



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

February 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

Unity is the Great Need of the Hour

These are words of Martin Luther King, Jr., spoken more than 50 years ago and repeated on his birthday in a speech delivered by Barack Obama at the Ebenezer Baptist Church. In this talk Obama stressed, as MLK did many years ago, that it will take people joining together to create change and overcome what he termed the essential deficit in this country — a moral deficit — an empathy deficit.

Unity, Obama said, starts with a change in attitudes — a broadening of our minds and of our hearts. He talked about how we are told that people who differ from us on a few things are different from us on all things, and that our problems are the fault of those who don't think or look like we do. And in empathizing with the African-American community being on the receiving end of man's inhumanity to man in our nation's history, he also chided them for not always being true to King's vision of a beloved community. He said of the gay community, "we have scorned our gay brothers and sisters instead of embracing them..."

Unity doesn't come easily, and it takes sacrifices and people working together. Obama spoke of MLK, saying, "He did it with words — words that he spoke not just to the children of slaves, but the children of slave owners. Words that inspired not just black but also white; not just the Christian but the Jew; not just the Southerner but also the Northerner."

PFLAG local chapters and the national organization realize that it will take just such unity to make changes in the way the GLBT community is viewed and treated. In both the national **Straight for Equality** program and the local **Let California Ring** campaign, the end goal is that, through broadening hearts and minds, change will occur.

A story was told about a group gathered in a room to share the reason they were working for change. A young woman named Ashley told of her childhood with her sick mother and bankruptcy and how she told her mother that her favorite food was mustard and relish sandwiches, knowing that was the cheapest way to eat. She did this for a year until her mom got better. And she was here now to help millions of other children in the country who want to help their parents. An older black man, when answering the question, didn't say he was there because of health care or the economy, or education or the war. He said he was there because of Ashley.

We all have stories to tell, and when we do, people will come into the room because of us. They will join our struggle and help create the unity we need to make change. Listen for ways you can join PFLAG's work, and keep sharing your stories. When the gay and straight communities work together, we can create a new world.

As always, thanks for all you do.
Laurie Carter

NOTE: This message is not an endorsement of Barack Obama.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FEBRUARY

- Feb. 11 Redwood City Meeting - 7:30 PM
Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Feb. 13 San Jose Meeting - 7:30 PM
First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)
- Feb. 20 Board Meeting - 7:30 PM
at the Carter's home
(3rd Wednesday of the month)
ALL ARE WELCOME!
- Feb. 21 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
- Feb. 28 — Newsletter Stuffing at Joyce Miller's
2008 Schedule
1st Thursday of Apr, May, Oct;
Last Thursday of Jan, Feb, May, July, Aug, Oct.
Feb. 8, 2009



→ **March Newsletter Deadline:**
Thursday, Feb. 21

**SAN JOSE PENINSULA PFLAG
ANNUAL MEETING
&
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER**

Saturday March 1 at 6:00 PM

Don't Miss It!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

Redwood City, Monday, February 11th, 7:30 PM

Our speaker for this month will be Brett Webb-Mitchell, author of a new book, *On Being a Gay Parent: Making a Future Together*. The book is a practical, down-to-earth guide that answers questions unique to the gay parenting experience, covering ground you're unlikely to find in other parenting books. Brett will talk about things like how to come out to your kids, what to call "Moms" or "Dads," navigating the school system and the challenges your children might face there, how the laws around civil unions and same-sex marriages deal with children's issues, and surviving holidays with complicated family structures.

Brett is the father of two children and has been in a relationship with Dean Blackburn for over twelve years. He also has a great relationship with his children's mother. He is an ordained pastor from North Carolina and is the author of eight books.



San Jose, Wednesday, February 13th, 7:30 PM

Andrea Fazel, Program Director of Ally Action (formerly GLSEN San Francisco-East Bay), will be our speaker this month. She will describe the important work that Ally Action does to create safe, effective, and inclusive schools for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

Prior to her work at Ally Action, Andrea taught high school English and drama in San Jose, Salinas, and Oxnard. As a teacher, she facilitated campus support services for LGBTQ students. In 2006, Andrea graduated from law school at UC Davis, and enjoys combining her teaching background with her legal training to help school communities become more effective in meeting the needs of LGBTQ and ally students, staff, and families.

PFLAG NEWSLETTER NEWS

The PFLAG newsletter has a new email address:

sjp-pflagnewsltr.ed@comcast.net

Please use this address to submit articles to the Newsletter editor.

* **Mark your Calendars** *

February 6-10 - Creating Change Conference

February 7 - National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

February 14 - Valentine's Day Ceremony at the DeFrank Center

February 16-18 - Youth Leadership Retreat

March 1 - Annual PFLAG Chapter Dinner

PFLAG SCHOLARSHIP READER WANTED!

We are looking for a few people who want a fun, one-time job for our chapter.

We need readers for our Scholarship applications — it's great to see what these wonderful young people are doing. The group meets one Saturday in April for a couple of hours. If you think you might be able to help with this, email pflag-info@pflagsanjose.org.

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. The Scholarship Program is our chance to reward the great work students are doing across the country to make schools safer.

PFLAG's local and national scholarships are one of the many ways PFLAG supports GLBT and ally youth. In the last five years, PFLAG National has awarded over \$125,000 in scholarship money to more than 100 students. This year we made the application process simpler and easier, allowing students to apply online.

Support your local scholars by letting them know about PFLAG's Scholarship Program and encourage them to apply. For more information, go to: www.pflag.org/Scholarship_Programs.scholarships.0.html

TRANSGENDER PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Are you or your partner a transgender parent? Or thinking about becoming a parent? The Transgender Parent Support Group is an opportunity to connect with your peers and get mutual support. The group, facilitated by Rosa Reinikainen, M.F.T., will meet every third Saturday of each month from 10 AM - 12 noon at the San Francisco LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. at Octavia Blvd, San Francisco. The first half hour will be spent socializing, with the remaining time for group discussion. Drop-ins are welcome, but ongoing attendance helps to establish group rapport.

GET THE NEWSLETTER IN PDF!

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, select pdf when you renew. If you mail in the paper form, be sure to include your email address!

If you've already renewed, but didn't request pdf, just send an email to:

DATABASE MANAGER at sjp.pflag.pdf@hotmail.com

Use "subscribe pdf" as the subject line

Use your name and phone number as the message

Many thanks to those who switch!
With your help PFLAG will become rich!
Your newsletter will arrive without a glitch!
And we'll no longer have to make this pitch!

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

**Saturday, March 1
6:00 PM**

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

Mark your calendars for our chapter's annual dinner/gathering/meeting on Saturday, March 1. This year we will use this opportunity to raise funds for our Scholarship Fund. Since we no longer have support from outside organizations, we need to find new sources of funds for this key program. 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 on our web site at:
www.pflagsanjose.org**

A **Raffle** will provide additional scholarship funds. Raffle tickets will be \$2 each or \$6 for \$10 and may also be purchased on our web site, at a PFLAG support meeting before the event, or on the night of the dinner. If you are willing to sell raffle tickets to people you know (think of your family, church and or other service club members), contact Laurie and she will get the tickets to you.

More Raffle prizes are needed!

Please ask your family, friends or associates to donate prizes. Tickets to a concert or event, gift certificates for stores, restaurants, services, or merchandise - anything you think appealing!

Contact Laurie Carter if you have an idea or are able to solicit or donate a prize.

Helpers are needed!

- Can you help set up and/or clean up before and/or after the dinner?
- Want an important and easy one-time job? If you use the computer for email, you could be the person who gets the receipts from on-line raffle ticket sales and writes the purchasers' names on the tickets. More than one person could help with this.

Contact Laurie Carter ASAP if you can help!

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 501C3 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
- Vice President
- Publicity
- Membership Chair - could be shared by two ("north" and "south")
- At Large Members (two)

Where might you fit in? We would love to find a Vice President, someone who likes organization and keeping things going "by the book" — to complement Laurie who enjoys a more flexible and creative way of doing things. We would be a good team!

The Board would function well with one or two more "members at large" who can attend meetings 6-7 times a year and offer another voice.

Do you want to encourage new meeting attendees and members? It would be wonderful to have a Membership person who could keep track of new people who come to our support meetings, perhaps offer ideas on some kind of buddy system, and create other ways of helping new people become involved in our chapter. The whole board would help with ideas and implementation.

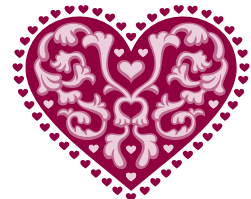
We also have an opening for Chapter Librarian (non-elected). Do you like books and reading? Would you be willing to oversee our two libraries? If books are requested, to purchase them?

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

**SAN JOSE PENINSULA PFLAG SCHOLARSHIP
INSTRUCTIONS AND APPLICATION FORMS
ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR WEB SITE!**

www.pflagsanjose.org

**HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY!**



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!**



MEETING TOPICS ♥ 2008



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

Redwood City: On Being a Gay Parent
San Jose: Andrea Fazel, of Ally Action



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:

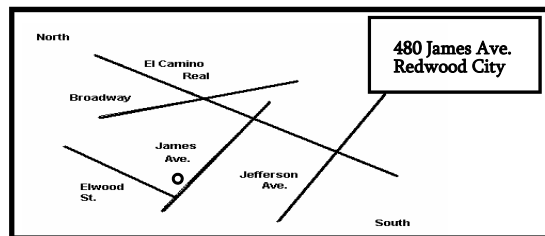
SUPPORT • EDUCATION • ADVOCACY



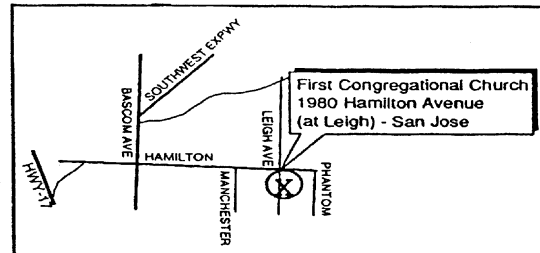
WHAT IS PFLAG?

"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!



REDWOOD CITY



SAN JOSE



MEMBERSHIP IN SAN JOSE/PENINSULA PFLAG ~ 2008

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