



THE FEW, THE PROUD

Please join us for our General Meeting on **Monday, March 26** at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 2231 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley. Doors open at 6:45 pm.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE A CHANGE IN THE ORDER OF EVENTS. WE WILL HAVE OUR SUPPORT GROUPS FIRST, THEN OUR COOKIE SOCIAL, FOLLOWED BY THE SPEAKER.

We are pleased to have as our speaker Captain Matthew Phelps, who has been in the U.S. Marine Corps since 2002. He was driven to serve after the events of September 11, 2001. Phelps moved rather quickly up the ranks. He also served in Iraq. His personal decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (third award), and Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal.

Matthew was affected by "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," telling no one in the Marines he was gay. However, when it was overturned, all bets were off. He very professionally came out to his comrades and officers. The stories that he has shared in Support Groups and will share as our speaker, will show you what an amazing person he is. He follows his convictions.



There is some modesty; he does not consider his personal experiences and various activities he's now involved in, as activism. He feels he is just a Marine standing up for what he believes is right.

See you on the 26th!

DON'T MISS OUT

Time is running out. The deadline for submitting applications for our 2012 scholarships is **Friday, March 16, 2012**. Our PFLAG chapter will be awarding \$1000-2000 scholarships to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students. We are very proud that this is our 14th year of offering scholarships. Eligible students include high school seniors who will continue their education, full-time undergraduate, or full-time graduate students. The purpose of the awards is: to recognize outstanding LGBT youth from the community, especially for their involvement in the gay community and/or society; to encourage post-secondary education of LGBT persons; to promote a positive image of LGBT persons in society.

Once again, Raytheon Company is awarding the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) Scholarship--to be awarded to a student with a background or interest in the STEM area(s) who is pursuing a degree in one of those fields.

The San Diego Human Dignity Foundation is offering a \$5000 scholarship with specific criteria. Please see page 6.

Please visit our web site, www.pflag.com and click on the scholarship link. The requirements are listed on the scholarship application. All awardees must be able to attend the awards ceremony on **Monday, April 23**. For more info, call Chair Olivia Dorman, 619-743-6879 or email oliviaenid@gmail.com.



THE PLAY'S THE THING

The Diversionary Theatre is presenting the Tony nominated play *Next Fall* from February 16 through March 25. PFLAG and community members are especially welcome on Thursday, **March 15** at group ticket rates. Ordering online, the tickets are \$31, which includes a \$4 service charge (www.diversionary.org). To initiate the discount, use the code PFLAG. The other options are to phone the theatre (619-220-0097) and charge it or buy the tickets in person. Those tickets are \$28.25, which includes a \$1.25 service fee. The theatre address



(cont'd on page 5)



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Membership Application

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or go online www.pflag.com



REMEMBER 2012 MEMBERSHIPS WERE DUE JANUARY 1!

We always like to remind our membership of why it is important to pay dues and continue your financial support: room rental for the San Diego General Meeting, the telephone info/help line, newsletter publication and mailing, scholarship for LGBT youth, PRIDE Parade and Festival, educational books and DVDs, fees to participate in events to provide more visibility in the community, supplies, etc. Please keep in mind, also, that \$15 of each membership is sent to PFLAG National to support them.

If you haven't renewed or joined yet, please help us to support the LGBT community.

Current Events

**March 15
Thursday**

Diversionsary Theater/
reception and play
(see article)

**March 16
Friday**

Deadline to submit
scholarship applications

**March 19
Monday**

Mi Familia Support Group

**March 24
Saturday**

The Queer Queens of Qomedy
(see article)

**March 26
Monday**

San Diego PFLAG
General Meeting &
Support Groups

**March 26
Monday**

Mi Familia Support Group

**April 2
Monday**

PFLAG Support Group
North County Coastal

**April 2
Monday**

Mi Familia Support Group

**April 9
Monday**

PFLAG Support Group
East County

**April 9
Monday**

Mi Familia Support Group

**April 12
Thursday**

PFLAG Support Group
North County Inland

**April 16
Monday**

Mi Familia Support Group

**April 20
Friday**

Day of Silence

**April 26
Thursday**

Dining Out for Life

SAVE THE DATE
(see article)

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



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DINING OUT FOR LIFE

Every year, The LGBT Center has gathered over 100 restaurants to participate in **Dining Out for Life**. The event is **Thursday, April 26**. These establishments give a minimum of 25 percent of their proceeds on food and liquor sales to The LGBT Center for HIV/AIDS services/programs. In order to make this a success again this year again, **volunteers are needed**. The goal is to have a restaurant ambassador or host in every participating restaurant and bar. This is a countrywide event and we would like San Diego to shine. You can let family and friends know locally and nationwide to save the **April 26** date (the date is the same in every city). If you can volunteer, contact Donnie Luehring at dluehring@thecentersd.org or 619-692-2077, ext. 246. If you can't volunteer, please plan on having a meal at one of the participating restaurants. A complete list of restaurants will be listed in next month's newsletter.



THE GAY AGENDA TOUR

Randy Roberts Potts, grandson of the late televangelist Oral Roberts, lives in Dallas, where he and his fiancé do a performance art piece called "The Gay Agenda," basically doing boring day-to-day activities like cooking and watching TV together while on display downtown. They're now taking their show on tour.

Through Randy's performance art and speaking tours, he finds that a message of acceptance from a member of Roberts' "royal family" means a lot to people who have been told the same thing. He's touring the country hoping for his own kind of revival, comforting gay people like him, who have been told by their evangelical communities that they're destined for hell.

Oral Roberts was a dramatic, charismatic preacher and "healer," and, like most big-name televangelists of his time, would warn audiences about the dangers of homosexuality. His eldest son ended up coming out as gay in the '80s, committing suicide shortly after ending his marriage.

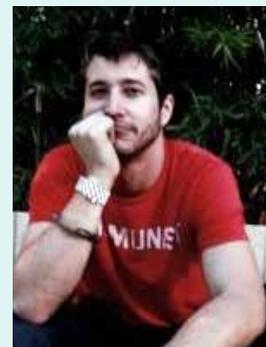
As Randy sees it, "I think (Oral Roberts) was convinced that homosexuality killed his son. Some evangelicals see it as a spirit or a demon of homosexuality that invades you, that it's an almost personified thing that will completely strangle and kill you. Not even so much as a choice, but something you give

in to, something that can afflict anybody."

"It's an amazing thing that I know is a lot bigger than me. I'm just the guy who's Oral Roberts' gay grandson, and I don't even think it matters what I say a lot of the time. It's just the fact that I'm up there, gay and open about it and saying it's okay—it's just this huge release," said Randy.

Potts did an "It Gets Better" video that is dedicated to his deceased uncle who was gay. "My uncle and I were both raised in a world dominated by Evangelicals who taught and still teach that the fires of Hell await all gay men and women," the clip said. "This is the Evangelical 'Christian' legacy for gays like my uncle and me: threats, bullying, death."

Randy says his last visit with his grandfather was a friendly one, and Roberts did not bring up Potts' homosexuality. His mother, though, continues to remind him of her views on his "lifestyle" (his parents don't even use the word "gay") and how it's destined him to hell.



QUEER QUEENS OF QOMEDY

Poppy Champlin and her entourage of comedians are presenting the show, *The Queer Queens of Qomedy*, on Thursday, **March 24** at 8:00 pm at the Birch North Park Theatre. This is a unique comedy revue that's touring the country with some of the funniest, edgiest, talented, and most outrageous comics.

Tickets are available at www.birchnorthparktheatre.net. General admission is \$25 and \$20 for seniors, students and military. The discounted tickets must be purchased by calling the box office: 619-239-8836 ext. 3. Each ticket will be charged a \$2 theatre restoration fee. The theatre is located at 2891 University Avenue in North Park.

The Human Rights Campaign is sponsoring this show; some proceeds go to the fight for LGBT rights.

From the reviews, this show is side-splitting funny.



RICKY, RICKY, RICKY

You've heard of Burger King whoppers, and now we'll tell you about the Rick Santorum whoppers. Before getting started, the moral of the story is: if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.

Santorum could not snow David Gregory on *Meet the Press*.

Whopper One: Santorum says he does not talk about social issues.

Whopper Two: Santorum claims that no proof exists that he wants to impose his own values on other Americans. They are just his personal held religious beliefs.

He claimed that he only talks about his deep rooted religious beliefs when the media asks about them. Gregory reminded him that he was expounding his moral virtues going back years and that he has made this a centerpiece of his public life. Yet Santorum said, "Look at my record, I never wanted to impose any of the things that you've just talked about."

As his nose was getting longer, he was getting in deeper. Let's review: Santorum twice signed pledges that, if elected, he would ban same-sex marriage via an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, would immediately annul the marriages of thousands of same-sex couples, and ban adoptions by same-sex couples. To elaborate, he said that children would be better off having a heterosexual father in prison than being raised by two moms. Having two gay parents, amounts to

"robbing children of something they need, they deserve, they have a right to. You may rationalize that that isn't true, but in your own life and in your own heart, you know it's true." And a step further, when asked by a mother why her gay son shouldn't be allowed to adopt children, his answer was that those rights that aren't given by God can then be doled out by the government to whoever it sees as a "healthy" fit. Further still, he says, "There are certain things that government does that gives people privileges in order to promote activity that are healthy for society and are best for society. Those things we promote would give people advantages or benefits, government benefits because we think that is healthy activity." You are good if you can follow that logic.

Santorum on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell": Gays and lesbians should not be allowed to serve openly in the military. "I know the whole gay community is trying to make this the new Civil Rights Act," he said. "It's not the same. You are black by the color of your skin. You are not, you know, homosexual necessarily by, obviously, by the color of your skin. ... There are people who were gay and lived the gay lifestyle and aren't anymore." Another argument against "don't ask, don't tell" -- soldiers are "in close quarters, they live with people, they obviously shower with people."

Although many pages could be filled on how homophobic Santorum is, here is the last word from a Fox News interview, "Being gay is a choice." Need more be said?

AND STILL ANOTHER STEP CLOSER

February really was marriage equality month. First, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals declared Proposition 8 is unconstitutional, then Washington state voted to legalize same-sex marriage, and at the end of February, Maryland also signed the marriage equality bill into law.

The law is scheduled to take effect in January, 2013, but, as always, the opponents have vowed to challenge the measure in a referendum this November.

Before the ink was dry, the Maryland homophobes began their petition the day after the Senate passed the bill. Nearly 56,000 valid signatures are needed to place the law on the ballot. Many religious groups have already banned together to help repeal the law. Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, who made marriage equality one of his legislative priorities this session, has said he will campaign strongly to retain the law should a referendum take place.

DOING WHAT'S RIGHT MAY COST

New York Republican state senator Mark Grisanti is losing the backing of his local Conservative Party because he voted in favor of marriage equality last year (and it became law). Apparently, he could no longer be trusted as he first said he was against marriage equality, then voted for the bill last year. He should not be called a "flip-flopper;" he should be called a person of conviction for doing what was right.

Time will tell if victory triumphs prejudice.

THE PLAY'S...

(cont'd from page 1)

is 4545 Park Boulevard, San Diego. Please mention PFLAG to get your discount.

PFLAG is hosting a reception at 6:45 pm; the play begins at 7:30 pm. After the performance, the audience is invited to stay for a talk-back discussion with church leaders.

The witty and intelligent play covers themes about devotion, sexual orientation, unconditional love, and the impact it has on our relationships.

For questions or tix, call Travis at 619-220-0097. For reception info, call Linda Miles at 619-251-4881.

THE HARVARD WAY



Harvard University, apparently has a shameful past that only became known 10 years ago when a student reporter found a file marked "secret court" in the university archives. This secret cabal investigated charges of homosexuality back in the first part of the 20th century (1920). Now a group is asking that the seven students who were expelled under suspicion of being gay, be awarded posthumous degrees. Harvard says it doesn't award posthumous degrees, except in rare cases where students complete academic requirements but die before degrees have been conferred. A spokesperson on behalf of the university recently reiterated what was said 10 years ago, "In 2002,

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LET'S HOPE DOMA IS DOOMED

The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA: the act that withholds federal protections and respect for legally married gay and lesbian couples) has been declared unconstitutional by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. Naturally, a group of Republican members of Congress who oppose gay rights filed an appeal on the ruling.

Oddly enough, the case was fought on behalf of a lesbian who is trying to get health benefits for her wife at her place of employment - the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals! The opposing Republicans can't cry foul because the judge is a George W. Bush appointee (and, therefore, couldn't possibly be gay).

The Obama Administration and the U.S. Justice Department have concluded that DOMA is unconstitutional and are refusing to defend the discriminatory law in court. Anti-gay Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives, led by Speaker John Boehner, are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayer money to defend challenges to DOMA.

DOMA is under legal attack in several district courts around the U.S., and has taken a pummeling in each case because it clearly discriminates against gay and lesbian couples who are legally married. The U.S. Senate has introduced a bill to overturn DOMA, but that bill has not moved forward yet.

**"HETEROSEXUALITY IS NOT NORMAL, IT'S JUST COMMON."
-DOROTHY PARKER**

THE SAN DIEGO HUMAN DIGNITY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP



A \$5000 scholarship is being offered by the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation.

The scholarship was established through a bequest by Philip Flick to honor his partner of 44 plus years and his commitment to ethics. Richard Geyser, who passed away in 2004, was the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation's first board president and a founding member.

Richard P. Geyser was an architect, a WWII Army Aircore veteran, and was an active member of many professional and civic associations throughout his successful career.

The Richard Geyser Memorial Ethics Scholarship funding is administered by the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation and the scholarship program is managed by PFLAG San Diego.

Scholarship Award: \$5,000

Eligibility:

Identify and describe an ethical issue that impacts LGBT people.

1. Describe specifically who is impacted and the significance of this ethical issue. Who are the stakeholders?
2. Describe the ethical principles involved in this situation/issue.
3. Propose solutions or responses to the situation, if any.

The San Diego Human Dignity Foundation is the area's only foundation with a focus on LGBT issues. Their mission is to improve the quality of life within San Diego's LGBT community by promoting and increasing responsible philanthropy to enact positive social change.

For more information, please visit their website, www.myLGBTfoundation.org.

KUDOS TO J.C. PENNEY/PART II

In last month's newsletter, we gave kudos to J.C. Penney for choosing Ellen DeGeneres as their spokesperson. They did not back down, even when the anti-gay group One Million Moms told them, in no uncertain terms, that Penney's would lose all their customers if they had a "homosexual" spokeswoman. As an aside, it is noteworthy to mention that even though they call themselves One Million Moms, there are only 45,000 "friends" on their Facebook page. Obviously, they came up a little short in more ways than one.

Within two days of the announcement, One Million Moms said they would boycott JCP. In answer to that, GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) threw its support behind J.C. Penney and its choice to partner with DeGeneres with the campaign

"Stand Up For Ellen." They were asking people to show their support for Ellen on Facebook, twitter, and/or by signing a petition at www.glaad.org.



After waiting with bated breath, Ellen's commercials were finally seen during the Oscars. It shows Ellen shopping during various phases of history including the Old West, Ancient Rome, and Victorian England, which tied in with J.C. Penney stressing that no coupons are needed, they take back returns with no receipt and have great prices. When you see the commercials, it's almost certain to bring a big smile.

CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF THOSE MILLION MOMS

The article above speaks of the One Million Moms outcry against J.C. Penney. Last month it was mentioned in the newsletter that they got mad at Macy's for featuring grooms on wedding cakes. Now, what is this world coming to when Toys 'R Us will be selling the *Archie* comic book featuring a "Just Married" gay couple ON THE COVER.

And not only are they married, but (close your eyes) they are a mixed race couple.

Straight from the horses' mouths, "These comic books are sold at the front checkout counters so they are highly visible to employees, managers, customers and

children. Unfortunately, children are now being exposed to same-sex marriage in a toy store. This is the last place a parent would expect to be confronted with questions from their children on topics that are too complicated for them to understand. Issues of this nature are being introduced too early and too soon, which is becoming extremely common and unnecessary. A trip to the toy store turns into a premature discussion on sexual orientation and is completely uncalled for. Toys 'R' Us should be more responsible in the products they carry."

The issue won't be sold until January, 2013 so stayed tuned.

MEDICAL SCHOOLS NEED TO GET UP TO SPEED

Medical schools devote an average of five hours in their entire curricula to instruction on LGBT patients, according to a survey published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

More than a quarter of medical school deans said their school's coverage of 16 related topics was "poor" or "very poor." The topics include gender reassignment surgery, mental health issues, and HIV/AIDS.

While nearly all medical schools teach their students to ask patients if they have sex with men, women, or both when obtaining a sexual history, overall instruction didn't include taking that conversation to the next level for the patient's health benefit.

The Institute of Medicine has reported that LGBT patients have higher risks for depression, suicide, being victims of violence, and even receiving less preventive care.

THE HARVARD WAY

(continued from page 6)

the University expressed its deep regret for the way the situation was handled as well as for the anguish experienced by the students and their families almost a century ago."

But some say the apology isn't enough and it's important for Harvard to confer honorary degrees.

"It's not reparations, it's more of a gesture to the present LGBT community that this university has cemented its values on the right side of history and it's willing to address — not just put in the past — the aberrations of the 1920s," said Jonas Wang, a 21-year-old transgender student. "You can say that the people of the court were the victims of their own culture, but this is something we are addressing in the present."

The students and faculty who feel strongly about this held a rally when Lady Gaga came to Harvard to launch her Born This Way Anti-Bullying Foundation. What better way to call attention to a cause than to have it promoted by Lady Gaga. It also didn't hurt that Oprah Winfrey, Deepak Chopra and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius were part of Lady Gaga's kick-off.

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