



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

March 2008

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

♥ NEED HELP? ♥ Call the Help/Info Lines:

♥ (408) 270-8182 ♥ Gilroy: (408) 846-9105

President's Message

During the last week while I have been "in recliner" with the flu, I've had more time to read the news and email — the good and the bad. It's a little disjointed, but here are some of the things I've experienced.

In Colorado, an 8 year old student, born a boy, is being allowed to attend school in dresses, be called by his chosen name, and use the new unisex bathrooms that have been created. The school is distributing pamphlets about transgender identity to people who want them and is a real role-model for dealing with the issue of accepting differences.

In California, vigils were held around the state for a middle school child shot to death because of the way he dressed and acted. In England, a young boy, tormented by gender issues, took his own life.

On February 9, hundreds of supporters of gay marriage gathered in San Francisco City Hall to support a fund raiser for Equality California. The *Let California Ring* campaign is going strong and *Decline to Sign*, a movement to keep an anti-marriage initiative from getting on the ballot, is getting underway.

Yesterday, I received a pre-recorded phone call. A pleasant-sounding woman urged me to please sign the petition to get a constitutional amendment making sure that marriage remained between one man and one woman on the November ballot. If I wanted to sign, I could press 1. When I did, she told me to watch for the bright green envelope coming soon, and to sign and return it right away so that they would get the 700,000 signatures necessary. She very quickly listed the groups supporting this effort, and among them was Focus on the Family, and many similar national organizations which are pouring millions of dollars into this campaign. They obviously aren't just targeting known conservatives or people in conservative communities. It looks like any listed phone number and address in California is a potential hit. No standing in front of Walmart or going door to door this time — the stakes are too high.

As I hung up the phone, my stomach knotted, and anger welled up for the second time this week. The other occasion being when Kenneth Starr (think impeach Clinton), attorney for the anti-gay marriage churches, was quoted in Monday's Chronicle in an article discussing the State Supreme Court hearing on March 4th where they will hear arguments on the constitutionality of our present law. I know you've all heard and read the arguments a hundred times.

It's hard to not make the connection between fighting against gay marriage and a classroom murder. When a group is maligned so publicly, there will be individuals who feel their disgust or hatred is validated. Those people will make the leap from disgust to violence.

I have such love and respect for PFLAG, for people who are joined to make families stronger and to improve the world for every-

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FEBRUARY

- March 1 Annual Dinner and Scholarship Fundraiser - 6 PM
Belmont Congregational Church
751 Alameda de las Pulgas
- March 10 Redwood City Meeting - 7:30 PM
Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)
- March 12 San Jose Meeting - 7:30 PM
First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)
- March 19 Board Meeting - 7:30 PM
at Mike Raymond's office
(3rd Wednesday of the month)
ALL ARE WELCOME!
- March 20 Straight Spouse Support - 7:30 PM
Call San Jose Helpline for info.
(3rd Thursday of the month)
- Gilroy — Call the Helpline for support and information: (408) 846-9105
- April 3 Newsletter Stuffing at Joyce Miller's
2008 Schedule
1st Thursday of Apr, May, Oct;
Last Thursday of May, July, Aug, Oct.



→ **April Newsletter Deadline:**
Thursday, March 27

one. I have a button that says "Wearing Buttons is Not Enough." Right now, in California, sending our dues to PFLAG is not enough. We need to all pay close attention to what is happening in our State. We need to get out and do everything we can to make sure our families are afforded the respect and the rights we all deserve. Watch for updates on our PFLAGnews email list.

Thanks for all you do,
Laurie

PFLAG Support Meetings

Monday, March 10 in Redwood City
 Wednesday, March 12 in San Jose

Larry Courtney will be our speaker at both support meetings. He will describe his feeling of loss at the murder of his life partner, Eugene Clark on September 11, 2001 in New York City. He will also discuss the subsequent fight for the Workers Compensation Death Benefits of a Domestic Partner. During that fight, supported by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, he was interviewed by Katie Curic on the "Today Show", Anderson Cooper at NY1, and Dan Abrams when Courtney spoke before the New York City Council Meeting. The final result of his six month struggle was a ruling that he should receive the death benefits of his partner as a spouse, pursuant to the new law in New York State allowing Domestic Partners of victims of the 9/11 homicides to receive spousal benefits. He was subsequently honored by NGLBT as "Person of the Year" in 2002 for his victory.

He will also touch upon the new fight in California, *Let California Ring!* concerning marriage equality.



Enjoy Beethoven with Fellow PFLAGers

March 27-30

Beethoven Center director Bill Meredith is putting on display a lock of Beethoven's hair, a manuscript, and a first edition of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, which will be performed by Symphony Silicon Valley March 27-30 at the gorgeous California Theatre, on First Street in San Jose, a half-block from Original Joe's restaurant. For more information, visit www.symphonysiliconvalley.org/

The famous "Ode to Joy" melody universally unites all people in brotherhood, a central core of PFLAG's/Allies' hard work of support, education, and advocacy.

We PFLAGERS like to congregate in the upstairs lobby. Hope you will be able to attend one of the concerts and enjoy our "brotherhood" (and sisterhood!) in a different form.

Tom Bailey



Love cannot remain by itself – it has no meaning.
 Love has to be put into action, and that action is service.

Whatever form we are, able or disabled, rich or poor, it is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing; a lifelong sharing of love with others.

Mother Teresa

SAVE THE DATE - May 18th

Northern California/Nevada Regional PFLAG Meeting in Modesto. Open to all!



PFLAG News Via Email

Are you getting all the latest chapter news? Our newsletter only comes out once a month.

Don't miss out on what's happening in between!

Join our PFLAG chapter news email list by sending an email to Laurie Carter: ldkcarter@gmail.com Postings include items of general interest and happenings in our chapter.



Transgender Leadership Summit

March 14 - 16

Transgender Law Center and Equality California Institute are proud to sponsor the Third Annual Transgender Leadership Summit, an annual skills-building and advocacy conference for transgender community members, families, and allies in California. The summit will include a number of sessions on ENDA, media advocacy, transgender healthcare, and economic empowerment.

The summit takes place at UC Berkeley. This event is FREE and open to individuals of all skill levels involved or interested in advancing civil rights for transgender people.

For more information and to register, please visit www.transgenderlawcenter.org/summit2008.html



California Supreme Court to Hear Marriage Arguments on March 4

Same-sex marriage supporters will have their day in court March 4 when the California Supreme Court will hear arguments about whether a state law defining marriage as between one man and one woman deprives LGBT individuals of their guaranteed rights.

More Information:

- Listen online at 9 AM March 4 at www.calchannel.com
- Read the court briefs and learn more about the case on the California Supreme Court's website: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/supreme/highprofile

The three-hour oral arguments can be heard at 9 AM March 4 online at www.calchannel.com, and the audio will be archived on the California Supreme Court's website. The court must rule within 90 days of oral arguments.



*** Mark Your Calendars ***

March 1 - Annual Chapter Dinner and Meeting
 March 4 - Supreme Court Marriage Hearing
 March 14-16 - Transgender Leadership Summit
 March 27-30 - Symphony Silicon Valley Beethoven Concert

**SAN JOSE/PENINSULA PFLAG
ANNUAL DINNER
&
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER**

Saturday, March 1 at 6 PM

**Congregational Church,
751 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont 94002**

Our chapter's annual dinner/ gathering/meeting is on Saturday, March 1. This year we will use this opportunity to raise funds for our Scholarship Fund. All proceeds will benefit San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Scholarships.

Tickets for the catered dinner are \$15 for one ticket and \$25 for a pair. (Of course, no one will be turned away for lack of funds.) Vegetarian options and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. You may bring your own wine (no hard liquor allowed). Purchase your tickets at the door.

A **raffle** will provide additional scholarship funds. Raffle tickets will be \$2 each or six for \$10.

This is going to be a fun evening!

The church can seat 100 people for dinner. It would be great to have that many attend — please be one of them! We want to see you! Dinner, meeting, and time for good conversation with old and new friends. How much better could it get!!



PFLAG Board Election

It's that time of year again! As a 501(c)(3) organization, our PFLAG chapter is required to have elected officers and hold an annual chapter-wide meeting and election. This election will take place at our Annual Meeting on March 1.

Positions to be filled:

- Secretary: Peter van der Pas (Acting Secretary) - needs to be elected
- Vice President
- Publicity Chair
- Membership Chair - could be shared by two ("north" and "south")
- At Large Members (two)

We also have an opening for Chapter Librarian (non-elected). Do you like books and reading? Would you be willing to oversee our two libraries? If books are requested, to purchase them?

Remember — without your participation there would be no San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG! Please contact Laurie Carter today!



Scholarship Fund Donations

If you didn't get to attend the Annual Dinner, we urge you to still make a donation to the Scholarship Fund. You can do so at our web site.

PFLAG Scholarships Available

Each year our chapter offers scholarships to high school seniors from San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties whose educational history, personal plans and activities demonstrate support for justice and equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons. This year we will award four \$2,000.00 scholarships. Any graduating seniors (LGBTQ and allies) may apply.

San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG scholarships provide financial support for high school seniors who will be attending an accredited two- or four-year college, university, or business/technical school in Fall 2008. The awards are provided with the understanding that the funds will be used to offset the costs of tuition, books, or required fees.

Candidates must meet the following criteria:

- You are a high school senior at a public or private school in San Mateo County or Santa Clara County, and you will be attending an accredited two- or four-year college, university, business/technical school full- or part-time in Fall 2008.
- You have included a personal essay discussing how you have demonstrated support for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons in your community, a brief description of your career plans and informed us of any special needs or other factors you wish us to consider.
- You are in good academic standing with your current high school.
- You have provided a copy of your high school transcript and you will provide a copy of your college/university/ business/technical school acceptance letter and proof of enrollment prior to the receipt of the scholarship money.
- You have provided at least two letters of recommendation (e.g. counselor, teacher, other.)
- We ask that you be present to accept the scholarship at a San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG awards event in May, time and place to be announced.

Payment of the scholarship will be after receipt of satisfactory college/school enrollment. Deadline for scholarship winners to turn in their proof of enrollment is December 31, 2008. Scholarship winners will be notified by telephone and in writing.

Application Deadline: Postmarked by Saturday, March 29, 2008.

Mail application and related materials to:
PFLAG Scholarships
Attn: Maribeth Ament
1795 Lexington St., Santa Clara, CA 95050

NOTE: If possible, e-mail your essay to pflag.scholarship@yahoo.com before March 29. Visit our web site at www.pflagsanjose.org to print applications and for more information.



PFLAG National Scholarships

National PFLAG is celebrating the fifth year of its National Scholarship Program. This year up to three \$5000, three \$2500, and ten \$1000 scholarships will be awarded.

Support your local scholars: let them know about PFLAG's Scholarship Program and encourage them to apply. Read more information about the PFLAG National Scholarship Program at www.pflag.org/Scholarship_Programs.scholarships.0.html.



The PFLAG Newsletter

Published monthly by San Jose/Peninsula Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087, Phone:(408) 270-8182.

Peninsula Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is a tax-exempt, volunteer, community based nonprofit organization.

The San Jose/Peninsula chapter is a member of National PFLAG which is headquartered in Washington, D.C..

Your contribution is tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law.

**Would you like to volunteer?
Call the information lines.
We need your help — Call today!**



What is PFLAG?

“PFLAG” is Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. We are a national support, education and advocacy organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people, their families, friends and allies. With 200,000 members and supporters, and local affiliates in more than 500 communities across the U.S. and abroad, PFLAG is the largest grassroots-based family organization of its kind. PFLAG is a non-profit organization and is not affiliated with any religious or political institutions.

Your financial support makes PFLAG’s work possible. As a chapter member you can also become engaged in the vital work of providing support, education and advocacy in your community. Even if you’re not sure that you need PFLAG, remember that PFLAG NEEDS YOU!

MEETING TOPICS ♥ 2008



Meetings are from 7:30—9:00 PM
Small groups for support are held at all meetings.

Redwood City & San Jose:
Larry Courtney, speaker



Please bring a food donation for AIDS services providers.

PFLAG’S MISSION

We provide love and support for all family members and friends. We work to create an environment of understanding so that our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender loved ones can live with dignity and respect. These are our goals:

SUPPORT · EDUCATION · ADVOCACY



Sequoia Union H.S. District Office
480 James Avenue
REDWOOD CITY

1st Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Avenue
SAN JOSE



MEMBERSHIP IN SAN JOSE/PENINSULA PFLAG - 2008

Send in this coupon to join, renew, or change your address!

- New
- Renew
- Change Address
- Date _____
- Newsletter PDF via email
- I want to volunteer

- Individual Membership \$30
- Household Membership \$40
- Benefactor \$50
- Angel \$100 and up
- Diva \$1,000 and up
- Student or Newsletter Only \$15
- Gift Newsletter Subscription \$8
(for those who are already members to give to others too far away to come to meetings)
- Donation for Scholarships \$ _____
- Endowment Fund \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

E-mail (required for PDF) _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Make checks payable and mail to: PFLAG · PO Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Your donations & membership are tax deductible.