



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

November/December 2014

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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PFLAG National's New President and Name

At its annual membership meeting on October 24, PFLAG National announced the election of Jean Hodges of Boulder, Colorado, as the new Board President. She succeeds Rabbi David M. Horowitz, who served two 2-year terms.

Hodges is a longtime member of PFLAG, having co-founded the Boulder chapter, and served as its President. She rose through the ranks, serving as a regional director and then as the chairperson of the 13-member Regional Directors Council. In that capacity, she also served as the Vice President of the National Board of Directors.

"Jean Hodges has been an integral member of the PFLAG National Board of Directors for years, boldly leading on a number of issues, especially regarding people who are transgender and gender nonconforming, elevating their unique issues and educating families and allies on what roles we all can play to ensure that PFLAG, as the national family and ally organization is a resource for everyone," said Jody M. Huckaby, PFLAG National's Executive Director. "Her background as a PFLAG mom, educator, community organizer, citizen lobbyist for equality, and advocate for inclusion in her faith community make her an ideal leader for this transitional moment in PFLAG's history."

"I'm honored and excited to lead PFLAG during this time of rapid social change," said Hodges after accepting the presidency. "We must not be lulled into believing that full equality has arrived. The challenges ahead are exciting: working for legal protections in every state, helping to make faith communities accepting, eliminating employment discrimination for our LGBTQ loved ones, advocating for gender-neutral spaces in schools for trans and gender-variant children, just to name a few. The work of PFLAG is not done, not by a long shot!"

At the same meeting, the membership voted to change the official name of the organization from Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays to PFLAG, reflecting the organization's inclusiveness. Also voted on and passed were updated mission and vision statements, both of which clearly define PFLAG's unique role and value within the movement for LGBTQ equality and affirmation. The change in name comes at a critical time for PFLAG: membership is up, the number of chapters has grown by 30 in the last year alone, and the support, education, and advocacy that PFLAG chapters are providing reflect the dynamic changes taking place throughout the LGBTQ community.

Read more: <http://community.pflag.org/document.doc?id=895>

Meeting Calendar

◀ NOVEMBER/DECEMBER ▶



NO REDWOOD CITY MEETING IN NOVEMBER!

Dec. 8 Redwood City Support - 7:00 pm
Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)

Nov.12 San Jose Support - 7:30 pm

Dec. 10 First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)

Nov.20 Straight Spouse Support-7:30 pm

Dec.18 Call San Jose Helpline for info.
(3rd Thursday of the month)

Nov.20 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 2015 Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, Dec. 26

Happy Holidays!



*Best Wishes for
the New Year!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG Support Meetings

San Jose, Nov. 12 — 7:30 pm

No November Meeting in Redwood City!

The High School District Office where we meet is closed on the second Monday this month.

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Redwood City, Dec. 8 — 7:00 pm

San Jose, Dec. 10 — 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. ▼

PFLAG Board Meetings via Teleconference

Our PFLAG Chapter Board meets monthly via telephone conference call. We welcome new, creative ideas for helping families, getting our message out, raising money for scholarships, and just having fun together. We'd love to have you become part of the Board, attend a tele-meeting, or send us your ideas. For more information, email Ken Klucsor: kenklucsor@yahoo.com ▼

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. ▼

2015 PFLAG Membership

Many thanks to all who renewed your membership in 2014! If you join or renew from now through the year end, your 2015 membership will be activated.

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.

Your Finance Committee ▼

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: www.transgenderdor.org/

Events:

San Francisco LGBT Community Center
1800 Market St, **San Francisco**, CA 94102
Thursday, November 20th, 2014 — 6:00 PM-9:00 PM

Congregational Church of San Mateo UCC,
225 Tilton Avenue, **San Mateo**, CA 94401
Thursday, November 20th, 2014 — 6:30 PM-8:00 PM ▼

2015 Creating Change Conference— Register Now! February 4-8, 2015

Registration for the 27th National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change is now open!

When you register, you can sign up for our Day Long Institutes, which take place on Wednesday, February 4 and Thursday, February 5. The Institute schedule is full of exciting learning opportunities, including the Racial Justice Institute on Wednesday, February 4.

So what are you waiting for? Come on over and be a part of the biggest and best gathering of activists, organizers and leaders in the LGBT movement!

Learn more at: www.creatingchange.org/registration.php

Ages 16 and under, and 65 and older are Free!

There are also applications for scholarships and subsidized registration rates. See you in Denver! ▼

▶ Mark Your Calendar ◀

2014:

- Nov. 7-9 — Palm Springs Pride
- Nov. 20 — Transgender Day of Remembrance
- Nov. 22 — MA Woodall Celebration of Life
- Dec. 1 — World AIDS Day
- Dec. 14 — Sam and Julia Thoron Dinner

2015:

- February 4-8 — Creating Change Conference
- Oct. 16-18 — National PFLAG Conference

PFLAG's New Mission and Vision

At the October Annual Meeting the PFLAG membership adopted the following new statements:

PFLAG's Vision:

PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

PFLAG's Mission:

By meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG realizes its vision through:

- Support for families, allies and people who are LGBTQ
- Education for ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ
- Advocacy in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ. ▼

Celebrate with Sam and Julia Thoron! December 14

Please join the board of PFLAG San Francisco for a dinner to celebrate Sam & Julia Thoron's 24 years of service to PFLAG. All are invited!

Date: Sunday, December 14, 2014

Time: 5:00 pm

Where: Dante's Table, 544 Castro Street, San Francisco

Cost: \$30 per person
(buffet dinner, non-alcoholic beverage included)

RSVP: by November 14th

Send name(s) of attendee(s) and check payable to PFLAG SF to: PO Box 640223, San Francisco, CA 94164 ▼

Marriage Equality: Where We Stand

- 32 of 50 states HAVE marriage (64%)
- 33 of 56 states, special districts, and territories HAVE marriage (58.9%)
- Washington D.C. is the only special district / territory WITH marriage (American Samoa, Guam, N. Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands are WITHOUT)
- 58.5% of people live in a state, special district or territory WITH marriage
- 41.4% of people live in a state, special district or territory WITHOUT marriage
- 3 states are currently bound by their Circuit Court ruling to allow marriage but have not started or are appealing: Kansas (10th), Montana (9th) and South Carolina (4th)
- We are awaiting a ruling from the 6th Circuit any day on marriage cases affecting Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee.

More information at: www.marriageequality.org/ ▼

MA Woodall



Susie-Q and MA

It is with great sadness that we share the news that our beloved friend and wonderful PFLAG web mistress MA (MaryAnn) Woodall passed away on October 14 after a long struggle with pulmonary fibrosis. She had been hospitalized for several weeks. She is survived by her spouse Susie-Q, her sister and other family members, and many friends. MA was a phenomenal person and dedicated PFLAG volunteer. She leaves a huge hole in our hearts.

MA wanted a party, not a funeral! Her **Celebration of Life will take place at 1 pm on Saturday, November 22**, at the First Unitarian Church of San Jose, 160 N. 3rd Street, San Jose, CA 95112. Meter parking is available, and there is a garage nearby.

MA and Susie-Q would love you to wear something that represents how you knew MA (clothing, pins, earrings - be creative!) This will be a catered event. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to some of her favorite charities: San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG (www.pflagsanjose.org), Pets N Need, CaringBridge, and KQED. ▼

Mills College to Enroll Transgender Women

Mills College, an all-female college in Oakland, CA, became the first single-sex college to enroll transgender women. The Mills College Board of Trustees unanimously approved a changed Gender Identity and Expression policy that will allow "self-identified women" to enroll in the undergraduate program. Vice President of Enrollment and Admissions Brian O'Rourke said that even though the school has admitted transgender students in the past, it is necessary to change the policy to reflect the new inclusive views, and make it easier for transgender women to be admitted. Read more:

<http://college.usatoday.com/2014/08/29/mills-college-changes-policy-to-allow-transgender-women-to-enroll/> ▼

Fortune favors the audacious.

Desiderius Erasmus

