



ISSUE VOLUME

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DECEMBER 2012
www.pflag.com
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS & FELICES DIAS FESTIVOS

December is the time for celebrations in many cultures. We will be celebrating the holidays with Mi Familia on **Monday, December 17** from 6:00-8:00 pm at The LGBT Center, 3909 Centre Street in Hillcrest. We are meeting in the main auditorium. They'll be lots of food and fun. We will have our support groups first, followed by the festivities. Please join us.

WANTED: RENEWAL OF YOUR SAN DIEGO PFLAG MEMBERSHIPS

Membership renewal time is here. We would appreciate receiving your memberships as soon as possible. If your renewal is received in December, it is good throughout 2013. Thank you for being part of our continuing effort to provide support, education, and advocacy on behalf of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community and their families. Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide monthly meetings, speakers, support groups, an info line, newsletters, educational brochures, etc.

Your membership is important to us--it enables us to strengthen our presence in the community and to have our voices heard. We also help support National PFLAG by sending \$15 of your dues to them which provides you with membership in the national organization.

We need you; we hope you will take the time now to renew your tax deductible membership or join for the first time. Please complete the application in the newsletter, enclose a check, and mail it to our P.O. Box. You can also bring it to our general meeting on December 17 and give it to one of our officers. Being that it's the holiday season, you can give a membership as a gift. Additional applications are available at www.pflag.com or contact Bobbi Harwood at bharwood@pflag.com.

We especially want to thank those who have joined as Lifetime Members. We encourage others to do the same. Additional donations are always appreciated.

One last thing to remember: ***When you no longer need PFLAG, PFLAG needs you!!***

HURRY UP AND WAIT

Note: this update is the latest that was available when the newsletter "went to press."

It seems November 30 couldn't get here fast enough, for that was the day the U.S. Supreme Court was to decide whether or not they would take the case on whether to get involved in the constitutionality of Proposition 8. Review: 2008 California ballot measure that defined marriage between one man and one woman.

After all that waiting, the nine justices did not decide which cases they were considering.

In addition to Prop 8, they will also decide

if they are tackling the constitutionality of DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act, the federal law defining marriage as between a man and a woman).

There are several ways the Supreme Court's decision could go concerning both cases:

First, they could take up the case on its merits and separately from the DOMA cases. Since the Ninth Circuit narrowed Judge Vaughn Walker's decision considerably, it could be decided with limited scope by the high court, applying only to California without taking up the question of whether marriage is a fundamental right and should be

available across the country

Second, they can choose not to take it and the last court's decision (the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals) would stand, making Prop. 8 unconstitutional and same-sex marriages in California could commenced almost immediately.

Third, the justices could dodge the issue altogether by saying proponents of Prop 8 lacked legal standing to challenge the ruling in the first place (i.e., the Yes on 8 people) and the result would also go back to the ruling from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and gay couples could finally be on their way to "happily ever after."

BREAKING NEWS!! U.S. Supreme Court to Take-Up DOMA, Prop 8

The high court will hear DOMA and Prop 8 arguments in the last week of March and issue rulings before its term ends in late June. We'll keep you posted as the story develops.

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PFLAG San Diego
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San Diego, CA 92138
Tax ID #33-0512868



Membership Application

- New Renewal Change of Address
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Membership forms available at www.pflag.com



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Robert Sachristan **CreativeWorks**
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Current Events

**December 17
Monday**
San Diego PFLAG
General Meeting &
Support Groups with
Mi Familia at The Center
(see article)

**January 7
Monday**
PFLAG Support Group
North County Coastal

**January 7
Monday**
Mi Familia Support Group

**January 10
Thursday**
PFLAG Support Group
North County Inland

**January 14
Monday**
PFLAG Support Group
East County

**January 14
Monday**
Mi Familia Support Group

**January 21
Monday**
Mi Familia Support Group

SUPPORT GROUPS

SD COUNTY GENERAL MEETING & SUPPORT GROUP

Meets every fourth Monday at 7:00 pm, at the First United Methodist Church, 2231 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley.

For further information, contact the Info Line: 888-398-0006 or www.pflag.com

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

Meets the first Monday, at 7:00 pm, North County LGBTQ Resource Center, 510 North Coast Highway, Suite C, Oceanside.

Contact ncpflag@gmail.com or Larry Gerling, (760) 224-2178.

NORTH COUNTY INLAND

Meets every second Thursday, at 7:00 pm, Temple Adat Shalom, 15905 Pomerado Road, Room #9, Poway (Rancho Bernardo). The entrance to parking is directly across the street from the entrance to Sprouts' Market Center. Drive to the end of the building and bear right around it, to the first doors on your right (double doors).

Contact Sue Fine, (858) 673-4560 or pflag4sdnocnty@san.rr.com.

EAST COUNTY

Meets every second Monday, at 7:00 pm, Summit Unitarian Universalist Church, 8778 Cottonwood Avenue, Santee.

Contact Ron Goetz, (619) 588-2342 or whytestonne@hotmail.com.

MI FAMILIA (Spanish)

Meetings are every Monday from 6:00pm - 8:00 pm at The Center.

Contact Carolina, (619) 692-2077 Ext. 116.

TRANSGENDER SUPPORT

For more information on the Transgender Support Group

Contact Kathe Dunn, ftm_mom@yahoo.com.

National PFLAG, Washington, DC
(202) 647-8180, www.pflag.org

MISSION STATEMENT

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender 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 provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

LOOK LIKE A BIG FISH

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It's time to get aggressive.



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Greater San Diego Business Association - The Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

RED KETTLE: THINK TWICE

Of course, PFLAG would never suggest where you should or shouldn't donate money. However, we are disseminating important information, as many people are not aware that some of the money donated to The Salvation Army is used to further their anti-gay agenda (*ex: they actively lobby against pro-gay policies*).

While the web site in the U.S. doesn't mention anything about gays or lesbians, this was taken from The Salvation Army web site in Australia a few years back:

"[Homosexual activity is] as rebellion against God's plan for the created order.... Homosexual practice, however, is, in the light of Scripture, clearly unacceptable. Such activity is chosen behaviour and is thus a matter of the will. It is therefore able to be directed or restrained in the same way heterosexual urges are controlled. Homosexual practice would render any person ineligible for full membership (soldiership) in the [Salvation] Army."

Their mission: The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

Instead of money, please consider dropping this voucher in the kettle. >>

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STEP RIGHT UP

We are very fortunate that members of Raytheon GLBTA have provided a STEM scholarship for the second year. This year, the members were able to raise \$1500 for the scholarship. Applicants were chosen for their interest in the STEM areas (science, technology, engineering or math).

This year's recipient, Olivia Ottone, graduated from Carlsbad High School and cited her greatest achievement this year being accepted to her top college choice-- Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. Olivia's goal is to become a Chemical Engineer. The scholarship committee was impressed with Olivia's ability to connect her chemical engineering with human rights' issues. Also impressive was her high academic average; her involvement at school, where she is has served as the team captain of the girls' basketball team for the past 2 years; her service—she has attempted to change negative attitudes towards math and science while tutoring middle and high school students; her involvement in the GSA at Carlsbad High. She loves basketball and defines herself as “a complete and utter geek.”

“To be LGBT is to be human. The term merely classifies people by way of two human characteristics: gender and love. Those who oppress us have lost sight of love. For unjustifiable reasons, identifying as LGBT continues to be reason enough to refuse us work, to discriminate in the classroom, to bully, to call our love something lesser, to ignore our existence – to hate. It seems the only way around this hate is through education, which opens the door for legislation.

If nothing else, the Civil Rights Movement of the '60's taught us the best way to defeat our oppressor is to confront him person to person. As advocates for human rights pertaining to LGBTs, we face the challenge of changing the way our



Members of Raytheon GLBTA EWC* look on as Kim Martinez, current President, presents the scholarship to Olivia. L to R: Olivia Ottone; Kim Martinez; Diane Ellis, EWC CFO; Bruce Baumann, past president EWC; Lou Anne Peltier, EWC member. * Expeditionary Warfare Center

nation thinks. Shifting the national mindset begins with educating the people around us. One of the greatest ways oppression operates is through dehumanization. When people convince themselves they are combating a thing, in this case the LGBT community, instead of a person, they can easily justify their hate. The more we demonstrate to these people a boy with two mothers has a loving family, just like the girl with a mother and father, or that two men in love with each other feel the same passion and emotion a “normal,” heterosexual couple does, the harder it becomes to call us different and validate denying our human rights. Educating the population paves the way for successful legislation to guarantee LGBTs their equality by generating public approval.

Receiving this scholarship helps fund an education I might not otherwise be able to afford. Going away to college allows me to impact another region of the country, introducing me to new people and ideals. As a growing field, chemical engineering provides a similar opportunity, but from a respectable position in the workforce. Power exists in knowledge, and by completing a higher level of education and becoming an engineer, I gain intellectual credibility, thus strengthening my ability to articulate to others what I know to be true.”



VOUCHER



This holiday season I am supporting organizations that do not discriminate in any way against people based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other reason.

I will NOT donate to the Salvation Army, and will instead give to other charities, until the Salvation Army stops discriminating against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community in hiring, firing and promotion, and in the provision of benefits.

"George Hood, a senior official with the Salvation Army, said the group never discriminates in delivering its services, but on the question of hiring gay employees, 'it really begins to chew away at the theological fabric of who we are.'"
- Washington Post, 7/10/2001

PFLAG YEAR 2012 IN REVIEW

PFLAG's mission is to promote the health and well being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy.

Monthly General Meetings

The San Diego Chapter of PFLAG held monthly general meetings at the First United Methodist Church of San Diego, 2231 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley. Each meeting features a program, support groups, and time for socializing over refreshments. We also maintain a library of helpful books and DVDs to loan out.

Satellites

We have three satellite support groups that also meet monthly throughout San Diego County: North County Coastal in Oceanside, North County Inland in Rancho Bernardo, and East County in Santee. We also support a Spanish speaking group, Mi Familia, who meet weekly at The Center.

Programs

Guest Speakers from Stonewall Patrol: We learned how this volunteer neighborhood watch works in the communities of Hillcrest, North Park and University Heights.

Guest Speaker Marcie Denberg-Serra: Marcie is the Assistant Director of the Anti-Defamation League of San Diego. They work to secure justice and fair treatment to all citizens.

Guest Speaker Captain Matthew Phelps: When the "Don't ask, don't tell" ban was lifted, Captain Phelps, from the U.S. Marine Corps, took his gloves off, but in a nice way!

15th Annual Scholarship Awards: Our chapter presented seven scholarships ranging from \$1000-2000: the Mary Wagner Memorial Scholarship, John Bessemer Memorial Scholarship, Rob Benzoin Memorial Scholarship, Stephen Bowersox Memorial Scholarship, John McCusker Memorial Foundation Scholarship Fund at the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation, Raytheon STEM Scholarship, the Richard Geysler Memorial Ethics Scholarship, and two \$500 "We believe in You" scholarships.

Guest Speaker Jo Eager: Jo's article, "What I Gained When I Lost my Daughter" was published in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: The Magic of Mothers and Daughters* which details her experience with her transgender child.

Guest Speaker Dr. Orlando Espin: We all became enlightened after Dr. Espin's presentation on the consequences Latino Catholics face from a social and religious point of view.

Guest Speakers Scott and Les GrantSmith: The GrantSmiths shared their unique experience of being married 25 years and the process of Les's transition from female to male. We were delighted that their daughter also shared her perspective.

Annual Summer Pot Luck. All in attendance made sure no one went home hungry. Members provided an assortment from "soup to nuts."

Guest Speakers – Clergy Panel: We learned a thing or 10 about the LGBT perspective of Rabbi Shai Cherry, Reverend Mary Sue Brookshire, Pastor Dee Kelly and Reverend Nancy Corran.

Guest Speaker Nikki Eddy: PFLAG Board Member Nikki Eddy represented GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network) to update us on GLSEN's latest activities in schools and the community.

Guest Speaker Patti Rusk: Patti's husband of 27 years, came out to her as gay in 1997. She conveyed her internal struggle and shared information about The Straight Spouse Network.

Board Activities

We meet monthly at The Center to plan programs, scholarships, and other activities. All members are welcome to attend these meetings. We have four new board members: Ron Goetz, Nikki Eddy, Courtney Ware and Beverly Lavalley. Although no longer on the Board, Betsy Sheets is still acting as our corresponding secretary.

Yearly activities also include a board retreat at the beginning of the new year for self assessment purposes, to deepen our relationships, and start planning for the coming year. In addition, the Board was represented at the PFLAG Southern Pacific Regional Conference in Los Angeles.

DAWN OF A NEW DAY FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Morgan Freeman has always been a friend of the LGBT community. He narrated a TV spot in support of that friendship which has been released by the Human Rights Campaign and is already airing.

"America stands at the dawn of a new day. Freedom, justice and human dignity have always guided our journey toward a more perfect union. Now, across our country, we are standing together for the right of gay and lesbian Americans to marry the person they love. And with historic victories for marriage, we've delivered a mandate for full equality. The wind is at our back, but our journey has just begun."

Not part of the TV announcement is a continuation of his thoughts:

"As we continue the march toward full equality in legislatures and the courts, it is crystal clear that the prospect of an equal future is no longer up for debate; the question now is how soon it will arrive. While we celebrate today, we will keep fighting until full equality has reached every single person in every corner of this vast country."



Community Education

We have a Speakers' Bureau that is available to colleges, high schools, and community groups. It is our main way of fulfilling our education mission. We are all proud of our enthusiastic cadre of speakers who volunteer month after month and year after year to enlighten the public about our LGBTQI sons and daughters. The Speakers' Bureau is made up primarily of parents of LGBT children who are willing to share their stories. This has led to many a change of heart and opening of minds. Our presentations included: 13 Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) in area high schools, Athletes and Coaches Against Bullying event, LGBT Center youth events in SD and Oceanside, Raytheon Company, Southwestern College, Palomar College Diversity Day, Imperial Valley Safe Schools & Equal Access to Education Summit, Metropolitan Community Church, City College, Mesa College, CESCAL (The Center for Excellence in School Counseling and Leadership) Conference, SDSU, USD.

Community Events

PFLAG-San Diego is an active and respected member of the LGBT community. We participate in fundraisers, staff booths at local events to raise LGBT awareness, and other community activities to support other organizations that advocate for the rights or meet the needs of our LGBT families and friends. We increase awareness of PFLAG when we attend these events. We are also involved in the larger organization of PFLAG at both the regional and national levels. Our local activities this past year:

- Received funding from the Combined Federal Campaign
- Marched in the San Diego Gay Pride Parade
- Presented nine scholarships to local residents
- Sponsored PFLAG booths at San Diego Gay Pride, Pride @ the Beach!, CESCAL, Santee Street Fair, Youth Empowerment Seminar, GSA Awards Ceremonies in San Diego and San Marcos, Hillcrest Youth Center Picnic, Oceanside LGBTQ Youth picnic at the beach, Palomar College's LGBTQ Awareness Event, and Home for the Holidays/The Center
- Attended the dedication unveiling of Harvey Milk Street
- Hosted a reception at the Diversionary Theatre
- Attended the Transgender Day of Remembrance ceremony
- Represented on the GLSEN Board (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network)
- Attended the GLSEN fundraiser at The Big Kitchen
- Represented on the Community Leadership Council Board (The Center)
- Attended the Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast
- Participated in the nationwide fundraiser: Cultivating Respect: Safe Schools for All
- Attended the International Day Against Homophobia in conjunction with St. Paul's Cathedral (panel discussion/documentary)
- Was honored at the Diversionary Theatre for our visibility in the community
- Attended Heartbeat Alliance (African refugee meeting)
- Active in South Bay Alliance
- Attended the Frida Kahlo Birthday event at The Center
- Joined in monthly conference calls with other PFLAG chapters in the Southern California Region
- Volunteered at Mama's Kitchen with meal preparation and delivery
- Attended/supported the Gay Men's Chorus concerts
- Participated in North County LGBT Resource Center's fundraising Gala
- Attended the acclaimed play "8"

- Board member participation at Camp Aranu'tiq, a camp for transgender youth
- Attended "Scouts for Equality" where Zach Wahls discussed his book, *My Two Moms*
- Attended "Out in the Park"
- Had our Letters to the Editor published in the San Diego Union-Tribune in defense of the LGBT community
- Attended the Matthew Shepard Candlelight Walk
- Participated in National Coming Out Day at City College
- Applied for and received a grant from San Diego LGBT Pride
- Attended Equality California Awards Gala
- Published our monthly newsletter

Contributions

- Funded the John Bessemer Memorial Scholarship
- Participated and raised money for the AIDS Walk, keeping our coveted sneaker sign!
- The Center's Dining Out for Life which raises money for AIDS/HIV prevention and research
- Participated in Mama's Kitchen Pie in the Sky fundraiser
- Co-sponsored a movie at the Asian Film Festival
- Donated money to TransNation for a transgender flag

Communications

We operate a telephone information line and respond to e-mail inquiries. Our former web master, Rob Sachristan, updated our web site and it looks great (www.pflag.com). Of course, we would be in a pickle without the talents of Jessy Sauchuk from Belladia Marketing & Design, who does the newsletter layout. Our newsletter is primarily sent by email to help the environment. We also have 418 followers on Twitter, 836 friends on Facebook, and blog a minimum of once a week (our master twitterer and blogger is co-president Patti Boman).

ONE CORPORATION AT A TIME

To their credit, Intel was the first corporation to disassociate themselves from the Boy Scouts of America (and they took their money [\$700,000] with them). After some pressure, UPS was next to withdrawal their funding of the BSA (\$167,000). Both corporations did so after online petitions (thanks to activist and author Zach Wahls, *My Two Moms*) were sent asking for them to withdrawal their financial support due to the BSA's discriminatory policy of banning gay, lesbian, and atheist youth from their organization. The ban also includes gay and lesbian adults from becoming actively involved with the BSA. If a lesbian mom has a straight son, the Scouts believe that it's too bad; the son can't join. It seems that the BSA goes against their own oath and law by their discriminatory actions.

"I digress." The next target is Verizon. As with UPS, they have a 100% approval rating from the Human Rights Campaign. Zach is just getting started with this online petition. Verizon

has awarded over \$315,000 in grants to the BSA. To sign the petition (and we know they work), please go to: <http://www.change.org/petitions/verizon-pull-your-donations-until-the-boy-scouts-pull-their-anti-gay-policy>

These petitions are more effect than most because corporations care so much about their brand and image. They are very sensitive to their online reputation in places like Facebook since so many people see it.

Certainly, Zach will continue to petition all the major corporate donors to the BSA in order to get the BSA to reverse their anti-LGBT discrimination. If they are not stopped, we will have a new generation of homophobes. This is ironic since some BSA leadership is accused of molesting boys in their care for decades. We are just to the tip of the iceberg stage.

Hopefully, we will be writing about Verizon as a success story and we will be anxiously waiting to hear of Zach's next target.



THANK YOU



A big thank you to our former web master, Rob Sachristan. The volunteer hours over the last four years that he dedicated to PFLAG were countless. We deeply appreciate all the time and effort on our behalf.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR EXTRA HELP

Contributing Members

Ashish Agrawal & Bryan Wildenthal
Eva Stjernfeldt

Supporting Member

Jeanette Velgos

General Fund Donations

Ashish Agrawal & Bryan Wildenthal
Anna Curren
Cabiria Lizarraga

Providing Refreshments for Our Meeting

Kim Martinez
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