



ISSUE VOLUME

**12 17**

DECEMBER 2010  
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**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**



**Wishing You and  
Your Family a  
Happy & Healthy  
Holiday Season**

# 'Tis The Season

to wish you a belated Happy Chanukah or a Merry Christmas (if you are an atheist, then Happy December).

Please join us at our General Meeting on **Monday, December 27** at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 2231 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley. Doors open at 6:45 pm. Traditionally, at our December meeting, we graze on snacks supplied by PFLAG and socialize,

followed by support groups. We are doing the same this year; however, as a special treat, we will be entertained by a group of local high school students. PFLAG participate Ruth Coolong's son, Jon White, is the group's leader. They will be singing some Broadway selections, as well as other popular tunes.

We hope to see you there so we can share some cheer with our PFLAG family.

## PROPOSITION 8 UPDATE

Update on the latest trial (fought before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco which started December 6): the three court panel of judges were randomly selected and consists of one conservative, one liberal, and one moderate. The appeal is for a recent ruling that found the state's same-sex marriage ban unconstitutional. The arguments were in two parts: first, to consider the legal eligibility of Protectmarriage.com who launched the appeal, and second, on the constitutionality of Proposition 8 itself. The Dynamic Duo lawyers, David Boies and Ted Olson, making the case against Prop 8, argued that Prop 8 supporters do not have legal authority to appeal the August ruling and that the ballot measure was unconstitutional. The ruling, which is not expected for at least a month, could be appealed to a larger 9th Circuit panel, and then up to the U.S. Supreme Court.

## OFFICERS, COMMITTEES & VOLUNTEERS

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Sandi Timberlake

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## Membership Application

**DUES WILL INCREASE IN JANUARY 2011**

(See article on page 4)

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# Current Events

## December 4-21

*Santa Claus is Coming Out*  
Diversionary Theatre  
(see article)

## December 18 Saturday

Hillcrest Wind Ensemble, a program of The Center, will perform a "Magical Holidays" concert at the Kroc Center, 6845 University Ave., San Diego.

Admission is \$15 and can be purchased at the door. For more info: 619-692-2077, ext. 814

## December 20 Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

## December 26 Sunday

PFLAG Support Group  
North County Coastal

## December 26

**Sunday**  
PFLAG Support Group  
South Bay

## December 27 Monday

San Diego PFLAG  
General Meeting

## December 27 Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

## January 3 Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

## January 10 Monday

PFLAG Support Group  
East County

## January 10 Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

**Mission Statement** PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through Support, to cope with an adverse society; Education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and Advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

*Luan D. Andrews, M.A.*

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# SUPPORT GROUPS

## NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

Meets every fourth Sunday, at 2:00 pm, Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Pilgrim Hall, 2020 Chestnut, Carlsbad.

**Contact Larry Gerling, (760) 224-2178.**

## NORTH COUNTY INLAND

They are looking for a new home to meet. Support Group meetings have been suspended temporarily. For additional information, please contact Sue below.

**Contact Sue Fine, (858) 673-4560 or pflag4sdnocity@san.rr.com.**

## EAST COUNTY

Meets every second Monday, at 7:00 pm, Summit Unitarian Universalist Church, 8778 Cottonwood Avenue, Santee.

**Contact Ron Goetz, (619) 588-2342 or whytestonne@hotmail.com.**

## MI FAMILIA (Spanish)

Meetings are every Monday from 6:00pm - 8:00 pm at The Center.

**Contact Carolina, (619) 692-2077 Ext. 116.**

## TRANSGENDER SUPPORT

For more information on the Transgender Support Group

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

## SOUTH BAY

Meets every fourth Sunday, at 1:00 pm, Unitarian Universalists of the South Bay, 970 Broadway, Chula Vista

**Contact Martha Cardenas, (619) 947-4612 or mar@FirstUUSanDiego.org**

National PFLAG, Washington, DC  
(202) 647-8180, [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF 2010 MEMBERSHIP PRICES

It's hard to believe that 2011 is almost here. And that means PFLAG memberships are due once again. To all of you, thank you for being part of our continuing effort to provide support, education, and advocacy on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community and their families. Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide monthly meetings, speakers, support groups, a help line, newsletters, educational brochures, etc. Your membership also enables us to strengthen our presence in the community and to have our voices heard. Membership in San Diego PFLAG helps support National PFLAG; we send \$15

(Continued on page 5)

## 9/11 HERO'S MOM SPEAKS ON DADT

The mother of Mark Bingham, one of the passengers on United Flight 93 believed to have prevented the plane from hitting government buildings in Washington, DC said no one on the plane questioned whether her son was gay when it came time to overtake the aircraft from hijackers. Therefore, Alice Hoagland said, the same reasoning should be the rule when it comes to the military and its ban on openly gay and lesbian soldiers.

Her son was eulogized by Sen. John McCain, who Bingham supported in the 2000 Republican primary for president of the United States. Now, as the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services

Committee, McCain is leading the charge to keep the 17-year-old law.

"I hope he comes around on 'don't ask, don't tell,'" she said on MSNBC. "I know he's entrenched in the mistaken notion that gay people somehow are weaker, that gay men are predators, that gay men are seeking a sexual outlet with straight men, and I think it is that kind of misconception that is driving that needless clinging to 'don't ask, don't tell.'"



## SANTA CLAUS IS COMING OUT

After being reviewed by President Emeritus, Bobbi Harwood, this play was deemed as very PFLAG appropriate (there's even a reference to PFLAG in the play). She said it is also hilarious. Secondary to Bobbi's review, the *New York Times* said, "This isn't a clumsy parody, but a sensitive, imaginative tale that really is about a boy's realization that he is different."

Hopefully, your interest is piqued to see *Santa Claus is Coming Out* at the Diversionary Theatre, 4545 Park Boulevard, San Diego. It runs through December 21.

Here is the synopsis: It starts when a little boy asks Santa for a doll, gets a

truck, and thinks he's been bad. The child's quiet letter of complaint shakes St. Nick to the soul as he recalls his fearful youth during the middle ages (when homosexuals were torn to pieces) and regrets the promotional deals he made with Coca-Cola that force him to stay in the closet. The play, a theatrical mock-u-mentary by Jeffrey Solomon, reveals the secret romantic life of the beloved childhood icon and the scandal that rocks the world when the truth leaks out.

For more info, go to [www.diversionary.org/santaclaus.html](http://www.diversionary.org/santaclaus.html)



DIVERSIONARY THEATRE  
December 4-21

This solo mock-u-mentary lays bare the intensely personal struggle of Santa Claus as he tries to reconcile his love with strapping Italian toymaker Giovanni Geppetto!

DIVERSIONARY 25 YEARS



# PFLAG YEAR 2010 IN REVIEW

PFLAG's mission is to promote the health and well being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy.

## Monthly General Meetings

The San Diego Chapter of PFLAG held monthly general meetings at the First United Methodist Church of San Diego, 2231 Camino del Rio South. Each meeting featured a program, support groups, and time for socializing over refreshments. We also maintain a library of helpful books and DVDs to loan out at the meetings, which is always being updated and expanded thanks to our librarian, Terrie Vorono.

## Satellites

We have four satellite support groups that also meet monthly throughout San Diego County: North County Coastal in Carlsbad, North County Inland in Rancho Bernardo, East County in Santee, and South Bay in Chula Vista. We also support a Spanish speaking group, Mi Familia, who meet weekly at The Center.

## Programs



**Guest Speaker Joseph Rocha:** Mr. Rocha lived through "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and shared his experiences of how he was discharged.

**Guest Speaker Rev. Molly Vetter:** Rev. Vetter is from our host church and has been a strong advocate for the LGBT community inside and outside the church.

**Guest Speaker Dr. Adrian Calderon:** Having his Psy.D. degree in clinical psychology, Dr. Calderon is a group therapist and spoke about breaking down the myths and stereotypes of LGBT youth.

**In-house Speaker:** Our own Ron Goetz was kind enough to pinch hit for a speaker who was ill. He wrote the book *Jesus and the Six Homosexuals* (formerly entitled *Jesus and Marriage Equality*) and discussed his research.

**12th Annual Scholarship Awards:** Our chapter presented seven scholarships ranging from \$1000-2500. They were the Mary Wagner Memorial Scholarship, John Bessemer Memorial Scholarship, Rob Benzon Memorial Scholarship, Stephen Bowersox Memorial Scholarship, Mac McWhorter Memorial Scholarship, Doc Faulkner Memorial Scholarship, and the John McCusker Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund at the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation.



**Guest Speaker Sister Jeannine Gramick:** This presentation was a "joint venture," so to speak. With the help of several LGBT organizations, private donations, and donations at the door, we were able to bring in Sister Gramick from Washington, DC. Sister Jeannine, as she is affectionately called, is a Roman Catholic nun and a pioneer in Catholic pastoral outreach to the gay community. She has written several books and produced the film, *in good conscience*, which is part of our library.

## MEMBERSHIP

(Continued from page 4)

of each membership to National. As mentioned in October's newsletter, our dues are increasing slightly.

If you renew (or join) from now until the end of December, 2010, you pay the current membership dues and your membership will be valid through December, 2011. Now is a good time, also, to encourage those who attend meetings/satellite groups and have not become members, to do so.

Please complete the membership application and mail it or give it to us at the general meeting.

We especially want to thank those who have joined as Lifetime Members. We encourage others to do the same. Additional donations are always appreciated.





**Guest Speakers Dr. Jason Bailly and Ian Morton:** Walgreens is lucky to have these two gentlemen who are knowledgeable in the latest HIV trends on a local, national, and global level. They handed out important literature and discussed the latest information on HIV/AIDS.

**Annual mid-summer potluck:** We had an incredible array of food for our potluck picnic.

**Guest Speaker Kurt Dearie:** If there were such an award as the most outstanding GSA Advisor, it would go to Kurt. He shared his experiences as an advisor; we were fortunate enough to record his presentation and it is available in our library.

**Guest Speaker Jane Schmoll:** Jane is the Coordinator for Family Matter at The Center. Family Matters is an organization where most of the parents are LGBT and the children aren't. Jane oversees the activities, educational workshops, and social networking, among other things.

**Guest Speaker Dr. Stephen White:** Stephen, a clinical psychologist and PFLAG member, discussed how family dynamics affect the adjustment process for parents, children, and siblings when a family member comes out.

### Board Activities

We meet monthly at The Center to plan programs, scholarships, and other activities. All members are welcome to attend these meetings. We have a new board member, Sandi Timberlake. We wish to thank former board member Eric Portner for his hard work and sense of humor last year.

Yearly activities also include a board retreat at the beginning of each new year for self assessment purposes, to deepen our relationships, and start planning for the coming year. In addition, board members attended the PFLAG Southern Pacific Regional Conference in Los Angeles. Many board members were honored to have met with Jody Huckaby, Executive Director of PFLAG National.

### Community Education

We have a Speakers' Bureau that is available to colleges, high schools, and community groups. It is our main way of fulfilling our education mission. We are all proud of our enthusiastic cadre of speakers who volunteer month after month and year after year to enlighten the public about our LGBTQI sons and daughters. The Speakers' Bureau is made up primarily of parents of LGBT children who are willing to share their stories. This has led to many a change of heart and opening of minds. Our presentations included: USD School of Nursing, San Dieguito Academy, SDSU Diversity Day, American Psychological Association, CESCAl Conference, City College, Southwestern College, Brandman University, Metropolitan Community Church, Christ Chapel World Ministries, Unity Church, SDSU Big Gay BBQ, Kaiser Conference, CareFusion, San Ysidro Health Center, and SouthEast Pride

In addition, there was a Speakers' Bureau training, Non-profit Capacity Building, CLC-Collaboration Training, Safe Schools Training, and Cesar Hernandez, Western Region Field & Policy Manager, led a faith-based Straight for Equality training.

### Community Events

PFLAG-San Diego is an active and respected member of the LGBT community. We participate in fundraisers, staff booths at local events to raise LGBT awareness, and other community activities to support other organizations that advocate for the rights or meet the needs of our LGBT families and friends. We increase awareness of PFLAG when we attend these events. We are also involved in the larger organization of PFLAG at both the regional and national levels. Our local activities this past year include:



- We received funding from the Combined Federal Campaign
- Attended the premiere of Mi Familia's documentary *Mi Familia*
- Presented seven scholarships to local residents
- Sponsored PFLAG booths at SDSU Pridefest, South Bay Pride, SDSU LGBTQ Resource Fair, LGBT Safety Fair, Volunteer Fair at The Center, Alternate Christmas Fair at University City United Church of Christ, San Diego's Gay Pride
- Participated in the Day of Decision march and rally when Proposition 8 was overturned
- Attended a transgender seminar at The Center
- Boycotted Target and Best Buy
- Active in South Bay Alliance
- Attended "A Celebration of San Diego LGBT History" at City Hall
- Marched in the San Diego Gay Pride Parade
- Attended the San Diego Alliance for Marriage Equality (S.A.M.E.) rally urging supporters to demand full equality rights
- Joined in monthly conference calls with other PFLAG chapters in the Southern California Region
- Attended the Nicky Awards
- Several members attended a convention for Families for Sexual Diversity in Santiago, Chile
- Took part in the protest at Skyline Church when they had speakers from Exodus International
- Attended The Laramie Project at Castle Park High School
- Represented PFLAG monthly at the Community Leadership Council at The Center
- Participated in the Scouting for All Rally
- Attended the candlelight vigil in memory of the children who took their own lives due to LGBT bullying.
- Attended All God's Children meetings at Pt. Loma Nazarene University
- Published our monthly newsletter

## Contributions

- Funded the John Bessemer Memorial Scholarship
- Donated to Hillcrest Youth Center's Other Prom
- Raised over \$1200 for AIDS Walk, keeping our coveted shoe!
- Attended National's "LA Event" fundraiser
- Participated in Mama's Kitchen Pie in the Sky fundraiser
- Took part in The Center's Dining Out for Life which raises money for AIDS/HIV prevention
- Supported The Asian Film Festival night featuring LBGT short films
- Attended a fundraiser to help Bishop Christopher Senyonjo in his efforts to fight homophobia in Uganda



## Communications

We operate a telephone information line and respond to e-mail inquiries. Thank you to our web master, Rob Sachristan, who keeps us in the 21st century. Check out our web site - we receive over 3000 hits each month ([www.pflag.com](http://www.pflag.com))! Rob continued to do the newsletter layout until August when he had to discontinue due to personal commitments. We were happy to welcome aboard Jessy Sauchuk from Belladia Marketing & Design who has been doing the newsletter layout since September. Our newsletter is primarily sent by email to help the environment. We also have 182 followers on Twitter and blog a minimum of once a week (our master twitterer and blogger is co-prez Patti Boman).

## WITH THANKS

### Contributing Membership

Karen & Mark Thompson

### Supporting Memberships

Sue & Tom Johnson  
Jeannette Velgos

### Donation to the General Fund

Judith & Robert Wilkinson

### Providing Refreshments for our Meeting

Ruth Coolong  
Melinda Wollitz



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