



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

October 2012

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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

National Coming Out Day

October 11

On October 11, 1987, half a million people participated in the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. It was the second such demonstration in our nation's capital and resulted in the founding of a number of LGBT organizations, including the National Latino/a Gay & Lesbian Organization (LLEGÓ) and AT&T's LGBT employee group, LEAGUE.

The momentum continued four months after this extraordinary march as more than 100 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender activists from around the country gathered in Manassas, Virginia, about 25 miles outside of Washington, D.C. Recognizing that the LGBT community often reacted defensively to anti-gay actions, they came up with the idea of a national day to celebrate coming out, and chose the anniversary of that second march on Washington to mark it. The originators of the idea were Rob Eichberg, a founder of the personal growth workshop, The Experience, and Jean O'Leary, then head of National Gay Rights Advocates.

To this day National Coming Out Day continues to promote a safe world for LGBT individuals to live truthfully and openly.

Eichberg, who died in 1995 of complications from AIDS, said, in a 1992 interview, "Most people think they don't know anyone gay or lesbian, and in fact everybody does. It is imperative that we come out and let people know who we are and disabuse them of their fears and stereotypes."

And that is the point of National Coming Out Day — to let people see that many people they already like, know and respect happen to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. That is our strongest tool in the movement toward full human rights.

For a history of National Coming Out Day, check out the Human Rights Campaign website:

www.hrc.org/resources/entry/the-history-of-coming-out

National Coming Out Day resources, including resources for straight allies, may be found at:

www.hrc.org/resources/entry/national-coming-out-day/



National Coming Out Week 2012 is October 7-13.

Meeting Calendar

◀ OCTOBER ▶

- Oct. 8 Redwood City Support** - 7:30 pm
Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Oct.10 San Jose Support** - 7:30 pm
First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)
- Oct.16 Board Meeting Teleconference**
(3rd Tuesday of the month)
ALL ARE WELCOME!
- Oct.18 Straight Spouse Support**-7:30 pm
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*

**November/December Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, October 26**



**National
Coming Out
Day**

October 11

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG Support Meetings

Redwood City, October 8
San Jose, October 10

Drew Mayen of EMQ FamiliesFirst in Campbell will speak about adoption and foster parenting, focusing on LGBT youth. We will also meet Ruth Ricca who, with over 30 years experience as a foster parent, will talk about the impact she has made with youth who never thought they would find a home.

Danny was a 16-year old transgender (FTM) youth who spent years in the Child Welfare System. He was bounced from foster home to foster home experiencing rejection after rejection and struggling mightily with the trauma of his past. Although Danny was an avid reader and did very well in school, his dreams of college seemed very far away. Come hear about how EMQ FamiliesFirst helped Danny connect to people who accepted him, to heal his trauma, manage his emotions, and eventually to connect with a safe and supportive family.

Small group support will be offered at all meetings. ▼

PFLAG Dues Update!

It's not too early to renew your PFLAG membership for 2013! Donations to our Scholarship Fund are also deeply appreciated. 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 ▼

PFLAG Advocacy Page Updated

Check out our newly updated San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Advocacy page — many thanks to M.A.!

www.pflagsanjose.org/advocacy.php

Here is one highlight:

[California Communities United Institute - Advocacy With A Heart: www.calcomui.org/](http://www.calcomui.org) — includes good overviews of issues affecting LGBT and other minority populations in California.

Action Alerts: www.calcomui.org/takeactionnow.html — an easy way to send letters regarding current legislation up for vote by the CA legislature or the governor. Or — easier yet — sign up to receive the alerts in your inbox! ▼

Estate Planning for Domestic Partners, Singles October 11

Featuring Deb Kinney, DLK Law Group
Thursday, October 11, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
San Francisco LGBT Community Center
1800 Market Street

The law provides a default estate plan that may not reflect your wishes. Create a plan tailored to your own life situation and priorities. Know the options for your financial and healthcare decisions during your life, and ensure that your wishes will be followed after your death. Attendees receive a complimentary estate planning organizer.

The seminar is FREE, but reservations are required:

Online: <https://718.thankyou4caring.org/>

Phone: 415-526-5580 ▼

Collateral Damage in the LGBT Community: Straight Spouses

Amity P. Buxton, founder of the Straight Spouse Network, is co-author of a new book: *Unseen-Unheard: Journey of Straight Spouses*. She recently wrote an article for the Huffington Post:

www.huffingtonpost.com/amity-p-buxton/collateral-damage-in-the-lgbt-community-straight-spouses_b_1900765.html

Straight spouses are injured by the very anti-LGBT/heterosexist factors in our society that caused their mates to marry them -- "collateral damage," as some say. Feeling discounted, straight spouses retreat into their own dark corner of the closet.

The good news is that most spouses heal, regain confidence, and gain understanding of why their mates married them. Many become LGBT equality activists. The bad news is that the societal factors underlying these painful journeys persist, and, until we change them, painful stories like these will continue to be told. ▼

Spirituality, Our Children, Our Families: A Workshop for LGBTQ Parents October 17

Come learn from a diverse group of religious professionals about the positive impact that spirituality and faith can have in our families.

Wednesday, October 17, 6:00-8:00 pm
Island United Church
1130 Balclutha Drive, Foster City

The speakers will suggest ways to incorporate spirituality in a healthy and positive way. They will provide helpful tools for parents and children to respond to people who use religious language to promote intolerance and inequality. Childcare and dinner provided.

To Register: Call (650) 515-1901 ▼

How to Keep Up with the Prop 8 and DOMA Supreme Court Decisions

Here are some resources for keeping up to date on the fate of Proposition 8 and DOMA as the Supreme Court decides whether or not to take up the respective cases:

Prop 8 Trial Tracker: www.prop8trialtracker.com/

American Foundation for Equal Rights:

www.afer.org/

In the event that the Supreme Court decides to NOT take the Prop 8 case, the Mid-Peninsula Chapter of ME USA is planning a Celebration Rally!

WHAT: A celebration of the return of marriage equality in California!

WHEN: At noon on the day that the US Supreme Court decides NOT to hear the Prop 8 case. (We may know as early as October 1—or possibly not until after the election)

WHERE: The patio outside the County Clerk's office (555 County Center, Redwood City)

We will keep you updated via the PFLAG news email list. ▼

Transgender Identity & Inclusion Webinar October 17

This lively and engaging interactive webinar will provide practical, concrete ways to increase our mindfulness and support of people of all identities and gender expressions. The workshop is for everyone — whether you've had zero exposure to these issues or live them every day. Participants will gain a greater understanding of terminology, the experiences of transgender people, and the ways in which all of us are impacted by gender norms and expectations. Bring your questions and your curiosity and prepare to be informed, uplifted, and — perhaps most important — changed!

Wednesday, October 17, 4:00 - 5:15 pm Pacific time.

Sponsored by Standing on the Side of Love

www.standingonthesideoflove.org/

Click here to register:

<http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=UPtRDr2ujyUsh8GvYXfyNxGw6ceGMM%2Bk> ▼

New PFLAG Speakers Bureau Blog!

Check it out! <http://sjpflagsb.blogspot.com/>

The blog includes letters from students and others who were moved by Speakers Bureau presentations, as well as videos, articles, and much more! Many thanks to Brian Chin, our Speakers Bureau Coordinator. ▼

Marriage Equality on the Ballot

We are at a watershed moment in the freedom to marry. This November, marriage for same-sex couples is on the ballot in Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, and Washington. This means that, for the first time ever, we have the opportunity to win marriage at the ballot, sending a message to everyone that love is love, and family is family.

PFLAGers in the 36 chapters in those four states are mobilized, energized, and working hard to support these campaigns. And, not surprisingly, many of you from our other 332 chapters and our supporters around the country are asking, "What can I do and how can I help?"

Now is the time to take action! Between now and November, PFLAG is joining with the United for Marriage coalition to mobilize, creating a simple process for individual PFLAGers and chapters to organize. With Election Day around the corner — and the proven effectiveness of PFLAG's voice to change hearts and minds — you can support the effort in these four states to get election results on the right side of history.

WAYS TO HELP:

MAKE CALLS! The United for Marriage staff will connect you to a state campaign so you can make phone calls from where you are through virtual phone banks.

TRAVEL! United for Marriage will help you plan a Volunteer Vacation to one of the four states or a Drive for Marriage weekend road trip to a state near you. Volunteer Vacationers receive a full orientation and training, and then work with a dedicated team on the marriage equality campaign. United for Marriage will help you to find free housing, will help with your travel arrangements, and will match you with donated airline miles, if needed.

DONATE AIRLINE MILES! United for Marriage will help you to donate frequent flyer miles so that Volunteer Vacationers can fly to a ballot state for a week or longer.

TAKE ACTION! SIGN UP TODAY!

This is a pivotal moment in the movement to win the freedom to marry for all loving and committed couples... and our chance to send a strong message that all couples should be able to make a loving and legal commitment to each other and their children.

Join other PFLAGers: take action now and help all our families win on Election Day. Sign up at:

<http://blog.pflag.org/2012/09/marriage-equality-at-ballot-take-action.html> ▼

There is no passion to be found in playing small — in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living.

Nelson Mandela

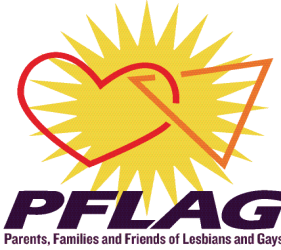
The PFLAG Newsletter

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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.

**Redwood City & San Jose:
Adoption and Foster Parenting of LGBT Youth**



Please bring donations for AIDS services providers.

▼ PFLAG'S MISSION

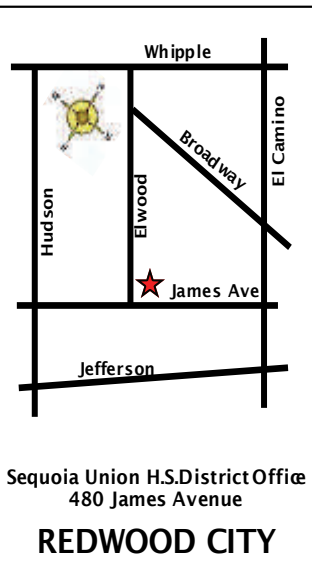
We provide love and support for all family members and friends. We work to create an environment of understanding so that our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender loved ones can live with dignity and respect. These are our goals:

SUPPORT • EDUCATION • ADVOCACY

WHAT IS PFLAG?

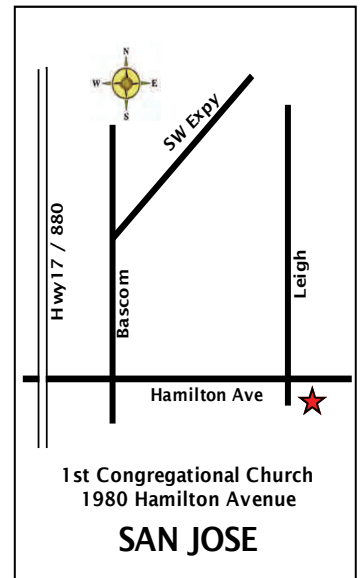
PFLAG is Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. We are a national support, education and advocacy organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people, their families, friends and allies. With 200,000 members and supporters, and local affiliates in more than 500 communities 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!**



Sequoia Union H.S. District Office
480 James Avenue

REDWOOD CITY



1st Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Avenue

SAN JOSE



MEMBERSHIP IN SAN JOSE / PENINSULA PFLAG ~ 2013

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)

Make checks payable and mail to: PFLAG • PO Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Your donations & membership are tax deductible.

- 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 \$ _____