



**AGLP**  
*Opening Minds*

VOLUME XXXIV(1) · FEBRUARY 2008

*In this issue . . .*

Washington 2008 <i>Brent Anderson, MD</i>	<b>1</b>
Editor's Column <i>George Harrison, MD</i>	<b>2</b>
Vice-President's Column <i>Kenn Ashley, MD</i>	<b>2</b>
President's Column <i>Ubaldo Leli, MD</i>	<b>3</b>
Medical Student Column <i>Laura Erickson-Schroth</i>	<b>4</b>
AGLP Financial Statement 2007 <i>Petros Levounis, MD, Treasurer</i>	<b>4</b>
Announcements	<b>6</b>
LGBT Presentations, APA 2008 <i>Gene Nakajima, MD</i>	<b>7</b>
AGLP List of Contributors	<b>9</b>
Wolves in the Hen House <i>David Scasta, MD</i>	<b>10</b>
AGLP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes	<b>12</b>
AGLP Membership Application	<b>14</b>
APA Caucus Application	<b>14</b>



*Photo courtesy of the Washington Visitors and Convention Bureau*

## Washington 2008

### Local Arrangements Committee Brent Anderson, MD, Local Arrangements Chair

The committee started planning for the May APA last summer and has an exciting array of events for those attending the APA in the nation's capital during an election year. After your arrival you will be able to check in to the AGLP host hotel which is Hotel Palomar (part of the boutique Kimpton Hotel group). It is located at 2121 P St., NW just steps from some of the city's best restaurants and nightlife offerings. Don't delay making reservations as this fabulous hotel will fill quickly. For reservations call 212-532-1660 or go to [www.aglp.org](http://www.aglp.org). The AGLP Hospitality Suite is also located in this hotel. Be sure to pick up the AGLP guide edited by Martin Chin for a listing of bookstores, restaurants, bars, nightclubs, and other essential information.

Head over to the home of Dan Hicks and John McCall for a welcome reception on Friday, May 2 in the evening. Their home is in Adams Morgan, a vibrant area with award-winning restaurants, popular bars, and funky shops.

Our annual continuing education symposium will be on Saturday, May 3, from 9:00am to 1:00pm at the Hotel Palomar; Corcoran Rooms A/B, Second floor. AGLP will partner with various LGBT advocacy groups to present "**The Gay Agenda: The Intersection of Mental Health and Public Policy.**" Details on this program appear on page 2 of this newsletter. A Continental Breakfast will be available beginning at 8:30am.

The Opening Reception will be at the Human Rights Campaign headquarters located at 1640 Rhode Island Avenue NW in Dupont Circle. The building was stunningly renovated several years ago and the floor to ceiling glass walls offer a view of the neighborhood. This will give us the opportunity to see colleagues and visit with APA officers.

*Continued on page 5*

## The Newsletter of the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists

Editor, George Harrison, MD

Published quarterly from 4514 Chester Avenue,  
Philadelphia, PA 19143-3707.

The views expressed in the *Newsletter* are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists. The sexual orientation of any writer or any person mentioned in the *Newsletter* should not be inferred unless specifically stated. Mailing lists for the *Newsletter* are confidential, to be used only by the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists, and do not imply sexual orientation.

### INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

Persons wishing to submit articles for publication should send them to: George Harrison, MD, Editor, *Newsletter* of AGLP; UCSF AIDS Health Project, 1930 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. (Phone: 415-502-4818, FAX 415-502-7240, E-mail: gharrison@aglp.org). Submissions should be clearly readable. Submissions on electronic media in IBM compatible formats are appreciated. A hard copy should be included along with a notation indicating which word processing program was used. Submissions become the property of AGLP and will not be returned unless requested and accompanied by a self-addressed and stamped envelope. The *Newsletter* reserves the right to make editorial changes and to shorten articles to fit space limitations. Name, address, daytime telephone number, and a short biographical statement about the author should accompany the submission even if the author requests anonymity in publication (which is discouraged). The deadline for inclusion in the next issue is March 15, 2008.

### ADVERTISING RATES

The *Newsletter* of the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists accepts limited advertising depending upon space and applicability to issues affecting psychiatrists who either are gay or lesbian or treat gay and lesbian patients. The mailing lists for AGLP are confidential and never sold or provided to any vendor.

Full Page Ad	\$300
Half-Page Ad	\$200
Business Card	\$100

Community service announcements are printed without charge, but are accepted only on a limited basis depending upon space limitations and applicability.

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George Harrison, MD

### Editor's Column

George Harrison, M.D.

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Maybe it's because I'm homeless as I remodel, or the incessant chant of the presidential candidates, "Change, change, change," but I think that 2008 will be a year remembered as a turning point.

My own daily drama of tracking down members of my construction crew (Anyone know of a tag and release program for contractors?) pales in comparison to the events being played out on the national and world stages. We are still about a week away from Super Tuesday here in California and for the first time in my memory the candidates are actually running TV advertisements here. Some have even shown up

to "meet and greet" as opposed to treating us like their own personal ATM's coming around only when they need cash. Usually California has voted so late as to be inconsequential even with the large delegate numbers at stake so it's nice to feel that when I vote I will be doing something more than just going through the motions.

I think that the heart of the excitement about change this year centers on participation. Once again people are contributing to the process and feeling activated by this connection. Voter turnout reflects this. The willingness of people to contribute money and time to the candidates of their choice is another piece of evidence. People are talking about the possibilities again in a way I haven't experience for years. I hear heated debates about the virtues of Hillary vs. Obama and I am filled with happiness as I am beginning to allow myself to believe that the US will have a woman or an African American as our next president.

So it is so very appropriate that in a few short months we will be meeting in D.C., ground zero for the change to come. Elsewhere in this edition there are more details about our meetings and the opportunities that are available at the APA. I will join the bandwagon and encourage you all to make your plans now for May. In this year of change you wouldn't want to miss this chance to rub elbows with politicians and the wannabes and see what life is like inside the Beltway. This is great opportunity to participate in the changes in our profession as well as our nation.

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Kenn Ashley, M.D.

### Vice President's Column

Kenn Ashley, M.D.

KASHLEY@AGLP.ORG

The rumors are true! We figured that in this election year it was time to unveil the plan. Now that I have your attention with the title for the AGLP Symposium at this year's APA Annual Meeting, more details. This being a presidential election year and the Annual Meeting scheduled for Washington, DC, AGLP will partner with various LGBT advocacy groups to present "**The Gay Agenda: The Intersection of Mental Health and Public Policy**" on Saturday 03 May 2008. We plan to have representatives the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRC), the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), Freedom to Marry, and others speaking on the role of mental health and mental

health professionals in the development and implementation of public policy supporting LGBT community.

In addition to this exciting symposium, the local arrangements committee has done an amazing job to bring together wonderful venues, activities, and a guide for the APA Annual Meeting (see other articles and the website for further details). There will also be an interesting set of activities in the AGLP Hospitality Suite.

In the organization's effort to have a presence at other psychiatric meetings, there was an informal AGLP reception at the November meeting of the Academy of Psychosomatic Meeting. We hope to see similar receptions at other subspecialty meetings, but to make them happen we need the participation of our members to help plan such events. Interested members please contact me ([kashley@aglp.org](mailto:kashley@aglp.org)).

Okay, enough about psychiatry. I am just hoping that everyone will remain tuned in during this drawn out national election season and exercise their democratic freedom and vote.

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Ubaldo Leli, MD

## President's Column

Ubaldo Leli, M.D.

ULELI@AGLP.ORG

SI VIS PACEM PARA BELLUM

(If You Wish For Peace, Prepare For War)

In this column, I will focus on an issue central to AGLP at this time, namely the progressive loss of membership, which over the years has been steadily decreasing and has now reached its lowest point ever. After little more than half a year as President, I have come to the conclusion that the biggest challenge AGLP has to face now is to combat the indifference that I believe is responsible for the slacking involvement and commitment of our members and our potential members. Excuses such as the fact that similar professional organizations, LGBT or not, are experiencing the same phenomenon, serve only to distract us from the reality that our membership in AGLP entails a vital, ongoing responsibility to ourselves, to our colleagues, and to society.

The complex problem of the dwindling involvement of the LGBT population, as a group, in active community efforts is indicative of that which AGLP faces. It is not something that can be solved simply with the creation of a special *ad hoc* committee, or with the identification of a single person who will guide us in a new direction. Our attempt at charging the Board with membership recruitment so far has been ineffective. The intention was to stimulate local initiatives to increase AGLP presence in areas where it is less represented—in areas of the country, for instance, that need its presence most, such as the “square states”, or the fundamentalist religious South. Perhaps a wider perspective may shed some light on this problem, and generate novel approaches to its resolution.

**The gains we have made, however, remain relative; any belief that we have gained truly equal rights is a delusion.**

In certain large US cities, where, as a rule, AGLP membership is high, the LGBT community has been gradually more and more accepted into the mainstream culture. As a result, individual LGBT mental health practitioners—along with the LGBT population in general—have become consciously or unconsciously convinced that an LGBT identity is no longer a problem. Quality of life issues remain—gay marriage, conversion therapy, adoption, to name a few—but, in comparison to the pre-Stonewall era, an LGBT person can live comfortably within society. The gains we have made, however, remain relative; any belief that we have gained truly equal rights is a delusion. Those of us who remember the pre-AIDS years, when the gay community was riding the high wave of liberal thought engendered by the social rights movements that swept the world during the 1960's, can recall that being gay—at the time—was, for want of a better word, fashionable. Gay life was booming and blooming. Then came AIDS and its devastation, coupled with the rise of the conservative zeitgeist that dominates our society to this day.

An examination of the situation of LGBT people in a global sense is chilling, especially when we realize how fragile is the comfort and security of such “gay Meccas” as New York, San Francisco, and countries like Thailand and Holland. In most of the world, homosexual identity is not only unacceptable, but actively persecuted. The major religions—Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism—as well as most totalitarian regimes, including Marxist (like China) and non-marxist ones (like Latvia or Poland) to various extents oppose and oppress homosexual identity. Under some governments, homosexual acts are tolerated; sometimes “corrected” or contained. In many societies LGBT individuals suffer discrimination, persecution, or execution. Even the most superficial survey must convince us that what comfort we enjoy in our culture is founded on thin ice, which may break any minute. A change in the political balance of this country could easily transform the US into a place where LGBT citizens are relegated again to the despised status they endured in the past.

Consider that the Roman Catholic Church holds homosexual tendencies “a natural inclination to evil”, or that no Islamic country so much as tolerates homosexual identity. Openly LGBT persons are stoned in Afghanistan, beheaded in Saudi Arabia, and ordered to undergo sex reassignment surgery in the more progressive Iran, whose

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2007-2008

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Washington, DC 2008

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**Medical Student Column**

LERICSON-SCHROTH@AGLP.ORG



**New Medical Student Representative for AGLP Board**

Hi all! My name is Laura Erickson-Schroth and I'm a fourth year at Dartmouth Medical School. I'm excited to be a new medical student representative on the AGLP board. I'm from Brooklyn, New York and am currently doing a year masters in Women and Gender Studies at the Graduate Center before returning for my last year of med school. I was a Psychology major at Middlebury and will be applying to Psychiatry residencies next year.

Laura Erickson-Schroth

I'm also the policy coordinator for the LGBT Health Action Committee of the American Medical

Student Association. This year we have some great programming at the national AMSA meeting, including sessions on the *Don't Ask, Don't Tell* policy's effect on military personnel and physicians, the consequences of prison rape, homosexuality and the ex-gay movement, queer people of color, and sexual health and identity.

I worked with lots of transgender patients on a health clinic rotation I did last year in San Francisco and I'm interested in working on removing Gender Identity Disorder from the DSM, although I'm aware it will be a tricky process to retain medical benefits for trans people once their identity is no longer considered a disorder. Thanks for having me and I hope to meet many of you at this year's APA convention!

...

**THINKING OF MAKING A PLANNED GIFT TO AGLP?**

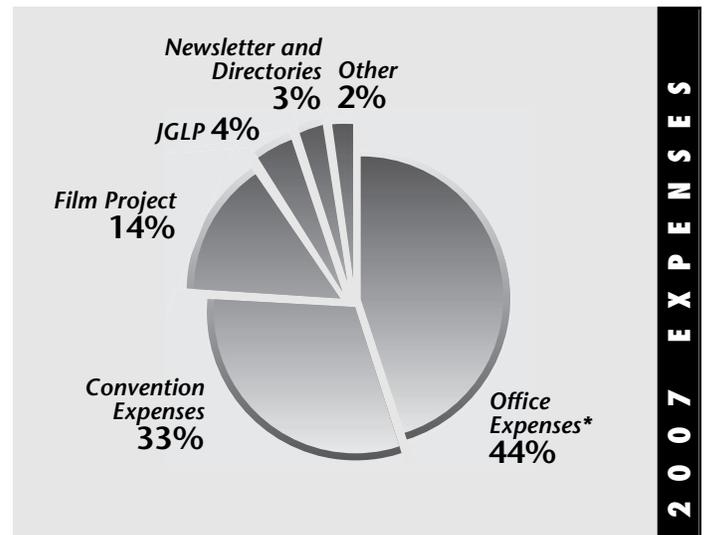
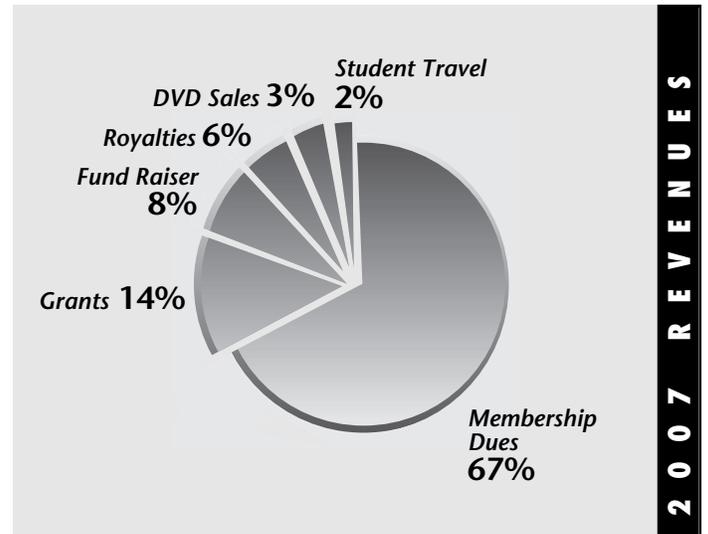


AGLP can offer the option of a tax-deferred annuity through the Philadelphia Foundation, giving you income for life and guaranteeing a lasting gift to AGLP. For this and other options such as naming AGLP in your will, contact Development Officer Stephan Carlson at [scarlson@aglp.org](mailto:scarlson@aglp.org).

ASSOCIATION OF GAY AND LESBIAN PSYCHIATRISTS

**2007 AGLP Financial Statement**

Petros Levounis, M.D., Treasurer



**LEDGER SUMMARY**

	2007	2006
Total Receipts	\$ 92,544.63	\$ 150,925.98
Total Disbursements	\$ 99,646.47	\$ 158,302.61
Receipts/Disbursements	\$ (7,101.84)	\$ (7,376.63)
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		
<b>Beginning of Year</b>		<b>End of Year</b>
\$33,228.35		\$29,151.00

\*Includes salaries, postage, supplies, book inventory and mailing expenses, bank service charges, credit card processing charges, and telephone and internet services.



*New Washington Convention Center*



*Washington DC metro System*



*Townhomes on Capital Hill*

## Washington 2008

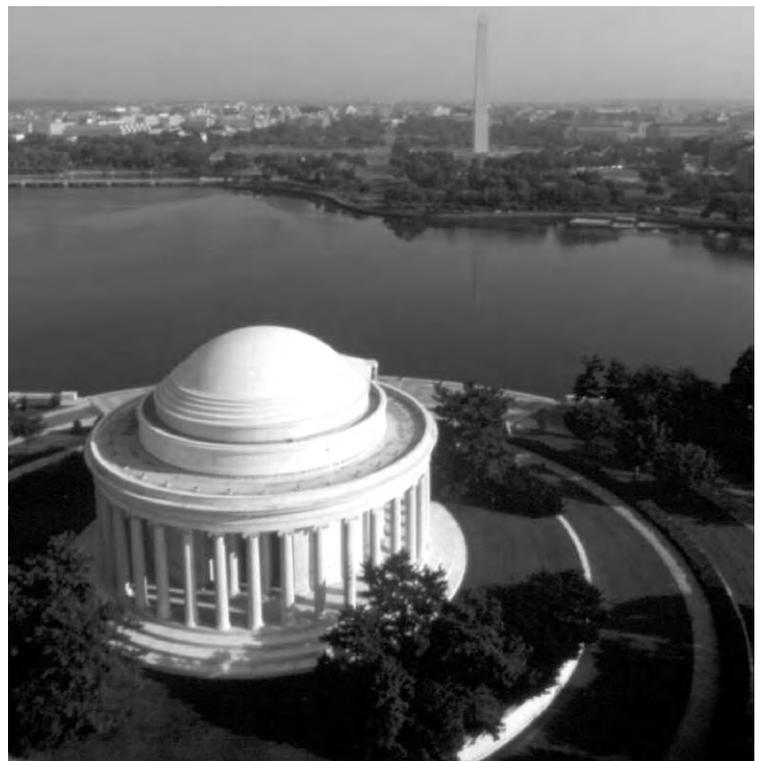
*Continued from page 1*

The significant others' outing will be to the Library of Congress for a private behind the scenes look at some of the rare collection of books and documents dating back to the 17th century. On Saturday May 3rd the women's dinner will be at Banana Cafe, a restaurant specializing in Cuban and Puerto Rican fare located in Barrack's Row section of Capital Hill. Afterwards, socializing will continue at Phase One, directly across the street. The international dinner is being organized by Sami Khalife and will be at Bistrot du Coin, a lively restaurant in Dupont Circle. The awards dinner is still being planned and details will follow. Most likely it will be on Tuesday, May 6th.

I would like to thank members the following members of the local arrangements committee: Jeff Akman, Martin Chin, Dan Hicks, Sinan Duzyurek, Sami Khalife, Stuart Sotsky, and Tom Applin. The planning tends to be an ongoing process-- look for updates on the website or by email.

While you are at the Washington Convention Center, plan to visit the AGLP Booth – and please consider volunteering to staff the booth for an hour-long session. Sign-up sheets will be available at the booth and at the Hospitality Suite.

Continuing education, social interaction and networking, and leisure-time fun – all in the beautiful and gay-friendly city that is Washington. We hope to see many of you there!



*The Jefferson Memorial*

**IPS CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO**

Mark your calendars: AGLP to honor Richard Pillard, MD with 3rd Annual APA Fryer Award for LGBT mental health at the APA Institute on Psychiatric Services, Chicago, Sat Oct 4, 2008. AGLP will be sponsoring a LGBT track for the IPS meeting in Chicago on Sat Oct 4, 2008 at the Palmer Hotel. The Third Annual APA Fryer Award for LGBT Mental Health, endowed by a \$50,000 grant raised by AGLP Members, will be given to Dr. Pillard, Professor of Psychiatry at Boston University and a world renowned researcher on the genetics of homosexuality. His talk will be "Does Nature Abhor a Category? Thoughts on services to Gays and the Deaf," from 10-11:30a. Robert Cabaj, MD will follow at 1:30-3:00p with "Research and LGBT Behavioral Health: what we know and need to know." Tonda Hughes, PhD, RN will speak about "Sexual Minority Women's Drinking: Advances & Gaps in Current Knowledge" from 3:30-5:00p. A brief organizational meeting for the AGLP/GLB-APA Caucus, an informal no-host lunch, and a reception for Dr. Pillard will also be organized. One-day registration for IPS is available. For more information please see [www.psych.org](http://www.psych.org)

**2008 AGLP JOHN FRYER AWARD**

Mark your calendars: AGLP to honor Richard Pillard, MD with 3rd Annual APA Fryer Award for LGBT mental health at the APA Institute on Psychiatric Services, Chicago, Sat Oct 4, 2008. AGLP will be sponsoring a LGBT track for the IPS meeting in Chicago on Sat Oct 4, 2008 at the Palmer Hotel. The Third Annual APA Fryer Award for LGBT Mental Health, endowed by a \$50,000 grant raised by AGLP Members, will be given to Dr. Pillard, Professor of Psychiatry at Boston University and a world renowned researcher on the genetics of homosexuality. His talk will be "Does Nature Abhor a Category? Thoughts on services to Gays and the Deaf," from 10-11:30a. Robert Cabaj, MD will follow at 1:30-3:00p with "Research and LGBT Behavioral Health: what we know and need to know." Tonda Hughes, PhD, RN will speak about "Sexual Minority Women's Drinking: Advances & Gaps in Current Knowledge" from 3:30-5:00p. A brief organizational meeting for the AGLP/GLB-APA Caucus, an informal no-host lunch, and a reception for Dr. Pillard will also be organized. One-day registration for IPS is available. For more information please see [www.psych.org](http://www.psych.org)

Gene Nakajima, M.D.

**APA 2008-WASHINGTON: NATIONAL SYMPHONY CONCERTS WITH GAY COMPOSERS**

Two National Symphony Concerts with Gay Composers During DC Meeting On Fri May 2nd and Sat May 3rd, Slatkin is conducting the National Symphony in an all Copland concert. Patrick Stewart (Star Trek's Captain Picard) will be narrating A Lincoln Portrait. On Thu May 8 the National Symphony will play David Del Tredici's Final Alice. (Violinist Hilary Hahn is also playing Paganini's 1st concerto). Del Tredici is one of the first very openly gay composers in the US and a pioneer of neo-romantic music, and some of his works have with gay themes. Final Alice, an hour-long piece, is one of his first extremely tonal works for soprano and a large Straussian size orchestra. [www.kennedy-center.org/nso/](http://www.kennedy-center.org/nso/)

**NCPS ANNUAL MEETING 2008**

Monterey California, Northern California Psychiatric Society

NCPS Annual meeting March 28-30, 2008 The NCPS LGBT committee has one workshop called *Wrestling with the Angel: Psychotherapy Struggle & Faith in Lesbians & Gay Men*. Of special interest is Father Donal Godfrey, a Jesuit priest will be one of the speakers. He is the author of a recent history of a Catholic Church in the heart of the Castro, the gay neighborhood in San Francisco called Gays and Grays. [www.ncps.org](http://www.ncps.org)

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES**

Prague, World Psychiatric Congress, Sep 20-25, 2008, Submission Deadline Now Feb 29

The submission deadline has been extended to Feb 29. If you want to participate in a workshop on LGBT issues, please contact me right away. We have already submitted 3 workshops and one media session. If you are planning to go to Prague please contact me and I will keep you informed about educational & social activities. If you have been to the Czech Republic and have any useful information, please let me know. [www.wpa-prague2008.cz](http://www.wpa-prague2008.cz)

Berlin, DGPPN (German Society of Psychiatry, Psychotherapy, and Neurology) November 26-29, 2008. This is probably the largest annual psychiatric meeting in Europe, with about 6,000 attendees mostly from German speaking countries. They have a small number of presentations in English. (see [www.dgppn-kongress.de/2007/de/kongressprogramm07/englischsprachige-symposien.html](http://www.dgppn-kongress.de/2007/de/kongressprogramm07/englischsprachige-symposien.html) for the list of English sessions in 2007). This meeting occurs every year in Berlin, and is very popular among gay psychiatrists; however, they have had very few gay presentations. Along with a former leader of the gay physicians group in Germany, I am hoping to submit one English language LGBT symposium. If you are interested in presenting please contact me by March 20; the submission deadline is April 15. see [www.dgppn-kongress.de](http://www.dgppn-kongress.de)

Tokyo, Pacific Rim College of Psychiatry Conference: Oct 30-Nov 2, 2008. This is a small international conference, around 300-600 people. I am exploring with the Japanese gay physicians group about organizing a joint symposium with AGLP. See [www.prcp.org](http://www.prcp.org) Submission deadline is April 20, 2008 If you are interested in presenting, please let me know by April 1, 2008. A tour of Japan follows.

Contact [gnakajima@aglp.org](mailto:gnakajima@aglp.org) for more information.

**PLAY ACTING IN WASHINGTON**

I am looking for men who are interested in participating in a reading of a new play about gay psychiatrists. The reading will take place at the APA convention in Washington, D.C. in May. Acting or play reading experience is preferred. Participants need not be AGLP or APA members. Please contact Guy Glass at [GFGMD@aol.com](mailto:GFGMD@aol.com)

**Memorial Day Weekend 2009**

Save The Dates: Informal AGLP Trip To Yosemite Memorial Day Weekend We are planning a trip to Yosemite National Park May 21-25, 2009 after the San Francisco APA meeting in 2009. Because it is a holiday weekend, it is best to make reservations for the hotel early. Reservations are accepted 1 year in advance (May 20, 2008). For more information, please contact [gnakajima@aglp.org](mailto:gnakajima@aglp.org).

## LGBT presentations for the 2008 APA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC

Gene Nakajima, MD

In addition to organizing the AGLP Saturday symposium and activities in the hospitality suite, many AGLP members are presenting at the APA annual meeting. Doing a search of the annual meeting database, I was able to find a bumper crop: three workshops, one course and four symposia concerning LGBT mental health. Please come and support our AGLP members. Also, if you know any potential AGLP members, please encourage them to attend the annual meeting and come to our sessions. Below are the details:

### MONDAY 5 May

11:00 am--12:30 pm CW22

#### I'm Coming Out: Help Your LGBT Patients at the Closet door

APA Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues  
Room 207, level 2 Convention Center

##### Conceptual Model of Coming Out

Eugene Lee, MD;

##### Coming Out Issues of the Transgendered Person

Umee Davae, DO;

##### Treatment Issues of Coming Out

Eric Williams, MD;

##### Case Vignettes

Serena Volpp, MD, MPH; Philip Bialer, MD, Chair

This workshop will examine treatment issues for people seeking mental health care for coming out, and it will explore countertransference issues for treatment providers. Speakers include Dr. Lee, Chief Resident, Dept of Psychiatry, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Dr. Davae, Chief Resident, Dept of Psychiatry, Rosalind Franklin University/The Chicago Medical School, Dr. Williams, Assistant Professor, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University of South Carolina, Dr. Volpp, Chair of the APA Committee on GLB Issues, and Dr. Bialer, Chief, Psychosomatic Medicine, Beth Israel Medical Center.

2:00-5:00 pm S22

#### Homosexuality and Therapy: The Religious Dimension

Lecture halls 159 A & B in the Washington DC Convention Center

##### Practice Framework for Managing Sexual Identity Conflicts

Warren Throckmorton, PhD.

##### The Psycho-Social Bases of Theologies that Compel Efforts to Change Sexual Orientation: The Psychiatric Ethical Response

David Scasta, MD

##### A Pastoral Approach for Gay & Lesbian People Troubled by Homosexuality

Bishop Gene Robinson

##### A Pastoral Approach for Gay & Lesbian People Troubled by Homosexuality

Rev. Richard Albert Mohler, Jr., PhD

Discussant, Dr. Peteet, Chair of the APA Committee on Religion, Spirituality & Psychiatry.

(For further details on this symposium please see the extended article by David Scasta, MD elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter - Editor's Note)

### TUESDAY 6 MAY

9:00 am-12:00 noon MP04

#### Addiction and Sex: SPUN Out of Control

APA Corresponding Committee on Treatment Services for Patients with Addictive Disorders

Room 140B, Level 1 Convention Center



Petros Levounis, MD

*SPUN* (2002) is a film about a group of young crystal methamphetamine users. (110 minutes) This movie has a couple of minor gay and lesbian vignettes. Some of discussants are: Petros Levounis, MD, the treasurer of AGLP will introduce the movie, Daryl Shorter, MD, Sean Chappin, MD, and Jose Vito, MD, APA SAMHSA Addiction Fellow recipients, will speak about Biology, Pathophysiology, Social and policy implications of stimulant abuse, Steven Lee, MD, author of *Overcoming Crystal Meth Addiction: An Essential Guide to Getting Clean* will speak about treatment.



Jose Vito, MD

1:00-5:00 pm C75

#### A Developmental Approach to Contemporary Issues in Psychotherapy with Gay Men

Renaissance Washington

Advance \$105.00, On-Site \$135.00

##### Childhood and Adolescent Development of Homosexuality

Stewart Adelson, MD;

##### Young Adulthood: Developmental and Clinical Issues for Gay Men

Jeff Akman, MD, Marshall Forstein, MD;

##### Midlife and late life development and mental health in gay men

Robert Kertzner, MD



Stewart Adelson, MD

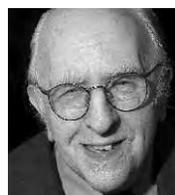


Marshall Forstein, MD



Robert Kertzner, MD

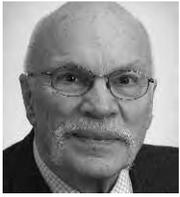
The course is based on the perspective that the formation of a health identity requires additional developmental tasks for gay men. Common issues that gay men may bring to the therapeutic experience will be addressed. Dr. Adelson, Assistant Clinical Professor, Columbia University will discuss how early childhood and adolescent issues impact later developmental stages in gay men. Dr. Akman, Professor and Chair of the Dept of Psychiatry, George Washington School of Medicine will discuss interpersonal tasks of developing friendship networks, a career path and negotiating the degree to which sexual orientation becomes relevant to re-negotiating the relationships with families of origin and how "out" to be. Dr. Forstein, Director of Adult Psychiatric Residency Training, the Cambridge Health Alliance; Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School will present on developmental issues of coupling and parenting for gay men, and the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on gay male development and social functioning. Dr. Kertzner, Associate Clinical Professor, UCSF; Adjunct Associate Research Scientist, Columbia University, will describe a developmental framework for conceptualizing the issues for gay men through the life cycle.



Frank Kameny, Ph.D.

## LGBT Presentations, APA 2008

Continued from page 7



Richard Pillard, MD

**2:00-5:00 pm S27****Violence in Minority Groups: What Can Be Done?**

APA Assembly Committee of Representatives of  
Minority/Underrepresented Groups  
Room 140A, Convention Center, Level 1

Lecture 2 of 5 **The Epidemiology and Mental Health  
Consequences of Violence Against Lesbian, Gay,  
Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) People**  
Philip Bialer, MD

Philip Bialer, MD former AGLP president, will explore the  
roots of violence against LGBT people and how mental  
health professionals and society are addressing it.

Benjamin  
McCommon, MD**WEDNESDAY 7 MAY****9:00a-12:00 noon MP06****Red Without Blue: A Film About Gay and  
Transgender Identical Twins**

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
Room 140B, Level 1 Convention Center

Probing the relationship between two gay identical twins,  
this documentary examines the troubled history of Mark  
and Alex (which includes a double-suicide attempt) as well  
as their problematic present. As one of them prepares to  
undergo a sex-change operation, the film explores the  
meaning of sexual identity and its effect on family rela-  
tionships. For more information see  
[www.redwithoutblue.com](http://www.redwithoutblue.com) (71 minutes). Child psychia-  
trists Richard Pleak, MD and Edgardo Menvielle, MD will  
be the discussants.



Gene Nakajima, MD

**2:00-5:00 pm S62****'Stop It: You're Making Me Sick' Revisited: Land Marks in the  
Struggle to Normalize Lesbian and Gay Lives**

AGLP, Room 147B Level 1, Convention Center

**How it all Started**

Franklin Kameny, PhD

**From Disorder to Distonia: DSM-II and DSM-III**

Richard Pillard, MD

**Strike While the Iron is Hot! Science and Social Forces and Ego-  
dystonic Homosexuality**

Robert Cabaj, MD

**Sexual Orientation and Psychiatric Diagnosis: Current Issues in  
DSM-IV and Moving Towards DSM-V**

Benjamin McCommon, MD

**Eliminating Anti-gay Diagnoses in the WHO's International  
Classification of Disorders (ICD)**

Gene Nakajima, MD

Ron Gold, a gay activist, gave a talk entitled "Stop it, you're making me sick"  
at the 1972 APA meeting, a turning point in the movement to depathologize

homosexuality. In this symposium, the scientific, political and personal issues  
involved in the removal of disorders related to homosexuality from DSM and  
ICD will be described. Dr. Kameny, a long time gay activist who is the recipient  
of the first APA John Fryer award, will discuss his efforts to eliminate homosex-  
uality from the DSM. Dr. Pillard, the future recipient of the third APA John Fryer  
award will speak about the debate over the deletion of homosexuality from  
DSM during 1970 to 1974. Dr. Cabaj, President of AGLP in 1986, will describe  
the scientific knowledge and social forces that led to the removal of ego-  
dystonic homosexuality from the DSM. Dr. McCommon, assistant professor of  
clinical psychiatry at Columbia University, will review the current status of  
sexual orientation as a cultural factor relevant to psychiatric diagnosis in the  
DSM-IV and discuss future pathways toward DSM-V. Dr. Nakajima, co-chair of  
the International Issues Committee for the AGLP, will speak about Egodystonic  
Sexual Orientation, Sexual Relationship Disorder, and Sexual Maturation  
Disorder in ICD-10. The co-chair Serena Volpp, MD MPH is Assistant Clinical  
Professor at NYU. Discussants include 1) William Narrow, MD, MPH, Deputy  
Director of the Division of Research of the APA and research director, DSM-V  
Task Force and 2) Nada Stotland, MD, President Elect of the APA.

**THURSDAY 8 MAY****2:00-5:00 pm S94 Hormones, Identities and Cultures: Clinical  
Issues in Transgender youth** Room 154A/B, level 1, convention center**Formation of Transgender Identities in Adolescence**

Richard Pleak, MD

**Transgender Children: Clinical and Ethical Issues in Pre-Pubertal  
Presentations**

Edgardo Menvielle, MD

**Issues in Working with Female to Male Transgender Youth**

Sarah Herbert, MD, MSW

**African-American and Latino Transgender Youth**

Vernon Rosario, MD

**An Endocrine Perspective on the Care of Transgender  
Adolescents**

Norman Spack, MD

In this symposium four child psychiatrists and a pediatric endocrinologist  
examine clinical issues for gender-atypical children and adolescents. Dr. Pleak  
from North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, will focus on develop-  
mental issues and practical considerations for ethical assessment, diagnosis, and  
treatment. Dr. Menvielle from Children's National Medical Center, Washington,  
DC, will emphasize presentations in children before puberty. Dr. Herbert, from  
Meharry Medical Center, Atlanta, will focus on transgender identities of biologi-  
cally female teens, who have distinct issues from their biologically-male coun-  
terparts. Her presentation will use clinical case material, interviews with youth,  
internet communication, and videos. Dr. Rosario from UCLA will examine the  
culturally-specific risks and coping mechanisms of transgender youth, using case  
material gleaned from the treatment of inner-city African-American and Latinos.  
Dr. Spack, a Pediatric Endocrinologist from Harvard, will discuss clinical exam-  
ples and the results of protocols involving initial pubertal suppression and  
subsequent cross-gender use of hormones.

•••

**THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED AGLP FOR 2006-2007****EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION**

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DAVID RUDOLPH KESSLER, MD

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KEITH YOUNG, M.D.

## Who Let the Wolves in the Hen House? Cavorting with the Enemy

David Scasta, MD, DFAPA



David Scasta, MD

**T**he proposal by Harvard psychiatrist, Dr. John Peteet, chair of the APA Corresponding Committee on Religion, Spirituality, and Psychiatry, was provocative but hard to put aside. I explained that a so-called “balanced” discussion about the ethics of psychotherapy to change sexual orientation when religion is a compelling factor is, in itself, unethical because such discussions ultimately harm gay peoples. For 35 years, since Frank Kameny and Barbara Gittings disrupted the Annual Meeting in Washington and forced the APA to

consider that homosexuality is not pathological, there has been virtually no platform in the APA for “reparative therapists” to ply their trade. After all, if homosexuality is not a disease, it does not need to be fixed. Attempts to fix the arguably unfixable only lead to internalized self hatred and patient harm. And, the APA does not give platforms to therapies which are inherently harmful — particularly to groups which would then exploit that platform to suggest legitimacy.

with a similar lack of morality? It has in the past.

I reflected.

In 2005 I was on a talk show with Richard Cohen, the often outrageous and theatrical author of *Coming Out Straight* (who is targeted AGLP’s documentary: *Abomination, Homosexuality and the Ex-Gay Movement*). Richard was reasonably well behaved that night. The panel got into a discussion about Dr. Robert Spitzer’s study touting that true change in sexual orientation is possible. Dr. Warren Throckmorton, a psychologist at Grove City College (a small Christian college in Pennsylvania) who has written for *Focus in the Family* and other antigay groups, was a call-in guest. He brought up a study by Shidlo and Schroeder (2002) as alternative research that suggested that change is not possible, and, despite its shortcomings, called it a valuable study. That concession caught my attention.

We quote the Shidlo study in our documentary. The producer then quoted it on national TV without letting the audience know about its design flaws, which provoked a swift rebuke from Dr. Joseph Nicolosi, the often vexing president of NARTH. The problem is that Dr. Nicolosi was right. As Spitzer biased his study by looking only at people who claimed to change, Shidlo and Schroeder biased their study by looking at people who claimed to be harmed by “reparative therapies.” Even so, they found that 4% of their subjects claimed successful change. Since a large number of the change group were “reparative” therapists, there may have been some spiking of the Shidlo sample by people opposed to finding harm from such therapies. The 4% changed figure quoted in our documentary is vacuous.

**I found myself rolling my eyes and chuckling at the Project’s brazen spinning of the news to suggest APA endorsement of medical marijuana. Would the conservative religious right spin a “balanced” discussion on “reparative therapies” with a similar lack of morality? It has in the past.**

One does not have to reach very far back in the APA’s history to see this process in action. In November, I was on the APA Assembly’s reference committee for the scientific basis of psychiatry. A reference committee reviews and researches action papers (legislation) before they are submitted to the Assembly as a whole. For this session, we reviewed three action papers on the medical use of marijuana. I groaned. Virtually none of the medical uses of marijuana are for psychiatric disorders *per se* and the evidence that marijuana is superior or even equal to current treatments is weak. The reference committee eventually gutted the action papers, concurred with the AMA’s stance on the issue, and left the action papers with two relatively benign statements: 1) patients and physicians should not be federally prosecuted for medical uses of marijuana when use is sanctioned by state law, and, 2) there should be adequate resources for research. Not very controversial — they passed virtually unanimously. This is how the Marijuana Policy Project (a marijuana advocacy group) reported the vote:

“The Assembly of the American Psychiatric Association, representing the group’s 74 district branches and 16 allied professional organizations, on Saturday unanimously approved a strongly worded statement supporting legal protection for patients using medical marijuana with their doctor’s recommendation.”

I found myself rolling my eyes and chuckling at the Project’s brazen spinning of the news to suggest APA endorsement of medical marijuana. Would the conservative religious right spin a “balanced” discussion on “reparative therapies”

Dr. Throckmorton, in his blog also pointed to that discrepancy in a careful critique of AGLP’s documentary right after the show aired. I was the co-chair of the taskforce that produced the film, but, nonetheless, found myself agreeing with the logic of his arguments. There in fact was something different going on with Dr. Throckmorton. He brought in experts to his national blog to ridicule the “study” by the infamous defrocked psychologist, Dr. Paul Cameron, that most gay people are dead by their mid 40s. He admonished Christian groups to be more scientific and avoid the use of charlatans to espouse Christian views. He called Richard Cohen a “menace.”

I reflected.

Could we ever get a group of scientists and clinicians on both sides of the religious divide to seek common ground while committed to honesty in the scientific research about homosexuality — no matter what the outcome? While I can plead that most gays are not dead by their mid 40s and that those conclusions come from a distorted, blatant attempt to discredit gays, Christian conservative groups will dismiss my ranting out-of-hand. However, when someone like Dr. Throckmorton makes the same conclusions, these groups reluctantly listen. By the same token, when Dr. Throckmorton states that an assertion in our film is not supported by the data, AGLP ignores him. But if someone from AGLP makes that assertion... I decided to talk with Dr. Throckmorton.

## Wolves in the Hen House

*Continued from page 10*

Dr. Throckmorton was as enthusiastic as I was when I contacted him about the idea of dialogue across the religious ideological divide: developing a model for bridging the polarization between religious and scientific groups while being respectful of each other but uncompromising with regard to scientific rigor. Together, with Dr. Peteet, a “balanced” symposium on the ethics of efforts to change sexual orientation quickly gelled.

lenging the authenticity of personal conviction and looking at the interpersonal and sociological factors that govern choice of theological positions. I will use that discussion as a background for understanding how gay patients mature in their faith, leading to self acceptance, as well as to understand the ethical boundaries for psychiatrists who treat gay patients with profound religious concerns. My discussion will feed into Bishop Robinson’s talk on an accepting theology.



David L. Scasta, M.D.

## Could we ever get a group of scientists and clinicians on both sides of the religious divide to seek common ground while committed to honesty in the scientific research about homosexuality – no matter what the outcome?



Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson

Dr. Throckmorton will be talking about psychotherapeutic approaches for individuals who carry strong religious taboos against their same sex orientation. He does not classify himself as a reparative therapist and relies heavily on patients to make their own decisions. He is circumspect about the efficacy of “reparative therapies” and is willing to rely on scientific findings to assess such – irrespective of the final conclusions as long as the findings are scientifically sound; ergo, let the chips fall where they may.

Dr. Peteet, as the discussant, will be working to insure that ideologically driven distortions do not come from the dais. In addition, symposium members are committed to avoiding rhetoric, staying scientifically and rationally based (while true to their religious belief systems), and, most of all – listening as much as talking. Hopefully, the impact of any spin by advocacy groups will be minor just as attempts at spin by marijuana advocacy groups failed to leave a significant impression.

The symposium will be at 2:00 p.m. on Monday afternoon (5/5/08) in lecture halls 159 A & B in the Washington DC Convention Center.



John Peteet, M.D.

With some pressure from me, Dr. Throckmorton cashed in his chips and persuaded Dr. Albert Mohler, Jr., to be on the symposium. Dr. Mohler is the President of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, one of the largest seminaries in the world. He is a prolific author, has his own syndicated radio talk show, and is considered to be the leading theologian for Southern Baptist thought – a convention with 16 million members and the largest protestant denomination in the country. He has Bush’s ear as well as Southern Baptists’. Dr. Mohler was chosen because of the heat that he came under last year when he suggested to Southern Baptists that they may have to accept the fact that homosexuality is not chosen. For many Southern Baptists, that concession seemed to undermine the whole authenticity of the Bible. Dr. Mohler will undoubtedly suggest otherwise and will be talking about approaches that gay Christians can take and still be true to their faith.

As I met with the APA President and the Chair of the Committee on Public Affairs, chatted with the Editor of Psych News, and informed the Director of the Office of Scientific Programs about the magnitude of the symposium, I asked them to hold off moving forward on publicity about the symposium until I had a chance to write this article and lay out the reasons to AGLP why this unprecedented step is being taken. In short, I have held the conviction for a long time that there will never be peace for gay peoples as long as the Church is in opposition – no matter how supportive the mental health professionals are. It is time that we talked without the rhetoric and listened without closed minds. It is time to ratchet down the forces of polarization.

Who let the wolves in? I pray I haven’t and ask for your support in this historic undertaking.

•••



Rev. Albert Mohler, Jr., Ph.D.

On the other side of the dais will be the Right Reverend V. Gene Robinson. Bishop Robinson is the first openly gay bishop in the Episcopal Church. His elevation to Bishop shook the Anglican Community, with conservative Episcopal churches continuing to split away from the American Church and international Anglicans seeking to punish the American Church for his appointment. He will be talking about an alternative religious counsel to people who are gay and feel that their sexual orientation is at odds with God’s commandments.



Warren Throckmorton, Ph.D.

My talk will be a provocative, a-religious discussion: chal-

**AGLP Executive Committee Phone Conference**

**Wednesday, November 14, 2007, 3:45pm (EST) - 12:45 (PST)**  
SKYPE Conference Call

Present: Ubaldo Leli, Mary Barber, George Harrison, Petros Levounis, Roy Harker, Stephan Carlson, Brent Anderson.

**Local Arrangements**

Washington DC, May 3-8, 2008 — Brent Anderson

Opening Reception: Arrangement are set for the HRC Building in Washington. We may still have this space made available to us at a very low cost, but negotiations are not complete. Roy will follow up on details for catering. It was suggested we invite all presidential candidates to appear at the opening reception — being that it is an election year.

Awards Banquet: The VIRIDIAN is thought to be the best choice by local arrangements. A Contract has been finalized and submitted to the National Office for review. Total value of the contract is \$11,622. The budget for this event is currently set at \$9,000. Some discussion ensued as to how to close this gap. There was a consensus vote on raising the ticket price to \$150. Several grant proposals are also in the works. The catering company needs a signed contract as soon as possible.

Hotel arrangements should be finalized by early December.

The Early career group needs to have their brunch set up by the committee.

The AGLP Guide to DC is more concise than in years past, and is largely finished. A draft will be sent to Roy shortly. Thanks to Martin Chin for putting this together.

They have made suggestions for local awardees and forwarded them on to Dan Karasic.

Symposium: Kenn Ashley:

Tammy Baldwin and Barney Frank have been contacted, as well as Family Pride and COLLAGE, to be on a panel. Joe Solomese also contacted (he is not available), but HRC would offer another speaker and will get back to Stephan Carlson. Martin Chen will speak at symposium. He will also ask others from SMLDN. Needing to be clarified is if Aaron Belkin from the Palm Center is speaking. A Turkish psychiatrist has also been invited. We should also include a woman who has been affected by Don't Ask Don't Tell.

**Fund Raising:** Stephan Carlson, M.D.

A draft of a grant proposal to Gill foundation is in the works. We will submit before the end of the year.

**Membership Development**

Membership Report: This month we have received nine renewals and seven new members via our website.

Revised Brochure: Membership area still under discussion. The APA currently defines Early-Career as "under 40 and 5-7 years out." There was some discussion as to our definition vs. APA. More discussion is in order before this appears in the printed brochure.

**Nominating Committee:** Dan Karasic: No report.

Journal: Mary Barber: Working on several different articles. Mary and Howard's first issue is due to the publisher in August 2008. There is some concern with the recent take-over of Haworth.

**Women's Committee:** No report.

**Women's Recognition Award:** The Board discussed the possibility of an AGLP award created to honor women specifically. It was suggested that it could be called the Barbara Gittings Award?

The AGLP Audit is essentially complete and now in the review stage. FY2006 990 Tax forms have been reviewed by our accountant and filed. The required final copy will be available in time for our CDC Grant proposal, due in January.

MedStudent Representative Mark Chapman, suggested by Marc Manseau, will be contacted by Ubaldo and asked to serve on the committee.

Our next meeting will be December 12, 2007, 3:45pm (EST) — 12:45 (PST)

**AGLP Executive Committee Phone Conference**

**Wednesday, December 12, 2007 - 3:45pm (EDT) - 12:45 (PDT)**

**Local Arrangements: Washington DC, May 3-8, 2008**  
— Brent Anderson

Opening Reception: Still waiting on caterer list from HRC.

Symposium: Kenn Ashley: More speakers are being sought by Mary, Kenn, Brent, and Stephan — especially focusing on a women for the panel. No CME this year unless some funds appear from sponsors. "The Gay Agenda: The Intersection of Mental Health and Public Policy." Is the title of the symposium.

Hotel: Hotel Palomar, (Near DuPont Circle) 121 P Street NW, Washington DC 20037. Link for online room registration will appear on the AGLP website on Dec. 14. Deadline for hotel room reservations is Feb 1. Confirmation on hospitality suite and symposium room assignments should be coming from APA shortly.

San Francisco, CA, May 16-21, 2009 — George is going to ask Ellen Haller to be chair of the LAC.

**Fund Raising:** Stephan Carlson, M.D.: Grant Institute: The Board feels that both Stephan and Roy should attend this five-day seminar in New York in January. We will look into the final costs and make a decision sooner rather than later. Robert Lopatin and Stephan finished a Gill Foundation Grant application which is now being reviewed by Mary and Roy.

**Membership Development:** Membership Renewals: 12 renewals in the past two weeks, but this is down 63 from last year (representing about \$10,000). Roy will begin sending out printed reminders immediately.

**Nominating Committee:** Dan Karasic Roy will contact Dan since there has been no word from regarding the nomination process.

**Mary Barber Award:** Proposed to be named Barbara Gittings Award. There are many questions surrounding the makeup of the award: External or internal award? Service to women? Women only? Kenn and Mary will present a proposal to the Board at the next meeting.

**Medical Students:** MedStudent Representative Mark Chapman, Laura Erickson-Schroth have been proposed by Marc Manseau to join him on the committee. Roy will contact Marc to offer the two positions to these new persons.

**30th Anniversary acknowledgement:** Remember/acknowledge past presidents — perhaps at the VIP reception? Roy will make a list of past presidents and send to Mary.

No Royalties have been received from Haworth for FY2007. A large bill for the most recent publication is now due. Roy will contact Bill Cohen and find out

## AGLP Meeting Minutes

*Continued from page 12*

why it might be late.

Happy Holidays to All!

Our next meeting will be January 9, 2008, 3:45pm (EST) – 12:45 (PST)

**AGLP Executive Committee Phone Conference**

**Wednesday, January 23, 2008, 3:45pm (EDT) - 12:45 (PDT)**  
SKYPE Conference Call

Attending: Ubaldo Leli, Mary Barber, Kenn Ashley, Brent Anderson, Andy Tompkins, and Roy Harker.

**Local Arrangements, Washington DC, May 3-8, 2008**

– Brent Anderson

Opening Reception: HRC is still working on our program. There has been a shift in personnel, so many details will have to be reiterated. Two women have been identified to work on Women's arrangements. Brent will be in contact with them.

**Awards: Dan Karasic**

Dan offered the following slate for awards in Washington:

Distinguished Service Award: C. Dixon Osburn, (Co-Founder, SLDN)

Paulsen Award: Mary Barber, M.D.

Stu Nichols Award: Outreach Program for Children with Gender Variant Behaviors, Children's National Medical Center

Edgardo Menvielle and Catherine Tuerk, MA, RN

(<http://www.dchildrens.com/dchildrens/about/subclinical/subneuroscience/gender.aspx>)

All in attendance accepted slate.

Symposium: Kenn Ashley

No keynote speaker just yet, Information needs to be to the APA by Feb 1. Kenn is finalizing the agenda now. Martin Chen Osborne will be a keynote speaker. A representative from Family Pride Institute will also be on the panel, but is asking for travel expenses. Evan Wolfson, speaking on Marriage Equality, will be receiving travel expenses.

**Nominations: Andy Tompkins**

Both the Secretary and Treasurer position will be open, and a position for President-elect will need to be filled. Lisa Capell is a strong candidate for Secretary. Andy has been in touch with several people for these positions.

**Fund Raising: Stephan Carlson**

Gill Foundation has not been submitted. Roy is waiting on the completed audit numbers to be included in the proposal.

**Membership Development: Ubaldo Leli**

There may be a need for a more strongly developed and defined committee. Incentives should be considered once again. APA has been restructuring dues categories in an attempt to increase membership. Ubaldo asked that all in attendance draw up specific ideas for discussion at the next meeting. Mary suggested that we reach out to colleagues. There remain many under-represented areas that AGLP has never been in touch with.

**Haworth/Taylor & Francis implications for The Journal: Mary Barber:**

There will be a good bit of reorganization at Haworth once the merger is complete. They have not yet re-applied for MedLine for the Journal – and are apparently not interested in doing so right now. Bill Cohen seems to think that we will be turned down once again because of theme issues. With the Taylor-Francis takeover we may get a fresh perspective on this initiative.

Our next meeting will be February 13, 2008, 3:45pm (EST) – 12:45 (PST)

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**President's Column**

*Continued from page 3*

President can assert that the populace includes no homosexuals. Jews do not kill LGBT's, but my friends and patients who are Orthodox or even moderately religiously observant, often declare that they cannot discuss with their families their sexual orientation. In India—the champion of religious tradition among nations, with over 4000 years of Hinduism, and about 2500 years of Buddhism—homosexual acts are punishable with twenty years of prison.

I urge each and every AGLP member to question any perceived sense of safety in the midst of a radically unstable global economy, an explosive world political scenario, wars in the Middle East and Africa, and the progressive rampage of HIV as transmission rates increase despite years of effort at education and containment. In such an unstable political and social environment, our lives could be devastated at any time. Laws that protect us could be reversed. LGBT citizens could be shipped to isolation camps to prevent the spread of AIDS. (If this seems far-fetched, consider the confinement of Japanese-American citizens during WWII). This is a time for engagement, not complacency.

As AGLP President, I plan to work with the Executive Board to develop an active strategy to encourage membership growth and to re-instill in our members a sense of conviction and community. I am also planning to appoint specific individuals to take a central and active role in responding to this challenge. I must stress, however, that the most effective stimulus to growth is word of mouth at the grass root level. If anything in this column has convinced you that we, as LGBT psychiatrists, have much to gain by confirming and expressing our identity by belonging to organizations like AGLP, then please encourage your friends and colleagues to join us.

On a more practical and positive note, I can report that our financial outlook continues to improve. The upcoming AGLP Spring Meeting, to be held in Washington, DC in May, is looking quite exciting. The Saturday Symposium, still a proprietary AGLP event, will focus on social aspects of LGBT identity—military and family issues. I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the Local Organizing Committee in Washington, chaired by Brent Anderson, which has worked especially hard to organize the conference in a short amount of time. Thanks also go to the indefatigable efforts of the Vice-President Kenn Ashley, in charge of the whole convention program. Thanks to our Executive Director, Roy Harker, the oxygen that keeps AGLP alive, goes without saying.

I'll close with a reminder of the importance that we sensitize, educate and cultivate our young LGBT community. Medical students, residents, and early career psychiatrists are our future, and we all should make an effort to involve them in our work as an organization, and assist them professionally and personally as individuals.

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