



# **PFLAG - LA**

**Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays**

P. O. Box 24565 Los Angeles, CA 90024 (888) PFLAG88 <http://www.pflagla.org>

2010 / Newsletter # 257

## 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.

Our meetings typically include rap groups where individuals can share their concerns, questions, and understanding about the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered person(s) in their families, and invited guest speakers on topics pertinent to our families. There is a short refreshment break between the rap session and the speaker(s).

For **U**pcoming **S**peakers,  
Please **C**heck **O**ur **W**ebsite **A**t  
[www.pflagla.org](http://www.pflagla.org) !

New support meeting in  
**Silverlake!**

Please read the President's Message  
on page 3.

Please join us on **Sunday June 13** for the annual **Christopher Street 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!!!**

**HELPLINES, CHAPTERS & CONTACTS 9AM-9PM**  
**1-888-PFLAG88 or 1-888-735-2488 www.pflagla.org**

West LA: 310-454-6681 (Liz)  
 LI ZARM@aol.com

Pasadena: 626-797-1732 (Patti)  
 ploitz@earthlink.net

Santa Clarita: 661-254-2177 (Dave)

San Fernando Valley: 818-788-8678 (Lynette)

South Bay: 310-546-2721 (Dick)

Long Beach Chapter: 562-403-1234

PFLAG/LA Speakers Bureau:  
 Ron & Andy, andynron@gmail.com

Asian Pacific Islander:  
 Harold Kameya, HKameya@gmail.com,  
 818-368-2008  
 Bev Toyama, btoyama@ca.rr.com

Transgender: 818-985-9319 (Chris)

LA Gay & Lesbian Center:  
 323-993-7400  
 www.lagaycenter.org

The TREVOR PROJECT  
 24-hour nationwide suicide prevention line for  
 GLBT and Questioning youth.  
 866-4 U TREVOR / 866-488-7386  
 www.thetrevorproject.org

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

**Hablamos español!**

Leonor 818-956-7533  
<http://www.pflagla.org/Home-Espanol.html>

Julio 310-500-8645  
[espanol@pflagpasadena.org](mailto:espanol@pflagpasadena.org)

Need to get in touch with the editor? Send an email to Chris at [haichi87@sbcglobal.net](mailto:haichi87@sbcglobal.net)

**Officers:**

President: Mariette Sawchuk  
 Vice President: Stuart Huggins  
 Treasurer: York Knowlton  
 Secretary: Karen Mason

**Board Members:**

Carol Cox	Barry Mason
Maurie Davidson	Karen Mason
Ron Elecciri	Sandy Sawchuk
Chris Haiss	Sylvia Weisenberg
Steve Krantz	

Liaison from PFLAG en Espanol: Lenor Holmstrom

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

**New support meeting in Silverlake!**

When: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month  
 from 7:30pm to 9pm

Where: Metropolitan Community Church  
 4953 Franklin Ave  
 Los Angeles 90027

Contact: Dawn at  
[silverlake@pflagLA.org](mailto:silverlake@pflagLA.org)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Introducing PFLAG Los Angeles @ Silverlake

Who says we don't have seasons in Los Angeles? The trees are budding, the jasmine is in bloom, and Southern California is in that beautiful period between winter storms and June gloom. At PFLAG Los Angeles, there are new opportunities sprouting up as well. Most importantly, there is a new support meeting taking place on the second Thursday of each month at the Metropolitan Community Church, 4953 Franklin Avenue, Los Angeles 90027. Doors open at 7:00 and the meeting runs from 7:30 to 9:00 pm.

The project is the brainchild of Stephen Jimenez, Project 10 Coordinator for LAUSD. His work brings him in contact with many parents and students who need a support group nearer home. He leads the group with two wonderful facilitators, Dawn Berg and Virsil Mitchell. Dawn, the mother of a young transgender child, has worked closely with Steve to find a supportive school environment for her child. She has also started a support group for families with trans children. Virsil is an experienced educator. The new satellite group had its first meeting in January 2010 with 17 participants and is going strong. I encourage all of you to drop in to support the new meeting when you have a chance. If you have any questions about PFLAG Los Angeles@Silverlake, you can email Dawn at [silverlake@pflagLA.org](mailto:silverlake@pflagLA.org) or call 1-888-PFLAG88.

Be on the lookout for information about the new Speakers Training Workshop, which will take place in early Fall. Our Speakers Bureau has been receiving more requests for presentations from middle and high schools, colleges and universities, businesses and other organizations and we need YOU. You don't have to be an orator, you just need to speak from your heart. Being a PFLAG Los Angeles speaker isn't a huge time commitment. Speakers select from requests those that fit their own schedule, so it's an easy way to do your part for equality. And the rewards are great. Each time you tell your story, you'll be changing hearts and minds. We particularly need parents and gay men to join our ranks. If you are interested, send your name to Andy and Ron at [andyron@gmail.com](mailto:andyron@gmail.com). They'll contact you with dates, time, and place. You can also check our website for information.

A special event is coming to Los Angeles! Mark your calendar and order your tickets soon for the First Annual PFLAG National Gala Event held in Los Angeles! On October 1, you will have an opportunity to support the work of PFLAG National, in particular the Straight for Equality campaign—and have some fun, too! A gala event on the rooftop of the London West Hollywood Hotel will include music, complimentary wine from Barefoot Wines, celebrities, and more. Proceeds will help to fund Straight for Equality's national outreach project created to help straight allies advance equality for LGBT persons through a wide variety of actions. In addition to Straight for Equality printed materials and presentations, National has also launched Straight for Equality in Healthcare to give providers inclusion strategies for LGBT patients. Buy your tickets now at National's website [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org) (click the link "2010 Los Angeles Event" at the right-hand side) and help empower our straight allies in the fight for equality.

Coming in November, Los Angeles City Council Member Bill Rosendahl will be speaking at the PFLAG Los Angeles Westwood meeting. Mark November 17th on your calendars and come to meet Council Member Rosendahl, who as an out gay man, represents us as well as his Westside districts.

Have a great spring and hope to see many of you in Silverlake, at the Speakers Training Workshop, at the Pride Parade, at the gala, and the Rosendahl event.

Mariette Sawchuk  
[msawchuk-pflag@earthlink.net](mailto:msawchuk-pflag@earthlink.net)

## LEGISLATIVE CORNER

### **Prop. 8 repeal fails to qualify for November ballot**

Efforts of Love Honor Cherish, the California-based organization behind the Repeal Prop 8 in 2010 campaign, have failed to gather the necessary signatures to put the repeal of Prop 8 on the November ballot. They will continue to educate minds and open hearts with the goal to qualify the measure for the November 2012 election.

Prop. 8 supporters said the failure shows that voters in California prefer allowing only heterosexual couples to marry. "Even the minority of Californians who voted against Prop. 8 have accepted that the majority rules and moved on to other issues," said Brian Brown, executive director of the National Organization for Marriage, a major backer of Prop. 8.

*Note from the editor: You, the reader, should know that the National Organization for Marriage (NOM), a MAJOR backer of Prop 8, is headquartered in Princeton, New Jersey. Its president Maggie Gallagher (Margaret Gallagher Srivastav) is an ardent opponent of marriage rights for same-sex couples. It is not clear to me how being opposed to marrying same-sex couples would "strengthen marriage as a social institution." If she really were pro-family, she should be the first in line supporting ALL families. Even those who don't look like hers.*

---

### **Poll Shows 50% of Californians Now Support Marriage for All**

March 24, 2010

San Francisco -- Fifty percent of Californians now support the right for same-sex couples to marry, according to results of a poll recently conducted by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), a non-profit and non-partisan think tank. A significant six-point jump from last year's March 2009 PPIC poll, the findings are the best result PPIC has ever recorded on this issue. The poll also illustrates a trend of increasing support for other basic rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals and their families among Californians.

Executive Director Geoff Kors, Equality California: "Moving forward, we are committed to having more than 1 million conversations with voters in order to achieve solid majority support by 2012, when we will return to the ballot to restore the freedom to marry."

*www.eqca.org*

---

### **Resolution Urging Tax Equity for Domestic Partners Passes Assembly**

April 22, 2010

Sacramento—Just one week after Californians filed their state taxes, the California State Assembly approved Assembly Joint Resolution 29 with bipartisan support in a vote of 59-5. The measure, authored by Assembly member Mike Feuer (D-Los Angeles) and sponsored by Equality California, urges the IRS to change a policy that now requires many same-sex couples to file two federal tax returns and pay unfairly high taxes because the federal government fails to recognize how California applies its community property laws to same-sex couples.

"Today, Democrats and Republicans joined together to demand that the federal government stop its current policy discriminating against same-sex couples when it comes to taxes," said Geoff Kors, executive director of Equality California. "It is time for the federal government to work together to make a real difference in the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender couples."

AJR 29 will now be considered in the California Senate.

*www.eqca.org*

## SPREADING THE WORD IN THE COMMUNITY

through speaking engagements/education, activism & advocacy:

- Barry Masen and Sylvia Weisenberg spoke to a class of about 40 9th-graders at East Valley High in North Hollywood
- Frank Elliott, Lisa Kimsey, Barry Mason and Heather Mickelson spoke to students in a peer-helping program at LACES (LA Center for Enriched Studies)
- Jane Drucker, Frank Elliott, Joseph Harounian, Steve Krantz and Sylvia Weisenberg spoke to students at Milken Community High School
- Stuart Huggins, Barry Mason and Sylvia Weisenberg were invited to speak at The Los Angeles Teacher Preparatory Academy
- Steve Krantz and Sylvia Weisenberg spoke to high school students at the Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies
- Mitch Grobeson, Steve Krantz and Marla Weiss spoke to 8th graders at Pressman Academy
- Carol Cox, Jane Drucker and Steve Krantz were invited to speak at California State University, Northridge
- Steve Krantz, Mel Schwartz and Sylvia Weisenberg spoke to students at an event sponsored by the Gay/Straight Alliance at Pierce College
- Barry Mason, Terry McIntyre and Sylvia Weisenberg talked to students at Mount St. Mary's College
- Leonor Holmstrom, Lisa Kimsey and Sylvia Weisenberg talked to students grades 9 through 12 at East Valley High in North Hollywood
- Karen Masen was interviewed by I MRU (KPFK 90.7 FM). Missed the interview? Play it or download it at <http://archive.kpfb.org/parchive/> Look in column "Date" for "Monday, April 26, 2010 7:00 pm" / "I MRU"

A special **thank-you** goes to the following businesses who donated the food for our PFLAG Regional Conference on February 27, 2010:

**Bristol Farms**

9039 Beverly Bl, West Hollywood, CA 90048  
310-248-2804

**Koo Koo Roo**

8250 Santa Monica Bl, West Hollywood, CA 90069  
310-657-3300

**Mariz Restaurant**

1108 N Flores St, West Hollywood, CA 90069  
323-656-8800

**Pavilions Market**

8969 Santa Monica Bl, West Hollywood, CA 90069  
310-595-1730

**Ralphs Market**

9040 Beverly Bl, West Hollywood, CA 90048  
310-278-1351

**Ralphs Market**

7257 Sunset Bl, West Hollywood, CA 90046  
323-512-8382

**Starbucks**

8595 Santa Monica Bl, West Hollywood, CA 90069  
310-659-1856

**Subway**

8617 Santa Monica Bl, West Hollywood, CA 90069  
310-659-4225

**The Veggie Grill**

8000 W Sunset Bl, West Hollywood, CA 90046  
323-822-7575

**Trader Joe's**

8611 Santa Monica Bl, West Hollywood, CA 90069  
310-657-0152

**Z Pizza**

8869 Santa Monica Bl, West Hollywood, CA 90069  
310-360-1414

**Please show your appreciation  
by frequenting these businesses.**

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

## Come celebrate with us Trans-Unity Pride! Los Angeles, June 3 – 6, 2010

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 educational workshops, discussion groups, entertainment, art, music, refreshments and relaxation.

Trans-Unity is welcoming all community members to come show their pride in support of the transgender and gender non-conforming communities by marching with us on Saturday, June 5.

This is a free celebration with events taking place throughout Los Angeles.

For more information, please contact Farina at 323-860-7394.

## Obama administration appoints two openly transgender people

**Dylan Orr**, a 30-year-old transgender man, started work in December 2009 as the special assistant to assistant secretary Kathy Martinez in the Office of Disability Employment Policy. Before moving to D.C., he worked at Disability Rights Washington, an advocacy organization in Seattle. Orr also put in time at a civil rights law firm and last year received his juris doctor from the University of Washington School of Law.

**Amanda Simpson**, a 49-year-old transgender woman, started work in January 2010 as Senior Technical Advisor in the Bureau of Industry and Security. She is a former test pilot, and has been active in the aerospace and defense industry for the past 30 years. She most recently served as Deputy Director in Advanced Technology Development for Raytheon, where she transitioned from male to female.

## LA Gay & Lesbian Center opens primary clinic for transgender people

Thanks to the Community Clinics Campaign ("C3"), a collaborative effort spearheaded by the Transgender Law Center and the FTM Alliance of Los Angeles, transgender people now have access to trans-sensitive health care in a trans-friendly environment.

The L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center provides a welcoming and accepting environment where you are free to be yourself. Dr. Maddie Deutsch, a leading expert in transgender health care, heads the Center's Transgender Health Program, which provides comprehensive primary health care as well as trans-specific services such as:

- Pap smears and pelvic exams for trans men
- Prostate exams for trans women
- Hormone-therapy supervision
- Post-surgical care for those who have undergone sex-reassignment surgery

The Center also offers the convenience of an on-site lab and a pharmacy, so you can take care of all your trans-specific medical needs at one facility.

The clinic accepts most major PPO health insurance policies, as well as Medi-Cal and Medicare.

For clients without insurance, services are available on a cash basis.

For patients with limited income, the clinic offers a sliding fee schedule. Charges are as low as \$30 for a doctor visit although additional charges for lab and other services may apply.

No one will be denied services for lack of ability to pay.

Services are provided at the Center's McDonald/Wright Building at 1625 N Schrader Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90028.

For more information or to schedule a financial screening appointment, call 323-993-7518 or send an e-mail to [healthservices@lagaycenter.org](mailto:healthservices@lagaycenter.org).

## DONATE TO PFLAG LOS ANGELES ONLINE!!!

New or renewal memberships, donations, and memorial contributions can all be made online at [www.pflagla.org](http://www.pflagla.org).

Click on the JOIN/DONATE tab at the top of the page and follow the simple steps.

Every penny of your membership or gift will go directly to our all-volunteer work on behalf of LGBT persons and their families.

**THANK YOU!**

## "QUOTE - UNQUOTE"

"We're all hopelessly deceived if we don't think that there are people within our churches, within our communities, who want to hold on to the person they love, whatever sex that may be, and hold on to their faith."

*Jennifer Knapp, Christian music artist who in April 2010 came out as lesbian*

## Finally - HIV Ban Lifted!

On October 30, 2009, President Obama signed the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009 which included the elimination of the 22-year-old HIV ban barring HIV-positive people and people with AIDS from entering the U.S.

President Obama: "If we want to be the global leader in combating HIV/AIDS, we need to act like it. And that's why on Monday my administration will publish a final rule that eliminates the travel ban effective just after the New Year."

The ban goes back to 1987, the hype of the HIV hysteria. Republican Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) added HIV to a list of travel restrictions (TB, SARS, and others), approved unanimously by Congress. In 1993, Congress added the HIV ban to immigration laws, further strengthening the policy.

*(On April 29, 2010, China, which was another one of the handful of countries along with the U.S. that completely banned HIV-positive people from entering the country, lifted its ban also.)*

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

Just send an e-mail to [Barrybarrym@yahoo.com](mailto:Barrybarrym@yahoo.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.

## CA Assembly Speaker Sworn In

Another barrier for our community was shattered on March 1, 2010, when Supreme Court Justice Carlos Moreno swore in Assemblymember John A. Pérez as Speaker, making him California's first openly gay Speaker.

## Obama Appoints Lesbian To EEOC

Openly lesbian Georgetown University Law Professor Chai Feldblum is among the 15 administration nominees appointed by President Barack Obama in his first recess appointments since taking office. Feldblum has been appointed to be a commissioner on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

## Obama orders hospital visitation rights for gays, lesbians

*April 16, 2010*

President Obama has asked the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a rule that would prevent hospitals from denying visitation privileges to gay and lesbian partners.

He requested that the regulation makes clear that any hospital receiving Medicare and Medicaid funding, which includes the vast majority of U.S. hospitals, must allow patients to decide who can visit them and prohibit discrimination based on a variety of characteristics, including sexual orientation and gender identity.

**Submitted by our PFLAG Mom Nancy Zaun:**

"Glendale High is finally waking up to modern times. Glendale News-Press printed an article that the students of Glendale High, one of three high schools in Glendale, had a silent sit-in protest at noon in the Quad. Some teachers also participated in the protest against prejudice and harassment of all types, when a student a few yards away repeatedly yelled a derogatory term for homosexuals."

The Glendale News-Press who covered the protest reports that "Many of the participating students were members of the Gay-Straight Alliance."

Gay-Straight Alliances continue to be controversial in Glendale Unified's high schools. "In 2008, parents spoke against the clubs at a school board meeting, saying that administrators had no right to let the clubs exist. But those arguments failed to get traction with district officials who said students had the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment right to organize."

Welcome, Glendale Unified, to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!

**Iceland is fine-tuning marriage-equality bill**

*San Diego Gay & Lesbian News, April 10, 2010*

REYKJAVIK, Iceland – The isolated island of Iceland is putting the finishing touches on a bill supporting marriage equality.

The liberal nation, which has a population of about 320,000, is already one of the most progressive in the world toward LGBT equal rights.

Iceland is the first nation in the world to have an LGBT person as head of state. Openly lesbian politician Johanna Sigurdardóttir became prime minister last year when voters supporting the Social Democrats and their partners, the Left-Greens, ousted the conservative Independent Party that had ruled for 18 years.

The Sigurdardóttir administration presented the bill to Parliament on March 23. The bill's passage is expected soon, and same-sex marriage could become legal as early as June 27.

**Archie Comics announces new gay character**

*By the CNN Wire Staff, April 23, 2010*

Riverdale High School, the stomping ground of comic book legend Archie Andrews, will open its doors to its first openly gay student.

Kevin Keller will be the new student to join Archie, Jughead, Veronica, Betty and Reggie, Archie Comics publications announced Thursday.

"The introduction of Kevin is just about keeping the world of Archie Comics current and inclusive. Archie's hometown of Riverdale has always been a safe world for everyone," said Jon Goldwater, Archie Comics co-CEO.

Kevin will make his entrance in the comic book in September.

*From The Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA):*

Openly lesbian **Marisa Demeo** has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate to the D.C. Superior Court bench. The Senate voted to confirm Judge Demeo for a 15-year term by a vote of 66 to 32. The victory for the LGBT community comes after a year-long attempt by anti-LGBT conservatives to block the nomination.

*From: Keen News Service / Lisa Keen, April 24, 2010:*

Openly gay man nominated to fed appeals court

In an historic move, President Obama in April nominated an openly gay person, **Edward DuMont**, to a federal appeals court judgeship—the first such openly gay nomination at that level.

**From the editor:**

Did you follow the recent Don't Ask – Don't Tell (DADT) hearings? Passed by Congress in 1993, DADT is a law mandating the discharge of openly gay, lesbian, or bisexual service members. More than 13,500 highly qualified service members have been fired under the law since 1994. That's scandalous. But what is even more scandalous was the testimony of retired Gen. John Sheehan in opposition to a proposal to allow gays/lesbians to serve openly in the U.S. military. His reason: According to Henk van den Breemen, the Dutch military's chief of staff at the time of the Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia in 1995, gay [Dutch] soldiers were partly to blame for the massacre.

This "expert's" insane claim was immediately refuted by Van den Breemen, forcing Sheehan to apologize: "I am sorry that my recent public recollection of those discussions of 15 years ago inaccurately reflected your thinking on some specific social issues in the military." My question is this: Why do we allow people like Sheehan, who retired in 1997 from the military, to testify in today's hearings that will impact the future of our men and women in uniform? (We wouldn't call on the expertise of computer professionals who retired more than a decade ago to address identity theft problems we're facing today.) Why do we listen to people who are driven by ideology instead of logic? Shouldn't soldiers' conduct, not their sexual orientation, determine their fate in the military?