



THE NEWSLETTER

November 2018 // ISSUE 11 // VOLUME 25



DECEMBER MEETING SCHEDULE: Metro PFLAG SDC will not meet in December due to the proximity of the holidays. All other support groups will be meeting on their scheduled day with the exception of the North County Coastal Support Group, Our Space-Poway (High School and Middle School). They will only meet on December 11.



A FUNNY THING HAPPENED

Please join us for our general meeting on **Monday, November 26** at 7:00 pm at Jewish Family Service (JFS), 8788 Balboa Avenue, San Diego.

Everyone loves a comedian! That's why we are delighted to have Craig Fox as our guest speaker. Craig currently teaches English and Creative Writing at Canyon Crest Academy. He has written, directed, and produced many plays. He feels one of his greatest accomplishments was

helping to run a children's theater. Craig has lots of "gay" stories to share from his days as a Playwright student at San Francisco State to the present.

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



"DANCE OUT LOUD"

If you live in the South Bay, are between the ages of 18-21, are LGBTQ+ or an ally, can dance, act, or are a storyteller, there is a place for you! If you don't have these particular skills, you just need a willingness to learn, explore, share, grow, and perform!

"Dance Out Loud" is a collaboration between Our Safe Place and transcenDANCE Youth Arts Project with the support of the City of Chula Vista. It is a series of workshops ran by artists from transcenDANCE at Our Safe Space drop-in center. While there is no cost, transcenDANCE is looking for young people who will make a commitment to the program.

There is a demo workshop and info session on **Wednesday, December 5** from 5:00-7:00 pm at Our Safe Place, 746 Ada Street in Chula Vista. To register for the workshop, go to danceoutloud-osp.eventbrite.com. After December 5, the group will meet weekly on Wednesdays at 5:00 pm until April, 2019. The weekly program will guide youth to creatively explore their identities and stories through dance, movement, and spoken word. The program will culminate in a staged performance with the ultimate goal of reflecting their stories back to the community. It will be a free community performance at a professional venue.

If you are unfamiliar with Our Safe Place, it is a welcoming community center for LGBTQ+ youth, their families, and allies. More info is available on the website www.SouthBayCommunityServices.org. transcenDANCE Youth Arts Project guides youth to transcend barriers, expand ambitions, and create positive change through dance and performance. Their website is www.tDArts.org.

Contact Leo O'Driscoll at lodriscoll@csbcs.org or 619-643-5241 with any questions.

WE MUST MAKE SURE THE DYE ISN'T CAST

The *New York Times* obtained a memo that the Trump administration did not want the public to see. The report suggests this administration is trying to define "transgender" out of existence under federal law. They are considering narrowly defining gender "on a biological basis that is clear, grounded in science, objective and administrable." It is also "an immutable condition determined by genitalia at birth": you are either born male or female and "it's unchangeable." Any dispute about one's sex would have to be clarified using genetic testing. (It will be interesting to see how they will deal with those individuals who are intersex). This is the most drastic move yet in a government-wide effort to roll back recognition and protections of transgender people under federal civil rights law.

A series of decisions by the Obama administration loosened the legal concept of gender in federal programs, including in education and health care, recognizing gender largely as an individual's choice and not determined by the sex assigned at birth. The policy prompted fights over bathrooms, dormitories, single-sex programs and other arenas where gender was once seen as a simple concept. Conservatives, by and large, were incensed.

Now the Department of Health and Human Services is spearheading an effort to establish this legal definition of sex under Title IX, the federal civil rights law that bans gender discrimination in education programs that receive government financial assistance. Unfortunately, Title IX doesn't define "sex" or "discrimination." The plan is to draft federal guidance that will reject the current interpretation.

WE MUST continued on page 4

UP NEXT!



Daria Bonds is the recipient of the **Raytheon STEM Scholarship**. It is provided by members of The Raytheon GLBTA Employee Resource Group as a STEM scholarship to attract, support, and train future LGBT professions in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math).

While at Escondido High School, Daria was a tri-varsity athlete in cross-country, soccer, and track, serving as the cross-country team captain. She participated in band, show choir, the Young Democrats Club, the California Scholarship Federation, the National Honor Society, and the Robotics team. Daria was an active member of GSA for four years and served as its president in her junior and senior years. In addition, she has been widely recognized on and off her school campus: Cougar Awards of Excellence, Rotary Youth Leadership Award, American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Delegate, National Hispanic Scholar Award. Her long-term goal is to earn a PhD in Astrophysics at UCSD and make a contribution through scientific research. In addition, she plans to encourage LGBT students and other underrepresented students to pursue STEM careers.

“For the last two years, I have served as my school’s Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) president. I organized school and community events such as the Day of Silence and Ally Week. In addition, I organized lunchtime and after-school talks with guest speakers who discussed issues and served as role models for our membership. I represented our club at the GSA Awards at MiraCosta College. I spoke about how my team of officers and I plan social events in which members feel safe to be themselves. In addition, I hold virtual office hours, in which members can text me with concerns and questions. I lend support and refer students to resources under the supervision of my advisor. Since becoming the president of GSA, I have worked hard to ensure that students of all genders feel valued and safe at Escondido High School (EHS).

Throughout the past year, in particular, I have worked closely with the Escondido YMCA’s LGBTQ+ resource center and with the North County Resource Center (NCRC). I have participated in community events with both centers. For example, I assisted with the planning of the NCRC’s Queer Prom at Del Lago Academy. Through my encouragement, communication between our GSA and local resource centers has increased. Our students feel empowered knowing that information and support is accessible to them beyond our high school walls.

As the president of GSA, I have cultivated leadership skills

while serving a diverse community. I plan to use these skills throughout my personal and professional life. My long-term goal is to earn a PhD and conduct research in the field of astrophysics, while serving as an advocate for science education for all. I plan to make a contribution to humanity through scientific discoveries that further our knowledge of the universe. While I am working on my undergraduate and graduate degrees, I plan to participate in programs, such as Sally Ride Science, that encourage K-12 students from underrepresented backgrounds to develop proficiency in science and pursue STEM careers.



After earning a PhD in astrophysics, I will continue to share my knowledge and encourage others to develop their scientific curiosity and access to careers in STEM. For children and young adults, I want to spark an interest in the world and how it works. I would like to provide resources and guidance to all students so that they can reach their full potential, especially students of color and LGBTQ+ students who are underrepresented in the sciences. An understanding of the physical world in which they live, access to opportunity, and a better understanding of the people with whom they share this world will ultimately change the world for the better.”

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

Saturday, December 1: World AIDS Day. You are invited to participate in Mama’s Kitchen and Village Hillcrest’s 27th Annual Tree of Life Ceremony, 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), www.mamaskitchen.org or call 619-233-6262. All proceeds benefit Mama’s Kitchen.

Saturday, December 1 & Sunday, December 2: San Diego Women’s Chorus presents *Home for the Holidays*, a winter concert featuring diverse songs of the season. Featured will be a string quartet, body percussionists and hilarious dancing elves. University Christian Church, 3900 Cleveland Avenue in Hillcrest. For tickets: www.sdwc.org.

Saturday, December 8: “Come Home for the Holidays.” Please join the LGBT Center’s annual multicultural holiday party from 5-8:00 pm. This event brings our community together to dance, eat and celebrate our diverse holiday traditions with “family” away from home. 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.

Sunday, December 9: *Jingle*, the San Diego Gay Men’s Chorus’ popular holiday highlights show will be at Sycuan Casino at 6:00 pm. Tickets: sycuancasino.yapsody.com/event/index/312836/san-diego-gay-mens-chorus-jingle.

Through December 9: The Diversionary Theatre presents *This Beautiful City*, an intriguing musical. This timely musical explores faith, and the organized resistance against Gay rights. Ticket info: www.diversionary.org or 619-220-0097. For \$5 off each ticket, use Promo Code PFLAG. The theatre is located at 4545 Park Blvd. in San Diego.

Wednesday, December 12: Support TransFamily Support Services by purchasing a ticket for their annual Dreamgirls Revue. Hosted by Chad Michaels, the event will take place at Urban Mo's, 308 University Avenue in Hillcrest. Tickets: urbanmos.com/tfss/.

Saturday, December 15 & Sunday, December 16: The San Diego Gay Men's Chorus presents *Jingle*, their annual holiday concert. Shows are at 8:00 pm on Saturday and 3:00 pm on Sunday at the Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue, downtown San Diego. For ticket info, go to www.sdgmc.org.

TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIPS

Part of the mission for PFLAG is to promote the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons and their families and friends. We are only able to offer this support, education, and advocacy through your generosity of being a member or your donation. Renew (or become members) online, www.pflag.com, at the General Meeting, or application below. Memberships and donations are tax deductible.

Membership Application

Fill out and mail in this form. Confidentiality is respected.

- New Renewal Change of Address
 Please contact me for volunteer opportunities

**Make checks payable to: PFLAG San Diego,
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Your donation is tax deductible (Tax ID 33-0512868)

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- Accept my donation, please do not list.

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City..... State ZIP.....

Email..... Phone

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 at 6:30 pm
 Pilgrim UCC, 2020 Chestnut Avenue, Carlsbad.

Annette: 760-518-3345 | northcountycoastal@pflag.com

NORTH COUNTY INLAND

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm
 St. Bart's Church, 16275 Pomerado Road, Poway.

Jill/Dan: 760-855-9424 | RBPowaypflagsdc@pflag.com

EAST COUNTY

Not currently meeting. For questions and information:

Raegan: 858-531-5426 | eastcountysdc@pflag.com

SOUTH BAY

Meets 3rd Monday at 6:00 pm,
 Our Safe Place, 746 Ada St, Chula Vista.

Patti: 619-227-6092 | pboman@pflag.com

RAMONA

Meets 1st Tuesday from 6:00-8:00 pm, St. Mary's in the Valley, 1010 12th Street, Ramona. For meeting info::

Carlee: 757-448-5640 | Ramonapflagsdc@pflag.com

POWAY LGBTQ YOUTH SUPPORT/HIGH SCHOOL

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm
 St. Bart's Church, 16275 Pomerado Road, Poway.

Al: 858-382-2262 | al@transfamilyosos.org

OUR SPACE-POWAY--LGBTQIA/MIDDLE SCHOOL

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm, St. Bart's Church, 16275 Pomerado Road, Poway. Facilitated by youth. **Al: 858-382-2262 | al@transfamilyosos.org**

MI FAMILIA (Spanish)

Meets 2nd Monday from 6-8 pm, South Chula Vista Library, 389 Orange Avenue, Chula Vista.

Patti: 619-227-6092 | pboman@pflag.com

TRANSFAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

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

Kathie: 858-382-9156 | info@transfamilyosos.org

WE MUST continued from page 1

Over the years, the American medical community has called for legal protections for those whose gender identity does not fit squarely into the categories of man or woman, such as transgender and gender-nonconforming people. And several courts have granted them those protections through prohibitions against sex stereotyping.

The administration's definition could exclude transgender people from existing federal civil rights protections in education, employment and access to health care, if adopted.

It comes as no surprise that just one month into Trump's presidency, the administration rescinded Obama-era Education Department guidance recommending that schools let students use facilities and pronouns consistent with their gender identity.

In October 2017, then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions reversed guidance that protected transgender workers from employment discrimination. Trump then signed a directive banning transgender military recruits, though, thankfully, the ban has been blocked by a federal court.

PFLAG THANKS YOU!

GENERAL FUND DONATION: Melanie & Jim Kilgore

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

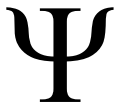
Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) will be observed on **Tuesday, November 20**. We will honor the memory of those whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. People who were perceived to be transgender or who are gender variant are among those being remembered. Please join the San Diego LGBT Center in remembering these individuals at a march that begins at The Center (3909 Centre Street in Hillcrest) at 6:00 pm. A program will follow at 7:00 pm at The Center.

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