

PFLAGSD

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

Info Line (619) 579-7640

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

Current Events

January 18

Monday
Mi Familia Support Group

January 24

Sunday
North County Coastal

January 25

Monday
San Diego General
Meeting

February 1

Monday
Mi Familia Support Group

February 6

Monday
Candle Light Vigil,
5:30-6:30 pm in front of
Boy Scouts headquarters
at 1207 Upas Street.

February 8

Monday
East County Support
Group

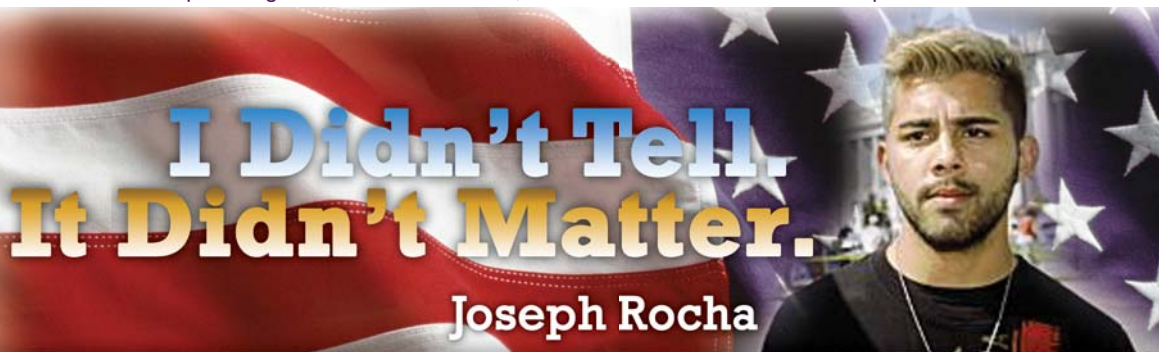
February 9

Tuesday
North County Inland
Support Group

Happy New Year!

We hope the new year
brings everyone good
health and prosperity.

Thank you
for your
continued
support.



Joseph Rocha



PLEASE JOIN US

25

Please
join us for our Gen-
eral Meeting on Monday, Jan-
uary 25, 7:00 pm at the First
United Methodist Church,
2231 Camino del Rio South.

We are delighted to have as
our guest speaker **Joseph**

Rocha, who, in 2005 as an 18
year old, joined the Navy as a
closeted gay man. Although
he knew about the “Don’t
Ask, Don’t
Tell” policy,
he loved his
country and
decided to
put service
to the United
States before
his personal life. As soon as
he enlisted, he was tormented
by his chief and fellow sailors,
physically and emotionally for

being gay.

His story is one of utter shock
at the way he was treated in
the service. The above
title was taken from
an article Joseph
wrote for **The Wash-
ington Post** in Octo-
ber, 2009. You will not
want to miss Joseph’s
story.

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



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; Educa-
tion, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and Advocacy, to end
discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orien-
tation and acts to create a society that is healthy and respect-
ful of human diversity.

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Tax ID #33-0512868

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www.pflag.org

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The Brouhaha

Since all the "facts" are not in, it's difficult to report about the happenings at San Diego Pride. As of this writing, here is what we think we know:

1. Board Chair Phillip Princetta received a \$5,000 bonus from the Board of Directors for his community involvement. The Board waived the bylaw that prohibits the volunteer board members from receiving any compensation.
2. After much ado, [Princetta] he returned the money and the Board apologized to the (gay) community.
3. Executive Director Ron deHarte said the board acted inappropriately in giving Princetta the bonus and sought advice from community leaders. He demanded the money be returned (see number 2 above).
4. On January 5, the Board fired Ron deHarte. Princetta said it wasn't in connection with the whistle blowing and deHarte said it was. After deHarte was fired, two board members resigned in support of deHarte.
5. There was a town hall meeting held on January 10 where the community was invited to discuss San Diego Pride. There will be an update in the February newsletter.



The Brouhahaes



Phillip
Princetta



Ron
deHarte



Robert Sachristan **CreativeWorks**
Graphic Design
619 630 - 0498

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space!**

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

Sunday, January 24 at 2:00 pm, Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Pilgrim Hall, 2020 Chestnut, Carlsbad.

Contact Larry Gerling,
(760) 224-2178.

NORTH COUNTY INLAND

Tuesday, February 9 at 6:30 pm, San Diego Nat. Bank Bldg, Community Room, 16789 Bernardo Center Dr, Rancho Bernardo.

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



Annise Parker was sworn in as mayor of Houston in early January. Ms Parker is openly gay; her partner, Kathy Hubbard, was at her side as she took the oath of office. Houston is now officially the largest U.S. city with an openly gay mayor.

There's a good chance that Rhode Island's house of representatives may soon get a gay speaker. **Gordon Fox**, already serving as house majority leader, is poised to become the next speaker.

Stan Penfold, director of the Utah AIDS Foundation, became the first openly gay member of the Salt Lake City (yes, the one in Utah) City Council.

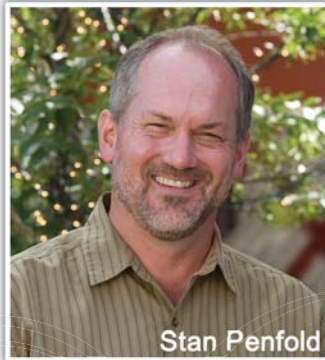
Amanda Simpson, who is transgender, has been ap-

Starting Off The Year With GOOD NEWS

pointed by President Obama to the Department of Commerce as a senior technical advisor. At a press release at the National Center for Transgender Equality, Ms Simpson said she hopes she is one of the first of many transgender appointees to the federal government.

Minneapolis assistant police Chief **Sharon Lubinski** has become the first openly gay U.S. marshal. What the hell took so long?

At the end of 2009, **Mexico**



Stan Penfold

City enacted Latin America's first law recognizing same-sex marriage, which becomes effective March, 2010. Lawmakers

expect this law to attract same-sex couples from around the world to come to Mexico City to wed.

ABC television has taken a big step forward by airing a sex scene between two male characters on the soap opera "One Life to Live."



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

Monday, February 8 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

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Transgender Coordinator

Evelyn Lindenmuth
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Website

Robert Sachristan
admin@pflag.com

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

Do you know my "Sin"?

I knew from an early age that I was different from others around me. My parents knew it; my brother and sister knew it. But it was something they rarely commented on. I was much more keenly aware of the "uniqueness" than they were because I had to live with being different. The others in my family were "normal."

There were times during my growing years when I wished I wasn't different. Things went so much easier for others who were normal. After all, the world was made by normal people for normal people. All the rules were defined by the normal ones. I found that the best way to get along was to not call special attention to myself. No one could tell by looking at me that I was "one of those."

From my earliest years, I can remember comments people have made about people like me. In centuries past, we were referred to by a word which has come to mean evil. And even now, in our modern times where people are supposedly more tolerant and open-minded than they were in the dark ages, I still hear

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PFLAG Southern Pacific Regional Conference

Members are welcome to attend the PFLAG Southern Pacific Regional Conference on Saturday, **February 27** in Los Angeles. The conference is scheduled from 9:00 am-5:00 pm. The fee is \$15.00 and includes lunch.

Workshops and updates on PFLAG National will be part of the program. There are eight Board Members attending. If you are interested to car pool or need location information, please contact Sherry Cohen-Richards at scohenrichards@pflag.com or 858-292-7111.

Not too early to apply

We are pleased to announce that our **12th Annual Scholarship**

Program is on **Monday, May 24.**

The scholarships range from **\$1000-2000**. One of the purposes of the awards is to recognize outstanding gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth from our community.

Eligible students are seniors in high school and those in secondary education, including graduate school. For details, as well as to download the application, please visit our web site: www.pflag.com and click on the **scholarship link**.

It is important to note that the deadline is **Friday, March 26**; don't dilly getting the word out. For further information, contact scholarship chair, **Olivia Dorman at 619-743-6879 or Sherry Cohen-Richards at 858-292-7111.**

**Show your support.
Buy ad space!**

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.

John McWhorter, MSFT
MFC32798

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San Diego CA 92123

(858) 279-4879
Fax (858) 279-1701
jon@traumabusters.com

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



Biblical marriage: A bad source for debate? You decide

By Vaughn Roste

We've heard a lot about "biblical marriage" lately, largely as a defensive reaction against same-sex marriage. I read one letter to the editor written by a Lutheran pastor that claimed, "the Bible clearly teaches that marriage is the G-d-ordained covenantal union of one man to one woman." So I picked up my Bible, looked up over 800 references and was able to distill those 825 verse references into 12 general principles:

12 Biblical Principles of Marriage

FIRST

Marriage consists of one man and one or more women.

SECOND

Nothing prevents a man from taking on concubines in addition to the wife or

wives he may already have.

THIRD

A man might choose any woman he wants for his wife, provided only that she is not already another man's wife or his [half-] sister, nor the mother or the sister of a woman who is already his wife. The concept of a woman giving her consent to being married is foreign to the Biblical mindset.

FOURTH

If a woman cannot be proven to be a virgin at the time of marriage, she shall be stoned.

FIFTH

A rapist must marry his victim – unless she was already a fiancée, in which case he should be put to death if he raped her in the country, but both of them killed if he raped her in town.

SIXTH

If a man dies childless, his brother must marry the widow.

SEVENTH

Women marry the man of their father's choosing.

EIGHTH

Women are the property of their father until married and their husband after that.

NINTH

The value of a woman might be approximately seven years' work.

TENTH

Inter-faith marriages are prohibited.

ELEVENTH

Divorce is forbidden.

TWELFTH

Better to not get married at all – although marriage is not a sin.

Do you know my "Sin"?

comments like, "Oh, I didn't know you were a _____." Sometimes I feel like responding with, "Oh and I didn't know you were a _____." The trouble is, there aren't any good nicknames used to describe the normal. Nicknames that describe the minorities or the "abnormal" continue to abound, however.

Some treat me as though I'm not whole, and because I'm not "whole," I must be sinful and because I'm sinful, it must be my fault. But the truth is, I didn't choose to be the way I am. My parents did try to change me at first, but eventually they accepted me. I don't feel particularly sinful because of my "difference." I don't feel any more or less whole than those whose "preference" is "normal."

I'm told I will die prematurely because of my "preference" and the lifestyle that I lead because of it. Statistically this is true, and while I don't want to die, I don't plan on becoming "normal" just so I can live longer, because I don't know

judy Briggs

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

Name..... Date

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Dictionary notes gay marriage

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary includes a second definition for marriage that recognizes same-sex couples.

The change, made in 2003, was not generally noticed until a conservative news organization reported it.

The secondary definition reads: "the state of being united to a person of the same sex in a relationship like that of a traditional marriage."

In a statement, Merriam-Webster said the change merely reflected the vernacular use of the term and noted that all the major dictionaries include similar definitions.

Scouting for All Vigil

Scouting For All will urge the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to change its discriminatory national policy that excludes LGBT and non-theist scouts.

There will be a candle-light vigil on **February 6 from 5:30-6:30 pm** in front of Boy Scouts headquarters at **1207 Upas Street**.

The march will begin at The LGBT Center, 3909 Center Street (corner of Center and University) at 5:30 and continue to BSA headquarters on Upas Street.

For safety reasons, you are requested to bring a

Do you know my "Sin"?

(Continued)

how to become normal. Normal for me is who and what I am right now.

I accept me as I am. I've also realized that asking others to accept me as I am generally works. What doesn't work is asking and expecting society to accommodate me, to take my "difference" into account. Someday, however, I hope that employers will have to treat us as they treat others. I'd like it to happen sooner, but I'm willing to wait. At least we're no longer burned at the stake. It's tough to be left-handed.



Bob Paris

flashlight rather than a candle. You are encouraged to bring a sign to carry.

It is sad, that after 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America still has not learned to treat all people equally. Their stance against gay and non-theist children and adults amounts to teaching hate by example.

Hooray for Gareth

Most athletes who come out, come out after they have retired from their given sport. While most Americans aren't "into" rugby, this article is worth mentioning. Gareth Thomas is a United Kingdom rugby legend. He officially came out December 18,

Why do some come out so late



In light of Meredith Baxter's media-shocking move of coming out as a lesbian at age 62, many have been wondering: What took her so long?

While Baxter shared that she had been in a committed relationship with her live-

in partner, Nancy Locke, for the last four years, she said the connection to women didn't manifest in her life until her later years, after a few divorces from men.

The Advocate explored the reasons some LGBT individuals only come out later in life in a fascinating article by Dr. Allen Rix, who holds a doctorate of education in sexology and is author of the forthcoming book *Ex-Gay No Way*. Dr. Rix suggests that with all the radical changes in LGBT civil rights and social standards, the older generation is still reeling from a time when homosexuality was illegal and

Gay Athletes of the past

1981

Billie Jean King is "outed" by ex-lover Marilyn Barnett, while she is married to Larry King.

Martina Navratilova reveals that she is a lesbian during an

interview with the New York Daily News.

1982

The first Gay Olympic Games takes place in San Francisco.

1987

Jerry Smith, a tight end with the Washington Redskins.



giving an interview with London's Daily Mail.

"My parents, my family and my friends all love me and accept me for who I am, and even if the public

in life?

socially condemned, just 30 years ago.

Dr. Rix writes: "The question I kept hearing was, 'How could she live into her 60s and not know she was a lesbian?' What keeps people so out of touch with themselves, they wouldn't know their own sexual preference for several decades of their life?"

"Yet, when I did the math, I realized there is still a huge amount of the population that grew up during a time when homosexuality was a crime. The LGBT civil rights movement is still rather young. Just 30 years ago

sex education was fraught with lies (even more so than today) and nearly nonexistent. Furthermore, people who are now in their 50s and older were raised in an age when the entire world was engaged in war; therefore, maintaining a calm status quo was likened to bliss. Many just wanted to get to the end of life having no harm come to their families. Sexual pleasure had very little to do with it. They often believed conformity was more important than diversity when it came to social structures, and many forces — religious, political, familial — used power, fear, shame, and even violence to keep people in line.

"With all these pressures, their choice to live in denial — not understanding and avoiding their true sexual orientation — was the only way they knew to survive. Is it any wonder that plenty of people go to the grave nev-

er dealing with their sexuality or even experiencing the sex they secretly longed for all their lives?"

He writes that as a scholar on the subject, he had hoped to be able to quote statistics and facts on ages at which people come out and provide generational comparisons, but "unfortunately, as with most topics related to sexuality as well as the aging population, there seems to be little money or energy given to researching these subjects."

He cites technological advances, social evolutions, and changes in life circumstances — like divorce or death of a spouse — as possible triggers for someone expressing their homosexuality in their mature years.

Reprinted from The Advocate

in history.

Greg Louganis, 4x Olympic gold medalist in diving comes out at the Gay Games.

1995
Ian Roberts, one of Australia's most popular rugby players, poses nude for a gay magazine.



1996
Muffin Spencer-Devlin, an 18-year LPGA veteran, speaks about being a lesbian in the March 18 issue of Sports Illustrated.

Rudy Galindo, the national men's skating champion, discusses being a gay man in the book Inside Edge: A Revealing Journey Into the Secret World of Figure Skating.

Doug Mattis, another professional skater, comes out not long afterward.

David Pichler and Patrick Jeffrey, two openly gay U.S. divers, compete in the Atlanta Olympics.

1998
Michael Muska, a former track-and-field coach at Auburn and Northwestern, is named athletic director at Oberlin College. Muska is the first openly gay man to hold such a position in college sports.

Greg Louganis, in a special Goodwill Games edition of New York 1 News' nightly sports program, says that several athletes in pro team sports have asked him for advice about coming out.

1988
Bruce Hayes, an 1984 gold Olympic medal swimmer, comes out publicly at the Gay Games.

1989
Bob Paris, 1983 Mr. America and Mr. Universe titles, reveals he is gay during an interview with Ironman magazine.

1992
Roy Simmons, an offensive guard for the New York Giants and the Washington Redskins, reveals he is gay during an appearance on The Phil Donahue Show.

1993
Glenn Burke, former outfielder with the



Los Angeles Dodgers and the Oakland A's who was known for popularizing the high five, comes out publicly during an interview.

1994
Gay Games IV is held in New York City and attracts more than 11,000 participants in 31 events, making it the largest athletic competition

are upset by this, I know the love of those people who mean the most to me will never change. I'm not going on a crusade, but I'm proud of who I am. I feel I have achieved everything I could ever possibly have hoped to achieve out of rugby, and I did it being

gay. I want to send a positive message to other gay people that they can do it, too. (When I was closeted) I used to go to the cliffs overlooking the beach near our cottage in St. Brides Major and just think about jumping off and ending it all."

This seems to be a familiar lesson. When you free yourself from the "secret" of being gay, life has a whole new meaning.



Mark Your Calendars Now!

The following are our remaining meeting dates for 2010:

February 22, March 22,
April 26, May 24, June
28, July 26, August 23
September 27, October
25, November 22,
December 27

PFLAG THANKS YOU FOR YOUR EXTRA HELP!

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Karen & Mark Thompson

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L & S Rosenberg Family Foundation
Leon & Sonia Rosenberg

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Marj Frye
Warwick Gregson
Bobbi Harwood



Old News, But Newsworthy

Back in July, in Columbus, Ohio, gay and lesbian Mennonites, dressed in bright pink, gathered outside the church's official convention to criticize its leaders for trying to push them out. Approximately 100 ministers and church members prayed, sang religious hymns and told stories of feeling ostracized growing up in the Mennonite Church, which does not recognize openly gay people as official members. This takes chutzpah and even though it is belated, bravo to these brave members of the church.



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