



# San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

September/October 2013

[www.pflagsanjose.org](http://www.pflagsanjose.org)

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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

## MOVING FORWARD

### U.S. State Department Sets Equal Treatment Visa Policy For Same-Sex Married Couples and Their Children

In a policy change announced on Aug. 2 by Sec. of State John Kerry, the United States will begin processing visa applications for same-sex married couples effective immediately, as long as the marriage was performed in a jurisdiction that recognizes it as legal. The new State Department policy will also impact the children of the foreign national spouse by considering them "step-children" of the parent who is a U.S. citizen.

"If you are the spouse of a U.S. citizen, your visa application will be treated equally. If you are the spouse of a non-citizen, your visa application will be treated equally. And if you are in a country that doesn't recognize your same-sex marriage, then your visa application will still be treated equally at every single one of our 222 visa processing centers around the world," Kerry said during an appearance at the U.S. embassy in London. According to Freedom to Marry, sixteen countries permit same-sex marriage — Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Canada, South Africa, Norway, Sweden, Portugal, Iceland, Argentina, Denmark, France, Brazil, New Zealand, Uruguay and Britain — while certain regions of the U.S. and Mexico also allow same-sex couples the right to marry. Read The State Department's FAQ: [http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/frvi\\_6036.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/frvi_6036.html) ▼

### Governor Brown Signs Historic Transgender Student Bill into Law

On Aug. 12, California Gov. Jerry Brown signed the nation's first *School Success and Opportunity Act* (AB 1266) into law, ensuring that transgender youth have the opportunity to fully participate and succeed in schools across the state effective Jan. 1, 2014. The law requires that California public schools respect students' gender identity and ensures that students can have equal access to all school activities, sports teams, programs, and facilities. PFLAGers in California worked diligently urging legislators to support this bill which was backed by a coalition of leading organizations, including National Center for Lesbian Rights, ACLU of California, Gay-Straight Alliance Network, Equality California, Gender Spectrum, Transgender Law Center, statewide teacher and parent organizations including PFLAG chapters across California, and dozens of other organizations.

California law already prohibited discrimination in education, but transgender students had often been discriminated against and unfairly excluded from school facilities, physical education, athletic teams, and other school activities. ▼

### Meeting Calendar

#### ◀ SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER ▶

- Sept. 9 Redwood City** Support - 7:00 pm  
**Oct. 14** Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices  
480 James Ave., Redwood City  
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Sept. 11 San Jose** Support - 7:30 pm  
**Oct. 9** First Congregational Church  
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)  
(2nd Wednesday of the month)
- Sept. 19 Straight Spouse** Support-7:30 pm  
**Oct. 17** call San Jose Helpline for info.  
(3rd Thursday of the month)
- Sept. 19 Board Meeting** Teleconference  
**Oct. 17** (3rd Thursday of the month)  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



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



**November/December Newsletter Deadline:  
Friday, October 25**



**National  
Coming Out  
Day**

**October 11**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PFLAG Support Meetings

Redwood City, September 9 — 7:00 pm  
San Jose, September 11 — 7:30 pm

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

San Jose, October 9 — 7:30 pm  
Redwood City, October 14 — 7:00 pm

To be announced—please check our website for updates:  
[www.pflagsanjose.org](http://www.pflagsanjose.org)

Small group support is offered at all meetings. ▼

### PFLAG Membership Dues

Many thanks to all of you who renewed your membership and contributed in 2013! You can make contributions at any time. We are now accepting membership dues for 2014.

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](http://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.

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

<https://community.pflag.org/convention-registration> ▼

### BAYMEC 29th Annual Dinner Gala September 28

Fairmont Hotel  
170 S. Market Street  
San Jose, CA 95113



Saturday, September 28  
6-7:15 Jazz & Cocktails  
7:15-9:30 pm Dinner

Tickets: \$150 each  
Purchase tickets at:  
<http://baymecgala.eventbrite.com/>

If mailing in a check, or paying at the door (reservations required!) click "Show other payment options" underneath the big ORDER NOW button. ▼

### Senior Peer to Peer Counselor Training

Peninsula Family Service offers a free Senior Peer to Peer Counselor Training session beginning on September 30. If you want to make a difference in the lives of San Mateo County LGBT seniors, and are age 55 or older, contact Cathy Koger, LGBT Coordinator, at (650) 403-4300. ▼

### Creating Change Conference 2014

The 26th National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change is coming to Houston, Texas, January 29–February 2, 2014.

What is Creating Change? Only the premier annual organizing and skills-building event for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and their allies.

Register today! The Early Bird rate of \$295 is available until 2 PM on October 31. Applications for scholarships and subsidized registration rates are now also available.  
[www.creatingchange.org/registration.php](http://www.creatingchange.org/registration.php) ▼

#### ▶ Mark Your Calendar ◀

- Sept. 21 — BLFR Bayside Brunch
- Sept. 28 — BAYMEC Annual Gala
- Sept. 30 — From Heather's Mommies to Tango's Daddies
- Oct. 11 — National Coming Out Day
- Oct. 24-27 — PFLAG National Convention
- Nov. 20 — Transgender Day of Remembrance
- Dec. 1 — World AIDS Day
- Jan. 29-Feb.2 — Creating Change Conference

## Peninsula Parents — QPLAY All Ages Daytime Drop-in Playgroup

Home during the day with the kids? Join LGBT parents for an informal hour of grown up conversation and play-time for kids of all ages. Share stories and browse the shelves. Tea and snacks will be provided. Please contact [shannon@ourfamily.org](mailto:shannon@ourfamily.org) or call (650) 798-7861 for details.

Registration: [www.z2systems.com/np/clients/ourfamily/eventRegistration.jsp?event=13758](http://www.z2systems.com/np/clients/ourfamily/eventRegistration.jsp?event=13758)

When: 1st Fridays, September 6, 11 AM—12:30 PM  
Where: Reach and Teach, 144 25th Ave., San Mateo ▼

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## LGBTQ Parent Coffee Talk

Come join other LGBTQ parents and their children for a relaxing time sharing resources and getting to know one another. Each month will have a topic to kick start the conversations. Please contact [shannon@ourfamily.org](mailto:shannon@ourfamily.org) or (650) 798-7861 for details.

Registration: [www.z2systems.com/np/clients/ourfamily/eventRegistration.jsp?event=13764](http://www.z2systems.com/np/clients/ourfamily/eventRegistration.jsp?event=13764)

When: 2nd Sundays, September 8, 3-5 PM  
Where: Backyard Coffee Company, 965 Brewster Ave., Redwood City ▼

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## GLBTQ Dinner in the Sukkah September 19

Join us from 6:00 - 8:00 pm for the annual South Bay Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Family, Friends and Allies, potluck dinner in the Sukkah. For over 15 years we have been gathering to share our lives, families, and concerns about events in the world around us though conversation in the Sukkah.

This year we are honored to have as our guest David Robinson, Bay Area Regional Director of Keshet and long time activist in the Gay community. A member of ACT UP NY in its early years, he was also an active member of Queer Nation and of ACT UP/ Golden Gate. Within the Jewish community he was part of the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles' new Leader's Project and the Selah Leadership Program.

Keshet is a national grassroots organization that works for the full equality and inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Jews in Jewish life. Led and supported by LGBT Jews and straight allies, Keshet strives to cultivate the spirit and practice of inclusion in all parts of the Jewish community. Please bring your friends and family to celebrate the holiday with us.

**When:** Thursday, September 19 at 6 pm  
**Where:** Congregation Shir Hadash, on the Patio, 20 Cherry Blossom Lane, Los Gatos, CA 95032  
**Menu:** Potluck dinner - Parve, Fish, and Dairy  
**RSVP:** Please email Nadine: [+nadine@shirhadash.org](mailto:+nadine@shirhadash.org) ▼

## National Coming Out Day October 11

On Oct. 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.

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

Whether we are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or an ally, we can be proud of who we are and our support for LGBT equality this Coming Out Day! The Human Rights Campaign has many resources for coming and being out at: [www.hrc.org/resources/category/coming-out](http://www.hrc.org/resources/category/coming-out)

National PFLAG's Straight for Equality Program has many resources to offer as well. Check it out: [www.straightforequality.org/](http://www.straightforequality.org/) ▼

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## Bayside Brunch with BayLands FrontRunners September 21

Please join BayLands FrontRunners at the Baylands Nature Preserve in Palo Alto on Saturday, September 21 at 10:00 AM for Bayside Brunch! The theme of this month's brunch is Family and Friends, and PFLAG members are most welcome! Cost: \$5 contribution per person.

Prior to the brunch, we meet at 9 AM at Baylands Athletic Center parking lot on Geng Road (left turn from Embarcadero Road East) for our weekly fun run/walk. Everyone is welcome at either or both events.

Directions to Brunch only: Exit Highway 101 on Embarcadero Road - East toward the Bay. Proceed on Embarcadero to the end, turn left into the Baylands Nature Preserve. Continue about 2000 feet, passing the duck pond on your left. Just past the duck pond, you will see the picnic grounds (also on your left). Look for red tents; that is where we will meet and eat! Parking can be found a little further down, adjacent to the picnic area.

We hope to see you there, and are excited to meet you! If you plan to attend, please RSVP to either BLFR publicity co-chair, Jordan Chin [jordan.chin08@gmail.com](mailto:jordan.chin08@gmail.com) or Robert Parish [rparish@cr8equity.com](mailto:rparish@cr8equity.com) ▼

**When an individual is protesting society's refusal to acknowledge his dignity as a human being, his very act of protest confers dignity on him.**

— Bayard Rustin

