



# News & Views

**Celebrating Real Family Values**

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**One of PFLAG Modesto's core missions** is to provide advocacy and support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people in the greater Stanislaus County region. While we have room to improve, we do a decent job of the L, G, and B portions of that group.

The downturn in the economy hits marginalized groups harder than the general public, and no group has been hit harder than Transgender and Transitioning people. Statistically, these people suffer astonishing levels of economic distress during good times. When the economy is poor, however, this situation is exacerbated.

Add to the malaise the issue of specialized healthcare, the need to travel because there are no medical professionals in this area to treat them, and it's clear that the Transgender and Transitioning community is (and has been) suffering more than any other group of people.

Hopefully, gaps in the medical and emotional wellbeing of Transgender and Transitioning people will be addressed soon with PFLAG Modesto's partnership with Dr. Cecily Cosby of Samuel Merritt University in Oakland. **Healthy TRANSitions** begins with an informational meeting on Tuesday June 7<sup>th</sup> at Emanuel Lutheran Church from 7-9 pm.

Dr. Cosby has been treating, and training students to treat, the Transgender and Transitioning community in the Bay Area for nearly thirty years. A PhD, Family Nurse Practitioner, and Physician's Assistant, Dr. Cosby (with PFLAG Modesto's help and support) proposes to bring low- and no-cost medical and emotional healthcare to our area's Trans people on a monthly or bi-monthly basis, as needs and interest dictate.

The launch and continuation of **Healthy TRANSitions** depends on turnout. If you're Transgender or Transitioning and want care, please consider coming to this important meeting. If you know someone who is and needs healthcare, please bring them to this information session. We have great hopes for this new program, and great hopes for an amazing turnout.

Together we can make lives better for everyone.

**Healthy TRANSitions**  
Informational Kick-off Meeting

Tuesday June 7th 2011, 7-9pm  
Emanuel Lutheran Church

**Dr. Cecily Cosby, PhD, FNP-C, CA-P**  
**Samuel Merritt University**

Community needs assessment, discussion,  
Q&A, Program details

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME - BRING  
TRANSGENDER AND TRANSITIONING FRIENDS**

## 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**

**May 3, 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 a discussion.

**May 15**

**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**

**May 12 & 26 7-9 pm**

**1341 College Ave**  
**Ed 683-8203 Elizabeth 818-2378**

**PFLAG in OAKDALE!**

**May 18 7 to 8:30pm**

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

**3rd Tuesday Meeting, 7-9 pm**

**PFLAG Bingo**

**May 17**

**An excellent turnout of forty-eight people** came out on a beautiful Saturday morning for our **STOP BULLIES NOW!** roundtable and brainstorming session on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

We began the day by listening to moving stories of bullying in the schoolyard, and discussed ways to put an end to the problem. We also had a presentation about students' rights, particularly LGBTQ students, from Daniel Galindo of Northern California ACLU. During the last session of the day, the group narrowed down all the ideas that had been discussed and developed an action plan we can carry forward into the coming months as educators and administrators prepare for the 2011-2012 school year.

In addition to Mr. Galindo, we offer special thanks to our guests for providing their insights and giving their time to the cause: **Frank Johnson** of **Stanislaus NAACP**; **“Van” Van Landingham** of **The Trevor Project**; **Cecilia Arredondo** and **Jessenya Hernandez** from **California Rural Legal Assistance**; to our volunteers **Elizabeth Ortega**, **Analisa Freitas**, **Patty** and **Scott Davis**, **Jeanette Rosenthal**, and **Daniel Onorato** for making everything so much easier, and to our friends at **College Avenue Congregational Church** for the facility, and **Taqueria Los Compadres** for the luncheon. Thanks to **Cathy Jennison**, **Mel Nomann** and **John Crabb**, **Maureen McKibban**, and **Marilyn Mettler** for providing additional food items to round out the menu. Special thanks to **Jahir Salazar** and **Lee Mettler** for technical support, and **Michael McKibban** for manning the PFLAG table. PFLAG Modesto gratefully acknowledges Board President **Bill Dotinga**, for putting this event together.

As we look forward to another, larger event in October, these are the elements the group identified as priorities for the coming months:

- Create** a parent-and-community-led, grassroots, county-wide TASKFORCE;
- Develop** a living, breathing, comprehensive definition of BULLYING, able to change with *social attitudes* and *technological advances*;

**Educate:**

- Parents and students about their rights;
- Teachers about their responsibility to report bullying;
- Administrators about their responsibility to deal with bullying quickly and decisively;

**Create Safe Zones:**

- One in every school (minimum);
- Identify and successfully monitor unsafe areas on campus;
- Partner with local businesses/shops to create community safe zones (identify with logo, sticker, poster, etc.);

**Diversity Training Program** for:

- Administrators
- Teachers
- Student Leaders
- Parents

As we move forward with these priorities, look in future issues of *News & Views*, our Facebook and website for ways you can get involved to **SPREAD RESPECT and STOP BULLIES!**

*For more information, updates, and bullying resources, visit: [pflagmodesto.org/events/stopbulliesnow.html](http://pflagmodesto.org/events/stopbulliesnow.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**

**PLEASE OBSERVE**  
— Please —  
**No Smoking on Church property**

**324 College Ave.  
Modesto, CA**

Have news to share or an item of interest?

Want to receive the PFLAG Modesto newsletter electronically?

Contact Marilyn Mettler at [sec@pflagmodesto.org](mailto:sec@pflagmodesto.org)

leave a message on the helpline at 527-0776

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



The last several installments of this column have been lecture-y, stern, pulpit-pounders. I acknowledge this, though I don't apologize for them. Things have needed to be said, and since I have a column and was duly elected by the five people who came to the election meeting to be the board president of PFLAG Modesto, I've taken it upon myself to say them.

But these days, I've been feeling that a bit of sunshine and good news are needed around here. So this month's column, while still an admonition of sorts, will have a positive ring to it.

We've been focusing on SCOE's CHOOSE CIVILITY campaign and the twelve character traits of a civil person, so the stern, bossy columns haven't been *entirely* my fault. Still, this month's trait—Accept and Give Praise—comes as a welcome respite to the fire and brimstone of the previous three.

Praise is one of those things, like love and forgiveness, which can't be practiced one-sidedly. You can't accept it gracefully (and gratefully) if you don't give it out when it's deserved. You also can't expect to be praised for a job well done if you're not liberal in your praise of others.

And like love and forgiveness, when praise isn't practiced as often as it should be, acts that deserve praise decline in frequency. If you agree with me that society has become less civil, that kindness and respect are vanishing in our community, then you're also wondering like I am if it's because we don't applaud enough the things that deserve to be applauded.

I'm not saying that people should be doing what's right and good for the attention it brings, but let's face it: we're human. It's tough to do what's right everyday, all day, to give a rat's behind about anyone else, when no one pays attention. As human beings, we crave recognition. We require affirmation. Without it, we become lackadaisical, lazy, and thoroughly unmotivated to do anything for anyone but ourselves.

So, here's my praise list. It's in no particular order. I'm probably going to forget a name or entity or two—so accept my apology and a blanket statement of praise in advance. My columns have been getting too long anyway:

The forty-two people, entities and individuals, who spent a Saturday with us at the STOP BULLIES NOW! roundtable. Your passion for justice and your commitment to humanity is commended. All of you make me proud to be a part of this community.

The rest of the PFLAG Modesto board and operations team—Marilyn Mettler, Michael McKibban, Cathy Jennison, and Jahir Salazar. The LGBT community in greater Stanislaus County is fortunate to have all of you as its advocates. And I am blessed to be surrounded by and working with all of you.

The Modesto City Schools board of trustees, who took an adequate anti-bullying proposal and are working on making it strong, fair, and just. And an extra helping of praise for listening to us with open ears and open hearts.

The many people who always come out to PFLAG events early and stay after they're over, helping to set up, clean up, and put things back into place. Your cheerfulness, willingness, and efficiency make burdens lighter.

The people who've given financially to PFLAG in the last few months, through dues and our fundraisers. All of our projects cost money, and it's heartwarming to see people part with their hard-earned money, especially in these hard economic times, to support something they believe in.

Maureen McKibban. Your compassion led you to see a dire need in the Trans community, you did all the legwork and research, and all the board has to do was pick a date, get the word out, and open the doors. You have my praise—and my respect as well.

I could go on, but my word count tells me to stop. Take the time to give your own praise to the people mentioned above, and to the people who deserve it in your own lives. And gratefully accept the adulation that comes your way, too. A civil society is built on two-way streets.

Send your civil comments any time by email to [pres@pflagmodesto.org](mailto:pres@pflagmodesto.org).

## Businesses! Corporations! Individuals! PFLAG Modesto has a business proposition for you!

At our April board meeting, the PFLAG Modesto board decided to have the printing for our award-nominated newsletter *News & Views* done out of house, by Gowans Printing in Modesto. In addition to being more cost effective, we want to be able to alleviate our secretary's workload and allow her to concentrate on more necessary tasks than babysitting an inkjet printer.

We have also been expanding our distribution list for *News & Views* over the last several months to include cafes, the public library, Modesto Convention and Visitors Center, and local businesses. This increased circulation, in addition to the start of out-of-house printing, means additional costs for PFLAG Modesto.

We are soliciting local businesses, corporations, entrepreneurs, and individuals to underwrite the cost of printing and circulating *News & Views* to greater Stanislaus County.

**For just \$200, you can underwrite the printing and distribution of a month of PFLAG Modesto's newsletter.** In return, your business will receive a half-page recognition in the issue you underwrite. We think it's a great way to promote your business to the general public, and show our PFLAG friends and subscribers that you support LGBTQ people and their rights!

For more information or to underwrite future issues of *News & Views*, please contact Marilyn Mettler by email at [sec@pflagmodesto.org](mailto:sec@pflagmodesto.org). Thank you in advance for your support and commitment to PFLAG Modesto!

### Open and Affirming Area Churches and Religious Institutions

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

**SAVE THE DATE... June 21<sup>st</sup>** is our SUMMER POTLUCK, which will be held at Graceada Park from 5-9pm. Details will be announced soon, but we're looking forward to fried chicken, lawn games, good homemade food and, if you'd like and bring your own, an adult beverage or two (within city park guidelines, which will also be announced soon).

Most of all, we're looking forward to a beautiful summer evening in the park together! Plan to attend, and invite friends and family!

### PFLAG Modesto June Potluck

**When:** Tuesday, June 21st 2011 5-9pm

**Where:** Graceada Park, Modesto

**EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

Details soon in newsletters, Facebook, and website

### THE MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP GARAGE SALE FUNDRAISER

Friday and Saturday

May 13 & 14

8am to 3pm

409 High St. X St. E. Morris Ave.

To volunteer or donate, contact

Patrick at

404-0538 or [ndskills1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ndskills1@sbcglobal.net)

**FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT**

**MODESTO PRIDE FESTIVAL**

### *Mother's Day - Off Dinner Special*

Take a Tour of Modesto's Finest Restaurants  
in One Meal

Drive-Thru Pick-Up Spaghetti Dinner

**Sunday, May 1st**

**5-7pm**

\$12 per ticket or 2 for \$20

**Tiki Cocktail Lounge**

**932 McHenry Ave, Modesto**

*Sponsored by:*

Wendy's Jax on H, Tresetti's

Olive Garden, and The Cheesecake Kitchen

Contact [ModestoPride.org](http://ModestoPride.org) or the Tiki Cocktail Lounge  
for tickets.

A fundraising event for Modesto Pride Festival