



# San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

April/May 2012

[www.pflagsanjose.org](http://www.pflagsanjose.org)

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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

## Bully: Facing History and Ourselves

If you are working to make schools safer from bullying, this may interest you. **Facing History and Ourselves** is a non-profit organization that provides resources for social studies teachers in particular about current social topics.

Facing History and Ourselves is the official educational partner for the upcoming documentary, *Bully*, which shows the devastating impact of bullying on our society. Their new resource, *A Guide to the Film BULLY: Fostering Empathy and Action in Schools*, is designed to help student and adult audiences confront the stories in the film and explore their meaning and resonance for their schools and wider communities. The film can be emotionally difficult; therefore, Facing History believes it essential that teachers and students prepare carefully before viewing it.

See [www.facinghistory.org/safeschools](http://www.facinghistory.org/safeschools) to download the guide.

The film premiered in New York and Los Angeles on March 30. Additional cities and dates will be announced.

I downloaded and browsed through their comprehensive educators' guide to dealing with bully prevention in the classroom and was very impressed. I even copied off a few pages to share with middle school teachers I know who need lesson plan ideas.

Even though it has an R-rating, due I think to the stories of bullied children who committed suicide, I would hope that parents and children would be encouraged to see the film and discuss it afterwards. It would be a good collaborative opportunity for PFLAG to reach out to families in schools.

See what you think.

Jean Hodges  
PFLAG Boulder, CO  
National PFLAG Vice-President



## Do LGBT Students Know Their Rights?

If a female student wants to wear a tuxedo to prom, would you tell her it's all right? Can a school district "out" students to their parents? Do you feel confident answering the many questions that crop up on LGBT issues? Our colleagues at the Southern Poverty Law Center have put together essential information to help students know their rights: [www.splcenter.org/what-we-do/lgbt-rights/students-know-your-rights](http://www.splcenter.org/what-we-do/lgbt-rights/students-know-your-rights)

## Meeting Calendar

~ APRIL/MAY ~

**Apr. 9 Redwood City Support - 7:30 pm**  
May 14 Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices  
480 James Ave., Redwood City  
(2nd Monday of the month)

**Apr.11 San Jose Support - 7:30 pm**  
May 9 First Congregational Church  
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)  
(2nd Wednesday of the month)

**Apr.17 Board Meeting Teleconference**  
May 15 (3rd Tuesday of the month)  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**Apr.19 Straight Spouse Support-7:30 pm**  
May 17 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*

**June/July Newsletter Deadline:  
Friday, May 25**

**San Jose/Peninsula  
PFLAG Chapter**

## Scholarship Awards Ceremony

**Monday, May 14—7:30 pm**

**at the Redwood City Support Meeting**

**All are welcome!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PFLAG Support Meetings

Redwood City, April 9  
San Jose, April 11

**Coming out as Transgender:** Connie will share her experience as a transitioning male to female transgender person. Life is so simple when you're young. You just accept that you were born into the wrong body and go about your life. Right? Wrong. Although Connie was aware that something wasn't quite right in her life, the process of discovery took about 30 years, and in her late thirties she began exploring the concept of gender identity. Now, at age 42, she is in transition and it's touching all aspects of her life.

San Jose, May 9  
Redwood City, May 14

Topic to be announced. Please check the chapter website: [www.pflagsanjose.org](http://www.pflagsanjose.org) for updates.

Small group support will be offered at all meetings. ▼

### PFLAG Membership Update

It's not too late to renew your membership for 2012! If you haven't yet done so, please mail your renewal with the form on the last page of this newsletter, or renew/join online at: [www.pflagsanjose.org](http://www.pflagsanjose.org). All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

We also appreciate your contributions to our Scholarship Fund. On behalf of our chapter, we thank you for your dedication and commitment to the mission of PFLAG.

Sincerely,  
Your Finance Committee ▼



#### Mark Your Calendar!

- April 16, 23 & 30 — LGBT Aging Film Series in Daly City
- May 11 — Out to Eat with Outlet
- May 14 — San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Scholarship Awards Night
- June 24 — San Francisco Pride Parade
- July 4 — Redwood City Parade
- August 18 & 19 — San Jose Pride Festival



### PFLAG's *It Gets Better* Video— for Transgender Youth

Check out PFLAG National's amazing new video — the first *It Gets Better* video of its kind, featuring parents from PFLAG's support group for families of transgender children sharing their personal struggles to understand their child's needs and find support for both themselves and their families. View it here: <http://pfl.ag/GAnf79> ▼

### Testimony - SF Gay Men's Chorus video

Composer Stephen Schwartz collaborated with Dan Savage, creator of the groundbreaking *It Gets Better* project videos, setting the heartfelt words to music, and weaving them into a emotional masterpiece that speaks to anyone who has ever felt out of place.

*Testimony*, performed in March by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, was recorded and engineered by Leslie Ann Jones, the multi Grammy award-winning Director of Music Recording at Skywalker Sound.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XZRNl9ZnyM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XZRNl9ZnyM) ▼

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.  
Dr. Seuss

### ACT UP's Legacy — 25 Years

ACT UP, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, held its first protest on Wall Street on March 24, 1987, demanding access to experimental drugs and an end to discrimination against people with AIDS. The group's stylistic flair, eye-catching graphics, and savvy use of media garnered widespread attention, and ACT UP chapters soon sprang up across the United States and abroad.

The 25th anniversary of ACT UP's founding will be commemorated in these events:

Two documentaries about ACT UP, David France's *How to Survive a Plague*, which premiered at Sundance, and Jim Hubbard and Sarah Schulman's *United In Anger*, which debuted recently at New York's Museum of Modern Art, will be shown in San Francisco later this year.

The GLBT History Museum in the Castro has unveiled a new exhibit, *Life and Death in Black and White*, showcasing photographs of early AIDS activism in San Francisco.

**April 6** — An anniversary protest on will bring the ACT UP spirit to bear on current issues, starting at 4 pm at the 16th Street BART plaza, ending at 6 pm at Castro and Market streets.

Read more:

<http://ebar.com/news/article.php?sec=news&article=67538> ▼

## Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony May 14

Each year our San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG chapter 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 once again award four \$2,000 scholarships. The awards are intended to provide financial support for seniors who will be attending an accredited two- or four-year college, university, or business/technical school in the fall of 2012. Information and applications were sent to all high schools in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, encouraging all graduating seniors (LGBTQ and allies) to apply.

All are encouraged to attend the Awards Ceremony on Monday, May 14 at our Redwood City support meeting. As always, it will be an inspiring and heartwarming event! ▼

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## Join the PFLAG table at Outlet's *Out To Eat!* May 11

**Outlet**, based in Mountain View, is the Peninsula's only comprehensive LGBTQ youth organization. Outlet works with local communities to support and empower LGBTQ youth. Outlet's 5 year old *De Ambiente* program provides support and resources to Spanish speaking LGBTQ youth.

### Out to Eat

Friday, May 11 at 6 pm · Computer History Museum  
1401 North Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View, CA 94043

Keynote Speaker: Jose Antonio Vargas, Pulitzer Prize Winning Journalist and founder of Define American [www.defineamerican.com](http://www.defineamerican.com), a campaign that calls for a more open and honest dialogue about our broken immigration system. Two outstanding youth will also be honored: Mauricio Reyes and Maritza Arreol will receive the Juan Barajas Leadership Award.

Here's how to support this worthwhile organization and enjoy an inspirational evening with your PFLAG friends:

- **Register online** ([www.outtoeat.org/registration/](http://www.outtoeat.org/registration/)) **by April 18** to get the early bird rate of \$125 (\$65 for primary and secondary teachers) - You may pay by credit card or check or by phone: 650-965-2020 x22.
- On the registration form you'll see: "*Your seating preference. Please seat me/us with (Table Captain/ Host name here...)*" — indicate **PFLAG table**
- Notify us ([sjp-pflagnewsltr.ed@comcast.net](mailto:sjp-pflagnewsltr.ed@comcast.net)) that you wish to join the PFLAG table.

*Note:* The tax deductible amount for a \$125 ticket is about \$60.

Hope to see you there! ▼

## 2011 Scholarship Winner, Cyrus Sinai

We received this letter from Cyrus Sinai's former high school GSA adviser.

Dear PFLAG,

Last year, you awarded a scholarship to one of our students, Cyrus Sinai. Cyrus ended the year as our school's salutatorian and the winner of more scholarships, grants and awards than any other student in the history of Santa Clara HS (founded in 1872). Last May, he was chosen as one of 3 national winners (from a field of over 400!) of the Colin Higgins Youth Courage Award. He also has been featured in local and national newspapers and websites for his work as an LGBTQ youth activist. Cyrus is currently enrolled as a first-year student at UCLA, where he is co-director of Ally Week (the first freshman co-director in its history).

Cyrus's many awards began last year when he was recognized by your PFLAG chapter. Your award, one of the first, has helped propel him into becoming the amazing young activist he is today. Thank you so much for awarding him, and the many other students who are recipients of your organization. With the support of "parents and friends" like you all, Cyrus and other young people like him can look forward to a future of inclusion and equality.

I have included some websites about Cyrus for you to share with your members. Thanks again for your support of our LGBTQ youth!

Sincerely,  
Michael Wilson,  
Santa Clara HS

<http://tinyurl.com/7rdvmfn>

<http://bornlikethis.org/living-out/i%e2%80%99m-no-one-special/>

[www.colinhiggins.org/courageawards/2011\\_cyrus.cfm](http://www.colinhiggins.org/courageawards/2011_cyrus.cfm) ▼

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## Flagrant Conduct — Lawrence v. Texas

Dale Carpenter's excellent new book, *Flagrant Conduct: The Story of Lawrence v. Texas*, is not only an in-depth study of the complicated background of the case, but also a highly informative and thrilling account of how the Supreme Court arguments reshaped American law.

The book refocuses much-deserved attention on the Supreme Court's stunning 2003 ruling that declared consensual sodomy prohibitions unconstitutional and flung open doors to equality for LGBT people around the nation. The ruling proclaimed that the Constitution protects the liberty of lesbian and gay individuals to engage in sexual conduct and forge personal relationships, and rejected the premise that lesbian, gay and bisexual people can be criminalized simply because of moral disapproval of their sexuality.

Read more: [www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2012/03/16/RV9EINGFPH.DTL](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2012/03/16/RV9EINGFPH.DTL) ▼

## 3 Free Films in Daly City —

- *Hannah Free* • *Gen Silent* •

### *No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon*

Film series seeks to bring greater visibility and understanding to the needs of LGBT seniors and to further the inclusion of LGBT seniors in social service programs

City of Daly City  
Department of Library and Recreation Services

## LGBT Aging Film Series



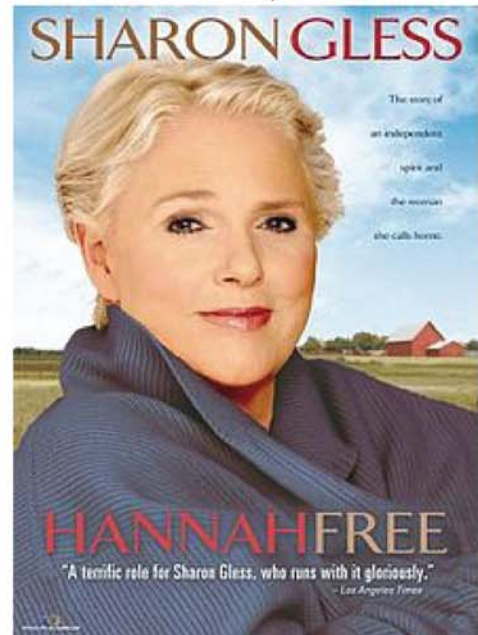
*Join us for the first in a series of films exploring the challenges and joys of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender older adults.*

### **Monday, April 16, 2012**

3:00 - 5:30 pm

Century 20 Theater, 1901 Junipero Serra Blvd., Daly City

Featuring *Hannah Free*, starring Sharon Gless, and the documentary short, *Coming Out in the 50's*. Tickets will be distributed outside of the theater doors beginning at 2:00 pm. Look for *Hannah Free* signage.



### **Monday, April 23, 2012**

3:00 pm

Doelger Senior Center Cafe, 101 Lake Merced Blvd., Daly City

Featuring *Gen Silent*, followed by a short film and panel discussion.

### **Monday, April 30, 2012**

3:00 pm

Doelger Senior Center Cafe, 101 Lake Merced Blvd., Daly City

Featuring *No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon*, followed by a discussion.

### **Sponsored by the City of Daly City, in partnership with:**

#### **Sponsors:**

Aging and Adult Services of San Mateo County  
Pride Initiative  
Seniors At Home

#### **Special Thanks to:**

New Beginnings Coalition Cultural Competence Workgroup  
MediaWorks-SF  
Pye Harris Legacy Project  
Wolf Video  
Frameline

