



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

ISSUE VOLUME

**07 17**

JULY 2010  
[www.pflag.com](http://www.pflag.com)  
[info@pflag.com](mailto:info@pflag.com)

# Walgreens

## ON THE FOREFRONT

**SAN DIEGO  
GAY PRIDE IS  
HERE!**



See you all there  
in Hillcrest for the  
Pride festivities!

Thank you for your  
continued support  
of PFLAG San  
Diego Chapter.

## Come to our Meeting

Please join us for our General Meeting on **Monday, July 26 at 7:00 pm** for an informative evening on the latest HIV trends, locally, nationally and globally. Walgreens pharmacist, **Dr. Jason Bailly**, who has had 12 years field experience in HIV Pharmacy and **Ian Morton** who is both a licensed and certified pharmacy

Continued page 5

## OFFICERS, COMMITTEES & VOLUNTEERS

### Current Positions

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**Refreshments**  
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Bodine, Karen Thompson,  
Sherry Cohen-Richards,  
Olivia Dorman, Phyllis Van  
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Ron Goetz, Terrie Vorono

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



## Membership Application

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

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or go online [www.pflag.com](http://www.pflag.com)

Membership forms available at [www.pflag.com](http://www.pflag.com)



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Robert Sachristan **CreativeWorks**  
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# Current Events

**July 12**  
**Monday**  
PFLAG Support Group  
North County Inland

Premiere of the documentary, *Mi Familia*  
(see article)

**July 12**  
**Monday**  
PFLAG Support Group  
East County

**July 25**  
Sunday  
PFLAG Support Group  
North County Coastal

**July 13-24**  
LGBT Exhibit at City  
Hall (see article)

**July 25**  
Sunday  
PFLAG Support Group  
South Bay

**July 16-18**  
Friday-Sunday  
PRIDE Festival and  
activities (see article)

**July 26**  
Monday  
San Diego PFLAG  
General Meeting

**July 19**  
Monday  
Mi Familia Support  
Group

**July 31-August 1**  
Saturday-Sunday  
San Diego Gay Men's  
Chorus (as of this writing,  
tickets were dwindling fast;  
concert is music from Abba)

**July 24**  
Saturday

## 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.

*Luan D. Andrews, M.A.*

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# SUPPORT GROUPS

## NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

Meets 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

Meets every second Monday, at 7:00 pm, Ciao Bella Hair Salon building, 12160 Alta Carmel Court, Rancho Bernado. This is a new night, time, and place. If you need directions, go to [www.ciaobellainc.com](http://www.ciaobellainc.com).

**Contact** Sue Fine, (858) 673-4560 or  
[pflag4sdnocnty@san.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto:whytestonne@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](mailto:ftm_mom@yahoo.com).

## SOUTH BAY

Meets every fourth Sunday, at 1:00 pm, Please **call** or **email** if you plan to attend, (Chula Vista)

**Contact** Martha Cardenas, (619) 947-4612, contact:  
[mar@firstuussandiego.org](mailto:mar@firstuussandiego.org)

National PFLAG, Washington, DC  
(202) 647-8180, [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

## SISTER GRAMICK A BIG HIT



Sister Jeannine Gramick spoke of her struggles with the Catholic Church (i.e, Vatican) for speaking up and actively helping the LGBT community. However, with her sense of humor and style, the presentation was most interesting. We were pleased to have over 150 people in attendance. Most copies of her documentary, in good conscience, were sold. A bigger than usual cookie social took place mid-way through the program.

Prior to Sister Gramick's presentation, there was a reception held for the Board Members of the groups and those individuals who sponsored the evening: Call to Action, Dignity San Diego, Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community, Dr. Orlando Espin, Marie Boman, Brandy Holland, Phyllis Van Wanseele, Mark and Karen Thompson, Judy and Doug Paulson, Mi Familia (The Center), and PFLAG San Diego. A huge thank you for making the evening possible. Please see other acknowledgements on the last page.

## What's Happening!

### COME ONE, COME ALL; NOT TO BE MISSED

From **July 13-24**, San Diego City Hall will be hosting an exhibit depicting the history of the LGBT community. Entitled ***A Celebration of San Diego LGBT History***, it is being presented by Lambda Archives of San Diego and the Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast. The exhibit will feature approximately 1100 square feet of historical LGBT community treasures and will also feature an LGBT national and local timeline starting in the 1970s to the present. Other displays will include LGBT related performers, sports culture, military, marriage and faith, HIV/AIDS, civil rights, diversity, youth, the origins of Pride, politics, and community leadership. The display cases will

house t-shirts and buttons from other eras, found locally and nationally. This is a sampling. There's much more to see. **City Hall is located at 202 C Street, downtown.**

Credit where credit is due. This was the brainchild of City Commissioner Nicole Murray Ramirez. Many thanks go to Nicole.

### SAVE THE DATE



Although it's not until **September 26**, it's not too early to think about participating in the **21st Annual AIDS Walk**. Every year, PFLAG San Diego has a team; we

need at least 10 participants in order to walk with the PFLAG tennis shoe sign. It is a badge of honor.

Go to **www.AIDSwalksd.org**, click on teams, then click on 2010 AIDS Walk and Run Teams; scroll down to PFLAG San Diego.

It's **\$35** to participate and **\$25** for 60+. As always, feel free to give as much

as you'd like. If you don't wish to walk, you can donate money to our team. More info will be in next month's newsletter.

## CONSTANCE UPDATE PART IV



*Constance as Grand Marshal of the NYC Gay Pride Parade*

In the last three newsletters, we reported on **Constance McMillen**, 18, who was barred from taking her girlfriend to her prom and wearing a tuxedo at Itawamba Agricultural High School in Fulton, Mississippi. The ACLU (American

Civil Liberties Union) sued on Constance's behalf; we still don't have the info when the trial will take place.

Constance was duped into going to a fake prom, while other students enjoyed an official prom. On May 8, there was a "Second Chance" prom open to all

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## FROM THE COVER

technician who has had 15 years HIV experience in prevention and pharmacy services, will speak on: Infection, Resources & Treatment Option Update. This talk will explore where new infections are being seen, how you can be involved in the community through support and volunteering, and what changes there have been in HIV medications in the past 5-10 years.

Please remember that we are back at **First United Methodist Church, 2231 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley.**

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

## CONTINUE TO ENJOY OUR SCHOLARSHIP ESSAYS

This month, we are featuring Taylor Bazley and Nicole Levin.

**Taylor Bazley** is the recipient of the **John Bessemer Memorial Scholarship.**

This scholarship is in memory of John Bessemer, who was a dedicated PFLAG dad. PFLAG San Diego is proud to have sponsored this scholarship since 2002. It is always a pleasure to have John's wife, Linda Bessemer, there every year to honor the recipient.

**Taylor** just graduated from San Diego High School of Science and Technology. He is planning on majoring in Economics at UCLA in the fall. A noteworthy mention is that Taylor attended his homecoming dance with a male date.



Even though that should be the "norm," it makes him a hero. Here is Taylor's essay:

*"Receiving this scholarship in of its self will not be enough for me to attend college. However this scholarship is vital to me because it makes up a network of scholarships, grants, and loans which I will need to receive in order to pay for the school that I want to attend. I have already been accepted to UCLA as part of their class of 2014 (as an economics major) and if I can find enough financial aid, plan on attending. If I receive this scholarship it would become part of my network of financial aid that will allow*

Continued on page 6

## CITYFEST COMING SOON

On **August 8 from noon-8:00pm**, CityFest, the 27th Annual Hillcrest Street Fair, will take place under the Hillcrest sign. CityFest celebrates community spirit with music, arts and crafts, lots of food, a celebratory lantern parade at dusk, and rededication of the neighborhood sign. Join over 100,000 people beneath the Hillcrest Sign at the largest neighborhood street fair of its kind. CityFest will feature a Grand Stage, a massive open air beer garden on University Avenue, a kids' carnival, mechanical bull, and dunk tank, to name a few of the activities.

## T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

There are a few of our spiffy PFLAG t-shirts for sale. If you want one for the parade, please call to reserve one (it will be brought to the parade): Sherry Cohen-Richards, **858-292-7111**. Suggested donation is \$15.00 (highly suggested).



high school youth from all over the state of Mississippi. It was a big success.

On June 22, Constance attended an LGBT Pride reception at the White House. She did meet President Obama for "about five seconds." She spent a day on Capitol Hill advocating on behalf of LGBT students. Also while she was in DC, she met with Senator Al Franken, lead sponsor of the Student Non-Discrimination Act. Then it was on to New York City.

First, she spoke at NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Pride Week BBQ. Next, she shared Grand Marshall honors with Judy Shepard

and Lt. Dan Choi at New York City's Gay Pride Parade.

According to the ACLU, some school districts learned their lesson from Itawamba Agricultural High School/Constance and didn't challenge students from attending their proms

as same-sex couples.

The last four months have been both a difficult time and a thrilling time for Constance. She came out in eighth grade and never really considered herself an activist. In her mind, she

Continued on page 6

**judy Briggs**

**ARTIST**

*Portraits   Pets   Landscapes   Abstracts*

858 210 2555

j@masqueradecrafts.com



## MI FAMILIA PREMIERE

On **Saturday, July 24, at 6:00 pm**, the premiere of *Mi Familia* will take place at the The LGBT Center, 3909 Centre Street, Hillcrest. This is a documentary about families who love their LGBT children. 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 \$5 at the door. For more information, contact Carolina Ramos at (619) 692-2077, ext. 116, or [cramos@thecentersd.org](mailto:cramos@thecentersd.org).

## CONSTANCE UPDATE (CON'T)

was simply being herself. "I think it's really just because of the way I have been raised. I have always been raised to stand up for myself and I have always been



raised to be proud of myself — so a combination of those. I really couldn't do anything else if I was going to be true to myself," McMillen said. Give a pat on the back to Constance's parents, too.

Continued from page 5

me to attend college, and will ultimately allow me to achieve the other goals I have in my life. I want to not just obtain a higher education in order to receive a good paying job, but I want to use my education to become a public servant and use my upbringing to provide me with a unique perspective that will help shape future public policy and make our world a better place.

As an LGBT student, I deserve this scholarship because I have had to work hard to overcome many obstacles to get to my present point, and I have still been able to take a proactive role in helping make my school and community a better place. My mother and I have suffered hardships, still I chose to take this adversity and make it a motivating factor not an affliction. Being raised by a single mother without the help of a father has enabled me to become independent. Being a minority within almost every school I have attended has given me tolerance. Being gay in a very homophobic society has given me patience. I want to become a public servant so I can make positive changes and help people through difficult times much like my mother and I have been helped. I already have created positive changes for my school by using my class presidency (2007-2010) and my student body council position (2007-2010) to implement new programs that allow disadvantaged and under represented students to have their voices heard and to be able to work off their admissions to senior events so that they can have the ability to enjoy the same high school experience as students with more money to be able to attend all of the events. I want to give people hope and resources

to make their lives successful and rewarding. I want to help others see adversity as a strength, not a weakness. With the right education and my natural motivation and strength I know my goals will be attained."



The recipient of the **Rob Benzon Memorial Scholarship**, in its

5th year, was **Nicole Levin**. The scholarship honors the memory of Rob Benzon and was presented by Board Members of the Rob Benzon Foundation, Steve Hawley and Dan Ferbal. Rob was an LGBT advocate and is fondly remembered.

**Nicole** is in her last year at SDSU and will graduate in December, 2010. Her essay is as follows:

"Growing up in Russia and the Ukraine as an American expatriate, I witnessed firsthand the effects of health and wealth disparities in developing nations. I realized that I wanted to dedicate my life to humanitarian work at age fourteen when I befriended an elderly homeless woman. Her determination to survive inspired and continues to motivate me towards a career in healthcare advocacy. With this in mind I am pursuing degrees in Nursing and International Security and Conflict Resolution (ISCOR) with a minor in Public Health. Nursing gives me practical skills that can be used worldwide.

ISCOR provides political knowledge and mediation skills to work in developing nations. Public Health plays an integral part by providing the fundamentals of community planning and building.

Together, these fields of study provide the best preparation for my career goals. I hope to gain several years of experience as an RN before obtaining a Masters in Public Health. Eventually I hope to work for Doctors Without Borders or the United Nations. In the meantime, I volunteer regularly with clinics and related organizations to build my skills and keep making a positive impact. The San Diego PFLAG Scholarship will allow me to continue my volunteer commitments and complete my coursework without the need to work to support myself.

As an LGBT student, I deserve this scholarship because of my dedication to global LGBT advocacy — I helped organize a pride parade in Ljubljana, Slovenia, volunteered for the No on 8 campaign in California, advocated for the community with the Queer Group at Deakin University while studying in Melbourne, Australia, and participated in the first-ever LGBT outreach by the U.S. federal government. As a bisexual student I can better fight for the rights of the underprivileged because I am in a marginalized group myself. This not only enhances my goal of working with refugee populations but also gives me an international perspective that I can utilize as an activist for local LGBT rights."

## ONE WORLD, ONE HEART, ONE PRIDE

It's that wonderful time of the year when the San Diego community comes together to celebrate the LGBT community with the 36th Annual Pride Celebration. This year the theme

is “One World, One Heart, One Pride.” It was chosen because “it reminds us that none of us will be equal until we are all equal.”

If you cannot walk and need to ride in the parade, please contact Karen Thompson immediately, as space is limited: **858-679-9943**.

The first event on the Pride hit parade (and it's free!) takes place on **Friday, July 16 from 6:00-7:30 pm** — *LGBT Pride Spirit of Stonewall Rally*. This rally had disappeared for a few years but it's baaaaack! It will take place at the festival location, Laurel and Sixth Avenue in Balboa Park. The rally will feature inspirational speakers and awards presentations for the recipients of the 2010 Spirit of Stonewall awards, which honor individuals and organizations that have made significant, positive impacts on San Diego's LGBT community.

The PRIDE Parade is **Saturday, July 17 at 11:00 am**. **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU LEAVE YOUR HOME FOR THE PARADE:** **A)**

This year, San Diego Pride will be requiring anyone marching/riding in the parade to sign a release form saying that it's okay for your picture to be used (i.e., TV or newspaper). We will distribute them at our meeting location. **B)** You will be in a mass buss/people jam if you don't get to the old Balboa Naval Hospital early to catch the free shuttle buses to the parade site. It's located on



Park Blvd., across from President's Way. Plan on being at our contingent site by 10:15 so we can hurry up and wait together. As of right now, we do not know where PFLAG will be stationed, but an email prior to the parade will be sent. If you don't have email, you can ask at the information booth, located around University Avenue and Normal Street (about one block from the bus drop off point), **C)** wear comfortable shoes, **D)** put lots of sun block on, **E)** wear a hat, **F)** take water, **G)** bring a camera, **H)** make PFLAG signs and bring them, **I)** wear as much PFLAG clothing and paraphernalia as you own.

The parade (1.5 miles) begins at University Avenue and Normal Street, continues west on University, south on 6th and ends at Ivy Lane. If you've never participated in the parade, you will have quite a thrill, as the crowd goes crazy when we pass by. There are 150,000 spectators, many showing their appreciation to PFLAG.

To brag, this event is the best attended and largest single day event in San Diego. Another bragging right is that it's the **fifth** largest Gay Pride Parade in the U.S. Being that we are such hot shots, we always attract the best Grand Marshals, and this year is no exception. The LGBT community is honored that **Stuart Milk**, Harvey Milk's nephew and an activist

in his own right, will be the Grand Marshal. The Celebrity Grand Marshal is **Cloris Leachman**, who needs no introduction.



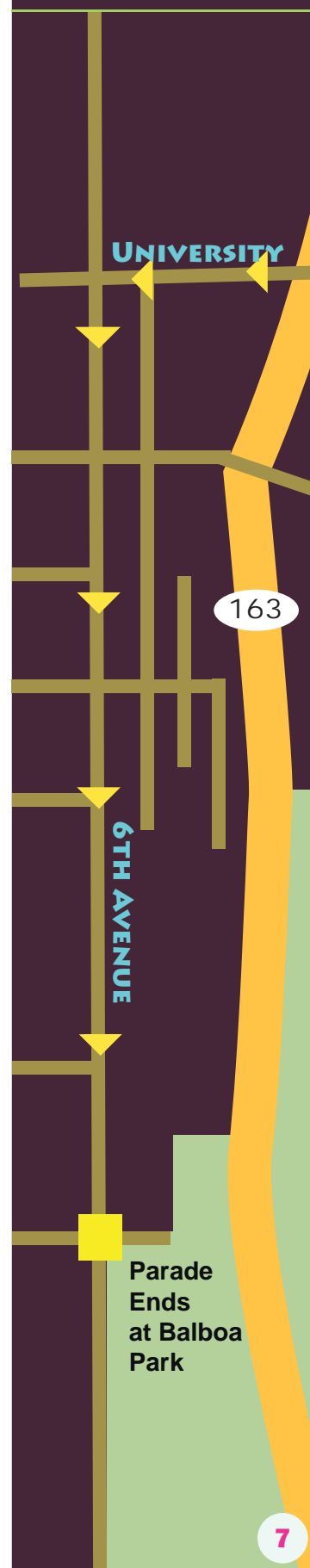
The Pride Festival starts at noon on Saturday, right after the parade, at Marston Point (6th and Juniper) and continues until 10 pm. On Sunday, it runs from 11:00 am-8:00 pm. **Admission is \$15 for one day and \$25 for a two day pass.**

Our PFLAG booth is on the main drag. There are 300 exhibitors, live entertainment, food booths, beer gardens, children's garden, art exhibits, and much more. **Eve** (no relation to Adam in this context) is the headliner for Saturday and **Devo**, the headliner for Sunday, with **Blake Lewis**



as Sunday's special guest. You can get more info and buy tickets at **[www.sd-pride.org](http://www.sd-pride.org)**.

**PARADE ROUTE  
 BEGINS AT NORMAL  
 AND UNIVERSITY**



**Parade  
 Ends  
 at Balboa  
 Park**



## CURRENT EVENTS

**August 2**  
**Monday**  
Mi Familia Support  
Group

**August 8**  
**Sunday**  
CityFest (see article)

## PFLAG THANKS YOU FOR YOUR EXTRA HELP!

### Contributing Membership

Jon McWhorter & Rodney  
Wendler

**To the "foot soldiers"  
who made the evening  
with Sister Gramick pos-  
sible**

*Patti Boman, without  
whose dedication, per-  
sistence, and hard work,  
the event would not have  
taken place*

*Carolina Ramos, for mak-  
ing The Center available  
to us and all the set up  
that was involved*

*Olivia Dorman for orga-  
nizing and hosting the  
Board reception*

*Terrie Vorono for being the  
refreshment committee of  
one*

**To the Sister Gramick  
"worker bees" who con-  
tributed in many ways**

Barbara Bodine  
Monica Gomez  
Mark Thompson  
Teddie Anderson  
Geoff Anderson  
Lonnie Brunini  
Louie Chavez  
Maggie Carlson  
Lulu Martin  
Chris Vogt  
Clive Dorman  
Sue Johnson  
Sherry Cohen-Richards

## IN MEMORIAM



PFLAG San  
Diego, as  
well as the  
LGBT com-  
munity at  
large, was  
saddened to

learn of the death of **Ray-  
mond Portillos Leon**.

Ray was 22 years old and  
had a very difficult life for  
most of those years. He  
managed to rise above the  
hardships, which is why his  
death was so shocking. He  
was a community activist,  
but for those in PFLAG, we  
knew him from his appear-  
ance in our documentary,  
***Holding Families To-  
gether***.

PFLAG was one of the  
sponsors for his memorial  
vigil that was held on June  
22.



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