

News & Views



Celebrating Real Family Values

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Happy New Year !

Dates to Remember

Meeting days

1st and 3rd Tuesdays

Every month

**7 pm Support
8 pm Program**

January 2

Come listen to another of PFLAG's long-term committed couples, **Mel Nomann** and **John Crabb** reminisce about their 38 years together.



Coming soon: The Not-so-Newlywed-Game!

How well do you know your spouse, partner, significant-other, wife, husband, boyfriend, or girlfriend?

Your chance to find out is coming soon!

Registration is open at every PFLAG Modesto meeting, event or Bingo night until May 15, when the 4 couples selected will be announced. Open to long or short-term committed gay, lesbian or straight couples, this game is a take-off on the TV game-show, "The Newlywed Game". There will be prizes, fun and laughs aplenty! Sign up soon!

January 21

Birdcage

is an informal, monthly social gathering for GLBTs, allies and friends. Join the group at the **Tiki Lounge , 932 McHenry Ave.**

5-9 PM

Want to be on the **Birdcage** e-mail list?
Contact **Gus Wagner** at
emailtiki@yahoo.com

PRIDE Center Opens!

The **Stanislaus PRIDE Center**, Modesto's first GLBT community center, is open!

Come see our new facility at 823 15th Street in downtown Modesto, across from the Stanislaus County Public Library.

Drop in during our hours of 3 to 7 pm, Wednesday through Saturday, and browse through our extensive library, meet friends old and new, and chat with our volunteer staff!

Meeting space is available for allied groups. Contact the center at (209) 338-0855 to get details about available space and meeting times.

Volunteers are being sought to serve as greeter/receptionists for either a full 4 hour shift or a two hour shift from 3-5 pm or 5-7 pm Wednesday through Saturday. Interested individuals please contact the SPC about availability at (209) 338-0855 or info@stanpride.org

January 16

PFLAG Talent Night !

Cabaret Night and Talent Show

Date: **Tuesday, January 16, 2007**

Time: **7pm- 9pm**

Place: **Emanuel Lutheran Church,
324 College Ave.**

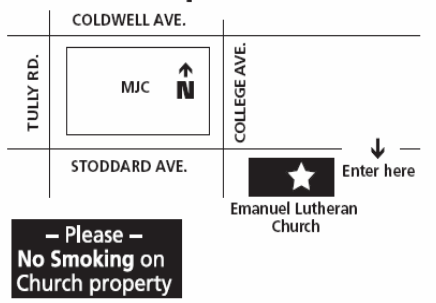
Come join us for a fabulous evening of fun, talent, and frivolity.

There will be no BINGO in January. Come to the Talent Night instead!

Coming in February: Roger Scott sings romantic songs by gay composers!

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.

Location Map:



All Politics is Loco: Tribute to PFLAG

Everyone should have at least one friend that stands out as an example of pure energy, enthusiasm and charm. These friends are usually smiling all the time and their upbeat attitude and infectious laugh is so contagious that you just can't help but be in a good mood when you're around them. I am lucky to have many friends like this. It is one of the reasons I love the work I do. I would not have met most of these people if it were not for PFLAG.

PFLAG stands for Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Their name is synonymous with acceptance, inclusion, and a commitment to social justice. No matter where you are -- whether it's an office environment, a union hall, or at a church or supermarket - the mere mention of the term "PFLAG Mom" and immediately people know what you mean. The image some of us get when we hear that term is the mom on *Queer as Folk*, decked out in buttons, pins and rainbow colored t-shirts. You can almost picture her saying something sassy and supportive like, "Don't screw with my beautiful gay kid."

For those of us lucky enough to have parents that never needed PFLAG, we still wish they would join, because the group is nothing short of a force of nature. Walking into a PFLAG meeting is like being hit with a tidal wave of affection and compassion. It's as if all the sadness, depression, loneliness, fear and rejection we had growing was wiped clear with one stroke and arms are coming at you everywhere ready to embrace. Being anywhere with PFLAG parents is like a warm blanket. I have never felt as completely supported and appreciated as when I am with parents that truly get it. There is a tenacity they have for defending the GLBT community. Hell hath no fury... like a PFLAG parent whose child is under attack by bigots.

PFLAG is the nation's largest heterosexual organization dedicated to gay rights. Not just gay rights... GLBT equality. What started as a way for parents and siblings to cope with the "coming out" of a family member, has turned into a movement that is unstoppable. They are trans inclusive, politically inclusive and truly open-minded, but many were not so before PFLAG. Because of PFLAG our community is safer, more equal, and respected. They march with us, write letters on our behalf, get arrested for us, vote with us in mind and most of all, they truly love us. Without even knowing a PFLAG parent, you can enter one of their meetings and be treated like family. We are their children. We are their responsibility. They are our protectors.

The connection that parents have with their children is impossible to describe. I am not a parent, but I know about this because I am a son. I know this because I see the look in these parents' eyes when they talk about why they continue to be a part of PFLAG. I know my own mother would do anything to make sure that my life in this world is free from prejudice and discrimination. PFLAG, like our parents, is our safety net. Without even realizing it, they are working to protect our future. Like good parents, they want what is best for us and they have chosen to join the fight, not just root for us from the sidelines.

I have been on countless panels with Yvonne Parks and Linda Karle, presentations with Karen Fenwick, protests with Jan and Mike Neubecker, meetings with Lorraine Hampton and fundraisers with Pam and Mike Hazlett. They are my family. I have never felt like they were on the outside trying to help from a safe sideline. They get their hands dirty and genuinely enjoy it. If only more GLBT people contributed to the movement the way PFLAGers do, we would indeed be powerful.

This holiday season, invite a family member or friend and attend a PFLAG meeting. They love to see new faces and I am certain you will love the new friendships that develop.

by Sean Kosofsky, Director of Policy for Triangle Foundation, Michigan's leading civil rights organization for the GLBT community. Between the Lines...November 9, 2006. www.pridesource.com/article.shtml?article=20946

A Word from your Librarian

Our library reorganization project should be finished in time for the January meeting. I wish to thank **Leslie Long** for her valuable help in the reorganization.

The library's resources are available to anyone who attends one of our meetings. When you need information on a subject, you can check out a book from our library and after a few meetings, return the book for the next person to use. There are no fixed due dates and no late fees; just use the books when you need them and be sure to bring the book back to our library.

Most of our books and videos are donated to the library, some come from personal collections, and others are purchased by members for the library. We are also maintaining a "Wish List" of books at **Amazon.com** under the name of "PFLAG Modesto". Here are the titles currently on the list:

[Always My Child: A Parent's Guide to Understanding Your Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender or Questioning Son or Daughter](#) by Kevin Jennings, Pat Shapiro (Contributor)

[Beyond Acceptance: Parents of Lesbians & Gays Talk About Their Experiences](#) by Carolyn W. Griffin, Marian J. Wirth

[Coming Out As Parents: You and Your Homosexual Child](#) by David K. Switzer

[Daddy's Roommate](#) (Alyson Wonderland) by Michael Willhoite

[GLBTQ: The Survival Guide for Queer and Questioning Teens](#) by Kelly Huegel

[Growing Up Gay in America: Informative and Practical Advice for Teen Guys Questioning Their Sexuality and Growing Up Gay](#) by Jason Rich

[Heather Has Two Mommies: 10th Anniversary Edition](#) (Alyson Wonderland) by Leslea Newman, Diane Souza (Illustrator)

[Is It a Choice? Answers to the Most Frequently Asked Questions About Gay & Lesbian People](#) by Eric Marcus

[Mom, Dad, I'm Gay.: How Families Negotiate Coming Out](#) by Ritch C. Savin-Williams

[My Child Is Gay: How Parents React When They Hear the News](#) by Bryce McDougall (Editor)

[Now That I'm Out What Do I Do?](#) by Brian McNaught

[Now That You Know: A Parents' Guide to Understanding Their Gay and Lesbian Children](#) by Betty Fairchild, Nancy Hayward

[Out of the Ordinary: Essays on Growing Up with Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Parents](#) by Noelle Howey, et al.

[True Selves: Understanding Transsexualism-For Families, Friends, Coworkers, and Helping Professionals](#) by Mildred L. Brown, Chloe Ann Rounsley

[When Holidays Are Hell...!: A Guide to Surviving Family Gatherings](#) by Mariana Caplan

If there are other books you would like to suggest be included, please contact me at a meeting or email me at katherine_teixeira@hotmail.com