

ISSUE VOLUME www.pflag.com info@pflag.com

# WELCOME DR. ESPIN

Please join us for our General Meeting on Monday, June 25 at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 2231 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley. Doors open at 6:45 pm.

Dr. Orlando Espin is professor of theology and religious studies at the University of San Diego, where he also directs the interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Latino/a Catholicism. We are very pleased he is our speaker this month. He will focus mainly on detailing the heavy consequences

Latino Catholics face from a social and religious point of view and the many misunderstandings of the Latino/a Catholic LGBTQ community. Espín has specialized in the theological study of popular religion. With doctorates in systematic and practical theology, which include theologies of culture and tradition, he is regarded as one of the founders of U.S. Latino/a theology.

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



### OBAMA'S DA BOMB

On May 9, President Barack Obama declared that he supported same-sex marriage, reversing his position on a controversial social issue just six months before the November election and adopting a stance fraught with uncertain political implications. And yet he did what was right and what he most likely supported "in the closet" for a very long time. He said his decision came after he had talked to his friends and family, including his wife and two young daughters. He also said his position was influenced by gay members of the military and his staff who are raising children together in monogamous relationships.

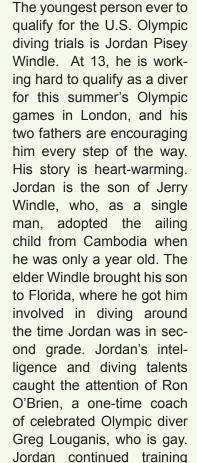
In a TV interview he said, "At a certain point I've just concluded that, for me personally, it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same-sex couples should be able to get married."

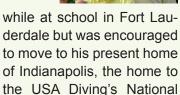
President Even though Obama's endorsement is largely symbolic, it is a giant step. He doesn't plan to pursue new U.S. policy on same-sex marriage because he believes states should decide the issue. If he is re-elected, perhaps he will change his mind.

For the 4th year in a row, President Obama has officially declared June LGBT Pride Month.

Dining Out for Life® raised \$330,000 towards The LGBT Center's HIV/AIDS services and programs.

## **GRAND MARSHAL DOES WELL**





Jerry Windle would eventually meet Andrés Rodriguez, a sports lover who would become his partner. Rodriguez blended right in to the small family and the three became a unit. Now Jordan, with the encouragement of his fathers, is heading to Seattle to compete in the 2012 Olympic trials.

Jordan is proud of his gay dads and even filmed an "It Gets Better" video. In honor of Jordan's achievements, he was named Grand Marshal of the Circle City Indiana Pride Parade that occurred on June 9.



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# **Membership Application**

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# **Current Events**

#### June 18 Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

#### June 25 Monday

San Diego PFLAG General Meeting & Support Groups

#### June 25 Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

#### June 30 Saturday

Happy Birthday Frida (see article)

#### July 2 Monday

PFLAG Support Group North County Coastal

#### July 2 Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

#### July 9 Monday

PFLAG Support Group East County

#### July 9 Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

#### July 12 Thursday

PFLAG Support Group North County Inland

#### July 16 Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

#### July 20-22

PRIDE WEEKEND (see article)

#### **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 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.

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

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY FRIDA

Join the merriment with lots of great food, drinks, a live salsa band, dancing, and art exhibits to celebrate the life of Frida Kahlo on Saturday, June 30. The birthday celebration is to commemorate the legendary life of one of the most influential Mexican painters of the mid-20th century. All proceeds for the event will benefit The Center's Latin@ Services program. Single tickets can be purchased for \$15 at www.thecentersd. org. Tickets are \$20 at the door. The event takes place at The LGBT Center, 3909 Centre Street (on Centre Street at the foot of Harvey Milk Street!!) in Hillcrest from 6:00pm-10:00pm.



#### **DOWN WITH PROP 8**

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals denied an attempt by Proposition 8's supporters to rehear and possibly overturn February's 3-judge decision that declared Prop 8 unconstitutional (2012). After that decision, the Yes on 8, hereinafter called the Yeses, appealed to the entire 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to rehear their case.

Abbreviated History: Same-sex marriage was declared legal in June, 2008 by the California Supreme Court. Then Prop 8 was put on the ballot for a vote in November. 2008 which would, if passed, mean that there can only be marriage between one man and one woman added to the California Constitution. It narrowly passed; therefore, same-sex marriage ceased to be legal, except for those couples who married between June-November, 2008. A law suit was filed (first Perry v. Schwarzenegger then Perry v. Brown) and was heard by Judge Vaughn Walker; his decision was that Prop 8 was unconstitutional. The Yeses wanted to appeal the decision, so the next step was the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. The case was heard by a three judge panel and two out of the three judges also agreed with Judge Walker that Prop 8 was unconstitutional, as it violated the Equal Protection Clause in the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The Yeses were not satisfied with this ruling so the next appeals process was to ask the entire 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to rehear the case. Out of the 25 judges on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, there was only one who wanted to rehear it. The



announcement was made on June 5 with the decision not to rehear the case. YAY!

The Yeses have only one option left if they want to continue their appeal: the Supreme Court. They have 90 days from June 5 to decide whether to appeal. If the Supreme Court does take the case, it will probably not be heard until next spring.

As has been done previously, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has issued a stay on marriage equality (meaning there cannot be any same-sex marriages performed in California).

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese said, "Once again, a federal court has affirmed that the cherished guarantees of our Constitution are there to protect all Americans - including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. For over three years, the plaintiffs, the American Foundation for Equal Rights, and attorneys Ted Olson and David Boies have shown tremendous fortitude and perseverance in their fight for marriage equality. With today's announcement, we are one step closer to ensuring that gay and lesbian Californians - and, one day, our entire community nationwide - are able to join the institution of marriage and have their love and commitment respected equally."

# THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY

There were many activities that PFLAG members took part in during the month of May: Gala to benefit the LGBTA Resource Center, the dedication of Harvey Milk Street,

the Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast, and the Santee Street Fair.

Speaking of the Santee Street Fair, our East County Satellite Group had a booth there and it was very successful. About 150 people stopped by, and out of that group, they have contact info from 34 people who are interested in attending East County's monthly meeting. This was a wonderful first effort for the group.

We love getting the PFLAG name out there.

#### **AMERICA'S PRIDE**

Although Pride Weekend isn't until **July 20-22**, we wanted to give you the scoop early because it may be a close call getting the newsletter to you on time next month.

This year marks the 38th Annual Pride Celebration; San Diego has the fourth largest Pride Parade in the nation.

The festivities start out on Friday evening, July 20, with the Spirit of Stonewall Awards and Rally from 6:00-8:00 pm. This takes place on the main stage at the festival site in Balboa Park at 6th and Juniper. This free event features inspirational speakers and honors recipients of the 2012 Spirit of Stonewall Awards, which awards non-LGBT 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. If you have never marched in San Diego's parade, you are in for a real treat. Besides all the excitement of the event, the crowd goes crazy when PFLAG passes by. There are upwards of 197,000 spectators. And speaking of walking 1.5 miles, if you cannot walk that distance and want to ride in the parade, please contact Karen Thompson immediately. There are a limited number of cars/spots; space is limited. Karen can be reached at 858-842-7005 or kthompson64@cox.net. Also note. everyone in our contingent will be asked to hand out coupons that will benefit the "Cultivating Respect: Safe Schools for All." Please see the article on page 7.

If you attended the parade last year, you witnessed history in the making; there was a contingent of active duty military (first-ever). Glad to say they will be back for this year's parade.

Although they are not marching with us, we were happy to learn that there is a Mormons for Marriage Equality contingent. This is an incredible breakthrough. Anyone interested to march with them, please contact Emily Whittemore, emily.whittemore@gmail.com.

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. Saturday evening ends at 10:00 pm and Sunday runs from 11:00 am-8:00 pm. Admission for the festival is \$15 for one day and \$25 for a two day pass if you purchase your tickets online before June 30 (go to www.sdpride. org to purchase). They can be purchased at the festival for \$20 (one day) or \$30 (two day). As always, there are discount tickets for active military (must show ID) and seniors that can be purchased at the festival (\$10 for one day and \$20 for two days).

Here comes the lecture part. For the Pride Parade on Saturday, read this BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME! These are suggestions that have stood the rest of time: 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 usually are a last minute Lucy, don't be, as the buses back up and you'll be waiting in line forever and a day, 2) wear comfortable shoes, 3) put lots of sun block on, 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 will not know the location of our contingent until a week before the parade. Ditto for knowing what number we are in the parade. We will be sending out an email as soon as we know. If you do not have email, when you get off the bus, you can ask at the information booth located at University Avenue and Normal Street.

Hope to see your decorated selves and signs at the Parade.

# MORMONS BUILDING BRIDGES

More than 300 members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints marched in the Utah Gay Pride Parade in Salt Lake City on June 3 in a show of support for LGBT people.

Members of the group, Mormons Building Bridges, said they wanted to send the message that love for LGBT people is compatible with their faith. The demonstration of support left attendees includina screenwriter Dustin Lance Black. who served as grand marshal of the parade, in tears, according to his Twitter feed.

It is interesting to note that the organization was started by a straight mom of five children to show her support for the LGBT community and to encourage members of her religion to do the same in a public way. The rest of the group is straight, as well.

### **TELL IT LIKE IT IS**

We've come a long way from Carrie Prejean — Miss Rhode Island, Olivia Culpo, was crowned Miss USA after voicing support for transgender beauty contestants.

Culpo was asked if transgender women should be allowed to enter beauty contests. She responded, "I do think it would be fair ... because there are so many people who have a need to change for a happier life. I do accept that because I believe it's a free country." Culpo was soon named the winner of this year's pageant.

It all started with a challenge to Donald Trump who owns the Miss Universe pageant. He unequivocally said Jenna Talackova, who is transgender, could not compete in the Miss Canada competition. After some nudging from GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) and a few other factors, he changed his mind.

It is good to know that Ms Culpo's support of transgender contestants received applause. It was only three years ago that then-Miss California, Carrie Prejean, famously declared that samesex marriage should be illegal (based on her Biblical teachings). However, she must think making sex tapes are encouraged in the Bible.

#### **FEATURING**

Zachary Christy was awarded the Mary Wagner Memorial Scholarship. Wagner was an educator; thus, the awardee must also pursue a degree in education. Zach was that perfect person. He graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University with a BA in Music Education and will be pursuing an MA in Education at Point Loma Nazarene University in the fall. In high school and at PLNU, he advocated for understanding of gay issues. His letter of recommendation mentioned that Zach's "willingness to speak to anyone (at PLNU) has visibly raised consciousness in a positive way at the university." When asked to identify a "not so secret" secret, Mr. Christy admits "shamefully" that he watches the Home Shopping Network. Zach's essay:

"While other seniors enjoyed their final days of high school, I lived in fear of my friends, wondering who knew about me, what venomous words they were exchanging about me. The most challenging years of the coming-out process are during high school. Social pressures of judgmental peers add complexities to the struggle toward sexual discovery. The freedom of adolescents to wrestle with their sexual identity in a healthy. safe environment is regrettably still a challenge in high schools across the country. and remains one of the human rights issues facing the young LGBT community. Deficient education about the matter creates fear in students' peers, resulting in varying degrees of homophobia. Barbed words open gaping wounds in students' self concept. On high

school campuses I have received those wounds and witnessed the wounding of others.

One of my most treasured gifts is my ability to create and



speak through music. I have been involved in music for the entirety of my learning career, beginning at the age of six on the piano. I am now completing my Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and am looking forward to the completion of a credential with the intent of teaching high school band for the remainder of my life as my passion. A career in instrumental music is my passion. As I struggled to embrace my own gay self, I was anchored only by my immovable love of music. My music educators were always sources of encouragement and solidarity. Music ignores sexuality, race, and gender and focuses only on the language of melodies and harmonies, the creation of art. My goal to continue this language of overwhelming tolerance for everyone, no matter the differences, is steadfast. I owe the future generations that which the past has given me: the ability to become oneself safely in conjunction with the materialization of musical gifts. The development of LGBT students will be of special interest throughout my career- a vocation that looks far more promising now that I understand and fully embrace who I am."

## A NOTE FROM JOHN

It is always nice to hear from previous scholarship awardees. Last year's recipient of the Mary Wagner Memorial Scholarship was Rodolfo Alaniz (prefers "John"). We received this lovely note from him:

"The Mary Wagner Memorial Scholarship lived true to its name. The scholarship helped me to finish an exciting science and society syllabus that, among other things, examines the arguments behind genetic research and sexual orientation. How is human sexuality related to genetic testing for race?

What would happen if we found a gene for homosexuality? What would it mean if there was no such gene? That syllabus was part of a larger research project that has helped me expand my teaching portfolio and will help me become a better university-level educator in the future.

Let me know if I can help in any way. I'd be happy to come in one day and give a lecture or maybe share my experiences as an LGBT scholar/activist. Any way I can give back to the community."

#### **GIVE UP OOM**

One Million Moms (OOM) is again trying to urge the homophobes to boycott JC Penney. First, they were upset that Ellen DeGeneres was a spokesperson for JC Penney (you know, how dare they have a lesbian speaking

for them?), then they were mad at Macy's because they had two grooms as a topper on a wedding cake. Next their fury went to warning folks that Toys 'R' Us will be selling an *Archie* comic book with a gay couple on the cover. Coming full circle, they are again focused on JC

Penney for their ad booklet featuring reallife dads who are gay, with their children. The copy for the above photo reads, "What makes Dad so cool? He's the swim coach, tent maker, best friend, bike fixer and hug giver — all rolled into one. Or two." If you don't receive ads from JC Penney, the ad is available on their website (www.jcpenney.com).

Not to leave moms out, another JC Penney ad featured a married lesbian couple (wedding

bands and all) and their two daughters. However, the gay dads really raised the ire of One Million Moms, posting a warning on their web site: JC Penney "is continuing down the same path of promoting sin in their advertisements." It urges consumers to return

care with

the mailers, unsubscribe from JC Penney solicitations, and close their charge accounts with the retailer.

Even though we know the outcome, time will tell.



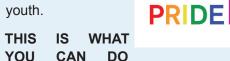
### **CULTIVATING RESPECT: SAFE SCHOOLS FOR ALL**

San Diego PFLAG is participating with other PFLAG chapters nationwide to raise money for PFLAG's "Cultivating Respect: Safe Schools for All" program. 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.



(PLEASE). If you are attending the Pride Parade, be sure to get one of the booklets entitled "Top Ten Ways to Help Make Schools Safer For All Students." 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.

"IF ONE OF US IS NOT EQUAL, NONE OF US ARE."

-AUTHOR UNKNOWN

# RIGHT ON TARGET THIS TIME

Target has certainly redeemed itself after donating \$191,000 to anti-gay candidate, Tom Emmer, who ran for Governor of Minnesota two years ago (and lost). Not only did they receive flack about the donation. but a nationwide boycott of their stores woke them up a bit. In all fairness, Target had donated to LGBT groups, but now they really rock. They are selling T-shirts with slogans such as "Harmony," "Pride" and "Love Is Love" online throughout June, which is Gay Pride Month, and donating 100% of the purchase price, up to a total of \$120,000, to the Family Equality Council, an advocacy group for LGBT parents and their children.

Target is part of a coalition fighting the Minnesota anti-marriage equality constitutional amendment, which will go before voters in November.





#### MAMA NEEDS YOUR HELP

Mama's Kitchen is San Diego's only free, county-wide, homedelivered meals program for individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS or cancer. Drivers are need in North County to deliver meals. If you can help, please contact Bill Patton from Mama's Kitchen at 619-233-6262 or Dave White (PFLAG North County Coastal) at 760-295-1191.

#### **PFLAG THANKS YOU**

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