



# PFLAG - LA

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 2006

Newsletter 243

## 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.



**NEW!**

Starting in October PFLAG Los Angeles will meet on the

**3<sup>rd</sup> WEDNESDAY**

of each month!

Our meetings are always held on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday** 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.

## OUR NEXT SPEAKERS

WEDNESDAY, October 18, 2006

**L**ance Webster will be our guest speaker to recount his life as an out gay businessman and share the experiences that helped him create the life lessons he teaches in his courses, lectures, coaching and consulting. Currently Lance is Executive Director of the Television Publicity Executives Committee, Administrator of Earth Communications Office, a senior advisor to the Board of the LA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, Board Chair of the newly created Gay Advertising Council, and an honored member of Toastmasters International.

WEDNESDAY, November 15, 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**

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

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

Transgender: (818) 985-9319 (Chris)

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

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

**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: November 1  
(December/January issue)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On July 9, my wife and I represented PFLAG at an event at the Museum of Tolerance (Simon Wiesenthal Plaza, 9786 West Pico Blvd) sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Federal club. **Simply put, it was outstanding - an event so powerful that we will never forget it.** On the stage were two men - Matthew Boger and Tim Zaal, telling their personal stories. Matthew was thrown out of his home by his mother at age 13 for admitting he was gay. He wound up on the streets of West Hollywood, homeless and alone. Tim was a skinhead bent on violence and doing harm. One fateful night over 20 years ago, Tim and his cronies nearly beat Matthew to death. Their journey to personal recovery and reconciliation hit us with tremendous emotional impact.

So, I contacted the Museum of Tolerance to see if they would do a "replay" for us. I am happy to report that on Sunday, November 19, at 1PM, all of you can come, listen and get answers from Matthew and Tim with PFLAG LA as sponsors. **THIS IS AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED - PLEASE SEE THE AD on page 7 in this newsletter or go to our Web site for details.**

Now, I must reprise my own words from our last newsletter observing that summer's over, election season is beginning and our families continue on our roller-coaster ride to equal rights. This year's national and state elections are crucial to advance our cause for equal rights for our children. With supportive candidates in the State Senate, Assembly, and Governor's office, we can look forward to a 2007 equal civil marriage rights bill just like last year's - but with a difference - it will become law. With supportive candidates in the US Congress, we will continue to defeat attempts to pass the heinous Federal Marriage Amendment. **Please go to the PFLAG National Web site at <http://www.pflag.org> to learn how you can get involved!**

Steve Krantz, PFLAG Los Angeles

## **NEW MEETING DAY PLEASE READ NEW MEETING DAY**

Please take note of our new meeting day!

Starting in October PFLAG Los Angeles will meet on the

**3<sup>rd</sup> WEDNESDAY**

of each month!

## LEGISLATIVE CORNER

### Gov. Schwarzenegger signs SB 1441

Great news from Sacramento--Equality California's (www.EQCA.org) first sponsored bill of the 2006 legislative session, SB 1441, the Nondiscrimination in State Programs and Activities Act, was signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger on August 28.

EQCA salutes Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica), the bill's author, for her leadership in getting the bill to the governor's desk.

AB 1441, which faced strong opposition from conservative religious groups, will protect all Californians who utilize services such as food stamps, financial aid, and police and fire protection. "I am very grateful to the governor for signing [the bill], which will extend equal nondiscrimination protections to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Californians who depend on our state's vital programs and services," said Kuehl.

### President Bush signs Pension Protection Act

*By 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff, Aug. 17, 2006*

President Bush on Thursday signed into law the Federal Pension Protection Act that contains two key provisions extending important financial protections to same-sex couples and other Americans who leave their retirement savings to non-spousal beneficiaries.

"For gay couples and all Americans with non-spouse beneficiaries, death and taxes weren't only certain, but also times of great and unequal financial difficulty," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese who lobbied Congress to pass the measure.

"Today marks an important day for fairness under the law in America," Solmonese said.

The first provision allows the transfer of an individual's retirement plan benefits to a domestic partner or other non-spouse beneficiary including a sibling or parent when the individual dies.

The second provision, which addresses retirement plan hardship distributions, allows gay couples, and others with non-spouse, non-dependent beneficiaries, similar access to laws that permit people to draw on their retirement funds in the case of a qualifying medical or financial emergency.

### Gov. Schwarzenegger vetoes SB 1437

*By Edwin Garcia*

*MediaNews Sacramento Bureau, Sept. 07, 2006*

SACRAMENTO - Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Wednesday vetoed legislation that would have barred discrimination against gays in public schools.

The measure, SB 1437 by Sen. Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles, would have prohibited the instruction, use of textbooks or school-sponsored activities that adversely reflect on people based on their sexual orientation -- adding to an existing law that bars discrimination in schools based on race, sex, color, creed, handicap, national origin or ancestry.

Schwarzenegger said the measure wouldn't have enhanced protections offered under current law against discrimination based on sexual orientation.

### Indiana:

*Aug. 4, 2006*

In a 4-1 decision, the state's highest court declined to hear arguments against unmarried couples adopting, effectively upholding a lower-court ruling that allowed adoption by joint petition, a procedure that gives both partners equal custody. This ruling now allows same-sex couples in Indiana to adopt children.

### Missouri:

*July 18, 2006*

(Jefferson City, Missouri) Following a court mandate, Missouri officials said Tuesday that they have lifted regulations that automatically prevented gays and lesbians from becoming foster parents.

### Utah:

*July 14, 2006*

A federal judge in Gainesville said Friday that students in a gay activist group in White County High School in Cleveland, Ga., must be allowed to hold meetings on school property. School officials have tried to ban the meetings.

### "QUOTE - UNQUOTE"

*Ann Coulter, conservative columnist:*

"We need somebody to put rat poisoning in Justice Stevens' creme brulee. That's just a joke, for you in the media."

*Note from the editor: What a perverted idea of a joke. It's not my intention to give people like her a forum. But I do want to make you aware that it is people like her who want to ensure that OUR families will never be treated equally and justly....which reminds me - don't forget to register to vote!*

## SPREADING THE WORD IN THE COMMUNITY

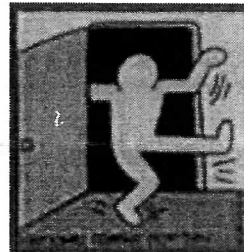
- George Unger of PFLAG LA and Denny Diehl of PFLAG Pasadena handed out literature and answered questions to attendees at the Casey Family Programs Summer Foster Care Alumni Resource Fair on July 21st at Eaton Blanche Park in Pasadena.
- Steve and Joan Krantz represented PFLAG at the Museum of Tolerance event "From Hate to Hope" sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign.

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.

### Great News!

Now you can read our **newsletter online** at  
<http://www.pflagla.org/resources.html>



### National Coming Out Day Wednesday, October 11, 2006

National Coming Out Day was founded on October 11, 1988 by Robert Eichberg and Jean O'Leary to celebrate the first anniversary of the 1987 March on Washington.

The theme for this year's National Coming Out Day will be "Talk About It." The theme is to encourage gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans, as well as straight allies, to talk openly and honestly about their lives and the issues that GLBT Americans face under law.

Gay brothers and sisters...  
You must come out.

Come out  
...to your parents  
...to your relatives

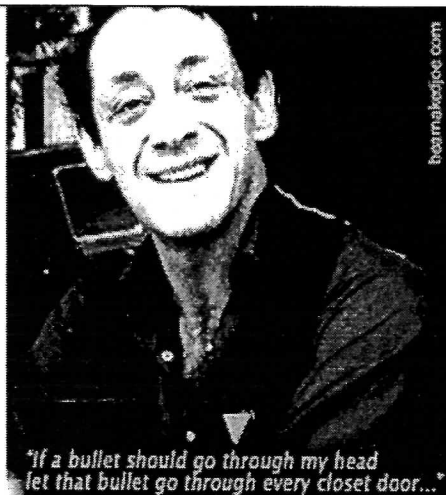
Come out to your friends...  
if indeed they are your friends.

Come out to your neighbors  
...to your fellow workers  
...to the people who work  
where you eat and shop

Once and for all, break down  
the myths, destroy the lies  
and distortions.

For your sake. For their sake...

- Harvey Milk



"If a bullet should go through my head  
let that bullet go through every closet door..."

### Harvey Milk

May 22, 1930 -  
Nov. 27, 1978

Politician and  
gay rights  
activist, first  
openly gay city  
supervisor of San  
Francisco.

Assassinated in  
1978 by  
Dan White,  
a white, married  
Christian.

### "QUOTE - UNQUOTE"

*David Goldstein,  
Writer:*

"If we really want to  
defend marriage and  
"encourage stable  
families" I suppose we  
could work toward  
providing all our  
citizens a living wage,  
universal health care,  
affordable child-care,  
and other essential  
services that help  
relieve the financial  
and day-to-day  
stresses of the  
average, two-working-  
parent household. But  
all that costs money,  
whereas blaming the  
gays is free as the air  
we breathe."



# TRANSACTION

## FtM becomes first transgender member of the San Francisco Board of Appeals

On July 14, Robert Haaland was sworn in as a member of the San Francisco Board of Appeals, the commission that deals with any appeal of any permit.

Haaland: ""The more and more that we're out there, the more and more people know us, the more and more we're just everyday citizens it's a victory for all of us."

*The Empty Closet*

<http://www.gayalliance.org/content/view/591/57/>

By Susan Jordan, Friday, 25 August 2006

## Kodak updates health benefits for transgender employees in transition

Kodak Worldwide Benefits has updated health plan coverage to include procedures, services, and supplies for sex transformation (gender reassignment).

The updated plan coverage applies to expenses for sex transformation procedures, services and supplies (including therapy, sex hormones and transsexual surgery) that are provided on or after July 1, 2006, to any person participating in a self-insured option under Kodak's US medical plans.

Lambda Network at Kodak is pleased that our educational activities have shed light on the need for these benefits to be offered. This change is further evidence of Eastman Kodak Company's support for all elements of diversity. It serves to reinforce Kodak's commitment to Equal Opportunity Employment, which prohibits discrimination based on gender identity.

*WRAL.com / Sept. 7, 2006*

*Raleigh-Durham-Fayetteville, N.C.*

<http://www.wral.com/education/9803581/detail.html?taf=ral>

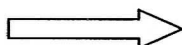
## Students Not Excused From Transsexual's Class

BATAVIA, N.Y. -- Five parents who asked to transfer their children out of Batavia High School classes with a transsexual teacher have been denied, according to city schools Superintendent Richard Stutzman.

The written requests did not meet the guidelines set out by the district, Stutzman said Tuesday without providing specifics.

Diagnosed with a transsexual disorder, the teacher is still going through a medical transition but returned to school dressed as a woman -- and addressed as a female.

Under state and federal laws, a person with a transsexual disorder is considered disabled, is protected from discrimination and must be reasonably accommodated by an employer.



## Transgender Day of Remembrance

The *Transgender Day of Remembrance* is held in **November** each year to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.

The *Transgender Day of Remembrance* serves several purposes. It raises public awareness of hate crimes against transgender people, an action that current media doesn't perform. *Day of Remembrance* publicly mourns and honors the lives of transgender people who might otherwise be forgotten.

Through the vigil, we express love and respect in the face of national indifference and hatred.

Please check your local papers/websites for details and **join one of the many candlelight vigils/marches** against hate.

*Kalamazoo Gazette, MI, USA*

*Saturday, July 15, 2006*

*By Cedric Ricks*

## The Board of Education for Kalamazoo Public Schools has amended the district's non-discrimination policy to include pregnancy and gender identification

The board voted unanimously to broaden the policy.

The non-discrimination statement now reads: The district will not tolerate or condone any act of bias or discrimination toward any person based on religion, race, color, national origin, age, height, weight, gender, pregnancy, gender identification, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation or disability in any of its activities, programs or services.

"We take our kids as they are," Treasurer Eric Breisach said after the vote. "We accept them as they come to us."

## "QUOTE - UNQUOTE"

"All I've heard are great, great things about her. The kids have no idea why this is a big deal."

--Marilyn Drilling, mother of two Batavia High School freshmen.

**PFLAG**

Los Angeles and the



Invite You to Attend a Special Program

## **"From Hate to Hope"**

The remarkable story of reconciliation between the perpetrator  
and victim of a hate crime

(as featured on CNN's Anderson Cooper 360)

Featuring

**Matthew Boger**, Floor Manager, Museum of Tolerance

&

**Tim Zaal**, Former Neo-Nazi Skinhead

### **Sunday, November 19, 1 pm Program**

Museum Tour to Follow

Museum of Tolerance

9786 West Pico Blvd (at Roxbury)

Los Angeles, CA 90035

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

Tickets are \$10 which includes admission to the Museum and Holocaust Exhibit and attendance of this special presentation. If you wish to attend additional exhibits a combination ticket is available for \$15.

To confirm your reservation

RSVP 310 553 8403