San Jose◇Peninsula Newsletter

November/December 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

By the time many of you read this, Election Day will be over. I'm anxious to get back to thinking about other things.

With the future in mind, I asked the attendees at last Wednesday's PFLAG Board meeting to think of things our chapter is doing well. It's encouraging to see the positive ways in which we're fulfilling our mission and making a difference. Following are the accomplishments that were brought up.

Our monthly support meetings are going well. We've had interesting programs, and the small group discussions are proving to be most helpful, enabling both newcomers and long time members a good chance to share concerns and joys.

The Speaker's Bureau gets our educational message out to hundreds of people each year. Many of these are of the generation that is going to be the future of our society.

Communication, through e-mail , our fabulous Newsletter, and our up-to-date and thorough web site, is keeping our membership informed about the latest activities in the GLBT community and advocacy issues that we need to be aware of.

We have been able to continue to award at least four $2,000 Scholarships each year to high school seniors who have contributed to making the world a more inclusive place.

We have developed a supportive relationship with groups like Outlet and the Billy de Frank center.

I know you all can think of other ways in which we continue to contribute — other things we are doing well. During November and December, as we wind down from this hectic election year, let's also look forward to things we might want to begin or continue in the year ahead.

Just a few I've thought of are:

- Use the list from National PFLAG of at-large members in our area, and appeal to them to join our local chapter.
- Create a new brochure — ours is VERY out of date.
- Find members to participate in a Publicity Task Force which would help get our message out there in our communities so that we can help more families dealing with LGBT issues.
- Explore ways to help parents of teens who are coming out in our communities. They may need different resources from our traditional meetings.

If any of these activities appeals to you, let us know.

And as always, thank you for all you do. Everywhere I go in the LGBT community I hear "We Love PFLAG!"

Laurie

MEETING CALENDAR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Nov. 10 Redwood City Meeting - 7:30 PM
Dec.8 Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)

Nov. 12 San Jose Meeting - 7:30 PM
Dec. 10 First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh
(2nd Wednesday of the month)

Nov. 19 Board Meeting - 7:30 PM
(3rd Wednesday of the month)
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Nov. 20 Straight Spouse Support - 7:30 PM
Dec. 18 Call San Jose Helpline for info.
(3rd Thursday of the month)

Gilroy — Call the Helpline for support and information: (408) 846-9105

Dec.17 ◇ PFLAG HOLIDAY POTLUCK PARTY
6:30 PM · ALL ARE WELCOME!

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→ **January Newsletter Deadline:**
Tuesday, December 23

VOTE!

Tuesday
November 4

PFLAG Support Meetings

Redwood City — November 10

Our program will be announced by email and on our web site at ***www.pflagsanjose.org/meetings07.shtml***.
The meeting will include the program, a discussion of the outcome of the vote on Proposition 8, and small support groups.

San Jose — November 12

Our speaker will be Aejaie Sellers, Executive Director of the Billy DeFrank Center in San Jose. The DeFrank Center serves the LGBT community by offering a wide variety of programs for seniors, adult, youth and family. Ms. Sellers will talk about the outcome of the election, how it affects the LGBT community and specifically organizations like Billy DeFrank Center, and where we go from here.

Ms. Sellers has served as the executive director for Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) in Monterey, and founded and served as the executive director for Transitional Services for Youth & Families in Burlington, Vermont. She received the 2005 Child Abuse Prevention Council Award for Outstanding Professionalism, Leadership, and Commitment. For more information about the Billy DeFrank Center, please see ***www.defrank.org/***

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December Support Meetings

Redwood City — December 8
San Jose — December 10

Holiday Parties will be featured at both support meetings. Please bring an appetizer or non-alcoholic beverage to share, and a gift of canned goods for AIDS services providers. This is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Don't miss it!

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DeFrank Annual Dinner
November 15

Join the Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center at 6 PM on November 15 for a five-course Mediterranean-themed dinner at the Art Institute of California, 1120 Keifer Road, in Sunnyvale. Complimentary wine pairings provided by the Thomas Fogarty Winery are included. In addition, those participating in this event will help choose the new Billy DeFrank logo!

For more information or to purchase tickets, see:
www.defrank.org/
events/2008_09_04_annual_dinner.html

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Blowing another person's light out won't make yours shine brighter.

Bob Gass of The Vine

TIME TO RENEW!

It's now time to renew your PFLAG membership for 2009! Your membership dues support all the great work done by the San Jose/Peninsula Chapter.

This year, please consider an extra gift over and above your membership renewal. In particular, the Scholarship Fund and the Operating Fund can use some additional cash inflows to continue the good work.

One final reminder — you can save postage and paperwork by joining or renewing online. Just go to our website, ***www.pflagsanjose.org***.

Point your cursor to the "Pay Now" button under the header "Membership: Renew/Join".

This will take you to a secure site where you can renew or donate via Visa, Mastercard or even PayPal. It doesn't get any easier than that.

Whichever way you choose, please Renew now — or Join PFLAG for 2009. Thank you!

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Gay/Straight Alliance
10th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday, November 13, 6 - 8:30 PM
Hilton Hotel and Towers,
333 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco

Featuring:
- Silent auction, cocktail hour and a sit-down dinner
- Special clips from the movie *Tru Loved*
- Inspiring presentations by GSA Network alumni and youth activists
- Highlights from 10 years of GSA Network organizing
- Our vision for the next 10 years of creating safer schools

Tickets are $125 per person. Any youth wishing to attend are encouraged to work with their GSA Advisor or Adult Allies to find someone to help sponsor your seat. Adult Allies please visit ***www.gsanetwork.org*** to purchase a ticket for a student or in honor of a GSA Club.

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* Mark your Calendars *

Nov. 4	·	Election Day — VOTE!
Nov. 13	·	GSA 10th Anniversary Celebration (SF)
Nov. 15	·	DeFrank Center Annual Dinner
Nov. 20	·	Transgender Day of Remembrance
Dec. 1	·	World AIDS Day
Dec. 6	·	YES - Youth Empowerment Summit
Dec. 7	·	ACLU Bill of Rights Day honoring NCLR (SF)

PFLAG Working Hard to Defeat Prop 8

So many PFLAG members contributed enormous amounts of time, energy and financial resources to the No On 8 campaign. We put up a great fight to protect marriage equality in California—and beyond! Many thanks for all your hard work!

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Election Concerns in Other States

PFLAG members and friends can support families in Florida, Arizona and Arkansas by working – right up until the last vote is cast – to encourage everyone we know to vote the right way for our LGBT loved ones. Defeating mean-spirited attacks on our families will deliver a devastating blow to extreme anti-gay forces. A victory for our opponents could not only strip away fundamental rights for those we love, but also set a dangerous precedent for replicating these campaigns, in other states, and in future elections.

Florida: Amendment 2 would modify the state's constitution to bar recognition of any relationship that is not a heterosexual marriage. It would also render civil unions illegal, and impact countless straight Floridians, such as senior citizens, who are part of loving, committed relationships, but are not married. Urge Florida voters to vote NO on Amendment 2.

Arizona: Amendment 102 would write discrimination into that state's constitution and forever deny marriage equality to LGBT Arizonans. Fair-minded voters must vote NO on Amendment 102.

Arkansas: Voters will be asked to consider a ban on all adoptions by unmarried people — meaning children in the state's foster care system would be ineligible for adoption by single (straight or gay) people. If successful, this initiative would eliminate loving homes and caring families for the children who need them most. The only pro-family vote in Arkansas is a NO vote on Initiated Act 1.

The single most effective way to win these critical battles is to educate everyone in our lives. Research has shown that, when PFLAGers share our personal stories about our families, others are moved to take action and vote the right way. Education, and sharing our stories, are key to defeating these ballot measures.

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World AIDS Day
December 1

The 1st of December, World AIDS Day, is the day when individuals and organizations from around the world come together to bring attention to the global AIDS epidemic. 2008 marks the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day. While we have come a long way since 1988, there is still much more to be done.

World AIDS Day 2008 materials are now available online. Check out ***www.worldaidscampaign.org/*** to download resources or find out to order toolkits.

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Transgender Day of Remembrance
November 20

The Billy DeFrank Community Center will host San Jose's Transgender Day of Remembrance in the Grand Ballroom on November 20th at 7:30 PM. The event will focus on highlighting the substantial progress made in understanding and protecting transgender people. The evening will conclude with a reading of names of those who lost their lives due to hate crimes this past year.

The 10th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance memorializes those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. Although not every person represented during the Day of Remembrance self-identified as transgender, each was a victim of violence based on bias against transgender people. The Day of Remembrance is held in November to honor Rita Hester. Her murder — like most anti-transgender murder cases — has yet to be solved.

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SF Public Library — Interesting Exhibits

Girl Who "Wed" Another Girl: Pre-1950 Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Marriages in the United States. Now through December 18, Main Library, 3rd Floor, General Collections and Humanities Center.

Harvey Milk: Private Life/Public Life - An exhibition of original photographs and archival material through January 10, 2009. Main Library, 3rd Floor, James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center and 6th Floor, SF History Center. 100 Larkin Street (at Grove).

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Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot uneducate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore. We have seen the future, and the future is ours.

Cesar Chavez

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!

PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

MEETING TOPICS ♥ 2008

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

Redwood City: To be announced
San Jose: Aejaie Sellers: Where do we go from here?

Please bring a food donation for AIDS services providers.

PFLAG'S MISSION

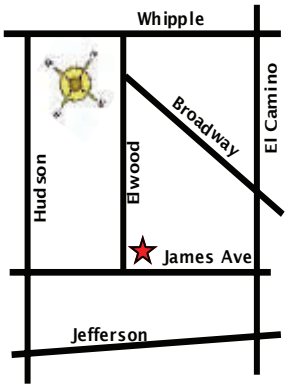
We provide love and support for all family members and friends. We work to create an environment of understanding so that our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender loved ones can live with dignity and respect. These are our goals:

SUPPORT · EDUCATION · ADVOCACY

WHAT IS PFLAG?

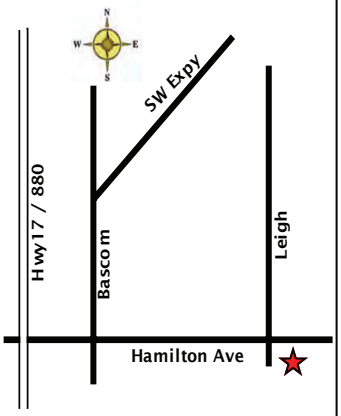
"PFLAG" is Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. We are a national support, education and advocacy organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people, their families, friends and allies. With 200,000 members and supporters, and local affiliates in more than 500 communities 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!



Sequoia Union H.S.District Office
480 James Avenue

REDWOOD CITY



1st Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Avenue

SAN JOSE

PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

MEMBERSHIP IN SAN JOSE/PENINSULA PFLAG ~ 2009

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

- ◯ New
- ◯ Renew
- ◯ Change Address

Date _____

- ◯ Newsletter PDF via email
- ◯ I want to volunteer

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone ( ) _____

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(required for PDF) _____

- ◯ 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 $ _____

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