

FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF GAYS NEWSLETTER  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
ISSUE #2, February 1979

F A F O G News Items:

As the result of mailing copies of our first newsletter to 22 radio and 5 T.V. stations plus 7 newspapers we received a request from KIKK Radio to tape an interview with Derril E. Holly, Public Affairs Director. The taping was done on Feb. 14th by Annella with an air date yet to be named.

The scheduled talk by Mrs. Harrison to Gay Resources Services at the U. of H. on Feb. 22nd was a delightful heartwarming experience for her. The response from the 31 young people present was a revelation.

An invitation has come from Greer Price of Integrity/Houston to talk to that group in April or May.

The February 11th meeting was quite well attended with everyone participating with a great deal of enthusiasm. Pictures were taken by Up Front staff photographer Ed Davis for the Feb. 23rd publication.

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Next meeting: March 11th, 3:00 p.m. @ MCCR, 1214 Joe Annie. This is a meeting NO ONE will want to miss. Mike Rearden, Atty. is scheduled to tell us the steps we need to take to become chartered. You will enjoy meeting him. We will then be joined by Dr. Earl Shelp of the Institute of Religion in the Medical Center. Dr. Shelp is an ordained Baptist minister who is especially interested in human sexuality with special interest in homosexuality. He will be able to answer many of your questions and will be glad to do so. You will find him a well informed dynamic speaker. It is hoped that Rev. Larsen, the new pastor of MCCR, will be able to meet with us. Plan on spending longer than usual at our next meeting--you will be glad you did.

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COMING UP

Mark your calender for April 8th; Travis Peterson, MSW, has accepted an invitation to be our guest speaker. His subject will be Parenting Gays. Mr. Peterson does individual, couple and family counseling. He has extensive experience in this area and should prove to be a very supportive resource.

Congratulations to MCCR; They are purchasing the Tabernacle Baptist Church building at 1919 Decatur and will be in the building by the time of our April meeting.

Of interest to every body: special thanks to Thelma (Disco Granny) Hansel who has been out in the gay community asking for donations from some of the business people. She has \$100.00 with the promise of more to come!

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Hot lines: Annella 664-5339 (will be out of town from 3/15/79 - 4/15/79)-  
Marvin 472-2060 (n) - Katy 749-1253 (d); 472-2060 (n) - Thelma 453-0586 -  
Art 522-2430 (n)



FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF GAYS NEWSLETTER  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
ISSUE #4, May 1979

F A F O G News Items:

Some of us have been quite busy as the result of the cover letter with Newsletter #2 to radio & T.V. stations and newspapers. For example: The Galveston Daily News carried a news item in the March 8th issue; The Houston Post did a feature story on Annella and Patrick; "Sorting it Out" was aired again on Apr. 15th and 16th; Doris, Marvin & Katy were on KMJQ Magic 102, Sun Apr. 22, 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. live call in program. Response from the listening audience was very good. Phone lines were full the whole program even though the transmitter went off the air for 21 minutes--over a dozen calls had to be turned down. Annella returned to Houston and really enjoyed the opportunity to talk with Integrity/Houston on April 26th at Wilde 'N' Stein. Travis Peterson's talk to the group on Parenting Gays on April 8th was enormously well received. We must have him back in the not too distant future.

Next meeting: May 13th, 2:30 p.m. @ MCCR, 1919 Decatur (see map.) It is Mother's Day - - what better day for us and our children, of whom we are so proud, to be together in a common purpose. You will be pleased to know that our own Dr. Muriel Flake will be our speaker. We all look forward to hearing her. Come early for coffee and meet Dr. Flake.

Of special interest is news from Austin that on Monday, April 23rd the Human Rights Advocates Lobby and Rep. Lance Lalor (Houston, 80) were successful in deleting a discriminatory rider to Article IV, Section 26 of the House appropriation bill. The purpose of the rider was "... to prohibit the use of state facilities by any organization which seeks to foster or promote illegal activities including homosexual organizations." We are urged to write Rep. Lalor to thank him; it would be appropriate to let Speaker Clayton to know that we appreciate his having sustained Rep. Lalor's action. Also, Rep. Craig Washington (Houston, 86) deserves a note of thanks for his part in working with Rep. Lalor. The Lobby is also working with Sen. "Babe" Schwartz (Galveston, 17) on the same point in the Senate Finance Committee. The Lobby expects success in this instance also.

We have been asked to consider participating in Gay Pride Week with Fri. June 22nd as Kick Off Day. There will be an opportunity to discuss this at our next meeting. You will be interested to know that Mary Thelma Hansel (Disco Granny) has accepted a very active role in the week's activities. It is our hope that she is feeling well enough to be at our next meeting and fill us in on her plans. Also, she collected a total of \$150.00!! Many thanks.

Several "new" parents and friends will be joining with us on the 13th. We are all urged to attend--you need us but not as much as we need you!

HOT LINES: Annella 664-5339  
Marvin 472-2060 (N)  
Thelma 453-0586  
Art 522-2430 (N)



FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF GAYS NEWSLETTER  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
ISSUE #6, August 1979

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Next meeting: Sunday Sept. 9th, 2:30 p.m. @ MCCR, 1919 Decatur (see map.)  
We will have the opportunity to view a video tape of the appearance of  
Dr. and Mrs. Jules Mansford and Mr. and Mrs. Dick Ashworth of the New  
York Parents of Gays on a July Phil Donahue show. It was very well done  
and should answer many of your doubts and questions.

Because of summer vacations it was decided not to have meetings until Sept.

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F A F O G News Items:

Annella will be leading a workshop on Parenting Gays at the Texas Gay  
Conference VI in Austin on Aug. 18th. Joining her will be Cele Keeper,  
M.S.W., Charles Gillis, Mgr. Wilde 'N' Stein, and Patrick McIlvain,  
Annella's son. It should be a great opportunity for us.

We have had a response from Dr. Charles Silverstein; he will be happy to  
meet with us when he is in Houston; hopefully sometime this fall.

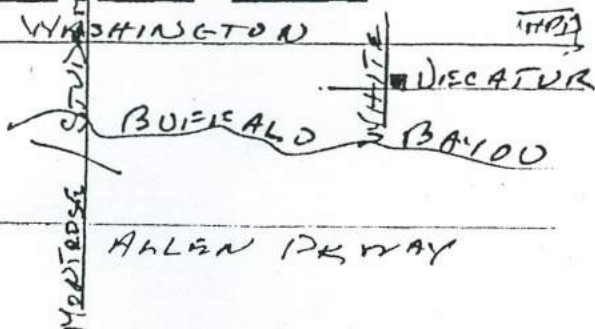
Dr. John O'Donnel was a most gracious guest at our June meeting. Those  
of you who were not there missed a great opportunity to "pick the brains"  
of someone whose expertise in human sexuality is extensive. We were  
informed that Drs. Masters and Johnson also plan to be in Houston this fall.

Gay Pride Week has come and gone with a considerable amount of success.  
Mary Thelma Hansel was her usual gracious self and was loudly cheered  
along the line of the parade which closed out the week on July 1st.  
Annella and Patrick also took part and were received with considerable  
enthusiasm as the observers along the route recognized what we were about.

Two new books which should be of great interest to each of you and which  
would be very good additions to your personal library: Now That You Know,  
What Every Parent Should Know About Homosexuality, co-authored by Betty  
Fairchild and Nancy Hayward who are both parents of gay children, and,  
Positively Gay, edited by Betty Berzon, Ph.D. and Robert Leighton. These are  
both available at Wilde 'N' Stein.

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The support of each of us is needed to provide desperately needed help  
for parents who have only recently learned that one of their loved ones  
is gay. Those of you who have gone through the pain, guilt and fear so  
felt by all of us have much to offer in dealing with the many conflicts.  
W O N T Y O U H E L P ! ! !



Tel.: Annella . . . 664-5339  
Thelma . . . 453-0586



FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF GAYS NEWSLETTER  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
ISSUE #7, October 1979

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Next meeting: Postponed to Sunday October 21st, 2:30 p.m. @ MCCR, 1919 Decatur.

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MARCH ON WASHINGTON

Parents of Gays groups from throughout the country are joining in support of our gay sons and daughters in their March on Sunday October 14th. The Washington, D.C. parents have planned for an afternoon meeting on Sat. the 13th at which time we will have a business meeting followed by meetings with the local news media and interviews. There is a dinner scheduled for that evening. Several of the D.C. parents are opening their homes to us for housing during our stay.

It is hoped our discussion will lead to a National Parents and Friends of Gays organization which will help in reaching our ultimate goal of achieving civil and human rights for all of our loved ones. Should any of you desire more information please call Annella Harrison @ 664-5339. She and Thelma Hansel are both planning to make the D.C. trip.

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Patrick and Annella recently had the opportunity to view a film strip entitled "The Hidden Minority: Homosexuality In Our Society." at a presentation by INTEGRITY/Houston. The film strip attempts "...to dispel some of the many misconceptions and prejudices that exist. Students explore social, psychological, religious and political issues regarding this issue." We are considering a presentation at our next meeting.

Something new: INTEGRITY/ Houston and Bering Memorial Methodist Church are the sponsors of the Community Coffee House, 3405 Mulberry, a new place for our gay family members to get together for fellowship. There will be movies, cards, pool, ping pong and other games. It is open every Friday night from 7 - 11 p.m. It is important for you to know that this is not a religious endeavor as INTEGRITY/Houston is not a church related group. The Community Coffee House offers an alternative for those who prefer something other than the bars and discos.

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It has come to our attention that there are times when an urgent need for temporary housing exists because of an immediate crisis which can develop without warning. Please give this some thought and join us at our next meeting to discuss possibilities.

It is increasingly imperative that we, as parents, assume the responsibility for supporting our gay sons and daughters by joining together as a group. It is only with the participation of all parents, family members and friends that we can hope to ever see the end of exploitation, harassment and discrimination which is perpetrated by misinformed members of our society. Each of us needs to ask "Have I done everything I can to help change the way society sees my child--if not, what can I do?"



FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF GAYS NEWSLETTER  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
ISSUE #8, November 1979

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Next meeting: Sunday, Nov. 11th, 2:30 p.m. @ MCCR, 1919 Decatur (see map.)  
In addition to pictures taken at the Gay Rights March on Washington we  
hope to show the film strip "The Hidden Minority: Homosexuality In Our  
Society."

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HOUSTON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS TUES. NOV. 6th

We, as parents and friends of gay persons, have an excellent opportunity to  
exercise our right when we vote next Tues. Please consider these individ-  
uals (as endorsed by the Gay Political Caucus) who are pledged to work for  
equal rights for all:

Leonel Castillo, Mayor.  
City Council At Large:  
Position 1 Jeff Daiell  
Position 2 Eleanor Tinsley  
Position 3 Joe Allen Mallot  
City Council Districts:  
A No endorsement  
B Ernest McGowen, Sr.  
C Lance Lalor  
D Moses LeRoy  
E No endorsement

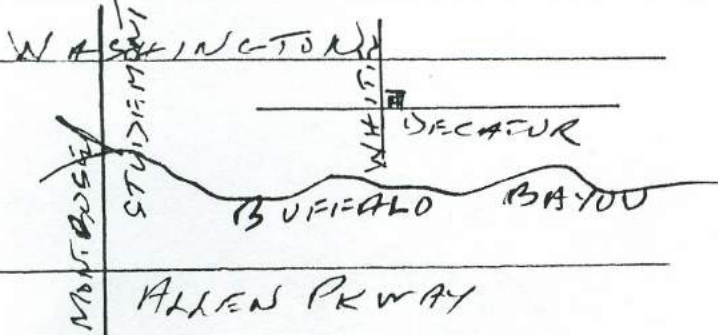
Kathy Whitmire, City Controller  
Position 4 Pat Ginther  
Position 5 Judson Robinson, Jr.  
F John Gardner  
G Kathryn Ross  
H Anne Wheeler  
I Ben T. Reyes

THIS IS PROBABLY THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION TO FACE US: GET OUT  
AND VOTE!!!!

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Coming up: Nov. 7th Cele Keeper, Annella Harrison and Patrick McIlvain  
will take part in a panel with members of the Gay Youth Group at Integrity/  
Houston. Nov. 13th Annella plans to meet with members of Episcopal Integrity  
Houston. On Dec. 15th we have been invited to present a program in College  
Station for a group calling themselves "Alternative" - - we are hoping  
for two sets of parents to take part in the program. We will be meeting  
at the Lutheran Church with a pot lunch preceeding the program.

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A report on Washington will be postponed until later. Suffice it to say  
that we did get a national group loosely organized and we were very proud  
parents of all of the young and not so young people who marched with us--  
all of our gay relatives and friends were well behaved.

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Annella 664-5339  
Thelma 453-0586





FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF GAYS NEWSLETTER  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
ISSUE #9, December 1979

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Next meeting: Sunday, Dec. 9th, 2:30 p.m. @ MCCR, 1919 Decatur (see map.) We have an exciting program planned. Rev. Ron Pogue (Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold, Houston) and Father Pat Meister (St. Mary's Star of The Sea Catholic Church, 1019 W. 6th, Freeport - formerly of St. Christopher's Catholic Church, 8180 Park Place Blvd., Houston) each of whom is supportive of parents of gays and their gay children, have accepted an invitation to bring to us their interpretation of the Scriptures as related to our and our children's needs. This will be a super opportunity for many of you to get the answers to some of your questions.

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REPORT ON PARENTS' MEETING IN D.C. Some 40 to 50 parents, relatives and friends met Saturday, Oct. 13th at the First Congregational Church, 10th & G Streets N.W. After a get acquainted coffee hour Richard Ashworth, N.Y. POG, Adele Starr, L.A.. PFOG, and Betty Fairchild, co-author of Now That You Know addressed a press conference emphasizing the main purposes of Parents of Gays: mutual support and understanding of our gay children, education of ourselves and the general public and working for the human and civil rights of all gay persons - rights that most of us take for granted.

The long business meeting resulted in the selection of our name:

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF GAYS  
"Supporting our gay sons and lesbian daughters"

It was decided to remain loosely organized with each group maintaining its own identity. A proposal by any group may be presented at any time for consideration to all six regional coordinators and by them to each group contact. Agreement to the proposal is communicated in the same way, back to the originating group which will then make the announcement. If any group object no announcement will be made in the name of the national organization! Communication between each group is to be facilitated by designated persons in each of six areas of the U.S. Also, each group will exchange newsletters as soon as we have all of the correct addresses. To be worked out is the establishing of a center for the purpose of gathering and disseminating POG information.

We will not soon forget the hospitality extended to us by Gene Baker, PFOG/DC coordinator and the members of MCC-DC who not only prepared the delicious food at lunch and dinner they served us as well and were joined by the Gay Youth of the Church.

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Municipal election Nov. 6th and the Nov. 20th run-off. This proved to be an unprecedented happening for the Gay Community and us as families. For the first time in the history of Houston 7 persons who are sensitive to the needs of our gay sons and lesbian daughters have been elected to serve our great city for the next two years. Many thousands of dollars were raised and many of us gladly spent hours in various capacities working toward the eventual success of the respective candidates. Needless to say, we are looking forward to a change for the better in the attitudes and activities of city council. Our heartfelt thanks to all those who worked so hard!!!!!!!!!!!!



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A special note to those parents who are still "In the Closet": you owe it to your loved ones and each other to GET OUT OF YOUR CLOSET! Join us at the next meeting and share with us your thoughts and feelings. Many of you have come to one meeting; please come back--we need you; if you have found the wisdom to enable you to love and support your gay child as well as to accept him or her many of you have sat back and not become involved. THINK ABOUT IT; get involved.

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Notes of interest: Cele, Annella and Patrick joined Scarlett, Eric and David in a panel presentation at Integrity/Houston on Nov. 7th. Parents take note: the Gay Young People of Houston meet on the 1st and 3rd Sat. of each month at 5:00 p.m. in Suite 11 @ the Montrose Activity Center at Holman and LaBranch. They may be reached by calling 520-9273. This is also a mutual support group and provides an opportunity for teens to meet at some place other than the bars. Annella met with members of Integrity Houston on Nov. 13th and was most pleased with her welcome.

We want to call to your attention again the Municipal Coffee House which meets in the activities building of the Bering Memorial United Methodist Church at Mulberry and Hawthorn from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. every Friday night. Come and take part in a friendly game of bridge, backgammon, table-tennis, pool, scrabble, gin rummey or just meet and talk with the fine young and not so young people who are quite delightful. You might even be pleased to hear some most tunefull music. All parents and friends are cordially invited.

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P. S. My Son Eric, Mary V. Borhek;  
Pilgrim Press, \$8.95 Hardcover;  
the story of one mother's struggle  
to understand. Soon available at  
Wilde 'N' Stein, 520 Westheimer.

Annella - - 664-5339  
Thelma - - 453-0586

