



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

June/July 2012

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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

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

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

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 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/

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-eecoc-n_1449282.html

Meeting Calendar

◀ JUNE/JULY ▶

- Jun.11 Redwood City** Support - 7:30 pm
July 9 Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Jun.13 San Jose** Support - 7:30 pm
July 11 First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)
- Jun.19 Board Meeting Teleconference**
July 17 (3rd Tuesday of the month)
ALL ARE WELCOME!
- Jun.21 Straight Spouse** Support-7:30 pm
July 19 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*

**August Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, July 27**

PRIDE & PARADES

SF Gay Pride Parade — June 24

Redwood City 4th of July Parade
and Picnic!

San Jose Pride — August 18-19

Please join us!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

San Jose, July 11

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. ▼

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 ▼

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. ▼

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>

Register at: <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. ▼

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. ▼

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 ▼



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





**Parade Season is Here!
March or Ride in SF Pride
— with PFLAG!
Sunday, June 24**

Invite your family and friends to join us as we walk up Market to Civic Center — or ride in the double-decker bus with PFLAG in the San Francisco Gay Pride Parade! This year's theme is Global Equality, an idea submitted jointly by Bishop Christopher Senyonjo of Uganda and Rev. Canon Albert Ogle of San Diego. A donation to PFLAG is requested of those who ride on the bus.

Monitors are required for each contingent — PFLAG will need 14 monitors again this year. Please sign up! These wonderful volunteers go to a 1 hour training session before the Parade. Your family and friends can march with you as you focus on the safety of our marchers. Monitor training will be held on Wednesday, June 6 at 7 PM in Burlingame, and on Monday, June 11 at 6:30 PM in Mountain View, and at multiple SF locations.

PFLAG volunteers are also needed for the booth at Civic Center Plaza both Saturday and Sunday. Contact Julia Thoron to help, or for more information. Please see the PRIDE INFO sheet at the end of this newsletter for the full schedule and details! ▼

**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@pflagsanjos.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! ▼



**July 4th Independence Day Parade
Redwood City**

Come march with us in the PFLAG contingent of the Redwood City 4th of July Parade! What better way to share PFLAG's love and support for our families with 100,000 spectators from around the Bay Area. Join our San Jose/ Peninsula PFLAG chapter as we march carrying our PFLAG banner and Rainbow and U.S. flags! This is Middle America and everyone who has marched agrees that it is one of the most valuable events PFLAG does all year.

Gathering time: by 10 AM **

Starting place: on Hopkins Street **

Dress: Black pants, a plain white top, and a PFLAG sash. We will wear colorful straw hats (provided) to celebrate this year's theme: A Salute to Agriculture.



** Exact time and location details will be given to us a week before the parade. To receive the updated information, please let us know via email that you'll join us!

Email Ed at: pflag-info@pflagsanjos.org

After the parade, Frances and John invite you to a Potluck Picnic at their home in Redwood City. They will provide a grill, water, lemonade, sodas, and juice. Please bring a cooked or ready to grill main dish for yourself and your party/family, and a side dish or dessert to share. Feel free to bring wine or beer. Map and directions will be provided at the parade. Please park on the street.

Please RSVP to Francis at pflag-info@pflagsanjos.org by Thursday, June 30 to let her know what you will bring! ▼



Care with PRIDE Promotes Safe Schools

PFLAG is proud to announce the Care with PRIDE™ campaign, an educational, awareness, and media campaign on the harm of bullying, violence, and discrimination for all students—LGBT and otherwise. This partnership with Johnson & Johnson and Walgreens will raise awareness about bullying, and elevate the important work that PFLAG and its hundreds of chapters are doing in communities all over the country. Coupons, to be redeemed at Walgreens, will be distributed at the SF Pride parade and booth. For each coupon redeemed, \$1.00 will be donated to PFLAG, up to \$300,000 total, to support our work on Safe Schools.

Read more on the PRIDE INFO sheet and at:

<http://community.pflag.org/Page.aspx?pid=194&srcid=-2>
www.walgreens.com/topic/promotion/wpride.jsp ▼



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](http://1800MarketStSF.com)

Wednesday, June 6

Contingent Monitor & Safety Training
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Training Capacity: 200
Virgin America
[555 Airport Blvd, Burlingame](http://555AirportBlvdBurlingame.com)

Monday, June 11

Contingent Monitor & Safety Training
6:30pm - 8:30pm
Training Capacity: 100
Google West Campus 5
[2375 Garcia Ave, Mt. View](http://2375GarciaAveMtView.com)

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](http://1800MarketStSF.com)

Saturday, June 16

Contingent Monitor & Safety Training
12noon - 2:00pm
Training Capacity: 235
Koret Auditorium, SF Library
[100 Larkin St, SF](http://100LarkinStSF.com)

Sunday, June 17

Contingent Monitor & Safety Training
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Training Capacity: 235
Koret Auditorium, SF Library
[100 Larkin St, SF](http://100LarkinStSF.com)

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](http://1800MarketStSF.com)

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](http://1800MarketStSF.com)

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](http://1800MarketStSF.com)

Friday, June 22

Contingent Monitor & Safety Training
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Training Capacity: 500
Larkin Hall, Bill Graham Civic Auditorium
[99 Grove St, SF](http://99GroveStSF.com)

For East Bay trainings, and for updates to this schedule, see:

<http://sfpride.org/parade/contingent-monitors.html> ▼



PFLAG's New Anti-Bullying Campaign at SF Pride — June 23 and 24



VOLUNTEER FAQ

Hello PFLAGers!

Forty years ago this June, Jeanne Manford walked proudly alongside her gay son in a New York City pride event, inspiring a movement of caring and inclusion for the LGBT community. Ever since that groundbreaking day, participation in Pride events has been an important part of PFLAG's work in communities all over the country, demonstrating unequivocal family acceptance for our LGBT loved ones.

This year, Bay Area PFLAG Chapters are participating in the new **Care with PRIDE™** campaign. The campaign is an important opportunity to expand PFLAG's voice further on a message that is near and dear to our hearts: the impact of bullying and our collective efforts to make schools safe for all children.

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*.

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?

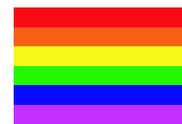
PFLAG receives \$1.00 for each redeemed coupon or rebate. The majority of the funds will go to participating PFLAG chapters for their own community efforts, and to a competitive grant program for all chapters. A minimum of \$200,000—and maximum of \$300,000—has already been pledged to PFLAG by Johnson & 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

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



Read more at:

<http://community.pflag.org/Page.aspx?pid=194&srcid=-2>
www.walgreens.com/topic/promotion/wpride.jsp –

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

Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So... get on your way!

Dr. Seuss