



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

December-January 2006

Newsletter 238

### 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 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 - 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 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

December 20, 2005

**N**o speaker, just our usual rap session.

January 17, 2006

**T**o be announced; check with our website [www.pflagla.org](http://www.pflagla.org) for details.

**Happy Holidays And A Happy New Year!**

# 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: 914 1241 (Denny)

450-9279 (meeting info)

## Area Code 661

Santa Clarita Chapter: 254 2177 (Peggy)

## Area Code 714

Orange County Chapter: 997 8047

## Area Code 805

Ventura Chapter: 647-0558

498 4964 (Rita or Steve)

## 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)

## Area Code 949

South Orange County: 459 2834 (Karyl)

## OTHER HELPLINES / RESOURCES

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

LA Gay & Lesbian Center:  
(323) 993 7400

Straight Spouses:  
(510) 525 0200 (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](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.  
(562) 435 8184 [www.nccjla.org](http://www.nccjla.org)

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

PFLAG's Transgender Special Outreach Network  
(TSON):  
Karen Gross (216) 691 HELP / KittenGr@aol.com  
[www.transfamily.org](http://www.transfamily.org)

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

## 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](mailto: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: January 1  
(February/March issue)

# CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Recently, there was great disappointment but no big surprise when our governor vetoed the bill that would have given same-sex couples in California equal marriage rights. There was a time when the country, even the world, looked to California as a leader in progress and trends. Now as this newsletter reaches you, during the first week in December, same-sex couples in Britain shall be able to enter into matrimony, joining others in Spain, the Netherlands and Canada.

One of my favorite movies of all time came out in the mid-nineties and it is titled, or subtitled, "The Wedding Banquet". The film is such a great family film that if you have never seen it you need to rent it right away. It introduced many in the American Film audience to the director Ang Lee. Well, with Oscar season just around the corner, another Ang Lee release has the critics buzzing about academy award nominations. "Brokeback Mountain" is scheduled to be released in December and I encourage you to make time in your schedule to view another beautiful film from Ang Lee.

I am excited to be working with such a pro-active board here in Los Angeles. The new year promises to be challenging in many ways, especially with the current federal administration. In 2005 we handed out more literature than in previous years, and I'm hopeful that we will continue to be invited to speak at many schools and universities in the Southern California area. If you have it within your financial means, I encourage you to make a contribution to our chapter. Your donations are always appreciated and I take pride in being part of an organization that is run so economically and efficiently.

Here's wishing you and your family a joyous holiday season and best wishes in the New Year.

George Unger - Co-President - PFLAG LA

## **Please support PFLAG!**

**We are enclosing an envelope for your TAX DEDUCTIBLE annual dues and/or a year end TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation to PFLAG.**

**Your continued support is greatly appreciated. We are all in this struggle together, and every little bit you give goes a long way.**

**Thanking you in advance.**

**Your PFLAG LA Board**

### **Arizona voters oppose marriage amendment**

Poll: 60% of Arizona voters oppose marriage amendment

Arizona voters overwhelmingly oppose amending the state constitution to ban both civil unions and marriage for gays and lesbians, according to a new poll. Supporters of the measure are gathering signatures now to put the question on a statewide ballot next November.

*365Gay.com (9/28/2005)*

### **"QUOTE - UNQUOTE"**

"Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot uneducate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride and you cannot oppress the people who are not afraid any more."

**Cesar E. Chavez**

## LEGISLATIVE CORNER (By Eve Lubalin, Advocacy Chair)

### **Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger Vetoes AB 849, the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act**

September 29, 2005

SACRAMENTO, CA – Today, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed Equality California-sponsored Assembly Bill 849, the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act, by Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), bringing this bill's dramatic progress in recent weeks to a halt.

"When called upon to take a position on the civil rights issue of the day, Governor Schwarzenegger decided to block the doorway to equality," said Equality California Executive Director Geoffrey Kors. "As a result of his veto, hundreds of thousands of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Californians and their families will continue to live without equal protection of the law.

However, the veto cannot take away the incredible progress that was achieved when the majority of California's elected Legislature passed this legislation. History has shown time and time again that the path to equality, justice and fairness can be blocked, but ultimately, the door will be opened."

In a pair of historic civil rights votes in early September, the California Legislature earned the distinction of becoming the first legislative body in the nation to vote to pass equal marriage rights legislation for same-sex couples.

Governor Schwarzenegger has now earned the distinction of being the first and only Governor in the history of our nation to veto civil rights legislation that would have ended discrimination against lesbian and gay couples in access to government-issued marriage licenses.

The legislation was supported by more than 200 religious, labor and civil rights organizations. The California State Conference of the NAACP, United Farm Workers of America (UFW), Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA) are among the major civil rights organizations in California that supported the legislation.

This is the second gay rights bill vetoed by the Governor this month. In early September, the Governor vetoed legislation that would have added sexual orientation and gender to the many other categories included in the existing anti-bias voluntary pledge in the California Fair Political Practices Act. This was the first veto of an Equality California-sponsored LGBT-rights bill since he was elected.

"In addition to being extremely disappointed with the Governor's decision to veto two Equality California-sponsored LGBT civil rights bills this year, we are troubled by the Governor's continued failure to make an unequivocal statement opposing the various constitutional initiatives proposed for the June 2006 election," said Kors. "These proposed initiatives would not only prohibit the courts or Legislature from ending discrimination in the marriage laws, but would also eliminate existing legal protections currently provided by law to domestic partners, including rights enacted with the Governor's signature last year."

## SPREADING THE WORD IN THE COMMUNITY

- On Monday, September 19, 2005, Maurie Davidson, Demetrious, Adam Fingerhut, and Karen Mason spoke to students at Beverly Hills High School.

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can delete that address from our mailing list,  
and we'll make sure that you'll receive the next  
newsletter by e-mail.

### Mass. Lawmakers Reject Gay Marriage Ban

September 14, 2005

After less than two hours of debate Wednesday, a joint session of the Massachusetts House and Senate voted 157-39 against the measure.

Some legislators who had initially supported the proposed change to the state constitution said they no longer felt right about denying the right of marriage to thousands of same-sex couples.

"Gay marriage has begun, and life has not changed for the citizens of the commonwealth, with the exception of those who can now marry," said state Sen. Brian Lees, a Republican who had been a co-sponsor of the amendment.

## Williams Project at UCLA School of Law releases four new research studies

### Study on Asian/Pacific Islanders in Same-Sex Couples:

Over 13,000 Asian/Pacific Islanders (APIs) identified themselves as living with a same-sex partner in California during Census 2000. They constitute over one-third of the 38,200 Asian/Pacific Islanders in same-sex couples identified in the U.S., more than in any other state.

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.

### Study on Latino/as among California's Same-Sex Couples:

One in four same-sex couples in California are Latino/a.

The study also shows that more than half of California's 27,858 Latino/a same-sex couples are raising some 33,000 children and are struggling with some of the same economic difficulties as other Latino/a families in the state.

### Study on Black Same-Sex Couples in California:

More than 9,500 Black men and women are living with a same-sex partner in California.

The study also shows that more than half of California's black same-sex couples are raising children--over 5,100 children under 18--and that these families face the same economic difficulties as other black families in the State.

### Study on Bi-National Same-Sex Unmarried Partners:

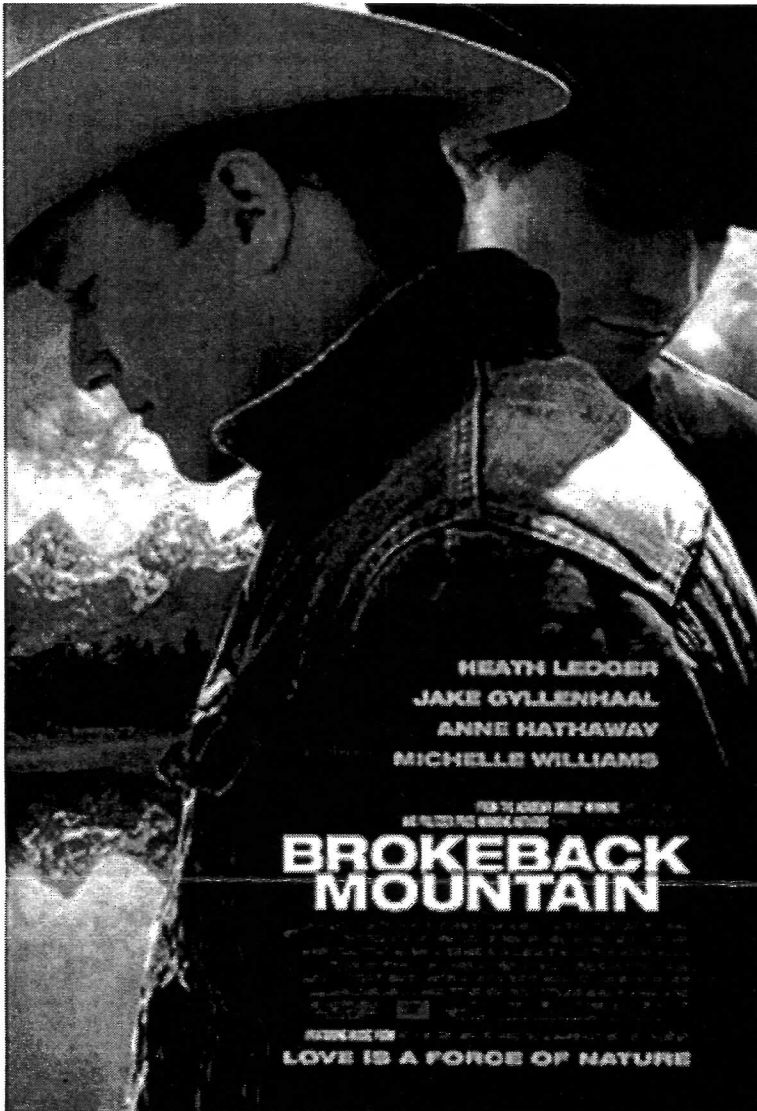
Nearly 36,000 same-sex couples in the United States are bi-national.

Among bi-national couples, more than a third of male same-sex couples and 58% of female same-sex couples report having children under age 18 in the home.

The full text of the Williams Project studies can be accessed at <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsproject>

*The Charles R. Williams Project on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy is a think tank dedicated to the field of sexual orientation law and public policy. The Project supports legal scholarship, legal research, policy analysis, and education regarding sexual orientation discrimination and other legal issues that affect lesbian and gay people.*





## **Brokeback Mountain**

An Ang Lee Film

From Academy Award-winning filmmaker Ang Lee comes an epic American love story, ***Brokeback Mountain***, the winner of the Golden Lion Award for Best Picture at this year's Venice International Film Festival. Set against the sweeping vistas of Wyoming and Texas, the film tells the story of two young men -- a ranch-hand and a rodeo cowboy -- who meet in the summer of 1963, and unexpectedly forge a lifelong connection, one whose complications, joys, and tragedies provide a testament to the endurance and power of love. The film is based on the short story by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Annie Proulx and adapted for the screen by the team of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana.

***Brokeback Mountain*** stars Jake Gyllenhaal, Heath Ledger, Anne Hathaway, and Michelle Williams.

**The film opens in Los Angeles on December 9 exclusively at: The Grove**

[www.brokebackmountain.com](http://www.brokebackmountain.com)

## **Judge Orders Child Removed From Lesbian Couple**

by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

Indianapolis/Indiana, October 14, 2005

Becki Hamilton and Kim Brennan for several years have served as foster parents to a number of Indiana children. In 2004 the lesbian couple was asked by the state to provide a home for an abandoned infant and to consider adopting her. They took the baby home when she was two days old and have provided care for her since then, including naming the child Morgan.

But when the judge supervising the child's foster care placement realized that the child's prospective adoptive parents were lesbians, the court ordered the State child welfare agency to find her a home with a heterosexual married couple instead.

The State did not locate such a family for many months and meanwhile the two mothers, who are licensed pre-adoptive foster parents, applied for and were granted an adoption by the Marion Superior Court. The Morgan Juvenile Court then ruled that the adoption was invalid. Represented by Lambda Legal, Hamilton and Brennan have appealed the order.

"Morgan has been a part of this family since she was two days old, and is thriving. There is no justifiable reason for this family to be torn apart and their legal ties jeopardized. It makes no sense to uproot her from her family in hopes that another will be better because the couple can marry. The judge's view that children should only be placed with heterosexual married couples is not the law and would leave her with strangers," said Patricia M. Logue, Senior Counsel in Lambda Legal's Midwest Regional Office in Chicago.

Earlier this month proposed legislation that would have prohibited gays, lesbians and single people in Indiana from using medical science to assist them in having a child was dropped. In November 2004, the Indiana Court of Appeals has ruled that lesbian partners who agree to conceive a child through artificial insemination are both the legal parents of any children born to them.

**Alaska High Court Backs Partner Benefits**

October 28, 2005

ANCHORAGE, Alaska - The Alaska Supreme Court on Friday ruled it is unconstitutional to bar benefits to the same-sex partners of public employees, a victory for gay rights advocates in one of the first states to pass a constitutional ban on gay marriage.

Overturning a lower court ruling, the state high court said barring benefits for state and city employees' same-sex partners violates the Alaska Constitution's equal protection clause.

In the 2001 Superior Court ruling overturned Friday, Judge Stephanie Joannides said the state and city did not have to extend benefits to same-sex couples, equating them with unmarried heterosexual couples who also are not eligible.

**Vatican: Faithful Should Listen to Science**

November 03, 2005

VATICAN CITY - A Vatican cardinal said Thursday the faithful should listen to what secular modern science has to offer, warning that religion risks turning into "fundamentalism" if it ignores scientific reason.

The Vatican project was inspired by Pope John Paul II's 1992 declaration that the church's 17th-century denunciation of Galileo was an error resulting from "tragic mutual incomprehension."

Galileo was condemned for supporting Nicolaus Copernicus' discovery that the Earth revolved around the sun; church teaching at the time placed Earth at the center of the universe.

**Court Rules Kan. Can't Single Out Gay Sex**

October 21, 2005

TOPEKA, Kan. - The Kansas Supreme Court on Friday unanimously struck down a state law that punished underage sex more severely if it involved homosexual acts, saying "moral disapproval" of such conduct is not enough to justify the different treatment.

"The statute inflicts immediate, continuing and real injuries that outrun and belie any legitimate justification that may be claimed for it," Justice Marla Luckert wrote for the court. "Moral disapproval of a group cannot be a legitimate state interest."

**EU might withdraw Poland's voting rights**

The pro-death penalty, anti-gay policies of the new Polish president Lech Kaczynski could lead to Poland's loss of voting rights in ministerial meetings in the European Union, EU officials said.

According to the Treaty of Nice, all member states must protect minority rights and oppose the death penalty.

The Guardian, London, October 25, 2005

**Washington court:****Non-biological parents have standing**

Seattle Post-Intelligencer/AP November 3, 2005

The state's Supreme Court ruled Thursday that a lesbian who is not the biological mother of a girl she helped raise is still considered the girl's "de facto parent," with the same legal standing as a biological or adoptive parent in seeking access to the child.

"Neither the United States Supreme Court nor this court has ever held that 'family' or 'parents' are terms limited in their definition by a strict biological prerequisite," the court said.

**California Enacts Koretz Bill For Major Transgender Protections**

By California Political Desk, September 29, 2005

(West Hollywood) - California became the first state in the nation to ban denials of insurance coverage based solely on a person's transgender status when Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed legislation today authored by Assemblymember Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood).

AB 1586 adds gender and gender identity to existing anti-discrimination provisions in California laws regulating insurance companies and health care service plans. The new law will take effect January 1, 2006 and prohibits insurers and health plans from discriminating on the basis of gender identity in contracts and policies or in the provision of benefits or coverage.

## Do Unnatural Acts Cause Natural Disasters?

By Janis Walworth, July 16, 1998

Pat Robertson, founder of the Christian Coalition, recently warned Orlando, Florida, that it was courting natural disaster by allowing gay pride flags to be flown along its streets. "A condition like this will bring about ... earthquakes, tornadoes, and possibly a meteor," he said, apparently referring to his belief that the presence of openly gay people incurs divine wrath and that God acts through geological and meteorological events to destroy municipalities that permit gay people the same civil liberties as others. (Robertson also warned Orlando about terrorist bombs, suggesting the possibility that God may also employ terrorists.)

Before Pat and his Christian cronies get too carried away promulgating the idea that natural disasters are prompted by people who displease God, they should take a hard look at the data. Take tornadoes. Every state (except Alaska) has them--some only one or two a year, dozens in others. Gay people are in every state (even Alaska). According to Pat's hypothesis, there should be more gay people in states that have more tornadoes. But are there? Nope. In fact, there's no correlation at all between the number of gay folks (as estimated by the number of gay political organizations, support groups, bookstores, radio programs, and circuit parties) and the annual tornado count ( $r = .04$ ,  $p = .78$  for you statisticians). So much for the "God hates gays" theory.

God seems almost neutral on the subject of sexual orientation. I say "almost" because if we look at the density of gay groups relative to the population as a whole, there is a small but statistically significant ( $p < .05$ ) correlation with the occurrence of tornadoes. And it's a negative correlation ( $r = -.28$ ). For those of you who haven't used statistics since 1973, that means that a high concentration of gay organizations actually protects against tornadoes. A state with the population of, say, Alabama could avert two tornadoes a year merely by doubling the number of gay organizations in the state. (Tough choice for Alabama's civil defense strategists.)

Although God may not care about sexual orientation, the same cannot be said for religious affiliation. If the underlying tenet of Pat's postulate is true--that God wipes out offensive folks via natural disasters--then perhaps we can find some evidence of who's on God's hit list. Jews are off the hook here: there's no correlation between numbers of Jews and frequency of tornadoes. Ditto for Catholics. But when it comes to Protestants, there's a highly significant correlation of .71. This means that fully half the state-to-state variation in tornado frequency can be accounted for by the presence of Protestants. And the chance that this association is merely coincidental is only one in 10,000.

Protestants, of course, come in many flavors--we were able to find statistics for Lutherans, Methodists, Baptists, and Other. Lutherans don't seem to be a problem--no correlation with

tornadoes. There's a modest correlation ( $r = .52$ ,  $p = .0001$ ) between Methodists and tornadoes. But Baptists and Others share the prize: both groups show a definite correlation with tornado frequency ( $r = .68$ ,  $p = .0001$ ).

This means that Texas could cut its average of 139 tornadoes per year in half by sending a few hundred thousand Baptists elsewhere (Alaska maybe?).

What, you are probably asking yourself, about gay Protestants? An examination of the numbers of gay religious groups (mostly Protestant) reveals no significant relationship with tornadoes. Perhaps even Protestants are less repugnant to God if they're gay. And that brings up another point--the futility of trying to save the world by getting gay people to accept Jesus. It looks from our numbers like the frequency of natural disasters could be more effectively reduced by encouraging Protestants to be gay.

Gay people have been falsely blamed for disasters ever since Sodom was destroyed by fire and brimstone (we have been unable to find any statistics on disasters involving brimstone).

According to a reliable source, the destruction of Sodom was indeed an act of God (see Genesis 19:13) and was perpetrated because the citizens thereof were, according to the same source (see Ezekiel 16:49-50), "arrogant, overfed and unconcerned [and] did not help the poor and needy"--not because they were gay. Now Pat would have us believe that gays are the cause of tornadoes (as well as earthquakes, meteors, and even terrorist bombs) in utter disregard for evidence showing that Baptists are much more likely to cause them.

I say "Kudos!" to Orlando. Despite Robertson's warning that Orlando is "right in the way of some serious hurricanes" (hardly a revelation), note that it was not struck by the very destructive Hurricane Andrew a few years ago. And amid the recent conflagrations (that's fires) in central Florida, which occurred just after Pat sounded his alarm, Orlando was spared. Keep those flags waving!

As any statistician will tell you, of course, correlation doesn't prove causation. Protestants causing tornadoes by angering God isn't the only explanation for these data. It could be that Baptists and Other Protestants purposely flock to states that have lots of tornadoes (no, we haven't checked for a correlation between IQ and religious affiliation). But if Pat and his Christian crew insist that natural disasters are brought on by people who offend God, let the data show who those people are.

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*Sources: Tornado Occurrence by State, 1962-1991; 1990 Churches and Church Membership; Population by State, 1990 US Census; Gay & Lesbian Political Organizations, Support Groups, and Religious Groups from Gayellow Pages, National Edition, 1987.*