



Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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

April-May 2006

Newsletter 240

### 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 p.m.; general meeting begins at 7:15 p.m.

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

April 18, 2006

**T**erry Hamilton, Chairman, Log Cabin California  
Member, Log Cabin National Board  
(Past president of Log Cabin Los Angeles)

May 16, 2006

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

**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

SF Valley Chapter: 342 3769 (Amber)

Woodland Hills: 340 8945 (Irene)

**Area Code 909**

Redlands Chapter: 335 2005 (Kathy)

Colton: 825 8368 (Norma)

**Area Code 949**

South Orange County: 459 2834 (Karyl)

**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  
(TSO):  
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: May 1  
(June/July issue)

# CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Birthday PFLAG Los Angeles!!!! March 8th marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a group of parents and gay allies who got together in a West Los Angeles home to talk about what was then taboo, their gay family members! Since then the Los Angeles chapter has been an active voice in the community supporting our LGBT families on various fronts. Our local chapter continues to support, educate and advocate in Los Angeles, Southern California, Sacramento and in Washington DC.

I have had the pleasure of working with so many wonderful LGBT allies in the 6 years that I have been Co-President of the Los Angeles chapter. June will mark my last month as Co-President so as this is my last column, I wanted to thank all the wonderful people who participated on the board with me, especially, Larry Sperber, Joel Hendler and Steve Krantz. Additionally, a big thank you to Chris Haiss for the wonderful newsletter we have to offer.

Parents are what make our organization unique and I want to thank all of those present and past board members who made my job so much easier. It is so true and we repeat this often, that when you no longer need PFLAG, PFLAG needs you! PFLAG certainly helped me in my journey of coming out to my family. I am thankful for the wonderful people I've met thru this organization and continue to meet at our monthly meetings.

George Unger, Co-President, PFLAG Los Angeles

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

Just send an e-mail to [sjcgeo@rocketmail.com](mailto:sjcgeo@rocketmail.com), list name and address under which you currently receive our newsletter by snail mail so that we can delete that address from our mailing list, and we'll make sure that you'll receive the next newsletter by e-mail.

## Did you know?

Mitt Romney, Republican governor of Massachusetts, was heavily involved in national and statewide attempts to block the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's November 2003 ruling that legalized same-sex marriage. Romney also testified to the U.S. House of Representatives, urging it to pass the Federal Marriage Amendment.

## United Nations:

### U.S. Aligned With Iran in Anti-Gay Vote

On Jan. 23, the United States backed an Iranian initiative to deny United Nations consultative status to organizations working to protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people.

Among countries with which the United States sided were Sudan and Zimbabwe, nations the State Department has cited in annual reports for their harsh treatment of homosexuals.

On-line resource for kids with  
LGBT parents:  
[www.rainbowrumpus.org](http://www.rainbowrumpus.org)

**LEGISLATIVE CORNER** (By Eve Lubalin, Advocacy Chair)**STATUS OF MARRIAGE ISSUE IN CALIFORNIA**

The marriage equality case challenging the constitutionality of the state's discriminatory marriage laws, under the state constitution, is pending before a State Appellate court and briefs have been filed. There will likely be a decision this year. Regardless of the direction of that decision, the case will be appealed to the state Supreme Court, which is likely to decide the issue in 2007.

Gov. Schwarzenegger vetoed the state marriage equality bill passed by the CA legislature last year. He has said he would abide by a court decision. Both Democratic candidates for Governor support marriage equality. The marriage bill would likely be reconsidered in the state legislature after the 2006 election; at least if the Democratic candidate wins.

The deadline passed for qualifying for a ballot measure in June. Marriage equality opponents say they are still collecting signatures for November -- but this could go over to 2008.

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**Gay Marriage Amendment Set For a June Date in Senate**

By Martin Kady II, CQ Staff

A proposed constitutional amendment banning gay marriage will be brought to the Senate floor in June, giving partisans on both sides plenty of time to refine their political arguments before the November elections.

During a speech to the Conservative Political Action Conference, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., promised a June 5 floor vote.

"Today, the institution of marriage is under attack," Frist said in the Feb. 10 speech.

Frist previously had promised a vote this year, but had not set a date.

A proposal (S J Res 1) sponsored by Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Colo., is pending before the Senate Judiciary Committee. It calls for a 28th amendment to the Constitution defining marriage as the union between a man and woman.

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**South African Court Affirms  
Gay Marriage**

By ALEXANDRA ZAVIS  
(Associated Press Writer)

December 01, 2005

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa - South Africa's highest court ruled Thursday it is unconstitutional to prevent gay people from marrying, paving the way for the country to become the first to legalize same-sex unions on a continent where homosexuality remains largely taboo.

IrishExaminer.com 21/02/06

**Ireland**

An Irish Examiner poll from February 2006 reveals dramatic changes in Irish attitudes to homosexuality and gay rights.

The general opinion voiced in the countrywide survey is one of tolerance towards and acceptance of homosexuality and the rights of homosexual people in Ireland.

Opinion is sharply divided on the question of gay marriage which is now permitted in both Britain and the North. Surprisingly, however, just over half the population (51%) favor gay marriage or unions.

This gives hope that society will grow more inclusive, tolerant and equitable in the future.

PFLAG Los Angeles will be honoring  
longtime PFLAG Board Member,

**Bea Bernstein,**

at our meeting on Tuesday May 16th.

Please stop by the Westwood United  
Methodist Church that evening, join our  
meeting and say hello to Bea and thank her  
for her wonderful support all these years!

#### SPREADING THE WORD IN THE COMMUNITY

- Dee Cappelli, Alex Goldsmith, Marty Olson, Chantel Williams spoke to students at LACES (Los Angeles Center For Enriched Studies).
- Luis Brito, Dee Cappelli, Jane Drucker, Joseph Harounian, Steve Krantz, Heather Mickelson, Sylvia Weisenberg, and Chantel Williams spoke to 9<sup>th</sup> graders at Milken Community High School.
- Mario Guerrero & Barbara Muirhead presented at a Gay Straight Alliance workshop at Glen A. Wilson High School.
- Frank T. Elliott, Terri Fabris, Joseph Harounian, George Unger, and Lisa Wilson spoke to a class at Polytechnic High school in Sun Valley.
- Herman Eastman, Mitch Grobeson, Barry Mason, Karen Mason, and Sylvia Weisenberg were invited to speak to members of the Gay & Lesbian Armenian Society.

# TRANSACTION

This speech was given by our PFLAG mom Dee on behalf of parents during the last Day of Remembrance, Sunday, November 20, 2005.

The *Transgender Day of Remembrance* was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. Find more information at <http://www.gender.org/remember/day/>

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We stand before this gathering, Parents who love our children – our precious, beautiful, divine children, brought into the world to receive and express love, to learn, to create beauty, to explore, to unite, to enrich the lives of others. Our children are a sublime reminder of what is possible in the world: Love.

We Parents stand before Our Children, here, today, tomorrow and all days, to support you, speak out for you, to educate others, to forever love you and to offer endless open arms to enwrap and nurture you. This is a promise to our children and any child turned away by society, by friends and even by parents. We have love enough for all of you.

We Parents have hearts and minds to reach out to other parents who want to love and support their child, but who don't know how or what to do or say as their precious child achieves wholeness of body and spirit.

We Parents look to you, Our Children, for patience and guidance. Help us learn about your wondrous journey of transformation -- and we will transform into parents with bigger hearts and bigger lives because we have such beloved children.

It starts with us, We Parents, united beside our children, a stand for equality, justice and love. We bring to the world the gift of our children's Light and ask only that it be allowed to shine.

Most importantly, we are committed to the possibility that not one more parent of a transgender child suffer the loss of their precious child to a hate crime.

You were born to receive love and we are here to give it.

Dee - A loving parent

## **Whole Foods Market Becomes Latest Corporation to Protect Transgender Employees**

Whole Foods Market - the Austin, TX-based supermarket chain - recently added gender identity to the company's non-discrimination policy, becoming the latest major American corporation to protect its transgender employees.

**To Felicity Huffman -  
Congratulations to her  
Golden Globe for  
*Transamerica!***

## **School Board Refuses To Fire Transgender Teacher**

By 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff  
February 28, 2006

(Toms River, New Jersey) A school board in one of the most conservative counties in New Jersey Monday night refused to bow to pressure from a small group of parents who demanded the removal of a transgendered teacher.

Lily B. McBeth took a leave of absence from her job as a substitute teacher with the Eagleswood School District last year and at age 69 transitioned. When her physical transformation was complete she petitioned the board to return to work. The board voted 41 to 1 to return her to her old job.



## CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY - May 14th

The owners of Cafe D'Etoile in West Hollywood have agreed to make a donation to PFLAG Los Angeles based on the proceeds of their restaurant on Mother's Day.

Come to West Hollywood and patronize this wonderful eating establishment to honor the Moms in our lives!

Reservations are essential.

**Celebrate with Mom in style! Brunch, Lunch or Dinner!**

Cafe D'Etoile 8941 1/2 Santa Monica Blvd, West Hollywood  
(310) 278-1011

### Caring parent of an LGBT child? Supporter of the LGBT community? LGBT?

#### Volunteer Counselors Wanted for LGBT Youth Helpline!

The Trevor Project is currently recruiting volunteers to staff our West Hollywood call center.

All volunteer counselors are asked to commit to 32 hours of classroom training over the course of 2 weekends; training includes lectures, videos, role play exercises and other training methods. After successfully completing classroom training, volunteers will "listen in" on 5 hours of calls, be supervised on 5 hours of calls and then start taking calls independently. All counselors are required to commit to two (2) 5 1/2-hour shifts per month for a one (1) year period and attend 6 in-service trainings per year.

Interested parties should send an email to [andy.scheer@thetrevorproject.org](mailto:andy.scheer@thetrevorproject.org) or call 310/271-8845.

The Trevor Project is a non-profit endeavor established to promote acceptance among LGBT and questioning youth and prevent suicide among that group. The organization runs The Trevor Helpline (866.4.U.TREVOR) the only national toll-free 24-hour, 365 day-a-year confidential suicide hotline for gay & questioning teens.

### "QUOTE - UNQUOTE"

"Today, the institution of marriage is under attack."

Senate Majority Leader  
Bill Frist, R-Tenn  
Feb. 10, 2006.

### "QUOTE - UNQUOTE"

"I personally don't think that it is fair . . . for Britney Spears, who was married for 51 hours to some guy in Las Vegas (for) that guy (to have) more rights than someone who's been committed to another person for 25 years."

Tom Vilsack, Governor of Iowa  
Feb 15, 2006 / Des Moines Register