

COLAGE NOTES



An irregular publication of COLAGE/San Francisco Bay Area

Fall 1999

COLAGE begins its 10th Fall with more action than ever before!

by Felicia Park-Rogers

COLAGE members Dan and Bridgett and Emily speak on a teen panel for parents



It's hard to believe but COLAGE will turn ten years old in July of 2000. As we prepare to enter the double digits we are doing more than ever before. Jude Koski, Field and Chapter Coordinator, has been doing all kinds of great work for our California members. With a new chapter in San Diego, a new coalition in LA, and four new groups in the Bay Area COLAGE is doing more than ever before to meet the needs of our members.

This Summer and Fall have been full of events and activities. Our SF Pride contingent (done in collaboration with Our Family, All Our Families Coalition, and NCLR) had a record-breaking 600 people, it took up a whole downtown block! And we had a real float, decorated with family scenes and even a live Tinky Winky.

In September was the third annual Transgender Family Picnic. This event is one that is particularly close to our hearts, it's a one of kind in the nation. This year there were over 30 people there and one lucky kid even celebrated his birthday with us that day! Another attendee, Dan, 15, of Antioch got so excited he's starting a COLAGE chapter in his home town.

Family Day, sponsored by All Our Families Coalition, in October, featured an amazing COLAGE teen panel. Four teens told their stories and answered burning questions for the parents in attendance. Teen panels have become one of COLAGE's most popular forums. They provide an excellent way for teens and parents to communicate with each other and learn from one another.

Meanwhile, we've hired our summer intern Ryn Gluckman to lead our No on Knight campaign. There is more information enclosed on a separate flyer, I urge you to read it and get involved. We need you to stand with us to fight for our families during this divisive and unfair attack.

Rebecca Gould is our new volunteer, volunteer coordinator. She is working hard to connect volunteers with the maze of activities and work of COLAGE. This is the time to get involved, there is so much great stuff to be involved with and so many cool, fun, and interesting people to do it with.

Just one example is the group that volunteer Sanjai Rabab-Moses is starting for Bay Area young adult COLAGERS. This group will be doing things like meeting for brunch, movies, hiking, and attending lgbt family-

related events together. If you want to explore your past, make new friends, or have a good time with other COLAGERS, this is the way to do it.



Kai, COLAGE member, at Family Day '99

Undergraduate Social Work student, Christopher Rodriguez, is working part-time in the office. Christopher is hard at work right now planning a series of focus groups in the Bay Area for COLAGERS under 13, over 13, and

Continued on Page Two

Contact Info

3543 18th St, #17
San Francisco, CA 94110
Tel.: 415-861-5437
Fax: 415-255-8345
E-mail: COLAGE@COLAGE.org
Website: www.COLAGE.org

lgbt parents so that we can gather input, feedback, needs, and concerns from you, our constituents. This input will help us know what type of program and advocacy directions you want us to go in.

And what has your trusty Director been up to? I've been very busy this year traveling around the country speaking



Willie and his friend Jacob at Family Day

to groups large and small about the issues and experiences of daughters and sons of lgbt parents. I've worked with the media extensively this year on stories that have appeared everywhere from the LA Times to the SF BAR. And I've been working to plan the growth and future of COLAGE so that we can

keep growing to keep up with your needs.

That's just some of the news from here. Please keep in touch with us and let us know what is happening with you and your family.

East Bay Middle School Club is a Hit!

This new group for middle school aged kids in East Bay is held at Pacific Center in Berkeley twice monthly. This group is very active and enjoys silly, fun things like organized pillow fights or exploring the outdoors. Two cool adult co-facilitators head this group, Dawn Gammon, who grew up in Ohio with her lesbian mother and step-mother, and Denis Dibartolomeo, a scientist in Berkeley. ~~Currently, the group has 8 participants.~~ **The group meets every other Sunday 11-2pm, the next meeting is on November 7th.** Call Denis @ 510-528-6540 or Dawn 510-845-6155 for details.

Start or Join a GSA in your High School

A Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) is a student-run club, typically in a high school, which provides a safe place for students to meet, support each other, talk about issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity, and work to end homophobia.

These groups offer support to LGBTQ students who are struggling with their own identity. Many of the youth that are involved in GSAs are concerned about LGBTQ issues because they have LGBTQ family members and/or friends. Lots of COLAGers start or join GSAs.

If you are interested in starting a Gay-Straight Alliance, please contact the Bay Area Gay-Straight Alliance Network at (415) 442-4726 or email carolyn@gsanetwork.org. Check out www.gsanetwork.org to get more info and resources about Gay-Straight Alliances.

10 Easy Ways to Help COLAGE

Thanks to the support of our members and foundations COLAGE has been able to grow tremendously in the past year. But the needs and numbers of families continues to grow faster than we can keep up! Please give generously and often to support the amazing work of COLAGE. Here are some easy ways to support daughters and sons of lgbt parents:

Give your old clothes and stuff to Community Thrift (Valencia btw. 16th & 17th sts). They give a portion of the proceeds to a charity of your choice, tell them you want to give to COLAGE, #97.

Make your hardware and home-ware purchases through Cole Hardware, tell them to post it to account 301, and COLAGE will receive 10% of your purchase.

Send \$10 to COLAGE to help cover the costs of this mailing.

Bring your penny or loose change jar by the office, we'll count it up and put it to good use.

Does your employer have a matching gift program? You can double your donation to COLAGE if they do.

Have a house party. Call and ask Felicia for more information, it's so easy.

Give through the United Way, our book number is **89167**. You can write in our name, address, and number on your form.

Give through the CA State Employees' Charitable Campaign if you are a state employee.

Become a sustaining member of COLAGE by giving a \$10, \$20, or \$30 monthly pledge, we'll automatically deduct from your credit card or debit card.

COLAGE is able to accept stock transfers. Give your year end gift and save on taxes at the same time! Call for Felicia for more info.

**COLE HARDWARE IS GIVING
CHILDREN OF LESBIANS
AND GAYS EVERYWHERE
10% OF YOUR PURCHASES!**

Just tell the cashier to post the sale to account **301**.

3312 MISSION ST.
956 COLE ST.
78 FOURTH ST.

Free delivery
throughout
San Francisco

COLE HARDWARE
"The Peninsula's Favorite Hardware Store"

COLAGE ACTION ALERT!!!

Calling all COLAGER's in the State of California!

HELP FIGHT THE KNIGHT INITIATIVE!!!!

Hey, what is this Knight thing anyway?

The Knight Initiative, proposed by State Senator Pete Knight, is a restrictive ballot initiative that limits legal marriage to a man and a woman in the state of California. The Initiative has qualified for the March 7, 2000 ballot. It says, "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." Initiatives and legislation similar to the Knight Initiative have been passed in other states and used to challenge domestic partnership laws.

What's the Knight Initiative got to do with me?

COLAGE, Children Of Lesbians And Gays Everywhere, believes that all children, regardless of their sexual orientation or their parent's sexual orientation, deserve the same rights and protections provided by society and the state. We have already seen divisive politics at work in Propositions 187 and 209. The Knight Initiative is another unnecessary, unfair, and intrusive piece of legislation that clearly threatens legal protection of daughters and sons of same-gender couples.

HOMOPHOBIA IS THE PROBLEM, NOT FAMILIES

The challenge that faces us as daughters and sons of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (lgbt) parents is not our gay parents, but the homophobia directed at us and our families. We want and need protection from homophobia, not our parents. Rather than strengthen our families, the Initiative puts us at risk.

LOVE AND PROTECTION FOR ALL CHILDREN

If passed the Initiative could be used to challenge state and local laws that provide insurance benefits, inheritance rights, hospital visitation rights, child custody and adoption by lgbt parents. These are laws that protect children of same-gender parents. Passage of the Knight Initiative would be a direct threat to the rights that COLAGE believes all children are entitled to.

SAFE SCHOOLS AND A RESPECTFUL SOCIETY

The Knight Initiative sets a precedent for legal discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender families in California. In the face of a wave of hate crimes against minorities in America, a number of them directed at lgbt people and their families, we feel that it is unacceptable to institutionalize discriminatory and unfair legislation such as the Knight Initiative. Children can't learn when they are scared. Many of us in lgbt families are scared at schools because schools often allow anti-gay bias and anti-gay violence to fester. All children should be able to go to safe schools, where they can speak honestly about their families. All children need to learn to value themselves and others and appreciate diversity.

continued on back

Sign me up with COLAGE to fight inequality and unfairness and bring peace and justice to the universe!

Name (please print neatly)

Street Address

City

State

Zip

(Area Code)Telephone

Email

I know someone who might be interested:

Birthdate

Name: _____ Phone # (____) _____

I would like to attend COLAGE trainings in the following locations:

Pacific Center, Berkeley
November 20th

The Village, Los Angeles
December 5th

Hallowell Chevrolet Co., Fresno
December 11th

I can't attend but I would like to support your campaign. Enclosed is my donation made payable to COLAGE to fight the Knight Initiative.

Please see back for additional information

Bowl-A-Rama

The fourth annual COLAGE Bowl-A-Thon is around the corner. Mark it in your calendar now: December 12, 1999, 1-5 pm, Japantown Bowl, 1790 Post Street, San Francisco. (Validated parking available)

This event has become a favorite with our Bay Area members. This year we will have great prizes, yummy food, and more cool people than ever. So put on your bowling shirt, shine up your ball and join us to have fun and have fun raising money to support the important work of COLAGE. We're hoping to raise at least \$5,000 this year for local programming. But we need you to participate!

And, it's so easy to participate. 1. Call or email the office for a pledge sheet. 2. Ask your friends, family members, co-workers, fellow students to sponsor you for \$5, \$10, even \$100 dollars (hey! it's a good cause!). 3. Collect your money before the event. 4. Come on down and join the masses.

To help produce the event or volunteer the day of call the office and talk with Jude. Call with any questions too.

Projects In The Works

- Four new groups in the Bay Area;
 - Coalition between lgbt family groups in LA;
 - A new logo for COLAGE;
 - A series of focus groups in the Bay Area to determine families needs and to shape COLAGE programming;
 - Organizing COLAGers response to the Knight Initiative on the March 7, 2000 CA ballot;
 - Fourth Annual Bowl-A-Thon in San Francisco (12/12/99);
 - COLAGE Board of Directors developing a COLAGE Statement of Core Values & Principals;
 - Family Garden, co-sponsored with Family Pride Coalition, to take place on the Mall at the Millinium March on Washinton, April 30, 2000.
 - Look for our new initiative in 2000: The COLAGE Bill of Rights, outlining our needs for the 21st Century;
 - 10 new chapters from Palm Springs to New Hampshire and everywhere in between;
 - A conference for COLAGers as part of the national PFLAG conference in DC April 28-30, 2000.
 - COLAGE participating in five workshops at Creating Change, the premiere lgbt activist conference, this year in Oakland, CA 11/11-11/14;
 - And as always: coalition building and collaborative efforts with other lgbt family groups, locally, nationally, and internationally. And more...
- Anything you want to help with? Any project you'd like to start? Just give us a call!**

Wish List

Frequent Flier miles ♦ *Small TV* ♦ *Office furniture (desk, chairs, lights)* ♦ *VCR* ♦ *White copy paper* ♦ *Digital camera* ♦ *Toner for HP LaserJet 6L* ♦ *Office supplies(post-its, tape,manila file folders)* ♦ *Stamps/postage* ♦ *paper cutter* ♦ *Avery labels* ♦ *Snacks and drinks for volunteers and events* ♦ *A Power Mac* ♦ *Blank VHS and Hi8 Tapes* ♦ *35 mm color and b/w film* ♦ *Bulletin/ white erase boards* ♦ *Decent point and shoot camera*

Volunteers

Whether you have an hour a day or an hour a year there is a way for you to be part of the growing COLAGE family. We're a fun group of people and we want your creative talent as part of our team. You don't need to live in the Bay Area to volunteer either!

- Web design/maintanance
- Guest artists and one-time workshop presenters
- Help with mailings/ phone calls
- Computer assistance and trouble shooting for Windows 98 Network using Office97, PageMaker, FileMaker Pro
- Database assistance for FileMaker Pro
- Group facilitators/ leaders
- Office Help
- Events Committee volunteers
- Help with fundraising
- Newsletter Committee members
- Media spokespeople against the Knight Initiative and in general
- Speakers for presentations to schools, groups, etc.
- Outreach (flying) for events and activities
- Photographer for events

|||||

San Francisco CA 94103-1710
973 Market St Fl 4
GLHS

Attn: Bill Walker
2683
*****3-DIGIT 941 4 1

Open and read this TODAY!

Urgent information regarding COLAGE's
response to the Knight Initiative enclosed.

Support • Develop • Involve



COLAGE
3543 18th St., #17
San Francisco, CA 94110

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
PERMIT #925

Dates To Remember

- COLAGE Bay Area Focus Groups: 11/17, 12/1, 12/5
- No on Knight Trainings:
Berkeley: 11/20, LA: 12/5, Fresno: 12/11
- Bowl-A-Thon December 12
- Creating Change Conference (sponsored by NGLTF)
November 11-14, Oakland
- Call for information on groups currently meeting in LA, San Diego, San Francisco, Oakland/East Bay

CALL COLAGE (415-861-KIDS) FOR DETAILS REGARDING THESE AND OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES. OR CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.COLAGE.ORG.