

LGBT Pride Month Celebration

*“Yesterday’s Progress,
Tomorrow’s Promise”*

June 22, 2009

California State Assembly Chambers



California Legislative Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Caucus

Hon. Sheila Kuehl

Assembly 1994-2000

Senate 2000-2008

Hon. Carole Migden

Assembly 1995-2002

Senate 2004-2008

Hon. Jackie Goldberg

Assembly 2000-2006

Hon. Christine Kehoe*

Assembly 2000-2004

Senate Elected 2004

Hon. John Laird

Assembly 2002-2008

Hon. Mark Leno*

Assembly 2002-2008

Senate Elected 2008

Hon. Tom Ammiano*

Assembly Elected 2008

Hon. John A. Pérez*

Assembly Elected 2008

**Current member*



LGBT Pride Month Floor Celebration

Prayer Rabbi Denise Eger
President, Southern California Board of Rabbis

Pledge Assemblymember Bill Monning

Presentation of HR 17
Assemblymembers John A. Pérez & Tom Ammiano

Honorees

Ivy Bottini

Escorted by Assemblymembers Mike Feuer and Nancy Skinner

José Sarria

Escorted by Assemblymembers Julia Brownley and Sandré Swanson

Megan Hogan

Escorted by Assemblymembers Jim Beall, Jr. and Bonnie Lowenthal

BIENESTAR Human Services

Escorted by Assemblymembers Felipe Fuentes and Fiona Ma

Retired Brigadier General Keith Kerr, CSMR

Escorted by Assemblymembers Ted W. Lieu and Lori Saldaña

Father Geoffrey Farrow

Escorted by Assemblymembers Noreen Evans and Pedro Nava

Miss Major

Escorted by Assemblymembers Anthony Portantino and Mariko Yamada

Helen Zia

Escorted by Assemblymembers Tony Mendoza and Norma Torres



IVY BOTTINI

Ivy Bottini is being honored for her immense creativity and talent, her early and extensive pioneering work with the feminist and LGBT rights movements, and for being a strong and inspirational civic leader.

Ivy is a graphic artist, actor, comedian, director, and mother. She helped found the first chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in 1966 and designed their national logo in 1969. Ivy's

extensive background includes establishing the AIDS Network, the first AIDS organization in Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles Lesbian/Gay Police Advisory Board. She was also the first open lesbian to serve on the California Commission on Aging. Ivy served as co-chair of the Lesbian & Gay Advisory Board of West Hollywood and is also a member-emeritus of the Christopher Street West Board of Directors, the longest-running gay pride celebration in the world. Ivy was an early leader addressing issues like affordable housing for LGBT seniors, substance abuse, safe sex and partner abuse.



FATHER GEOFFREY FARROW

Father Geoffrey Farrow is being honored for his conviction and lifelong devotion to religious service, and for his continued efforts to be an instrument of healing and inspiration for others.

Born in the city of Camaguey in the Republic of Cuba in 1957, Fr. Geoff and his family moved to the United States in August of 1961. He was ordained a Catholic priest on June 1, 1985 and has since served many California communities and the United States Air Force as a chaplain.

However, in October 2008, Fr. Geoff was removed as pastor for his refusal to comply with a directive from his bishop to instruct his parishioners on how to vote on Proposition 8. Since then, Fr. Geoff has actively spoken about his experiences.



JOSÉ SARRIA

José Julio Sarria is being honored for the integral role he played in shaping the modern LGBT rights movement and for constantly being an inspiration for LGBT people to live their lives openly and with pride.

Known for his years of performing at the historic Black Cat Bar in the 1950s and 1960s, Sarria entertained patrons with satirical versions of popular songs and operas. He also proudly served in the army following the attack on Pearl Harbor until he was discharged in 1945. Sarria co-founded several pro-LGBT organizations, at a time when there were almost no LGBT rights-based organizations, and in 1961, Sarria became the first openly gay candidate for public office in United States history when he ran for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. His lasting contributions have been instrumental in shaping the modern LGBT rights movement.



MISS MAJOR

Miss Major is being honored for her work with the transgender community, for working to combat HIV/AIDS, and for mentoring many of today's transgender leaders to stand tall and defend their human rights.

Miss Major is a transgender male-to-female person who has been active in the transgender community for over 35 years. She has worked at many community organizations and public health agencies serving the transgender community, including the Ark of Refuge, Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, the Santa Clara Department of Public Health AIDS Program, and the San Diego AIDS Foundation. She is currently the Community Organizing Director for the Transgender, Gender Variant & Intersex Justice Project. For her lifetime of activism, she recently received the Social Justice Sabbatical Award from the Vanguard Public Foundation.



RETIRED BRIGADIER GENERAL KEITH KERR, CSMR

Brigadier General Keith Kerr is being honored for his lifelong service to the United States Army and California State Military Reserve and for his commitment to fighting for equal rights for LGBT service members.

He enlisted in the army in 1953 and served in the 513th Military Intelligence Group in Germany. After leaving active army service, Kerr served in the U. S. Army Reserve. Later, Kerr was commissioned in the California State Military Reserve, and achieved the rank of brigadier general before retiring. In 2003, General Kerr became one of the highest ranking, openly gay military officers. Since then, he has been committed to fighting for the rights of LGBT service members.



HELEN ZIA

Helen Zia is being honored for shedding light on the many issues that challenge the Asian American and LGBT communities and for her long and continued involvement in Asian American and LGBT causes, and family violence prevention.

Helen Zia's career began after Vincent Chin, a Chinese American, was killed in 1982 after a racially motivated bar fight. Helen was a leading voice in organizing the community to protest this killing. Subsequently, she has been a leader in campaigns against hate crimes and an advocate against homophobia and anti-Asian discrimination.

Helen became a full-time journalist in 1983 and has worked for several magazines throughout her career. Helen remains committed to working on many issues that challenge the Asian American and LGBT communities.



BIENESTAR HUMAN SERVICES

BIENESTAR Human Services is being honored for its pioneering efforts to provide crucial and lifesaving services to neglected populations. Founded in 1989, BIENESTAR is the largest, grass-roots, non-profit community service organization that provides services to

underserved communities, specifically the LGBT Latino/Latina community.

Prior to 1989, no other organization provided HIV/AIDS services specifically to the Latino community which prompted the founding of BIENESTAR. BIENESTAR is committed to addressing issues ranging from HIV/AIDS, coming out, being transgender, and substance abuse counseling, as well as focusing on anti-hate programs.



MEGAN HOGAN

Megan Hogan is being honored for her courageous leadership in the face of adversity and for her efforts to promote tolerance and mutual respect for all people.

Megan is a recent graduate of Winston School in Del Mar, California where she was the co-president of the student body, a teacher of American Sign Language, and the President of the Diversity Club/Gay Straight Alliance. Megan plans to attend California State University

Northridge in the fall of 2009. She recently won an essay contest and was honored at the Harvey Milk Diversity Celebration in San Diego in May, 2009. Megan plans to continue working to make sure that all people regardless of their differences will be treated with respect, dignity and fairness. Megan hopes to become an advocate for hearing impaired and LGBT people.



40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STONEWALL RIOTS

The Stonewall riots mark a major turning point in the history of the LGBT movement, in that the riots represent the first time lesbians and gays brought widespread attention to government policies that persecuted homosexuals. They were precipitated by what was then a routine police raid on the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in Greenwich Village, on June 28, 1969. The riots spurred the formation of several LGBT activist organizations locally, and eventually inspired the creation of

many more such organizations around America and the globe.

The riots only lasted a few nights, and didn't produce nearly the property damage or casualties that other riots in the 1960s had produced. Nevertheless, they represented the first time lesbians and gays had visibly fought back against the police power so routinely deployed against the community. The fact that it had been what people considered "fairies" and "sissies" who had defeated the vaunted NYPD in open battle only further underscored the dramatic shift in the LGBT movement that the riots were to precipitate. After June 28, LGBT people would no longer oblige the government's discrimination against them.

Today, the riots are remembered as the moment the modern LGBT movement gained mainstream recognition. In the ensuing years, the LGBT community has marked June as LGBT Pride Month nationally.

