



WISHING YOU ALL A  
WONDERFUL  
THANKSGIVING  
&  
A HAPPY  
CHANUKAH



## COLLEGE DO'S



Please join us for our General Meeting on **Monday, November 25** 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.

We welcome Michelle Mai, Specialist and CEO of College Planning Source.

Michelle will speak about college funding, admissions information, college applications, and very importantly, which schools are LGBT friendly. Although we are eager for all to attend, we've extended invitations to local GSA's and to GLSEN. If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please bring them along.

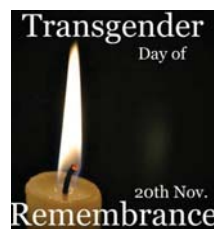
Please join us for our support groups, then our cookie social, followed by the program.

## TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

**Wednesday, November 20** is San Diego's 11th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance. Starting at 6:00 pm, there will be a candlelight vigil and march starting at the LGBT Center, 3909 Centre Street in Hillcrest. At 7:00 pm there will be a program in The Center's auditorium.

Also on **November 20** is the 3rd Annual North County Transgender Day of Remembrance, starting at 6:00 pm at the Oceanside Civic Plaza (by the reflecting pool), 300 North Coast Highway. There will be a memorial ceremony, followed by a candle-lit procession to the North County LGBTQ Resource Center.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed for being transgender or perceived to be transgender or for being gender variant in any way. The event is held in November to honor Rita Hester, whose murder on November 28, 1998, kicked off the "Remembering Our Dead" web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. Rita Hester's murder, like most anti-transgender murder cases, has yet to be solved.



## TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIPS

As always, paying your membership dues now means you are a member for all of 2014. As you are aware, part of the mission for PFLAG is to promote the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons and their families and friends. We are only able to offer this support, education, and advocacy through your generosity of being a member. Several ways we accomplish our mission is through our monthly meetings, newsletters, speakers, support groups, an info line, educational brochures, etc.

You can renew (or become members) online (we accept PayPal) or by using the application in this newsletter. Of course, we will gladly accept donations any time for any reason! With the holidays coming up, a membership would make an ideal gift.

We have started to plan our scholarship program for 2014. By the end of November or beginning of December, the application and scholarship requirements will be on our web site ([www.pflag.com](http://www.pflag.com)). The deadline for the scholarships is **March 15, 2014**, and the scholarship program is **May 19**.

## TIME TO PAR-TY

The December PFLAG meeting will be held on **Monday, December 23** at The Center, 3909 Centre Street in Hillcrest at 7:00. PFLAG "Central," Mi Familia and the East County, North County Inland and North County Coastal satellite groups are having a holiday bash. A fun evening has been planned, complete with entertainment. Please bring a potluck dish to share. North County Inland is not having their regularly scheduled meeting on December 12.

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## Membership Application

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# Current Events

**November 18 | Monday**  
Mi Familia Support Group

**November 20 | Wednesday**  
Transgender Day of Remembrance (see article)

**November 20 | Wednesday**  
Last day to order pies from Mama's Kitchen

**November 25 | Monday**  
San Diego PFLAG General Meeting and Support Groups

**November 25 | Monday**  
Mi Familia Support Group

**December 1 | Sunday**  
World AIDS Day (see article)

**December 2 | Monday**  
PFLAG Support Group North County Coastal

**December 2 | Monday**  
Mi Familia Support Group

**December 7 & 8 Saturday & Sunday**  
San Diego Women's Chorus Concert (see article)

**December 9 | Monday**  
PFLAG Support Group East County

**December 9 | Monday**  
Mi Familia Support Group

**December 12 | Thursday**  
REMINDER: NO MEETING FOR PFLAG North County Inland

**December 14 | Saturday**  
"Come Home for the Holidays" (see article)

**December 14 & 15 Saturday & Sunday**  
San Diego Gay Men's Chorus Concert (see article)

**December 16 | Monday**  
Mi Familia Support Group

**December 23 | Monday**  
Holiday party and potluck for all PFLAG groups (see article)

# 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](http://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](mailto: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 Deborah Kelly: [dkelly@pflag.com](mailto:dkelly@pflag.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 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](mailto:ftm_mom@yahoo.com).

## 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.

## WE VALUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Please renew your membership for 2014. Pay your dues before you're caught in the holiday shuffle.

## TWO MORE SCHOLARS: MICHAEL

The recipient of the **Stephen G. Bowersox Memorial Scholarship** is **Michael Gaffney**. This scholarship is provided through the generosity of the family of Stephen G. Bowersox and friends and co-workers of the family. Stephen was awarded a PFLAG scholarship in 2003. Jim and Donna Bowersox have committed to continual funding of the scholarship. This award is strongly predicated on social justice, demonstrated involvement and high academic achievement, as well as broad, far-reaching interests and activities.

Michael graduated from San Pasqual High School and is a freshman at the University of California, Berkeley. While at San Pasqual, he was co-president of the GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance) and active in the drama club, among other activities. He received a glowing recommendation from his English/AVID teacher. She commended Michael for being an analytical reader, a superior writer, as well as being a fun person to have in her class. He was well-liked by his peers and always encouraged people to be themselves.

"I believe that the most important issue facing the LGBT community today is marriage equality. As we progress into the 21st century, more and more people are becoming accepting of LGBT individuals, and discrimination

seems to be on the decline. But, one of the most blatant remaining prejudices is that of marriage inequality. It is baffling to me that a country with such an inspiring history of civil rights achievements could allow such a self-evident, basic right to be denied. The LGBT community deserves nothing less than their right to love whomever they choose, and to start a family with that person if they desire to, all with the same benefits and entitlements as any other married couple.

To solve this issue, I believe we need to come from many different angles. From petitioning our congressmen, to rallying, to demonstrating and promoting equality in our daily lives, the LGBT community is good at putting themselves out there and demanding to be heard. But I think the most important thing that members of the LGBT community can do is proudly live their lives, pursue their dreams, and show by example that they are just like anybody else. When people start to realize that members of the LGBT community are already around them, working at their careers, participating as community leaders, buying groceries, and raising families, maybe then it will become apparent that they are no different from any other Americans.

I started a Gay-Straight Alliance club at my high school, and as I transition into

college, I plan to continue participating as a member of the on-campus LGBT leadership community. It has always been important to me to get involved in what I believe in and to try to make a positive difference. With the entrepreneurial skills I gain in my education, I can further these goals. Once in the workforce, I hope to help fuel the progression of acceptance in the workplace by making myself an open, safe person to confide in, and by participating in my company's LGBT organization.

I recently became an Eagle Scout. One more thing I plan to do, assuming that Boy Scouts of America comes through with their recent statements about allowing gays to participate openly as scouts and leaders: I want to become an adult scout leader. This is another way to demonstrate leadership and make others aware of our equality in their everyday lives."



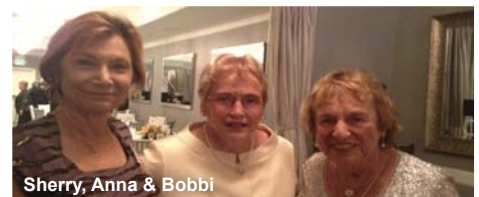
## ANNA M. CURREN HONORED

Bobbi Harwood (PFLAG Maven and past-president) and newsletter editor, Sherry Cohen-Richards, felt privileged and honored to be part of "An Evening to Celebrate Equality Advocate Anna M. Curren." Anna has been a PFLAG member for many, many years and has always been a gracious donor.

Anna's greatest passion since 2000 has been the SLDN (Servicemembers Legal Defense Network), which has been in existence since 1992, even

before "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) was born in 1993. Although the agency is multi-faceted, DADT was its major focus. Anna joined the governing Board of SLDN in 2000 and didn't retire until 2010 following completion of the DADT Repeal process. While on the board, she was dedicated to reversing the six-decade old statute that prevented open LGBT service in our military. She was convinced that until this last bastion of federally authorized

discrimination was eliminated, the LGBT community had little chance of advancing other significant LGBT legislation, in particular marriage rights. Her feeling was, with the repeal of DADT, the floodgates would open to complete civil rights. Besides dedicating a massive amount of time to the repeal of DADT, Anna gifted in excess of a million dollars to SLDN. She described herself as being "lucky enough to have been in the right place



Sherry, Anna & Bobbi

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

## TWO MORE SCHOLARS: ISAAC

**Isaac Gomez** is the recipient of the **Rob Benzon Memorial Scholarship**. This scholarship is provided through the generosity of the Rob Benzon Foundation to honor their beloved and generous friend, Rob Benzon. The goal of this scholarship is to recognize youth who demonstrate a giving spirit and charisma. Isaac completely fills that bill.

Isaac is well known to the LGBT community as an outspoken advocate for his extended transgender community family. Although he only speaks about his personal transformation, he serves as an educator and a passionate activist for transgender rights. He is a role model and mentor who is comfortable speaking to a small group or a roomful of people. One of Isaac's goals is for people to learn acceptance. Isaac is in his Sophomore year at Stanford University.

"In my years as an activist for trans youth rights, I have tried to make a habit of stating that my story is not representative of all transgender people. The experience I went through and the challenges I overcame are specific to me, and although many transgender people can relate to my situation, every person has their differences. Because of this, I cannot speak broadly to identify the toughest issue confronting the LGBT community, but what I can do is share

the only experience I truly know, my own.

My greatest gift in life has been my family, and despite the unconditional love, they have never failed to provide me, I did struggle with gender identity issues from an early age. When I was younger, it seemed to be more of preference than a yearning. All my friends were boys, I enjoyed "boy" activities, and I liked the clothes in the boys' section of the department stores. If I were to pick my own name, at that time, it would've been Nicholas. However, after elementary school, it turned into something more than preference.

When I started my preteen years, I could feel my body transform everyday into something I did not recognize. Middle school years were filled with the need to be normal and I desperately embraced this phase. My parents were scared to see their youngest child, a once happy and expressive kid, closing off to the outside world.

By the time I was 12-years old, I had decided I was done with being abnormal. I wasn't going to live the rest of my life as an unhappy woman. Although my mind was made up, on September 16, 2006, I decided that I had to tell at least one person how I felt before I started this gruesome journey.

Thinking back, my mother was the right choice. She accepted me wholeheartedly, and began planning the transition that would grant me happiness. She understood my fear for change and took me to The LGBT Center where I would meet Connor Maddocks. I took one look at Connor and couldn't believe he was born a biological female.



Actually seeing someone who was successful, confident, good looking and transgender changed my perspective of what I really wanted. I wanted to make a transition to feel better in my body. I wanted to stop covering the mirrors before undressing and getting into the shower. I wanted so desperately to be myself and have others understand me.

With what I have experienced and with the stories I have heard, I want to work to see more visible transgender role models in society. Real faces change perspectives, and I feel that it is my personal responsibility to provide other young trans kids with a new way of seeing their future."

## ANNA M. CURREN HONORED (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

at the right time to make a difference, and smart enough to take advantage of it."

Anna was re-energized when President Obama was elected, as she believed the truth would surface, and that the pressure to rectify this would be enormous, which it did.

In 2010, SLDN instituted The Anna M. Curren Service Award to both honor

Anna for her service, and to honor others for outstanding service to the organization in subsequent years. Those recipients would be recognized for their outstanding contributions and extraordinary service of those who fight for full equality in the military.

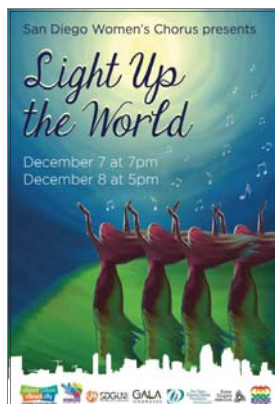
To add to Anna's accomplishments, she has been honored by the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and was an Honorary Board Member of the San

Diego Human Dignity Foundation. She is active in the Soroptimist International of San Diego, whose mission is the education of underserved women and girls to help them reach their educational goals.

In addition to all that is mentioned, Anna has a very keen sense of humor, which those in attendance at this lovely tribute to Anna can attest.

## LIGHT UP THE WORLD

The San Diego Women's Chorus will present its 26th annual winter concert, "Light Up the World," on **Saturday, December 7** at 7:00 pm and **Sunday, December 8** at 5:00 pm. The concert showcases the wonderful things about the winter holiday season: family, togetherness, love, warmth, hope and all the winter goodwill that lights up the world during this time of year. They will perform uplifting songs about Christmas, Chanukah, and secular celebratory songs from around the globe.



Advanced sale tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$12 for seniors, military and children (ages 3-17). They can be purchased by going to the San Diego Women's Chorus's web site: [www.sdwcc.org](http://www.sdwcc.org). Ticket prices at the door will be \$20 and \$15, as available. Both concerts will be held at the University Christian Church, 3900 Cleveland Avenue in Hillcrest.

## WORLD AIDS DAY



**Sunday, December 1** is World AIDS Day. Please join Mama's Kitchen at Village Hillcrest for the 22nd Annual Tree of Life Ceremony, commemorating those affected by AIDS, as well as the ongoing leadership efforts made to end the epidemic. It will take place from 5:00-7:00 pm at the Village Hillcrest Retail Center, 3965 Fifth Avenue in Hillcrest. If you would like to purchase ornaments for the Tree of Life (\$15 for one or \$25 for two), contact [www.mamaskitchen.org](http://www.mamaskitchen.org) or call 619-233-6262. You may also personalize the ornaments. All proceeds benefit Mama's Kitchen.

Those attending will have a special treat; the San Diego Gay Men's Chorus will be performing.

## COME HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

On **Saturday, December 14**, from 5:00-8:00 pm, "Come Home for the Holidays" will once again be sponsored by The LGBT Center. Please join PFLAG as we take part in the celebration of the many cultures and traditions of the LGBT community. They'll be lots of holiday food and entertainment, as well as arts & crafts for the kids. Let's not forget about the Imperial Court's Coney Island senior experience! It's not to be missed!

## ELECTION DAY IS ALMOST HERE?

Here is the slate of officers as they stand now. The election will take place at our general meeting on November 25 and will take approximately 3 minutes.

Co-Presidents.....Patti Boman and Terrie Vorono

Vice President .....Sherry Cohen-Richards

Recording Secretary.....Arlene Prater

Treasurer .....JoyLynn Murray



## MARRIAGE EQUALITY UPDATE

Although it probably almost caused Michele Bachmann to have a heart attack, same-sex marriages were recognized in Minnesota on July 1, 2013, and marriage certificates were issued beginning on August 1, 2013. Then, on October 21, there was good news in New Jersey: same-sex marriage was legalized. And just recently, on November 5th, Illinois became the 15th state to legalize marriage equality. However, the law doesn't go into effect until June, 2014. What?? Hawaii is just about there as the 16th state to legalize same-sex marriage. It was originally passed by the Senate, and then the House. There was an amendment to the bill in the House so it went back to the Senate and easily passed. Governor Neil Abercrombie already said he would sign the bill. An interesting fact that most people don't know... In 1993, Hawaii's Supreme Court shocked the United States, and much of the world, by issuing a ruling that said refusing to allow same-sex couples to marry amounted to illegal discrimination. The backlash was fierce. It was what led Congress to pass a discriminatory measure of its own, prohibiting the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriage, and numerous states suddenly felt the need to amend their constitution to expressly forbid the union of two people of the same sex. Thankfully, the tide is turning. Hopefully, New Mexico will be the 17th state to get with the program by the end of the year.

## THERE'S FOG

FOG (Fellowship of Older Gays) is a social organization for older gay men in San Diego. Members meet for a coffee social every Saturday morning at 10:00 am at Panera Bread, 1270 Cleveland Avenue in Hillcrest. Rap group meets every Friday from 10-11:30 am at The Center. FOG Movie Night is the first Friday of the month at 7:00 pm in The Center's library. For more information, email [fogsandiego@hotmail.com](mailto:fogsandiego@hotmail.com).

## YOU MAY NOT KNOW...

PFLAG San Diego County has a Facebook page (PFLAG – San Diego County)\*\* and has a wealth of information, not only regarding our chapter, but the LGBT community at large. There are several other ways to keep abreast of what is happening. Co-president Patti Boman has a blog on our web site ([www.pflag.com](http://www.pflag.com)) and she also manages our Twitter account if you'd like to follow PFLAG: @PflagSD.

\*\* please note, this is the official PFLAG San Diego County Facebook page. The PFLAG San Diego open group is not authorized by PFLAG San Diego County and will be removed shortly.

If any of the satellite groups would like information published in the newsletter, please email Sherry Cohen-Richards at [scohenrichards@pflag.com](mailto:scohenrichards@pflag.com). The deadline is the first weekend of the month that you want it published.

Last, anyone who would like to suggest programs for our monthly meetings, please contact co-President Terrie Vorono at [tvorono@pflag.com](mailto:tvorono@pflag.com).

## MAMA MIA!

There is still time to support Mama's Kitchen 9th Annual Pie in the Sky Fundraiser. This is a bake sale fundraising program that benefits Mama's Kitchen—San Diego's only free, county-wide home-delivered meals program for individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS or cancer. Each pie sold provides more than six home-delivered meals to these clients. You can buy pies from now until November 20. The pie prices are \$20 or \$25 and \$15 of that is tax-deductible – definitely a win-win. Your choices are: apple, Dutch apple, pecan, and pumpkin.

Purchasing is as simple as pie! You can order directly online: [www.mamaspies.org](http://www.mamaspies.org) or call 619-233-6262. On November 27 (the day before Thanksgiving so you don't have to bake AND just in time to celebrate the first night of Chanukah!), there are pick up locations all over San Diego for your convenience.

## THE NUTCRACKER (MEN IN TIGHTS!)



The San Diego Gay Men's Chorus's annual holiday concert is on **Saturday, December 14** at 8:00 pm. and **Sunday, December 15** at 3:00 pm. This year's show, "The Nutcracker (Men in Tights!)," takes place at the Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue, in downtown San Diego.

"Our family-friendly show promises the whimsical magic of traditional holiday songs together with the fun and hijinks people have come to love and

## DEAR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Please learn your lesson from the last election if you plan to keep your seats. While the Senate passed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), your House Speaker John Boehner and House Majority Leader Eric Cantor have announced that the bill is dead on arrival. It is amazing that your two leaders consistently preach discrimination. That doesn't mean you have to be lemmings and follow. Sincerely - Truth, Justice, and the American Way.

The Senate passed a bill (ENDA) on November 7 that aims to prevent discrimination against gay and transgender employees, though that only sends the measure to the House where Republican leaders have said the bill is not going anywhere.

Ten Republicans joined with Democrats to pass the proposal 64-32, which marked the first major piece of legislation involving gay rights since Congress repealed the policy barring open gays from serving in the military.

President Obama celebrated the bill's passage, saying it will stop Americans from being denied a job or fired just because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Of course, his excitement was tempered by the fact the bill is not coming to his desk for his signature any time soon.

"One party in one house of Congress should not stand in the way of millions of Americans who want to go to work each day and simply be judged by the job they do," Mr. Obama said. "Now is the time to end this kind of discrimination in the workplace, not enable it."

Pro-gay group GetEQUAL called on President Obama to get around opposition from the House GOP by ordering that no company can do business with the U.S. government if it doesn't "voluntarily" adopt the bill's provisions. Their actual preference, which sounds pretty good, is for President Obama to sign his name to an Executive Order that would protect nearly 25 percent of this country's workforce from workplace discrimination. And, actually, The White House has not ruled out the possibility of the President using his executive power to sign ENDA into law. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid suggested that is one way to get around Congress.

expect from our chorus," said SDGMC Artistic Director Gary Holt. "No one does the holidays like 130 gay men! There's singing and dancing, naughty and nice, and, yes, actual men in tights!"

Tickets are available by calling (877) 296-SONG or at [www.sdgmc.org](http://www.sdgmc.org). They range from \$32-70, with discounts available for seniors, students, active-duty military and groups of 10 or more.



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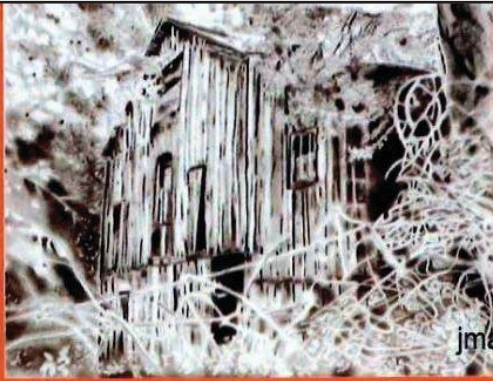
Greater San Diego Business Association - The Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

“Another thing I’m sick of hearing: If I started  
that gay rights group, I must be gay.  
So if I start an animal rights group, what does  
that make me? A giraffe?”

— James Howe, *Addie on the Inside*



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