



THE NEWSLETTER

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BLAZING THE TRAIL

Please join us for our general meeting on **Monday, September 25** at 7:00 pm at Jewish Family Service (JFS), 8788 Balboa Avenue, San Diego. Our speaker, Patrick Brown, is a frontiersperson of the gay movement in both Mexico City and San Francisco. We hear a lot about the Stonewall Inn, but things were much different in San Francisco during the same time period. He is truly an unspoken hero; tune in to find out why! He's had quite a fascinating, activist life!

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



LORENA GONZÁLEZ GUEST SPEAKER

Assemblywoman for District 80, Lorena González, will be the guest speaker at South Bay Support Group's meeting. District 80 covers most of the South Bay; however, she will be discussing the safety and current issues regarding our LGBTQ children. Between DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals – i.e., Dreamers) and transgender military personnel, this should be an interesting discussion.

The group will meet on **Monday, Sept 18** from 6:00-8:00 pm at Patti Boman's home in Bonita. Please RSVP to Patti: bomanpatti@gmail.com or 619-227-6092.

THE TIME HAS COME; THE TIME IS NOW

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 our PFLAG name on it. Now is the time to "walked the walk." **HELP!** As of early September, there are **only 4 (four, cuatro, עברא, quatre, قةعبرأ, Quattro)** people signed up; please sign up soonest so we can carry our big deal PFLAG sneaker sign.



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.

STILL TIME TO SEE HOMOS AT THE DIVERSIONARY

Homos, or *Everyone in America* will continue its run from **Sept 14-Oct 15** at the Diversionary Theatre. 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.

Times + tix: diversionary.org or 619-220-0097. Use Promo Code PFLAG for \$5 off.

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 or as an ally on **Oct 11**. One of the popular beliefs regarding this day is to pressure closeted LGBT persons to come out. Not so!!

It was 28 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.

NEXT!



While **Blake Stoner-Osborne** could not attend the awards ceremony (those pesky AP exams), he sent a video with his heartfelt thanks for receiving the **John McCusker Memorial Scholarship**. He also read

part of his essay; our MC and jack of all trades, Ian Morton, presented his scholarship in absentia. Blake is attending UC Berkeley to study integrative Biology. One of his many activities was to facilitate Forums while attending San Dieguito Academy. This is a group that raises and discusses issues and needs that need to be met at the school; it consists of students, school staff, and administrators. As a facilitator, he made sure the meetings stay organized and that all students had the opportunity to be heard. Here is Blake's essay:

"My most significant contribution to my church community was leading a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) movement that works to promote inclusion of LGBTQ+ members throughout Lutheran churches. Because my church is a meaningful place for me where I can dismantle any facade I put up at school and grow as an individual, I wanted to start this process to provide others with that same opportunity. As a religious LGBTQ+ member myself, I wanted to ensure that anyone, regardless of gender, race, or sexual orientation, feels welcome and able to find a safe and supportive home to come to like I did. Because of religious texts and anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment in Christian churches, LGBTQ+ members often have a negative perception about church. To change this on a local scale, my pastor and I founded a committee of four other members together and began the RIC process. I organized and led three public forums addressing any questions and concerns about the RIC process, helped my pastor organize a biblical study group on the 5 texts in the Bible that are considered to be anti-homosexual, and most importantly, preached to the congregation about practicing acceptance as opposed to

tolerance. Although my sermon did upset a couple members of my church, it did convince three visitors to join our church because of how willing our community was to be open-minded and accepting. This January, I will conduct a congregational vote that will recognize our church as an RIC approved church. Officially, more than 75% of the congregation needs to vote in favor of this transition and I hope that my efforts as head of this process have had a big enough impact to go above and beyond the necessary percentage.



Similarly, at my school, I wrote an article for the school newspaper that highlighted the same concepts on acceptance in order to help the LGBTQ+ students at my school feel comfortable and to get rid of the widely understood 'don't ask, don't tell' policy that many students feel

are suppressed in contemporary society. To break through that policy and to give the LGBTQ+ community a voice, I came out in an article that I wrote for my school's newspaper and then again in a sermon at my church. In the article, I wrote about how broken and anguished I felt for being anything but normal. I wrote about the fear of exclusion and bigotry. I wrote about how the support and compassion of so many peers gave me the courage to live with individuality and pride. But most importantly, I wrote about how the concept of a loving community changes lives in even the smallest of ways.

Overall, I hope that my congregation and my school have become more aware of the impact that acceptance, kindness, and love can have on any person regardless of how they identify, how they look or how they feel. Once our church becomes RIC approved, members of our congregation and anyone seeking a safe and supportive home will be able to look to us for direction. I hope to change the world by making it a more loving and accepting for everyone, regardless of any of our qualities that divide us."

THE MAYOR FROM HELL

This was too cute, not to include. And it certainly seems we need a little levity now and then. The Mayor of Hell, Michigan (aka comedian Elijah Daniel) was sworn into office and then swiftly impeached. His first act as a public official was to ban all heterosexuals from the town.

Jokingly he says the ban is in retaliation to being told that gays will go to hell, and he doesn't want to see heterosexuals take that away from us, too.

Daniel offered the straight residents an option to stay, but

that would cost them a taxation of \$84,000 which they would get back in one year as long as they abstained from having sexual relations.

Conversely, if the hetero citizens wanted to forego the fine, they could sign up for "reparative therapy" or be straight shamed publicly.

Directly after he was impeached, Daniel Tweeted, "Being impeached was fun @realDonaldTrump, you should try it."

THE SADNESS OF IT ALL

First it was Trump's obnoxious tweet on July 26 that transgender service members would not be allowed to serve in the U.S. Military. Although he stated that he consulted with Generals and military experts, he did no such thing and all were caught off guard.

Then, to make it "official," on August 25, he directed the Pentagon to ban the recruitment of openly transgender people, but is leaving it to military leaders to determine whether individuals already in the armed forces should be allowed to continue to serve. Part of the memorandum that he signed would stop providing medical treatment for sex- reassignment surgeries (unless the transition already started), but at least stating that "further study" is necessary to ensure that the policy change will not have negative effects on military readiness.

Trump's initial announcement was greeted with criticism from Democrats and Republicans, many of whom said it was discriminatory toward transgender people willing to volunteer to serve their country. Ya think???

"Any American who meets current medical and readiness standards should be allowed to continue serving," Senator John McCain (R-AZ) said in a statement issued after Trump's Twitter announcement of the ban. "There is no reason to force service members who are able to fight, train and deploy to leave the military — regardless of their gender identity."

The memo gives the Pentagon six months to determine how to implement Trump's directive as it relates to transgender people currently serving. Until that determination is made, no action will be taken against any individuals. That plan will be implemented by March 23, 2018. (That's what he thinks).

Democrats and civil rights groups heavily criticized the announcement, calling it a step backward.

As Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) stated, "Prejudice, not the national defense, is behind President Trump's cruel decision to kick transgender troops out of the military."

So far, two lawsuits have been filed (by Lambda Legal and OutServe-SLDN) to sue the government for violating The Constitution. Both lawsuits say the ban is a violation of equal protection and due process; the Lambda lawsuit also says it violates free speech protections. The defendants include trans persons who wish to enlist and also current transgender military troops.

FROM JOEL OSTEEN, THE TELEVANGELIST IN HOUSTON WHO WOULDN'T OPEN HIS CHURCH TO THE FLOOD VICTIMS, COMES THESE WORDS OF WISDOM, "I'M NOT FOR GAY MARRIAGE, BUT I'M NOT FOR DISCRIMINATING AGAINST PEOPLE."

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

Meets the 1st Monday @ 6:30 pm, 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

Meets 3rd Monday at 6:00 pm. For meeting info, contact:

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

POWAY LGBTQ YOUTH SUPPORT/HIGH SCHOOL

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 5:00-6:30 pm, St. Bart's Church, 16275 Pomerado Rd, Poway. Facilitated by youth.

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

OUR SPACE-POWAY--LGBTQIA/MIDDLE SCHOOL

For Middle School only. Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays from 5:30-7 pm, St. Bart's Church, 16275 Pomerado Rd, Poway.

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



Please join North County LGBTQ Resource Center for their 10th annual Pride at the Beach. The theme this year "Together Making Strides." The event is **Saturday, October 14** from 11:00 am-5:00 pm. As always, PFLAG will have a booth. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Terrie Vorono at tvorono@pflag.com.

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 (Genders & Sexualities Alliance, formerly known as Gay-Straight Alliance) Awards. The awardees are the GSAs in North County's middle and high schools. The Center feels this is a great way to give back to the community.

IMPERIAL VALLEY PRIDE

The second annual Pride Celebration takes place on **Saturday, October 14** from 5:00-11:00 pm on the 600 block of Main Street in El Centro. There's food, crafts, art and non-profit groups sharing important information. Check out their web site: www.IVLGBTcenter.org. Come join the fun!

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVELYN CARLSON FOR THE GENEROUS DONATION TO THE GENERAL FUND.

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