



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

June\July 2011

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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Reframing the Conversation Around LGBT Equality

PFLAG National Executive Director Jody Huckaby weighs in on how choice of language can impact the important work of PFLAG:

I had an opportunity to read a very disturbing article reflecting the anti-gay establishment's attempt to reframe the language we use in our work for equality.

Ryan Sorba, chairman of the Young Conservatives of California, spoke at The Awakening conference in Virginia. There he discussed the need to change the terms by which the anti-LGBT movement refers to LGBT people. Sorba proposed alternatives to the word "gay," and by a unanimous show of hands of the audience, the terms "same-sex attraction," "same-sex intercourse," "sodomy" and "unnatural vice" were deemed more appropriate to the cause. In addition, Sorba also suggested that LGBT people should be referred to as "anti-Christian."

Self-described "ex-gay" Greg Quinlan, formerly of the Human Rights Campaign, and a founder of PFOX: Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays & Gays, used his appearance at this conference to state, among other things, that "Homosexuality is the greatest threat [leading] to the criminalization of Christianity..."

The criminalization of Christianity? Unnatural vice? This attempt to reframe the discussion around equality for all people is nothing less than shameful. And the use of faith-based rhetoric to do it is an affront to people of ALL faiths. To be gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender is not mutually exclusive with being a person of faith. One might argue, in fact, that it takes a great deal of faith to deal with the constant barrage of accusations, hurtful commentary, and outright condemnation from self-proclaimed "true Christians."

Now is a good time for all of us who care about LGBT equality to reframe the conversation by talking more about faith, by talking more about our families, by talking more about the impact these outright lies have on us, our loved ones, our families and on the LGBT and ally community as a whole.

How will YOU reframe this conversation in your daily work of moving equality forward?

Jody Huckaby
PFLAG National Executive Director



Meeting Calendar

~ JUNE | JULY ~

June 8 San Jose Support - 7:30 PM
July 13 First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)

June 13 Redwood City Support - 7:30 PM
July 11 Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)

July 19 Board Meeting Teleconference
(3rd Tuesday of the month)
ALL ARE WELCOME!
NO Board meeting in June

June 16 Straight Spouse Support - 7:30 PM
July 21 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 22**

Come Join the Parades!

**San Francisco Pride Parade
Sunday June 26**

**July 4th Celebration Parade
Redwood City**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG Support Meetings

Redwood City, June 13

In this PFLAG Cable TV Award-winning video, Paul Clifford interviews Ralph Nelson about bullying in schools and how he works to help kids deal with it. Paul and Ralph talk about their own experiences with bullying as children. Then Ralph describes how he visits the sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade classes that his wife teaches, where he talks to the kids about bullying and performs the song *Don't Laugh at Me*, often with touching and profound results. He also performs the song for Paul and the viewing audience, and he tells the story of how the composers, Steve Seskin and Allen Shamblin, came to write the song, and how it inspired Peter Yarrow (of the folk group Peter, Paul and Mary) to found Operation Respect <www.operationrespect.org>, which provides educational materials on bullying and uses the song as a centerpiece.

Redwood City, July 11

San Jose, June 13

At both July support meetings we will share our experiences from Pride month and the parades. ▼

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 of you who have renewed and donated to our San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG chapter and Scholarship program. ▼

Community Heroes Award for our Chapter



Our San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Chapter was presented with the *Community Heroes Award* at Outlet's Out to Eat Gala Dinner on May 12. They told us: "We are really excited to acknowledge your hard work in creating safe spaces for LGBTQ youth and their families." ▼

PFLAG National Convention 2011



Bringing the Message Home
Washington, D.C.
November 3-6, 2011

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.
- Hear information, right from the source. Expert speakers will be on hand to give you the latest information and the most current topics.
- 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.
- Meet and get to know the PFLAG National Staff, National Board Members and Regional Directors! This is your chance – and ours – to spend some time together.

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> ▼

➔ Mark Your Calendar

June 7 — Back to the Ballot Town Hall Meeting

June 17—*Brother Outsider: Bayard Rustin*

June 17, 18, 19 — SVGMC/RWC Concert

June 25-26 — San Francisco Pride

July 4 — Redwood City Parade

Aug 20-21 — San Jose Pride

Nov. 3-6 — PFLAG National Convention



Parade Season is Coming!
March or Ride in SF Pride —
with PFLAG!
June 26

Invite your family to join you to walk up Market to Civic Center or ride in the double-decker bus with PFLAG in the San Francisco Gay Pride Parade! Monitors are required for each contingent — PFLAG will need 14 monitors. These wonderful volunteers go to a 1 hour training session before the Parade. Your family and friends can march with you as you focus on the safety of our marchers. Monitor training will be held on Monday, June 13 at 6:30 PM in Mountain View, and at multiple SF locations. Please see the last page for the full schedule and details! ▼

San Jose Pride — Moving Forward Together
August 20-21

This year San Jose Pride celebrates unity, community, partnership and moving forward together. The Pride Festival will be held in Discovery Meadow Park, San Jose. To date there has been no announcement of a parade. Stay tuned for information about the PFLAG booth at the two-day festival! ▼

July 4 Celebration Parade
Redwood City



Come march with us in the PFLAG contingent of the Redwood City July 4th Celebration Parade! What better way to share PFLAG's love and support for our families with 100,000 spectators from around the Bay Area. Join our San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG chapter as we march carrying our PFLAG banner and our Rainbow and U.S. flags! This is "Middle America" and everyone who has marched agrees that it is one of the most valuable events PFLAG does all year.

Gathering time: by 10AM **
Starting place: near Whipple and Arguello**
Dress: Black pants, a plain white top, and a PFLAG sash.

We will also wear firemen's hats (provided) to commemorate the Redwood City Fire Department's 150 years of community service — the theme of this year's Parade.

** Exact time and location details will be given to us a week before the parade. To receive the updated information, please let us know via email that you'll join us! Contact us via our website: www.pflagsanjose.org ▼



Transgender Support and
Social Groups

For an up-to-date listing of resources and local events for the transgendered community, visit the Carla's Boutique and Social Club website: <http://www.carlas.com/> Scroll to the bottom of the screen to see *Upcoming Events*. ▼

Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin
June 17

6:30 PM - 9:00 PM
 Billy DeFrank Center, 938 The Alameda, San Jose

A master strategist and tireless activist, Bayard Rustin is best remembered as the organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, one of the largest nonviolent protests ever held in the United States. He brought Gandhi's protest techniques to the American civil rights movement, and helped mold Martin Luther King, Jr. into an international symbol of peace and nonviolence. ▼

Despite these achievements, Rustin was silenced, threatened, arrested, beaten, imprisoned and fired from important leadership positions, largely because he was an openly gay man in a fiercely homophobic era. Five years in the making and the winner of numerous awards, the documentary film *Brother Outsider* focuses on Rustin's activism for peace, racial equality, economic justice and human rights.

Back to the Ballot Town Hall Meeting
June 7 or June 9

June 7 at 7:00 - 9:00 pm — Billy DeFrank Center
 938 The Alameda, San Jose

Or Online: June 9, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Should our community return to the ballot in 2012 to restore the freedom to marry and overturn Prop. 8? Delays in the federal case against Prop. 8 have sparked conversations about whether we should wait for the courts to restore the freedom to marry or whether we should seek to overturn Prop. 8 through a ballot measure in November 2012.

Come and be part of the conversation! Equality California is holding a series of town hall meetings across California and online to come together and discuss the wisdom of moving forward with a ballot initiative. No decisions have been made! Please, join us and share your perspective. Help shape the decision. For more information, and to take the survey: www.eqca.org/site/apps/ka/ct/contactus.asp?c=kuLRJ9MRKrH&b=6632287&en=cdLLKIMmGfLBLGNkG7LzGGNIHcKPLUPrGfJGKKOnEiJTJ4J ▼

Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters.
Talk to people you know.
Talk to people you don't know.
Talk to people you never talk to.
Expect to be surprised.
Trust that meaningful conversations can change your world. Rely on human goodness. Stay together.

Margaret J. Wheatley

SF PRIDE MONITOR TRAINING

Dear PFLAGers and Friends,

The monitor training schedule is listed below. The one-hour Contingent Monitor training is required for each monitor - if we do not have 14 monitors, we can't march! Safety Monitor training takes up the second hour, and is optional. **When you have taken the training, please email pflagsf@aol.com so we can add you to the list.**

Our marching position will probably not be available until the week of Pride or it will be posted at the trainings. We will put it on our website when the details are available.

Everyone is welcome to join PFLAG on Market Street, no sign-up required. Send any questions to pflagsf@aol.com. Yes, there will be a sightseeing bus for those who can't walk the mile up Market. And, Yes, if you are a monitor, your friends can walk with you but your primary responsibility is to the safety of the marchers.

Sam and I will be at one of the trainings - our 21st! Hope to see you at Pride!

Julia Thoron



SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, June 7

Contingent Monitor Training *Only*

8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Venue: Head over Heals Training Capacity: 250

Address: 4701 Doyle St, Bld F, Emeryville *

* Enter Spur Alley from 45th Street between Doyle & Hollis Streets. The code to lift the security arm is 1234*

Wednesday, June 8

Contingent Monitor & Safety Training

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Venue: The Citadel Training Capacity: 100

Address: 1277 Mission St (at 9th St.), SF

Monday, June 13

Contingent Monitor & Safety Training

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Venue: Google, Bld 1950 Training Capacity: 75

Address: 1950 Charleston Road, Mountain View

Tuesday, June 14

Contingent Monitor & Safety Training

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Venue: The SF LGBT Community Center Capacity: 250

Address: 1800 Market Street, San Francisco

Thursday, June 16

Contingent Monitor & Safety Training

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Venue: The SF LGBT Community Center Capacity: 250

Address: 1800 Market Street, San Francisco

Saturday, June 18

Contingent Monitor & Safety Training

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Venue: Koret Auditorium, SF Library Capacity: 235

Address: 100 Larkin Street, SF

Sunday, June 19

Contingent Monitor & Safety Training

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Venue: Koret Auditorium, SF Library Capacity: 235

Address: 100 Larkin Street, SF

Monday, June 20

Contingent Monitor & Safety Training

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Venue: The SF LGBT Community Center Capacity: 250

Address: 1800 Market Street, San Francisco

Wednesday, June 22

Contingent Monitor & Safety Training

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Venue: The SF LGBT Community Center Capacity: 250

Address: 1800 Market Street, San Francisco

Thursday, June 23

Contingent Monitor & Safety Training

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Venue: The SF LGBT Community Center Capacity: 250

Address: 1800 Market Street, San Francisco

Friday, June 24

Contingent Monitor & Safety Training

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Venue: Bill Graham, Larkin Hall Training Capacity: 500

Address: 99 Grove Street, SF



1st hour of each training is contingent monitor training.

The 2nd hour of training is safety monitor training. Volunteers who are safety monitors, are not part of a contingent, and are required to attend both hours.

Advance registration is not required. Please arrive on-time to prevent being turned away from a full training class. All training sites are wheelchair accessible. ▼