Love is in the Air — and Marriage!

Valentine’s Day is past, but 2012 is shaping up to be quite a year for marriage!

We are truly at a turning point in the history of the fight for LGBT equality. Case by case and state by state, the barriers to full equality are falling. Just in the past year, we have seen the end of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” the passage of full marriage equality in New York, Washington State and Maryland, and the Ninth Circuit’s resounding defense of fairness and inclusion in striking down Prop 8.

Maine’s Secretary of State, Charlie Summers, confirmed that marriage advocates have collected enough signatures to allow a ballot measure this November that, if passed, would extend the freedom to marry to gay and lesbian couples.

These are landmark victories, but our struggle is not over. The anti-marriage forces that passed Prop. 8 have asked the Ninth Circuit for rehearing on the Prop. 8 ruling. In Washington and Maryland, opponents of the freedom to marry are gathering signatures in an attempt to put the newly passed laws on the ballot in November 2012.

Regarding the future of Prop. 8, James Essecks of the ACLU Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & AIDS Project, wrote:

“There’s a decent chance that the case will end up before the Supreme Court, either now or after a larger panel of appeals court judges decide to hear the appeal over again. We can trust the Olson/Boies Prop 8 legal team to do a great job litigating their case.”

The best thing the rest of us can do to ensure a good result when it comes before the high court is to continue working for marriage in the states. The more progress we make in the states, the more clearly we show the Supreme Court that the country is ready for marriage.

If you want to help the Prop 8 case win in the end, donate to the campaigns where marriage will be on the ballot this fall, or support the Olson/Boies legal team at AFER (www.ager.org). Above all, talk to your friends and co-workers about why marriage is important to you.

Together, we can help move the country towards greater fairness in marriage, which is the best way to ensure that the Prop. 8 lawsuit ends well.

Compiled from these sources: ACLU LGBT & AIDS Project, Prop 8 Trial Tracker, AFER, and Freedom to Marry.—Editor
**PFLAG Support Meetings**

**Redwood City, March 12**

Ron Schmidt has graciously agreed to return! His presentation in January was disrupted by the closure of the Redwood City School District Office. Back in the days before we had a speaker’s bureau, Ron, a gay San Jose teacher, had a group of PFLAG members participate with him on speaking panels. He retired after 33 years of teaching and wrote his memoirs about his life as an openly gay teacher.

Ron will read selections from his just published memoir *Once-Removed...* described by one reviewer as: “a courageous, eloquently written reflection on coming out: overcoming guilt, shame and internalized homophobia, and becoming an advocate for LGBTQ youth. This book will save lives.” Ron will bring copies for purchase and autographing. Read more at: [http://r nonsensemoved.com/](http://r nonsensemoved.com/)

A co-founder of the South Bay Chapter of the Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators (BANGLE), Ron worked with PFLAG to create *The Invisible Minority in Our Schools: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Youth Workshop*, presented throughout Santa Clara County and the state. He has written extensively for the gay press and co-founded the Arts Council of Gay and Lesbian San Jose.

**San Jose, March 14**

Children’s book publisher Reach And Teach co-founders Craig Wiesner and Derrick Kikuchi will talk about how their latest book, *Operation Marriage*, went from idea to reality. The book is about two Bay Area children who convince their moms to get married during the months leading up to the 2008 election, when Proposition 8 put marriage equality on hold. The book was written by the Bay Area’s own award-winning author Cynthia Chin-Lee and illustrator Lea Lyon. Hopefully the author and illustrator will join Craig and Derrick for a fun, dramatic reading of the book. You’ll also learn a bit about Reach And Teach, which is dedicated to transforming the world through teachable moments with products that promote peace-making, gender equality, and sustainable living. You can find them online at [www.reachandteach.com](http://www.reachandteach.com) and in their Dove and Olive Works/Reach And Teach shop at 178 South Blvd. near 16th Avenue in San Mateo.

Small group support will be offered at all meetings.

**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 telemeeting, or send us your ideas. For more information, email Ken Klucsor: [kenklucsor@yahoo.com](mailto:kenklucsor@yahoo.com)

**PFLAG Finances**

The 2012 membership drive is off to a great start! If you haven’t done so, please mail your renewal with the form on the last page of this newsletter, or go online at: [www.pflagsanjose.org](http://www.pflagsanjose.org). *All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.*

We also encourage you to explore other ways of giving to PFLAG described on our web site under "The Gift of Giving." For example, you may contribute stock to PFLAG and receive a tax deduction for the value at the time of transfer. PFLAG can sell the stock without paying capital gains taxes and make use of the full proceeds. Other possibilities include use of life insurance policies, retirement funds and estate planning.

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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**Annual Mid-Peninsula Women’s Dance to Benefit PFLAG**

**Saturday, March 31**

Peninsula Women’s Group volunteers and friends again offer this wonderful fundraiser for PFLAG! *All women are invited.*

Twin Pines Senior and Community Center
1233 Ralston Ave., Belmont (2 blocks west of El Camino)

Beverages available (No outside beverages allowed); you may bring your own dinner.

6:30-8 pm: country/western, music of the 60’s-today at a lower volume and pace

8-11 pm: the volume and pace pick up!

Admission: $15 in advance; $20 at the door

Questions? — Contact Wendy or Eleanor: [wenel@comcast.net](mailto:wenel@comcast.net)

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**Mark Your Calendar**

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Mar. 14</td>
<td>San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Annual Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 22</td>
<td><em>Two-Spirits</em> film and panel</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>Out to Eat with Outlet</td>
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Two Spirits - Film and Panel Discussion
March 22

The PBS award winning documentary Two Spirits will be shown at San Jose State on March 22 at 6 PM, followed by a panel discussion on hate crimes, transgender issues, and how to increase tolerance and acceptance in our community.

Special guests include film director Lydia Nibley, and Nina, member of our PFLAG chapter and of our Speaker's Bureau!

Fred Martinez was brutally murdered at age sixteen. Two Spirits interweaves the tragic story of a mother’s loss of her son with a revealing look at a time when the world wasn’t simply divided into male and female and many Native American cultures held places of honor for people of integrated genders. “Between tradition and controversy, sex and spirit, and freedom and fear, lives the truth: the bravest choice you can make is to be yourself.”

**Where:** Morris Dailey Auditorium, San Jose State U  
**When:** Thursday, March 22, 6-9 pm. Doors open at 5:30  
**Admission:** FREE  
**Please RSVP:** http://sjsutwospirits.eventbrite.com/  
To learn more about the film and see the trailer, visit: www.twospirits.org

Defense of All Families Pledge

With many politicians fighting against the recognition and civil rights of GLBTQ families, we need an alternative pledge!  
Please join Reach And Teach in taking The Defense of All Families Pledge:  

"We value and respect — and we pledge to protect — every family that is committed in mutual love and that provides for the safety and well-being of its children and each other."

Read more or get a poster of the pledge at: www.reachandteach.com/s/doafp

Pariah Inspires Coming Out Stories

"Being undocumented wasn’t a choice."

"When I finally told my Catholic Latino family I was gay, it started a fight — but not the one I expected."

Inspired by the recently released film "Pariah," Salon teamed up with New America Media to run a series of coming out stories by minority and immigrant LGBT youth. Read all five stories at: www.salon.com/topic/pariah_personals/

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San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Chapter  
**Annual Membership Meeting**  
March 14

All are invited to attend our 2012 Annual Meeting! This event will take place at the beginning of the San Jose support meeting. We will celebrate our chapter’s accomplishments, and elect new Board members. We’re looking for a new Vice President, as well as two more Board members. We’re also looking for a Publicity Chair and a Program Chair. As you can see from the list below, we have a number of excellent volunteer opportunities! Please contact Ken Kluczor for more information.

**Agenda**

- Review and Approval of 2011 Annual Meeting Minutes  
- Officers’ and Committees’ Reports  
- Call for Nominations  
- Board Elections  
- New Business

**Note:**  
Publicity and Program Chairs are welcome to serve on the Board, but Board membership is not required.

You must a member in good standing of San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG in order to serve on the Board.

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PFLAG Straight for Equality Gala 2012  
**April 2**

Join PFLAG National in New York City at the 4th Annual Straight for Equality Gala — an evening dedicated to elevating the voices and accomplishments of our straight allies who are achieving equality for all!

The New York Marriott Marquis / Times Square  
Reception: 6:00 pm  
Dinner and Awards: 7:00 pm  
Purchase tickets: https://community.pflag.org/galatix

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Here’s the thing about rights: They’re not supposed to be voted on. That’s why they call them rights.  
Rachel Maddow

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SFPD Police Department It Gets Better Video

In February, in solidarity with Bay Area LGBT youth, the San Francisco Police Department released an It Gets Better video featuring more than a dozen LGBT Sergeants, commanders, dispatchers and police officers telling their personal stories of growing up gay — from hiding from prom dates, to dealing with bullies and gossip, to dealing with thoughts of shame and suicide.

Watch it at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RMunYfJGs&feature=player_embedded

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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

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!

MEETING TOPICS ▼ 2012

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

▼ Redwood City: Ron Schmidt: Once Removed...  
▼ San Jose: Operation Marriage

Please bring donations for AIDS services providers.

MEMBERSHIP IN SAN JOSE / PENINSULA PFLAG ▼ 2012

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

☐ New  Date ____________  ☐ Individual Membership $30
☐ Renew  ☐ I want to volunteer!
☐ Change Address  ☐ Household Membership $40
☐ Individual Membership ☐ Benefactor $50
☒ I want to volunteer!  ☐ Angel $100 and up
☐ New  ☐ Household Membership $40
☐ Renew  ☐ Benefactor $50
☐ Change Address  ☐ Angel $100 and up
☐ Individual Membership ☐ Diva $1,000 and up
☐ New  ☐ Household Membership $40
☐ Renew  ☐ Benefactor $50
☐ Change Address  ☐ Diva $1,000 and up
☐ Individual Membership ☐ Student or Newsletter Only $15
☐ New  ☐ Benefactor $50
☐ Renew  ☐ Student or Newsletter Only $15
☐ Change Address  ☐ Gift Newsletter Subscription $8
☐ Individual Membership ☐ Angel $100 and up
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☐ Individual Membership ☐ Donation for Scholarships $____

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 $____

*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.