



News & Views



Celebrating Real Family Values
Helpline 209.527.0776

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

Dates to Remember

Meeting days

1st and 3rd Tuesdays
Every month

7 pm Support
8 pm Program

August 7

Come join us and see what develops...Program TBA

Post-Pride coverage...

PFLAG Modesto Co-founder and Executive Director Norman Rostad is featured in a Bay Area Reporter article by Mark Mardon published July 5, 2007...



Stanislaus Pride Day 2007, the first-ever open-air Pride event in the bustling Central Valley city of Modesto, took place on a picture-perfect summer afternoon last Saturday, June 30, in tree-shaded Graceada park. Some 1,500 to 2,000 people turned out for the landmark celebration that had locals amazed and delighted. Not a protester was seen, despite some initial fears that some in the traditionally conservative city might not welcome the event.

While the entertainment lineup on the Mancini Bowl stage was slim (livened up most notably by drag diva Breathless) and the crowd spotty, the family-oriented Stanislaus Pride Day offered high spirits, plenty of food, drink, and socializing, rainbow flags galore, a plethora of corporate sponsor booths, and a wealth of information about LGBT nonprofit organizations serving the Central Valley. Many in the crowd, including founders of the new Stanislaus PRIDE Center (www.stanpride.org) which organized the event, considered the occasion to be historic, a fresh opening on the new frontier of the gay rights movement.

Norman Rostad of Modesto's PFLAG chapter (www.pflagmodesto.org) volunteered at a booth and expressed deep satisfaction with the event. He's an old timer who said he had never seen or imagined anything like last weekend's Pride event. While last year the city's gay community hosted an indoor gay Pride event that drew some 400 attendees, never before had the city hosted an outdoor festival, and yet this first one proved that Modesto is emerging as a center for gay culture in California's Central Valley. Thirteen years ago, when Rostad and Linda Warden founded Modesto's PFLAG chapter at a local Lutheran church, gays and lesbians were mostly invisible in the city. Last Saturday, as Rostad took in all the rainbow bunting and happy people, he beamed with satisfaction. Modesto was showing its gay colors with huge flair...

To read the rest of this story, go to PFLAG Modesto's website, www.pflagmodesto.org.

August 12

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

August 21

BINGO

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

Emanuel Lutheran Church
324 College Ave.
Modesto, CA

PFLAG Honors "Tru Loved" with Focus on Equality Award

From the PFLAG Online Newsroom, www.pflag.org :

HOLLYWOOD, CA -- PFLAG National (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) has chosen to honor the film "Tru Loved" with its prestigious Focus on Equality Award. The leaders of PFLAG selected "Tru Loved" to receive this honor for its role as a leader in portraying positive images of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, as well as their families, friends and other straight allies.

"Seeing positive, healthy images of GLBT people and their families, along with the many challenges that they face, is critical in transforming hearts and minds," said Jody M. Huckaby, PFLAG Executive Director. "Tru Loved" does this perfectly, and shows how, alongside our straight allies, we all can create real change -- this is why they deserve PFLAG's Focus on Equality Award."

Huckaby will be on the set of the film on July 25th to meet with the cast and crew, and present director/writer/producer Stewart Wade with the award on the film's behalf; Huckaby will also participate in behind-the-scenes filming.

The production, shooting in locations all over Southern California, is written and directed by Stewart Wade ("Coffee Date") and produced by Wade, together with Antonio Brown and David Avallone. Eric Borsum, Eric Miller, S. Eugene Margolis and Marjorie Margolis are serving as executive producers. The Director of Photography is Howard Wexler.

The cast features Bruce Vilanch ("Hairspray"), Jane Lynch ("The 40 Year Old Virgin"), Jasmine Guy ("A Different World"), Matthew Thompson ("Drake and Josh"), Marcia Wallace ("The Simpsons"), Nichelle Nichols ("Star Trek"), Jake Abel ("Threshold"), Alec Mapa ("Desperate Housewives"), Cynda Williams ("Tales of the City"), Alexandra Paul ("Baywatch") and Najarra Townsend ("Me And You And Everyone We Know").

In "Tru Loved" sixteen-year-old Tru (Townsend) is uprooted by her lesbian moms (Paul and Williams), from her comfortable gay-friendly home in San Francisco and moved to a conservative, suburban community in Southern California. Her only friend is a closeted football player (Thompson) - and even that friendship is jeopardized when Tru decides to start the school's first Gay-Straight Alliance. Production is scheduled to wrap on August 2, 2007. To learn more about "Tru Loved," visit www.truloved.com.

The film team, under Wade's leadership, has formed early partnerships with numerous civil rights organizations, including PFLAG as well as the Gay-Straight Alliance Network, the ACLU and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center.

Have news to share or an item of interest? Want to receive the PFLAG Modesto newsletter electronically? Contact Marilyn Mettler at klizard@sprynet.com, leave a message on the helpline at 527-0776 or drop a line to P.O. Box 4311, Modesto, CA 95352

Need a Commitment Ceremony performed?

Non-denominational, private, ordained minister, the Reverend Vickery will perform your ceremony and donate the minister's fees to PFLAG. Contact 538-6068

From our readers...Tom Martin of Mariposa sends in this Dear Abby column of 7/13/2007:

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I raised our two sons and two daughters. One son and both daughters married well. Our other son, "Neil", is gay. He and his partner, "Ron", have been together 15 years, but Neil's father and I never wanted to know Ron because we disapproved of their lifestyle.

When I was 74, my husband died, leaving me in ill health and nearly penniless. No longer able to live alone, I asked my married son and two daughters if I could "visit" each of them for four months a year. (I didn't want to burden any one family, and thought living out of a suitcase would be best for everyone.) All three turned me down. Feeling unwanted, I wanted to die.

When Neil and Ron heard what had happened, they invited me to move across country and live with them. They welcomed me into their home and even removed a wall between two rooms so I'd have a bedroom with a private bath and sitting room-- although we spend most of our time together.

They also include me in many of their plans. Since I moved in with them, I have traveled more than I have my whole life and seen places I only read about in books. They never mention the fact that they are supporting me, or that I ignored them in the past.

When old friends ask how it feels living with my gay son, I tell them I hope they're lucky enough to have one who will take them in one day. Please continue urging your readers to accept their children as they are. My only regret is that I wasted 15 years.--GRATEFUL MOM

DEAR GRATEFUL MOM: You are indeed fortunate to have such a loving, generous, and forgiving son. Sexual orientation is not a measure of anyone's humanity or worth. Thank you for pointing out how important it is that people respect each other for who they are, not for what we would like them to be.

You could have learned that lesson long ago, had you and your husband contacted Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) when you first learned that Neil was gay. The organization offers support groups and education for parents who need to learn more about gender issues.

Some websites of interest:

HeartStrong: heartstrong.org

Owl Empire of Stanislaus County, Inc. (OESCI): oesci.org

PFLAG National: pflag.org

Stanislaus Community Assistance Project (SCAP):

scap4.org **New location - 2209 Coffee Rd. Suite A**

Stanislaus PRIDE Center: stanpride.org

Visit a local open and accepting Spiritual Organization:

College Avenue Congregational Church - 1341 College

Ave., Modesto: cacc-ucc.org/menu

Emanuel Lutheran Church - 324 College Ave.,

Modesto: emanuellutheran.org

Extended Hand Ministries - meets at the Tiki on

Sundays, 932 McHenry Ave., Modesto, 577-9969

First United Methodist Church - 850 16th Street,

Modesto: fumcmodesto.org

Unitarian Universalist Church - 2172 Kiernan Ave.,

Modesto: stanuu.org

Unity Church of Modesto - 2467 Veneman Ave., Modesto:

unityofmodesto.com