



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

January 2009

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

November 5, 2008. "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." There was celebrating, and there was anger, sadness, and, for some, disbelief. Our granddaughter arrived from Vermont that day, and there was little time for our family to think about what had happened, no time to grieve, to express the emotions surrounding our defeat.

Then, recently, Bob, our daughter Sarah, and I watched *Milk* at the Castro Theater. I know all who have seen it will agree that it's an amazing film and shouldn't be missed. For all those who weren't in SF in the 70s, it makes that important time in the history of the GLBT movement come alive.

A major part of the plot surrounds the Briggs Initiative, which would have outlawed gays and even allies from teaching in California. John Briggs and Anita Bryant played major roles spouting hateful speech and lies, depicting gay and lesbian people as a scourge to our society. Watching them campaigning for Proposition 6 awakened the feelings I'd buried after the failure of Prop 8. On election night 1978 when the results came in, I was right back there—on November 4, 2008. I hardly even noticed that up on the screen, Proposition 6 didn't pass. All the emotions came out, and I didn't stop crying until, many tears later, we were back at Sarah's apartment.

This has been a difficult time for all of us. As in 1978, during the last several months all of us have been exposed to a great deal of "demoralizing arguments and dehumanizing rhetoric." In September Glenda Russell from whom this quote came, spoke to PFLAG leaders on our monthly conference call. She has done a great deal of research on how stressful anti-gay politics can be. The five prominent reactions are:

- Encounters with homophobia— With effort, we can often avoid this in our everyday lives.
- Fear— Of being rejected, discriminated against, or physically or verbally abused.
- Sadness— The world feels unsafe, there is a sense of loss.
- Anger— Tired of being the object of the debate, negative talk, feeling hatred.
- Internalized homophobia— It's hard to hear the rhetoric and not absorb some of it.

And she suggests that LGBT people who have experienced something like Prop. 8 examine what homophobia really is, take care of themselves by finding activities they enjoy, be with supportive people, talk about their feelings, take action in any way possible, and be aware of the support of straight allies. All of us who are the straight allies may also experience the above effects, and we can be strength for each other and be the support that LGBT people need right now.

PFLAG is a great conduit for this work. In the months ahead, look for ways you can work on changing hearts and minds so

MEETING CALENDAR

~ JANUARY ~

Jan. 12 Redwood City Meeting - 7:30 PM
Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)

Jan. 14 San Jose Meeting - 7:30 PM
First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)

Jan. 15 Straight Spouse Support - 7:30 PM
Call San Jose Helpline for info.
(3rd Thursday of the month)

Jan. 21 Board Meeting - 7:30 PM
(3rd Wednesday of the month)
ALL ARE WELCOME!

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

Jan. 29 — Newsletter Stuffing
2009 Schedule:
Last Thursday of Jan, Feb, Apr, May, July, Oct.
1st Thursday of Apr, Sept, Oct.
Last week of Dec.



→ **February Newsletter Deadline:**
Thursday, January 22

that by this time next year, all our LGBT brothers and sisters are free to marry the person of their choice, and even more than that, can feel they are equal in the eyes of the State and its citizens.

I hope to see you at our monthly meetings, and if you're not on our PFLAG newsgroup, send an email to ldkcarter@gmail.com and ask to be added.

Thanks for all you do— you are a great support to me and my family.

Laurie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG Support Meetings Redwood City — January 12 San Jose — January 14

The San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Speakers Bureau (PSB) is the topic at both the Redwood City and San Jose support meetings this month. You will hear the answers to these questions, and more!

- ◆ What is the PFLAG Speakers' Bureau?
- ◆ What happens in a PSB?
- ◆ How is it relevant today?
- ◆ How can people become involved?

As many of you know, over the past three years the PFLAG Speakers' Bureau has grown substantially in the number of volunteers involved and the number of speaking engagements provided.

Our PFLAG Speakers Bureau earned national acclaim when we presented a workshop, *Speak Now! Starting and Developing a Speakers Bureau*, for the National PFLAG Convention in Washington, D.C., in October 2007. A product of that effort was a unified "cookbook" for speakers bureau programs to utilize in other chapters nationwide.

★ **NOTE to Redwood City attendees: If you can, please come early at 6:45 PM on January 12 to help us prepare the mailing of PFLAG Scholarship applications. Thanks!**

PFLAG Annual Meeting—Save the Date! March 7

Our chapter's Annual Meeting and Dinner will take place at 6 PM on Saturday, March 7 at the Congregational Church of Belmont. If you can help, contact Laurie and she will put you in touch with the planning committee.

2009 Straight for Equality Awards Gala: February 5

You're invited to the 2009 Straight for Equality Awards Gala - a dazzling night of entertainment and achievement, set against the iconic backdrop of Times Square! Soledad O'Brien will emcee.

When: Thursday, February 5, 2009, 6:00 - 11:00 PM
Where: New York Marriott Marquis, 1535 Broadway, New York City, 10036
Tickets: \$500 individual, \$5,000 full table (10 seats)

The 2009 honorees are: Dr. Maya Angelou (Arts & Humanities), **Sigourney Weaver** (Entertainment), **Dr. Johnetta B. Cole** (Education), **IBM** (Business).

Straight for Equality is a national outreach and education project created by PFLAG National to empower allies in supporting and advocating for LGBT people.

American Airlines offers discounted travel for the 2009 Straight for Equality Gala. To book travel, call (800) 433-1790 and mention group code 8529AV and PFLAG's Business ExtrAA number (527590). For more information, see: <http://community.pflag.org/Page.aspx?pid=998>

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. 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 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, renew now for 2009!

Thank you! ▼

Not only is another world possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.

Arundhati Roy

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

* Mark your Calendars *

- Jan. 14 - DeFrank Center Dining for Dollars
- Jan. 28-Feb. 1 - Creating Change Conference
- Feb. 5 - Straight for Equality Awards Gala
- Feb. 16 - Love & Marriage Rally
- Feb. 17 - Marriage Equality Lobby Day
- Mar. 7 - PFLAG Annual Meeting & Dinner

New Year's Resolutions

Have you always intended to become more active in PFLAG, but somehow just didn't get around to taking the first step? The New Year is the perfect time! Here are a few rewarding opportunities —



Publicity Chair Needed!

This would be a fun job for someone who is technologically savvy! Here is the job description:

The Publicity Chair will:

- Be responsible for getting the PFLAG name out into the community through such outlets as newspapers, Facebook, and Craigslist, as well as for creating new ideas for advertising.
- Be aware of chapter events and publicize them.
- Help keep information current on the chapter's website by informing the web master of upcoming events.



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 two libraries. No heavy lifting!



The Scholarship Committee Needs Readers!

Our PFLAG chapter will be awarding four scholarships to high school seniors this year. Many thanks to all who have come forward to help with this extremely important outreach!

We are still looking for a few people to help read the applications and choose the recipients. It's usually a one meeting activity — and it's very inspirational to see what these dedicated students are doing to forward GLBT equality in their schools and communities!

Creating Change Conference 2009

January 28 - February 1

The 21st National Conference on LGBT Equality: *Creating Change* will be held in Denver, Colorado, January 28 - February 1, 2009.

Creating Change is for you if you are: an activist and organizer in your community, campus or workplace; a board member, staff member or leader in a LGBT organization, community center or foundation; an elected or appointed official; a change agent for justice, freedom & equality for all. In other words, *Creating Change* has something for everyone!

For more information: www.creatingchange.org/

Love and Marriage Statewide Rally

February 16

Come wearing White! - Leave seeing Red! Join Equality Action NOW, California Outreach, ME USA, Join the Impact and EQCA's statewide rally at the State Capitol in Sacramento on February 16.

People from all over the state will join us on the steps of the Capitol to show our solidarity for the rights of 18,000 same-sex couples who were married and look forward to the day when those rights are available again, this time for everyone. Speakers, entertainment and thousands of like-minded people - in one spot - join us to put a FACE on the issue of true equality.

Confirmed appearances by: Marc Shaiman (Prop 8 the Musical, Hairspray, South Park), Julia Louis-Dryfus (New Adventures of Old Christine), Wanda Sykes (comedian), Deborah Gibson (entertainer), George Takei (Star Trek), and Melissa Etheridge (special video message).

For more information, go to Equality Action Now: <http://equalityactionnow.org/> or email: info@equalityactionnow.org

Let Laurie know if you want to carpool.

Marriage Equality Lobby Day

February 17

Join Equality California and other GLBT activists on Tuesday, February 17 in Sacramento for Marriage Equality Lobby Day.

It is critical that elected officials hear from us about why nothing less than complete equality will ever be acceptable.

We will meet with elected officials to urge them to support SR 7 (Leno) and HR 5 (Ammiano), EQCA-sponsored resolutions making it official state policy that Prop 8 is an invalid revision to the California Constitution since significant changes to the Constitution must first be passed by the legislature before being placed on the ballot. These resolutions also set forth that any change to the Constitution that would eliminate a fundamental right from any minority group must use the more deliberative revision process.

We will also 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 Prop 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

Let Laurie know if you want to carpool.

The PFLAG NEWSLETTER

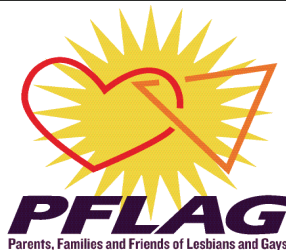
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Peninsula Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is a tax- exempt, volunteer, community based nonprofit organization.

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:
The PFLAG Speakers Bureau



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:

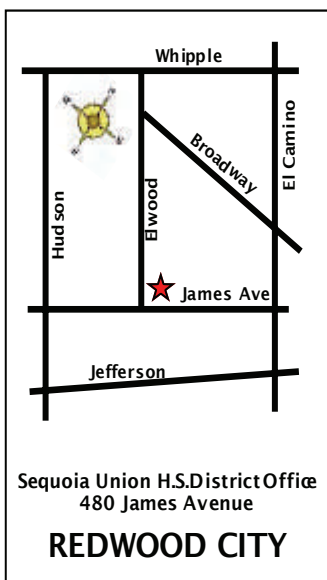
SUPPORT • EDUCATION • ADVOCACY



WHAT IS PFLAG?

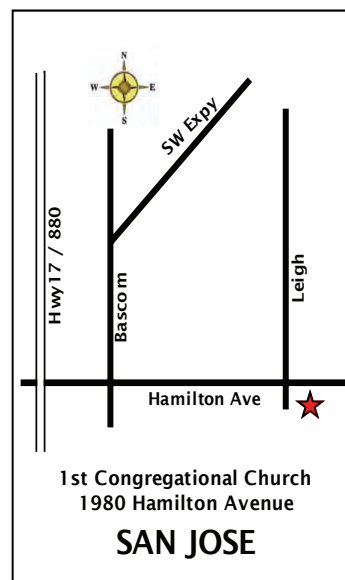
"PFLAG" is Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. We are a national support, education and advocacy organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people, their families, friends and allies. With 200,000 members and supporters, and local affiliates in more than 500 communities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

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

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- Renew
- Change Address
- Date _____
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- Diva \$1,000 and up
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(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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Address _____

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.