



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

May 2010

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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Bring On the Fabulous

Our guest columnist this month is Laurie daughter, Sarah. It seems appropriate to hear from a gay person what the kinds of things honored by the GLAAD Ceremonies mean to someone in the GLBTQ community. (GLAAD = Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation)

As he walked off stage after performing at the GLAAD awards in Los Angeles last week, Adam Lambert said to the crowd, "My mission ... is not only to promote visibility in the gay and lesbian community, but promote *diversity* in the gay and lesbian community."

The former is something the "Hollywood machine" media has been getting better at in the twenty years since I've been actively searching for queer role models on my TV, but the latter is something that has been a long time coming. I feel like we've made some great strides in the last year, though. Last November, when Adam kissed one of his band members at the AMA awards, the press had a fit, and I expected apologies and hand-wringing, and for Adam to assure everyone he was the "safe" kind of gay man, just like those guys on *Will and Grace*. Instead he held his ground. He called out the hypocrisy of loving Madonna kissing Britney Spears, but not wanting to see two men doing the same thing. He said feeling sexy is nothing to apologize for.

We've also had Johnny Weir with his sequins and feathers and his Sundance Channel show *Be Good, Johnny Weir*, refusing to be anything other than his fabulous, diva, sometimes bitchy self. Even while he was maintaining that who he slept with was no one's business (which it isn't), he never pretended he wasn't queer in the larger sense of the word. He's campy and hard working and self-aware and cares about being a role model for kids who don't feel like they fit in.

And we have *Glee*, which pushes stereotypes so far it reveals the absurdity of them, and also has a gay kid, Kurt, played by a young, out gay man, Chris Colfer. The show's other big draw is out actor Jane Lynch. Chris has said about his role: "It's good to have something positive, especially for kids in small towns, like myself, who need a little pick-me-up."

And that pick-me-up is what I've needed. I'm tired of feeling like it's only okay to be queer if I look/talk/act in a way that feels safe to society at large. Show me that men can wear makeup and talk about sex with other men and still sell records, and gay actors can draw over 13 million viewers to their TV shows. Bring on the fabulous!

Sarah

Meeting Calendar

~ MAY ~

- May. 10 Scholarship Awards Night - 7:30 PM
San Mateo County Office of Education
101 Twin Dolphin Drive, Redwood City
(No support meeting this month)
- May. 12 San Jose Meeting - 7:30 PM
First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)
- May. 18 Board Meeting
UU Church of Palo Alto
505 E. Charleston Rd., Palo Alto
(3rd Tuesday of the month)
- ALL ARE WELCOME!**
- May. 20 Straight Spouse Support - 7:30 PM
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*

May Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, May. 28



PFLAG Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony



Monday, May 10 - Redwood Shores*
7:30 PM

Come Honor Our Outstanding Awardees

***New Location!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG Support Meetings

Redwood City — May 10 — No Support Meeting

The **PFLAG Scholarship Awards Ceremony** will be held on May 10 in Redwood Shores at the San Mateo County Office of Education in place of the support meeting this month. For more information and directions, see page 3.

San Jose — April 14

Dane Dugan, the Executive Director of the Silicon Valley AIDS Leadership Center, will speak on **HIV/AIDS 101**. The Center's mission is to lead the fight, united with our communities, to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS and enhance the lives of affected persons. The organization produces the largest fundraiser and public awareness event for HIV/AIDS in the Silicon Valley Walk for AIDS. This will be the 21st year for the event, having raised over 6 million dollars for the cause.

Dane's presentation will include:

- Prevention and education
- Overview of partner agencies working with HIV/AIDS in the community
- Walk for AIDS participation and volunteering
- Other programs and events that are directed by the Center

To learn more about the Silicon Valley AIDS Leadership Center, please see: <http://www.aidsleadershipcenter.org>



Celebrate Harvey Milk Day — Make a Difference in San Jose May 22

Last fall the Governor signed AB 2567. That legislation established May 22 as Harvey Milk Day to commemorate the birthday of this hero of the LGBT community in California.

Celebrate the first Harvey Milk Day with Equality California. What better way to honor Harvey Milk's legacy than by talking with people who are not yet supportive of marriage equality and LGBT rights? Just as Harvey Milk did, we'll be going into neighborhoods to put a face to the issue of marriage equality. After we go door-to-door, we'll have a picnic to celebrate Harvey Milk's legacy and our shared work to support marriage for same-sex couples.

- Walking — 12 noon -4:00 PM
- Celebrating — 4:00-6:00 PM at Selma Olinder Park: 18th and William Streets, San Jose

RSVP at: www.eqcaevents.org/calendar/events/index.php?com=detail&eID=102 or contact Chris Riley: email chris.riley@eqca.org — or phone (408) 569-6320.

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 have permission to carry one sign, so we will express our green theme by emulating Kermit the Frog, with green hats and green t-shirts. Laurie will have some extras in case you need one.

So mark your calendars now to join us in Redwood City on Sunday morning, July 4th for a march through downtown past thousands of "middle Americans." Carrying our PFLAG banner and waving rainbow flags, we'll be a (green) light to the community!

Get Your Calendar Ready for Pride Parades!

Put these dates on your Calendar now:

San Francisco Pride Festival and Parade
June 26-27

San Jose Pride Festival and Parade
August 21-22

Yes — San Jose Pride is in August this year, due to a scheduling conflict in June.

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, May 18, 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.

Mark your Calendar

May 11	DADT Lobby Day
May 10	PFLAG Scholarship Award Ceremony - Redwood Shores
May 22	1st Annual Harvey Milk Day
Jun. 26/27	San Francisco Pride
July 4	Redwood City Parade
Aug. 21/22	San Jose Pride

PFLAG Scholarship Awards Ceremony



— New Location! —
San Mateo County Office of Education
101 Twin Dolphin Drive, Redwood City

Our annual PFLAG Scholarship Awards Ceremony will be held on **Monday, May 10 at 7:30 PM** in the Auditorium of the San Mateo County Office of Education, 101 Twin Dolphin Drive, in the Redwood Shores area of Redwood City. See directions below.

This year five \$2000 scholarships 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 the understanding that the funds will be used to offset the costs of tuition, books, or required fees.

Directions from 101 South:

Take the Ralston Ave/Marine Parkway exit
Turn left onto Marine Parkway
Go to Twin Dolphin Drive, turn right
Go to Shoreline Drive, make a U-Turn
Arrive at 101 Twin Dolphin Drive, on the right

Directions from 101 North:

Take the Holly Street/Redwood Shores Parkway exit
Take Redwood Shores Parkway
Turn left on Twin Dolphin Drive
Arrive at 101 Twin Dolphin Drive, on the right

This evening is always one of the most inspirational PFLAG events of the year — Don't miss it!



PFLAG Scholarship Fund Update

Good news! In the first quarter we received donations of \$6,915 to our Scholarship Fund. We have a yearly goal of \$10,000. With another \$3,085 over the next three quarters we can meet our goal this year. Awarding scholarships to deserving students is one of the many good things our chapter does, it makes us unique, and it makes a huge difference in the lives of these young people who work for the betterment of the GLBT community. If you haven't already done so, please consider making a donation now.

Thank you for your support of the PFLAG Scholarship Fund!



Ask About Transgender Issues

The New York Times has a recent column featuring Dr. Laura Erickson-Schroth responding to readers' questions about transgender life. Dr. Erickson-Schroth is working on ***Trans Bodies, Trans Selves***, a resource guide for transgender and other gender-variant people, covering health, legal issues, cultural and social questions, history and theory. The questions are in the Comments section of the article.

Dr. Erickson-Schroth's informative replies can be read by clicking on the "Responses" links beneath her picture. More questions can be submitted. Check it out — lots of great information!

<http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/04/19/ask-about-transgender-issues/>



Historic Hospital Visit Directive

On April 15, President Obama signed a memorandum which gave an historic directive to the Department of Health and Human Services: an order to prohibit discrimination in hospital visitation. It also specifies that partners of gay and lesbian individuals should be allowed power of attorney.

According to the White House, this order will affect any hospital that receives Medicare or Medicaid funding — in other words, just about every hospital in the U.S.

The Hospital Visitation Memorandum says:

"There are few moments in our lives that call for greater compassion and companionship than when a loved one is admitted to the hospital. In these hours of need and moments of pain and anxiety, all of us would hope to have a hand to hold, a shoulder on which to lean — a loved one to be there for us, as we would be there for them... Uniquely affected are gay and lesbian Americans who are often barred from the bedsides of the partners with whom they may have spent decades of their lives — unable to be there for the person they love, and unable to act as a legal surrogate if their partner is incapacitated."

It goes on to issue the instructions for "compassionate care and equal treatment" in hospitals.

Here at PFLAG National, we all applaud the President's principled stand and the power that he's putting behind it to ensure that our gay and lesbian loved ones are granted the equal rights that they deserve. This is a tremendous step for the government and a landmark day for equality.

Elizabeth H. Fregiato,
Director of Policy and Programs, PFLAG National

To read the Memorandum, go to:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-memorandum-hospital-visitation>



DADT Lobby Day May 11

On May 11th, hundreds of veterans from across the country will descend on Washington, D.C. with one clear message for Congress — "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" needs to go, and it needs to go this year! The National Veterans Lobby Day on DADT will take place immediately before the National Defense Authorization Act — which should contain DADT repeal language — is drafted on Capitol Hill. During this critical time, we need all hands on deck.

PFLAG needs you to join us in Washington, D.C., whether in person or "virtually." Now is the time to put pressure on Congress to act this year. We can only accomplish this goal with your help. We encourage you to participate in one of the following activities:

* **Share Your Story.** If you are a veteran, the family member of a veteran, or an active duty service member, please consider sharing your story by contacting us at rperry@pflag.org.

* **Schedule a Visit.** On May 11th, you can make a difference by visiting the offices of your representative and your senators.

* **Call Congress.** Please visit our action center: http://capwiz.com/pflag/home/?external_id=10238.0 and tell your elected officials that all patriotic Americans deserve the right to serve their country. Use the following (or similar) message when you call:

Hello, my name is _____. As a proud member of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and as an active constituent in your district, I want to express my support of the Military Readiness Enhancement Act and ask _____ to pass this legislation without delay. The bill would repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law, and it would implement a standard non-discrimination policy that would allow all qualified, patriotic Americans to proudly serve their country, freely and openly.

It is unconscionable that lesbian, gay and bisexual service members can STILL be discharged for their real or perceived sexual orientation. Since "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was enacted, nearly 13,000 service members have been discharged, costing the federal government \$555 million to reinforce bigotry and discrimination. In fact, it is the only federal law on the books that endorses employment discrimination. While this practice is unfortunately legal, we all know it is wrong. Please help by asking your legislators to overturn this unjust law. ▼

The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problems.

Mohandas Gandhi

Tell Congress - Vote on ENDA Now!

The House Democratic leadership has indicated that it intends to move forward on long-awaited legislation banning employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The inclusive measure offered by Representative Barney Frank (D-MA) already has 199 co-sponsors, including six Republicans. Seventeen more votes are needed to pass the bill.

Take action now to pass ENDA! Here's how:

* Call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121— use this message:

My name is _____. I am a proud member of PFLAG and I live at (give your street address) in (give your city/town). I am calling in support of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (H.R. 3017) to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people from job discrimination. This bill needs to be voted on NOW. Please pass ENDA now. Thank you.

* Visit the PFLAG Action Center: <http://capwiz.com/pflag/issues/alert/?alertid=14936001> ▼



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 — or visit: <http://www.pflagsanjose.org/psb/>

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: PFLAG Scholarship Awards
San Jose: Dane Dugan: HIV/AIDS 101

Bring donations for AIDS services providers



▼ PFLAG'S MISSION

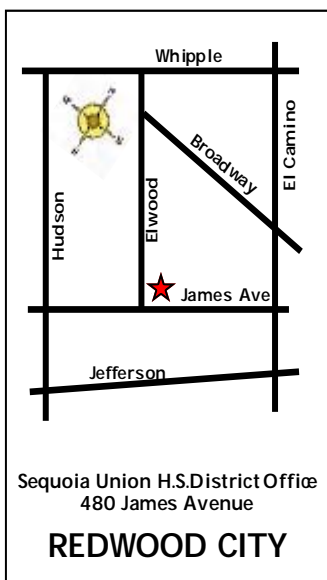
We provide love and support for all family members and friends. We work to create an environment of understanding so that our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender loved ones can live with dignity and respect. These are our goals:

SUPPORT • EDUCATION • ADVOCACY

WHAT IS PFLAG?

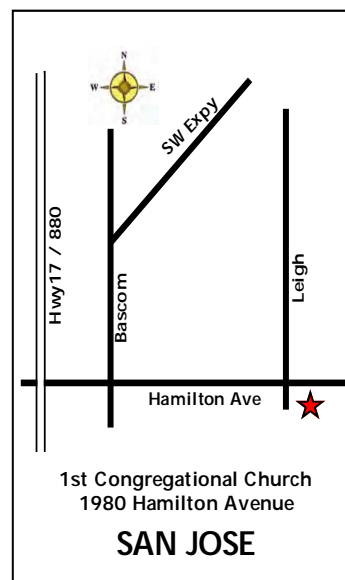
PFLAG is Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. We are a national support, education and advocacy organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people, their families, friends and allies. With 200,000 members and supporters, and local affiliates in more than 500 communities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

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| <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.