And Pennsylvania Makes 19!

On May 20 Federal Judge John E. Jones III ruled for the freedom to marry in Pennsylvania, and the state's governor, Tom Corbett, announced that he will not appeal the ruling. Corbett is only the second Republican governor — joining former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger — to allow a trial court ruling of this kind to stand without appeal.

Judge Jones held that the Constitution protects the right to marry for everyone, including same-sex couples. He concluded that when the government discriminates against lesbians and gay men, courts must require the government to come forward with a very strong justification — which he found utterly lacking here.

Gov. Corbett said, "The court has spoken, and I will ensure that my administration follows the provisions of Judge Jones' order with respect for all parties. It is my hope that as the important issue of same-sex relationships continues to be addressed in our society, that all involved be treated with respect."

Equality Pennsylvania Executive Director Ted Martin said of the governor's decision, "We sincerely thank Gov. Corbett for allowing this judgment to stand. Words cannot express what this means to the loving couples and families in Pennsylvania who have waited so long to be recognized. Marriage matters to all families, and we rejoice with them today."

Pennsylvania is the 19th state in the nation (plus Washington, DC) to allow same-sex couples to marry — an appropriate contribution to freedom from the state that was America's cradle of liberty. With the recent victories in Oregon and Pennsylvania, over 43 percent of the U.S. population now lives in a freedom-to-marry state. That's up from 16 percent less than 18 months ago! Let the wedding bells ring!

Note: The Nevada marriage equality case, Sevcik v. Sandoval, is scheduled to be argued at Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in September. The Nevada case has been on appeal in the Ninth Circuit since December 2012. The Idaho case, Latta v. Otter, will be argued the week of September 8.
PFLAG Support Meetings

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

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

San Jose, July 9 — 7:30 pm
Susan Berland will speak about strategies to improve communication and build a bridge back to acceptance and understanding when loving parents struggle to accept their LGBT children. Susan's son came out to her in 1989 and she knows what it means to adjust expectations and deal with a roller coaster ride of emotions. She guides parents and their kids to communicate effectively, trust one another and accept one another where and as they are.

Redwood City, July 14 — 7:00 pm
We will share our experiences from Pride month and the parades.
Small group support is offered at all meetings.

San Mateo County LGBT Day of Action
Board of Supervisor Chambers
400 County Center, Redwood City 94063
June 3

At 9 AM San Mateo County will be asked to create an LGBT County Commission, which if approved as expected, would be the first of its kind in California. Its purpose will be to support community initiatives in the county and provide policy recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors. Once adopted by the board, the Board of supervisors will then appoint commissioners.

At 6 PM the Board will issue their 2nd Annual Pride Month Proclamation.

Please join the San Mateo County Pride Initiative at either or both events to thank the Board of Supervisors for their support!

2014 Gender Spectrum Conference
July 26 - 27

The 2014 Gender Spectrum Conference will take place July 26 and 27 at Saint Mary's College of California in Moraga. The theme for this year's event is Expanding Understandings of Gender.

The conference will feature a broad array of workshops and supportive spaces for parents; separate programming for teens, tweens, and kids; various community-building opportunities; and numerous resources to help attendees delve into the important subject of gender.
Register online at: https://genderspectrum.org/
For more information, Email: info@genderspectrum.org; Phone: (510) 788-4412.

Redwood City July 4th Parade

Have you ever participated in a July 4th Parade? It’s a blast! We’re inviting you to join us — and to invite your family and friends and neighbors to join in the fun!

The annual Redwood City July 4th Parade is coming up fast! What better way to share PFLAG’s love and support for our families with 30,000 spectators from around the Bay Area. Come and join our PFLAG chapter as we carry our PFLAG banner and U.S. and Rainbow flags! This is “middle America” — the very people we want to reach with our message. All who have ever participated agree: this parade is one of our most valuable PFLAG efforts.

Every year for the past 18 years, our PFLAG chapter has participated in the parade. This is our 19th year in the largest July 4th Parade in Northern California - don't miss it!

The parade starts at 10:00 am on Friday, July 4th. Our lineup place and starting time will not be known until closer to the date. More information to follow via email and on our chapter web site: www.pflagsanjose.org

2014 PFLAG Membership

Many thanks to all who renewed your memberships this year! If you haven’t yet done so, it’s not too late. Please take a moment to renew your 2014 membership now.

Donations at the Benefactor, Angel, or Diva level, or 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. See also The Gift of Giving brochure on our website.

Renew by mail or 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.
In Memoriam — Betty Akana

It is with great sadness that we share this news. PFLAG member Betty Lou Akana died at her home in Sunnyvale on May 21, 2014, at the age of eighty-eight, after a long and happy life.

Long active in PFLAG and in her community, Betty is remembered for her generosity, wisdom, kindness and laughter. She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, reading, researching genealogy, traveling to Hawaii, Alaska and throughout the western United States.

Betty was born in Seattle, spent most of her childhood in Montana, and much of her married life in Hawaii. She married Henry Ah Lei Akana in 1950 and they later moved to Menlo Park to raise their family.

Betty is survived by her children and their spouses: Allison and Juliana, Patrick and Elizabeth, Alan, Michael and Thanos. She was preceded in death by her husband Henry and her brother Fred.

In lieu of flowers, Betty requested that contributions be made to our San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Chapter www.pflagsanjose.org/gift_of_giving.php, or a charity of the giver's choice. A memorial service and burial of ashes will be scheduled in Hilo, Hawaii at a later date.

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San Francisco Pride ♥ June 28—29

Make plans now to join PFLAG in San Francisco for Pride Weekend! As always, we will have a large and well-loved contingent in the San Francisco Pride Parade.

This year we’ll have an open single-decker bus, with better visibility for the riders and the crowds. Anyone who feels unable to walk the length of the parade route is welcome to ride in it. We ask for a $25 donation to help defray the cost, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

In addition to the parade, PFLAG will have a booth at the Civic Center celebration area, along Larkin Street across from the Asian Art Museum, on Saturday and Sunday.

We especially need volunteers to staff the PFLAG booth in 2-hour increments on both days.

The monitor training schedule will be broadcast to our PFLAG news email list as soon as it’s available. Contact PFLAGSF@aol.com or (415) 921-8850 or to volunteer. For the SF Pride website, see: http://www.sfpride.org/ See you there! 

San Mateo County Pride Festival
Saturday, June 14
11:30 am - 6:00 pm
San Mateo Central Park, 5th & El Camino

The San Mateo County Pride Initiative is proud to present the second annual San Mateo County LGBTQI Pride Celebration! Kid Space, Youth Space, Panels, Workshops, DJ and Live Music, Raffle prizes - all this and much more! Free Admission!

Our PFLAG Chapter will have a table! If you can help to staff the table, contact us: pflag-info@pflagsanjose.org

SMC Pride Volunteers Needed
Please attend the volunteer training at Reach and Teach, 144 W. 25th Ave., San Mateo — Friday June 6 at 6:00 PM. (No training needed for the PFLAG table!) 

On this anniversary of Stonewall, I ask my gay sisters and brothers to make the commitment to fight. We will not win our rights by staying quietly in our closets... We are coming out to fight the lies, the myths, the distortions. We are coming out to tell the truths about gays, for I am tired of the conspiracy of silence, so I’m going to talk about it. And I want you to talk about it. You must come out. Come out to your parents, to your relatives.

Harvey Milk, at SF Pride, 1978

Betty with Ken Klucsor at SF Pride, 2010

Ken Klucsor shared this memory of Betty: Betty had a lot of funny stories, and a terrific sense of humor. Those of you who are regular attendees at our PFLAG meetings will remember the way she introduced herself. She usually said something like this: “Hi, my name is Betty, and I have four kids. I call them “kids” but the youngest one is over the age of fifty. Anyway, I have a lesbian daughter and two gay sons. I also have a straight son, but he’s left-handed. I’m still trying to accept the fact that I have a left-handed son.”
Would you like to volunteer?  
Call the information lines.  
We need your help — Call today!

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.

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!

MEETINGS • 2014
San Jose Meetings are 7:30—9:30 PM
Redwood City Meetings are 7:00—9:00 PM

Small group support is offered at all meetings.
Light refreshments are served at all meetings.

MEETINGS

♥

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

MEMBERSHIP IN SAN JOSE / PENINSULA PFLAG ~ 2014
Send in this coupon to join, renew, or change your address!

Option
- 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)

Option
- 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)

Option
- Donation for Scholarships $____
- Endowment Fund $____

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

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Free Admission
Food Trucks
DJ & Live Music
Panels
Kid Space
Youth Space
Clean & Sober Event
Workshops

SAN MATEO COUNTY
PRIDE
Saturday June 14, 2014
San Mateo Central Park
11:30am - 6:00pm

BRIDGING COMMUNITIES

www.nccpsanmateo.org

This event is partially funded by the Mental Health Services Act. This is not a City of San Mateo-sponsored event.

For more information visit https://www.facebook.com/SMCPrideEvent/info