



PFLAG-LA

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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

2011 / Newsletter # 260

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 At
www.pflagla.org !

New support meeting in
Silverlake!

Please see page 2 for details.

Please join us at the Models of Pride Conference!

When: Saturday, October 15, 8:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Where: University of Southern California
(Exposition Boulevard & Figueroa Street)

Models of Pride, presented by LifeWorks, a youth development program of the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, includes a series of special workshops for parents attending the conference with (or without) their LGBTQ children. The adults-only sessions will be in their own room throughout the day and span the spectrum from how to parent an LGBTQ youth, how to deal with the coming out process, to theories as to the nature of sexual orientation and gender identity, and how to advocate for the rights of your child. Workshops are free. For more information and how to register please go to <http://modelsofpride.org>

HELPLINES, CHAPTERS & CONTACTS 9AM-9PM

1-888-PFLAG88 or 1-888-735-2488 www.pflagla.org

- West LA: 310-454-6681 (Liz)
LIZARM@aol.com
- Pasadena: 626-797-1732 (Patti)
ploitz@earthlink.net
- San Fernando Valley: 818-788-8678
(Lynette)
- South Bay: 310-831-2967
(Joyce and Jerry)
- Hablamos español!
<http://www.pflagla.org/Home-Espanol.html>
Leonor 818-956-7533
- Transgender: 818-985-9319 (Chris)
- PFLAG National: 202-467-8180
www.pflag.org
- PFLAG/LA Speakers Bureau:
Ron & Andy, andynron@gmail.com
- Asian Pacific Islander:
- Harold Kameya, HKameya@gmail.com,
818-368-2008
- Bev Toyama, btoyama@ca.rr.com
- Straight Spouses:
510-525-0200 (Amity)
- The TREVOR PROJECT
24-hour nationwide suicide prevention line for
GLBT and Questioning youth.
866-4 U TREVOR / 866-488-7386
www.thetrevorproject.org
- Transgender Youth Clinic
(323) 361-2153
<http://www.transyouthla.com>
- LA Gay & Lesbian Center:
323-993-7400
www.lagaycenter.org

* Need to get in touch with the editor? Send an email to NewsletterEditor@pflagLA.org *

Officers:

President: Mariette Sawchuk
Vice President: Stuart Huggins
Treasurer: York Knowlton
Secretary: Karen Mason

Board Members:

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Ron Elecciri	Chris Haiss
Lenor Holmstrom	Barry Mason
Alexander Sawchuk	Sylvia Weisenberg

Regional Director:

Steve Krantz

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

Silverlake Meeting!

When: 2nd Thursday of each month
from 7:30pm to 9pm
Where: Metropolitan Community Church
4953 Franklin Ave
Los Angeles 90027
Contact: Dawn at
silverlake@pflagLA.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Looking Back and Looking Forward

Looking Back

Around this time of year, I usually notice an increase in the tempo of life as children go back to school, people return from vacation, and the traffic suddenly gets worse. But this year the change seems less pronounced because PFLAG Los Angeles has had a very busy, productive summer. Meeting attendance was higher than usual thanks to wonderful programs. At the August meeting, Paul Federbush, who brought *Slumdog Millionaire* and *8: The Mormon Proposition* to the screen, previewed his new film *We Were Here*, about the AIDS crisis in San Francisco. In July our speaker was Ulandsey Peterson, who has appeared twice on the Oprah Show dealing with men in the African American community living "on the down low." We also participated in OUTFEST as a community partner, presenting a great movie, *With You*, and introducing the audience to PFLAG Los Angeles.

On August 3 we held the first PFLAG Los Angeles fundraiser in many years at Hamburger Mary's. We'd like to thank the many longtime PFLAG members and brand new supporters who came out to enjoy the food, festivities, and bingo, and bid on our silent auction items. Sylvia Weisenberg, the event organizer, reported that the chapter cleared approximately \$2500. The board of directors is hoping to use this money to support a satellite chapter in an underserved area, perhaps in the San Fernando Valley or South Los Angeles. We would also like to thank the many corporate and community sponsors listed on page 8. Their contributions assured our success.

Looking Forward

PFLAG Los Angeles is participating in a number of exciting events this fall. On Sunday, September 25, the PFLAG National Organization is holding a fundraising event at the home of Helena Krol, one of our members. Further details are available on the National Website: www.pflag.org. Maurie Davidson, Steve and Annick Krantz, Mariette and Alexander Sawchuk, and Lynette and Larry Sperber from PFLAG Los Angeles are on the host committee.

On October 15, Models of Pride 19, the premier event for LGBT youth in Los Angeles, is being held in a new location on the campus of USC. The conference runs from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, with a resource fair at noon and an evening of dinner and dancing starting at 6:00 pm. There are workshops exclusively for youth (middle and high school age), for college students, and for family (parents, foster parents, and guardians). PFLAG Los Angeles and PFLAG Pasadena are helping to organize and facilitate the Family Focus workshops, and some of the youth workshops. Please let all the young people in your life know about this wonderful opportunity to learn, socialize, and find important resources.

I hope to see you at one of these events, and you'll always be warmly welcomed at our regularly scheduled meeting on the third Wednesday of every month. Look for an exciting program on October 19th from James Gilliam of the ACLU, talking about LGBT rights, particularly the rights of LGBT youth to safety in schools. At our November 16th meeting, just in time for the holidays, licensed clinical psychologist Vula Baliotis will talk about the process families go through when they learn one of their members is not heterosexual.

Mariette Sawchuk
msawchuk-pflag@earthlink.net

LEGISLATIVE CORNER

"I fully realize that a person who stands for what I stand for, an activist, a gay activist, becomes the target or the potential target for a person who is insecure, terrified, afraid, or very disturbed with themselves."

--Harvey Milk (First openly gay Supervisor of San Francisco, assassinated on November 27, 1978, in City Hall, along with Mayor George Moscone)



From the editor:

Just one day after Gov. Brown signed SB 48, *The FAIR (Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful) Education Act*, into law, efforts are underway to overturn it. SB 48, which will take effect in January 2012, amends the CA Education Code to include social sciences instruction on the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, and prohibits discriminatory instruction and discriminatory materials from being adopted by the State Board of Education.

As usual, the other side, in their sex-obsessed twisted minds, claims that this law violates among other things peoples' religious freedom. I have a suggestion: have them enroll their kids in religious private schools or homeschool them, an already popular choice used to protect their children from the real world, science, and facts. And, of course, from the gays. Religion is personal and public education is – public.

What's so wrong with teaching kids the contributions of Col. (ret.) Margarethe Cammermeyer and her courageous fight against her discharge under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"? Of the world-renowned photographer Annie Leibovitz whose pictures of celebrities include Johnny Depp, Demi Moore, Dolly Parton, Michael Jackson, Queen Elizabeth, and "Born in the USA" Bruce Springsteen? Of internationally acclaimed financial expert Suze Orman? Who knows, had Robert Schuller of the Crystal Cathedral in Orange County consulted her, he might not be bankrupt today.

Are kids allowed to listen to the music of Melissa Etheridge and Adam Lambert, or a legend like Cole Porter, but are not allowed to learn more about their accomplishments as lesbian/gay human beings? So kids should not hear about the astounding career of Amanda Simpson, the first openly transgender US political appointee who works for the Defense Department? Is it really that dangerous for youngsters to learn that Congressman Barney Frank, who among many other pieces of legislation co-sponsored the "Anti-Spamming Act" to protect people and businesses from unwanted email, is gay? And what about the TV personality Ellen DeGeneres? Would the knowledge of her being a lesbian really damage a child's development?

I just forgot for a moment that our opponents seem to see gay sex, sexual inappropriateness, and indoctrination to the homosexual lifestyle everywhere. Remember the Disney film "The Lion King"? Yes, they even saw sex in the clouds!

The FAIR Education Act is a very important piece of legislation because it will help to set the record straight on LGBT people and their contributions.

Please visit www.eqca.org (Equality California) for more information on legislation and status.

AB 9 (Seth's Law)

The bill, named after 13-year old Seth Walsh who hung himself after being bullied for being a gay kid, is now on the Governor's desk. If he signs it, it will tighten anti-bullying policies in California schools by providing clear guidelines for staff.

SB 747

(LGBT Cultural Competency Training)

If signed by the Governor, health care professionals will be required to become educated about the cultural and medical needs specific to LGBT people, thus improving their overall care.

SPREADING THE WORD IN THE COMMUNITY

through speaking engagements/education, activism & advocacy:

- Steve Krantz, Barry Mason, Flo Trapani, Stephen Waters, and Ann Weisman spoke at Cleveland High School to 11th graders.
- Gizella Czene, Herman Eastmond, Kadin Henningsen, Aye Robin, Jessica Sackman, Stephen Waters, and Sylvia Weisenberg spoke at East Valley High in North Hollywood.
- Aye Robin and Karen Robin spoke to a masters class (71 students) in Occupational Therapy at Cal State Dominguez Hills.
- Gizella Czene and Mitch Grobeson were invited to talk at Valassis Communications in Commerce.
- Maurie Davidson, Liz Mullen, Ulandsey Peterson, and Ann Weisman spoke at Steve Artiga's class (Master of Social Work program) at USC.

From the editor: When I invited co-workers to join me in marching with PFLAG in the Pride Parade I thought I wouldn't see anyone. And then I saw them - muchas gracias!

Dear Chris,

I can't begin to express how excited my Mother and I were to have been invited to march with PFLAG. Being part of the Pride Parade this year was an amazing experience for both of us. Who else can brag about carrying the front banner and marching next to Betty DeGeneres? What an honor! It was such a vibrant and colorful day, one we will never forget. Growing up in Silver Lake, home to a big gay and lesbian community, we have neighbors and friends whom we love and respect - this march was for them!

Sincerely,
Arlene Lopez

Querido Chris,

No puede expresar la gratitud que sentimos yo y mi Mama de aver sido invitadas para participar en la marcha con PFLAG. Aver sido parte de el Desfile de Orgullo este ano fue una experiencia increible. Quien mas puede fanfarroniar que cargo la bandera principal y camino junto a Betty DeGeneres? Que honor! Fue un dia vibrante y lleno de color, uno que nunca se nos olvidara. A ver sido criado en Silver Lake, casa de una grande comunidad de gays y lesbianas, tenemos vecinos y amigos que queremos and respetamos. Esta marcha fue para ellos!

Sinceramente,
Arlene Lopez

T r a n s A c t i o n

Angels of Change Runway Show & Calendar Release

- Saturday, October 8
- VIP reception at 5:00 PM
- Runway Show at 6:00 PM
- Location:
The Hollywood Arena,
6655 Santa Monica Blvd
Los Angeles CA 90038
(corner of Santa Monica and Las Palmas)

Angels of Change was launched in 2008 to respond to the growing demand for medical services & hormonal treatment for transgender youth in Los Angeles. Funds raised through this event and through the sale of the calendar support the transgender youth clinic at Children's Hospital LA.

Come and join us for an evening of fun and see our 12 feature models walking the runway!

For more information about this event and Angels of Change please go to <http://www.angelschange.net>

DID YOU KNOW?

...that the online Jury Duty Survey for the Juror Orientation gives you the following gender options: male / female / other / decline?

Medicare Benefits & Transgender People "Yes, Medicare Covers Hormones!"

National Center for Transgender Equality: We often hear from transgender people and doctors who are confused about what Medicare benefits do and don't cover. To address these questions, we've created a new resource that transgender beneficiaries and doctors need to see.

The new resource explains that, while Medicare does not cover sex reassignment surgery, it does cover medically necessary hormone therapy and routine preventive care, regardless of the gender marker in one's records. It also details how to navigate the appeal process if you are denied coverage.

As part of our ongoing federal policy agenda, NCTE will continue advocating for sex reassignment surgery coverage in Medicare and ensure that transgender needs are fully addressed in all public health programs.

To download and share this resource with doctors and providers to make sure you are getting the coverage you need please go to <http://transequality.org> click on "Resources", tab "Federal Issues."

The Transgender Law Center Reports:

San Francisco DMV Settles Civil Rights Lawsuit with Transgender Woman

In October 2010, a DMV employee, who had a known history of denying equal service to transgender customers, retained Amber Yust's personal information through his employment at the DMV. The employee then used the information to send her materials condemning her transgender status, and calling for homosexuals to be "put to death."

Kristina Wertz, legal director of the Transgender Law Center: "All Californians have the right to do something as simple as going to the DMV without fear of harassment and threats of violence. What happened to Amber reminds us that for transgender people, our state's promise of equal treatment is often unfulfilled."

To read the press release, please go to <http://transgenderlawcenter.org/new/>

George Unger In Memoriam

PFLAG Los Angeles has lost another past president and irreplaceable supporter. George Unger passed away on April 30, 2011. He came to PFLAG Los Angeles when he was in the process of coming out to his family and stayed for many years as a member, board member, and president. He was committed to making sure that PFLAG Los Angeles would be there for other LGBT individuals like him and other moms and dads like his parents. He served on the board of our chapter for five years, and then was president/co-president from 2000 to 2006.

His passing is a great loss to all who knew him, and to me personally. He was the first person I met at the first PFLAG meeting I attended. His warmth, gentleness, and infectious smile helped to make me feel safe and at home there. You can find memories of George from me and other PFLAG members on our webpage. Just go to "About PFLAG" and click on "In Memory" in the left hand column. Below is an excerpt from his obituary.

George M. Unger, 48 of Los Angeles, California, tragically passed away on Saturday April 30, 2011. Born in Park Ridge, IL on April 25, 1963; George was the son of the late George P. Unger and Nancy Unger; devoted spouse to Neil Winder; brother of Barbara, Thomas (Lee), Daniel, James (Elaine), Mary (Bob) Rolston and Jeanette (George) Karr; beloved uncle to many heartbroken nieces and nephews.

A graduate of the Univ. of Illinois College of Engineering (1986), George's career began with Westinghouse – Energy Sales in Chicago and Orlando, FL. Then he moved to Los Angeles for a new and successful venture with a tech startup company.

George dedicated his time to many nonprofit organizations, including PFLAG Los Angeles, Lifeworks Mentoring, and Gompers Preparatory Academy. George also founded The Multicultural Computer Academy (San Diego, CA), a computer camp held annually to expose the less fortunate (children) to computers and technology.

Donations in his memory can be made to PFLAG Los Angeles,
Lifeworks Mentoring, and Gompers Preparatory Academy.

Mariette Sawchuk, President

Gompers Preparatory Academy

Mission:

The mission of Gompers Preparatory Academy, in partnership with University of California, San Diego & our community, is to accelerate academic achievement for ALL students through a college preparatory culture & curriculum.

GPA prides itself on preparing students for college and the professional world and beyond through a combination of rigorous academic curriculum, comprehensive life skills courses, and wide-ranging enrichment opportunities. GPA offers an all-encompassing education engaging all facets of student development.

Lifeworks

LifeWorks is a youth development and mentoring program at the LA Gay & Lesbian Center. We offer one on one, peer, and group mentoring opportunities for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning youth ages 12-24. Our goal is to help LGBTQ youth to realize their goals and dreams with a safe space, positive and affirming role models, and workshops & activities that are fun and educational.

We could not make it without your support!
Thank you, thank you, thank you!

2011 PFLAG-LA Regional Conference Food Donation List

Bristol Farms
9039 Beverly Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA 90048

Pavilions Market
8969 Santa Monica Blvd
West Hollywood, CA 90069

Peets Coffee
8833 W. Sunset Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA 90069

Ralphs Market
7257 Sunset Blvd
West Hollywood, CA 90046

Starbucks
8595 Santa Monica Blvd
West Hollywood, CA 90069

Subway
8617 Santa Monica Blvd
West Hollywood, CA 90069

The Veggie Grill
8000 W. Sunset Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA 90046

Trader Joe's
8611 Santa Monica Blvd
West Hollywood, CA 90069

Z Pizza, 8869 Santa Monica Blvd, West Hollywood, CA 90069

Thanks to the following businesses, corporations and community organizations
who supported our August Fundraiser!

You help us bring support to LGBT individuals and their families, education to the greater Los Angeles community, and advocacy on local, state, and federal issues affecting LGBT persons. We are deeply grateful.

The Coburn School
The Colony Theater
Daily Grill
Disney Corporation
The Falcon Theater

LA Sparks
The Laemmle Theaters
The Milken Foundation
Plummer Park
The Skirball Cultural Center

The Huntington Library

If we have inadvertently omitted any of our wonderful contributors,
please accept our apologies.