more at
http://psychology.ucdavis.edu/rainbow/html/resolution97_comment.html

James M. Berg Scholarship Concert
benefiting Project 10!

Join The Freedom Band

for a great evening at

Zipper Hall , Coburn School

of the Arts (across from Disney Hall),

on Sunday, June 15th, 2008,

at 6:30 pm.

For more details, please contact the
Freedom Band Foundation by phone at
(323) 667-BAND or email at
information@freedomband.org

<http://www.freedomband.org>

**Justice for California same-sex
couples as the Supreme Court strikes
down the marriage ban
as unconstitutional!**

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa:

"It's been a long journey to reach this historic day. This is about people and the right for people to love who they want. I will stand with you. I will do everything in my power to keep this decision the law of the land."

CA Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger:

"I respect the court's decision and as governor, I will uphold its ruling. Also, as I have said in the past, I will not support an amendment to the constitution that would overturn this state supreme court ruling."

Harvey Milk

(22 May 1930 – 27 November 1978)

Harvey Milk Memorial Sculpture to be unveiled in San Francisco City Hall

On May 22, which would have been Harvey Milk's 78th birthday, an unveiling Ceremony for The Harvey Milk City Hall Memorial Sculpture by The Daub Firmin and Hendrickson Sculpture group takes place in City Hall.

In 2001 The Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a sculpture in remembrance of Supervisor Harvey Milk who became a symbol to the world for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender civil rights. Milk was one of the first openly gay elected officials in the Nation. Milk and (pro-gay) Mayor George Moscone were assassinated in their City Hall offices by a homophobic political opponent on November 27, 1978.

www.milkmemorial.org

GAY HISTORY with LISA DIGUARDI

May 21, 1979

Dan White, who was on trial for the murder of San Francisco mayor George Moscone and gay City Supervisor Harvey Milk was found guilty of manslaughter, rather than first-degree murder. He would be sentenced to seven years, eight months.

That evening gays and lesbians gathered outside city hall, where their anger boiled over into the White Night Riots.

Twelve police cars were destroyed and the damage was estimated at over \$1 million. The only serious injuries occurred in the Castro neighborhood, where police burst into The Elephant Walk bar, trashing it and putting several patrons in the hospital. Several police officers who were not on duty held a celebration at a downtown hotel.

Gay and Lesbian Youth Want Long-Term Couple Relationships and Raising Children (Excerpt)

In what is believed to be the first study of its kind, social scientists have found that many lesbian and gay youth have expectations of spending their adult life in a long-term relationship raising children. More than 90 percent of females and more than 80 percent of males expect to be partnered in a monogamous relationship after age 30. Two thirds of females and more than half of males expressed likelihood that they would raise children in the future.

“These findings, while appear to be representative of urban lesbian or gay youth’s aspirations, are a glimpse into the future of the LGBT community,” said Robert-Jay Green, PhD, executive director of the Rockway Institute, a national research and public policy center located at Alliant International University.

The study was conducted by Anthony R. D’Augelli, H. Jonathon Rendina and Katerina O. Sinclair of Pennsylvania State University and Arnold Grossman of New York University and published in the *Journal of LGBT Issues in Counseling* (Vol. 1, No. 4, 2006/2007, pp. 77-98). The researchers interviewed 133 young people from the New York City area who said they were “almost totally” or “totally” lesbian or gay. The participants were age 16 to 22, and they were asked about their future relationship and parenting plans.

One-third of males and one-half of females in the study reported being in a relationship. In both genders, approximately 70 percent of participants expressed satisfaction with their relationship.

When asked about expectations of future relationships, 66 percent of males and 80 percent of females rated future long-term relationships as “extremely important” or “very important.” Eighty-two percent of females and 61 percent of males hoped to be partnered during the next five years. Ninety-two percent of females and 82 percent of males expected to be monogamously partnered after age 30, and 79 percent of females and 73 percent of males expected to live with their partner. Sixty-four percent of females and 37 percent of

males said it was “extremely likely” they would marry if allowed by law.

When asked about expectations of child-raising, 36 percent of females and 20 percent of males said it was “extremely likely” they will raise children. Overall, 67 percent of males and 55 percent of females expressed some degree of likelihood that they would raise children. Of those who expressed some likelihood, 58 percent of males and 54 percent of females expect to be raising their own biological children. Forty-two percent of males and 32 percent of females expect to adopt. Sixteen percent of males and 14 percent of females expect to be foster parents. Thirty-six percent of females and 17 percent of males expect to help their partner raise her or his biological children.

D’Augelli and colleagues cautioned that the participants in this study may not be representative of all lesbian and gay youth in the U.S. Because these participants lived in or near a major urban center, they likely were more aware of lesbian and gay community resources and more likely to be connected to support programs and services. The researchers suspected that because they might not be exposed to same-sex relationships or to social services directed to lesbian and gay youth, youth in rural areas might have different responses, although no data were collected to test for such urban/rural differences.

Dr. Green of the Rockway Institute commented: “We seem to be witnessing the mainstreaming of lesbian/gay youth, with many of them wanting exactly what heterosexual youth have always wanted - the whole American dream complete with kids and the minivan. This should not be surprising when one considers that most lesbian/gay youth also have been raised in very mainstream heterosexual families with similar values and parental models.” He continued, “Although some lesbian/gay adults may prefer less conventional lives, most agree that the primary issue is whether these youth will be given the equal legal rights to realize their couple and family aspirations just like their heterosexual peers.”