



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

February 2010

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The good news is our PFLAG Chapter is doing well. The scholarship letters have been sent out with the help of many support meeting attendees, schools continue to request speakers to educate the next generation, people who attended our January meetings were very impressed with the programs (a GSA president and the film *On Whose Shoulders We Stand*), and the Board had a productive meeting.

We're also excited about our **Annual Dinner Meeting** coming up in March. I received an email from Chris, aka Sister Jeza-belle, a member of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and he has agreed to provide our program for the Annual Meeting! I met him at the "Meet in the Middle" gathering in Fresno after the passage of Prop 8, and have been keeping his card handy since then. It will be a most interesting evening! Put March 20th on your calendar now, and plan to have dinner with us at the Congregational Church of Belmont. A big Thank You to our caterers!

On a state-wide level, once more gay people (I use this term to refer to all GLBTQQI persons) are on trial. Do gays have power? Are gay men more likely to molest children? Is being gay a choice? Is there really a definition of gay or lesbian? Do children with gay parents have more problems? Why can't gays just be happy with Civil Unions? Is there personal or community economic advantage to allowing gays to marry? And on and on and on.

And as much as I hate that this even has to happen, I am more upset that the world can't hear what is being said except through often difficult to decipher blogs. The only excuse for all of this seems to be "to educate an ill-informed public," and yet the public isn't allowed to listen. If you have read any of the testimonies and cross examinations, you'll see the very obvious reasons why. Credible evidence is all on our side, and the opinions of the defense are often blatantly bigoted. In this case, the only person whose mind has to be made up is the Judge, but this will be far from the end, and it is extremely important for the world to hear these arguments.

The Board has set aside money that we received from the production of *The Laramie Project Revisited* to purchase copies of an amazing book, *Crisis*, and get it into the hands of teens. We talked about putting copies in school libraries, but are open to other ideas. If you know about kids, reading, libraries, etc., do let us know if you have a good idea. Many, many thanks to PFLAG member Fran Jackler, who is so impressed with this book she donated \$100 to get the project started. *Crisis* is a collection of 40 stories revealing the personal, social, and religious pain and trauma of growing up gay in America.

Finally, we're starting a list of people who would like to add their two cents to the front page of our newsletter. There are so many of you who could contribute to our chapter in this way. We have a guest columnist lined up for March, and are looking for others. Don't be shy!

Laurie Carter

MEETING CALENDAR

- FEBRUARY -

- Feb. 8 Redwood City Meeting - 7:30 PM
Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Feb. 10 San Jose Meeting - 7:30 PM
First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)
- Feb. 16 Board Meeting
UU Church of Palo Alto
505 E. Charleston Rd., Palo Alto
(3rd Tuesday of the month)
- Feb. 18 Straight Spouse Support - 7:30 PM
Call San Jose Helpline for info.
(3rd Thursday of the month)

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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



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



→ **March Newsletter Deadline:**
Sunday, Feb. 21



Save the Date! All are Invited!

PFLAG Chapter Annual Meeting
Saturday, March 20, 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Congregational Church of Belmont
751 Alameda, Belmont 94002

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence!
Catered Dinner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG Support Meetings

Redwood City – February 8
San Jose – February 10

Program topics will be announced on our website at:
www.pflagsanjose.org/meetings.php

Transgender Resources on our Webpage

Check out the transgender resources at

www.pflagsanjose.org/trans.php
www.pflagsanjose.org/other-items.php

Here are just a few of the links available:

- TransYouth Family Allies (TYFA)
<http://www.imatyfa.org/>
- PFLAG-Talk / TGS-PFLAG
<http://critpath.org/pflag-talk/>
- TNET PFLAG's Transgender Network (TNET)
<http://community.pflag.org/Page.aspx?pid=380>
- Rainbow Gender Association
<http://www.transgender.org/rga/>

PFLAG Annual Dinner and Meeting

March 20

This will be a great opportunity to reconnect with PFLAG friends — old and new, experience the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and enjoy a catered meal! The dinner is free, but a donation to our Scholarship Fund is requested by our generous caterers. Mark your calendars now — 6 PM at the Belmont Congregational Church — easy access from 101 or 280, and plenty of free parking. Don't miss it!

All on Board!



Are you wondering how you can make a difference in 2010? 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 ideas. Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 16th, at 7:30 PM at the Palo Alto UU Church on Charleston Avenue, just off 101. Take the San Antonio Road exit.

2010 San Francisco Equality Awards

February 13

Honoring: **Sam & Julia Thoron**
Justice Carlos R. Moreno

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco

Equality California's Equality Awards take the opportunity to honor our inspirational leaders and outstanding allied organizations, celebrate community achievements, and renew our engagement in the fight for equality.

This year, PFLAG's own Sam and Julia Thoron will be honored! Sam was recently President of PFLAG National, and both Julia and Sam have led San Francisco PFLAG and provided their support and expertise to Bay Area and northern California PFLAG chapters for many years. Sam and Julia were featured in the first in the No on 8 campaign video.

Purchase your tickets at: www.eqca.org/site/apps/s/content.asp?c=kuLRJ9MRKrH&b=4096757&ct=7660889

ANNUAL MID-PENINSULA DANCE A BENEFIT FOR PFLAG

For Women Only

Produced with the generous support of volunteers and members of the Peninsula Women's Group



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13
6:30 - 11:00 PM



MUSIC BY DJ PAGE HODEL

Twin Pines Senior & Community Center
1223 Ralston Ave, Belmont (2 blocks west of El Camino)

During the early part of the evening, the volume will be lower with music from the 60's - today. After 8, the pace and volume pick up. Beverages and snacks will be available. You may bring your own dinner. No outside beverages allowed.

\$15 Advance Purchase; \$20 after February 6th

Send your check payable to:
"Eleanor Sue/PFLAG"

734 Marion Ave, Palo Alto, Ca. 94303

No tickets will be mailed. All reservations are held at the door. Questions? Contact Wendy or Eleanor:
wenel@comcast.net

Mark your Calendar

Feb. 13 – PWG PFLAG Benefit Dance

Feb. 13 – 2010 EQCA Equality Awards

Mar. 20 – PFLAG Annual Dinner

May 10 - PFLAG Scholarship Award Ceremony — Redwood City

PFLAG National Scholarships

Deadline: March 12

PFLAG National awards thousands of dollars in scholarships each year to lesbian, gay, bi and transgender students and allies. Access the 2010 scholarship program and application at: www.pflag.org/scholarships

♥♥ *Happy Valentine's Day!* ♥♥



PFLAG Annual Scholarship Awards

Our annual PFLAG Scholarship Awards Night will be held at the Redwood City support meeting on Monday, May 10 - mark your calendars now!

Three \$2000 San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Scholarships and one scholarship in honor of Joyce Palmer Fulton will 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 2010. Awardees will be individuals whose educational history, personal plans, and activities demonstrate support for justice and equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons. The awards are provided with understanding that the funds will be used to offset the costs of tuition, books, or required fees.

Applications for the 2010 scholarships must be post-marked by March 27th. Mail application and related materials to: PFLAG Scholarships — Attn: Bob Obrey, 690 Persian Drive, Spc 57, Sunnyvale, CA 94089- 1716.

See the San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG website for the complete criteria and to download an application: www.pflagsanjose.org

Perry v. Schwarzenegger — Keeping up to Date on Prop 8

Websites with great links to articles, blogs and more:

National Center for Lesbian Rights Blog includes NCLR Legal Director Shannon Minter's day-by-day legal analysis, and more: <http://nclrights.wordpress.com/>

Stop8 has links to interesting articles in the press and online: <http://www.stop8.org/>

Prop 8 Legal Commentary:
<http://prop8legalcommentary.blogspot.com/>

For exhaustive coverage:

The Courage Campaign's Trialtracker is providing a live blog of the trial, and other commentary:
<http://prop8trialtracker.com/>

Unite the Fight: <http://unitethefight.blogspot.com/>

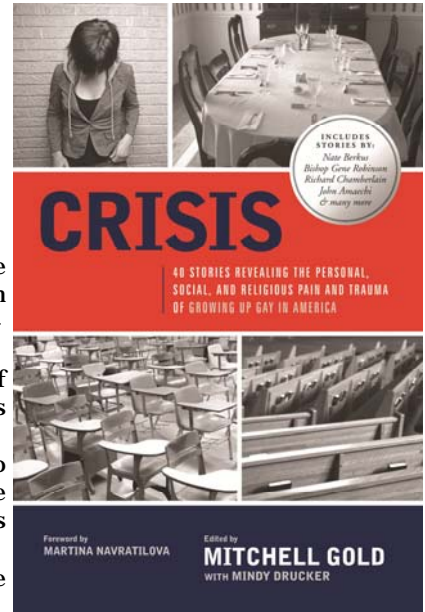
Pam's House Blend: <http://www.pamshouseblend.com/>

Note (from the Trialtracker post on 1/22): Judge Walker announced that he will delay the closing arguments for several weeks after both sides finish with their witnesses, to allow more time to look over the evidence. Due to this break, it is likely that Judge Walker will not take much time after the closing arguments to issue his ruling. So we may expect it in late February or early March.

We have flown the air like birds and swum the sea like fishes, but have yet to learn the simple act of walking the earth like brothers.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

CRISIS: 40 Stories Revealing the Personal, Social, and Religious Pain and Trauma of Growing Up Gay in America



- What is it like to be called an abomination by your religious leaders?
- To live in fear of losing your family's love?
- To be afraid to go to school because of the torment that awaits you?
- To lie to everyone about whom you love?

Mitchell Gold asked forty gay Americans to share very personal stories about the pain, fear, and rejection that can be a part of growing up gay in America. Contributors include many respected leaders including: Bishop Gene Robinson, H. Alexander Robinson, Jim Hormel, Donna Red Wing, Kevin Jennings, Rep. Tammy Baldwin, Rep. Barney Frank, to name a few. Several young adults open up about the depression, fear, and isolation that are still a part of growing up gay in many areas of the country today. These stories are also lessons in perseverance and achievement, showing the inner strength of the contributors and inspiring us all with their triumphs against the odds.

Gold calls this a silent epidemic and mental health crisis affecting hundreds of thousands of gay teens. And he emphasizes that this crisis can be solved, with compassion and fair-mindedness — and by getting those whose words and deeds cause harm to stop. Gold says that his book is an expose of certain groups that emerge as the source of this crisis:

- Religion gone awry
- Parents who will not allow their children to be who they are
- Educators who do not take responsibility for the safety of gay kids
- Politicians who do not stand up for equality for all
- The media's indifference to the crisis

Proceeds from the sale of this book will benefit several nonprofits working with gay teenagers and their families: PFLAG, The Trevor Project, The Point Foundation, GLSEN, and others. For anyone interested in helping kids, buying this book is one way to do so. For gay people and those who care about them, giving this book to someone you love is a good way to start your own dialogue. Our chapter wants to find the best way to get this book into the hands of as many of our teens as possible. Contact Laurie Carter at ldkcarter@gmail.com with your ideas!

Note: Future editions will include stories by transgender and bisexual youth, and more stories by lesbians. Go to <http://www.crisisbook.org/> to submit your own story or to respond to the book.

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 ♥ 2010



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

Redwood City & San Jose: to be announced at:
www.pflagsanjose.org/meetings.php

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:

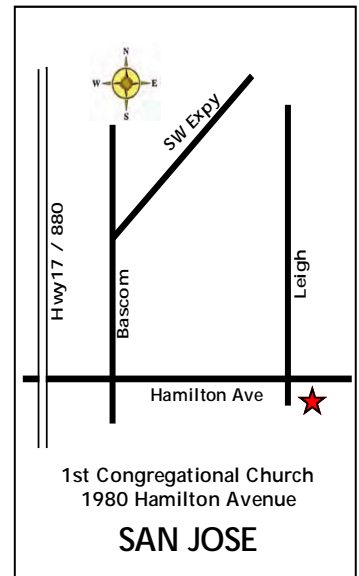
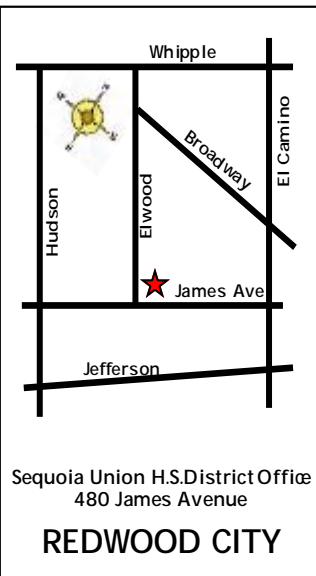
SUPPORT • EDUCATION • ADVOCACY



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

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