



THE G AND L INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Please join us for our General Meeting on **Monday, August 26** at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 2111 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley. The building where we meet is The United Methodist Center, in The Cove Room. Doors open at 6:45 pm.

We are fortunate to have Patti Boman, PFLAG co-president, Dr. Orlando Espin, and Ricardo Gallegos, who attended the International Association of Sexually Diverse Families in Lima, Peru. Their experience at this three

day convention consisted of panel discussions and workshops, and culminated with representatives from countries all over the world marching in Lima's Gay Pride parade. They will share the cultural differences in treating gays and lesbians there to the U.S.

Please join us for our support groups, then our cookie social, followed by the presentation.



PLEASE SIGN UP FOR THE AIDS WALK

Come one, come all to the 24th Annual *AIDS Walk San Diego* on **Sunday, September 29**. This event is San Diego's largest one-day HIV/AIDS fundraiser and the biggest non-governmental financial provider for HIV/AIDS in San Diego County. Dozens of agencies - serving thousands of clients - rely on funds raised at the annual Walk to help provide essential prevention and care programs to thousands of men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS.

The 5K Walk is held in Balboa Park at Quince and 6th Avenue starting at 8:00 am. The registration fee



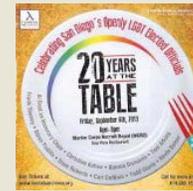
is \$35 (\$25 for 17 & under). If we have 10 or more walkers registered by **September 20**, we will qualify as Team PFLAG and be able to walk with the prestigious sneaker sign with our PFLAG name on it. Let's make it happen.

To register, go to www.AIDSwalksd.org and select Register at the top of the page, then Join an Existing Team. Either enter *PFLAG San Diego* or *Search for a Team* and find *PFLAG San Diego*. Click on the *Join* button and follow the instructions.

Even if you can't walk with us, please register so we can meet our 10 person and financial goals (\$1000).

If you don't have internet, call 619-692-2077 x 247 (Ian Johnson) to participate. For questions, please contact Sherry Cohen-Richards, 858-349-6269 or scohenrichards@pflag.com.

20 YEARS AT THE TABLE



That is the theme of this year's Lambda Archives 6th annual "Heroes, Pioneers, and Trailblazers" Fundraiser and

Awards Event. Join Lambda Archives on **Friday, September 6** from 6:00-9:00 pm at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, as they honor San Diego's LGBT elected officials: Christine Kehoe, Bonnie Dumanis, Toni Atkins, Todd Gloria, Steve Padilla, Frank Tierney, Carol DeMaio, Kevin Beiser, and Dave Roberts.

Lambda Archives of San Diego are dedicated to collecting, preserving, and teaching the history of LGBT people in the San Diego and Northern Baja California region.

For ticket information, visit www.lambdaarchives.org.

QUEER QUEENS OF QOMEDY ARE BACK

Anyone who missed Poppy Champlin and her troupe of lesbian comedians the last time they were in San Diego, now have an opportunity to see them on **Saturday, September 7** at 8:00 pm at the Birch North Park Theatre. This group has been on Showtime, HBO, Oprah and Comedy Central to name a few venues. For ticket information, go to www.birchnorthparktheatre.net or call 619-239-8836. Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$40 VIP, which includes a meet and greet and the best seats.

RUSSIA AND THE 2014 OLYMPICS

Russian lawmakers have found themselves under increasing pressure over the nation's new anti-gay law, signed by President Vladimir Putin in June, 2013. With the Olympics coming to Sochi in February, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and NBC -- which holds broadcast rights to the games -- have fielded calls from gay rights activists to take a stand. Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Kozak made assurances that foreign citizens in the country for the Olympics would not be subject to the law, under which they could be jailed for 15 days and then deported for "propagandizing" homosexuality, including public displays of affection by same-sex couples. IOC spokesperson Mark Adams said, "We rest with comments made directly to us by deputy PM Kozak."

On the flip side of that, Russia's Sports Minister countered Kozak's statements. "An athlete of nontraditional sexual orientation isn't banned from coming to Sochi," said Vitaly Mutko. "But if he goes out into the streets and starts to propagandize, then of course he will be held accountable." As if the word "nontraditional" isn't bad enough,

his version of propagandizing would consist of any public display of affection (even holding hands), wearing rainbow colored anything, etc. A spokesperson from Russia's Interior Ministry backed up the sports minister.

Human Rights Watch is trying to pressure IOC President Jacques Rogge to stand up for the Olympic charter's commitment to promoting human dignity and insist that the Russian government immediately takes steps to repeal the law and, in the meantime, refrains from implementing it. Ideally, the Human Rights Watch would like to move the games from Russia to a place that is more accepting of all athletes.

The IOC can give assurances until the cows come home, but the bottom line is that LGBT people are not welcome or safe in Russia. These assurances will not stop some Russian thug in a bar from kidnapping, beating and potentially murdering someone he perceives as gay.

The *Gay Star News* asked if the IOC would provide a safe space -- or Pride House -- for LGBT athletes, spectators, dignitaries and

others during the Games as they did at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. The IOC's spokesperson acknowledged there is a rule that has allowed that in the past; however, the IOC didn't feel there was a need to apply that for the 2014 Olympics. Instead of standing up for the LGBT athletes, the IOC is essentially siding with Russia and issuing a warning to lesbian and gay athletes to "behave" rather than giving them a safe haven. LGBT athletes will constantly have to look over their shoulders as they compete for Olympic gold.

THANK YOU

We had extra special treats for our July 22nd meeting. Kim Martinez brought lots and lots of pizzas as a special thank you to our student speakers from Castle Park High School GSA. We also had home-made brownies thanks to Ina Price and Sandi Timberlake.

SCHOOL SUCCESS AND OPPORTUNITY ACT PASSED

Governor Jerry Brown signed this historic Act into law, ensuring transgender youth have the opportunity to fully participate and succeed in schools across the state!

This law is the first of its kind in the country, and requires that California public schools respect students' gender identity and makes sure that students can fully participate in

all school activities, sports teams, programs and facilities that match their gender identity.

Governor Brown is commended for standing up for transgender equality, as are the elected officials, advocates and transgender youth who have demonstrated inspirational leadership to ensure this bill's passage.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

August 26, September 9, 16
Mi Familia Support Group
Carolina: 619-692-2077, ext. 116

September 9:
North County Coastal Support Group
Larry: 760-224-2178

September 9:
East County Support Group
Ron: 619-588-2342

September 12: North County Inland Support Group
Karen: 858-842-7005