



IN THE GOOD 'OLE SUMMERTIME

Please join us for our General Meeting on **Monday, August 27** 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.

This meeting is our annual **potluck**, summer picnic. We will not have a speaker this month so that we can share a meal together and enjoy each others' company. It's a great time

to get to know one another. We will have our picnic at 7:00 pm in the courtyard next to our meeting room and have our support groups at 8:00 pm (reverse order than usual).

Bring any type of dish you'd like to share, enough for 10 people (main dish, salad, appetizer, side dish, casserole, or dessert). Also, bring a non-alcoholic beverage for yourself.

Hope to see you there with your appetites!



23RD ANNUAL AIDS WALK



Put on your sneakers and get geared up to walk with PFLAG on **Sunday, September 30** for the 23rd Annual **AIDS Walk San Diego**. This event is San Diego's largest one-day HIV/AIDS fundraiser and

the biggest non-governmental financial provider for HIV/AIDS in San Diego County. Dozens of agencies - serving thousands of clients - rely on funds raised at the annual Walk to help provide essential prevention and care programs to thousands of men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS.

The **5K Walk** (or 10K run) is held in Balboa Park at Quince and 6th Avenue starting at

8:00 am. The registration fee is \$35 (\$25 for 17 & under and 60+). If we have 10 or more walkers registered by **September 21**, we will qualify as Team PFLAG and be able to walk with the prestigious sneaker sign with our PFLAG name on it. It truly is a badge of honor.

We need your support. Please register. 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.

Even if you can't walk with us, please register so we can meet our 10 person and financial goals (\$1000).

You will be asked for your t-shirt size since all participants receive a t-shirt the morning of the walk.

The nitty gritty details will be in the September newsletter.

If you don't have internet, call 619-692-2077 ext. 247 (Ian Johnson) to participate. For questions, please contact Sherry Cohen-Richards, 858-349-6269 or scohenrichards@pflag.com.





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PFLAG San Diego
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San Diego, CA 92138
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Current Events

**August 20
Monday**
Mi Familia Support Group

**August 24-26
Friday-Sunday**
San Diego Gay Men's Chorus
Concert (see article)

**August 25
Saturday**
Equality Awards (see article)

**August 27
Monday**
San Diego PFLAG
General Meeting &
Support Groups

**August 27
Monday**
Mi Familia Support Group

**September 10
Monday**
PFLAG Support Group
North County Coastal

**September 10
Monday**
PFLAG Support Group
East County

**September 10
Monday**
Mi Familia Support Group

**September 13
Thursday**
PFLAG Support Group
North County Inland

**September 17
Monday**
Mi Familia Support Group

**September 30
Sunday**
AIDS Walk (see article)



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

Frances Wright

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.

Support Member Businesses that Support *Our* Community

Print • Online • iPhone • Android

www.gsdba.org

Greater San Diego Business Association - The Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

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

WHERE CAN I BUY THAT T-SHIRT?

With the Gay Pride Parade and Festival over for this year, it is time to answer the question of where to get those lovely PFLAG tees, hats, tote bags with the PFLAG logo. Every month for the last six months, under the membership application is the link to buy anything PFLAG related. Since it is not cost effective for PFLAG San Diego to purchase shirts and hats to stock them, anyone who wants items with the PFLAGSD logo just needs to go to www.cafepress.com/pflagsd. You will be amazed at the varieties of t-shirts, sweatshirts, caps, and do dads you can buy.

LONDON 2012

There are 23 Olympic athletes and two coaches who are out. Considering there were only 11 in Athens (2004) and 10 in Beijing, (2008), there is some progress in athletes being public about their sexual orientation. Sorry to report, though, statistically there are many more gay and lesbian competitors in London than those who are publicly out. With 12,602 athletes competing, just 1% of them being gay or lesbian would be 126. Hopefully, by 2016, coming out for the athletes will be a non-issue.

To Greg Louganis, 23 openly gay athletes is huge. He won gold for diving in 1984 and 1988, but did not come out until 1995 in a landmark interview with Oprah Winfrey. It was one of her top-rated shows and listed as one of her "25 Most Unforgettable Guests."

LET'S MISBEHAVE: THE MUSIC & WIT OF COLE PORTER

The San Diego Gay Men's Chorus's Ensemble, "The Mood Swings," will perform **August 24-26** at the Lyceum Theatre at Horton Plaza, downtown San Diego.

The Mood Swings, SDGMC's 11-voice ensemble, will present a rollicking song and dance revue of the life of Cole Porter. Featuring more than 30 of his best-loved and most recognizable tunes, "Let's Misbehave!"

MUCH TO CELEBRATE

The 4th Annual San Diego Equality California Awards and Garden Party are Saturday, **August 25** from 4:00-7:00 pm. The ceremony takes place at the Lily Award-Winning Home of Joyce Rowland and Pamela Morgan in Rancho Santa Fe. Tickets are \$150. To purchase, go to www.eqcaawards.org.

Most are familiar with two of the awardees: Superintendent Bill Kowba/ the San Diego Unified School District for their Anti-Bullying Campaign and Albert Ogle of St. Paul's Foundation for International Reconciliation for

showcases one of America's most beloved and prolific musical theatre composers.

Showtimes are Friday, **August 24** at 8 pm; Saturday, **August 25** at 8 pm; and Sunday, **August 26** at 3 pm. Tickets vary from \$30-\$39.00. For tickets or more information, visit www.sdgmc.org or call (877) 296-SONG.

combining LGBT equality with development aid in emerging nations (*and his pro-active stance in preventing death for gays and lesbians in Uganda*).

Equality California (EQCA) is the largest statewide LGBT advocacy organization in California. In partnership with other allies, they have successfully sponsored more than 85 pieces of pro-equality legislation. They continue to advance equality through legislative advocacy, electoral work, public education, and community empowerment. Support them if you can.

WHERE TO BEGIN

The majority of you are aware of the remarks made by Chick-fil-A's President and Chief Operating Officer, Dan Cathy. The controversy started after an interview with Cathy that appeared in **The Baptist Press** on July 16. During the interview, he weighed in with his views on family. "We are very much supportive of the family -- the biblical definition of the family unit," Cathy said. "We are a family-owned business, a family-led business, and we are married to our first wives. We give God thanks for that." He went on to expound his belief in the traditional family. If that's the case, it seems he should be against divorced couples, divorced and remarried couples, and single parent families, all of whom don't fit his definition of the "traditional" family.

Mr. Cathy's remarks weren't earth shattering. After all, he was exercising his First Amendment Right. However, the real controversy is the company's charitable arm (WinShape) which has donated over five million dollars (and counting) to groups that openly work against the LGBT community. The company's money goes to organizations who oppose same-sex marriage, that don't believe in protecting LGBT youth from bullying in schools, who support "ex-

gay" groups, and bankroll efforts to allow international laws enabling the execution of LGBT people to stay in place (is this Christian-like?). Anyone supporting Chick-fil-A is, in essence, supporting their discriminatory practices.

Of course, Chick-fil-A had record sales on August 1 when former GOP presidential candidates Mike Huckabee and Rick Santorum encouraged people to show their support of Dan Cathy by purchasing food at Chick-fil-A. Huckabee dubbed the day "Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day."

On August 3, the LGBT community and allies staged a kiss-in as their form of protest. Even though the LGBT protesters did not harass people at the Appreciation Day, the same can't be said for the Chick-fil-A supporters at the kiss-in. They were literally in the faces of the kissees and allies who were protesting the restaurant.

The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay activist group, posted a Chick-fil-A logo on its website with a fake tagline, "We Didn't Invent Discrimination. We Just Support It." How appropriate.

CAMP ARANU'TIQ: A PLACE WHERE TRANSGENDER YOUTH CAN BE THEMSELVES

In the May newsletter, there was an article regarding Camp Aranu'tiq. It was actually posted to advertise the camp to parents of transgender children. A web site was listed and our newest board member, Courtney Ware, volunteered to be a counselor at this unique camp, which is solely for transgender youth. She wrote of her experience:

"This past week I had the honor of volunteering as a camp counselor for Camp Aranu'tiq, a weeklong overnight summer camp for transgender and gender-variant youth ages 8 to 15. The camp was started by Nick Teich who started with two camp sessions on the East Coast. This year was the inaugural week on the West Coast, here in Southern California. I received info about the Southern California session of camp through PFLAG San Diego. As soon as I read the info, I knew I needed to apply. Aranu'tiq combines my two passions in life, working with children and LGBT activism.

Though I have worked with children for many years, and have been active in the LGBT community in San Diego, I have never worked with transgender youth. I was unsure of what to expect at camp, and I was a little nervous. But my nerves were quickly calmed on Sunday afternoon as the campers started to arrive and all I saw were just kids ready to have fun.

There were 36 kids at camp in five different cabins and the staff was a mix of transgender and non-transgender males and females. Every day, all of the staff and campers wore a lanyard with a nametag that had their name and preferred pronoun on it. I was a cabin counselor with two other females, one transgender and

one not in a bunk with nine male to female transgender kids up to age 10. There was lots of talk of Justin Beiber, Hannah Montana and Carly Rae Jepsen in our cabin, and the girls became fast friends. There was no discussion of who was transgender and who wasn't, because there didn't need to be. They all accepted each other and were there to have a good time without being discriminated against or scrutinized.

The week went by quickly and was set-up like a traditional summer camp. During the day the kids had five periods of different sports, games and creative expression like hiking, rock climbing, archery, arts and crafts, volleyball, canoeing, drama and writing. We ate all our meals together in the dining room and ended each meal with camp songs. Each night we had special activities like karaoke contests, a Minute to Win It Game show, dance parties, campfires, and a talent show on the last night.

The best part of being at camp was seeing the friendships the kids made with other kids who could relate to the journey of transitioning and being transgender. They felt accepted, safe and "normal". They could be who they were and just have fun without worry. I have never seen so many smiles in my life. Camp Aranu'tiq is something special.

For the last few years I have been soul searching, trying to figure out where my path in life will take me. After Camp Aranu'tiq, I feel like I have found that path.

Aranu'tiq ... a great place to be.

"I love this camp, I love this camp, 'cause I can be me."

-- verse from a Camp Aranu'tiq song

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***KIRKUS REVIEWS**

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U. S. REVIEW OF BOOKS

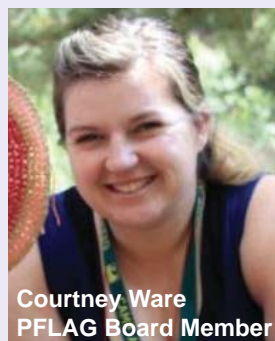
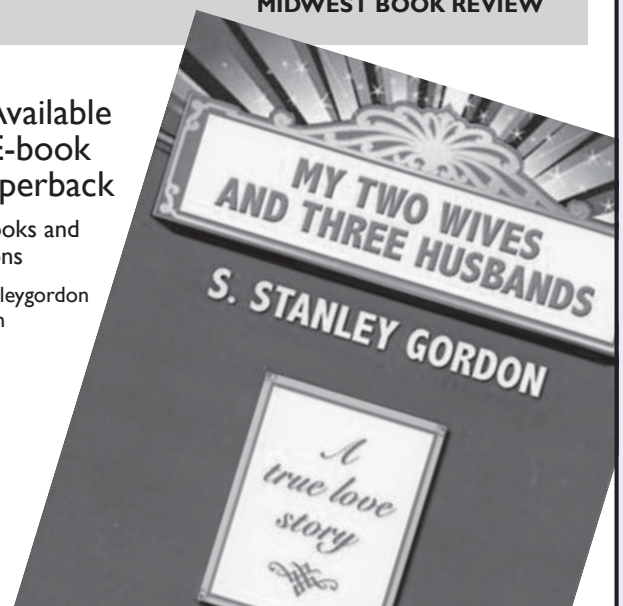
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MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW

Now Available as an E-book and paperback

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Courtney Ware
PFLAG Board Member

For more information about Camp Aranu'tiq, visit their website:

camparanutiq.org

NEXT ON THE HIT PARADE

We were pleased that members of the Ron Benzon Foundation were there to present the recipient of the Rob Menzon Memorial Scholarship to **Ryan Cardinale**. This is the seventh year the scholarship has been awarded in Rob's memory. The goal of selecting the awardee was to recognize a youth who demonstrated a giving spirit and had charisma.

Ryan graduated from San Diego State University COR (Career Opportunities in Research) Program with a BA in Psychology. He will soon enter the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, to pursue a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. His career path, in part, was chosen by his own life experience. When he was 10 years old, part of his temporal lobe was removed to control seizures. This past summer, Ryan presented his neurological surgery research at the University of California, San Francisco to an audience including people who had performed his surgery. Ryan feels that his best assets are that he's gay, a Latino, and his experiences of undergoing brain surgery at such a young age. Ryan's essay:

"My passage through life as a gay male has shown me that the LGBT community lacks many basic human rights guaranteed to our heterosexual counterparts. Although a number of human

rights issues confronting the LGBT community have been mitigated in recent years, numerous disparities still remain. These issues in today's society include legal rights, access to employment, and the ability to adopt. The main obstacle LGBT

community members must overcome is the overpoweringly negative stigma associated with being gay. Our identities are perceived as being the result of hypersexuality, an immoral personal choice, sexual abuse, and/or bad parenting. How then can my actions help to enable the next generation to overcome and thrive in the face of these obstacles?

I am pursuing a career in clinical psychology because there is a dearth of gay therapists. When parents find out that their children think they may be gay or want to be the opposite sex, many a time their first reaction is to either send their children to a psychologist, or visit one themselves. Most therapists lack adequate training on sexual orientation issues and, as heterosexuals, are at an inherent disadvantage for fully understanding what their patient is going through. Such children have likely been the victims of bullying, have experienced self-doubt, and may have even contemplated suicide.

During my time in undergraduate my family has not been able to support me financially. Therefore, this scholarship will help me overcome the financial burden associated with pursuing higher education on my own and out of state. Once completed and in a future position, this opportunity will allow me to fill the void of positive successful gay role models. Moreover, once practicing, I will be able to use my own life experiences as a gay male to help children overcome the negative stigma associated with being homosexual."



PATS ON OUR BACKS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PRIDE

Even though the number of PFLAG marchers was down this year, we, of course, were one of the highlights of the 2012 Gay Pride Parade. Most would agree that THE HIGHLIGHT was the uniformed men and women from all the armed services who walked proudly with American and Pride flags. It was a sight to behold. The Department of Defense allowed this to happen. "We hereby are granting approval for service members in uniform to participate in this year's parade," Rene Bardorf, deputy assistant secretary of Defense, wrote in a letter. Last year we made international news by being the first Pride Parade to have service members march as a contingent. Due to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) still in force, they could not wear their uniforms. Instead they wore their respective t-shirts (Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force) to identify what branch they served. We, again, made international news this year for having the honor of being the first Gay Pride Parade with a military contingent wearing their uniforms.

PFLAG San Diego was very fortunate to have Jody Huckaby, Executive Director of PFLAG National and Cesar Hernandez, Western Field & Policy Manger for PFLAG, not only march with our contingent at the parade, but also lent a hand at our booth at the festival. We hoped they enjoyed themselves as much as we enjoyed having them celebrate Pride with us.

A huge thank you to the queen of doing almost everything single-handedly, Bobbi Harwood. Bobbi buys the merchandise for the PFLAG booth for the festival, is responsible for the booth set up/take down, is the treasurer in chief for the weekend, and lines up the volunteers to work the booth (all this while smiling, of course).

Although we thank all the PFLAG booth volunteers, we give special thanks to the worker bees that went the extra mile (literally and figuratively). Karen and Mark Thompson, once again, were the parade coordinators, Cheryl and Alan Goldberg

gussied up their unique station wagon of yesteryear for the parade, Alexa Blazquez drove her SUV which clearly showed Mi Familia power (her parents, in their 80's, enjoyed the ride with Alexa), and Mariana Almaraz and Teresa Perez for having the Mi Familia banner made.

A big thank you to our members and friends who volunteered in setting up, taking down and staffing our booth at the Pride Festival: Danielle Bauer (scholarship recipient this year), Lonnie Brunini, Louie Chavez, Sherry Cohen-Richards, Nikki Eddy, Gail Folkman, Jason Folkman, Judy Hyde, Greg Johnson, Lynn Kraszewski, Lindy & Rick Miles, Dawn Miller, Arlene Prater, Victor Seguritan, Mary Thomas, Sandi Timberlake, Terrie Vorono, Wayne Walker and Courtney Ware. All did a wonderful job of enticing festival goers with our large selection of buttons, stickers, bracelets, etc. and then providing them with information about PFLAG and letting them know we're here for them.



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