



# THE NEWSLETTER

November 2014 // ISSUE 11 // VOLUME 21



## OTHER SHEEP



Please join us for our general meeting on **Monday, November 24** at 7:00 pm at Jewish Family Service (JFS), 8804 Balboa Avenue, San Diego. Please note, we are now meeting in room 101.

Our guest speaker, Reverend Steve Parelli, is the Executive Director of Other Sheep, a multicultural, ecumenical, non-profit Christian ministry founded in 1992 in Latin America. Other Sheep works worldwide for the full inclusion of LGBT people of faith within their respective faith-traditions.

Rev. Parelli will share with us his personal journey of reconciling his Christian faith with being gay. He was a busy man during the summer of 2014, traveling with his ministry to: Botswana, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Nepal, and India.

We were fortunate enough that The Reverend, who is based in New York, will happen to be in San Diego for a conference the week of our meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: There is a change of order to the meeting. Rev. Parelli will speak first, then our cookie social, followed by the support groups.

## TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

**Thursday, November 20** is San Diego's 12th 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 5th Annual North County Transgender Day of Remembrance. The memorial ceremony will be held from 6:00-7:30 pm, in the parking lot of the North County LGBTQ Resource Center, 510 North Coast Highway in Oceanside.

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 2015. 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, [pflag.com](http://pflag.com) (we accept PayPal), at the General Meeting, or by the application in the October 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.

## DON'T MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WE WILL NOT HAVE A GENERAL MEETING IN DECEMBER. THE DATE OF THE MEETING WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO CLOSE TO CHRISTMAS. Last year, attendance was poor due to the same situation.

## DECEMBER EVENTS



**Dec 1 (Monday):** World AIDS Day. Please join Mama's Kitchen at Village Hillcrest for the 23rd Annual Tree of Life Ceremony, commemorating those affected by AIDS. It will take place at 6:00 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. All proceeds benefit Mama's Kitchen.

**Dec 6:** All are welcomed to The Center's annual multicultural holiday party from 5-8 pm at The Center, 3909 Centre Street in Hillcrest. "Come Home for the Holidays" is a community celebration with dancing and food galore. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy to support the Imperial Court de San Diego's annual toy drive.

**Dec 6 & 7:** The San Diego Women's Chorus will present their 27th annual winter/holiday concert, "Home is Where the Heart is," on December 6 at 2:00 and 7:00 pm and December 7 at 4:00 pm. The concerts will be held at St. Andrew's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 1050 Thomas Avenue in Pacific Beach. To purchase tickets: [www.sdwc.org](http://www.sdwc.org).

**Dec 13 & 14:** The San Diego Gay Men's Chorus's annual holiday concert is on December 13 at 8:00 pm. and December 14 at 3:00 pm. This year's show, "Holiday Spectacular," takes place at the Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue, in downtown San Diego. Go to [www.sdgmcc.org](http://www.sdgmcc.org) for ticket info.

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## WAY OUT YONDER IN EAST COUNTY



Having **Mary and Bob Dryden** on the board as members-at-large has been an inspiration to the rest of the board. They are the co-facilitators of the East County Support Group.

“Mary’s background in nursing (from Nurse’s Aide to Nurse Practitioner) exposed her to many aspects of health related issues. As a school nurse teaching grades seven to 12, it was very enlightening to learn about teenage concerns. Her favorite class was ‘Choices,’ helping students realize their responsibility for actions they take that effect their bodies and minds. She discussed with the students sexual diseases, contraception, and even touched on gender identity, which was amazing that this could be mentioned in conservative North Dakota in the late 1970’s and 1980’s. As a public health nurse and nurse practitioner, her career involved mental health and family planning clinics, home visitations regarding: truancy, abuse, infectious diseases, follow-up on drug addiction, etc.

Bob began a career in communications after a four year stint with the U.S. Air Force during a period when the services were still involved with racial integration. He was employed by the Bell System. His career began in basic telephone communication maintenance and ended 34 years later managing a two state engineering organization. His employer prided itself for being a good place to work for minorities, including LGBT employees, and was recognized for its efforts nationally. As a part of this, Bob attended a number of management seminars intended to develop sensitivity to racial and gender issues. He subsequently was appointed as chair of an interdepartmental committee to further awareness in the workplace.

Gender issues became a very personal matter to us in 1976. Our youngest son, Jim, came home from the University of Minnesota for a weekend visit and a few minutes before he was to leave said ‘Mom and Dad, we need to talk; you need to know I’m gay.’ This was totally off Bob’s radar, but on the other hand, it was not a complete surprise to Mary. We asked the usual battery of questions such as ‘are you sure?’ Jim has such an ideal personality for being a good father and we saw his chances of providing grandchildren diminishing. This occurred at a time when the airwaves in the Midwest were loaded with anti-gay evangelical ministers comparing gay men to murderers, rapists and pedophiles and recommending death penalties. We were very concerned for the safety of our much loved son. There had been suspected LGBT homicides, suicides, and bomb threats in this area. We sought counseling to learn how we could support and protect our son and were made aware of PFLAG, but there were no chapters in our vicinity. On

*Continued on Page 3*

## THANKS!

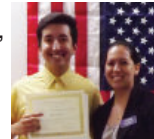
Providing Refreshments for Our Meeting  
Tracy Harkless

## NEXT ON THE HIT PARADE



The recipient of the **Stephen G. Bowersox Memorial Scholarship** is **Julio Chavez**. Julio graduated from El Cajon Valley High School and currently attends the University of Southern California. This scholarship is strongly predicated on social justice, demonstrated involvement and high academic achievement, as well as broad, far-reaching interests and activities. Julio fits this scholarship to a T. Besides being ASB president, GSA president, a swim team member, and the lead in three school plays, he had a weighted GPA of 4.5.

“On November 14th, 2013, during El Cajon Valley High School’s annual Multicultural lunch, my friend Ana approached me full of anger. I asked her what was wrong, and she had told me that some guy named Michael Harris recorded me while I was talking about ASB events and opportunities in a classroom. At first, I thought it was nothing to get mad about, but then she showed me her phone; the fifteen-second video was posted on Instagram. The video was of me speaking in front of Mrs. Reed’s fifth period English class, and by the end of the video Michael had whispered, ‘This dude’s a faggot.’ After watching the video, I was appalled. Being called a faggot hurt extensively, but what offended me



more was the fact that Michael was the captain of the football team, and myself and ASB were supporting the team with unbreakable commitment. Insulting me and putting it on social media was a huge slap to the face. Ana was hell bent on confronting him, and as much as I wanted to tell him off, I decided not to. I told Ana we would instead show the video to our ASB advisor, Ms. Vasquez, and then to the administration.

Months later, I am still glad that I did not listen to Ana that day. Once the administration was informed of the video, they brought down the hammer on Michael and got the video off of Instagram within a couple hours. Without starting an unnecessary argument between Michael and myself, I was able to obtain the same if not better -- results from reporting the video to the school’s administration: Michael had to take behavioral classes for his actions, the video was taken down, and if Michael had ever bullied me again this school year, he would automatically be suspended from school. I guess my best response to this whole situation was not really responding to Michael directly; to this day, he still does not know Ana and I were the ones who reported the video. Avoiding to ‘fight fire with fire’ and insult Michael right back, I simply put the issue in the hands of the adults, and it was all taken care of. I do not care if I am seen as a snitch or tattle-

tale; I did not like how I was portrayed online, so I sought out the right help who taught Michael a lesson.

Although this was not the first time my sexuality has been targeted, at the end of the day, I don’t let it bother me, because I love who I am. Even today, I chuckle at this whole event, because I think, ‘if Michael was so big and bad, he would have called me a faggot to my face.’ Despite being disrespected by a fellow Brave, I learned the amount of respect and love for myself is substantial, and that is what kept me strong and from breaking down from this whole situation.

My goals and hopes for college are targeted toward the University of Southern California and the University of California, Los Angeles; the irony being that either one I (hopefully) get accepted to and attend, the other will be my rival. Attending college in Los Angeles is a priority for me because it is far away enough to avoid old faces back in El Cajon, into a new area to familiarize myself with, but also close enough to come home whenever necessary. The two schools are also highly prestigious, and I would love to attend either one in pursuit of a business or economic career path. This scholarship will not only help ease my burden of paying for the high costs of college, living, and books, but also provide me the opportunity to continue my education as an LGBT youth.”

## WAY OUT YONDER IN EAST COUNTY *(Continued from Page 2)*

9-11-2001, we moved to Lakeside, California. We began attending Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and soon discovered they hosted a satellite PFLAG group. We were asked, in 2004, if we would open and close Summit’s library for their meeting, which involved attending the support meetings, and we soon became hooked on PFLAG. We trained as facilitators and worked on outreach projects with local media,

libraries, schools, and the Santee Street Fair. In March of this year, we were invited to be on the San Diego PFLAG Board of Directors, which is a challenge, a wonderful learning experience, and an opportunity to collaborate with some terrific PFLAG volunteers.

Our son, Jim, and his partner, Wayne of 32 years, were wed one year ago, in a

large, backyard ceremony attended by over 200 people (including legislators) celebrating their love and the advent of marriage equality in Minnesota.”

**We have posted a “story” about Bob and Mary’s son and his partner’s wedding on our web site (pflag.com). It is most interesting and told from a third party who was not related to the couple, but very close to them.**



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### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Nov 17, Dec 1, 15:**  
Mi Familia Support Grp  
Patti: 619-227-6092

**Dec 1:**  
North County Coastal  
Support Group  
Annette: 760-518-3345

**Dec 8:**  
East County Support Grp  
Bob: 619-334-8214

**Dec 14:**  
East County Support Grp  
Bob: 619-334-8214

*Luan D. Andrews, M.A.*

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