



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

April-May 2007

Newsletter 246

## 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> 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.

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, 2007 (Wednesday)

**T**oby Green, Professor at Santa Monica College, will be our guest speaker to talk about clarifying the confusion between sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, as well as other aspects of sexual diversity.

May 16, 2007 (Wednesday)

**"M**ostly, We're Simply Moms" - Corinne Lightweaver and Stacey Peyer will speak to us about the experience of adopting and parenting their daughter, Lia, born in Guatemala and discuss issues unique to LGBT parents in transracial adoption. Stacey is a social work educator and adoption specialist (and a former PFLAG board member!) and Corinne is an editor, writer and artist.

## 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 (Dave)

### 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)

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) 595 1005 (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: May 1  
(June/July issue)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PFLAG Moms are a rare breed. They love their children. They support their children. They fight for their children's rights. There are no women in the world more beautiful than PFLAG Moms. It is with great sadness that I report that we lost a PFLAG Mom on February 26 - my beautiful wife Joan Harriet Whitman Krantz.

Joan was a bi-coastal PFLAG Mom - serving as a board member in PFLAG Ft. Lauderdale and PFLAG Los Angeles.

Joan gave heartfelt support at our monthly support meetings - making real connections with those who were hurting.

Joan was an outspoken advocate for equal rights for our families. Once when we were lobbying for equal civil marriage rights in Sacramento in May 2005, a group of us - parents of gay people and gay people themselves - were being patronized by a Republican State Assemblyman's staffer. I lost my cool and stormed out. Joan, then, truly rose to the occasion in telling him in no uncertain terms how he was wrong in his views and that she was representing her *family* - not an abstract idea. She was a pit bull for her children and a model for all mothers.

All of us will miss Joan dearly. On the Web, please go to <http://joan.bipedinfo.com> for her memorial page.

Steve Krantz, PFLAG Los Angeles

## In Memoriam

**Joan Harriet Whitman Krantz**  
April 29, 1947 – February 26, 2007

Joan, you will be missed.

If I think of Joan, she's a thought easy on the mind as my friend. Delicate, unassuming...a bright presence on the morning, the way pretty birds are pleasing. If I think of Joan, she's the proudest of mothers. She's raised goodly and gentle men, she is watchful and protective, loving.

If I think of Joan, how she made her home...how she made friends, how she was my friend... our friend, she was greatest when the spirit rose within her to help another. She struggled so with pain, and illness - and yet, let us know in no uncertain terms, when she was proud, when she had a job to do, when she loved us back.

If I think of Joan...it warms me, gives me pause...reminds me that she wouldn't let me forget what's yet to realize in my own spirit.

If I think of Joan...and if you do also, she's with the horizon, at our shoulder...on our hearts, everywhere.

With love, from Regan DuCasse

## LEGISLATIVE CORNER

### **SCHWARZENEGGER WILL VETO MARRIAGE BILL**

Sacramento - At a youth conference in Sacramento on Thursday, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said he would not sign legislation allowing same-sex couples to marry in California. Responding to a question from a high school student, Gov. Schwarzenegger said the people of California, not the governor or the Legislature, should decide if same-sex couples can marry.

In response to the governor's comments, Equality California (EQCA) Executive Director Geoff Kors made the following statement:

"Excluding same-sex couples from marriage hurts committed partners and their families. Two people in a committed and loving relationship deserve the respect and support that only comes with marriage. How would the governor feel if his right to marry First Lady Maria Shriver had been put to a popular vote? We urge him to remember that each of us deserves to be treated fairly."

EQCA is the sponsor of AB 43, the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act, authored by Assemblymember Mark Leno, D-San Francisco. If passed, the bill would give same-sex couples the freedom to marry in California. EQCA is also a plaintiff in the same-sex marriage cases currently before the California Supreme Court.

In his comments Thursday about allowing the people to decide the same-sex marriage issue, Gov. Schwarzenegger referred to Proposition 22. Voters passed the measure in 2000, allowing the state to only recognize marriages between a man and a woman. Prop. 22, however, applies to marriages that are performed outside of California.

"We hope Gov. Schwarzenegger will meet with EQCA and LGBT leaders to learn more about how denying same-sex couples the choice to marry harms thousands of people in our state," Kors said.

<http://www.eqca.org>

*[Editor's note: History shows us that "the people" were also opposed to desegregation; that didn't make it right either...]*

### **Los Angeles Attorney Gloria Allred Plays Legal Cupid on Valentine's Day**

On Valentine's Day, surrounded by the accoutrement of wedding cheer—balloons and a chocolate wedding cake—Robin Tyler and Diane Olson appeared at the Beverly Hills courthouse to apply for a marriage license, one of many LGBT couples nationwide participating in Freedom to Marry week.

It was their "fifth or sixth" attempt to marry, Tyler told IN. As expected, they were denied again, but the couple beamed when their attorney, Gloria Allred, presented them with a Valentine's Day present.

"This morning I filed our opening brief in the California Supreme Court in which we argue that the ban on same-gender marriage is unconstitutional," Allred told reporters, presenting Tyler and Olson the brief wrapped in pink hearts. Allred called this lawsuit "the Valentine's Day gift that will keep on giving" by making same-sex marriage legal.

Of the six marriage cases now before the California Supreme Court, their lawsuit was the first filed. All six cases—four of which are affirmative and two that seek to prohibit marriage equality—will be heard at the same time, Lambda Legal's Jon Davidson told IN, with opening briefs due on March 19.

*[IN Magazine, [http://www.inlamag.com/1001/community\\_news/index.html](http://www.inlamag.com/1001/community_news/index.html)]*

## SPREADING THE WORD IN THE COMMUNITY

- Harold Kameya, Steve Krantz, Jerry Martinez, and Ms. Mel Schwartz spoke to a sociology class at Cal State University Northridge.
- Mitch Grobson, Steve Krantz, Tom Oldenburg, Terry McIntyre, Brenda Thompson, and David Yeager spoke to students at Beverly Hills High School.

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and we'll make sure that you'll receive the next  
newsletter by e-mail.

### "QUOTE - UNQUOTE"

"For some reason, the military seems more afraid  
of gay people than they are against terrorists...If  
the terrorists ever got hold of this information,  
they'd get a platoon of lesbians to chase us out of  
Baghdad."

*Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-NY),  
urging Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice  
to hire LGBT military linguists discharged under  
"Don't Ask, Don't Tell"*

**When you don't need PFLAG any more  
that is when PFLAG needs you!**

Read our newsletter  
online at

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

### **Dotti & Robi arrested in act of civil disobedience at Focus on the Family!**

You might remember Dotti & Robi who spoke at our November 2005  
meeting about their journey " Two Women and A Poodle on a one-year  
mission to transform ourselves and the world, one person at a time!"

To read the story please go to  
<http://www.livingauthenticlives.com>

### Colombia

Colombia's highest court ruled  
February 7 that gay and lesbian  
couples that have been together at least  
two years must be granted the same  
property rights as heterosexual  
couples.

### Michigan

A Michigan appeals court ruling that  
prohibits gay domestic partner health  
insurance for employees at public  
universities and state and local  
governments has alarmed LGBT  
advocates who fear a domino effect.

### Illinois

A state lawmaker fired up the gay  
marriage debate in Illinois Feb. 22 by  
introducing a bill that would legalize  
marriage between same-sex couples.  
The proposal would eliminate  
wording in state law that marriage is  
between "a man and a woman" and  
substitute the phrase "two persons."

# T r a n s A c t i o n

## Spain passes transsexuals' name and gender law

On March, the 1st, 2007, the Cortes Generales (Parliament) of Spain passed the *Law of Gender Identity*, the most progressive in the world.

This law allows the change of name and gender without needing to undergo surgery after undergoing medical treatment for two years and by presenting an official medical diagnosis of gender dysfunction.

Legislation easing social barriers on transsexuals is the latest in a series of laws aimed at promoting greater social equality in Spain.

Malta Star, Malta, 15 February 2007

## Malta: Transsexual gets Court's blessing to marry

A 25 year-old transsexual was granted the right to marry by the Civil Court of Malta, enabling other transsexuals the right to civil marriage.

The landmark ruling was handed down by Judge Gino Camilleri who on Monday declared that the marriage contract between the 25-year old male-to-female transsexual and her male partner is not in breach of Chapter 255 of the *Laws of Malta*.

The judge also said that the legal partnership between the couple does not undermine the rule of law because it is a marriage between two persons of different sexes.

## BBC News, Kathmandu, Feb. 3, 2007: Nepali becomes both man and woman

In an unprecedented legal ruling, the authorities in Nepal have granted 40-year-old Chanda Musalman, a man who dresses and behaves as a woman, both male and female citizenship. Conservative and religious Nepal, like many Asian countries, has a sizeable community of people who are born male but behave as women.

*[Editor:...and while the rest of the world moves toward enlightenment on transsexuality, our OWN country falls backward into hysterical and emotional reactions, willing to sacrifice another human being, as so many times before...]*

Washington Blade, DC, USA, By DYANA BAGBY, Friday, March 09, 2007

## Fla. official's firing shines light on trans job bias

He struggled for years with his secret, trying to hide the shame he felt while also trying to understand his identity.

Now, Steve Stanton hopes to be a role model for transgender people who face discrimination. Stanton plans sex reassignment surgery and faces being fired as the city manager of Largo, Fla., due to this decision. "I've known who I am since I've known I had five fingers," Stanton said. "It's been part of my conscious always. But did I understand it? No."

The Largo City Commission voted 5-2 on Feb. 27 to begin the process of firing Stanton from the job he's held for 14 years, after he disclosed that he was preparing to undergo gender reassignment surgery.

"His brain is the same today as it was last week. He may be even able to be a better city manager. But I sense that he's lost his standing as a leader among the employees of the city," Commissioner Gay Gentry, who voted for Stanton's ouster, said at the meeting, according to the St. Petersburg Times.

With national media attention focused on his case, Stanton, represented by the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said he feels it is incumbent on him to present an effective argument to not fire him as well as to educate city commissioners about how transsexuals can be accepted into the workforce. "I need to answer their very legitimate questions," he said.

Karen Doering, an attorney with the NCLR, said Stanton's desire to be so public about his case represents a historic moment for transgender rights. "Regardless of the outcome, there has already been a tremendous amount of education throughout Largo and the country," she said. "Instead of Steve trying to run and hide in the closet, he is being very open — and this will make it safer for the next person who comes along."

There has been a great deal of public support for Stanton, including an interfaith rally of some 300 people Tuesday on the steps of Largo's City Hall protesting the commission's decision.

### Gay over the expected demise of sex-same marriage

By Bob Tremblay/Local columnist, MetroWest Daily News  
Sunday, January 14, 2007

Hallelujah! It seems that same-sex marriage in Massachusetts has a good chance of finally coming before the voters, giving the moral majority, in this case God-fearing heterosexuals, a chance to trample all over the rights of the immoral minority, in this case God-defiling homosexuals.

Now that assumes these sodomites even have rights to trample on. Considering their abhorrent behavior, they don't have rights as much as they have wrongs. Marriage isn't a right anyway, it's a commandment even if the dictionary doesn't say so. But the Bible sure does, and that's all we holy ones need to know, and we know that for homosexuals to be allowed to wed destroys the sanctity of marriage.

Never mind that half of all marriages end in divorce and that 60 percent of all married couples in the United States have experienced some type of spousal abuse in their lives. Marriage is still a sacred institution even if a huge part of the population doesn't treat it as such. Because no matter how many people get divorced and no matter how many spouses get abused, nothing can tarnish marriage like homosexuality.

Not only does same-sex marriage sully the sanctity of marriage, it redefines traditional marriage, never mind that this tradition has been redefined over the years to allow interracial and interfaith marriage. That's not the same thing as homosexual marriage, which not only desecrates and redefines marriage, it threatens the tradition, too.

I know my blessed union has been threatened ever since same-sex marriage has been allowed in this state. I live in dire fear of some gay couple brandishing me with a pink ribbon. Look at all the traditional marriages that have been torn asunder by this despicable act perpetrated by a bunch of liberal, commie activist judges. You say your marriage hasn't been affected in the slightest? I'm not listening.

All I listen to is the Good Word and the Good Word says homosexuality is an abomination. It also says adulterers should be stoned and that couples who have intercourse during certain times of the month should be exterminated. But pay no attention to those scribblings. Also, when Jesus said, "Love thy neighbor as thyself," one must read the fine print. You love your neighbor unless he's a sexual pervert. Interestingly, murderers and child molesters can marry, but their sins aren't as heinous as homosexual sins.

Why? Because murderers and child molesters can procreate, and isn't that what marriage is all about? All you childless couples out there are clearly thumbing your nose at the Almighty and belong in the burning fires of hell with the sodomites. I have lots of children. I can't afford them. I don't like them, but I still have them. It's tradition. So was slavery, you say?  
And your point is?

People who believe marriage should be about love and respect rather than sexual orientation obviously have had their minds polluted by the liberal media. These poor saps probably read books and poetry penned by atheists.

What really irritates me is that when I speak out against same-sex marriage, I'm labeled a homophobe or anti-gay. Just because I believe an entire segment of the population is an abomination doesn't mean I'm heartless. I just don't want these sodomites getting married in my church or in anybody else's church even if that church allows the practice.

Even more aggravating are these gay extremists who want to push their sick agenda on us normal folks. Give them gay marriage and they'll soon be raising an army of adopted children whom they'll indoctrinate into the gay lifestyle. The population will thin into a trickle until normality and morality cease to exist. It's the end of the world, I tell you. A gay armageddon.

Approve same-sex marriage and what next? Bestiality? Incest? You bet. Simply ignore the fact that nations with gay marriage haven't seen a rise in men-goat couplings.

Some deluded people call this discrimination. Just because a large group of people wants to deny something a smaller group desires is not discrimination. It's supply-side demographics.

It would be so much easier if these gays just decided to become straight or found a cure for their disease.

But they stubbornly refuse to do so. So my fellow voters, let's don our white hoods and robes and stick a burning cross at the polls to show these sodomites we mean business. Back in the closet they go. Our will be done.

*Daily News staff writer Bob Tremblay can be reached at btremblay@cnc.com.*

***We'd like to thank the author Bob Tremblay and the MetroWest Daily News for their permission to reprint this article in our PFLAG newsletter!***