

Current Events

February 15

Monday
Mi Familiar Support Group

February 16

Tuesday
Mardi Gras - Hillcrest
(see article on page 5)

February 22

Monday
San Diego PFLAG
General Meeting

February 26

Friday
Lambda Legal 2010
Awards (see article on
page 6)

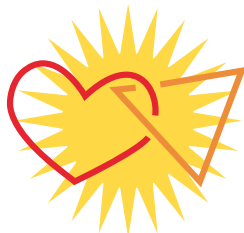
February 27

Saturday
Bowling for Equality

The San Diego Steering Committee of the Human Rights Campaign will present its annual Bowling for Equality Fundraiser. The event will be held at the Kearny Mesa Bowl, 7585 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. For ticket info and times, visit www.hrc.org/sandiego.

Happy Valentines!

February is Marriage Equality Month, join us in our efforts to bring equality to all. We thank you for your continued support.



PFLAGSD

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays | San Diego County

Info Line (888) 398-0006

PFLAG is a nonprofit organization with over 250,000 members and almost 500 chapters in the U.S. and abroad

OPEN HEARTS *Open Minds* OPEN DOORS

PLEASE JOIN US

22

Please join us for our **General Meeting on Monday, February 22 at 7:00 pm** at the **First United Methodist Church, 2231 Camino del Rio South** in Mission Valley.

Our speaker this month is **Rev. Molly Vetter** of our host church, the First United



Methodist Church in San Diego. She is passionate about many things - building community with unlikely and diverse people; making the church more boldly welcoming.

She has had a particular passion towards the LGBT community, and has stood up for LGBT rights in several large church gatherings. In Rev. Vetter's words, "I have tales to share from two General Conferences

of the United Methodist Church: A story of an arrest with Souforce in 2000, and of a movement of the Spirit in 2008."

After the Reverend's presentation, we will have our cookie social and support groups.

**PFLAG SAN DIEGO
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**Now Accepting
APPLICATIONS**



GET IT

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.

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

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

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pboman@pflag.com

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Info Line

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Barbara Bodine
888-398-0006

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The Brouhaha Update

To recap the brouhaha of the San Diego Pride Board that took place in January, Board Chair **Phillip Princetta** received a \$5000 bonus which was against the Board's bylaws. He returned the money, but not before Executive Director **Ron deHarte** was fired. On January 27, the Board of Directors accepted the resignations of Board Members Phillip Princetta, Treasurer **Mike Karim** and **Carl Worrell**.

Many LGBT community activists applied for Board Member positions and were accepted. Ron deHarte's position has not been filled and it is unknown at this time if he will try to regain his position as Executive Director.

Members Involved



Phillip
Princetta



Ron
deHarte



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Visit our online store and show your support, purchase Tee Shirts, Mouse Pads,



and much more.
<http://www.cafepress.com/pflagsd>



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Graphic Design
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Support Groups

There is a PFLAG support group near you, no matter where you live. Here are our meeting dates and locations.

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

Every Fourth Sunday, at 2:00 pm, Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Pilgrim Hall, 2020 Chestnut, Carlsbad.

Contact Larry Gerling,
(760) 224-2178.

NORTH COUNTY INLAND

Every Second Tuesday, at 6:30 pm, San Diego National Bank Bldg, Community Room, 16789 Bernardo Center Dr, Rancho Bernardo.

Contact Sue Fine,
(858) 673-4560 or pflag4sd-nocny@san.rr.com.

Whats Happening!



ONE YEAR LATER RALLY

On **January 30**, The **San Diego Alliance for Marriage Equality (S.A.M.E.)** held a rally urging supporters of LGBT civil rights to demand that there be no more delays for full equality. It was held in response to President Obama's tepid support he's given the LGBT community during his first year as president.

Pictured are PFLAG members **Ron Goetz** and **Maggie Carlson**. At the rally, Ron spoke on behalf of **PFLAG**.

WELCOME ABOARD

We are please to announce the birth of a new PFLAG support group in the South Bay.

Even though their first meeting is not until **March 28**, we want to welcome them to the PFLAG family.

Meetings will be on the **fourth Sunday of the month at 12:30 pm at 970 Broadway, Suite 104 , Chula Vista**. More details will be in the March newsletter.

FREEDOM TO MARRY MONTH

During National Freedom to Marry Month, at local marriage counters in cities all over the USA, same-sex couples will once again request marriage licenses at their local County Clerk's Offices and engage in public education outreach to raise awareness.



Luan D. Andrews, M.A.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST
MFC 19321

3252 HOLIDAY COURT • SUITE 106 • LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92037-1807
(858) 552-8181 FAX (858) 552-0205

EAST COUNTY

Every Second Monday, at 7:00 pm, Summit Unitarian Universalist Church, 8778 Cottonwood Avenue, Santee.

Contact Ron Goetz, (619) 588-2342 or whytes-
tonne@hotmail.com.

MI FAMILIA (Spanish)

Meetings are the first and third Monday of the month 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.

OFFICERS, COMMITTEES & VOLUNTEERS Current Positions

Newsletter

Sherry Cohen-Richards,
Editor

Linda Bessemer, Laura
Partido & Flowers Group
Printing

Library

Terrie Vorono
tvorono@pflag.com

Programs

Karen Thompson

Scholarship

Olivia Dorman

Spanish Interpreter

Maria Cortinas
760-758-3294

Speakers' Bureau

Ron Goetz, 619-588-2342
rgoetz@pflag.com

Transgender Coordinator

Evelyn Lindenmuth
619-300-0396

Refreshments

Phyllis Van Wanseele

Website

Robert Sachristan
admin@pflag.com

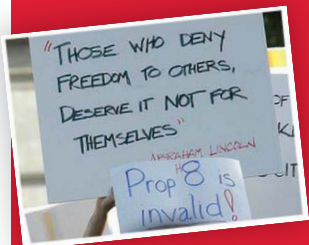
Board Members

Patti Boman, Barbara
Bodine, Karen Thompson,
Sherry Cohen-Richards,
Olivia Dorman, Phyllis
Van Wanseele, Mark
Thompson, Ron Goetz,
Terrie Vorono, Eric Portner

Perry v. Schwarzenegger

That is the official name of the Proposition 8 federal trial that concluded at the end of January.

The judge, Chief Judge Vaughn R. Walker, who heard the case without a jury, is gay. This is the first time being gay can be a bad thing; if he overturns Prop 8, the opposition will say it's because he's gay. Judge Walker said he would study the evidence and other briefs offered to the court before hearing final arguments, possibly in March. And even after his decision, both sides expect the case to be appealed, most likely until it reaches the U.S. Supreme Court.



Two same sex-couples are suing the enforcers of California's Proposition 8 on grounds that the gay marriage ban violates their federal constitutional rights. Thus, they want Proposition 8 overturned (don't we all?).

The plaintiffs filed their lawsuit last spring after the California Supreme Court upheld Prop 8. The plaintiffs were fortunate enough to have supremo representation from lawyers David Boies and Theodore Ol-

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THE CENTER'S YARD SALE NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS!



Don't miss the **Community Yard Sale** at **The Center** on Satur-

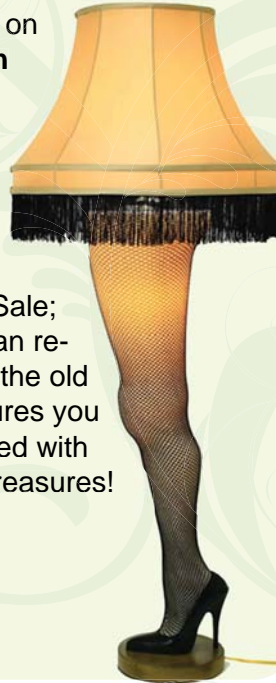
day, **March 20, 7 am-2 pm!** Time to clean out your closets, cabinets, garage and attic, and donate the reusable items to the San Diego LGBT Community Center.

Turn your old treasures into green \$\$\$\$\$ for Family Matters @ The Center. Please bring only items that are in good working condition: clothing, small household appliances, toys, games, bikes, bedding, dishes, small household accessories/furnishings, tools and yard equipment. Sorry, but no

large appliances or large furniture can be accepted.

To schedule drop off or for more information, contact **Jane Schmoll** at (619) 692- 2077, ext. 121, or jschmoll@thecentersd.org.

Then, on **March 20** come and support the Yard Sale; you can replace the old treasures you donated with new treasures!



John McWhorter, MSFT
MFC32798

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PFLAG IS HERE FOR YOU--PLEASE BE HERE FOR PFLAG!

Thank you to those who sent in their PFLAG Membership Application and dues for 2010. For those who forgot, here is the application. Your membership enables us to strengthen our presence in the community. We especially want to thank those who have joined as Lifetime Members. We encourage others to do the same. Additional donations are always appreciated.

If you renew today you will avoid further nagging by Membership Committee volunteers, which come in the form of emails, personal letters mailed to you, and telephone calls. Since these tasks are time-consuming, the volunteers thank you for sending in your membership today.

Membership Application

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

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

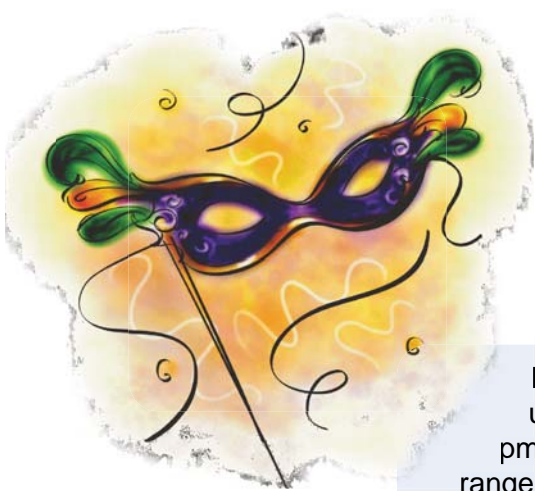
**Make checks payable to: PFLAG San Diego
PO Box 82762
San Diego, CA 92138**

Type of Membership

- ☐ Individual \$25
- ☐ Household \$35
- ☐ Business \$40
- ☐ Supporting \$50
- ☐ Contributing \$100
- ☐ Lifetime \$1000
- ☐ Other \$_____
- ☐ Accept my donation, please do not list.

Membership forms available at www.pflag.com

ABSOLUT MARDI GRAS



The annual **Hillcrest Mardi Gras Street Party** celebration will take place on **Fat Tuesday 2010** (and for those not in the "know," that's February 16!) and benefit the **GSDBA Foundation** (Greater San Diego Business Association) Scholarship program and Hillcrest community improvements.

The Foundation provides scholarships and mentoring to outstanding LGBT students and LGBT student allies. The festivities, held on University Avenue between Fourth and First Streets, include performers, laser light shows, food and drinks (i.e., you must be 21+ to attend).

The street party begins at **6:00 pm** and lasts until 11:00 pm. Tickets range from **\$15-\$75**. They can be purchased at **Urban Mo's, Baja Betty's, Obelisk Bookstore** or online at <http://gsdbafoundation.org/events>. Last year was sold out so don't delay. The event takes place rain or shine!



judy Briggs

ARTIST

Portraits Pets Landscapes Abstracts

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Perry v. Schwarzenegger

son who argued Bush v Gore in 2000 (we won't go there).

The three major points of their side were: that marriage is a fundamental right, that depriving gay people of that right caused harm, and that "there was no societal benefit to denying gays and lesbians the right to marry."

Many of the witnesses were a list of who's who, but San Diego had cause for pride when Mayor Jerry Sanders testified. Most San Diegans know that Mayor Sanders is a conservative Republican.



At the trial, he described his transformation from gay marriage opponent to vocal critic of denying gays and lesbians the right to wed. He also recounted how he renounced his own stance on gay marriage after learning his daughter is a lesbian.

The mayor, with his daughter, Lisa Sanders, in the courtroom, de-



scribed the difficulty of confronting his own

prejudice and risking the wrath of San Diegan voters. We thank Mayor Sanders for "**doing the right thing.**"

Please fill out, clip and mail this form   or go online www.pflag.com

Name..... Date

Address Phone

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Email..... ZIP.....

CESCAL A SUCCESS

Before you think you are being cursed out, CESCaI stands for **Center for Excellence in School Counseling and Leadership**. They presented "Empowering School Counselors & all Educators to Support our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/ Questioning & Intersex (LGBTQI) Youth." This is the first ever LGBT conference to enlighten school counselors and we are proud to say it was held in San Diego in early February. There were counselors and educators from all over the country. San Diego PFLAG was a gold sponsor and our "golden boy" board member **Ron Goetz** played an instrumental roll in the success of the conference. He worked tirelessly recruiting panel members to speak, was transportator-in-chief and wore many other hats during the conference. **A huge thank you to Ron.**

PFLAGers and close allies were represented on several panels. The PFLAG Parent panel included **Patti Boman, Barbara Bodine and Terri Vorono;**

HEROES, PIONEERS AND TRAILBLAZERS

Lambda Archives of San Diego will present their **2010 Heroes, Pioneers and Trailblazers Fund-raising and Awards Event on Friday, February 26** at The Center at 6:00 pm. Tickets are **\$65.00** - well worth it for the amount of food and beverage you get to feast on, plus entertainment, a raffle, and a live auction. Many prominent San Diegans will be honored including former **Councilwoman Toni Atkins, Frank Buttino** (Frank is a former member of PFLAG who was the first publicly gay FBI agent - his story

is fascinating), **Jeri Dilno**, the first female **Executive Director of The Center**, and the list goes on. For tickets or to see a list of all the recipients, go to www.lambdaarchives.org.

SAVE THE DATE: MI FAMILIA DOCUMENTARY PREMIERE



On Saturday, March 27, please join Mi Familia in The Center's auditorium at 6 pm for the premiere of *Mi Familia*, a documentary about families who love their LGBT children.

This is a joint project of The Center's Latino Services program and PFLAG. *Mi Familia* was filmed in Spanish and is shown with English subtitles. Tickets are only \$5. For more information, contact Carolina Ramos at (619) 692-2077, ext. 116, or cramos@thecentersd.org

DON'T DILLY — SCHOLARSHIPS AT STAKE

Please spread the word that our PFLAG chapter will be awarding **\$1000-2000** scholarships to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender stu-

BEAUTIFUL WORDS

We heard **President Obama** say at the State of the Union address, "*This year I will work with Congress and our military to finally repeal the law that denies gay Americans the right to serve the country they love because of who they are — it's the right thing to do.*" Now we need to wait and hear those words come to fruition.

It was encouraging to hear **Alex Nicholson, executive director of Servicemembers United** say, "I think the simple fact that 'don't ask, don't tell' is being included in the State of the Union address, alongside the ongoing wars and the economy and health care, is an unequivocal signal that the issue is being raised on the administra-



tion's priority list. Presidents don't typically throw out issues like this in the State of the Union if the intention is to hold off on them until the following year."

Also on board are **Joint**

P.S.

Last month, our guest speaker was **Joseph Rocha** whose first hand account of being a victim of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was shocking. The naysayers should listen to Mr. Rocha



speak for 15 minutes and their minds would be at least opened, if not changed. What most people don't realize is that the DADT title is misleading. If the military has a suspicion you are gay or if someone tells them

you are gay (true or not), you can be discharged. There is no "proof," so to speak, required. Joseph was tormented for two years, but had to endure his mistreatment in silence. After becoming depressed and developing signs of Post Traumatic Stress Syn-



GSA Advisor panel was **Nikki Eddy, Kurt Dearie, and Laura Preble**; Transgender Family panel included **Belinda Flynn & Ashton Flynn, Monica Gomez**

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dents. This includes high school seniors who will continue their education,

gender and gay youth from the community especially for their involvement in the gay community and/or

of LGBT persons in society.

Please visit our web site, www.pflag.com and click on the scholarship link.

The require-

ments are listed on the scholarship application. All awardees must be able to attend the awards ceremony

on **Monday, May 24**. The deadline for receiving applications is **Friday, March 26, 2010 by 4:00 pm**. For more info, call **Chair Olivia Dorman, 619-743-6879**.



full-time undergraduate or full-time graduate students.

The purpose of the awards is: To recognize outstanding lesbian, bisexual, trans-

society; to encourage

post-secondary education of LGBT persons; to promote a positive image

Chiefs Chairman Admiral Mike Mullen and other Pentagon top leaders who agreed that after decades of opposition and equivocation from the armed forces, they support an end to the ban on gay men and lesbians serving openly in the military. As Admiral Mullen states, "No matter how I look at the issue, I cannot escape being troubled by the fact that we in place a policy which forces young men and women

to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens." He further commented that "allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly would be the right thing to do."

Although **General Colin Powell** was instrumental in putting "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in place, he has now joined other high ranking brass in wanting it repealed. Gen. Powell stated, "In the almost 17 years

since the 'don't ask, don't tell' legislation was passed, attitudes and circumstances have changed. I fully support the new approach presented to the Senate Armed Services Committee this week by Secretary of Defense Gates and Admiral Mullen."

The bottom line is, the big cheeses who talk the talk must now walk the walk. DADT needs to be repealed in 2010.



drome, he finally wrote a letter to the Navy saying he was gay in order to get discharged. He also wanted those that made his life so miserable to be

held accountable, not only for his own sake, but for those who had been and continue to be brutalized by some military personal. There was an investigation of Joseph's allegations in which his Commanding Officer was exonerated. With pressure put on the Navy

with the help of Pennsylvania Congressman Joe Sestak, the investigation was reopened at the top level. Some time in February, Joseph will be in Washington DC fighting for gay and lesbian rights in the military. Thank you, Mr. Rocha.

& **Isaac Gomez, Kathe Dunn & Danny Dunn**. The PFLAG Parent panel listened intently to a



question from the audience.

Senator **Christine Kehoe** was welcomed as a guest attendee. The speakers who attended this first time event were awesome. Keynote speaker **Chaz Bono** first publicly came out as a lesbian in 1995. Chaz is now a female to male transgender (in the process), writes inspiring books and is a never-ending advocate for the LGBT community. The icing on the cake of the conference, to everyone's delight, was **Stuart Milk**. He is on a mission to fulfill his Uncle **Harvey Milk's** dream of a world without discrimination and hate. Stuart was 17 years old when his uncle was assassinated in San Francisco. He formed the Not-for-Profit **Harvey Milk Foundation** to advise, assist and support LGBT rights organizations and movements. His mission is worldwide. The "peanut gallery" PFLAGers who **HAD** to have a picture taken with Stuart and the other speakers (**Rochelle Hamilton** and **Mary Ellen Clark**) are **Sherry Cohen-Richards**, **Barbara Bodine**, and **Patti Boman**. More on Rochelle and Mary Ellen in the March newsletter.

Current Events (continued)

February 27

Saturday
PFLAG Southern Pacific
Regional Conference-LA
For info, email
scohenrichards@pflag.com

February 28

Sunday
PFLAG Support Group
North County Coastal

March 1

Monday
Mi Familia Support Group

March 8

Monday
PFLAG Support Group
East County

March 9

Tuesday
PFLAG Support Group
North County Inland

March 20

Saturday
The Center Yard Sale
(see article on page 4)

PFLAG THANKS YOU FOR YOUR EXTRA HELP!

Contributing
Memberships

Patty Magee
Alec Babiarz & Eva
Stjernfeldt

Supporting
Memberships

Jim & Regina Bohorquez
Tom & Melissa Marshall

Donations to the
General Fund

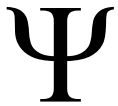
Anna Curren
Charlotte Pichney
Bernie & Margy Salzberg

Donation to the
Scholarship Fund

Bernie & Margy Salzberg

Condolences

Longtime member Bob Strong, passed away recently. He and his wife Jean (also deceased) were longtime PFLAG members. Our condolences to his family.



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