

THE



NEWSLETTER

September 1994

A/PLG, Inc.

A Gay Asian/Pacific & Friends Group

Volume 12 Issue 9

September Quarterly Meeting

A Family Snapshot

J Craig Fong to Speak

The theme of this year's retreat is *A Family Portrait* so, in order to give everyone just a small taste of what a retreat is like, we have titled our third quarterly meeting *A Family Snapshot*.

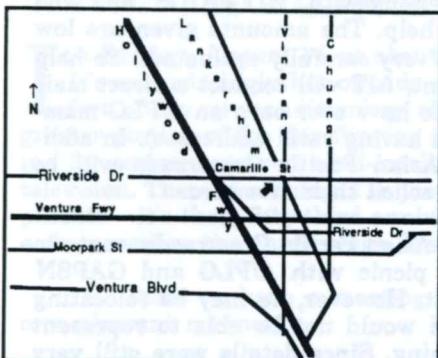
Everyone will have the chance to experience some of the sights and sounds of our annual fall retreat. If you have been to any of our previous retreats, you know how much fun they can be. If you haven't, you're definitely in for a treat - a "re-treat!"

While we can't duplicate the fresh, clean mountain air of Camp Valcrest, we can display some of the highlights of any retreat.

The theme of last year's retreat was *A Family of Friends* and A/PLG has continued this *family* theme in all aspects of what we do. It is our single most important reason for being.

A major aspect of family is the commitment that two people can bring to a relationship. In the non-gay world this commitment is called a marriage.

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A/PLG Quarterly Meeting
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
11031 Camarillo St.
No. Hollywood, CA
NW Corner at Lankershim/Vineland

Queer Japanese American

So Who Cares?

I'm a 56 year old queer Japanese American. So what! I'm proud and gay and besides, I've made it to this ripe old age of 56. I don't know that I have any real talent on speaking to you about the need to come out. Coming out, as you all know, is a life-long process. I had my first "real" coming out in 1957. I was stationed in the USAF - that's "United States Air Force" for you non-service types - in Germany. That was not the best thing to do since I knew they were doing a lot of queer baiting back then. But, you know when the urges are running rampant throughout your system, you have to act.

I had my first blow-job and I gave my first blow-job. That was my very last experience, I said to myself. I felt so disparate. It was not a fun thing. I felt used and guilty. Life went on unevenly for another year. I didn't need nor want any sexual experiences, so I thought.

Reflecting back on my childhood, prior to enlisting in the Service, I had often wondered about homosexual encounters. I felt all alone and sometimes contemplated suicide. Those were not happy times. I'm glad now, I did not follow my earlier inclination.

After allowing myself to experience a wonderful relationship with a German national, I was finally able to satisfy/understand my true nature - I am a gay man and that's that.

Coming out to yourself and accepting your lifestyle is a wonderful elixir. Nothing else can hurt you and you can go forward with your existence.

I think writing home to my mother was the hardest part of coming out. I didn't feel I would be rejected, since I had a wonderful rapport with her before my enlisting. It took me about a (Continued on page 7)

From the President



All right, you're fed up with my ranting and raving and think I should shut up and let you live your life as you see fit.

To feel that way is certainly understandable and you are certainly within your rights to say so.

So, don't listen to me any more. Don't pay any attention to the reasons I give for coming out of your closet. Just answer me one thing - Do you **really** love your partner/lover/significant other or whatever you call that person who shares your life? You do? Then why would you subject him to untold horror in the event you die suddenly?

What am I talking about? If, god forbid, something unexpected should happen to you, not only would your (Continued on page 8)

Family Update

Membership Contest

Our *Family of Friends* continues to grow and at press time, we have increased by 39 new members for a total membership of 173 - the largest our roster has been in 4 or 5 years. For top recruiter, Richie is still in the lead very closely followed by Glen and David.

As a reminder, for each new member you recruit, you will be given a \$5 voucher good for any A/PLG expense PLUS, a chance (one per recruit) to win up to \$550 cash at our December 4 Christmas Party.

1994 Steering Committee**Elected Board**

President	Milt Owens	(818)508-9961
Vice-President	Ken Mak	(213)962-5547
Secretary	Kenny Hansely	(818)894-0973
Treasurer	Doug Chin	(310)426-9134
Delegates-at-Large	Sherlock Fu	(213)665-4628
	Joel Marks	(818)886-0732
	David Totake	(310)274-5064

Standing Committee Chairs

AIDS Intervention Team	Michael Hall	(213)848-3043
Cultural/Education	Jeff Loftin	(213)733-7124
Membership Outreach	Glen Arakawa	(213)293-3672
Orange County	Richie Selva	(310)495-3779

There are 3 Standing Committee chairs open. If you can help your organization, please call Milt NOW!

Ad Hoc Committees

By-Laws	Michael Hall	Doug Mozzie
	Ari Abu-Bakar	Merle Mark
	Kenny Hansely	
Retreat '94	Ken Mak	Joseph Onesta

The A/P Newsletter

Editor	Milt Owens	(818)508-9961
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For the latest A/PLG events and general information, call (213) 660-2131.

Publication of the names or photographs of any persons or organizations in articles, ads, or listings, is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such persons or members of organizations. Opinions expressed, other than editorials, are not necessarily those of A/PLG, Inc. or *The A/P Newsletter*. The deadline for articles or advertisements is the 10th of each month. Call the editor for possible exceptions.

ADVERTISING RATES

Per issue classified ad rates, for up to 6 lines, are \$7.00 for A/PLG members and \$10.00 for non-members. To place your ad, include a legible copy of your ad on a 3" x 5" index card. Include your name and phone number.

Other Rates

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
1/8 page (Business Card)	\$8.50	\$10.00
1/4 page	\$17.00	\$20.00
1/2 page	\$34.00	\$40.00
Full page	\$68.00	\$80.00
Per column inch	\$2.40	\$2.85

Discounts: 3 months @ 10% 12 months @ 20%

To be included in a particular month's newsletter, all camera-ready ad copy must be received by the 10th of the preceding month. If copy is not camera-ready, the editor must be contacted for acceptable deadline/additional costs.

POLICY: Payment must be made in advance and must be included with the ad. The Newsletter staff reserves the right to edit, rewrite, or reject ads. Sexually explicit or suggestive language is not acceptable. Personal "dating" or "Want-to-meet" type ads are also not allowed. A/PLG, Inc. does not endorse any ads submitted for publication in *The A/P Newsletter*.

The staff also reserves the right to edit, or reject any article, letter-to-the-editor, or other submission it feels is not in the best interests of A/PLG and/or *The A/P Newsletter*. Articles may be reprinted with attribution. To reprint Letters-to-the-Editor, please contact the letter writer to obtain permission.

**A/PLG
A Gay Asian/Pacific & Friends Group**

A/PLG embraces a diverse group of people: Americans who trace their descent from the countries of Asia and the Pacific Islands as well as recent immigrants and visitors from those countries. A/PLG membership includes other racial and ethnic groups whose participation in the organization is integral in the fulfillment of A/PLG's objectives.

A/PLG was created in 1980 expressly to meet the needs of gay men and women of Asian and Pacific heritage. It was established to help gay Asians know that they were not alone during a time when gay Asians were invisible.

Through various activities, A/PLG fosters a sense of community in a family-like environment. The group promotes interactions among its members and provides a support system that will help members understand and accept other important people in their lives.

A/PLG strives to increase understanding and appreciation of cultures of Asia and the Pacific Islands, stressing cooperation among the culturally diverse members of the group through educational and social activities.

A/PLG strives to enhance self identity, pride, personal growth, and competence as well as inform its members of relevant political and social issues. A/PLG also makes serious efforts to help members of Asian Pacific descent to develop leadership skills, encouraging those of Asian Pacific descent to take charge by heading important committees within the organization.

In recognition of its social responsibilities, A/PLG supports full human and civil rights for all lesbians and gay men. The group also seeks to improve understanding of the lesbian and gay Asian/Pacific experience by the greater lesbian and gay communities, the Asian/Pacific communities, and the public at large.

Your Steering Committee at Work

The July meeting of the Steering Committee was called to order on June 6 by President Milt Owens at 5:15pm. Those present included Vice President Ken Mak, Secretary Kenny Hansely, Treasurer Doug Chin, Delegates-at-Large Sherlock Fu, Joel Marks, and David Totake, Committee Coordinators Michael Hall (AIT), Jeff Loftin (Cultural Education), Glen Arakawa (Membership), and Richie Selva (Orange County).

Steering Committee actions included:

- Michael reported that AIT's Direct Services bank account was seriously low. (Direct Services are monies or other items which must be purchased for any of our members who are dealing with HIV+/AIDS and who are in dire need of help. The amounts given are low and every request is very carefully evaluated.) To help replenish this account, AIT will conduct a direct mail solicitation to all who have ever been an A/PLG member (contingent on us having valid addresses). In addition, GAPSN and Asian Pacific Crossroads will be asked if we can also solicit their members.
- Richie reported that Asian Pacific Crossroads wants to have a multi-group picnic with A/PLG and GAPSN some time in August. However, he may be relocating out of the area and would not be able to represent A/PLG in the planning. Since details were still very sketchy, Richie was asked to obtain more information and to try to find someone to represent us if he is un

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A/PLG People

Birthdays

Best wishes to our members celebrating September birthdays: on the 1st is Wayne H., on the 3rd is John R., on the 5th are Rummel B. and Harvey K., on the 7th is Ohji S., on the 11th is Hitoshi O., on the 13th are Randy C., Dixon L., Craig M. and Kei M., on the 14th is David T., on the 16th is John C., on the 17th is Kwock K., on the 21st is Michael H., on the 28th is Ron O. and on the 29th is Doug C.

New Members

Welcome to new members Bud B., A.S.C., John E., Mark G., Ron O., Bill S., Ken S. and Sergio Y.

Renewing Members

Thanks for renewing (as of 8/24) to Sean L., Jum T. and Jeffrey W.

Special Memberships

"Thank You" to the following *Special Members*:

Contributors - Mark G., Kei M., Claude M., Leslie O., Chuck R. and Jim T.

Patrons - Glen A., Howard C., Michael H., Joel M., and Roger T.

In Memorium

We mourn the loss of past members David K. (lover of member Ron Gunderson) and Andre T. who both passed away suddenly this past month. Our sympathies are with their families and loved ones.

Retreat '94

A Family Portrait



It's Sunday, August 14 at about 3:30 in the afternoon. It's excruciatingly hot outside. I haven't left the comfort of my air-conditioning all day. I've spent the greater portion of the day flipping through channels looking for something even semi-intelligent to watch on the television. There is nothing. I've just finished talking to my parents - it's their fifty-third anniversary. I decide to take a shower when the phone rings. It's Milt.

"Don't we have a meeting today?" he says in his own pleasant manner.

"Sure we do, at four o'clock."

"The meeting is at three o'clock and we're waiting for you, dear." He adds the *dear* at the end which compounds my guilt even though I honestly thought the meet-

A POSITIVE SUPPORT GROUP

"There must be a least 100 years of accumulated experience in dealing with HIV in this group."

"Informational chicken soup."

"Two thumbs up!"

"I'm pretty sure that we know more about this than my doctor."

"Really a supportive family."



"I get an answer right away." "The end of isolation for me."

"When I ask a question, I get a safe - strictly confidential (really); lots of trust!"

"This is an information powerhouse."

"I've been in several groups in San Francisco, then moved to LA, and tried several others here - this is the best by a mile!"

SPONSORED BY A/PLG

Meeting in a private residence
every 2nd and 4th Tuesday evening.

Call (213) 662-0622 for details

ing was to begin at four.

I rush out of the house. The heat lands on me like a woolen blanket soaked in hot, chicken soup. On my way to the meeting, I drive up Crescent Heights, the quickest way between Milt's apartment and mine in West Hollywood. Laurel Canyon really is the quickest way unless, of course, you find yourself behind someone who thinks that Sunday's are for enjoying the scenery. I invariably do when I am in a hurry and today is no exception. I raise my foot from the gas pedal. My car can idle faster than the car in front of me is going, despite the sharp up-hill grade.

I am on my way to the planning meeting for the fall retreat. I have plenty of time to think about it. I won't be able to pass the loser in front of me until after we reach the crest of the Hollywood Hills. The fall's retreat will be my third.

My mind travels back to my very first rap when, by the end of the evening, I had been cornered by Augie who made me promise to come to that year's retreat and David who had contracted me to cook breakfast for sixty people I had never met. It seemed that I had been hardly able to introduce myself before I was absorbed and I became a member of A/PLG.

We come to the traffic light near the little grocery store on Laurel canyon. The light is green but the little car in front
(Continued on page 7)

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

The tactics employed by Milt O. and Kenny H., in pressuring others to conform to their own narrow agenda, seem strikingly ironic. Although we respect the right for them to express their opinions, they are in no way setting an example of tolerance for diversity. Undoubtedly, their opinions, as well as our own, differ from those of Falwell, Sheldon, and Limbaugh. However, the obvious lack of tolerance for all those who do not share their opinions is disturbingly similar to that of Falwell, et al.

Kenny comments that it is heart wrenching to cope with a family that loves you conditionally. Make no mistake that it is equally distressing to belong to a "family of friends" where one is accepted conditionally. To judge people is totally uncool. Let's hope that in the future we can demonstrate respect and tolerance for each other within our community, and especially within our own organization.

Some may choose to throw a fit, and others may wish to wage a war; we prefer to seek peace, respect, and cooperation among all people. Sincerely,

-Fred M., Ray W., Eddie H., and Jonathan F.

A Response

Dear Fred, Ray, Eddie and Jonathan:

Since I encourage everyone to write letters and/or articles for the newsletter, regardless of their viewpoint (as long as the missive isn't libelous or licentious), I seldom answer specific letters. In my editorials I may address certain points mentioned in letters-to-the-editor but try to allow everyone to have his/her say.

Your letter above, however, forces me to respond.

First, unlike the gentlemen (term used *very loosely*) you mentioned, I thrive on diversity. This is proved by the mere publication of letters/articles disagreeing with my viewpoint. I doubt you would be allowed the same courtesy in their publications or venues.

You say you respect the right of me and others to express our opinions, but the very tone of your letter suggests we shouldn't.

Second, there is no correlation between being accepted conditionally by blood family and our "Family of Friends." If your family demands you live a certain way and you do not, you may be disowned and shunned. Your mother will no longer be "Mommy" or your father "Dad." If there is money involved, you may be disinherited. Aunts and uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews might also choose to treat you as if you don't exist. (This is almost *never* the case for those who do choose to come out.)

In A/PLG's family, you are accepted **unconditionally**. We do not demand you live a lie. We not only welcome but encourage all our members to be who they are – fully and completely. (I love all four of you just as much today as I did before you expressed your differing opinions.)

Further, I agree that judging others is "totally uncool." None of us can fully put ourselves in the lives of others and know what makes them tick. In my "fits" or in my "war", I am not judging but trying to present arguments espousing a belief. I do this by presenting examples of certain actions or inactions and the consequence, short-term as well as long term and personal as well as societal, involved.

I am glad you prefer to seek peace, respect, and cooperation. In the process, all I ask is that you be true to yourself and to those you love and who love you. Including those with whom you might disagree.

-Milt Owens, Editor



Social, Social, Social

New Members Mixer

To acknowledge our new members (actually just an excuse for another get-together) there will be a mixer on Saturday, October 15, from 5:00pm till 10:00pm.

Old, new, and even potential members will get a chance to soak in the jacuzzi, enjoy a sumptuous Korean Bar BQ feast prepared especially for

you by Chef Sean Lee, and be entertained by haunting karaoke vocals.

All of this will take place in beautiful San Dimas in the eastern San Gabriel Valley, (a mere 25 miles from downtown L.A.) where the 10 and the 57 Fwy's meet.

Tickets are only \$10.00 for members and anyone joining our happy little **Family of Friends** since January will receive a 50% discount – \$5.00. Potential members and other guests may purchase a ticket for \$15.00.

Call Glen at (213) 293-3672 to reserve a space for October 9 and receive exact directions. Attendance is limited; no tickets will be sold at the door.

And, if you were one of our recruiters this year, don't forget you may use your pink voucher(s) for this event.

-Glen Arakawa

A Family Portrait**Retreat Attack**

Doesn't matter which camp-ground it happens to be at. Doesn't matter what activities are scheduled. Doesn't matter who attends. The mere utterance of the word "retreat" brings an instantaneous image and feeling of excitement to me.

Trees everywhere, fresh mountain air, cabin in the woods, cooking and eating, a sea of stars in the evenings, and no hustle and bustle of city life.

The fellow campers are always friendly, with no faces to hide behind. Everyone is equal, and unguarded. No time for morning papers or television news; no room for high fashion and makeup. Everyone gets up from the same bunk beds with messy hair.

I always meet new people at a retreat. In the city, there never seems to be enough time to really get to know anyone. At a retreat, I'll learn more than I want to about people. (Sometimes some very juicy gossip too.)

A Family Portrait is this year's theme. The people in A/PLG have always been family to me. Nothing like camping with sisters!

The retreat is just around the corner. I'm very excited to co-chair it but may have an anxiety attack very soon.

-Ken Mak

Fun, Informative and Social**Potluck Raps**

The second rap of July was held at Harry's and Kenny's in North Hills. Michael Hall was the facilitator of the topic "Latex and Leisure." This night was spent discussing Safer Sex, condom use (Michael brought the props and Milt demonstrated the proper way to put on a condom (Ed: if you weren't there you don't know what you missed.)), and differences between different condoms. We also discussed HIV, its transmission, the reliability of testing, etc. Michael, being a pharmacist and coordinator of the AIDS Intervention Team, is quite knowledgeable on the subject and welcomes any questions you might have.

The first rap in August was held in the meeting room of Michael's apartment building. John was the facilitator of the topic "First Experiences." This night we talked about not only our sexual experiences, but the first time each of us realized we were gay, as well as the difficulties, humiliation, and indignities that each of us face(d), no matter where we came from, in telling family and friends of our sexual preferences. As always, the discussions was followed by dessert.

The first rap in September will be held on Friday the 9th and will be at Lyle's, 2474 Silver Ridge Ave. As of press time, David hadn't decided on a topic. Call Lyle at (213) 660-4690 if you can't find his place on a map.

On Friday, Sept 23, we will meet at Brad & Moto's, 1989 Lucile. Sherlock, by overwhelming demand, will lead us in "Inter-Racial Dating, Part II: What About Sex?" For directions, Brad can be reached at (213) 660-4548.

A/PLG potluck raps are held twice monthly on the second and fourth Fridays. We are always looking for good topics and places to talk about them. If you can help with either, and/or would like to facilitate a rap, please call **Kenny** at (818) 894-0973.

As usual, potluck dinners will begin at 7:30pm followed by the raps.

If you're interested in hosting and/or facilitating, please call me at (818) 894-0973. We always need and welcome different hosts/facilitators so that the same people aren't always doing it. It's not as difficult as you may think – just ask those few who have done it in the last year.

—Kenny Hansely

In Support of Same-Sex Marriages**National JACL Biennial Convention**

On Thursday, August 4, I left Burbank Airport on Skyway, a 50-passenger jet, to Salt Lake City. When I arrived at the SLC airport, I should have realized the reception I was about to receive – in the city it was 106.6, another record-setting day. So now you get the picture.

I was whisked off to my hotel, The Inn at Temple Square. Yep, it's right across the street from the big Mormon Temple. I know if the archangel fell off, it would have struck me while I slept. That's how close the inn is to the temple.

I met with my benefactors at about 6:00pm to discuss our strategy on getting the resolution passed by the National Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) Council. That is, to support the concept of same-sex marriages as supported by the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission and many other civil rights, churches, women's, political and educational groups.

About 8 to 10 people gathered at the Marriott to plan our strategy on getting passage of this issue. Some of the people there were J Craig Fong, Steve Lew, Bill Kaneko (a straight man who supported our efforts from the beginning), four concerned lesbians and three additional straight men. What a gathering – it crossed age, sex, and sexual orientation barriers.

We came from all walks of life and all different cities – San Francisco, Los Angeles, Torrance, Pasadena, Hawaii, and points North, South, West and East of Salt Lake City. We all came together for just one purpose; that was to see that justice was done for those that were denied equal protection to enjoy all the liberties granted to us by the Constitution. It

was a moving meeting and I felt energized by all the positive vibes generated by all these enthusiastic individuals.

I went back to the hotel to sleep the night in wonderment and confusion of all that transpired at the meeting.

Rising at 6:00am, still charged from the previous night's meeting, I met the same group members and more at the Marriott. By noon on Friday, August 5, our issue had not surfaced. The same thing again in the afternoon and again at the evening session. We met again to fine tune our testimony for Saturday. Our issue had to come up on Saturday since it was the last business day. We all decided that we would not compromise on the same-sex marriage. We would not accept a watered down proposal for Domestic Partners – all or nothing. That announcement was powerful; further, we felt that everybody who was testifying should be a JACL member so the League got three new members from that meeting.

Saturday, about 9:30am, the Domestic Partnership proposal passed without a hitch. The Salt Lake City proposal to rescind support for same-sex marriages was denied. Their rationale was primarily based on religious grounds. The big guns were ready for the final test. There were twenty or so people in line to testify in support of this proposal. Bill was the first person to speak in support. Several more people spoke in support then it was my turn. I spoke of the fact that I am in a committed relationship of 27 years and that I could not automatically make medical decisions for my lover, or that I could not carry him on my health insurance, and so on and so on. I really felt empowered for those two minutes. The big guns came in the form of Congressman Norman Mineta. He spoke eloquently about the civil rights aspects of marriage. He included support of Redress for Japanese American which came from Congressman Barney Frank of Massachusetts, a self-identified gay man. It was truly moving. (See Congressman Mineta's speech elsewhere in this newsletter.)

We had 15 more people to speak in support, but we had gone past the 20 minutes allocated for this topic. We got an extension of another 20 minutes to continue with the presentation. At the end, a vote was taken and the passage for support of same-sex mar-

riage was 50 yeas, 38 nays and I can't remember the number of abstentions. We, the participants, were so overwhelmed we had to leave the room to cry/hug and cry/hug again. We were prepared for rejection by this conservative body, but to find support/love/understanding was more than most of us expected.

Another controversial issue that JACL supported was much like the one we tried to pass in California in 1992 - the right to die. In the State of Washington, it is called "Compassion in Dying." It passed without any negative comments from the council.

I was initially invited to attend the conference to present my lifestyle at a workshop along with a Japanese American lesbian. The workshop took some time to get started. There were seven gays/lesbians in the workshop and we didn't know if anyone was interested in our issues. After about 10 minutes into the workshop, we had a group of 20 to 25 people and a lively discussion ensued. Since we are experts on the gay/lesbian lifestyle, we thought we'd offer up our experiences to other chapters. I guess this will be a life time work for us all since there are presently over 120 chapters nationwide.

We are thinking of starting up a gay/lesbian JACL chapter to address our issues including HIV information. We'll give it some time to soak in and savor our recent victory. It's nice to know that there are straights out there who will help us articulate our issues. After the convention, I feel that the world is a much gentler/warmer fuzzy place for us all. Let me reflect on this for a while.

Returned to Burbank at 11:30am on Sunday - welcome back to the real world!

-Tak Yamamoto

In Support

Norman Mineta Speaks

At their biennial convention of the National JACL Council, a statement was read by Congressman Norman Mineta of the 15th Congressional District, representing Santa Clara County. This speech was in opposition to the Mt. Olympus Chapter's recommendation that JACL repudiate the National Board's positive stand on same-sex marriages

as proposed by the Hawaii Chapter of the JACL. With that as a background, the following was read:

"Thank you Mr. Chairman. It has been many years since I spoke on a resolution pending before a National Convention, but I am compelled to do so in this case.

"I believe it would be disastrous if this Convention were to repudiate the action of our National Board in this matter.

"There are some who have argued that gay rights issues are not Japanese American issues.

"I cannot think of any more dangerous a precedent for this organization to set then to take a position on an issue of principle based solely on how it directly affects Americans of Japanese ancestry.

"When we fought our decade-long battle for redress, we won. We could not have done so if we had stood alone in that fight.

"Where would we be today if the NAACP, or the National Council of La Raza, or the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force had taken the position that redress was a Japanese American issue - and had nothing to do with African Americans, Hispanic Americans or gay and lesbian Americans?

"Those organizations, and their members, joined us because they understood and believed in our argument that a threat to the civil rights of one American is a threat to the civil rights of all Americans. They acted based on that principle - and not on a narrow evaluation of how redress affected their own communities. We could not have won without their help.

"But for all the support we garnered outside Congress, redress did not begin moving in the Congress until 1987.

"For years, the Administrative Law Subcommittee in the House of Representatives had been chaired by an enemy of redress. He held hearings, but stacked the witness list against us. And he made sure that the Civil Liberties Act died at the end of each Congress.

"Those roadblocks came tumbling down in 1987, when the leadership of

the subcommittee changed - Congressman Barney Frank became its Chairman.

"I remember mentioning to my staff that I should go and ask Barney if there was any way to get redress moving.

"I never had the chance. He came to me in the opening days of the 100th Congress and told me that his top priority as Chair would be to make the promise of redress a reality - and by the end of the 100th Congress, redress was written into the laws of the country.

"A gay Congressman from Massachusetts, with only a tiny Asian Pacific American constituency, makes redress his top civil rights priority. Why? Because he saw our civil rights as an issue of fundamental principle for this country.

"Our success came from the willingness of countless Americans of all backgrounds to take the same position. How can we as an organization turn around today and say that the civil rights of other Americans have nothing to do with us?

"I do not think we can.

"Our reputation as a national civil rights organization is based, more than anything else, on our dedication to principle and our resolve to stand by our decisions.

"Doing what is right is often controversial. Doing what is just is often unpopular. But if we are to remain a viable voice in the national civil rights movement, we cannot break away from our commitments simply because the issue is difficult.

"I urge the National Council to reject the resolution."

The attendees broke into a long applause and I broke down and cried. I was moved by this man's support of our issue - our right to marry whomever we wished. I hope our membership will take the time to thank all those who helped get the National Council of JACL to continue their support of civil rights - no matter the popularity of the issue. Those interested in writing can contact Tak. He will provide the list of people involved in getting passage of our issue.

-supplied by Tak Yamamoto

(Continued from page 1)

Queer Japanese American (Cont'd)

week to scribble out my confession. I'm not really good at Japanese, but I made a valiant attempt to convey who I was. She had some difficulty with my letter so she had my younger sister read it. I believe I wrote Japanese much as I would in English and some of it was probably awkwardly positioned. I had to look up Homosexual - that was difficult. I don't think Japanese like to use the word. My sister explained to my mother what I had attempted to say. My mother wrote me after that without referring to my letter. She was in denial.

I think about Project 10 and how wonderful it is for youth at this time in Los Angeles. The recent gay/lesbian prom has to be a high point for many in accepting themselves at such a young age. I wonder how it is to be young/gay and proud. I hope you don't feel sorry for me or that you see a little jealousy in my writing. Jealous, yes - envy, maybe - but don't feel sorry for me - don't forget I'm 56.

I came out to my brothers and sisters in 1961 and I'm happy to say I've always felt nothing but love from them all. When my lover and I got together 27 years ago, I introduced him to my family. Wherever I'm invited, he's expected. My mother, however, stayed in denial until her death and beyond. She expected me to "grow out" of my homosexual state and some day marry and become "normal." You see, not everyone will be able to work through "their" problem. Let them accept you on their terms. Don't try to convince them of anything. They'll come around, or they won't.

If you have developed a wonderful/caring relationship with your family/friends, you should expect positive support for yourself and your significant other - I have. I would suggest coming out for everybody, to whatever extent you feel comfortable - then stretch a little further and risk a little. Not everybody will love you, but you will soon discover to your amazement who will go the distance with you. What have you got to lose? Whatever the fall out, you're better off for knowing.

Coming out at my job in 1970 was easy. The people I worked with discussed the ramifications of my being

gay. I have to interface with police agencies and other sensitive groups. They had no difficulty accepting me and my homosexuality. I don't have to worry about being exposed for whatever reason - I'm out and there is no closet big enough for me to hide in. I'M OUT AND YOU'LL HAVE TO GET OVER IT!

-Tak Yamamoto

Classified Ad

Compatible House-mate Wanted

to share large furnished house with an Asian and a Caucasian; own bedroom plus full use of house and pool. In very convenient location near Wilshire on Highland; can save lots of travel time. All utilities plus laundry machine included. \$425 monthly plus security. Call (213) 931-2558

(Continued from page 3)

Retreat '94 (Cont'd)

of me decides to stop anyway. I light a cigarette. I know I am not supposed to smoke in the Hollywood Hills. Out of belligerence to the signs which forbid it, I always do but I use my ashtray instead of flicking the ashes out the window. I think that's fair.

That first retreat was kind of scary. I knew absolutely no one except for a few people from the retreat committee. I rode up with Ken Mak. Who would have thought that within a few months, I'd be sharing an apartment with him and two years later, we'd be co-chairing the retreat committee? After a pleasant drive we arrived at Camp Velcro (sorry, Valcrest). A quick change of plans put us there rather than Camp Radford, which I heard was lovely. Valcrest has its own charm, rustic and quaint.

Finally! Mulholland. I can pass this loser! I do and now I am careening down the Studio City side of the Hollywood Hills. The air, thick and heavy is moving in my car. What a relief!

So there I was, in the mountains with a bunch of guys I didn't know. I was kind of quiet during that first retreat. I am really very shy but I think I hide it quite well. Most of the time, I just

watched and did what they told me to do. There was plenty to watch, and more than enough to do: workshops, and food and gatherings and sometimes, just sitting around a table with new friends and then the cabins at night! Such gossip! I pride myself on being the first to discover that one of our members, the most flamboyant queen I had ever met, was the holder of several advanced degrees and was a practicing attorney! (Victor, just in case you happen to get a copy of this newsletter, you will always have a special place in my heart.) At first, it was difficult to remember everyone's name and I admit, some of the things we did, I thought a bit silly, but I was constantly doing something with someone and the briefcase I had brought with me, just in case, never left the trunk of my car.

The thing that strikes me on my way driving to Milt's is that my relationship with A/PLG is much like my drive. Without having the time to think about it, I was involved. Going to that first retreat was like reaching Mulholland Drive. After that, I was on my way and no turning back!

Our theme this year is *A Family Portrait* and I think very appropriate. It's hard for me to believe that this group of men hasn't always been in my life, so much a part of it they are now. I could not have guessed at that first rap when Augie and David literally forced me to come



to the retreat that I would have found myself two years later still associated with these wonderful people who have, indeed, become my family. That first retreat, like every retreat, ended with a group photograph. I still have it. I know exactly where it is. I keep it with only the very select of my photographs - my family album.

See you at the retreat!

-Joseph Onesta

Around Town

Exit the Dragon

A 3-man performance examining pop-culture stereotypes of the Asian American male

Sept 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, Oct 1
8:00pm

Harman Avenue Theater
522 N. LaBrea
(213) 935-3898

(Continued from page 2)

Steering Committee (Cont'd)

- able. (This event has since been postponed to a later time.)
- The Ad Hoc Retreat '94 Committee presented a revised budget based on a higher fee to participants. It was approved. The committee has chosen "A Family Portrait" for this year's theme.
- Reports on our participation in this year's CSW were generally positive though all agreed a lot of work went into both the parade and the booth with little apparent payback. Everyone agreed the exposure generated by our participation was a good thing and maybe next year the booth could be a money-maker. More volunteers are definitely needed for both.
- Milt made a point of acknowledging GAPS/N for their award-winning participation in the parade and their ability to offer so many monitors to CSW. Lack of A/PLG member involvement was bemoaned.
- Vivo Trattoria was announced as the location of our next restaurant experience to be held on August 21 and to be coordinated by John B.
- July 4th Picnic was a definite success with around 100 attendees. There were many new people present which led to some discussion on how we, as the board of A/PLG, could have been more accommodating. In general, it was felt that our members as a whole did not go out of their way to be welcoming. The main suggestion proposed to help alleviate this problem in the future is to have the picnic more of a potluck affair where someone coming by themselves with one dish won't be made to feel alone and have no one to eat with. (Kenny also wishes more people would have voluntarily joined in the games.)
- Joel reported that we now have a date and a place for a FantAsia '95. He has also spoken to members of GAPS/N who would like to participate in this venture. However, we, A/PLG, cannot seem to get anyone willing to rep-

resent our interests and coordinate with a GAPS/N representative to make sure this event becomes a reality.

- Fred reported through Milt that he hopes to have his home ready in time to have a yard sale over the Sept. 17/18 weekend and wants more goods to display and sell. (Wishful thinking: Fred's NEW contractor tells him the place won't be ready until at least the end of the year! But everyone should keep those collectibles coming in.)
- On Saturday, October 22, we will present a FUNdraiser to be chaired by Augie J. The theme will be *An Asian Octoberfest*. More information in the coming months.
- Augie and Jeff have also graciously offered their beautiful home for this year's Christmas Party on Sunday, December 4.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm.

-Kenny Hansely, Secretary

(Continued from page 1)

From the President (Cont'd)

lover be devastated at his loss of you but he would have the task, assuming you live together and you have told your family he is your "roommate", of having to call your parents, tell them you had died, and probably have to then tell them of your relationship.

Unless you had very specific wills in which you planned for this eventuality, your family could, and under the duress of your demise, probably would, take your body from your lover, plan all funeral arrangements and memorials without thinking of his hurt, and most certainly would expect all your financial worth to be handed over to them leaving the one you claim to love, with absolutely nothing but his memories to remind him of the years you spent together.

Further, unless you are now open and out to all those people who have a claim on your affections, make sure they all understand that this is who you are and that no one recruited you to this life, your family could make it very difficult for your surviving lover by accusing him of many nefarious deeds making you gay to pocketing

your money and stealing from your accounts, money and objects that should, in their minds, rightfully go to the next of kin. And that, most assuredly, is not this faggot who led you into a world of depravity.

You are also causing your family increased grief by not telling them now, when you are alive and well instead of them having to find out at the same time they learn of your death.

Is this love?

-Milt Owens, President

(Ed: Once again, I want to stress that what I write, unless stated otherwise, is composed of my opinions and does not necessarily reflect the feelings of the Steering Committee or this organization as a whole.

Next month is National Coming Out Month. It is my desire to highlight this remembrance by these writings on Coming Out, not only from me but from those who both agree and disagree with my views on the topic. Only when there is meaningful dialog can we grow and learn; learning not just about others but about ourselves as well.

If you feel I have encroached on your private life, tell me. Tell me and others why you disagree. Your words and your beliefs are just as valid as mine. As I've stated many times in the past, all communications to this newsletter will be published as long as they are not inflammatory or the letters do not degenerate into name calling and back biting.

Another Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to both the "Lack of Gay Pride" editorial in the July newsletter and to Gordon Quan's reply in the August issue.

First, I think that the editorial probably overstated the case a little (witness your clarifications in the August issue). We all indulge in hyperbole from time to time, especially when we have strong feelings on the subject under discussion. I do agree with the general thrust of the editorial, however.

Gordon Quan's letter served to further the erroneous stereotype that all Asians are passive. True, I know some passive Asians. I also know at least two Asians that are as unpassive as anyone I know, and a large number of Asians who are somewhere in between, just like most non-Asians. Pick any country in the Asia/Pacific region and you will find instances in history where the people there fought for what they believed in, certainly not a particularly passive activity!

If you truly have pride in yourself, then at some point you must fight for the equality that you are due. It is un-

fair to continually sit back and "let George do it." Several studies have shown that non-gay people's opinion of gay men and lesbians shifts dramatically when they actually *know* one (if I remember correctly, the numbers typically change from 2-to-1 against to 2-to-1 for). Just think what a change in public opinion would take place if each gay man and lesbian came out to just one more straight person.

You say it doesn't matter? It does. Let's take a couple of less severe examples than that used in the editorial (gay-bashing). First, there's a personal psychological cost; I know — it took me almost ten years after I came out to myself to tell any of my relatives. I always had to be so careful to hide the male physique calendar, the coffee-table books, etc., before any of them came over. I had to fend off the "I know a nice girl for you" comments from two different match-making aunts. Although coming out to my family was painful — and there is still a gap with my parents, particularly my father — I'm closer to my brothers and especially to my sisters-in-law. And, most importantly, I'm more relaxed myself.

For another, more concrete, example, let's take the Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 1994 (ENDA). ENDA would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in the workplace; with ENDA in place, you couldn't be fired just for being gay. You say that can't happen now? Well, if you work in West Hollywood, or Los Angeles, it can't; but in most other cities in Southern California, it can. You don't even have to change jobs to worry about this; the (pre-merger) company that I worked for moved from Los Angeles to El Segundo several years ago — whatever job protection was afforded by the Los Angeles City anti-discrimination ordinance disappeared overnight, and did not return until the (post-merger) company's EEO statement included sexual orientation. ENDA could remove that uncertainty.

It is clear that the Christian Fundamentalists have and will oppose ENDA; they will write their Senators and Representatives. Members of Congress, although they don't read every letter, get summary counts from their staff of opinions expressed in letters, postcards, telegrams, and phone calls. It becomes critical to let our members of Congress know that we

are part of their constituency, too, and that passing ENDA is important to us. Yes, that means writing some letters or making a few telephone calls. It means asking your friends (gay and non-gay) to do the same. It may mean asking your employer to do the same.

You think that last item is too far-fetched? I work in a division of AT&T Global Information Solutions (GIS) [formerly NCR]. Four of us at my location plus two employees at the Dayton, Ohio, headquarters wrote to the CEO of AT&T GIS, Jerre Stead, asking him to support ENDA. As a result, he wrote a letter to Senator Edward Kennedy, chairman of the committee considering the legislation and one of the original Senate sponsors. Will it help? It certainly won't hurt. What did it cost? A half-dozen people willing to stand up and put their names on the letter of request. I will admit that this was less risky than for some others due to the AT&T anti-discrimination policy, but it still took courage to, essentially, come out to the CEO of our company.

Another ENDA-related example, perhaps of more interest to those who remember the mid-60s, is that former Republican Senator and 1964 Presidential candidate Barry Goldwater supports ENDA. Why? Well, it just might have something to do with the fact he has a gay grandson.

One final example, of particular relevance to the Asian/Pacific community, involves Olympic diving champion Greg Louganis. Although Louganis's gayness has been a more-or-less open secret for several years, he did not come out publicly until recently. Louganis performed two diving exhibitions at the recent Gay Games in New York City, which certainly added some luster and name recognition to the event. While receiving a career achievement award in early July, Louganis spoke before the United States Olympic Committee in support of moving 1996 Atlanta Olympics events out of Cobb County, which has an anti-gay-rights ordinance. Subsequently, those events scheduled to be held in Cobb County were relocated elsewhere. Although we cannot be certain, these two appearances could very well cost Louganis endorsements and/or acting jobs because of homophobia. He had the courage to stand up and be counted, even though it may cost him substantial money.

The Radical Right would like nothing

better than to round us all up and stick us in a camp, just for being who we are (sound like a certain executive order from 50+ years ago?). Being in the closet won't help, either, if the innuendo and implication of friends and co-workers that occurred in the McCarthy Communist witch hunts of the early 1950s are any indication.

Our best tool is the truth. Coming out helps to affirm that truth. Whether it's marching in a parade, writing letter to politicians, lobbying for non-discrimination policies at work, or telling friends and relatives, coming out is, in the long term, our best weapon against bigotry and hate. If you aren't willing to stand up and be counted, can you *really* take pride in yourself?

-Bruce Britton

Classified Ad

Apartment To Rent

in 30-unit building located in Valley Village (NH) near all freeways. 1 bedroom with generous balcony. Well-kept pool and recreation area. Friendly neighbors. Call (818) 508-9961 for additional information.

"There are so many people here tonight. Just imagine how boring life would be if we were all the same. My idea of a perfect world is one in which we really appreciated each other's differences: short, tall; Democrat, Republican; black, white; gay, straight — A world in which all of us are equal, but DEFINITELY NOT THE SAME!"

*-Barbra Streisand
Closing comments from
The Concert*



Yukata Party**Thanks To All**

All tickets to the Yukata Party were sold out by the end of July and still the phone kept ringing! Many thanks are in order to all who worked on the event to make it successful and to the many new friends and members who turned out on a very warm August afternoon and evening. We took to the pool to cool off from the Southern California hot weather and soaked in the Jacuzzi to relax from the various activities. Special thanks to Jim B. for the use of his spectacular view home, the pool and jacuzzi, decks and gardens.

Flags were flying, Japanese lanterns and banners swung in the wind; all in place to transport our guests' imaginations to the islands of Japan. Thanks Jim for the festive decor, the house re-arranged to accommodate a hundred guests, plus setting up the hit of the day - the karaoke (Brad's & Moto's contribution). A big thanks to Jim's house mate Raymond for taking off Friday and helping Jim plus letting his rooms be used for the party. And the kites, well, even with balloons the heirs of the Wright Brothers had some difficulty getting off the deck!

I would like to thank the following people who helped make everything come together: Milt (when he wasn't at the karaoke mike) for being in charge of beverages; An for helping Milt at the bar; Ken M. (known for his finger work) for teaching the origami paper folding; the honorable Ray W. for demonstrating calligraphy; Anthony F. for his spectacular Japanese sword demonstration (listen, never a bad word when Anthony has sword in hand); Sean L., the velvet voice, for leading the karaoke singing; Douglas C. our salad king, for coordinating food with me; Roy K. for selecting and purchasing the door prizes and Yukata contest prizes; Jerry H. and Kei M. for helping me demonstrate the group Bon dancing; Glen A. for handling the Yukata contest and the door prizes; and John B. for helping me from the beginning.

More thanks to the super ticket sellers: Glen A., Ken M., Sherlock F., Jim B., Clement G., and Richie S. And thanks to those who helped me at the reception desk: Joel M., Howard C., Glen A., John B., Fred M. and Charles C. With all the help from the

people whose names are mentioned and whose names are not mentioned, my sincere thanks!

The party was attended by nearly 90 people and ended successfully at eight o'clock with Fred B. still at the karaoke (does he really need a mike?).

And again thank you, A/PLG for being what you are, a family of friends who can work together in harmony!

-David Totake

A Different Light Reading Event

On Sunday, September 11 at 7:00pm, Joel B. Tan will host readings from

*Queer n' Asian:
Sissy Voices from the Diaspora*
to be held at

A Different Light Bookstore,
8853 Santa Monica Blvd.,
West Hollywood.

(Continued from page 1)

A Family Snapshot (Cont'd)

As many of you are probably aware, Hawaii is currently deciding whether it will become the first state in the Union to recognize marriages between same-sex partners. J Craig Fong, who is an attorney with the Lambda Legal Defense Fund, is going to let us know what the impact of this is, and will be, and also what we can do to ensure that the law does indeed recognize same-sex marriages.

There will also be mini-workshops on 2 or 3 topics and an "ice breaker" guaranteed to get everyone more familiar with each other. And, since no A/PLG event seems to be complete with out food, and since the retreat is definitely no exception, we once again ask that everyone bring something for the potluck dinner which will close the evening.

Please do your best to be at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in North Hollywood at 3:00pm as we have a very full afternoon planned and wouldn't want you to miss a single minute of the fun and enjoyment.

YOU GET WHAT YOU GIVE
-Korean Proverb

A Recollection

L.A. Parents at the March

Morris Kight, founder of the Gay Liberation Front in 1969, (Ed: and one of the founders of A/PLG), had inspired us to attend STONEWALL 25 when he spoke at our L.A. Parents FLAG meeting way back in March of 1991. But the experience was even better than we had anticipated! Most memorable for us was walking with our son Peter and his life partner Rob and other members of PFLAG at the International March from the United Nations. The March was not only inspirational, but there were no negative incidents which fortunately was mentioned in the news coverage.

Second to the March was singing with the huge chorus to over 50,000 people at Yankee Stadium during the closing ceremonies of Gay Games IV—we never did see Peter or Rob on the field below, there were so many gay games participants—almost 10,000. As we met gay men and lesbian women on the streets, in the subway, restaurants and hotels they were always so appreciative of PFLAG and our support.

-Peggy & Marty Olson PFLAG LA

PFLAG All Around

Fresno to San Diego Parent Chapters/Contacts

There are many Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) groups around the world. They are always eager to talk to parents whose children have just come out. They can also provide support to gay children who need some assistance in coming out. Among the many members are parents of every ethnic background. If you need help, call one of the numbers listed below. (Note the 1st one listed!)

Asian-Pacific —	(818) 368-2008
Fresno —	(209) 292-7661 or 434-7236
West Hollywood —	(213) 851-6949
South Bay —	(310) 373-4387
West L.A. —	(310) 454-7245
Long Beach —	(310) 984-8335
San Diego —	(619) 438-0929
Orange County —	(714) 997-8047
S.F. Valley —	(818) 340-8945 or 761-6743
Pasadena —	(818) 450-9279
West S Gabe Val —	(818) 359-7583
Santa Clarita —	(805) 254 2177
Riverside —	(909) 341-5755

API Alert!**AB 3335
Passed the Senate**

AB 3335 will require the recognition of APIs as a distinct group rather than "OTHER" on state reporting.

Asians and Pacific Islanders now constitute more than 10% of the state yet APIs are in the "Other" category and are not included in projections by the California Department of Finance.

Now it is up to Governor Pete Wilson.

Urge Him To Sign

Write now to urge him to sign this bill into law.

Governor Pete Wilson
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

*Gay Comic***The Importance of Coming Out**

I am an actor and stand-up comedian who recently came out to the world on the "Geraldo" television show. That was after years of doing stand-up comedy—but never as my true self—and two years of building up the courage to come out and be true to myself.

The first time I did an openly gay show was on a cruise ship. I figured if I'm in the middle of an ocean and it didn't work out, no one would know.

After I successfully made it through that, I decided I would only be gay in the Midwest and on the road. But not in Los Angeles, New York, or Chicago, where I would have to face the closeted attitudes of the entertainment industry powers.

Then I did my open act in Chicago and decided who's going to know? Then in Atlanta, Texas, etc. It was the audiences that kept giving me the strength and courage to keep going.

The shows started going over very well. The audiences were wonderful. Their support has been overwhelming. Only a few weeks ago, I was in Kansas City and a religious extremist organized a protest at the club where I was appearing. On the night of the

protest, fans showed up to protest the protesters!

I thought I should write something about the importance of coming out after I read the article by Jan Breslauer, "Hear the One About Lesbian Comics?" (L.A. Times Calendar, July 18). Gay and lesbian comics and actors are not just a phase. America is ready for us. I believe that we should be allowed to play straight and gay roles. We should be allowed to have careers. We should let the public know we are gay and not be afraid of our true selves, so that all younger gays out there can have self-respect for themselves.

With all the flak about gays in the military, President Clinton said acceptance of homosexuals has to happen easily and it can't happen all at once. We gays have to wait. We'll have to wait to be totally open about our lives, ourselves, and our sexuality. Well, I, for one, am tired of waiting....

We as gays and lesbians should have the same rights as everybody else. And people will say, "but you do have the same rights." Well, we do on the books and in the law. However, we don't in practice, and that's what makes me angry: Nobody takes responsibility for it not happening for gays and minorities....

...I want to stand up and be myself and show some young gay kids out there in America that I'm gay and I'm making it, and when you grow up, you'll be able to make it to....

—Jason Stuart
(L.A. Times
Counterpunch 8/16/94)

*Nominations***1995 Board**

It's that time of year when we have to start looking for qualified candidates to lead us in the coming year. Doug Chin has been appointed to chair the ad hoc Nominations/Transitions Committee and will shortly be soliciting members to run for the new board. He will also be accepting nominations from you, the general membership.

If you are interested in serving on the Steering Committee for 1995, or you know of someone who just needs a little encouragement, call Doug now.

And, if you are asked to serve, please don't automatically say no. Give it some serious thought. Because, if there is no board, there will be no A/PLG. There will be no twice-monthly potluck raps, no quarterly meetings, no A/PLG-sponsored HIV Support group, no musical-nights-at-the-Hollywood Bowl, no special arrangements for special theatrical events, no July 4 Picnic-in-the-Park, no Thanksgiving Dinner, no HIV/AIDS/Safer Sex workshops and raps, and seminars, no Christmas Party, no Valentines Party, no special trips to museums and other cultural outings, no extraordinary dining experiences, no fall retreat to the mountains, no Lunar New Year celebrations, etc., etc.....

Remember, the more people involved, the less the work load and the more that gets done. Say "YES!" to a position on the 1995 A/PLG Steering Committee.

*Animal Sex Appeal***How to Attract Dogs!**

San Francisco dentist, Luke Hsu, (originally from Hong Kong) sprayed a sex pheromone – androstenone – onto one of the chairs in the waiting room of his dental practice. Monitoring the situation closely, he observed that cute guys made for that chair whilst older men and most women seemed to avoid it.

So impressed was Luke that he sprayed it on his Calvins before going out to the gay disco. But disaster struck!

By the time he arrived at the club, he was being followed by a pack of stray dogs. While trying to fight them off, a ferocious chow-chow ripped out the seat of his pants, and attempted to mount him, being so "in-heat" from the attraction of the sex pheromone.

Among the amused observers outside the club, Luke spotted a particularly handsome patient of his practice, who recognized him at once and commented that exactly the same thing happened to him when he left the dentist last week!

*—East West,
Magazine of the Long Yang Club*

More Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

It was a sizzling Saturday afternoon – a perfect time to relax in the pool with a cool drink which was exactly what I did at the recent Yukata Party at Jim's beautiful hillside home in Silverlake. The large crowd was outgoing and friendly and as a new member, it was an ideal opportunity for me to make new friends and renew old acquaintances.

I was particularly impressed with Anthony's dazzling Japanese sword display. After a sumptuous bento box lunch, I changed into my yukata, stumbled my way through the Coal Miner's Dance (not one of my fortés), and took in the breathtaking view from the deck as the sun began to set with the strains of karaoke in the background.

I had a great time and look forward to many more social and cultural experiences with the A/PLG Family.

-Jerry Lee

Dear Editor:

The Yukata Party is history. A unique experience was promised and the promise delivered.

As a new member, I've not had the opportunity of attending many of the A/PLG functions so wasn't sure what to expect.

Based on my limited experience of the other attended functions, was sure that the party would be well planned and that there would be lots of food. This certainly proved to be the case.

Knowing that Jim's house was located on a winding, narrow, hillside road, thought it advisable to arrive early to secure a parking spot. Suspect Jim's neighbors were gritting their teeth by the time the party ended. Especially if they were expecting guests.

Jim's house is a great place for large gatherings. Since the house has lots of decks, even though the party was well attended, the house didn't seem crowded. The home affords beautiful views of the city, even with the haze (euphemism for smog).

I availed myself of the pool. The pool temperature was great, just a Goldilocks would say, "not too hot, not too cold, but just right."

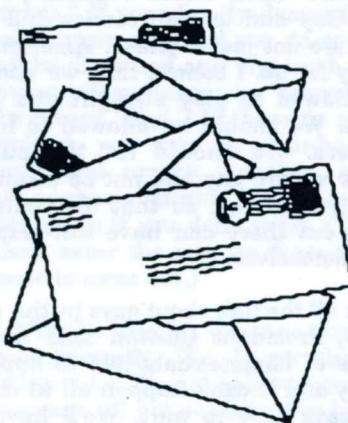
I had thought that the party scheduled for six hours would prove to be a little long but there was such a variety of activities that the 8 o'clock hour was at hand before I even had a stitch of restlessness.

For me, the most interesting of the scheduled activities was the sword display by Anthony. While having seen a number of Samurai movies, had never actually seen a live sword demonstration. After Anthony demonstrated various defense movements, he gave proof of the Japanese sword's cutting ability by reducing a beach mat to little pieces with

a few quick swipes of the blade. Made me reconsider the saying "The pen is mightier than the sword."

Certainly for me, the Coal Miner's Dance was another highlight of the party.

I thought that the dinner was good. It amazed me that the party organizers were able to feed so many people with what appeared to be relative ease. There certainly was lots of food and considering how little the party cost, the meal was a great bargain.

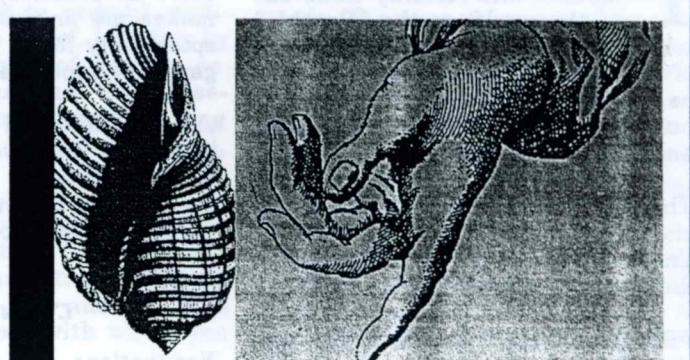


One of the things that I find appealing about the organization is the wide cross section of people that comprise the group. I have found the members to be very open and friendly. The members (especially the A/PLG officers) made me feel welcome from the start.

One of the main reasons, if not the reason, I joined the group was to have the opportunity of enlarging my base of friends. So for me, the most enjoyable party activity was having the opportunity to interact with other members and getting better acquainted.

I thought the Yukata Party was a great success. I had a great time. My congratulations and thanks to Jim the host and to the party organizers and workers who put it all together and made it a party to be remembered.

-John Reid



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A/PLG Calendar of Coming Events

Sept

Sat	4 th	2:00pm	GAPSN Monthly Rap <i>Providing a supportive network for gay APIs</i>	Chinatown Services Center Annex Call (213) 368-6488 for more information
Mon	5 th		Labor Day	
Tue	6 th		Rosh Hashanah Jewish New Year 5755	
Fri	9 th	7:30pm	A/PLG Los Angeles Potluck Rap "?????????"	At Lyle's, 2474 Silver Ridge Ave. Call (213) 660-4690 for directions if you can't find it on a map
		8:00pm	Asian Pacific Crossroads Rap	<i>Call Richie for information</i>
Sat	10 th		<u>Deadline for September newsletter articles/ads</u>	<i>Call Milt for exception or information</i>
Sun	11 th	12:30pm	A/PLG Steering Committee Meeting Please Join Us – Everyone Is Welcome!	At Milt's 11558 Riverside Dr. #103 NH
		3:00pm	A/PLG Quarterly Meeting "A Family Snapshot" – a taste of the upcoming retreat which will include a discussion led by J Craig Fong on the impact of pending recognition of same-sex marriages in Hawaii	St. Matthews Lutheran Church 11031 Camarillo St., No. Hollywood See article beginning on page 1 and/or call Milt for additional information
Tue	13 th	7:00pm	A/PLG HIV+ Support Group	<i>Call (213) 660-2131 for details</i>
Wed	14 th	7:30pm	A/PLG AIT Meeting Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to attend	At Jack's, 3607 Buena Pk Dr., Studio City (Call (213) 877-2513 for directions)
Fri	23 rd	7:30pm	A/PLG Los Angeles Potluck Rap "What About Sex?"	At Brad & Moto's, 1989 Lucile (Call (213) 660-4548 for directions)
Sun	25 th	8:00am	AIDS Project LA AIDS Walk Gather at Paramount Studios on Melrose	<i>Call (213) 466-WALK for registration form</i>
Tue	27 th	7:30pm	A/PLG HIV+ Support Group	<i>Call (213) 660-2131 for details</i>
<u>Sept</u>				
<u>Oct</u>				
Fri-Sun	30 th - 2 nd		A/PLG Retreat '94 – A Family Portrait	Camp Valcrest
<u>Oct</u>				
Sat	8 th		An Asian Octoberfest	<i>A FUNdraiser</i>
<u>Nov</u>				
Sun	6 th		A/PLG's Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner	<i>St. Matthews Lutheran Church in N H'wood</i>
<u>Dec</u>				
Sun	4 th		A/PLG's 2nd Annual Christmas Potluck Party	<i>Details to be announced</i>

When there is a hill to climb, don't think that waiting will make it smaller.

-Anonymous