



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

May 6

All kinds of Moms

WELCOME

Please come share your stories during this special **Mother's Day** program

GLBTQ YOUTH GROUP

May 14 & 28 7-9 pm

College Avenue Congregational Church, corner of College and Orangeburg Avenues

PFLAG group in Oakdale!

1st and 3rd Wednesdays

starting **May 7th**

(see article on back)

May 18

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**

May 20

PFLAG BINGO

7 - 9 pm

A Note from your Board President - Gordon Preston

As an Intervention Specialist for Modesto City schools, I know very well what the research has been telling us, that **change is dependent upon relationships**. With this in mind, School Board member Steven Grenbeau was invited and did attend our April 1st PFLAG support and program meeting.

This meeting had the intent of a "Meet and Greet" format so Steve could hear the heartfelt stories of the why and how PFLAG has helped so many. Steve took special note of expressed concerns about safe schools for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students.

The following morning, he emailed our new Modesto City Schools Superintendent, Arturo Flores, about said concerns. In his correspondence, Steve learned that the Superintendent is aware of the problems noted and is working on them.

Mr. Flores has assigned Dr. Daisy Lee, Associate Superintendent for Administrative and Pupil Support, to work with counselors to make them more aware and proactive in dealing with students with concerns about their sexuality and problems that might occur as a result.

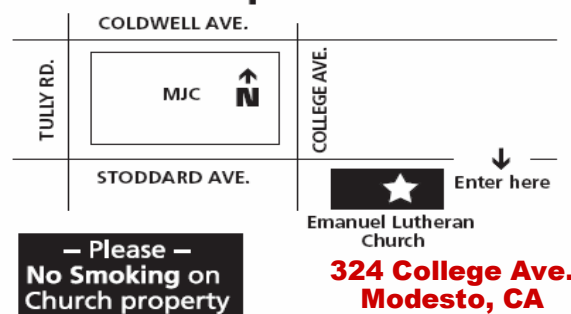
He will keep me informed, as I will you.

"**Friends of PFLAG Modesto**" donated nearly \$2000 in proceeds from their **Yard Sale** April 4&5 to PFLAG Modesto for its education fund. Organizer Alice Miller wishes to thank ALL who made this event a success, including Patrick, Marilyn, Cathy, Ron, Jim, John, Mel, Gordon, Tery, Joan, Krystal, Reen, Gwen, Sandra, Lisa, and many others. A big thank you to Starbucks Coffee for providing coffee for crew and customers. Thanks to all who donated food and beverages for the workers.

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:



We now have a PFLAG group in Oakdale!

A new PFLAG support group will start having meetings in Oakdale Wednesday, May 7th, at 7 pm, in the Golden Oaks Conference room of the Oak Valley Medical Building, 1425 West "H" St. The room has currently been reserved for 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Adjustments to the dates and frequency of meetings can be made when interested parties gather in May. Information and ideas for organizing and publicity can be sent to group organizer Michael McKibban at pflagoakdale@dishmail.net. We encourage everyone to attend the first meeting to support Michael and help him launch his new group!

Lesbians in Central California (LICC)



This group is an active social and support group for lesbian, bisexual, and transgender folk in Central California. It meets the first Saturday of every month at the Stanislaus PRIDE Center, 201 Needham St., Modesto, from 7 - 9 pm for a potluck (adults only) and activity. Check out what's currently scheduled at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Lesincentral/>. Past family activities include a day at the Sonora Celtic Faire, a theatre outing, movies, bowling, and playing in the snow. Upcoming events may include a weekend of camping and a day in Santa Cruz.

IN MEMORIAM

PFLAG Modesto member Betty Schroder has made a generous donation in memory of RJ Moriconi's mother, Teresa Menesini Moriconi, who passed away recently. Mrs. Moriconi was born in 1912 in Bodie, California, and lived all of her 95 years in Yerington, Nevada. She was much loved as wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She will always be fondly remembered by her son RJ, and Tony Alonzo, partners for 17 years.

Special Prizes for April Bingo

From time to time, we have really special Bingo prizes. The winner of both tickets to the **Pride'08 Comedy Night on May 17** was **Ron Coonce**. He won the tickets one at a time during PFLAG Bingo on April 15th. Come see what we have in store for May Bingo on the 20th!

SAVE THE DATE!

for

MoFest 4!

PFLAG Modesto's

Gay and Lesbian Film Festival

Saturday, October 11, 2008

PFLAG Modesto has a MySpace Page

Thanks to the volunteer efforts of Renee Warnock, PFLAG Modesto now has a colorful MySpace page at <http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendid=334664828>. If you have content to include or need information, contact Renee at eener1116@yahoo.com

"Live, Love, Laugh" Pride '08

Comedy Night May 17

Save the date...Saturday, May 17th, 7 - 9 pm at the **State Theatre** in downtown Modesto. A trio of comedians - headliner **Karen Ripley** - joined by **Dana Cory** and **Nick Leonard** - will take the stage for a night of queer comedy as part of a series of Pride '08 celebrations this year. General admission tickets are \$20 and VIP tickets are \$30. A VIP after-party immediately following the show will take place at the **Queen Bean Coffee House**, where comedy-goers can meet and mingle with the performers. For tickets call (209) 527-4697 or visit www.thestate.org

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