

PFLAG *Waves*

Vol. XV No. 4
July & August 2008

Monterey County PFLAG: Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

Monterey County PFLAG

P.O. Box 2521
Monterey, CA 93942
Tel: (831) 655-FLAG
e-mail: terry@pblum.com
pflagmontereycounty.org

Board Members

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Terry Blum</i> | <i>Mary Ellen Martinelli</i> |
| <i>Wayne Johnson</i> | <i>Carrie Parker</i> |
| <i>Susan Lewis</i> | <i>Jeannie Roland</i> |

PFLAG Waves is published bimonthly.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday July 10, 2008

Getting Started
7:00pm
Salinas Community Center, 940 North Main St.,
Salinas

Monday, July 14, 2008

"For The Bible Tells Me So"
7:00 - 9:00 pm
Unitarian Universalist Church
490 Aquajito Road, Carmel

Monday, August 11, 2008

Equality for All and Proposition 8
7:00 - 9:00 pm
Unitarian Universalist Church
490 Aquajito Road, Carmel

PFLAG's Mission Statement

To promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender persons, their families and friends through: **support** to cope with an adverse society, **education** to enlighten and ill-informed public, and **advocacy** to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2008

7:00 PM

July Chapter Meeting - Salinas Getting Started

Monterey County PFLAG is growing? In an effort to better serve the diverse needs of our large county we now hold monthly meetings in Salinas as well as our Carmel meeting at the UU Church. **Our Salinas meeting is the second Thursday of every month, 7:00 pm at the Salinas Community Center, Gabilan Room.** The Carmel meeting continues to be at 7:00 pm the second Monday of every month. **This Thursday (July 10) our program is "Getting Started", a review of a typical meeting format, discussion of Board and committee needs, planning, and of course, support group.** We have some exciting ideas for fund raisers and speakers, and I'm sure more will emerge at the meeting. Come and share yours!

MONDAY, JULY 14, 2008

7:00 - 9:00 PM

July Chapter Meeting - Carmel

"For The Bible Tells Me So" - rescheduled from June

The July meeting will be devoted to the presentation of the **90 minute multiple award-winning movie "For the Bible Tells Me So."** The remaining time will be devoted to discussion and/or support group and refreshments. **From the forthebibletellsmeso.com website:** "Can the love between two people ever be an abomination? Is the chasm separating gays and lesbians and Christianity too wide to cross? Is the Bible an excuse to hate? Through the experiences of five very normal, very Christian, very American families -- including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson -- we discover how insightful people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child. Informed by such respected voices as Bishop Desmond Tutu, Harvard's Peter Gomes, Orthodox Rabbi Steve Greenberg and Reverend Jimmy Creech, "For The Bible Tells Me So" offers healing, clarity and understanding to anyone caught in the crosshairs of scripture and sexual identity." The meeting will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 490 Aquajito Road, Carmel. For more information: (831) 655-3524.

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO

Special Events

Mexican Pride Dance Party - Saturday, July 12 from 9:00 pm to 2:00 am at Franco/Norma Jeans' in Castroville. information: www.montereypride.org or phone 877-839-8407.

Monterey Gay Pride - Saturday, July 12 from 11:00 am - 7:00 pm at the Monterey County Fairgrounds. Information: www.montereypride.org or phone 877-839-8407.

Salinas Valley Pride - Sunday, August 10, 200 - 300 Main Street, Salinas. Parade starts at 2:00 pm. For additional information about Salinas Valley Pride e-mail: SalinasValleyPride@gmail.com.

Area PFLAG Meetings

Carmel Second Monday of every month, 7 pm, Unitarian-Universalist Church, 490 Aguajito Road, Carmel, (831) 655-3524

Gilroy Third Saturday of every month, 9:30 am, Kaiser Medical Office, Conf. Rm. 1, 7520 Arroyo Circle, Gilroy

Salinas Second Thursday of every month, 7:00 pm, Salinas Community Center, 940 North Main St., Salinas (831) 655-3524

Santa Cruz Fourth Monday of every month, 7:00 - 9:30 pm, the Diversity Center, 1117 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz, (831) 425-5422

Watsonville (Spanish language meetings) First Sunday of the month, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Watsonville YWCA, (831) 724-6078.

Other Regular Happenings

Gay Movie Nights at MCAP

Contact Michael for the time at 394-4747 ext. 11 or e-mail michael@mcap.org.

Peninsula Professional Network - (831) 624-0534

Monthly newsletter and social evenings with speakers for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders; second Wednesday of each month "Diversity Dancing" classes in Pacific Grove. Phone 373-5678.

Gay Teen Alliance - (831) 394-4747 Ext 15

Confidential meetings for glbtq youth through age 20. Phone or e-mail: keptbyangels@hotmail.com.

GayMonterey Yahoo Group

Free weekly e-mail to inform you about upcoming events for the local glbtq community. Email Craig at citycraig@yahoo.com.

The Santa Cruz County Queer Youth Task Force meets at the Aptos Public Library Conference Room. For more information phone (831) 325-9888. To be put on the Task Force e-mail list, e-mail Stuart Rosentein at stuartrosenstein@gmail.com.

For a comprehensive list and information on glbtq activities for the Monterey area and beyond, check the Gay Lesbian e-mail network website at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GayMonterey/links>.

MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2008

7:00 - 9:00 PM

August Chapter Meeting - Carmel Equality for All and Proposition 8 - The Ballot Measure to Change the California Constitution to Exclude Same-sex Couples from Legal Marriage

Melissa Rodriguez will talk about Proposition 8, the November Ballot Initiative to ban same-sex marriage. **Melissa will also talk about the work of Equality for All to prevent its passage.** She will lead a discussion on how local residents can mobilize against this measure. **In addition, participants (LGBT people and allies) are invited to bring and share pictures of their marriage and/or commitment ceremonies.** Melissa recently relocated from San Francisco to Salinas to live with her wife, Lisa Cisneros. Melissa is a public school teacher in Salinas.

The presentation will be followed by support group and refreshments. The meeting will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 490 Aguajito Road, Carmel. For more information: (831) 655-3524.

SALINAS PFLAG HELD A "MEET AND GREET" AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

from Jeannie Roland

I wanted to thank all of you for coming to the first ever PFLAG meeting in Salinas. You were all a part of history, and we hope that you will find your way to another meeting. Remember that the meetings are the second Thursday of every month. Just in case, the dates are as follows:

July 10

August 14

September 11

October 9

November 13

December 11

CHANGE OF TIME AND LOCATION OF PFLAG BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors meetings are now being held at **5:30 pm, the third Thursday of each month, at the Ol' Factory Cafe, 1725 Contra**

Costa in Sand City. The meetings are open to the general membership, and all are invited to attend.

CHAPTER DUES REMINDER FOR 2008/2009

Membership in Monterey County PFLAG is from September 1 - August 31 of the following year. Therefore we are encouraging present members to renew your membership as soon as possible, August 31 at the very latest. It would be most helpful if you renewed your membership now so we don't have to send out a reminder letter in August. \$15 of every membership goes to PFLAG National along with our updated 2008/2009 roster. The remainder of the dues goes primarily for the printing and mailing of the newsletter, the maintenance of the Monterey County PFLAG website, cost of the PFLAG phone line and payment for use of the room for the chapter meeting. Please use the form on the back of this newsletter, or submit a paper providing the information requested on the newsletter form. **If you have any questions phone Terry Blum at the PFLAG phone: 655-3524.** We need the full financial support of all our members to keep our chapter solvent. We look forward to your continued support!

HAVE YOU BORROWED "TYING THE KNOT" FROM OUR PFLAG CHAPTER?

Our PFLAG chapter has a collection of books, videos and dvds that we loan out to our members. We have a sign out/sign in sheet and usually are able to monitor the return of what has been lent. We are in the process of inventorying our collection and have noticed that we are missing "Tying The Knot." It is either a video or a dvd. **We're requesting that all people who have attended our meetings check your collection of videos and dvds to see if you have our missing item. If you discover it, please phone the PFLAG line at 655-3524 or e-mail Terry Blum at terry@pblum.com.** We really would like to have it back so others may borrow it.

MONTEREY GAY PRIDE - SATURDAY, JULY 12

The Monterey Pride Festival 2008 will be held at the Monterey County Fairgrounds on Saturday, July 12, from **11:00 am - 7:00 pm**. The Festival is produced by Pride of Monterey County. The Pride Festival is an outdoor celebration featuring information booths, vendors, food, games, concert entertainment, dancing, and a bounce house and face painting for the kids (or

the kid in all of us). The Festival is a drug-free event, welcoming the GLBT community as well as families, friends and supporters. The entertainment line up includes six bands, island style dancing, and kicking off the event and taking the stage at 11:15 am will be the Paper Wing Theater Company performing scenes from THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW. There will be over 30 food, merchandise and information vendors. You can even register to vote, or adopt a new pet (pet adoption from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm). **Admission is \$10.00 at the gate. There will be a Mexican Pride Dance Party on Saturday, July 12 from 9:00 pm - 2:00 am at Franco/Norma Jean's in Castroville. COME VISIT US AT THE MONTEREY COUNTY PFLAG TABLE.** For more information check the Monterey Pride website at www.montereypride.org or phone 1-877-839-8407.

SALINAS VALLEY PRIDE - SUNDAY - AUGUST 10

The 2nd Annual Salinas Valley Pride Parade is On!! **Sunday, August 10, 2008 200-300 Main Street, Salinas, CA 2:00 pm.** Come join us!! Salinas Valley Pride's purpose is to bring awareness of the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Intersex and/or Questioning (hereafter LGBTIQ) community in the Salinas Valley in order to promote unity, visibility and self-esteem within that community, and to promote a positive image in the Salinas Valley and the central coast region through community activities and service. **If you would like to march with Monterey County and Salinas PFLAGs phone Terry Blum at 655-3524 for more details.** For additional information about Salinas Valley Pride e-mail: SalinasValleyPride@gmail.com.

WHY THE BLACK CHURCH SHOULD SUPPORT GAY RIGHTS

by Dennis W.

posted June 18, 2008

pflagall e-mail, June 30, 2008

The Black Church has been so poisoned by homophobia and heterosexism that the idea of it actually supporting gay rights seems oxymoronic. But Black churches are not monolithic and, although the vast majority of them denounce homosexuality as a sin, there are a few that do not. Covenant Baptist Church, <http://www.covenantbaptistdc.org/home.html>, a traditional African American congregation in Washington, DC that my wife, the Rev. Dr. Christine Y. Wiley, and I co-pastor, is one of those few. We believe that whereas homosexuality, as a sexual

orientation, is not a sin, hypocrisy is. That is why Jesus says nothing about the former, but speaks volumes about the latter.

There are numerous publications now available that help us to understand that the few biblical passages once thought to express unequivocal condemnation of homosexuality have been grossly misinterpreted. In fact, the more accurate translations of the Bible do not even mention the word, "homosexuality," a relatively new term. And, while these passages condemn same-sex behavior that is violent, abusive, or believed at the time to result in ritual impurity, the scriptures do not explicitly address sexual intimacy between two loving individuals of the same gender.

The question, then, is why has the Black Church become so hostile toward non-heterosexual persons and so vitriolic in its approach to the issue of homosexuality. The reasons are varied and complex, and are associated with the historical intersection of racism and sexuality in America. Suffice it to say here, however, that it is not the Bible, but socially-conditioned and culturally-infused interpretations of the Bible that account for the pervasive anti-gay sentiment within the Black Church.

That said, it is my opinion that the Black Church should support gay rights because homosexuals are human beings who deserve the same rights as heterosexuals. These people did not choose their sexual orientation. They did not wake up one morning and say, "Oh, I think I'll be gay," any more than others of us woke up one morning and said, "Oh, I think I'll be straight." Despite what some may argue, their sexual orientation is an integral and immutable component of their identity. It is who they are and they could not change it even if they tried.

On a certain level, I believe that many if not most of us in the Black Church are aware of this, but it is too difficult and uncomfortable for us to go against the grain of what has been taught to and instilled in us all of our lives. It is much easier for the Black Church to bash or ignore gay people, while at the same time exploiting their tremendous gifts and talents, than it is to become a safe space in which they can realize their full, God-given potential without having to hide in the closet. I support gay rights because the gospel of Jesus Christ is a gospel of love, not hate; a gospel of justice, not injustice; a gospel of inclusion, not exclusion; and a gospel of authenticity, not hypocrisy. Remember, Jesus

spent the bulk of his time associating with those whom society rejected--i.e., the poor and the sick, the downcast and the outcast, the last, the lost, and the "least." By the same token, those whom he most harshly challenged, criticized, and chastised included not only the rich and the elite, who disproportionately enjoyed the privileges of society, but also the religious hypocrites--i.e., people who pretended to be more holy, pious, and righteous than they actually were.

If, then, the Black Church is the True Church, why would it want to foster within its fellowship, as well as within the broader society, a culture of hypocrisy rather than a culture of authenticity and integrity? But is that not exactly what the Black Church is guilty of doing when it (1) pretends that homosexuals do not exist, and (2) encourages them to pretend to be something they are not--i.e., not merely to tell a lie, but to live and, indeed, be a lie?

While some resent the comparison of gay rights with civil rights, I agree with Julian Bond that "people of color ought to be flattered that our movement has provided so much inspiration for others . . ." In the spirit of Jesus Christ, Martin Luther King Jr., Coretta Scott King, and even the Declaration of Independence, the Black Church should support gay rights if one believes that all of God's children "are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, [and] that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Because the Black Church is comprised of a race of people who themselves have been, and still are, the victims of oppression, it should be the last institution in the world to condone the oppression of anyone else. For as King once said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Rev. Dennis W. Wiley, Ph.D., is the pastor of the Covenant Baptist Church in Washington, DC.

CYBER BULLYING: A NEW FRONTIER IN HARASSMENT

*June PFLAG FYI e-mail, a monthly online publication
<http://community.pflag.org/NETCOMMUNITY>*

With more youth coming out in early high school and even middle school, PFLAG chapters are seeing younger and younger parents who are dealing with issues many of us have not encountered before. One of those issues is cyber bullying. **Chapters should be prepared with information and resources if a parent or youth encounters this new form of bullying.**

Cyber bullying has been defined by the Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use to mean, "being cruel to others by sending or posting harmful material using the Internet or a cell phone." New technologies have revolutionized communication and information, particularly for young people, and although the cyber world has been a great friend to the LGBT community by helping students gain access to information and support, it has also created new opportunities for bullying and harassment.

Cyber bullying may seem like the same old behavior using different means, but because this form of bullying can be done anonymously, it can take on very different qualities. Perpetrators, victims and bystanders have somewhat different roles in the process. The ability to resend emails and text messages create confusion about what has happened.

Terminology you should know:

Flaming - online verbal attacks or fights via electronic messages, (e.g., in chat rooms) and using hostile and vulgar language.

Harassment - repeated messages of an offensive or derogatory nature directed to a target.

Cyber stalking - repeated messages of an intimidating character that make a person feel afraid for his or her physical safety.

Denigration - online "put-downs," including sending or posting hurtful gossip or rumors to cause the target embarrassment.

Impersonation - using someone's email account to send out messages, supposedly from the account holder, that reflect badly on that person and may cause trouble, shame, or embarrassment.

Outing and Trickery - disclosure of someone's private information online, sending or posting embarrassing images, or deceptions leading another person to reveal personal details about him or herself.

Exclusion - deliberately keeping someone out of an online group such as a buddy list or game.

It is important to talk to youth about the dangers of internet and phone usage early and often. Talk in terms of your values and beliefs - and don't forget to talk about the notion of privacy. While we focus on healthy and appropriate behavior, it is also important to teach kids how to protect themselves from harm and negative outcomes.

What parents should know:

The internet is a place or location like the mall or a friend's house - don't send your children there

without rules.

Talk about values and ideas - privacy, respect, consequences, how do you know if something or someone is real?

Insist that your children never share passwords with others.

Know your own child's passwords and email accounts.

Keep computers in open spaces.

Set limits on the amount of time your child spends online and let them know that they should put their cell phones to bed at night (have a turn-off time).

If something happens online, youth need to tell an adult immediately.

It is easy for youth to have things escalate online - cyber bullying is more two-way than regular bullying.

What students should know:

Never give out personal information online.

There can be consequences to what you post online (jobs, college, personal).

You do not always know to whom you are talking.

Your messages can be re-broadcast to others.

Tell an adult immediately if you receive a threatening, harassing, or upsetting message.

Although much of the education can and should be done at home (or in your chapter!) there is also a role for schools to play. Find out what your school policy is and what they do to educate students on appropriate behavior.

According to Pew Research, about one-third (32 percent) of all teenagers who use the internet say they have been targets of some form of cyber bullying that ranged from receiving threatening messages, having their private emails or text messages forwarded, to having an embarrassing picture posted or rumors about them spread online. The cyber world is not going to go away so let's make sure it brings more benefit than harm into our kids' lives.

What schools should do:

Add cyber bullying to existing anti-harassment or bullying policies.

Provide training and education for students, teachers and parents.

Take cyber bullying seriously.

**DIRECTIONS TO CARMEL
PFLAG MEETING**

Unitarian Universalist Church
490 Aguajito Road, Carmel

North on Highway 1 from Carmel:

Exit Highway 1 at "68 West Pacific Grove Pebble Beach" offramp. Watch for Aguajito Road immediately on the right. Turn right and go a short block; entrance to the church is on the left. The meeting is in the large room at the right side.

South on Highway 1 from Monterey:

Exit Highway 1 at "68 West Pacific Grove Pebble Beach" offramp. Turn left back over the freeway. Watch for Aguajito Road on the left, before the re-entrance to the freeway. Turn left and go a short block; entrance to the church is on the left. The meeting is in the large room at the right side.

WEDDING PHOTOS FROM CALIFORNIA

pflagall e-mail, June 19, 2008

Hello all,

We here at PFLAG National are considering putting together an online wedding album of our members who get married in California!

If you have any photos you would like to share, please feel free to send high-resolution digital copies to aratliff@pflag.org and be sure the names of all people in the image!

We look forward to sharing your wedding memories with all PFLAGers
Warm Regards,
Adam R.

Communications Coordinator
PFLAG National
aratliff@pflag.org

**MONTEREY COUNTY PFLAG IS OFFERING THE
NEWSLETTER ONLINE**

To all those currently receiving PFLAG Waves, we are now providing the option of receiving our newsletter as an e-mail pdf file. **If you are able to read a pdf file on your computer and would prefer receiving the newsletter online rather than through the mail, please e-mail your request to terry@pblum.com.** All those receiving the online newsletter would also be e-mailed meeting reminders for the off months. All others will continue receiving the hard copy through the mail. Thanks for your continued support.

PFLAG NEEDS MY SUPPORT AND I NEED PFLAG'S!

PFLAG is important to me. I'd like to support PFLAG's efforts to expand it membership and outreach. My membership includes newsletters.

- Individual Membership \$30.00 annually
- Full-time Student \$15.00 annually
- Family/Partners \$45.00 annually,
- Institutional Membership \$50.00 annually
-
- And/Or Donation \$ _____
- Total \$ _____

Name _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____ E-mail _____

(Contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law. Please make checks payable to Monterey County PFLAG and mail them to: PFLAG Membership, P.O. Box 2521, Monterey, CA 93942. Thank you for your support!)