



ISSUE VOLUME

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DECEMBER 2011
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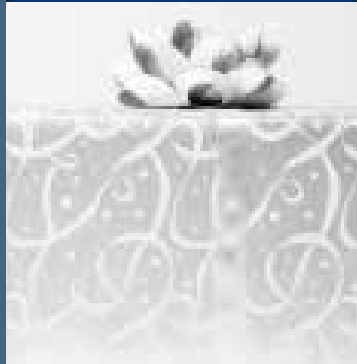


Don't Forget

There will not be a general PFLAG meeting in December; the church is closed the entire week after Christmas.

SEASON'S GREETINGS!

FAREWELL TO THE CO-FOUNDING MEMBER OF PFLAG SAN DIEGO



Best Wishes for a Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas, Happy December to our atheist members, and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Lillian Rubin passed away peacefully in her sleep at midnight on December 4th. She was almost 96 years old. Lillian, along with her husband Hy, founded the San Diego chapter of PFLAG.

Shortly after their son came out to them, Hy & Lillian learned about PFLAG. Following their first meeting in Los Angeles, Lillian became hooked on PFLAG. After several unsuccessful attempts to start a chapter in San Diego, parents and families and friends finally began to "come out," and in 1982 San Diego County PFLAG was started. It has grown from only 15 members in those first years to close to 300 members today.

Without any prior experience with this issue before her son came out, Lillian proudly marched in the Annual San Diego Gay Pride parades. She also became an acknowledged spokesperson on LGBT

issues in the media and at educational and civic organizations throughout Southern California. The LA Mayor's office awarded her a letter of commendation.

Lillian won the admiration of thousands whom she motivated and moved on sharing her knowledge of LGBT issues.

Anyone who wishes to make a donation in memory of Lillian Rubin to PFLAG, please send it to PFLAG San Diego, P.O. Box 82762, San Diego, CA 92138. Mark the memo line accordingly.



This picture of Lillian was taken on her 95th birthday. What looks like a ribbon is an actual birthday cake!



OFFICERS, COMMITTEES & VOLUNTEERS

Current Positions

Co-Presidents

Patti Boman
619-227-6092
pboman@pflag.com

Barbara Bodine
619-587-9101
bbodine@pflag.com

Past President
Karen Thompson
858-842-7005
kthompson@pflag.com

Vice-President
Sherry Cohen-Richards
858-349-6269
scohenrichards@pflag.com

Recording Secretary
Olivia Dorman
619-469-1924
odorman@pflag.com

Corresponding Secretary
Phyllis Van Wanseele
619-443-6132
pvanwanseele@pflag.com

Treasurer
Mark Thompson
619-339-5843
mthompson@pflag.com

Greeter
Lonnie Brunini
lbrunini@pflag.com

Membership
Bobbi Harwood
858-453-3249
bharwood@pflag.com

Info Line
Support/Outreach
Barbara Bodine
888-398-0006

Newsletter
Sherry Cohen-Richards,
Editor

Linda Bessemer, Laura
Partido & Flowers Group
Printing
Jessy Sauchuk, Belladia
Marketing & Design

Library
Joni Goldberg
qtassa@san.rr.com

Programs
Karen Thompson

Scholarship
Olivia Dorman

Spanish Interpreter
Maria Cortinas
760-758-3294

Speakers' Bureau
Terrie Vorono
tvorono@pflag.com
858-483-8310

Transgender Coordinator
Evelyn Lindenmuth
619-300-0396

Refreshments
Phyllis Van Wanseele

Website
Robert Sachristan
admin@pflag.com

Board Members
Patti Boman, Barbara
Bodine, Karen Thompson,
Sherry Cohen-Richards,
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Terrie Vorono, Sandi
Timberlake, Kim Martinez,
Arlene Prater, Betsy Sheets

PFLAG San Diego
PO Box 82762
San Diego, CA 92138
Tax ID #33-0512868

Membership Application

Memberships are for the calendar year.

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

Confidentiality is respected. Your donation is tax deductible (Tax ID 33-05-12868)

Make checks payable to:

PFLAG San Diego
PO Box 82762
San Diego, CA 92138

Type of Membership

- Individual \$30 Household\$40
- Business \$50 Supporting\$60
- Contributing \$125 Lifetime\$1000
- Other \$_____
- Accept my donation, please do not list.

Please fill out, clip and mail this form

Name

Address

City

State.....ZIP

Email.....

Phone.....Date



or go online www.pflag.com



GREAT TIME TO BECOME A MEMBER

Memberships are on a calendar year; however, if you join or renew now, you will automatically be a member for 2012! See article on page 4.



Robert Sachristan **CreativeWorks**
Graphic Design
619 630 - 0498

Current Events

December 26
Monday
NO GENERAL MEETING
DO NOT SHOW UP

January 9
Monday
 PFLAG Support Group
 North County Coastal

January 9
Monday
 PFLAG Support Group
 East County

January 9
Monday
 Mi Familia Support Group

January 12
Thursday
 PFLAG Support Group
 North County Inland

January 23
Monday
 San Diego PFLAG General
 Meeting & Support Groups

January 23
Monday
 Mi Familia Support Group

January 30
Monday
 Mi Familia Support Group

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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.



Equality is the soul of liberty, there is, in fact, no liberty without it.

Frances Wright

SUPPORT GROUPS

SD COUNTY GENERAL MEETING & SUPPORT GROUP

Meets every fourth Monday at 7:00 pm, at the First United Methodist Church, 2231 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley.

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

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

Meets the first Monday, at 7:00 pm, North County LGBTQ Resource Center, 510 North Coast Highway, Suite C, Oceanside.

Contact ncpflag@gmail.com or Larry Gerling, (760) 224-2178.

NORTH COUNTY INLAND

Meets every second Thursday, at 7:00 pm, Temple Adat Shalom, 15905 Pomerado Road, Room #9, Poway (Rancho Bernardo). The entrance to parking is directly across the street from the entrance to Sprouts' Market Center. Drive to the end of the building and bear right around it, to the first doors on your right (double doors).

Contact Sue Fine, (858) 673-4560 or pflag4sdnocnty@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.

National PFLAG, Washington, DC
 (202) 647-8180, www.pflag.org

UCSD IS CALLING

The HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center (HNRC) at UCSD in Hillcrest is asking for volunteers to do research studies. While most of the research is done with volunteers who are HIV positive, they are currently asking for volunteers who are HIV negative between the ages of 18 to 39 years old and 50 to 80 years old. Anyone interested in volunteering may call the research center at 619-543-5000 between 8am and 4pm Monday through Friday (they are closed December 23- January 2). Eligible volunteers are compensated for their time. The deadline for HIV negative volunteers is the end of March.

YOU ARE INVITED

Metropolitan Community Church invites those interested to a traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Saturday, **December 24** at 5 or 7 pm. The service is very special with a homey, heart-warming feel...much like what is felt when they think of PFLAG. They are open, affirming and welcoming of all people! The church is located at 2633 Denver Street, San Diego.

WANTED: RENEWAL OF YOUR SAN DIEGO PFLAG MEMBERSHIPS

If this article sounds familiar, we are repeating the one from our November newsletter. Nothing has changed; we would appreciate receiving your memberships as soon as possible. If received in December, it is good throughout 2012. 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.

We need you; we hope you will take the time now to renew your tax deductible membership or join for the first time. Please complete the application in the newsletter, enclose a check, and mail it to our P.O. Box. You can also bring it to our general meeting in January and give it to one of our officers. Being that it's the holiday season, you can give a membership as a gift. Additional applications are available at www.pflag.com or contact Bobbi Harwood at bharwood@pflag.com.

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

One last thing to remember if you are debating whether to renew your membership: ***When you no longer need PFLAG, PFLAG needs you!!***

A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE *by Terrie Vorono*

PFLAG San Diego has a link to Portugal's AMPLOS, a new family support group for families with LGBT members. Co-president Patti Boman met the founder, Margarida Lima de Faria, at a conference in Chile last year. I had the opportunity to meet with Margarida and her AMPLOS members in both Lisbon and Porto in October. Having lived in Brazil for several years, my Portuguese was a huge asset.

Margarida and her husband, Paulo, have two daughters, the younger self identifies as lesbian. With this information, they realized that they were entering a whole new world and that they had questions and concerns and nowhere to turn. Margarida shared that her testimony was not one of great personal conflict for their family, but she realized that there were no resources in Portugal for families who struggle due to religious or society's biases. She set out to create AMPLOS.

AMPLOS board members and general members in both cities could not have been more gracious, curious, and thoughtful. They want the same things for their children: for them to live and grow to their full potential without prejudice or harassment. We shared stories about marriage equality (they have it), LGBT military personnel (they have a ban), adoption (banned), and other social issues involving our family members. We talked about PRIDE events, children's suicides, Gay-Straight Alliances in schools, how our meetings are run, fundraising for our missions, etc., for hours.

I came away with a great sense of compassion and purpose from my new AMPLOS friends. We have allies the world over who are working and speaking up to make the world a kinder, safer place for all of our children.

PFLAG YEAR 2011 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 in Mission Valley. Each meeting features 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 was updated and expanded last year.

Satellites

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

Programs



Guest Speaker Abby Schwartz: Abby spoke about her role as the Women's Resource Coordinator & Senior Resource Coordinator at the LGBT Center.

Guest Speaker Michael Bussee: As a former member and one of the co-founders of Exodus International, Michel gave us the inside scoop on ex-gay (reparative) therapy from this organization.

Guest Speakers Kristy Valentino and Heather Smith: As part of the San Diego Unified School District's Mental Health Resource Center, they are involved with the S.P.E.A.K. (Suicide Prevention Education Awareness Knowledge) program.

Guest Speaker Joey Ramelli: Past Grand Marshall of the San Diego Pride Parade, Joey spoke about his legal challenges with the Poway Unified School District and his ultimate victory due to anti-gay harassment.

Guest Speaker Eric D. Brown: Eric is a financial planner from Waddell and Reed. He spoke of the financial issues facing the LGBT community.

13th Annual Scholarship Awards: Our chapter presented seven scholarships ranging from \$1000-2000. They were the Mary Wagner Memorial Scholarship, John Bessemer Memorial Scholarship, Rob Benzon Memorial Scholarship, Stephen

Bowersox Memorial Scholarship, John McCusker Memorial Foundation Scholarship Fund at the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation, Mac McWhorter Memorial Scholarship, and the Raytheon STEM Scholarship.



Guest Speaker Maureen Steiner: Lifetime PFLAG member, Maureen Steiner, gave us a look at San Diego's LGBT history. Maureen spoke on behalf of Lambda Archives of San Diego.

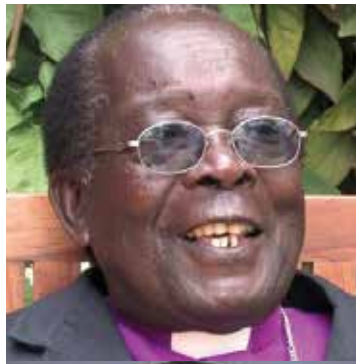


IT'S A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE

Blood may be thicker than water, but it won't help Newt Gingrich get more votes now that his half-sister, Candace, who is gay, has announced she will vote for President Obama in the next election.

"He is definitely on the wrong side of history when it comes to those issues," Candace Gingrich-Jones said. She is an activist at the Human Rights Campaign. She invited her half-brother to her same-sex wedding, but he had declined to attend. Despite the perceived bad blood between the two, Gingrich-Jones says she and her half-brother are "mutually respectful" of each other. Either way, she explained that her vote will go to President Obama regardless of which other candidates are vying for a nod.

Candace lamented, "At the end of the day, we are a family and that's important. The catch is that when we leave the dinner table or leave the Christmas gathering, you know that he and his wife (note, no comment from the editor) still have way more rights than my wife and I do."



Annual Summer Pot Luck: All in attendance made sure no one went home hungry. Members provided an assortment from “soup to nuts.” We were privileged to have Bishop Christopher Senyonjo join the picnic and update us on the efforts being made to fight homophobia in Uganda.

Guest Speaker Brandon Tate: Brandon is a representative of Equality California. He enlightened us about bills that have passes or would soon be passed that benefit LGBT Californians.

Guest Speakers Heidi Stern-Ellis and Al Killen-Harvey: As Licensed Clinical Social Workers at Rady’s Children’s Hospital and Health Center, Heidi and Al made us aware of LGBTQ issues facing adolescence and young adults. Al is a PFLAG member.

Guest Speaker Kristen Kavanaugh: Kristen is co-founder and Executive Director of the Military Acceptance Project. She shared the goals for acceptance of all former, current, and future LGB service members by providing education, support and effective communications.

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 three new board members: Kim Martinez, Arlene Prater, Betsy Sheets. We are sad to say farewell to board members Olivia Dorman, Phyllis Van Wanseele, and Barbara Bodine. We are grateful for their dedication and commitment to PFLAG-San Diego’s Board of Directors.

Yearly activities also include a board retreat at the beginning of the 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. Board members Barbara Bodine and Terrie Vorono attended the PFLAG National Convention and lobbying day in Washington, DC. Terrie also attended and spoke at AMPLOS (PFLAG in Portuguese) in both Lisbon and Porto, Portugal.

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 lead to many a change of heart and opening of minds. Our presentations included: Metropolitan Community Church, City College, Mesa College, Southwestern College, CESCAL (The Center for Excellence in School Counseling and Leadership) Conference, SDSU, USD, UCSD, and Wellpoint Healthcare.

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:

- We received funding from the Combined Federal Campaign
- Marched in the San Diego Gay Pride Parade
- Attended Big Gay BBQ at SDSU

- Presented seven scholarships to local residents
- Attended San Diego State University's Diversity Conference
- Sponsored PFLAG booths at San Diego Gay Pride, South Bay Pride, Southwestern College Health Fair, Legacy Concert/The Center, Pride @ the Beach!, CESCAL, and Home for the Holidays/The Center
- Celebrated the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"
- Attended Long Beach Pride
- Represented on the GLSEN Board (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network)
- Attended the GLSEN fundraiser at The Big Kitchen
- We are members of the Community Leadership Council at The Center
- Attended the Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast
- Participated in the Safe Schools Task Force (anti-bullying policy for the San Diego Unified School District)
- Active in South Bay Alliance
- Attended the Frida Kahlo Birthday event at The Center
- Attended the acclaimed *Mother/Son* performance at USD
- Joined in monthly conference calls with other PFLAG chapters in the Southern California Region
- Attended Pride's and Padres' Out at the Park
- Attended/supported the Gay Men's Chorus concerts
- Promoted the Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act.
- Took part in World AIDS Day Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Attended "Out in the Park BBQ" for displaced LGBT youth
- Had our Letters to the Editor published in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* in defense of the LGBT community.
- Published our monthly newsletter

Contributions

- Funded the John Bessemer Memorial Scholarship
- Donated to Hillcrest Youth Center's Other Prom
- Raised \$1400 for AIDS Walk, keeping our coveted shoe!
- Participated in Mama's Kitchen Pie in the Sky fundraiser
- Donated items to The Center's Yard Sale to raise funds for Family Matters
- Took part in The Center's Dining Out for Life which raises money for AIDS/HIV prevention and research
- Attended and contributed to the CESCAL fundraiser
- Co-sponsored a movie at the Asian Film Festival
- Attended the play, *Dooley*, at the Diversionary Theatre, which raised funds 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. Our web master, Rob Sachristan, keeps us in the 21st century. Our web site is one of the best. Check it out (www.pflag.com). We would be in a pickle without the talents of Jessy Sauchuk from Belladia Marketing & Design, who does the newsletter layout. 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-president Patti Boman).



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Veronica Vega

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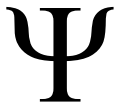
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