



THE NEWSLETTER

July 2016

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MUSIC NOTE SUMMERTIME AND WE'RE HAVING A PICNIC! MUSIC NOTE



Please join us for the Metro general meeting on **Monday, July 25** at 7:00 pm at Jewish Family Service, 8788 Balboa Avenue, San Diego.

It's time for our annual summer potluck indoor picnic. We will not have a speaker this month so that we can graze and have time to chat with other members. **THE ORDER OF OUR MEETING WILL NOT BE THE USUAL.** We will have the potluck first, followed by the support groups. If you are not able to make the potluck, but wish to attend the support groups, they will start around 8:00 pm.

Please bring any type of dish you'd like to share, enough for 8-10 people (main dish, salad, appetizer, side dish, casserole, or dessert). PFLAG will provide the beverages, paper goods, etc. Hope to see you there.

CELEBRATE PRIDE WEEKEND



The 42nd Annual Pride Weekend will be here soon – **July 15-17**. A list of events and information specific to PFLAG was in our May newsletter (you can view the newsletter online at www.pflag.com). One of the events listed on **July 15** is the Spirit of Stonewall Awards. A brief history for the youngins': In the early morning of June 28, 1969, a police raid on the Stonewall Inn -- a typical occurrence at gay bars in the 1960s

-- made history when patrons fought back. Not only did they fight back, but people protested outside the bar for weeks afterward, leading to the first march for gay and lesbian rights in July, 1969. Those protests are often credited as a flashpoint for LGBT rights in the United States.

In June, 2015, the New York City Landmarks Preservation Committee granted landmark status to the Stonewall Inn. That marked the first time a New York City site had been designated as a landmark, primarily for its significance to LGBT history. While that, in itself, was a huge deal, a few weeks ago, President Barack Obama named the Stonewall Inn, Christopher Park, and surrounding streets and sidewalks as the country's first national monument to LGBT rights. Thus, it is called Stonewall National Monument and it will be added to the National Park System. As President Obama said, "I believe our national parks should reflect the full story of our country -- the richness and diversity and uniquely American spirit that has always defined us, that we are stronger together. That out of many, we are one."



In San Diego, the first rally was held in 1975. Each year, San Diego Pride chooses to honor and recognize leaders with the Spirit of Stonewall Awards to those who are working hard to preserve our gains and meet the many challenges still facing the LGBTQ community. One of those individuals is Michael Moore (not of "Down Size This" fame), as the Community Grand Marshal. He is an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the LGBTQ community over an extended period of years with consideration to service to San Diego Pride.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

North County LGBTQ Resource Center is moving August 1. The next North County Coastal Support Group meeting will be held on August 1 at the new location: 3220 Mission Avenue, Unit #2, Oceanside.

COME JOIN THE TEAM



Put on your sneakers and get geared up to walk with PFLAG on Saturday, **September 24** for the 27th Annual AIDS Walk San

Diego, 7:35 am, starting at Normal Street and University Avenue. The registration fee is \$35 (\$25 for 17 & under and 60+). To register, go to www.AIDSwalksd.org and select Register at the top of the page, then Join an Existing Team. Either enter PFLAG San Diego or Search for a Team and find PFLAG San Diego. Click on the Join button and follow the instructions. More info will be in the August newsletter.

AT THE DIVERSIONARY

The Diversionary Theatre presents *Making Porn*, the long-running Off-Broadway hit comedy about the gay pornography industry. Note, there is nudity and adult content. In addition, the play, *A Gay Marriage* will be presented on some days in addition to *Making Porn*, and other times, by itself. This play is about what happens after the honeymoon ends. The plays run through **July 31**. For performance times (and a schedule of the performances) and ticket info, go to: www.diversionary.org. You can also call: 619-220-0097. When ordering, use the Promo Code PFLAG for a \$5 discount. The theatre is located at 4545 Park Blvd. in San Diego.

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FEATURING



The recipient of the **John Bessemer Memorial Scholarship** is **Jacob Garrett**. Linda Bessemer was proud to present the award to Jacob. He just completed his first year of graduate school at the University of San Diego. He is a research assistant, and what impressed his professor was how well he adapted and excelled in the Clinical

Mental Health Counseling program, having no background in that area. Prior to choosing this new direction, Jacob was a professional ballet dancer for eight years. While pursuing his degree, he volunteers teaching dance to small children, is active in the theatre community, maintains high academic standards, and works part-time. This summer, he will be traveling to Cambodia for his Multi-Cultural Counseling course. We are most pleased to present his essay:

"I moved to San Diego last summer to attend a Master's program at the University of San Diego. After I secured my place of residency I immediately thought about meeting my future friends. I turned to what I know best and where I have met close friends: ballet. I started taking open classes at City Ballet of San Diego and within a week, I was working the front desk. It was through this position that I was given the opportunity to join a program sponsored by the ballet company, Discover a Dancer.

The Discover a Dancer program teaches ballet to 2nd graders at an elementary school located in a lower income



PROUD OF MONARCH SCHOOL

Kudos to students, teachers, and staff at the Monarch School for starting a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA). With a donation from PFLAG SDC, the club is starting off their Pride Week at the school in style. The students were showing off their rainbow bracelets, as the staff was wearing rainbow lanyards. Many people are not aware of what a unique school Monarch is. The school serves grades K-12, which is exclusively for students who are homeless, at risk of being homeless, or impacted by homelessness. It is the only such school in the United States.

SAVE THE DATE

South Bay Pride Art & Music Festival will be happening on **Saturday, September 10** from noon-8:00 pm. As always, PFLAG will have a booth. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Patti Boman at pboman@pflag.com.

neighborhood. The primary objective of the reoccurring educational program is to expose a classical art form to roughly 175 children that may not get the opportunity otherwise. The seven to eight-year-old students take an hour long class similar to a typical ballet class once a week for a full academic year. The first day we fit the students with their own personal ballet slippers and show them how to prepare for class. When the students enter the auditorium we emphasize a sense of discipline that encompasses the ballet environment; for example, standing on the appropriate spot, holding their position after a barre combination, and crossing behind their classmates after completing a floor exercise.



My previous experiences working with youth range from teaching piano, facilitating a discussion group at a group home, and mentoring students. These experiences ushered me into my current studies. I am a first-year graduate student studying clinical mental health counseling and wish to work with children and young adults after graduation. I am especially interested in children that are suffering from depressive symptoms due to bullying. I highly believe that bullying is a major concern for the future. There is an abundant amount of research that supports the increased vulnerability of long-term psychological effects for victims of bullying and their perpetrators. One of my favorite quotes is by Fredrick Douglas: 'It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.' My aim for the future is to help children put their best foot forward."

SINGING, HOPEFULLY, NOT IN THE RAIN

The San Diego Women's Chorus will be presenting *Guided by the Heart* concert on **Thursday, July 14**. What a great way to kick off the Pride Weekend. The concert is at University Christian Church, 3900 Cleveland Avenue in Hillcrest at 7:30. Tickets are \$11.50 (including service charge) and may be purchased at sdwc.org.

On **July 30 (8:00 pm) and 31 (3:00 pm)**, the San Diego Gay Men's Chorus will be performing *Thriller – The Music of Michael Jackson*. It's Michael Jackson – not much else to say!! The venue is Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue, downtown San Diego. Tickets purchases may be made at sdgmc.org.

UPDATE ON VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

As an addendum to the article from the June newsletter, *Way to Go*, Valley Middle School in Carlsbad has a GSA club effective June 8, 2016. The vote by the School Board was unanimous.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July 21, August 18:
North County Inland
Kathie: 858-382-9156

August 1:
North County Coastal
Annette: 760-518-3345

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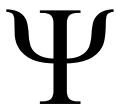
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