



P. O. Box 24565 Los Angeles, CA 90024 (310) 472-8952 <http://www.pflagla.org>

October-November 2007

Newsletter 249

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.

PFLAG starts each meeting with one or two rap groups where individuals can share their concerns, questions, and understanding about and with the gay person or persons in their families. Additionally, if there is sufficient interest, an advocacy group will meet simultaneously and discuss how to effectively influence change in GLBT civil rights. After these sessions, there is a short refreshment break followed by a speaker or panel of speakers whose topic includes subjects pertinent to the families, gays and lesbians.

OUR NEXT SPEAKERS

October 17, 2007 (Wednesday)

Samuel Borelli truly works to build communities. Currently serving as the Operations Manager for Caring Companions, his tireless efforts to volunteer include serving on the West Hollywood Public Safety Commission, Transgender Task Force, the Sheriff's Gay and Lesbian Conference Committee and over 15 years of developing youth empowerment programs with organizations such as GLSEN, Project 10, LifeWorks Mentoring, and The Trevor Project, where he was recently elected as Board Vice Chairman.

November 21, 2007 (Wednesday)

To be announced; please check with our website www.pflagla.org

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

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

Deadline for submissions: November 1
(December/January issue)

OTHER HELPLINES / RESOURCES

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

Asian Pacific Islander:
(818) 368 2008 (Ellen) HKameya@juno.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

Merging Identities:
One of the National Conference for Community & Justice's programs that helps gay, lesbian and bisexual youth develop positive identities relative to sexual orientation, culture, religion and family.
(562) 435 8184 www.nccjla.org

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

**NEW!!!
Hablamos español!**

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

Julio 310 500 8645
espanol@pflagpasadena.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was my pleasure to attend last month's Equality California Awards Gala in Beverly Hills. At the event, EQCA introduced the "Let California Ring" campaign. Let California Ring is a public education campaign to open hearts and minds about the freedom to marry and the respect, support, protections, and responsibilities that come with marriage. All California PFLAG chapters must become key partners of this critical effort.

Every day, gay and lesbian Californians are denied the freedom to marry the person they love. Through innovative television ads, a website and a statewide network of community leaders and volunteers, the campaign will engage people like you to talk to people you know. The goal is to engage at least 1 million Californians in a conversation about the freedom to marry and through those conversations to identify 500,000 new supporters.

Specifically, you should have conversations with people in your life about what the freedom to marry means and why it is important to you. Help the campaign find and train new marriage messengers to increase the number, depth and breadth of conversations. Then make a generous tax-deductible contribution to Let California Ring to help get our message out on television and the web to reinforce the one-on-one conversations.

Go to www.LetCaliforniaRing.org for everything you need to get involved.

As you are reading this, know that the people who demonize our families are collecting signatures to place a proposition on the June 2008 ballot to permanently ban same-sex marriage and domestic partnerships in our state. Please don't stand idly by.

Steve Krantz, PFLAG Los Angeles

PFLAG

meets

Gabrielle Christian
("South of Nowhere")

&

Family!



On Saturday June 9, 2007, a one hour panel at a conference related to the television show "South of Nowhere" was held in Los Angeles. The program runs on The N, a children and young adults network and its storyline revolves around a gay teen. This is a groundbreaking show as it deals with issues other TV shows aimed at this generation seldom depict.

For this reason they felt it was important to host an event where its audience could come together, discuss some of the issues addressed by the show creators, and share their experiences with one another. Due to the nature and premise of the show, many of the attendees consisted of the show's young viewers and their families. For this reason they felt it is very important to have a support group like PFLAG come speak to them.

The conference was benefiting SIDS Educational Services, an organization for which Gabrielle Christian, who plays the lead role on 'South of Nowhere', is a spokesperson. To find out more about "South of Nowhere" please go to <http://www.the-n.com/ntv/shows/characters.php?id=531>

LEGISLATIVE CORNER

California Legislature Again Passes Bill Giving Same-Sex Couples Choice to Marry

For the second time in two years, the California Legislature has passed legislation that would grant same-sex couples the ability to marry. With a 22-15 vote, the Senate on September 7 approved AB 43, authored by Assemblymember Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, and sponsored by Equality California.

The Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act is almost identical to the bill the Legislature passed in 2005. California remains the only state in the nation that has approved marriage for same-sex couples through the legislative process.

The bill now goes to the governor's desk for consideration. The governor must take action on all bills by October 14.

A September 2006 poll by the Public Policy Institute of California showed that 47 percent of likely voters in California support marriage for same-sex couples, while 46 percent oppose.

Although California allows same-sex couples to register as domestic partners, marriage and domestic partnership remain two separate and unequal institutions. Domestic partnerships do not provide the universal recognition, honor and dignity that come with marriage. They also do not provide federal benefits and essential support systems needed upon illness or disability, in times of crisis and in older age.

"We call on the governor to rise above right-wing ideology, as he has on many other issues, by signing this bill," said EQCA Executive Director Geoff Kors. "By a new Legislature passing this bill with an even larger margin than in 2005, our elected representatives have shown that the people of our state strongly support equality and fairness. The governor should keep up with the will of the people and show the kind of bold bi-partisan leadership on this issue that will define his place in history."



Right wing anti-family activists aim to derail Equality California's efforts to protect children

Extremists have targeted three EQCA-sponsored bills drafted to prevent bias-based discrimination against ALL young people and students, including those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT). The extremists claim these bills grant "special privileges" to LGBT youth and would result in "reverse discrimination of religious students."

The bills they are targeting are Senator Kuehls' SB 777, the Student Civil Rights Act, designed to strengthen nondiscrimination policies in publicly funded schools, programs and activities so EVERY student can feel safe at school; Assemblymember Levine's AB394, the Safe Place to Learn Act, which would ensure that all schools are complying with the state's existing anti-bias laws so that school officials can't turn a blind eye when young people are harassed; and Senator Migden's SB518, the Juvenile Justice Safety and Protection Act, which would establish basic safeguards to protect ALL youth in the juvenile justice system from abuse and mistreatment.

<http://www.eqca.org>

Note from the editor: Those groups who CLAIM they are "pro-life" should be the FIRST ones to support legislation such as this because ALL children deserve to be safe, no?

SPREADING THE WORD IN THE COMMUNITY

through speaking engagements/education, activism & advocacy:

- Terry McIntyre, Omar Minwalla, and Marty Olson talked to two classes at Beverly Hills High.
- Andy Birnbaum and Ron Elecciri ran the PFLAG table at the Rainbow Youth Festival at the Village at Ed Gould Plaza, 1125 N. McCadden Place, in Hollywood. The demographic of the youth were mainly Latino, African-American and Transgendered - they all had an awesome time and hope to attend next year.
The Rainbow Youth Festival is an outreach event and resource fair organized by representatives from the LA Gay & Lesbian Center, Gay & Lesbian Adolescent Social Services (GLASS/MOHOP), Bienestar Human Services and LifeWorks Mentoring. The event provides a free, safe and healthy place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth, ages 15 to 24, and their friends to learn about community resources, socialize, meet friends and make new friends. The first event took place in 2005 and was a great success with over 25 service providers and vendors. Over 300 youth attended.

In Memoriam

We lost two long-time PFLAG members,
Margaret Cothran and **Margy Kleinerman**.

Our thoughts are with their families
and loved ones.

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

Just send an e-mail to sjcgeo@rocketmail.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.

IOWA

The good news: Iowa Permits Same-Sex Marriage

The bad news: After four hours, Robert B. Hanson, the county judge who had deemed the same-sex marriage ban unconstitutional, delayed further granting of licenses until Iowa's Supreme Court could decide whether to consider an appeal.

Hanson ruled that the law violates the due process and equal protection clauses of the Iowa Constitution. "This court has yet to hear any convincing argument as to how excluding same-sex couples from getting married promotes responsible reproduction in general or by different-sex couples in particular," Hanson wrote. "So far as this court can tell, (the law) operates only to harm same-sex couples and their children."

...and who are the people who don't want to share the "**sanctity**" of civil marriage with same-sex couples and their families?

- Fred Thompson, divorced
- John McCain, divorced
- Alberto Gonzales, divorced
- Glenn Beck, divorced
- Newt Gingrich, divorced (3 wives and a mistress)
- Laura Schlesinger, divorced (had extramarital affair)
- Rush Limbaugh, divorced (3 wives)
- Bob Dole, divorced
- Michael Savage, divorced
- David Vitter, visited prostitutes during his marriage
- Joseph Coors, divorced
- Joe Scarborough, divorced
- Karl Rove, divorced
- Roy Blunt, divorced
- Lou Dobbs, divorced
- Duke Cunningham, divorced
- Ken Calvert, divorced (was arrested for soliciting a prostitute)
- Randy Kuhl, Jr., divorced
- Dan Burton, extramarital affair (fathered son with former state employee; introduced H.R.724 to limit Federal court jurisdiction over questions under the Defense of Marriage Act)
- Joe Barton, divorced
- Larry Craig, arrested for lewd conduct in a men's restroom
- ...

...I guess you get the picture!

T R A N S A C T I O N

House begins ENDA hearings promptly after summer recess

Congress returned from its summer recess this week and the House promptly launched hearings into the long-suffering Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would ban workplace discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees.

Among those who spoke before the Subcommittee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions of the Committee on Education & Labor were gay Reps. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) and Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisc.).

"There is nothing more American than ensuring that people should have equal job opportunities," Baldwin said.

Baldwin went on to say that American workers should not be subject to discrimination in the workplace because their lives and mannerisms do not adhere to prescribed gender roles.

ENDA is sponsored by Reps. Baldwin, Frank, Deborah Pryce (R-Ohio), and Christopher Shays (R-Conn.). It is currently legal to fire workers on the basis of sexual orientation in 31 states and on the basis of gender identity and expression in 39 states.

Following the hearing, HRC public policy associate Dena Widger said that the criticism that ENDA would be a "burden" for employers was disproved by the testimonies given.

"The true burden of not having a law like ENDA falls on the shoulders of people like Officer Carney and Brooke Waits whose lives were upended and jobs lost because of who they are," Widger said.

From: www.washblade.com

FYI: Previous versions of ENDA have not included provisions that protect transgender people from discrimination. The latest version of the proposed legislation does contain such provisions, including a specific definition of gender identity, as well as exemptions for employer dress codes and locker rooms.

Have you been discriminated against on the job?

Transgender people continue to face high levels of discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodation, credit and in other areas.

If you have faced job discrimination, please go to <http://nctequality.org/Issues/Discrimination.html#report> to report the incident.

NCTE is tracking discrimination against trans people.

The National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) is a 501(c)3 social justice organization dedicated to advancing the equality of transgender people through advocacy, collaboration and empowerment.

<http://nctequality.org>

The Birthday (Roos-e-Tavalod)

Director: Negin Kianfar & Daisy Mohr

Watch out for this documentary about being a transsexual in Iran!

In 1976, Ayatollah Khomeini imposed a fatwa to allow people with hormonal disorders to change sex if they wished, because the Koran doesn't say anything on the subject. Transsexuals don't have to fear prosecution and they can even change their birth certificates. But the challenge is the traditional, religious Iranian society in which the transsexuality is still considered a disease.

The Birthday follows a young man who decides to become a woman. His conservative parents try to come to terms with their son's decision and after a lot of discussions they accept the new sexual identity of their son, who already had a boyfriend before the operation.

"*The Birthday*" is a film which offers a window into a world we rarely see from an Islamic society.

You don't want to miss "Anyone and Everyone" with our own Ellen, Valerie, and Harold Kameya!

So, check the official documentary website at <http://www.anyoneandeveryone.com/> to find out air dates!

Or buy it on DVD for only \$12.95 (USD)!

About the Film

Connected by having a son or daughter who is gay, parents across the country discuss their experiences in the documentary *Anyone and Everyone*. In it, filmmaker Susan Polis Schutz depicts families from all walks of life. Individuals from such diverse backgrounds as Japanese, Bolivian, and Cherokee, as well as from various religious denominations such as Mormon, Jewish, Catholic, Hindu, and others share intimate accounts of how their children revealed that they're homosexual and discuss their responses.

The parents also talk about struggling with the pain their sons and daughters have dealt with, such as not being accepted by relatives and/or friends, and being ostracized by religious congregations.

The Kameyas also participated in a documentary called "In God's House: Asian American Gay and Lesbian Families in the Church."

The DVD is available for a requested donation of \$35 (USD) and subtitles are available in Chinese, English, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, or Vietnamese.

Here's a synopsis

Asian American lesbians and gays have been largely invisible in Christian churches. Some Asian American churches silence the issue for fear of division and conflict. Other Asian American church leaders have condemned homosexuality and publicly protested against same-sex marriage. Yet lesbian and gay Asian Americans and their families worship and serve in churches every day. Where are their voices? This honest and thought-provoking film tells a story that the church needs to hear: that of Asian American Christian lesbian and gay people, their pastors, and their parents.

www.ingodshouse.com

Over 1/3 of APIs in Same-Sex Couples in the U.S. Live in California

On September 14, 2005, the Williams Project at UCLA School of Law released a new research study showing that over 13,000 Asian/Pacific Islanders (APIs) identified themselves as living with a same-sex partner in California during Census 2000.

The study also shows that more than half of California's API same-sex couples are raising children--over 5,600 children under 18--and that these families face the same economic difficulties as other API families in the State. Other key new findings of the study, *Asian/Pacific Islanders in Same-Sex Couples in California: Data from Census 2000*, include:

- Twenty-eight percent of California API same-sex partners report Filipino heritage. Sizable proportions of API same-sex partners are also of Chinese, Vietnamese, Japanese, Korean, Asian Indian, Cambodian, and Taiwanese origin.
- San Francisco County has the highest rate of API same-sex couples (API householder) (2.2 per 1,000 households), while Los Angeles County has the largest number of API same-sex couples (1,929).
- API same-sex couples are much more likely to live in API communities in California than gay and lesbian communities.
- In terms of their demographic and socio-economic profile, APIs in same-sex couples look very similar to their counterparts in different-sex couples. They differ little in terms of citizenship, military service, income, education, rates of public assistance, and rates of employment.
- There are more than 4,000 API children being raised by same-sex couples in California. Seventy-seven percent of these children are being raised by two API parents and 94% have at least one API parent.