

# THE **NEWSLETTER**

May 2013 ISSUE 05 VOLUME 20

# V

### WITHOUT FURTHER ADO

PFLAG San Diego presents our 16th Annual Scholarship Awards evening on Monday, May 20. Please note we are meeting on the third Monday of the month due to Memorial Day being on the fourth Monday. As usual, we will meet at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 2231 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley. The building where we meet is The United Methodist Center, in The Cove Room. Doors open at 6:45 pm.

# THERE WILL NOT BE SUPPORT GROUPS DUE TO THE LENGTH OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

Kim Martinez, our Scholarship Chair, will be presenting the awards. Afterwards, please join us for refreshments which will be provided by Raytheon Company. We will be anxious to toast our new awardees.

We are most pleased to announce that we are awarding eight scholarships this year, ranging from \$1,000-\$5000 to LGBT college or college bound students.

Fourteenth year: Mary Wagner Memorial Scholarship. This was established in memory of Mary Wagner by her partner, Sharon Murphy, and friends Marilyn and Art Carpenter. Mary was an elementary school teacher.

**Twelfth year: John Bessemer Memorial Scholarship.** The memory of John Bessemer is honored with the PFLAG-funded scholarship. John was a

dedicated PFLAG dad and husband of past president, Linda Bessemer.

**Eighth year: Rob Benzon Memorial Scholarships.** This year, the Rob Benzon Foundation is presenting two scholarships, in memory of Rob to honor his willingness to help others, but who died in a tragic swimming accident at the age of 31.

Seventh year: The San Diego Human Dignity Foundation is providing the scholarship from the John McCusker Memorial Fund. John, who was active in the gay community, died suddenly at age 31 of congestive heart failure.

Sixth year: Stephen G. Bowersox Memorial Scholarship. Stephen's parents chose to honor Stephen with a scholarship in his memory. Stephen was a past PFLAG scholarship recipient and gay rights activist.

Third year: San Diego Chapter of Raytheon GLBTA Scholarship. This will be awarded to an LGBTA student pursuing the STEM field (science, technology, engineering or math).

Second year: The San Diego Human Dignity Foundation is providing the scholarship from the Richard Geyser Memorial Ethics Fund. This scholarship was established through a bequest by Philip Flick to honor his partner of 44 years, Richard Geyser.

We hope to see you on the 20th.



# HEARTS IN COMMUNITY AND EYES ON EQUALITY

On Saturday, May 18, please join the North County LGBTQ Resource Center as they present "Hearts in Community and Eyes on Equality." This is their Annual Fundraiser Gala being held at the Oceanside Museum of Art, starting at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$50/person and \$90/couple. They can be purchased at www.ncresourcecenter.org. Besides the delicious food, beer, wine, there is lots of music and dancing. The honored guest and keynote speaker is County Supervisor Dave Roberts. For anyone not familiar with Mr. Roberts, he is very active in the gay community in North County. As an aside, he and his husband have five adopted children!

# IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO SAVE THE DATE

Although Pride weekend is not until **July 13-14**, we hope you will save the date so you could march with San Diego PFLAG in the parade and join in the festivities. This is San Diego LGBT Pride's 39th Annual Pride Celebration. With the theme Freedom to Love and Marry, it is sure to be another success.

Keeping the economy in mind, ticket prices have not been raised in the last 3 years: \$15 for a single ticket and \$25 for a two day ticket. If you wish to purchase tickets online: www.sdpride.org. Senior and military discounts are available at the festival.

All the details of the parade and festival will be in the June Bulletin.

FREEDOM TO LOVE

AND MARRY

### OFFICERS, COMMITTEES & VOLUNTEERS

#### Co-Presidents

Patti Boman 619-227-6092 pboman@pflag.com

**Terrie Vorono** 858-483-8310 tvorono@pflag.com

### Past President

Barbara Bodine bbodine@pflag.com

### Vice-President

Sherry Cohen-Richards 858-349-6269 scohenrichards@pflag.com

### Recording Secretary

Arlene Prater aprater@pflag.com

# Corresponding Secretary

Betsy Sheets bsheets@pflag.com

#### Treasurer

Mark Thompson 619-339-5843 mthompson@pflag.com

### Greeter

Lonnie Brunini lbrunini@pflag.com

### Membership

**Bobbi Harwood** 858-453-3249 bharwood@pflag.com

### Info Line

Support/Outreach 888-398-0006

### Newsletter

Sherry Cohen-Richards, *Editor* 

Linda Bessemer, Laura Partido & Flowers Group Printing

Jessy Sauchuk, Belladia Marketing & Design

### **Programs**

The Board

### Scholarship

Kim Martinez

### Spanish Interpreter

Maria Cortinas 760-758-3294

## Speakers Bureau

Beverly Lavallee

### Transgender Coordinator

Evelyn Lindenmuth 619-300-0396

### Refreshments

Ina Price

### Website

Lisa Smith lisa@belladiadesign.com

### **Board Members**

Patti Boman, Sherry Cohen-Richards, Nikki Eddy, Beverly Lavallee, Kim Martinez, Arlene Prater, Ina Price, Karen Thompson, Mark Thompson, Sandi Timberlake, Terrie Vorono, Courtney Ware

PFLAG San Diego | Tax ID #33-0512868 <u>PO Box 82762 | San Diego</u>, CA 92138

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

### **Membership Application**

<ul> <li>□ New □ Renewal □ Change of Address</li> <li>□ Please contact me for volunteer opportunities</li> </ul>
Confidentiality is respected. Your donation is tax deductible (Tax ID 33-05-12868)
Make checks payable to:
PFLAG San Diego PO Box 82762
San Diego, CA 92138
Type of Membership
□ Individual\$30 □ Household\$40
☐ Business\$50 ☐ Supporting\$60
☐ Contributing \$125 ☐ Lifetime\$1000
□ Other \$
☐ Accept my donation, please do not list.
Please fill out, clip and mail this form
Name
Address
City
StateZIP
Email
PhoneDate



or go online www.pflag.com

Membership forms available at www.pflag.com

# **Current Events**

May 13 | Monday Mi Familia Support Group

May 18 | Saturday North County LGBTQ Resource Center Gala (see article)

May 20 | Monday (note, meeting is a week early) San Diego PFLAG Scholarship Awards

May 20 | Monday Mi Familia Support Group

May 24 | Friday
Harvey Milk Diversity
Breakfast (see article)

May 25 | Saturday Santee Street Fair (see article)

May 29-June 2 LGBT Film Festival (see article) June 1 | Saturday

San Diego Equality Awards (see article)

June 3 | Monday PFLAG Support Group North County Coastal

June 3 | Monday Mi Familia Support Group

June 10 | Monday PFLAG Support Group East County

June 10 | Monday Mi Familia Support Group

June 13 | Thursday PFLAG Support Group North County Inland

June 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.



Equality is the soul of liberty, there is, in fact, no liberty without it.

Frances Wright

# **BE A MEMBER**

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2013, it's not too late!

# **SUPPORT GROUPS**

#### **SD COUNTY GENERAL MEETING & SUPPORT GROUP**

Meets every fourth Monday at 7:00 pm, at the First United Methodist Church, 2231 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley.

For further information, contact the Info Line: 888-398-0006 or www.pflag.com

#### NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

Meets the first Monday, at 7:00 pm, North County LGBTQ Resource Center, 510 North Coast Highway, Suite C, Oceanside.

Contact ncpflag@gmail.com or Larry Gerling, (760) 224-2178.

### **NORTH COUNTY INLAND**

Meets every second Thursday, at 7:00 pm, Temple Adat Shalom, 15905 Pomerado Road, Room #9, Poway (Rancho Bernardo). The entrance to parking is directly across the street from the entrance to Sprouts' Market Center. Drive to the end of the building and bear right around it, to the first doors on your right (double doors).

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 every Monday from 6:00pm - 8:00 pm 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.

### **TAKING THE LEAP** by PFLAG Member Shirley Cluckey

Take the Leap was the theme of the National School Boards Association's 73rd Annual Conference and Exposition, held April 12-15, 2013. I took the leap on Saturday, the 13th by manning my first PFLAG booth ever. During my shift with Patti Boman at the opening of the exhibition, it became clear that many have taken the leap to acknowledge and support LGBTQ students in the nation's schools.

One of the first to stop and chat was Dale Caldwell, author of Intelligent Influence and CEO of Strategic Influence, LLC. He told us about the work of his father, retired Methodist minister Gilbert H. Caldwell. Reverend Caldwell's interest in human rights spans decades. He marched with Martin Luther King, Jr. during the civil rights movement and currently serves on the board of PFLAG National. Before my shift ended at 2:00 p.m., Dale had called his father and secured a pledge from him to help our PFLAG chapter reach out to our local black community. Wow.

Several others friendly to the cause of caring for LGBTQ students stopped by with information about what's going

on in their neighborhoods, cities, and states to provide these kids with the support they need to our great encouragement. Two of our most enthusiastic visitors came all the way from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, Cathy Collins and Darlyne Bautista. Many others asked for information to take back to their school districts. It felt good to be able to provide them with resources.

An architect from the San Francisco Bay area stopped by to thank us for advocating for LGBTQ students. "It's so much better now than when I was a young student," he said. "What you're doing is so important to these kids." When asked if he had any LGBTQ family members, he answered with tears in his eyes, "Yes, me."

Still another visitor told us about the gay friendly displays seen during a tour of High Tech High School in Point Loma and commented on the acceptance of LGBTQ youth apparent throughout the school.

A quick tour of the exhibits provided further encouragement. For example, the SpyFly Fundraising booth sported



a claim to have "America's only stop bullying homework assignment," a three-part online assignment tied to SpyFly's online fundraising process, which does not involve door-to-door sales. Promoting Safe Schools Together (www.PSSTWorld.com) distributed information about their inexpensive plans for getting student buy-in to an anonymous incident reporting system, one which is working successfully in several school districts.

My brief three-hour stint proved to be a great time of sharing and learning, plus a glance at some of the proactive programs school districts around the country are using to make schools safe for everyone, including LGBTQ students. I'm ready to leap into the next event!

"Suppose a state said that, Because we think that the focus of marriage really should be on procreation, we are not going to give marriage licenses anymore to any couple where both people are over the age of 55. Would that be constitutional?" —Associate Justice Elena Kagan

### **KEEP OUR FINGERS CROSSED (PUN INTENDED)**

The Boy Scouts of America will hold their National Annual Meeting May 22-24. The main topic for the LGBT community will be their decision on whether or not to allow gay youth to join their organization. The new policy states that the BSA will retain its complete ban on adults (age 18+) who openly engage in homosexual behavior serving in any Scouting role, but changing the youth (under 18) policy to read, "No youth may be denied membership in the Boy Scouts of America on the basis of sexual orientation or preference alone."

This may be a first step, but there are "miles to go before we sleep." It is strongly felt they will pass the proposal; however, there will not be a total victory until LGBT adults can serve in leadership roles. With all the pedophile scandals that plague the BSA, you would think this is a no brainer.

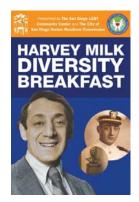
As an ironic twist to the Boy Scouts banning gay/lesbian leaders, Jennifer Tyrrell, the Ohio den mother who was ousted by the Boy Scouts because she is a lesbian, was named one of the Best Parent of 2012 by *Parenting* magazine! It is no wonder. Ms Tyrrell did not take her ousting lightly. She went public with a call for the Boy Scouts to change their policy, hand-delivered a petition with more than 300,000 signatures, and met with leaders at the BSA National Headquarters to keep fighting for equality. A spokesperson for *Parenting* said Tyrrell was selected because she demonstrated "a true show of character—the central quality the Boy Scouts espouse."

### THE PLACE TO BE

The 5th Annual Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast will be held on **Friday**, **May 24**, from 7:30-9 am at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel. The attendance of over 1,000 includes individuals, businesses, groups, and organizations. San Diego has the honor of having the largest Harvey Milk celebration in California. Proceeds benefit the social services

programs of the LGBT Center. For ticket information: www.thecentersd. org. The event is almost sold out. No wonder – being honored are two outstanding leaders who have inspired many in the tradition of Harvey Milk former governor of Oregon, Barbara Roberts, will be presented with the Harvey Milk Lifetime Leadership Award and multiple award-winning filmmaker

Dustin Lance
Black ("8"
among other
works) will be
presented with
the Harvey
Milk Equality
Award!



### **DINING OUT FOR LIFE® A HUGE SUCCESS**

Although the profits aren't tallied yet, by the judge of the crowds, San Diegans, again, opened up their hearts and wallets to raise funds for the LGBT Center for their HIV/AIDS services/programs. What would the experience be without a visit from a few of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Queen of PFLAG, Bobbi Harwood, is pictured with Sister Nora Torious (left) and novice sister, Aspirant Adrienne. Laura Partido is pictured with Sister Bianca Tempt. The evening was a win-win for all.







The 15th Annual LGBT Film Festival, presented by FilmOut San Diego, takes place **May 29-June 2** at the Birch North Park Theatre. The mission of FilmOut San Diego is to enlighten, educate, and entertain the communities of San Diego County and beyond through the exhibition of LGBT-themed films. FilmOut San Diego seeks to recognize, promote, celebrate and support the important diverse artistic contributions LGBT filmmakers make to our community. For a list of the films and to purchase tickets, visit their web site: www.filmoutsandiego.com.

### **SANTEE STREET FAIR**

The 5th Annual Santee Street Fair is on **Saturday, May 25** from 10:00 am - 7:00 pm. Boasting a crowd of more than 40,000, the streets will be hopping with music, live entertainment, rides, food, and vendor booths. This is the second year **PFLAG East County Satellite Group** is sponsoring a booth. Members will speak to interested persons and disseminate literature. It is exciting to have a presence there once again. The Fair is located on the east side of the Trolley Square Shopping Center at the backside of Barnes and Noble Booksellers (their address is 9938 Mission Gorge Road, Santee).



The San Diego Equality Awards are **Saturday**, **June 1** at The Prado at Balboa Park beginning at 6:00 pm. If you miss San Diego County Supervisor Dave Roberts at the North County LGBTQ Resource Center Gala, you can catch him as the honored guest at the Awards. Along with Mr. Roberts, Special Guest Toni Atkins, Assembly Majority Leader, will be present. For ticket information: www.eqcaawards.org/sandiego-equality-awards.

### **FINALLY**

By the time you read this, the fact that NBA center Jason Collins, 34, has become the first male U.S. athlete in a major professional sport to come out as gay will be old news.

Jason chose to break his story in an interview with *Sports Illustrated*.

"I didn't set out to be the first openly gay athlete playing in a major American team sport. But since I am, I'm happy to start the conversation. I wish I wasn't the kid in the classroom raising his hand and saying, 'I'm different.' If I had my way, someone else would have already done this. Nobody has, which is why I'm raising my hand."

He further said, "When I was younger I dated women. I even got engaged. I thought I had to live a certain way. I thought I needed to marry a woman and raise kids with her. I kept telling myself the sky was red, but I always knew it was blue."

Jason was asked why he chose to address his sexuality now. He says that he was partly inspired by the Boston Marathon bombings, adding that "it takes an enormous amount of energy to guard such a big secret. I've endured years of misery and gone to enormous lengths to live a lie. I was certain that my world would fall apart if anyone knew. And yet when



I acknowledged my sexuality I felt whole for the first time. I still had the same sense of humor, I still had the same mannerisms and my friends still had my back."

Noteworthy was Jason's choice of number 98 for his jersey. It was his private tribute to Matthew Shepard, who was killed in Wyoming in 1998, for being gay. Collins said, "When I put on my jersey I was making a statement to myself, my family and my friends."

### TWO MORE IN OUR CORNER

France became the 14th country to allow same-sex marriage. Sadly, it was not joyous for many from France as there were violent street protests and a rise in homophobic attacks. Maybe "Vive la France!" will have to wait.

On the flip side of that, hundreds of jubilant gay-rights advocates celebrated at New Zealand's Parliament as the country became the 13th in the world and the first in the Asia-Pacific region to legalize same-sex marriage.

Another big plus is that the change in New Zealand could put pressure on its neighbor. In Australia, there has been little political momentum for a change at a federal level and it doesn't help that their Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, has expressed her opposition to same-sex marriage. Some Australian states, however, are considering gay-marriage legislation.

### THE OHIO FIGHT SONG

Carla Hale, a gay teacher who said she was fired by an Ohio Catholic school after her mother's published obituary included the name of her partner, is fighting to get her job back. She was told she was being let go because her relationship is against teachings of the church. Ms Hale plans to file a complaint with the city of Columbus, which prohibits firings based on sexual orientation. She already filed a grievance that is now in the hands of a union representing teachers in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Columbus.

Some current and former students have rallied behind Carla, a physical education teacher who has taught at the school for 19 years. They have staged a protest outside the diocese headquarters and started an online petition that has collected about 100,000 supporters.

We hope to have positive updates soon.



### LET'S KEEP ON TRUCKIN'

Rhode Island became the 10th state to legalize same-sex marriage. At the initial hearing, only three people in the House Judiciary provided the requisite "gay marriage will lead us all straight into hell" argument, since most people realize the fight is all but over.

Governor Lincoln Chafee eagerly signed the bill into law; the first same-sex weddings could take place on August 1.

New England is the one section of the country where same-sex couples can travel interstate and still maintain all of their rights as married couples.

Delaware should be next and hopefully, Pennsylvania won't be far behind. Nevada's in the midst of the long, slow process of repealing its constitutional marriage ban. It's going to take years to undo that one. Meanwhile, it's time to celebrate in Colorado, where civil unions began on May 1.

### ALWAYS GOOD TO KNOW



At the recently held Equality Forum in Philadelphia, Mariela Castro, daughter of Cuban president Raul Castro and niece of former president Fidel Castro, said

that she's proud of the advances she and her allies have made on LGBT rights in Cuba.

Ms Castro received an award for her activism. "We can make the best together," she told attendees as a member of a panel presentation.

"Castro said that she was 'very proud' of the work she and others had done to promote LGBT equality and that she would push for gay marriage," she was quoted. She is a sexologist and director of the Cuban National Center for Sex Education (CENESEX), has long been an activist for LGBT equality in Cuba. She has been credited with improving conditions for gay Cubans, who faced imprisonment as recently as the 1970s.

She also defended her country's record on human rights, saying, "There is not any government or any country who has the right to impose or make decisions to the other ones regarding the human-rights area."

Former congressmember Barney Frank, who spoke at the Equality Forum dinner, praised Mariela Castro for her work but had harsh words for her father and uncle, saying they were "among the great betrayers of liberalism and human rights. I'm glad that they're lessening the repression of gay and lesbian people, but no, I certainly don't think that people should say, 'OK, well, that's all you have to do."

Who would give a law to lovers? Love is unto itself a higher law. -Boethius, The Consolation of Philosophy, A.D. 524

### **UGANDA'S EVIL TWIN**

The LGBT community in Ethiopia now needs to fear for their lives more than ever. An anti-gay organization that held a recent workshop on LGBT issues in Ethiopia is reporting that the death penalty against gay people in Ethiopia may be on the horizon.

The workshop reportedly looked with the social 'evils' and 'disastrous' effects of homosexuality in Ethiopia, and was led by United for Life Ethiopia, a Western Evangelical Christian organization with local representation.

Government officials, religious leaders, leading heath professionals, charities and members of the public attended the workshop. One of the messages was that gay people should leave the country or face reprisals.

### HARVARD?

Harvard economics professor Niall Ferguson apologized for suggesting one of the chief problems with Influential 20th-century economist, John Maynard Keynes, is that he was gay. This was said recently at a conference of investors and financial professionals. Ferguson said Keynes didn't care about the effect of economic policy on future generations because he was gay and childless.

Ferguson asked the audience a rhetorical question of how many children Keynes had. He said that Keynes had none because he was a homosexual and was married to a ballerina, with whom he likely talked of 'poetry' rather than procreated.

The person reporting this said, "This takes gay-bashing to new heights. It even perversely pins the full weight of the financial crisis on the gay community and the barren. Not only is this intellectually void, it's mad. And anyone with a moral conscience should be outraged."

This is what Ferguson said on his web site, "I made comments about John Maynard Keynes that were as stupid as they were insensitive. I deeply and unreservedly apologize."

### THERE IS HOPE

Rep. Paul Ryan, who was Mitt Romney's running mate in the 2012 presidential election, said he now regrets voting against adoption rights for Washington, DC's same-sex couples.

Ryan made the statement at a town hall meeting in Wisconsin recently after a constituent confronted him on his poor rating on the Human Rights Campaign's legislative index. Ryan voted in 1999 in favor of banning same-sex couples from adopting in the District of Columbia, over which Congress often exerts control. He said he regretted voting against the bill, and said gay and lesbian couples are capable of providing a loving home to children. Says Ryan, "Adoption, I'd vote differently these days. That was, I think, a vote I took in my first term, 2000 or 1999. I do believe that if there are children who are orphans who do not have a loving person or couple — I think if a person wants to love and raise a child they ought to be able to do that. Period. I would vote that way. I do believe marriage is between a man and a woman, we just respectfully disagree with each other on that issue."

Ryan also said he would vote in favor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would make it illegal to discriminate against a worker based on his or her sexual orientation, as a similar law was enacted in his home state decades ago. He said, however, that he would have to learn more about a transgender-inclusive version of the bill in order to decide how he would vote on that.





### PFLAG THANKS YOU FOR YOUR EXTRA HELP

Supporting Membership Anthony & Lilia Villasenor



**Show your support!** Buy ad space!



MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST MFC 19321

3252 HOLIDAY COURT • SUITE 106 • LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92037-1807 (858) 552-8181 FAX (858) 552-0205



# Psychotherapy for



Coming out • School safety • Self-Acceptance Self-Esteem • Parent-Child Communications • Siblings



Crisis Counseling • Religious Issues • Telling Friends & Family Safety Concerns • Grief & Loss • Depression n Anxiety

All Services are Completely Confidential

# Stephen White, Psy.D.

Clinical Psychologist PSY 20739 16496 Bernardo Center Drive, Suite 307 San Diego CA 92128 (619) 922-1579

swhite@the-rainbow-connection.org

