



PARENTS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS  
PFLAG SF, PO BOX 640223, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94164 - HELPLINE 415-921-8850

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2006

**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

**In English y en Espanol**

The second Sunday of each month, 2 to 4 pm at St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church St. near Market, San Francisco in the Parish Hall. Enter through the Plaza gate.

**BOARD MEETING**

The first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Call for directions 415-921-6902

**INTERNET**

www.pflagsf.org  
email: pflagsf@aol.com

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Co-Chairs: Ruth Fraser & Julia Thoron

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Rodd Aubrey     | Shirley Olivo      |
| Kenda Autumn    | Carlos Rosales     |
| Chuck Bierworth | Sam Thoron         |
| John Daniel     | Christine Torno    |
| Ede Imeri       | Rosemarie Vertullo |
| Ray Kesler      |                    |

**STRAIGHT SPOUSE NETWORK**

Amity Pierce Buxton 510-595-1005

**API FAMILY PRIDE**

510-742-1102

**SPANISH LANGUAGE HELPLINE**

415-921-8850, Box #4

**MISSION STATEMENT**

PFLAG-SF promotes the health and well being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends, 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. PFLAG-SF provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

**MEMBERSHIP**

- \$30 Individual membership
- \$40 Household membership
- \$15 Chapter Newsletter only
- \$50 Cheering membership
- \$100 PFLAG Raiser!

**DONATIONS WELCOME!**

**SUNDAY MEETING PROGRAM**

**November 12th -**

The movie **Brokeback Mountain** has deeply affected and brought people of all ages, genders, and sexual orientations together. It has transformed countless lives by inspiring people to take action to make major life changes, and has helped people to overcome long-held prejudicial beliefs. Brokeback Mountain opened up a nationwide dialog on the important issues of homophobia, same-sex marriage, and human rights in general.

**Peter Tannen** is a longtime SF PFLAG member and one of the people who have been deeply affected by Brokeback Mountain. He will tell us about this experience and talk about the Brokeback Mountain Community he discovered through an Internet message board. This has led to many new friendships, attendance at several out-of-town in-person get-togethers, and a one-to-one E-mail correspondence with a college student in the process of coming out.

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**VOTE!** November 7<sup>th</sup> can bring positive changes for us and our issues if enough of us vote to make a difference. Please mail in your absentee ballot or get to your polling place.

**PFLAG LIBRARY BOOKS**

Please check your shelves for our chapter's books you may have borrowed. Call Ray at 260-8054 for home pick-up or bring the books to our meeting.

## **GIFTS THAT KEEP GIVING!**

The new (**RED**) brand is being shared by major retailers to benefit the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria. In an article in the New York Times, October 4, 2006, various spokespeople described this brand as a potentially profitable fund-raising model. The Gap, Armani Exchange, Motorola, Converse and American Express are among the companies already on board. Consider their (**RED**) products for gifts this year.

Buy from over 600 stores through **igive.com** and help **PFLAG San Francisco**. Benefit PFLAG, the national organization, when you buy books and other products from **Amazon.com** through the PFLAG website – **www.pflag.org**.

**THANK YOU!**

### **PFLAG In Our Community:**

The **Castro Street Fair** was a success for our PFLAG volunteers – Ray, Shirley, Cole, Joan, Rodd, Ethel and Kenda.- with good conversations and outreach.

**Frameline** sponsored the showing of the documentary “**Boy I Am**” at the Center. Kenda Autumn represented PFLAG at the event attended by many trans organizations.

The **Horizons Foundation Gala** was a very festive evening attended by Sam & Julia Thoron who saw many friends and supporters of PFLAG.

**PFLAG TV** airs every second Sunday at 8:30 on our community cable channel #29. The program on **November 12<sup>th</sup>** will feature **Chris Daley, Director of the Transgender Law Center**. He spoke at one of our chapter support meetings earlier this year.

Check out the **photography exhibit** that will be up at the Center for one month beginning **mid-November**. Look for the all the faces from the community that you know.

### **PFLAG at Gay Lesbian Medical Association:**

**Jody Huckaby** participated on a panel discussing reparative therapy at the 24 annual convention of the GLMA in San Francisco. He was joined by **Dr. Jack Drescher**, chair of American Psychological Association’s Committee on GLB Issues, and **Dr. Kenneth Haller**, a pediatrician and former president of the GLMA Board. The panel was covered by Kevin Davis in the BAR, October 19th.

Jody Huckaby was quoted, “PFLAG needs you to step up and lead the medical voice” to write letters, attend newspaper editorial board meetings, and “help counter the ex-gay movement.”

We know there are ex-gay groups and organizations here in the Bay Area. Local PFLAG chapters can take a strong stand whenever possible to speak out with the scientific community against conversion therapy.

### **LOOK FOR PFLAG.....**

**GSA Network’s Y.E.S. Conference** on Saturday, November 18th at Everett Middle School.

**California School Board Association** at Moscone Center, Nov. 30 & Dec. 1. PFLAG San Francisco will have a booth and talk with school board members, administrators and teachers about GLBT issues in their school communities.

### **WATCH FOR THESE NEW FILMS**

“**In the Name of Allah**” is a the new documentary film on Islam and homosexuality directed by Parvez Sharma. Funds are being raised to edit the film scheduled to premier in early 2007.

<http://www.inthenameofallah.net/sf.html>

“**In God’s House: Asian American Lesbian & Gay Families in the Church**” features interviews with four church-loving and God-loving Christians. It is directed by Kina Hoshino and is in English with Chinese, English, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog or Vietnamese subtitles. DVD available.

<http://gayasianchristians.org>

## **Amity Buxton's review of James McGreevey's book:**

Former **New Jersey Governor James McGreevey** recently spoke at The S.F. Community Center about his memoir, **The Confession**. His account of his actions as a husband and a public figure is not a story that anyone involved can point to with pride. At the same time his struggle and victory against prevailing negativity in his family, society and church makes a powerful tale, one that is true of many other gay persons and it needs to be heard.

Struggling to be authentic and honest, despite these obstacles, is an important message. Yet, it's only part of the story that needs to be heard. Because he was married, not only McGreevey suffered from not being honest, but also his two wives who unknowingly lived with his secret, one that kept them from being as unfulfilled as he. Acting on his feelings during his second marriage, even as his wife was giving birth to their child, was sheer infidelity, behavior that few of us would applaud as a model.

As in all confessions, the telling of his infidelities frees McGreevey of guilt and puts into the public eye all of his betrayals for his wife to hear about again, just as her wounds from his August 2004 disclosure are beginning to heal. Such insensitivity saddens me immensely.

I am also profoundly disappointed that the research and publicity for the book did not include the consequences of his secret actions for his wives and children. I understand why his wife Dina did not want to share her private life with the media, but the TV interviews and newspaper and magazine stories could have sought information about "the straight spouse's side" of the story from other sources. If the public could view McGreevey's confession in a family setting, they might better grasp how both spouses in a marriage struggle when one of them is closeted because of societal negativity against homosexuality as well as same-gender marriage and parenting. Even if a spouse does not act on his or her feelings and comes out with dignity, as is true in many mixed-orientation marriages, everyone gets hurt when a spouse is closeted.

The sad truth is that these marriages will continue and these kinds of hurt will be repeated until gay and lesbian persons can be free to be who they are and love whom they want without closets or lies. If straight spouses' stories were included alongside autobiographies like **The Confession**, those who actively deny gay persons their equal rights might stop and realize that their efforts actually weaken marriage and the family.

**Amity Buxton is the founder of the Straight Spouse Network at [www.sstraightspouse.org](http://www.sstraightspouse.org)**

## **Thanks to ABCNews for the opportunity to be PFLAG Guests:**

How do you think you would feel if your son or daughter said, "Mom, dad -- I'm gay?" Responding both honestly and supportively can be challenging.

Two parents who have been through this, and who are proud of their straight sons and their gay daughter, are **PFLAG President Sam Thoron and his wife, Julia**. They shared their story with with Spencer Christian and Janelle Wang of San Francisco's **The View from the Bay** and provided some helpful insight.

Check the short appearance at [www.abc7news.com](http://www.abc7news.com).

## TIPS FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY

### IF YOU ARE GLBTQQI -

**Planning Ahead....**Don't assume you know how somebody will react to news of your sexual orientation or gender identity—you may be surprised.

Hectic holidays may cause family members to act differently than they would under less stressful conditions.

Remember that “coming out” is a continuous process. You may have to “come out” many times.

Recognize that your parents need time to acknowledge and accept that they have a GLBT child. Let your family's judgements be theirs to work on, as long as they are kind to you.

If it is too difficult to be with your family, create your own holiday gathering with friends and loved ones.

If you are transgender, be gentle with your family's pronoun “slips.” Let them know you understand how difficult it is.

**Before The Visit....**Make a decision about being “out” to each family member before you visit.

If you are partnered, discuss in advance how you will talk about your relationship and show affection, if you visit together.

Make plans in advance about sleeping arrangements. Have alternate plans if the situation becomes difficult at home.

Collect local GLBT resources, connect with PFLAG's local chapter, and other GLBT people.

**During The Visit....**Focus on common interests. Reassure family that you are still the same person they know.

Take care of your partner's needs. Be wary of the possible desire to shock your family.

Remember to affirm yourself. Realize you don't need the family's approval.

### IF YOU ARE A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER

**Planning Ahead....**Contact the nearest PFLAG chapter for support—you are not alone.

Take your time and be honest about feelings. This takes time.

Don't be nervous about using correct language. Ask for help.

Realize the situation may be awkward for you and your GLBT loved one.

**Before The Visit...**Practice how you will discuss your family member or friend's sexual orientation or gender identity. If you are comfortable, others will be also.

Anticipate problems but don't assume reactions will be challenging.

Consult with your GLBT loved one about sleeping arrangements if they bring their partner.

If your family member is transgender, practice using correct pronouns.

**During The Visit....**Treat the GLBT person the same as everyone else. Take interest in the GLBT person's life

Don't ask them to act a certain way. Let them be their natural selves.

Acknowledge the partner the same as you would any other relationship and include them in the family traditions.

Ask the GLBT person about their special friends and community.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!**