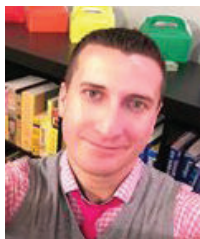


ALL THAT PARADE JAZZ



Please join us for our general meeting on **Monday, June 23** at 7:00 pm at Jewish Family Service, 8804 Balboa Avenue.

There will be a PFLAG sign directing you to our new entrance. **PLEASE NOTE, WE MEET ON THE THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH, NOT JUNE 30.**

We gladly welcome Fernando López, Jr. from The LGBT Center and San Diego Pride, who will get us pumped up for the Pride Parade and

Festival. Please see related article. For your convenience, at the meeting there will be buttons (which we hope you will wear at the Parade), bumper stickers (which is perfect for the signs you'll be making) and t-shirts (which you will be wearing)! **VERY IMPORTANT:** please bring cash or check, as we do not have credit card capability. We only have small, medium, and large t-shirts left.

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



REFLECTIONS OF PRIDE



Although Pride Weekend isn't until **July 18-20**, we wanted to give you the scoop early because it may

be a close call getting the newsletter to you early enough in July.

The official kickoff of this year's 40th Anniversary San Diego LGBT Pride Weekend will begin on Friday, **July 18**, with the Spirit of Stonewall Awards and Rally at **6:00 pm**. The rally will take place adjacent to the Hillcrest Pride Flag at the corner of University Avenue and Normal Street in Hillcrest.

The Spirit of Stonewall Awards are designed to honor individuals and organizations that have made a positive impact on San Diego's LGBT community.

It is with great pride (pun) we announce that our own **Patti Boman**

was chosen as **Friend of Pride** for her dedication to PFLAG and LGBT youth. This award honors individuals or couples who do not identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, but who have stalwartly supported the LGBT community over an extended period of years. Congrats, Patti, and we look forward to seeing you at the parade doing your queenly wave in the convertible.

At the rally, actress, television star, and renowned transgender advocate **Laverne Cox** will be the keynote speaker.

"I am deeply honored to be a part of San Diego Pride," said Laverne. "When I think of Pride I can't help but think of the legacy of folks like Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson, and so many



(Continued on Page 6)

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL HMDB

Once again, the Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast received high marks. Besides the inspirational speakers, we saw the unveiling of the Harvey Milk Forever Stamp. It took seven years of hard work to finally have a stamp issued, thanks to the



efforts of Nicole Ramirez Murray. He missed the breakfast since he was at the White House for the unveiling. Not too shabby. The highlight of the breakfast was a documentary on The Whittington Family. Their trans child Ryland's story was touching. If you didn't see the documentary, you can see it on YouTube. The Whittingtons were at the breakfast and Ryland had some inspiring words for us.



PFLAGers JoyLynn Murray, Wayne Walker, Annette Ottone, Ina Price, Sherry Cohen-Richards and a group of students from GLSEN (including scholarship recipient Julio Chavez) enjoyed the breakfast.

FELIZ CUMPLEAÑOS, FRIDA

Join the merriment with lots of great food, drinks, a live salsa band, dancing, and art exhibit to celebrate the life of the legendary Mexican Artist, Frida Kahlo, one of the most influential Mexican painters of the mid-20th century. The LGBT's Center Pachanga de Frida is Saturday, **June 28** from 6:00-10:00 pm at The Center, 3909 Centre Street in Hillcrest. One of the highlights of the evening is the Frida look-a-like contest! All proceeds for the event will benefit The Center's Latin@ Services program. Single tickets can be purchased for \$15 at www.thecentersd.org. Tickets are \$20 at the door. This is a 21+ event.

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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.

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

Current Events

June 16 | Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

June 23 | Monday

San Diego PFLAG General Meeting and Support Groups

June 23 | Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

June 26 | Thursday

Mama's Kitchen Food Truck Foodie Fest (see article)

June 28 | Saturday

Happy Birthday, Frida (see article)

June 29 | Sunday

YPC Academy Graduation (see Editor's Note in Board Member article)

June 30 | Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

July 7 | Monday

PFLAG Support Group North County Coastal

July 7 | Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

July 12 & 13

Saturday & Sunday
SD Gay Men's Chorus Concert (see article)

July 14 | Monday

PFLAG Support Group East County

July 14 | Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

July 18 | Friday

Stonewall Awards/Rally (see article)

July 20 | Saturday

Pride Parade and Festival (see article)

July 21 | Sunday

Pride Festival

SUPPORT GROUPS

SD COUNTY GENERAL MEETING & SUPPORT GROUP

Meets every fourth Monday at 7:00 pm, at Jewish Family Service, 8804 Balboa Avenue, San Diego in Kearny Mesa.

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

Support Groups have been temporarily discontinued

EAST COUNTY

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

Contact Contact Bob Dryden: 619-334-8214 or bdryden@pflag.com

MI FAMILIA (Spanish)

Meetings are every Monday from 6:30pm - 8:00 pm at The Center.

Contact Patti Boman, (619) 227-6092

TRANSGENDER SUPPORT

For more information on the Transgender Support Group

Contact Kathe Dunn, ftm_mom@yahoo.com.



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Frances Wright



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SCHOLARS GALORE!



What a wonderful and glorious Scholarship Awards evening we enjoyed on May 19. We were fortunate to be able to present 10 scholarships this year.

After welcoming the scholarship recipients, families, and friends, we were then pleased to present a special award to Patti Boman, past PFLAG co-President, for her dedication to PFLAG and the LGBT community.

We were honored, once again this year, to have LCDR Dana Chapin, U.S. Navy, sing the National Anthem. Lou Anne Peltier from the Raytheon Company arranged a delicious buffet.

The keynote speaker was Kevin Beiser, San Diego Unified School District Board President (who was just re-elected). He gave us an historical overview of what the school board had been like prior to 2010 and the accomplishments made since then. He definitely has a great sense of humor.

Presenting our 2014 recipients:

The Mary Wagner Memorial Scholarship: **Ashley Green**; John Bessemer Memorial Scholarship: **Laila Al-Shamma**; Rob Benzon Memorial Scholarships: **Gabriel Figueroa** and **Juan Carlos Ortega**; Stephen G. Bowersox Memorial Scholarship: **Julio Chavez**; John McCusker Memorial Scholarship: **Amber J. Escobar**; San Diego Chapter of Raytheon GLBTA, LGBT STEM Scholarship: **Estevan Fernandez**; Richard Geyser Memorial Ethics Scholarship: **Miguel Parada**; Sempra Energy Scholarship: **Alex Flores**; College Planning Source Scholarship:

Chloe S. Kavanaugh.

Scholarship chair, Kim Martinez, gave a background on each scholarship as she introduced each recipient.

Each month, one or two awardees will be highlighted in the newsletter.

The **Mary Wagner Memorial Scholarship's** recipient, Ashley Green, will be a second year graduate student at San Diego State University.

"Growing up in a small town south of Dallas, I had very little exposure to individuals who were out as members of the LGBT community. It wasn't something that was talked about at school, and the few boys who were perceived as being too feminine were teased and bullied for their assumed sexuality. When I started discovering my own interest in girls, I had no way to identify it. In middle school and high school I would tell myself I was just jealous of how pretty they were, and that I wanted them to like me for the same reasons so many young women feel the need to fit into 'cliques.' It wasn't until my senior year that I realized something was different and began identifying as bisexual. I didn't tell anyone, and I chose to go to college across the country so that I could start over and be open about my identity. I went to a small university in southern West Virginia, but my experiences finally coming out didn't go exactly as planned. When I told my first college roommate that I had a girlfriend, she was horrified at the idea. She convinced the other young women in our suite to move to another dorm, and I was left feeling rejected and alone.

Identifying as bisexual, I was targeted

by the stereotypes many associate with the identity, such as being confused or being promiscuous. I always responded the same way, that love wasn't about gender. A few years ago, I learned there was actually a term for that: pansexual. It recognizes that the word bisexual implies that gender is binary, and accounts for the multiple gender identities that exist outside of this dichotomy. That isn't to say that identifying as bisexual is wrong or exclusive, just that I didn't feel the term properly identified me. How did I discover this perfect term to describe my identity? By watching an episode of the show *Catfish*. This identify is so invisibilized within scholarship and the community, that it took me years to properly identify the way I had been feeling, and even then it was discovered in a rather unconventional way. For this reason, I have chosen to make this identity the focus of my Master's thesis, 'Pansexuality: Auto-Ethnography and Personal Narratives of Identity Formation.'



In addition to conducting research about a lesser-known sexual identity, I am adamant about helping to create a safe and welcoming environment for students who are going through the coming-out process. Coming out in college was one of the hardest times of my life, especially because I lived in such conservative areas that are not culturally competent regarding LGBT issues. Through my graduate assistantship with SafeZones@SDSU, I am able to help create a safe space for students who identify as members of the LGBTQIA community, in addition to creating a learning environment for students who wish to be allies to the community. I think that helping students to understand the issues faced by members of the

(Continued on Page 6)

HIGHLIGHTING OUR NEXT BOARD MEMBER



Kim requires no introduction!

Kimberly Martinez is passionate about education and

investing in a better future for our LGBT youth and the LGBT community. A native of Denver, Colorado, she made San Diego her home in 2006 while stationed on a nuclear aircraft carrier as a Nuclear Surface Warfare Officer. She joined PFLAG in 2011 when she started the first Raytheon GLBTA San Diego STEM Scholarship for LGBT students. Later that same year, she was voted and approved to serve as a PFLAG San Diego Board Member At Large. In 2012, she was selected unanimously by the board to succeed Olivia Dorman as the PFLAG San Diego Scholarship Chair.

In addition to volunteering at PFLAG, Kimberly volunteers with Gay for Good, a grassroots volunteer group that supports non-profit organizations throughout San Diego County. This year, she was also selected to participate in the LGBT Center's Young Professionals Council (YPC) Academy, Class of 2014. This program is for LGBT and straight allies and is a fairly new program at the Center. The class of 2014 is only the third graduating class. It entailed six Saturdays learning firsthand about LGBT issues in San Diego. Speakers City Council President Todd Gloria and California Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins were invaluable. Topics of study included urban planning, organizing, managing a nonprofit staff, service at a nonprofit, fundraising and achieving cohesion on various issues.

In her day job, Kimberly is a Senior Systems Engineer with Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems (IDS) at the Expeditionary Warfare Center in Kearny Mesa. She is among an esteemed group of engineers at her level to receive IDS Technical Honors, an engineering peer recognition award. In addition to her job in engineering, Kimberly is a dedicated servicemember, having served 11 years of combined active duty and active reserve service. After leaving active duty in 2008, she maintained her service as an Officer in the United States Navy by joining the reserves, and in 2013 she was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Kimberly holds a B.S. in Systems Engineering from the United States Naval Academy and is currently pursuing an M.S. in Systems Engineering at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterrey, CA.

Having lived and served under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, Kimberly understands full well what it's like not to be treated equally under the law. Out of fear of losing a job that she loved and worked so hard to achieve, she kept her personal life hidden and focused on her work, athletics and studies. She remembers the feeling of isolation and loneliness for being different, instead of the expected camaraderie and sense of belonging that exists in a tight knit fighting team like the Navy. Being an outsider not only made it difficult for Kimberly to establish close friendships, it also caused her to lose a few close family members and placed a lot of unnecessary strain on her relationships. After the repeal in

2009, having already left active duty to join the reserves and the team at Raytheon, she slowly started to accept herself and come out to her friends and coworkers. It has been a long journey of pains, sorrows and losses but it has made Kimberly who she is today – a compassionate and respected young leader.

Running in races for charity is one of her favorite hobbies. Among her favorite races are the Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon, the Women's Half Marathon, the Marine Corps Marathon and the Tough Mudder. Additionally, she is a member of the Planetary Society and enjoys learning about the new scientific discoveries in space. Kimberly lives in San Diego with her girlfriend, Jennifer and their dog Rue. Jennifer and Rue both help her maintain some sanity in her busy schedule and bring a lot of joy to her life. Her professional plans for the future are yet to be determined, but a life of civil and military service is sure to continue in the journey ahead.

*Editor's Note: Kim alluded to the Young Professionals Council (YPC) Academy at The LGBT Center. As a participant, she is graduating on **Saturday, June 29** at 11:00 am at Wang's North Park (3029 University Avenue, San Diego). All are invited to attend a champagne brunch (bottomless mimosas!). Individual tickets are \$40 and can be purchased from The Center (www.sdcenter.org). A portion of the ticket price will become a donation to the LGBT Center and invest directly into future YPC Academy classes!*

DATES TO SAVE

Saturday, **September 13**: South Bay Art and Music Festival, noon-10:00 pm at Bayfront Park in Chula Vista.
Saturday, **September 27**: 25th Annual AIDS Walk and Run San Diego

REFLECTIONS OF PRIDE

(continued from Page 1)

trans folks who came before me and refused to allow anyone to silence their voices for equality and justice.”

Ms Cox has shared her story and message across the country, through public speaking and published works. An incredibly proud moment came when she was asked to grace the cover of *TIME* magazine. She appeared on the June 9 issue. What a joyous moment for the trans community.

Next up is the pièce de résistance: The Pride Parade, which takes place on **Saturday, July 19**, beginning at 11:00 am. The route is 1.5 miles. If you have never marched in San Diego’s parade, you are in for a real treat. Besides all the excitement of the event, the crowd goes crazy when PFLAG passes by. There are upwards of 300,000 spectators. And speaking of walking 1.5 miles, if you cannot walk that distance and want to ride in the parade, please contact Wayne Walker immediately. There are a limited number of cars/spots; space is limited**. Wayne can be reached at 858-565-6797 or waynew6@live.com. ****WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF CARS AND DRIVERS FOR THE PARADE.**

PLEASE CONTACT WAYNE IF YOU CAN OFFER YOUR ASSISTANCE.

The Grand Marshal is the honorable Speaker of the Assembly, Toni Atkins.

After the Parade, and continuing on Sunday, is the Pride Festival which includes multiple stages of entertainment, more than 80 musicians, bands, comedy and dance performers, 300 participating vendor booths, an art exhibit, cultural presentations, and great food! There is also a Farmers Market, Beer Garden, and Youth Zone. Most important is our PFLAG booth, located on the main drag. The festival is located at Marston Point at 6th and Juniper in Hillcrest. New this year: all tickets are \$20 and are good for both days of the Pride Festival. To purchase tickets online: www.sdpride.org. Please note, there are no discounts for seniors or military this year.

Here comes the lecture part. For the Pride Parade on Saturday, read this BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME! These are suggestions that have stood the rest of time: 1) get to the shuttle buses early; there are free shuttle buses from

the old Balboa Naval Hospital located on Park Blvd. across from President’s Way. If you usually wait until the last minute, don’t, as the buses back up and you’ll be waiting in line so long that you’ll miss part of the parade (for those not taking the bus, the parade starts at the Hillcrest Pride Flag at the corner of University Avenue and Normal Street), 2) wear comfortable shoes, 3) put on lots of sun block, 4) wear a hat, 5) bring a camera/cell phone, 6) make PFLAG signs and bring them, 7) wear as much PFLAG/rainbow clothing and paraphernalia as you own.

Most likely we will not know the location of our contingent until a week before the parade. Ditto for knowing what number we are in the parade. We will be sending out an email as soon as we know and also posting the location on our website. If you do not have email, when you get off the bus, you can ask at the information booth located at University Avenue and Normal Street.

Hope to see your decorated selves and signs at the Parade.

MAMA'S KITCHEN KEEPS ON TRUCKIN'

Thurs, June 26 | 6-9pm
3960 Home Ave | San Diego

Purchase Tix:
mamaskitchen.org

Join Mama’s Kitchen for their Food Truck Foodie Fest! Sample delicious bites from three outstanding Food Trucks. Bar proceeds & a portion of ticket sales benefit Mama’s Kitchen. The Board will match dollar for dollar the first 100 tickets sold!

SCHOLARS GALORE!

(continued from Page 4)

LGBT community is integral to the creation of this safe space, and I have had the pleasure of working with approximately thirty-five interns over the past two semesters. One of the happiest moments for me was having an intern who identifies as an ally tell me that, although she was previously unsure of how she wanted to use her Women’s Studies degree, this internship has inspired in her a desire

to work with the LGBT community after she graduates.

When I complete my degree in Women’s Studies, I will also be among the first group of students to receive a Graduate Certificate in LGBT Studies from SDSU, which is the second university in the country to offer one. My ultimate goal is to earn my PhD, to continue my research, and to teach at the university level. Although my

assistantship with SafeZones only lasted for one year, I have valued this opportunity more than I can say. I hope to ensure that programs similar to this one are implemented at any school I may attend or teach at in the future. It is so important for me to know that my own future classroom and the university as a whole create a safe space for LGBT students and a safe learning environment for potential allies.”

IT GOT BETTER



For the last four years, the "It Gets Better Project" has highlighted athletes, politicians, celebrities, and every day folk to encourage gay or bullied youth not to give up and that it will get better if they hang in there. From the same folks who created the "It Gets Better Project," there is now "It Got Better."

In April, 2013, Jason Collins came out as the first active gay athlete in professional sports. He recently did a video for "It Got Better" and tells his story.

He said once he hit 16, he knew he

was at least different from his fellow athletes. It wasn't until 2011, however, when Collins finally was able to muster the courage to say "I'm gay" to another human. In this case, it was an NBA trainer who was in an "It Gets Better" video the previous year.

Eventually he began to share his truth with close friends and family, but he still felt stifled by the "CIA" act he had to put on when he played with teammates or was traded to a new team. Even after changing his jersey number to 98 to mark the year of the death of gay college student Matthew Shepard and the launch of the Trevor Project, Collins said he still felt like he was hiding.

"After 12 years in the NBA, I just got tired of it," he said. That's when he finally decided to share his story in a cover story in *Sports Illustrated*. And now that he has been scooped up by the Brooklyn Nets, Collins is free to live his life and be out in the process.

He advised young athletes who may still be uncertain about coming out, "You don't have to fit a stereotype. You can be your own person. It's fun to break a stereotype; it's fun to challenge people's misconceptions about what it means to be gay."

Collins added, "If someone has a problem with [your sexuality], that's on them. It's not on you."

"JUST THE FACTS, MA'AM"

Many of you will recognize that quote from Joe Friday on Dragnet. If Michael Sam, Jr. were a straight football player, that is all you would know and there would be no hoopla. The bottom line is, he wants to be seen as a football player. Not the gay football player. But alas, that will never be (well, not for a very long time).

Here are some facts. Sam attended Hitchcock High School in Hitchcock, Texas, where he played football. He earned first-team All-District honors as a defensive lineman in all four years of high school, and as an offensive lineman in his junior and senior years. He was recruited by a number of top notch colleges; he accepted a scholarship with the University of Missouri. So far, we know he's a good high school football player and it's not publicly known he's gay. Outside of college football, most people never heard of him.

Continuing, Michael played for the Missouri Tigers, where he was named the Southeastern Conference Co-Defensive Player of the Year and also named a first-team by a slew

of football associations. He showed his athletic ability in numerous ways and he was loved. Now he's a great college football player and it's not publicly known he's gay. Outside of college football, most people never heard of him.

Then the bomb drops. At the end of completing his college football career, Sam publicly came out as gay. Oh my goodness, what shall we do?

All the news organizations and info TV shows were having a field day. Then came the NFL football draft. He was finally drafted as a defensive end for the St. Louis Rams (third-day, seventh-round pick – if he weren't gay, most likely he would have gotten drafted sooner). ESPN cameras were there when he received the phone call and then came "the kiss." He and his boyfriend had the nerve to kiss on national TV with a large viewership. Of course, no one would have batted an eyelash if a football player kissed his wife, but this was too much to bear. Everyone (positive and negative) voiced their opinion.

Another fact: as of mid-May, his jersey had become a best-seller among NFL rookies.



President Obama congratulated Sam, the Rams and the NFL for this important step toward equality. He said, "From the playing field to the corporate boardroom, LGBT Americans prove every day that you should be judged by what you do and not who you are." (even if he wasn't picked until the seventh-round).

As one sportscaster put it, "In this world, where equality is a concept and not a reality, minorities are expected to focus not on their achievements but on what it all means to their disenfranchised group. Even if it's not fair. Even if it's not what we dream for ourselves."

When he made his official announcement, as one of the news organizations reported, "Sam was already out — he just invited the rest of us in."

LUV MADONNA

The music of the material girl is coming to San Diego, presented, of course, by the San Diego Gay Men's Chorus. This concert will have a bit of everything: over-the-top sets, costumes, dancers and productions like you've never done before! Besides the oldies, there will be three relatively new Madonna songs.

The concerts are Saturday, **July 12** at 8:00 pm and Sunday, **July 13** at 3:00 pm. at the Balboa Theatre, 868 4th Avenue, downtown San Diego. For tickets and more info, go to www.sdgmc.org.

Luan D. Andrews, M.A.

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