

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

ISSUE VOLUME

09 17

SEPTEMBER 2010
www.pflag.com
info@pflag.com



Back To School



**JOIN
US**

**21st Annual
AIDS Walk**

**Sunday
Sept. 26th**

**See Page 4
for details**

GSA First Hand

Please join us at our General Meeting on **Monday, September 27** at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 2231 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley. Our speaker is Kurt Dearie, GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance) advisor at Carlsbad High School. Kurt knows first hand about homophobia. The gay slurs started for him in Carlsbad as a first grader and continued through middle and high school. After graduating from San Diego State, he returned to Carlsbad as a teacher where he has been teaching for

26 years. It's been seven years since students asked him to help them form a GSA and to become their advisor. He will share his experiences of what it was like battling school board members, teachers, staff, students, the community, and national organizations like "Concerned Women for America" in order to have a GSA at the high school.

After Kurt's presentation, we will have our cookie social, followed by support groups.

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Current Events

**September 13
Monday**
PFLAG Support Group
East County

London West Hollywood
7:30-11 pm.
Ticket and other info:
www.pflag.org/events

**September 13
Monday**
PFLAG Support Group
North County Inland

**October 3
Sunday**
Scouting for All Rally
(See Article)

**September 20
Monday**
Mi Familia Support
Group

**October 9
Saturday**
Pride @ the beach!
Join North County
Pride from 11 am-
6 pm at Betty's Lot
(238 N The Strand)
in Oceanside, south of
Oceanside Pier.

**September 26
Sunday**
AIDS Walk (See Article)

**September 26
Sunday**
PFLAG Support Group
North County Coastal

Food, entertainment
and cheap admission.
For info:
northcountypride.com

**September 26
Sunday**
PFLAG Support Group
South Bay

**October 10
Sunday**
Equality Torch Relay
(See Article)

**September 27
Monday**
San Diego PFLAG
General Meeting

**October 11
Monday**
National Coming
Out Day
Great time to publicly
display gay pride.
Many choose this day
to come out to their
parents, friends,
co-workers and
themselves.

**October 1
Friday**
Join PFLAG National,
Jane Lynch (from *Glee*),
and Pauley Perette
(Abby from *NCIS*) for
their BIG fundraiser,
the LA Event.

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.

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, Unitarian Universalists of the South Bay, 970 Broadway, Chula Vista

Contact Martha Cardenas, (619) 947-4612 or mar@FirstUUSanDiego.org

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

11TH ANNUAL SCOUTING FOR ALL RALLY

The Boy Scouts of America™ still has a policy to exclude gays and atheists (even children of gay parents). It's important to keep the public aware of this as the lawsuit to prevent the City of San Diego from only charging \$1/year for Boy Scout Headquarters to remain in Balboa Park, works its way through the courts.

The rally will take place on Sunday, October 3 from 11 am-noon at Boy Scout Headquarters in Balboa Park, 1207 Upas Street. At this time, the rally is still being planned and they do not know who the speakers will be.

Please check later for more info:
www.scoutingforall.org.

What's Happening!

21ST ANNUAL AIDS WALK SAN DIEGO



The **21st ANNUAL AIDS WALK** is Sunday, **September 26**. *AIDS Walk San Diego* is San Diego's largest one-day HIV/AIDS fundraiser and the biggest non-governmental financial provider for HIV/AIDS in San Diego County. Dozens of agencies - serving thousands of clients - rely on funds raised at the annual Walk to help provide essential prevention and care programs to thousands of men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS.

If we have 10 or more walkers registered by **September 17**, we will qualify as Team PFLAG and be able to walk with the prestigious sneaker sign with our PFLAG name on it. It truly is a badge of honor; the first year PFLAG walked, we didn't have enough team members to qualify. As of this writing, there are only seven (7, siete, sept) people registered.

Details: 5KG Walk; held in Balboa Park at Quince and 6th Avenue; starting time is 8:00 am; registration fee is \$35 (\$25 for 17 & under and 60+) and includes an AIDS Walk t-shirt and as much water and fruit as your bodies can hold.



Please support the community affected by AIDS/HIV. To participate, go to www.AIDSwalksd.org and select Event Information on the left hand side, then Teams, also on the left side. Scroll down to *2010 AIDS Walk and Run Teams*, select it and then scroll down to PFLAG—San Diego. Click on *PFLAG—San Diego*, then *Join Our Team* and follow the instructions.

Even if you can't walk with us, please register so we can meet our 10 person and financial goals (\$1000).

If you don't have internet, call 619-291-9255, ext. 1 (Ian Johnson) to participate. For questions, please contact Sherry Cohen-Richards, 858-292-7111 or scohenrichards@pflag.com.

Luan D. Andrews, M.A.

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FROM OUR ALLY, PETER YARROW

The following speaks for itself:



Peter Yarrow
New York, N.Y. 10023

July 27, 2010

Dear Mr. Brian Brown,

We would like to respectfully request that you refrain from playing the Peter, Paul & Mary recorded version of Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land" at your public rallies. We respect your right to hold and advocate for any position you wish, but the philosophy of the "National Organization for Marriage" is directly contrary to the advocacy position Peter, Paul & Mary have held for decades, and so we do not want our recording of this song played at your rallies.

We strongly support the rights of all gays and lesbians to enjoy the rights and rituals of marriage that are enjoyed by their straight counterparts, and consider the abridgement of this right contrary to the sense of equal protection and fairness inherent in, and implied by, the law, of the Constitution of the United States.

Please honor our request by confirming that you will cease to play our recording. If you continue to do so, we will certainly do our best to make it clear to those who are aware of your rallies that we strenuously object because of our very strong opposition to the philosophy of your organization, as noted above. Further, we will see if there is any legal action that we might be able to take to restrain you from playing it. However, it would be more respectful of our wishes if you were simply cease to play it.

Respectfully,

Peter Yarrow and Noel Paul Stookey
Peter, Paul & Mary

SCHOLARS ABOUT



We are pleased to highlight scholarship recipient, **Garrett Reid**. He won the **Doc Faulkner Memorial Scholarship**. Sadly, Doc passed away last October. Doris Faulkner and family were most pleased to sponsor a scholarship in his memory. Garrett graduated from Steele Canyon Charter High School in June and will attend San Francisco State University in the fall. He was kind enough to volunteer for our PFLAG booth at the Pride Festival, which was much appreciated.

"'Love makes the world go round' is a statement that is only partially true. You need a bit of the green to get around in this world, and it's the green I need for my future. My current goal is to become a Physicians Assistant. I plan to achieve this by attending San Francisco State University. This PFLAG scholarship will help finance my ambitions. The original plan, was to leave home, and have my parents pick up a large portion of the tab.

Continued on PAGE 7

UNITE INSPIRE CHANGE



This is the theme for San Diego LGBT Pride's

second annual Equality Torch Relay to be held on **October 10**, from 9 am-1:30 pm. It will take place within 18 municipalities throughout San Diego County and eight city districts. The idea behind this is to support and raise awareness of the LGBT San Diegans who embody our community's rich history of courage, spirit, achievement and activism. More than 100 participants are expected to carry symbolic torches and banners past numerous landmarks and government buildings. The event culminates at The LGBT Center at 1:30. If you would like to be part of this uplifting event, log on to www.sdpride.org and click on Torch Relay.

I HUGGED A MAN IN HIS UNDERWEAR. AND I AM PROUD.

By Nathan Albert (*used with Mr. Albert's permission*)

"I hugged a man in his underwear. I think Jesus would have, too.

I spent the day at Chicago's Pride Parade. Some friends and I, with The Marin Foundation, wore shirts with "I'm Sorry" written on it. We had signs that said, "I'm sorry that Christians judge you." "I'm sorry the way churches have treated you." "I used to be a bible-banging homophobe, sorry." We wanted to be an alternative Christian voice from the protestors that were

there speaking hate into megaphones.

What I loved most about the day is when people "got it." I loved watching people's faces as they saw our shirts, read the signs, and looked back at us. Responses were incredible. Some people blew us kisses, some hugged us, some screamed thank you. A couple ladies walked up and said we were the best thing they had seen all day. I wish I had counted how many people hugged me. One guy in particular softly said, "Well, I forgive you."

Watching people recognize our apology brought me to tears many times. It was reconciliation personified.



My favorite, though, was a gentleman who was dancing on a float. He was dressed solely in white underwear and had a pack of abs like no one else. As he was dancing on the float, he noticed us and jokingly yelled, "What are you sorry for? It's pride!" I pointed to our signs and watched him read them.

Then it clicked.

Then he got it.

He stopped dancing. He looked at all of us standing there. A look of utter seriousness came across his face. And as the float passed us, he jumped off of it and ran towards us. In all his sweaty beautiful abs of steel, he hugged me and whispered, "thank you."

Before I had even let go, another guy ran up to me, kissed me on the cheek, and gave me the biggest bear hug ever. I almost had the wind knocked out of me; it was one of those hugs.

Continued on PAGE 7

THE JUDGE GIVETH, THE JUDGES TAKETH AWAY

August 4 was a wonderful day for the entire U.S. LGBT community. Federal Judge Vaughn Walker struck down a ban on same-sex marriage (the infamous Proposition 8). We knew it might be short-lived since there was a window of opportunity for the defendants of Prop 8 to appeal to the 9th U.S. Cir-

cuit Court of Appeals for them to hear the case. Judge Walker gave both sides until August 6 to state their cases to him as to why the stay should "stay" or be lifted. With weddings set to begin at 5:00 pm on August 18 in California, on August 16, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals kept the stay in place; no same-sex wedding were going to happen on August 18 or any time soon.

There are bits of good news out of all of this – the court will hear the case the week of December 6, 2010, which is record time for them to hear any case. The Court understands that this case is important, and

it doesn't want it to linger. Also, the Court's lightning speed is indicative that they have serious doubts about whether the defendants have standing (i.e., the right to initiate or participate in a legal action).**

** Thank heavens for dictionary.com



I HUGGED...

Continued from PAGE 6

This is why I do what I do. This is why I will continue to do what I do. Reconciliation was personified.

I think a lot of people would stop at the whole "man in his underwear dancing" part. That seems to be the most controversial. It's what makes the evening news. It's the stereotype most people have in their minds about Pride.

Acceptance is one thing. Reconciliation is another. Sure at Pride, everyone is accepted (except perhaps the protestors). There are churches that say they accept all. There are businesses that say they accept everyone. But acceptance isn't enough. Reconciliation is.

But there isn't always reconciliation. And when there isn't reconciliation, there isn't full acceptance. Reconciliation is more painful; it's more difficult.

Reconciliation forces one to remember the wrongs committed and relive constant pain. Yet it's more powerful and transformational because two parties that should be not together and have every right to hate one another, come together for the good of one another, for forgiveness, reconciliation, and unity.

What I saw and experienced at Pride 2010 was the beginning of reconciliation. It was in the shocked faces of gay men and women who did not ever think Christians would apologize to them.

What I saw and experienced at Pride 2010 was the personification of reconciliation. It was the hugs and kisses I received, in the "thank you's" and waves, in the smiles and kisses blown.

I hugged a man in his underwear. I hugged him tightly. And I am proud."



Photographer Michelle Gantner captured the hug. We are grateful for Ms. Gantner's permission to use the photograph.

As a point of information, Nathan Albert was able to find Mr. Underwear's name (Tristan) and they have been in contact ever since. Don't you love happy endings?

SOUTH BAY PRIDE A SUCCESS

Once again, PFLAG was happy to participate in for the third year in South Bay Pride. Each year, the event grows by leaps and bounds. Special thanks to those who staffed the booth: Barbara Bodine, Patti Boman, Terrie Vorono and Wayne Walker. We invited Castle Park GSA to join us so they could raise money by selling homemade jewelry. Pictured below are co-president Barbara Bodine and the GSAers.



SCHOLARS ABOUND

Continued from PAGE 5

However, there was a wrench thrown into the plan. This January, a teenage driver on Highway 94 lost control of his Mustang 5.0 and collided with our Dodge Caravan. My Father was killed instantly in the collision and I was critically injured. This incident has drastically altered my plans and my future.

After paying the medical expenses for multiple surgeries, follow up procedures and appointments, my Mother and I are now looking for different options to help pay for college

expenses. This scholarship would help alleviate some of the expenses and stress created by my education.

Throughout my life, I have had a fascination with the natural world. From memorizing multitudes of dinosaurs' scientific names, to memorizing the pathway of blood through the human body: biology just trips my trigger. Physicians Assistants were the majority of people that took care of me after the accident. This miniature army of health care put me in awe and cemented my love of the medical world. Should I receive this scholarship, I will

return the favor in full, with interest, by aiding the community (whether it be San Francisco or San Diego) as a Physicians Assistant.

As an LGBT student, I deserve this scholarship because I am fearlessly living my life. I do not allow the hatred or ignorance of mundane people to interfere with my goals. As an openly gay student, I was elected the Speaker of the House for our Student Congress at Steele Canyon High School. Despite my openness, the east county students were willing to vote for me. I am also the president of SCHS' G.S.A group. When it comes

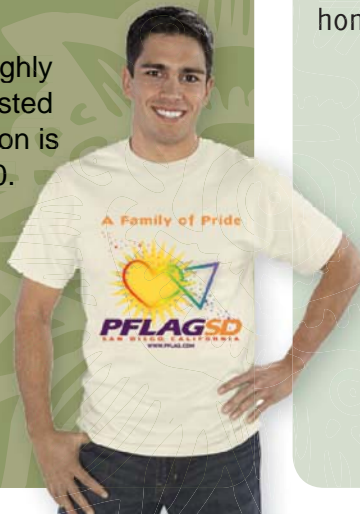
to defending my fellow LGBT students, my will never falters. It was brought to my attention that the Grossmont Union High School district is trying to rescind SB 777 (Arnold Schwarzenegger's extension of discrimination protection to students of "gender" and "sexual orientation"). I have begun organizing meetings with the Charter Board of SCHS, and am planning to speak before the Grossmont Union board. I am known as an LGBT student, but I do not allow this to define me. I may be Gay, but I am Garrett. "

PFLAG TEE SHIRTS FOR SALE

And then there were two. There is one medium size and one XL left.

If you would like one, please call Sherry at 858-292-7111 or email scohenrichards@pflag.com.

The highly suggested donation is \$15.00.



WITH THANKS

Donations to General Fund

Judy Hyde

Providing Refreshments for our Pot Luck Picnic

A huge thank you goes to everyone who brought food for our Annual Pot Luck Picnic at our last meeting. No one went home hungry!

Chris Cohen-Richards

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