**Evolution and LGBT Personhood**

*ev-o-lu·tion. n.*
A process of continuous change from a lower, simpler, or worse, to a higher, more complex, or better state; A process of gradual and relatively peaceful social, political, and economic advance

*From: [www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary)*

Although we are still a long way from full recognition of LGBT personhood, the recently accelerated pace of evolution has been exhilarating!

**President Obama Evolves**
On May 9, President Barack Obama took an historic step as the first U.S. president in office to recognize the importance of the freedom to marry for ALL couples, thereby moving the federal government closer to granting full equality for gay Americans. Read more: [www.tnr.com/article/politics/103280/obama-gay-rights-marriage-biden-civil-president-lbj](http://www.tnr.com/article/politics/103280/obama-gay-rights-marriage-biden-civil-president-lbj)

**Ex-Gay Therapy Study Retracted**
In a stunning reversal, Dr. Robert Spitzer retracted his research often cited by ex-gay proponents as proof that reparative therapy works. In a letter to the editor of *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, the journal that first published his study in 2001, Dr. Spitzer not only asked the journal to print a retraction, but also apologized to members of the LBGT community and to patients who have attempted to change their sexual orientation.

The reverberations of Dr. Spitzer’s retraction are yet to come. Many court cases, including the Prop8 case, have a subtext that sexual orientation is a mutable characteristic and therefore LGBT individuals are asking for “special rights” to support a “chosen lifestyle” that can be changed. Dr. Spitzer’s study was the lynch pin to these arguments.

Read more: [www.truthwinsout.org/blog/2012/04/24187/](http://www.truthwinsout.org/blog/2012/04/24187/)

**EEOC Ruling: Gender identity covered by Civil Rights Act**
In a landmark move, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ruled on April 23 that an employer who discriminates against an employee or potential employee based on their gender identity is in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination based on sex.

Masen Davis of the Transgender Law Center said: “Transgender people face tremendous rates of discrimination and unemployment. This decision ensures that every transgender person in the United States will have legal recourse to employment discrimination, and can safeguard their access to vital employment benefits such as health insurance and retirement savings plans.” Read more: [www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/04/24/transgender-employees-anti-discrimination-law-eec- n_1449282.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/04/24/transgender-employees-anti-discrimination-law-eec- n_1449282.html)
**PFLAG Support Meetings**

**Redwood City, June 11**

Maxwell Philp, 2011 PFLAG Scholarship winner and currently an intern for California Assemblywoman Fiona Ma, will visit us for an informal update. When introducing him at Scholarship Award Night in 2011, Kermit Cuff noted that Max "may be coming soon to a ballot near you!"

**San Jose, June 13**

Mental Health & Therapy 101: Lida Vala, a Marriage and Family Therapist Registered Intern, will discuss mental health issues that commonly appear in all families. Do you want to know how to watch for signs of depression or anxiety? Would you like to know some little things you can do to support yourself and family members when experiencing emotional pain? Whether identifying as part of the LGBT community or not, life requires us to face pain. You will also learn a bit about how therapy can be a journey into a dark, mysterious place full of excitement and fear, which will hopefully encourage growth.

**Redwood City, July 9**

At both July support meetings we will share our experiences from Pride month and the parades.

Small group support will be offered at all meetings.

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**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](http://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

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**National PTA Annual Convention June 21-24**

The National PTA annual convention will be held at the San Jose Convention Center on the same weekend as SF Pride. National PFLAG will have a booth in the exhibit area. Anyone interested in helping to staff the booth please email Beth Kohm at bkohm@pflag.org.

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**Youth, Faith and Family Conference June 9**

This conference presents education, dialogue, song and sharing of best practices for harm reduction and suicide prevention among LGBTQ youth. Learn how to support and advocate for LGBTQ, questioning, and allied youth within religious communities, schools and community. For more information see: [http://cwcbay.org/event/youth](http://cwcbay.org/event/youth).

Register at: [http://youthfaithandfamily.eventbrite.com/](http://youthfaithandfamily.eventbrite.com/)

When: Saturday, June 9, 12-5pm
Where: Mount Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek

Admission: $25.00 with lunch included, free for ages 3-18 — childcare provided.

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**Radically Gay: The Life of Harry Hay Through July 29**

On the centennial anniversary of his birth, the James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center of the San Francisco Public Library is pleased to present an exhibition that celebrates the remarkable life and work of activist Harry Hay, who laid the foundation for the modern lesbian and gay rights movement.

*Radically Gay: The Life of Harry Hay,* will be on view in the Main Library’s Jewett Gallery, through July 29.

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**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

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**Mark Your Calendar!**

- June 9 — Youth, Faith & Family Conference
- June 24 — San Francisco Pride Parade
- July 4 — Redwood City Parade
- August 18 & 19 — San Jose Pride Festival
- Sept. 22 — Annual BAYMEC Dinner
San Jose Pride Festival
August 18 and 19

The PFLAG booth will be staffed on Saturday for two 2-hour shifts from noon until 4 PM. On Sunday, there will be three 2-hour shifts from 11 AM until 5 PM. On Saturday admission is free, and on Sunday volunteers will be reimbursed for the entrance fee.

We need your help to staff the PFLAG booth! You will answer questions about who we are and what we do, and offer pamphlets, business cards, and other information about our support meetings, scholarships, PFLAG TV, and Speakers Bureau. We need a minimum of 2 volunteers for each shift. To volunteer for a 2-hour shift, please contact Mike at pflag-info@pflagsanjose.org

More information at: www.sanjosegaypride.com

Join the Harvey Milk Stamp Campaign

Join the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, David Mixner, Stuart Milk, Dustin Lance Black, California Assembly Speaker John Pérez, Cleve Jones, Reverend Troy Perry — and many more! — to campaign for a U.S. commemorative postage stamp in honor of Harvey Milk.

At www.impcourt.org/icis/info/HarveyMilk/index.html click on the link for the "Sample Letter" to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee — just print, sign and mail!
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!

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

MEETING TOPICS • 2012
Meetings are from 7:30—9:00 PM
Small groups for support are held at all meetings.

June — Redwood City: Maxwell Philp
San Jose: Lida Vala
July — Sharing Our Pride and Parade Stories

Please bring donations for AIDS services providers.

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!

☐ New  Date __________
☐ Renew
☐ Change Address  ☐ I want to volunteer!

Name __________________________________________________________
Address _________________________________________________________

City ______________________ State ______ Zip________

Phone (_________)

E-mail* ________________________________

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

☐ Individual Membership  $30
☐ Household Membership  $40
☐ Benefactor  $50
☐ Angel  $100 and up
☐ Diva  $1,000 and up
☐ Student or Newsletter Only  $15
☐ Gift Newsletter Subscription  $8

(For those who are already members to give to others too far away to come to meetings)

☐ Donation for Scholarships  $____
☐ Endowment Fund  $____

Make checks payable and mail to: PFLAG • PO Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Your donations & membership are tax deductible.
San Francisco Pride Parade Monitor Training Schedule

In order to march in the SF Pride Parade, PFLAG must provide monitors for our marchers and for the wheels of our bus. Please sign up for training! — and notify Julia Thoron, San Francisco PFLAG: jmthoron@aol.com

ALL Contingent Monitors must attend the first hour of one of the trainings listed below. The 1st hour of each training is Contingent Monitor training.

The 2nd hour of training is for safety monitors only. Volunteers who are safety monitors are not part of our contingent, and are required to attend both hours.

Advance registration for Contingent Monitor Training is not required. Please arrive early to avoid being turned away from a full training class. All training sites are wheelchair accessible.

Contingent Monitor Training Schedule 2012 - SF & Peninsula Locations

Saturday, June 2
Contingent Monitor & Safety Training
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Training Capacity: 100
The San Francisco LGBT Community Center
Ceremonial Room
1800 Market St, SF

Wednesday, June 6
Contingent Monitor & Safety Training
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Training Capacity: 200
Virgin America
555 Airport Blvd, Burlingame

Monday, June 11
Contingent Monitor & Safety Training
6:30pm - 8:30pm
Training Capacity: 100
Google West Campus 5
2375 Garcia Ave, Mt. View

Thursday, June 14
Contingent Monitor & Safety Training
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Training Capacity: 175
The San Francisco LGBT Community Center
Rainbow Room
1800 Market St, SF

Saturday, June 16
Contingent Monitor & Safety Training
12noon - 2:00pm
Training Capacity: 235
Koret Auditorium, SF Library
100 Larkin St, SF

Sunday, June 17
Contingent Monitor & Safety Training
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Training Capacity: 235
Koret Auditorium, SF Library
100 Larkin St, SF

Monday, June 18
Contingent Monitor & Safety Training
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Training Capacity: 175
The San Francisco LGBT Community Center
Rainbow Room
1800 Market St, SF

Tuesday, June 19
Contingent Monitor & Safety Training
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Training Capacity: 175
The San Francisco LGBT Community Center
Rainbow Room
1800 Market St, SF

Wednesday, June 20
Contingent Monitor & Safety Training
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Training Capacity: 175
The San Francisco LGBT Community Center
Rainbow Room
1800 Market St, SF

Friday, June 22
Contingent Monitor & Safety Training
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Training Capacity: 500
Larkin Hall, Bill Graham Civic Auditorium
99 Grove St, SF

For East Bay trainings, and for updates to this schedule, see:
http://sfpride.org/parade/contingent-monitors.html

San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Newsletter • June/July 2012—PRIDE INFO
PFLAG’s New Anti-Bullying Campaign at SF Pride — June 23 and 24

What is the Safe Schools Action Pack?
The Safe Schools Action Pack book contains information about bullying and what an individual can do to cultivate respect for all children; crucial statistics to help educate new supporters of the PFLAG’s Safe Schools initiative; and PFLAG’s Top Ten Ways to Make Schools Safe for All. The book also contains Johnson & Johnson coupons and rebates worth up to $65, redeemable at all Walgreens stores around the country, on their website, and at Duane Reade in NYC.

How do these coupons support the Care with PRIDE™ Campaign?
PFLAG receives $1.00 for each redeemed coupon or rebate. The majority of the funds will go to participating PFLAG chapters for their own community efforts, and to a competitive grant program for all chapters. A minimum of $200,000—and maximum of $300,000—has already been pledged to PFLAG by Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies.

OK, What Does That Mean for Me?
On June 23 and 24, there will be a Care with PRIDE booth next to the PFLAG booth in the Civic Center celebration area. Come by and collect your Safe Schools Action Pack. There are also stickers and signs to distribute, and other ways to bring visibility to the issue of safe schools for all.

Questions? Contact Julia Thoron, San Francisco PFLAG Chapter: jmthoron@aol.com

WHAT IS THE CARE WITH PRIDE™ CAMPAIGN?
The Care with PRIDE™ campaign is a multi-faceted program that provides PFLAG with an unprecedented opportunity to raise the visibility of our mission and the important role that the voices of loved ones play in advancing equality. It includes:

- An educational, awareness, and media campaign on the harm of bullying, violence, and discrimination for all students—LGBT and otherwise. The campaign includes PFLAG messaging in print and online publications such as Ladies Home Journal and Family Circle, as well as LGBT magazines, that will reach at least 7.2 million people.
- PFLAG Mom Betty DeGeneres will volunteer as a PFLAG spokesperson, and has created two videos on the impact of bullying and the importance of PFLAG.
- 500 Walgreen stores with PFLAG-branded displays and reusable shopping bags during the month of June;
- An educational and promotional website with information on how people can help promote safe schools for all children through PFLAG’s Cultivating Respect: Safe Schools for All Initiative;
- Posters, banners and other materials with a message about keeping schools safe for all; and
- Pride distribution of the Safe Schools Action Pack.

HAVE FUN and thank you for everything that you do to advance equality in your community.

Read more at:
www.walgreens.com/topic/promotion/wpride.jsp –

Click on the Get Coupons link to print your coupons — then go shopping to support Safe Schools!