



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

August 2015

www.pflagsanjoselibrary.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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Moving Equality Forward

We're at a moment of incredible progress for LGBT people. Express exclusions of LGBT people from American life are fast disappearing, including state bans on marriage for same-sex couples, the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, Don't Ask Don't Tell, and now potentially the military's ban on open service by transgender patriots.

But we need to do more than get rid of laws that require discrimination against us. We need to secure explicit nondiscrimination protections for LGBT people, the same civil rights protections that bar discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, and religion in American life. The Equality Act would do just that.

The Equality Act, introduced in Congress on July 23, would update the Civil Rights Act of 1964 — America's primary expression of our commitment to equality in all aspects of public life — and transform the daily lives of millions of Americans.

The LGBT community would benefit significantly, of course, from the act's addition of express protections for LGBT people to the Civil Rights Act. But the bill would also fill gaps in the existing law by adding bans on sex discrimination where they are missing. It would expand the scope of the entire Civil Rights Act in ways that affect everyone it covers, including women and communities of color.

The act would address the significant discrimination that LGBT people face. Corporations refuse to hire openly gay applicants; large apartment buildings falsely tell same-sex couples no apartments are available; real estate agents steer gay and transgender Americans away from certain neighborhoods; hospitals refuse to treat transgender people for basic health care needs; and schools make it impossible for gender nonconforming kids to learn.

At the same time, the promise of equality for women is still incomplete. Federal law today tolerates discrimination against women in public accommodations and by organizations using federal funds. The bill provides long-overdue protections to ensure that women are treated equally in all aspects of their lives.

In several important respects, the Equality Act lifts all boats. In addition to places like hotels and restaurants that are already covered under the Civil Rights Act, the new legislation updates the law to ensure that other important providers of goods and services, like stores, banks, and transportation providers, do not discriminate on the basis of any protected characteristic. And the bill would make clear that the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act, known as RFRA, can't be misused as a tool to discriminate.

Really, it is a tremendous civil rights measure. Passing the Equality Act should be among our highest priorities.

James D. Esseks, Director,
ACLU Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & HIV Project

Meeting Calendar

◀ AUGUST ▶



- Aug. 10 San Mateo Support** - 7:30 pm
AAA — San Mateo
1650 S. Delaware, San Mateo
(2nd Monday of the month)
- Aug. 12 San Jose Support** - 7:30 pm
First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)
- Aug. 20 Straight Spouse Support**-7:30 pm
Call our Helpline for info.
(3rd Thursday of the month)
- Aug. 20 Board Meeting** online
(3rd Thursday of the month)
ALL ARE WELCOME!



GILROY and other locations:
Call the Helpline
for support and information:
(408) 270-8182



Sept/Oct Newsletter Deadline:
Friday, August 21

Parents, Family & Friends of Transgender Children Support Group

Saturday, August 8, 10 AM

Redwood City Library Community Room
1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City 94063

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG Support Meetings

San Mateo, Monday, August 10, 7:30 pm

Please Note: New Time and Location!

See the map on page 6.

San Jose, Wednesday, August 12, 7:30 pm

Support meeting with Tim Flaherty facilitating.

Small group support is offered at all meetings. ▼



 **New PFLAG Support Group for Parents, Families & Friends of Transgender Children**
August 8, 10 AM

Our San Jose/Peninsula Chapter has been contacted more and more frequently in recent years by parents of transgender children seeking support. While the parents of children with gender identity issues have always been welcome at our meetings and supported by the members whose children have sexual orientation issues, there is recognition that the experiences are different.

Anthony Ross of Outlet and Adolescent Counseling Services came to the March Redwood City meeting to spark a discussion about how to support parents of the growing population of transgender teenagers in particular. A couple of our members who were at that meeting, and who are parents of transgender children now in college, have stepped forward to organize and lead a new support group to try to meet that need.

We meet in the Redwood City Library Community Room, 1017 Middlefield Road, between Jefferson and Main. Meetings are held on the first or second Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM. Future dates include September 5, October 10, and November 14.

All parents, families and friends/allies of transgender persons are welcome — please join us! For more information, email: Trans@pflagsanjose.org

NOTE: Redwood City requires this disclaimer on publicity for events held on city premises: *The meeting space is provided as a community service by the City of Redwood City. The City neither sponsors nor endorses this event nor the presenting individual or organizations.* ▼

PFLAG Virtual Board Meetings

Our PFLAG Chapter Board meets monthly online via Zoom (audio/video or telephone). 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 meeting, or send us your ideas. For more information, email: volunteer@pflagsanjose.org ▼

PFLAG Membership Dues

Many thanks to all of you who renewed your 2015 membership! Our annual renewal period is October 1—January 31. Dues received after October 1 will be applied to next year, but your membership begins as soon as received. Although paying your dues on time is a great help, you can join or renew at any time, by mail or online at: www.pflagsanjose.org.

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.

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 ▼

PFLAG National Convention — October 16-18

The 2015 PFLAG National Convention in Nashville, Tennessee is promising to be the best PFLAG National Convention yet! Don't miss this opportunity to come together to learn, share best practices, and get a first-hand look at a city and state that is representative of so many of the successes, challenges, and opportunities facing equality today and in the future.

Need another reason to register today? Check out just a sampling of the learning opportunities that await you:

- From Rejection to Inclusion: Influencing Churches Now!
- Set Them Up for Success: Supporting Volunteers
- Transitioning With Our Transgender Children
- But I'm not Racist! Reframing Diversity Efforts in PFLAG Chapters
- Chapter Leaders: Tools & Tips

Register now! <https://community.pflag.org/2015registration> ▼

► Mark Your Calendar ◀

- Aug. 30 — Silicon Valley Pride, San Jose Parade and Festival
- Oct. 11 — National Coming Out Day
- Oct. 16-18 — PFLAG National Convention
- Oct. 30 — Outlet's Out to Eat





40th Annual Silicon Valley Pride Festival & Parade Sunday, August 30

Parade: 10 AM on Market St. at St. John, San Jose

Festival: 12 PM on Almaden Blvd.

(Entrance gates at Park Ave. & San Fernando St.)

www.svpride.com/festival/

This year San Jose Pride turns 40 with a new name: Silicon Valley Pride. Forty years ago, no one would believe where we are today, and all the hard work and love that has gone in to creating a thriving, healthy, safe, and equal community.

In celebration of this monumental occasion, SV Pride is bringing back the Parade, and we would love to have a PFLAG contingent. To make that happen we need a group of at least 15 marchers. It is a short and easy walk. The parade will start near the intersection of St. John & Market Streets, winding down at Market & Park Avenue.

Your RSVP is needed by August 7 so that we can register our contingent before the deadline. Please contact Carol at volunteer@pflagsanjose.org to confirm your participation.

We also need volunteers for the booth! Please contact Mike at volunteer@pflagsanjose.org to sign up for a 2-hour shift: 12-2 pm, 2-4 pm, or 4-6 pm.

Join us! Celebrate! Be a part of history! ▼

San Mateo Meeting Outreach

We need to spread the word about the San Mateo PFLAG meetings to reach communities in San Mateo County which have been underserved by our PFLAG Chapter.

Please share the good news of our PFLAG chapter and services! If you live in San Mateo County, print or photocopy the flyer on page 4 of this newsletter, and ask to post it in your local library, church, grocery store, book store, community center, favorite restaurant, etc.

Thanks for your help in growing our PFLAG chapter, and bringing support, education and advocacy to San Mateo County parents, families and the LGBTQ community! ▼



There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.

Elie Wiesel

Boy Scouts End Gay Leader Ban

On July 10, an executive committee of the Boy Scouts of America voted unanimously to end the ban on gay leaders in scouting. The decision was ratified on July 27 by the National Executive Board. The change is effective immediately.

The ruling does not require councils or troops to allow out gay leaders, but lifts the prior ban on such leaders. Specifically, the resolution affirms the right of each chartering organization to reach its own religious and moral conclusions about the specific meaning and application of the organization's values.

PFLAG National Executive Director Jody Huckaby said, "This is a huge step forward for this decades-old institution. And while this new policy will still allow discrimination in troops that are chartered by religious organizations, the majority of troops will be open to all adult leaders who are loyal, helpful, courteous and kind, regardless of their sexual orientation. We commend the BSA on this monumental step forward toward full inclusion."

Read more:

www.buzzfeed.com/chrisgeidner/boy-scouts-executive-committee-unanimously-votes-to-end-gay#.skg9N589P ▼

Snapshot: Transgender in America

More people are becoming familiar with transgender issues. Few, however, understand the myriad issues facing transgender people, including legal discrimination; limited job opportunities; high rates of poverty, harassment, and violence; health disparities; challenges updating identity documents needed for daily living, and more. This new infographic gives a quick look at state-level laws and policies that impact the lives of transgender people and provides some key statistics on the challenges transgender people face, state by state.

See: www.lgbtmap.org/transgender-snapshot-graphic ▼



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

Welcome to PFLAG!

Parents, Families and Friends of LGBTQs
San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Chapter



San Mateo Meetings

- Education, Advocacy & Support
- New Location!

AAA Conference Room – 2nd floor
1650 S. Delaware St., San Mateo 94402
(near Rt. 92)
Elevator & Free Parking – Entrance from parking lot

**2nd Monday of every month
@ 7:30 PM**

**Parents, families, friends, allies and
LGBTQ persons are welcome!**

San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Meetings are also held in
Redwood City (Parents of Transgender Children Support)
and in San Jose.

Please visit our website, or contact our helpline
for more information:

www.pflagsanjose.org • Helpline: (408) 270-8182

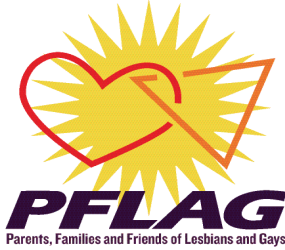
The PFLAG Newsletter

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P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087
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San Jose/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, 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!



MEETINGS ♥ 2015

San Mateo Meetings are 7:30—9:30 PM
on the 2nd Monday of each month
San Jose Meetings are 7:30—9:30 PM
on the 2nd Wednesday of each month



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

▼ PFLAG'S MISSION

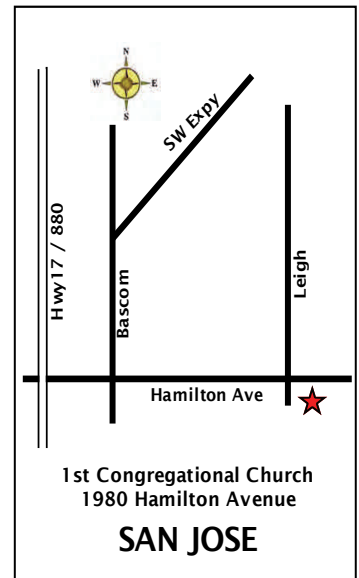
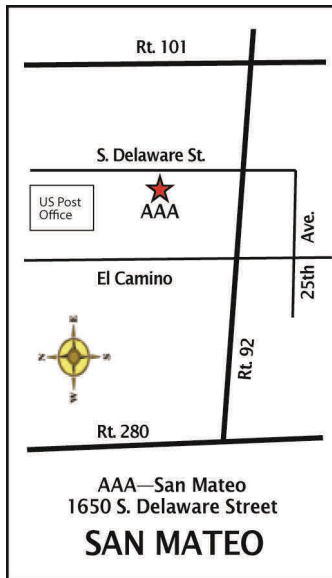
We provide love and support for all family members and friends. We work to create an environment of understanding so that our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender loved ones can live with dignity and respect. These are our goals:

SUPPORT • EDUCATION • ADVOCACY

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 ~ 2015

Send in this coupon to join, renew, or change your address!

- New** **Date** _____
- 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.