

PACIFIC



CURRENTS

Summer 2003

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

Anniversary Block Party Set for October 11 1973 — 2003



Center Kicks off 30th Anniversary Year at SF Pride
Board Member Michelle Dixon and volunteer Kicki Koethner apply temporary tattoos to PC Youth at our SF Pride booth.
(See related photo, page 4.)

Benefit

for the Pacific Center

Wednesday, August 27

Dine Out at Unicorn,
Pan Asian Cuisine

25% of receipts donated to the Center (see page 6)

Upcoming Event
Sunday, September 7, 11 – 6
East Bay Pride
Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland City Hall
www.eastbaypride.org

'Come Out and Come Home!'

Come Out and Come Home, the Pacific Center's 30th Anniversary Block Party and its first major anniversary celebration is slated for Saturday, October 11 from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Block Party will feature entertainment, community exhibits, food and appearances by local community leaders. It will be held at the Pacific Center and just down the street on Derby Street Between Telegraph Avenue and Dana Street.

"October 11 is National Coming Out Day and we couldn't think of a better opportunity to invite all our friends – past and current – to celebrate with us," said Michelle Dixon, Pacific Center 30th Anniversary Chair.

'A. Block Party' continued on page 5

Theater Rhinoceros Partners with the Pacific Center

Theatre Rhinoceros, the longest-running and most acclaimed LGBT theatre company in the United States, is the first Bay Area not-for-profit to become a *Pacific Center 30th Anniversary Partner*.

As part of the partnership, "The Rhino" is offering single-ticket and season subscription "**discount/donation**" to Pacific Center volunteers, clients and friends with a portion of the proceeds coming right back to the Center. (See box, page 5, for information and **purchase code**.)

"We wanted to join with the Pacific Center as it celebrates this milestone year," said John Fisher, the Rhino Artistic Director, "and we couldn't think of a better way of partnering with the Center than by offering these discounts as a means of raising money for the Center."

'Rhinoceros Partners' on page 5

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.

'Thank You'

A great big thank you to Front Desk volunteer **Saloma Clarence** and Clinic intern **Dr. Carl Norris** for all their great work in painting and sprucing up the bathrooms and meeting rooms at the Pacific Center.

Your efforts are greatly appreciated by all who use this wonderful community center.

You are an inspiration and a great example of community spirit.

Pacific Center would like to extend its thanks to several individuals and an organization that have helped out our front garden.

Jim Montgomery and the **Green Faerie Farm** here in Berkeley donated the manure/mulch mixture that you see being spread over the front garden. Special thanks go to the goats (**Aleah** and **Oolong**), chickens, ducks, rabbits, and pigeons that made the manure.

Board member **Scott Vachon** made a very generous donation to Pacific Center to help maintain the garden. His contribution will buy decorative mulch and groundcover plants, so that the garden will have a handsome "blanket" of plants and bark that will last for many years. Look for the groundcover plants to go in this fall when the rainy season will help give them a good start – and please don't step on them!

The Taylor family, East Bay residents, donated a bag of gravel to cover over a pedestrian path in the garden. And finally, the San Pablo/Ashby location of **Orchard Supply Hardware** contributed a garden trowel, and an eight-foot tool rack to store our garden tools.

Please join the staff of Pacific Center in expressing thanks to these businesses and individuals.

Board Transitions

In June, the board of directors elected a new slate of officers. June is our normal month for elections and in this case, was a time for the departures of two of our hard working board members. Jeff Malkasian, past President for four years stepped down (see Jeff's letter in this issue on page 3) and Tim Zariczjy, Vice President stepped down from the board at the conclusion of his term.

Both Jeff and Tim gave a lot over the years to the Pacific Center and our community and they will be missed. Marty Selnick, who was our Secretary for the last year, remains on the board and will continue with her work on the Fundraising Committee.

The new officers of the board are:

- Ralph Thomas, President
- Michelle Dixon, Vice President
- Brian Johnson, Treasurer
- Scott Vachon, Secretary

If you have any questions, comments or input for the board please let us know by contacting the Pacific Center at 510-548-8283 x521 or stop by the Pacific Center booth at East Bay Pride on September 7th.

—*Ralph Thomas*

**The Pacific Center for
Human Growth**
Serving the Community since 1973
510-548-8283
fax 510-548-2938
info@pacificcenter.org
www.pacificcenter.org

Board of Directors

- Ralph Thomas, President
- Michelle Dixon, Vice President
- Scott Vachon, Secretary
- Brian Johnson, Treasurer
- Katharine Gale
- Frank Gurucharri
- Marty Selnick

Pacific Center Staff

- Frank Gurucharri, CEO
- Patrick Neer, Psy.D., Clinic Director
- Mateo Cruz, Youth Activities
Coordinator
- David Dao, HIV Prevention/
Client Services Specialist
- Michael Drennan, Admin. Services
Coordinator
- Perlita Payne, Clinic Office Manager

Pacific Currents Staff

- Ralph Thomas, Editor
- Bert Hendriksen, Layout Editor

The Pacific Center for
Human Growth
is a member of the East Bay
Business and Professional Alliance
and the Gay/ Lesbian Therapist
Association.

Pacific Currents is a publication of
the Pacific Center for Human
Growth. Questions, comments, or
suggestions about content should be
directed to the editor.
Email: ralph@pacificcenter.org

Summer 2003

About Our Mailing List

The Pacific Center does not lend, sell or give away its mailing list to any outside organization. However, the Pacific Center does allow organizations that are sponsored and operate under the Pacific Center umbrella to mail announcements to the Pacific Center mailing list. If you do not want to receive mailings from PC sponsored organizations please let us know. "Attention: Mailing List."

C.E.O. Corner

By Frank Gurucharri, CEO

The Pacific Center has certainly had its ups and downs over its 30 years. But if we stand back and take a broad look at its history, we see a common thread. The Center is always strongest when it is close to the people it serves and it loses vitality when it isn't. This is an important lesson to keep in mind today.

One of the most important ways the Center stays close to the people it serves is through the volunteers who work at the Center. We are truly a volunteer run organization with over 180 non-paid volunteer staff. Almost all of the Pacific Center's direct services are provided by volunteers. The Board of Directors are volunteers. Our two community advisory groups (LOUD VOICES for our Youth Program and the faculty for our clinic) are volunteers.

The counselors in the mental health clinic, the faculty that supervise them and the instructors who conduct weekly workshops for them are all volunteers. The staff at the front desk is volunteers. Volunteer facilitators lead the peer groups. The participants on our Speaker's Bureau panels are volunteers. Volunteers take care of the yard and keep the Center clean. A pair of volunteers is currently redecorating the interior of the building and teams of volunteers are responsible for numerous community events and celebrations.

Volunteering at the Center is a personally healing and empowering experience. It helps LGBT individuals come out, come home, and regain emotional and social health. It helps them participate with satisfaction in relationships and feel accepted in our community. It helps them become empowered and learn to function productively as full hu-

Outgoing President

By Jeff Malkasian

It is hard to believe that it has been five years since I first walked through the doors of the Pacific Center. Now, it is time for me to conclude my tenure with the board and pass the reigns of Presidency on to Ralph Thomas.

As I was reflecting back, a few highlights came to mind. We have experienced five years of growth and stability, continuing as the third oldest GLBTQ community center in the United States. I have had the opportunity to work with and learn from some dynamic people over the past few years. We have watched the Center grow from a business trying to keep the doors open to a business looking towards the future. Not only are we looking towards the future of the Center itself, but also the future of our community and how we will evolve. I have watched our focus change from the Center itself, to the community that we serve.

I am so impressed with the people that make the Pacific Center happen. Each and every donor, volunteer and staff member exudes passion. It is that passion that will insure our longevity.

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man beings. And Volunteers are the key that allows the Pacific Center to offer the services it provides.

People who are interested in volunteering can simply call the main number: 510.548.8283 and we will contact you.

People who are interested in being contacted for their opinions for our strategic services plan, and our culture inclusion project, can contact me directly with an email:

frank@pacificcenter.org

President's Message

By Ralph Thomas

Invisible Community

Well, maybe our community in the East Bay isn't *really* invisible, but it's pretty hard to find. We know there are a lot of LGBT folks in the East Bay – we're everywhere, but where do we go to find "our" community?

The Pacific Center has started to pull our community together and find out what we need in order to build and create a sense of community and a place *for* community. (If you haven't heard about this effort, read the article "Planning For Our Future" by Frank Gurucharri in the Spring 2003 *Pacific Currents*.) Thousands of people have come out and/or been helped by the Pacific Center over the past 30 years. Many of the same people came forward with assistance when the Center has been in trouble. But there are also many that have been through the Center's doors that we have lost touch with.

We want to use this thirtieth anniversary year to reach out and reconnect with the many people that have a history with the Pacific Center. The Board of Directors is doing the planning, with the help of a few other volunteers, for our October 11th Block Party (see the Block Party announcements on page 1 and 8). This is the first major event we have tried to put on in many years, and we need your help to make it successful. We need help on the day of the event as well as people to help with planning, publicity and finding sponsors. If you can help, you can contact me via email at

ralph@pacificcenter.org

or 510-548-8283 x521. Even if you can't help, plan to stop by on October 11th to enjoy the fun.

Staff Profile

Michael Drennan
Administrative and Volunteer
Services Coordinator

By *Dan Tussey*

The Pacific Center has numerous volunteers that support and supplement the work of paid staff. Michael Drennan started as a volunteer, working the front desk for a year. Now, staffing the front desk with volunteers is a part of his job as Administrative and Volunteer Services Coordinator. There seems to be no end to his job description, and he admits it's a catch-all job.

Those who know Michael find him to be a "sweetheart" and a nice guy who is always ready with a smile and the willingness to solve problems. In addition to scheduling and training all volunteers and group facilitators, he handles payroll, bills, invoicing for grant monies, orders supplies, and generally keeps the building running. If you need a key or money for the mail carrier, Michael's your man. Michael is also quick to respond to issues related to building security and safety.

People like to mistake Michael's accent as British, but he's actually an Aussie. He grew up in Brisbane, Australia where the good climate enabled a healthy childhood filled with swimming, running, and playing tennis. Now living in Oakland, Michael shares stories from his days as a flight attendant "back in the day." Those days and current days are filled with a wide variety of people, which Michael loves.

He especially likes working with and on behalf of LGBT people. He feels that he spent the bulk of his life in a heterosexist world, and he now enjoys immersing himself in his own community, with people like himself. In addition, he is pleased to have the opportunity to work closely with CEO Frank Gurucharri in planning the organization's direction and future. He is excited about the possibility of the Pacific Center moving to a bigger space one day.



Center Kicks off 30th Anniversary Year at SF Pride

Volunteers David Vasquez, Eddie Keator, Kamal Freiha working the Pacific Center booth at SF Pride, June 29th. Were you one of the many friends who stopped by to wish us well, and receive a free temporary tattoo? (See another photo of our booth at this event, on page 1.)

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

Michael at the Front Desk



Anniversary Block Party

(Cont'd from page 1)

“So many of our friends, clients and volunteers came to the Pacific Center in the first place because of some issue related to the coming out process, said Frank Gurucharri, the Center’s executive director. This party is going to be a lot of fun. I can’t wait to see all the faces, old and new!”

The Block Party is being planned with a special emphasis on diversity. It is also being designed as a family-friendly event. Aside from a minimal donation for food, the Block party will be free and open to the public.

For more information on the Block Party or to volunteer to help, contact the Pacific Center at 510-548-8283 or go to the 30th Anniversary page on our website,

www.pacificcenter.org/Anniversary

(Cont'd from page 1)

Rhinoceros Partners with PC

In addition to the ticket “discount/donation” plan, discussions have already begun for the theater to host a benefit performance for the Pacific Center during the 2003-2004 season.

“Working together is what it’s all about,” said Scott Vachon, Pacific Center fundraising chair. “This partnership means needed funds for our programs, greater East Bay exposure for The Rhino, and great entertainment for everyone affiliated with the Pacific Center.

Information on Theatre Rhinoceros and its 2003–2004 season can be found at:

www.therhino.org



Theatre Rhinoceros Purchase Info

To order a single-seat or season subscription for Theatre Rhinoceros performances, be sure to use the special Pacific Center purchase code.

Code: **NPBK5**

A total of **\$5.00** for every single-seat ticket and **\$20.00** for every season subscription purchased will directly support Pacific Center programs and operations.

Tickets must be purchased by calling the box office and mentioning code: **NPBK5**

415-861-5079



Mateo and the youth family take in this year’s annual Gay Prom 2003, hosted by Lambda Youth. The few protesters present were no match for the parents, friends, family and marching band who outdid the religious few with a loud celebration for each group of youth entering the building!

Youth Groups

Join Clinic Intern Bird Vitko and the PC’s queer young women’s group “Cherry Bomb,” every Tuesday at 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. in the youth space! Or for those of you on the FTM-spectrum ages 25 and under, join Mateo and Andy each Thursday in D2 as we lead weekly group discussions on sex, gender and identity. Join us for our monthly socials! For more information, contact Mateo at youth@pacificcenter.org

‘Spirited’ Continues

After a summer hiatus, the “Spirited” group at Pacific center will resume meeting on Friday, September 19th. The new *Spirited* will function as a Shamanic empowerment circle, and will meet on the third Friday of each month from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The facilitator, Karen Sky Kidd, is a Shamanic practitioner committed to sharing the magic and beauty of Shamanism with all members of the GLBT community who are engaged in self healing and transformation. Anyone interested in providing input and/or asking questions about the group is welcome to call Karen at (510) 482-8774.

Dine Out for the Pacific Center August 27 at Unicorn Pan Asian Cuisine

Bring your friends to lunch or dinner at **Unicorn Pan Asian Cuisine in Berkeley** on Wednesday, August 27 and help raise funds for The Pacific Center!

Unicorn proprietor Kiet Truong is a great friend of the Center and will be donating **25% of the restaurant's receipts for that day to the Pacific Center**. Unicorn serves terrific Asian-fusion dishes with flavors from southern China, Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore.

For a complete menu, reviews and directions, check out Unicorn's website:

<http://www.unicorndining.com>

Unicorn takes reservations.

**Unicorn Pan Asian Cuisine
2533 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley, CA
510-841-8098**

Hours are: 11:30 – 3 p.m, 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Outgoing President

(concluded from page 3)

Recently, we spent a birthday weekend with a close friend and I asked him about his coming out experience. As a young man in southern California, he experienced the fun and pains of coming out. After a few years, he felt that he needed focus and direction in his life. He went to his local GLBTQ community center and worked with a counselor there to set some goals and prepare for his future. Today, he is successful in his field and one of the most considerate and generous people I know. That short time spent at his community center had a monumental impact on his life today.

After hearing this story, I felt really good about my time volunteering with the Pacific Center because I know that tomorrow when someone needs the services at the Center, we will be there.

Thank you for your support over the past few years and please continue. You may not need the Center today, but someone you are yet to meet will. It is the individual volunteer time and donations that make everything possible.

To the Center and the community, I wish fair winds and following seas.

The Pacific Center Needs You!

Volunteering is a Great Way to Give

There are many ways to help the Pacific Center.

“Our volunteers and donors – along with our dedicated staff – are the lifeblood of everything we do,” said Ralph Thomas, president of the Pacific Center board of directors. “In addition to our many services and programs, the Pacific Center also offers golden opportunities for everyone to support our work in valuable ways.”

Volunteers Needed

- Block Party organization
- Block Party set-up / take-down
- Block Party food prep and service
- 30th Anniversary Volunteer Manager
- Database management
- Front desk staff
- Fund raising
- Graphic design
- Newsletter Publisher
- Writing & editing
- Maintenance around the Center
- Public relations & marketing
- Special events staff and helpers
- Webmaster
- Volunteer Manager

To volunteer, contact Michael Drennan at 548-8283 x225, or michael@pacificcenter.org

See page 5 for information about ticket purchases that will benefit Pacific Center.



**The Pacific Center
Counseling Clinic
accepts Medi-Cal.**

**For counseling
call
510-548-8283 x250**

PC Welcomes New Clinic Interns!

Five new interns joined the Pacific Center clinic in July and, after having completed an intensive two-week orientation period, join the five interns already serving Pacific Center clients. We also have another five interns joining us starting in September.

The Pacific Center clinic provides counseling and mental health services to approximately 400 members of the LGBT community every year. In conjunction with the Pacific Center staff and professional mental health faculty, the interns form the backbone of the Center's clinic services.

"They bring a wealth of experience and education to the center, which often includes previous volunteer and clinic experience," said David Dao, Pacific Center HIV Coordinator. "They are integral to what makes the clinic work."

Each intern commits to a year-long relationship with the Center and during that time works hand-in-hand with a member of the Pacific Center Clinic faculty. All faculty members are licensed and have degrees in their own specialties, whether it be social work, marriage and family therapy, or psychology.

Welcome and thanks to our new and returning interns: The new Interns are:

Howard Curtis	Jennifer Strong
Nancy Jessup	Maia Huang
Heidi Joshi	Suzanna Layton
Marco Lozano	Kimberly Durham
Ebony Williams	Stephanie Morgan

The returning Interns are:

Nicki Koethner
Bird Vitko
Aaron Testard
Larry Tunis

—Patrick M. Neer, Psy.D.
Director of Clinical Services

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.

Legacy Giving to the Pacific Center

Giving beyond a cash gift, pledge, or in-kind gift can be a wonderful way to leave a lasting legacy to the Pacific Center and your community, and to take advantage of valuable tax benefits.

The Pacific Center welcomes planned gifts such as:

- Bequests
- Irrevocable charitable trusts
- Retirement plan beneficiary
- Insurance policy beneficiary

As you consider who you want to benefit from your estate or other planned assets, please remember the Pacific Center.

For more information or to discuss your desire to make a legacy gift, leave a message for Scott Vachon at the Pacific Center, 510-548-8283, or write Scott directly at

giving@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

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

Peer Group Information

for current information please consult

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

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Thirty Years!

00011110 = 1E = 30

1973 - 2003

Pacific Center's 30th Anniversary

Food

BLOCK PARTY at the Center

XXX

XXX

Entertainment

Saturday, October 11th

Raffle

11:00 – 5:00

**Come, bring your friends and family and
help the Pacific Center celebrate 30 years of service to the community.**

[How many ways to express 'Happy 30th Anniversary' Celebration?]

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THE PACIFIC CENTER FOR HUMAN GROWTH

2712 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94705

PLEASE SHARE WITH A FRIEND!