



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

January 2015

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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

A Dangerous Plan B

Anti-LGBT forces have long been focused on their Plan A, which was simply to stop us from getting equality. No freedom to marry. No laws barring employment discrimination. No fair parenting laws for LGBT people. But in the past couple of years, we've wreaked havoc with their Plan A (19 new marriage states in 2014 alone!). So they know they need a Plan B. Seeking religious exemptions to undermine LGBT equality is that Plan B.

In state after state over the past year, we have seen bills proposed that could authorize anti-LGBT discrimination in the name of religion. Some bills would allow businesses or government officials to disrespect our marriages. Others would let certain employers fire people for being gay or transgender. Still others would allow people to ignore many laws in the name of religion – not just LGBT equality laws, but a host of other laws meant to protect all of us, including domestic violence and child welfare laws. The Michigan legislature is considering a bill like this right now. And similar measures have already been pre-filed in South Carolina and threatened in Texas, North Carolina, and Kansas. And the 2015 state legislative sessions haven't even started yet.

We know that we can stop these bills if we fight hard, as we did across the country last spring – including most publicly in Arizona. So we are sounding the alarm, enlisting the support of business, faith, and conservative allies, and educating legislators about the harms and unintended consequences of these dangerous bills in state after state. ... We can't let our hard-won equality be watered down – we need to take down Plan B as well!

James D. Esseks, Director
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & HIV Project
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation



Marriage Update

The U.S. Supreme Court will say as early as Jan. 9 whether it will consider legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide in what would be a landmark clash over an issue that has divided the country.

Five gay-marriage appeals will be before the justices when they meet that day for a private conference. A decision to take up the issue would probably mean a ruling by June. Cases testing bans in Michigan, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee and Louisiana are all pending.

Read more: www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2014-12-23/us-high-court-will-consider-taking-up-gay-marriage-in-january

Meeting Calendar

◀ JANUARY ▶



- Jan.12 Redwood City** Support - 7:00 pm
Sequoia Union H.S. District Offices
480 James Ave., Redwood City
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Jan.14 San Jose** Support - 7:30 pm
First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)
- Jan.15 Straight Spouse** Support-7:30 pm
Call San Jose Helpline for info.
(3rd Thursday of the month)
- Jan.15 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



February/March Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, Jan. 23

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG Support Meetings

Redwood City, Jan. 12 — 7:00 pm

San Jose, Jan. 14 — 7:30 pm

Small group support is offered at all meetings.

Support for Parents of Trans* Youth — A Conversation Save the Date! — February 9

The need for a parent support network for parents with Trans* teens is huge and unmet. Anthony Ross of Outlet will join us at our February Redwood City meeting to begin a conversation about how we can work with each other to try to give good support to these parents. Please come and join the conversation! ▼

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 have not yet joined or renewed your 2015 membership, now is the time!

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 ▼

New Trans Ally Resource From PFLAG!

More than a year in the making, and created with the help of dozens of content experts, reviewers, and storytellers, PFLAG National is proud to announce the release of the newest Straight for Equality publication: *Guide to Being a Trans Ally*. See: www.straightforequality.org/trans ▼

San Mateo County Pride Initiative

The Pride Initiative meets on the second Wednesday of each month 3:30 - 5:00 PM at the Congregational Church of San Mateo, 225 Tilton Avenue, San Mateo. Contact Lauren Szyper or Katy Davis, Pride Initiative Co-Chairs at pride@smcgov.org or see www.smchealth.org/pride for more information about the Pride Initiative. ▼

San Mateo County LGBTQ Commission

The LGBTQ Commission meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 455 County Center, Redwood City, 6:30 - 8:30 PM. More information about the LGBTQ Commission is available at: <http://lgbtq.smcgov.org> ▼

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 the Day-Long Institutes on February 4 and 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

Agers 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 ◀

Jan. 17,18 — Rainbow Women's Chorus

Feb. 4-8 — Creating Change Conference

Feb. 7 — Annual PFLAG Benefit Women's Dance

Oct. 16-18 — National PFLAG Conference



2015 Scholarship Program Needs You!

It's time for 2015 Scholarship Program volunteers to step up! We need to do our mailing to the schools by the end of January. We'll need help primarily as proof-readers of the updated letter and entry application, as well as a group of people late in January to fold and stuff envelopes (location to be determined). Your small effort now will insure that that our Scholarship program will continue to make a huge difference in the lives of worthy students! Please contact Rosemary Malvey at (650) 346-7108 or rosemarymm2003@yahoo.com ASAP to let her know that you can help! ▼

Farewell and Thanks to the Thorons

PFLAG National expresses its deepest gratitude to Julia and Sam Thoron. On Sunday, December 14, Sam and Julia stepped down from the board of PFLAG San Francisco after 25 years of service. The occasion was marked by an informal buffet dinner. PFLAG members, friends and community leaders were in attendance.

Though stepping down from their chapter work, Sam and Julia will always be an important force for advocacy and change for PFLAG.

We will miss their day-to-day wisdom and passion but at PFLAG National, we are already talking about how their historical knowledge can be archived so we do not lose that first-hand narrative and contribution to the organization's history.

Sam and Julia have created a legacy of incredible change in the world; we are grateful to them for many years of service to PFLAG, and know that they have truly made the world a better place for all of us, LGBTQ and allies alike.

Read the entire wonderful article with photos at: <http://focusonthefield.blogspot.com/2014/12/the-thorons-legacy-of-love.html> ▼

Rainbow Women's Chorus: We Rise Again January 17 and 18

The Rainbow Women's Chorus will present *We Rise Again—Songs of Peace, Protest and Freedom* on Saturday January 17 at 8 pm, and Sunday, January 18 at 3 pm. Both performances will be held at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1550 Meridian Avenue, San Jose. More information: www.rainbowwomen.org or (408) 603-9367. ▼



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MA Celebration of Life Slideshow Celebrating the Life of Mary Ann "MA" Woodall

The slideshow that was part of the celebration of MA's life is now on Youtube for those who were not able to be there, and those who want to see it again. Susie-Q wrote, "I want to thank everyone for your continued support, I am getting thru the holidays, have been working, cleaning out the garage, my favorite place to clean :) —Oh, also cleaning the hoose!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Phoenix Arizona, the cat, Lucki-Lady Bug and Mr. Gaston, the dogs, have been a comfort."

www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMwcOTPgSuQ ▼



PFLAG Benefit Women's Dance With DJ Page Hodel February 7

The Annual Community and Peninsula Women's Group (PWG) Fundraiser Dance benefitting PFLAG will take place on Saturday, February 7, from 6:30-11:30 PM.

6:30-8 PM — lower volume music from the '60s & beyond
8 PM—11:30 — the pace and volume pick up

Twin Pines Senior & Community center
1233 Ralston Ave., Belmont 94002
(2 blocks west of El Camino)

Beverages and snacks will be available. You may bring your own dinner. Tickets will be held at the door:
\$10 per person in advance; \$15 after February 1

Please send your check payable to Wendy Mines to:
Wendy Mines/Eleanor Sue
545 San Antonio Road #203, Mountain View, CA 94040

All women are welcome! For more information: contact Wendy or Eleanor: wene@comcast.net · For information about PWG, go to: <http://peninsulawomensgroup.org> ▼



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@pflagsanjos.org ▼

**Faith is taking the first step even when you
don't see the whole staircase.**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

IN PLAIN SIGHT — STORIES OF HOPE AND FREEDOM

Sunday, January 11 at 4 PM

**Congregational Church of San Mateo
225 Tilton Ave., San Mateo CA 94401**

Documentary Film • Dialogue • Reception

- IN PLAIN SIGHT is an inspiring documentary featuring the work of six female abolitionists as they fight against sex trafficking in the United States. Journeying to six US cities, the film opens the viewer's eyes to what's happening down the street 'in plain sight.' Through engaging interviews with numerous victims of sex trafficking, the force, coercion, and deception of the children and women becomes apparent. In the midst of the darkness, stories of hope and freedom emerge as each survivor shares how she was impacted through the work of a sex trafficking aftercare home founded by one of the featured abolitionists.
- LGBTQ kids who experience family rejection are very vulnerable to this industry. How do we help to end it?



IN PLAIN SIGHT
STORIES OF HOPE AND FREEDOM

Learn about modern day slavery in San Mateo County
SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2015 | 4:00 pm
Documentary Screening • Meaningful Dialogue • Reception
Congregational Church of San Mateo • 225 Tilton Avenue, San Mateo, CA
(This is a FREE event. Childcare will be provided.)

HONORARY CHAIR: Congresswoman Jackie Speier

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:
Anti-Trafficking Faith Leader Coalition of San Mateo County
Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition
Church of the Epiphany, San Carlos
Church of the Highlands, San Bruno
College Heights, UCC, San Mateo
Commission on the Status of Women of San Mateo County
Congregational Church of Belmont, UCC
Congregational Church of San Mateo, UCC

SPONSORED BY:  SILICON VALLEY
community foundation

First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, UCC
Peninsula MCC, San Mateo
Peninsula Sinai Congregation, Foster City
Peninsula Temple Beth El, San Mateo
Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto
Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Burlingame
Second Baptist Church, Redwood City
Transfiguration Episcopal Church, San Mateo
Unitarian Universalist Abolitionists
Unitarian Universalist Church, Palo Alto Action Council

This event is FREE! ~ Childcare will be provided.