



PFLAG North Bay

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

P.O. Box 337, Ukiah, CA 95482

Volume 1, Issue 3

February 2007

President's report

We are moving forward!

This is the start of my third year as leader of this great group and it is an honor. I am so pleased with how we have grown and re-energized. With the challenges that society presents, we need to be strong and united in our resolve to help our loved ones. The culmination of this year was our annual fundraiser and the Rykken/Scull awards. We awarded a total of \$20,000 to eight different organizations. Each organization received \$2,500 as we felt they were all equal in their work towards creating equality for the LGBT community. Over 100 people in attended including our guest of honor Assembly member Mark Leno. Mr. Leno gave an inspiring speech and we honored him with a plaque for the work he has done. We also honored long-time PFLAG member and ex-regional director Louise Browning for the work she has done for PFLAG and our North Bay group. The event ended with a silent auction with donated items from the four counties including a weekend for two at a Napa bed and breakfast. It was a great success and we look forward for this year's event. We want to thank all of those

continued on page 2

MEMBERSHIP:

INDIVIDUAL- \$35

FAMILY - \$45

WWW.PFLAG-NB.ORG

PFLAG NORTH BAY-Board Members

DELYNNE ROGERS – PRESIDENT

LIN CAMPBELL – PRESIDENT ELECT, PANELS CHAIR

DICK BROWNING – MEMBERSHIP, SECRETARY

GAILE WAKEMAN – TREASURER

KATHRYN MILLER – COMMUNICATIONS

NANCY GAMBASTIANI – EDUCATION

MOLLY STANTON – OUTREACH

DEB STALLING – FUNDRAISING

LOUISE BROWNING – PAST REGIONAL DIRECTOR, OUTREACH

MARK ANDERSEN – MEMBER AT LARGE

JANE HILLS – MEMBER AT LARGE

. I Would Have Liked to Finish-by Kay Miller

Recently, I called into a radio talk show Culture Shocks (<http://www.cultureshocks.com>), to comment on a debate between National PFLAG president John Cepek and Peter LaBarbera, founder of Americans for Truth. LaBarbera was described by host Barry Lynn as a man who has devoted most of his life to confronting the homosexual agenda. I picked up the phone when I heard LaBarbera giving the tired old story of how incapable gay men, particularly, are of being fathers to children. He used the same old accusations of promiscuity and a lifestyle that encourages children to experiment in homosexual sex.

Though the debate began as a critique of Vice-President Dick Cheney refusing to defend his pregnant lesbian daughter against right-wing criticism, it quickly shifted to whether same-sex couples should raise children.

Despite the demographics, which show a growing comfort with the idea of same- sex marriage among people who are in their 30s and 40s, LaBarbera insists that people believe same sex-relationships are wrong. "Attitudes change," he said, citing a new movement against abortion. "We're hoping there's going to be a turnaround. Children need a mom and a dad," he said, and should not be in "households where a father is intentionally denied."

Cepek made the point that research shows no disadvantage for children from same- sex households. It is "not a problem not to have a mother and father, if they have two loving parents," he said. "People are different. They separate, not along gender lines, but in their personalities," he said. He pointed out that each parent might have different interests that they present to their children, which may or may not follow expected gender roles.

La Barbara was unable to cite legitimate studies that showed being raised in a same-sex household harmed children. He said that the academic world was pro-gay, an argument skewered

organizations, wineries; stores that helped us create such a wonderful event.

As a board we decided we need to improve our speaker's bureau as a goal for this year. We are requesting panelists representing PFLAG to attend a training which we will be presenting. This will help keep consistent the message of PFLAG. Our Panels Chair -person, Lin Campbell is taking the reins on this project and will be organizing all panels. If anyone would like to volunteer to be on a panel please contact Lin at 575-1165. If you would like PFLAG to come to your organization, school or work, phone Lin or contact us through our website..

I am excited that Napa is organizing a PFLAG support group. The Napa Unity League is organizing the meeting time and place. The Napa Unity League is the organization that helped unify the gay community in Napa. Soon there will be monthly meetings In Napa that will address the concerns of parents and families and will advocate for our lgbt loved ones.

As we are moving forward in 2007, remember we rely on your generous donations to continue to serve our community. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Best to you all!



Delynne Rogers, Pres. PFLAG
Marin, Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma Counties

Pictures of the 2006 Annual Awards Event with
Assembly member Mark Leno



Delynne Rogers and Assemblyman Mark Leno



Napa Criminal Justice awardees; board members Nancy
Giambastiani, Mark Andersen



Board Member Louise Browning Julia Thoron from
San Francisco

MONTHLY SUPPORT MEETINGS:

MARIN COUNTY

PLACE: WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 240 TIBURON BL.

TIME: 7:30 PM, 2ND THURSDAY EACH MONTH

MENDOCINO COUNTY/UKIAH

PLACE: UKIAH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 270 No. PINE ST., UKIAH

TIME: 6:00PM, 2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

SONOMA COUNTY/SANTA ROSA

PLACE: FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, 4930 NEWANGA DR. SANTA ROSA

TIME: 7:30PM, 4TH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

Napa County

Call 1-866-350-2462

Rykken – Scull Awards

Mendocino- SPACE (School of performing Arts and cultural Education); The Billy Foundation

Sonoma- Scouting For all; Russian River Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence; KRCB Outbeat Salon

Napa- Napa Unity League; Napa Solano Health Project; Napa Valle College, Criminal Justice Training Center

2007 PFLAG National Convention

“Family Voices Moving Equality Forward”

Oct.11-14 2007 McLean Hilton

McLean, Virginia

Washington DC area

by the host Lynn, who countered that if this were so, the academic world wouldn't be academic, would it?

The sparing was polite and restrained, but then LaBarbera said, “Same sex- relationships are immoral.” It is not good for children to be exposed to such relationships, he said, adding later in the debate that the relationships are wrong themselves. LaBarbera argued (without regard to context) that Andrew Sullivan, a well-known gay commentator, states that outside affairs are accepted in gaymonogamous relationships. He then leapt to the ridiculous conclusion that therefore there is no fidelity in gay relationships, no true monogamy. That's when I sighed and reached for the phone. “My gay son does not have any children, but I'm tired, Peter, of hearing that my son's relationship with his partner is not legitimate. They have a relationship. They are true to each other. My son goes out to work to support his partner.” Lynn interrupted me with the news that the participants couldn't hear me, so I had to stop talking. Lynn summarized my statement and made it sound even better, I thought. After my comment Cepek cemented his point: we are talking about loving families and homes, not merely sex.

I would have liked to finish what I intended to say. I was just getting warmed up to tell LaBarbera that he is talking about families here, not isolated couples who decide to raise children on their own. These couples assume responsibilities for families, often without having federal or state support in the form of the many civil rights accorded heterosexual families. They raise responsible children, good citizens, in spite of lukewarm or absent societal support. They find for themselves and their children community support among their families of birth, peers, their coworkers, and their houses of worship.

When a right-wing conservative talks authoritatively about gay people with nothing more than righteous absurdities, he is talking falsely to me about my son. He is hurting not only my son and others like him, he is hurting me and he is hurting my family. He demonizes and slanders us without knowing us, without caring about us.

Who does he think he is, anyway? What gives him the right to spout nonsense, to judge people who love one another and establish homes together? Unable to hear and accept legitimate academic data, he bolsters his so-called arguments with opinions from gay commentator Sullivan who has long been in favor of gay marriage but has given opinions on promiscuity in a certain segment of the gay community. LaBarbera generalizes this activity to all gays. As Cepek pointed out, promiscuity is equally alive in the heterosexual community. Swingers are swingers, whether gay or straight.

I'd go on, but I calm myself with the thought that my friends, a lesbian couple, are at last going to be parents. Having gone through the expense, the rigors, and the intrusions of fertility treatments, the implantation of embryos and the disappointment of a miscarriage, they have persisted over years to come to this point. They are having twins. And, oh, these babies are so wanted! They will be so loved and so cared for by us all: their mothers, their mothers' families, their friends, their coworkers, and their religious family. Here is where I shall put my hope for the future and let the rhetoric of the Peter LaBarberas of the world fade into eventual obscurity.

©2007 Kay Mehl Miller. Kay is the author of Talking It Over: Understanding Sexual Diversity.

PFLAG-No. Bay Mission statement

To promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersexed persons, their families and friends through: support, education, and advocacy to end discrimination and to secure equal civil and human rights

Please contact us at

P.O. Box 337

Ukiah, Ca 95482

1-866-350-2462

www.pflag-nb.org

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

PFLAG North Bay Marin, Sonoma, Napa and Mendocino Counties

**Membership
Family - \$45**

Individual - \$35

**We are a non-profit group that exists
through your generous donations and
membership.**

**Please consider becoming a member
of PFLAG North Bay!**

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