



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

September/October 2011

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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

Thank You PFLAG

Dear PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula:

Thank you so much for the \$2,000 scholarship that you awarded me. Aside from the obvious financial boost it gives me, it is such an honor to have my work recognized by an organization as important as PFLAG. PFLAG is so crucial to the advancement of LGBT people in society, in that the straight allies are the backbone of the gay community. Without the support of our family and friends, the movement would go nowhere.

Not only does PFLAG help the movement on a socio-political level, it helps on the individual level, on the family level. It helps individuals come out, because they are able to see that there is an organization of people who are straight but accepting. They can see that though there may be an organized mass of people in our country that opposes gay people, there is a large faction of people who do not. It also helps families (possibly those previously opposed to gay people) cope with the fact that they suddenly have a gay relative.

It, therefore, is such an honor to be recognized to one of the keystone organizations in our movement. Not only did PFLAG help bring my family to acceptance rather quickly, you have accepted me as an activist by honoring me with this scholarship. For that, I am extremely grateful.

This scholarship will allow me to have a higher education at Stanford University, an education that will open up many opportunities in the future for my career as a politician, and subsequently my work in advancing the rights of LGBT people and our supporters.

Thank you, again, for everything you have given me through the years, and I look forward to a continued relationship with PFLAG in the future.

Sincerely,
Jason Galisatus

Our Scholarship Winners are PFLAG National Winners, Too!

Jason Galisatus was also awarded the Jeanne Manford Memorial Scholarship by National PFLAG.

In addition, Eli McNally was awarded the Palmer B. Carson Memorial Scholarship and Cyrus Sinai was awarded a PFLAG National Scholarship.

For a complete list of all of the students awarded scholarships by National PFLAG in 2011, see:

<http://community.pflag.org/page.aspx?pid=1163> ▼

Meeting Calendar

~ SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER ~

Sept. 12 Redwood City Support - 7:30 PM

Oct. 10 Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)

Sept. 14 San Jose Support - 7:30 PM

Oct. 12 First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)

Sept. 15 Straight Spouse Support - 7:30 PM

Oct. 20 Call San Jose Helpline for info.
(3rd Thursday of the month)

Sept. 27 Board Meeting Teleconference

Oct. 18 (3rd or 4th 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*

**November/December Newsletter
Deadline:
Sunday, October 23**

October is GLBT History Month



**OCTOBER 11
National
Coming Out Day**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG Support Meetings

Redwood City, September 12

San Jose, September 14

Marc Adams will speak at both meetings. "Growing up the son of a fundamentalist Baptist minister is tough enough. Growing up gay in an environment where your parents, teachers and peers deem evangelical Christians like Jerry Falwell as left wing liberals is an entirely different experience. " Marc Adams grew up in such a home. In an effort to save his own life, he decided at age 16 to rebel against his parents and attend Jerry Farwell's Liberty University where he thought he could find a way to change from homosexual to heterosexual. His experience there changed his life and jump-started his journey to self acceptance and personal freedom.

Marc Adams will share his story of coming out and coming out of fundamentalist Christianity and his journey to self-acceptance. Although his presentation covers a serious and often dark side of life, Marc bridges the serious and dark with humor and compassion.

Marc Adams is the author of nine books His newest book is titled *Understanding Coming Out & Self Acceptance*. ▼



Redwood City, October 10

Angel Sheridan will give an update on her recent **AIDS/Lifecycle** ride, followed by a presentation on the **GLBT National Help Center** by **Jo Maitland**, Center volunteer. The Center offers programs including two national hotlines that provide free and confidential telephone and internet peer-counseling, information, and local resources for GLBT and questioning callers throughout the United States. The GLBT National Help Center also helps other organizations build the infrastructure they need to provide strong support to our community locally. Read more at: www.glnh.org/index2.html ▼

San Jose, October 12

Angel Sheridan will give a talk and power point presentation on the **AIDS/Lifecycle** and her recent participation. Small group support is offered at every meeting.

Renew Your Membership for 2012!

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

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.

Your support is greatly appreciated. Donations to our San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Scholarship program are also most welcome! ▼



27th Annual BAYMEC Dinner

September 24

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

The Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC) is a four-county LGBT political action group, advocating for the civil rights of LGBT people since 1984. It is the only political action committee dedicated to this purpose in the counties of San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey.

BAYMEC lobbies for hate-crime legislation, transgender issues and to bring LGBT sensitivity to the forefront in the domestic violence field. BAYMEC is active in supporting community-building efforts such as the DeFrank Center, local AIDS efforts, breast cancer awareness and the struggle to secure equal rights for LGBT families.

More information at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/baymec1/aboutus> ▼

Free PFLAG Activist Training

Ready to start building your skills to move equality forward? Here is a webinar on how to effectively connect with our local lawmakers — offered FREE to PFLAG members:

Bring the Message Home with In-District PFLAG Lobbying! (2 dates)

September 19, 4:00 pm PST

Instructor: Rhodes Perry

September 20, 7:00 pm PST

Instructor: TBD

All webinars run 60 minutes.

Check the National PFLAG website:

<http://community.pflag.org/page.aspx?pid=1385> for the registration link (to be added soon) and to find out about new learning opportunities as they are added! ▼

➡ Mark Your Calendar

Sept. 6 — Prop.8 Hearing on Standing

Sept. 19/20 — PFLAG Activist Training

Sept. 24 — BAYMEC Dinner

Oct. 11 — National Coming Out Day

Oct. 20 — LGBTQ Elementary Schools Forum

Nov. 3-6 — PFLAG National Convention

California Supreme Court Sets Date for Prop. 8 Hearing: Tuesday, September 6

The Supreme Court of California announced that the hearing date for Perry v. Brown will be on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 10:00 AM, the very first day of the court's fall calendar. The court will hear oral arguments on a question of whether, under state law, proponents of initiatives have standing to defend their initiatives when they are challenged in court.

In response to the court's scheduling order, Chad Griffin, American Foundation for Equal Rights, had the following to say: "... I am confident that the California Supreme Court will swiftly reach a decision on this question, and that this nation is now one step closer to seeing the dark walls of discrimination finally crumble."

FAQ on the "Standing" issue:

www.afer.org/our-work/standingfaq/ ▼

National Coming Out Day — October 11

National Coming Out Day was founded on October 11, 1988 by Dr. Robert Eichberg, his partner William Gamble, and Jean O'Leary, marking the anniversary of the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Eichberg, who died in 1995 of complications from AIDS, said in an interview, "It is imperative that we come out and let people know who we are and disabuse them of their fears and stereotypes."

More information on the history of NCOD at:

www.hrc.org/issues/3338.htm ▼

July 4th Parade Award — We Won!



The Peninsula Celebration Association awarded our San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Chapter \$150 and Third Place in the Community Performance Group category for our participation in the Redwood City July 4th Parade!

We were also highlighted in PFLAG National's new *Focus on the Field* blog, highlighting the activities of PFLAG chapters nationwide! Check it out:

<http://focusonthefield.blogspot.com/2011/07/pflag-san-jose-marks-16-years-of.html> ▼

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 learn!
- Visit your representatives on Capitol Hill. 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. PFLAG National Conventions have sparked lasting relationships from coast to coast.
- Have fun! Really, we promise! It won't just be educational, it will be fun too. And 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. Register online at: <http://community.pflag.org/convention> ▼

Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day I can hear her breathe.

Arundhati Roy

First Peninsula LGBTQ-Inclusive Elementary Schools Forum

When: Thursday, October 20, 6-8 PM

Where: John Gill Elementary, 555 Del Ora Ave.,
Redwood City

Register: <http://peninsulaforum.eventbrite.com/>

Join Our Family Coalition (OFC) to talk with other parents (LGBTQ and allies), teachers, and administrators about LGBTQ inclusion in schools. Dinner will be served at 6pm and childcare will be available upon request.

Invitees include public and independent school communities, including administrators, parents, and educators, as well as community organizations featuring outreach tables to visit and learn more about local activities and events.

Topics of conversation will include: family diversity, gender roles, stereotyping, anti-bullying and parent/teacher advocacy.

Our Family Coalition (OFC) promotes the equality and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer families with children.

Questions? Contact John Viet at john@ourfamily.org ▼

