



THE NEWSLETTER

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LGBT HISTORY 101: THE LIVING MOVEMENT

Please join us for our general meeting on **Monday, November 23** at 7:00 pm at Jewish Family Service, 8788 Balboa Avenue, San Diego. **PLEASE NOTE, WE MEET ON THE THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH, NOT NOVEMBER 30. ALSO NOTE, WITH THE CONSTRUCTION, THE DRIVEWAY MAY BE DIFFICULT TO FIND AT NIGHT. LOOK FOR THE PFLAG SIGN.**



Our guest speaker is Fernando Lopez, Jr. who is the Director of Operations at San Diego LGBT Pride. To get us all in the spirit, he will have a fun introduction to LGBT History 101. From athletes to artists, poignant moments of our past to pop culture and policy changes, there is much to explore the ever-evolving landscape of the LGBT movement.

Please join us for our support groups, then our cookie social, followed by Fernando's presentation.



TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Friday, November 20 is San Diego's 13th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance. Beginning at 6:00 pm, there will be a candlelight vigil and march starting at the LGBT Center, 3909 Centre Street in Hillcrest. At 7:00 pm, there will be a program in The Center's auditorium. Please join the PFLAG family for this solemn and important occasion.

Also on **November 20** is the 6th Annual North County Transgender Day of Remembrance. The memorial ceremony will be held at 7:30 pm in the Community Room of the Oceanside Library, 330 North Coast Highway in Oceanside.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed for being transgender or perceived to be transgender or for being gender variant in any way.

DON'T MISS NIGHT OF THE RISING STAR CONCERT

Our PFLAG scholarship program is off to a blazing start with a benefit concert to raise money for the program (with a huge thanks to the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation for orchestrating the concert). The concerts are **Saturday, December 12 at 7:30 pm** and **Sunday, December 13 at 5:00 pm**. The concert features five of San Diego's most amazing young "stars," ranging in age from 6-33 who are formally trained professionals or semi-professionals. The vocalists are backed by a live, professional band and background singers. This show promises a trip "over the moon" and back! The performers are: Bella Robert, Cameron Chang, Madeline Hernandez, Ryan Detriech, and Peter Armado.

The show is produced by Dame Ethel Productions who exclusively produces non-profit, fundraising events; 100% of each show's proceeds plus proceeds from advertising and vending will be donated to the PFLAG Scholarship Fund after intermission of each show.

The performances are at the T-Lounge, 1475 University Ave (Hillcrest), San Diego. General admission is \$25 with reserved seating in theatre-style, and VIP is \$35, which

(Continued on page 2)

WE ARE THE CHANGE

The theme of the 2015 PFLAG National Convention certainly applies to our members, Terrie Vorono and Annette Ottone. They represented PFLAG San Diego County at the convention in Nashville in October. They benefitted from this very well organized weekend including a community service kick-off event feeding the homeless and hungry and their pets; networking opportunities; plenary sessions led by authors, faith leaders, and PFLAG National Board Members. It was difficult for them to choose only five out of 50 helpful sessions.

Also attending the convention was Monica Nunez Cham from Mi Familia. Not only is Monica the contact person for Mi familia, but also for "Transforming Family," a support group for parents of Trans* children whose first language is Spanish. Monica played an important role at the convention by encouraging leaders to develop programs to fit the needs of their local Spanish speaking or Latino communities.



Faces of PFLAG Leadership: *Terrie Vorono, PFLAG San Diego County President; Jean Hodges, President of the PFLAG National Board of Directors; Annette Ottone, North County Coastal Representative*



An Exchange of Mutual Thanks: *Jody Huckaby, Executive Director of PFLAG National with Annette Ottone.*

OFFICERS, COMMITTEES & VOLUNTEERS

President

Terrie Vorono
619-997-6139
tvorono@pflag.com

Past Co-President

Patti Boman
pboman@pflag.com

Vice-President

Sherry Cohen-Richards
858-349-6269
scohenrichards@pflag.com

Recording Secretary

Linda Espinoza
lespinoza@pflag.com

Treasurer

JoyLynn Murray
760-525-8256
jlmurray@pflag.com

Greeter

Lonnie Brunini
lbrunini@pflag.com

Membership

Bobbi Harwood
858-453-3249
bharwood@pflag.com

Info Line

Support/Outreach
888-398-0006

PFLAG San Diego
PO Box 82762
San Diego, CA 92138

Tax ID #33-0512868

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

Newsletter

Sherry Cohen-Richards,
Editor

Linda Bessemer, Laura
Partido & Pacific Imaging

Jessy Sauchuk, Belladia
Marketing & Design

Programs

The Board

Scholarship

Hillary Flocke
hillary.flocke@gmail.com

Spanish Interpreter

Patti Boman
619-227-6092

Speakers Bureau

Transgender

Coordinator
Courtney Ware
cware@pflag.com

Refreshments

Ina Price

Website

Lisa Smith, Belladia
Marketing & Design

Board Members

Sherry Cohen-Richards,
Linda Gohlke, Sue
Johnson, JoyLynn Murray,
Ina Price, Terrie Vorono

LOTS OF DECEMBER DOINGS!



December 1 (Tuesday): World AIDS Day. Please join Mama's Kitchen at Village Hillcrest for the 24th Annual Tree of Life Ceremony, commemorating those affected by AIDS, as well as the ongoing leadership efforts made to end the epidemic. It will take place at 6:00 pm at the Village Hillcrest Retail Center, 3965 Fifth Avenue in Hillcrest. If you would like to purchase personalized ornaments for the Tree of Life (\$15 for one or \$25 for two), contact www.mamaskitchen.org or call 619-233-6262. All proceeds benefit Mama's Kitchen. As a special treat, the San Diego Gay Men's chorus will be performing.

December 5 (Saturday): "Come Home for the Holidays" is The Center's annual multicultural holiday party. Located at The Center, 3909 Centre Street in Hillcrest, it will take place between 5-8:00 pm. This event brings our community together to dance, eat and celebrate our diverse holiday traditions with "family" away from home. More than 20 community organizations (PFLAG SDC is one of them) will come together to put on a holiday celebration for the entire San Diego LGBT community and allies. The event is free, but guests are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to support the Imperial Court de San Diego's annual toy drive.

December 6 (Sunday) & December 11 (Friday): The San Diego Women's Chorus will present their 28th annual holiday/winter concert, "Love is" at the Creative Performing and Media Arts Middle School in Clairemont. The performance on the 6th is at 4:00 pm and the one on the 11th is at 7:00 pm. "Love is" celebrates all types of love - family, romantic, love for friends and community, and the love of life itself. For tix: sdwc.ticketleap.com/loveis/dates.

December 12 (Saturday) & December 13 (Sunday): The San Diego Gay Men's Chorus will present their holiday concert, "jingle" at the Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue, in downtown San Diego. The show on Saturday begins at 8:00 pm and the one on Sunday at 3:00 pm. To purchase tickets, go to sandiegoteatres.org/jingle.

DON'T MISS... (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

includes no waiting in line, pre-show reception with performers/show producers/sponsors and prime "table" seating. Tickets can be purchased at RisingStarsShine.eventbrite.com or 619-279-1620. Tickets may also be purchased at the Human Dignity Foundation.

And speaking of scholarships, the Scholarship Committee is looking for two people to join the committee. These volunteers would be responsible for social media and community outreach to advertise the scholarships to high schools, community colleges, and universities in San Diego County. The Scholarship Committee meets once a month for one hour and there are additional commitments as the scholarship deadline draws near (mid-March) - reviewing the applications, meeting as a group to select winners, and attending the fundraiser and award ceremony: Launching Leaders Luncheon (LLL). If interested, please contact scholarship chair, Hillary Flocke: hillary.flocke@gmail.com.

TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIPS

Paying your membership dues now means you are a member for all of 2016. Part of the mission for PFLAG is to promote the health and well-being of LGBT persons, their families and friends. We are only able to offer this support, education, and advocacy through your generosity of being a member.

You can renew (or become members) online, www.pflag.com (we accept PayPal) or at the General Meeting. Of course, we will gladly accept donations any time for any reason! With the holidays coming up, a membership would make an ideal gift.

NEXT ON THE HIT PARADE



The recipient of the **John McCusker Memorial Scholarship at the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation** is **Francine “Bianca” Oca**. Established by the family and friends of John McCusker, a community leader, business owner, and San Diego Human Dignity Foundation board vice president, the Foundation has continued to fund this scholarship.

Besides academically excelling (4.23 GPA), “she approaches each new day and task with genuine optimism and enthusiasm as evidenced by the way she greets classmates, teachers, and all responsibilities with a smile and ‘can do’ attitude. She is someone who is always there for people in need, and treats everyone—stranger or old friend, ally or antagonist—with dignity and respect.” Bianca is a freshman at UCSD majoring in biochemistry and cell biology with plans to become a nephrologist.

“Some people think that being gay is a choice people make. Like I chose to carry this huge weight around with me ever since second grade. In reality, being gay is a feeling that is just as normal as being straight. It’s a feeling you can’t shake, it’s a part of you, the whole part of you.

The only choice I made for nearly ten years after realizing I was gay was to hide in the closet and suffer through the stress and anxiety that comes along with such a decision. I agonized over whether I should tell my friends. I shed tears for asking myself if I was normal for loving another girl. I struggled, and I endured, because of who I am a lesbian, and I still wouldn’t trade who I am for anyone else in the world.

I am one of the two lead organizers planning the first ever San Diego High School LGBT Pride. This project consumes nearly all of my ‘free’ time, but I wouldn’t have it any other way. Students who are LGBT like me face a difficult road, especially students from the large public schools in our area, and I am determined to make SDHS Pride an event that celebrates and emboldens LGBT youth in our community so they feel less likely to want to hurt themselves and more likely to love themselves.

WELCOME API PFLAG GROUP

PFLAG San Diego County is pleased to welcome our newest addition to the family: Asian/Pacific Islander PFLAG Support Group. Our new support group shares the vision and mission of PFLAG National in promoting the health and well-being of LGBTQ individuals, their families, and friends through: support, education, and advocacy.

Unique to our API meeting is that we address the culture-specific needs of the Asian-American, Pacific-Islander, East Asian, and South Asian people.

2nd Tues of the month | 6-8pm | Mission Bay Area
Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ | 2550 Fairfield Street, San Diego

The first steps on this project were difficult since this was my first time organizing an ambitious event. But things started to fall into place when I made a decision to seek expertise from the experts themselves. I landed a meeting with Fernando Lopez, the Public Affairs Director of the well-known San Diego Pride. San Diego Pride first hosted a gay pride event in June of 1974. A 400 person march quickly turned into a 200,000 person march as San Diego Pride developed and progressed.

Before meeting with Fernando, my SDHS Pride partner and I didn’t have a clear vision of the outcome, where the event would take place, what would happen, who would be there, etc. During the meeting, Fernando brought up specific points that my partner and I hadn’t even thought about such as having security, whether to have an entrance fee, and much more. He also said he was willing to publicize our event on San Diego Pride’s Facebook. This was a big deal not only because I got to meet one of the four organizers that host an event for over 200,000 people annually, but because I felt like we found a path towards fulfilling the purpose for our HS Pride Event.

We’ve made a ton of progress since meeting with Fernando. We’ve met with other organizers of San Diego Pride and brought several additional mentors on board to help us make SDHS Pride a reality. We’ve also developed a team of high school students to help us plan and staff our event. These students are GSA presidents from around the county, and meeting (and befriending) them has been eye opening. I remember meeting with the GSA president from Olympian High School, who got emotional as she talked about students and even teachers harassing her and bullying her because she’s gay. The other GSA presidents had equally haunting stories about how hard it is to be ‘out’ (to be themselves!) at their schools and in our community.

I am so proud to be one of the two lead organizers and founders of the event. I never would have imagined myself stepping up to the plate and taking on such an enormous task, but this task is more than an event, it’s a celebration of people fighting a battle to exist and to thrive while being gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual, or queer.”

Our vision is to promote inter-generational and inter-ethnic dialogue among our Asian, Asian-American, Pacific-Islander, Southeast Asian, and South Asian parents, families, and their lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender children, family members, and friends. Ongoing conversations in safe spaces will make our voices ever stronger as we know love prevails.

For information: sandiegoapiflag@gmail.com.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Nov 16, Dec 21:
 Mi Familia Support Group
 Patti: 619-227-6092

Nov 19, Dec 17:
 North County Inland
 Kathie: 858-382-9156

Dec 7:
 North County Coastal
 Annette: 760-518-3345

Dec 8:
 Asian/Pacific Islander
 sandiegoapipflag@gmail.com

Dec 14:
 East County Support Grp
 Bob: 619-334-8214

Luan D. Andrews, M.A.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST
 MFC 19321

3252 HOLIDAY COURT • SUITE 106 • LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92037-1807
 (858) 552-8181 FAX (858) 552-0205

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