



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

May 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

Constitutional Amendment to Limit Marriage

Hundreds of volunteers talked to countless numbers of shoppers all over California. Paid signature gatherers for the Limit on Marriage petition were slowed down and often stopped taking signatures. The effort was valiant and produced positive results, but word is that in the end, enough signatures will be turned in to put the initiative on the ballot in November to write discrimination into our state Constitution, banning marriage for same-gender couples. We won't know for several weeks if enough of the signatures are valid, but we fear it will be true.

On Saturday, April 12 and April 19, I drove to Sacramento to help with the effort. Bob joined me the first week and Kate Zhukovskaya on the 19th. I wanted to know what it was like outside the Bay Area, and what Equality California was accomplishing "out there." It was an amazing experience both weeks. We met with 25 or so other people for training first — heard what the campaign had been doing, learned what to say and got our team assignments. Then we headed to large stores like WalMart and Target where signature gatherers would most likely be. The first week there were no paid workers at our site.

Our job was to ask people as they walked by if they support the freedom to marry for gay and lesbian couples. If they did, we asked them to add their name and phone number to our list. All over the state thousands of supporters have been identified in preparation for the fight we're up against in the next few months.

How did people respond to us, out in the central part of our state? Of course there were lots of "Not today's" from people who didn't want to talk to anyone, also "No"s. But there were very few what we termed "abomination" responses, and many who stopped and reached for our clip boards saying they strongly support the rights of GLBT folk. I got 41 supporters the first day out. We were instructed to check our assumptions at the door and to speak to everyone without prejudging their responses. And several times I was surprised by who agreed to sign our sheet.

We were supposed to keep smiling and saying "thank you" and "have a nice day," no matter how people responded, turning away from adversity. But when one man said "NO! I'm a Christian," I couldn't resist smiling sweetly and saying, "OH! So am I!" He was a bit confused at first before his wife started spouting Bible verses. I also confused a woman who couldn't figure out which side I supported because I had the word "family" on my t-shirt (Value all Families). It's sad that even the word family has been taken over as an anti-gay code.

The day Kate and I went together, there were some paid signature gatherers. They had several different petitions, and tried to get people to sign all of them. Our job that day was to try to make sure people didn't sign the Limits on Marriage petition, even if they wanted to sign others. Of course some people would choose to sign it, but just the confusion kept many people from signing anything.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

- May 12 Redwood City Meeting - 7:30 PM
Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)
- May 14 San Jose Meeting and
Scholarship Award Ceremony - 7:30 PM
First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)
- May 15 Straight Spouse Support - 7:30 PM
Call San Jose Helpline for info.
(3rd Thursday of the month)
- May 21 Board Meeting - 7:30 PM
at Mike Raymond's office
(3rd Wednesday of the month)
ALL ARE WELCOME!
- Gilroy — Call the Helpline for support and
information: (408) 846-9105
- May 29 Newsletter Stuffing at Joyce Miller's
2008 Schedule
1st Thursday of Oct;
Last Thursday of May, July, Aug, Oct.



→ **June/July Newsletter Deadline:**
Thursday, May 22

This was an amazingly successful volunteer effort, but probably started too late. With the supporters we collected, the campaign to defeat this initiative is off to a good start. But it is going to be a massive task because of all the out-of-state money coming in. There are large, well-funded groups all over the country who want to make sure it passes.

I suggest to all of us in PFLAG that it is up to every one of us to do something to defeat this hateful initiative. We'll be talking in the months to come about ways you can help.

Thank you for all you already do, and be prepared to get involved.

Laurie Carter

PFLAG Support Meetings

Wednesday, May 14 in San Jose

Four very special high school seniors will be receiving scholarships at our May support meeting and celebration. This is always a very special event with presentation of the awards, and a party to follow. We're all happy to support these kids who have done so much to support the GLBT community.

Monday, May 12 in Redwood City

After introductions and support groups, we've planned an activity that will give us all the chance to visit with each other while we work on some projects together. We are going to be making the props for the July 4th parade, a picture board to take to the Mid Pacific Regional Conference on May 17th, and some cards that we will be handing out at booths this summer. Tasks will be clearly defined, easy and fun, and if you hate doing anything like that, just come and enjoy the company. Many hands will be welcome and it will offer us the visiting time we don't often have.



Laurie Carter and Kate Zhukovskaya, show off their signs in front of a Sacramento WallMart. They were there, clarifying the issue to prospective signers of the "Limit on Marriage" petition.

Join PFLAG in the Redwood City Fourth of July Parade

The theme for the Redwood City Fourth of July Parade this year is "70 Years of Pageantry" and PFLAG will be there in all its finery. It's probably the most rewarding thing we do, to march through the streets of Redwood City with over 50,000 people reading our banner, seeing our smiles and waves, knowing we're part of their neighborhood, just like them. We're proud and we love our gay kids.

PFLAG is accustomed to marching in Pride parades but you haven't lived until you've marched in the Independence Day parade! The crowd, needless to say, is *entirely* different!

At the Redwood City meeting on May 12, we will be making props for this year — easy, fun and a good chance to visit.

July 4th — morning (time and place TBA) we walk about a mile through the cheering crowds.

The rest of the year — we feel good about what we've done.



In 1994, these 75 PFLAGers marched in the Redwood City 4th of July Parade. In 2008, let's try to match that, or even better, exceed it!

San Jose Pride

June 14-15

Join us at the San Jose Pride Festival and Parade on Saturday and Sunday, June 14-15. We will share a booth with Outlet again this year and will march in the parade on Sunday morning. We need volunteers to help staff the booth and, of course, marchers!

For more information, check out the web site at www.sanjosepride.com



PFLAG in the SF GLBTQ Parade

June 29

A contingent of our PFLAGers will be marching in the San Francisco GLBTQ Parade (we are sponsoring a bus for those who would rather not walk the whole route). This is always really great fun, so join the group on June 29. We are asking for a donation of \$25, but no one will be turned away. All are welcome!

*** Mark your Calendars ***

- May 2 Kulture Kulcha 2008
- May 8 Out to Eat
- May 14 PFLAG Scholarship Awards Ceremony
- May 18 Northern California/Nevada Regional PFLAG Meeting in Modesto. Open to all.
- June 14 - 15 San Jose Pride Parade & Festival
- June 29 SF Pride Parade
- June 29 True Colors Concert in Berkeley
- July 4 Redwood City 4th of July Parade

"The consecration of Gene Robinson as bishop of the New Hampshire Diocese of the Episcopal Church is an affront to Christians everywhere. I am just thankful that the church's founder, Henry VIII, and his wife Catherine of Aragon, and his wife Anne Boleyn, and his wife Jane Seymour, and his wife Anne of Cleves, and his wife Katherine Howard, and his wife Catherine Parr are no longer here to suffer through this assault on traditional Christian marriage."

Owen Keavney, Writer

PFLAG Scholarship Award Ceremony

May 14

Please join us on Wednesday, May 14 for our Annual PFLAG Scholarship Award Ceremony. This year the ceremony will be held from 7:30 - 9 PM (note new starting time!) at our San Jose PFLAG meeting location: First Congregational Church, 1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh), San Jose 95125. Cake, cookies and beverages will be served immediately after the ceremony.

We will be awarding \$2,000 scholarships to four Santa Clara and San Mateo County high school seniors. One will be a Joyce Palmer Fulton memorial scholarship. The evening promises to be heartwarming and fun! Each year I am amazed at the time and dedication that these wonderful students give to enrich our community. Please help us celebrate with these vibrant young students who have done so much to promote equal rights and justice for the LGBT community.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU to all of the people who have generously donated to our scholarship fund, and especially to Eleanor Sue and Wendy Mines who organize the Annual Mid-Peninsula Women's Dance to benefit PFLAG and the Peninsula Women's Group. I also want to acknowledge the financial support we have received from several organizations who have contributed thousands of dollars to our scholarship program over the years: IRLM, GLSEN, and BayLands FrontRunners. We wouldn't be able to award a total of \$8,000 in scholarships this year without your generous financial assistance.

Scholarship Fund Goal This Year

The Finance Committee has suggested that the Scholarship Fund have a goal this year of raising \$10,000 for the fund, so that we can continue to offer four or five \$2,000 scholarships each year. This is especially challenging this year, since many sources of donations to the Scholarship Fund are no longer contributing. As of the end of the first quarter, the Fund has increased this year by \$4,211 plus \$500 in honor of Joyce Fulton for a total of \$4,711, so we're almost half way to the goal.

Many members and other potential donors work for companies that have corporate matching gift programs. Hopefully, those people will consider making a donation this year and include the corporate matching documentation. Their donation is often doubled as a result.

Thank you to all of the members of this year's Scholarship committee: Kermit Cuff, Pete Koopman, Anne Prescott, Bob Obrey, and Wanda & Ben Steffens

Thank you again, and I hope to see all of you there,
Maribeth Ament,
Scholarship Chair

SUPPORT OUR SCHOLARSHIPS

It's never too late to donate to the Scholarship Fund! You can donate online on our website: click the "Pay Now" button in the box on the left (below "Donations: General / Scholarship / Endowment"). Or use the form on the back page of this newsletter to mail a donation. Thank you!

Northern California/Nevada Regional PFLAG Meeting in Merced.

May 18

United Methodist Church
899 Yosemite Park
Merced, CA

The deadline for the Mid Pacific Regional Conference has passed but you still might be able to pay at the door - it's a deal at \$10 per person.

Some highlights of the conference:

- Appearance by our Executive Director, Jody Huckaby, star of the Oprah show.
- Workshops presented by Christopher Vance and Kim Jones from PFLAG National
- Workshops on Building Strong Chapters, Safe Schools, and running a successful Speaker's Bureau to name a few
- A Taste of Merced lunch provided by the Merced PFLAG Chapter
- Entertainment by the Fresno Gay Men's Chorus
- A raffle drawing for... drum roll please... two round trip tickets on Southwest Airlines donated by Southwest Airlines

For those coming in on Friday, look for the event that Merced PFLAG is also participating in called Music in the Park.

If you have any questions, please contact Pam Whiteley, PFLAG Mid Pacific Regional Director
President, Sacramento PFLAG
916-216-5649 cell

Note: Laurie Carter and Howard Shen (Peninsula PFLAG newly appointed vice president) will attend this conference and enthusiastically invite others to join them. This is a great opportunity to find out what other chapters are doing and what's happening in the GLBT community in other parts of the state. Laurie and Howard have room in their car; let them know if you want to join them.



Equality for All

Today the right-wing extremists that want to unfairly use the laws of California to prevent gay and lesbian couples from getting married are turning in signatures to qualify their proposed marriage ban for the ballot, and it is highly likely that they will succeed. Our work needs to ramp up immediately. It takes people and it takes money so we are asking for your help.

Please join Equality for All! today and make a donation. We need to be spreading the word NOW, that the state should not be telling us who can and who cannot get married.

Sincerely,
Equality for All

For a link to the Equality For All PDF press release, see www.EqualityForAll.com

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: Socialize and prepare parade props for the 4th of July Parade

San Jose: Scholarship Awards Ceremony



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!

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- Angel \$100 and up
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- 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.