

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2010

[Lunar New Year Celebration Meal](#) on Sunday, February 7th at 2:30 PM. - RSVP Required Member Benefit Event

[Bowling](#) on Saturday, February 13th beginning at 4:45 PM at the **Mission Hills Bowl** in Mission Hills. RSVP Required

[Sunday Brunch at Marco's in WeHo](#) on Sunday, February 14th at 12 Noon - RSVP Required

NEW EVENT - [The Book Club](#) will meet after Sunday Brunch on Feb 14th at **Marco's** at 1:30 PM

[Theatre Night](#) on Saturday, February 20th at 7:30 PM featuring **COLD TOFU IMPROV**

Museum Outing on Sunday, February 21st - Griffith Observatory at 12 Noon RSVP Requested

Asian/Pacific Gays and Friends February Newsletter

GAY NEWS HOME AND ABROAD

submitted by Roy Liebman

BASEBALL

The Chicago Cubs became the first major sports franchise to have an openly gay co-owner, a Lesbian. She is a board member of Lambda Legal, a national association that fights for gay rights.

THE CHURCH

The Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles has elected the first openly gay Bishop since the national Church lifted the ban on gays being ordained. Lesbian Mary Glasspool, who was serving the Church in Maryland, is 55 years old. Gay man Gene Robinson of New Hampshire was previously ordained as Bishop, causing a split in the Church.

Some conservatives within the Lutheran Church have left the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and are forming separate body. Because they think it is contrary to scripture, they are unhappy that the Church lifted a ban on sexually active GLBT people serving as clerics. As long as they are in "committed lifelong relationships" gays are now permitted to head churches.

PROPOSITION 8

A 5--4 decision by the conservative majority of the Supreme Court barred televising the court case to overturn Proposition 8. The decision stated that paid experts for the pro-Prop 8 side could suffer "irreparable harm" and "harassment" and that they might be less likely to testify in the future if televised. The decision overlooked the fact that these "experts" are already well-known, having publicly stated their opinions many times before the trial. Some legal experts speculate this is a sign that the Supreme Court majority would vote to uphold Prop 8 if it comes before them.

A Federal appeals judge called for reconsidering the ruling that Prop 8 opponents cannot have access to the internal documents of the Prop 8

[Dining With Friends](#) on Monday, February 22nd at 7:30 PM at the **Souplantation** in the Beverly Connection. RSVP Required

HIV Support Group meeting on Friday, February 26th. For more information email: hivsupport@apgf.org

Movie/Potluck on Saturday, February 27th at 6:30 PM TBA

campaign. The full 11 judge Appeals Court could agree to re-hear the arguments for opening the files.

CALIFORNIA

The first openly gay Speaker of the California Assembly is 40 year-old first-term assemblyman John Perez, a cousin of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. For the first time in many years it was a contested race between the two parties as Perez was opposed in the race by a Republican candidate for the position.

GEORGIA

The two finalists in the Atlanta mayoral race both appealed to gay voters to support them. Atlanta has the third largest GLBT population among larger cities with an estimated 13% of the population. Atlanta's first openly gay councilperson was elected in 1997.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

As of January 1st same-sex marriage is legal in New Hampshire, making it the fifth state currently allowing it after voters in California and Maine repealed it. Clergy will not be required to perform gay marriages if they object to doing so.

NEW YORK

The New York Senate has rejected gay marriage by a vote of 24---38. The bill would have had to muster 32 votes to pass. The Assembly had already passed the bill and the Governor was ready to sign it. Although the state is heavily Democratic, the more conservative Senate is evenly split between the parties.

TEXAS

A Lesbian, Annise Parker, was elected as the first openly gay mayor of a very large city. She won with about 53% of the vote. Smaller cities like Providence, Rhode Island, Portland, Oregon and Cambridge, Massachusetts have gay mayors and it has long been rumored that Ed Koch, a former mayor of New York City, is gay.

UTAH

With the approval of the Mormon Church the Salt Lake City Council unanimously passed ordinances prohibiting discrimination against GLBTs in housing and employment. It was the first time the Church has publicly endorsed gay rights legislation, but it is still opposed to gay marriage.

WASHINGTON STATE

Voters have approved, by a 52---48% margin, an expansion of rights for gay couples registered as domestic partners. It is the first time any

state has approved a gay rights measure via the ballot.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The D.C. city council voted 11---2 to legalize gay marriage in the District of Columbia, and the Mayor has promised to sign it. Although Congress has the final say in D.C. legislation it is expected that the measure will go into law. It does not mandate churches to perform weddings but it requires anyone doing business with the city, including churches, to provide gay partners with health insurance. The Catholic Church threatened to suspend the social programs it conducts with the city. An effort to put a Prop 8-like ballot to repeal this law before the voters was rejected.

A Los Angeles attorney has become the first openly gay ambassador confirmed by the Senate. He will be ambassador to New Zealand and American Samoa. A previous gay man received an ambassadorship when Congress was in recess, and another resigned because his partner was not given the same benefits as straight partners/spouses.

The Obama administration continues to vigorously uphold the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) even though it claims to oppose it. A Federal judge had to intervene when the partner of a federal public defender was not allowed to be added to his healthcare plan. The judge ruled that the partner had to be added. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management, which is *headed* by a gay man, refused to be guided by the judge's ruling. The administration has also contended in court that states that allow gay marriage cannot force the federal government to provide benefits to those couples. The state of Massachusetts has sued the government claiming that DOMA is discriminatory.

ARGENTINA

Two gay men were married in Argentina, the first gay couple to be wed in Latin America to date. They had to travel to the far south of the country before they could find officials willing to perform the ceremony. Federal law leaves such matters to local governments.

MEXICO

The Mexico City legislature, by a vote of 39---20, has approved a landmark gay rights bill that allows gay couples to marry and adopt children. It defines marriage as the "free union between two people."

UGANDA

The parliament of Uganda is debating an anti-gay law that would make "aggravated homosexuality" a capital crime; i.e., eligible for the death penalty. It includes a person with HIV having gay sex and gay sex with a male under 18. A life sentence would be imposed for consensual gay sex. A jail term could even be imposed for knowing someone is gay and not reporting it. The United States and European Parliament have condemned the proposed law. A member of Uganda's government has stated that the West has no respect for the country's "traditional values."

Lunar New Year Celebration Meal

Sunday, February 7th at 2:30 PM



Join A/PGF in February as we ring in the Lunar New Year at a "special" Membership Social.

We hope you will join us for a delicious Chinese meal. This is a "membership benefit" -- **All members eat for FREE. Non-members are invited to attend for \$15 or become a member of A/PGF that day, at regular membership dues, and your meal is on us! NEW Memberships will be good until Jan 31, 2011.**

This event will be held at the West Hollywood's Plummer Park Community Center located at 7377 Santa Monica Blvd in West Hollywood on Sunday, February 7th beginning at 2:30 PM. Please note: This event will be held in a different location than we normally meet. We will be in rooms 1 and 2 located to the left of the reception desk in the main lobby (towards the back of the building) for this event ONLY.

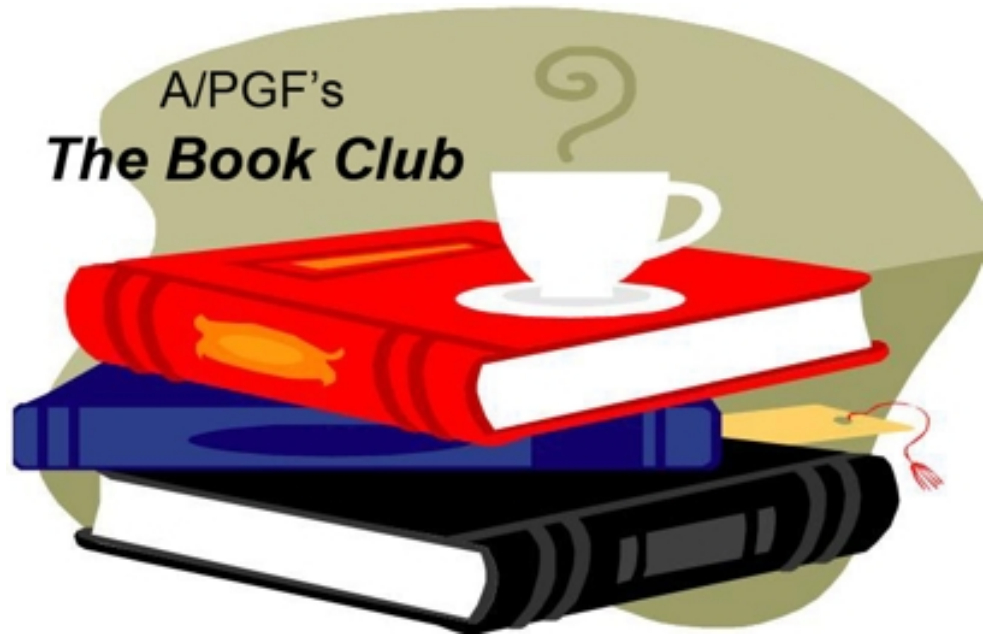
Be sure to bring a friend with you.

If you are planning to attend this event, please send in your RSVP. RSVP's are very important -- We need this to make sure we have enough food for the occasion. Please reply no later than February 5th. Indicate how many will be attending in the email.

This event is open to everyone. Non-members are invited to attend.

Please make your reservation by sending an email to: specialevent@apgf.org by Friday, February 5th. Include your full name and if you are being a guest, their name in the email.

NEW EVENT: The Book Club



For all you closet book readers who secretly love the pleasure of reading and always duck into bookstores just because you love the smell of fresh print, who don't have anyone to talk about what they have read, what they liked and who are always looking for recommendations for good reading material...

THIS EVENT IS FOR YOU!

Meeting immediately after the Sunday Brunch event in the same locale, so you may as well attend both, but you are welcome to just come to the book club only.

Where: Marco's
8200 Santa Monica Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90046-5913
(323) 650-2771

Time: Sunday February 14th @ 1:30 PM

It is suggested for people who attend this event to order coffee, tea and possibly some desserts in appreciation for Marco's allowing us the space. Everything they serve is Fabulous and reasonably priced.

The format will be adapted to the desires of the attendees. The suggested format will be to agree on a book to discuss the following month, and after discussion of the assigned book is done people can discuss other books they have enjoyed reading.

Also, if there are aspiring writers in the group who want to share something they are working on, we would be happy to accommodate their reading their work and possibly getting feedback if they wish for it.

The idea for this event was spawned by a conversation where Matthew P., Peter H., and Neil K. were discussing books at a party and several persons came by and put their two cents in about a book we were discussing, or books they liked, and so it occurred to us that there were lots of other readers out there, but they were just in the closet because these days reading just isn't considered *cool*.

In discussing the idea with many other people, we hear stories about how they used to love to read, but just hadn't done so for a while. Well, here is a chance to recapture your love of books!

So, come on, we know all you closet readers are out there! Come and join us! You'll be so happy to be out of the reading closet! You will be able to proudly say "Yes, I am not ashamed... I am proud and happy that I love to re-ad books!"

Asian/Pacific Gays and Friends, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd, Suite 109, Box 443, West Hollywood, CA 90046

