



# 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>

August-September 2007

Newsletter 248

## 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

August 15, 2007 (Wednesday)

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

September 19, 2007 (Wednesday)

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

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

**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: 798 3794 (Brian)  
linus\_blanket\_2001@yahoo.com

**Area Code 661**

Santa Clarita Chapter: 254 2177 (Dave)

**Area Code 714**

Orange County Chapter: 997 8047

**Area Code 805**

Ventura Chapter: www.pflagventura.org  
647 0588  
Thousand Oaks 498 4964 (Rita & Steve)  
Ventura / Ojai: 646 5318 (Tom & Nanette)

**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)

**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: September 1  
(October/November issue)

**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

**NEW!!!  
Hablamos español!**

Leonor 818 243 5306 (home)  
818 378 6406 (cell)

Julio 310 500 8645  
espanol@pflagpasadena.org

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month was Pride month and our Speakers Bureau was busy. From Cleveland Magnet School in the Valley, to the NLRB, to Pratt and Whitney and more, PFLAG LA speakers were telling their truths and influencing hearts and minds.

The best of Pride month, as always, was marching in the Christopher Street Pride Parade in West Hollywood on June 10. We got our usual warm greeting - the payback for a year's volunteer efforts. It comes directly from the eyes, smiles and applause of the onlookers as we march by with our signs and good spirits. If you missed it this year, plan to join us next year.

This said, I am still a frustrated PFLAGer. Despite my impassioned plea in my last column for our readers to email me and get on the front lines of LGBT advocacy, NOT A SINGLE PERSON sent me a note. Either you don't have email or you don't care enough for the wellbeing and rights of your family members to get involved. If you need more motivation, know well that those that demonize your family members are gathering signatures to place a proposition on the upcoming February, 2008 ballot to permanently change the California Constitution to prohibit same-sex marriage.

One more time - please send a note to [stevek@bipedinfo.com](mailto:stevek@bipedinfo.com) if you will join me on the front lines - as PFLAG parent volunteers, as PFLAG LA Board members, as truth tellers to the world. Please don't stand idly by.

Steve Krantz, PFLAG Los Angeles



Vote Yes Marriage  
[www.voteyesmarriage.com](http://www.voteyesmarriage.com)

Voters' Right to  
Protect Marriage Initiative:

Here are the clear, precise, and important words that *The Voters' Right to Protect Marriage Initiative* would place into the California State Constitution:

Only marriage between one man and one woman is valid or recognized in California, whether contracted in this state or elsewhere. A man is an adult male human being who possesses at least one inherited Y chromosome, and a woman is an adult female human being who does not possess an inherited Y chromosome.

Neither the Legislature nor any court, government institution, government agency, initiative statute, local government, or government official shall abolish the civil institution of marriage between one man and one woman, or decrease statutory rights, incidents, or employee benefits of marriage shared by one man and one woman, or require private entities to offer or provide rights, incidents, or benefits of marriage to unmarried individuals, or bestow statutory rights, incidents, or employee benefits of marriage on unmarried individuals. Any public act, record, or judicial proceeding, from within this state or another jurisdiction, that violates this section is void and unenforceable.

#### From the editor:

THIS is what Steve is talking about. Do we really want to turn this great state into a radical one where mob mentality and a brainwashed majority can dictate which citizens have rights and which don't? How UN-American is that?! These people have no clue about real life nor chromosomes which, in many cases, are NOT ultimate indicators of one's sex! (According to ISNA, 1 in 20,000 men have NO Y chromosome, while some women DO have one. Read [www.isna.org/about/stone](http://www.isna.org/about/stone) )

The second paragraph is even worse since it totally undermines our California judicial system! Also, they refer to the "civil institution of marriage." If you look up the word "civil" it tells you that it means "Of, relating to, or befitting a citizen or citizens; Law Relating to the rights of private individuals and legal proceedings concerning these rights as distinguished from criminal, military, or international regulations or proceedings." Why should gay/lesbian citizens be excluded?! That is totally nonsensical!

It appears that the only "good" thing out of this might be that transsexual women would be allowed to marry their lesbian partners. Others will be doomed. Including some of THEM.

LEGISLATIVE CORNER

## Four ballot initiatives threatening our families!

Equality California is closely monitoring four ballot initiatives that were recently filed with the Attorney General's office in Sacramento. All four measures would ask California voters to amend the state constitution to ban marriage for same-sex couples. Two of the initiatives go even further and would void all of California's current domestic partnership rights, which lawmakers, EQCA, community activists and our allies fought so hard to earn.

This attack on the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community comes from two different groups. The two ballot measures that would ban marriage and void domestic partnerships were filed by VoteYesMarriage.com, a campaign backed by Randy Thomasson, founder and President of Campaign for Children and Families.

The other two amendments that would ban marriage, but not domestic partnerships, were filed by Gail Knight among others, whose campaign "ProtectMarriage.com" has the backing of powerful and well-funded organizations like Focus on the Family and the Family Research Council.

The fact that Gail Knight has the backing of organizations whose combined budgets total hundreds of millions of dollars is particularly troubling. Raising money in California for these kinds of discriminatory initiatives appears to be challenging for anti-LGBT crusaders like Knight and Thomasson. But an infusion of money from national organizations outside of California would greatly increase their chances of getting one of these measures on the ballot.

In order for any of the measures to qualify for the June or November 2008 ballot, proponents would have to collect approximately 1 million signatures by the end of the year. Only one measure has been approved by the Attorney General for circulation so far, but approval for the other three is expected. For more information on these measures and the ballot process, visit [www.ag.ca.gov/initiatives](http://www.ag.ca.gov/initiatives).

EQCA is taking these threats seriously and is monitoring these latest attempts to take away our basic rights and freedoms.

EQCA is a founding member of Equality For All, a campaign committee formed specifically to fight any attempts to take away marriage or domestic partner rights at the ballot box. Formed in 2005, Equality For All helped keep similar anti-LGBT amendments off the 2006 ballot. EQCA and Equality for All have asked the Attorney General to accurately describe the effect these initiatives will have so all Californians know exactly what is at stake. We are also monitoring any evidence of signature gathering and significant fundraising by either campaign.

<http://www.eqca.org>

### "QUOTE - UNQUOTE"

"America has always been a beacon of hope for those who believe in human rights and individual dignity."

*Former President Jimmy Carter*

### "QUOTE - UNQUOTE"

"I don't hate you. I just think that you're being a pervert. God is angry with your kind of moral behavior."

*The late Rev. Jerry Falwell*

### "QUOTE - UNQUOTE"

"I don't know why somebody else's marriage has anything to do with me. I'm completely comfortable with gay marriage."

*Elizabeth Edwards*

## SPREADING THE WORD IN THE COMMUNITY

through speaking engagements/education, activism & advocacy:

- Maurie Davidson, Terry McIntyre and Marty Olson at Beverly Hills High
- Steve Krantz at the Unitarian Universalist Church, "The Onion"
- Maurie Davidson, Herman Eastmond and Steve Krantz at Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne
- Dee Cappelli and Steve Krantz at the National Labor Relations Board as part of their celebration of National Gay and Lesbian Heritage Month
- Mitch Grobeson, Steve Krantz, Heather Mickelson and Brenda Thompson at the South of Nowhere Conference held at the LAX Marriott
- Book signing benefit with the author Wayne Besen ("Bashing Back") at Steve Krantz's home
- LA LGBT Youth Advocate Leaders meeting at Steve Krantz's home to strategize and to pull together resources
- Steve Krantz at Soulforce Press Conference and Vigil outside NARTH Headquarters in Encino July 2

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.

Read our newsletter online at  
<http://www.pflagla.org/resources.html>

Looking for LGBT books?

Check out Haworth Press!

<http://www.haworthpress.com/lgbt/>

### **Bible drawn into sex publication controversy**

May 16, 2007

HONG KONG (Reuters) - More than 800 Hong Kong residents have called on authorities to reclassify the Bible as "indecent" due to its sexual and violent content, following an uproar over a sex column in a university student journal.

A spokesperson for Hong Kong's Television and Entertainment Licensing authority (TELA) said it had received 838 complaints about the Bible by noon Wednesday. The complaints follow the launch of an anonymous Web site -- [www.truthbible.net](http://www.truthbible.net) -- which said the holy book "made one tremble" given its sexual and violent content, including rape and incest.

The Web site said the Bible's sexual content "far exceeds" that of a recent sex column published in the Chinese University's "Student Press" magazine, which had asked readers whether they'd ever fantasized about incest or bestiality. That column was later deemed "indecent" by the Obscene Articles Tribunal, sparking a storm of debate about social morality and freedom of speech. Student editors of the journal defended it, saying open sexual debate was a basic right.

If the Bible is similarly classified as "indecent" by authorities, only those over 18 could buy the holy book and it would need to be sealed in a wrapper with a statutory warning notice.

### **Ohio Governor Signs LGBT Executive Order**

Ohio Gov.  
Ted Strickland  
signed an  
Executive Order  
May 17 protecting  
more than 60,000  
state employees  
from discrimination  
based upon their  
sexual orientation or  
gender identity.

# T R A N S A C T I O N

## Vermont Becomes 11th State to Pass Transgender Anti-discrimination Law

On May 22, Vermont once more showed leadership when Republican Governor James Douglas signed into law legislation to protect transgender Vermonters.

The Vermont State House of Representatives voted May 2 to widen the scope of state anti-discrimination laws to include gender identity.

The vote, which at 118-28 passed the legislation by an overwhelming margin, enjoyed strong support from both sides of the aisle, with favorable votes from 22 Republicans.

The house vote mirrored the earlier passage of similar legislation in the Senate, which approved its own version of employment, housing, public accommodation, insurance and credit protections for transgender residents of the state. The Senate vote passed the bill with a margin of 27-1.

## Transgender Inmate Settles Civil Rights Suit with OC

July 5, 2007 – John Doe, a 2005 inmate of the Orange County Jail, today successfully settled a civil rights suit against the County resulting in significant policy changes and a settlement sum of close to \$50,000. Doe, represented by San Diego law firm Stock Stephens, LLP and the Transgender Law Center (TLC), alleged denial of medical care and gender identity harassment in the suit. The resulting policy changes will formalize policies regarding provision of hormones to transgender inmates and training for medical and corrections staff.

“This settlement is a huge win for our client and for transgender people throughout Orange County,” said Mattheus Stephens, Partner with Stock Stephens, LLP. “We signed on to this case because we were appalled by the way our client was treated and believe that this settlement goes a long way towards guaranteeing that the County takes seriously the needs of transgender residents.”

“Transgender prisoners around the state and nation are at high risk for abuse and denial of medical care,” said Christopher Daley, TLC Director. “We’re proud to have worked with Doe and Stock Stephens to not only reach resolution for the harm Doe suffered, but also to have successfully worked with Orange County officials to move forward on these important safety issues. We look forward to working with the County over the next year to implement the terms of the settlement.”

<http://www.transgenderlawcenter.org>

## AMA Adds Trans-Inclusive Policies

June 29, 2007

The National Center for Transgender Equality applauds the American Medical Association for its vote earlier this week to amend its nondiscrimination policies to include transgender people. AMA nondiscrimination policies already include sexual orientation.

The new policies address a wide range of contexts, including discrimination against patients, medical students and physicians as well as insurance policy. Of particular note, the AMA policies call for an end to the discriminatory insurance policies that trans people often face-policies that disallow coverage for transition related care, sex specific care and even exclude all care for some trans people.

Mara Keisling, Executive Director of the NCTE, called the new AMA policies "a great step in moving the American healthcare system in a direction of more fairness for transgender people."

<http://www.nctequality.org>

## Woman in Progress BLOG By Christine Daniels

Christine Daniels is a veteran sportswriter who has worked at the Los Angeles Times for 23 years -- as Mike Penner. Christine shocked many readers on April 27, 2007, when she announced her decision to change gender.

Read her blog at

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/womaninprogress/>

## Do you have a trans family member?

You're definitely not alone!

Check out Transfamily's website at

<http://www.transfamily.org/emailist.htm>

to join one of their discussion lists,  
to search for resources,  
and to read other peoples' transition stories!

The following story is excerpted from Janice Langbehn's speech at Capital City Pride in Olympia, Washington, on June 17, 2007.

## **She Will Not Be Forgotten**

By Janice Langbehn, Olympia, Washington

In February 2007, my partner, Lisa Marie Pond, died from a brain aneurysm. Our family was dreaming of white sandy beaches and blue waters as we were getting ready to set sail on the R Family Vacation cruise out of Miami to the Bahamas. Instead, Lisa, who was very healthy, collapsed while watching our children play basketball on the top deck.

The kids were brave souls and carried Lisa down to the stateroom where I took one look at her and knew it was very serious, she couldn't talk at all and had no ability to stand. I will always have to live with the memory of the trauma our children endured by watching as their "other" mom was dying before their eyes.

Fortunately, Lisa and I knew sign language because we have had many foster children who had language delays. So I signed and asked her if she hit her head and she replied very sternly, in sign language, "No." That is when I thought it was a stroke or some other serious brain event.

The kids and I packed all our belongings and hurried off the boat while Lisa was intubated and taken to the local trauma hospital in Miami.

The kids and I waited and waited for word about Lisa, finally when someone appeared I was told that I was in "an anti-gay city and state" and that I would need a healthcare proxy before I was allowed to see my partner of nearly 18 years or know of her condition.

I immediately called our closest friend in our hometown of Olympia, Wash., who went to our house, found our legal documents and faxed them to the hospital in Miami.

In those three hours, desperate for information about Lisa, I paced and watched other families being brought back into the trauma center, yet my family waited, with no word about Lisa's condition.

Our children — Danielle, David and Katie — and I all lost the ability to be with Lisa in her last moments of consciousness, to hold her hand and to say goodbye.

When I finally was allowed to see Lisa it was with a priest to perform her last rites.

To this day, I have not received Lisa's death certificate directly from Miami or the state of Florida. Instead I had to ask the funeral home to request them for me because we were not a recognized couple. This may seem insignificant, but without a death certificate, our children's Social Security benefits were held up, as well as life insurance benefits.

## **Rainbow Youth Festival**

### **When:**

Saturday, August 18, 2007, 2pm – 8pm

### **Where:**

At the Village, 1125 N. McCadden Place, Hollywood

### **What:**

The Rainbow Youth Festival is an outreach event and resource fair for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth, ages 15 to 24, and their friends to learn about community resources, socialize, meet friends and make new friends. It is organized by representatives from the LA Gay & Lesbian Center, Gay & Lesbian Adolescent Social Services (MOHOP), Bienestar Human Services and LifeWorks Mentoring.

*For more information please call (323) 860-7394 or check out the event at [www.myspace.com/rainbowyouthfestival](http://www.myspace.com/rainbowyouthfestival)*

*www.advocate.com  
July 06, 2007*

### **L.A. lesbian firefighter wins \$6.2 million in lawsuit**

A jury has awarded \$6.2 million to a firefighter who said she was harassed by colleagues because she is black and a lesbian, harassment she says included someone mixing urine with her mouthwash.

Brenda Lee's lawsuit against the Los Angeles fire department also claimed her superiors made derogatory comments about her and that, because of her race and sexual orientation, she was forced to perform strenuous exercises without proper safety precautions.

The payout was the largest in a string of recent settlements of cases alleging discrimination and retaliation against women and minorities within the fire department.

Judge Michael L. Stern ordered the panel back to court Thursday for a second phase of the trial involving possible punitive damages against Lee's former supervisor, Capt. Christopher Hare.

Rob Kitson, Lee's attorney, declined to comment on the case because it was ongoing.

A spokesman for the city attorney's office, Jonathan Diamond, said the city would "review its options going forward."