



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

November/December 2009

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October 11 is National Coming Out Day and this year the day was marked with a March on Washington for gay rights. Unfortunately Bob and I missed the march, but we were there the night of October 10, staying just a few blocks from the location of the PFLAG National Annual Meeting which all PFLAGers coming to town had been invited to attend.

We're both so glad that we decided to go to the meeting that night! The PFLAG National President, Executive Director, Treasurer and other board members and staff updated the attendees on PFLAG national. For the second hour, staff members Elizabeth Fregiato and Jean-Marie Navetta shared with us their story of their day at a Love Won Out conference.

Love Won Out is a program of Focus on the Family. It has been presented in over 60 locations around the country. PFLAG chapters and other gay rights advocates are nearly always outside protesting the message and ideas that LWO presents. Elizabeth and Jean-Marie felt it was important for PFLAG to understand what was really happening at these conferences, and so donned their comfortable shoes, chose believable stories and attended the all-day conference.

They discovered that the conference leaders don't explicitly do some of the things the protesters were accusing them of. They don't use the words "cure" and "choice" and "change". But in many ways what's happening is even scarier and more harmful in its apparent acceptance of those with "unwanted homosexual attractions." They did a workshop on Safe Schools which sounded much like ours, but from the point of view of keeping kids safe from homosexuality. Their support meetings felt just like a PFLAG meeting. Their brochures follow the format of ours but with different answers to the questions.

I found out lots more about the program when I googled Love Won Out and went to the Box Turtle Bulletin articles (www.boxturtlebulletin.com/2007/02/12/220) written by another gay activist who attended a conference.

After this meeting, we were all invited upstairs to the bar to watch President Obama's address to the Human Rights Campaign dinner on CSPAN. Jody Huckabee, Executive Director of PFLAG told us there would be a great surprise in the speech. As many of you have heard already, the surprise was Obama's retelling of Jeanne Mannford's story and the beginning of PFLAG, declaring it "the story of America." For those of us in that room, it was thrilling. While I hear many people saying change isn't really happening, the whole feeling and atmosphere in Washington is radically different from 9 months ago.

I, and many others in PFLAG, believe that changes are coming. Right now we can celebrate the passage, by a wide margin, of the Matthew Shepherd Hate Crimes Act on October 21st.

Be out, be visible — and "be the change you want to see in the world."

Laurie Carter

MEETING CALENDAR

~ NOVEMBER/DECEMBER ~

- Nov. 9 Redwood City Meeting - 7:30 PM
- Dec. 14 Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Nov. 11 San Jose Meeting - 7:30 PM
- Dec. 9 First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)



Dec. 4 Board Holiday Potluck & White Elephant Party

ALL ARE WELCOME!

♦ **No Board Meetings in November or December!**

- Nov. 19 Straight Spouse Support - 7:30 PM
- Dec. 17 Call San Jose Helpline for info.
(3rd Thursday of the month)

Gilroy — Call the Helpline for support and information:
(408) 270-8182



→ **January 2010 Newsletter Deadline:**
Wednesday, Dec. 23



Celebrate, Give Thanks, Hope for Peace

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG Support Meetings

Redwood City — November 9
San Jose — November 11

Our speaker at both meetings will be Marc Adams. Growing up as the son of a fundamentalist Baptist minister is tough enough. Growing up gay in an environment where your parents, teachers and peers deem evangelical Christians like Jerry Falwell to be left wing liberals is an entirely different experience.

Marc Adams grew up in such a home. In an effort to save his own life, he decided at age 16 to rebel against his parents and attend Jerry Falwell's Liberty University where he thought he could find a way to change his behavior from homosexual to heterosexual. His experience there changed his life and jump-started his journey to self acceptance.

For over 13 years, Marc has traveled across the US and Canada, sharing his story. He created his own groundbreaking social justice organization, HeartStrong. He bridges the serious and dark with humor and compassion. People from all walks of life have been enlightened, uplifted and inspired by his message.

Marc is the author of nine books including *The Preacher's Son*, *(lost)Found*, *The Do's & Don'ts of Dealing with the Religious Right*, and his newest, *Understanding Coming Out & Self Acceptance*.

San Jose — December 9
Redwood City — December 14



Holiday Parties will be held at both support meetings this month. Please bring a finger food, dessert or beverage to share. We will collect cash donations for the DeFrank Center HIV Testing Program in San Jose; or for Ellipse Peninsula HIV Support Services in San Mateo. And/or bring canned food for Second Harvest Food Bank.

Please join us — renew old friendships and make new friends!

Transgender Day of Remembrance
November 20



Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The event is held in November to honor Rita Hester, whose murder on November 28th, 1998, kicked off the "Remembering Our Dead" web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. Rita Hester's murder — like most anti-transgender murder cases — has yet to be solved.

Day of Remembrance also gives our allies a chance to step forward with us and stand in vigil, memorializing those of us who've died by anti-transgender violence.

More information and a list of memorial services is available at: <http://www.transgenderdor.org/>

Keeping the Faith for Marriage Equality
November 2

Congregational Church of Belmont — 7 to 8 PM
751 Alameda de las Pulgas

First Christian Church of San Jose — 6 to 7:30 PM
80 S 5th St.

The Bay Area Coalition of Welcoming Congregations, along with partner organizations, are planning statewide interfaith worship services on Monday, November 2, 2009 to commemorate the one year anniversary of the day many hearts were broken with the passage of Proposition 8. The purpose of the services is to call our community together for prayer and reflection on our role to continue to struggle for marriage equality in California as well as stand in solidarity with those in the state of Maine and Washington who will also be engaging in a battle at the ballot box to keep same-sex marriage legal there.

More listings at: <http://equalityevents.ning.com/events>

Day of Action Protest in Sacramento!
November 4

Equality Action Now, EQCA, the Sacramento LGBTQI Leadership Coalition, Congregation Kol Ami, and California Faith for Equality will lead a rally and march on November 4 at the California State Capitol Building to highlight the fact that the fight for civil rights for all citizens is not over, to motivate our community to keep telling our stories, and to heal the wounds of hate and discrimination. The rally will begin at 5 PM with sign making, followed by speakers at 6 PM. At 6:30 PM Equality Action Now will lead a march around the capitol grounds. Meet at the California State Capitol Building, 10th and L Streets, west steps.

—> **Mark your Calendar** <—

- Nov. 2 - Keeping the Faith for Marriage Equality
- Nov. 4 - Day of Action—Sacramento
- Nov. 14 - Peninsula Parents @ Hobeas
- Nov. 20 - Transgender Day of Remembrance
- Dec. 1 - World AIDS Day
- Dec. 4 - PFLAG Holiday Potluck/ White Elephant Gift Exchange
- Dec. 5 - Youth Empowerment Summit
- Dec. 6 - *A Christmas Carol*— DeFrank Center Benefit
- Feb. 3-7 - Creating Change Conference — 2010 Dallas, TX
www.thetaskforce.org/events/creating_change



Join or Renew for 2010!

Once again it's that time of year when we make or renew our commitment to pursue equality for the GLBT community by supporting our San Jose Peninsula PFLAG Chapter. We work to create an environment of understanding to ensure that our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender loved ones can live with dignity and respect. We do this work most effectively with your financial support and with the contribution of your time and talent.

Please take a moment to join or renew your membership today! Use the form on the last page of this newsletter or donate online at our website: www.pflagsanjose.org.

Your support of PFLAG and our mission is deeply appreciated.

The Finance Committee



PFLAG Scholarship Fund

In 2009 we awarded five \$2000 scholarships to worthy students who made a difference in the lives of GLBT members of their communities. One of these scholarships was in memory of Joyce Palmer Fulton, an active PFLAG member, award-winning teacher, and the previous editor of this newsletter. **In order to continue this great program in 2010 we need to raise an additional \$2,001 for our Scholarship Fund.**

So far this year we received contributions totaling \$3,499.00 plus \$500 in honor of Joyce Fulton. If by the end of the year we receive another \$1,500 in honor of Joyce Fulton plus \$501.00 for general scholarships, we'll again be able to award five scholarships in 2010.

Your extra scholarship donation when you pay your dues will make it possible! Supporting GLBTQ and ally student activists is one of our Chapter's most worthy goals.

Thank you!



Obama Tells the PFLAG Story

At his address to the HRC Dinner on October 10, President Obama told the story of how PFLAG was founded. Watch President Obama tell the PFLAG story at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=xy24TplyK14

Watch his entire HRC speech at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxyqEv4rDTg&feature



I am not truly free if I am taking away someone else's freedom, just as surely as I am not free when my freedom is taken from me. The oppressed and the oppressor alike are robbed of their humanity.

Nelson Mandela

The Laramie Project

November 13-15, 19-21

The Laramie Project, by Moises Kaufman & The Tectonic Theater Project, will be performed by the Crystal Springs Players at Crystal Springs United Methodist Church, 2145 Bunker Hill Drive, in San Mateo on the following dates:

Nov. 13 (with Champagne Gala), 14, 19, 20, 21 at 8 PM;
Nov. 15 at 7 PM

Tickets: \$20 Opening Night Gala; otherwise: \$16 Adult, \$14 Senior, \$12 Student (14 and under FREE with paying adult). For reservations, call: (650) 345-2381.

We want to host a PFLAG table of literature at each of the productions. This is a wonderful way for newer people to get involved, and you'll also get to see the play! The venue is close to 280, so even if you live in the San Jose area, it would be easy to get to. If you are able to take one of these dates or need more information, call the Help/Info Line or email: pflag-info@pflagsanjose.org



Your Story Workshop

Coming in November!

Everyone is invited to join in a new experience for our chapter! In this creative workshop, each of us will master the art of capturing his or her unique story in a 2 minute video which can then be published on YouTube. We look forward to these short clips bringing much-needed visibility to LGBT families and PFLAG. Media professionals and video bloggers Peta Cooper and Stone DARTH will lead the workshops.

The date and time of the November workshop will be published on the PFLAG Newsgroup.

Call the Help/Info Line for more information or email: pflag-info@pflagsanjose.org

.



World AIDS Day December 1

World AIDS Day is observed every year on December 1st. The World Health Organization established World AIDS Day in 1988. World AIDS Day provides governments, national AIDS programs, faith organizations, community organizations, and individuals with an opportunity to raise awareness and focus attention on the global AIDS epidemic. Updated statistics will be available on December 1st.

More information at:

<http://www.hhs.gov/aidsawarenessdays/days/world/>
<http://www.avert.org/world-aids-day.htm>



March on Washington Video

If you weren't able to attend the October 11 March on Washington, here is a great video featuring many inspiring speakers from the rally:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2gHpXyoHGs>



PFLAG Cable TV News

Beginning this month, CreaTV, San Jose's cable-access station, is broadcasting our PFLAG cable TV show, *Parents, Families & Friends*, every Tuesday at 3:00 PM. Currently, CreaTV is running two episodes on San Jose cable channel 15, each on alternating weeks through the end of November:

#0808 Jennifer King & Melissa Holmes, a lesbian couple who married last year (this is the episode that won the national Hometown Award a few months ago); and

#0905 Paul Wysocki, former Interim Executive Director of the Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center in San Jose.

Look for new episodes starting in December. Fortunately, you don't have to be a cable subscriber or a San Jose resident to watch the show. Through its web site, CreaTV offers a live feed of its programming over the Internet. Just go to www.creatvsj.org/Streaming.aspx.

Even better, CreaTV also makes recent episodes available anytime, on demand. Go to www.creatvsj.org/Schedule.aspx, click on the calendar icon, select any Tuesday, then click on the link for "PFLAG TV: *Parents, Families & Friends*."

Note: For best results, install Microsoft's free Silverlight plug-in, available through the CreaTV web site and at silverlight.net.



3D Holiday Benefit for the DeFrank Center November 6

Camera Cinemas and Hobees team up for a special benefit for the Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center — a premiere showing of Disney's *A Christmas Carol* in 3D, starring Jim Carrey on Friday, November 6 at 6 PM, Camera 7 Cinema at the Pruneyard, 1875 South Bascom Avenue, in Campbell. There will be a special post-screening party including light appetizers, wine, beer, and soft beverages, courtesy of Hobees'.

\$5 Raffle tickets for 2 American Airline tickets anywhere in the lower 48 states (value \$1500) will be sold at the event, so bring your cash!

Tickets are \$25. Purchase online before they're all gone!
<http://bdfmovienight.eventbrite.com/>



Our Family Coalition Peninsula Parents and Families Lunch November 14

Join the Our Family Coalition Peninsula Parents for lunch in a large private room at Hobees' Restaurant on November 14th at 1101 Shoreway Road off Ralston Ave. and Rt. 101, next to Motel 6 in Belmont. There will be a 20% discount to any check from your party (separate checks are not a problem). Young children also receive a complimentary "smiley face" fruit plate, crayons and coloring sheet.

Register at: <http://peninsulaparents.eventbrite.com/>



Progress Happens! — in GLBT History Month

♦ VICTORY: Hate Crimes Bill Passes



(October 22, 2009) The United States Senate, by a vote of 68 to 29, joined the House of Representatives in passing **The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act**, the first federal law to include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected categories. This law allows local governments to receive assistance from the federal government in addressing hate crimes. President Obama signed the bill into law on October 28.

♦ HUD Bans LGBT Discrimination

(October 21, 2009) In a ground-breaking announcement, the US Department of Housing And Urban Development (HUD) issued a news release announcing that **henceforth it will ban all sexual orientation and gender identity based discrimination in its programs**. It also announced that it will engage in a survey of housing discrimination faced by LGBT people.

HUD is the first federal agency to officially propose guidelines that would explicitly address discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Read more at: http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2009/HUDNo.09-206

♦ HHS Creates National GLBT Elder Resource Center

(October 21, 2009) Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced plans to establish the nation's first national **Resource Center for LGBT Elders** to assist communities across the country in their efforts to provide services and supports for older lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals.

Complete announcement at: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/10/20091021a.html>

♦ Hope For Children and GLBT Families

(October 15) Rep. Pete Stark (D-Calif.) introduced H.R. 3827, the **Every Child Deserves a Family Act**, which would restrict federal funds for states that discriminate in adoption or foster programs on the basis of marital status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Currently, at least five states specifically prohibit LGBT people from adopting children.



October was a good month in California, as well.

Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law three historic LGBT rights bills:

The **Harvey Milk Day** bill will honor the slain civil rights leader with the nation's first "day of special significance" for an openly LGBT person.

The **Family Protection and Marriage Recognition Act**, underscores that same-sex couples married out of state are entitled to full recognition in California.

The **LGBT Domestic Violence Programs Expansion Bill**, will expand funding for state LGBT domestic violence programs.



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.

November: *Redwood City & San Jose:*
Marc Adams, author, speaker

December: *San Jose & Redwood City:* Holiday Parties
Bring donations for AIDS services &/or Second Harvest



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:

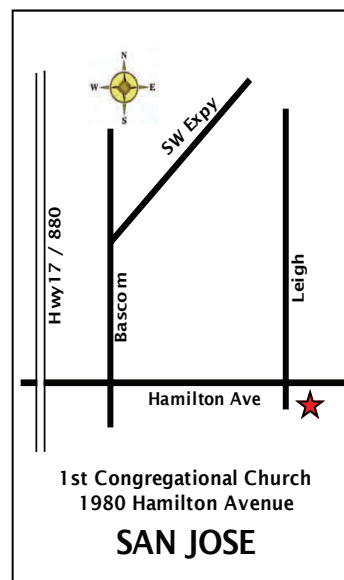
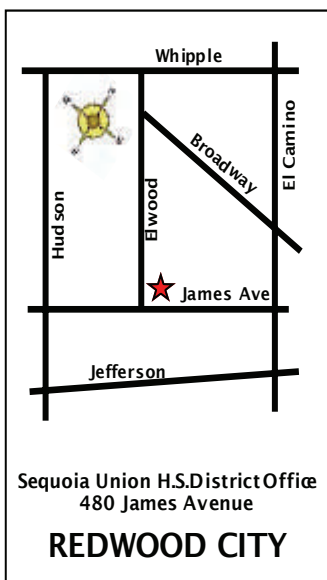
SUPPORT • EDUCATION • ADVOCACY



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!



MEMBERSHIP IN SAN JOSE/PENINSULA PFLAG ~ 2010

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 _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

E-mail (required for PDF) _____

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