

## 1990

February 17—The Orange County Visibility League (OCVL) held a two hours rally which began at noon in Irvine to call attention to the right wing bigotry regarding the gay and lesbian community. Similar events were held throughout the state over the following week. Attendance was estimated at 150.

March 7—Six University of California at Irvine (UCI) students were arrested when 90 protesters gathered to demonstrate support for gay couples to live in campus family housing. The protest followed Chancellor Peltason's decision to deny gay men, lesbians and other non-traditional couples the benefits accorded to married students, including the right to live in the Verano Place Family-housing complex. This followed the Mondays sit-in in at the chancellor's office; the first since the Vietnam War.

May - ACT UP/Orange County is established.

May 27 - The *Orange County Register* does a piece, " Gays move into the 1990's" and prints quotes by John Duran, Jeff La Tourneau, James Kepner, and Lisa Kaye.

## 1991

The Orange County Names Project hosts the AIDS Memorial Quilt on its current tour. Christopher Prevatt and Barbara Hogan are Co-Chairpersons..

Lisa Kaye receives a community service award at the Southern California Women for Understanding Lesbian Rights Awards banquet.

Orange County identifies 2000 AIDS cases.

The evolution of the Gay Vietnamese Alliance began in late 1991 when the group met with PFLAG. Although, PFLAG was intended to be a support group for friends and family of gays and lesbians, it actually became a support network for gays and lesbians in the Vietnamese community. The name Gay Vietnamese Alliance was adopted in February 1995 along with a mission statement. The first Vietnamese PFLAG met at the Center OC in 1992. The first Vietnamese-run computerized Bulletin Board, Waveline, was located in Anaheim.

March 9 - Five activists were arrested for trespassing at the "Preservation of the Heterosexual Ethic" conference sponsored by Rev. Lou Sheldon at an Anaheim church.

April/May - Dorothy's Thrift Shop is opened by AIDS Services Foundation (ASF) in Costa Mesa (It moved to Laguna Beach in 1992, and Santa Ana in 1999 closing a year later.).

April 20 - Center Dinner is held at the Disneyland Hotel.

June 12 - Five member of ACT UP/OC leave 170 pounds of steer manure outside the Anaheim office of Lou Sheldon's "Traditional Values Coalition."

Jamie Jemison, Aegis founder (1981), and Sister Mary Elizabeth (aka Joanne Clark), HIV/AIDS Information BBS operator (1990), merged their efforts into an AIDS BBS called "Aegis" that Centers for Disease control calls "the best of its kind in the nation."

August 7-18—The Orange County Cultural Pride Festival (OCCP) was again held at UCI. Troy Perry was Grand Marshall. Officers were Judy Jones, Pres., Robyn Nixon and Tom Heilman, Vice Pres., Carol Staffenhagen Sec., and Rob Helms, Treas..

September 8 - The Orange County chapter of Queer Nation holds protest by disrupting Calvary Chapel services in Santa Ana. This was a first of its kind protest in the County.

September 29--In California, the community rioted, when Gov. Pete Wilson vetoed a gay rights bill passed by the State Assembly in June. Following the governor's veto of the nondiscrimination measure, a march was held in Garden Grove which started at the Civic Center and ended at the intersection of Beach and Garden Grove Blvd.. Sixteen people, including Lisa Kaye, Mel Trickey, and Elaine Kaplan, allowed themselves to be arrested in an act of civil disobedience. They were fined \$212 each. The Frat House raised \$600 at the "Save the Garden Grove Sixteen" party to help pay the cost. The surge of activism caused the governor to sign a limited gay and lesbian rights bill, one year later.

November 9—The Orange County Federation held a leadership conference: "The Challenge of Leadership in the 90's: Creating Common Ground." 65 attendees participated in several workshops at Rancho Santiago College (nee Santa Ana College).

November 24 – Twenty people including ECCO board member Richard Hathaway go shopping at the South Coast Plaza wearing bright pink tags labeled gay and lesbian shoppers and walked through the mall holding hands. Others joined in and asked for tags.

## 1992

The City of Laguna Beach lead by then mayor Bob Gentry passes a domestic partnership ordinance. The prior year the city extended spousal benefits to domestic partners of city employees.

Wayne Peterson is elected to the Laguna Beach City Council.

March 21 –The first issue of The Blade, an alternative publication serving Long Beach and Orange County, hits the news stand – Rus Calisch, Publisher, Robert Brown, Editor, K. Bradley Hudson, Asst. Ed., Bill La Pointe, Advertising Director, and Fast Graphics, Typesetting/Graphics. Handbill Printers in Garden Grove had refused to publish the magazine stating, "They did not want to take a positive position on the issue." (Bill La Point became publisher in November of 1992).

April—Air Force Reserve Staff Sgt. Harold "Mac" McCarthy stood up during an Orange County Republican Party debate on gays in the military and announced that he was gay. A few days later he was 'excused from participating with his reserve unity because of the existing ban on gays in the military. His enlistment was allowed to expire in August.

May 8-10—the UCI GLBSU and UCI Department of Studio Art hosted the county's First Annual Festival of Lesbian and Gay Film and Video. It was presented during the UCI Lesbian and Gay Awareness Week celebration. Co-Presidents for the event were Keith Mayerson and Kevin Campbell.

August - Frank Ricchiazzi, Laguna Beach, is one of two openly gay alternate delegates to the 1992 Republican National Convention in Houston.

September – Ray and Noreen Mariorano established Annie's House in Costa Mesa a home for AIDS patients with nowhere else to go.

October—An anti-gay editorial appeared in the Association of Orange County Deputy Sheriffs newsletter the "Courier." And the Orange County Human Relations Commission recommends that Sheriff Brad Gates institute a lesbian and gay sensitivity training program.

Gov. Wilson appoints county Republican Ricchiazzi assistant director for industry liaison at the California Department of Motor Vehicles. Wilson's press release did not mention Ricchiazzi's active involvement in the Log Cabin Club as a liaison to the Governor's office..

November 21 - The Federation sponsors a "Leadership Training Institute" at CSUF.

November—The County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the use of federal funds to distribute bleach kits to intravenous drug users.

Lisa Kaye takes over the coordination of the Federation Leadership Training Program and Barbara Muirhead becomes the first Federation Director. Previously an Advisory Committee made up of member organizations had operated The Federation. - Lisa Kaye was the last Advisory lead.

## 1993

"Orange County Together" is established, after the Los Angeles riots, by the Orange County Human Relations, and the United Way to combat stereotypes and racism. Pat Callahan is the Executive Director.

Keith Lewis, Morgan Agency, in Costa Mesa, establishes Proof Positive, a division specializing in models with HIV. At it's height if represented over 400 models.

January 9—A man is beaten in Laguna Beach by a carload of South County high school students out on a gay-bashing spree.

April 17—The Orange County Freedom Rally was staged in a park at 6<sup>th</sup> and Flower in Santa Ana by students and others unable to attend the March on Washington in D.C.. 75 participants marched past the Federal building carrying banners and flags.

**April 25-Third - National March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Rights was held. Three quarters of a million people attended. . The Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt was laid out on the Mall.**

August 11—Alan Schwalbe, a gay activist, was found slain in the kitchen of his Santa Ana Heights home. The insensitive coverage by some of the county

press brought action that forever changed how the media writes about the community. A Lobbying Group sponsored by The Federation and headed by Pat Callahan visited the County Supervisors and various newspaper editors discussing the effects of how wording affects the families and friends of those reported on.

August 28—Members of League /Disney/Burbank, Gerry Hicks and Shawn Hayes, met with 60 employees of Disney-Anaheim to form League/Disney/Anaheim. The effort was lead by Jerry Lail. Founding members were Eric Anderson, Laurien Ann Archer, Perry Ash, Manny Duran, Scott Elmore, Ted Escobar, Tim Forward, Rick Henson, Dick Hitt, Darrin Martin, Greg Orrante, Jon Patton, Darren Sanger, Jeffery Smith, Steve Valkenburg, Jennifer Hill, Maria Dantino, Fred Lynch, Jesse Perez, Melton Porthan, Richard Sevedra, and Samantha Steinel.

October 11 -- National Coming Out Day was highlighted by the Orange County Federation's Leadership Training Program raising \$10,000 for a group picture, entitled "Love Thy Neighbor," which appeared as an ad in the Orange County *Register* and it's weekly affiliates.

October-- Fountain Valley HS students form a Student Gay/Straight Alliance group with 45+ members. Controversy develops and a hearing is held by the school board. The board votes 4-1 in favor, citing the district's Equal Access Policy.

December—A furor erupts when students at Fountain Valley High School attempt to establish a g/l/b alliance. It is finally approved several months later, but not before it becomes front-page news. Founding members are Don and Ron Katz, Amanda Martin, Jeff Edmonston.

The first Federation Member Directory was published. (Lisa Kaye, Editor)

The GLBSU, UCI, premiered "Closet-free Radio on KUCI. Reestablishing programming that had long been absent. Show organizers were Kim Lasdon and Neil Perry.

Hagan Place, a home for AIDS patients, was established in Laguna Beach.

Eric Anderson, Huntington Beach HS track coach, begins coming out to students and colleagues. At this time he is the only openly gay athletic coach in Orange County.

## 1994

January 10 – AIDS Services Foundation (ASF) opens an Anaheim branch.

February – Craig Reade and Erich Phinizy, straight students at Huntington Beach HS, forms a club similar to the FVHS Gay/Straight Alliance. Reaction is minimal. A student at Canyon HS in Anaheim makes the same attempt and is discouraged by fellow students and faculty members.

March -- Dave McDowell and Marcia Ellsworth form an Orange County Chapter of Lawyers for Human Rights.

Craig B. Coogan is named Executive Director of The Center he remains less than a year.

April 29-May1—First Annual Laguna Pride Weekend was sponsored by Laguna Outreach (LO). The brain child of Doug Reilly and backed by the City Council and many business folks it was hoped that it would bring the communities gay and non-gay together and offer support to local businesses making Laguna the “Riviera of the Pacific Coast.” (Council withdrew support of second event-in1995.)

**June 27-The first openly lesbian or gay US Federal judge, Deborah Batts, is appointed**

June 18-26—Richard Grauman put together a team of 86 county athletes to make the trip to the New York Gay Games. This was the first time that the county was represented by it’s own group-Team Orange County California. They were quite successful bringing home 7 gold, 12 silver, and 26 bronze.

August - Javal Baloul is physically assaulted during the daylight in an LA Fitness Center parking lot. The perpetrator was prosecuted as a misdemeanor hate crime and bail was set at \$25,000.

October 15 - Three members of the Orange County Master Chorale resign after being told they would perform with the Gay Men's Chorus of LA at the Orange County Performing Arts Center in a AIDS tribute concert.

Dan Wooldridge (Laguna Beach) became Executive Director of the beleaguered Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center.

October - Two men are assaulted in the OZZ parking lot in Buena Park.

OCCP held the first ever Pride parade on a public street--Campus Dr. in Irvine which runs in front of UCI.

Lead by Richard Grauman and Dennis Cabaret, the Federation established the *Take Pride Awards* to honor those volunteers that were otherwise overlooked at fundraising events and dinners.

Paul T. Mero, a former aide to Congressman Bill Dannemeyer,, released his 110 page report "How Congress Supports and Funds Organized Homosexuality." The purpose of the report was to provide Congress with evidence that federal tax dollars promote or encourage homosexuality.

December – Casa Delhi, an arm of the Delhi Community Center in Santa Ana, opened to serve Latinos with AIDS.

## 1995

The city of Garden Grove began a concerted effort to remove the gay/lesbian establishments from Garden Grove Blvd.. The pressure came from the Christian Right and the Korean business community to rid the area of the bars and the adult bookstores. Restrictive parking ordinances were put in place around the area of the Frat house and the adult bookstores to rid the area of prostitutes. All the bars were gone, save the Happy Hour (l) and the Frat House (g) and all the bookstores remain.

The Christian Gays and Lesbians for Justice is founded by Daneil Everett Stohler and their first newsletter, "The Justice Report" is published. Dr. Mel White is a contributor and Bishop Mel Wheatley, Methodist, is interviewed regarding his relationship with his gay son.

When the Merimack Restaurant in Garden Grove closed the owner of the Frat House attempted to obtain a permit to reopen as a first class eating establishment. The permit was denied due to residents concerns about the noise and activities, which would take place in the parking lot. The building is now a wedding chapel and reception hall.

Protease inhibitors and along with existing AIDS drugs (AZT and DDC) became the standard treatment for AIDS bringing new hope to those infected.

The Center discontinued the hotline. Times had changed with the advent of the Federation Directory and The Blade. People were more open and more organizations existed. The need for an anonymous phone call to talk to someone about personal issues did not seem to exist anymore.

February 27—The Orange County Register published an article, "Gay Hurdles Ease," featuring interviews with Keith Farr, Georgia Garrett-Norris, Kristen Enos, Lisa Kay, Mary Giuliani and John Moll, on the topic of harassment and civil rights in the work place.

April—The University of California at Irvine (UCI) announces the opening of the only Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Resource Center in the University of California system. Established "to help coordinate activities in our community, and as a umbrella organization to assist, gay, lesbian and bisexual groups," it is lead by Director Pat Walsh, a long time community activist and UCI Assistant Dean.

Paul Rafalowski and Chris Prilliman, United Airline pilots from Laguna Beach, file a law suit under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The first such suit by commercial airline pilots. They were grounded even though they had passed their yearly medical examination when it was disclosed they had AIDS.

May 5-7--Conservative Republicans gain control of the Laguna Beach City Council and protest the annual "Laguna Pride Festival," a weekend gay/straight merchant event. The council withdrew their endorsement of the event at an April meeting.

June—Pat Mayo and Evelyn Hintze, Leisure World residents, hold first meeting of PFLAG-South County.

October 11 - National Coming Out Day was celebrated with two billboards and a "talk line," sponsored by the Federation, the CenterOC, P-FLAG PC, and Attention to Detail (Kimberly Sayer and Brenda Baker). The billboards featured Pat Mayo, Laguna Hills and Jamie Springer, San Clemente as toddlers with the question, "Would you love me any less if I were gay/lesbian?"

## 1996

Richard Hathaway becomes the second Director of the Federation.

February - Scott Stockwell is convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the brutal slaying of gay businessman Boyd Finkal, Irvine. A juror stated, " It was

OK to defend against alleged homosexual advances by whatever means necessary."

The HIV Prevention Planning Committee working with the HCA produced a Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan and there were five funded providers: HCA Behavioral Health, HCA Public Health, Delhi Community Center, AIDS Services Foundation, and the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center of Orange County.

March - Pro golfer Muffin Spencer-Devlin, Laguna Beach, comes out in a *Sports Illustrated* profile. This is a first for an Ladies Professional Golf Assoc. player. In June, she appears on the cover of *The Advocate*.

April 21 - The *Register* runs an announcement of the engagement of Eddie Miller and H. "Mac" McCarthy on its Celebrations page that included a photo.

June - Jerry Negrete, Huntington Beach HS track star, suffers fractures, contusions, and a damaged eardrum in a beating by a fellow student screaming anti-gay epithets. Principal Jim Stanton dismisses the incident as a game. Negrete will have a 2-inch stainless steel plate screwed to his jaw for the rest of his life.

November - Libby Cowan is elected to the Costa Mesa City Council and Loretta Sanchez beats Bob Dornan in the 46<sup>th</sup> Congressional District race. Cowan is the first openly gay/lesbian candidate to run for office in Orange County.

April 19 - The Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center - OC celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

May - Brian O'Leary Bennett, long-time advisor and travel companion to Bob Dornan, comes out of the closet in the *Los Angeles Times-Orange County Edition*.

## 1998

The Imperial Court of Orange County celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Vigils and demonstrations are held throughout the county after the Mathew Shepard murder.

August 8 - Team Orange County garners 25 swimming medals at Gay Games V in Amsterdam.

At the end of the year 5,149 resident AIDS cases were reported.

## 1999

June - Assemblyman Lou Correa, D-Santa Ana, refuses to cast a tie-breaking vote for the gay and lesbian student discrimination protection bill. Many in the community that helped get him elected felt he let them down.

August 12 - Jim Toledano, former Orange County Democratic Party chairman, comes out in the Orange County Weekly.

## 2000

Fourth – March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Transgender Rights was held.

CA voters approve a ballot measure to block recognition of same sex marriages (Prop 22).

Libby Cowan is re-elected to Costa Mesa City council and serves as Mayor.