Marriage at the Supreme Court

There is no question that June 26 has become an historic date for LGBT people. In 2003, it was the date on which the Lawrence v. Texas ruling was issued. At the time, activists hoped that the ruling would lead to further wins for equality in the law.

And now, just ten years later, two more historic victories moved equality forward for LGBT people when both Section 3 of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, and California’s Proposition 8 were struck down by the US Supreme Court.

PFLAGers all over the country celebrated the news as word spread. Chants of "DOMA is dead!" could be heard from coast to coast and everywhere in between. In California, where the end of Prop 8 means that LGBT couples are again able to marry legally, there were celebrations in the street from Los Angeles to San Francisco and all over the state.

With the legalization of marriage equality in California — the 13th state plus the District of Columbia to allow LGBT couples to marry — fully one third of the population of the U.S. now lives in a place where marriage equality is the law.

President Obama weighed in on the decisions with calls to several of the key players in both cases, a conference call with LGBT leaders — including PFLAG National Executive Director Jody M. Huckaby — and a public message stating, "We are a people who declared that we are all created equal, and the love we commit to one another must be equal as well."

Questions still exist in the DOMA case: How does DOMA work across state lines in places where marriage equality still isn't law? And since the ruling only struck down Section 3 of DOMA, what work must be done to pass the Respect for Marriage Act, which was reintroduced on June 26th in both houses of Congress immediately following the Supreme Court rulings. In the Prop 8 case, the only outstanding question was when marriages might resume. But the wheel of justice moved like lightning, and within 48 hours, the stay had been lifted, allowing the first couples in California to be married before the courts closed on Friday, June 28th.

As all PFLAGers know, the work must continue, not just on marriage but on equality in workplace, family creation, creating safe schools and more. But for now, celebration is the work at hand!

Liz Owen
PFLAG National
PFLAG Support Meetings

Redwood City, August 12 — 7:00 pm
San Jose, August 14 — 7:30 pm

Shannon Casey of Our Family Coalition will speak at both meetings about the Peninsula Parents group.
Small group support will be offered at both meetings.

PFLAG Membership Dues

Many thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership! If you haven’t already done so, please take a moment to join or renew today.

Please consider the Benefactor, Angel, or Diva level. Donations to our Scholarship Fund are deeply appreciated. Many employers offer matching programs that could double your contribution. If you ask your employer to make a matching gift, you will need to give them our EIN (Employer ID Number): 7702544991. Other ways to support PFLAG can be found in The Gift of Giving brochure on our website.

Mail your contribution with the form on the last page of this newsletter, or renew online at: www.pflagsanjose.org.

On behalf of our chapter, we thank you for your commitment to the mission of PFLAG.

Sincerely, Your Finance Committee

National PFLAG Convention

October 24-27

Join PFLAGers from across the country to learn new skills, build relationships, and celebrate this work as we look to inspire the future of the movement for LGBT equality. Whether you are a seasoned leader or just getting started, there is no better way to gain valuable new perspectives than to join us at this exciting time, as the seas of change rush forward towards full acceptance and equality.

Washington D.C. — Mayflower Renaissance Hotel Lobby Day — October 24 (optional)

Register now to take advantage of lower summer rates: https://community.pflag.org/convention-registration

Outlet Services Expand with ACS!

Outlet has joined forces with Adolescent Counseling Services (ACS) in Palo Alto to expand our capacity to serve more LGBTQQ and ally youth. As of July 1, Outlet became an official program of ACS, the community-based nonprofit agency dedicated to the healthy social and emotional development of teens in northern Santa Clara County and San Mateo County.

We are still Outlet! We will continue to provide all the services we currently provide in CHAC’s new building at 590 West El Camino Real. Established in 1975, ACS offers year-round services to San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties through its On-Campus Counseling Program, Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Program, After-School Counseling Program, and, now, the Outlet Program.

Australian Government Celebrates National Day of Truth!

A day for all Australians to celebrate our diversity, and to consider the traumatic history and ongoing challenges faced by our Indigenous people.

Easy Activism —

California Communities United Institute

California Communities United Institute e-mails you letters on LGBT bills in the state legislature. Simply add your name and address and click on the “Send” button. They fax it to our legislators. They also send letters on bills that benefit people of color, women, and the poor. Sign up for their email alerts in the box at the bottom of their webpage: www.calcomui.org
PFLAG Cable TV Update

Our chapter’s cable access TV show, Parents, Families & Friends, has moved to new time slots on both of the community television stations that carry it:

KMVT Community Television — Fridays at 8:00 p.m.
• Comcast channel 15 in Cupertino, Los Altos, and Mountain View
• AT&T U-verse channel 99 (under "Mountain View") throughout the Bay Area
• video on demand (anytime) at: www.youtube.com/user/KMVT/ — search keywords: KMVT PFLAG

CreaTV San Jose — Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m.
• Comcast channel 15 in San Jose
• streaming live webcast at: www.creatvsj.org/watch/ch15/streaming-15/
• video on demand (anytime) at: www.creatvsj.org/watch/program-search/ — search title: PFLAG

As always, we’re eager for your feedback regarding the show. We’re also looking for lively guest/topic suggestions, and for volunteers who want to help PFLAG while learning a little about film/video production in the process. To volunteer, or for more information, contact us via email pflag-info@pflagsanjose.org or phone our infoline: (408) 270-8182 ▼

Happy viewing!

Marriage Equality Info from Lambda Legal

What the DOMA Decision Means for You
www.lambdalegal.org/publications/after-domar
Lambda Legal and 10 other national LGBT advocacy groups jointly issued a series of FAQs for same-sex couples and their families on how to access federal rights, benefits and protections.

Know Your Rights: Transgender
www.lambdalegal.org/know-your-rights/transgender
An online and mobile hub for trans people and their advocates.

Getting Married? Here’s What You Need to Know

Pride and Parade Highlights

PFLAG shared a table with BayLands FrontRunners at the First Annual San Mateo County LGBTQQI Pride Celebration on Saturday June 15 in San Mateo’s Central Park. About 400 people attended the Celebration sponsored by the San Mateo County Pride Initiative.

The family of PFLAG National founders Jeanne and Jules Manford marched with our PFLAG contingent in the San Francisco Pride Parade on June 30th. The family had accepted President Obama’s Presidential Citizen Medal on behalf of the late Jeanne Manford.

About two dozen PFLAG members, families and friends marched in the Redwood City July 4th Parade this year. As Frances gave colorful rainbow hats to the judges, they went off script to enthuse about PFLAG and marriage equality! It was our most exciting year ever! Many thanks to Frances and John who did most of the organizing and hat decorating — and hosted the picnic! ▼
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!

MEMBERSHIP IN SAN JOSE / PENINSULA PFLAG — 2013
Send in this coupon to join, renew, or change your address!

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*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 deductable.

MEETING TOPICS • 2013
San Jose Meetings are from 7:30—9:30 PM
Redwood City Meetings are from 7:00—9:00 PM

Redwood City & San Jose:
Shannon Casey, Our Family Coalition

Small groups for support are held at all meetings.

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087
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