



# San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

March 2012

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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

## 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 decides 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.affer.org](http://www.affer.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*

## Meeting Calendar

~ MARCH ~

**Mar. 12 Redwood City Support** - 7:30 pm  
Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices  
480 James Ave., Redwood City  
(2nd Monday of the month)

**Mar. 14 San Jose Support** - 7:30 pm  
First Congregational Church  
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)  
(2nd Wednesday of the month)

**Mar. 15 Straight Spouse Support** - 7:30 pm  
Call San Jose Helpline for info.  
(3rd Thursday of the month)

**Mar. 20 Board Meeting Teleconference**  
(3rd Tuesday of the month)  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



**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*

**April/May Newsletter Deadline:  
Friday, March 23**

## The San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Chapter ANNUAL MEETING

will be held on  
**Tuesday, March 14**  
at the San Jose Support Meeting

**All are welcome!**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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://ronsonceremoved.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 tele-meeting, or send us your ideas. For more information, email Ken Klucor: [kenklucor@yahoo.com](mailto:kenklucor@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 ▼



## 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) ▼



## Mark Your Calendar

- Mar. 14 — San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Annual Meeting
- Mar. 22 — *Two-Spirits* film and panel
- May 11 — Out to Eat with Outlet
- May 14 — San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Scholarship Awards Night

## 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 Klucsor 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 be 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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## 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/](http://www.salon.com/topic/pariah_personals/) ▼

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

## 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](http://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](http://www.reachandteach.com/s/doafp) ▼

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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=6RMunYfzIGs&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RMunYfzIGs&feature=player_embedded) ▼

