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COLAGE Notes

A San Francisco/Bay Area publication of COLAGE
Children Of Lesbians And Gays Everywhere

Spring 2000

The Bay Area COLAGE community speaks out! by Jude Koski

Happy Spring! Our Bay Area members and friends of all ages had many opportunities to get involved with COLAGE this winter. Whether it's been our fabulous Bowl-A-Thon, an empowering No On Knight speak-out, or volunteering for our focus groups, COLAGERS are highly visible and active in the Bay Area. Together, staff, volunteers, and members are teaming up to create stronger COLAGE communities.

Christopher Rodriguez, COLAGE Intern, coordinated two focus groups to hear from youth and adults and learned that members want more activities, groups, and volunteer opportunities. I am happy to announce that this year there will be eight events, seven activity groups for COLAGERS up to age 30, plus a new volunteer program. Thank you to all of those who participated in the focus groups!



Jesse at the 4th annual Bowl-a Thon!

There are so many exciting, cool events to get involved in this spring. Join us at the 4th March on Washington for lgbt rights, the Millennium March on Washington April 28-30th. COLAGE will be sponsoring many activities. Teens and kids, don't miss out on our rad all ages Ice-Skating and Teen Zine Making Parties. Hang out, eat, and make art...it's all about having fun! So mark your calendars, we invite you to join us at our upcoming events.

In April, Ryn Gluckman, COLAGE No On Knight Coordinator, will be leaving COLAGE, and moving home to Vermont to work for Vermont Freedom To Marry. Ryn has been active with COLAGE for over two years as our Intern, COLAGE No On Knight Coordinator, and the coordinator of our international pen pal, membership, and information & referral programs. Thanks to Ryn's hard work, over 50 COLAGERS in California got involved in the No On Knight Campaign, 41 kids received pen pals worldwide, and over 700 requests for information were filled! Thanks Ryn, COLAGE loves you, good luck.

New! Bay Area email news!

Want updates on COLAGE events, groups, and news? If you haven't already, you must sign up to receive COLAGE Bay Area NetNews. The COLAGE NetNews list will no longer include Bay Area updates. We want to keep you informed! It's easy to sign-up! Do it today!

Send a blank email to:
COLAGE_NetNews_BAY_AREA-subscribe@igc.topica.com

For COLAGE National NetNews:
COLAGE_NetNews-Subscribe@igc.topica.com

Or, sign up on our website: www.colage.org

COLAGE
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415-861-5437
jude@colage.org
www.colage.org

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COLAGE Calendar

Spring 2000

March

Saturday, 26th 1-5pm

Teen 'Zine Making Party

What's a zine? It's a creative magazine made by you, meet other teens! Call COLAGE for location.

Wednesday, 29th 7-9pm

All Ages Ice Skating Party

Yerba Buena Ice Skating Center, 750 Folsom St., SF
12 and under: \$4.50, 13 and up: \$6.00

April

Friday, 21st

COLAGE Internship Deadline

Apply to work in the SF international office! Visit our ebsite or call COLAGE for details on how to apply.

Friday, 28th

Lee Dubin Memorial Scholarship Deadline

If you a COLAGER entering an undergraduate school or you already an undergraduate college student you are eligible for this scholarship. Visit our website or call the office for more information about how to apply.

Friday, 28th

PFLAG/COLAGE Conference, Washington, D.C.

Join COLAGE staff, volunteers, board members, and members in Washington for 2 days of workshops and social gatherings.

Sunday, 30th

Millenium March on Washington

March with us to demand equality and respect for our families. COLAGER and board member Sol Kelley-Jones will be speaking!

May-Outdoor Activity for all ages!

Details to be announced.

June-Sunday, 25th-San Francisco Pride Parade

Join COLAGERS of all ages to make cool signs and march in the parade. Afterwards, Chill out at the COLAGE booth to color your hair and nails! Fun!

July

Tuesday, 4th

Alternative Family Project Picnic

Art station for teens and kids plus, face and fingernail painting by COLAGE volunteers!

14th-16th

Spectrum Family Camp 415-457-1115

15th-22nd

Camp Lavender Hill 707-544-8150

cvanstone@webtv.net

<http://www.stanford.edu/~trigon/clh/>

15th-20th

COLAGE/Family Pride Coalition Family Week-Saugatuck, Michigan

Meet COLAGERS from all over! Teen bon fire on the beach! Carnival games for kids! Over 70 COLAGERS ages 9-adult participated last year's workshops & activities run by COLAGE. Featuring workshops especially for teens on gender & sexuality and religion & spirituality also, 9-12 y.o. workshops on dealing with school & friends and talking about our families. Join us for Family Weeks 2000, register now for only \$25 per family. For details visit our website or call Jude at COLAGE.

August

7/29-8/5

COLAGE/Family Pride Coalition Family Week-Provincetown, Massachusetts

See above for details.

19-26th

Camp It Up! Quincy, CA 501-763-0615

redros1214@aol.com

EVENTS INFORMATION

Groups, events, and outings are held every month! All are free and open to COLAGERS, family, friends, and allies of all ages unless otherwise stated. Call or email Jude at COLAGE for further details.

Activity/Support Groups

Kids of Transgender Parents-SF

Meets every other Monday

Alternative Family Project (AFP)

425 Divisadero St, Suite 203

Activity/Discussion based group (art, goofing around..)

Open only to kids whose parents are in the AFP TG parenting group. Parents call 415-436-9000 to sign up.

For details about the kids group:

Contact Lisi 415-621-6811 gigantrx@aol.com

*New Middle School Group-SF

Meets every other Sunday 3-5pm

Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St.

Next meeting: April 2nd

To sign-up: Contact Chris 415-861-5437

jude@colage.org

*New High School Groups-SF & Antioch

To sign-up: Contact Jude 415-861-5437

jude@colage.org

Middle School Group-East Bay

Meets every other sunday

Pacific Center, Berkeley

2712 Telegraph Ave. (@ Derby)

Activity/Play based group...very fun!!!

To sign-up: Contact Denis 510-528-6540
dennis@ayla.lbl.gov

*New High School Group-East Bay

To sign-up: Leave a message for Z @ The Pacific Center 510-548-8283 luyvaz@aol.com

*New 18-30 y.o. Group-Bay Area

Come to kick off our crew's 1st event.

April 16th 11am Sunday brunch @

Squat n' Gobble Café

237 Fillmore St., San Francisco

To sign-up: Contact Sanjai 415-876-0610

rababa20@hotmail.com

For further information or questions about our groups or to start a group in your school or community contact Jude Koski, COLAGE Field and Chapter Coordinator, M-F 10am-6pm @ 415-861-5437 or email: jude@colage.org



Michael, Meredith, and Katie dig in at the February Adult COLAGER Potluck.

PROJECTS IN THE WORKS

March on Washington for lgbt rights, Millennium March on Washington, COLAGE/PFLAG Conference April 28-30th

5 new Bay Area groups for middle schoolers-adults.

Two Family Weeks/Conferences in collaboration with Family Pride Coalition: Saugatuck, Michigan July 15-20 & Provincetown, Massachusetts July 29-August 5.

Eight Bay Area events including a families and COLAGERS of color event, transgender family picnic, and an Ice-Skating Party.

Volunteer Opportunities

Experienced youth group facilitators
Events Committee participants

WISH LIST

Book Shelves

VCR

Point & Shoot Camera

March 16, 2000

Dear COLAGERS, Parents, Families, and Allies,

Proposition 22, the Knight Initiative, passed on March 7th, 61% to 39%. The overwhelming passage of this anti-gay, anti-family initiative is disturbing and scary for all of us. This is the latest in a long history of attacks the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community and their families. In this moment however, COLAGE would like to take the time to remind you and your families about the victories that took place in the course of this campaign and the ways that we, as children of lgbt parents, can reflect upon the No On Knight Campaign as one step in an ongoing struggle to win freedom for our families and communities:

- In the course of this campaign over fifty COLAGERS worked throughout the state of California, educating hundreds of thousands of voters about our lives, experiences and families.
- Three COLAGERS, ages 12, 17, and 25 testified to 3 Bay Area television stations and one radio station about the effects that passage of Prop. 22 would have on their families.
- Seven COLAGERS, ages 12 to 28, interviewed with MTV in response to Prop. 22.
- COLAGE made presentations to groups of activists and families and did outreach in more rural areas such as Chico and Fresno.
- COLAGE sent out 6 different mailings to over 2,000 of our members and allies in California in addition to over 7 email action alerts nationally, alerting our members everywhere about Proposition 22.
- COLAGERS spoke at rallies in L.A. and San Francisco with celebrities like Melissa Etheridge, Ellen Degeneres, Anne Heche, and politicians like Sheila Kuehl and Tom Ammiano.
- Three COLAGERS spoke for 30 minutes on the Knight Initiative and their families on KNBR.
- COLAGE was interviewed by multiple news outlets during the course of the campaign for our perspective on Prop. 22.

Hundreds of children across the state were empowered for the first time to speak out about their families. The coalition building and connections that were made will carry us into a world that is just and free and loving. According to the numbers, we lost. But the resources, time, and energy that were spent during this campaign were spent educating people, and that education doesn't disappear after the polls are in. COLAGE would like to thank all of you, for all of your hard work. While the numbers show that we lost, there is huge victory in the coalitions that have been formed and the empowerment and publicity around COLAGE voices. The fight will continue; this is not the end. COLAGE will continue to advocate for our rights and the rights of our parents.

COLAGE's No On Knight Campaign is the first political campaign that COLAGE has taken an active role in. In order to assess our campaign and how we should continue advocacy work in the future please take the time to fill out the following survey. Your comments and suggestions are essential to shape the political and legal advocacy that COLAGE will take on in the future. Please fill out the survey below and return it to the COLAGE office at 3543 18th St, #17, San Francisco, CA 94110. Your feedback is appreciated! Thank you so much for your time.

I thank you for all of your good work - it truly does make a difference.

Sincerely,



Ryn Gluckman
No On Knight Coordinator, COLAGE

COLAGE No On Knight Campaign Survey

Please fill out this survey completely. Your comments will shape the work that COLAGE does in the future. If you need to, attach another piece of paper for additional comments. Thank you for your time!

Did you know that COLAGE was running a No On Knight (NOK) Campaign? If so, how did you find out (circle one)?
Mail Phone Call Email Attended an event (what event did you attend):

Did you ever receive a COLAGE NOK (circle all that apply)

Mail Phone Call Email

Are you happy that COLAGE ran a No On Knight campaign?

Scale of Happiness

Very Happy 1 2 3 4 5 Extremely Displeased

If so, why? If not, why?

Did you know about the Knight Initiative (Prop. 22) before the March 7th vote?

Yes No

How did you hear about the Knight Initiative?

Do you feel like the materials COLAGE provided explained the initiative clearly?

Scale of Clarity

Very Clearly 1 2 3 4 5 Extremely Confusing

Were you happy with the position that COLAGE took on the Knight Initiative?

Scale of Happiness

Very Happy 1 2 3 4 5 Extremely Displeased

If not, explain why.

Did you attend a COLAGE NOK event? If so, what event and what was your experience (good, bad, empowering, disempowering)

Scale of Happiness

Very Happy 1 2 3 4 5 Extremely Displeased

If you attended an event, did it make you feel better able to respond to the Knight Initiative? Did the COLAGE No On Knight Campaign empower you to organize against the Knight Initiative?

Before the COLAGE NOK Campaign were you involved in activism or politics?

Scale of Involvement before the Knight Initiative

Super Activist 1 2 3 4 5 Not involved at all

Did the COLAGE NOK Campaign change your involvement (increase or decrease it? Change the value of it?)

After the Knight Initiative

Super Activist 1 2 3 4 5 Not involved at all

Did you take any action independently of the COLAGE NOK Campaign against the Knight Initiative (i.e. letter writing, phone calling, protests, organizing)? Please explain.

Before the COLAGE No On Knight Campaign how did you feel about having lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender (lgbt) parents?

Did you know other people with lgbt parents?

Yes No Unsure

Did the Campaign change how you felt about having lgbt parents?

Did you meet other children with lgbt parents as a result of the NOK Campaign?

Yes No

Overall, how do you feel about the work that COLAGE did fighting the Knight Initiative?

Feelings about COLAGE NOK Campaign

Super thrilled 1 2 3 4 5 Lots of room for improvement

Do you have any suggestions or concerns?

Would you like to see COLAGE more involved in political and legal campaigns like the NOK Campaign? If so, please explain?

**Please return this survey and any additional comments to
COLAGE**

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**If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call or email
415*861*5437 colage@colage.org**