PACIFIC CURRENTS

Spring 2003

Pacific Center – Berkeley, California – 510-548-8283

Center to Celebrate 30th Anniversary With Events

The Pacific Center turned 30 years old last month and will be celebrating this milestone with special events throughout 2003 and the first half of 2004.

Already in the works are:

- A special booth at this month's Pride Festival in San Francisco
- A "Homecoming" Block Party later this summer in Berkeley
- An LGBT dinner dance in the Fall, and
- A 30-minute special featuring the Pacific Center on GAY TV

"This is really a special time for all of us who have ever been involved with the Pacific Center," said Michelle Dixon, PC Board member and Chair of the 30th Anniversary Committee. "We're the third oldest LGBT center in the country, and have played important roles in the lives of thousands of community members.

In May, major donors, funders and supporters celebrated at an anniversary reception sponsored by the Pacific Center board. Joining this group were Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, Berkeley Councilmember Kriss Worthington and Oakland Councilmember Danny Wan.

Mayor Tom Bates Frank Gurucharri

March Appeal Yields Over $17,000 in Support!
'angels on our shoulders'

As the result of a special mailing and an appeal made in the March issue of *Pacific Currents*, $17,800 has been contributed to the Pacific Center to help soften the blow from decreases in foundation grants and government funding in the last year.

"I am overwhelmed by the support we received in such a short period of time," said Frank Gurucharri, Executive Director. "We certainly have angels on our shoulders here at the Center."

The contributions came from fewer than 10 donors, reports Scott Vachon, the Pacific Center Board's Fundraising Committee Chair.

"We can't say thank you enough to everyone who was able to help," said Vachon. "This was an extraordinary appeal above and beyond our usual Fall mailing, and the response has been extraordinary, too."

Nearly 75% of the amount raised came from just four donors. One gift of $2,500 was specifically designated to support the Center's youth program.

Last year, the Pacific Center operated in the black. These funds will help to keep the Center's services as much at capacity as possible during the coming quarter.

'Planning For Our Future'
is a significant article by our CEO, Frank Gurucharri. The article starts on page 3.

"The Pacific Center has three major projects on its plate right now to better prepare the Center for the future."

The Pacific Center receives its operating funds from private donations, corporate donations, the Boston Foundation, The California Endowment, the City of Berkeley, County of Alameda, State of California, Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, San Francisco Foundation and the Horizons Foundation.

VOICES lead the way...

By *Jenna Jacques*

VOICES is a leadership program for the young people of the Pacific Center. Right now there are six members: Andy Duran, Derron Johnson, Junior Bo, Phoebe Hasley, Rachel Sternin-Moser, and Rachel Stevens – and honorary member, KeeKee Jenkins. They meet every Wednesday from 5 – 6:30 p.m. and discuss various aspects of the youth programs, groups, and other Pacific Center business. There are two workshops organized each month by the members themselves, and they all sit on three different committees: Outreach, Special Events and Workshops.

If you're ever in the Center, you've probably seen them around. They are the reason the youth space (La Luna) is open the hours that it is, as the youth coordinator Mateo Cruz is pretty busy and can't be there all the time.

Besides welcoming new youth into the space, the VOICES members also do outreach for the youth groups, update the website, do speaking engagements as part of the Youth Speaker's Bureau, as well as plan events like the barbeque for the graduating seniors or spoken word/talent events. As a result of their efforts, every youth is accounted for that participates in the drop-in space or other programs. Gossip and drama are not tolerated, and cliques don't really exist. Anything that comes up is dealt with right away – people are holding each other accountable for what they say and do.

Does that sound like a typical youth program to you? Lately, they have also worked with Frank Gurucharri and Mateo Cruz to prepare proposals for grant funding possibilities. Previously, members received a stipend to help cover the cost of participating in meetings and activities. Now, this is not the case.

'Voices lead' cont'd on page 5

Planning for Our Future

By *Frank Gurucharri*, CEO

The Pacific Center has three major projects on its plate right now to better prepare the Center for the future. They are (1) Planning for a new facility, (2) Strategic Planning to ensure we will have the right programs for our community in the new facility, and (3) building our fundraising efforts to be more professional and successful.

The new facility project involves working with a developer to build a Berkeley-based LGBT community cultural complex with the Pacific Center as an anchor tenant. This would allow a cluster of other organizations and businesses that serve our community

. . . a Berkeley-based LGBT community cultural complex with the Pacific Center as an anchor tenant.

to be part of this complex as well. One possibility is to also include some affordable housing units on the upper floors available for, let's say, LGBT folks. We are currently working on the selection of the developer to work with us and we are working with the City of Berkeley on the selection of the future site for the complex. Funding for this multi-million dollar project is also being planned. This project is expected to take three to five years before the building is complete and we are moved in.

A second option could be to secure the building next to the current home of the Pacific Center and tie the two buildings together into a new facility. This would involve retrofitting and renovations to accommodate the Center's needs. It would mean that the Center would remain by itself and not be a part of a larger LGBT community cultural complex.

It is important that we begin planning now so the Pacific Center can manage it's growth over the next three to five years and prepare to occupy its new facility.

This planning project has two parts: (1) a large diversity initiative and (2) a strategic plan. Both of these should be completed by June of 2004. The diversity initiative will assess what the Pacific Center needs to do to become truly culturally inclusive and to identify the strategies and resources needed to reach that goal. We need to ensure every individual feels equally welcome and safe at the Center and includes people of all ages, races, ethnic backgrounds, people with disabili-

'Planning for Our Future" continued on page 5

Profiles

Patrick Neer, Psy.D.
Clinic Director

By *Dan Tussey*

"There simply is not enough time to do all that is needed," said Dr. Patrick Neer. No wonder. As part-time Clinic Director, he is responsible for 17 interns, clinic program development, the recruiting and consulting with faculty (volunteer therapists) who supervise interns. Patrick also provides the leadership for the clinic staff. When does this guy find the time to sleep and eat?

Patrick loves working with all of these people, however. He said working with wonderful people who truly care is the most rewarding part of the work. He thoroughly enjoys the opportunity to impact program development and systems to reach as many clients as possible with the limited resources at hand.

Now living in the Grand Lake area of Oakland with his dog, Patrick grew up in Dayton, Ohio. Friends find him to be thoughtful and introspective. But watch out. He can also demonstrate a "goofy" sense of humor that endears him to others. And he isn't afraid of performing mundane tasks. You might find him changing the toilet paper, painting the walls, or any of a myriad of other tasks that keep the Pacific Center running.

Like all staff, Patrick believes strongly in serving the LGBT community. He says that being queer is easily misunderstood by mainstream culture. He finds it important work to help maintain a safe haven, a place that embodies the spirit of acceptance, compassion, and understanding.

Profiles

Perlita Payne
Clinic Office Manager

By *Dan Tussey*

Perlita has a long history with the Pacific Center. Although she now lives in neighboring Albany, she grew up in Berkeley and participated in the youth program as a teenager. She remembers the Pacific Center as a safe place where she felt supported. Now she is happy to be giving back to the organization and to the community.

Perlita's friends find her to be strong, caring and intelligent and a person who develops close friendships. She is proud to be a Filipino woman who has recently acknowledged her female-to-male, (FTM), transgender identity. She is at the beginning of exploring what this actually means for her and does not yet know where it will lead.

The best part of working as billing clerk and clinic office manager for the past two years is the personal contact with the Pacific Center's interns. She enjoys watching them grow during their internship. She is challenged, however, to communicate effectively with the school bureaucracies which are necessary in recruiting and managing intern placements.

The recruitment of interns is a detail-oriented process. It includes requesting and submitting a variety of materials and building relations with schools. In addition, Perlita handles all the details of Medi-Cal, day-to-day clinic operations, therapy rooms, and phone shifts.

The Pacific Center Counseling Clinic
accepts Medi-Cal
For counseling call
510-548-8283 x250

New . Newer . NEWEST!

Notary Service

Pacific Center now offers a notary service for domestic partner agreements or your other notary needs. Fee $10.

Contact Michael Drennan to schedule an appointment (510-548-8283 x225) or email michael@pacificcenter.org

Planning for Our Future

(continued from page 3)

ties, folks with different gender identities all along the gender spectrum, sexual orientation (especially bisexuals), health status and any other differences by which we humans identify. We will be asking folks who already use the center and others in the community for their input into this assessment.

For the strategic planning we will again be asking the community what it needs from the Center in terms of services, programs and activities. This will help us update our Mission and to properly target all the communities and groups we should be serving. It will also help us determine the best services and programs we should offer for those we serve. The Plan will also identify the costs and funding needed to have these programs. For example, many of our current core services are directed to helping people come out and to providing emotional support for those in need. We may find that we should offer adoption workshops and assistance for those planning a new family. Maybe more services for seniors are needed. Maybe more social activities. Our survey and assessment information will give us this information.

We may find that we should offer adoption workshops and assistance for those planning a new family.

For the facility planning, and the diversity and program assessments we plan to survey several groups in addition to posting the survey on our web site in July. (If you are interested in participating in this survey, I encourage you to email me at frank@pacificcenter.org to let me know. We would love to hear from you.)

We are grateful to the City of Berkeley and the Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund for providing the funding for both the new facility and strategic planning efforts.

The third major project is fundraising. It makes no sense to assess the needs of the community, determine the size and nature of the Center's core services and plan a new facility without also beginning a serious fundraising program. The Center has received money from the San Francisco Foundation to engage the services of professional fundraisers. Our fundraising will target three distinct areas: (1) grants from public funds and private foundations; (2) individual donors; and (3) corporate/business donors and sponsors.

Two individuals have already begun to help us. Cory Pohley of DPM Associates is already helping me research foundations that will be a good fit for the Center. In the last four weeks, we have submitted one official request for funding each week. Debra Kent is a professional fundraiser and is evaluating our current fundraising capability so we can begin developing a more professional and successful fundraising effort.

VOICES lead the way...

(continued from page 3)

The folks in VOICES are leaders, and are a part of a commitment to shift the way their youth community is seen and heard. I know they will take what they learn here to the larger queer community, and I look forward to their contribution. I hope that you do, too.

If you are interested in helping out, want to be a part of VOICES (there are two slots available), or have other ideas for funding, please contact Mateo Cruz. It's possible that VOICES won't be available in the future if it's not funded. Looking at the impact that it has had so far, it's important that the program continues.

About the author: *Jenna Jacques (spudlover7@hotmail.com) volunteers with the Youth Program twice a month. She loves to write about people that make a difference in their community.*

Planning for Our Future

(concluded)

Pacific Center and Community Activities

30th Anniversary of Pacific Center

Please see page-one article about our anniversary.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with an anniversary event or in serving on the 30th Anniversary Committee should contact Michelle Dixon: miclee@hotmail.com or 510-548-8283 x521.

Notary Service

Pacific Center now offers a notary service for domestic partner agreements or your other notary needs. Fee $10.

Contact Michael Drennan to schedule an appointment (510-548-8283 x225) or email michael@pacificcenter.org

East Bay Gay Men's Chorus

The East Bay Gay Men's Chorus holds frequent auditions for new members.

For information, please call 800-706-2389 or email **oebgmc@mindspring.com**

Donate Through Direct Bank Transfer

You may now make your pledge/contribution via direct funds transfer to Pacific Center. Just fill in the amount information line on the donation form (page 8) and mail it with one of your checks marked "Void" to the Pacific Center.

Do you shop at Albertson's?

People who do can help **Camp Lavender Hill**, a Bay area-based summer camp for children with gay parents.

Just get one of our cards, swipe it every time you shop and Albertson's donates money to Cam Lavender Hill. It costs the customer nothing!

Visit **www.CampLavenderHill.com** and click on the "*Get your Free Albertson's Card*" link for information on how to get your card.

Board Members Needed

ACCOUNTANT and ATTORNEY

The Pacific Center is seeking people with these skills to join the board of directors.

For more information call 510.584.8283 x521.

Front Desk/Reception Volunteers

needed to help out at the Pacific Center

Day and Weekend shifts available

Contact Michael Drennan at michael@pacificcenter.org or 510-548-8283 x225

Peer Group Information

for current information please consult

www.pacificcenter.org
or **510-548-8283**

LAW and ETHICS

for MFTs in the LGBT COMMUNITY

July 26, 2003 - Saturday - 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. - Berkeley - $120 - 6 CEUs

Presented by Jeanne Courtney, MFT

Sponsored by the Pacific Center for Human Growth

50% discount for current Pacific Center Faculty

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

The BBS now requires MFTs to take a 6-credit CEU course in Law and Ethics for every license renewal period. This unique workshop provides an opportunity to address the topic in a queer-friendly environment. In addition to reviewing the basic legal and ethical responsibilities shared by all Marriage and Family Therapists, we will discuss particular legal and ethical concerns that come up for LGBT therapists, and any therapists who work with LGBT clients.

There will be time for networking during the sign-in and lunch periods. Feel free to bring business cards and other information about your therapy practice.

For more information, call Jeanne Courtney at 510-527-5662, ext. 2.

This workshop meets the criteria for the 6 continuing education units in Law and Ethics that the California Board of Behavioral Sciences requires for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists. Other therapists and therapists in training are invited to attend, but this workshop is NOT open to the general public. To obtain the CEU certificate, participants must sign in BEFORE the class, which begins promptly at 10:00 a.m. and remain for the entire day, except for the one-hour lunch break. Sign-in begins at 9:30 a.m. Pre-registration with full payment must be postmarked no later than July 19. There will be NO REFUNDS after July 19, except in the event that the workshop is canceled by the presenter or sponsor. Jeanne Courtney, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Number MFC29813. Pacific Center for Human Growth, CEU Provider Number PCE1595.

Please clip and mail this pre-registration form, no later than July 19, to
Jeanne Courtney, MFT
PO Box 453
El Cerrito, CA 94530
Be sure to enclose your check for $120.00, payable to **Pacific Center for Human Growth**.

Name _____ MFT License Number and date issued _____

Mailing address including ZIP _____

Phone _____

Other phone, email, alternate ways to contact you _____

If you are taking the 50% discount for Pacific Center core faculty members (payment of $60 instead of $120), please fill in the dates (month and year) you have served and/or will be serving on the faculty _____

United Way Planned Giving

You can use the **code 3473** for your United Way payroll donations to **The Pacific Center**. If your employer participates in payroll deduction donations to the United Way, you may designate that your personal donations go to The Pacific Center. Your donation will help ensure that the Center is able to continue offering support, information and services to your community.

Your support is crucial to enable the *Pacific Center* to continue its role as a vital resource to our community. Please take a moment and send your donation today.

___ Friend of the Pacific Center (up to $99)
___ Contributor ($100 – $249)
___ Associate ($250 – $499)
___ Benefactor ($500 – $999)
___ President's Circle ($1000 and above)
___ Board Circle ($2500 and above)

For **Electronic Donations** ($25 minimum): Amount: $_____
Write "VOID" on a check and mail it with this donation form.

Credit Card donations accepted at: www.pacificcenter.org

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State ____ Zip Code _____
Home Telephone _____
Email address _____

Please make checks payable to
The **Pacific Center** and mail to:
Pacific Center
2712 Telegraph Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94705

Thank you for your generosity!

This newsletter is available as a download for Adobe Acrobat Reader at our Website: www.pacificcenter.org

THE PACIFIC CENTER FOR HUMAN GROWTH

2712 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94705

PLEASE SHARE WITH A FRIEND!