

News & Views



Celebrating Real Family Values

Helpline 209.527.0776

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

www.pflagmodesto.org

SUPPORT THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION

Governor Schwarzenegger announced he would oppose the ballot measure circulating across the state that would ban marriage for same-sex couples. He said he would "always be there to fight against" such an amendment.

Because of his comment he is receiving large numbers of phone calls and letters from the supporters of "Limits on Marriage" (the constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage in California). He needs to hear from us too!

There are 3 ways we can contact the Governor to let him know that we are **against** the constitutional amendment:

- Write a letter to thank him for his support:
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
- E-mail him at <http://gov.ca.gov/interact>: Click on the E-mail tab. Be sure to click the down arrow under Please Choose Subject and select **Supreme Court Decision on Same Sex Marriage**. It is a simple 2-part process, just follow the instructions. A couple of words of thanks are all you need.
- Call 1-916-445-2841: Wait until you are instructed to press 1 for English, then press 1, 5, 1, 1 (1=English / 5=opinion / 1=court / 1=support).

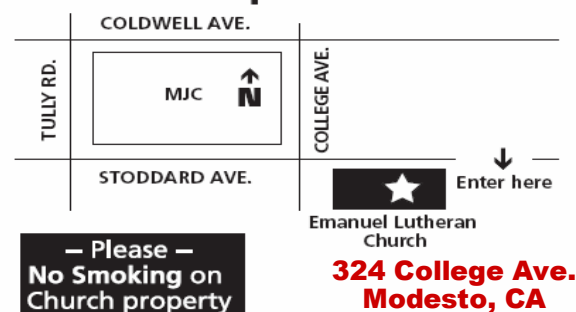
This call is all automated so it is very simple, fast, and painless. If it is busy, please keep trying.

It is very important the Governor and his staff hear from us. You know the opposition is feverishly writing letters, e-mails, and dialing the number to express their thoughts – **WE MUST DO THE SAME.**

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

Location Map:



Dates to Remember

Meeting days

1st and 3rd Tuesdays

Every month

7 pm Support

8 pm Program

July 1

The Reverend Jimmy Vickery will present: "Growing up in a Fundamentalist Household". He survived; find out how.

GLBTQ YOUTH GROUP

July 9 & 23 7-9 pm

College Avenue Congregational Church, corner of College and Orangeburg Avenues

PFLAG group in Oakdale!

July 16 7pm

Golden Oaks Conference Room
1425 West "H", Oakdale
pflagoakdale@dishmail.net

The Rev. Michael Schiefelbein's topic: "Marriage: Why is it important?" Show your support for our new Oakdale satellite by attending this important program..

July 13

Birdcage

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

July 15

PFLAG Bingo



MoFest 4 coming in October

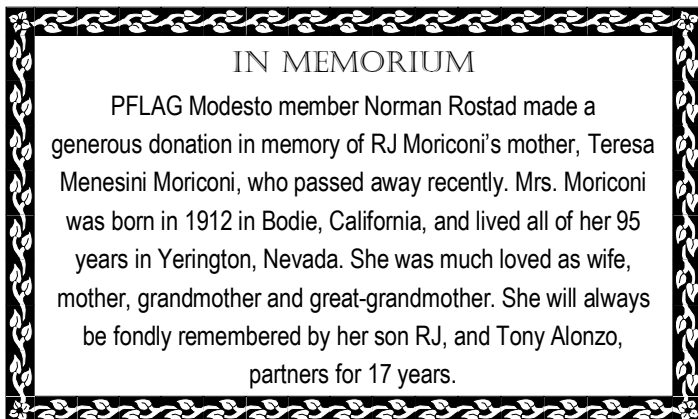
PFLAG Modesto's Fourth Annual Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Film Festival will be held on National Coming Out day, Saturday, October 11, 2008 at the historic State Theatre in downtown Modesto. The festival will offer a matinee set of films and an evening set.

Can you remember the first movie you saw in which you could see your sexual orientation in a positive light? The first time you looked on the big screen and knew you were not the only person who felt like you did? MoFest 4 is looking for individuals willing to share that moment in their lives. If you are interested in being interviewed and filmed, call the PFLAG helpline at 527-0776.

Letters seeking individual sponsors and donors will begin going out in July. Donations will be recognized onscreen with name and logo (if applicable) at the following levels: Platinum - \$1000 and up, Gold - \$500 and up, and Silver - \$100 and up.

Our first corporate sponsor at the Platinum level is:

AAA of California



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

First United Methodist Church - 850 16th Street, Modesto: fumcmoesto.org

Unitarian Universalist Church - 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto: stanuu.org

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

June 18, 2008

From the Desk of Jody M. Huckaby, PFLAG National Executive Director

Dear PFLAG Family & Friends,

The philosopher Hannah Arendt once said that "The right to marry whoever one wishes is an elementary human right...nearly all other rights enumerated in the Constitution are secondary to the inalienable human rights to 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness' proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence; and to this category the right to home and marriage unquestionably belongs."

That was in 1959, and Arendt likely didn't think it would take nearly 50 years for her theory to begin to catch on. But yesterday, in California, thousands of happy couples showed that, half a century later, her idea is still fundamental, like the right she so passionately believed in. And it's about time.

All of us at PFLAG join our families, friends and allies in California in celebrating, and congratulating, the loving couples who have warmed our hearts over the past 24 hours. History will never forget the unforgettable image of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon as they took their vows in San Francisco, even as Mayor Gavin Newsom jokingly reminded the couple, who have been together for more than 5 decades, that marriage is not to be entered into lightly, but thoughtfully and seriously.

Throughout the day, loving, committed couples from Crescent City to San Diego - and every community in-between - showed Americans from coast to coast that marriage is only strengthened when marriage equality is available to us all.

And, as we pointed out in this morning's *USA Today*, images matter. Stories matter. And over the coming month, as PFLAG works with our allies on the ground to battle a divisive ballot initiative that seeks to turn back the progress we have made, the stories and images of PFLAG families will be a powerful tool in defeating those who seek to tear our families apart. It's why we're so committed to working with our chapters, and each of you, to get those stories told and make our voices heard.

The coming months will be critical to making marriage equality a permanent part of California's history, and a viable reality for us all. I hope you'll be a part of PFLAG's effort in the state by volunteering your time on the ground, or making a gift in support of families in California and across the country.

We have come so far since Hannah Arendt had the radically simple idea that marriage equality is a right that should be available to us all. We cannot allow a half-century of work, and the love of couples who have been together even longer than that, to be torn apart now.

Websites with information about Marriage Equality and how you can help support the campaign against the November ballot initiative:

Equality for All - www.equalityforall.com

Equality California - www.eqca.org

Marriage Equality USA - www.marriageequality.org

Human Rights Campaign - www.hrc.org

PFLAG National - www.pflag.org

Area ministers willing to perform same-sex marriages:
 Bernadette Burns, DrBearsong@aol.com, (209) 538-3862
 Oopsa Daisy Florist, (209) 523-1830
 Reverends Michelle or Jimmy Vickery, (209) 538-6068
 Unitarian Universalist Reverends Grace Simons (209) 548-9070, Bill Greer (209) 577-3096, and Leroy Egenberger (209) 524-3075