

# News & Views



**Celebrating Real Family Values**

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**MEMORABLE PFLAG · SPC BBQ AND SIGNUP!**



The rainbow and US flags were out front and nearly sixty family and friends were in the back yard for the first PFLAG-Stanislaus PRIDE Center BBQ and Pride Parade Roundup. Cathy and Dean Jennison graciously opened their home on College Avenue for this gathering of the two non-profit GLBT-allied groups on June 11<sup>th</sup>. All ages were represented at this well-organized pot-luck event.

There were many hard-working people responsible for the success of the afternoon affair: Norman Rostad braved the aisles at Costco to purchase the chicken, Ron Roos and his partner, John, brought the barbecue equipment and did the cooking, and Bob Patnode, Norman Rostad, Katherine Teixeira and Linda Konner made the necessary phone calls to generous PFLAG members to organize the variety of delicious food. Lee Mettler put up a canopy which covered the wine and gave much-needed shade, and Mike Lenahan made out calligraphy name tags as

people arrived at the door. Norman Rostad outlined the plan for the Modesto PFLAG contingent to car-pool to the BART and participate in the Gay Pride Parade in San Francisco on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Cathy Jennison said, "It was a thrill to see the team effort with everyone pitching in and enjoying the afternoon visit. Our home is always open to loving and joyful people. It was a pleasure to have you all here."

**PFLAG 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.

## Dates to Remember

### Meeting days

1st and 3rd Tuesdays

**July 4th**

7PM support

8PM Program



PFLAG Modesto members will share their experiences from the June 25<sup>th</sup> SF Gay Pride Parade during the program on July 4<sup>th</sup>. PFLAGers who marched with the SPC in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Modesto will share their impression of that event as well.

**July 16**

**Birdcage**

Is an informal, monthly social gathering for GLBTs, allies and friends. Join the group to celebrate **SUMMER**

**SUNDAY, JULY 16** at Tresetti's on 11th St. between I and J, from 5-9 p.m.



**July 18**

**RED HOT BINGO!**

Upcoming programs ▶▶

### We need your input

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

Want the newsletter by e-mail?

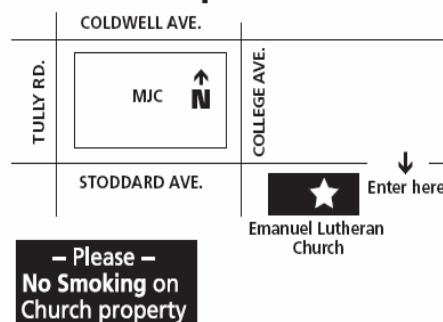
Contact

Marilyn Mettler

klizard@sprynet.com

or leave a message on the PFLAG helpline  
527-0776

### Location Map:



## Success Beyond Expectations

By Nathaniel Grey, SPC Vice President

They came, were in awe and conquered - the conservative stereotype of Modesto. The Stanislaus PRIDE Center, with the generous support of many area businesses, brought forth Modesto's first Pride Celebration on Friday, June 16th. The Fat Cat Music House & Lounge hosted over 400 members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community and their friends for an evening of music, laughter and dancing. As the event was a first for Modesto, many early arrivals were seen using cell phone to encourage friends to join them at what was proving to be an exciting and historic event. Those who purchased advance VIP tickets were treated to a colorful commemorative t-shirt and culinary delights from area restaurants.

The enthralled crowd was entertained by the music stylings of pianist Kate Trompeter and saxophonist George Railey, who were followed by three comedians. The best kind of laughter, with tears and side-holding, filled the room during performances by out comedians Tom Sharp and Brett Walkow, with surprise act Jenny McNulty. Clearly the audience favorite, McNulty has entertained crowds on a USO tour of Bosnia, night clubs in Florida to Olivia Cruises.

The variety of entertainment was seamlessly emceed by the multi-talented Moon Trent, who encouraged revelers to make pride a 365-day a year celebration "by being YOU." As the evening evolved, DJs Jon Boranian and Charlie West kept the dance floor packed with guests dancing to the sounds of 70 disco classics and today's hits.

In a community mistakenly known for agricultural and conservative leanings, the event was without incident and a proven success of magnitude for members of the GLBT community. The night was marked by a true celebration of diversity. Attendees transcended age, ethnicity and sexual preference to join together in celebration of the spirit of the night's theme, "PRIDE - Not Prejudice."

The Stanislaus PRIDE Center, Inc. (SPC) is a nonprofit organization, created to provide resources to strengthen and support the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons in Stanislaus and surrounding counties. SPC celebrates PRIDE as "People Respecting Individuality, Diversity and Equality."

Stanislaus PRIDE Center, PO Box 1850, Modesto, CA 95353  
[www.stanpride.com](http://www.stanpride.com)

## Tentative schedule of upcoming programs

August 15 - Marc Adams of Heartstrong

NOTE: switch of date with PFLAG Bingo-Bingo will be August 1st!

September 5 - GLBT Poetry

October 3 - Gay Straight Alliances

## Religious Leaders Making a Difference

Religious Leaders Making a Difference. There is much excitement among our Episcopal PFLAG members and supporters this week as **Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori** was elected the 26th Presiding Bishop and the highest-ranked female leader in the history of the Anglican Communion.

In an interview on CNN, Jefferts Schori was asked if it was a sin to be homosexual. She responded this way: "I don't believe so. I believe that God creates us with different gifts. Each one of us comes into this world with a different collection of things that challenge us and things that give us joy and allow us to bless the world around us. Some people come into this world with affections ordered toward other people of the same gender and some people come into this world with affections directed at people of the other gender."

What a powerfully bold statement for the incoming Presiding Bishop to make in one of her first national interviews! All of us at PFLAG know how important the voice of religious leaders can be in the dialogue about GLBT issues. As parents, as family members, as allies, and as GLBT people, we have all heard the anti-gay rhetoric that allegedly finds its basis in the Bible. History has taught us that spiritual devastation occurs when religious leaders use their respective sacred scriptures to condemn and to divide rather than to embrace and to unite.

And yet many of our families and loved ones are spiritual people, and have found welcoming and affirming faith communities to call home. So we find great hope in the election of Bishop Jefferts Schori this week. I suspect that she will be one who embraces and unites, and while she will surely garner much negative attention from many of her detractors, she will undoubtedly create many more welcoming communities of faith, positively impacting far more than her own Episcopal congregations.

### Straight Into Gay America

Another religious leader is doing tremendous work to help raise awareness and increase the dialogue in advancing GLBT equality. Last summer I met **Rev. Lars Clausen**, an ordained Lutheran minister, at the end of his 1,000 mile unicycle ride for GLBT equality.

He's chronicled what he found during his journey in ***Straight Into Gay America: My Unicycle Journey for Equal Rights***. I recently wrote the foreword for the book, My hope is that this courageous book by a straight pastor will serve as a bridge across the divide between straight and gay. Lars cares so much about getting everyday people to talk about equality that he's giving his book away by e-mail, one page each day. His goal is to start equal rights conversations during this election season. This is a critical time for these conversations to take place. We recently saw religion frequently invoked during the Senate debate over the Federal Marriage Amendment. We need to be talking about religion in the debate too - and with Lars Clausen raising the volume on this conversation, everyone can be a part of it.

If you sign up at his website ([www.straightintogayamerica.com](http://www.straightintogayamerica.com)) you will begin receiving A-Page-A-Day of *Straight Into Gay America*. That's all it takes to get the book. Read these for a few days, and then start inviting your friends to sign up. This is one of the easiest ways I've heard of to create more GLBT equality conversations.

Lars has written a book that should be read by as many people as possible, especially our PFLAG members and supporters. ***Straight Into Gay America*** is nothing less than a sacred journey. With A-Page-A-Day, he makes it possible for all of us to receive and share this story. Please take a moment right now to sign up at ([www.straightintogayamerica.com](http://www.straightintogayamerica.com)) and learn more about the important role that this courageous, straight religious leader is playing in moving GLBT equality forward...*a message from PFLAG's Executive Director, Jody M. Huckaby, PFLAG Weekly Update, 6/22/06*