



THE NEWSLETTER

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HOME RUN, DERBY

Please join us for our general meeting on **Monday, February 27** at 7:00 pm at Jewish Family Service (JFS), 8788 Balboa Avenue, San Diego.

You thought you knew everything about PTA from when your children were in school. Times have changed. Our guest speaker is Derby Pattengill (pronouns: he, him, his). He has been involved in San Diego Unified School District's PTA for the last 12 years, including being president at the school and school district levels. Two years ago, California State PTA and the national PTA adopted resolutions in support of LGBTQ+ students, teachers and families. In addition to updating us on what that has meant to the local PTAs, he will share his experience on being on the LGBTQIA advisory committee as a parent representative for four years.

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

GET IN THE MEMBERSHIP SPIRIT!

Thank you to those members who have renewed their membership for 2017. We are looking forward to receiving more renewals or first time dues. These monies are used to provide support, education, and advocacy on behalf of our LGBTQ community and their families. They enable us to provide monthly meetings, an info line, newsletters, educational brochures, etc.

Please send your dues to PFLAG San Diego, as \$15 of it is sent to PFLAG National. If you renew with them, there is no benefit for our San Diego chapter.

The membership application is on our web site (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 and memberships are tax deductible.

BOWLING FOR EQUALITY

Please join HRC (Human Right Campaign) for one of their largest and most exciting events of the year – Bowling for Equality! The event is happening on Saturday, **February 25, 2017** at Kearny Mesa Bowl (7585 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego). It's a fun afternoon of bowling with friends and colleagues, while supporting our fight for equality

You can bowl either from 12:30 pm-2:30 pm or 3:00 pm-5:00 pm. Individual bowlers are \$35, which includes 2 hours of bowling and shoe rental, plus HRC annual membership or renewal. Also offered is a Lane for 5 Bowlers, \$175, and includes 2 hours of bowling and shoe rentals.

For additional information, contact Isabel Cordova or Margaret Moore at HRCBowling@gmail.com.

KEEPING UP WITH PFLAG NATIONAL

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 and entering your information. Or you can email them at info@pflag.org You can also register for PFLAG Academy Online.

MI FAMILIA HAS RETURNED

Thanks, in part, to the efforts of Patti Boman, Mi Familia has returned and is meeting in the South Bay area. The next meeting is **March 13**. Contact Patti for more info: pboman@pflag.com or 619-227-6092.

VICTORY

The Washington Supreme Court recently ruled that a florist in Richland violated the state's anti-discrimination law when she denied service to a same-sex couple for their wedding. The couple were refused services by Arlene's Flowers because they are gay. The American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU of Washington represented them in their lawsuit against the florist for violating their rights.

SeCRT^aRI WANTED

The PFLAG Board needs a recording secretary. Be a dear and volunteer. Contact Terrie Vorono at tvorono@pflag.com.

PFLAG WILL HOLD TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTABLE

Below is a recap of an article written by Jean Hodges, president of PFLAG National

Even after decades of navigating the public education system — as a student, as a public-school teacher married to a public college professor, and as a parent with children of my own who went to public schools and colleges — some of my most memorable interactions with students and their families came from my work with PFLAG.

The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) released its first School Climate Survey about 18 years ago. It told of the scary reality of pervasive anti-LGBTQ harassment, bullying, discrimination, and harm; we heard the stories all the time. But somehow, this public school — in fact, an entire school district — was managing to get it right, with its enumerated policies and its community of caring people. My interactions with this family and hundreds more just like them crystallized for me the necessity and importance of a public-school education, with inclusive policies and anti-discrimination laws to protect the students, and a caring community to enforce them.

Leap forward to 2015. GLSEN's School Climate Survey paints a picture of slow improvement, but one need only be reminded of high school valedictorian Evan Young to see how far we still have to go. Young was a gay student at a public charter school who was not only denied his right as valedictorian to speak at graduation by his school principal but was outed by that principal to his parents. That school district, unlike my own, had no inclusive policies in place to protect students, with little to no training provided to educators on working with LGBTQ youth. Years earlier, a group of high school students from this same district approached my PFLAG chapter for help with the harassment they were experiencing. We helped them form a coalition of concerned parents with and without LGBTQ children, school counselors, representatives from faith and other communities, and public health professionals. Sadly, they were "stonewalled" by the school board and administration in their efforts—that is, until the story of Evan Young brought a public outcry against the blatant discrimination, to which the district responded with professional training for staff.

Situations like this happen in thousands of public schools across the country, where a patchwork of different policies and state laws continue to make it difficult to ensure that all students are accessing public education fairly, and safely. Federal laws like Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 help significantly on this front and are critically important to the health and wellbeing of all students. But equally as critical is a community of caring and passionate people—and not just parents, but all people — to take up the cause of seeing that federal, state, and local laws and inclusive school

policies are not only passed or instituted, but appropriately enforced.

The stark reality: In 2015 we had strong and committed support in leadership roles in the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice, all the way up to the White House. Think about that, as we recall the confirmation hearings of our new secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, and our new attorney general, Jeff Sessions. I believe Secretary DeVos must see that all students have safe and equal access to taxpayer-funded public education and all of the opportunities such an education provides and that Attorney General Sessions must see that all people in the U.S., including students, are treated equally, fairly, and with dignity. If they don't, our students—particularly marginalized youth—will be at continued significant risk.

Sadly the writing is on the wall: It was recently announced that the Department of Justice, led by Sessions, will no longer pursue a halt on the nationwide injunction banning enforcement of the Obama administration's Department of Education guidance on transgender student facility access in public schools.

With more than 85 percent of LGBTQ students experiencing harassment, "no promo homo" laws in states across the country dictating that being LGBTQ should not be taught as a valid or healthy identity, and Title IX enforcement and guidance in support of transgender youth likely to be unenforced or worse, what do we do? We hold them accountable.

- We connect with local students and their families at all levels of education, K-12 and college, to see how we can be of help on the ground, whether that's providing inclusive materials to classrooms and libraries, providing support and training to educators, or helping to found a gay-straight alliance.
- We attend school board meetings, listen to members' conversations, and ask the tough questions about how they are protecting and serving vulnerable students. We demand answers. We advocate for change. (And sometimes we run for school boards—it was the path to power by anti-LGBTQ activists, so we must claim it for ourselves.)

We all must practice the power of the people, using our collective voice to publicly demand for all students safety, equity, and informed educators. And all of us—those with children and without children, LGBTQ and ally, people of all ages, races, abilities, faith and nonfaith traditions—must do so. We must come together in service to our youth and the education promised them by the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of our Constitution. I promise you that I will work anywhere in our country where our LGBTQ and other marginalized youth need me, because my experience tells me that their lives depend on it.

SPREAD THE WORD TO LGBT SCHOLARS

PFLAG San Diego hopes everyone is busy reminding LGBT seniors, full-time undergraduate, and graduate students to apply for PFLAG scholarships. This is our 18th year of offering scholarships

The application and requirements are available on our web site, www.pflag.com/scholarships. The deadline to apply is Saturday, **April 15, 2017** and the awards presentation for our annual Launching Leaders Luncheon will be Friday, **June 16, 2017**. Anyone who attended last year will testify that we've come a long way in our presentation of the scholarships and the fanfare that is rightly due the recipients.

For scholarship questions, contact Ian Morton: scholarships@pflag.com

AT THE DIVERSIONARY

Through **March 19**, two autobiographical plays by Lisa Kron explore her hilarious and poignant relationship with two of the most perplexing people in her life: her parents.

First up is *2.5 Minute Ride*. Synopsis: This 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.

Next is *Well*. 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. You can also call: 619-220-0097. When ordering, use the Promo Code PFLAG for a \$5 discount.

PFLAG THANKS YOU

Upper Level Memberships/Donations

Anna Curren
Linda Cronquist

Kevin & Philip
Diamond-Tilden
Sue & Tom Johnson
Jean Smith

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 amikema@aol.com or Tiffany Gonzalez at tgonzalez@pflag.com or 760-554-7967**

SOUTH BAY

The Support Group will be meeting within the next month. .

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

POWAY LGBTQ YOUTH SUPPORT GRP (Our Space-Poway)

Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 5:00-6:30 pm, Poway Library, 13137 County Highway S4, Poway. Facilitated by youth.

Contact **Kathie Moehlig: 858-382-9156**
or info@transfamilysos.org

TRANSFAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Support groups held separately for children, teens, and adults to explore a multitude of topics around gender identity and expressions.

Contact **Kathie Moehlig: 858-382-9156**
or info@transfamilysos.org

GEORGIE KELLY
Pronouns: They, Them, Theirs
PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL COUNSELOR INTERN (#2496)

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