



THE NEWSLETTER

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ISAAC'S STORY



Please join us for the Metro general meeting and Support Groups on **Monday, September 26** at 7:00 pm at Jewish Family Service, 8788 Balboa Avenue, San Diego.

Isaac Gomez was born female, but at a very young age realized "she" was born in the wrong body. Eventually, Isaac shared his feelings with his parents. They wasted no time in researching the best course possible. Isaac recently graduated from UC Berkeley and it is fascinating to hear him and his mom, Monica, take you through his journey.

Please join us for support groups, then the cookie social, followed by Isaac and Monica's presentation.

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY



Every year on National Coming Out Day, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) celebrates the coming out as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) or as an ally on **October 11**. One of the popular beliefs regarding this day is to pressure closeted LGBT persons to come out. Not so!!

It was 27 years ago, on the anniversary of the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, HRC first observed National Coming Out Day as a reminder that one of our most basic tools is the power of coming out. One out of every two Americans has someone close to them who is gay or lesbian. For transgender people, that number is only one in 10.

Coming out - whether it is as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or allied - STILL MATTERS. When people know someone who is LGBTQ, they are far more likely to support equality under the law. Beyond that, the stories can be powerful to each other.

IN MEMORIAM



Mitchell Hoac passed away at the Intensive Care Unit at the Sharp Memorial Hospital on August 29, 2016. He was the son of active PFLAG member Mallory Hoac and brother of Mariel Hoac.

He was a stellar student at the Kearny Educational Complex School of Engineering, Innovation and Design. Mitchell was a part of the AJROTC program where he worked hard to motivate other students to achieve academic success.

During his free time, Mitchell made a tremendous impact in his community by attending volunteer activities such as color guard, clean-ups, tutoring, as well as elementary school and middle school events.

Our sincere condolences to Mallory and Mariel.

Anyone interested in helping with voter registration for the LGBT and ally community, contact Gabrielle Watson at gabriellejenae@hotmail.com

REMINDER

The North County Coastal Support Group Meeting is at their new location:

**NORTH COUNTY LGBTQ RESOURCE CTR,
3220 MISSION AVENUE, OCEANSIDE.**

SEE YOU OCTOBER 3! *New Location!*



Please join North County LGBTQ Resource Center for a community celebration AND To Stand With Orlando. They want to show that everyone matters! It's time to celebrate everyone no matter who they are regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, etc. The event is Saturday, **October 8** from 11:00 am-6:00 pm.

The event is free and offers a full day of fun: big time entertainment, music, dancing, an Art Alley, educational presentations, kids' garden, food, as well as other vendors!

The location is downtown Oceanside by the beach on Pier View Street and City Hall. Parking is located in the parking garage on the corner of Ditmar and Civic Center.

Funds raised go toward North County LGBTQ Resource Center's Annual GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance) Awards. These awards go directly to North County Gay-Straight Alliance clubs in the middle schools and high schools. The Center feels this is a great way to give back to the community.

Kudos to the Imperial Court de San Diego for providing the funding for activities for the Youth at Pride by the Beach.

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THANK YOU TO BRAD MALLARDI FOR MAKING
A DONATION TO THE GENERAL FUND.

THE LGBT COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU



As of now, there are **only 2 (two, dos, deux, due, shtey)** people signed up for the AIDS Walk for Team PFLAG San Diego County! We don't want to break the tradition of carrying our PFLAG sneaker sign or let down the LGBT community with less money for funding all the AIDS projects. To qualify for our sign, we must have at least 10 walkers registered by September 16.

The walk is **Saturday, September 24** (27th Annual). This is event is San Diego's largest one-day HIV/AIDS fundraiser and the biggest non-governmental financial provider for HIV/AIDS in San Diego County. Dozens of agencies, serving thousands of clients, rely on funds raised at the annual Walk to help provide essential prevention and care programs to thousands of men, women, and children living with HIV/AIDS.

The 5K Walk starts at 7:35 am (rain or shine) and begins 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.

There is free parking available at DMV Hillcrest (3960 Normal Street), Alice Birney Elementary School (4345 Campus Avenue), and San Diego Unified District Offices (4100 Normal Street) – all in Hillcrest.



PLEASE "WALK THE WALK" WITH US. Even if you can't physically participate, please register so we can meet our 10 person and financial goals (\$1000). If you don't have internet, call 619.692.2077 x 247 (Ian Johnson) to register. For questions, please contact Sherry Cohen-Richards, scohenrichards@pflag.com or call 858-349-6269.

LIZARD BOY

The Diversionary Theatre presents *Lizard Boy*. In The Diversionary's words: "Part comic book. Part musical horror tale. Part Lizard. Part Boy. From its acclaimed production in Seattle comes a radically original musical that will set San Diego ablaze. Legend has it that from the ashes of Mount St. Helens emerged a monster with mysterious powers that changed one boy's life forever. Freak or hero? Trevor better find out before it's too late. This indie-folk-rock-concert-coming-of-age-love-story about the power of individuality will shatter your notions of what a musical can be!" For sure, the play will keep you on your toes.

Dates for the play are **Sept 29-Oct 30**. For times 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.

NEXT ON THE HIT PARADE



Theodore (Teddy) Bruni is the recipient of the **John McCusker Memorial Scholarship**. Teddy will graduate this December from San Diego State University with a B.A. in English Literature Honors and a minor in Interdisciplinary Studies. In the summer of 2015, he worked for the U.S. Department of the Interior in New Mexico; and this past summer, Teddy worked as an intern for the Mayor's Office in Ecuador's capital city of Quito (through the Universidad San Francisco de Quito). Presently, he is studying for his law exams and is aspiring to attend law school in Los Angeles for Public Policy. Some of Teddy's accomplishments include being the Founding President of SDSU's Transfer Student Outreach Alliance, and being the volunteer coordinator for South Bay Gay Pride Art and Music Festival. The following is Teddy's scholarship essay:

"What I'm about to tell you, please do not tell my mom! The year was 2008, three months shy of my eighteenth birthday. It was the last Sunday of June, and my three best friends and I fueled up my baby powder blue Cadillac. At 5am, we drove to the University Park train station. A one-way-ride on the Metro, plus a mile walk to the Red Line and the flood gates opened – I was at Chicago Gay Pride, and my life would never be the same.

Growing up as a gay man in South Chicago was a life well accustomed to living a double identity. I knew how to walk down a city sidewalk and give off that, you know – don't mess with me persona; that flicker of aura that indicates, I'm from here, I know how to carry myself. Then on the flipside, there is the thoughtful, smart, and generous part of me. When I moved to San Diego in my early 20s, I was able to ease up my Chicago survival identity. With my fresh start, I returned to school at San Diego City College, and from there, I quickly became integrated into my newfound home.

OUR YOUTH WILL POINT THE WAY

Last month, there was information about an LGBTQ youth group – Our Space-Poway. It's facilitated by youth which is a great way to get our youth involved. It is held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at the Poway Library, 13137 County Highway S4 in Poway from 5:00 - 6:30 pm. The next meeting is **September 22**. Thanks to Kathie Moehlig for starting this important, worth-while group.

Another group started by Kathie is the TransFamily Support Group. It's a safe environment with guided discussion for transgender and gender-conforming children, teens, and young adults. All will be able to explore a multitude of topics around gender identity and expression. For information: info@transfamilysos.com.

As a result, part of the new me was becoming involved in service learning projects. For example, I have served as an apartment tester for CMH Consulting. My duties include testing for certain social variables to prevent discrimination and promote diverse public housing in San Diego. In 2014, I was one of the first researchers to test for LGBTQ housing friendliness. All the research I conduct is forwarded to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for statistics.

After becoming motivated by my work with CMH Consulting, I became involved with a Chula Vista nonprofit named South Bay Alliance (SBA). This past summer, I was living in New Mexico because of an internship with the U.S. Department of the Interior. Despite distance, I committed over 100 hours of service to SBA from afar in the form of press release/grant writing. When I returned in September 2015, all my work culminated into the Chula Vista South Bay Pride. I must say – the highlight was writing the proclamation speech for the mayor of Chula Vista to read the day of the event! My most recent SBA service project has been conducting LGBTQ Awareness Trainings for the community members of Chula Vista.

Moreover, since transferring to SDSU, I have been a grant writer, intern, and creative writing teacher for an organization called Poetic Youth. During my internship, one of my goals was to facilitate a new partnership. Being so, I reached out to the Hillcrest Youth Center and started an ongoing series of creative writing workshops for LGBTQ youth.

In all my service projects, I am able to provide a voice of inclusion as a member of the LGBTQ community. Every time I finish volunteering, the memory of being at Chicago Gay Pride comes back to me. I am reminded that once upon a time, I had a simple dream to live life without a double identity. But more importantly, through my community service projects, I am able to make a local difference, and local differences support change in the world. Furthermore, as I prepare for law school, I am aware of my position as a member of the LGBTQ community and I will apply my humanist based education towards protecting the legal rights LGBTQ citizens and allies such as parents, families, and friends who support us. And yes – you can now tell my mom what I have told you!"

COME TO THE CABARET

Join the San Diego Gay Men's Chorus for their Encore Benefit Gala Event on **Thursday, September 29** at the Prado Grand Ballroom in Balboa Park. This is a huge fundraiser for them so they can continue their musical mission of outreach to the LGBT community. The evening is filled with song, dance, burlesque, and comedy. One of the highlights is Impersonator Extraordinaire Chad Michaels as Cher.

For ticket info: sdgmc.org or call 619-432-2244.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sept 22, Oct 13:

Our Space-Poway

Kathie: 858-382-9156

Oct 10:

East County

Terrie: 619-997-6139

Oct 3:

North County Coastal

Annette: 760-518-3345

Oct 20:

North County Inland

Kathie: 858-382-9156

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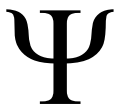
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