



# THE NEWSLETTER

January 2016

ISSUE 1

VOLUME 23



## PERSONAL STORIES

Please join us for our general meeting on **Monday, January 25** at 7:00 pm at Jewish Family Service, 8788 Balboa Ave, San Diego.

Our speaker, Charles Chan Massey, co-founded The Personal Stories Project in 2013. Personal stories are the most powerful tool we have to erase fear, give hope, and unite people. The Personal Stories Project is a social media based organization that promotes activism, advocacy and support for the LGBT community and our allies through the sharing of personal stories. Their mission is to provide a forum where members of the LGBT community and allies can share their stories with others who may be experiencing the same things they are, the overall goal being to engage people and change hearts and minds towards advocacy and activism.



Welcome to Charles, who will be sharing portions of his story, particularly what led him to co-found The Personal Stories Project.

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



## RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL!

Thank you to those members who have renewed their membership for 2016. If you have not, please do! We have a long way to go. Dues are used to provide support, education, and advocacy on behalf of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community and their families. They enable us to provide monthly meetings, an info line, newsletters, educational brochures, etc.

Your membership is important to us as it strengthens our presence in the community and gives us many opportunities 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. Please don't renew directly with National, as no part of that benefits our San Diego chapter.

The membership application is in this newsletter and also on our web site ([www.pflag.com](http://www.pflag.com)). We accept PayPal for your convenience. You can also pay at any of the meetings or mail a check made payable to: PFLAG San Diego, P.O. Box 82762, San Diego, CA 92138. All donations are welcomed. Both membership and donations are tax deductible.

## THE TIME IS NOW! SCHOLARSHIP APPS BEING ACCEPTED

Once again, PFLAG SDC is partnering with the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation for another successful scholarship program. The application and scholarship requirements are on our web site ([www.pflag.com](http://www.pflag.com)). Scholarship amounts usually range from \$1000-2000. LGBT high school seniors, full time undergraduate and graduate students are eligible. The deadline for the scholarship applications is Tuesday, March 15, 2016. The Launching Leaders scholarship luncheon will be Friday, May 13, 2016. This is the 17th year PFLAG scholarships have been awarded. For scholarship questions: [scholarships@pflag.com](mailto:scholarships@pflag.com). If you would like to sponsor a table for the luncheon so that more people can attend or to sponsor a scholarship, please contact Ian Morton at [ian@sdhdf.org](mailto:ian@sdhdf.org).

## LGBTQ 101 TRAINING



All are invited to learn more about being a better supporter and ally by taking South Bay Alliance's free LGBTQA 101 training to be held on Thursday, **January 28, 2016**. The training is from 6:00-7:30 pm (refreshments provided) with a Q&A from 7:30-8:00 pm. This will be held in the Eastlake area of Chula Vista. The address will be sent to applicants. Seats are limited; sign up soon: <https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/n81800Fz22yf21>.

## ELECTIONS SLATED FOR MEETING

In keeping in line with our By-Laws, PFLAG SDC officers are elected every two years. Our election will take place at our Metro General Meeting on January 25. The current officers are running unopposed so there will be a hand vote.

## NOW OR LATER

The Diversionary Theatre presents the play, *Now or Later* from **February 11-March 13**. Synopsis: In a hotel penthouse on election night, the returns are delivering good news for the Democratic Presidential candidate and his family. Sequestered in a downstairs room, the soon-to-be President's son watches as controversial photos of himself at a college party explode over the internet, potentially sparking an international incident. This incisive and politically provocative new play takes on religion, freedom of expression, and the dangers of an increasingly interconnected global community. The theatre is located at 4545 Park Blvd. in San Diego. For performance times and ticket info, go to: [www.diversionary.org](http://www.diversionary.org). You can also call: 619-220-0097. When ordering, use the Promo Code PFLAG for a \$5 discount.

## OFFICERS, COMMITTEES & VOLUNTEERS

### President

Terrie Vorono  
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tvorono@pflag.com

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### Vice-President

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Marketing & Design

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The Board

### Scholarship

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### Refreshments

Ina Price

### Website

Lisa Smith, Belladia  
Marketing & Design

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

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PO Box 82762  
San Diego, CA 92138

Tax ID #33-0512868

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

## Membership Application

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### Type of Membership

- Individual ..... \$30  Household ..... \$40  
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or go online [www.pflag.com](http://www.pflag.com) (forms available)

## PFLAG THANKS YOU FOR YOUR EXTRA HELP

### Donations to the General Fund

Olivia and Clive Dorman  
Sue & Tom Johnson  
Bill Patten  
L & S Rosenberg Family  
Foundation (Leon & Sonia  
Rosenberg)  
Karen Whalen

### Contributing Memberships

Doug Braun-Harvey  
& Al Killen-Harvey  
Arlene Prater  
Pamela Williams  
Linda & Fred Espinoza  
Annette & Remo Ottone  
Terrie Vorono

### Supporting Memberships

Bill Patten  
David Wertleib

## FOREST GUMP, “YOU CAN’T FIX STUPID.”

Alabama’s chief justice, Roy Moore, has ordered his state’s probate judges to deny marriage licenses to same-sex couples because he does not believe that the Supreme Court’s Obergefell v. Hodges decision applies to Alabama.

Claiming the Supreme Court did not specifically address Alabama’s ban on same-sex marriage in the historic Obergefell v. Hodges case, Moore justified his position by quoting a state law that says he can “take affirmative and appropriate action to correct or alleviate any condition or situation adversely affecting the administration of justice within the state.”

HRC (Human Rights Campaign) strongly condemned Moore’s move. Said HRC’s Legal Director, Sarah Warbelow, “Yet again, Chief Justice Roy Moore is flagrantly defying the rule of law, and empowering those who wish to stand between same-sex couples and their constitutional right to marry the person they love. Regardless of what Roy Moore says, marriage equality is the law of the land. His obstructionists tactics tarnish the reputation of the great state of Alabama, and we urge all of the state’s probate judges to issue licenses to same-sex couples, as is their duty under the law. Moore’s personal opinions are not at issue here. As a judge, he has an obligation to follow the law. If he refuses to do so, he should be removed from office.”

Moore might be related to Kim Davis.

## A NOVEMBER HAPPENING

Several hundred Mormons followed through on their promise to resign from the Church of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon Church) in November in protest of Church leaders’ anti-gay policies. A new rule in the Church’s Handbook that was introduced that month declared that married same-sex couples were apostates of the Church and that their children could not be blessed or baptized until they are 18 — and only if they renounce same-sex marriage.

With all the hub bub, LDS Church leaders attempted to tweak the policy in advance of the protest. They clarified that the policy only applies to children whose “primary residence” is with same-sex parents. If, for example, they only visit a parent in a same-sex relationship on weekends, they can still receive the same various blessings as other Mormon youth. The policy is also not retroactive to children who were already baptized but now live with same-sex parents.

“All children are to be treated with utmost respect and love,” the clarification letter asserted, offering that “All children may receive priesthood blessings of healing and spiritual guidance.”

Extra guidance issued about the Church’s Handbook change reminded, “It is not a sin simply to feel attraction to another person of the same sex.” However, “There is no change in the doctrinal position that sexual relations between people of the same sex are sinful.”

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the Church’s new clarifications did little to dissuade the hundreds who gathered in a Salt Lake City park to have their resignations notarized. Reports suggest there were as many as 1,500 resignations collected that weekend, but it followed several other mass resignations that have taken place over the past few years.

## TRANSGENDER TEEN SUICIDE PREVENTION

Educators from across San Diego County gathered in San Marcos recently to develop strategies for battling teen suicide, spurred in part by the deaths of at least four transgender students in the region over the past year.

Experts who spoke at the forum said the suicide rate for all age groups in San Diego County actually declined by about 4.7 percent from 2013 to 2014, but the number of deaths among transgender students is cause for concern.

The forum — which attracted nearly 100 educators, administrators and high school counselors — is a first step toward building a gender inclusive environment in county schools, said Don Buchheit, senior director of student services for the San Diego County Office of Education. Many said they’re seeing more kids struggle with gender identity issues and thoughts of suicide.

Kyler Prescott, 14, was one of the transgender teens in the county who died by suicide in 2015. His mom said she thinks it’s important that educators look at the issues. “Probably the most important thing for educators to do is train teachers and staff to be more sensitive and understanding. That’s one of the areas that is most lacking.”

Leslie Masland, a librarian with the San Diego County Library system, said she attended the forum because she’s exploring the possibility of creating safe zones at the county’s 34 library branches. Ultimately, she said, she wants to create a network of counselors at each branch who can offer assistance to transgender students.

Max Diposti, the director of North County LGBTQ Resource Center, is already training teachers and others in the Oceanside Unified School District on compliance with state laws and how to stop bullying of transgender youths.

There was a panel discussion and Resource Fair as part of the forum. PFLAG members Annette Ottone and Kathie Moehlig participated.

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**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**Temp Discontinued**  
 Asian/Pacific Islander  
[sandiegoapiflag@gmail.com](mailto:sandiegoapiflag@gmail.com)

**Jan 21, Feb 18:**  
 North County Inland  
 Kathie: 858-382-9156

**Feb 1:**  
 North County Coastal  
 Annette: 760-518-3345

**Feb 8:**  
 East County Support Grp  
 Bob: 619-334-8214

**Mar 21:**  
 Mi Familia Support Group  
 Patti: 619-227-6092

*Luan D. Andrews, M.A.*

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST  
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