



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

November/December 2013

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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

ENDA Vote Before Thanksgiving

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) has announced that he'll bring up the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) for a vote in the Senate before Thanksgiving. The legislation passed a Senate committee with bipartisan support in July.

Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), chief sponsor of ENDA, said, "Americans understand that it's time to make sure our LGBT friends and family are treated fairly and have the same opportunities. Now it's time for our laws to catch up. People should be judged at work on their ability to do the job, period."

Several LGBT organizations applauded the announcement, noting that the legislation is long overdue. It's been introduced in almost every Congress since 1994.

Fred Sainz of the Human Rights Campaign, said that 60 votes (needed to avoid a filibuster) are within sight. "Over the course of the past six months, we've worked hard to ensure that senators know their constituents support this bill. We're in the homestretch of securing the 60 votes necessary and remain optimistic that the support will be there when we need it."

National Center for Transgender Equality Executive Director Mara Keisling said: "NCTE is grateful for Senator Reid and Senator Merkley for their leadership on moving ENDA forward. Their commitment to do this and to do it right is so important to transgender people. Right now, we have the best chance ever to pass ENDA through one of the chambers, which is going to be an important step for us to getting ENDA passed when it's finally able to move in the House."

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act bans job discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation. A 2011 research study confirms how pervasive job discrimination is against transgender Americans: 90% have faced disrespect, discrimination or harassment in the workplace because of who they are. However, polls show that people of faith, business owners, and a majority of Americans believe it is time to eradicate job discrimination against LGBT people: 70% of Republicans and 80% of all Americans support LGBT workplace protections.

Learn more about the campaign to pass ENDA here:
www.workplaceopportunity.org/



Meeting Calendar ◀ NOVEMBER/DECEMBER ▶

Dec. 9 Redwood City Support - 7:00 pm
Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)

NO Redwood City Meeting in November!

Nov.13 San Jose Support - 7:30 pm
Dec.11 First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)

Nov.21 Straight Spouse Support-7:30 pm
Dec.19 Call San Jose Helpline for info.
(3rd Thursday of the month)

Nov.21 Board Meeting Teleconference
(3rd Thursday of the month)
ALL ARE WELCOME!



GILROY and other locations:
Call the Helpline
for support and information:
(408) 270-8182



January/February Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, December 20

Annual Holiday Potluck Party & White Elephant Gift Exchange

Thursday, December 5, 6:30 pm
@ the Koopmans

All are Welcome! Please RSVP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG Support Meetings

San Jose, November 13 — 7:30 pm

To be announced—please check our website for updates:
www.pflagsanjose.org

No Redwood City Meeting In November

The Sequoia Union High School District office will be closed on Monday, November 11 in honor of Veteran's Day. Our meetings on the second Monday of the month will resume again in December.

Redwood City, December 9 — 7:00 pm

San Jose, December 11 — 7:30 pm

We will enjoy the company of old friends and new this month at holiday parties. Please bring snacks or a beverage to share. We will collect cash donations for the DeFrank Center HIV Testing Program in San Jose; or for AIDS Community Research Consortium in Redwood City. And/or bring canned food for Second Harvest Food Bank.

Small group support is offered at all meetings. ▼

2014 PFLAG Membership

It is membership renewal time again! Please take a moment now to start or renew your membership for 2014.

If you can, 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 and all you do to help us achieve our goals of support, education and advocacy.

Sincerely,
Your Finance Committee ▼

Annual Youth Empowerment Summit (YES) December 14

The Youth Empowerment Summit (YES) is back!

WHAT: Free annual GSA leadership conference
WHO: LGBTQ youth activists and allies
WHERE: Mission High School
3750 18th Street, San Francisco, CA

REGISTER: www.gsanetwork.org/yes ▼



PFLAG Board Holiday Potluck and White Elephant Party December 6

On Thursday, December 5th at 6:30 PM, the Koopmans will host the Annual PFLAG Board Holiday Party at their home. Plan on joining the Board and other PFLAG members and friends for a potluck dinner and white elephant gift exchange. It's a wonderful PFLAG tradition and always a fun evening — all are welcome! **Please RSVP:**

pflag-info@pflagsanjose.org

Creating Change Conference 2014 January 29—February 2

The 26th National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change is coming to Houston, Texas, January 29—February 2, 2014. Creating Change is the premier annual organizing and skills-building event for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and their allies.

Register today! Applications for scholarships and subsidized registration rates are now available.

www.creatingchange.org/registration.php ▼

We are on Facebook!

Do you know that our San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Chapter is on Facebook? We post our meetings and other events there. Group members may also post news and events of interest to our PFLAG chapter members.

Check it out!

www.facebook.com/groups/51943261397/

Then click on **About** for more information. ▼



► Mark Your Calendar ◀

- Nov. 20 — Transgender Day of Remembrance
- Dec. 1 — World AIDS Day
- Dec. 5 — PFLAG Holiday Potluck and White Elephant Gift Exchange
- Dec. 14 — YES Youth Empowerment Summit
- Jan. 29-Feb.2 — Creating Change Conference

Parents of Gays Unite!

Suzanne Swan, the daughter of Jeanne Manford, shared this message on PFLAG National's blog. She and her family marched with PFLAG in the SF Pride Parade in June.

Having a mother like Jeanne Manford was truly a blessing. She was a great person and taught us to love and respect people and ideas. Mom loved and protected her children, but when she couldn't keep us from harm, like all parents, she would be upset. She became infuriated when my brother Morty was brutally beaten by Michael Maye, a fire captain and a former Golden Gloves champion. Morty suffered injuries that hospitalized him. Politicians and police officers at the scene didn't offer any help to my brother and this greatly angered my mother.

Mom was pragmatic; she did what was logical and what needed to be done. She was outraged that someone wanted to hurt her child and so she sent letters about the attack and the lack of response by the police to the New York newspapers, all but one declined to print her words. The New York Post published her letter wherein she berated the attacker who hurt Morty. This letter made headlines in the Gay community, literally hundreds of Morty's friends called him. They were astonished. They couldn't believe that a parent would admit that they had a gay child or that a parent would stand up for them in such a public way.

When Morty came out to my parents, Mom's only concern was for him; how he would be treated by society, would he have the same rights and privileges as anyone else, the same opportunities. In 1972, my mother was quoted in *The New York Times* as saying: 'Morty has his own life to live, if he can make a good life for himself and be happy, then I will be happy. People are entitled to their human rights and dignity.'

Mom loved Morty fiercely and she would have done anything for him. If Morty was gay, then being gay must be a good thing; this was never in question.

Mom marched with Morty in the second New York City LGBT Pride parade in 1972. The now-famous sign that she held read **"Parents of gays: unite in support of our children."** It was during this march that she became an activist. When the young men and woman who screamed and rushed over to her and cried and hugged her and begged that she speak with their parents, Mom realized how many people were hurting because they couldn't talk to their parents about the deepest meaning of who they are, how many parents were hurting because they didn't understand their children... she knew that the conversation between parents and LGBT children must be started. She and Morty also knew that straight parents were the link the LGBT community needed to the rest of society to be understood and accepted.

History would answer her call with PFLAG chapters in all fifty states with over 350 chapters and more than 200,000 members, in addition to many international chapters.

Mom passed away in January of 2013 and a memorial was held at the New York Metropolitan Church where the first PFLAG meetings were held. Councilman Daniel Drumm read into the New York City Council record: "Jeanne and Morty once fought from the balcony of this Council Chambers for the passage of the gay rights bill in the NYC Council. Today she was remembered by that same body as the gay rights pioneer that she was. Times change!" ▼

Transgender Day of Remembrance November 20

The annual Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is a day on which groups around the world hold vigils to remember those who have been brutally murdered simply because of their gender identity. The event is held in November to honor Rita Hester, whose murder on November 28th, 1998 inspired the *Remembering Our Dead* web project www.gender.org/remember and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in early 1999.

More information at: <http://www.transgenderdor.org/> ▼

Free HIV testing at the DeFrank LGBT Center

The Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center offers a rapid test that uses an oral swab and results are available in approximately 20 minutes. You can choose between Anonymous (no ID required, results delivered verbally) and Confidential (valid state ID required, written results provided).

Testing is available Wednesday through Friday, 3 PM to 7 PM. For more information, please call 408-293-3040 or email: hivtest@defrank.org ▼

AIDS Community Research Consortium

ACRC, located at 2684 Middlefield Road in Redwood City, is a community-based non-profit organization that serves the needs of the HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis C and at risk communities. More than 2,000 people are reached each year through ACRC's innovative programs and services.

ACRC's mission is to support health and quality of life through compassionate and culturally-appropriate programs that are responsive and address the needs of those infected and affected by HIV and Hepatitis C. ACRC is dedicated to empowering clients, communities, and their partners through nutrition, education, prevention, consultation, and advocacy.

Read More: <http://acrc.org/index.html> ▼

All that is not given is lost.
— *City of Joy* (film)

