



San Jose ♦ Peninsula Newsletter

September/October 2015

www.pflagsanjose.org

P.O. Box 2718, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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

Moving Equality Forward

Schools in Transition

The National Center for Lesbian Rights, Gender Spectrum, the Human Rights Campaign, and ACLU of Northern California proudly introduce *Schools In Transition: A Guide for Supporting Transgender Students in K-12 Schools*, a first-of-its-kind publication for school administrations, teachers, and parents about how to provide safe and supportive environments for all transgender students, kindergarten through twelfth grade.

More and more transgender students of all ages are asking their families and communities to support them in living their lives authentically. *Schools In Transition* will help schools create a safe and supportive environment for all children. Read and download the guide here:

www.nclrights.org/schoolsintransition/ ▼

Request to Rescind Religious Exemptions

On August 20th, PFLAG National and 129 other organizations sent President Obama a letter requesting that he rescind the 2007 RFRA Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) memo exempting religious organizations from federal nondiscrimination laws when applying for federal funds, stating that it relies on flawed legal analysis. This is the first outreach directly to The President. A previous request was made to then-Attorney General Eric Holder, in 2009 and 2014, as well as to the head of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships in 2013. ▼

Three Christian Colleges Recognize LGBT Employees

Since the Supreme Court marriage equality ruling on June 26th, some Christian colleges have begun responding favorably. As of July 23rd, Goshen College, Eastern Mennonite University, and Hope College have amended their policies to include employees in committed, monogamous, same-sex relationships. By also adding "gender identity," Goshen College and Eastern Mennonite University are opening their doors to the transgender community as well. ▼



**National
Coming Out
Day**

October 11

Meeting Calendar

◀ SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER ▶



Sept. 9 San Jose Support - 7:30 pm
Oct. 14 First Congregational Church
1980 Hamilton Ave. (at Leigh)
(2nd Wednesday of the month)

Sept. 14 San Mateo Support - **7:00 pm**
Oct. 12 AAA — San Mateo
1650 S. Delaware, San Mateo
(2nd Monday of the month)

Sept. 17 Straight Spouse Support-7:30 pm
Oct. 15 Call our Helpline for info.
(3rd Thursday of the month)

Sept. 17 Board Meeting online
Oct. 15 (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, October 23**

Parents, Family & Friends of Transgender Children Support Group

Saturday, September 5, 10 AM
Saturday, October 10, 10 AM

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PFLAG Support Meetings

San Jose, Wednesday, September 9 — 7:30 pm

San Mateo, Monday, September 14, 7:30 pm

San Mateo, Monday, October 12, 7:00 pm

Please Note—New Time!

San Jose, Wednesday, October 14 — 7:30 pm

Small group support is offered at all meetings.



New PFLAG Support Group for Parents, Families & Friends of Transgender Children September 5 & October 10, 10 AM

Our San Jose/Peninsula Chapter has been contacted frequently in recent years by parents of transgender children seeking support. While parents of children with gender identity issues have always been welcome at our meetings and supported by 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, stepped forward to organize and lead a new support group 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.

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.* ▼



Join the San Jose/Peninsula 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 ▼

PFLAG Membership Dues

Membership renewal notices for 2016 will be mailed this month! Our annual membership 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. Paying your dues on time is a great help, and you can join or renew 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 *The Gift of Giving* brochure on our website for more information.

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. Check out 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> ▼

2015 Annual BAYMEC Gala October 3

The Fairmont - San Jose
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Michelle Honda-Phillips, Congressman Mike Honda's daughter, who will share the story of her transgender child, Malisa. You are invited to share in a very special evening!

TICKETS: Before or on Sept. 15: \$150/seat; \$1500/table.
After Sept. 15: \$175/seat; \$1500/table.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: www.baymec.org ▼

Letters from PFLAG Scholarship Award Winners

Dear PFLAG of San Jose,

Thank you for the generous award. It is because of your generosity that I am able to achieve my dreams. I will continue to fight for LGBT issues and acceptance when I attend UCSC in the fall, and once I graduate and enter the workforce or attend graduate school.

Many thanks,
J.

Dear Marti,

I'd like to thank you and PFLAG so much for helping provide this opportunity to me and countless other students. Without the scholarship, I would not be able to attend SFSU, let alone any other college! It makes me so happy to know that LGBTQ students and allies are being touched by PFLAG's work. I will carry on my activism into college and beyond. Thank you so much for changing my life. PFLAG will always be a part of my heart.

With love & thanks,
S. ▼

Call for Scholarship Committee Volunteers

Please volunteer to be a member of the San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG 2016 Scholarship Committee! We have a number of interesting and fun positions to be filled for this wonderful annual event. The team will meet in November to discuss possible changes and revisions to be brought to the Board of Directors in December. The program kicks off in early January.

Anyone who has ever been part of the scholarship program has been richly rewarded with deep feelings of awe and gratitude for our gifted local young people. Contact volunteer@pflagsanjose.org to get involved. ▼



Be There and Be Square! September 16 — FREE!

Add more fun to your life! El Camino Reelers, Silicon Valley's western square dance club for the LGBTQ community and friends, is offering a FREE introductory session on September 16, 7:30-9:30 PM, 4111 Alma Street, Palo Alto. The 2015/16 class begins on September 23. ALL are warmly welcome to try out modern square dancing! No experience or partner needed! Casual attire. More information about ECR at: www.reelers.org ▼

All progress has resulted from people who took unpopular positions.

Adlai E. Stevenson



PFLAG at Silicon Valley Pride

Our PFLAG chapter marched in the Parade, and greeted visitors at our booth. Heartfelt thanks to the booth and festival volunteers and to all of our members and friends who marched with PFLAG!



Volunteers Needed! — LGBTQ Peer Counseling Training Begins September 21

Join the volunteer peer counselor team at Peninsula Family Service and make a positive difference in the lives of LGBTQ older adults in San Mateo County. LGBTQ senior counselors are most needed, but allies are also welcome.

Volunteer training will start September 21, 2015, and continue on Monday and Tuesday mornings for six weeks. The trainings will include counseling skills, such as active listening, understanding diverse cultures, and working with older adults on a wide range of issues such as grief, depression, anxiety and wellness. By helping people through sharing your values, wisdom and culture, you are also expanding your experience, skills and knowledge.

LGBTQ and other older adults in need can also call us for our free peer counseling service.

Contact Steven Gu, LGBT Program Coordinator
Phone: (650) 403-4300 Ext 4383
Email: sgu@peninsulafamilyservice.org
www.peninsulafamilyservice.org ▼

