

News & Views



Celebrating Real Family Values

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A Message from PFLAG Modesto's new President of the Board
Gordon Preston

Hello members of the newly reorganized PFLAG Modesto, complete with a Board of Directors, of which I am a member. My name is Gordon Preston, your elected president, and I would like to share this space with you and fellow Board members, to say "hello", to reflect, and to respond to the challenges that address our organization. So here is my reflection on the transformation process that we have undergone; that it has been one of assessment and action, both are behaviors that fall under the category of self-monitoring. This is a good thing. It has been statistically recorded that self-monitoring of behaviors or conditions (reading, eating, sleeping, blood pressure recording) results in a 14% positive outcome. Imagine the combined positive 14% of all of us evolving in this self-monitoring change in our organization's structure to maintain its purpose and to exercise our mission statement so clearly stated in each issue of this newsletter.

Gratefully yours....

Gordon Preston

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Dates to Remember

Meeting days

1st and 3rd Tuesdays

May 2

7PM support

8PM Program

Straight from the Heart: Stories of Parents' Journeys to a New Understanding of Their Gay and Lesbian Children - This touching video examines the issues parents face in coming to terms with having a gay or lesbian child.

May 16

More Spring-time

Mission Statement: PFLAG promotes the health and well being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons through: **support**, to cope with an adverse society; **education**, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and **advocacy**, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

We need your input

Do you have some news to share or an item of interest?

Contact
 Marilyn Mettler
 klizard@sprynet.com

or leave a message on the
 PFLAG helpline
 527-0776

Location Map:

- Please -
No Smoking on Church property

MoFest!2 Film Festival a hit!

Modesto's Second International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, held at the State Theatre on "J" Street, benefited from a significant increase in attendance. What began as a community service event, aided by grants from the City of Modesto Culture Commission, Wells Fargo Bank and the Great Valley Center, ended up being somewhat of a fundraiser for PFLAG Modesto. The accomplished goals for the two day event on April 8-9 were:

- To present positive, uplifting, and multi-ethnic GLBT people, images and information.
- To build a sense of community among the GLBT population of metropolitan Modesto.
- To bring quality, recent award-winning international films to Modesto.
- To promote tolerance and help create a hospitable city that respects and celebrates diversity.

Congratulations to the MoFest!2 Committee: Daniel Afonso, Jr., Bob Barzan, Lee Davis, Linda Konner, Nick Konner and Chuck Silva. We appreciate your hard work, talent and dedication! Thanks to the volunteers for your help, it couldn't have been done without your selfless donation of time and effort. And many, many thanks to our generous sponsors. Thank you for having confidence in this venture and financially contributing to its success!

Birdoage This is an informal, monthly social gathering for GLBTs, allies and friends. Join the group to celebrate May on Sunday, May 21 at Tresetti's on 11th St. between I and J, from 5-9 p.m.

Are you a PFLAG member and want to receive this newsletter electronically? Simply send me, Marilyn Mettler, klizard@sprynet.com, an e-mail with "PFLAG Newsletter" in the subject line and your name and e-mail address in the body of the text. The next issue of *News&Views* will arrive in your e-mail box. Thank you for helping us save postage costs.

Please visit these GLBT-relevant websites

Stanislaus PRIDE Center stanislauspridecenter.com

PFLAG national pflag.org—view the **WINTER 2006** issue of the *PFLAGpole* online

Liberty Action Network libertyactionnetwork.com

Stanislaus Community Assistance Project (SCAP)
scap4.org

Heartstrong heartstrong.org

Matthew Shepard Foundation matthewsplace.com

Community News

Making the Network Work for Us

By Martina Virrey

Chapter Leader, Equality California (EQCA) San Joaquin
Vice President, PFLAG San Joaquin

Central Valley community members have long histories of social activism and advocacy. However, the geographic isolation of rural communities such as Merced, Modesto, and Stockton, have historically inhibited local efforts to influence public policy and decision makers in this rapidly evolving region of California. On April 2, 2006, the Liberty for All Tour stop in Stockton began to bridge that gap.

The Liberty for All Tour consisted of statewide field directors from civil rights organizations including EQCA, PFLAG, ACLU, CA NOW and Amnesty International who traveled to 19 cities in 9 days, working with their regional community leader counterparts to bring together regional social justice leaders. The Tour was designed to start building personal relationships between local leaders to create a more connected and visible progressive presence locally.

Nearly 40 local activist leaders from San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced Counties met at the University of the Pacific Stadium Skybox in Stockton to explore possibilities for collaboration and partnerships at local, regional and statewide levels and learn who else in the local community is working on social justice issues.

The event in Stockton included a round of speed networking for activists, organization bingo, and lots of getting to know each other! Katrina Bambula, President of the PFLAG San Joaquin County said, "with this event I believe our network of activism and advocacy will be heard louder in this area".

Many of the community leaders at the Liberty for All event in Stockton volunteer their time and talent for their cause—whether it be advocating for the rights of youth to learn about planned parenthood rights, or educating the community about marriage equality and other GLBT issues but they may not know their fellow activists who are working on similar issues right next door. The leaders represented at the Liberty for All event in Stockton showed great enthusiasm for the idea of creating a network that could work together to increase the impact of each group's goals that are in line with our larger shared progressive agenda.

Organizations participating included: PFLAG S.J. & Merced, EQCA San Joaquin, Stanislaus & Merced, ACLU of S.J. & Stanislaus, Stanislaus PRIDE Center, Peace & Justice Network, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, and state representatives for CA National Organization of Women, Amnesty International, Gay-Straight Alliance network, EQCA, and ACLU. If you would like to learn more about how to get involved with these local organizations contact martina_virrey@yahoo.com.

Thanks to those of you who volunteered your time and talent to make this event a success!

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