



# San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

September/October 2014

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

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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

## LGBT Groups Sign Letter of Support for Michael Brown's Family

When communities experience fear, harassment and brutality simply because of who they are or how they look, we are failing as a nation. In light of the recent events in Missouri, it is clearer than ever that there is something profoundly wrong in our country.

The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community cannot be silent at this moment, because LGBT people come from all races, creeds, faiths and backgrounds, and because all movements of equality are deeply connected. We are all part of the fabric of this nation and the promise of liberty and justice for all is yet to be fulfilled.

The LGBT community stands with the family of Michael Brown, who was gunned down in Ferguson, Missouri. We stand with the mothers and fathers of young Black men and women who fear for the safety of their children each time they leave their homes. We call on the national and local media to be responsible and steadfast in their coverage of this story and others like it – racialized killings that have marred this nation since the beginning of its history. We call on policy makers on all levels of American government not to shrink from action, and we are deeply grateful to Attorney General Eric Holder and the Department of Justice for their immediate commitment to a thorough investigation.

At this moment, we are inspired by the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: “In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies ... but the silence of our friends.”

### COLAGE

Courage Campaign  
Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)  
Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN)  
GLAAD  
Human Rights Campaign  
Lambda Legal  
Marriage Equality USA  
National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR)  
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force  
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA)  
PFLAG National  
SF Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center  
Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE)  
Soulforce  
Transgender Law Center  
Trevor Project  
True Colors Fund

... and many more. See complete list at:

[http://hrc-assets.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/files/assets/resources/LGBT\\_Letter\\_Michael\\_Brown.pdf](http://hrc-assets.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/files/assets/resources/LGBT_Letter_Michael_Brown.pdf)

## Meeting Calendar

### ◀ SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER ▶

- Sept. 8 Redwood City Support** - 7:00 pm  
**Oct. 13** Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices  
480 James Ave., Redwood City  
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Sept. 10 San Jose Support** - 7:30 pm  
**Oct. 8** First Congregational Church  
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)  
(2nd Wednesday of the month)
- Sept. 18 Straight Spouse Support**-7:30 pm  
**Oct. 16** Call San Jose Helpline for info.  
(3rd Thursday of the month)
- Sept. 18 Board Meeting Teleconference**  
**Oct. 16** (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, Oct. 24**

## PFLAG Mid-Pacific Regional Conference

**Saturday, October 18  
9 AM—5 PM  
Napa**

**Registration Deadline:  
September 22!**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PFLAG Support Meetings

Redwood City, Sept. 8 — 7:00 pm  
San Jose, Sept. 10 — 7:30 pm

San Jose, Oct. 8 — 7:30 pm  
Redwood City, Oct. 13 — 7:00 pm

Programs 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 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 Klucor: [kenklucor@yahoo.com](mailto:kenklucor@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/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/51943261397/)  
Then click on **About** for more information. ▼



## El Camino Reelers GLBT Square Dancers & Friends FREE Intro Night! — September 10

7:30-9:30 PM  
St. Andrews UMC, 4111 Alma St., Palo Alto, CA  
Beginners Class starts Wednesday, September 17

Come to our FREE Intro Night! Instructor Rich Reel will get you on your feet and give you a taste of how much fun square dancing can be! Lessons are really like a dance party. You'll have fun the whole evening with a bunch of new lesbian, gay, bi, transgender, questioning, and even a few straight friends!

**ALL Are Welcome!** Learning is the fun part of square dancing!

More info at: <http://reelers.org/Classes/Index.html> ▼

**You are only given a little spark  
of madness. You mustn't lose it.**

**Robin Williams**

## 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](http://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 ▼

## 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](http://www.creatingchange.org/registration.php)

**The Early Bird rate of \$300 is available until Oct. 31  
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 ◀

September 27 — BAYMEC Gala

October 10 — Out To Eat

October 11 — National Coming Out Day

October 18 — Mid-Pacific PFLAG Conference

2015:

February 4-8 — Creating Change Conference

Oct. 16-18 — National PFLAG Conference

## PFLAG Mid-Pacific Regional Conference October 18, 2014

Registration is now open for the 2014 PFLAG Mid-Pacific Regional Conference, hosted by PFLAG Napa in the beautiful wine country. Sign up for a day of workshops, community building, new friends and fun.

**Saturday, October 18, from 9 AM to 5 PM**  
**Elks Lodge, 2840 Soscol Avenue in Napa, CA**  
**Registration Deadline: September 22, 2014**

All PFLAG members and their invited guests are welcome!

The agenda includes:

- *Breaking the Ice* with Antonia Landels from Planned Parenthood. Learn how to get your chapter talking with fun activities.
- Cesar Hernandez from PFLAG National: *Best Practices for a Strong Board and a Thriving Chapter*, plus chapter resources.
- Dr. Diane Ehrensaft and Dr. Stephen Rosenthal: *What's Your Gender? Understanding and Supporting Transgender Children and Youth*.
- Dr. Caitlin Ryan: *The Family Acceptance Project*, with film.

Cost: \$30 per person. Flyer and registration form:

<http://pflagnapa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Registration-packet.pdf>

Registration includes a continental breakfast, a catered hot lunch, coffee, snacks, as well as a wine and olive oil tasting.

Questions: email [info@pflagnapa.org](mailto:info@pflagnapa.org) ▼



## 2015 PFLAG National Convention October 16-18, 2015

SAVE THE DATE! The 2015 PFLAG National Convention, will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, October 16-18, 2015.

We heard your concerns about the costs of attending the 2013 convention in Washington, D.C. Moving the convention to Nashville will allow for lower costs overall and a savings to you. In addition, low hotel room rates, free parking at the hotel, and other lower out of pocket costs will make attendance even less expensive. Start planning now and when registration opens in September, be ready to jump on the Early Bird Rates for the best deal!

Nashville is an exciting city where all attendees can support our chapters in the Volunteer State and send a strong message that PFLAG's values are America's values. There will be incredible learning opportunities and the chance to network with PFLAGers from across the country.

Start planning now and stay tuned for more information on how to register at our Early Bird Rates in September. Check for updates at :

<http://community.pflag.org/2015convention?> ▼



## Note from a PFLAG Scholarship Winner

We recently heard from one of our 2014 PFLAG Scholarship winners. He reports that he and his mother are still talking about the award ceremony, three months later, and states that the work PFLAG does means the world to youth such as himself. Our recognition encourages him to continue serving the LBGTQ community and he reported talking about transgender students, as well as about being gay, during his college orientation group's discussion of stereotypes and diversity.

He concluded by thanking PFLAG for showing him that the universe, in the end, favors those who love others and stay true to themselves. ▼

## First Transgender Pride Event Takes Place in San Diego

Balboa Park in San Diego became the home of the first Transgender Pride March on July 18th. "1974, the mayor would not meet with us, wouldn't acknowledge that there is a gay constituency. 2014, [Mayor Faulconer] and our lovely first lady Katherine ... are marching with us," said local LGBT rights activist Nicole Murray-Ramirez.

Read more about San Diego's Transgender Pride event:

[www.sandiego6.com/news/local/Transgender-people-celebrate-their-first-pride-event-in-Balboa-Park-267733341.html](http://www.sandiego6.com/news/local/Transgender-people-celebrate-their-first-pride-event-in-Balboa-Park-267733341.html) ▼

## Join the PFLAG Speaker's Bureau!

By sharing our own personal experiences face-to-face, we aim to educate others about the issues that face lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their family members. Through the power of personal experience, we can deconstruct stereotypes, misinformation and negative attitudes so prevalent in our society, and create a more compassionate, understanding and unified world.

For more information about the PFLAG Speakers Bureau, please contact our Speakers Bureau Coordinator, Brian Chin at [speakersbureau@pflagsanjose.org](mailto:speakersbureau@pflagsanjose.org) ▼

## National Coming Out Day — October 11



**Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow.'**

**Mary Anne Radmacher**

