



The Newsletter

March 1991

Asian/Pacific Lesbians and Gays, Inc.

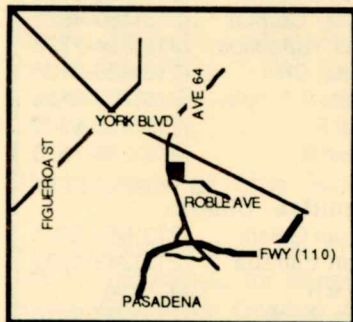
Volume 9 Issue 3

March General Meeting

Political Awareness

On Sunday, March 2, at 1:00pm, The A/PLG General Meeting (at Dignity L.A.) will address the topic "Is our political awareness enough and does it need to be enhanced?" A speaker from MECLA, (Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles), one of the foremost gay organizations on the political front, is slated to speak and lead the discussion. This is an area that has been largely ignored at A/PLG. We, as members of the gay community, need to be politically aware and not necessarily radical. This is an aspect that affects all our lives significantly and we need to be aware of its ramifications.

- Kim Singh



LOCATION OF DIGNITY LOS ANGELES
126 SOUTH AVENUE 64
HIGHLAND PARK

From the President

Who We Are

A/PLG was created ten years ago to provide a network of support for Asian/Pacific lesbians and gays and their friends. Out ten year existence has been filled with activities, organized efforts and cultural and educational events that are directed with one single resounding purpose: to support and to educate our members. We support our members in happy times as well as in trying moments. I can happily recall the many wonderful, fun-filled trips that we took together. I still can see clearly the beautiful poppies in the Mojave desert. I can certainly smell the freshness of the pines at Camp Radford. At times like this, I am so grateful to share my happiness with my friends.

Often when sadness strikes, people tend to isolate themselves in order to suffer silently and individually. Nothing has been more dramatic and difficult than the AIDS crisis. Instead of isolation, we see open arms. Instead of suffering alone, we find group comfort. We are simply glad that A/PLG has allowed us to become even closer during the crisis.

For over ten years, A/PLG has strived to educate our members on many levels, including political, cultural, and especially personal.

On a political arena, A/PLG has been a well known and dependable entity that will support human rights and human dignity. We will fight bigotry and discrimination in any shape or form. We speak strongly with our flags at the gay parades to proudly inform the world that we exist and exist well.

Culturally speaking, our members have learned the uniqueness of their culture and have gained the ability to rejoice in the differences of other cultures.

No other gift is more precious than pride. And pride is what A/PLG instills in its members. The simple satisfaction of knowing who we are and the realization that we are unique, and that we are special. We are Asian/Pacific Lesbians and Gays. We are proud to be Asian and we are proud to be gay.

So where do we go from here? Now that the seed has germinated and has become a healthy tree? I know that as A/PLG grows, leaves might fall and limbs might break. However, our tree will continue to grow stronger and stronger into the future. For those who have doubts, please join us in sharing that special A/PLG feeling.

- Augie Jusran

(Taken from Augie's speech at the recent Installation of 1991 Officers dinner.)

Newsletter Editor

Bruce Britton accepted the editorship of The Newsletter over 3 years ago. In that time we have seen the quality of this publication increase to the point where we are the envy of other similar organizations. Several fellow editors have even contacted Bruce for suggestions as to how they could improve the quality of their monthly newsletters. In short, Bruce gave us a newsletter in which we could all be proud. Unfortunately, personal commitments in his life have made it necessary for him to retire. Newsletters you received in January and February were edited under great physical and mental strain as Bruce was forced to make a choice that will hopefully benefit him and his future involvement with A/PLG.

At this point in time, the Publications Committee is desperately seeking an editor and evaluating an alternate method for publishing the newsletter each month. Until such time as a final decision is made, I, as Publications Committee Coordinator, will attempt to provide you with a newsletter that will (hopefully) not be too shabby. I appreciate your consideration and help, and any and all suggestions, (as well as articles of interest), for the future of this publication will be well received.

-Milt Owens

Orange Peels

The February rap at Stan and Anthony's was one of our largest. The evening was devoted to Dr. Sherman Williamson, an Orange County physician who is active in the care of HIV+ patients. The evening was enriched by the presence of Dean Goishi, Doug Chin, Ed Goka, and Rummel Bautista from the AIDS Intervention Team. (Thanks for coming guys, you're always welcome.)

Dr. Williamson spoke candidly about the current status of HIV infection and care for the infected in Orange County. There have been 17 reported cases of Asians with AIDS in Orange County. Current treatment, safe sex, some case histories, and related topics were discussed. Most of the dialog was in response to questions from the floor. It was a warm evening of sharing and we thank Dr. Williamson very much.

Rummel offered some new information concerning insurance for single males. The insurance is sponsored by the state of California. Information may be obtained by calling the State Insurance Board or AIT. Dean also announced the AIT night at East/West Players scheduled in April. Thanks to the headstart, there should be a good Orange County attendance.

In late January, the play *Ba-Shing*, a comedic drama about the very serious subject about gay bashing, was attended by 18 A/PLG-OC members. The play was presented at the Robert Moore Theatre at Orange County College. The author is a professor at the college.

The March 8 rap will return to the normal format with the topic of 'Friendships: expectations, requirements, responsibilities'. This was the top subject of a December poll taken to supply rap topics. It should be a very lively subject. Make plans to attend. Call Anthony at (714) 528-09304 for directions.

'Gay Night at the Movies' will feature the movie *Maurice* - an English film about a young man's efforts in a gay relationship. The movie will be shown at James' and Bill's on Saturday, February 23 at 7:30pm. Call Bill or James at (714) 772-7757 for directions.

Remember our April 24th Dining Experience will be at the Dragon Gardens in Bellflower. Also, the Palm Springs week-end is scheduled for the weekend of May 17 - 19. Call Mac at (714) 964-9619 for additional information/reservations.

- Mac

Immigration Act of 1990

As we know already, the 1990 immigration reform bill finally, after almost 40 years, eliminated provisions excluding "homosexuals" from immigration to the U.S. But a quick skim of the bill reveals other improvements which may interest some of our members and friends. As usual, the rules are complex and should only be interpreted with a lawyer's guidance. Among the interesting areas are new preference groups:

(1) Persons with "exceptional abilities" in the sciences, education, arts, business, or athletics.

(2) Employers who will create at least 10 full-time jobs for U.S. citizens and who invest at least \$1 million in the business. If one is willing to live in a rural area with high unemployment, one may be able to qualify here with "only" \$500,000 investment.

(3) Employees of U.S. businesses in Hong Kong. The business must have at least 100 employees in the U.S. and 50 internationally and have sales of at least \$50 million a year. Up to 12,000 visas annually from 1991 through 1993 are allowed, primarily for "executives" and "managers".

(4) U.S. government employees in Hong Kong. This appears at first reading to cover primarily state department and CIA-related agencies.

(5) Religious workers can qualify as special immigrants if they seek to enter the U.S. solely to work as a minister of their denomination.

(6) Any of our fathers, uncles, grandfathers, etc. who during World War II were active-duty members of the U.S. armed forces, or of the Philippine Scouts units within the Philippine army (not Boy Scouts!), or of recog-

nized guerrilla units, and who were born in the Philippines, may qualify for special visas only for the next 2 years. This has been a source of great concern in the Philippines since the 1950's. Now after almost 45 years it appears the U.S. is doing something to recognize members of the resistance in the Philippines.

Rules regarding employment have also changed:

(1) My quick reading indicates it's a little easier for full-time students who have successfully completed one full year of university to take part-time work of less than 20 hours per week in an unrelated field. Consult your lawyer and international student office for sure on this.

(2) H-1 visa holders and applicants. This appears to liberalize the rules for qualifying as a "temporary" worker in a field in which the U.S. has a labor shortage.

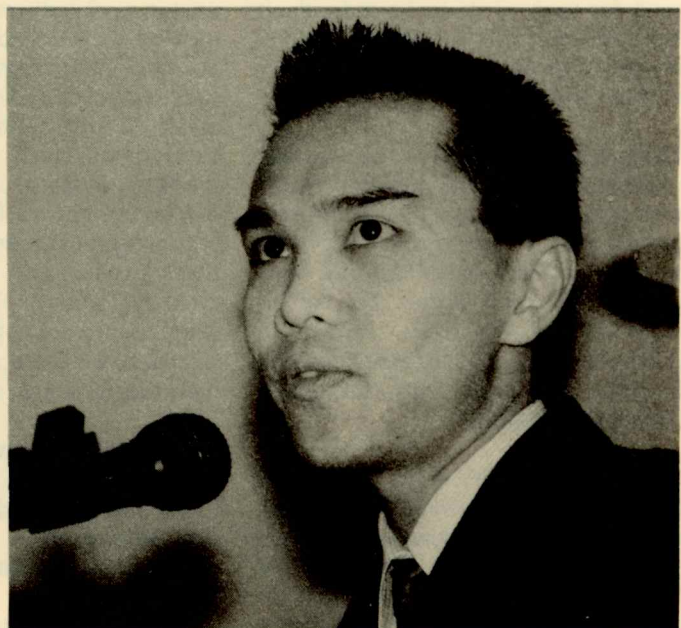
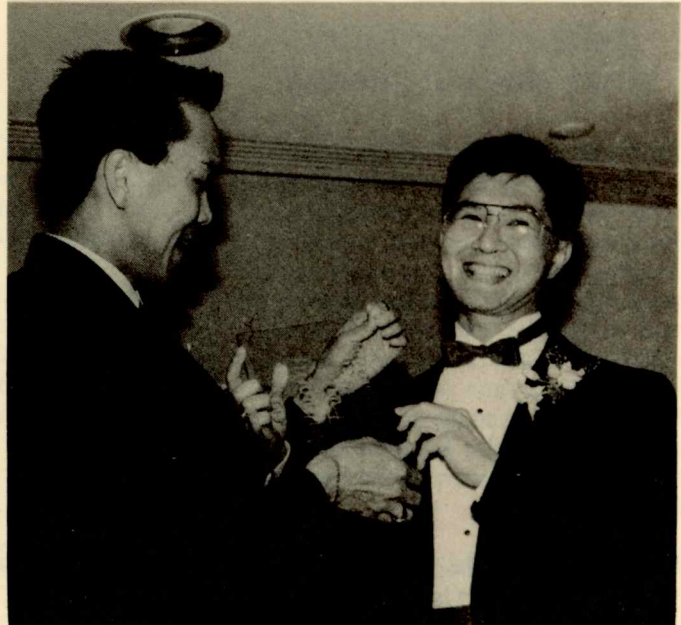
There are many other changes, and it is even more important now than before to consult a lawyer. We should all note that this bill was passed in the House of Representatives under the leadership of Barney Frank, Democrat of Massachusetts and one of the two openly gay members of Congress. He did an extraordinarily effective job.

One last note: HIV infection is deleted as a cause of specific statutory exclusion from the U.S. The Secretary of Health and Human Services will now determine (annually, I think) whether any specific diseases warrant exclusion. It is still vital to know your antibody status before subjecting yourself to an immigration physical.

- Fred Eychaner

(Reprinted from the December, 1990 *Asian & Friends* - Chicago Newsletter)

**(DESPERATELY!)
WANTED
NEWSLETTER
EDITOR**



Clockwise from upper left: Councilman Michael Woo, keynote speaker; 1990 President Augie Jusran presenting Presidential Award to Anthony Foo; 1991 President Augie Jusran; Herb Dreiwitz being presented the Presidential Award by Augie Jusran.)

1991 Installation Dinner

On Saturday, February 2, at the Empress Pavillion in Chinatown, we celebrated the installation of our 1991 Steering Committee and recognized a few who's dedication to A/PLG during 1990 was worthy of special mention. The Honorable Michael Woo, Councilman, was the keynote speaker and spoke on the importance of A/PLG becoming more involved in the Asian and Pacific Islander Communities.

Anthony Foo and Herb Dreiwitz were honored with Presidential Award; Herb for his extraordinary dedication to the HIV Positive Support Group and contributions to increasing the medical information available to those who are HIV+; Anthony for his concerted efforts over the past two years in organizing members and potential members living in the Orange County area to the point that a separate committee was formed (with Anthony as coordinator) to meet and address the needs of those members. Also recognized with Certificates of Appreciation, were Michael Fuller and members of the AIDS Intervention Team.