San Jose ◇ Peninsula Newsletter

August 2011

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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

Don't Ask Don't Tell Repeal Certification — President Obama's Message

The President sent the email below to individuals and organizations who worked hard to make this victory possible.

Last year, I visited Afghanistan. I was there to thank our men and women in uniform, the brave Americans who have given so much on behalf of this country and who make me so proud to be Commander-in-Chief. At one of America's bases there, I was shaking hands and taking pictures, walking along a pretty tight crowd of service members. A young woman in uniform pulled me into a hug. She leaned in close so I could hear her over the noise and whispered, "Get 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' done."

I said to her, "I promise you I will."

A few weeks later, after a struggle that lasted almost two decades, I signed a law to repeal this policy. I signed it with absolute confidence in our men and women in uniform, in their professionalism and in their capacity to adapt to this change, just as they have adapted and grown stronger with other changes throughout our history. And I signed this repeal knowing that our military would be stronger – and our nation safer – for the service of patriotic gay men and women who would no longer have to live a lie in order to defend the country they love.

Today, in accordance with this law, I signed the certification that will end "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" once and for all. The Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff also have certified that the military is ready for the repeal. Sixty days from now, on September 20th, the repeal will be complete and gay men and women will be able to serve their country openly.

On that day, I'll be thinking of the young woman I met in Afghanistan. And I'll be thinking of the countless others like her, straight and gay alike, who love this nation and the ideals for which it was founded, and who have signed up to serve so that we might all live in freedom and uphold this simple creed: we are all created equal.

Thank you for helping to make this victory for our country possible.

Sincerely,
Barack Obama

Meeting Calendar

~ AUGUST ~

Aug. 8 **Redwood City** Support - 7:30 PM
Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)

Aug. 10 **San Jose** Support - 7:30 PM
First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)

Aug. 24 **Board Meeting Teleconference**
(Wednesday - tentative date)
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Aug. 18 **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

September/October Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, August 26

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG Support Meetings

Redwood City, August 8
San Jose, August 10

PFLAG member Judy Rickard has written a book, *Torn Apart: United by Love, Divided by Law*, about the struggles of being the American half of a same-sex binational couple. Judy and Karin will share their experiences from Judy's new book. *Torn Apart* includes stories of other couples and families with children who face separation, loss of career, relocation and more as they yearn to be together in America.

Buy a copy of *Torn Apart* at the meeting and PFLAG earns $4 and for each sale. If you already have the book, bring it with you to be autographed! If you can't make the August meetings and you want to help PFLAG, buy it from the publisher, Findhorn Press: ***www.findhornpress.com/relationships-43/torn-apart-392.html***— Use this code when you check out: **PFLAGsj**.

You can also follow Judy and *Torn Apart: United by Love, Divided by Law* on twitter: @tornapartbook

Small group support is offered at every meeting. ▼

Dues are *[past]* DUE!

Renew your membership today!
Mail your check today or donate online at: ***www.pflagsanjose.org***. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Your support is greatly appreciated. Many thanks to all who have renewed and donated to our San Jose/ Peninsula PFLAG chapter and Scholarship program. ▼

27th Annual BAYMEC Dinner
September 24

Saturday , September 24, 2011
San José Fairmont Hotel
6:00–7:00 PM — Reception, Imperial Ballroom Foyer
7:00–9:30 PM — Dinner and Awards, Imperial Ballroom
Tickets are $150 per person.

Keynote Speaker: Chuck Wolfe, President and CEO of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund. ▼

➡ Mark Your Calendar

Aug 20-21 — San Jose Pride

Oct. 11 — National Coming Out Day

Nov. 3-6 — PFLAG National Convention

PFLAG Cable TV Update

Starting in August, our chapter's cable-access TV show, *Parents, Families & Friends*, moves to a new time slot on San Jose Cable Channel 15: **Wednesday night, 9:30 PM**. It will remain there for at least the next twelve months.

Parents, Families & Friends continues to be cablecast in Cupertino, Los Altos, and Mountain View as well, on cable channel 15 every Tuesday night at 9:30 PM.

In the upcoming months, look for new episodes on our scholarship recipients (always an inspiring group of young people), same-sex marriage, and gays and lesbians in the Vietnamese community. ▼

PFLAG National Convention 2011

Bringing the Message Home
Washington, D.C.
November 3-6

Keynote Speaker:
Betty DeGeneres

For those of you who are still deciding whether or not you'll attend, here are just a few of the many reasons you should join us in November:

· Learn, learn, learn! Whether you are new to PFLAG or a seasoned member, there is always more to know about how to be a powerful advocate to move equality forward. The convention is the place to build on and develop your skills.

· Visit your representatives on Capitol Hill. No matter how many times you do it, there is something thrilling about walking the halls of Congress and having your voice heard.

· Make connections. PFLAG chapters and members are an incredible source of information to each other. Past PFLAG National Conventions have sparked lasting relationships between neighboring chapters and chapters from coast to coast.

· Have fun! Really, we promise! It won't just be educational, it will be fun too. You will have lots of time to socialize and enjoy all that the DC area has to offer.

We hope that for these reasons and many more you will join us for the 2011 PFLAG National Convention. Although the early bird deadline has passed, **you can still register at a reduced rate until August 31st**: ***http://community.pflag.org/convention*** ▼

Don't Ask Don't Tell Repeal

PFLAG National issued the following statement regarding the certification of the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the law banning gays and lesbians from openly serving in the military.

"This is the end of government-supported discrimination against gay and lesbian service members who honorably serve their country and the beginning of a new chapter in our military history, one focused on the inclusion of everyone who nobly defends our nation and our responsibility to them when they come home. PFLAG National hopes that the Joining Forces program spearheaded by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden will be inclusive of all military families and reflect programs and outreach that are responsive to our gay and lesbian service members, their spouses and families, and the unique issues that they often face," said PFLAG National Executive Director Jody M. Huckaby.

"It has been 212 days since the president signed the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell', and there are still 60 days to wait before implementation begins. Beyond that, more waiting lies ahead, as legal partners and spouses of serving gays and lesbians will not receive any benefits or even recognition from the Department of Defense. Without that all-important U.S. military spouse identification card, these spouses and partners will have no medical coverage, no on-base housing and, perhaps most important, no survivor benefits or next-of-kin notification in case of death. Repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is a significant victory, but an incomplete victory. DOMA must be repealed to ensure that serving gay or lesbian is truly equal to serving straight," said PFLAG National Board member Col. Daniel Tepfer, USAF (ret.). ▼

NYC I Do: New York Same-Sex Marriage

With the passage of New York state's Marriage Equality Act, people from all over the country and all around the world are asking the question: can I come to New York City and get married? The answer is Yes! Here's what you need to know: ***www.nycgo.com/articles/nyc-i-do*** ▼

Julia and Sam Thoron

PFLAG at SF Pride

PFLAG at the Redwood City Parade

Thanks to everyone who participated in our very successful PFLAG contingent in the Redwood City Fourth of July Parade!

This was our 16th year of marching in the Redwood City Parade. We first participated in the parade in 1995, with about 75 PFLAGers marching and singing *We are the People in Your Neighborhood*.

This year, we had a total of 37 people in our contingent—a significant increase over recent years. Many thanks to those who organized, hosted the picnic — and to all who participated!

The freedom to marry is a constitutional liberty and the birthright of every American. We are beginning to see the dark walls of discrimination crumble.

Chad Griffin, Board President,
American Foundation for Equal Rights

The PFLAG Newsletter

Published bimonthly times yearly 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 ♥ 2011

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

Redwood City & San Jose:
Judy Rickard —*Torn Apart: United by Love, Divided by Law*

Please bring donations for AIDS services providers.

▼ PFLAG'S MISSION

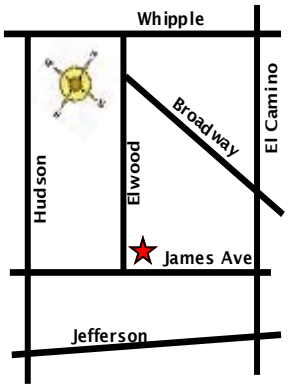
We provide love and support for all family members and friends. We work to create an environment of understanding so that our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender loved ones can live with dignity and respect. These are our goals:

SUPPORT • EDUCATION • ADVOCACY

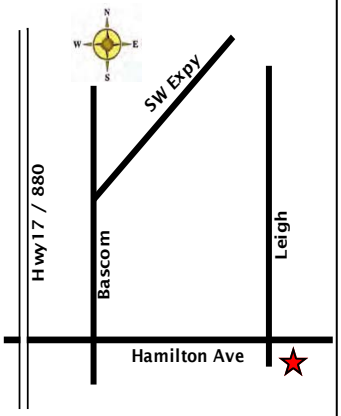
WHAT IS PFLAG?

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 nonprofit 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 ~ 2011

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

○ **New** **Date** _____
○ **Renew**
○ **Change Address** ○ **I want to volunteer!**

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Address _____

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○ Individual Membership $30
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○ 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.