



# THE NEWSLETTER

October 2016 // ISSUE 10 // VOLUME 23



## NO TERM LIMIT



Speaking of changes, due to JFS being closed on October 24 and 25, our meeting will be **Wednesday, October 26 at 7:00 pm** at Jewish Family Service (JFS), 8788 Balboa Avenue, San Diego.

We are pleased to have Georgie Kelly (pronouns: they, them, theirs) giving us a presentation on terminology in the LGBT community. Georgie was the recipient of the John Bessemer Memorial Scholarship in 2013 and later served on the PFLAG Board. Georgie is a therapist intern and found a passion for working with the LGBT community during their Master's program at University of San Diego, and they work with trans and gender expansive individuals of all ages in their practice.

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

## NOW IN THE DICTIONARY

Merriam-Webster just added "cisgender" and "genderqueer" to its dictionary. Here are the definitions (this is an introduction to our speaker's presentation): **Cisgender** – of, relating to, or being a person whose gender identity corresponds with the sex the person had or was identified as having at birth; **Genderqueer** – of, relating to, or being a person whose gender identity cannot be categorized as solely male or female.

These additions reflect how society is expanding its discussions over gender identity, gender expression, and transgender issues. As conversations about gender broaden, the vocabulary used in these conversations is set to change, too.

## GET IN THE SPIRIT

Millions go purple on Spirit Day in a stand against bullying and to show their support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth. Originated by GLAAD (Gay, Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation), this year, it is being celebrated on Thursday, **October 20**. Observed annually since 2010, individuals, schools, organizations, corporations, and public figures wear purple. For the last several years, President Obama participated by having the White House bathed in purple lights. The color purple (not The Color Purple) was chosen, as it represents spirit on the rainbow flag. **DON'T FORGET TO WEAR PURPLE ON OCTOBER 20.**

## 17TH ANNUAL ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL

As PFLAG San Diego does every year at the Asian Film Festival, we are co-presenting a group of short films called *Pokeman Gay*. Synopsis: From cosplay love and time-bending hopes, to the sometimes-elusive entity known as parental acceptance, the slate of films tries to catch 'em all. Definition of cosplay: "the art or practice of wearing costumes to portray characters from fiction, especially from animation and science fiction." There, now you know! It is showing **Saturday, November 5** at 6:15 pm at the UltraStar Mission Valley (Hazard Center on Friars Road).

There is a limited number of free tickets. If you are interested, please email Bobbi Harwood at [bharwood@pflag.com](mailto:bharwood@pflag.com). If you take tickets, please use them.

## REALLY ON THE MOVE!

Although North County Coastal just moved, they have moved again and will be more centrally located: Pilgrim UCC, 2020 Chestnut Avenue in Carlsbad. The new meeting time is 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. There's lots of parking, too. The next meeting is Monday, **November 7**.



## "OUR SPACE-POWAY"

Once again, we want to remind our young people of the LGBTQ youth group in Poway. One of the best features is that it's facilitated by youth. It's held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at the Poway Library, 13137 County Hwy S4 in Poway from 5:00 - 6:30 pm. The next meeting is **October 25**.

## EVERYTHING SHE TOUCHES

The San Diego Women's Chorus proudly presents their concert, *Everything She Touches*. They are singing songs of Joni Mitchell, Stevie Nicks, and the Beatles, to name a few. There are some dance-alongs, too. Performance dates: Saturday, **November 19** at 7:00 pm and Sunday, **November 20** at 4:00 pm. The concert is at the Creative Performing & Media Arts Theater, 5050 Conrad Ave., San Diego (in the Clairemont area). Tickets may be purchased at [sdwc.org](http://sdwc.org).

## CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy to our PFLAG president, Terrie Vorono, for the recent loss of her father, Lloyd Kendall. Lloyd and his wife Joanna were PFLAG members for many years and marched in a parade or two. We extend our condolences to Terrie's children, Ben and Jake, as well.

## OFFICERS, COMMITTEES & VOLUNTEERS

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Tax ID #33-0512868

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# Current Events

**October 20 | Thursday**  
PFLAG Support Group  
North County Inland

**October 20 | Thursday**  
Spirit Day  
(see article)

**October 21 | Friday**  
Auntie Helen's Grand  
Opening

**October 25 | Tuesday**  
Our Space-Poway  
(see article)

**October 26 | Wednesday**  
(for this month only)  
San Diego Metro General  
Meeting and Support Group

**November 5 | Saturday**  
Asian Film Festival  
(PFLAG presentation)

**November 7 | Monday**  
PFLAG Support Group  
North County Coastal  
(new, new location!)

**November 8 | Tuesday**  
VOTE

**November 8 | Tuesday**  
Our Space-Poway  
(see article)

**November 14 | Monday**  
East County Support Group

**November 17 | Thursday**  
Transgender Day of  
Remembrance -SD  
County

**November 17 | Thursday**  
PFLAG Support Group  
North County Inland

**November 19 & 20**  
Saturday & Sunday  
SDWC concerts

**November 20 | Sunday**  
Transgender Day of  
Remembrance -North  
County

**November 22 | Tuesday**  
Our Space-Poway  
(see article)

**November 24 | Thursday**  
Happy Thanksgiving!

**November 28 | Monday**  
San Diego Metro General  
Meeting and Support Group

**Now thru October 30**  
*Lizard Boy*  
Diversionary Theatre

**Now thru November 23**  
Mama's Kitchen  
Pie in the Sky  
(see article)

## VISION STATEMENT

PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

## MISSION STATEMENT

By meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG realizes its vision through: Support for families, allies and people who are LGBTQ; Education for ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ; Advocacy in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ.

# SUPPORT GROUPS

## SD METRO GENERAL MEETING & SUPPORT GROUP

Meets every 4th Monday at 7:00 pm, at Jewish Family Service, 8788 Balboa Ave, San Diego in Kearny Mesa.

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

## NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

Meets the 1st Monday of the month at their new location Pilgrim UCC, 2020 Chestnut Avenue, Carlsbad. The new meeting time is 6:30-8:30 pm.

**Contact northcountycoastal@pflag.com or  
Annette Ottone, 760-518-3345**

## NORTH COUNTY INLAND

Meets the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 pm, Windermere Homes & Estates, 16783 Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo.

**Contact Kathie Moehlig: 858-382-9156  
or northcountyinland@pflag.com**

## EAST COUNTY

Meets the 2nd Monday at 7:00 pm, Summit Unitarian Universalist Church, 8778 Cottonwood Avenue, Santee.

**Contact Mar Cardenas amikaema@aol.com or Tiffany  
Gonzalez at tgonzalez@pflag.com or 760-554-7967**

## ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER

The Support Group is not presently meeting.

**Contact email: sandiegoapipflag@gmail.com**

## SOUTH BAY

The Support Group is not presently meeting. For a private meeting for support and concerns, call for an appointment.

**Contact: Patti Boman, 619-227-6092  
or pboman@pflag.com**

## MI FAMILIA (Spanish)

The Support Group is not presently meeting.

**Contact Patti Boman, 619-227-6092**

## TRANSGENDER SUPPORT

For more information on the Transgender Support Group

**Contact Kathe Dunn, ftm\_mom@yahoo.com**

## UP NEXT



The recipient of the **Stephen G. Bowersox Memorial Scholarship** is **Humberto Castorena**. Humberto graduated from Olympian High School where he was busy doing worthwhile causes and activities: coached a bowling team and basketball team for the Special Olympics, volunteered at Sun

and Sea Manor Nursing Home, participated in Amnesty International's annual "Write for Rights" campaign, president of the school's Spanish Literature Club, and served as Social Media Manager for *La Prensa*, a bilingual newspaper. The University of California at Berkeley is now his new home. He said he is most grateful to Jim and Donna Bowersox for selecting him to receive this scholarship in memory of their son.

"Following the Supreme Court's ruling on gay marriage and greater transgender visibility, a plethora of legislation threatening the equality of LGBT folks has been introduced in the guise of religious and safety concerns. Across the country, conservative lawmakers are seeking legal protections for opponents of gay rights, and 'bathroom bills' that prohibit transgender folks from accessing the locker rooms and public restrooms that align with their gender identity.

This past Wednesday, the Missouri Senate voted on a measure to possibly amend the state constitution to outlaw the penalization of individuals, religious entities, or businesses who refuse to work with same-sex couples. Under this amendment, if, for example, a cake baker were to refuse the commission of a same-sex couple on religious grounds, they would not be penalized. Missouri's actions, seemingly ubiquitous, highlight how respecting people's religious beliefs can condone discrimination based on sexual orientation.

More than twenty states, (Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia,) have Religious Freedom Restoration Acts that in varying degrees discriminate against LGBT folks. In most of these states, LGBT housing and employment discrimination is legal. Every LGBT person residing in any of these states can be affected, whether it

is by being denied a business service, a job, a place to live, or all three. Missouri and Georgia have become the latest states to propose similar legislation, with Missouri's SJR39 being a catalyst for LGBT discrimination: this constitutional amendment would also allow taxpayer-funded adoption and foster care agencies to refuse to place children in same-sex homes, and state-funded homeless shelters could turn away people in a same-sex marriage.

The ethical question surrounding this matter seems to center on how to protect LGBT rights without compromising religious freedom. As a queer individual, I don't project nor accept others' dogmas. I consider myself a very open-minded individual and I respect the opinions of others, even when they are at odds with my own. I defend the notion that everyone is entitled to their own opinion. It seems unethical to disrupt someone's religious beliefs, and it seems equally unethical to abandon LGBT folks exposed. When someone's "religious freedom" threatens someone's well-being, I think the government should fulfill its purpose and protect said person; there should be a balance between protecting religious freedom and someone's well-being. To policymakers furthering LGBT discrimination, I say: You don't have to agree with my life (hopefully you will, though), but you don't have the right to hurt me either. My response is also that religion is about compassion and acceptance, not discrimination and rejection. I come from a Catholic family and the God that I've been shown is not the same God who is presented as an angry, hateful being in anti-LGBT discourses. I don't think religion should be used to justify phobias.

As to the recent 'bathroom bills,' (more recently in Texas and Georgia) set to protect against 'sexual predators,' I'm appalled by the policymakers' fear-mongering and exploitation of ignorance to fuel transphobia. I think it's safe to say that the general public is partly unaware of the struggles faced by the trans community because historically, trans folks have been ostracized and erased. That policymakers are preying on voters' ignorance is beyond unethical. A look at the numbers settles the argument: there have been no documented cases of people posing as trans to maliciously access restrooms while the suicide rate is at an alarming 41% among the trans community. Trans folks need support and acceptance, not demonization.

If preaching acceptance and tolerance is not enough, I suggest a boycott. Indiana knows that too well."

**"IT ALWAYS SEEMED TO ME A BIT POINTLESS TO DISAPPROVE OF HOMOSEXUALITY. IT'S LIKE DISAPPROVING OF RAIN."** —Francis Maude

## EVEN FOR UTAH, THIS IS BAD

The University of Utah was forced to take action after being exposed for a homophobic question one of its courses asked students to answer.

For international students taking Public Speaking 640, a continuing education class at the Salt Lake City university, participants were presented with a course packet that included an exercise asking for the best answers to certain statements. One of those statements was "Gay marriage should not be prohibited"; students were asked if the best supporting answer to that was "Gay marriage has never been allowed" or "Gay marriage is disgusting" or "Societies should promote traditional marriages as the ideal environment for children." The "correct" answer was the latter response about society, according to a report in the Salt Lake City Tribune. The newspaper, tipped off by a student who encountered the question, asked for a response from the university.

"The scenarios in each exercise, which were created years ago by an instructor no longer employed by the university, are intended to help students hone their writing skills, not engage students in a debate about laws or values," university spokesperson Maria O'Mara told the Tribune, adding the question would be eliminated from the curriculum "in the future."

The question is, if it was created years ago, why was it allowed all these years and why wouldn't this be removed immediately, not the future?

Since the University of Utah is a public college, it seems there should be consequences.

## OCTOBER IS...

**LGBT History Month:** This is celebrated every October to recognize the notable achievements of LGBT people throughout time. To see a list of the 31 icons, go to: [www.lgbthistorymonth.com](http://www.lgbthistorymonth.com). Do you know which one of the U.S. presidents was gay?

**Breast Cancer Awareness Month:** As part of The Women's Resource Center at The LGBT Center, The Imperial Court de San Diego and The Center established The Toni Atkins Lesbian Health Fund. The purpose is to assist low-income and uninsured lesbian, bisexual and transgender women access necessary health care resources, with a major emphasis on free mammograms.

## 2017 IS ON THE HORIZON

PFLAG memberships are for the calendar year, and 2017 is almost here. That means memberships are due once again. 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. Please don't renew directly with National, as no part of that benefits our San Diego chapter.

The membership application is on page two, as well as our web site ([www.pflag.com](http://www.pflag.com)), where it is quite convenient to renew/join (through Pay Pal). You can also join/renew at any of the meetings or mail a check made payable to: PFLAG San Diego County, P.O. Box 82762, San Diego, CA 92138. All memberships are tax deductible. Donations are welcomed.

If you join now through December 31, 2016, your membership is valid until December 31, 2017.

## PIES IN THE SKY NOW AVAILABLE

The kickoff for Mama's Kitchen 12th Annual Pie in the Sky Fundraiser is underway. Mama's Pie in the Sky is a bake sale fundraising program that benefits Mama's Kitchen—San Diego's only free, county-wide home-delivered meals program for individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS or cancer. Each pie sold provides more than seven home-delivered meals to these clients. You can purchase pies through **November 23**. The pies sell for \$25 each with \$15 being tax-deductible – definitely a win-win. Your choices are: apple, Dutch apple, pecan, and pumpkin. On a diet? Consider buying a "Love-A-Client Pie" (a donated pie) for just \$25.

Purchasing is as simple as pie! You can order directly online: [ww.mamaspies.org](http://ww.mamaspies.org) or call 619-233-6262. On November 23 (the day before Thanksgiving), you can pick up your pie order at locations all over San Diego for your convenience. More details will be in the November newsletter.

**"I SAY THAT HOMOSEXUALITY IS NOT JUST A FORM OF SEX, IT'S A FORM OF LOVE, AND IT DESERVES OUR RESPECT FOR THAT REASON."** —Christopher Hitchens

## MOORE NEWS

First there was an article about Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore in the January 2016 newsletter and then an update in the March, 2016 newsletter. Here's the latest news. In a nutshell, anti-gay Alabama's chief justice ordered his state's probate judges to deny marriage licenses to same-sex couples because he did not believe that the Supreme Court's Obergefell v. Hodges decision applied to Alabama.

Last March, Moore finally gave up his fight, even though he still believed the Supreme Court made an error in that Alabama's marriage ban remained legitimate. He said their decision to argue that the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on same-sex marriage does not apply in Alabama. In ending his interference, he threw out all challenges to marriage equality in Alabama while at the same time making clear his displeasure with Obergefell, calling it a "lawless act" and same-sex relationships "immoral." In his mind, however, it is said the punishment should fit the crime. In this case, it does. In late September, Roy Moore was suspended from the bench, without pay, until his term ends in 2019 for telling probate judges to defy federal orders regarding same-sex marriage.

## AUNTIE HELEN'S HISTORY

*Excerpts taken from Ian Morton's article in Gay San Diego*

Before getting into Auntie Helen's history, they are issuing an important announcement. The community is invited to their Grand Opening this Friday, **October 21** at 8:00 pm. Location:

4102 El Cajon Blvd., University Heights (San Diego).

"Auntie Helen's Community Thrift Shop is poised to make an impact. From its grassroots beginnings, founded in 1988 by Gary Cheatham to address a very specific need in the HIV/AIDS community, 2016 sees a new focus and a new dedication to all individuals living with or at risk for HIV infection in San Diego County.

When Auntie Helen's Fluff and Fold was originally founded, the need for laundry services for people living with HIV - or, at that time, dying from AIDS - was a very real thing.

In those dark days, individuals truly suffering the ravages of AIDS were denied this very basic service by friends and family and often forced to live in their own filth. There was so much misinformation as to how HIV could be spread that those most impacted by the disease became that generation's 'untouchables.'

It was also during this time that we saw the truly heroic among us rise to the occasion and support those afflicted and outcast, and Cheatham was one of those heroes.

The plan was simple; do laundry for those living with HIV who could not do for themselves. The need, Gary soon found, was profound and pervasive. Auntie Helen's resale shop was then opened to help fund the cost for the purchase of washers, dryers, and the supplies needed to do laundry for this growing population.

Today, we talk about living with HIV, not dying from AIDS, and it is a very different landscape. Many service providers and programs, founded in the 1980s and '90s, are starting to change to reflect the current needs of the community.

In 2015, Auntie Helen's had to take a hard look at itself. It was a dire time for the organization.

The existing board members and volunteers needed to make a decision: how to maintain Auntie Helen's and make the organization relevant to the changing needs of the HIV community.

A new board president, David Turner, was elected and a vision of Auntie Helen's that truly belonged to the full community was conceived.

'We are excited about our second location at 4102 El Cajon Blvd.,' Turner said. 'We will have a hip boutique-like thrift store with furniture on the first floor and clothing and accessories on the second.'

In 2016, over \$250,000 was funded through grants and sponsorships for HIV/AIDS support. A key to fulfilling this goal is the new 10,000-square-foot location that will be opening in City Heights in October. This 'flagship location' will allow for a processing center and the sale of larger furnishing items, which will in turn create higher proceeds to be granted out to the community. They will also step up their game with a virtual storefront for higher-ticket items and truck pick-up and delivery for donated goods and larger purchased items...Auntie Helen's looks to become an increasingly integral part of the San Diego HIV community.

In keeping with this model, they are also seeking enthusiastic **volunteers** to help make this effort a success. 'There will be many front and back of the store positions available to accommodate a broad range of skills and abilities... Every person is crucial; from our cashier, to our donation processors and merchandisers - there is a place for everyone at Auntie Helen's!'"

You can schedule a donation pick up by calling 619-501-0209 or emailing [pickup@auntiehelens.or](mailto:pickup@auntiehelens.or). To volunteer email: [support@auntiehelens.org](mailto:support@auntiehelens.org) or call 619-501-0209.

## UP NEXT



**Amanda (Ash) Matheson** is the recipient of the **Richard P. Geysler Memorial Ethics Scholarship**. This scholarship varies from the others, as the applicant must identify and describe an ethical issue that impacts LGBT people, specifically who is impacted and the significance of the ethical issue.

Ash is a nonbinary transgender person who graduated from Canyon Crest Academy and currently attends the University of Chicago, where they are majoring in mathematics. While in high school they won kudos from the director of the Envision Conservatory for the Humanities for their outstanding writing ability and for her passion in fighting for environment and social justice.

"One prominent ethical issue that has fascinated me over the last couple of years is the question of the extent to which conservative corporations ought to be legally impelled to serve queer consumers.

This issue is particularly prominent in corporate transactions that directly involve same-sex marriage. While it is clear to me that no person ought to be discriminated against for any reason, including gender identity or sexual orientation, this issue becomes a bit more convoluted when it involves forcing members of certain religious sects to perform actions that are diametrically opposed to their moral beliefs.

One of the most prominent cases occurred in 2012, when David Mullins and Charlie Craig were refused service on religious grounds when they requested a wedding cake from Masterpiece Cakeshop. Ultimately, after the couple took the case to the courts, Judge Robert Spence ruled that the actions of the cakeshop were discriminatory and illegal; however, the case became a source of lively political and moral debate over the relationship between freedom of religion and freedom from discrimination.

On one hand, it seems overbearing, overly restrictive, and even cruel of the government to dictate that business proprietors must carry out actions that oppose their most fervent religious and moral beliefs. After all, if a business owner sees facilitating a queer marriage, as through the baking of a wedding cake, to be a sin, it can be easily seen as highly unethical and unfair of the legal system to dictate that the owner must do so -- even if, in the eyes of such a person, this will doom them to an afterlife in hell.

However, there exists also a strong case for ensuring that no person may be discriminated against for their gender or sexual orientation. Many LGBTQ+ people, myself (at times) included, already feel excluded from mainstream society

-- singled out as different, or even forgotten altogether in some cases. To be openly refused service simply as a result of a single, unchangeable aspect of one's being is a further insult and serves to demean and dehumanize queer people. Laws permitting such discrimination, even if only in very specific cases, can also alter the social dynamic of a society, causing the LGBTQ+ population to become more isolated and seen as abnormal. This can exacerbate issues such as prejudice, bullying, lack of acceptance, and abuse.

One can also make the argument that, once some instances of discrimination are deemed allowable, the line between lawful and unlawful discrimination becomes increasingly difficult to determine. For example, if the government were to permit bakers to refuse to sell wedding cakes to same-sex couples on the grounds of religious freedom, could not other businesses -- such as clothing stores -- also refuse service, insisting that to do so would be a sin and contrary to their beliefs?

For these reasons, I believe that the government should make no exception for certain businesses in non-discrimination policies: the likelihood of a slippery slope reaction would be too great, and religious liberty -- while an important freedom -- ought never to take precedence over the wellbeing of others and the equality of all humans. Eventually, it is my belief that such a policy of equality would -- and will -- change the social dynamics of our modern world so that to be LGBTQ+ is seen as natural and ordinary, even among the most fervent and conservative religious sects."

## TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Many times the newsletter comes out (no pun intended) later in the month and some important events are missed. One such event is the 14th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance. This year it is being acknowledged on Thursday, **November 17**. It is important to remember those who we lost simply for being their authentic selves, whether they are transgender, perceived to be transgender or for being gender variant. Join us so that we may never forget. There is a march that begins at 6 pm with program to follow at 7 pm. at the San Diego LGBT Community Center in Hillcrest.

The 7th Annual North County Transgender Day of Remembrance will also be held on Sunday, **November 20**. The time is 5:00 pm; however, the location has not been decided. Feel free to call the Resource Center when the time gets closer: 760-672-1848.

## PFLAG THANKS YOU

General Fund Donation  
Joanie & Bill Brzenski

## VIRTUAL AIDS WALK

PFLAG San Diego County, as always, supported The LGBT Center's HIV/AIDS fundraiser (AIDS Walk San Diego). Most of the walkers were virtual walkers, a wonderful way to contribute when you can't participate in the walk. Thank you to all who donated and/or walked: Remedios Brown, Samuel Brown, Lonnie Brunini, Karen Thompson, Phyllis Van Wanseele, Kevin Van Wanseele, Darren Van Wanseele, Terrie Vorono, Toddy Yeats, Cheyanne Yeats, Dirk Yeats, and Sherry Cohen-Richards.

**"BEING GAY IS NATURAL. HATING GAY IS A LIFESTYLE CHOICE."** —John Fugelsang

Luan D. Andrews, M.A.

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