



News & Views



Celebrating Real Family Values
Helpline 209.527.0776

P.O. Box 4311 • Modesto, CA 95352-4311
www.pflagmodesto.org

Dates to Remember

Pride Day 2007 Saturday, June 30

The web site is up, the entertainment is booked, and the celebration is set to happen for **Stanislaus PRIDE Day 2007**. The Stanislaus PRIDE Center's second area-wide pride celebration will be held **Saturday, June 30th from 2:00 to 8:00 PM at Graceada Park** in downtown Modesto. Vendor booth applications, VIP ticket package details and more information can be found on the event web site, www.spcpride.org. Interested in helping out? **VOLUNTEERS** are needed before and during the event. Please contact Steve Nelson at coordinator@stanpride.org or 338-0855 to meet new people and participate in this great event for our community.

PFLAG Modesto is entertainment sponsor for this event and will also have a booth. We need volunteers, too. Please contact Norman at 523-8687 or come to the PFLAG booth the day of the event to sign up to help Modesto's long-standing GLBT support organization.

First Not-So Newlywed Game a Hilarious HIT!

Laughs and raised eyebrows greeted the contestants at PFLAG Modesto's first annual 'Not-So Newlywed' game on June 19th. In the tradition of the classic game show 'The Newlywed Game,' couples answered questions which showed how in-synch they were in their relationship. While some did well with what may be considered an easy question like, 'What nickname or term of endearment do you use for your partner?', others struggled to remember, "What was the first gift your partner ever gave you?" Not surprising, each couple correctly answered the question, "Who is more likely to say 'I told you so!,' you or your partner?" Long standing member couple, John and Mel took the lead by answering 10 out of 14 questions correctly. A testimony to the benefits of long term relationships (they have been together 39 years), they took home first place prizes which included gift certificates to Deva and Harvest Moon. All couples took home \$80 in free comedy club passes to the Punchline in San Francisco and the Improv in San Jose. If you missed out on this year's event, you have about ten months to prepare for the 2008 edition, so start quizzing your significant other now!

Meeting days

1st and 3rd Tuesdays
Every month

7 pm Support
8 pm Program

July 3

Program to be announced

July 8 Birdcage

Is an informal, monthly social gathering for GLBTs, allies and friends. Join the group at **Bacchus 1200 "I" Street, downtown 5-9 PM**

Want to be on the **Birdcage** e-mail list? Contact **Patrick Pokorny** at **404-0538** or ndskills1@sbcglobal.net

July 17

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:

— Please —
No Smoking on Church property

**324 College Ave.
Modesto, CA**

From our readers...

Lisa M. Verigin sent us this thoughtful piece recently...

OPINION | washingtonblade.com

It's time to rethink Pride

Our annual celebration should provide a vision of liberation for all queer people.

By JULIE R. ENSZER

May 18, 2007

SOME SUNDAY MORNING this June, my wife and I will wake up and say, "Well, we really should go to Pride today, eh?" It will be a beautiful, sunny Sunday or maybe an oppressively hot and humid one. We'll feel obligated to join in the Pride activities of the day, but we won't want to.

THOSE CONFLICTING FEELINGS are not a consequence of our individual malaise. Rather, they are a result of a challenge facing our movement right now. Our sense of obligation comes from our desire and commitment to be counted and recognized as queer. We believe in gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender visibility. We want our voices to be part of a larger chorus of queer voices that insist on equality under the law. We want our voices to demand full recognition of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people as humans under the law — in the United States and around the world.

OUR AMBIVALENCE about participating in the local Pride celebration is that our participation does not seem to move us, individually or collectively, closer to reaching our equality objectives. Why participate in something that has a fuzzy vision and a dubious outcome?

OUR PARTICIPATION does not fill us with joy and wonder. Why do something with our free time that isn't fun? AS A COMMUNITY, we've been celebrating Pride for more than 30 years. The story of the rebellion at the Stonewall bar is a potent one that must be shared across generations as new people come out. This is one of the important contributions of Pride: it retells and remembers our history. In my experience, the best Pride celebrations are those that combine cultural celebrations and history retellings with contemporary queer politics and opportunities to share and present positive queer identities.

THE WORST PRIDE celebrations, on the other hand, are tools for corporations to reach new consumers. They are celebrations that are devoid of history and culture and celebrate instead money, alcohol and drugs. Most Pride celebrations fall somewhere between these two extremes.

I DON'T THINK THE SOLUTION is to try and tip all Pride celebrations more to the former. The solution is to radically reconsider our public celebrations. The fact of the matter is that we need public communal expression of our communities and our identities. I'm not arguing that we end Pride.

I'm arguing that we need to rethink Pride and how it might be remade to reflect our contemporary circumstances and our future needs.

TO BEGIN, let's not start by asking who would fund it. That thinking leads us to extensive corporate sponsorship. We need to set out our agenda and our own vision, not adopt one from a corporation. For the first time in my life, there is ample money in the queer community from individual donors without looking to corporations.

LET'S BEGIN by asking what sort of commemoration our history needs. And let's expand the notion of our history to include not only our rebellion at the Stonewall bar, but also our history prior to 1969 and our history beyond the United States. After determining what we need, let's ask what we want.

I WANT A commemoration that is historically grounded and provides a vision of liberation for all queer people. I want a commemoration that celebrates all queer people and our cultural contributions. I want a commemoration that is festive for queer people and educational for interested non-queer people. I want a celebration that teaches me something about queer history and culture. I want a celebration that brings me joy, happiness, and yes, even glee.

I WANT A CELEBRATION that articulates a vision and a strategy for queer liberation for today and for 40 years into the future; I want that celebration to inspire me, and others, to work to achieve our shared vision for liberation. I want to participate in this celebration soon. Let's begin to create the vision and the leadership to make such a celebration happen.

**PFLAG Modesto is forming a
committee for the
October 10-11, 2008, 4th annual
Gay and Lesbian Film Festival...**

**If you are interested in volunteering your
talent, time, and energy to help produce
this annual fundraiser, please come to
the meeting at Norman's**

703 Enslin Ave., Modesto

Tuesday, July 10th from 7 - 9 PM

523-8687