



# San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

January 2009

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"It was quite a lively meeting — most exciting!" This quote was from an attendee after our Wednesday night Board Meeting.

And it was! First of all, we are following a new format designed by our acting Vice President to keep the meetings organized, succinct, and productive. We also had an exciting agenda, and several new enthusiastic people in attendance.

Most of the issues we discussed included important or at least interesting information for the whole chapter.

PFLAG National has shared with us a list of donors who live in the zip codes of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, but are not members of our local chapter. We are sending a letter to these (700+) people, inviting them to join our chapter — we spent time carefully wording it at the board meeting. The letter mailing was scheduled for the January newsletter stuffing.

Speaking of the newsletter stuffing, we are still mailing out 139 printed newsletters. With budgets, including ours, getting tighter, we need to send out more newsletters in PDF file format. If you want to have a hard copy, we urge you to print it at home. By March, we'd love to be emailing newsletters to everyone who has the ability to open PDF files (download Adobe Acrobat Reader for free). If you still get a hard copy, send me an email — indicating where you want your PDF emailed.

Two women who came to PFLAG because of Prop. 8 have volunteered to help with getting our name out there through the Internet. They will also be working with our new acting Advocacy Chair on an advocacy blog link to our web page. She is excited about finding ways to keep us up to date on advocacy issues through weekly digests with links to important events and issues.

Another new member is working on the Annual Dinner/Meeting on March 7th and we enjoyed the lively discussion of ideas and plans for this event. It looks to be a great evening with good food, unusual entertainment, and a very enthusiastic organizing committee. (See details on page 3 in this newsletter.)

The July 4th Parade in Redwood City has a fun theme this year: **All Things Musical**. Of course we all started singing *Over the Rainbow* but we need ideas on how to incorporate this song into our marching contingent. We still have our beautiful shimmering rainbow created several years ago, and hope this will be the year we get back to our original number of 75 participants. Over 50,000 spectators watch this family-oriented parade each July 4th.

We are looking for a few more enthusiastic members to join our board as we move into the 21st century (maybe a little late). We want to do more with Outreach, Safe Schools, and Publicity. If you can attend 9-10 meetings a year, and want to see PFLAG move ahead, please join us! We'll be voting on new board members at the Annual Meeting. You can help us to

## MEETING CALENDAR

~ FEBRUARY ~

Feb. 9 Redwood City Meeting - 7:30 PM  
Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices  
480 James Ave., Redwood City  
(2nd Monday of the month)

Feb. 11 San Jose Meeting - 7:30 PM  
First Congregational Church  
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh  
(2nd Wednesday of the month)

Feb. 18 Board Meeting - 7:30 PM  
(3rd Wednesday of the month)  
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Feb. 19 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. 26 — Newsletter Stuffing  
2009 Schedule  
Last Thursday of Feb, Apr, May, July, Oct.  
1st Thursday of Apr, Sept, Oct.  
Last week of Dec.



→ **March Newsletter Deadline:**  
Thursday, February 19

**PFLAG ANNUAL DINNER &  
MEETING**  
**Saturday, March 7 ♦ 6 PM**  
**Don't Miss Out!**

make this world a better place for all GLBT people and their families.

And thanks for all you already do.  
Laurie

**PFLAG Support Meetings**

**Redwood City — February 9**

**Marriage Equality Update by Jeffrey Adair, Peninsula Marriage Equality Coalition (PMEC).** Jeffrey lives in Redwood City and is a founding member of the Steering Committee of the Peninsula Marriage Equality Coalition, a grassroots organization. He is also a member of the Human Rights Campaign's Board of Governors.

A great majority of the people who voted for Prop. 8 did so thinking it was the right thing to do. We have a lot of work to do opening lines of communication so that people can understand the actual impact of denying the right to marry, and the societal benefits of promoting marriage and family stability.

The Coalition's particular outreach will be to those who do not know LGBT people and who could benefit from the knowledge. This will include faith communities, minority communities and others who can use information presented in a non-confrontational way. In short, all of us who care deeply about the injustice that was done need to work together to communicate with a broader spectrum of people, let them learn, and allow them to come to a better conclusion! Please come to hear how you can be a part of that process.

To learn more about the Peninsula Marriage Equality Coalition, go to <http://pmec.wordpress.com>. For the Human Rights Campaign, see [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)



**San Jose — February 11**

**Marriage Equality Update by Gloria Nieto, Marriage Equality Silicon Valley (MESV).** Marriage Equality Silicon Valley has been meeting and organizing since the week after the election. The organizers are individuals who worked out of the DeFrank Center to defeat Prop. 8, and now have formed an independent organization.

MESV's mission statement is "Coming together to educate, unite, and mobilize all communities for equality." The current focus, of course, is marriage equality. MESV has a steering committee and four working groups:

- Outreach to religious and youth communities
- LGBT image
- Organizing within the LGBT community
- Communications and use of the Internet.

Gloria will talk about how we can work together to convert our disappointment and concern over Prop. 8 into constructive action.

Gloria was a member of the Democratic National Committee for eight years and served as secretary, vice-chair, and (briefly) chair of the Lesbian and Gay Caucus. She is the only Latina lesbian to ever speak at a presidential conference. She also worked as a GLBT lobbyist in New Mexico. Most recently, Gloria ran the No on 8 campaign at the Billy DeFrank Center and is a founder of MESV.

To learn more about Marriage Equality Silicon Valley and its activities or to sign up for their email blasts, go to [www.marriageequalitysiliconvalley.org](http://www.marriageequalitysiliconvalley.org)

**Redwood City 4th of July Parade**

The theme chosen this year by the Redwood City Parade Committee is *All Things Musical*.

Do you want to march in the parade with the PFLAG contingent?  
Do you have ideas for making our contingent stand out and be noticed?

One suggestion that already has a running start and is a natural for our community is "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." The PFLAG contingent will need all of the pizzazz we can give it, so let's hear your ideas!

To get involved in this exciting project, or for more information, contact Laurie at [pflag-info@pflagsanjose.org](mailto:pflag-info@pflagsanjose.org).



**(Past) Time to Renew!**

Renew your PFLAG membership for 2009 now!

Your membership dues support all the great work done by the San Jose/Peninsula Chapter. See the articles in this newsletter for many wonderful examples!

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

Save postage and paperwork by joining or renewing online. Just go to our website: [www.pflagsanjose.org](http://www.pflagsanjose.org). Point your cursor to the "Pay Now" button under the header "Membership: Renew/Join." This takes 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, renew now for 2009!

Thank you!



**\* Mark your Calendars \***

Feb. 14 - GSA Network Conference (Fresno)

Feb. 12 - Freedom to Marry Day

Feb. 16 - Love & Marriage Rally (Sacramento)

Feb. 17 - Marriage Equality Lobby Day (Sacramento)

Feb. 17 - Shannon Minter on Strategies in the Fight for Marriage Equality (SF)

Feb. 21 - Annual PFLAG Benefit Dance

Feb. 26 - Estate Planning Seminar (SF)

Mar. 7 - PFLAG Annual Meeting & Dinner

Mar. 7,8 - Pam Walton film at Cinequest

## SAN JOSE/PENINSULA PFLAG ANNUAL DINNER & MEETING

Saturday, March 7  
6:00 PM

Congregational Church,  
751 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont 94002

### PFLAG Chapter Annual Dinner

The PFLAG Board had a very lively, enthusiastic discussion about the annual dinner at our last board meeting. Our Annual Dinner Committee chair is a new member with lots of great ideas. He and some helpers will be preparing a great dinner, and are coming up with ideas for entertainment — something guaranteed to be fun! We're also hoping to have a silent auction to raise money for our Scholarship Fund.

What can you do?

- Bring a friend - member or not
- Come up with a great prize or donation for the silent auction
- Volunteer to help set up, cook, or otherwise chip in
- RSVP to Nancy at [pflag-info@pflagsanjose.org](mailto:pflag-info@pflagsanjose.org)

### PFLAG Board Election

It's that time of year again! As a 501C3 organization, our PFLAG chapter is required to elect officers and hold an annual chapter-wide meeting and election. This election will take place at our Annual Meeting on March 7th.

Board meetings take place about 9 times a year. We are looking for people who are enthusiastic about PFLAG and want to see our chapter accomplish its mission of Education, Support and Advocacy. Please let us know if you think you'd like to be part of this group, and together we'll see that people fit into areas where their interests lie.

We will be discussing specific positions at our February Board meeting and you're welcome to join us and have a look at what we do. For more information, contact Laurie at: [pflag-info@pflagsanjose.org](mailto:pflag-info@pflagsanjose.org)

### PFLAG Programs on Cable TV

Did you know that PFLAG has programs on cable TV? The *Parents, Families & Friends* programs are produced locally by members of our own PFLAG chapter. You can view them on Tuesdays at 9:30 PM on these channels:

- Cupertino and Los Altos Cable Channel 15
- Mountain View Cable Channel 15

You can also view some of the interviews on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=1R5b4jrRMMs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1R5b4jrRMMs) takes you to one video, with links to others produced on KMVT.

### PFLAG Scholarships are Available



Support the students in your community! Encourage them to apply for the PFLAG Scholarship Program.

San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG scholarships provide financial support for high school seniors who will be attending an accredited two- or four-year college, university, or business/ technical school in Fall 2009. These scholarships will be given to individuals whose educational history, personal plans and activities demonstrate support for justice and equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons. The funds are specifically to offset the costs of tuition, books, or required fees. Applications must be postmarked by Saturday, March 28, 2009.

Read all about the PFLAG National Scholarship Program including eligibility requirements and examples of past winners: <https://community.pflag.orgPage.aspx?pid=375>. Students are eligible to receive scholarships from both their local chapter and from the national office, so encourage students you know to apply for both.



### February Love and Marriage Events

**Thursday, February 12 — Freedom to Marry Day:**

Request a marriage license from your County Recorders Office. [www.MarriageEquality.org](http://www.MarriageEquality.org)

**Monday, February 16 — Come Wearing White, Leave Seeing Red:**

Huge statewide rally on the west steps of the State Capitol. Program starts at 1 PM. Bring your signs and wear your protest shirts. Join a great lineup of speakers, stars, and entertainers along with thousands of activists! [www.EqualityActionNOW.org](http://www.EqualityActionNOW.org)

**Tuesday, February 17 — Lobby for Love:**

It is critical that elected officials hear from us about why nothing less than complete equality will ever be acceptable. We will ask elected officials to speak out in support of marriage equality and seek their guidance on how to change the hearts and minds of their constituents who voted for Proposition 8.

Lobby Day will bring together diverse community organizations and leaders from across the state for a day of coordinated advocacy and activism. The event is free and open to all. Each participant will receive a lobbying training, advocacy materials, and be assigned to an experienced group leader. Register today at [www.eqca.org/2009lobbyday](http://www.eqca.org/2009lobbyday).

**We shouldn't just allow gay marriage. We should insist on gay marriage. We should regard it as scandalous that two people could claim to love each other and not want to sanctify their love with marriage and fidelity.**

**David Brooks / New York Times**

**The PFLAG NEWSLETTER**

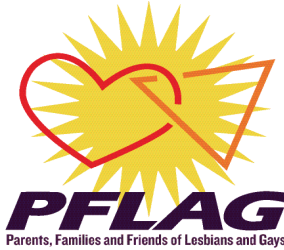
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Peninsula Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is a tax- exempt, volunteer, community based nonprofit organization.

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 ♥ 2009**



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

**Marriage Equality Update:**  
*Redwood City: Jeffrey Adair, P MEC*  
*San Jose: Gloria Nieto, MESV*



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:

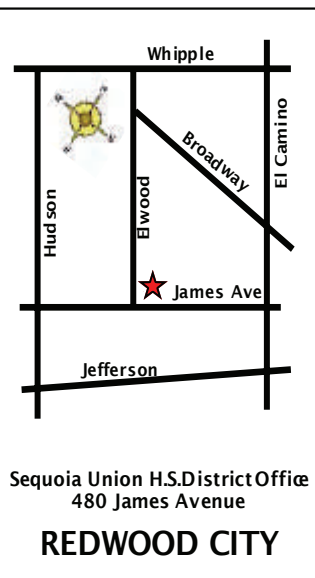
**SUPPORT • EDUCATION • ADVOCACY**



**WHAT IS PFLAG?**

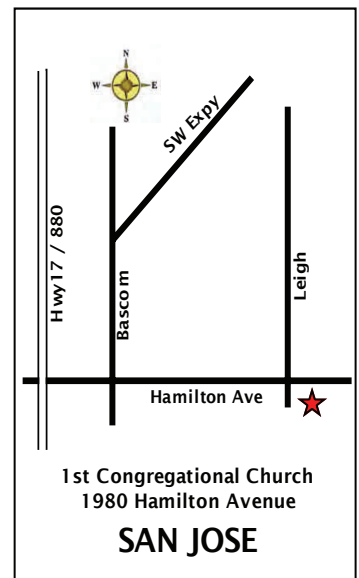
"PFLAG" is Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. We are a national support, education and advocacy organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people, their families, friends and allies. With 200,000 members and supporters, and local affiliates in more than 500 communities 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 ~ 2009**

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(for those who are already members to give to others too far away to come to meetings)
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**Make checks payable and mail to: PFLAG • PO Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Your donations & membership are tax deductible.**