



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

October 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

I tried to come up with a topic that isn't Prop. 8, but that seems to be all I can think about these days. So I will try a little levity. The following is a letter that was in the *San Francisco Chronicle* on September 19th.

"Editor- A peanut butter and jelly sandwich is not a peanut butter and jelly sandwich without either the peanut butter or the jelly. It does not take a law license or a religious preference or a high IQ to understand this. In fact, even a child can recognize basic reality, often better than we adults. In the same way, a 'marriage' that lacks a husband or wife is not a marriage. Whatever it may be, it is not a marriage. And calling it so does not make it so, unless we are willing to delude ourselves."

I want to write back to this gentleman and say that there are people who don't eat peanuts and people who don't eat sugar — but just peanut butter, or just jelly can make a very good sandwich. I also want to tell him I'm sorry if his marriage is like a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. The gay and lesbian marriages I have seen since June are more like champagne and good chocolate, or lobster and artichokes, or whatever wonderful, delicious foods you can imagine.

On September 19th we attended the Annual BAYMEC Dinner where Shannon Minter, the lawyer who argued the case for marriage before the State Supreme Court, spoke. It was electrifying. I could understand in a small way, how the people who were at the presidential conventions must have felt when their candidates spoke. Hearing from the man who was there and who gained these rights for all GLBT people in our state, that the judges ruled not only to allow the freedom to marry, but that any laws applying to GLBT people had to pass the same strict scrutiny as laws for other minorities, was indeed joyous. The power of that moment can never be taken away—although the protections will be seriously undermined if Prop 8 passes.

Saturday, Bob and I went around our neighborhood knocking on doors. Anxiety almost kept me at home, but once we started we found that many people on our street whom we hadn't met were very supportive. We were able to place 6 yard signs, and made lots of new acquaintances. As I spoke with one neighbor, her husband was in Marin County, filming an ad for No On 8 — a small world!

And on Sunday, at the UU Church in San Mateo, 16 of us had great phone conversations, identifying 86 NO voters and explaining to many what this proposition is all about.

New phoners are desperately needed. Phone banks are now operating every night from San Jose to San Francisco. I hope many of you will join our volunteer base.

Please, talk to all your friends, neighbors, family, strangers, everyone. Thanks for all you're doing.

Laurie

MEETING CALENDAR

~ OCTOBER ~

- Oct. 8 San Jose Meeting - 7:30 PM
First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)
- Oct. 13 Redwood City Meeting - 7:30 PM
Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Oct. 15 Board Meeting - 7:30 PM
(3rd Wednesday of the month)
ALL ARE WELCOME!
- Oct. 16 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
- Oct. 30 — Newsletter Stuffing



→ **November/December
Newsletter Deadline:**
Thursday, October 23



www.NoOnProp8.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG Support Meetings San Jose — October 8 Redwood City — October 13

This month, at both the San Jose and Redwood City support meetings, we will once again focus on the No on 8 Campaign and what each of us can do to ensure that this unfair proposition is voted down. Postcards will be available for anyone who wants to send a personal note to friends and relatives to encourage them to vote against Proposition 8.

We will also break into small groups for support and discussion of what is going on in our lives.



The Scholarship Committee Needs Your Help!

Our PFLAG chapter will be awarding 4 scholarships to high school seniors this year. Our long-time Scholarship Committee Chairperson has had to resign and we need volunteers who will help with this extremely important outreach.

So far we have a volunteer to be the person to whom the students return their applications, and to host the reading party.

We are looking for:

- Someone who will help send out the letters to the schools (the letters are written and just need updating and labels are easily printed)
- Someone to organize the award celebration in April or May (food can be pot luck)
- People to help read the applications and choose the recipients (usually a one meeting activity)

Contact pflag-info@pflagsanjose.org if you want to help!

PFLAG Scholarship Fund Update

We have a goal of raising \$10,000 this year for the PFLAG Scholarship Fund. To date, we need just under \$3,000 more to meet our goal!

Donations to the Scholarship Fund can be made by check sent to our PO Box, or online via credit card at our website, www.pflagsanjose.org. Make checks payable to PFLAG, and write "Scholarship Fund" on the Note line.

We especially encourage donations in honor of Joyce Fulton. With four months left to go, we should be able to meet our goal with everyone's help. Also, remember to take advantage of your employer's corporate matching programs.

Thank you for your support!



Love Books?

Would you enjoy helping new members find the information and support they're seeking?

Did reading books help you when you first needed PFLAG?

Our chapter needs a volunteer to be our "Librarian" who will order suggested new titles, process them with cards and a PFLAG stamp, and see that they get out to our 2 libraries. No heavy lifting!

Contact pflag-info@pflagsanjose.org to learn more about this interesting position!

San Carlos Art & Wine Faire October 11-12

PFLAG will have a booth from 10 AM to 5 PM at the San Carlos Art and Wine Faire on October 11-12. We need a canopy and volunteers to help staff the booth. We will be focusing mainly on the No On 8 campaign, and also introducing people to PFLAG. It should be lots of fun!

If you can join us, let us know when would be a good time for you: pflag-info@pflagsanjose.org

DeFrank Center Annual Dinner November 15

Join the Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center for a Mediterranean-themed five course dinner at the Art Institute of California, 1120 Kifer Road, in Sunnyvale, on Saturday, November 15 at 6 PM. Complimentary wine pairings provided by a local winery!

In addition, those participating in this event will help choose the new Billy DeFrank logo! For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit www.defrank.org/

* Mark your Calendars *

Oct. 11-12 - PFLAG @ the San Carlos Art & Wine Faire

Oct. 5 - Castro Street Fair

Oct. 7 - Nov. 11 - Bisexuality Class

Oct. 20 - Last Day to Register to Vote!

Oct. 24 - *Year of Paper* Film/Panel

Nov. 15 - DeFrank Center Annual Dinner

Dec. 14 - NCLR receives the ACLU Civil Liberties Award (SF)

Sam & Julia Thoron in First No on 8 TV Ad

Two phenomenal PFLAG parents, Sam & Julia Thoron, are helping to make history in California! On September 22, Sam, a past PFLAG National President who still serves on the National board of directors, and his wife, Julia, became the most visible face of fairness in a battle to protect our families rights. The 30-second video is amazing!

Watch the video:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6dBUCi32c8

Help keep the video on the air:

<https://secure.ga4.org/01/equalityforall>



Statement on Proposition 8 by the Episcopal Diocesan Bishops of California

On September 10, California's six highest Episcopal Bishops went on record to oppose Proposition 8, the fall ballot measure that would reverse the California Supreme Court's May 15th decision, and eliminate the right of same-sex couples to marry.

Here is an excerpt of their letter:

As Episcopal Bishops of California, we are moved to urge voters to vote "No" on Proposition Eight. Jesus calls us to love rather than hate, to give rather than to receive, to live into hope rather than fear.

Proposition Eight would reverse the [California Supreme Court's May 15, 2008] decision and withdraw a right given. Proponents of Proposition Eight have suggested that this amendment to the Constitution would protect marriage. We do not believe that marriage of heterosexuals is threatened by same-sex marriage. Rather, the Christian values of monogamy, commitment, love, mutual respect and witness of monogamy are enhanced for all by providing this right to gay and straight alike. Society is strengthened when two people who love each other choose to enter into marriage, engaged in a lifetime of disciplined relationship building that serves as a witness to the importance of love and commitment.

We believe that continued access to civil marriage for all, regardless of sexual orientation, is consistent with the best principles of our constitutional rights. We believe that this continued access promotes Jesus' ethic of love, giving, and hope.

Signed,

The Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus, Bishop of California

The Rt. Rev. Barry L. Beisner, Bishop of Northern California

The Rt. Rev. J. Jon Bruno, Bishop of Los Angeles

The Rt. Rev. Mary Gray-Reeves, Bishop of El Camino Real

The Rt. Rev. Jerry A. Lamb, Provisional Bishop of San Joaquin

The Rt. Rev. James R. Mathes, Bishop of San Diego



The Year of Paper

A Marriage Equality Film & Panel Discussion October 24

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos

15980 Blossom Hill Rd., Los Gatos 95032 www.uuflg.org

Free Admission!

7:00 PM

How does "gay marriage" differ from a heterosexual one? This documentary film follows three couples - one lesbian, one gay, and one heterosexual - during their first year of marriage. The film explores why they married and how legal marriage has changed their relationships.

The film is followed by a panel addressing the issues of same-sex marriage and the No on 8 campaign. Panel members are: San Jose Peninsula PFLAG President Laurie Carter; the Reverend Victoria Ingram, minister of the host church; a UULM (Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry) community organizer; and a local government official.

Childcare available: call the church office (408) 358-1212.

For more information, see: www.theyearofpaper.com



Bisexuality: A Four-Part Class

October 7 — November 11

A program offered at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, 505 E. Charleston Road (www.uucpa.org), on four Tuesday evenings, 7:30-9:30 PM: October 7, 14, and 28, and November 11.

When Alfred Kinsey did his groundbreaking research into human sexuality, he discovered that almost half the population could be categorized as bisexual.

Yet this orientation is little understood, in part because it tends to be hidden by circumstance. Most likely, you know many people who are "bi" but appear to the public eye to be either heterosexual or gay/lesbian. This is a program for anyone of any sexual orientation who is interested in questions of sexuality, identity, or culture; who wants to acquire the knowledge and language needed to counter assumptions and stereotypes they may hear; and who shares the dream of making our community more just and welcoming to all.

You can expect to be surprised, to laugh, to cry, to be uncomfortable, to learn, and to be moved to act, all within a safe, friendly, and fun setting. Because continuity is important for creating trust and comfort in the group, please commit to attending all four sessions.

Please pre-register by emailing eventsignup@uucpa.org, or calling (650) 494-0541. For more information, call the same number or email: are-info@uucpa.org.



There is no passion to be found in playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living.

Nelson Mandela

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 & San Jose:
Update on Proposition 8**



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:

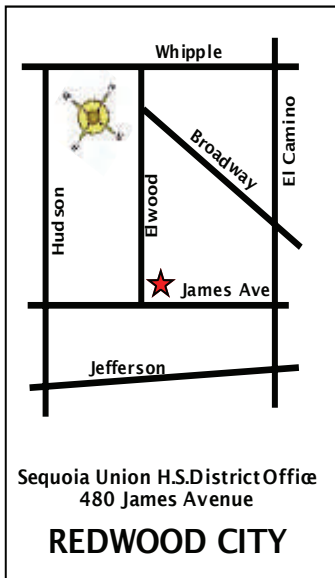
SUPPORT • EDUCATION • ADVOCACY



WHAT IS PFLAG?

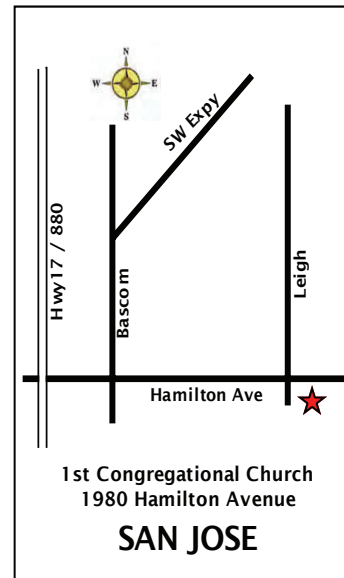
"PFLAG" is Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. We are a national support, education and advocacy organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people, their families, friends and allies. With 200,000 members and supporters, and local affiliates in more than 500 communities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



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 _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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