

# FRIENDS OF PROJECT 10

## FALL UPDATE 2010

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Dr. Virginia Uribe

### A LOOK BACK

by Dr. Virginia Uribe, Executive Director and Founder of Friends of Project 10 Inc.

#### THEN:

Project 10 celebrated a striking birthday last year—over twenty-five years old. Who knew back in 1984 that gay and lesbian youth issues, completely invisible at that time, would become a central focus in school support systems throughout the country? The lonely voice back then was New York's Harvey Milk School, an alternative school. The concept of integrating gay and lesbian students into the

main school population and giving them a voice was completely unknown.

#### NOW:

The Federal Equal Access Act enabled Gay-Straight Alliances to spring up all over the country. Protests from the far right gave visibility to lesbian and gay students and emboldened them to become proactive. The terms bisexual and transgender were incorporated into the common vocabulary and LGBT rights became a rallying cry.

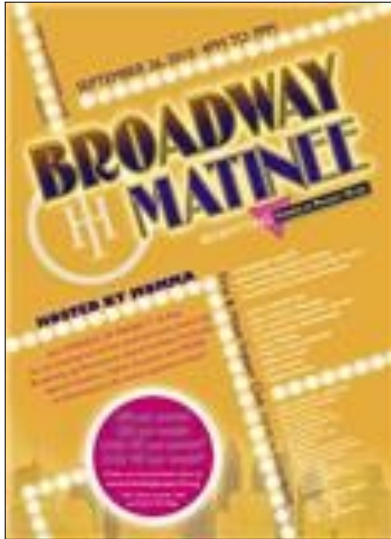
In California a law was passed (AB537), the *California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act, 2000*, adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the list of protected categories in the California Education Code. As students became aware of these protections, they began to demand that administrators do something about the harassment of LGBT students on campuses. Wise principals encouraged the formation of GSAs and followed nondiscrimination policies set by their districts. Teachers and students who verbally abused LGBT students were disciplined, and occasionally challenges in court were necessary to remedy a school's failure to comply with State or Federal Law. Gradually things began to change—an evolution of understanding has begun to take place. Perhaps nothing demonstrates this more than the Prom King last year at Fairfax High School was an openly gay male elected overwhelmingly and happily by the student body.

#### IS EVERYTHING ROSY?

Certainly not. Many school districts still refuse to acknowledge LGBT student rights that protect youth from harassment and that allow equal access to education. Two years ago, Lawrence King, a gay middle school student, was shot and killed by another student. This year Constance McMillan was forbidden to go to her high school prom because she wanted to go with her girlfriend. In the former instance, a trial date is being set and the question of liability for the school district is being discussed. In the latter case, the school was fined \$30,000 and told to begin sensitivity training for its staff. These are extreme examples, but acts of antigay discrimination are still happening in schools from coast to coast.

Our progress has to be measured in small steps, but the fight to insure equality for LGBT students is going on, and you are part of it. And for our part, we think PROJECT 10 opened up the curtain of secrecy and started it all.

Quarterly *Updates* are produced by **FRIENDS OF PROJECT 10 INC.**, a tax-exempt educational organization established in 1986 to assist schools and school districts in setting up counseling programs modeled after the Project 10 program in the Los Angeles School District. **FRIENDS OF PROJECT 10 INC.** works with parents, community members, teachers, school administrators, elected officials, and other professionals. *Update* Editors, Dr. Virginia Uribe and Gail Rolf. I.D. #95-4080446



**YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO A  
FUNDRAISER**

**FRIENDS OF PROJECT 10 INC.**

***BROADWAY MATINEE***

**Sunday, September 26, 2010**

**First & Hope  
Downtown Supper Club  
710 West First St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

Join us for an early evening full of live entertainment with **Momma** as MC, featuring Broadway performances, handcrafted cocktails, special guests, a silent auction and more in a most exquisite Downtown LA venue.

At the time of this printing, **Honorary guests include:**

Congresswoman Judy Chu, Secretary of State Debra Bowen, Councilmember Jeffrey Prang & Ray Vizcarra, Assemblymember Anthony Portantino, Councilmember Abbe Land, Councilmember Lindsey Horvath, Jackie Goldberg & Sharon Stricker, LAUSD Board Member Steve Zimmer

**Host Committee includes:**

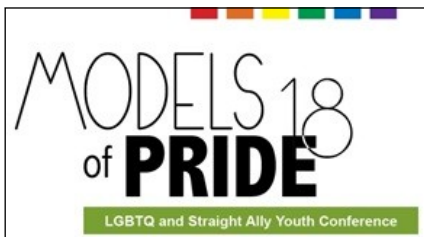
LA City Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, LA Council President Eric Garcetti, Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, Lance Webster, Gail Rolf & Virginia Uribe, Stephen Jimenez, Judy Chiasson, PFLAG Director Steve Krantz, Emily Aiken, Robert StGenis

**Ticket Prices**

\$50 per person  
\$85 per couple  
\$100 per VIP person\*  
\$135 per VIP couple\*

\*VIP tickets include valet parking and gift bags.

**Tickets** can be purchased online at **<[www.FriendsofProject10.org](http://www.FriendsofProject10.org)>**.  
Contact Robert St. Genis, Development Director, for more information at  
(213) 291-6971 or [robertstgenis@gmail.com](mailto:robertstgenis@gmail.com).



**MODELS OF PRIDE CONFERENCE (MOP 18)**

**Saturday, October 9, 2010**

**Occidental College, 1600 Campus Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90041**

**8:30 am start time!**

**Co-produced by Friends of Project 10 Inc. and LifeWorks**

Attendance to MOP 18 is free and open to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth, and allies, ages 12 to 24. Contact Daryl Parker, MOP Program Coordinator, at [mopdaryl@gmail.com](mailto:mopdaryl@gmail.com) or 323-860-7323. Visit [www.ModelsofPride.org](http://www.ModelsofPride.org) for more information.

In addition we are offering an **Adult Workshop** to adults working with LGBTQ youth in schools, community agencies, and through private practice. The online registration fee is \$50 by October 2, 2010 (\$60 onsite registration fee).

And, new this year, a **Parents' Workshop** that will run throughout the day. This conference is free to all parents and begins with registration at 8:30 a.m. and concludes at 4 p.m. Register online to be assured a space!