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 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

Meeting Calendar
~APRIL/MAY~

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 9</td>
<td>Redwood City</td>
<td>Support - 7:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices</td>
<td>(2nd Monday of the month)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 11</td>
<td>San Jose</td>
<td>Support - 7:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>First Congregational Church</td>
<td>(2nd Wednesday of the month)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 17</td>
<td>Board Meeting Teleconference</td>
<td>(3rd Tuesday of the month)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td></td>
<td>ALL ARE WELCOME!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 19</td>
<td>Straight Spouse</td>
<td>Support-7:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>Call San Jose Helpline for info.</td>
<td>(3rd Thursday of the month)</td>
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</tbody>
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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!
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 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. 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

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

ACTUP’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.

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! ▼

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, 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/ 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) 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/?%e2%80%99m-no-one-special/
www.colinhiggins.org/courageawards/2011_cyrus.cfm ▼

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/RV9E1NGFPH.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

FREE

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
The PFLAG Newsletter

Published bimonthly times yearly by San Jose/Peninsula Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays · www.pflagsanjose.org
P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087
Phone: (408) 270-8182

Peninsula Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is a tax-exempt, volunteer, community-based nonprofit organization. The San Jose/Peninsula chapter is a member of PFLAG National which is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Your contribution is tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law.

Would you like to volunteer?  
Call the information lines.  
We need your help — Call today!

MEETING TOPICS ▼ 2012

Meetings are from 7:30—9:00 PM
Small groups for support are held at all meetings.

April: Redwood City & San Jose:  
Coming Out as Transgender
May: To be announced

Please bring donations for AIDS services providers.

▼ PFLAG’S MISSION

We provide love and support for all family members and friends. We work to create an environment of understanding so that our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender loved ones can live with dignity and respect. These are our goals:

SUPPORT • EDUCATION • ADVOCACY

WHAT IS PFLAG?

PFLAG is Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. We are a national support, education and advocacy organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people, their families, friends and allies. With 200,000 members and supporters, and local affiliates in more than 500 communities across the U.S. and abroad, PFLAG is the largest grassroots-based family organization of its kind. PFLAG is a nonprofit organization and is not affiliated with any religious or political institutions.

Your financial support makes PFLAG’s work possible. As a chapter member you can also become engaged in the vital work of providing support, education and advocacy in your community. Even if you're not sure that you need PFLAG, remember that PFLAG NEEDS YOU!

MEMBERSHIP IN SAN JOSE / PENINSULA PFLAG - 2012

Send in this coupon to join, renew, or change your address!

〇 New  Date ________  〇 Individual Membership $30
〇 Renew  〇 Household Membership $40
〇 Change Address  〇 Benefactor $50
〇 I want to volunteer!

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________ State ______ Zip_____
Phone (___) ________________________
E-mail* ___________________________

*Required for PDF Newsletter. Send PDF? YES NO (circle one)

Make checks payable and mail to: PFLAG • PO Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Your donations & membership are tax deductible.