

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our redesigned newsletter. It has a new look, but the same wonderful editor, Chris Haiss. We are calling it the Starr Newsletter to remind us of our founder Adele Starr and the strong women and men who have advanced the work she began. You'll find the usual sections "Spreading the Word," "Legislative Corner," and "Trans Action" highlighted with bright new color and elegant design to enhance readability. Enjoy! – Mariette



PFLAG members, families and friends gather excitedly before the start of the 2012 Christopher Street West Pride Parade. PFLAG Los Angeles, Pasadena, Silver Lake, Santa Clarita, and Bell were among the Chapters represented.

HAMBURGER MARY'S FUND RAISER A BIG SUCCESS!

Thanks to Sylvia Weisenberg who spearheaded the effort and all who came (some from as far away as Iowa), played bingo, and bid on the auction items. Thanks also to the Disney Company, which donated four coveted Park Hopper Tickets.

LA PRIDE: MARCHING FOR SAFE SCHOOLS

The PFLAG Los Angeles contingent in the Los Angeles Gay Pride Parade was the largest in several years--more than 60 people from five chapters. Marching with us were PFLAG Moms Betty DeGeneres and Leila Lambert.

We were also joined by volunteers from Johnson & Johnson, spreading the word about the Care with Pride Campaign. Designed to raise awareness of the need for safe schools, this campaign involved Johnson & Johnson and Walgreens employees marching together with PFLAG chapters at Pride celebrations throughout the country and passing out coupon booklets with the safe schools message.

At Pride Festival booth, we distributed our newly developed "First Steps" series of three brochures targeted at families and friends of



Betty DeGeneres (PFLAG Mom and spokesperson for the Care with Pride Campaign) and Johnson & Johnson volunteers rally around the Safe Schools Banner they proudly carried in the parade.

LGBT persons, LGBT youth, and transgender persons and their families. Take a look at PDFs of the brochures on our website pflagla.org. Thanks to all the people who made the parade and festival so special this year.

MODELS OF PRIDE CONFERENCE

For the third year in a row, PFLAG Pasadena and PFLAG Los Angeles joined together to offer the Parents Track at Models of Pride. Organized by Betsy Hanger from PFLAG Pasadena and Teresa Sitz from our own Silver Lake satellite, the Parents Track offered a series of 12 workshops. Participants were able to choose

from English or Spanish language sessions, and special transgender workshops. The number of participants doubled from the previous year.

Inspiring keynote addresses by Dr. Earl Perkins, Assistant Superintendent of School Operations for LAUSD, and Norma Roque, well-known journalist with Univision, the largest Spanish language television network in the United States, highlighted their work for LGBT rights.

Through special events like the Pride Parade and Models of Pride, we carried out our mission and made lots of new friends for PFLAG Los Angeles.

At lunch time, Rabbi David Horowitz, PFLAG National president, and Jody Huckaby, PFLAG National executive director met participants and spoke informally about a new campaign: Straight for Equality in Faith Communities.

LGBT youth also received a lot of our attention. PFLAG Los Angeles members greeted wonderful young people at our resource table, giving away stacks of material. In the Youth Track, PFLAG parents offered both a coming out workshop and a session on dealing with religious parents.

All of us who volunteered came away moved, energized and enriched by our conversations and interactions with parents, youth, and other volunteers.



At Models of Pride: Jody Huckaby (PFLAG National Executive Director); Rabbi David Horowitz (PFLAG National President); PFLAG Los Angeles Board Members Karen Mason, Steve Krantz, Stuart Huggins; seated, Mariette Sawchuk (PFLAG Los Angeles President) and panelist Dr. Joel Kushner.



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PFLAG Los Angeles is an all volunteer, non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization run by parents, family members, LGBT persons and their friends. Each of us came for help, found support, and joined the organization to assist others on their journey to acceptance. Our chapter, together with a group in New York City, founded the national PFLAG organization, which provides assistance to over 350 independent chapters nationwide.

PFLAG LOS ANGELES BOARD

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Legislative Corner

Viva California! The following legislation that further extends equality and protection to LGBT Californians, their families, and loved ones, was passed by progressive pro-family legislators and signed by Governor Brown into law. These new laws are celebrated by all fair-minded Californians:

SB 1172 / Limiting Dangerous Psychological Abuse Posing as "Therapy"

For decades, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth suffered from psychological abuse by deceitful mental health professionals who falsely claim to be able to change their sexual orientation or gender expression.

Senate Bill 1172, written by Senator Ted Lieu and co-sponsored by EQCA, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Gaylesta, Mental Health America of Northern California, Lambda Legal, and Courage Campaign, protects minors from dangerous "treatments" and "reparative" therapies that lead to depression, anxiety and even suicide in an attempt to turn them straight. This groundbreaking bill is the first in the country to restrict this discredited, outdated practice.

AB 1856 / Providing Safe and Supportive Homes for LGBT Youth

Few things are more devastating to a child than being removed from his or her parents, yet for many LGBT youth this is compounded by foster care placements that are ill equipped to deal in a compassionate and comprehensive way with them, or even that are openly hostile to them. AB 1856, written by Assemblymember Tom Ammiano, will require existing training programs for foster youth caregivers to include information related to cultural competency and best practices for serving LGBT young people. The bill was approved by the Assembly by a 49-25 bipartisan vote, and the Senate by a vote of 23-13. The new law will go into effect on January 1, 2013.

AB 1505 / Supporting LGB Veterans and Military Families

Under the policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," lesbian, gay and bisexual service members made tremendous sacrifices, but without the recognition and support that they deserve. With AB 1505, authored by Assemblymember Richard Pan and co-sponsored by Equality California and Sacramento Valley Veterans,

California service members who were discharged for no other reason than their sexual orientation will have access to resources to obtain a discharge upgrade and in turn eligibility for state benefits, like access to home loans and educational fee waivers, for them and their families. The law passed with bipartisan support in both chambers.

AB 1700 / Keeping LGBT People in Their Homes

The death of a partner is traumatic, and under prior law some same-sex couples could be hit with unequal property tax penalties that threatened their ability to stay in their homes, especially impacting LGBT seniors. But with AB 1700, authored by Assemblymember Betsy Butler, LGBT people will have greater protection from losing the homes that they have built over a lifetime with a loved one.

AB 2356 / Removing Barriers to Family Building

For many couples, having a child is one of the fundamental keys to happiness. But prior to AB 2356, written by Assemblymember Nancy Skinner and co-sponsored by NCLR and EQCA, lesbian couples faced unfair and unequal access to fertility treatments. Now they can access certain fertility care on the same terms as opposite-sex couples.

SB 1140 / Protecting Religious Freedom in Marriage

We've all heard claims that recognizing everyone's freedom to marry will lead to clergy being forced to perform marriages they don't agree with, or risk losing their tax-exempt status. Senator Mark Leno's bill, SB 1140, is an important clarification that reaffirms the First Amendment freedoms that respect the right of clergy to make faith-based decisions regarding which marriages they solemnize.

Info provided by Equality California www.eqca.org

Please support our work. Renew your membership, make a special gift, or join us for the first time TODAY!

As an all-volunteer organization, our work is made possible only with the generous contributions of our members and donors. Your contributions support our monthly meetings, website, helplines, Speakers Bureau, and outreach to ethnic and faith communities. PFLAG Los Angeles is a 501(c)3 charitable organization and 100% of your donation supports our programs.

Please Note: When you pay dues to PFLAG Los Angeles, a portion of your dues (\$15) goes to PFLAG National and makes you a member of both PFLAG Los Angeles and PFLAG National. However, if you pay dues or make donations directly to PFLAG National, 100% of your dues/donation stays with PFLAG National making you only a PFLAG National member.

Use the envelope provided or donate on-line at www.pflagLA.org/Join-Donate.

We are currently in the planning stages for a satellite chapter of PFLAG Los Angeles to serve the South Los Angeles community and are very interested to hear your thoughts about what a chapter should look like and what is needed to make it happen. Please take our anonymous survey at www.pflagLA.org/southla and share this link with your family and friends.



Spreading the Word in the community through our Speakers Bureau engagements/education, activism & advocacy

Dee Cappelli and Gizella Czene spoke at the LGBT Inclusive Parenting workshop at the LGBT Campus Resource Center on UCLA's campus.

Lisa Kimsey, Shervin Michaels and Jessica Sackman spoke to a small class of 10th and 11th graders at Temple Beth Hillel in Valley Village.

Maurie Davidson, Jan McFarlane, Steve Krantz, Ulandsey Petersen, Mel Schwartz and Liz Siegel Mullen spoke to 11th graders at Cleveland High School Humanities Magnet in Reseda.

Gizella Czene, Nathaniel Grey, Stuart Huggins, Steve Krantz and Ann Weisman spoke to students of a health class at East Valley High School in North Hollywood.

Don't Ask, DO Tell! This may come as a surprise to some Americans – Studies Find That Openly Gay Servicemembers Do Not Undermine Military Cohesion

The presence of openly gay soldiers does not undermine unit cohesion, according to a new statistical analysis of the Israel Defense Force sponsored by the Palm Center (www.palmcenter.org), a research branch of the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law, and authored by Danny Kaplan of Bar Ilan University and Amir Rosenmann of University of Haifa, and presented to the public on August 29, 2012.

In the United States, the first academic study of the effects of repealing "don't ask, don't tell" (DADT) presented to the public on September 10, 2012, has come to the same conclusion: That the new policy of open service has had no overall negative impact

on military readiness, unit cohesion, recruitment, retention or morale.

Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) on the Rachel Maddow Show on September 20, 2012, the one-year anniversary of the repeal of DADT: "My husband Jim made the very good point when they said, "Oh, if you allow openly gay people to serve, the straight people will be all upset." As he pointed out: you're in the military; your best friend gets his head blown off next to you. People in the military go through these horrific experiences and then we're supposed to believe if they're in the shower with someone who's gay or sharing a dormitory, that's going to disorient them."

Quote - Unquote

"I have always been, and always will be, a proud gay man."

Orlando Cruz, ranked No. 4 Featherweight by the World Boxing Organization

"My most cherished 2012 Pride moment was when one of our senior citizens came up to me as we were preparing to march. He must have been 85 or so. He thanked me (PFLAG) for what we do, then tears filled his eyes as he tried to suppress his emotions. He shared with me that when he came out many years ago, his family ceased having anything to do with him. He expressed such sadness about living a life that did not include his biological family. His tears became my tears. The long loving PFLAG hug I gave him is extended out there to all our wonderful loving parents, family and friends – that love us for who we are."

If you missed marching with us in the Pride Parade, you really missed something!

Thank you, Y.K., for sharing with our readers.

SUPPORT

MEETINGS CONTACTS ORGANIZATIONS

PFLAG LOS ANGELES MEETINGS

WESTWOOD*

Westwood United Methodist Church
10497 Wilshire Bl.
Los Angeles, 90024

3rd Wednesday of each month
7:30 - 10:00 pm
Free Parking

*Visit our website for upcoming speakers

SILVER LAKE

Metropolitan Community Church
4953 Franklin Avenue
Los Angeles, 90027

2nd Thursday of each month
7:30 - 9:00 pm
Street Parking

CONTACTS

PFLAG Los Angeles Speakers Bureau
Contact Liz Mullen at
SpeakersBureau@pflagla.org

Asian Pacific Islander
www.sgvapipflag.tumblr.com

HELPLINES

PFLAG Los Angeles & Pasadena
1.888.PFLAG 88 (1.888.735.2488)
English and Spanish

Transgender Support
818-985-9319 (Chris)

The TREVOR PROJECT
24-hour suicide prevention line
866.488.7386
www.thetrevorproject.org

ORGANIZATIONS

PFLAG National: 202-467-8180
www.pflag.org

REMEMBER

When you no longer need PFLAG that's when PFLAG NEEDS YOU!

www.pflagLA.org



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Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) promotes the health and well-being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender 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.

TransAction

Congratulations, TLC!

On October 4, the Transgender Law Center (TLC) celebrated its 10th anniversary. Many trans activists gathered at the San Francisco War Memorial & Performing Arts Center to participate in this event. Honorees were Google which extended full health benefits to its transgender employees, the National Center for Lesbian Rights which helped launch TLC in 2002, long-time transgender community leader Felicia Alvarado Elizondo, and the Hon. Victoria Kolakowski, the first openly transgender judge elected in the U.S.

Lyon-Martin Health Services and TLC Launch TransLine

Transgender people have unique health care needs yet often avoid seeking medical care due to a history of discrimination and lack of knowledge or experience among health care providers. In response, Project HEALTH launched TransLine (www.project-health.org/transline), a first of its kind online medical

consultation service that provides up-to-date clinical information and individualized case consultation across a broad range of clinical transgender issues. TransLine will be staffed by transgender health experts in clinical practice and is available to health care providers nationwide, free of charge. It will give any clinician – regardless of geography – access to assistance to address difficult questions. This service will be critical for providers who have not previously cared for transgender patients.

Transgender people face a number of hurdles in accessing health care. Due to workplace discrimination, transgender people are twice as likely to be unemployed and without employer-based health insurance plans, with uninsured rates ranging from 21 to 64 percent. Those with coverage face pervasive, discriminatory “transgender exclusions”. <http://project-health.org/transline/>

NCTE Launches the TONI Project, a New Site for Trans College Students

The National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) launched the Transgender On-campus Nondiscrimination Information (TONI) Project, our

nation’s first online hub for trans students to share trans-affirmative college policies and practices, and exchange ideas for organizing and action. Key features of the site include a searchable database of campus profiles that document a range of campus policies such as housing, records and documentation, healthcare, safety, and curricula. TONI is accessible to current and prospective students in search of trans-affirmative colleges and universities. TONI Project users also have access to a community forum where they can share ideas for taking action.

Learn more about the TONI Project at www.TransStudents.org

Read more about NCTE’s work at <http://transequality.org>

D.C. Launches Groundbreaking Ad Campaign Promoting Respect for Trans Community

On September 13, Mayor Vincent C. Gray and the D.C. Office of Human Rights (OHR) launched an ambitious and groundbreaking campaign promoting respect for the District’s transgender and gender-non-conforming communities. Take a look at the posters at <http://ohr.dc.gov/transrespect>.