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.
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

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

Sincerely, Your Finance Committee

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


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

About PFLAG
PFLAG is a nationally-recognized, grassroots volunteer organization that provides support for families, friends, and allies of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals. We offer support to those affected by these sexual orientations, as well as education and services for the general public.

PFLAG was founded in 1979 by the parents and friends of a gay teen in San Francisco, CA. The name was derived from two parts: parent and friends. The letters L, B, G, T stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. The three-letter acronym reflects the essential elements of our mission.

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

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
**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 (ILLEGÓ) 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

National PFLAG’s Straight for Equality Program has many resources to offer as well. Check it out: 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 or Robert Parish rparish@cr8equity.com

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**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 playtime for kids of all ages. Share stories and browse the shelves. Tea and snacks will be provided. Please contact shannon@ourfamily.org or call (650) 798-7861 for details.

**Registration:** 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 ▼

**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 or (650) 798-7861 for details.

**Registration:** 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 ▼

**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 ▼
**The PFLAG Newsletter**
Published seven times yearly by San Jose/Peninsula Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - www.pflagsanjose.org
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!

**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 non-profit 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 ~ 2014**
Send in this coupon to join, renew, or change your address!

- New
- 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)

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 $____

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

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

- September — Redwood City & San Jose:
  Shannon Casey, Our Family Coalition
- October — Redwood City & San Jose: TBA

Small group support is offered at all meetings.

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