



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

August 2010

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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

President's Message

You realize the importance of PFLAG. You'd like to be a little more involved, but you're not sure what you'd like to do or what needs to be done, and no one has asked you.

The time is here for some reorganization of our chapter, and opportunities are opening up for new helpers in several areas — jobs of varying sizes and responsibilities, taking advantage of many different skills.

Bob and I are undertaking a big life change in the near future. We will be selling our home after 34 years and moving to Oregon. It's exciting and scary — we will miss our perfect weather, the 20 minute drive to a major airport, growing winter vegetables and, most of all, our wonderful friends including all of you.

At our July Board meeting, we had a lively discussion around all the great things our chapter does, and ways to divide the work of the chapter into small, easily doable portions. I hope you'll take time to explore the possible ways you could fit into a plan to keep our chapter running smoothly. Good clear outlines of what has been done in the past, along with lots of flexibility for new creative ideas and strong support from the Board, will help make volunteering a positive experience for anyone.

We will be looking for a Chapter President or, even better, two Co-Presidents, to do the following:

Call and chair Board meetings (probably 4-5 a year with the rest being done by phone and email)

Work with the people who coordinate our various activities

Attend our two monthly support meetings whenever possible

Act as a spokesperson for the chapter

Send out email reminders of activities to the newsgroup

We also need a Board Secretary to take meeting minutes and email them to the Board.

Or perhaps you'd rather take on a once-a-year task:

Coordinate the July 4th Parade

Oversee the Scholarship Awards

Arrange the bus for San Francisco Gay Pride

Or you may have the interest or skills to:

Use Facebook to promote our chapter and its activities (National will help with this)

Order, store and make available our pamphlets and other materials

Keep abreast of all that's happening in the LGBTQ world and send out important information to our email newsgroup

Be a member of the Finance Committee which meets 3 times a year.

Meeting Calendar

~ AUGUST ~

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

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

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

Aug. 24 Board Meeting
UU Church of Palo Alto
505 E. Charleston Rd., Palo Alto
(4th Tuesday this month)

ALL ARE WELCOME!



GILROY and other locations:
Call the Helpline
for support and information:
(408) 270-8182



*Newsletter Stuffing in San Mateo
Contact the editor for more info*

**September Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, August 27**

The Board has a very positive outlook on the future of our chapter and we all feel confident that there will be lots of support for anyone taking on any of the above positions. Having a strong group in place in the next couple of months will ease Bob's and my transition to this exciting but sometimes scary new adventure.

We want you, so don't be shy! Contact any Board member with questions or an offer to help.

Thank you all,
Laurie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG Support Meetings

Redwood City — August 9

San Jose — August 11

Our speakers will be Judy Rickard and Karin Bogliolo, a same-sex bi-national couple facing the challenges of today's American immigration law. Judy, 62, is an American citizen. Karin, 70, is not. Because their relationship is not recognized by the federal government, Judy cannot sponsor Karin for immigration. Judy took early retirement from her job at San Jose State University so she can live with Karin outside the U.S. part of each year. That move followed a separation of nearly a year when Karin was abroad and Judy was at work in San Jose.

Judy and Karin will talk about the current situation for same-sex bi-national couples and how they are coping with the challenges they face. They will explain current law and how two proposed laws — the *Uniting American Families Act* and the *Reuniting Families Act* — would solve the problem they and thousands of other same-sex bi-national couples face.

Many people who are activists on LGBT issues don't realize the challenges lesbians and gay men face when they are partnered with non-U.S. citizens. Learn how you can help to pass the law to fix the problem!

If you know anyone who has this issue, invite them to attend and get updates on what's happening, support in their struggle, and an opportunity to share their story.

BAYMEC Dinner — Save the Date!

September 24

BAYMEC's 26th Anniversary Dinner will be held on Friday, September 24, at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. Keynote address: Speaker of the Assembly, John Perez. Mark your calendar now to join the PFLAG table!



Gender Spectrum Family/Teen Conference
September 3-6

Gender Spectrum Family and Teen Conference will be held in Berkeley over Labor Day weekend. Cosponsored by the National Center for Lesbian Rights, this year's conference promises to be an unforgettable experience for all. Scholarships are available!

Come join other transgender and gender-nonconforming teens, children and families for three days of celebrating individuality, making friends, learning, and having fun. Explore topics on gender in workshops on school, medical and legal issues, privacy and much more!

To learn more or register, please visit:
www.genderspectrum.org or call 877-809-4159.

PFLAG Faith for Equality Training

August 22

Jean Marie of PFLAG National is coming out from Washington DC to lead this valuable training. It should be wonderful, and it's important for us to participate.

WHAT: A 2-hour pilot training specifically designed to equip lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender allies and advocates — and LGBT people, too — to advance LGBT equality and welcome within communities of faith.

WHEN: Sunday, August 22, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Lunch will be provided. Please arrive by 11:15.

WHERE: First Mennonite Church of San Francisco, 290 Dolores St. (at 16th St.), San Francisco. First Mennonite Church of SF meets at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Contact Laurie Carter or call the helpline to register!
(408) 270-8182 or pflag-info@pflagsanjose.org

Are you an avid Facebook user and know how it works?

We have a PFLAG membership page, but need someone who knows how to use it to reach out to the wider community and stimulate more participation in our chapter. Cesar Hernandez from National PFLAG is anxious to help. We know just the right person is out there. Is it You?

All on Board!



Our Chapter PFLAG Board is always looking for new, creative ideas for helping families, getting our word out, raising money for scholarships, and just having fun together. We'd love to have you become part of the Board, just attend a meeting, or send us your ideas. Our next meeting is Tuesday, August 24, at 7:30 PM at the Palo Alto UU Church on Charleston Avenue, just off 101. Take the San Antonio Road exit, then turn right on Charleston.

Note: For this month only, the Board meeting has moved to the 4th Tuesday.

Mark your Calendar

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Aug. 21/22 | San Jose Pride Festival |
| Aug. 22 | PFLAG Faith for Equality Training |
| Sept. 3-6 | Gender Spectrum Family & Teen Conference |
| Sept. 24 | BAYMEC Annual Dinner |

San Jose Pride Festival Volunteers Needed! August 21-22

This year there may not be a San Jose Pride Parade, but there will be a Festival—and our PFLAG chapter has a booth to staff! We need volunteers for 1 or 2 hours on Saturday or Sunday between 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM. The festival is free to all on Saturday — and volunteers pay a reduced admission fee on Sunday!

For anyone who has not spent time in the PFLAG booth, it's an hour or two well spent. Most visitors are young and looking for information for their parents. We have free pamphlets available and business cards. This is also a great opportunity to spread the news about our Speakers Bureau and meet volunteers from other non-profit LGBTQ groups.

Below are common questions that we are asked — you may want to prepare your answers!

What is PFLAG?

What do you do at a meeting?

Is PFLAG only for parents and friends?

Should I come to a meeting with my parents?

Are there chapters in other states, and how do I find a chapter in another state? (Go to PFLAG.org)

Do you have a website? (pflagsanjose.org)

Do you send speakers to schools? (Yes!)

To sign up, please contact M.A. or call the helpline:

(408) 270-8182 or pflag-info@pflagsanjose.org

Note: See the SJ Pride website for updates on the parade status and more information: <http://www.sanjosepride.com/>



PFLAG Speakers' Bureau

It's about changing hearts and minds — face to face

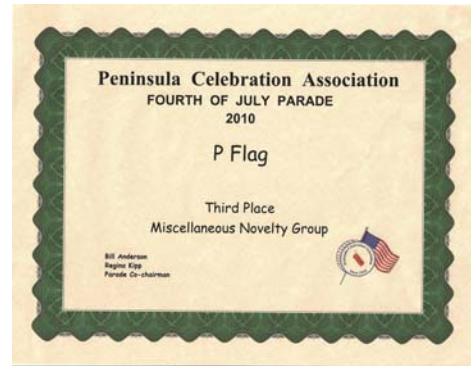
Are you looking for a way to make a difference? It's as easy as sharing a personal story. If you enjoy talking to people and sharing your experience, consider becoming a speaker for PFLAG.

For over 25 years, San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG's Speakers Bureau has provided speakers for schools, community, religious, and corporate organizations. We always need more speakers to fulfill the increasing requests for our programs.

Each year we offer a free, one-day training for LGBT people and their parents, families, and friends. Everyone has a story to tell! We will help you identify your story and train you to tell it in a way that sparks dialogue. Your story can make a huge difference in the life of a LGBT person and can create new allies.

Although you'll learn to talk to groups and answer questions confidently, you are not obligated to speak until you feel ready. For more information about the San Jose/Peninsula Speakers' Bureau, please email Stephen at: speakersbureau@pflagsanjose.org — or visit: <http://www.pflagsanjose.org/psb/>

July 4th Parade Award—We Won!



Hi all you frogs! We just received an award certificate for winning 3rd prize in our category in the July 4th parade — and a check for \$50 for our chapter! Joyce Fulton would be so pleased (though she might have preferred first place)! You all did great!!!

Put on your thinking caps — the theme for next year is "100th Anniversary of Naval Aviation." Anyone have an aircraft carrier costume? Made out of rainbows?

Thanks so much to all the people who showed up on the 4th, wore a silly frog hat, and wowed the judges. And many thanks to the Morses for a great picnic afterwards!

Religion & Same-sex Marriage in California

You may have seen press accounts of the report released by the Public Religion Research Institute: *Religion and Same-sex Marriage in California: A New Look at Attitudes and Values Two Years after Proposition 8*.

"Although it should come as no surprise, our research confirms clergy and religious groups continue to play an influential role in policy debates about the rights of gay and lesbian people," said Daniel Cox, Director of Research for Public Religion Research Institute. "But one of the most interesting dynamics uncovered in this survey was the significant number of respondents who report they would support marriage equality if the laws offer reassurances about their religious freedom concerns and clarify the distinction between civil and religious marriage."

View the complete report at:

<http://www.publicreligion.org/objects/uploads/fck/file/CA%20Survey%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>

The PFLAG Newsletter

Published monthly by San Jose/Peninsula Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays · www.pflagsanjose.org
 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 PFLAG National 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 ♥ 2010



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

Redwood City & San Jose:
 Judy Rickard and Karin Bogliolo, bi-national couple



Bring donations for AIDS services providers

▼ PFLAG'S MISSION

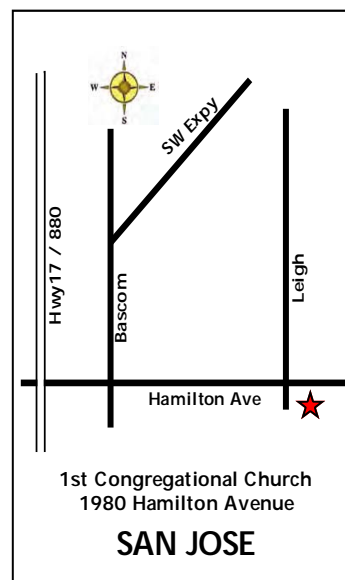
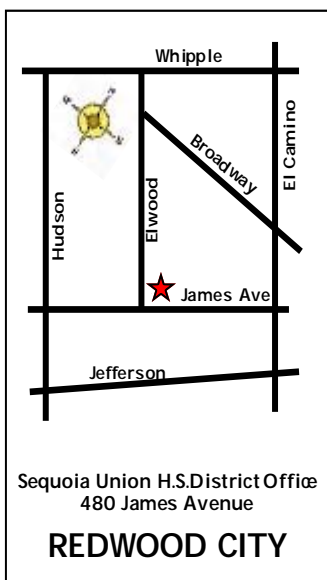
We provide love and support for all family members and friends. We work to create an environment of understanding so that our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender loved ones can live with dignity and respect. These are our goals:

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!**



MEMBERSHIP IN SAN JOSE/PENINSULA PFLAG ~ 2010

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

- New Date _____
 Renew Newsletter PDF via email
 Change Address I want to volunteer

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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- | | |
|--|----------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Individual Membership | \$30 |
| <input type="radio"/> Household Membership | \$40 |
| <input type="radio"/> Benefactor | \$50 |
| <input type="radio"/> Angel | \$100 and up |
| <input type="radio"/> Diva | \$1,000 and up |
| <input type="radio"/> Student or Newsletter Only | \$15 |
| <input type="radio"/> Gift Newsletter Subscription | \$8 |
| (for those who are already members to give to others too far away to come to meetings) | |
| <input type="radio"/> Donation for Scholarships | \$ _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Endowment Fund | \$ _____ |

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