



# San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

June / July 2010

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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

## President's Message

Saturday, May 22nd, was the 80th anniversary of Harvey Milk's birth, and California's first annual Harvey Milk Day, honoring his contributions to equality in our state. Over 1,000 people all over the state went into neighborhoods that day to talk to voters about equality and to present a human face to the LGBT community and supporters.

Bob and I joined some other PFLAGers and members of Equality California Silicon Valley in San Jose. We rang doorbells and talked to several people. I am very aware that this is not an activity everyone finds comfortable. I remember when I first knocked on doors for Michael Dukakis in 1988. I'd stand there and think "Please don't be home!!" But there are many other ways to contribute.

Some of Harvey Milk's most famous words are "My name is Harvey Milk and I'm here to recruit you." What could he recruit you to do? Who could you speak to? Where could you be out as an LGBT person, or ally?

While young people, particularly in our area, are feeling more comfortable coming out as gay, there are still huge numbers of kids growing up in an atmosphere where being gay is an "abomination." To quote Harvey again, "I know that you cannot live on hope alone, but without it, life is not worth living. And you... And you... And you... Gotta give 'em hope." We all, as LGBT adults, or as allies who love our LGBT friends and family members, can make a difference to these kids by being visible.

A huge thing you can do is to join us on Sunday, July 4th in Redwood City. Put on your green shirt and be part of the proud group, marching behind our PFLAG banner, with rainbow flags. Who knows how many young people in the crowd of tens of thousands of spectators might wake up on July 5th thinking, "Maybe I'm OK." How many parents might start to rethink their judgment of their children? And how many LGBT people and their allies might go home with renewed hope.

Harvey Milk would also be proud of you for joining the speaker's bureau and telling your story to students and others, changing hearts and minds one person at a time — destroying myths and stereotypes.

Be part of the PFLAG contingent in the Gay Pride Parade in San Francisco on June 27th (there will be a bus for those who don't feel they can walk the whole way), and in San Jose on August 22nd. In honor of Vic Tigerman, volunteer to be a wheel monitor for our bus in San Francisco, or to be a contingent monitor for PFLAG.

Celebrate Harvey Milk! Continue to be the wonderful supporters you are! And once again, thanks for all you do.

## Meeting Calendar

~ JUNE/JULY ~

**June 9** San Jose Meeting - 7:30 PM  
**July 14** First Congregational Church  
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)  
(2nd Wednesday of the month)

**June 14** Redwood City Meeting - 7:30 PM  
**July 12** Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices  
480 James Ave., Redwood City  
(2nd Monday of the month)

**June 15** Board Meeting  
**July 20** UU Church of Palo Alto  
505 E. Charleston Rd., Palo Alto  
(3rd Tuesday of the month)

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**June 17** Straight Spouse Support - 7:30 PM  
**July 15** Call San Jose Helpline for info.  
(3rd Thursday of the month)



**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*

**August Newsletter Deadline:**  
*Friday, July 23*

**JOIN US AT THE PARADES!**




**June 27 — SF Pride**  
**July 4th — Redwood City**  
**August 22 — San Jose**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PFLAG Support Meetings — June

### Redwood City — June 14

Daniel Yost will speak on marriage equality, being openly gay at work and in his community, and being a gay parent of two young kids. He and his husband Paul tried to marry each other three times. Two were domestic partnership registrations (the extra one because the first certificate arrived with a typo, proudly proclaiming that Paul had partnered with someone else!) and finally, in September, 2008 — after the California State Supreme Court decision — a legal marriage.

Daniel grew up partly on the San Francisco Peninsula and partly in Washington DC. He graduated from UC Santa Cruz, was a Fulbright Scholar at Oxford, England and received his law degree from UC Berkeley. He is an attorney who has been very active in the community, including providing pro bono legal advice to save Kepler's Bookstore in Menlo Park, helping to develop a public-private partnership between San Mateo County and the Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks to preserve the Folger Stable in Wunderlich Park, and serving as Congresswoman Anna Eshoo's representative to the San Mateo County Democratic Party.

Daniel and Paul live in Woodside with their two children.

**Please note:** This month we will meet in the Mahogany Conference Room - look for the signs!

### San Jose — June 9

We will watch a segment from the DVD *What's Morally Wrong with Homosexuality?* by Dr. John Corvino, "the Gay Moralist." Is homosexuality unnatural? Does it threaten society? Are gays and lesbians "born that way"—and does it matter either way? In this provocative program, Dr. John Corvino tackles these questions and more.

Combining philosophical rigor with sensitivity and humor, Corvino examines the most common arguments against same-sex relationships — including those based on nature, harm, and religion. In the process, he invites people on all sides to rethink easy assumptions about homosexuality and morality.

You can see a sneak preview at: [www.gaymoralist.com](http://www.gaymoralist.com)

## PFLAG Support Meetings — July

### Redwood City — July 12

### San Jose — July 14

At both meetings, we will have an informal sharing of Pride and July 4th parade experiences, in addition to our small group support discussions.



## San Francisco Pride Parade Sunday, June 27



The PFLAG bus is ready to roll, carrying PFLAGers in the San Francisco Pride Parade! There is no fee to ride the bus, but to help us offset the rental cost, we would greatly appreciate a contribution. Cash or checks payable to PFLAG may be given to Bob Carter when you board.

We'll need quite a few safety monitors to walk beside the bus and our contingent. We'll send out the monitor training schedule and sign-up info as soon as it's available. Please sign up! And if you can help with the PFLAG booth — staffing or set up/tear down on Saturday or Sunday, please contact Julia Thoron.

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? ▼



## Redwood City 4th of July Parade



***It's Not Easy Being Green!*** will be our theme this year, in line with the overall theme for the parade, "The Magic of Green." We will express our green theme by emulating Kermit the Frog, with green frog hats (get them when we line up) and green t-shirts. Let Laurie know if you need a green t-shirt. If you have extras, bring them along for those who don't have one.

Join us in Redwood City on Sunday morning, July 4th for a march through downtown past thousands of "middle Americans." If you plan to come, contact Laurie Carter — so that she can send you the last minute instructions on where to meet. Carrying our PFLAG banner and waving rainbow flags, we'll be a (green) light to the community! ▼

### Mark your Calendar

- |            |                                        |
|------------|----------------------------------------|
| June 12    | Confronting Civil and Political Danger |
| June 19    | SVGMC Concert                          |
| June 19/20 | Rainbow Women's Chorus                 |
| Jun. 26/27 | San Francisco Pride                    |
| July 4     | Redwood City Parade                    |
| Aug. 21/22 | San Jose Pride                         |

## Why We Need to be Out

Recently Bob and I showed up to take over from a lesbian couple tabling at a voter registration booth. One of the women pointed to my rainbow ribbon and Marriage Equality pin and asked me why I was wearing it. When I told her, she said "I know, but (pointing to Bob) I assume you're not gay, so why?"

How sad that she would have wondered why a straight couple would be supporting them. It really hit home how important it is for us, the parents, families and friends of PFLAG, to be out as allies. ▼



### 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 contact Stephen at: [speakersbureau@pflagsanjose.org](mailto:speakersbureau@pflagsanjose.org) — or visit: <http://www.pflagsanjose.org/psb/> ▼

## Harvey Milk Day

California's first annual Harvey Milk Day was celebrated on May 22. Here's a website with many Harvey Milk quotes and two interesting videos:

<http://www.queervisions.com/2008/harvey-milk-quotes> ▼

It takes no compromising to give people their rights. It takes no money to respect the individual. It takes no survey to remove repressions.

Harvey Milk, in a 1973 speech

## Ever Been to a PFLAG Meeting?

If not, you may wonder what actually happens at our chapter support meetings. Do you have to talk? Do you have to announce that you are gay, lesbian, or transgender - or that your son or daughter or sibling or parent is gay? Do you have to become a member, sign up for a committee, or march in the next Gay Pride Parade? Will we ask you for money?

In fact, there is no pressure to speak up, or reveal anything beyond your own comfort level at our meetings. There is no pressure to become a PFLAG activist unless it's something that you really are ready for and want to do. You can receive the PFLAG newsletter free for three months — only if you ask to — before deciding if you want to join PFLAG. And Peninsula/San Jose PFLAG never shares its membership list with any other organization.

We are here to provide support for those in need. You'll find us a diverse, friendly and sympathetic group with a variety of experiences. We were once in your shoes, and approached our first PFLAG meeting with trepidation. As parents, friends, and/or GLBT people, we now share our journeys and learn from each other. Some of our stories may be helpful to you in sorting out your own conflicting or painful feelings. Our programs may give you helpful information and new insights.

We are also there to celebrate your successes, and to help galvanize you into action when you are ready to take an active role in making our world a safer and healthier place for all our families. So don't be shy - please join us! You'll be glad you did, and we will be, too!



## Fred Phelps' Son Devotes His Life to Healing

Nate Phelps, son of the "god hates fags" preacher Fred Phelps, spoke to *Xtra, Canada's Gay & Lesbian News*, about what it's like to grow up in a fundamentalist household.

Nate, a 51-year-old taxi driver and father of five, now hosts a healing and support group called Life After Fundamentalism. He left the US for Canada in December of 2005 and is working his way through the Canadian immigration system.

Nate says: "... basically, my message was, I grew up in that church for 18 years and tested their theology over the last 30 years — and I rejected it. They're so hateful towards so many people. And while they spiritually cloak themselves in their civil rights, they simultaneously demand those same rights be denied to another group.

Read the whole interview at:

[http://www.xtra.ca/public/National/Son\\_of\\_God\\_hates\\_fags\\_preacher\\_angry\\_with\\_fathers\\_teaching-8640.asp](http://www.xtra.ca/public/National/Son_of_God_hates_fags_preacher_angry_with_fathers_teaching-8640.asp) ▼

## The PFLAG Newsletter

Published monthly by San Jose/Peninsula Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays · [www.pflagsanjose.org](http://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.

**JUNE - Redwood City:** Daniel Yost, speaker  
**San Jose:** Dr. John Corvino (DVD)  
**JULY - (both):** Sharing Parade experiences

Bring donations for AIDS services providers

## ▼ PFLAG'S MISSION

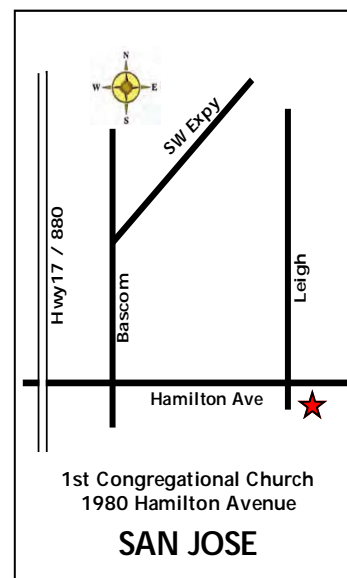
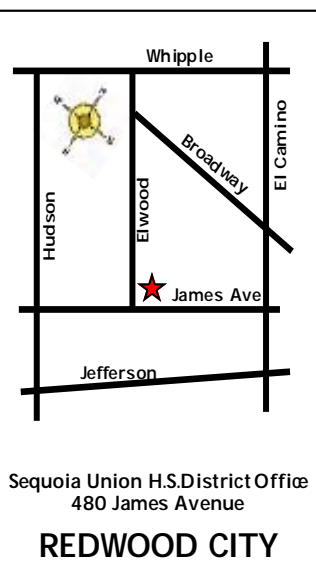
We provide love and support for all family members and friends. We work to create an environment of understanding so that our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender loved ones can live with dignity and respect. These are our goals:

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*Required for PDF Newsletter. Send PDF? YES NO (circle one)

- 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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