



# THE NEWSLETTER

January 2017

ISSUE 1

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## A SURVIVOR

Please join us for our general meeting on **Monday, January 23** at 7:00 pm at Jewish Family Service, 8788 Balboa Avenue, San Diego. **PLEASE NOTE: WE MEET THE 4TH MONDAY OF THE MONTH, NOT JANUARY 30.**

Our guest speaker is Kat Katsanis-Semel, who currently serves as the LGBTQ+ Community Outreach Coordinator, for Mental Health America of San Diego. Kat will speak about her life and what mental health solutions supported her along, what she calls, her queer way. She will include how she learned to integrate her faith and sexual orientation, coming out in a traditional, bi-cultural family, and surviving both suicidality and sexual assault.

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



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

Thank you to those members who have renewed their membership for 2017. If you have not, please do! We have a long way to go, especially in light of the presidential election in 2016. 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.

## IT'S THE DIGITAL AGE

PFLAG National's PFLAGPole is going digital beginning with the Winter 2017 issue. In order to ensure that you receive the PFLAGPole and other informative emails from PFLAG National, sign up on their email list by visiting [pflag.org/stay-informed](http://pflag.org/stay-informed) and entering your information. Or email them at [info@pflag.org](mailto:info@pflag.org) You can also register for PFLAG Academy Online.

We are hoping MiFamilia (in Spanish) is back permanently. For now, there is a meeting Monday, January 23 at 6:00 pm at the home of Patti Boman. Contact Patti for the address: [pboman@pflag.com](mailto:pboman@pflag.com).

## 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 range from \$1000-2000. LGBT high school seniors, full time undergraduate and graduate students are eligible. The deadline for the scholarship applications is Saturday, April 15, 2017. The Launching Leaders scholarship luncheon where the scholarships will be awarded is tentatively Friday, June 16, 2017. This is the 18th year of the PFLAG scholarship program. 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@sdhdf.org](mailto:ian@sdhdf.org).

## HELP WANTED

The Board of our PFLAG chapter is in need of a Treasurer. Our books are relatively easy and a quick training session will be provided. Contact Terrie Vorono if interested: [tvorono@pflag.com](mailto:tvorono@pflag.com).

## THE BOYCOTT

As of this writing, there are 44 members of Congress who will boycott the inauguration of Donald Trump this Friday, including many from California. Trump's harsh and unfair criticism of icon John Lewis, a congressman from Georgia who is one of the heroes of the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s, was the last straw for some lawmakers.

## BAIT AND SWITCH

We should all be getting used to the term by now. It seems to be prevalent. Contrary to committing to repeal HB 2, the North Carolina "bathroom bill," lawmakers gathered in a special session at the end of December to do just that. However, it didn't happen. Rather than rescinding the law as they said they would, they debated on whether to keep parts of the law. As the saying goes, "not to decide is to decide." If not just for the obvious discrimination, one would think it would be repealed since North Carolina has lost millions in tourism revenue, concerts/entertainment, and revenue in moving the National Basketball Association and the NCAA games out of North Carolina. Supposedly, they are to meet again in January.

On another disturbing note, in pure North Carolina legislative fashion, after Democrat Roy Cooper won the governorship of

North Carolina, there seemed to be light at the end of the tunnel. The outgoing governor, Pat McCrory, did not take his loss well. While still in office, he signed a bill that would slash the governor-elect's power. Again, a special session was held and they passed two pieces of legislature: Cooper would no longer be making key appointments: the rules were changed in appointing election board members (not in Cooper's favor) and now candidates who were running for State's Supreme Court will have their party affiliation listed as a way to sway votes toward Republicans.

The state's Democrats have blasted the legislation as a "power grab," and legal challenges will ensue, as they feel that what the legislators are doing is unconstitutional. Amazing that they have no shame.

### Membership Application

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 or go online [www.pflag.com](http://www.pflag.com) (forms available)

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Jan 19, Feb 16:**

North County Inland  
 Kathie: 858-382-9156

**Jan 24, Feb 14:**

Our Space-Poway  
 Kathie: 858-382-9156

**Feb 6:**

North County Coastal  
 Annette: 760-518-3345

**Feb 13:**

East County  
 Tiffany: 760-554-7967

### PFLAG THANKS YOU FOR YOUR EXTRA HELP

#### Contributing Memberships

Maria & Sunny Al-Shamma  
 Doug & Judy Paulson  
 Arlene Prater  
 Mark & Karen Thompson

#### Supporting Memberships

Susen Herold  
 Bill Patten

#### Ongoing Monthly Donations to the General Fund through PayPal

Maureen Steiner  
 David Whitesell

#### Donations to the Scholarship Fund

Terrie Vorono  
 Lonnie Brunini

#### General Fund Donations

Olivia & Clive Dorman  
 Howard Finnecy  
 Thomas Pastuszka  
 Louise Julig  
 Eva Stjernfeldt  
 & Alec Babiarz  
 Don Ward  
 L & S Rosenberg  
 Family Foundation  
 Annemarie Whalen  
 John Daum  
 Jennifer Douwes  
 John Overbek  
 Bill Patten  
 Linda Takata  
 Stephanie Breitbart

## LAST, BUT NEVER LEAST



**McKenna Roudebush** is the recipient of a **PFLAG Merit Scholarship**. She was an International Baccalaureate student at Rancho Buena Vista High School. Her Extended Essay in her English 10 Honors course was a historical and political evaluation of media responses to the AIDS crisis in the 1980s. Besides being involved in many club activities, she excelled in volleyball in school and club teams. McKenna is currently attending Barnard College of Columbia University where she is a double major in Political Science and Human Rights. A worthy goal of McKenna's is to advocate for a society in which equality and justice is available for all.

"As a junior in high school, I founded a club which has had a large impact on me and my academic goals. The first of its kind at my school, the Feminist Student Alliance works to raise awareness for women's rights locally and internationally. Our goal is to foster a more open-minded and educated student body, which will in turn lead to a society sympathetic to human rights. In the past year, I have learned much about what it means to lead, organize, and speak out in the face of opposition.

High school has been an incredibly influential time of self-discovery for me. As I was beginning to become more involved in feminism, I was also coming to terms with my own sexuality, and as a result I became increasingly aware of how exclusion continues to exist in social activism. I then decided that I wanted to do something on campus for other girls who were interested in feminism but felt that their voices may not be heard. Leading this organization, I have held open-mindedness in the highest regard; it is my belief that to be a good leader, one must always approach situations holistically. What has inspired me the most about this club and the students involved in it is the diversity of experiences and the respect shown for those experiences. We have a wide variety

## NOT TO BE MISSED AT THE DIVERSIONARY

Diversionary celebrates the storytelling genius of Lisa Kron by bringing two of her contemporary classics together in repertory for the first time ever! Both autobiographical plays deftly explore Kron's hilarious and poignant relationship with two of the most perplexing people in her life: her parents.

First up is *2.5 Minute Ride*. It runs from **February 9-March 19**. Synopsis: This inventive solo show is a roller coaster adventure through the playwright's family album, focusing on her relationship with her father, a Holocaust survivor. Swirling through three disparate yet strikingly resonant experiences of a trip to Auschwitz, a Brooklyn wedding and an annual outing to an Ohio amusement park, a disarming story emerges about the ties that bind a family and a compelling portrait of an honorable man.

of members, coming from a plethora of backgrounds, and the uniting factor is a desire to learn. Hearing the perspectives of other students has allowed me to become a more holistic individual, and this is the most important lesson I have learned from running the Feminist Student Alliance.

I am very proud to have founded this club because, in doing so, I have helped to create an environment where students can comfortably be open and authentic. High school is often a place where students feel the need to hide who they are or what they have experienced, and we work to change that through providing a space where everyone is acknowledged and values. In addition, I am proud that our club has raised questions and begun discussions that have led to meaningful changes in mindset for many students. The most rewarding meetings are the ones in which students leave with an active determination to effect real change. Writer Bell Hooks said, 'Feminist thinking teaches us all, especially, how to love freedom and justice in ways that foster and affirm life,' and I can think of no better way to summarize how I believe feminism can be applicable to all communities. By making these small changes to promote a more inclusive campus, I hope to have helped further a global trend toward progress.

My involvement in this club has had a large influence on my future goals. At the beginning of my junior year, I was unsure of what I wanted for my future. In the past year, my goals have solidified and I have figured out how to incorporate my passions into my college and career aspirations. I can attribute my decision to major in political science and my post-graduate goal of becoming a human rights lawyer to my time spent leading the Feminist Student Alliance, and I am very grateful for having the opportunity to develop my passions while making a change in the world around me. I think that the most rewarding thing that I can do with my life is to access the opportunities that I have and use what I gain from them to help build a world where that opportunity is available for all."

Running at the same time as *2.5 Minute Ride* is *Well*, which is being performed from **February 10-March 19**. Synopsis: This pioneering Broadway comedy begins as a reverent study of the playwright's chronically ill mom and her extraordinary ability to heal a racially divided community despite her inability to make herself well. But when the playwright's carefully crafted characters start having opinions of their own, theatrical hell breaks loose, threatening to unravel the entire story. This uproariously funny and magical memoir reveals how we heal ourselves is not always the best medicine for those we love.

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.

**GEORGIE KELLY**  
Pronouns: They, Them, Theirs  
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*Luan D. Andrews, M.A.*

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