



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

September 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

PFLAG parents often talk about dreams they've had for their children, dreams they have sometimes had to rethink. I have a dream for my daughter today, a dream that when she finds the person she wants to share her life with, her relationship will be treated with the respect given to all loving relationships. I dream that her decision to marry the woman she loves will be as natural as that decision would be for our son.

We are living at a turning point in history right now: today, this week, this year. And we can make that dream come true for my family and for the families of GLBT folk in the whole state of California, and hopefully soon our whole nation.

Polls show that the vote on Proposition 8 (Eliminates the Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry) will be extremely close. The YES side has a well organized campaign, lots of financial donors, and supporters who are fervent believers in their cause.

The good news is, we can match that if everyone who cares at all about the rights of our GLBT family gives their all to the defeat of this amendment.

There are a few simple things you can do:

- ♦ Come to the September general support meetings to learn all about the NO campaign from the amazing Equality For All staff — on September 8 in Redwood City, and September 10 in San Jose. Even if you haven't been attending these meetings regularly, this is a good time to come and reconnect.
- ♦ Get on Equality For All's email list (www.NoOnProp8.com), and our PFLAG email list to find out ways you can plug in.
- ♦ Make a donation - in any amount you are able - to Equality For All at www.NoOnProp8.com
- ♦ Talk to people! It's a little scary to get started sometimes, but your stories will really educate the undecided voters.
- ♦ Write to or call friends in other parts of the state.
- ♦ Write a letter to the editor of your local papers.
- ♦ Join a phone bank. Our special PFLAG phone bank will be held on September 17th!
- ♦ Read the rest of this newsletter for many more opportunities.

The other day at Curves I had a conversation with a woman I didn't know. I started it by saying "I promised to talk to one person a day about Proposition 8. Do you know about that?" When I asked how she would vote she said she is for gay rights but has an old-fashioned idea that marriage should be between a man and a woman. She was very appreciative when I told my story and explained that often domestic partnerships just don't work the same in health care issues, or getting immediate acceptance as family in an emergency, etc. She will definitely vote no on 8 and I feel like I made a new friend.

MEETING CALENDAR SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 8 Redwood City Meeting - 7:30 PM
Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Sept. 10 San Jose Meeting - 7:30 PM
First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)
- Sept. 17 Board Meeting - 7:30 PM
(3rd Wednesday of the month)
- Sept. 18 Straight Spouse Support - 7:30 PM
Call San Jose Helpline for info.
(3rd Thursday of the month)
ALL ARE WELCOME!
- Gilroy — Call the Helpline for
support and information:
(408) 846-9105
- Oct. 2 — Newsletter Stuffing
2008 Schedule
1st Thursday of Oct.
Last Thursday of Oct.



→ **October Newsletter Deadline:**
Thursday, September 25

If the person you choose to talk to starts ranting about how awful it is, you can change the subject or excuse yourself, swallow hard, breathe deeply, and promise to try again tomorrow. If the person is a strong supporter of No on 8, you can hope others will overhear your conversation.

I have a dream, and I know we all want to do everything we can to wake up on November 5th and find out that our dream is reality. What a wonderful world it can be!!! My family and our whole GLBT family say thank you for all you do.

Laurie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG Support Meetings Redwood City — September 8 San Jose — September 10

This month, at both the Redwood City and San Jose support meetings, Chris of Equality For All will speak on the No On 8 Campaign. We will also discuss *What It Means for Gays and Lesbians to Marry?* Bring pictures from your same-sex wedding or weddings you've attended.

Preceding the programs, we'll break into our small groups for support.

Shannon Minter @ BAYMEC Annual Dinner September 19

BAYMEC, The Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee, will hold their annual dinner/celebration/award night at the Fairmont Hotel, San Jose. **This year's keynote speaker is Shannon Price Minter, Esq., Legal Director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and the lead counsel before the California Supreme Court on the same-sex marriage case.**

The following will also receive awards: **PFLAG member and activist Judy Rickard**; Donald Kassing, Former President of San Jose State University; Vanessa Cooper; George Duran; Julie Emede; Jonathan Noble; and Patrick Soricone. Cindy Chavez, former Vice Mayor of San Jose, will emcee. Tickets, including a fabulous dinner, are \$150 each. Don't miss this wonderful evening!

Only 8 tickets left for the PFLAG table!

To sit at a PFLAG table, please contact the Newsletter editor: sjp-pflagnewsltr.ed@comcast.net

This year's event will be well-attended - so don't delay!

To purchase tickets, go to <http://www.baymec.net/TicketsWithPayPal.htm> where you can either pay online or print the form to mail in. If mailing a check, you must include your name, full address, occupation and name of employer. Make checks payable to and mail to BAYMEC, PO Box 6296, San Jose, CA 95150-6296.

BAYMEC is a South Bay LGBT political action group - advocating for the civil rights of LGBT people since 1984. BAYMEC is the only political action committee (PAC) of its kind serving the Counties of San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey. To subscribe to BAYMEC's online newsletter, send an email to info@baymec.net

Tapestry Arts Festival August 30—September 1

Come visit the PFLAG booth at the TapestryArts Festival in San Jose over Labor Day weekend!

The Festival runs from 10 AM - 6 PM Saturday and Sunday, and from 10 AM - 5 PM on Monday.

Visit www.tapestryarts.org/ for more information.

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!

North Peninsula ACLU Presents... the November Ballot Initiatives Monday, September 15

Come to learn about **Propositions 8, 4, 5, 6 & 9!**
Keynote speaker: Elizabeth Gill, ACLU Staff Attorney

Time: 7 — 8:30 PM

Place: Silicon Valley Foundation

1700 S. El Camino Real (corner of Bovet Road), San Mateo
1 block north of Hwy 92



www.NoOnProp8.com

* Mark your Calendars *

Aug. 30-Sept. 1 - Tapestry Arts Festival

Sept. 15 - ACLU November Ballot Initiatives Program

Sept. 19 - BAYMEC Annual Dinner

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

How to Help With the No on 8 Campaign

There is a new Coalition right here on the Peninsula working hard to defeat Proposition 8! The Peninsula No On 8 Coalition basically covers the 650 area code — but all are welcome to participate in phone banks, face to face volunteer recruiting, collecting endorsements, and attending our organizing meetings.

Peninsula Coalition Meeting www.NoOn8.info

Tuesday, September 9 - 6:30 PM

Congregational Church of Belmont

751 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont, CA 94002

www.uccbmont.org/directions.htm

Phone banks (Bring cell phone!)

Your help with phone banks is especially needed. Training is provided. The first phone bank in Menlo Park was lots of fun and very successful. The more you do it, the easier it gets! San Mateo and Belmont dates will be scheduled soon. Here's what we know to date:

Los Gatos, Tuesday, September 2 — 6-9 PM

Menlo Park, Tuesday, September 30 -- 6-9 PM

For more information:

Equality for All: www.NoOnProp8.com

Peninsula Coalition: www.NoOn8.info

Billy De Frank Center: www.defrank.org

or Gloria Nieto: gloria.defrank@gmail.com

No On 8 Party in Palo Alto!

Thursday, Sept. 18, 6:30 — 8:30 PM

Connect, Learn, Make History!

**Email Don Diltz to receive an invitation:
diltz-noon8@stanfordalumni.org**

Last Day to Register to Vote! October 20, 2008

It all comes down to this. Make your voice count and get engaged. Register to vote NOW and get your friends and family to register too. And make sure to show up at the polls on November 4. We need all Californians who support fairness and equality to vote in November against this harmful change to our constitution.

Click here to register to vote:

www.sos.ca.gov/nvrc/fedform/

Discrimination Is Bad for Business

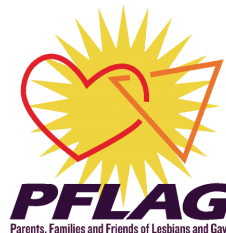
The American Political Science Association (APSA) has changed its policy for annual conventions, and will now look unfavorably on those states that discriminate against same-sex couples. Decision-makers will determine whether a potential host city can provide adequate assurances of legal safety. APSA consulted Lambda Legal's Safety Scale, which ranks states based on legal respect for same-sex relationships, among the materials used to reach a decision.

PFLAG TV Now on the Web!

Now you can watch our chapter's very own cable-access TV show, *Parents, Families & Friends*, from any computer in the world. Just enter www.youtube.com in your web browser's address box, and when you reach the YouTube main page enter "kmvt pflag" (omitting the quotes) in the YouTube search box.

So far our two most recent episodes are available — both of which focus on same-sex marriage, in response to the fight over Proposition 8. Many more, on a variety of topics, will be posted in the coming months.

This is all thanks to KMVT Community Television, the Mountain View cable-access station where we produce our show. KMVT recently worked out an arrangement with YouTube, which usually limits videos to 10 minutes each, allowing KMVT to post videos up to 30 minutes in length. That finally makes it practical for us to put each of our 28-minute interviews on YouTube without breaking them up. Way to go, KMVT!



Interfaith Congregational Training to Defeat Proposition 8 September 7

First Unitarian Church of San Jose

160 North Third Street, San Jose 95112

Sunday, September 7

2:00 to 4:30 PM

This meeting will bring interfaith leaders from the Bay Area together to set our calendar of action for justice for the fall! Led by Christy Baker, of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry-Action Network, and Kerry Chaplain, interfaith coordinator for the state of California.

Ministers and lay leaders of all faiths are welcome!

Today, the Spanish society answers to a group of people who, during many years, have been humiliated, whose rights have been ignored, whose dignity has been offended, their identity denied, and their liberty oppressed.

Today, the Spanish society grants them the respect they deserve, recognizes their rights, restores their dignity, affirms their identity, and restores their liberty.

Prime Minister of Spain, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, on the occasion of Spain recognizing same-sex marriage

The PFLAG NEWSLETTER

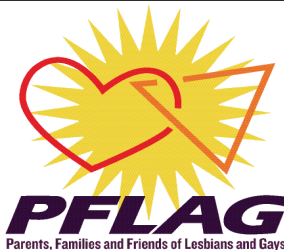
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Peninsula Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is a tax- exempt, volunteer, community based nonprofit organization.

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
Discussion: What it Means to Marry**



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:

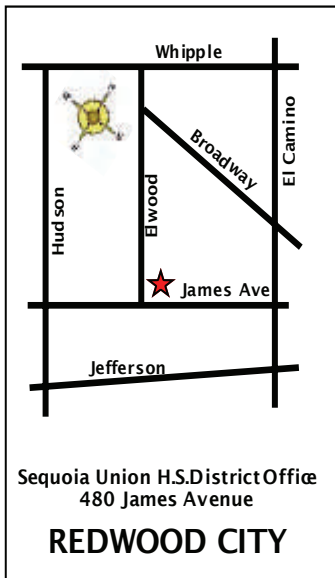
SUPPORT • EDUCATION • ADVOCACY



WHAT IS PFLAG?

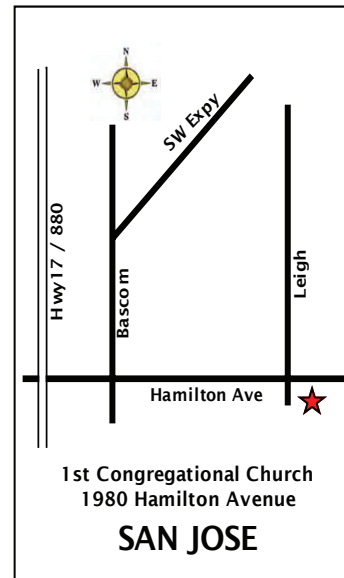
"PFLAG" is Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. We are a national support, education and advocacy organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people, their families, friends and allies. With 200,000 members and supporters, and local affiliates in more than 500 communities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

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- Household Membership \$40
- Benefactor \$50
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- Diva \$1,000 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 \$ _____

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