



ISSUE VOLUME

07 19

JULY 2012
www.pflag.com
info@pflag.com

LOVE IS NOT BLIND

Please join us for our General Meeting on **Monday, July 23** at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 2231 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley. The building where we meet is The United Methodist Center, in The Cove Room. Doors open at 6:45 pm. **PLEASE NOTE, THE MEETING IS ON THE FOURTH MONDAY OF THE MONTH, NOT JULY 30.**

We welcome Scott and Les GrantSmith as

our speakers. They will tell of their unique 25 year marriage and the process of coming out to their children, family, friends, and community about Les' transition from female to male. One of the most delicate matters was telling their two young daughters.

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



"I LOVE A PARADE"

The Pride Parade and Festival is right around the corner: **July 20-22**. The theme of the event, which kicks off the weekend of celebration is: "America's Pride" because equality is an American value!



San Diego is proud of marking the 38th Annual Pride Celebration.

The celebrity Grand Marshal is Sandra Bernhard.

If this article looks familiar, it should. Most of it was the same as last month – but now it's at your fingertips.

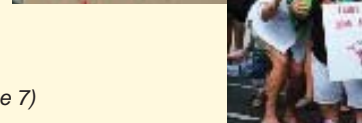
The festivities start out on Friday evening, **July 20**, with the Spirit of Stonewall Awards and Rally from 6:00-8:00 pm. This year, the rally

returns to the heart of Hillcrest which will be held at Harvey Milk and Normal Streets (at the LGBT Center). This free event features inspirational speakers and honors recipients of the 2012 Spirit of Stonewall Awards, which awards persons and organizations that have made a significant, positive impact on San Diego's LGBT community.

Next up is the pièce de résistance: The Pride Parade! This takes place on Saturday, **July 21**, beginning at 11:00 am. The route is 1.5 miles. There is nothing like being part of the PFLAG contingent in the parade. Besides all the excitement of the event, the crowd goes crazy when PFLAG passes by. If you cannot walk the 1.5 miles, it is possible there may still be

space available in one of the cars (no guarantee). You can contact Karen Thompson at 858-842-7005 or kthompson64@cox.net. Also note, participants in our contingent will be handing out coupons that will benefit the "Cultivating Respect: Safe Schools for All." Please see the article on page 4.

We are very fortunate that Jody Huckaby, Executive Director of PFLAG National and Cesar Hernandez, Western Field & Policy Manager for PFLAG will be marching in the parade with us and also be at our booth at the festival. Don't be shy – introduce yourselves to them and you'll be glad you did! (Continued on Page 7)



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Current Events

July 12
Thursday
PFLAG Support Group
North County Inland

July 16
Monday
Mi Familia Support Group

July 20-21
PRIDE WEEKEND
(see article)

July 23
Monday
San Diego PFLAG
General Meeting &
Support Groups

July 23
Monday
Mi Familia Support Group

July 30
Monday
Mi Familia Support Group

August 6
Monday
PFLAG Support Group
North County Coastal

August 6
Monday
Mi Familia Support Group

August 9
Thursday
PFLAG Support Group
North County Inland

August 12
Sunday
CityFest (see article)

August 13
Monday
PFLAG Support Group
East County

August 13
Monday
Mi Familia Support Group

August 20
Monday
Mi Familia Support Group

September 30
Sunday
AIDS Walk

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

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.



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NAACP IS RIGHT ON THE MONEY

The LGBT community is most pleased that the board of the NAACP (The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), the country's oldest African American civil rights group, voted to endorse same-sex marriage. For many years, the group has long been divided in some quarters of the black community. The board stated that the resolution supported its historic commitment to equal protection under the law. They went further in saying they are opposed to any policy or legislative initiative that "seeks to codify discrimination or hatred into the law or to remove the constitutional rights of LGBT citizens."

PROOF POSITIVE

The unveiling of Harvey Milk Street.



CULTIVATING RESPECT: SAFE SCHOOLS FOR ALL

San Diego PFLAG is participating with other PFLAG chapters nationwide to raise money for PFLAG's "Cultivating Respect: Safe Schools for All." The program provides support, education, and advocacy to students, parents, families, friends, and educators to help them create a learning environment that is conducive to the educational success of all students. PFLAG chapters are working in their communities to work directly with schools and their stakeholders to provide support, resources, training, model policy and creative programs to create this environment of respect.

To accomplish these goals, PFLAG is teaming up with Johnson and Johnson Family of Consumer Companies and Walgreens to raise money toward the program. These two companies launched Care with Pride™ to support the program which helps fight bullying in schools and make them safe for all students. Betty DeGeneres (Ellen's mom) helped PFLAG launch the **Care with PRIDE™** campaign.

A frightening statistic is that half of all children are bullied at some point in their school years, including 90 percent of LGBT youth.



If you are attending the Pride Parade, be sure to get one of the **Care With PRIDE™** booklets. The booklet contains \$65 in coupons and rebates from 20 brands within the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies brands. For each coupon and rebate redeemed at Walgreens, Johnson and Johnson will donate \$1.00 toward the program.

Everyone marching with the PFLAG contingent will be asked to hand out the booklets. They will also be available at our PFLAG booth at the Festival. If you want to get an early start, and we hope you do, go to www.walgreens.com/pride to print the coupons.

SLOWLY AND SOMETIMES SURELY, THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE TURN

The Washington DC Republican Committee, which is the equivalent of a state party, adopted inclusive language in its platform with a vote, becoming the first GOP state party to take such a step.

The committee made the change under the platform's "Family and Marriage" which supported the move: "We, the Republicans of the District of Columbia support the belief that all individuals, without regard to sexual orientation, are entitled to full and equal protection under the laws and the Constitution and that everyone has the right

to be treated with dignity and respect."

It's the usual "one step forward and two steps backwards" routine. The Oregon Republican Party removed language that condemned same-sex unions and gay parents while the Republican Party of Texas approved an anti-gay platform that said homosexuality "tears at the fabric of society," and Mitt Romney, the presumptive Republican nominee, has expressed support for a federal constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex marriage.

SAVE THE DATE

The 23rd Annual AIDS Walk is **Sunday, September 30**. It's not too early to register with the PFLAG San Diego team. Go to www.AIDSwalksd.org and select *Register* at the top of the page, then *Join an Existing Team*. Either enter *PFLAG San Diego* or

Search for a Team and find *PFLAG San Diego*. Click on the *Join* button and follow the instructions. The registration fee is \$35 (\$25 for 17 & under and 60+). They'll be lots more info in the August newsletter.

PFLAG CELEBRATES RUBY ANNIVERSARY

Forty years ago was the beginning of PFLAG, thanks to Jeanne Manford, who declared in a letter to the *New York Post*, “I have a homosexual son and I love him.” It was largely unheard of for a parent to publicly support a gay child in the mainstream press. She wrote this letter after she saw on the evening news her gay son, Morty, being beaten while participating in a gay activist demonstration in April 1972. Shortly after, Manford and her son walked together in the Christopher Street Liberation Day Parade -- a predecessor to the New York City Pride Parade. She carried a placard “Parents of Gays Unite in Support for Our Children.”

PFLAG first stood for Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and later changed to Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. No matter what it stood for, many gay rights experts and advocates say that a lion’s share of the credit belongs to Manford and her organization of LGBT parents.

It is noteworthy to mention that Jeanne Manford, a retired school teacher, is now 91 and lives with her daughter, Suzanne Swan, in California. Swan was away at college when her mother marched in the parade but

said she wasn’t surprised when she heard about it. “Morty’s friends couldn’t believe that a mother actually came out and said, ‘My son is gay; I love him,’” Swan said. Morty died in 1990 of AIDS.

Many gay rights advocates still turn emotional, in recounting their first encounter with PFLAG or Manford. Daniel Dromm, a gay New York City Councilperson who cofounded the Queens chapter of PFLAG, said in a recent interview that he cried the first time he saw PFLAG members in a gay pride parade. “It’s the reaction, I think, you get from a lot of gay people because [for] so many of us our parents still don’t accept us.”

As always, PFLAG is constantly fighting for our LGBT loved ones – fighting for equality, anti-bullying laws, the end of discrimination, acceptance, hate crimes prevention – you probably have the list memorized by now. PFLAG San Diego has been fighting since it’s inception in 1982, thanks to Lillian and Hy Rubin.

Although we still have a long way to go, we should salute Jeanne Manford and her courage.

BOYCOTT DU JOUR

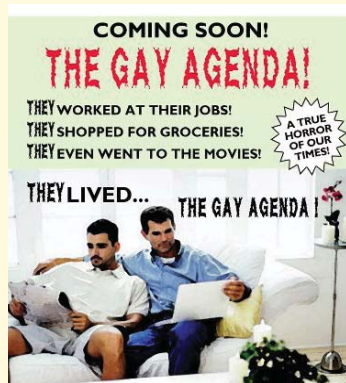
As you recall, One Million Moms (OMM) is boycotting companies, corporations and just about anything that moves if they feel they promote the “gay agenda” (see cartoon below). It still has not occurred to them that these boycotts do absolutely no good. In fact, they have a tendency to backfire; whoever they are boycotting actually has their businesses increase.

Boycotts: JC Penney, Macy’s, Toys ‘R’ Us, Starbucks and now Kraft, in particular, this non-existent cookie advertised by Nabisco in support of Pride month:

OMM’s post is entitled “Oreo—No Longer Favorite Cookie”—announcing to “American consumers where it stands on the controversial ‘gay’ marriage issue. Homosexuals are

weighing in, hoping Oreo makes the fake cookie real. There are plenty of cookies on the market for moms [and they’re sexist, too] to buy for their families that do not support liberal causes. We have a choice. Kraft’s brands include Oreo, Cadbury, Maxwell House, and Nabisco.”

Other companies we should support, since anti-gay groups don’t: Proctor and Gamble, General Mills, Safeway Stores, Pillsbury, Pepsi, American Apparel, Home Depot, Old Navy – just to name a few!



UPDATE ON HOW BACKWARDS THE U.S. IS ON MARRIAGE EQUALITY

The following countries allow same-sex marriage (year of law passage):

The Netherlands (2001)

Belgium (2003)

Spain (2004)

Canada (2005)

South Africa (2006)

Norway (2008)

Sweden (2009)

Portugal, Iceland, Argentina and Brazil (2010)

There are countries who are almost there (note the absence of the U.S.). They offer rights to same-sex couples, but stop short of marriage: Ireland, Denmark, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Uruguay.

And then there are countries who offer some spousal rights, but not full marriage equality (note the absence of the U.S.): Andorra, Austria, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Luxembourg, Slovenia, Switzerland.

FUN, FUN, FUN

CityFest will be held on Sunday, **August 12, 2012** from 12 pm-9 pm. This year marks the 28th year that Hillcrest will host this event of arts and crafts vendors, live music, dancing, face-painting, performances, lantern-making, merrymaking, games, food, and a beer garden (just to name a few; there are over 250 vendors). The event takes place on Fifth Avenue between Brookes and University Avenues in Hillcrest.

CityFest celebrates the spirit of Hillcrest. It attracts 150,000+ attendees and there's always something for everyone.

CELEBRACIÓN



Pictured above are co-prez Patti Boman, Mistress of Ceremonies Francesca, and Mi Familia facilitator Carolina Ramos.

The birthday celebration of Frida Kahlo was held to commemorate the legendary life of one of the most influential Mexican painters of the mid-20th century. All proceeds for the event went to benefit The Center's Latin@ Services program.

NEXT UP

Samantha Ezell was awarded the John Bessemer Memorial Scholarship. Samantha is completing prerequisites for a nursing program at MiraCosta Community College; she plans to graduate as a nurse practitioner. Listening to science and technical podcasts and playing with her dog are among Samantha's interests.. She is proud of her solid GPA which she has maintained despite working 30+ hours/week. This summer, she is running a science camp and is thrilled. Ms. Ezell describes herself as a sci fi/fantasy/comic book "dork." She has spent summers at Comic Con dating from 7th grade. Samantha's essay:

"I wish I could name only one or two human rights issues currently confronting the LGBT community, but I can't. From the current legal battles being fought over gay marriage, to adoption laws throughout the country, partnership rights in crisis situations, and even access to health care--the issues facing the LGBT community are vast and varied. Most stem from the lack of legal recognition of gay individuals and couples, but that cannot change until there is respect for the LGBT community.

As a member of the LGBT community, I have seen firsthand the consequences of the lack of respect. Two years ago, my friend Ashley needed medical attention for a minor sinus infection. I drove to three different clinics before one would treat her. The first two became scornful and uncooperative upon discovering that she was transgender. I will never forget the look on Ashley's face after

DOD IS A-OK

As declared by President Obama every year since he's been in office, June is LGBT Pride Month. In June, the Department of Defense (DOD), i.e., the Pentagon, hosted an LGBT Pride Month celebration. This would have been unheard of before DADT (Don't Ask, Don't Tell) was repealed.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta released a video at the beginning of the event in which he said, "Going forward, I remain committed to removing as many barriers as possible to

being told off by a nurse who didn't agree with her "life choices," as it was termed. It broke my heart. Medical professionals are trained to "first do no harm," but that afternoon Ashley faced nothing but ridicule and a lack of respect--the exact antithesis of the help medical professionals are supposed to provide.

It was at that moment I decided to go back to school and study to become a nurse. However, it wasn't easy. It took more courage than I thought to leave a well-paying job in the middle of our current economic crisis. I moved back home and am currently taking prerequisites for nursing school at MiraCosta Community College. Next year I will be concluding the last of my prerequisites and applying to entry-level masters programs for nurses--I plan to be matriculating in the Fall of 2013.

As a nurse, I pledge to do my part to ensure that all of my patients are treated with respect; I pledge to make sure Ashley, and anybody else who comes to me seeking aid, will not be turned away, will not be ridiculed, and made to feel as though they were somehow subhuman or less worthy of assistance. As respect for LGBT individuals grows, change will follow. I pledge to do my part."



Linda Bessemer, Samantha Ezell, Scholarship Chairperson Olivia Dorman

make America's military a model of equal opportunity, to ensure all who are qualified can serve in America's military, and to give every man and woman in uniform the opportunity to rise to their highest potential."

The Defense Department's top lawyer, Jeh Johnson, was the keynote speaker. His address was followed by a panel discussion called "The value of open service and diversity."

ORIGINAL

Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council slammed the LGBT community once again, condemning Pride month while equating LGBT people with adulterers and alcoholics.

Perkins was on the organization's radio program and declared, "The month of June is Gay Pride Month. Now, I have not yet seen where they have declared Adultery Pride Month, I have not seen where they have declared the Drunkenness Pride Month. We're not celebrating those other forms as a society, we're not promoting [them] and teaching [them] as normal in our schools."

On marriage equality: "We're talking about redefin-

ing the rest of culture and making others both embrace, celebrate and subsidize. We're talking about changing the laws that will influence what our children are taught in schools. It's already happening in those states that have legalized same-sex marriage or had it forced upon them by the courts. We're talking about religious organizations losing their religious freedom."

This is the same Perkins who said people can become gay based on the "environment they're raised in."

He's getting geared to raise fire and brimstone. In an interview on MSNBC, he said that the issue of same-sex marriage "will make the abortion issue look minor."

(Pride, Continued from pg 1)

This year marks the second year there will be a military contingent. If you talk to anyone who attended the parade last year, they can tell you how thrilling it was to witness history in the making.

After the Parade, and continuing on Sunday, is the Pride Festival which includes multiple stages of entertainment, more than 80 musicians, bands, comedy and dance performers, 300 participating vendor booths, an art exhibit, cultural presentations, and great food! There is also a Farmers Market, Beer Garden, Cool Zone for the 55+ gang, Youth Zone, Children's Garden, and most important is our PFLAG booth, located on the main drag.

The festival is located at Marston Point at 6th and Juniper in Balboa Park. Saturday evening ends at 10:00 pm and Sunday runs from 11:00 am-8:00 pm. You may purchase tickets through Pride's web site (www.sdpride.org) or at the festival: \$20 (one day) or \$30 (two day). As always, there are discounted military and senior tickets that can be purchased at the festival. Must show ID.

Suggestions before you leave home:

1) Get to the shuttle buses early; there are free shuttle buses from the old Balboa Naval Hospital located on Park Blvd. across from President's Way. If you don't get there early, it will truly be "snooze and you loose".

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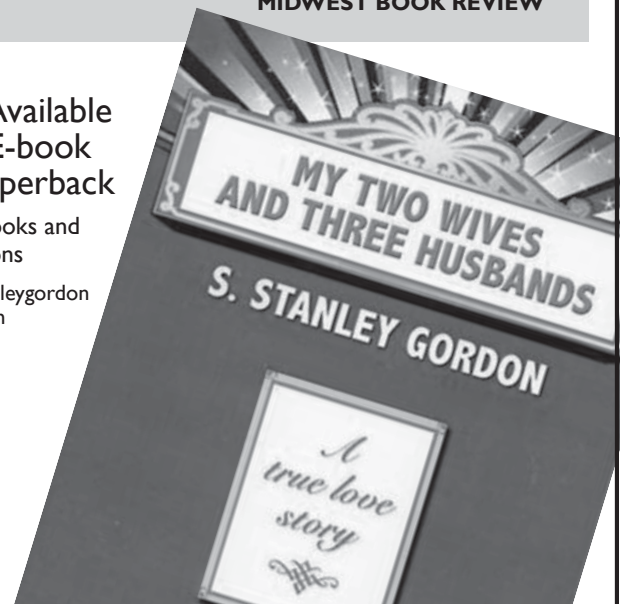
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MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW

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- 2) Wear comfortable shoes.
- 3) Load up on sunscreen.
- 4) Wear a hat.
- 5) Bring a camera.
- 6) Make PFLAG signs and bring them.
- 7) Wear as much PFLAG/ rainbow clothing and

paraphernalia as you own.

We are 19th in the parade. We will send an email when we have the staging location.

Hope to see you all there!

LOOK LIKE A BIG FISH

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