



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

September 2010

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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

President's Message

Last week I was helping register voters at the San Carlos Farmer's Market and was next to Marriage Equality's table. I was really impressed by the number of straight parents with their children who came by to make donations and purchase buttons and bumper stickers.

For the last couple of years we have been talking about PFLAG's program, Straight for Equality. I think all of us realize the importance of having straight allies to accomplish our goals of full equality for LGBT persons. The goals of PFLAG's program are to educate the straight populace about what it means to be a straight ally — about the fact that one doesn't have to be political or an activist — one can do whatever small things fit within one's comfort zone. The program helps people identify what barriers they have to coming out as an ally, and show them ways to overcome them one step at a time.

PFLAG National is starting a new program, Straight for Equality in Faith Communities. Several of us attended the first training in the area for this program in August. Jean-Marie Navetta, the woman who is doing the training workshops (and is wonderful!) has just moved to San Francisco with her wife, so we have her right here to help us. My question to you is, do you belong to a faith community where hearing people's stories might help the membership to be more open to talking about GLBT issues? Maybe some people are accepting, and others aren't there yet. Or perhaps most people are OK with it, but could use a push to becoming strong allies.

Jean-Marie would be happy to help us start a program in your faith community if you are comfortable enough to work out plans with the powers that be to act as our "in" to bring a PFLAG panel to your congregation. Just let me know, or contact any of us if you'd like to discuss it further.

Remember, as a parent, family or friend, you are a straight ally and have a special voice to speak out for equality and against prejudice. "That joke offended me. I have a gay son, daughter, friend, who I really care about." Keep telling your stories — everyone!

For everyone in PFLAG, helping to keep our PFLAG chapter active is a way to promote healthy families and work for acceptance and full inclusion in our society for all GLBT people. Look inside the newsletter for ways that even over-committed people can do a little something to help.

Our family thanks you for all you do.
Laurie

Meeting Calendar

~ SEPTEMBER ~

- Sept. 8 San Jose Support** - 7:30 PM
First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)
- Sept. 13 Redwood City Support** - 7:30 PM
Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Sept. 16 Straight Spouse Support** - 7:30 PM
Call San Jose Helpline for info.
(3rd Thursday of the month)
- Sept. 21 Board Meeting**
UU Church of Palo Alto—Room 9
505 E. Charleston Rd., Palo Alto
(3rd Tuesday of the 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*

**October Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, September 24**

I do not pretend to understand the moral universe; the arc is a long one, my eye reaches but little ways; I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by the experience of sight; I can divine it by conscience. And from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice.

Theodore Parker, 1853

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG Support Meetings



San Jose — September 8

Ray Hixson, co-chair of Marriage Equality USA—Santa Clara County, will speak on the latest developments in the marriage equality struggle.

Redwood City — September 13

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



Gender Spectrum Family/Teen Conference September 3-6

Gender Spectrum Family and Teen Conference will be held in Berkeley over Labor Day weekend. Cosponsored by the National Center for Lesbian Rights, this year's conference promises to be an unforgettable experience for all. Scholarships are available!

Come join other transgender and gender-nonconforming teens, children and families for three days of celebrating individuality, making friends, learning, and having fun. Explore topics on gender in workshops on school, medical and legal issues, privacy and much more!

To learn more or register, please visit: www.genderspectrum.org or call 877-809-4159.

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, September 21, 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.

Choosing Children – 25 Years Later September 14

Twenty-five years ago, Debra Chasnoff and Kim Klausner produced the landmark documentary film, *Choosing Children*, exploring the then almost-unheard-of idea that lesbians and gay men could have children, and thus helping to launch the LGBT baby boom. Many Bay Area organizations are joining together for a celebratory screening to mark the film's 25th anniversary and raise funds to permanently preserve this historical gem on DVD. The event will be held at the Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, on September 14 at 6:30 PM.

The program features remarks by The Honorable Donna Hitchens, co-founder of NCLR (who is interviewed in the film), and by filmmakers Debra Chasnoff and Kim Klausner and other special guests; a resource fair; and dessert.

Tickets are selling fast, so be sure to get yours now!
Tickets: \$25 (regular); \$10 (student)

<http://www.cityboxoffice.com/default.asp?SearchMonth=9/1/2010&MV=9/14/2010&sel=x>



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 email Stephen at: speakersbureau@pflagsanjose.org — or visit: <http://www.pflagsanjose.org/psb/>

An unjust law is no law at all.

Saint Augustine

Day of Decision Celebration Rallies

There were great rallies in San Mateo, Mountain View, and at the Billy DeFrank Center on August 4th following Judge Walker's historic decision. About 200 people attended in Mountain View and about 100 attended in San Mateo — with lots of happy, honking, waving, smiling drivers passing by!

San Mateo: Great speeches from several clergy members, the chair of the local ACLU chapter, and local politicians Richard Holober, Dave Pine, and a representative from Senator Leland Yee's office.

Watch a wonderful video of the San Mateo rally at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IpiLDPYwlRg>

Mountain View: Many thanks to Ken for speaking at the beginning of the rally and sharing his story. As always, the crowd showed their love of PFLAG! The last speaker was Eileen Ross, Executive Director of Outlet. She gave a great, succinct speech, and then gave the microphone to the teenagers from Outlet. They spoke extemporaneously, and they were fantastic! What a terrific ending to a terrific Marriage Equality rally!

DeFrank Center: See photos #12-17 in this *San Jose Mercury News* slideshow:

http://www.mercurynews.com/samesexmarriage/ci_15676137

PFLAG was well represented at all 3 rallies — all in all, a great day to celebrate! Now we get back to work on the fight for marriage equality. ▼



MA Ruling Declared DOMA Unconstitutional

On August 18, Federal Judge Joseph Tauro entered his judgment in a case challenging the Defense of Marriage Act in Massachusetts, stating that DOMA, which defines marriage as between one man and one woman, is unconstitutional, and starting a 60-day clock for the Justice Department to decide whether to appeal his ruling. The end of the 60 days falls on Oct. 11, National Coming Out Day.

Judge Tauro also approved a stay for his ruling, pending appeal. The plaintiffs, represented by GLAD, didn't fight the stay. GLAD said the stay is in its clients' best interests, adding that only a "final victory" ensures that they will have access to the Social Security and other benefits of their spouses. ▼

To those who think that there is too much love and too much equality in the world, take heed!
We are making progress.

Marshall Dinowitz, ACLU North Peninsula

Judge Walker's Historic Decision on Prop 8 Excerpt

CONCLUSION

Proposition 8 fails to advance any rational basis in singling out gay men and lesbians for denial of a marriage license. Indeed, the evidence shows Proposition 8 does nothing more than enshrine in the California Constitution the notion that opposite-sex couples are superior to same-sex couples. Because California has no interest in discriminating against gay men and lesbians, and because Proposition 8 prevents California from fulfilling its constitutional obligation to provide marriages on an equal basis, the court concludes that Proposition 8 is unconstitutional.

Because Proposition 8 is unconstitutional under both the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses, the court orders entry of judgment permanently enjoining its enforcement; prohibiting the official defendants from applying or enforcing Proposition 8 and directing the official defendants that all persons under their control or supervision shall not apply or enforce Proposition 8.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Chief Judge Walker has issued a temporary stay until the 9th Circuit makes their decision in December. So we're all still waiting — "waiting for the world to change!"

Download a pdf of the final judgment at:

<https://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov/cand/09cv2292/> ▼

Marriage Equality — What to Do While We're Waiting

Local chapters of Marriage Equality USA are looking for people with special talents and organizational affiliations that could be put to good use in the marriage equality movement. They are especially interested in speaking with folks who have connections with educational or religious organizations that may be interested in hosting informative movie nights or educational presentations related to GLBT civil rights and the marriage equality movement.

[Santa Clara County Chapter](#) is also looking for people who like to sing in front of crowds to help lead some songs at rallies, and artistic folks to help design/create t-shirts, posters, stickers, etc. For more information, contact Ray Hixson, chapter co-chair, at rayhixson@hotmail.com.

[Mid-SF Peninsula Chapter](#) (formerly Peninsula Marriage Equality Coalition) covers San Mateo County from Burlingame south. For more information, contact Steve Epstein at steve@pmecc.info.

[San Mateo County Chapter](#) covers Millbrae and north and the coast. For more information, contact Lynda or Julie at: ca-sanmateo@marriageequality.org.

Check out the Marriage Equality USA website:

<http://www.marriageequality.org/> ▼

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: What's Wrong with Homosexuality?
 San Jose: Marriage Equality Update**



Bring donations for AIDS services providers

▼ PFLAG'S MISSION

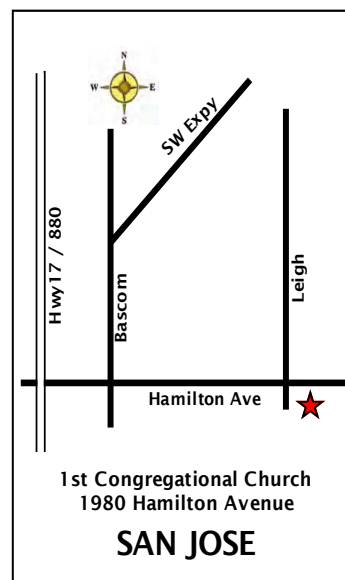
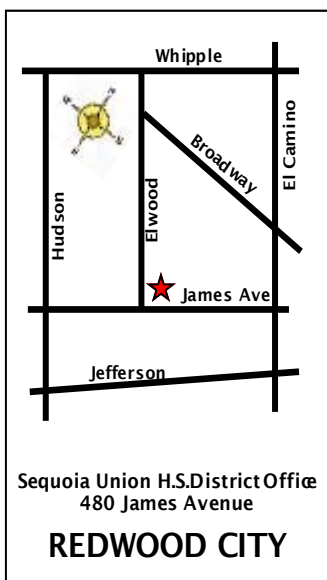
We provide love and support for all family members and friends. We work to create an environment of understanding so that our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender loved ones can live with dignity and respect. These are our goals:

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.