



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

June/July 2009

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

♥ NEED HELP? ♥ Call the Help/Info Line: ♥ (408) 270-8182 ♥

President's Message

June/July

I first have a correction from the message in May when I said as far as sexual stereotyping and bullying, girls in school had it easier than boys. A few of us staffed a booth at the California State PTA Convention in late April. A woman who approached our booth told me about her 6 year old daughter who is having trouble at school because she likes "boy" things. The first grader finally told her mother she needed to get a Hanna Montana backpack so the kids would stop teasing her about being too "boy-ish." How sad!

Another very touching story from that convention: A woman had come by our booth and was talking to Pam, (the Regional Director for No Cal) and during the conversation finally said the words "My daughter came out..." She looked at Pam in surprise because she had never said those words to anyone in public. The next day when I was with Pam the woman came back to our booth to say that the night before she had told the person who was sharing her room about her daughter. It made her feel so much better to be open. Pam gave her a big hug, and she went away comforted. We looked at each other and both thought, "This is the gift of PFLAG."

Claudia and Rose staffed the booth with Pam the first morning and Claudia said, "We had a great time working the booth. It was good that we were there. Many people approached us for information to take back to their schools to educate, especially about bullying. One young woman told us that her step brother had recently threatened to commit suicide due to the bullying he was experiencing. Another woman told us that her family is in the midst of a situation with a school district where five students have been suspended for bullying a child. There was a lot of interest in having people come in to speak to the students."

By the time you get this Newsletter, the Supreme Court will have announced its decision about Prop 8 and the marriages that took place this summer and fall. Because of all the reasons everyone has, I of course hope their decision will go our way. But another reason I hope they won't uphold Prop. 8 and/or annul the marriages is that if they do uphold it, once again a statement will have been made that makes it OK in the minds of many kids to express anti-gay sentiments through bullying and harassment.

Any time we staff a table or booth, or speak to a group of kids or adults, or march in a parade, we are countering that sentiment and reaching out with a positive message. There will be other opportunities this summer for you to participate—a movie night on June 7th, Gay Pride San Jose on the 13-14th, Gay Pride SF on June 28, the July 4th Parade in Redwood City, Tapestry Arts on Labor Day weekend, and many speaking engagements organized by the Speaker's Bureau. Sign up to attend or help at one of these events. You'll be glad you did.

Again, thanks for all you do. Keep telling your stories.

Laurie

MEETING CALENDAR

~ June/July ~

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| June 8
July 13 | Redwood City Meeting - 7:30 PM
Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month) |
| June 10
July 8 | San Jose Meeting - 7:30 PM
First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month) |
| July 15 | Board Meeting - 7:30 PM
at the Carter's home
(3rd Wednesday of the month)
ALL ARE WELCOME! |
| June 18
July 16 | Straight Spouse Support - 7:30 PM
Call San Jose Helpline for info.
(3rd Thursday of the month) |
| July 30 | Newsletter Stuffing
2009 Schedule
Last Thursday of July, Oct.
1st Thursday of Sept, Oct
Last week of Dec. |



→ August Newsletter Deadline:
Thursday, July 23



Join
PFLAG
in
Celebrating
PRIDE!!!



PFLAG Support Meetings

Redwood City, Monday, June 8

Theatre teacher **Cindy Skelton** and some of her students from **Capuchino High School** will lead our program on *The Laramie Project*, a play chronicling the life of the town of Laramie, Wyoming in the year following the murder of Matthew Shepard.

Cindy says, "The Laramie Project was the most important piece of theatre I've ever had the privilege to be a part of." In addition to being the school play, it was her Creative Work Project in conjunction with San Francisco State's Masters in Arts program.

San Jose, Wednesday, June 10

Our speaker in San Jose will be **David Cameron Strachan**, Marriage Equality's Intersex Outreach Director. He will show a short video, "XXXXY" about the lives of two intersex people, talk about intersex in general and share some of his own experiences of living with Klinefelter's syndrome (XXY sex chromosomes).

David graduated from Whitworth College in Spokane with a teaching degree in English and Art. He volunteered at the Stop AIDS Project in SF, was on the boards of Advocates for Informed Choice, and the Intersex Society of North America, and until recently, was the Intersex Human Rights Spokesperson for the Intersex International organization.

San Jose: July 8, Redwood City: July 13

At both the San Jose and Redwood City support meetings in July, we will discuss our experiences at the June Pride Parades and the July 4th Redwood City Parade. ▼

In Memoriam - Bob Topor

Long time San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG member **Bob Topor** passed away on April 22, 2009. Bob and his late wife Martha were active members and took care of refreshments for many years at the Menlo Park meeting. A celebration of Bob's life took place on Friday, May 8th, at First Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto. ▼



*** Mark your Calendars ***

- June 13 - Bay Area Gay Prom
- June 13-14 - San Jose Pride/Festival Parade
- June 27 - Pam Walton's Raging Grannies at Frameline in SF
- June 28 - PFLAG marches in the SF Pride Parade
- July 4 - PFLAG marches in the Redwood City Parade
- Aug. 14-16 - GSA Activist Camp
- October 9 - 11 - Gay-Straight Alliance Network Conference in Fresno

SJ Pride Parade

June 14

San Jose Pride is scheduled for June 13-14. We need volunteers in the booth Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 PM. A 2-hour shift would be great but if you only have time for 1 hour, you're "hired". Call the info line: (408) 270-8182 to volunteer.

Working in the booth, if you call it work, is a lot of fun. If you're a newbie we'll make sure you're working with a veteran. PFLAG will pay the admission for anyone who volunteers after the Parade on Sunday.

We also need PFLAGers to march in the parade. This parade is very, very short, probably around 20 minutes. The crowds are small but the cheers for PFLAG are loud, long, and sincere. This is a day when the GLBT community says Thank You for being a PFLAG member.



San Francisco Pride Parade

June 28

The PFLAG bus is ready to roll, carrying PFLAGers in the San Francisco Pride Parade, Sunday, June 28.

We're still looking for quite a few safety monitors to walk beside the bus. We'll send out the monitor training schedule and sign-up info soon.

There's nothing quite like the roar of the crowd when PFLAG comes into view in the parade. This is always an exciting event and not to be missed.

The San Francisco Pride Parade is world famous and the crowds are enormous, so, wouldn't you rather be IN the parade than on the curb trying to see over the tops of heads ten deep?



Contact Laurie if you can join the contingent. (408) 270-8182. ▼

Redwood City Fourth of July Parade

The PFLAG contingent for the Redwood City Fourth of July Parade is expecting enthusiastic participation this year. The overall theme for the Parade is *ALL THINGS MUSICAL* and the theme for the PFLAG contingent is "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." Naturally, we'll have at least one prominent rainbow. ▼

To join PFLAG in the parade contact Laurie.

California Supreme Court Upholds Proposition 8

May 26



PFLAG Vows to Continue Work for Marriage Equality

In response to the California Supreme Court ruling upholding Proposition 8, PFLAG announced that the organization will continue work to educate voters and work with lawmakers to secure full marriage rights for lesbian and gay couples.

"[The Court's] ruling is out-of-step with a growing consensus in our country that all loving couples should be treated equally in the eyes of the law," said Jody M. Huckaby, PFLAG's executive director. "It is also a reminder that, even in places where we have traditionally seen progress on equality, there is still work that remains to be done. Today, the California Supreme Court dealt a blow to our families, but tomorrow, PFLAG's 41 California chapters will be back on the job, working in their communities to build support for moving marriage equality forward."

The ruling ensures that the estimated 18,000 couples who legally wed in the state prior to Proposition 8's passage will remain wed and be recognized as such by the state. The decision prohibits, however, any additional couples from marrying.

"The future of marriage equality in California depends, in large part, on changing hearts and minds in small towns and traditionally conservative districts," Huckaby said. "PFLAG is already in those communities, and our chapters are more committed than ever to doing the outreach and education that will be necessary to turn out fair-minded voters in the future."

A Denver Nine-year-old's Saturday Schedule

By Melanie Asmar [excerpt]

Meet Ethan. He's nine and in Mr. Kimmel's third-grade class at the Montclair School of Academics and Enrichment in west Denver. At noon on May 25th — between baseball, soccer and a graduation party — he threw a rally in support of gay marriage on the steps of the state Capitol. "They're the same as other people," he says of gays and lesbians, in the highpitched, sincere voice of an elementary schooler. "They just love somebody else."

Ethan lined up speakers from The GLBT Community Center of Colorado, PFLAG and other organizations. He contacted Mayor John Hickenlooper — he couldn't be there — and Senator Michael Bennet, who Ethan thinks tried to give him the runaround. Welcome to politics, kid.

Ethan was one of the speakers at the rally, which lasted about an hour. He practiced his five-minute speech, but he was still nervous. His favorite line? That everyone is equal no matter their race, religion or sexual orientation. "He totally gets it," his mother says. "For him, it's clear. It's black and white. We're all the same."

Complete article at:

http://blogs.westword.com/latestword/2009/05/_meet_ethan_hes_9.php

Pam Walton's Raging Grannies at Frameline

Pam Walton's documentary film, *Raging Grannies*, will screen at Frameline 33, the SF LGBT film festival, on Saturday, June 27 at 11 AM. The film will show at the Victoria Theater, 2961 16th St, SF 94103.

Find out more about *Raging Grannies* at Pam's website, pamwaltonproductions.com

New Radio Broadcast

Ace Lunden and Lance Helms are hosting a new radio show, *Lunden Calling*, best described as "A Talk Show where NO TOPIC IS TABOO." Consider Aristotle's admonition: "It is the mark of the educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." Check it out!

<http://www.lunden-calling.net/main/>

Is My Marriage Gay?

By Jennifer Finney Boylan

I've been legally female since 2002, although the definition of what makes someone "legally" male or female is part of what makes this issue so unwieldy. How do we define legal gender? By chromosomes? By genitalia? By spirit? By whether one asks directions when lost?

A lawyer for the transgendered plaintiff in the Littleton case noted the absurdity of the country's gender laws as they pertain to marriage: "Taking this situation to its logical conclusion, Mrs. Littleton, while in San Antonio, Tex., is a male and has a void marriage; as she travels to Houston, Tex., and enters federal property, she is female and a widow; upon traveling to Kentucky she is female and a widow; but, upon entering Ohio, she is once again male and prohibited from marriage; entering Connecticut, she is again female and may marry; if her travel takes her north to Vermont, she is male and may marry a female; if instead she travels south to New Jersey, she may marry a male."

It's my hope that people who are reluctant to embrace same-sex marriage will see that it has been with us for years. Can we have a future in which we are more concerned with the love a family has than with the sometimes unanswerable questions of gender and identity?

Ms. Boylan, author of *She's Not There*, is a professor of English at Colby College.

Full article at: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/12/opinion/12boylan.html?_r=2&em



First they ignore you, then they ridicule you,
then they fight you, then you win.

Mahatma Gandhi

The PFLAG NEWSLETTER

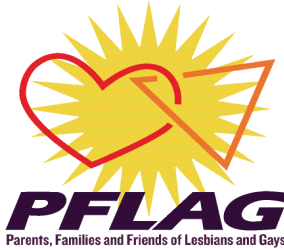
Published monthly by San Jose/Peninsula Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087, Phone: (408) 270-8182.

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 ♥ 2009



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

Redwood City: Cindy Skelton, *The Laramie Project*
San Jose: David Cameron Strachan: *Intersex*
July, both locations: share Pride month experiences



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:

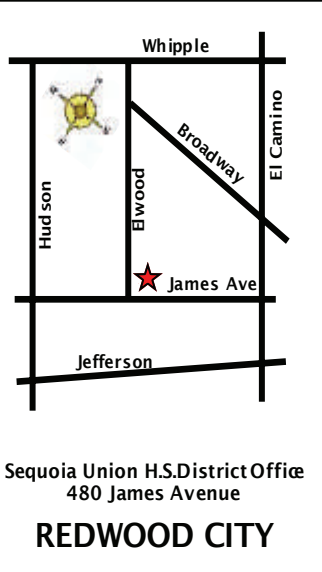
SUPPORT • EDUCATION • ADVOCACY



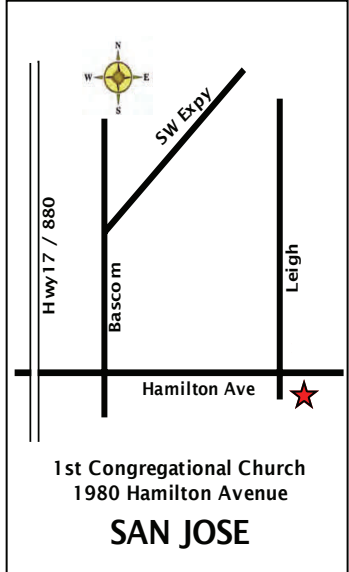
WHAT IS PFLAG?

"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
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SAN JOSE



MEMBERSHIP IN SAN JOSE/PENINSULA PFLAG ~ 2009

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