



Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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

October-November 2005

Newsletter 237

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 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 - 3rd 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 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, and 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 18, 2005

Brian Chenoweth, stage actor, will discuss his life story and the experience of performing as a gay actor.

November 15, 2005

To be announced - please check our web site for details - www.pflagla.org

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)
377-1252 (Sina)

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)

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@earthlink.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

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 & Lesbian Center:

(323) 993 7400

Straight Spouses:

(626) 449 3267 (Onnolee)

The TREVOR PROJECT

24-hour nationwide suicide prevention line for GLBT and Questioning youth.

(866) 4 U TREVOR

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

Hablando Entre Hombres

Spanish support group for Latino Gay Men

(213) 273 8723 (Ramon Ramirez)

PFLAG National

(202) 467 8180 www.pflag.org

PFLAG's Transgender Special Outreach Network (TSO):

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

Mary Boenke (540) 890 3957 / maryboenke@aol.com

www.transfamily.org

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

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Earlier in the year PFLAG LA was invited to participate in the LA County's annual fair for their health professionals. We were delighted to participate and handed out more than one hundred pieces of literature to county health officials. In this way, I strongly feel that our message is getting into the hands of those people who can help others the most. And I am glad to report that there were none of the so called "reparative therapy" organizations on hand at the conference.

My congratulations go to Co-President Steve Krantz for his tireless efforts on getting the Democratic Clubs of Gardena and San Fernando Valley to pass resolutions supporting Assembly Bill 849 to allow equal marriage rights. Special thanks to Bea Bernstein for voicing her support for the resolution to the Democratic club in Gardena.

I was lucky enough to join representatives from PFLAG LA as well as Pam Woody from PFLAG Orange County in attending Equality California's fundraiser on August 20th at the Beverly Hilton. More than \$300,000.00 was raised that evening to defeat propositions slated for the June 2006 ballot. The propositions are aimed to rollback domestic partnership rights and to change the state's constitution forbidding the possibility of marriage for same-sex partners. There were many highlights to the evening, but I was most impressed when representatives from California's NAACP gave their full support for legislation allowing marriage for same-sex partners.

At our chapter meeting in July, we restarted an advocacy group as part of our rap sessions. I remember coming to the meetings when Liz Armstrong headed up these groups. We will continue to offer this as a discussion group at our meetings if there is a sufficient number of participants. Again, when you no longer need PFLAG, PFLAG needs you!!

It is important to realize how much we have achieved in our mission in the last 10 years and also how much more there is to achieve. Some achievements have been easier than others and it is important that we keep up the good fight and not become complacent. I have always felt that if only one gay or lesbian couple wanted the right to marry, then they should have that right. We know from the outpouring in San Francisco that they're thousands in the state who would like to wed.

While reading the October 2005 issue of Metropolitan Home, I was struck by how far the GLBT community has come. This is a mainstream magazine targeting people looking for ideas in home remodeling. In this issue, several articles portrayed same-sex couples in their homes across the country. But what was most amazing to me was an ad from General Electric. It touted their appliance line featuring a same-sex couple, who happen to be designers, in their east coast home in a two and a half page ad. To me, GE was and probably still is, one of the largest, most conservative of American corporations. I congratulate them on their marketing efforts.

George Unger - Co-President - PFLAG LA

PFLAG Wants YOU!

We are always looking for parents, family members, and representatives from the GLBT community to be on our board of directors. If you would like to donate your time to our organization, please contact George Unger at sjcgeo@rocketmail.com or speak to anyone at our monthly meetings.

Finance -

For the 12 months ending June 2005, the Los Angeles Chapter raised \$14,194. in contributions compared with \$14,916. in expenses.

LEGISLATIVE CORNER (By Eve Lubalin, Advocacy Chair)

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger Vetoes AB 866 on Fair Campaign Practices

September 7, 2005

Today, the Governor vetoed Assemblyman Yee's AB 866, the Code of Fair Campaign Practices, that would have included in the voluntary campaign pledge to not use or permit any appeal to negative prejudice based on sexual orientation or gender identity. His rationale was that candidates should be the judge of what is "fair" and be able to make their case to the voters -- & let the voters decide.

Gov. Schwarzenegger to Veto AB 849, the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act

September 7, 2005

AB 849, which defines marriage as between "two persons," won final legislative approval Tuesday night in the State Assembly by 41 to 35. Within 24 hours after California lawmakers passed the country's first same-sex marriage bill, a spokeswoman for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said Wednesday that he would veto it "out of respect for the will of the people."

In a written statement, Gov. Schwarzenegger's spokeswoman, Margita Thompson, said the governor believed the bill was unconstitutional because of a ballot measure passed in 2000 that defined marriage as between a man and a woman.

Advocates of the bill, including Christine Chavez-Delgado, granddaughter of Cesar Chavez and an organizer of the United Farm Workers of America, argued that the bill fit into California's sense of itself as a trendsetter for the rest of the country. In 1948, California's Supreme Court became the first state court to strike down a law prohibiting interracial marriage.

The bill, AB 849, does not require any religious organization to recognize or perform marriages for same-sex couples. The bill makes the law defining marriage gender-neutral. California state law did not place gender into the marriage code until 1977.

Assemblyman Dennis Mountjoy (R-Monrovia): "It's not about civil rights or personal rights, it's about acceptance. They want to be accepted as normal. They are not normal."

Assemblyman Ray Haynes (R-Temecula): "Engaging in social experimentation with our children is not the role of the legislature."

Assemblyman Jay La Suer (R-San Diego), chiding his colleagues for sending the wrong message about same-sex marriage: "You are not leading, you have gone astray."

Governor Schwarzenegger can be reached at State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: 916-445-2841 Fax: 916-445-4633 e-mail: governor@governor.ca.gov

Note from the editor:

Let's recap -- Gov. Schwarzenegger thinks that "candidates should be the judge of what is 'fair'". When I look up "fair" in the dictionary, I find the following definition: "marked by impartiality and honesty: free from self-interest, prejudice, or favoritism." It appears that the three Republican Assemblymen commenting above must have their very own definition of "fair." You can see why this legislation was introduced, right?

Since gender was placed into the marriage code of our state more recently, it is odd to see people upholding something they call "tradition", when, in fact, they cling to something relatively new. Funny, don't you think? And, yes, "social experimentation with our children is not the role of the legislature", but protecting ALL our children IS their duty.

How about really separating government and church on the marriage issue by proposing government supported civil union licenses that come along with legal protections, rights, and obligations, and religion/church supported marriage licenses that come along with the churches'/G-d's blessing? Let's see for how many this really is a religious issue.

If Gov. Schwarzenegger vetoes AB 849 it is clearly a message that supports living in the past rather than moving our state forward.

Decide now for yourself who the real "girlie men" are.

SPREADING THE WORD IN THE COMMUNITY

- In June, representatives of the Board of PFLAG were on hand during the LA County's Health Conference at the airport Westin Hotel passing out literature and answering questions to the many county health representatives on hand. More than a hundred pieces of literature were distributed.
- In August, representatives from PFLAG South Bay and PFLAG Los Angeles participated at Boeing Corporation's Diversity Day at their facility in Redondo Beach.

PFLAG LA Honors Nancy Zaun

"For 13 years of outstanding service in the many PFLAG activities & projects, most especially for her commitment to getting our newsletter sorted and mailed, we honor Nancy Zaun, PFLAG Mom extraordinaire!"

Thank you, Nancy, for 13 years of dedicated service! Bea sums it up in her nice poem:

She's just a girl who can't say no
no matter what the tasks
Nancy says "Come on, let's go!"
especially when PFLAG asks.

(By Bea Bernstein)

Come Out & Celebrate!

National Coming Out Day - October 11th

National Coming Out Day is observed on October 11 in the U.S. by members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities and its allies.

The day commemorates October 11, 1987, when 500,000 people marched on Washington for gay and lesbian equality.

This was the second such demonstration in our nation's capital and the first display of the NAMES Project Quilt, remembering those who have died from AIDS.

A Fair Trans-Action

Empowering The Transgender Community

Come join us on **Saturday, October 1, 2005, from 10am to 6pm**, at "A Fair Trans-Action", the first business and employment connection fair for the **trans community** and their supporters. The event takes place at The Village at Ed Gould Plaza, **1225 N McCadden Place, Hollywood, CA 90038** (just north of Santa Monica Blvd, one block east of Highland). This event is free and is sponsored by the West Hollywood Transgender Task Force.

Hello, I am the mother of an adult transgender male-to-female daughter, and organizer of the up coming one-day business and employment connection fair for the greater Los Angeles transgender community. I have seen what my daughter has gone through medically, socially and financially in order to achieve a sense of alignment of body and gender identity so she can live a joyful and fully self-expressed life. Moved and inspired by her struggle, I've sought the help of the Los Angeles transgender community to organize a free one-day, one-stop business and employment connection fair - "A Fair Trans-Action" - for transgender persons in the greater Los Angeles area. The general public is also invited to participate.

The intent of "A Fair Trans-Action" is to create an environment of economic empowerment, leadership and contribution to society by the transgender community. "A Fair Trans-Action" is primarily designed to bring together representatives of companies that hire transgender persons, service providers to the transgender community, and businesses owned or operated by transgender persons. It is also designed to include other businesses, employers, service providers, churches and other groups who support and do business in and with the transgender community.

I hope I'll see you October 1,
Dee

Spain allows gays to wed foreigners

August 11, 2005

Spain's justice ministry ruled this week that citizens can marry a same-sex partner who is foreign, even if that person's home country would not legally recognize the marriage.

The ruling was published Monday in the Official State Bulletin, according to international news reports.

The action resolves the first snag in Spain's new law allowing same-sex couples to marry. Last month a gay Spanish man was denied the right to marry his Indian partner when a court in the northeastern Catalonia region ruled that the union would not be acceptable because India does not permit same-sex marriages.

The country's justice ministry overruled, however, saying, "a marriage between a Spaniard and a foreigner, or between foreigners of the same sex resident in Spain, shall be valid as a result of applying Spanish material law, even if the foreigner's national legislation does not allow or recognize the validity of such marriages."

Despite heavy opposition from the Roman Catholic Church, Spain legalized same-sex marriage at the end of June.

Spain is one of four countries that grant full marriage rights to same-sex couples; the others are Belgium, Canada and the Netherlands.

A Father's Lesson in 'Manhood' Deals Deadly Blow to Toddler

WASHINGTON (July 21, 2005) Instead of preparing for his son's back to school immunizations, pre-school enrollment, and school supply shopping, Ronald Paris, Jr. is awaiting sentencing for the senseless murder of his three-year-old, Ronnie. Paris was convicted of second-degree manslaughter last week by a Florida jury, after delivering a fatal lesson in manhood to his son.

Paris didn't want Ronnie to grow up to be a 'sissy,' according to the local newspaper, The Tampa Tribune. He instructed his wife not to hug their son, slammed the three-year-old against a wall when he showed any signs of weakness or illness, and was teaching the boy how to fight in brutal boxing bouts, which ultimately caused him to fall into a deadly coma.

Country Club Must Make Gays Even Offer

August 01, 2005

SAN FRANCISCO - California's highest court ruled Monday that country clubs must offer gay members who register as domestic partners the same discounts given to married ones - a decision that could apply to other businesses such as insurance companies and mortgage lenders.

The decision by the California Supreme Court dealt with a policy at the Bernardo Heights Country Club in San Diego that allowed only the children, grandchildren and spouses of married members to golf for free.

Birgit Koebke, 48, an avid golfer who pays about \$500 a month in membership fees, challenged the policy after being told that her longtime lesbian partner could only play as a guest six times a year while paying up to \$70 per round.

The court ruled that the policy constitutes "impermissible marital status discrimination."

A PARENT'S LETTER regarding Assembly Bill 849 To Governor Schwarzenegger,

My husband and I are appalled and angry at your cruel and insensitive attitude toward the rights of our gay community. How dare you withhold equal (NOT SPECIAL) rights from any citizens of the United States of America. We are the proud parents of a son who is gay. We are also proud parents of four other children who are not gay. We had the pleasure of helping two of our non-gay daughters plan their weddings within the last three years. We want to be able to have that same pleasure for our son and his partner.

Please be aware that gay men and women have family who love and care about them and their well being and WHO VOTE. My husband and I, along with our friends and colleagues from PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), have been working for 15 years to see that justice and equality is finally given to our children. You have the opportunity to make a historic and long overdue decision that will long be remembered in history books as the right and just thing to do. We will all be watching and waiting and will not forget when it's time for another election.

Sincerely,
Lynette and Larry Sperber

Group links Katrina to annual gay party

Wednesday, August 31, 2005

An organization of Christian fundamentalists claims the destruction brought on by Hurricane Katrina is God's judgment against New Orleans for holding festivals like the annual gay Southern Decadence party.

"Although the loss of lives is deeply saddening, this act of God destroyed a wicked city," said Repent America director Michael Marcavage on the organization's Web site.

Note from the editor: The four countries that allow their gay/lesbian citizens to marry their same-sex partner instead of denying them protection of their families didn't have any destructive natural catastrophes. Please draw your own conclusion.

Steve Krantz and others in PFLAG Los Angeles have brought this action about.

It is a wonderful accomplishment to help families we love.

Three Cheers,

Liz Armstrong, PFLAG Mom

DP/SFV RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT EQUAL CIVIL MARRIAGE RIGHTS

Sponsored by Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Los Angeles and the Stonewall Young Democrats of Los Angeles (SYD-LA)

WHEREAS gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender citizens establish households, raise children, and form long term relationships that provide stability to society, and

WHEREAS civil unions and domestic partnerships create a separate but unequal status for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender citizens, and

WHEREAS the California Legislature is currently considering a bill to grant full and equal civil marriage rights to all couples via AB849 - the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley supports AB 849 and any future successor bills ensuring full and equal rights to all citizens, including equal civil marriage rights, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley will not endorse or support financially any Democratic candidate for California State Legislature who does not support equal civil marriage rights for all citizens as specified in AB 849 or future successor bills.

Passed DP/SFV Executive Board 8/29/05:
33 ayes, 0 nays, 7 abstentions

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electronically!

Just send an e-mail to sjcgeo@rocketmail.com,
list name and address under which you receive our
newsletter currently 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.

National Center for Lesbian Rights Applauds California Supreme Court Decisions in Groundbreaking Parenting Cases

San Francisco, CA - August 22, 2005

"The California Supreme Court made legal history today by holding, in three separate decisions, that children born to same-sex couples must be treated equally to other children and thus have a legally protected relationship to both partners," said Courtney Joslin, NCLR Senior Staff Attorney who argued one of the case before the California Supreme Court. "These decisions are a tremendous victory for children, for parental responsibility, and for common sense."

In its decision today, the Court held: "A person who actively participates in bringing children into the world, takes the children into her home and holds them out as her own, and receives and enjoys the benefits of parenthood, should be responsible for the support of those children – regardless of her gender or sexual orientation."

NCLR, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, is a national legal resource center with a primary commitment to advancing the rights and safety of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families through a program of litigation, public policy advocacy, and public education.

For twenty-eight years NCLR has been a national leader on LGBT family issues including adoption, child custody and visitation, alternative insemination, partnership protection, domestic partner benefits, and marriage rights.
Website: <http://www.nclrights.org>

"QUOTE - UNQUOTE"

"As a senator, I worried every day about the size of the federal deficit. I did not spend a single minute worrying about the effect of gays on the institution of marriage. Today it seems to be the other way around."

*John C. Danforth, former United States senator from Missouri,
and United States ambassador to the United Nations. He is an Episcopal minister.*