

The Stonewall Quarterly

Serving the LGBTQQ2SLA+ Community in Northern California Since 1990

What's New at Stonewall

BY ANGE BLEDSOE-BRIGGS

2011 has been a great year at the Stonewall Alliance Center. A number of exciting things happened including the addition of several new staff and board members, new groups and awesome events.

Staff

If you have visited our office, attended an event, or communicated with us recently, you may have noticed some new faces around The Center. In late Summer of 2011, we were very fortunate to have three new people join our crew of passionate and dedicated staff. They are very important, and we would like to recognize and welcome them individually. Please join us in welcoming these young people to our family!



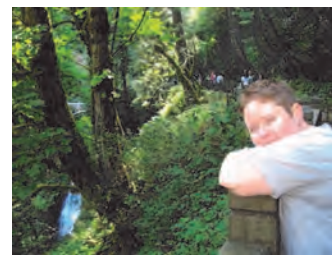
Dan Whitehead-Regur is our MSW Intern. Dan has his bachelor's degree in Sociology and will graduate with a master's degree from Chico State in just a few short months. Dan has

become an integral part of many of Stonewall's programs and loves for things to be organized.



Natalie Gregory is our Youth Program Support person. Natalie is full of energy and has years of experience working with youth in different areas such as mental health, juvenile justice, and child welfare service. Natalie is a huge part of Stonewall and is great at making everyone feel welcome.

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Ange Bledsoe-Briggs is our PEI Program Coordinator. Ange recently moved to Chico from Indianapolis, Indiana and is currently a Human Geography & GIS major at Chico State. Ange is our social media/internet guru and will happily work with anyone interested in volunteering at Stonewall.

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SAYes Winter Teen Dance! Saturday, Jan. 14th

You asked for it, and now we are delivering!!! Stonewall is having a teen dance on January 14th from 7:00pm-10:00pm at Café Flo (365 E. 6th Street, right across from SAC). Join us in a celebration of the New Year!! We will have pizza, snacks, a "mocktail" station, by request DJ, and loads of fun! Tell your friends and invite everyone you know! Please bring a can of food to benefit the 6th Street Center!

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STONEWALL
ALLIANCE CENTER

The Stonewall Alliance of Chico is committed to creating an accepting environment for members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Questioning, and Ally community (LGBTIQQA) that is open, safe, and inclusive for all people. We provide information, advocacy, referrals, and support. The Stonewall Alliance Center strives to unite and strengthen individuals and the community through coordination of community events, activities, and discussions.

Board of Directors:

Chair: Tom Kelem
Co-Chair: Jillian Ruddell
Secretary: Tony Shafer
Treasurer: Chris Monarrez
Members: Maia Illa, Tray Robinson, Jessica Erdahl and Katrina Craton-Rayburn

Center Staff:

PEI Coordinator: Ange Bledsoe-Briggs
SAYes Coordinator: Natalie Gregory
Community Education/Outreach: Aydin Kennedy
MSW Intern: Dan Whitehead

Office Hours:

Monday: 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Tuesday: 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Wednesday: 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Thursday: 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Friday: 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Center Info:

358 East 6th Street
Chico, CA 95928
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The Stonewall Quarterly is published quarterly by the Stonewall Alliance Center. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the position of Stonewall Alliance of Chico. Publication of the name or visual images of any person, group, or organization is not to be considered as any indication of sexual orientation of such person, group, or organization. We reserve the right to edit or refuse any submissions.

The Stonewall Alliance of Chico is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located in Butte County whose primary objective is to educate and empower the LGBTTTQQ2SIA+ community. All submissions should be sent to jerdahl@stonewallchico.org.

What's New at Stonewall

Our acronym-LGBTTTQQ2SIA+

Stonewall is all about being inclusive- from age and race, to gender identity and orientation, and everything in between. We are one hundred percent committed to creating an open and welcoming community for the LGBTTTQQ2SIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transexual, queer, questioning, 2 spirit, intersex, ally, and beyond) community. We recently changed our acronym as we felt it could be misleading or make individuals feel as they weren't being included. Please excuse any of our old signs that do not represent this, as we are in the process of having new ones created.

GSA Leadership Day

As part of our commitment to the youth in this area, we have created a day to assist local Gay Straight Alliances (GSA) in growing and networking with other GSAs. The goal of the GSA Leadership Conference is to empower and support growth of local GSAs. We will be discussing the history of several local GSAs, brainstorming new ideas, and participating in a discussion lead by Pride Zone, Chico State's GSA. You're invited if you are a member of a GSA, interested in starting or participating in a GSA, or are currently participate in a GSA. This free event will be held at Stonewall Alliance Center on January 14th from 12:00pm-5:00pm. Lunch will be served!



New Groups

It's official, we have a group on every day of the week now!!! If you have never attended one of our groups, let this newsletter serve as an open invitation to join us for one of our fabulous group meetings. We have several new gatherings that you may not have heard about yet:

- Safe Talk is a counseling group designed for all people to share their life experiences in a caring and confidential environment. Safe Talk meets every Monday at 6:00pm at The Center. Dan is the group leader and can be contacted at dan@stonewallchico.org
- Youth Empowerment is a group that focuses on empowering young adults (ages 14-25) by working on social skills, self-esteem, and exploring youth policy and resources. Youth Empowerment meets every Thursday from 3:30-5:00pm at The Center. Natalie is the coordinator for this group and can be reached at gregorynatalie@ymail.com.
- Older Adult LGBT support group (55+) will have their inaugural meeting on January 20 from 5:30-7:00pm at The Center. The Older Adult group is a safe and welcoming space to explore and discuss issues related to aging in the LGBT community. This group is facilitated by Madison, and you can connect with her at madi-son@stonewallchico.org.

World Aids Day & Free HIV Testing

BY MAIA ILLA

According to the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) more than one million people in the U.S. currently have HIV and 20% of people do not know they are infected.

World AIDS day is December 1st each year. During the most recent World AIDS day, 12/1/2011, there were various events to commemorate the theme of the day: "Getting to Zero" – Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination, and Zero AIDS Related Deaths.

Stonewall Alliance Center participated in an information fair on the CSU, Chico campus discussing HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment. In the evening, SAC participated in the Annual World AIDS Day Ceremony at Trinity Methodist Church, sponsored by LIG* and the CSU Chico Office of Diversity and Inclusion which was an opportunity for community members including people living with HIV/AIDS, physicians, care providers, families, friends, and area dignitaries to join together to speak regarding current issues and ways of involvement to fight HIV/AIDS in our community. In addition, a raffle of art donated by local artists along with other items provided an opportunity to raise money to benefit the no-cost HIV Testing Project** jointly sponsored by Stonewall Alliance, Caring Choices, and Butte County Public Health that evening. The event concluded with a candlelight walk through downtown to demonstrate remembrance for loved ones who lost their struggle with HIV/AIDS and to recognize those still fighting.



*LIG – The Butte County HIV Prevention Local Planning & Implementation Group

**HIV testing is offered at Stonewall Alliance Center for free. The test kits cost \$18. If you are interested and able please consider making a donation to support the continued provision of this service at no cost.



Free and Confidential HIV Testing

Eleven people were certified in October as HIV Test Counselors through the AIDS Health Project in cooperation with Caring Choices and Stonewall Alliance Center. As such, *Stonewall Alliance Center offers free and confidential HIV testing weekly on Tuesdays from 4:00pm-6:00pm as well as the first Saturday of the month from 10:00am-12:00pm. We encourage you to visit the center and be tested.*

Aids Memorial Ribbons



Please consider giving these handmade ribbons as gifts this year. Not only do they show your support, but they also make a great gift. These ribbons are available for a donation of \$5 or more dollars. All proceeds will help us purchase HIV test kits.

PFLAG Chico Chapter

PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays) is a socio-political advocacy group about to celebrate its fortieth anniversary. Over the years PFLAG has embraced emerging sexual minorities and LGBTQ rights through support and education to family members, their friends and their communities.

In 1972 Jeanne Manford was watching the news and saw her son “being tossed down an escalator during a gay rights protest while the New York City Police Department stood by and watched.” Incensed and inspired, she decided soon after to march with her son in the annual and then nascent Christopher Street Parade with the sign *Parents of Gays: Unite in Support for Our Children*. So many onlookers rushed out into the street to applaud her public declaration and begged her to speak to their own parents that she decided to start a support group that would eventually become PFLAG

Chico has a rather unique chapter in PFLAG history. In 1978, Chico State professor Harlen Adams and his wife Lois started a chapter here, one of the first in a relatively rural community. Under the Adams’ direction, Chico PFLAG enjoyed a halcyon period of full community service in the form of a support group, community outreach and relaxed social gatherings.

Today, the Chico Chapter of PFLAG is being chaired by Roland Vallerand and his husband, Daniel Nauman. We have found in our travels that PFLAG chapters are as different as the communities they serve. In Silver City, New Mexico, PFLAG is as much a Welcome Wagon to newcomers as a weekly luncheon to discuss local LGBTQ issues. With the diversified services available through Stonewall and in Chico in general, we simply aim to serve whoever walks in on our monthly meetings. Although it’s a particular pleasure when questioning parents join us, our meetings are peopled by all ages and orientations looking to share their story and support one another.

- Daniel Nauman/Roland Vallerand



Catalyst and Stonewall Hope to Form a Partnership

BY JESSICA ERDAHL



Catalyst Domestic Violence Services (Catalyst), a Chico non-profit, has been serving the needs of domestic violence victims since the mid 70’s. They are the sole certified provider of a variety of services including a 24 hr crisis hotline, emergency shelter, transitional housing, counseling and outreach and education on domestic violence prevention.

In early November, Catalyst, in cooperation with Stonewall applied for a grant from the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA). The grant program called, Equality for Prevention and Services for Domestic Abuse (GL), is intended to provide funding to community based organizations so they can provide domestic violence services to the LGBTQ community and increase access to culturally appropriate education and services to this underserved population. Historically, LGBTQ vic-

tims of domestic violence have not sought support and services from traditional domestic violence programs. In 2007 a statewide domestic violence needs assessment was conducted to identify the unmet needs of the LGBTQ community, which prompted the creation of this program. An allocation of \$150,000 annually for a 3 ½ year period will be awarded to three selected organizations, with the possibility of funding for additional years.

Catalyst approached Stonewall with this grant in mind, hoping that together they could provide the maximum available assistance to LGBTQ victims of domestic violence. If selected for funding, each agency would take on specific responsibilities including providing initial crisis intervention and advocacy to victims, raising awareness of available domestic violence services and participating in a multidisciplinary team with ongoing discussion on current and new needs. Catalyst would take on the primary responsibility of crisis intervention and advocacy, with Stonewalls assistance in providing referrals and education on available services. The program would also focus on developing and distributing materials and publications on promoting healthy relationships. If selected, the program will begin implementation in January 2012.

Words Worth Owning

BY HAILEY VINCENT

As she lay in splattered blood late at night, seeing nothing but the dark ground under her beaten face, Jordan Mallory could hear the continuing terrorizing verbal threats coming from voices above as a group of five people kicked her repeatedly.

"I just remember them yelling, 'get the f'ing dyke! Kick the f'ing dyke! Punch the f'ing dyke!'," Mallory said.

After being attacked while walking home with her girlfriend last spring in Chico, Mallory, a Chico resident and seasonal firefighter, still remembers the four letter word being yelled at her by two males and three females looking for a way to start a fight.

Dyke.

In a society where sticks and stones break bones, words will always hurt more, but with the constant change of language in society, there is the question of whether or not the LGBTQ community should own and embrace the language used frequently against them, or if they should continue to fight against these words that can hurt most.

"Sometimes we say words without realizing the impact they may have on others. Say what you mean and mean what you say."

- UC Davis

*LBGTQ Resource Center,
Words that Hurt and Why*

Reclaiming and switching connotations of words and phrases goes with the natural way of language, said Dr. Sara Cooper, professor of language and gender and sexuality pathway coordinator.

In terms of owning words that a heteronormative society has deemed as negative, versus restricting the use of words, social expectations, among other factors, must be looked at first, Cooper said.

Own It

Speaking up and reclaiming language that is used to oppress groups instead of allowing others define those who are being silenced is Audre Lorde's suggestion to making a progressive change in society, according to her essay *The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action*. In simpler terms – [own it](#).

"Each of us is here now because in one way or another we share a commitment to language, and to the reclaiming of that language which has been made to work against us," Lorde wrote.

In 2008, the word "gay" was the word used most as a form of abuse in schools, according to a BBC article.

Gay, fag, queer, dyke, queen – these words and more are terms relating to the LGBTQ community that have been used in negative ways, according to an essay presented at the Building Bridges conference at Central Connecticut University. Fully reclaiming these words to give them positive meanings may be an objective but it's still a distant goal.

The Queer movement is an example of how minorities have taken words that are meant to be offensive and gives them positive connotations instead, said Dr. Kurt Nordstrom, professor of journalism.

"They call themselves queer and they do it on purpose," he said. "They own the word."

In efforts to "take the sting out" of offensive words, some from the LGBTQ community see it fit to embrace words that are used against them, Nordstrom said.

Reclaiming terms and words is useful for many groups, Cooper said.

"The reclaiming of terms in the LGBTQ community has been very empowering for people," she said. "I've seen huge crowds of people become inspired and empowered just by reclaiming words and not allowing other people get to them."

Although it is empowering, owning language comes with consequences, and people must be aware of the consequences before being able to transgress, Cooper said.

Trying to Fight It

The LGBTQ community does not always see the idea of owning words and terms as a positive thing, as some are still trying to fight against and eliminate the use of oppressive words, Cooper said.

"Some believe that it's just vulgar," she said. "Some believe that it's just giving into those stigmatizing words."

Trying to restrict or eliminate language is not exactly reasonable or effective, Cooper said.

The influence of media when it comes to the use of oppressive language is strongly evident, Nordstrom said. In terms of a social learning theory, this use of media is harmful, but could be useful if used in the right way to fight against oppressive language.

"Take the time to educate yourself about language and histories of oppression."

- UC Davis

*LBGTQ Resource Center,
Words that Hurt and Why*

With the media as such a large tool in being able to reach a large public, the question of how effective groups in the LGBTQ community are being when it comes to informing the mainstream public, remains, Cooper said.

Many individuals take language that is heard through media and use it without really knowing what they are saying, Cooper said. Although it is the largest way to reach the public, the use of

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media to fight language is complicated.

“Unlike media, in academia people get more context and theory,” Cooper said. “It provides more power and control over language.”

Although some see reclaiming the use of oppressive terms versus eliminating them as repressive, trying to fight against words and terms is a misguided way to think about language, Cooper said.

The Constant Change of It

Language is constantly changing, Nordstrom said. African Americans used to be referred to as blacks, gay is now the preferred word over homosexual and sexual orientation is the correct term instead of sexual preference.

“Another term they used to use was ‘gay lifestyle,’” Nordstrom said. “I mean, what the hell is that? They go to work, pay their taxes – what was that even supposed to mean, ‘gay life style?’”

The idea of changing and owning language must be looked at in relation to societal behavior, Cooper said.

“Changing language and changing societal ideology and behavior are all interconnected,” she said. “They are all going through change as we speak, I don’t think any of it’s linear or permanent, it is constantly evolving.”

Moving on From It

A year has passed since Jordan Mallory, seasonal firefighter and Chico resident, lay beaten on the streets after a verbal attack turned violent.

“You can still see the scars on my knees,” she said. “But that’s all that’s left.”

All it took was four letters to leave a firefighter – beat, bloody, and bruised in the middle of the street – one word to give reason for the attack.

Dyke.

Sources: Jordan Mallory; Kurt Nordstrom - knordstrom@csuchico.edu; 530-898-4098; Sara Cooper – scooper@csuchico.edu; 530-898-5161

Support Us Today!

Donate

Making a gift is easy!

Several methods for supporting the community and Stonewall Alliance Center are available to you.

- Become a Rainbow Member and pledge a gift annually.
- Are you a business owner? Explore our sponsorship opportunities.
- As part of your estate planning, you may wish to designate the Stonewall Alliance Center as a recipient in your will or create a planned gift.
- Make a donation through PayPal. Go to the SAC website www.stonewallchico.org and click on “**Donate Now.**”

Volunteer

Make a difference by volunteering!

Since our organization is primarily made up of volunteers, we rely upon members of our community to be the foundation of our Center. Several opportunities are available.

- Staff the Center or information booths.
- Lead, organize or assist with our events.
- Participate on a speaker panel.
- Join the Board of Directors.

To join go to the SAC website www.stonewallchico.org and click on “**Volunteer.**”

**We truly appreciate our supporters and
the special gifts each of you bring to our organization.**

Groups and Meetings



SAYes is an education and outreach program aimed at preventing teen suicide. The risk of attempting suicide is twice as high among LGBT youth as among heterosexual youth.

The SAYes program is supported by the Butte County Department of Behavioral Health and MHSA funding.

Stonewall Alliance Youth SAY Teens

The teens group is a non-threatening, non-discriminatory, and safe outlet for teens aged 14-17 to talk about issues surrounding sexuality. They are inclusive to all youth and meet every Monday from 3:30-5:00pm at Stonewall Alliance Center. Contact Karen Kushner at thekush54@yahoo.com for more information.

Youth Empowerment

This is a group where youth (ages 14-25) can come together and be in a safe and welcoming environment and work on social skills and self esteem. Meets at Stonewall Thursdays from 3:30 pm-5 pm. Contact Natalie Gregory at gregorynatalie@gmail.com or 530-893-3336 for more information.

SAY Twenties

The 20's group is an open group of young adults (ages 18-29) who meet on a weekly basis to be social, talk about LGBTIQQA life in Chico, and plan events around town. This group meets every Wednesday from 6:00-7:30pm at Stonewall Alliance Center. Contact Cris Monarrez at djcris123@yahoo.com for more information.

Transgender Stonewall

The trans group is open to anyone that identifies on the transgender spectrum. Meetings are open to friends, family, partners, and allies. The group meets the second Thursday of each month at Stonewall Alliance Center at 6:00pm. Contact Aydin Kennedy at aydinkennedy@gmail.com for more information.

SAFE TALK

Are you thinking about "coming-out"? SAFE TALK is a counseling group designed for all people to share their life experiences in a caring and confidential environment. SAFE TALK meets every Monday at 6:00pm. Contact Dan W. at dan@stonewallchico.org for more information.

LGBT AA

This is an open AA meeting, which meets every Tuesday from 7:00-8:00pm at Stonewall Alliance Center. Contact Bernie at justalesbian@gmail.com for more information.

Older Adult LBGT Support Group

A safe place to explore and discuss issues related to aging in the LGBT community and increase socialization and community connectedness. Starts Friday, January 20th, from 5:30 pm-7 pm. Meets at Stonewall every Friday. Contact Madison Stratton at madison@stonewallchico.org or 530-720-7019.

Chico PFLAG

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides support to friends and families of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning people. We provide a safe place to explore emotions associated with coming out to friends and family members. PFLAG meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:00pm. Contact Roland Vallerand at rolandv530@gmail.com for more information.

Services



Free HIV Testing

Free and confidential HIV testing to anyone over the age of 12 every Tuesday from 4:00-6:00 pm. We now offer testing on the 1st Saturday of every month from 10:00 am-12:00 pm. Donations for HIV test kits are welcome and appreciated.

Off-Site Socials

Women's Potluck

Women's potlucks are hosted the first Saturday of each month at a different location and are open to all ages. For more information call the center.

Dining Group

Tasty Tongues dining group meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at various restaurants. Contact Lindy at lhoppo@sbcglobal.net for more information.



STONEWALL
ALLIANCE CENTER

2011 Has Been a Great Year at Stonewall!

2011 has been a great year at Stonewall. I want to thank everyone: those who participated in our events or volunteered to help out; all the other organizations in town we have collaborated with; businesses that helped sponsor our events; BCD Behavioral Health for their continued support with the SAYes program; our dedicated employees, interns, and board members; and a very special thank you to all who have made donations that help keep our office open and programs running. Please keep it coming – asking for donations is probably the hardest thing we do at Stonewall. No one loves doing it; no one wants to bug people over and over. Yet, the truth is without your continued support we would not be able to accomplish all the wonderful things we do.

A strong center stands on community support. Please become a Rainbow Alliance Member (RAM) by committing to give regularly to



Stonewall. Even a donation of \$5 each month will help support and expand our programs and help us to provide better services. If two-hundred people give just \$5 per month, that results in \$1000 per month. If you can give more, that is great too! You can commit monthly, quarterly, or annually. You can do it as an automatic bank transfer, use PayPal from our website, or we will provide envelopes if you would like to mail a check each month. All Rainbow Alliance Members receive a rainbow ribbon pin. (They are pretty cool.)

You can make a onetime donation or even just bring all that loose change hanging around your house into the center.

Thanks for your help; it does make a difference at the center and for the lives we touch every day.

Happy New Year!

- Thomas Kelem, Board Chair

Calendar Of Events

WINTER TEEN DANCE
Sat, Jan 14, 7-10 PM
Café Flo

GSA LEADERSHIP DAY
Sat, Jan 14, 12-5 PM
Stonewall Alliance Center

ISCCD CORONATION
January 27-29, 2012
Gold Country Casino

MASQUEERADE
February 17, 8-12 AM
Women's Club

NORCAL AIDS CYCLE
May 19-20, 2012
Northern California

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