



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

August/September 2012

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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PFLAG National at 40 Years

PFLAG National is proud to kick off its milestone 40th anniversary year campaign, *PFLAG Then & Now... 40 Years of Family and Ally Voices*. The campaign will be a yearlong look at where PFLAG started, all that has been achieved, and all that is still to be accomplished to achieve full equality for LGBT people. *PFLAG Then & Now...* will also demonstrate how PFLAG's unique family and ally voice has been, and will continue to be, a crucial part of the LGBT movement.

The campaign begins with a look back at the pivotal moment that started the organization: PFLAG founder Jeanne Manford's historic public support of her gay son, Morty. Forty years ago, Manford marched at Morty's side in New York's Christopher Street Liberation Day Parade after learning of an assault on his life, due to his sexual orientation, while police stood by and did nothing to help him. She was galvanized to take action through a simple act: walking side by side with him in the parade, carrying a sign that read "Parents of Gays Unite in Support for Our Children." The response to Manford was overwhelming and she was begged by participants to speak to other parents and families.

Through the next year, this grassroots movement spread like wildfire and in 1973 Manford, along with a small group of dedicated parents, founded PFLAG, an organization for parents, families, friends, and straight allies to unite with LGBT people in a shared mission of support, education, and advocacy. That this movement spread so quickly – long before the age of the Internet and mobile phones – was clear evidence of the need for an organization like PFLAG.

PFLAG National President Rabbi David M. Horowitz said: "Then, Jeanne had no legal recourse through which she could protect her son. The press refused to listen to her story and the government was silent in response to her calls for justice. Now, 40 years later, parents, families, friends, and allies of LGBT people have a voice – in large part thanks to PFLAG and its nearly quarter of a million members and supporters, who work relentlessly to create a society that not only protects the rights of their LGBT loved ones, but also celebrates their diversity and loving relationships."

"Much has changed since 1972," said PFLAG National Executive Director Jody M. Huckaby. "Then, roughly three-quarters of the U.S. population deemed homosexuality morally wrong, vicious attacks on LGBT people were commonplace, and the idea of equality for gays and lesbians was a radical notion."

Now, 40 years later, there has been a clear shift in policy, press, and public opinion. In June, Huckaby spent a day on Capitol Hill moderating a panel for the launch of a bi-partisan Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus. And PFLAG National has just released two new publications: *The Hate Crimes Prevention Guide & Toolkit*, and *Be not afraid – help is on the way: straight for equality in faith communities*.

Go to www.pflag.org/thenandnow to follow the *PFLAG Then and Now... 40 Years of Family and Ally Voices* campaign. Check in each month as we take a look at changes in faith communities, schools, the workplace, the military, and more!

Meeting Calendar ◀ AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ▶

Aug.8 San Jose Support - 7:30 pm
Sept.12 First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)

Aug.13 Redwood City Support - 7:30 pm
Sept.10 Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)

Aug.21 Board Meeting Teleconference
Sept.18 (3rd Tuesday of the month)
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Aug.16 Straight Spouse Support-7:30 pm
Sept.20 Call San Jose Helpline for info.
(3rd Thursday of the month)

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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*

**October Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, September 21**

**San Jose
PRIDE FESTIVAL**

August 18-19

Please join us!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG Support Meetings

San Jose, August 8

Redwood City, August 13

At the Redwood City meeting we will show *Why We Sing*, a video about gay men's choruses.

Redwood City, September 10

San Jose, September 12

In the *Life* episode *Family Ties* features 3 stories of how GLBT persons define their families. We will show one or two of the stories (20 minutes each).

Small group support will be offered at all meetings. ▼

PFLAG Membership Update

It's always a good time to join PFLAG or support our Scholarship Fund. And, if you haven't done so, please renew your membership for 2012 now! Mail your contribution with the form on the last page of this newsletter, or donate online at: www.pflagsanjose.org. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

If you ask your employer to make a matching gift, you will need to give them our EIN (Employer ID Number): 7702544991. On behalf of our chapter, we thank you for your dedication and commitment to the mission of PFLAG.

Sincerely,
Your Finance Committee ▼

New Straight Spouse Book by Amity Buxton

Unseen-Unheard: the Journey of Straight Spouses, is a collection of diverse personal stories by over 40 straight spouses whose husbands or wives came out as LGBT, tracing their amazing journeys from trauma to transformation. It's available as an e-book from Amazon. If you order it through www.straightspouse.org, the Straight Spouse Network gets a small commission. The hard copy will be available within two months. Here's a short promo on You-Tube: <http://youtu.be/GFPLYTJLv0U> ▼

PFLAG Board Meetings via Teleconference

Our PFLAG Chapter Board now meets via telephone conference call! We are always looking for new, creative ideas for helping families, getting our word out, raising money for scholarships, and just having fun together. We'd love to have you become part of the Board, attend a tele-meeting, or send us your ideas. For more information, email Ken Klucsor: kenklucsor@yahoo.com ▼

BAYMEC Annual Dinner September 22

BAYMEC's Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday evening, September 22, at the San Jose Fairmont Hotel, 170 S Market Street, San Jose 95113.

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm VIP Cocktail Hour
6:00 - 7:00 pm -- Reception, Imperial Ballroom Foyer
7:00 - 9:30 pm -- Dinner and Awards, Imperial Ballroom

Tickets are \$150 per person - contact the newsletter editor at sjp-pflagnews@comcast.net if you wish to join the PFLAG table. Advance reservations required!

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> ▼



BAYMEC San Mateo County Board Member

BAYMEC is currently seeking a San Mateo County resident who would be interested in potentially joining the BAYMEC Board to help with endorsements in San Mateo County. If interested, please contact Leslie Bulbuk at BAYMEC@gmail.com ▼

Reasonable people adapt themselves to the world. Unreasonable people attempt to adapt the world to themselves. All progress, therefore, depends on unreasonable people.

George Bernard Shaw



Mark Your Calendar!

August 18 & 19 — San Jose Pride Festival

Sept. 22 — Annual BAYMEC Dinner



San Jose Pride Festival August 18 & 19

Be sure to stop by our PFLAG booth on Saturday from noon until 4 PM, and on Sunday from 11 AM until 5 PM. On Saturday admission is free, but on Sunday there is an entrance fee (PFLAG volunteers will receive tickets).

Note: There is no Parade this year, only the 2-day Festival in Discovery Meadow Park on San Carlos Street.

More information at: www.sanjosegaypride.com ▼



PFLAG @ 40 — in the News!

Check out these articles:

PFLAG Turns 40, And Friends And Family Still Help Pave The Way For Gay Acceptance

www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/06/29/pflag-40-friends-family-gays_n_1635791.html?utm_hp_ref=gay-voices

40 Years of PFLAG: Thank You, Jeanne Manford!

<http://msmagazine.com/blog/blog/2012/06/27/40-years-of-pflag-thank-you-jeanne-manford/>



Straight for Equality in Faith Communities

The new Straight for Equality publication *Be not afraid - help is on the way: straight for equality in faith communities* builds on PFLAG's 40 years of experience as the straight ally voice in the LGBT equality movement, providing a new way for straight allies of faith to create individual change, beginning with personal reflections, tools to help initiate conversations in faith communities, and ways to connect new allies with progressively more advanced opportunities for learning and discussion.

Visit the new Straight for Equality in Faith Communities webpage: www.straightforequality.org/faith#.UBLTLKmfnc8 where you can download this terrific new resource.

Thank you for moving equality forward in your community... and in your communities of faith. Together we will continue to change hearts and minds! ▼

PFLAG on Parade!

Redwood City, July 4th



San Francisco Pride Parade, June 24



Family Acceptance Project

For the past decade, the Family Acceptance Project (FAP) at SF State University has been studying the impact of family acceptance and rejection on suicide risk among LGBT youth. Findings from these studies point to the critical role of families in contributing to and protecting against suicidal behavior and risk among LGBT young people. FAP has developed resources, interventions and strategies to help diverse families reduce risk and to promote their LGBT children's well-being.

The first of these – a multi-lingual, multi-cultural series of family education booklets – *Supportive Families, Healthy Children: Helping Families Support their LGBT Children* – has been designated as the first “Best Practice” resource for suicide prevention for LGBT youth and young adults by the national Best Practices Registry for Suicide Prevention. Read more: <http://familyproject.sfsu.edu/publications> ▼

When an individual protests society's refusal to acknowledge his dignity as a human being, his very act of protest confers dignity on him.

Bayard Rustin

40 % of Homeless Youth are LGBT: Family Rejection the Leading Cause

As many as 40 percent of homeless youth identify as LGBT, and a new Williams Institute study of youth shelters confirms this estimate. Between October 2011 and March 2012, 354 agencies completed surveys about their clients and found that about 40 percent of their homeless and non-homeless clients were LGBT (9 percent of whom identified as bisexual). About 30 percent of clients using housing-related services (like emergency shelter and transitional living programs) were LGBT.

Read More:

<http://thinkprogress.org/lgbt/2012/07/12/515641/study-40-percent-of-homeless-youth-are-lgbt-family-rejection-is-leading-cause/?mobile=nc> ▼

Those who say that homosexuality and Christianity are incompatible cannot escape the consequences of that statement: homophobia kills kids. Theology is indeed a matter of life and death.

Dr. Gary Brewton

Two Wrongs Don't Make a Right

We all know that bullying can have tragic consequences. But how can schools protect students from bullying without making the problem worse?

A report just released by GSA Network in partnership with the Advancement Project and the Alliance for Educational Justice addresses that question.

Two Wrongs Don't Make a Right: Why Zero Tolerance is Not the Solution to Bullying examines the surge of recent policy and legislative activity around bullying of LGBT and other youth, and finds that policymakers and school officials have erroneously adopted zero-tolerance policies that rely on suspensions, expulsions, and arrests of alleged bullies. This punitive approach results in students being needlessly pushed out of school and placed onto a path into the criminal justice system — the “school-to-prison pipeline.”

“Schools essentially become the bullies when they employ ‘get tough’ tactics to address bullying,” said Shaquille Carbon, a student leader at Baltimore Algebra Project and a member of the Alliance for Educational Justice. “We can stop bullying without pushing more students out of school.”

To learn how to make schools safe for ALL students download this important report here:

www.gsanetwork.org/news/anti-bullying-advocates-call-policy-makers-end-overly-harsh-punishment-bullies/062612 ▼

LGBT Elder Resources

LGBT Older Adults in Long-Term Care Facilities: Stories from the Field www.ncrights.org/longterm_care

LGBT elders are more likely to be single, childless, estranged from their biological family, and reliant on families of choice, such as friends and other loved ones. Without traditional support systems in place, many LGBT elders end up relying on nursing homes or other institutions providing long-term care. This report is the result of a survey undertaken to better understand the experiences of LGBT older adults in long-term care settings. Some of the findings point to possible violations of federal nursing home law, while others signify that far more training and awareness by staff is needed.



Navigating the System: A Know-Your-Rights Guide for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Elders in California www.ncrights.org/LGBT_elder_guide

Contrary to the widely-believed “myth of gay affluence,” LGBT people—and elders in particular—are more likely to be poor than their straight peers. Same-sex elder male couples are more likely to live in poverty than their straight counterparts, and same-sex elder female couples are twice as likely. Transgender people, in particular—because of ongoing and systemic discrimination—experience poverty at extraordinary rates.

This publication is designed to equip LGBT elders with the tools needed to accomplish these goals, and more:

- Identify available benefits, including for those with disabilities
- Find LGBT-friendly housing and service providers
- Effectively address discrimination or mistreatment
- Learn how relationship recognition laws affect benefits
- Navigate the unique challenges confronting transgender elders
- Understand how to protect your family with life-planning documents



AARP LGBT Elder Resources

www.aarp.org/relationships/friends-family/aarp-pride/

The AARP has an entire section of its web site dedicated to LGBT issues, resources, news, and other topics of interest to older LGBTs and their families and friends, including *The Gay Man's Guide to Dating After 50*. ▼



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.

**August (Redwood City) — Video: Why we Sing
 Redwood City & San Jose:
 September — Video: Family Ties**



Please bring donations for AIDS services providers.

▼ PFLAG'S MISSION

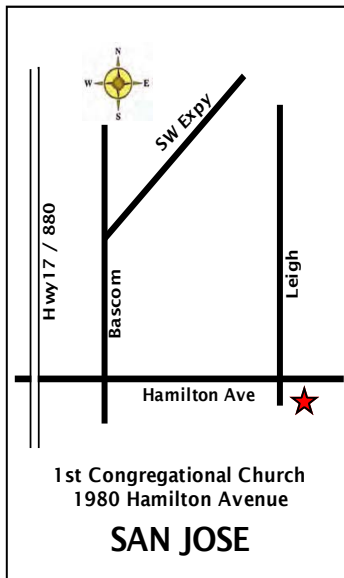
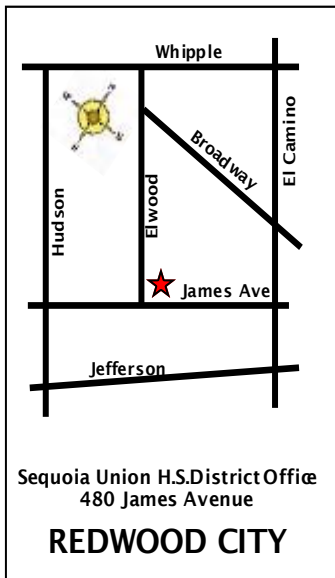
We provide love and support for all family members and friends. We work to create an environment of understanding so that our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender loved ones can live with dignity and respect. These are our goals:

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

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- Angel \$100 and up
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