



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

October 2010

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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

President's Message

I first want to comment on the amazing power of the internet. On Tuesday morning of this week, Dan Savage and his husband posted a video of themselves on YouTube talking about how awful their lives were in high school, and how wonderful they are now. This was the first step in their ***It Gets Better Project*** which aims to gather together videos from others whose lives have gotten better, and put them out there to give messages of hope to those who need it.

They were inspired by someone who said, in reference to a 15 year old who took his own life because of bullying, "I wish I could have told him it gets better." As of Friday afternoon, word of the *It Gets Better Project* had spread via email and social networking sites all over the world, and over 130,000 people had watched their video. Dan and his husband were also interviewed on the NY Times "Well" blog. Videos from other people are flooding in.

To read the interview and hear the story of Dan Savage, go to: <http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/09/22/showing-gay-teens-a-happy-future/>. And on YouTube, search *It Gets Better Project* to view the many other stories.

Last month I was feeling down, unsure how we could comfortably leave our PFLAG chapter, dumping responsibilities on the shoulders of people who have already been doing so much and are also reaching burnout. But now I realize that being open to the big change in our lives has opened doors for others, too.

As of today we have an Executive Committee who will keep the board and the chapter going until a wonderful new president is found, which I know will happen. At our San Jose meeting during the "job fair" a fairly new member volunteered to join the Finance Committee. In Redwood City, one first-time attendee joined our board as our new Secretary, and another, who loves the July 4th Parade, agreed to be our contact person for our chapter's contingent. We now have a new Scholarship Committee chair — assuming help with mailing, reading applications, and organizing the awards ceremony.

In October, we will hold our board meeting at the Carter home and will go through everything belonging to our PFLAG chapter, deciding what needs to be saved, what is no longer useful, and where things can be stored.

So as much as I will miss all of you and the work we do together, I feel free to leave now and it's very liberating.

We will continue to hold the "job fair" at our meetings and hopefully find people who want to help on the Scholarship

Meeting Calendar

~ OCTOBER ~

- Oct. 11 Redwood City Support** - 7:30 PM
Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Oct. 13 San Jose Support** - 7:30 PM
First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)
- Oct. 21 Straight Spouse Support** - 7:30 PM
Call San Jose Helpline for info.
(3rd Thursday of the month)
- Oct. 25 Board Meeting**
At the Carter's home
(4th Monday 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*

**Nov/Dec Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, October 22**

Committee, work with our chapter libraries, provide refreshments at meetings, arrange the bus for SF Gay Pride and handle the PFLAG brochures.

Maybe you will be one of them?

Laurie Carter

**OCTOBER is GLBT HISTORY MONTH!
October 11— National Coming Out Day**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



PFLAG Support Meetings

Redwood City — October 11
San Jose — October 13

Windsor Smith and Paul Clifford will talk about PFLAG's award-winning cable-access TV show our chapter produces — *Parents Families & Friends*. They'll discuss their motivation for producing the show and why it's worthwhile, what it's like and how it's produced, and plans for the future. They'll also show some excerpts, answer your questions, and bring a few DVD copies to hand out to anyone who wants them. Come check it out!



October Board Meeting Changes



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.

This month the Board meeting will be held on Monday, October 24, at 7:30 PM, at the home of Laurie and Bob Carter, 1925 Belmont Avenue, San Carlos.



Save the Date! PFLAG Holiday Party December 7

The PFLAG Board Holiday Party will be hosted by Laurie and Bob Carter at their home on Tuesday, December 7th at 6 PM. Mark your calendars now! — and plan on joining us for a potluck dinner and white elephant gift exchange. It's always a fun get-together and all are welcome!



We Are Family Social Group

Meet up with local families with LGBT parents for fun and social activities! The group will meet 2 times a month, generally the second Sunday and one other weekday evening. Activities are planned based around age groups 2-11 years interests, but all ages are always welcome. For more information, email: queerfamily.judi@gmail.com.



Gay and Lesbian Artists of San Jose October 14

An LGBT art gallery and variety show will be presented by The Gay and Lesbian Artists of San Jose at 6:00 PM on Thursday, October 14, at the Billy DeFrank Center. Tickets: \$10, \$15, or \$20. For reservations, send email to: RobbyKendall@aol.com or visit <http://www.gala-sj.org/>



Silicon Valley Walk for AIDS

October 17



Join The DeFrank Center's TEAM BILLY at the 21st Annual Silicon Valley Walk for AIDS on Sunday, October 17. The walk is more than just a fundraiser, it's a fun way for all members of the community to show their support for the fight against HIV/AIDS. By joining TEAM BILLY you will be able to support the Center's HIV program that provides free HIV testing along with outreach in schools and in our community.

Here is how you can support the cause: (1) sign up for the walk, (2) recruit other friends to join our team, and/or (3) donate directly to TEAM BILLY or to a TEAM BILLY walker. TEAM BILLY will have a lot of fun before, during and after the walk, while helping the community to fight against a disease that affects the lives of our neighbors and friends. Register or donate now at the TEAM BILLY web page:

<http://www.kintera.org/faf/search/searchTeamPart.aspx?ievent=422256&lis=1&kntae422256=5823CEF70DCE44D293DDE34E71E8F482&team=3804449>

Direct questions about the walk to:

TeamBillyWalk4AIDS@gmail.com

Rent — October 9 movie night

Join TEAM BILLY for an evening of socializing, singing and *Rent*-related trivia, raising funds for our participation in the walk. Call (408) 293-3040, x103 for tickets: \$8 through October 8th, or \$10 at the door.



National Coming Out Day - October 11

Every October 11, thousands of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and allies celebrate National Coming Out Day. They hold workshops, speak-outs, rallies and other kinds of events, all aimed at showing the public that LGBT people are everywhere. But what's so special about October 11? How did that become a day aimed at encouraging LGBT people to come out and be honest about themselves?

Find the answers to these questions - and lots more information about coming out at: <http://www.hrc.org/ncod/>



➡ Mark your Calendar ⬅

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Oct. 2 | One Nation Working Together Rally in San Mateo |
| Oct. 11 | National Coming Out Day |
| Oct. 17 | Silicon Valley Walk for AIDS |
| Dec. 7 | PFLAG Holiday Potluck |
| Dec. 11 | Youth Empowerment Summit |

Update on the Proposition 8 Trial

By the September 24 deadline, numerous anti-GLBT equality activist groups and individuals, along with the attorney generals of 13 states (including Indiana, Virginia, Louisiana, Michigan, Alabama, Alaska, Florida, Idaho, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, and Wyoming) filed nearly 30 amicus briefs with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, opposing District Court Judge Vaughn Walker's ruling in the Prop 8 Perry v Schwarzenegger case.

You can find more on the Prop 8 Trial Tracker at:

<http://prop8trialtracker.com/>

or read the briefs posted at:

<http://www.calcomui.org/prop8courtdocs.html>

What's Next:

The Ted Olson and David Boies team have to file their plaintiffs' answer brief by Oct. 18. Amicus briefs supporting them are due one week later on Oct. 25. The Ninth Circuit Court has set the hearing of the oral argument for the week of December 6.

On the Bright Side:

The American Foundation for Equal Rights (AFER) held a fund-raiser in New York City on September 22. AFER is the organization that, led by lawyers Theodore Olson and David Boies, challenged Prop 8.

With scores of first-time donors in the room, many of them from Wall Street, AFER raised more than \$1.2 million. The reception was chaired by three Republicans: Ken Mehlman, of private equity giant Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Company; Paul Singer of hedge fund Elliott Management; and Peter Thiel of hedge fund Clarium Capital.

According to AFER, high-profile guests included President George W. Bush's daughter Barbara, Democratic activist David Mixner, and former Massachusetts Republican Governor William Weld, among others.

Hope:

Boyce Hinman of California Communities United Institute wrote: "Before [we] begin to panic about all the briefs in support of Prop 8, we should consider the following:

- Just because people or groups submit briefs to the court, it does not mean the court must consider their arguments. People appealing a lower court decision must have legal standing to address the court. The briefs of any group that the court thinks does not have standing will end up in the dust bin.
- Quality not quantity is important. The ones who win this case at the appeals court level will be those who submit arguments that the Justices find most persuasive.
- And, finally, the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals has a reputation as a liberal court."

That should give us some hope.

One Nation Working Together March

October 2

Join PFLAG National at the **One Nation Working Together March** on Saturday, October 2nd in Washington, D.C. The Lincoln Memorial will be the site of an afternoon rally, headed by a broad coalition of progressive organizations under the united theme of "One Nation Working Together." The march is an effort to organize one of the most inclusive progressive coalitions assembled to date.

The day will see hundreds of thousands of people from across America gather to demonstrate re-commitment to change. The One Nation March will feature human and civil rights leaders, labor leaders, environmental and peace activists, faith leaders, celebrities and sports figures – all marching together to help reorder our national priorities so that investments in people come first.

PFLAG is one of many groups mobilizing to participate. LGBT organizing for the march is being handled by an "LGBTQ table," spearheaded by the National Black Justice Coalition, the National Stonewall Democrats, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), and Pride at Work, the LGBT group within the AFL-CIO. Participating groups include the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), Immigration Equality, the grassroots group GetEqual, and the Equality Federation, representing state-level LGBT rights organizations.

For more information, visit One Nation Working Together: <http://www.onenationworkingtogether.org/>



San Mateo Rally — October 2

On the ONWT website there is one local event listed for the Bay Area. Peace Action of San Mateo County (www.sanmateopeaceaction.org) is hosting a vigil in solidarity with the D.C. march/rally on Saturday, October 2, from 3- 4 PM at the corner of 5th Avenue and El Camino Real in downtown San Mateo. Bring your signs!



OCTOBER is GLBT History Month

The GLBT community is the only community worldwide that does not learn its history at home, in public schools or in religious institutions. GLBT History Month teaches our heritage, provides role models, builds community and makes the civil rights statement of our extraordinary national and international contributions.



The most important political step that any gay man or lesbian can take is to come out of the closet. It's been proven that it is easier to hate us and to fear us if you can't see us.

Amanda Bearse

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:
 PFLAG's Award-winning Public Access Cable TV Show



Bring donations for AIDS services providers

▼ PFLAG'S MISSION

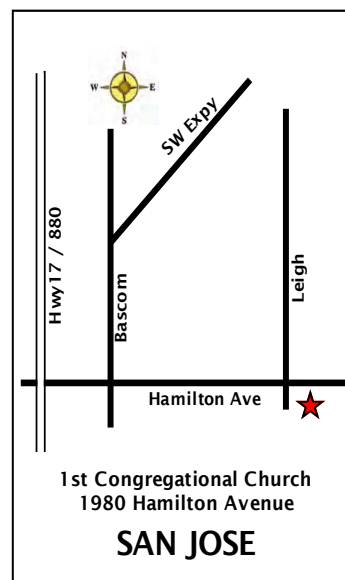
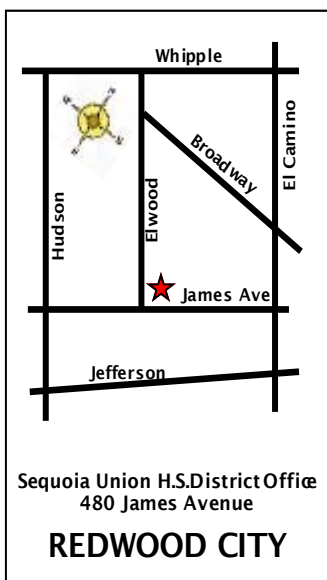
We provide love and support for all family members and friends. We work to create an environment of understanding so that our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender loved ones can live with dignity and respect. These are our goals:

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 ~ 2011

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.