



**PFLAGSD**

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

ISSUE VOLUME

**05 17**

MAY 2010

[www.pflag.com](http://www.pflag.com)

[info@pflag.com](mailto:info@pflag.com)

**SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

**12TH ANNUAL • 2010**

**PFLAG SAN DIEGO'S**

# Scholarship Awards

PFLAG SAN DIEGO

## DINING OUT, SUCCESSFUL! THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all the who participated in the Dining Out to fight AIDS event.

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



## Join us for a Special Evening

We are proud to present our 12th annual scholarship awards presentation. After the presentation, please join us for refreshments, including sparkling cider to toast our winners. Support groups will follow.

Continued page 5

PLEASE JOIN US

# 24th

Please join us on **May 24** at **7:00 pm** at the First United Methodist Church, 2231 Camino del Rio South, for a very special evening.

## OFFICERS, COMMITTEES & VOLUNTEERS

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



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- ☐ Individual ..... \$25    ☐ Household ..... \$35  
☐ Business ..... \$40    ☐ Supporting ..... \$50  
☐ Contributing ..... \$100    ☐ Lifetime ..... \$1000  
☐ Other ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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or go online [www.pflag.com](http://www.pflag.com)

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



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

# Current Events

May 3

**Monday**

Mi Familia Support Group

May 8

**Saturday**

"Women's Fest 2010: Strength in Diversity" is presented by The Women's Resource Center at The LGBT Center from 10 am-5 pm. For more information, email [women@thecentersd.org](mailto:women@thecentersd.org)

May 10

**Monday**

PFLAG Support Group East County

May 11

**Tuesday**

PFLAG Support Group North County Inland

May 15

**Saturday**

Noche Bohemia  
The LGBT Center will be hosting this fundraiser starting at 6:00 pm. Monies raised will benefit The Center and Border Angels. Direct from Guadalajara, Mexico, Trova Tapatía will be featured, along with Paco Padilla, Raúl Rodríguez and Enrique Ortiz, cantautores. The cost is \$25 and tickets can be purchased at The Center, 3909 Centre Street in Hillcrest or call 619-692-2077, ext. 116.

May 17

**Monday**

Mi Familia Support Group

## 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.*

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST  
MFC 19321

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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

If anyone knows of a suitable meeting place in the Rancho Bernardo area, please contact Sue Fine.

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, 970 Broadway, Suite 104, Chula Vista

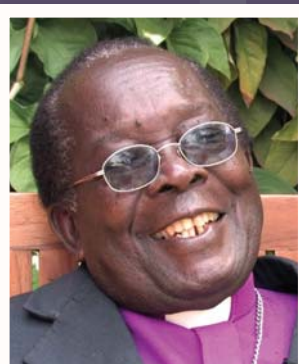
Contact Martha Cardenas, (619) 974-4612 or [amikema@aol.com](mailto:amikema@aol.com)

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



## WELCOME BISHOP SSENYONJO

Integrity USA is sponsoring Bishop Christopher Ssenyonjo's visit to the U.S. We are most fortunate that he will be in San Diego from **May 19-21**. Although he will be at several venues, on **May 20** the Bishop will be speak-



ing at the First United Methodist Church (where PFLAG currently meets) at **7:30 pm**. This is a "must" attend event.

Bishop Ssenyonjo has been an outspoken advocate for human rights in Uganda. He has taken great risks in defense of LGBT people in his country, a nation where lawmakers recently considered imposing a death penalty on gays. He will address the homophobic and draconian anti-gay movement and legislation pending in Uganda.6262.

## What's Happening!

### MILKING IT FOR ALL IT'S WORTH



Listed are all the wonderful Harvey Milk events and activities.

**May 21: The Second Annual Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast** is at **7:30 am** at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel. **Mayor Jerry Sanders** and his daughter, Lisa, will be the emcees. Featured guests include **Lt. Dan Choi**, best known for his active campaigning against "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," (he will re-

ceive the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Award) and **Bishop Christopher Ssenyonjo**. 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 [jwergeles@thecentersd.org](mailto:jwergeles@thecentersd.org) or (619) 692-2077, ext. 204.

**May 22:** The San Diego Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence presents "**The Harvey Milk Legacy Concert**" at The LGBT Center. The concert begins at **7:00**; all proceeds benefit The Center's Hillcrest Youth Center program.

The suggested donation is \$10 at the door. Besides The New Youth Chorus, you won't want to miss the San Diego Gay Men's Chorus, the San Diego Women's Chorus and In aChord.

While we are "**Milking**" it, the Imperial Court Council and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force created a letter writing campaign to lobby the U.S. Postal Service to honor Harvey Milk with a commemorative national stamp. This stamp would serve to further remind Americans that by honoring Harvey Milk, you honor a true American hero and champion of civil rights for all people.

*Write to: Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, C/O Stamp Development, U.S. Postal Service, 1735 North Lynn St., Suite 5013, Arlington, VA 22209-6432. For additional information and a sample letter, please email [harveymilkstamp-dir@cox.net](mailto:harveymilkstamp-dir@cox.net)*

## CONSTANCE UPDATE



As a recap, Constance McMillen, 18, 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; the trial has not

taken place yet.

Several events have occurred for Constance since she was duped into going to a fake prom, while other students enjoyed an official prom. Even before the fake prom, she had received a \$30,000 scholarship from

John McWhorter, MSFT  
MFC32798

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## FROM THE COVER

Last year, we awarded five scholarships; we are most pleased to announce that we are awarding **7** this year, ranging from \$1,000 - \$2500 to LGBT college or college bound students.

**10th year: 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.

**9th year: the John Bessemer Memorial Scholarship.** This honors the memory of John Bessemer, dedicated PFLAG dad and husband of past president Linda Bessemer.

**5th year: the Rob Benzon Memorial Scholarship.** This is being presented by the Rob



Benzon Foundation in memory of Rob, who was a staunch LGBT advocate.

**3rd year: the Stephen G. Bowersox Memorial Scholarship.** His parents chose to honor Stephen with a scholarship in his memory. Stephen was a past PFLAG scholarship recipient and gay rights activist.

**3rd year: The San Diego Human Dignity Foundation** is providing the scholarship from the John McCusker Memorial Fund.

**2nd year: the Mac McWhorter Memorial Scholarship.** Mac was a PFLAG dad. His wife, our own Louise McWhorter, honors his memory with the scholarship.

**1st year: the Doc Faulkner, Jr. Memorial Scholarship.** We lost our beloved Doc last October. His wife, Doris, proudly presents this scholarship in his memory.

We hope to see you on the **24th**.



"The Ellen DeGeneres Show" after the talk show host said she admired McMillen for standing up for herself against her school district's prom policy. Other good events include Constance being a presenter at the GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) Media Awards in April. On May 8, the American Humanist Association and the ACLU

sponsored a "Second Chance" prom which took place in Tupelo, Mississippi. All the students at Itawamba were invited. With musical guest Hey Champ, celebrity DJ Quest Love, and additional star

appearances promised, it was likely to have been the biggest party Itawamba high school kids have ever seen.

*Two editor notes: the newsletter had to be*

**Continued on page 7**

**judy Briggs**

**ARTIST**

*Portraits*

*Pets*

*Landscapes*

*Abstracts*

858 210 2555

j@masqueradecrafts.com

## BE A STAR FOR OUR YOUTH!

The Hillcrest Youth Center proudly presents Gaylaxy: The Other Prom. This annual event (10th year!) will take place on Saturday,

**June 19, 6-9 pm** at The LGBT Center. The prom has

more significance this year with all the anti-gay sentiment at schools that will not allow same-sex couples to attend their own proms together.

The event is free and open to all 14-20 year old LG-BTQ youth and their allies.

You can be a star, yourself, by purchasing a gaylaxy star ranging from \$5 to infinity. To donate, visit [www.thecentersd.kintera.org/TheOther-Prom](http://www.thecentersd.kintera.org/TheOther-Prom).

At the last general PFLAG meeting, we had a donation jar for The Other Prom and raised \$85. Thanks to all who participated.



## MEA CULPA

A big apology from the editor for failing to mention the **National Day of Silence** in April's newsletter (it was April 16). On that day, hundreds of thousands of students nationwide took a vow of silence to bring attention to anti-LGBT name-calling, bullying and harassment in their schools.

PFLAG member Dana Harwood's student, Chelsea, observed the "Day of Silence" by not speaking the entire school day and continued her silence into the evening with her family. She is in eighth grade at Monarch School in San Diego. She wrote the following heartfelt poem:

### *Let There Be No Shame*

Let there be no shame  
No hate  
No blame  
Support our friends  
We are all the same.

Gay or straight  
Love is love  
Hearts beat the same  
There is no shame  
There is no one to  
blame  
We are all people  
We all feel the same.

We feel love  
We want love  
We want to feel love.

By Chelsea M.  
Age 13

## SOME STATES IN A STATE OF DENIAL



It's déjà vu all over again. A state giveth a right and then taketh away. One of the newly elected Virginia **Gov. Bob McDonnell's** first actions in office was to cancel an order that prevented state employees who were gay or lesbian from being fired from their job on the basis of their sexual orientation. Now, gays and lesbians in Virginia can be fired solely on the basis of their sexual orientation. When previous Governor Tim Kaine came into office, one of the first things he did was to add veterans and sexual orientation to the already existing non-discrimination policy. With a stroke of McDonnell's pen, the sexual orientation non-discrimination portion of the policy was gone. Luckily, the veteran one stayed. This should really come as no surprise. Previous positions from McDon-

nell include denouncing same-sex marriage, and a college thesis where he blamed welfare programs for creating rampant homosexuality. It would be fascinating to see a math equation on that one.

On to another state. . . Oklahoma accidentally removed religion/race protections while trying to deprive gays of rights. In October, President Obama signed The Matthew Shepard Act, expanding the reach of the 1969 hate crimes law to "authorize the Department of Justice to investigate and prosecute certain bias-motivated crimes based on the victim's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability." Previously, the law only allowed for the federal prosecution of anyone who "willingly injures, intimidates or interferes with another person, or attempts to do so, by force because of the other person's race, color, religion or national origin."

State lawmakers in Oklahoma argued that the Shepard Act would trample on the free speech rights of religious leaders "who preached out against the lifestyle of the victim who was attacked." On March 10, the Oklahoma state Senate thought it was passing a bill prohibiting "local and state law enforcement agencies from sharing information about

hate crimes with federal authorities if the state of Oklahoma did not recognize the crime as a hate crime by its own statutes." Oklahoma state law does not recognize "sexual orientation or gender identity" as a special class and fails to provide gay and lesbians with hate crimes protections.

But in trying to strip gays and lesbians of protection, the Oklahoma State Senate inadvertently cited the wrong section of the U.S. code. The bill stripped rights under Title 18 U.S. Code Section 245, but protections for sexual orientation and gender identity is actually under Section 249. From the bill:

"Section 24A.12. Except as otherwise provided by state or local law, the Attorney General of the State of Oklahoma and agency attorneys authorized by law, the office of the district attorney of any county of the state, and the office of the municipal attorney of any municipality may keep its litigation files and investigatory reports confidential, except they shall keep their litigation files and investigatory reports confidential upon request of any federal agency when such request is made for the purpose of an attempt to investigate or prosecute an individual or individuals pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 245, except for those records of any individuals convicted pursuant to Section 850 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes."

Section 245 of the Code refers to race and religious protections. Therefore, Oklahoma actually passed a statute allowing state law enforcement officials to keep information about crimes motivated by race

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or religion out of the hands of federal authorities.

"The bill in its current form doesn't take away rights from gays and lesbians," Oklahoma State Senate Minority Leader Andrew Rice explained. "It takes away rights for religion and race." Rice said the error occurred during the creation of the bill.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JUNE 28

Not only do we want you to save the date to hear **Sister Jeannine Gramick** speak, but we also want to emphasize that our June

sored by CTA San Diego County (Call to Action – a Catholic Christian organization who promotes peace and diversity), and Dignity San Diego. In addition, we have received private donations from Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community, Marie Boman, Brandy Holland, Phyllis Van Wanseele, Mark and Karen Thompson, Judy and Doug Paulson. These donations were crucial in flying Sister Jeannine from New York to San Diego to speak to the community. Sister Jeannine does not accept a speaking fee, rather her wish is for the community to donate to New Ways

Ministry, as her ministry relies on contributions. In 1977, she co-founded the ministry, a Catholic social justice center working for the reconciliation of lesbian and gay people and the Roman Catholic Church.

Among other noteworthy accomplishments, Sister Jeannine has written books and produced a film, ***in good conscience***. We are very grateful to Dr. Orlando Espin, who donated a copy of the film to PFLAG San Diego. We hope to show the film at one of our meetings.

Further donations will be gladly accepted. You can write a check payable to PFLAG San Diego, P.O. Box 82762, San Diego, CA 92138 with a notation that it's for Sister Gramick's New Way Ministries.



28 meeting will NOT be at our usual meeting place (First United Methodist Church). It will be at The LGBT Center, 3909 Centre Street in Hillcrest. We are hoping you will all attend to hear Sister Jeannine, a Roman Catholic nun, who is a dynamic speaker and full of energetic (funny, too!). Light refreshments will be served. Bring family, friends, enemies – all are welcome. The event is free, with donations at the door accepted.

While PFLAG San Diego and Mi Familia (The LGBT CENTER) present Sister Gramick, her visit is spon-

## Constance Update

Continued

*at the printer's before May 8. I will report on the prom in the June newsletter; I have no idea who the musical celebrities are so I hope some of the readers got excited over the names.*

Since the article should end with good news, need to get the icky news out of the way. The Kansas-based hate group, The Westboro Baptist Church, is going to protest at Constance's graduation. These are the folks (Fred Phelps and his followers) who picket at soldiers' funerals (and recently cheered the deaths of 12 tornado victims in Mississippi,) – in their minds, anything that befalls the world (i.e., war, natural disasters) is the gays' fault. Phelps and gang had visited San Diego in October, 2009, where they were met with protests.

Now for the wonderful news: Constance was named a Grand Marshal of New York City's Gay Pride Parade which takes place on **June 27**. It doesn't get much better than that!

There will definitely be an update in next month's newsletter on this very sad situation. The judge had already planned to have a trial because the first prom was canceled in order to prevent Constance and her girlfriend from attending, thus violating Constance's rights. Hopefully, the judge will throw the book at the school district for all of Constance's other rights that were violated. We can only hope the homophobic parents and their children will be ordered to attend the trial.

## CURRENT EVENTS

(continued)

May 20

Thursday

Bishop Ssenyonjo will speak at First United Methodist Church. See article.

May 21

Friday

Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast. See article.

May 22

Saturday

The Harvey Milk Legacy Concert. See article

May 23

Sunday

PFLAG Support Group North County Coastal

May 23

Sunday

PFLAG Support Group South Bay

May 24

Monday

San Diego PFLAG General Meeting

May 24

Monday

Last day to register to be able to vote in the June 8 primary.

June 5 and 6

Saturday (7:30 pm) and Sunday (3:00 pm) "Celebration of Song"

is presented by the San Diego Women's Chorus. The shows are at Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw Street, Hillcrest.

Cont'd next page

7

## CURRENT EVENTS

(continued)

To purchase tickets,  
go to [sdwc.org](http://sdwc.org)

June 7

**Monday**

Mi Familia Support  
Group

June 14

**Monday**

PFLAG Support  
Group  
East County

PFLAG THANKS  
YOU FOR YOUR  
EXTRA HELP!

Providing refreshments  
for our April Meeting

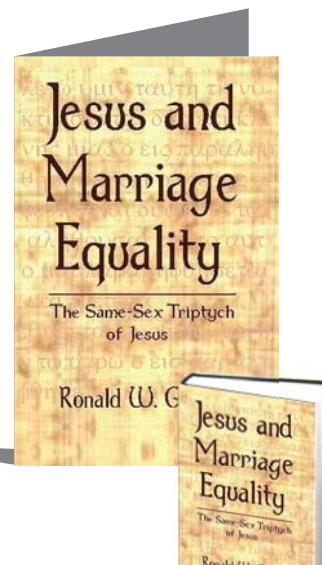
Thank you to **Lou-  
ise McWhorter** and  
**Sandi Timberlake**  
for providing refresh-  
ments for our **April  
General Meeting**.

**Show your  
support.  
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space!**

## PINCH-HITTER A SUCCESS

Due to strep throat,  
**Abby Schwartz** was  
not able to be our guest  
speaker at our April  
meeting. Board mem-  
ber, **Ron Goetz**, who  
just happened to have  
had his book published  
a week or so prior,  
came to the rescue.

Ron is the proud author  
of ***Jesus and Marriage  
Equality***. As long as  
we're plugging Ron and  
his book, it is available  
at [lulu.com](http://lulu.com).



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