

THE JOURNEY OF ME



Please join us for our general meeting on **Monday, June 22 at 7:00 pm** at Jewish Family Service

(JFS). We've moved next door (west) to 8788 Balboa Avenue. There is plenty of parking. **ARRIVE EARLY TO GIVE YOURSELF TIME TO PURCHASE BUTTONS, BRACELETS, LEIS, BUMPER STICKERS, AND OTHER GOODIES FOR THE PRIDE PARADE.** Please bring cash or check only.

Our speaker is Dr. TreaAndrea Russworm, who identifies as a butch or masculine of center woman; she plans to speak about her identity as such. Her presentation is titled: "The Journey to Me."

TreaAndrea is a Professor in the Department of English at UMass, Amherst. Her current research project is on race, popular culture, and psychoanalytic thought during the civil rights era.

Her teaching interests, both primary and secondary, include post-1950s African American literature and culture, film and television studies, American studies, psychoanalysis, digital media (including video game theory and culture) and representations of race and community in the "avatar age."

Please join us for our support groups, then our cookie social, followed by Dr. Russworm's presentation.



at 6:00 pm. The rally will take place at Marston Point, 6th Avenue and Laurel Street. The Spirit of Stonewall Awards are designed to honor individuals and organizations that have made a positive impact on San Diego's LGBT community. The event is free.

Next up is the pièce de résistance: The Pride Parade, which takes place on **Saturday, July 18**, beginning at 11:00 am. It starts at University Avenue and Normal Street in Hillcrest. The route is 1.1 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 100,000 spectators. And speaking of walking 1.1 miles, if you cannot walk that distance and want to ride in the parade, please contact Karen Thompson immediately. There are a limited number of cars/spots. Karen can be reached at

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HMDB



As always, the Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast was well-attended by the LGBT community and allies. PFLAG attendees, were once again, honored to share the table with members of GLSEN. It's always exciting to see so many familiar faces, hear the guest speakers, and cheer on the local recipients of the HMDB awards. This year, the Harvey Milk/Nicole Murray Ramirez Scholarship was awarded to Isaac Gomez, past PFLAG scholarship recipient.

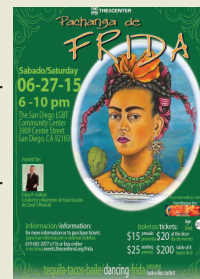


Although Pride Weekend isn't until **July 17-19**, we wanted to give you the scoop early because it may be a close call getting the newsletter to you early enough in July.

The official kickoff for Pride's 41st year of celebrating LGBT Pride Weekend will begin on **Friday, July 17**, with the Spirit of Stonewall Awards and Rally

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 27** 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. Lonnie Brunini and PFLAG have sponsored a table; you may contact Terrie Vorono to see if there are any tickets left (tvorono@pflag.com). If not, 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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Current Events

June 22 | Monday

San Diego General Meeting
and Support Groups

June 27 | Saturday

Pachanga de Frida
(see article)

June 30 | Tuesday

Job Fair
(see article)

July 6 | Monday

PFLAG Support Group
North County Coastal

July 6 | Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

July 10-11 | Friday & Saturday

Diversionary Theatre
(see article)

July 13 | Monday

PFLAG Support Group
East County

July 16 | Thursday

PFLAG Support Group
North County Inland

July 17-19

Friday-Sunday
Pride Weekend
(see article)

July 20 | Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

July 25-26

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



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

VISION STATEMENT

PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

MISSION STATEMENT

By meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG realizes its vision through: Support for families, allies and people who are LGBTQ; Education for ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ; Advocacy in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ.

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 northcountycoastal@pflag.com or

Annette Ottone, 760-518-3345.

NORTH COUNTY INLAND

Meets the third Thursday at 7:00 pm, Windermere Homes & Estates, 16783 Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo.

Contact Kathie Moehlig: 858-382-9156

or northcountyinland@pflag.com

EAST COUNTY

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

Contact Bob Dryden: 619-334-8214

or bdryden@pflag.com

SOUTH BAY

The Support Group is not presently meeting. For a private meeting for support and concerns, you can do so by appointment.

Contact: Patti Boman, 619-227-6092

or pboman@pflag.com

MI FAMILIA (Spanish)

Meetings are the first and third Mondays of the month from 6:30pm - 8:00 pm at The Center, 3909 Centre Street, Hillcrest

Contact Patti Boman, 619-227-6092

TRANSGENDER SUPPORT

For more information on the Transgender Support Group

Contact Kathe Dunn, ftm_mom@yahoo.com.

LAUNCHING LEADERS A SUCCESS

What a wonderful and glorious Scholarship Awards Luncheon was enjoyed on May 15. We were fortunate to be able to present eight scholarships this year. Teaming up with San Diego Human Dignity Foundation was a very wise move. They did a fabulous job of gathering sponsors, securing a venue, and advertising so that our first-ever luncheon program would be a success for our inaugural partnership. They/we raised \$5500 for PFLAG San Diego County to provide more scholarships in the future.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Vinnie Pompei, Director of the Youth Well-Being Project at the Human Rights Campaign Foundation and chair of Time to THRIVE, did an excellent job of engaging the audience and even drafted PFLAG members JoyLynn Murray and Mark Thompson to assist.



Presenting our 2015 recipients:

The Mary Wagner Memorial Scholarship: **Crystal Knight**; John Bessemer Memorial Scholarship: **Amber Escobar**; Rob Benzon Memorial Scholarships: **Andria Montgomery and Trevor Hill**; Stephen G. Bowersox Memorial Scholarship: **Arturo Soriano**; John McCusker Memorial Scholarship: **Francine Oca**; Raytheon STEM Scholarship: **Mariel Hoac**; Richard Geyser Memorial Ethics Scholarship: **John Kenney**. Two scholarships were also presented from MiraCosta College to **Brayan Astorga** and **Jordan Daniels**.

Thank you to emcee **Ian Morton** for running the show and keeping it moving with his good sense of humor and to scholarship chair, **Kim Martinez**, for again, heading a committee who continually gets it right. Although Kim is stepping down as scholarship chair, she put us into the 21st Century to make future years run efficiently and smoothly. A special, special thank you to San Diego Human Dignity Foundation Executive Director **John L. Brown**, who set us on the path to success with his leadership vision. All acknowledgements are listed on page eight.

The **Mary Wagner Memorial Scholarship** is our longest running scholarship – 17 years! Friends of Mary Wagner, Art and Marilyn Carpenter and Sharon Murphy, have made this annual scholarship possible. The recipient is **Crystal Knight**, a graduate student at the University of San Diego who has been actively changing the lack of LGBT culture at the university.

"If the worst thing that the University of San Diego has been in the news for is acts of intolerance against the

gay community, I'd say that USD is pretty darn safe," the administrator said to a table full of graduate candidates. It was a small comment said in passing with no conscious intention to harm, but it has grown into a representative microaggression of the invisibility and invalidation that I have experienced at the University of San Diego. After the mixer with administrators and faculty, the rest of the School of Leadership and Education Sciences Graduate School Interview Day was composed of eggshell-walking observations. I'd heard other homophobic comments from student affairs professionals and was disappointed that my dream program was located within a hostile campus climate. I left the university crying, swearing that I'd never return.

Three days later, I received an assistantship offer from the United Front Multicultural Center. I had asked detailed questions about what my role could look like and the potential opportunities for enacting social change on campus. I was reassured that this position would allow me to have a positive influence in the USD community and after much thought, I was determined to be a staff member that countered the administrator who reinforced LGBT invisibility and invalidation. Knowing that this was going to be a personal risk and professional challenge, I accepted the position and enrolled at USD.

The University of San Diego is reflective of a heteronormative society that doesn't validate members of the queer community effectively or bring sufficient visibility to LGBT issues. I've experienced a lack of LGBTQQIA curricula and inclusive events focused on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.



Crystal and scholarship chair, Kim

When planning programs about the transgender community, I'm often met with questions about fit within the university's mission and Catholic identity. The absence of an LGBTQ Resource Center reduces access to resources, retention efforts and support services. While there are two PRIDE student organizations on campus, they are not accessible to all graduate students and I've personally experienced a loss of community. These institutional inequities have challenged my personal sense of worth and identity, while fueling my motivation to provide mentoring and safe spaces for LGBTQ students.

I am a visible role model to LGBTQQ undergraduate students and I work hard to increase ally visibility. As the Safe Space Allies Coordinator, I co-facilitate 2-4 trainings per semester about bias and effective allyship. The community member trainees receive a Safe Space Ally emblem to put in their office or dorm room that provides

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WAY TO GO, CAITLYN AND SAM

There's not much to say that the public doesn't already know about the bravery of the former Bruce Jenner who is now Caitlyn Jenner. She recently graced the cover of *Vanity Fair* and spoke publicly since completing gender transition. She compares the two-day photo shoot for the magazine that she said was emotionally charged, with famed photographer, Annie Leibovitz, to winning the gold medal for the decathlon at the 1976 Olympics. Caitlyn tells Pulitzer Prize-winning *Vanity Fair* contributing editor, Buzz Bissinger, "That was a good day, but the last couple of days were better. . . . This shoot was about my life and who I am as a person. It's not about the



fanfare, it's not about people cheering in the stadium, it's not about going down the street and everybody giving you 'that a boy, Bruce,' pat on the back, O.K. This is about your life." Much continued happiness to Caitlyn.



Locally, we have our own hero, Sam Moehlig. Sam was born female, but knew he was a "boy" from an early age. At age 11, his family caught on and he began to transition. Now at age 14, in July, he will undergo surgery to remove breast tissue. As Sam said, "When I found out I could be a boy, it was oh, yes, sign me up." His mom Kathie, PFLAG member and North County Inland Facilitator, is his biggest cheerleader. Sam and Kathie were on the front page of the *San Diego Union-Tribune* on June 7 (picture and all) as part of an article on trans* teens.

BRAVE NEW WOMAN

Kasha Jacqueline Nabagesera, is an out lesbian and co-founder and editor of Uganda's first LGBT publication, *Bombastic*. Ms Nabagesera appeared on the cover of the European edition of *Time* magazine. It is incredibly brave for her to do so. The article is aptly named, "Out of Africa." She told the U.S. publication, *The Advocate*, she hopes the cover will not only bring awareness to the plight of LGBT Ugandans, but help people around the world realize that LGBT people are their friends, neighbors, and family members. In addition to being the editor of *Bombastic*, she is also the executive director of an advocacy organization, Freedom and Roam Uganda.

WELCOME TO THE NEW HYC COORDINATOR

After months without a coordinator for the Hillcrest Youth Center, we join The LGBT Center in welcoming Brandon Torres. HYC will be open several days a week for youth 14-18, both LGBTQ and allies, during the summer. The hours are to be determined.

Hillcrest Youth Center is a safe, welcoming and affirming space where kids can be themselves and access the resources they need: health education, basic financial education, computer access, youth leadership training, HIV prevention education, life skills training workshops, discussion groups, creative and performing arts programming, and amazing social activities.

ESPN WITHOUT THE S

The Equality Professionals Network (EPN), a coalition that represents LGBT business professionals and their allies, will hold their third annual LGBT & Allies Career Event on **Tuesday, June 30**, 4:30 pm, at The LGBT Center. This free event is open to all LGBT community members and allies, and includes a job fair, professional development workshops, and networking. The event will feature a variety of San Diego employers, including, but not limited to the following: CareFusion/Becton Dickinson, Comerica Evans Hotels, Qualcomm, San Diego Housing Commission, Sony Electronics, Thermo Fisher/Life Sciences, UC San Diego, Manpower, Union Bank, and Raytheon. Human resource professionals and internal and external recruiters from these employers will be on hand to share information about job opportunities, meet diverse candidates face-to-face, and support building a diverse workforce.

Some of the speakers and topics covered in event workshops are: "Career Choices- Finding Your Passion"- Phil Blair (Manpower); "I Transitioned at Qualcomm: A Lesson in Trans* Self-Advocacy"- Erica Worthington (Qualcomm); "It's (not) A Man's World and Other Observations from the 25th Floor"- Stefanie Warren (McKenna, Long, and Aldridge LLP); "Job Trends in the San Diego Economy"- Vicki L. Krantz (UCSD); "The Mature Workforce Initiative in San Diego County"- Ellen Schmeding (Aging & Independence Services); and "Being Transgender in the Workplace"- Joselyn Harris (UCSD) and Connor Maddocks (The Center). The first workshop begins promptly at 5 pm, so attendees are encouraged to arrive early to get a seat. Check-in will open at 4:30 pm. Attendees are also encouraged to bring their resumes for review and recommendations from personnel at Manpower Workpath Training.

PRIDE 2015 *(continued from Page 1)*

858-842-7005 or kthompson6447@gmail.com. A big thank you to Karen and Mark Thompson for reprising their roles as parade coordinators.

Rather than honor one person, the entire Trans* Community is the Community Grand Marshal! It's an honor to recognize and honor the contributions of San Diego's trans* community in the pursuit of Liberty and Justice For All. Anyone who would like to join the open trans* community contingent, go to: www.tiny.cc/SDtrans.

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 Laurel in Balboa Park. All tickets are \$20 (+\$1.75 service charge if purchased online) and are good for both days of the Pride Festival. To purchase tickets: 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 test 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.

Here are a few suggestions to put on your signs: Closets are for Clothes, Focus on Your Own Family, Gay Rights ARE Civil Rights, Homophobia - Now That's a Choice, I'm for the Separation of Church and Hate, Homophobia - That's SO last millennium, I'm the Pink Sheep of the Family, Love Knows No Gender, Protect Marriage. Let's Expand It, What Part of Love Don't You Understand?, We the People - that means all of us.

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

LAUNCHING LEADERS *(continued)*

a marker of validation to LGBT students and serves as a visible indicator of the network of supportive allies on campus that can be contacted. As a Rainbow Educator, I create and co-facilitate workshops on campus that build awareness around identity and oppression and promote inclusion of the LGBT community. I also informally mentor 3 students who have sought me out as a person who reflects and validates their identity: an individual in a multiracial genderqueer relationship.

In one and a half years, I will earn an M.A. in Higher Education Leadership with an emphasis in Student Affairs. My Action Research graduate requirement is focused on the identity and leadership development of LGBT student leaders at religiously affiliated universities. This research will provide data to create an advising tool focused on increasing LGBT visibility and validation to share with student affairs professionals, staff, and faculty that advise the LGBT population at USD. I aspire to be the director of a

PRIDE/LGBT Center and continue my work with values in intersectional feminism and social justice. My education will allow me to increase the visibility and validation of college LGBT students for my entire career."

The advertisement features a group of seven diverse professionals (three men and four women) dressed in business attire, standing in front of a large, vibrant rainbow flag. The text 'Building Business Prosperity & Equality' is prominently displayed in a bold, white, sans-serif font at the top. Below the group, the logo for the 'gsdba' (greater san diego business association) is shown in a stylized blue font. At the bottom right, there is a call to action: 'View our online Business Directory @ www.gsdba.org'.

NEWS IN BRIEF

• We are all eagerly waiting to hear the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on whether states can ban same-sex marriage. They will be deciding if the bans are prohibited by the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection under the law. The ruling is due at the end of June. The day the ruling comes down, and in the event of a positive outcome, The LGBT Center will open its doors to the community at 6:30 pm for a celebration. More info will be on their Facebook page when it happens.

• The LGBT Center is now conducting tours of the building. You will come out with insight and new literature! If interested, please contact Patti Boman at 619-227-6092 or pboman@pflag.com.

• It was sad news to learn of the death of Beau Biden. He was a vibrant supporter of marriage equality and transgender civil rights, as well as gender identity issues.

• Guam became the first U.S. territory to recognize same-sex marriage. Marriage licenses for same-sex couples were issued beginning on June 8. As was the right thing to do, the judge said the ban violated a gay couple's constitutional right to equal protection under the law. We hope SCOTUS is listening.

• The Diversionary Theatre presents *Sometimes it Snows in Atlanta* on **July 10 and 11**. The play boldly addresses mental health in both the African-American and LGBT communities. For times and ticket info: diversionary.org.

• One chick at a time: A franchise owner of the anti-gay Chick-fil-A restaurant chain might be changing its stance on the LGBT community. The one in Coralville, Iowa is going to donate 200 sandwiches and sides to the Iowa City's Pride picnic on June 19. The owner helped with sponsorship of another LGBT event last year.

• The San Diego Gay Men's Chorus will present: "Imagine--The Music of Lennon & McCartney" on **Saturday, July 25** at 8:00 pm and **Sunday, July 26** at 3:00 pm at the Balboa Theatre. For tickets: www.sdgmc.org.

• Let's here it for Ireland and Mexico, the latest two countries to embrace marriage equality.

OUT IN INDIANA

Peter Buttigieg, the Mayor of South Bend, Indiana, came out as gay in his local newspaper, the *South Bend Tribune*, about a week ago, saying his decision to go public was based on the growing acceptance of gay rights in the United States.

"Any day now, the Supreme Court will issue a decision on same-sex marriage that will directly affect millions of Americans. It comes at a time of growing public acceptance and support for equal rights. But no matter what the Court does, issues of equality are hardly settled across the country. We're moving closer to a world in which acceptance is the norm."

If you recall, in March, state lawmakers approved a religious freedom bill to protect businesses and individuals who may not want to provide services to gays. The measure was later altered after business leaders condemned the law and vowed to boycott the state. Added Buttigieg in the article, "In the wake of the disastrous 'Religious Freedom Restoration Act' episode here in Indiana earlier this year, we have an opportunity to demonstrate how a traditional, religious state like ours can move forward."

MADE BY RAFFI

A new children's book by Craig Pomranz, *Made by Raffi*, has been released and is gaining a lot of attention. This Raffi is not to be confused with the writer of children's songs, Raffi.

Inspired by a true-life incident, this is the story of a little boy who likes to knit and sew-- at first he is teased for his hobby, but in the end he becomes a hero to his class. The illustrator is award-winning artist, Margaret Chamberlain.

"I wrote the book to support young boys and girls who are perceived as 'different' because of their appearance or hobbies," said Pomranz. "It is a funny colorful book with a serious message and will interest those who care about promoting diversity and embracing our differences, as well as all children seeking to fit in."

Luan D. Andrews, M.A.

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With special thanks to everyone involved in making the 2015 Scholarship Awards Ceremony a huge success.

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