



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

June-July 2003

Newsletter 223

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the Westwood United Methodist Church, 10497 Wilshire Bl., NE corner of Wilshire and Warner. Take 405 Freeway to 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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. There is also easy access from the north driveway. Doors open at 6:30 pm; general meeting begins at 7:15 pm.

PFLAG starts each meeting with a rap group where individuals can share their concerns, questions and understanding about and with the gay person or persons in their families. After the rap session, we generally have a speaker or panel of speakers whose topic includes subjects pertinent to the families, gays and lesbians.

### OUR NEXT SPEAKERS

June 17, 2003

**A**uthor and Psychotherapist Dr. Betty Berzon has published several books on Gay and Lesbian relationships, bigotry and sexual identity. We are fortunate to have Betty here in Los Angeles (with her partner of 23 years) and back at PFLAG to discuss her latest book release entitled "Surviving Madness, A Therapist Own Story".

July 15, 2003

**T**o be Announced.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE ANNUAL WEST HOLLYWOOD PRIDE  
PARADE – SUNDAY JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup> MEET AT 10AM NEAR THE CORNER OF  
SANTA MONICA BLVD AND CRESCENT HEIGHTS BLVD

We need all the participants we can get so PLEASE PLEASE join us.

Wear your PFLAG T-Shirt or any red shirt will do!

Hope to see you on SUNDAY JUNE 22<sup>nd</sup>!!!

**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: 373 2351

**Area Code 323**

291 2990 (Elfi Martin)

**Area Code 562**

Long Beach Chapter: 403 1234

**Area Code 626**

Pasadena Chapter: 914 1241 (Denny)

**Area Code 661**

Santa Clarita Chapter: 254 2177 (Peggy)

**Area Code 714**

Orange County Chapter: 997 8047

**Area Code 805**

Ventura Chapter: 498 4964 (Rita or Steve)

**Area Code 818**

Studio City: 788 8678 (Lynette) Lynette114@aol.com

Woodland Hills: 340 8945 (Irene &amp; Alvin)

**Area Code 909**

Claremont Chapter: 624 6134

Colton: 825 8368 (Norma)

Redlands Chapter: 335 2005 (Kathy)

**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 haichi\_ca@hotmail.com, call me at (323) 460-4849, or just drop me a note at our PFLAG meetings! Gender bender greetings, Chris Haiss

Deadline for submissions: July 1  
(August/September issue)

**OTHER HELPLINES / RESOURCES**

African American:

(323) 270 5493 (Glynis)

(323) 731 0888 (Shirley)

Asian Pacific Islander:

(818) 368 2008 (Ellen) HKameya@juno.com

Spanish Speaking:

(818) 243 5306 (Leonor)

LA Gay &amp; Lesbian Center:

(323) 993 7400

Straight Spouses:

(626) 449 3267 (Onnolee)

TREVOR - 24 hr suicide prevention line

for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning youth:

(866) 4 U TREVOR

[www.thetrevorproject.org](http://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.

(213) 250 8787 [www.nccjla.org](http://www.nccjla.org)

Hablando Entre Hombres

Spanish support group for Latino Gay Men

(213) 273 8723 (Ramon Ramirez)

PFLAG National

(202) 467 8180 [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

PFLAG's Transgender Special Outreach Network (TSO):

Karen Gross (216) 691 HELP / [KittenGr@aol.com](mailto:KittenGr@aol.com)Mary Boenke (540) 890 3957 / [maryboenke@aol.com](mailto:maryboenke@aol.com)[www.transfamily.org](http://www.transfamily.org)

PFLAG/LA Speakers Bureau / Contact Ron & Andy  
[andynron@adelphia.net](mailto:andynron@adelphia.net)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Just when I thought it was safe to come out of the water, that events had given us all a strange respite... after all there was (is?) a war on and maybe it made sense to invade another country for reasons that kept changing and seemed less clear as we went on, or maybe it didn't, well, whatever your thinking on this issue, it was a riveting attention-grabbing time these last few months and it almost seemed that the gay issue had calmed into the background, that, to finally finish this entry in the world's longest run-on sentence competition, it seemed we're back with the same old struggles.

We remain blessed that our son can and does function comfortably in this fairly tolerant city. But, had he been called, by conscience, to serve in the War on Iraq, as a friend's son felt he was, and is now on the front lines half way around the world, he would have had the burden of hiding an identity which is thought to be a threat by the military, which has been well served by many gay and lesbian warriors over the years.

Had he returned to our shores, he would be faced, as are we all, with public servants like Senator Santorum, putting their private and ridiculous bias out for all to see. And the tepid response of the Republicans served as a reminder that the battle for the basics, of respect and equality, still goes on.

And again, in the news and on the talk shows, the seemingly erudite bemoan the 'homosexual lifestyle' as if it were a hairstyle that can be chosen and changed. The GLBT life, as we in PFLAG know, has the same goals of comfort, happiness, achievement and health as those who bemoan and misconstrue it.

So, then, it's still not safe to come out of the water, as we still have the need and obligation to support, educate and advocate for the PFLAG message and those we love..

Joel Hendler - Co-President PFLAG Los Angeles

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Your **PFLAG Board** consists of the following members- Joel and Rosemary Hendler, Karen and Barry Mason, Nancy Zaun, Steve Roberts, Melanie Saldana, Mark Beaty and George Unger. Joel and George are the current Co-Presidents of the Chapter. Karen is our Treasurer (but Barry helps also) and Melanie is our Secretary. Steve is our official postal and publicity man. Mark is our parade coordinator and in charge of our publications. Nancy helps put together our newsletters and makes sure they're mailed out on time. We are always looking for additional people for our board to help us out and to give us input. Please contact George at 323.848.7801 or at [sjcgeo@rocketmail.com](mailto:sjcgeo@rocketmail.com) if you are interested in helping these wonderful individuals and being part of our chapter. Our next board meeting is May 31<sup>st</sup>.

## March 13, 2003 / U.S. CENSUS BUREAU RELEASES FIRST REPORT ON SAME-SEX PARTNERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Landmark Report Sheds New Light on Number of Same-Sex Partner Households Raising Children, Average Age and Race of Same-Sex Couples

WASHINGTON — The Human Rights Campaign applauded the U.S. Census Bureau today for a report it released that, for the first time, gives data on the nation's families headed by same-sex partners. The report gives information on the number of same-sex partner households in the nation that are raising children, the average age of same-sex couples, and the racial makeup of same-sex couples.

"This is a landmark as it is the first time any government institution has worked to gather and publish information on this country's gay families," said HRC Communications Director and Senior Strategist David M. Smith. "These numbers are compelling evidence that more needs to be done legislatively to provide the same protections to same-sex couples and their families that are already available for non-gay families."

The report was compiled on data taken during the 2000 U.S. Census. Previously released census data revealed that there are 594,391 reported same-sex households in the country — of those, 301,026 are male partners, and 293,365 are female partners. Those same numbers also showed that gay and lesbian families live in 99.3 percent of all counties in the United States.

"We firmly believe that those numbers are artificially low, as many gay people in this country are still afraid to step forward and identify themselves because of the threat of discrimination," said Smith.

The new report showed that one third of female partner households (34.3 percent), and one fifth of male partner households (22.3 percent) are raising children. Currently, eight states and the District of Columbia, along with scattered counties across the country, guarantee same-sex couples access to second-parent adoption, which permits both parents to establish a legal relationship to any child they might raise together, according to HRC Foundation's FamilyNet project ([www.hrc.org/familynet](http://www.hrc.org/familynet)), the most comprehensive resource on gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender families.

"Children in all families deserve the security of a legal relationship to both their parents," said Lisa Bennett, who runs HRC FamilyNet. "These new census numbers demonstrate how critical it is for the law to catch up with the changing American family, by showing just how many same-sex couples are raising children today."

The report further showed that the average age of male partners ranged between 44.5 and 42.4, and that the average age of female partners ranged between 43.4 and 42.2. Comparatively, opposite-sex married couples have average ages in their late 40s, while unmarried opposite-sex households have an average age in the low to mid 30s.

"These numbers are interesting because they highlight the different rights that are bestowed on opposite-sex couples in this country, who are allowed to marry, and same-sex couples, who do not have marriage rights," said Smith. "The trend in this country right now shows people getting married later in life, which is why the average age of heterosexual married couples is older than the average age of heterosexual couples who are sharing a home but not yet married. Without the ability to marry or legally recognize their relationships, it is difficult to tell the statistical difference between same-sex couples who are living together, and same-sex couples who have made a lifelong commitment to one another."

Finally, the new report also gives insight into the number of interracial same-sex couples in the United States, with 11.5 percent of male same-sex households having multi-racial partners, and 10 percent of female same-sex households having multi-racial partners. Comparatively, 5.7 percent of married couples are multi-racial and 12.2 percent of opposite-sex partners are multi-racial.

"This new report on gay families shows us once again that gay and lesbian families are an undeniable part of the American landscape, and the time is long overdue for providing meaningful recognition of our families and relationships," said Smith.

March 12, 2003 / New York

## First transgendered student accepted into Hebrew Union College

Judaism's first transgendered rabbinical student was accepted into the Hebrew Union College —

Jewish Institute of Religion, the Reform movement's rabbinical seminary in Cincinnati announced this week. Reuben Zellman, a 24-year-old FTM (female to male transgendered person), plans to enter the seminary over the summer and spend his first year of studies in Jerusalem.

The Reform movement began ordaining gay rabbis in 1990, but Zellman's acceptance into the seminary is thought to be a first for a transgendered Jew.

"I realize it has political ramifications and I think those are positive, but I'm becoming a rabbinical student because that's what I want to do with my life," Zellman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.



## SPREADING THE WORD IN THE COMMUNITY

- Jane Drucker, Herman Eastmond, Adam Fingerhut, Karen Mason, Bill Mochon and Marla Weiss spoke to the 8th graders of Campbell Hall School on their Diversity Day.
- Mitch Grobson, Marty Olson and Sylvia Weisenberg spent an entire school day at Granada Hills High School speaking to various classes of students about PFLAG.
- Bill Mochon and Sylvia Weisenberg spoke to a 9th grade life skills class at North Hollywood High School.

**It's that time of 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.**

### FAMILY DAY IN THE PARK!

Come enjoy an outdoor event for everyone in the family - mom and mom, dad and dad, single parents and the kids!

June 21-21 - LA Pride Weekend - Children's Garden will be at the festival both days from 11am - 7pm.

July 19 - West Hollywood Park 10am - noon.

For more information call 323-860-7397  
or e-mail [familyservices@laglc.org](mailto:familyservices@laglc.org)

#### GAY HISTORY with LISA DIGUARDI

June 19, 1979:

A judge in Catskill New York awarded permanent custody of a 13-year-old boy to his father, a gay minister. His reasoning was that the father does not abuse the child in any way, contrary to what he sees out of many "so-called straight people."

#### Japan elects first transgender official

The first transgender woman to seek election in Japan has won a municipal seat in Tokyo. That Aya Kamikawa even was allowed to run as a woman was seen as a major victory for the country's transgender community.

When she submitted her candidacy forms with a blank space for sex, election officials referred it to the federal government. Under Japanese law birth documents cannot be altered and Kamikawa had been listed as male. The transgendered in Japan are referred to as people "suffering gender identity disorder."

The government finally relented and allowed her to run as a female.

Kamikawa ran as an independent without any party support as one of the 72 candidates battling for 52 seats in the assembly.

Kamikawa placed sixth among all candidates in the election, assuring her a seat.

"I will proudly attend the assembly as a woman," Kamikawa said at her campaign office after the election results were announced.

## GAY HISTORY with LISA DIGUARDI

July 21, 1414:

Francesco della Rovere, who later became Pope Sixtus IV, was born. Shortly after being elected Pope, he appointed his lover as a cardinal.

## GAY HISTORY with LISA DIGUARDI

July 16, 1982:

The US INS policy of barring homosexuals from entering the country was ruled unconstitutional by a federal judge.

## Texas-Style Logic in Support of Same-Sex Sodomy Laws Before the Supreme Court

(Most people know John Lawrence and Tyron Garner's story. In 1998, they were having consensual sex in John's home when police, responding to a false report of a gunman in the house, burst in and arrested them for violating Texas's "Homosexual Conduct" law. They were dragged out of the house in the middle of the night and kept in jail until the next day. Eventually, they were convicted and paid fines, and they are now considered sex offenders in several states.)

Charles Rosenthal, District Attorney, Harris County, Texas

Rosenthal's presentation focused on three points: 1) there is no constitutional or fundamental right to extramarital sex; 2) the state has a 'rational basis' for outlawing same-sex sodomy as an expression of 'moral disapproval'; and 3) Lawrence, Garner and the gay rights advocates had never proven that the two men were gay.

"Texas has the right to set moral standards and can set bright-line moral standards for its people," through the state legislature, Rosenthal told the court.

He insisted the law was about conduct, not homosexuality, noting that the state banned heterosexuals from committing same-sex sodomy too.

## GAY HISTORY with LISA DIGUARDI

June 29, 1989:

The Washington Times reported that VIP officials in the Reagan and Bush administrations were implicated in a federal investigation into a gay prostitution ring.

After being identified as one of those under investigation, Elizabeth Dole's adviser Paul Balach was forced to resign.

Republican National Committee chairman Lee Atwater stated that it was wrong for people to be forced out of their jobs because of something that is strictly a personal matter.

## GAY HISTORY with LISA DIGUARDI

June 17, 1981:

Sen. Roger Jepsen (R-IA) introduced the Family Protection Act in Congress.

It specified that anyone who was homosexual or openly supportive of homosexuals could not receive student aid, social security, or veterans' benefits; and regulated what public school textbooks could say about human sexuality.

It never passed, and Jensen lost his bid for re-election when it was revealed he had a membership at a brothel.

## Santorum sparks gay rights furor

Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, who ranks third in the Senate GOP hierarchy, came under fire from Democrats and gay rights advocates Tuesday after he said that a soon-to-be issued Supreme Court ruling may legalize sodomy and pave the way for legalization of polygamy, incest and other forms of sexual behavior that have traditionally been banned by the states.

"If the Supreme Court says that you have the right to consensual (gay) sex within your home, then you have the right to bigamy, you have the right to polygamy, you have the right to incest, you have the right to adultery. You have the right to anything," Santorum said in an interview with Associated Press, which was published Monday.

(Editor: Can you follow the logic that consenting sex between two adults of the same sex would pave the way for legalization of polygamy and incest, etc.?!)

## California Legislature Update

(For more information please check the following web site <http://www.calcape.org> Founded in 1998, California Alliance for Pride & Equality (CAPE) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan grassroots-based, statewide advocacy organization whose mission is to ensure the dignity, safety, quality and civil rights of all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Californians.)

### ASSEMBLY PASSES HISTORIC GENDER NONDISCRIMINATION BILL (AB 196)

The State Assembly on April 21 approved AB 196 by Assemblymember Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), on a vote of 42-34. The bill would prohibit housing and employment discrimination based on gender non-conformity.

### APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVES FOSTER CARE NONDISCRIMINATION BILL (AB 458)

On Wednesday the Assembly Appropriations Committee approved a bill that would protect foster children in the state from discrimination based on a range of factors including sexual orientation, gender identity, or HIV/AIDS status. The bill, AB 458 by Assemblymember Judy Chu (D-Monterey Park) was overwhelmingly approved 17-8.

### LGBT VETERANS MEMORIAL BILL (AB 1520) FAILS TO PASS ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE

A bill by Assemblymember Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego) to create the first official California LGBT Veterans' Memorial failed to pass the Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee in a hearing Tuesday, April 29.

"It is a very sad day when legislators cannot even support a memorial to honor LGBT veterans who gave their lives for their country," commented Geoffrey Kors, CAPE Executive Director. "This proposal was simply to allow private funding for a memorial that would have recognized a group of veterans who died while being forced to serve their country in silence."

## And here some thoughts from Assemblymember Dave Cox:

Thank you for your thoughtful correspondence regarding Assembly Bill 196. I appreciate hearing from you again.

My record in the legislature has been clear on this issue. Bills that attempt to undermine the sanctity of traditional marriage as well as the will of the voters as expressed by the passage of Proposition 22 have not received my support.

Several bills have been introduced this session that are being promoted as steps to further the rights of homosexuals, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders. Upon reviewing these bills I have found that they fall into 2 distinct categories:

1. Cause Damage to California Employers: AB 17 (Kehoe) could create greater demands on businesses in California by excluding them from the open bidding process. AB 18 (Leno) could spawn a much more litigious environment than already exists in our state by creating a special class of individual based on sexual orientation. AB 196 (Leno) would enforce a definition of "gender identity dress" which is so vague that any person who is not hired or is terminated could cite the provisions of AB 196 as grounds for litigation and demand damages. Companies, in effect, would be handcuffed by state law and out of fear would be required to hire "transgenders" to avoid being named in a damaging lawsuit even if doing so costs them business; or

2. Subvert the Traditional Understanding of Family: AB 205 (Goldberg) would effectively repeal Proposition 22 which 61% of Californias voters approved.

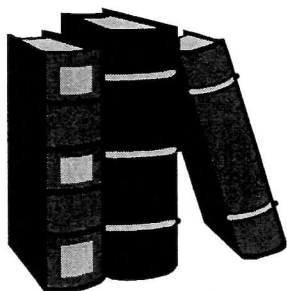
AB 458 (Chu) would adopt specialized training requirements for foster parents and foster care staff and grant special rights to foster children on the basis of actual or perceived race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or mental or physical disability. This legislation is unnecessary existing statute already prohibits discrimination based on the above categories in the delivery of public services. Furthermore, AB 458 could discourage people of faith from serving as foster care parents altogether. This would be a tragedy for children who already have few options when it comes to foster families.

AB 196 passed the Assembly on April 21, 2003 by a vote of 41 to 32. None of the Republican Assembly Members voted for the measure.

Again, thank you for informing me of your position. It is my hope that there will be other issues upon which we can agree. If I can be of assistance to you in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
DAVE COX

# OFF THE BOOK-RACK



## "The Preacher's Son"

Marc Adams

224 pages, hardcover, ISBN 1-889829-00-5

Window Books

When I heard Marc Adams speak at one of our PFLAG meetings, I was very impressed by his story. He had the courage to step out of a very confined rigid fundamentalist environment that regards Rev. Jerry Falwell as a liberal. Today, Marc is the executive director of HeartStrong Inc., a non-profit organization that offers help and hope to GLBT students of religiously-based educational institutions. <http://www.heartstrong.org>

This book is the story of a courageous man who already knew as a kid that he was "different". He grew up with parents who adhered to the fundamentalist Baptist vein of Christianity where physical punishment was justified. Their belief was that their Bible contained the actual words of God. Surrounded by a homophobic atmosphere Marc understood at a very young age that it was wrong for him to have any feelings for other boys. In elementary school, Marc made friends with Stephen and one day his mother asked: "Have you ever kissed Stephen?" - as a precaution the parents enrolled Marc at a private, church-sponsored school the very next year. At age 14, he heard a preacher ranting about AIDS: "Homosexuals are nothing more than child molesters and sexual deviants. This disease can be contracted through handshakes, public toilet seats or even just breathing the same air as a homosexual." 'I didn't want to grow up to be a bad person. I certainly didn't want to die or cause other people to die. When I got home to my room, I fell on my bed and cried myself to sleep. For the first time in my life, I felt alienated from God.'

Marc enrolled at Jerry Falwell's Liberty Baptist College hoping that there couldn't be any homosexuals in attendance. He was wrong. Struggling with his own feelings, college time became a rollercoaster. He and Todd became close friends. Eventually Todd left and then came back to tell Marc that he had changed and finally found victory. 'If Todd wasn't lying about his change, then I must be doing something wrong.'

He witnessed how two young men were turned in for having a sexual relationship and immediately were kicked out of the university. Kent: "My father's going to kill me." - but then it was Kent who took his own life.

Finally Marc's awakening. 'Without the fundamentalist ideology, I could live as a gay man and feel content and proud instead of inferior and troubled.' Marc and Todd were back together as a couple (after all Todd couldn't make his feelings go away), rejected by Marc's family who told Marc that Todd and he were not welcome to stay together in their home.

Marc's mom: "Well, there's not much more to say. You know we have to follow what's in God's Word." And a letter from his dad made Marc understand that he's no longer a preacher's son...