



News & Views

Celebrating Real Family Values

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Healthy TRANSitions June 7th

The informational meeting for our new program, **Healthy TRANSitions**, will be held at Emanuel Lutheran Church on TUESDAY JUNE 7th from 7-9pm. Light snacks, hors d'oeuvres, and beverages will be served at this meeting.

(Please note the location change on the ELC campus from vestibule to youth rooms that are on the eastern side near the entrance driveway. There will be signs to direct you.)

With **Healthy TRANSitions**, PFLAG Modesto addresses a dire lack of specialized medical coverage for the Trans community in this part of the Central Valley. Our hope is to bring low- and no-cost medical and emotional care to the Transgender and Transitioning community here in Modesto; we also welcome anyone who needs this care and is able to travel from Merced, San Joaquin, Fresno, and the foothill counties.

Dr. Cecily Cosby of Samuel Merritt University in Oakland will lead this pilot meeting. Dr. Cosby has a long history of treating the Trans community in the Bay Area, and we're pleased and honored that she is willing to bring her expertise to the Central Valley. Dr. Cosby will use this first meeting to assess community needs and to develop the program's future, so attendance and constructive honesty is necessary for **Healthy TRANSitions** to succeed and go forward.

PFLAG Modesto is always a safe, caring, supportive environment for everyone to be who they were born to be! We highly encourage

all Transgender and Transitioning people, as well as those considering gender reassignment, to attend this preliminary meeting. If you know someone who would benefit from this new program, please encourage him or her to attend, and come along to lend your support. **Everyone is welcome!**

Healthy TRANSitions Informational Meeting

Tuesday June 7th 2011, 7-9pm
Emanuel Lutheran Church Youth Rooms (please note location change on ELC campus)

For more information about Dr. Cosby or the program, visit the Healthy TRANSitions page on our website:

<http://pflagmodesto.org/events/healthytransitions.html>

RSVP on the Healthy TRANSitions event page on our Facebook

Dates to Remember PFLAG Meeting days

1st & 3rd Tuesdays every month, 7-9 pm
Emanuel Lutheran Church
324 College Ave
Across from MJC map on p. 2

1st Tuesday Meeting

June 7, 7-9 pm

- We offer our usual, traditional PFLAG support, led by members who have been on both sides of the coming-out process.
- For those who don't need support, join us for **Healthy TRANSitions**.

June 12

Birdcage

is an informal, monthly social gathering for GLBTs, allies and friends. Join the group at

Jax

1016 "H" St. 5-9 PM

Contact **Patrick Pokorny** at 404-0538 or ndskills1@sbcglobal.net

GLBTQ YOUTH GROUP

"the PLACE" ages 14-19

June 9 & 23 7-9 pm

1341 College Ave

Ed 683-8203 Elizabeth 818-2378

PFLAG in OAKDALE!

June 15 7 to 8:30pm
Golden Oaks Conference Room
1425 West "H", Oakdale

pflagoakdale@dishmail.net

3rd Tuesday Meeting, 5-9 pm

Summer Potluck

June 21

NO BINGO NO BINGO NO BINGO

PFLAG Modesto is “coming out” for our Summer Potluck—at Graceada Park!

Bring your blankets, coolers, guitars, lawn games, and yourselves for a great evening of fun, food, and friends **June 21st from 5 -9 pm.**

We will provide table service, soft drinks, and possibly coffee if the weather is cool. And thanks to our gracious donors, **Starbucks** and **The Chicken Barn**, who will be providing iced tea and a bucket of friend chicken, respectively. Bill and Jahir will also be grilling up some marinated chicken to supplement the protein offerings!

Please bring a dish to share, based on the first letter of your last name:

- A – G: A rice, pasta, or potato dish;**
- H – L: Vegetable, green, or fruit salad;**
- M – S: A main protein dish or casserole;**
- T – Z: Dessert—cake, cookies, or pie.**

Remember, this is an outdoor potluck, therefore we will not have access to refrigerators, ovens, stoves, or (probably) electrical outlets—so plan accordingly!

Our summer potluck is a BYOB event: Feel free to bring your favorite adult beverages in **CANS** or **BOXES ONLY—NO GLASS CONTAINERS of any kind are allowed in the park!** If you'll be bringing boxed wine, bring only plastic cups with you for service.

Friends and families are welcome to join us at this event. See you there!

CALLING ALL PARTICIPANTS...After the warm reception PFLAG Modesto received from the community at last year's Independence Day Parade, we want to do it again—and make more of an impact!

In the past, we've decorated a board member's car and marched in front of it holding the PFLAG Modesto banner. That works fine, but watching other groups riding on "floats" got us thinking: Why not PFLAG Modesto, too?

We're looking for someone with a flatbed truck, or a flat trailer, or a tractor and hay wagon...anything that can be turned into a float and a ride for our participants. The ideal candidate would also be licensed and willing to drive the float in the parade.

Time is of the essence, as applications are already being taken for this year's parade. Please email Bill, pres@pflagmodesto.org, if you're willing to offer your vehicle as a parade float.

And readers—**WE EXPECT ALL OF YOU TO MARCH/RIDE WITH US IN THE PARADE THIS YEAR.** There is strength in numbers, and this is a great way to show the community that PFLAG Modesto is for everyone...Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender, Curious, Questioning, AND Straight!

So mark your calendars and join PFLAG Modesto on Monday, July 4th and join us for a few hours at the 137th Annual Independence Day Parade in Modesto!

PFLAG Modesto Summer Potluck
 Graceada Park Pavilion
 Tuesday, June 21st 5 - 9 pm

BYO Adult Beverage—NO GLASS PLEASE

Last name food designations:
A - G: A rice, pasta, or potato dish
H - L: Vegetable, green, or fruit salad
M - S: A main protein dish or casserole
T - Z: Dessert—cake, cookies, or pie

RSVP on our Facebook events page or by visiting pflagmodesto.org/events/socialgatherings.html

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:

Meetings are here

↓ Enter here

Emanuel Lutheran Church

**324 College Ave.
Modesto, CA**

PLEASE OBSERVE
 – Please –
No Smoking on Church property

Have news to share or an item of interest?

Want to receive the PFLAG Modesto newsletter electronically?

Contact Marilyn Mettler at sec@pflagmodesto.org

leave a message on the helpline at 527-0776

or drop a line to P.O. Box 4311, Modesto, 95352



If you're reading this, and you're not my editor or my fiancé (who always proofread and constructively criticize these columns before I make a buffoon of myself publicly), it means one of two things:

Either the End of Days did not occur on May 21st as was predicted...or you have been one of the 6.8 billion people who were Left Behind.

Yes, it's hard to be civil and Respect Others' Opinions, especially when the opinions seem, for lack of a more civil word, laughable. Yet it's imperative in order to expect—demand—the same respect from others.

I spent some time preparing for this column by watching an episode of *Larry King Live!* from April 2010, in which Contemporary Christian Music (and Grammy nominee) Jennifer Knapp defends her decision to be both Lesbian AND a Christian. Mr. King was supportive and compassionate of Ms. Knapp's decisions. His other guest, a pastor from a megachurch in San Diego, was not so thrilled or encouraging.

Neither were many of the comments or video responses that have been posted on YouTube. After reading and watching, it's easy to understand why Jennifer Knapp left the Christian music industry, and the United States. The vitriol used by many to express their opinions alone would be reason enough for me to flee.

Yet what impressed me most in the interview is the grace and civility Jennifer Knapp showed in response to the pastor's opposition. Despite his repeated (and increasingly condescending) "I am praying for you" and "You are misguided and lost" rhetoric, she said that she respected him—as a pastor, as a leader, and a spiritual mentor. That she appreciated his prayers for her soul. Though they disagreed on the fundamentals of scriptural interpretation, she respected his beliefs and his honesty.

It would have been easy for her to answer with her fingers in her ears, with what has become the patent community answer: Don't spout your intolerance, your religious-based bigotry, your "God-sanctioned" hate speech. I would have, even though doing so is intellectually dishonest and destroys communication, because it's an indefensible statement designed to end arguments... not win them. (Yes, I knew I was going to have a problem writing this month's column. I'm not known for my respect of opinions that aren't my own!)

Instead, Ms. Knapp *listened*. She processed the pastor's remarks, thought about them. She even let many of them go without responding. His opinions are clearly not her own, but she allowed him his opinions and gave his opinions her respect, though he didn't offer her the same courtesy. At the end, despite my own bias, she came off as genuine and gracious...and the pastor appeared judgmental and decidedly not pastoral.

Genuine, gracious respect for others' opinions wins the day.

PFLAG Modesto's plans for the future include some "controversial" outreach ventures: within a community that's marginalized and looked down upon by society, and in places that many in our community don't think we belong. We will face deeply held opinions that are contrary to our own, contrary to the mission of our organization. Case in point: According to the religiously-inclined activist group Focus on the Family, "anti-bullying" initiatives are gay activists' latest tools of choice for sneaking homosexuality lessons into classrooms. 'Safety' is being used as a political arm-twisting tool to force an adult agenda into schools."

Will we be the ones to put our fingers in our ears and play the Hate Card (justifiably or not), or will we graciously listen, respectfully engage, and accept that ALL diversity makes the world complete—including the diversity of opinion?

And will I be able to keep my yap shut?

Emailing Bill at pres@pflagmodesto.com ensures that he won't keep his yap shut. But feel free to do so anyway!

VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

(Besides the ever-present board vacancies...)

We need someone with a set of wheels (auto, bike, rollerblades, etc.) and a couple of free hours around the first of each month to distribute our award-nominated newsletter *NEWS & VIEWS* to local businesses and entities.

It's simple: pick up the newsletters and the distribution list from Marilyn, and drive around delivering them. We especially encourage our delivery person to think of new places to place our newsletter for greater visibility in the community!

This is a great way to get involved in a small way and relieve the board of a tremendous burden. For more information or to volunteer your services email Marilyn sec@pflagmodesto.org, and thank you in advance for your willingness to help!

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.

LBGT Greats

Past and Present



Across

4. Not of THE Hiltons
6. Spain's "Hitch"
8. Ballet-maker
9. CNN's, but probably not its only
10. "Howl"-ed through censorship
12. Once a governor, now a priest
14. Alice B.'s lover
17. Unibrow-rocking artiste
19. MSN's own
20. "Here's a story of a man named Brady..." (full name)
22. "Doctor Howser"

Down

1. Spoke of Earnest's import
2. "And I'll cry if I want to!"
3. "Let's roll" hero
5. Early DADT foe
7. Unlikely "Idol"
8. Operator "Ernestine"
11. The second "Darrin"
12. Tennis second, on a first-name basis
13. Britain's monarch, the Second one
15. "Great" conqueror, of men AND women
16. Fierce in the kitchen
18. Auteur "Engulfed in Flames"
21. Her "anthem" preferred by many
23. Poetry's first, maybe

ANSWERS: ACROSS 4. PEREZ, 6. ALMODOVAR, 8. TCHAIKOVSKY, 9. LEMON, 10. GINSBERG, 12. MCGREEVY, 14. STEIN, 17. KAHLLO, 19. MADDOW, 20. ROBERTTREED, 22. HARRIS DOWN 1. WILDE, 2. LESLEYGORE, 3. BINGHAM, 5. CAMMERMEYER, 7. AIKEN, 8. TOMLIN, 11. SARAGENT, 12. MARTINA, 13. EDWARD, 15. ALEXANDER, 16. CATCORA, 18. SEDARIS, 21. BATES, 23. SAPPHO