



THE NEWSLETTER

August 2017 / ISSUE 8 / VOLUME 24



THE NORTH COUNTY COASTAL MEETING WILL BE SEPT 11 (NOT SEPT 4, LABOR DAY).



PICNIC TIME!

Please join us for our general meeting on **Monday, August 28** at 7:00 pm at Jewish Family Service, 8788 Balboa Avenue, San Diego.

It's time for our annual summer potluck 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.

PRIDE BUSINESS MIXER A SUCCESS



Host Marci Bair & PFLAGers Zaneta Encarnacion and Terrie Vorono take time for a photo

Many thanks to Marci Bair of Bair Financial Planning for arranging for the proceeds of the Pride Business Mixer to go to PFLAG San Diego County's scholarship program. The mixer, hosted by Gossip Grill, was part of the Pride celebration and brought together business owners and leaders from all over San Diego County. Bair Financial Planning was presented with a Special Commendation from City Council member Chris Ward for participation in the LGBT Business Enterprise, Business Certification Program. Congratulations to Marci.



COMING SOON: SOUTH BAY PRIDE

Join the festivities at the 10th Annual South Bay Pride Art & Music Festival on **Saturday, September 9** from noon-8:00 pm at Bayfront Park. There will be live entertainment, DJs and dancing, Art of Pride in the Park, great food, water sports, beverage gardens, kayaking, beach activities, children's entertainment,

and much more!

Bayfront Park is adjacent to the "J" Street Marina in Chula Vista.

PFLAG will have a booth. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Patti Boman: bomanpatti@gmail.com or leave a message on the info line (888-398-0006).

SIGN UP FOR THE AIDS WALK



Put on your sneakers and get geared up to walk with PFLAG on **Saturday, September 30** for the 28th Annual AIDS Walk San Diego. This 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 Walk begins at 7:35 am and starts at Normal Street and University Avenue. The registration fee is \$35 (\$25 for 17 & under and 60+). If we have at least 10 walkers registered by September 25, we will qualify as Team PFLAG and be able to walk with the prestigious sneaker sign with PFLAG on it. Any PFLAGer participant who has "walked the walk," knows what a big deal it is to carry our PFLAG sneaker sign. **HELP!** As of early August, there is only one walker signed up; please sign up soonest so we can turn 😞 to 😊.

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.

Even if you can't walk with us, please register so we can meet our 10 person and financial goals (\$1000).

For questions, please contact Sherry Cohen-Richards, scohenrichards@pflag.com.

PFLAG.COM

OFFICERS, COMMITTEES & VOLUNTEERS

President

Terrie Vorono
619-997-6139
tvorono@pflag.com

Past Co-President

Patti Boman
pboman@pflag.com

Vice-President

Sherry Cohen-Richards
858-349-6269
scohenrichards@pflag.com

Recording Secretary

Tiffany Gonzalez
tgonzalez@pflag.com

Treasurer

Nancy Colbert
ncolbert@pflag.com

Greeter

Lonnie Brunini
lbrunini@pflag.com

Membership

Bobbi Harwood
858-453-3249
bharwood@pflag.com

Info Line

Support/Outreach
888-398-0006

Newsletter

Sherry Cohen-Richards,
Editor

Linda Bessemer, Laura
Partido & Pacific Imaging

Jessy Sauchuk, Belladia
Marketing & Design

Programs

The Board

Scholarship

Donna Bowersox and
Sherry Cohen-Richards
scholarships@pflag.com

Spanish Interpreter

Patti Boman
619-227-6092

Speakers Bureau

Transgender Coordinator

Kathie Moehlig
kathie@transfamilies.org

Refreshments

Ina Price

Website

Lisa Smith, Belladia
Marketing & Design

Board Members

Joanie Brzenski, Sherry
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Membership Application

- ☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Change of Address
☐ Please contact me for volunteer opportunities

Confidentiality is respected. Your donation is tax
deductible (Tax ID 33-0512868)

Make checks payable to:

PFLAG San Diego
PO Box 82762
San Diego, CA 92138

Type of Membership

- ☐ Individual \$30 ☐ Household \$40
☐ Business \$50 ☐ Supporting \$60
☐ Contributing \$125 ☐ Lifetime \$1000
☐ Other \$ _____
☐ Accept my donation, please do not list.

Please fill out, clip and mail this form

Name.....

Address.....

City

State.....ZIP

Email.....

Phone.....Date



or go online www.pflag.com (forms available)

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.

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

Current Events

August 14 | Monday
PFLAG Support Group
East County

August 14 | Monday
Mi Familia

August 17 | Thursday
PFLAG Support Group
North County Inland

August 22 | Tuesday
Our Space-Poway/ High School

August 28 | Monday
San Diego Metro General
Meeting and Support Group

September 9 | Saturday
South Bay Pride
(see article)

September 11 | Monday
PFLAG Support Group
North County Coastal

September 11 | Monday
PFLAG Support Group
East County

September 14-October 25
Homos, Or Everyone Else
Diversionary Theatre
(see article)

GETTING WORSE EVERY DAY

On the very same day Donald Trump banned transgender people from the military (see page 5) and his Department of Justice argued in court that it's legal to fire gays and lesbians, the president nominated Governor Sam Brownback as a global ambassador for religious freedom.

Brownback has demonstrated a disturbing interpretation of that buzzword, "religious freedom," while serving as governor of Kansas — a job he now leaves to become the ambassador-at-large for International Religious Freedom.

In 2016, Brownback legalized discrimination in state universities by signing the Campus Religious Freedom Bill. Previously, student groups were required to follow their schools' antidiscrimination policies, which often protected LGBT people. Under the new law, Brownback said religious student groups could "establish religious beliefs as qualification for membership." Activists said that effectively undermined university policies and invited discrimination against LGBT people who Christians call sinful.

Brownback, in 2015, had already rolled back protections for LGBT state employees that had been implemented by then-Governor Kathleen Sebelius in 2007 via an executive order. Brownback just removed sexual orientation and gender identity from the anti-discrimination policy with his own order.

Brownback first became governor in 2011 and won reelection, not ever shying away from his anti-LGBT beliefs. He spoke at a rally hosted by the Family Research Council, which the Southern Poverty Law Center designates as an anti-LGBT "hate group."

Need we say more?

SUPPORT GROUPS

SD METRO GENERAL MEETING & SUPPORT GROUP

Meets every 4th Monday at 7:00 pm, at Jewish Family Service, 8788 Balboa Ave, San Diego in Kearny Mesa.

For further information, contact the Info Line:
888-398-0006 or www.pflag.com

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

September meeting has been changed to Sept 11 @ 6:30.
Pilgrim UCC, 2020 Chestnut Avenue, Carlsbad.

Annette: 760-518-3345 | northcountycoastal@pflag.com

NORTH COUNTY INLAND

Meets the 3rd Thursday @ 7:00 pm, St. Bart's Church, 16275 Pomerado Road, Poway. New Location

Kathie: 858-382-9156 | northcountyinland@pflag.com

EAST COUNTY

Meets the 2nd Monday at 7:00 pm, Summit Unitarian Universalist Church, 8778 Cottonwood Avenue, Santee.

Tiffany: 760-554-7967 | tgonzalez@pflag.com

SOUTH BAY

For a private meeting for support or concern, call for an appointment.

Patti: 619-227-6092 | bomanpatti@gmail.com

POWAY LGBTQ YOUTH SUPPORT/HIGH SCHOOL

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 5:00-6:30 pm, Poway Library, 13137 County Highway S4, Poway. Facilitated by youth.

Kathie: 858-382-9156 | info@transfamilysos.org

MI FAMILIA (Spanish)

Meets 2nd Monday at 6pm. For meeting info, contact:

Patti: 619-227-6092 | bomanpatti@gmail.com

TRANSFAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Support groups held separately for children, teens, & adults to explore topics around gender identity and expressions.

Kathie: 858-382-9156 | info@transfamilysos.org

FEATURING



The recipient of the **John Bessemer Memorial Scholarship** is **Marina Mizar**. After earning an undergraduate degree in Ecology, Behavior & Evolution from UC San Diego, she then earned an Associate's Degree in Computer Science from MiraCosta Community

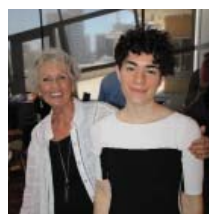
College. Her next endeavor is graduate school, starting this fall, at San Diego State University where Marina will pursue a Master of Science degree in Bioinformatics. It's no wonder Linda Bessemer called her (lovingly) "Smarty Pants."

In Marina's Letter of Recommendation, she was described as a powerhouse intellectual who will uplift whatever she is involved in. Her projects not only demonstrated mastery of the material, but she went above and beyond the assigned requirements time and time again. Her essay will demonstrate her achievements.

"When I turn on my computer to start my work each morning, I am greeted by a new screensaver image, usually a high-resolution photo of some striking architecture or landscape. Often these are accompanied by a little related factoid of interest, usually about nature or technology. One morning, when my screen flickered to life, I was presented with an image of a galaxy, deep purple, with thousands of tiny stars, and this informational blurb: 'Only 6.7% of women graduate with STEM degrees.' It was a little surreal to be confronted with this statistic at the start of my day at a tech job, as a woman holding a STEM degree. While it confirmed my past experience, having been the only woman out of twenty students in my computer architecture class the previous semester, it also made me realize that I had overlooked an important fact about my education in STEM. It may be true that the prevailing demographic in most science and technology industries is white, male, straight and cisgender, however, my own path through academia has been made possible through the guidance of supervisors and professors who are women, LGBT, people of color, or who represent more than one of these identities. It is because of their generosity and support that I have been able to develop my programming skills in extracurricular activities, move from community college to graduate school, and, in turn, find opportunities to teach the mentor other students myself, as a lab aid at my school. Inspired by their successes as scientists and their dedication to helping non-traditional students advance in their field, it is my goal to use graduate school as a way to improve my science communication and teaching skills, and work to increase public access to science education.

Last year I took steps towards this goal by working as a computer lab assistant at MiraCosta College while I completed my associate's degree in computer science.

This experience not only deepened my understanding of the math and programming concepts I had learned in the classroom, it allowed me to meet and work with a diverse range of fellow students—older students returning to school to develop new skillsets, first-generation college students, multicultural students, and other women like myself pursuing degrees in computer science or engineering. Often the same students would return each week to ask for help debugging their code or developing their software projects, and I was able to see these students' abilities progress and grow throughout the semester with each subsequent tutoring session. I also had the chance to hear about their personal experiences adapting to academia and creating a school/work/life balance—relevant to my own need to



work part time to support myself while taking classes. The potential for STEM education to help underprivileged individuals gain access to better jobs, as well as to create technology that makes getting that training easier, is one of the most exciting aspects of the field to me. One of the other reasons

for my success in returning to school to study computer science, besides the support of my professors, was the preparatory practice I gained in the form of free online programming courses and competitive coding communities. In the future, I would like to get involved with similar projects that take advantage of widespread online social networking and easy-to-use tutoring software to make tech education more accessible to non-traditional students.

In the meantime, I have participated in other extracurricular activities and competitions to hone my programming skills and collaborate with other students. During the San Diego Women's Hackathon, my teammates and I worked together to create a website mockup for a non-profit group focused on helping refugees find resources abroad. Getting the chance to use my tech skills for a humanitarian project made me appreciate the potential for STEM applications to extend beyond industrial and commercial products, and support social justice causes. Later that year, I competed in my school's programming contest, creating an application that helps urban farmers plan when to plant their crops and how to optimize their limited space. When I studied ecology for my bachelor's degree at UCSD, I learned about the role that small urban gardens can play in community food security and nutrition education. Working on this project, I discovered a way that software development could help support that cause. During my time as a computer lab aid, it was heartening to see other students share this realization—that the basic programming skills they had practiced throughout the semester could be already be used for such a myriad of life-improving purposes—from

FEATURING (CONTINUED)

math tutoring programs and money management software, to art and creative storytelling.

I am excited about the opportunity to attend graduate school, develop biological analysis software as a research assistant, and help other students with their studies as a teaching assistant. My own education has consisted of a diverse collection of experiences, both academic and not—as a college student, a museum volunteer, a native plant gardener, and a software design intern. It is my hope that after graduating, I can find ways to make all these kinds of experiences more accessible for a wider variety of people, either by mentoring other students as my professors have done for me, or by becoming involved in projects that promote public science knowledge. I think the potential of citizen scientists to contribute to our society, by helping to collect environmental data, for example, or by contributing amateur open-source software, is just as important as training more people to become professional scientists, and I believe that emerging technologies and support for under-represented students will make both of these objectives even more possible.”

LOVE WINS OUT

In May, Taiwan made history. The country's constitutional court ruled that same-sex couples have the right to marry. That means Taiwan will be the first country in Asia to make marriage equality a reality!

HOMOS, OR EVERYONE IN AMERICA



The Diversionary Theatre kicks off their 2017-2018 season with this very catchy-titled play. *Homos, or Everyone in America* will run from **September 14-October 15**. The synopsis: As the pendulum of progress continues to swing, a Brooklyn couple attempts to navigate the complexities of contemporary gay life together. Hopscotching back

and forth over the timeline of their relationship, a sensual, hilarious and compelling story of their bond emerges. This brave, cutting-edge new play confronts the lingering dangers and interconnected values of our nation, and the way to our future may be found through our past.

This play must be good. It was The New York Times' Critic's Pick. They said, "A daringly frank, funny and affecting new play. Mr. Seavey's portrait of young gay New Yorkers negotiating the sometimes thorny nature of love and intimacy has an arresting, even bruising honesty."

Performance times & ticket info, go to: diversionary.org or call: 619-220-0097. Use the Promo Code PFLAG for \$5 off.

THE TWEET HEARD AROUND THE WORLD

In an unexpected early morning tweet on July 26, president Trump wrote on Twitter that "After consultation with my Generals and military experts, please be advised that the United States government will not accept or allow transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military. Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming victory and cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail. Thank you."

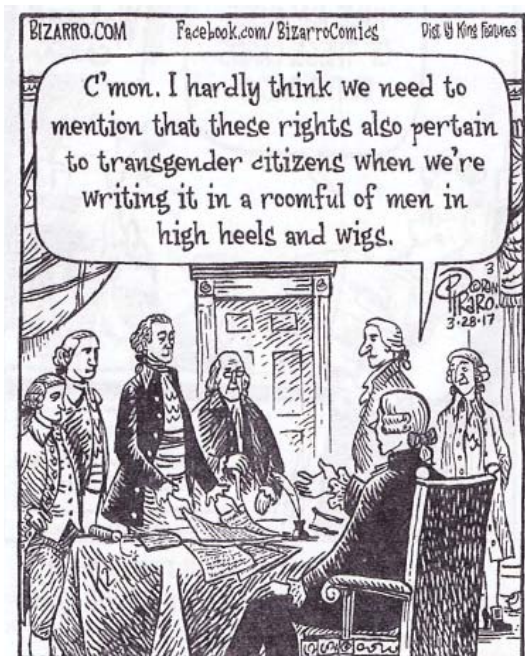
The Pinocchio moment of this particular tweet is that he "consulted" with his Generals and military experts disallowing transgender individuals to service in any capacity in the military. Defense Secretary James Mattis was caught off guard. Although on vacation at the time, it was reported that Mattis was appalled by the tweet and was infuriated, as he saw this ban as an insult to transgender Americans currently serving in the military.

In addition, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, including chairman, General Joseph Dunford, were not aware of the forthcoming tweet; top military leaders across all four service branches were blindsided by the announcement.

For now, Dunford has informed service members that there will be "no modifications to the current policy until the President's direction has been received by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary has issued implementation guidelines. In the meantime, we will continue to treat all of our personnel with respect. Importantly, given the current fight and the challenges we face, we will all remain focused on accomplishing our assigned missions."

Trump better put on his boxing gloves, as he is in for a fight.

Bizarro by Dan Piraro
Reprinted with permission from Dan Piraro



WE WERE ALLIED IN ACTION AND UNITED FOR JUSTICE

The PFLAG SDC contingent is the most beloved group in the Pride Parade. This year was no exception. We had more marchers than ever which made it more fun. It was an honor to have API PFLAG from LA and PFLAG Bakersfield join us. A big thank you to parade and festival coordinators Mike Minnick and Terrie Vorono. We were grateful again

this year that Annette and Remo Ottone provided a van for the parade. There are more acknowledgements on page 8.

The pictures, taken from Friday to Sunday, will speak for themselves.





PFLAG THANKS YOU

Parade/Festival Coordinators

Mike Minnick

Terrie Vorono

Festival Booth Volunteers

Lonnie Brunini

Bobbi Harwood

Joanie Brzenski

Bill Luna

Frank Buttino

Vicki Luna

Evette Callahan

Mike Minnick

Wendell Callahan

Bill Patten

Kathe Dunn

Terrie Vorono

Tiffany Gonzalez

Sherry Cohen-Richards

Providing Car and Driver Service

Annette & Remo Ottone

Lifetime Membership

Jan Garbosky

BSA IS GETTING THERE

Some of you may already know this good news, as it happened in March. That is when the Boy Scouts of America announced they will begin accepting members based on the gender listed on their applications, enabling transgender boys to join. Previously, they considered only the gender on their birth certificates. It is well known they are doing all this (now allowing gay adult leaders and openly gay youth) because of their decreasing membership and the pressure put on them. Well, to this, we say...Carry On.



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