



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

November/December 2011

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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

Dody Goldstein — Remembrance

Dody Goldstein was president of our PFLAG chapter from April 1998 — March 2001. Sam Thoron, past president of PFLAG National, read this message from PFLAG's current national president at Dody's memorial service:

It is both sad and life-affirming to write these words about Dody Goldstein, my PFLAG co-board member for many years. She was part of my life in PFLAG as I was just learning about my board role. She was an outspoken advocate for her son and for the GLBT community well before I knew what true activists did. She was passionate and thought provoking.

Not only did she lend her voice to the cause for equality for the LGBT community at large, but was a guiding voice in the Jewish community, affecting change that few thought would be possible. I, personally, watched as she pushed relentlessly for full acceptance of all of our children. As a PFLAG mom, Dody understood fully the meaning of our responsibility to be the family voice of the LGBT community, their families and their friends.

I couldn't help notice, while browsing about on the Internet, how well known she really was. She was even attacked for the activism in the Jewish community by the most hateful of people that consider themselves religious. That means, of course, that her voice was heard far beyond her own community. Much of the acceptance of LGBT people in the movements of Judaism is a result of her work.

PFLAG lost a wonderful supporter and friend. Her service to the board will be remembered into the future. My own growth as a PFLAG leader comes from her example. In that, she is still life affirming. Death may quiet her voice, but can never eradicate what was the work of her hands.

What more can anybody want to be said about them than, "She cared and she made a difference." So I say, she cared and she made a difference. May her memory be for us a blessing.

*Rabbi David M. Horowitz
PFLAG National President*

Mitzi Henderson, past president of PFLAG National and past president of our San Jose/Peninsula Chapter, also spoke at the service (see inside). The memorial service was held on Sunday, October 9, in Palo Alto. Memorial donations may be sent to PFLAG, 1828 L St., NW, Suite 660, Washington, D.C. 20036, or to our San Jose/Peninsula Chapter.

Dody's obituary is online at: www.paloaltoonline.com/obituaries/memorials/dora-b-goldstein?o=1480

Meeting Calendar ~ NOVEMBER/DECEMBER ~

- Nov. 9** San Jose Support - 7:30 PM
Dec. 14 First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)
- Nov. 14** Redwood City Support - 7:30 PM
Dec. 12 Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Nov. 17** Straight Spouse Support - 7:30 PM
Dec. 15 Call San Jose Helpline for info.
(3rd Thursday of the month)
- Nov. 15** Board Meeting Teleconference
(3rd Tuesday of the month)
ALL ARE WELCOME!
** No December Board Meeting!



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*

January/February Newsletter
Deadline:
Friday, December 23

The PFLAG Board invites you
to join us
for the



Annual Holiday Potluck and
White Elephant Gift Exchange

December 8, 6:30 PM at the Koopman's!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG Support Meetings

San Jose, November 9

Redwood City, November 14

Your Mom's a Lesbian, Here's Your Lunch, Have a Good Day at School: In this honest portrait of a family's journey to acceptance and love we watch the Reverend Jane Adams Spahr courageously come to embrace a part of herself that she had disowned for years. We hear from her twin sister, her parents, her husband and her children; and we witness their struggle with the reality of her sexual orientation and its implications. The 26 minute video crystallizes what is intuitive: the expression of love — honored in whatever form it takes — has the power to uplift everyone.



Redwood City, December 12

San Jose, December 14

At Holiday parties this month we will enjoy the company of old friends and new. Please bring snacks or a beverage to share. We will collect cash donations for the DeFrank Center HIV Testing Program in San Jose; or for Ellipse Peninsula AIDS Services in San Mateo. And/or bring canned food for Second Harvest Food Bank.

In San Jose we will also host the first PFLAG Speakers Bureau Social, and welcome our new Speakers Bureau Coordinator. This will be a great opportunity to meet and chat with the dedicated speakers and leaders who have given so much to the many organizations served by the PFLAG Speakers Bureau.

Small group support will be offered at all meetings. ▼

Beyond Bullies Chat Line

Beyond Bullies E-teen leaders offer teens who are bullied or cyber-bullied free confidential chat on Wednesday nights. All peer leaders are trained and are available between 7 and 10 PM (PST). See www.beyondbullies.org ▼

24th Annual Creating Change Conference

January 25-29, 2012

The 24th National Conference on LGBT Equality: *Creating Change* swings into America's Charm City, Baltimore, Maryland from January 25 to 29, 2012. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the local Creating Change Host Committee have been hard at work, making sure lots of activist magic happens at Creating Change 2012.

Creating Change 2012 registration is now open.
Regular Rate: \$325, until January 20, 2012
→ Under 16 or over 65: \$0, no date restrictions!

More information at www.creatingchange.org ▼

Renew Your Membership for 2012!

That time of year again is coming up soon — your PFLAG membership expires on December 31!

Please take a moment to start or renew your membership. If you can, please consider being a Benefactor, Angel, or Diva! Donations to our San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Scholarship program are also most welcome. Many employers offer donation matching programs that could double your contribution. Other ways to support PFLAG and make contributions can be seen in "The Gift of Giving" brochure on our website.

To renew, you can either mail your check (the Membership form is printed on page 6) or donate online at: www.pflagsanjose.org. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

On behalf of the San Jose-Peninsula PFLAG Chapter and the LBGT community, families and allies we serve, we very much appreciate your generosity, dedication and commitment.

Sincerely,
Your Finance Committee ▼

Gender Blog

This new blog by Darlene Tando, LCSW is about gender and all its intricacies... latest research, reflections from her work with gender non-conforming and transgender clients, as well as information about resources. Highly recommended by Patti Boman, PFLAG South Dakota.

<http://darlenetandogenderblog.wordpress.com/> ▼



Wishing you
Healthy and
Happy
Holidays!



Mark Your Calendar

- Nov. 3-6 — PFLAG National Convention
- Nov. 6 — Daylight Savings Time ends — "Fall back" on Saturday PM!
- Nov. 20 — Transgender Day of Remembrance
- Dec. 1 — World AIDS Day
- Dec. 8 — PFLAG Holiday Potluck & White Elephant Party

Dody Goldstein

I don't know how Dody happened to join our fledgling local PFLAG group. She simply walked into a meeting, and changed our lives. It was in the early 1990s. She was a mystery woman to most of us. But shortly after her joining us, we began planning a national conference here in San Francisco. And she quickly threw herself into the work. We did not know her pioneering, distinguished history, her outstanding career, her family — only her commitment, skill, humor, wisdom and enthusiasm. Fearless in pursuit of her ideals and commitments to an open and accepting society. She almost immediately infused our local chapter with her leadership, skill and wisdom. Single-handedly she took on responsibility for registering over 1,000 people for that event, and became essential to us and our work. We learned so much from her example, her organizational know-how, her generosity.

She became the spiritual heart of our movement and of our personal lives as well. Dody was not only a mentor, she became the center of our lives together with monthly lunches and gatherings — where we shared our lives, our concerns, our jokes, and our ideas. We can never forget her fierce intelligence, deep quiet voice, and great sense of humor — the way her face lit up with pleasure, her ready quiet laugh, and the firmness of her convictions. She was the wise woman we all treasured and loved. We will miss her greatly, but we have been greatly blessed by knowing her.

Mitzi Henderson ▼

Video Resources for Gay Muslims

Imam Daayiee Abdullah discusses how he came to Islam, what it's like to be a gay Muslim, and how he came out. He answers questions about the homosexuality and the Quran: <http://muslimvoices.mirocommunity.org/video/31/imam-daayiee-abdullah-part-1>

Imam Daayiee Abdullah answers questions and discusses his beliefs as a gay Muslim man: <http://muslimvoices.mirocommunity.org/video/30/imam-daayiee-abdullah-part-2>

I Exist: Voices from the Lesbian and Gay Middle Eastern Community in the US: a documentary exploring individual journeys of Lesbian and Gay people of Middle Eastern cultures living in the United States. The cultural and religious challenges that many Lesbian and Gay Middle Eastern people endure are unparalleled. This documentary shows the journey many take in learning how to join both their cultural heritage and sexual identity. Even with these challenges, stories of hope emerge and show that a family's love can always win over hatred and ignorance. Read more at:

www.twn.org/catalog/pages/cpage.aspx?rec=1118&card=price



Free HIV Testing at the Billy DeFrank Center

The Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center offers a rapid test that uses an oral swab (no needles, no blood!) and results are available in approximately 20 minutes. You can choose between Anonymous (no ID required, results delivered verbally) and Confidential (valid state ID required, written results provided).

Testing is available Tuesday through Friday. Testing hours are 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM by appointment and 3:30 PM to 7:30 PM for walk-ins. Please call ahead for testing space availability. Testing times are subject to change due to test counselor training dates and Laboratory availability.

For more info please call 408-293-3040 ext 119 or send e-mail to hivtest@defrank.org ▼

Ellipse Peninsula AIDS Services

ELLIPSE's mission is addressing the needs of individuals and families in our community affected by HIV/AIDS through promoting physical, emotional, and spiritual health, resulting in a better quality of life.

We are a non-profit, non-political and tax-exempt organization. While we are supported in part by government funding, we continue to rely on the support of individuals, businesses, and organizations within the community. Volunteer staffing with minimum paid personnel enables us to channel 90% of your contributions directly to people living with HIV disease.

We are the only community-based non-profit agency in San Mateo County devoted exclusively to serving people who are HIV-infected, their families, friends, and loved ones. Read more: www.ellipse650.org/ ▼

Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 20

The Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR), held annually on November 20th, is a day in which groups across the world hold vigils to remember those that have been brutally murdered simply because of their gender identity. The event is held in November to honor Rita Hester, whose murder on November 28th, 1998 inspired the Remembering Our Dead web project <www.gender.org/remember> and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in early 1999.

More information at: <http://www.transgenderdor.org/> ▼

When we cast our bread upon the waters,
we can presume that someone down-
stream, whose face we will never know,
will benefit from our action, as we who
are downstream from another will profit
from that grantor's gift.

Maya Angelou

