

# PACIFIC



# CURRENTS

Fall 2004

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

## COME HOME TO PACIFIC CENTER PARTY

*Everyone welcome! Come relax with us.*

*Past and current volunteers, community members, family and friends.*

*Catch up with friendly faces from the past and meet new folk as well.*

*Good people, good fun, food and music.*

**Sunday, October 17**

**4 p.m. – 6 p.m.**

**at the Pacific Center**

### **Year Finishes in the Black**

By *Brian Johnson*, Treasurer

Economic times for non-profits are tough, but thankfully the Pacific Center is even tougher. Thanks to the continued generosity of our community, the Center has just completed our most recent fiscal year with a small surplus. The board and the staff at the Pacific Center would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all who donated so generously in the past year. The board would also like to express our appreciation to the Center's staff for their continued diligence in keeping expenses low while still maintaining excellent service levels and a positive atmosphere throughout the Center.

Through the courage and vision of the Center's founders 31 years ago, tens of thousands of lives in our community have been touched in a profound way. With the on-go-

*Continued on Page 2*



For more information about the October 17 party, contact Amy at:  
[amy\\_wool@yahoo.com](mailto:amy_wool@yahoo.com)

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

## Year Finishes in the Black

(Continued from Page 1)

ing support of today's community, we can continue to be an important beacon for the future.

Because of the tight economy that has impacted all non-profits, our spending has been very conservative for the last few years. There has been no money for upgrading the Center or for extras. Last year we even had to stop our cleaning service, with the staff and volunteers pitching in to keep the Center clean. Below is a list of things we would love to have but simply can't afford. Would you consider making a special donation?

- \$75 **Sponsor** small social event (senior social, youth picnic, etc.).
- \$100 **Sponsor** a youth leader to attend a local conference.
- \$350 **Replace** the Center Refrigerator.
- \$400 **Sponsor** 10 counseling sessions for a youth in need.
- \$500 **Sponsor** a youth social outing.
- \$1,000 **Supervision**, one 3-hour volunteer receptionist shift, one year
- \$1,000 **Refurnish** a client or group room with new furniture.
- \$1,500 **Sponsor** a staff member to attend a training conference.
- \$1,500 **Sponsor** an intern's training at the Center for a year.
- \$2,000 **Sponsor** a peer support group for a year.
- \$2,000 **Re-carpet** the stairs and hallways.
- \$2,500 **Developing** and printing of new Pacific Center brochures.
- \$5,000 **Professional** cleaning service for a year.
- \$5,000 **Refurnish** the reception area.
- \$5,000 **Underwrite** a Community-wide social event.

## The Attic

FOR GLBTQ YOUTH 23 and UNDER

**SNACKS - COMPUTERS - GAMES - MUSIC - LOUNGE -  
MOVIES and PEOPLE LIKE YOU**

**M – F from 4 – 9 p.m. – Saturdays, 2 – 9 p.m.**

**Movie Nights @ 7pm every Saturday**

**Cherry Bomb Girls Group every Tuesday @ 6 p.m.**

The Pacific Center

510-548-8283 x216

The Pacific Center and the ATTIC are *drug-free* spaces

All youth 25 and under are invited to our

**Scary Movie Night and Halloween Party**

**October 30 in the Attic**

We'll have treats, queer folks and of course, a spooky movie.

All are welcome to come in costume. We'll start at 7 p.m.

Be there or be *Scared!*

### 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

Amy Wooldridge, Secretary

Brian Johnson, Treasurer

Wendy Carson

Katharine Gale

Frank Gurucharri

E. J. Koch

Scott Vachon

#### Pacific Center Staff

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Meg Patterson, MFT, Clinic Director

David Dao, Assoc. Clinic Director

Mateo Cruz, Youth Program Dir.

Bridgette Bissonnette, Youth

Activities Coordinator

Peter Carnini, HIV Prevention/

Client Services Specialist

Saloma Clarence, Clinic Office Mgr.

Michael Drennan, Admin. Services

Coordinator

#### Pacific Currents Staff

Ralph Thomas, Editor

Bert Hendriksen, Layout Editor

The Pacific Center for  
Human Growth

is a member of the National  
Association of LGBT Community  
Centers and the Gay/ Lesbian  
Therapist Association (GAYLESTA).

*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](mailto:ralph@pacificcenter.org)

Fall 2004

#### 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."

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## CEO's CORNER

### Taking Back The Agenda

Early in the “gay rights” movement and since April 1973 the Pacific Center has been advancing the “homosexual agenda.” And you better believe there’s a homosexual agenda. It’s called equality for all. Social justice for all. And the ALL includes everyone of us. Lesbians. Transgenders. Bisexuals. Gays. Queers. *All* of our unique identities, however they express themselves.

Since 1973 countless numbers of courageous individuals have worked more than a million hours advancing the “homosexual agenda” at the Center. And the agenda has included a huge diversity of peer facilitated support groups that have literally saved hundreds of lives; gave thousands the safety and love to come out of the closet; and best of all, opportunities to find someone to fall in love with and begin a family. It has included mental health counseling for so many individuals, couples, families and groups in emotional pain. It has included powerful and healing programs for our youth. It has included community education by hundreds of strong leaders each telling their story to make our schools, our work sites and our neighborhoods safer. It has included being one of the first agencies to provide support, guidance and education in the plague of HIV and AIDS. And it has included training hundreds of future mental health professionals to provide counseling that respects us and understands the effects of homophobia on our health.

Last year alone over 400 people walked through the Center’s front door each week. 996 came for their counseling appointments. Over 200 came because they needed HIV/AIDS services. Over 300 youth ran up the stairs to a safe place they call the ATTIC so that they could find “family and community” – so that they could finally find themselves. Over 240 people walked into

a room to join their support group to share their challenges, find understanding and celebrate their successes.

How the Pacific Center carries out its mission and does its work is very unique. Each year over 180 lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders, gays and straight allies of all ages and backgrounds come back to the Center to give back. Almost all our services are provided by these giving volunteers. They staff the front desk for three-hour shifts each week. They provide all our mental health and HIV counseling. They facilitate all our 30 plus support groups. They speak at our local schools. They design, help implement and evaluate our youth programs. They train and supervise. They garden. They clean. They donate money. They are our Board of Directors. And more...

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*at the Pacific Center we are a  
community serving a community*

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An individual called the Center the other week for support and help. The volunteer at the front desk was so responsive that the individual donated \$500 to the Center out of gratitude.

Our youth leaders, called LOUD VOICES, volunteered numerous hours renovating the youth space with new paint, carpeting, furniture and accessories. One of the parents bought all the outside deck furniture. Talk about community ownership!

So at the Pacific Center we are a community serving a community. All of us can be proud of our Center’s successes, growth, stability and dedication. And all of us are needed, in our different ways, for its continued support. Our “agenda” for justice and equality is alive and well at the Center because of you!

—Frank Gurucharri, CEO

If you have any comments on this article, e-mail Frank Gurucharri: [frank@pacificcenter.org](mailto:frank@pacificcenter.org)

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### **A Fun Way to Help the Center: Host A House Party!**

We are in need of community members to help raise funds for PC by hosting a house party. To find out more, contact board member Wendy Carson at

[wacarson@yahoo.com](mailto:wacarson@yahoo.com)

## New Clinical Interns and Supervisors Join PC

By Clinic Director, *Meg Patterson, MFT*

A new training year is in full swing at the Pacific Center Mental Health Clinic with nine new and five continuing interns onboard to provide counseling and mental health services to the LGBTQ community.

We are excited to welcome the seven new licensed therapists joining us this year to provide individual supervision to our therapists-in-training.

Each intern commits to a year-long relationship with the Pacific Center beginning in July or September. Intensive training, supervision and clinical experience comprise each intern's 16-24 hour week.

Last year nearly a thousand clients were seen by Pacific Center interns in the mental health clinic for individual, group and/or relationship counseling.

Welcome and thanks to our new and continuing interns and clinical supervisors for the 2004-2005 training year.

### Continuing Supervisors:

- Rob Hopcke, MFT
- Mary Bradford, Ph.D.
- Claudia Hartley, MFT
- Debra Gajer, LCSW
- Lucie Tetrault, MFT
- Janelle Salah, MFT
- Denni Liebowitz, LCSW

### New Supervisors:

- Carol-Ann Allen, MFT
- Steve Baum, Psy.D.
- Kellie Carbone, MFT
- Elsa Johnson, Ed.D.
- Lisa Ruben, MFT
- Sheila Ryan, MFT
- Nina Rodrigues, MFT



Meg Patterson, MFT  
Clinic Director



The Continuing Interns: Left to Right: Howard Curtis, Stephanie Morgan, Susannah Layton, Nancy Jessup, Maia Huang



The New Interns: Front (L to R): Jessica Michaelson, Wowlvenn Katzmiller, Shin Yi Tsai  
Back(L to R): Scott Moresi, Daniela deVasques, Jason Ranieri, Ali Rappaport, Lisa Sebasco, Sierra Black

## Introducing New Staff Members

### Saloma Clarence Clinic Office Manager

Saloma began as a Pacific Center Front Desk Volunteer in September of 2002. She loved meeting and helping so many people. She enjoyed the welcoming and comfortable atmosphere of the Center.

Over time, she began to volunteer as an impromptu interior decorator/painter/laborer. She spent many pleasant hours painting and arranging furniture and artwork in various rooms of the Center.

In April of 2004, Saloma became the Clinic Office Manager. Her varied experience in receivables, billing, customer service, and knowledge of Pacific Center culture made a nice fit of her skills to Pacific Center needs. She has worked hard to organize and streamline clinic functions. She still pinches herself that she “gets” to come to work at Pacific Center every day!

Saloma has served on the boards of other East Bay GLBT organizations – a couples social club and the Oakland/East Bay chapter of PFLAG. Saloma’s wife (they were married in February in San Francisco) is the GLBT liaison for the Oakland Police Department.

Saloma and Becky own a home in Oakland and love it. Saloma enjoys yard work, cooking and crafts in her spare time. She also admits to an “American Idol” addiction. (She doesn’t plan to seek treatment.) She enjoys as much time as possible with her young niece and nephew, family, and friends.



### Bridgette Bissonnette Youth Activities Coordinator

I come to the Pacific Center LOUD Program from a devoted history of work with youth. I started at an early age heading a peer resource outreach program in my high school. It was there that I first acquired the skills of conflict resolution, mediation and heading education projects. I went on to get my BA in American Studies with an emphasis in Ethnic Studies from the University of California at Santa Cruz. I continued work with “At-Risk” youth through the Santa Cruz County Homeless Education Project for two and a half years. I assisted the program supervisor in outreach efforts, mentor trainings and with youth counseling and tutoring.

Since moving back to the Bay Area I have been a Court Appointed Special Advocate for nearly two years. I have worked as a counselor for Larkin Street Youth Services, specifically working with youth who are HIV positive, homeless, court dependant, on probation and/



or have mental diagnosis. Additionally, I completed an internship as a legal assistant for the San Francisco Public Defender’s office where I worked one-on-one with youth in and out of lock-up.

I am excited to be in a setting where queer folks’ needs are put at the forefront. I identify as a pan-sexual queer person. Personally my interests lay in dance,

*Bridgette’s Bio concluded on next page*

## Pacific Center Launches Therapist Partnership Network

In June, the Pacific Center unveiled it's newest program called the Therapist Partnership Network. This is a special group designed for psychotherapy professionals in our community who have an interest in supporting culturally competent therapy for individuals in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community who are most in need.

For an annual contribution of \$100 members support the valuable work done by the Pacific Center's mental health clinic in it's mission to provide therapy for low-income clients who cannot afford private therapy. Members are invited to two social gatherings each year.

The first social event was very successful and was held June 13 in Oakland at the home of Audrey Rosenberg, Ph.D., and Barbra Silver, LMFT. The next networking social is being planned for an evening in early November.

For information about joining the Therapist Partnership Network, please contact E. J. Koch, MFT at 510-287-8833.

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### Bridgette Bissonnette Youth Activities Coordinator

*(Cont'd from page 5)*

photography, travel, honesty, respect and amazing folks to share life's beauty and struggles with. I'm looking forward to law school in 2006 for Juvenile Justice and Public Interest Law. I am thrilled to bring my passion for youth work to the Pacific Center.

I will be building alliances with East Bay Youth Gay-Straight Alliances this fall. I will also be planning activities, recruiting volunteers and building strong networks for queer youth at the Center. I believe strongly in providing the tools so that youth come out of their struggles with a broader understanding of their communities, identities and selves. This is youth empowerment to me. I look forward to collaborating with each of you!

Contact me with any ideas, to volunteer, outreach efforts or to learn more about being a part of the youth program.

Bridgette@pacificcenter.org  
(510) 548-8283 x514

## HIV+ Gay Men's Support Group

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Pacific Center

This group is open for new members

Prior enrollment is necessary

Contact facilitator *Howard Curtis*, MFT intern,  
at 510-548 8283 x515

(Supervised by Nina Rodrigues, MFT#38288)

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### + *Positive* +

A group therapy experience for men who have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS within the past year.

This Group is Fridays starting Friday, October 15, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. and will meet at the Pacific Center for eight weeks.

To express interest in this group call 510-548-8283 x250. When leaving a message please say that you are interested in being a part of +Positive+. Please call soon as space is limited. Sliding scale.

*Wowlvonn Katzmiller*, MFT trainee and *Jason Ranieri*, MFT Trainee will be the co-facilitators for this group under the supervision of Nina Rodrigues, MFT #38288.

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### Monthly Art Workshop for Individuals with HIV

Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 4:15 to 5:45 p.m.  
at the Pacific Center

Enjoy a relaxing and healing potential of making art. Discover more creative ways to express yourself.

Meet new friends!

Refreshments will be served!

For more information, or to RSVP, contact  
the group Facilitators:

*Maia Huang*, MFT Intern 510-548-8283 x528 or  
*Susannah Layton*, MFT Trainee 548-8283 x525.  
Maia and Susannah are supervised by Nina Rodrigues, MFT #38288.

Donations of \$1 to \$10 are appreciated.

## Anyone who shops at Whole Foods in Berkeley!

Pacific Center volunteer *David Vasquez* is working on signing up the Pacific Center to be a beneficiary of one of Whole Foods' community donation programs. If you bring in your own bag for your groceries, you can get a token worth 5 cents that you can drop into one of four boxes in the front of the store to support local non-profits.

We are submitting an application to be one of the beneficiaries. Whole Foods will make their choices for the upcoming months. Watch this newsletter and/or the Pacific Center web site to see if we are chosen and when you should start bringing your bags to Whole Foods to support the Pacific Center.



## 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](mailto:oebgmc@mindspring.com)

## Positive Direction Workshops

The Pacific Center and EBAC (East Bay AIDS Center) are collaborating to provide another series of Positive Directions Workshops. These workshops are open to all within the HIV community. The purpose of these workshops is to provide information as well as an opportunity to meet other individuals with HIV.

**Wednesday, October 20, 2004**  
**6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at the Pacific Center**  
**Safer Sex**

Presenter:

**Stephen O'Brien**, Medical Director EBAC

Dr. O'Brien will present the latest information on safer sex!

**Wednesday, November 17, 2004**  
**6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at EBAC**

## HIV and Housing

Presenter:

**Terry Hill**, Inform Project

Learn about housing subsidy programs and housing rights.

For more information regarding the workshop, contact **Peter Carnini** at 510-548-8283 x240.

## Notary Service

Pacific Center 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](mailto:michael@pacificcenter.org)

## Therapy Group for Lesbians Involved in Relationship Breakup

Wednesday evenings beginning October 13th  
Sliding Scale Fee

For more details contact Pacific Center at 548-8293 x250 and mention your interest in this group.

## Ask A ' ? ' Workshops

Last Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.  
with pizza and snacks!

Next workshop is Wednesday, Oct 27th

*"Ask A HIV+ Youth"*

At the Pacific Center, 7 p.m.

For more information contact Bridgette at 510-548-8283 x514

## 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)

Benefactor (\$500 – \$999)

Contributor (\$100 – \$249)

President's Circle (\$1000 and above)

Associate (\$250 – \$499)

Board Circle (\$2500 and above)

**Credit Card donations accepted at: [www.pacificcenter.org](http://www.pacificcenter.org)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your generosity!

This newsletter is available as a download for Adobe Acrobat Reader at our Website: [www.pacificcenter.org](http://www.pacificcenter.org)

**THE PACIFIC CENTER FOR HUMAN GROWTH**

2712 Telegraph Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94705

**PLEASE SHARE WITH A FRIEND!**