



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

March/April 2011

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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

A Letter to PFLAG

I'm not a parent, nor am I child, but a 72-year-old gay man who has been fighting for gay civil rights since I was 21. I came out at a time when "gay" wasn't even a word for homosexual. The progress of acceptance, and not just tolerance, has taken a long, long time but things are certainly better today than when I came out in 1960. However, the recent suicides of gay children and teenagers has disturbed me greatly. I was hoping that by the time I reached this age, that labels were no longer a part of our human existence. Maybe, before I die, we will at last have equality and not have to fear the homophobes in our society. One can only hope.

For some reason, when I came out, I educated myself as best I could about homosexuality and I became stronger as a result. I don't know why I had the strength to tolerate the abuse and discrimination in my life as a result of my sexual orientation, but I did and I've managed to make it until being an elder.

At any rate, I wish you all a happy holiday season and I thank President Obama for repealing DADT. I also thank the various television producers and movie producers that have shown gays and lesbians in a positive light in the last few years. There is hope.

Dean, a proud gay man ▼

San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG 2011 Annual Meeting

Monday, March 14

7:30 pm

Sequoia Union High School
District Office
480 James Avenue
Redwood City

Small Group Support
will follow at 8:30 pm

Meeting Calendar

~ MARCH/APRIL ~

Mar. 9 San Jose Support - 7:30 PM
Apr.13 First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)

Mar.14 Redwood City Support - 7:30 PM
Apr.11 Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)

Mar.15 Board Meeting Teleconference
Apr.19 (3rd Tuesday of the month)
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Mar.17 Straight Spouse Support - 7:30 PM
Apr.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*

May Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, April 22

San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Scholarship Awards Night

Wednesday, May 11
7:30 PM

Save the Date!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG Support Meetings — March



Redwood City, March 14

Annual Membership Meeting, followed by small group support at 8:30 PM. Please join us!

San Jose, March 9

Dulce Garcia will speak about the direct and indirect services that Outlet provides for LGBTQ Youth, and how adult allies can help create communities where all LGBTQ youth thrive as whole and empowered individuals.

Dulce joined Outlet in September 2008 as the HIV Prevention Education & Spanish Language Manager. She facilitates all UNIQUE trainings as well as De Ambiente, Outlet's Latino/a Bilingual Youth group. Born in Mexico City and raised in East Los Angeles, Dulce graduated from UC Irvine with two Bachelor degrees and received her Master's degree in Ethnic Studies with an emphasis in Queer Latina/o Sexualities from San Francisco State University. Her passion and commitment to serve underrepresented and underserved communities is evident through her work in cross-cultural and multi-gendered organizations, especially those serving queer youth of color. She finds great joy in working for Outlet to help empower Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer & Questioning (LGBTQQ) youth and serve the Spanish speaking community.

PFLAG Support Meetings — April

Redwood City, April 11

San Jose, April 13

Small group support will be offered at each meeting. Programs to be announced on the PFLAG website:

www.pflagsanjose.org ▼

Dues are DUE!

If you haven't yet paid your 2011 PFLAG dues, now would be an excellent time to do so! Our annual membership report to National PFLAG is due soon. Most of all, your support is needed to insure that our chapter can continue its vital work.

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. ▼

2011 PFLAG Scholarships

Each year our San Jose/Peninsula chapter of PFLAG offers scholarships to high school seniors whose educational history, personal plans, and activities demonstrate support for justice and equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons.

This year we will award four \$2,000 scholarships. The awards provide financial support for seniors who will attend an accredited two- or four-year college, university, or business/technical school in the fall of 2011. Applications and information have been sent to all the high schools in both areas encouraging all graduating LGBTQ seniors and allies to apply. If you know students who would qualify for these scholarships, please direct them to the application form posted on our website at: www.pflagsanjose.org

Don't miss the **Scholarship Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, May 11** at our San Jose support meeting. It is sure to be an inspiring and heartwarming event! If you have questions or would like to offer to help (reading essays, refreshments, etc.), call the Helpline: (408) 270-8182. ▼

Out to Eat May 12

Save the date for the Peninsula's biggest LGBT event! Out to Eat gathers over 400 community members to raise funds to sustain our LGBTQ Youth Services organization. Your participation will support a cause that greatly impacts the lives of LGBTQ Youth and broader communities.

Beginning Friday, March 25, purchase your tickets online at www.projectoutlet.org/Out2Eat.html

Final Deadline to RSVP: Monday, May 2!



5:30-9:30 pm
Computer History Museum
1401 N. Shoreline Road,
Mountain View, CA

Founded in 1997, Outlet is the Peninsula's only comprehensive LGBTQ Youth organization, including bilingual Spanish language services. ▼

Let yourself be silently drawn by the
strange pull of what you really love.
It will not lead you astray.

Rumi

San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Chapter Annual Membership Meeting March 14

All are invited to attend our 2011 Annual Meeting! This event will take place in the first hour of the Redwood City Support Meeting. We will celebrate our chapter's accomplishments, revise our bylaws (briefly!), and elect new Board members.

We are seeking Publicity and Program chairs, and two new board members. So if you've been thinking about stepping up your involvement in our local PFLAG Chapter, now is the time! ▼

San Jose PFLAG Meeting's 25th Anniversary

We celebrated the 25th anniversary of the San Jose Meeting on January 12. The first PFLAG meeting in San Jose took place in January 1986. In fact, we have been meeting in the exact same room at the exact same address on the second Wednesday of the month since that first meeting!

Many thanks to the First Congregational Church of San Jose, UCC, for permitting us to meet in their library for the past 25 years. Congratulations to all of the San Jose leaders and members for your 25 years of dedication to PFLAG's mission of support, advocacy and education! ▼

Torn Apart, by Judy Rickard

Judy Rickard's book *Torn Apart: United by Love, Divided by Law*, available this spring, portrays the struggles of being the American half of a same-sex bi-national couple. Judy and her partner Karin Bogliolo spoke on this issue last year at the San Jose and Redwood City PFLAG meetings, before Karin had to leave the country again because of visa restrictions and American immigration and federal marriage laws.

Torn Apart shares Judy and Karin's journey — together and apart — and shares 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. Judy wrote the book to educate, advocate and raise funds for groups working on LGBT equality, civil rights, marriage equality, immigration and related efforts — so share the word and help keep couples and families together!

You can pre-order the book now — and make a donation to PFLAG when you do! Go to www.findhornpress.com/torn-apart-392.html to order. Use the code **PFLA14** and \$4 will be donated to PFLAG. To arrange a fund raiser, contact Judy at judy@findhornpress.com. ▼

Our lives begin to end the day we
become silent about things that matter.
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Our Family Coalition: QPLAY - Peninsula

QPLAY: Queer Parents for the Love and Advocacy of Our Youth - Peninsula Group is a social, support, and advocacy group for LGBTQ Peninsula families. QPLAY provides a great opportunity for parents and children to meet and build lasting friendships with other parents and children growing up within LGBTQ families. QPLAY gives parents the chance to explore concerns, offer and receive support, and exchange parenting tips. Most of all, QPLAY is a place to have fun! Allies and supportive extended family and friends are welcome!

You can find upcoming events by joining the Our Family Coalition-Peninsula Parents Facebook group at:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=156009409123>

Or check out the event calendar on this website:

<http://www.ourfamily.org/event/2011/03/01/month/all/all/1> ▼

National Transgender Discrimination Survey Results

The first large-scale national study of discrimination against transgender people was released last week. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Center for Transgender Equality released a report titled *Injustice at Every Turn* based on responses from over 6,450 participants. The results include:

- * 41% of respondents reported attempting suicide, compared to only 1.6% of the general population.
- * Respondents were twice as likely to be unemployed as the population as a whole.
- * One in five respondents experienced homelessness because of their gender identity.
- * Respondents were nearly four times more likely to live in extreme poverty, with household income of less than \$10,000.

The survey also found that transgender persons who have an on-going, accepting relationship with their families were the most likely to thrive after transitioning.

To read the entire report, go to http://www.thetaskforce.org/reports_and_research/ntds?tr=y&aid=7732159 ▼



Transgender Support and Social Groups

The following trans support groups meet regularly at the Billy DeFrank Community Center, 938 The Alameda, San Jose, CA 95126.

Trans Youth Support: Mondays, 4:30-5:30 PM

Trans Unidas: First and third Fridays, 7 PM

Transmen Support Group: 4th Tuesdays, 7:30 PM

Transwomen Support Group: 2nd & 4th Fridays, 7:30 PM

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/>. ▼

