



January 2012

News & Views

Celebrating Real Family Values

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

PFLAG Modesto is pleased to partner with Stanislaus County in offering an **LGBT Seniors Group** beginning January 3rd. The group will meet from 5 - 6:30, prior to our regular First Tuesday functions.

The LGBT Seniors group is open to anyone aged 50 or over, as well as caregivers of any age. The group will be facilitated by **Karen Reid** from Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services.

This is an exciting opportunity not only for PFLAG Modesto, but also for our friends and supporters who are entering their golden years. Together with Karen and Stanislaus BHRS, our community's Greatest Generation will no longer be the Silent Generation.

For more information, email Karen: kreid@stanbhers.org

LGBT Seniors Group

January 3rd 5-6:30pm

Emanuel Lutheran Church

A partnership between Stanislaus County Behavior Health and Recovery Services and PFLAG Modesto

Open to ages 50+ and their caregivers

Contact Karen Reid
(kreid@stanbhers.org) for more information

PFLAG Modesto Meeting Schedule 2012

- ✱ **First Tuesday meeting - January 3, from 7 to 9** - PFLAG guest speakers' meeting and Healthy TRANSitions group. **LGBT seniors from 5 to 6:30** - all at Emanuel Lutheran Church, 324 College Ave., Modesto. See meeting location map on back page. See articles in this issue about meetings available on this date. **Traditional support is available at all PFLAG Modesto meetings for those who request it.**
- ✱ **Board and Operations meeting** - usually held the Wednesday following the second Tuesday. Next Board meeting January 11. Contact info@pflagmodesto.org or pres@pflagmodesto.org for details.
- ✱ **Third Tuesday meeting - January 17, from 7 to 9** - **BINGO** and Healthy TRANSitions supporters group - at Emanuel Lutheran Church.

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.

1st Tuesday Support
January 3rd, 2012
7-9pm, Emanuel Lutheran Church

Topic: The founders of a new social networking/activism website - mylgbtplus.com

Healthy TRANSitions runs concurrently with the 1st Tuesday

January's 1st Tuesday meeting will feature the founders of a new social networking site for LGBTQ young people—mylgbtplus.com.

Mylgbtplus.com is social networking with a twist: the website focuses on providing young people with both support and activism outlets. Launched in Autumn 2011, mylgbtplus.com offers user-driven news, topical discussions, and resources in a stylish, interactive format.

From their website:

My Lgbt Plus is a youth run organization, led by Founder Justin Kamimoto, whose main goal is to establish a connection for LGBT and straight allies in the Central Valley community. In partnership with local valley organizations and leading activists, My Lgbt Plus is dedicated to providing support to youth activists and keeping youth of the Central Valley in touch with valuable resources.

My Lgbt Plus features new ways for youth within the Central California region to connect with one another in efforts to establish a youth support system. Enhanced with social networking features, forums and directories, My Lgbt Plus is a one stop location for youth to find resources and interact with one another. Each month My Lgbt Plus partners with local LGBT and straight ally friendly organization to provide in depth discussions to youth through the use of visual aids, including but not limited to pictures, videos, blogs, and interviews. Come, learn, and support mylgbtplus.com on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2012 from 7-9pm.

BOARD BRIEFS

Here are highlights of the PFLAG Modesto board meeting held on December 14th:

- As of mid-December, there are 50 paid members of PFLAG Modesto, 13 of which are new or rejoining after a lapse in membership. **There are 24 unpaid members from the 2011 roster.**
- PFLAG Modesto is looking for someone to lead our "STOP BULLIES NOW"/Safe Schools outreach. Interested persons should contact Michael McKibban: treas@pflagmodesto.org.
- PFLAG Modesto is looking for someone to coordinate all social activities. Interested persons should contact Marilyn Mettler: sec@pflagmodesto.org.
- An LGBT Seniors Group facilitated by Stanislaus County will be hosted by PFLAG Modesto prior to 1st Tuesday meetings (see front page article for details).
- MoFest!7, PFLAG Modesto's film festival celebrating the LGBT community, will be held May 19th at The State Theatre.
- *Out Late*, a documentary about people who come out as LGBT later in life, is available in our library.

A long-range planning meeting will be held on January 14. Anyone interested in steering PFLAG Modesto through 2012 is invited to attend. Email Bill for more information: pres@pflagmodesto.org.

Need to promote your business or corporation? Are you a private individual who believes in PFLAG Modesto's work and wants to see it distributed to a wider audience? Underwrite our printing costs!

For a \$200 contribution, tax deductible where allowed by law, you can pay for an issue of *News & Views* to be printed and distributed at venues around Stanislaus County! You will get front page, above-the-fold mention of your contribution to the newsletter, and a quarter-page ad for your business or corporation elsewhere in the publication.

Proclaim your support for PFLAG Modesto, and drive our supporters into your business! Email Marilyn (sec@pflagmodesto.org) for more information.



I quit making New Year's resolutions when I was twelve.

Becoming a better person, to me, is a life-long process. It doesn't magically happen because the calendar changes from one year to the next. It always seemed self-defeating, to lay down these big plans for change...to work hard at them for the first six days of the year...to falter by the tenth day...and be a certified failure by January 15th.

Which isn't to say that one shouldn't even bother trying to be better. But it runs contrary to human nature, I think, to make a clean break of old habits in one sweeping motion on the first day of the year. As a species prone to resisting change, even *fearing* change, the New Year's resolution doesn't make much sense to me.

Making goals to achieve over the course of a year? Sure. Monthly assessments for self improvement? Absolutely. Like I said, improvement is a journey that takes a lifetime to achieve.

I see organizational self-improvement differently, though. I think it's critical for an organization to make New Year's resolutions. The passing of an old year is a perfect time to assess where we've succeeded and failed, and to set into motion plans that will build on the successes and rectify the failures of the past.

A new year is *the* time to build a new organization.

As PFLAG Modesto rings in 2012, the time has come to start pushing for the equality and acceptance we deserve in this region. It's time to raise our voices. It's time to demand to be noticed, acknowledged, and integrated into the community.

It's time for a new PFLAG Modesto—one with a bigger, louder voice.

It's also an ideal time to freshen up things that are old and stale, to try new things, to take risks. It's an ideal time to start new groups, to retool old ones. To shake off the specters of "That's how we always do it" and its equally insidious cousin "We never do it that way."

To see just how big this umbrella we've pitched really is, and just how many different people can take shelter beneath it.

And it's the perfect time for our friends and supporters to make new commitments to PFLAG Modesto. To recognize that all-volunteer organizations like this one need volunteers for survival—and to do something about it. To give back to a group that's given all of us in this community hope, acceptance, and love for nineteen years.

How you choose to give back to PFLAG Modesto in 2012 is up to you. Whether it's writing a monthly check, helping with MoFest!7, becoming the social activities chairperson or the Safe Schools liaison, or sitting in and offering your own visions for the future at board meetings (or the upcoming Long-Range Planning meeting)...please consider making a deeper involvement with PFLAG one of your own New Year's resolutions. It will be one resolution that'll be hard to break.

We'll make sure of it.

Bill Dotinga wishes everyone a happy, healthy, and blessed new year. Email him (pres@pflagmodesto.org) with questions, concerns, and offers to volunteer your time with PFLAG Modesto.

Healthy TRANSitions Support Groups

(runs concurrently with regular PFLAG meetings)

7-9pm at Emanuel Lutheran Church

1st Tuesday: Transitioning Support

3rd Tuesday: All Trans people, their supporters and allies are welcome



Empress Kiki and the OWL Empire have graciously donated another \$500 to PFLAG Modesto!

The donation comes on the heels of a previous donation at the Empress' stepping-down ceremony in November. In 2011, **Empress Kiki** has given PFLAG over \$1100 through OESCI, money that will be put to good use in the coming year.

On behalf of our supporters and friends, thank you for your generosity and kindness, **Empress Kiki**. Congratulations on a successful reign, and we look forward to working with you and the OWL Empire in the future!

Open and Affirming Area Religious Institutions

- **College Avenue Congregational Church**, 1341 College Ave., Modesto, www.cacc-ucc.org/
- **First United Methodist Church**, 850 16th St., Modesto, www.firstumcmoesto.org
- **Unitarian Universalist Church**, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto, www.stanuu.org
- **Unity Church of Modesto**, 2467 Veneman Ave., Modesto, www.unitychurchofmodesto.com
- **St. Paul's Episcopal Church**, 1528 Oakdale Rd., Modesto, www.stpaulsmodesto.diosanjoaquin.org
- **First Congregational Church**, 100 North Acacia Ave., Ripon, www.riponcongregational.org

Birdcage - January 8th

Is an informal, monthly social gathering for LGBTs, allies, and friends. Join the group at

Tresetti's ~ 927 11th St. ~ 5 - 9pm

Contact Patrick Pokorny at 404-0538 or ndskills@sbcglobal.net

"The PLACE", a GLBTQ Youth Group, ages 14-19, holds meetings the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month at 1341 College Ave. 7-9pm.

Contact: Ed 683-8203 or Elizabeth 818-2378

A Few Resources

Find Youth Info - www.bullyinginfo.org

A clearinghouse for information prepared by the federal government to help prevent and address bullying in communities.

Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) - www.glsen.org

A leading national educational organization focused on LGBT issues in K-12 schools. GLSEN offers a variety of resources and materials focused on anti-LGBT bullying, including No Name-Calling Week and Ally Week.

The Trevor Project - www.thetrevorproject.org

A 24/7 toll-free, confidential, suicide and crisis prevention helpline for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. **866-488-7386**

HeartStrong - www.heartstrong.org

Offers help and hope to LGBT students in religious - based educational institutions.

Yes, there IS a PFLAG in OAKDALE!

January 18 7 - 8:30 pm



Golden Oaks Conference Room
1425 West "H", Oakdale

For more info contact Michael at oakdale@pflagmodesto.org

Note: this is a new e-address!

Location Map:

