

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

Current Events

March 15

Monday
Mi Familia Support Group

March 20

Saturday
The Center Yard Sale
(see article)

March 22

Monday
San Diego PFLAG
General Meeting

March 28

Sunday
PFLAG Support
Group
North County
Coastal

March 28

Sunday
PFLAG Support Group
South Bay

April 5

Monday
Mi Familia Support Group

April 10

Saturday
Hillcrest Wind Ensemble's
"Spring Classics" concert

Happy St Patricks Day!

Thank you for your
continued
support.

Support
PFLAG
San Diego
County.



Dr. Lisa Schimmel's presentation will be ***The Road from Discovery to Acceptance***. She will share the impediments and pathways from discovery of one's sexuality to acceptance of one's self.

For the last five years or more, members of the PFLAG Speakers' Bureau have led discussions (lively at times) in various psychology classes at Alliant International University where Dr. Schimmel teaches. In addition to teaching, she has a full time private practice. Lisa is on The LGBT Center's list of LGBT-friendly therapists.

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

IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE

Every year, The LGBT Center has over 100 restaurants participating in Dining Out for Life. The event is **April 29**.



These establishments give a minimum of 25 percent of their proceeds on food and liquor sales to The LGBT Center for HIV/AIDS services/programs. In order to make this a success again this year again, **volunteers are needed**.

The goal is to have a restau-

rant ambassador or host in every participating restaurant and bar. This is a countrywide event and we would like San Diego to shine.

You can let family and friends know locally and nationwide to save the April 29 date (the date is the same in every city). If you can volunteer, contact Donnie Luehring at dluehring@thecentersd.org or 619-692-2077, ext. 246.

Related info is on page 2

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.

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San Diego, CA 92138
Tax ID #33-0512868

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I SEE IT IN YOUR FUTURE...

The dates below are a bit in the future and will appear also in next month's newsletter. This is a heads up!

April 16-22: Filmout LGBT Festival at The Birch North Park Theatre. Tickets are online at www.filmoutsandiego.com or at the Obelisk Bookstore, 1029 University Avenue in Hillcrest. You can also check out the fabulous lineup of films on the web site.

April 24: San Diego State University's Annual Student Diversity Conference. The event will take place at the Aztec Center between 8 am-4 pm. It is open to anyone and registration is only \$5 before April 9. For more info: www.sa.sdsu.edu/intercultural/conference

April 29: The fourth annual Dining Out for Life is not to be missed. You have to eat anyhow and you can choose from over 100 restaurants that will donate at least 25 percent of their sales to benefit The LGBT Center's HIV/AIDS services and programs. All the participating restaurants will be in next month's newsletter.

GET YOUR PRIDE GEAR

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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NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

Meets every fourth Sunday,
at 2:00 pm, Pilgrim United
Church of Christ, Pilgrim
Hall, 2020 Chestnut, Carls-
bad.

Contact Larry Gerling,
(760) 224-2178.

NORTH COUNTY INLAND

Meets every second Tues-
day, at 6:30 pm, San Diego
National Bank Bldg, Com-
munity Room, 16789 Ber-
nardo Center Dr, Rancho
Bernardo.

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

EAST COUNTY

Meets every second Mon-
day, at 7:00 pm, Summit
Unitarian Universalist
Church, 8778 Cottonwood
Avenue, Santee.

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

Whats Happening!



ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST

State Senator Roy Ashburn, a California Republican family values legislator (has four children), was arrested in early March for drunk driving after he had left a gay nightclub at 2:00 am. Okay, let's see – on the one hand he's a family values guy and on the other hand he was in a gay club. What's wrong with this picture? Oh, yeah, the hypocrisy continues. When he was arrested, he was in a state issued car with a male passenger who wasn't state issued, so to speak. Ashburn, who has a history of opposing gay rights, issued an apology for the drunk driving

arrest, but the word "gay" was never uttered from his lips. At least he didn't say what Senator Larry Craig claimed that "he was not gay and never has been gay."

MICHELLE *IS* THE FIRST LADY



In the Bush White House years, gays were only accepted at the Annual Eas-

ter Egg Hunt after much prodding and pushing in the final year. This year,



there will be much **gaiety** and **gleefulness** at the hunt as Michelle Obama invited the entire cast of Glee to perform.

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

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 amike-ma@aol.com

OFFICERS, COMMITTEES & VOLUNTEERS Current Positions

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

PERRY Vs. SCHWARZENEGGER CONTINUES

A group of leading organizations for marriage and family therapists and other mental health professionals from across the nation have filed an amicus brief challenging Proposition 8 in the Perry v. Schwarzenegger case in U.S. District Court in San Francisco. The therapy associations agree that what matters is the quality of the parenting, not the gender of the parents.

The 12 mental health professional organizations filing this brief, representing tens of thousands of therapists, have come together for the first time in this effort. Their brief explains that the scientific research consistently shows that sexual orientation is not a factor in effective parenting, and children raised by parents of the same gender do as well as children of opposite gender parents, on any measure of adjustment or development, a fact which negates the primary argument by those who support Proposition 8.

In addition to the organizations filing the brief, other organizations such as the American Psychological Association and the American Psychiatric Association and the American Psychiatric Association

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THE CENTER'S YARD SALE NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS!



If you haven't been busy cleaning closets and garages, there's still time. The Center's yard sale is **March 20, 7 am-2 pm**. The Center is collecting reusable items to benefit Family Matters @ The Center. Please bring items that are in good working condition: clothing, 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. On **March 20**, you can further support Family Matters by purchasing items at the sale (if you didn't mean to donate Aunt Tilly's antique britches, you can buy them back!).



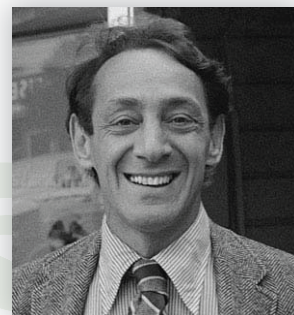
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THE SECOND ANNUAL HARVEY MILK DIVERSITY BREAKFAST



It may seem early to be advertising this, but last year, tickets sold out very quickly. If you would like to attend the breakfast, it's on Friday, **May 21, 7:30 am** at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel. Tickets are \$40 each and benefit The LGBT Center. To purchase tickets online, go to www.thecentersd.kintera.org/Milk. For more info, contact Jeffrey Wergeles at jw-ergeles@thecentersd.org or (619) 692-2077, ext. 204.

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- ☐ Other \$_____
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Membership forms available at www.pflag.com

PERRY VS. SCHWARZENEGGER CONTINUES (CON'T)



tion agree that there is no peer-reviewed research evidence to support the conclusion that different-gender couples provide a preferable environment for raising children as compared to same-gender couples.

The appellate attorney who wrote the brief, Ruel Walker, commented, "The fact that psychological research agrees that a child is just as well off with same-gender parents as with different-gender parents might be surprising to many people."

The brief says that the discriminatory treatment of same-sex couples would undoubtedly end some day, and it asks the judge to bring about that day sooner rather than later,

"for the benefit of untold thousands of California families who long for it."

The brief concludes by saying that Proposition 8 was based on a false assumption that same-gender couples are inferior parents. The brief argues that the amendment ending lesbian and gay marriages in California is unconstitutional because it does not advance any legitimate purpose.

The idea for the brief originated with Jim Walker, MFT, of Oakland, who is a member of California Therapists for Marriage Equality, an advocacy group for this issue. "The magic of this particular brief," Jim Walker said, "is how 12 different organizations joined together for the first time supporting marriage and

parenting equality."

The 12 organizations include: California Division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy; the California Association for Marriage and Family Therapists and four of its local chapters (in San Francisco, Los Angeles, the East Bay, and Marin County); the American Family Therapy Academy; Gaylesta (the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Psychotherapist Association of the SF Bay Area); LAGPA (the Lesbian and Gay Psychotherapy Association of Southern California); the Women's Therapy Center of El Cerrito, CA; California Therapists for Marriage Equality; the internationally known Gottman Institute of Seattle, Washington.

judy Briggs

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ANOTHER FEATHER IN OUR COLLECTIVE CAPS



As the Washington Post stated, "The Mexican wedding may never be the same." On **March 4**, Mexico City catapulted to the front lines of gay rights in Latin America when a city law legalizing same-sex marriage and adoption went into effect. Of course, the Catholic Church and the president of Mexico aren't happy, but Mexico allows the federal district of Mexico City to pass its own laws.

With the news coming out of Mexico City, many countries in Latin America are demand-



ing marriage equality. And the fight goes on.

However, on another front: "The family is under attack," warned Mexico City Cardinal Norberto Rivera, saying that the "perverse" measure would inflict psychological damage on "innocent children." Can someone drag him to a PFLAG meeting?

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CESCAL — LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, there were other speakers at CESCal (Center for Excellence in School Counseling and Leadership who presented "Empowering School Counselors & all Educators to Support our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning & Inter-sex (LGBTQI) Youth"). Besides Chaz Bono and Stuart Milk, those in attendance heard from speakers Rochelle Hamilton and Mary Ellen Clark.



Rochelle is currently a senior at Jesse Bethel High School in the Vallejo Unified School District (northern California). Rochelle was tormented by teachers, counselors and other staff members in high school, more so than by students. To add insult to injury, a school counselor required Hamilton to attend a special weekly support group for gay students. The real purpose of the group was quickly revealed, however, when the counselor berated students for "choosing" to be gay and tried to convince them to change their sexual orientation or gender expression. The counselor told the students that it

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SAVE THE **NEW** DATE: MI FAMILIA DOCUMENTARY PREMIERE



There has been a change in date for the premiere of the Mi Familia documentary. It will now be on Saturday, **July 24** at 7:00 pm. The showing is still at The Center's auditorium. Mi Familia is 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 infor-

mation, contact Carolina Ramos at (619) 692-2077, ext. 116, or cramos@thecentersd.org.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

Please take a moment to think about eligible **LGBT** students who could benefit from one of our scholarships. The scholarships

range from **\$1000-2500**.

With college costs what they are, \$1000 would come in handy for books. The deadline for submitting the scholarship application is **Friday, March 26**. Eligible students include high school seniors who will continue their education, full-time undergraduate or full-



WHODA THUNK?



Centrist Senator Joseph Lieberman introduced the

Military Readiness Enhancement Act legislation (i.e., the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"), that would lift the ban and prohibit discrimination against gay service members. It is expected the Senate Armed Services Committee will take up the measure in May as part of the annual defense authorization bill. The Pentagon and some Republican lawmakers want to wait until the study

authorized by The Pentagon is completed which is about a year.

Lieberman is close friends with John McCain who opposes repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Many were surprised it was Joe who is leading the charge.

"I will be proud to be a sponsor of the important effort to enable patriotic gay Americans to defend our national security and

"I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU LEGALLY MARRIED



Those are the words same-sex couples heard when

they married in Washington, DC. Marriage equality happened in December when DC Mayor Adrian Fenty signed it into law, but because the District of Columbia is not a state, the law had to undergo a 30-day Congressional review, which ended March

2. Beginning March 3, under rainy skies, about 200 same-sex couples lined up at 6:00 am to apply for marriage licenses. The caveat is there is a three-day waiting period before they can get married (is that to say they are putting marriage equality on par with

time graduate students. The purpose of the awards is: To recognize outstanding lesbian, bisexual, transgender and gay youth from the community especially for their involvement in the gay community and/or society; to encourage post-secondary



LGBT persons in society.



education of LGBT persons; to promote a positive image of

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

our founding values of freedom and opportunity," Lieberman said in a statement. "I have opposed the current policy of preventing gay Americans from openly serving in the military since its enactment in 1993.

"To exclude one group of Americans from serving in the armed forces is contrary to our fundamental principles as outlined in the Declaration of Independence and weakens

our defenses by denying our military the service of a large group of Americans who can help our cause," he said. "I am grateful for the leadership of President Obama to repeal the policy and the support of Secretary Gates and Chief of Staff Admiral Mullen."

Lieberman also said he sees the policy "as an extension, the next step of the civil rights movement."

buying a hand gun?).

There is more good news. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to block the law allowing the marriages. Chief Justice John Roberts, in a three-page opinion that sidestepped the legal issues involved,

said the matter should be decided by local courts and decision makers in Washington. He rejected a petition by opponents of gay marriage for a stay that would have prevented the law from taking effect. "Without addressing the merits of petitioners'

on the scholarship application. All awardees must be able to attend the awards ceremony on **Monday, May 24**. For more info, call Chair **Olivia Dorman**, 619-743-6879

EVERYONE WELCOMED

Please join us for the inaugural meeting of the South Bay PFLAG Support Group. The meeting is on **March 28 1:00 pm** at 970 Broadway, Suite 104, Chula Vista. Questions: contact Martha Cardenas at 619-974-4612 or amikema@aol.com.

Mary Ellen Clark was a member of the 1992 and 1996 U.S. Olympic Diving Team and won two bronze medals. Being a motivational speaker, Mary Ellen shared her personal stories, spoke about issues of homophobia in sports and ways school counselors and other educators can support LGBT students and athletes. There were some funny moments when she was relaying person experiences of her coming out process.



CESCAL — LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE

is "hard to get a job if you're gay." When Hamilton's mother went to school officials about the "counseling" group, the counselor confronted Hamilton the next week, telling her, "You're going to get this treatment your whole life. What are you going to do, stand up every time?" (If Rochelle answered her, the answer would have been "yes"). Other comments included her being asked if she were a man or a woman, some staff members made repeated harassing comments to Hamilton in front of her classmates, including

saying, "it's not right to be this way," and there were several occasions when Rochelle

was denied access to the girls' locker room. After months of harassment and repeated letters, calls and visits from her mother to both the school and school district, they called the ACLU and filed a law suit against the district. They settled for less money than they had asked for on the condition that a mandatory anti-harassment training be instituted district wide. Rochelle's speaks out about her experiences in the hopes that other students won't have to go through what she did.

CURRENT EVENTS

(continued)

at St. Paul's Cathedral,
2728 Sixth Ave., 6:30 pm.
Tickets are \$15 and can
be purchased in advance
at Windsmith in North Park
and Obelisk Bookstore in
Hillcrest. For more infor-
mation, visit www.hill-crestwindensemble.com.

April 12

Monday
PFLAG Support Group
East County

April 13

Tuesday
PFLAG Support Group
North County Inland

PFLAG THANKS YOU FOR YOUR EXTRA HELP!

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Marty & Sherry Bloom
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Susan Randerson
Mick, Pam, Monica &
Claire Rabin
Terrie Vorono
Jan Garbosky &
Bonny Russell
Ramon & Gloria Ross
David Rubin &
Todd Stevens

Contributing Memberships

Dale & Shirley Clukey
Doris Faulkner
Al Folkman
Susan Wong

Donation to the Scholar- ship Fund In memory of Doc Faulkner

Doris Faulkner

Providing refreshments for our January meeting

Linda & Rick Miles
Marge Salzberg

Providing refreshments for our February meeting

Linda and Rick Miles
Teddie and Geoff Anderson

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GET WELL WISHES

Best wishes for a speedy recovery go to Gail Folkman, past Speakers' Bureau chair and board member; Linda Bessemer, past president and board member; Ernie Fine, co-facilitator of North County Inland. We hope you are all on the mend.



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