



News & Views

Celebrating Real Family Values

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

Helpline 209.527.0776 • info@pflagmodesto.org • pflagmodesto.org

facebook: PFLAG Modesto

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September 2011

This month's issue of *News & Views* is underwritten by

Gary Wagner, MD Dermatology

1500 McHenry Ave • 209-571-DERM (571-3376) • gwagnermd.com

At our September 6th Support Meeting, we're thrilled to have **Marc Adams**, the co-founder and executive director of **HeartStrong**, on hand to speak about his organization and the work it does with LGBTQ high school and college students.

Adams founded HeartStrong as a support network for LGBTQ high school and college students who attend religious and parochial schools. As one can imagine, these students are often even more ostracized and vilified for being who they are, even by those who should protect them—their teachers and school administrators. HeartStrong exists solely to provide support and social justice for these young people.

Founded in 1998 with outreach work beginning two years before that, the HeartStrong team has logged over 465,000 miles doing its work, making HeartStrong the most extensive grassroots outreach in the history of the LGBT movement. HeartStrong's work to provide support for LGBTQ young people who attend religious institutions is important and essential, because it is legal for religious schools to discipline, harass, and expel students for being Gay.

September Support Meeting

Marc Adams, co-founder and executive director of HeartStrong

Tuesday, September 6th 7-9pm
Emanuel Lutheran Church

A freewill donation to support HeartStrong's work will be accepted.

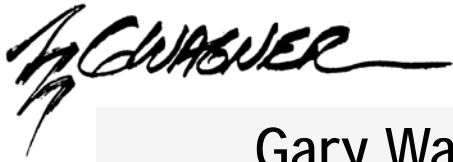
Traditional support will be provided for those who seek it.

The son of a Baptist minister and a former student of Reverend Jerry Falwell's Liberty University, Adams knows well the discrimination and harassment these students face daily. **If you are an LGBTQ student at a religious institution or know someone who is, you will not want to miss this presentation.**

You can learn more about HeartStrong prior to Mr. Adams' presentation by visiting www.heartstrong.org. An opportunity to make a donation to HeartStrong will be provided at the presentation.

PFLAG Modesto Meeting Schedule

- ✱ **First Tuesday meeting - September 6, held from 7 to 9 pm** at the Emanuel Lutheran Church, 324 College Ave., Modesto. See meeting location map inside. Information about Marc Adams and HeartStrong in story above.
- ✱ **Board and Operations meeting** - usually held the Wednesday following the second Tuesday. Next Board meeting September 14. Contact info@pflagmodesto.org or pres@pflagmodesto.org for details.
- ✱ **Third Tuesday meeting - September 20, held from 7 to 9pm** at the Emanuel Lutheran Church, 324 College Ave., Modesto. This month - **BINGO!**



Gary Wagner, MD

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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.firstumcmodesto.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



Yes, there IS a PFLAG in OAKDALE!

September 21 7 to 8:30pm

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

We're happy to welcome **Patty Davis** to the PFLAG Modesto board. She will serve as our interim Vice President until formal elections are held in November.

Patty is a local girl, born and raised in Stanislaus County. She came to PFLAG Modesto several years ago for help to cope after her daughter came out as Lesbian, and has recently become more involved with us again. All of us on the board and operations team are looking forward to working with Patty and seeing her energy work for us in positive ways.

Patty's own words from her Facebook page sum up her personality perfectly: "I have a very good life. I have a beautiful husband. I have awesome children. I feel blessed everyday."

And we feel blessed to finally have a Vice President again, and that it's Patty Davis. Patty can be reached by email at vice@pflagmodesto.org.

Birdcage - September 11

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 12 - 20, holds meetings the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month at 1341 College Ave. 7-9pm.

Contact: Ed 683-8203 or Elizabeth 818-2378

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 had grown bored with the CHOOSE CIVILITY principles. They'd begun to sound redundant to me, and I'd decided to lump what was left into this last column and be done with them.

That was before this weekend's (August 20-21) events at the 49ers-Raiders preseason game, and the utter lack of civility on display before, during, and after the game. I'm not a sports fan, don't know much about them, but even I can see that fans waling on each other and shooting each other isn't civil behavior.

I don't recall the last time a fight broke out at a Broadway show. But I suppose it's too much to ask of the sports fan to like *Les Miserables* just to learn a bit of civility. So I see the need to continue with the CHOOSE CIVILITY focus, though in order to catch up and be done by December I'll lump three of them together this month:

Acknowledge Others. It's something we may not do enough at PFLAG Modesto; there are many people working behind the scenes, all volunteers, to make things run around here. So I acknowledge the following people for their contributions to the work of this organization:

- Ron Coonce and Jim Peterson, for providing Social Night refreshments
- Maureen McKibban for coordinating our helpline, and Jeanette Rosenthal and Marilyn Mettler for monitoring calls
- Len Revelli, for using his PR skills to solicit corporate donations to fund our ongoing work
- Cathy Jennison and Ernie Neely, for distributing *News & Views* all over Stanislaus County
- Gordon Preston, for making sure our events appear in *The Modesto Bee* on a regular basis
- Mel Nomann and John Crabb for culinary delights and always being prepared to help.

The trouble with these lists is that people are invariably left out. If you are, please accept mine and the PFLAG Modesto board and operations committee's hearty THANK YOU. We cannot do our work without your help.

Speak Kindly. Over the summer, it's been difficult for me to participate in this organization. All of us, to one degree or another, have "taken the summer off."

Sometimes, I've thought we've lost our way. Other times, my thoughts have been that I've led PFLAG Modesto off a financial cliff.

Mostly this summer, I've been discouraged. I've been discouraged by things that have happened beyond our control, and by people who really ought to know better but don't seem to, or don't seem to care. I must keep reminding myself that it's about the LGBTQ community, and all of us getting the help and support that we need, regardless of from where or from whom, and that's what's important.

The point is SPEAK KINDLY, after all...

Apologize Sincerely. This one is tough for me. I'm not an apologist. I never have been. Ask the man closest to me; I'm sure he has a million stories to tell.

However, I feel compelled to speak for this organization as the board president, and so I offer my sincerest apology to anyone who has attended our meetings, came to us hoping for something, and went away unsatisfied. I apologize when PFLAG hasn't been what was needed—when we've failed to provide the support, advocacy, and love that are the benchmarks of our mission statement.

PFLAG Modesto will be undergoing changes in the coming months. These changes are necessary in order to stay afloat financially while still adhering to the spirit of our mission statement. It's too soon yet to say what these changes will entail, but they will be noticed and felt by all.

I apologize sincerely for these changes too, and for the fact that they're necessary. But I would hate to have to apologize later for dissolving the organization entirely. We will emerge from these trying times, I'm confident of this. What we will look like in the end as an organization remains to be seen. But rest assured that we will be here in some capacity for the LGBTQ community, and will remain as committed as ever to spreading civility across the region.

You can help by remembering us financially, paying your dues on time, attending our functions, and asking us how you can get involved in other ways, and then following through with our requests of you. We acknowledge each of you in advance for doing what you can to help keep PFLAG Modesto alive and well.

One last thing: Let's remember to be civil to one another too, shall we?

SEPTEMBER IS THE START OF 2012 DUES SEASON

for PFLAG Modesto and, in an effort to increase both dues-paying members and our treasury, the board voted in August to roll out a new dues schedule.

First, we're pleased to offer student and low-income membership! For just \$15 a year, students and anyone on public assistance can become a dues-paying supporter of PFLAG Modesto. Since \$15 of every dues payment is required to go to PFLAG National, our local chapter makes nothing on this level of membership—but we're excited to be able to increase our membership rolls! People in these groups are encouraged to support us in this way.

We are splitting our regular-level memberships into two categories: **SINGLE MEMBERSHIP** and **HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP**. Non-partnered/non-married people, and people without children will pay for a Single Membership at \$25; partnered/married and households with children will pay the Household Membership rate of \$35.

Yes, we've had to raise our membership rates this year—but we're actually bringing them more in line with what other chapters throughout California charge their members. And again, keep in mind that the first \$15 of every dues payment goes directly to PFLAG National, so your dollars are helping to support TWO organizations.


You will be able to pay your dues online using a credit or check card through Paypal again this year! Please consider using this convenient feature to pay your dues *promptly*; we spent a lot of time last year hounding members for payment. Visit <http://pflagmodesto.org/giveback.html> and click the appropriate button for the membership level you desire.

Thank you in advance for your prompt and continued support in 2012!

2012 PFLAG Modesto Dues

_____ Student/Low Income Membership	\$15
_____ Single Membership	\$25
_____ Household Membership	\$35

_____ Yes, I would like to make an additional charitable contribution to PFLAG Modesto (enter additional amount here _____)

Make checks payable to PFLAG Modesto and mail to
 PO Box 4311
 Modesto, CA
 95352-4311

To pay dues online using a credit or debit card, visit <http://pflagmodesto.org/giveback.html> and select the appropriate membership level. **PFLAG Modesto is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.**

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Your membership includes annual membership in local and national PFLAG chapters, monthly local newsletter (circle your preference: electronic OR USPS mail) and two semi-annual national newsletters.

Location Map:



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.