



News & Views



Celebrating Real Family Values

Helpline 209.527.0776

P.O. Box 4311 • Modesto, CA 95352-4311

www.pflagmodesto.org

PFLAG Modesto's First-Ever

YARD SALE

**Friday, April 4 and Saturday, April 5
8 am to 2 pm both days**

**Emanuel Lutheran Church parking lot
324 College Ave.**

How can YOU help?

Questions: call Alice Miller 526-8812

Donate items for sale: Go through your closets, cupboards, storage boxes, storage units, the garage, the cabin, your mom's house, the office, your desk, your car, etc.

Bring your stuff to the church Luther Hall on Thursday, April 3 and stay to help sort from 4-7 pm.

Come early! Friday and Saturday mornings we will need a lot of help to move goods to the parking lot

Bring coffee, sandwiches and beverages for the crew

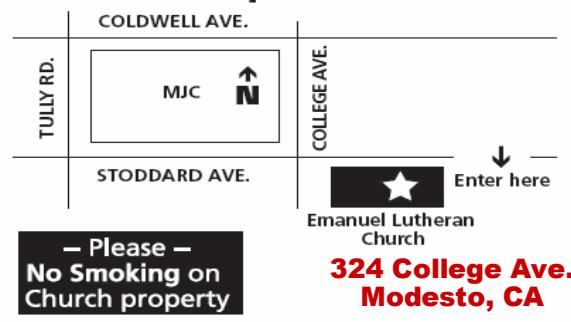
Help clean up at 2 pm either day

Shop for fantastic bargains and support PFLAG!

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.

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, 95352-4311.

Location Map:



Dates to Remember

Meeting days

1st and 3rd Tuesdays

Every month

7 pm Support

8 pm Program

March 4

Join us for an enlightening and educational evening as our PFLAG librarian, Katherine Teixeira, presents "Answers About Transgender Terminology and Etiquette".

GLBTQ YOUTH GROUP

2nd and 4th Wednesday every month, 7-9 pm

College Avenue Congregational Church,
College and Orangeburg Avenues

February 27, March 12 and 26
(see story on reverse side)

March 9

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

March 18

PFLAG BINGO
7 - 9 PM

PFLAG's Transgender Network (TNET)

In 2002, the PFLAG Transgender Network (TNET) became PFLAG's first "Special Affiliate," recognized with the same privileges and responsibilities as PFLAG chapters. Whereas chapters have a geographical focus, TNET is focused specifically on promoting the health and well being of transgender persons, their families and friends, and provides resources to PFLAG chapters and to the National Office.

The TNET Mission: The purpose of this *chapter* shall be to support the mission of PFLAG; to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with and adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. PFLAG TNET focuses on support for transgender people and their parents, families, and friends; education on transgender facts and issues; and advocacy for equal rights for the transgender community at local and national levels. For more information on TNET, visit the PFLAG National website at www.pflag.org, select "PFLAG Online Newsroom" from the left-hand column. Scroll down the online newsroom page to "Hot Topics" and select, "Transgender Issues and Support" OR type in the following URL:

www.pflag.org/PFLAG_s_Transgender_Network.tnet.0.html

PFLAG Board of Directors and Officers for 2008

Gordon Preston...President
Jacqui Whitecloud...Vice President
Sandra Shively...Secretary
Cathy Jennison...Treasurer
Tery Powers...Executive Director

Our dues are paid! Thank you PFLAGers!

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

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

New GLBTQ Youth Group

Filling the isolation gap for GLBTQ Youth

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (GLBTQ) youth in Stanislaus and surrounding counties now have a much needed source of support as they explore personal identity and self-acceptance.

The new youth group provides social opportunities and support to GLBTQ youth, ages 14-19. Straight Allied youth are welcome as well. Meetings and activities allow youth the opportunity to meet other young people in the area for friendship and support. Youth can expect a safe, friendly, and confidential environment where they can share ideas, thoughts, and issues affecting their lives. Food and music are provided as well.

This secular, non-religious group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month from 7-9 pm at College Avenue Congregational Church, and open and affirming church located at 1341 College Avenue (corner of College and Orangeburg) in Modesto. The first meeting and kickoff was Wednesday, January 9, 2008. Modesto parents, Ed and Elizabeth Plata, began looking for local resources and support for their gay son and found nothing. They were greatly frustrated at the total lack of any programs or groups specifically for GLBTQ teens. They perceived a tremendous need for support, not only for their son, but for all GLBTQ youth in our area feeling abandoned, depressed, and isolated. Together they decided that if nothing existed, they needed to create the resource. In collaboration with several local organizations, the GLBTQ youth group was formed.

Ed and Elizabeth have formed an adult advisory board to oversee this new group, recruiting fellow community leaders with diverse backgrounds in mental health, education, nonprofit management, healthcare, faith-based ministry, and business. Sponsors include the Stanislaus PRIDE Center, College Avenue Congregational Church, Crossroads Trading Company, Queen Mabs, and the Electric Company.

Through a collaborative process with the adult leaders, GLBTQ youth determine the activities and topics presented. In the process they learn leadership skills, create community, are empowered to speak up, and have fun.

Parent involvement is encouraged and there will be a brief greeting time before each meeting to welcome parents. The GLBTQ Youth Group is a program of the Stanislaus PRIDE Center. The group is seeking funds and can accept tax deductible donations.

More information about the GLBTQ Youth Group is available by calling Ed and Elizabeth Plata at 209-524-1169 or online at www.stanpride.org.

(from Stanislaus PRIDE Center press release February 15, 2008)