



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

ISSUE VOLUME

06 17

JUNE 2010
www.pflag.com
info@pflag.com

Pride In San Diego

**GET READY FOR
SAN DIEGO
GAY PRIDE!**



Join PFLAG in
Hillcrest and show
your pride!

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

DON'T GO TO CHURCH!

That is, don't go to the First United Methodist Church
for our monthly meeting on **June 28**. Our meeting will
be held at **The LGBT Center**, 3909 Centre Street,

Continued page 5

PLEASE JOIN US
28th

Please join us on **June 28** at **7:00 pm** at The
Center in Hillcrest for a
very special event.

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



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

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or go online www.pflag.com

Membership forms available at www.pflag.com



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<http://www.cafepress.com/pflagsd>



Robert Sachristan **CreativeWorks**
Graphic Design
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Current Events

June 14

Monday

PFLAG Support Group
East County

June 14

Monday

PFLAG Support Group
North County Inland

June 19

Saturday

Gaylaxy: The Other Prom. Hillcrest Youth Center is still seeking donations for the annual "Other Prom" that is open to 14-20 year old LGBTQ youth and their allies. To make a donation, go to **www.thecentersd.kintera.org/TheOtherProm**.

June 19

Saturday

8: The Mormon Proposition opens in San Diego. See article.

June 21

Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

June 27

Sunday

PFLAG Support Group
North County Coastal

June 27

Sunday

PFLAG Support Group
South Bay

June 28

Monday

San Diego PFLAG General Meeting
The LGBT Center
(for this month only)

July 1

Thursday

SD Pride-sponsored Rainbow Flag Raising. Please check **www.sdpride.org** for details.

July 1

Thursday

7:05pm San Diego Pride at Petco Park, SD Padres vs. Houston Astros Thursday, Wear your Pride colors and T-shirts for this fun sporting event. Go to **sdpride.org** to order tickets as you will need the promo code: **PRIDE** to get the discount.

Luan D. Andrews, M.A.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST
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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**.

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 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.

SOUTH BAY

Meets every fourth Sunday, at 1:00 pm, 970 Broadway, Suite 104, Chula Vista

Contact Martha Cardenas, (619) 974-4612 or amikema@aol.com

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

A LIMITED VICTORY?

On **May 27**, the Senate Armed Services Committee voted 16-12 to repeal DADT (Don't Ask, Don't Tell, the policy that allows gays to serve in the military, but not openly). Then there was another victory on May 28 when the House of Representatives voted 229-186 for the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act which included the attachment to the bill to repeal DADT. So far so good until Senator John McCain and Republicans announced that they will filibuster the entire National Defense Authorization Act, (i.e., the defense budget) to stop the repeal of DADT if it comes to the floor of the full Senate.

According to the New York Times, McCain also solicited letters from the Joint Chiefs of Staff -- the chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines -- that object to the repeal amendment. It doesn't get any better; the right-wing Family Research Council didn't take much prodding to get in on the act. They've cranked up their anti-gay rhetoric.

It was summed up well by Keith Olbermann on MSNBC, "John McCain is marshaling his own resistance to the Senate amendment, inexplicably siding with right-wing fringe groups, who are attempting to out-homophobe each other to prevent historic progress for gay Americans."

What's Happening!

GET READY FOR PRIDE WEEKEND

The theme for the **36th Annual Pride Celebration** 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". Mark the dates: July 17 and 18 for the Parade and Festival.



The Parade is Saturday, **July 17 at 11:00 am**. This year we will have two convertibles. If you need to reserve a spot in a car, please contact **Karen Thompson** at **858-842-7005** or **kthompson@pflag.com**. First come, first served.

The festival will begin di-

rectly after the parade and continue again on Sunday. Back by popular demand is the reduced priced weekend pass. To purchase tickets, to volunteer, or to get more info, go to **www.sdpride.org**.

Everything you always wanted to know about our participation in PRIDE will be in next month's news-

letter.

HOT BUTTONS

At our General Meeting in May, we were given samples of Marriage Equality buttons designed by Delia Paine, who owns the Via

Delia web site. Pictured below are some samples of her creative buttons. If you wish to purchase, go to **www.viadelia.com**.



CONSTANCE UPDATE PART III



In the last two 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 high school youth from all over the state of Missis-

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FROM THE COVER

San Diego (Hillcrest) 92103. Sister Jean-nine Gramick will be our guest speaker. She is a Roman Catholic nun and a pioneer in Catho-lic pastoral out-reach to the gay community. She began her min-istry in 1971, and in 1977 she co-founded New Ways Min-istries, a Catho-lic social justice center, working for the reconcilia-tion of lesbian and gay people and the Roman Catholic Church. She has written books and produced a film, *in good conscience*.

Not only is Sister Gram-ick a dynamic speaker, but she is witty and a dynamo. AND you don't have to be Catholic to

gain insite on where she is coming from. We hope you will all attend and be part of this special eve-ning. Light refreshments will be served. We are



suggesting a \$10 dona-tion at the door (strongly suggest, but certainly no one will be excluded from attending). Sister Jean-nine does not accept a speaking fee, however, we will donate to New Ways Ministry, who re-lies on contributions to keep afloat.

We would like to thank again, all the organiza-tions and people who made this event pos-sible: Call to Action, Digi-nity San Diego, Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community, Dr. Orlando Espin, Marie Boman, Brandy Holland, Phyllis Van Wanseele, Mark and Karen Thomp-son, Judy and Doug Paulson, Mi Familia, and PFLAG San Diego.

We will not have our usual support groups due to the nature of the program. Hoping to see you on the 28th.

ssippi. The students were bussed in so that anyone who wanted to attend, had the opportunity. More than 300 kids attended, LGBT and straight.

The event was made pos-sible with the help of the American Humanist Asso-ciation, ACLU, Green Day (Grammy-award winning band for those who aren't in the "know), philanthropists Todd and Diana Stiefel, Cat Cora, Tonic.com (please don't ask the editor who they are), and the Missis-sippi Safe Schools Coal-i-tion.

The celebrity DJ was Quest Love. One of the musical guests was Hey Champ,

but the surprise celebrity guest was Lance Bass who was also one of the spon-sors of the prom.

Besides the live entertain-ment and a lovely sit-down dinner, The Second Chance Prom featured a ceremony to honor outstanding youth in Mississippi and booths

highlighting organiza-tions striving for LGBT equality.

As an aside, Constance brought her girlfriend, **Ceara Sturgis**, to the prom. Stur-gis, who attends a different school than Constance, had her picture left out of her yearbook because she wore a tuxedo.

judy Briggs

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Pets

Landscapes

Abstracts

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TWO IN A SEA OF MANY

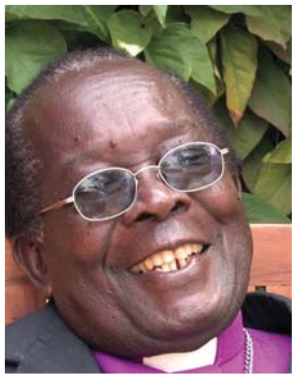
It was good news for Steven Monjeza and Tiwonge Chimbalanga of Malawi. The president of Malawi has pardoned the two gay men who were sentenced last month to 14 years in prison for gross inde-cency and unnatural acts (i.e., their definition of being gay). President Bingu wa Mutharika announced his pardon after meeting with U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. No doubt world pressure helped these two men, but what about all the other thousands who are persecuted that we don't know about?

Authorities arrested Monjeza and Chimba-langa in December at their home after the couple professed their love in a traditional engagement ceremony. Police discovered the couple when local news-papers reported on their engagement ceremony.

Some in the conserva-tive southern African nation of Malawi sup-ported the prosecu-tion, and government officials have said they were simply upholding the law. Human rights groups and advocates for gays and lesbians argued that the arrests violated Malawi's consti-tution, which outlaws discrimination. To those who thought they were upholding the law, the word "discrimination" must have a different meaning in Malawi. Of course, there is now concern for the men's safety.

HELP FOR UGANDA

Bishop Christopher Ssenyonjo is a man of



courage. He is touring the country to make people aware of the anti-gay bill pending in Uganda that will make gays subject to the death penalty and imprison people who don't turn in people they know are gay.

Many San Diegans were able to hear him speak at various events.

Pictured below are co-President Patti Boman and



Board Member/Speakers' Bureau Chair, Terrie Vorono with Bishop Ssenyonjo.

SCHOLARSHIP EVENING A SUCCESS

We were pleased so many attended our **12th Annual Scholarship Awards Program**.

We will feature two-three scholarship recipients in our June, July, and August newsletters.

From L-R; Rodolfo John Alaniz, Nicole Levin, Taylor Bazley, Amanda Leigh Goodman, Chris Vogt, Paul Tran and Garrett Reid

though double-edged, way for American society to discuss modern homosexuality. It's funny to think that equal rights, religion, biological identity, and violence can all be related to one tiny, hypothetical piece of our DNA. The gay gene was not the first biological way to explain human sexuality, either. Before the gay gene, early twentieth century scientists believed hormone imbalance caused our sexual orientation. Nine-

like other biological explanations, is a neutral way for us to speak about something deeply personal and its relationship to society and the natural world.

As an LGBT student, I deserve this scholarship because it would not only help me to create much-needed curriculum on race and sexuality, it will also help generations of future students to work through important



The annual scholarship that has been part of the program the longest and in its 10th year is the **Mary Wagner Memorial Scholarship**. This was established for elementary school teacher Mary Wagner by her partner, Sharon Murphy, and friends Marilyn and Art Carpenter. The recipient is **Rodolfo John Alaniz**, a graduate student at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) with the objective of obtaining his PhD in the History of Science. Here is John's essay:

"So, you think homosexuality is not a choice? Perhaps you believe that human sexuality is hard-wired into our biology, or even predetermined by our genetic code. Many gay activists would agree with you. However, even if you don't believe that we are born with a predetermined sexual orientation; "gay gene rhetoric" has been an important,

teenth century naturalists connected homosexuality to evolutionary theory. Our society has relied upon biology to help us understand homosexuality and society for over two centuries.

social issues. One of the greatest difficulties in creating change is bringing a message to broad, diverse audiences. A well-designed university course on science and society will reach that audience."



Why?

Biology seems to give us answers.

I have the opportunity to work with a UCSD professor, Dr. Kelly Gates, to create a "Genetics and Society" college-level course curriculum over the summer. Her dissertation on identity and the gay gene has been very influential in my work. I would like use this scholarship to incorporate sustainable discussions of sexuality and race into the university setting. Genetics,



We were most pleased to award the **Mac McWhorter Memorial Scholarship** to **Chris Vogt**. This is the second year Louise McWhorter and family have presented this scholarship. It is in honor/memory of Louise's husband, Mac, who was a PFLAG dad and a fierce supporter of LGBT rights. Louise presented a copy of Mac's book, *The First Hellcat Ace*, to Chris. Mac was a

U.S. Navy Ace in WWII.

Chris will complete his Master's of Social Work degree from San Diego State University next May.

"I am member of PFLAG San Diego and have been attending the group over the last couple of years. The group has inspired me to encourage my mother to start her own group in Plain, Wisconsin. PFLAG is unique because it provides education, support, and an opportunity for growth for its members. But one critical observation that I have is that the group is not very multicultural. Stigma around homosexuality and transgenderism continues to exist in both dominant and minority cultures, but it manifests in different ways. I'm interested in learning how homophobia presents itself in the African American community specifically, and to explore how LGBT advocacy groups like PFLAG could be working with this community to bring about change. As a PFLAG member and scholarship candidate I would like to lead or assist in actively reaching out to the African American community.

I began research on the subject of homophobia in the black community as part of an assignment in my social work community organizing class. After meeting with several LGBT black church leaders, I was happy to hear about the strong movement that was underway, but surprised that they had not heard of PFLAG, which I thought was common knowledge. Common to whom? This was the question I had to ask myself, and to see that I was operating from the somewhat narrow perspective of my own racial and class background. My not having heard of "their" groups and their not having heard of "my" group, PFLAG, made me think that we were missing an opportunity to work together and achieve more. In light of this, I would like to work on building a relationship between PFLAG and the African American community.

Strategies to achieve this are to link black community leaders to PFLAG board members, to invite them to speak at PFLAG meetings, and to recruit PFLAG members from the black community. Also, I would ask and encourage PFLAG members to attend African American LGBT advocacy groups and organizations. Through this exchange of ideas and mutual support, I envision not only a stronger advocacy movement for the LGBT community, but also a lessening of the racial divide. As an LGBT student, I deserve this scholarship because I will apply my knowledge of community organizing to develop a collaborative relationship between PFLAG and the African American LGBT community and its supporters."

FOR THE CENTER'S SAKE



Since summer is the official travel/vacation time, it's a good time to help out The LGBT Center.

Every time you book a ticket with American Airlines, if you include The Center's **Business ExtrAA Account# 527593**, The Center will earn airline tickets used to create vacation packages for silent auctions at fundraising events or to send staff to important trainings in various cities.

Keep in mind, you will still receive all your Frequent Flyer American Airlines miles.

MORE NOTCHES IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S BELT

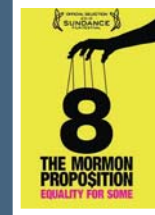
Much to the chagrin of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, the Episcopal Church consecrated its first openly lesbian bishop in the face of objections from some conservative Anglicans.

The Rev. Mary Glasspool, 56, is a new bishop in Los Angeles and is surrounded by controversy. Conservative factions in the Anglican Communion, a 77 million-member denomination worldwide that includes the Episcopal Church, have opposed the ordination of gay bishops. Glasspool is the first openly gay bishop in the Episcopal Church since Gene Robinson took office in New Hampshire in 2004. Episcopalians instituted a temporary ban on gay bishops after Robinson's ordination but revoked that ban last summer.

Glasspool is the daughter of a priest and says her sexual orientation is "not an issue."

Bishop Jon Bruno of Los Angeles called Glasspool, an ordained priest for 28 years, a "highly qualified and experienced" cleric. "She's not afraid of conflict and is a reconciler," Bruno said. He added that Glasspool and her partner of 19 years, Becki Sander, are an example of living service and ministry.

8: THE MORMON PROPOSITION



Not only was this film an official selection at the 2010 Sundance

Film Festival, the five screenings they had were sold out before any other Sundance documentary and all but a handful of feature films. Director Reed Cowan and his fellow filmmakers experienced first-hand what it was like to grow up gay in Utah in the Mormon faith. They turned their attention to the historic campaign by the Mormon Church to pass Proposition 8 in California, believing that it was the cornerstone of an ideology that has worked for decades "to damage gay people and their causes." The film is their emotional outcry to what they found. As Mr. Cowan told The Herald Journal "The film is important and premiering in Utah makes it even more important. ... Bringing an examination of the wrongdoing to the scene of the crimes, so to speak, is historic." To see the movie trailer, go to www.mormonproposition.com.

We are fortunate in that it will open at the Reading Theatre, Gaslamp 15 on June 19. If you wish to pre-order the DVD, go to the above mentioned web site. It will be available on July 13 (just in time to motivate you more for PRIDE!).

DO THE RIGHT THING

In April, President Obama mandated that nearly all hospitals extend visitation rights to the partners of gay men and lesbians and respect patients' choices about who may make critical health-care decisions for them, perhaps the most significant step so far in his efforts to expand the rights of gay Americans. The new rule will affect any hospital that receives Medicare or Medicaid funding, a move that covers the vast majority of the nation's health-care institutions. Thank you, Mr. President.

PFLAG THANKS YOU FOR YOUR EXTRA HELP!

Supporting Membership

Ree & Maurice Miller

To our crackerjack scholarship team

Olivia Dorman, *Chair of the Scholarship Committee and Mistress of Ceremonies Extraordinaire*

Donna Gray-Bowersox, *Scholarship Committee*, decorations, and for providing refreshments, the likes of which

you've never seen (from sushi to mixed nuts)
Clive Dorman, *Scholarship Committee*,

Benton Dorman, *Scholar-*

refreshments and decorations

Teddie Anderson, *photography*

Geoff Anderson, *publicity*

Mary Waldron, *program*



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Phyllis Van Wanseele and Terrie Vorono, providing



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