



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

June-July 2006

Newsletter 241

### 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 7:00 pm; general meeting begins at 7:30 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

June 20, 2006

**E**d Mitchell and Doug Arneson will celebrate their 36th anniversary with us (and tell us their story), preceded by our rap groups and refreshments.

July 18, 2006

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

Mark your calendar  
and march with us in the Pride Parade!

**Sunday, June 11**

For details see page 5

# 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

Transgender: (818) 985-9319 (Chris)

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

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

PFLAG National  
(202) 467 8180 www.pflag.org

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

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

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

If there is anything you would like to see in the newsletter,  
please e-mail me at haichi87@sbcglobal.net, call me at  
(818) 985-9319, or just drop me a note at our PFLAG  
meetings! Regards, Chris Haiss

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

# CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PFLAG, at both the national and local chapter level, is working hard to educate the public in the critical need for equal rights for our children. On the PFLAG Web site (<http://www.pflag.org>), see the Issues page and its excellent information about marriage. Led by our National President, Sam Thoron, the Liberty for all Tour traveled the state seeking to network with representatives from the coalition called Equality for All

(see <http://www.equalforall.com>). The goal of Equality for All is to defeat any ballot initiative seeking to prohibit same-sex marriage in California. While there will likely be no such initiative this year (happily our opponents are failing in their signature gathering attempts), we expect to see at least one such amendment in 2007 or 2008. Equality for All's member organizations include the ACLU, the National Organization for Women, the Log Cabin Republicans, the Asian/Pacific Islander Caucus, Bienestar Human Services, Planned Parenthood, PFLAG and many others.

Our chapter continues to educate the public about our families and equal marriage rights:

- Last May, five of our PFLAG parents lobbied for the equal civil marriage rights bill, AB19, in Sacramento.
- We created handout cards promoting equal marriage rights to stimulate conversations with colleagues, family and friends (pick some up at our next meeting!).
- Last year, we spoke at two political clubs about PFLAG's mission and the benefits of equal marriage rights - both clubs passed resolutions in favor (this is something ANY PFLAGer can do! Send email to [krantz@us.ibm.com](mailto:krantz@us.ibm.com) for information of how you can get involved).
- In April, I spoke on a panel after the premiere of "A Blinding Flash of the Obvious" - a documentary by People for the American Way chronicling the victory in Cincinnati in 2004 in overturning its anti-gay rights law.
- Our Speaker's Bureau continues to visit local area schools with panels of experts telling the truth about what it means to be GLBT. We always need more speakers - email [andynron@adelphia.net](mailto:andynron@adelphia.net).

On April 21, Chris Haiss, my family and I attended a debate on marriage at the UCLA School of Law, sponsored by the Charles R. Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation Law. It brought together experts on marriage, marital law, the current litigation in California regarding equal marriage rights, and worldwide legal trends. The first session pitted marriage expert, Professor Stephanie Coontz, from Evergreen State College, and Professor Lynn Wardle, from Brigham Young University, to debate the purpose of marriage. Any neutral observer would conclude that Professor Coontz won handily - her conclusions were that the demand for same-sex marriage is a logical extension of the notion that marriage should "improve the well-being of all its members, both children and adults." Professor Wardle didn't counter her central argument in any way - he offered only disagreement with two minor points. Later that day, Jennifer C. Pizer, from the Lambda Legal Defense Fund, debated Monte Stewart, President of the Marriage Law Foundation, regarding the California Marriage Case. Ms. Pizer presented unambiguous arguments that the state's primary interests were in providing equal treatment under the law for all persons. Mr. Stewart, in stilted legalese, made the point that heterosexual marriage was in some way superior to same-sex marriage and that that was in the state's best interests. Finally, statistics were presented showing how the recent same-sex marriage rights granted in Europe played no part in the trends in heterosexual marriage in that part of the world.

My conclusion is that there are no strong rational arguments or facts which counter our position of full and equal rights for our children. What stands in our way are the forces of bigotry, ignorance, politics and greed. We must band together and lift up our voices as one and we will ultimately triumph.

*(continues page 5)*

## LEGISLATIVE CORNER

### **CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT LETS HISTORIC DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP LAWS STAND**

April 12, 2006

Thousands of Californians Retain Legal Protections for their Families as Attempt to Extinguish Domestic Partnership Rights Fails

San Francisco, CA - Today, the California Supreme Court refused to review a Sacramento Court of Appeal January 2006 decision upholding the state's domestic partnership laws. In a victory for pro-family advocates, the Court has once again turned aside arguments that domestic partnership is supposedly equivalent to marriage and therefore violates Proposition 22.

"Tens of thousands of California families feel safer today now that the attack on their rights by the Campaign for California Families has failed," said Geoffrey Kors, Executive Director of Equality California (EQCA) which intervened as a defendant in the case to protect the rights of same-sex couples and their children. "These families will never be truly safe, however, until full marriage equality is achieved."

The Supreme Court will let stand the Third District Court of Appeal's ruling that upheld two domestic partnership statutes, including AB 205, California's Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act (Goldberg, D-Los Angeles), which was sponsored by EQCA, and that provides hundreds of legal protections for same-sex couples and their families.

The law, however, does not allow for joint tax filing and access to over 1,000 federal protections that married couples enjoy.

"This is another great victory for fairness and equality and the rights of all Californians to protect their families," said Kate Kendell, Executive Director of The National Center for Lesbian Rights and co-counsel in the case. "Domestic partnership is not marriage and the Court wisely denied review of misguided and underhanded attempts to distort the language of Proposition 22 and strike down validly enacted legislation that protects lesbian and gay people and their families."

"It is great news that the California Supreme Court has once again let California's domestic partner laws remain in full force," said David Codell, lead counsel for EQCA in the case. "The California Supreme Court has repeatedly recognized that California public policy supports protecting all of California's families, including same-sex couples and their children. We also look forward to the day when California law will extend full equality to same-sex couples through marriage."

EQCA was represented in the case by the Law Office of David C. Codell in Los Angeles, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal.

#### **FIELD POLLS SHOWS STRONG SUPPORT FOR LESBIAN AND GAY EQUILITY**

Debate on Marriage For Same-Sex Couples Leads to Progress, Not Backlash

San Francisco, CA — The Field Poll released March 22nd shows that California overwhelmingly supports fairness and equal treatment for its lesbian and gay citizens. The poll asked 1,000 California adults their opinion on a wide range of issues, including how same-sex couples should be treated under the law. By a 3 – 1 margin, Californians support extending comprehensive legal protections to lesbian and gay couples; 44% registered voters would support a bill legalizing marriage for same-sex couples.

"This poll demonstrates that California is committed to ensuring that all of its residents are treated fairly under the law," said Geoff Kors, Executive Director of Equality California. "When people are given the opportunity to think about and discuss issues like marriage for lesbian and gay couples, they move forward. The real backlash has been against those who spew hatred and fear."

Of California registered voters, 44% would support a state law allowing same-sex couples to marry. Among other issues asked in the poll, 67% favor lesbians and gays serving openly in the military and 55% favor gay and lesbian parents adopting children.

*(Co-President's Message, from page 3)*

Well, it is May already and I am looking forward to the Pride Parade (<http://www.lapride.org/>) in West Hollywood on Sunday June 11. We always have a good contingent of eager PFLAGers. Once again, we plan to carry the sign, suggested by our esteemed founding President Adele Starr, "Make it Legal: Let Our Children Wed." Unfortunately, the sign is still needed this year - despite our legislature's passing an equal civil marriage rights bill, the governor vetoed it. I remain optimistic that next year, we will see the third coming of AB19, and, who knows, the governor (whoever he may be) will sign it!

My eagerness in parading is mainly due to the wonderful emotions that flow during this event. It is common knowledge that PFLAG gets the applause - perhaps the warmest applause of any in the parade. For me, though, the eyes have it. As we walk down Santa Monica Boulevard, it is hard to resist the eyes of the many people on the sidelines. We see the sadness and the longing in far too many. Wordlessly, we realize that many wish that they were *our* children. For one brief moment, as our eyes and mind meet, they are.

See you at the parade. Don't forget to wear a red shirt!

Steve Krantz, Co-President, PFLAG Los Angeles

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## SPREADING THE WORD IN THE COMMUNITY

- Steve Krantz represented PFLAG on a panel at the premiere of "A Blinding Flash of the Obvious", a documentary by the People for the American Way which chronicles the 2004 repeal of Cincinnati's anti-gay rights law, on April 6.
- Steve Krantz spoke about PFLAG as an ally to the GLBT community to the Claremont College Leadership in Equality Conference on April 8.
- Steve and Joan Krantz met with the Liberty for All Tour at Congregation Kol Ami on March 28. The purpose of the tour is to enable California's GLBT leaders to form a state-wide network to enable joint work in the campaign to secure equal rights. PFLAG's National President Sam Thoron, Equality California's Communications Director Molly McKay, among others, led the tour. In attendance were representatives from local chapters of Amnesty International, the National Organization for Women, the LA Gay and Lesbian Center, and Bienestar.

**Please join us on Sunday June 11 for the annual Christopher St. West Parade  
to celebrate Pride Weekend in West Hollywood.**

Please plan to line up near the corner of Crescent Heights and Santa Monica Blvd  
at 10AM. Parade steps off at 11AM.

**Wear a red T-shirt if you can.**

**This is a wonderful event you will not soon forget!!!**



# TRANSACTION

## Free support group!

If you are the **parent/guardian/caregiver of a transgender child**, please join this support group which is a project of FTM Alliance of Los Angeles and Childrens Hospital Los Angeles.

**Next meeting: Saturday, June 17,  
1p.m. - 3p.m.**

Conference room, 4th floor  
Children's Hospital Los Angeles  
5000 Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90027

This free, confidential group is for parents and guardians and other caretakers (grandmothers, foster parents) whose children identify as transgender or gender-questioning, or who just express their gender in ways you have trouble with.

Come to share your story and find support among other adults whose children are exploring and struggling with the difficult issue of gender identity. **Please do not bring your children with you;** this is a group for parents, caretakers and family only.

Upcoming Meetings:  
Saturday, September 16  
Saturday, December 16

For more information, please call  
323-669-2390.

## Don't miss TRANS-UNITY!

TRANS-UNITY PRIDE is an annual multi-cultural, substance free celebration of the Southern California regional transgender community: transsexual, transgender, gender-queer, and cross-dressing individuals, and those who love and care for them.

Participants come together for a day of educational workshops, discussion groups, entertainment, art, music, refreshments and relaxation.

The Village at Ed Gould Plaza - Home Of TU Pride  
1125 N. McCadden Place, Los Angeles, CA 90038

**Friday, June 2 2006 6PM - 12Midnight**  
**Saturday, June 3 2006 8PM - 12Midnight**  
**Sunday, June 4 2006 10AM - 12Midnight**

For more information please contact Farina (323) 860-7394 or Chanel (323) 860-7335.

## Transgender Person Elected to Italian Parliament

ROME, Wednesday April 12, 2006 - Five lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) politicians have been elected as members of the Italian parliament. While Europe is more accustomed to the presence and visibility of LGB people in politics, Vladimir Luxuria is believed to be the first transsexual elected to a European parliament.

(<http://www.ukgaynews.org>)

## Protecting Transgender Employees

Bank of America, Bristol-Myers Squibb, The Coca-Cola Company and Wachovia recently added "gender identity" or "gender identity or expression" to their primary non-discrimination policies, bringing the total number of Fortune 500 companies to 82. Find more companies with transgender workplace protections at [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)

## University To Include Gender Identity in Non-discrimination Policy

By RACHEL L. POLLACK, Harvard Crimson Staff Writer, <http://www.thecrimson.com> April 11, 2006

Harvard announced today that it would amend its non-discrimination policy to protect "gender identity," following growing pressure from undergraduates to safeguard the rights of transgender students and staff.

"Amending the non-discrimination policy to include gender identity is intended to reaffirm that all members of the Harvard community, including those who are transgendered, should be judged on their own merits, not their status," said University spokesman Joe Wrinn.

Harvard joins 52 other universities, including Brown and Cornell, in amending its policy.

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!**

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

Just send an e-mail to [stevek@bipedinfo.com](mailto:stevek@bipedinfo.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.

## Great News!

Now you can read  
our **newsletter**  
online at

<http://www.pflagla.org/resources.html>

### Spain still supports gay marriage a year on

Benjamin Cohen, Pink News, UK, 22-April-2006

Despite it being a predominantly Catholic country, most in Spain believe that introducing gay marriage was right.

A survey by the Instituto Opina polling organisation found that 61 percent of those questioned agreed with the statement: "Do you agree or disagree with the government's decision to legalize same-sex marriage."

### Kentucky: Fletcher cuts worker protection

By Ryan Alessi, HERALD-LEADER FRANKFORT BUREAU,  
April 12, 2006

FRANKFORT - Gov. Ernie Fletcher declared yesterday "Diversity Day," then cut from the state government's employment policy a provision that explicitly protected gay workers from being discriminated against.

The move prompted criticism from a gay Republican group as well as Democratic lawmakers, who called it short-sighted for Fletcher to remove "sexual orientation and gender identity" from a list of characteristics the previous administration sought to shield from discrimination. They also pointed out the irony of making that change on a day meant to celebrate Kentuckians' diversity.

### Electing Gay Bishop Like 'Terrorist Bomb'

By Kim Cuitis, Associated Press, 365Gay.com  
May 3, 2006

(San Francisco, California) What's left of unity in the Episcopal Church is at stake heading into a weekend election for bishop of California that sets up a major clash over gays' role in the church.

Three of the seven candidates are openly gay, and choosing one of them to head the Diocese of California would further alienate Episcopal conservatives already feeling betrayed that the church approved a gay bishop three years ago. It could also fracture the strained relationship between America's 2.3 million Episcopalians and their parent body, the worldwide Anglican Communion.

A vote against a gay bishop would likely preserve the fragile truce.

The Rev. Paul Zahl, dean of the conservative Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pa., likened the election of a gay bishop in California to "a terrorist bomb, which is timed to destroy a peace process."

## From The Editor

Perris, Calif. - November 19, 2005: Husband Kills Wife And Self With One Gunshot ● FREDERICKTOWN – March 1, 2004: James Boekemier confessed to killing his wife ● Selmer, Tennessee – March 27, 2006: Pastor's Wife Arraigned in Husband's Murder ● Santa Monica, California – October 2, 2002: Estranged Husband Kills Wife ● Miami, Florida – Feb 1, 2006: A man shot his wife dead in the driveway of their home ● Lake County, Indiana – 11/11/2003: Wife kills husband with insulin injections ● ROCKFORD, Illinois – July 4, 2003: Husband kills wife, self ● HOUSTON March 23, 2006: Man Murders Wife For Trying To Move Out ● Chicago, August 3, 2005: Estranged husband kills wife, self - 11-year-old son discovered the couple's bodies.

And Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist plans to vote in early June on a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, because "the institution of marriage is under attack"! Who is he kidding?! Just from sharing these few headlines above with you it appears that the most dangerous place for kids is in a heterosexual family! In California, over 58,000 children are raised in same-sex households, according to a UCLA study. Have you ever read a headline where same-sex partners slaughter each other? I haven't.

Who brainwashed people to support something as unpatriotic as a federal amendment to our Constitution to ban same-sex marriage? The Church, an institution that insisted that the Earth was the center of the universe and that allowed the burning of thousands of "witches", mostly women? They were wrong then. How would you know that they are not wrong on this issue? Ever asked yourself why they fervently promote Leviticus 20:13, that says that if a man lies with a man as he lies with a woman, they both shall be surely put to death, but never promote Leviticus 20:9 against out-of control kids who according to Leviticus also "shall be surely put to death"?! Or are you more influenced by politicians such as Colorado's Republican Governor Bill Owens who touted family values, but separated from his wife after 28 years? Or Tennessee Senate Republican Jeff Miller, sponsor of the Tennessee Marriage Protection act that bans gay marriage under the state constitution, who ended up in a messy divorce? Do you really take these politicians seriously?!

Are you not tired of their same old arguments that our Founding Fathers never would have supported same-sex marriage? How would we know? But we do know that they did not give women the right to vote. That's for sure. And if "tradition" would have carried on, women still wouldn't have this right. Being gay/lesbian is a choice? We don't know for sure, but what we do know is that religion is a choice. Gays/lesbians live an immoral life? If you truly believe this I urge you to buy a Hustler or Swinger magazine to see what your fellow straights are up to. Or get hold of Jonathan Ned Katz's book *The Invention of Heterosexuality* in which Dr. James Kiernan describes heterosexual as one of several abnormal manifestations of the sexual appetite and labels heterosexuals as depraved in the article "Responsibility in Sexual Perversions", first printed in a medical journal in 1892. It's the earliest-known use of the word heterosexual. And, no, this is also not about polygamy or marrying your tree since heterosexuals don't have these rights either.

So, do you really believe that the framers of our Constitution who were standing up for liberty, equality, and democracy, for majority rules and minority rights, and who were strongly opposed to tyranny and big government would have supported the notion of writing something like that into the United States Constitution?

If yes, may I politely recommend that you take a Political Science or U.S. History class to refresh your memory?



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