



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

January 2010

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I seem to cry at the Castro Theater. A year ago it was an emotional reaction to *Milk* where the conflicts of the Briggs Initiative struck a nerve still raw from the passage of Prop 8.

Last night, Christmas Eve, we attended the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus *Home for the Holidays* show. It was fun, funny, serious and touching. We smiled and laughed and also cried. We were especially moved by one young man, wearing a Star of David and with the chorus as a background, singing the story of menorahs in Billings, Montana in 1993 in a piece entitled *Not in Our Town*. Each man held a hand-colored picture of a menorah at the end of the song. Go to www.jg.org/folk/artists/fredsmall/not.in.our.town.lyrics.html or google "lyrics not in our town" for the story.)

What really got to me was a line in a song about Christmas stockings and the meaning of family that went something like "we were too young and innocent to know that some day we wouldn't we welcomed in this house." It went on to describe gay couples making their own family by loving each other. I get teary again just thinking about looking up into the wonderful faces of over 100 men (we sat right up front) and thinking how special each one is. What a loss to the families who have not embraced them and their partners—and how very sad to be rejected by one's own family.

This is what PFLAG is all about. Helping families and being family, showing the world what real family values are, this is what we do so well. In Ken's Christmas letter he said that at every PFLAG meeting (and he hasn't missed one in years) he feels like we make a difference in someone's life. Our speakers, our libraries, and each of you just being yourselves in the community—we all educate everyone we come in contact with. Our advocacy to change laws may just help to open the minds of people who don't know how to cope with differences.

In the New Year, come to a PFLAG meeting and give someone a hug, join the speaker's bureau, write a letter to a legislator or the editor of your newspaper, and most of all be out and tell your family's story. PFLAG has the power to change the world, and each of you contributes to that change.

Thanks for all you do,
Laurie



MEETING CALENDAR

~ JANUARY ~

- Jan. 11 Redwood City Meeting - 7:30 PM
Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Jan. 13 San Jose Meeting - 7:30 PM
First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)
- Jan. 19 Board Meeting
UU Church of Palo Alto
505 E. Charleston Rd., Palo Alto
(3rd Tuesday of the month)
ALL ARE WELCOME!
- Jan. 21 Straight Spouse Support - 7:30 PM
Call San Jose Helpline for info.
(3rd Thursday of the month)



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

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



→ **February 2010 Newsletter Deadline:**
Sunday, Jan. 24



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

Catered Dinner!
Entertainment to be announced



PFLAG Support Meetings

Redwood City — January 11

Our speaker will be Jason Galisatus, a junior at Aragon High School and the current president of the Aragon High School Gay Straight Alliance (GSA). He is also a member of the GSA Network Youth Council and helped organize the GSA-sponsored Youth Empowerment Summit in December. He has been involved in GSA related activities since 2007.

Jason has organized many protests and rallies such as Black Friday, a protest against Proposition 8, and has marched in the Pride Parade. He was recently on KGO as a guest to speak about Black Friday and about being gay in high school. Jason is currently working on getting a new policy passed at his school to provide a detailed procedure for handling hate speech on campus. He has been out to everyone in his life since his freshman year and loves working in the gay activist community.

You will be inspired by hearing this bright, articulate, brave teen who is passionate about ending homophobia.



San Jose — January 13

Glenn McElhinney or her representatives from Impact Stories will be sharing the documentary film *On These Shoulders We Stand* — "an illuminating historical account of early gay life and activism in Los Angeles told by the people who lived it."

In this tale of two cities in postwar Los Angeles, there is the one, a city with a substantial, vibrant gay community, and the other, a city obsessed with rendering that community invisible, kept in the closet or locked in its jails. *On These Shoulders We Stand* chronicles the lives of eleven elders, from their earliest years to their coming out to their groundbreaking activism for the rights of all LGBT people.

Watch the trailer at: www.impactstories.org/film.htm
This will be an unforgettable evening for our whole chapter.

If you usually just go to the Redwood City meeting, be sure to come to San Jose this month, too. You won't want to 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 January 19th 7:30 PM at the Palo Alto UU Church on Charleston Avenue, just off 101. Take the San Antonio Road exit.

2010 Dues are Due!

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! When you do, please consider supporting our PFLAG Scholarship program as well. Supporting GLBTQ and ally student activists is one of our Chapter's most worthy goals.

Use the form on the back of this newsletter or donate online at our website: www.pflagsanjose.org.

Your support of PFLAG and our mission is deeply appreciated.

**The Neurobiology of Sexual Orientation
January 10**

Dr. Jerome Goldstein will discuss the history of the removal of homosexuality from the DSM as a psychiatric diagnosis, as well as evidence from new scientific research confirming the neurobiology of sexual orientation, at the San Francisco PFLAG meeting on January 10, 3:15 PM, at St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church Street between 14th and Duboce.

Since homosexuality was removed from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders as a disease category in 1973, it has been mentioned as an illness only in the context of worsening anxiety states. The much debated issue is whether homosexuality is a choice, or whether it is a neurobiologic entity significantly determined prior to birth. Recent studies verify the latter. The neurobiology of sexual orientation and the gay brain has far-reaching consequences beyond sexual orientation. Dr. Goldstein is a board certified neurologist and fellow in the American Academy of Neurology.

—> **Mark your Calendar** <—

- Jan. 10 - Neurobiology of Sexual Orientation (SF PFLAG)
- Jan. 17 - Fish Out of Water (film)
- Jan 21 - N/A/P Lesbian Social Group
- Feb. 3-7 - Creating Change Conference
- Feb. 13 - 2010 EQCA Equality Awards
- Feb. 21 - Transgender Identity class
- Mar. 14 - Racism & Homophobia class

We Were There... PFLAG in Action

PFLAG members staffed a free gift-wrapping table at **Kepler's Books in Menlo Park on December 3 and 8**. It wasn't very busy during our shifts, but we received \$27 in donations, and gave out several of our new pencils with our name and web site on them. Next year we can get shifts at a busier time, and also set up a table at a bookstore in the San Jose area so those down there can participate.

We also staffed a PFLAG table at the **GSA Youth Empowerment Summit on December 5** in San Francisco.

We staffed a PFLAG table during each of the 6 performances of the Crystal Springs Players' **Laramie Project in San Mateo in mid-November**. Many thanks to our volunteers! We also had a table at the reading of *The Laramie Project Revisited* and the profits from that performance were shared with our chapter. We received a check for \$900.

Happy 89th Birthday Jeanne Manford!



At our **Holiday Party on December 4th**, we all signed a card, sang, and celebrated with a cake the 89th birthday of Jeanne Manford, founder of PFLAG. Laurie sent the card and photos to Jeanne along with individual thank you letters and congratulations.

Fish Out of Water

January 17

UU's of San Mateo, 300 E. Santa Inez Ave. — 7-9 pm

In this first program of a 3-part, 3-month series, we will view and discuss a fascinating documentary that explores "the impassioned relationship between homosexuality and the Bible," using animation and interviews to dissect the seven Bible verses used to condemn homosexuality and justify marriage discrimination.

See the trailer at:

<http://www.fishoutofwaterfilm.com/trailer.html>

Please register by email to events@uucpa.org

A new year is unfolding - like a blossom
with petals curled, tightly concealing the
beauty within. Anonymous



San Jose PFLAG Scholarship Committee Needs You!

One of the best things our PFLAG chapter does is to honor 4-5 high school seniors who have worked towards LGBT rights with \$2,000 scholarships. We are looking for a few people to help with this program this year. We need:

- Someone to head up the mailing of the letters to high schools in early January.
 - The letter is written and just needs to be updated with this year's dates and to be printed
 - Purchase stamps (paid for by PFLAG)
 - Labels will be printed for you
 - The folding and stuffing can be done by a group or at general meeting
- Someone to head up putting together little gift bags with a mug, some pencils, and whatever else you choose.
- Someone to head up the scholarship award evening which will take place at a general meeting in May.
 - This involves making sure a food table looks nice and asking people to help with refreshments. It could also involve getting a cake if desired. Expenses will be paid by our chapter.
 - Get there early that evening and help set up the room.
- People to help with reading the applications on one Saturday in April.

Please contact Laurie if you are willing to help with this important activity in any way. It's a fun way to get involved!

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

2010 San Francisco Equality Awards

February 13

Honoring: PFLAG's Sam & Julia Thoron
Justice Carlos R. Moreno

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

EQCA's Equality Awards aren't just about glamour and glitz. This is a opportunity to honor our selfless leaders, celebrate community achievements, and renew our engagement in the fight for equality.

The black ties, sequins and champagne? That's just icing on the cake. Each year EQCA honors the inspirational leaders and outstanding allied organizations whose selfless work helps create a better world for all people. The Equality Awards recognize the achievements of the organization, its sponsors, members, staff and volunteers, as well as the LGBT community.

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

The PFLAG NEWSLETTER

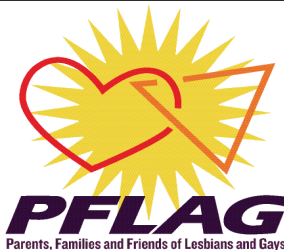
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Peninsula Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is a tax- exempt, volunteer, community based nonprofit organization.

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 ♥ 2010



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

Redwood City: Jason Galisatus, Aragon HS GSA president

San Jose: *On These Shoulders We Stand* (documentary)

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:

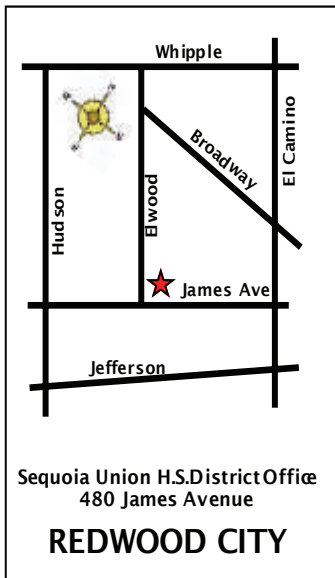
SUPPORT • EDUCATION • ADVOCACY



WHAT IS PFLAG?

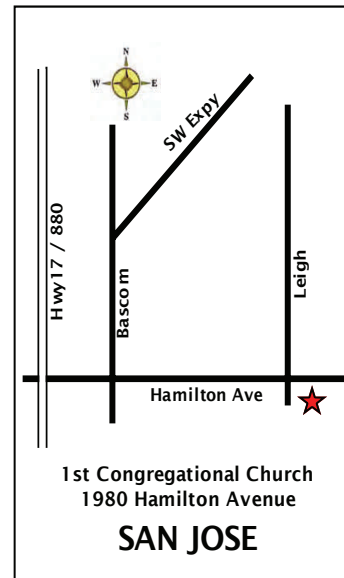
"PFLAG" is Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. We are a national support, education and advocacy organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people, their families, friends and allies. With 200,000 members and supporters, and local affiliates in more than 500 communities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



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 ~ 2010

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

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