



THE NEWSLETTER

August 2018 / ISSUE 8 / VOLUME 25



THE NORTH COUNTY COASTAL MEETING WILL BE SEPT 10 (NOT SEPT 3, LABOR DAY).

SUMMERTIME AND WE'RE HAVING A PICNIC!



Please join us for our general meeting on **Monday, August 27** 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.

HAVE THE LAST LAUGH

It's not too late to purchase tickets for GLSEN San Diego's 5th Annual Comedy Fundraiser. It is this **Friday, August 17** at the Diversionary Theatre, 4545 Park Blvd. in San Diego. There is a wine and cheese reception which beginning at 7:00 pm with the show at 8:00 pm.

This event is one of GLSEN's (formerly known as Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) biggest fundraisers. Tickets are \$25; go to GLSEN San Diego on Facebook and click on Eventbrite.com. Tickets may also be purchased at the door if the event is not sold out.

FUN HOME

The San Diego Repertory Theatre presents the Broadway Musical, *Fun Home*. Synopsis: When her father dies unexpectedly, Alison Bechdel dives deep into her past to tell the story of the volatile, brilliant, one-of-a-kind man whose temperament and secrets defined her family and her life. She relives her unique childhood at the family Funeral Home and her growing understanding of her sexuality and LGBT issues.

The play runs from September 6-30, however, if you attend the 8:00 pm performance on **Thursday, September 13**, you are in for a real treat. The pre-show engagement, called Sam's Salon, begins at 7:00 pm in the lobby. There will be a discussion on how "coming out" and living openly as an LGBTQ person has changed in the U.S. Guests include our own PFLAG mom, Patti Boman (South Bay facilitator and Regional Director) and PFLAG youth member, Brandi Paniague.

If you purchase tickets for this performance (sdrep.org), you can get 25% off each ticket by using the code: PFLAG. The SD Rep performs on the Lyceum Stage in Horton Plaza.

SIGN UP FOR THE AIDS WALK



Put on your sneakers and get geared up to walk with PFLAG on **Saturday, September 29** for the 29th Annual AIDS Walk San Diego. This event, sponsored by the LGBT Center, 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 24**, 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 are only two walkers signed up; please sign up soonest so we can turn 😊 to 😊.

To register, go to www.AIDSwalksd.org, select Register at the top of the page, then Join A Team. Enter PFLAG, then click, Search for a Team to 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). You can register as a virtual walker.

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

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San Diego, CA 92138

Tax ID #33-0512868

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

Membership Application

- New Renewal Change of Address
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Confidentiality is respected. Your donation is tax deductible (Tax ID 33-0512868)

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San Diego, CA 92138

Type of Membership

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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.

BULL IN A CHINA SHOP

The Diversionary Theatre presents *Bull in a China Shop*. It runs from **September 13-October 14**. The play is set at the dawn of the 20th Century. It traces the true story of Mary Woolley and her partner Jeannette Marks as they set out to revolutionize women's education and electrify the suffrage movement. Told with a modern twist that shoots from the hip, this surprising, whip smart comedy examines the ambition and desires of two women bent on changing the course of history, and how they ended up changing each other.

For performance times and ticket info, go to: www.diversionary.org. You can also call: 619-220-0097. For \$5 off each ticket, use Promo Code PFLAG. The theatre is located at 4545 Park Blvd. in San Diego.

LGBTQ+ SAN DIEGO: STORIES OF STRUGGLES AND TRIUMPHS

How exciting to have a place of our own at the San Diego History Center. The History Center, in partnership with the Lambda Archives, brings the first exhibition ever in Balboa Park, focused on San Diego's LGBTQ+ community. This is the History Center's major exhibition. It opened July 8, 2018 and will continue until January, 2020.

Visitors will hear from those in the LGBTQ+ region about the struggles to overcome persecution, the battle with AIDS, bullying and intolerance and the power of the community coming together and within growing activism and community engagement. Specifically for this exhibition, the History Center arranged for the rare display of a portion of the AIDS Quilt, with significance to our region.

The museum is open daily from 9:00 am-5:00 pm and until 8:00 pm on Fridays through August 31, 2018. There is no traditional museum fee, but you are kindly asked to donate \$10. The second Tuesday of each month is free to San Diego County residents (proof required). It is located at 1649 El Prado in Balboa Park. It's at the east end of El Prado near the Ruben H. Fleet Science Center and the San Diego History Museum. It is next to the Museum of Photographic Arts.

PRELUDE TO PRIDE BY THE BEACH

The North County LGBTQ Resource Center is proud to present an evening of pride, talent, fashion, and fun at their first annual Pride by the Beach Variety Show. The event takes place at the Star Theatre, 402 North Coast Highway in Oceanside on **Saturday, September 8** from 5:30-8:00 pm, with the curtain going up at 6:30 pm. The ticket price is \$25 and may be purchased at Eventbrite.com/e/pride-variety-show-tickets. Please save the date for Pride by the Beach on **October 13**. Details will be in the September newsletter.

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 September 10 (2nd Monday) at 6:30 pm

Pilgrim UCC, 2020 Chestnut Avenue, Carlsbad.

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

NORTH COUNTY INLAND

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm

St. Bart's Church, 16275 Pomerado Road, Poway.

Jill/Dan: 760-855-9424 | RBPowaypflagsdc@pflag.com

EAST COUNTY

Not currently meeting. For questions and information:

Raegan: 858-531-5426 | eastcountysdc@pflag.com

SOUTH BAY

Meets 3rd Monday at 6:00 pm,

Our Safe Place, 746 Ada St, Chula Vista.

Patti: 619-227-6092 | pboman@pflag.com

RAMONA

Meets 2nd Tuesday at 6:00 pm, St. Mary's in the Valley, 1010 12th Street, Ramona. For meeting info, contact:

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

POWAY LGBTQ YOUTH SUPPORT/HIGH SCHOOL

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm

St. Bart's Church, 16275 Pomerado Road, Poway.

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

OUR SPACE-POWAY--LGBTQIA/MIDDLE SCHOOL

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm, St. Bart's Church, 16275 Pomerado Road, Poway. Facilitated by youth.

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

MI FAMILIA (Spanish)

Meets 2nd Monday from 6-8 pm, South Chula Vista Library, 389 Orange Avenue, Chula Vista.

Patti: 619-227-6092 | pboman@pflag.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@transfamilyosos.org

FEATURING



The recipient of the **John McCusker Memorial Scholarship** is **Erica Wright**. After receiving her Master's degree last spring in Peace and Justice Studies from the University of San Diego, she will pursue her doctorate studies in the fall.

In her letter of recommendation, she was applauded as being an exceptional student who stood out in class as intellectual, creative, analytic, and passionate about learning. In addition, she had a professional and relaxed teaching style which earned her positive ratings from her peers for team projects.

Erica's work in the non-profit, Think Dignity, earned her kudos in their new program, Street Café, which is outlined in her essay.

"In April of 2017, I was in the middle of my first year at the Kroc School of Peace and Justice Studies at the University of San Diego, beginning my search for an internship. Emboldened by my pace of learning and inspired by my new environment, I felt a sure need in me to fit with a program that not only impacted people who were underserved, but the specific needs within that population that were underserved. At first I was on my way to working with San Diego Hunger Alliance to get a summer meals program for students in the community but a few minutes after that phone conversation I was contacted by another non-profit in San Diego: Think Dignity. The organization was looking for a program designer for their new program, the Street Café, and they thought I'd be a perfect fit. I was drawn to their mission to not only assure one more meal of food security to the homeless of San Diego, but to repair and forge community identity of this population. This was an incredible opportunity for me and at the time it felt almost like fate. I had just finished a course at USD called program design, monitoring, and evaluation and felt I had found my calling in the field of peace. My background is in psychology and I have always wanted to be a researcher. So I could not have been more excited to accept their offer and begin a truly 'crash-course' experience of program design.

When I first met with a representative of Think Dignity I received a few documents on similar programs they run and people they had been in contact with but the most important thing I received during this first interaction was their vision for what the Street Café could be. After this, I began. First, it was straight to the library where I checked out every book on homelessness I could carry. Second, I created a needs-assessment survey in order to collect logistical information that would be pertinent in the creation of the Street Café. And finally I contacted Anne Rios, the executive director,

who gave me permission to survey people utilizing the Transitional Storage Center down on 16th street. I started here because at first I was nervous and afraid to approach random people on the streets. I am from Orlando, FL and had only been in San Diego for about 8 months. The storage center was a perfect starting ground where I built my confidence talking with people and perfected my script. A script is important when collecting qualitative data because you want each respondents experience to be as a uniform as possible for data quality purposes.

After about a month and a half I decided it was time to branch out as I knew people were living on the streets all over the city and not just near 16th street. At the time I had a job as a gymnastics instructor in Liberty Station in Old Town so I would take the trolley from Rio Vista to Old Town Transit and cruise up Rosecrans on my 1970s fiberflex short-board. I would ask people that were visibly homeless if they would be willing to answer seven quick questions for a new service Think Dignity was trying to start. Sometimes I'd get a group of friends and they would laugh at the questions I was asking them because they seemed so mundane. I would ask them, 'What is the best time to bring food for you?', 'What is the best location to bring food to you?', 'What is your favorite fruit?', 'What is your favorite vegetable?', 'What is your favorite prepared meal?', 'Do you carry food in your bag?', and 'What is your favorite song, artist, or genre of music?'. Although the questions were mundane, I always saw people light up, sometimes taken back, that someone would actually care to know this stuff. And not only do I want to know it but I want to use it to provide them a service.

At this point you are probably wondering 'Well what does the Street Café do?'. The Street Café is a mobile program that provides free healthy food to people living on the streets in San Diego through a farmer market themed 'pop-up'. The information I collect from people living on streets provides us information on where, what, when, and what tunes they want to hear. Their requests are put into a Spotify playlist that will play at the Street Café. The data collection process became a three month process and I surveyed people in downtown on 16th, 17th (Neal Good Day Center), the public library, St. Vincent, and North Park Community Park, Chicano Park and Rosecrans/Midway. There was a total of 134 respondent and I personally surveyed all but 10 of those individuals. Using this data I have created frameworks for how this program will function, created a survey for the shoppers of the Street Café and have undertaken an evaluation of this program for my final capstone project.

I believe the important take-away of this experience is that when I talked to people it was a humanizing experience. When you are homeless people ignore your existence

FEATURING (CONTINUED)

and definitely do not show interest in knowing things about you. So when I approached people, some did it as quick as they could or declined, but some of them had a humanizing experience with me and usually shared a quick friendly chat about the music they were into (as I always closed with that question). Not only was it humanizing for them but it was humanizing for me. I found new empathy and a sincere listening ear that led each positive interaction to linger with me. A light flashing in their eye, a smirk across their face, or a determined furrowed brow left me feeling a unique deep kind of happiness. Some people I even got to show a friendly solidarity with in the struggle as I brought little necessities to give to a few people scattered about Rosecrans on my commute. I have been working on this program since April 2017 and it will get its debut on March 2nd 2018. Doing this kind of work, with people not for people, is how I want to change the world."

OOPS, THEY DID IT AGAIN... BUT CORRECTED IT

If you read the article in last month's newsletter ("Oops, They've Done it Again"), you will see that the squeaky wheel did get the grease. The uproar was that Scarlett Johansson was to play a trans individual in the upcoming movie, *Rub & Tug*, rather than having a trans person play the role. After what seemed to be thoughtful consideration, Johansson withdrew from the role due to the backlash surrounding the producer's choice to cast her in the first place. She admitted that it was the right thing to do "in light of recent ethical questions raised surrounding my casting" after initially being snarky about the criticism.

Said Ms. Johansson, "Our cultural understanding of transgender people continues to advance, and I've learned a lot from the community since making my first statement about my casting and realize it was insensitive. While I would have loved to bring Dante's story and transition to life, I understand why many feel he should be portrayed by a transgender person, and I am thankful that this casting debate, albeit controversial, has sparked a larger conversation about diversity and representation in film."



EMBRACING DIFFERENCE, CHANGING TOMORROW

That is the theme of the 11th Annual South Bay Pride Art & Music Festival which will be held on **Saturday, September 8** from 12-8:00 pm at Bayfront Park. The event is free (suggested donation is \$10). As always, PFLAG will have a booth. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Patti Boman at pboman@pflag.com.

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 (check it out at southbaypride.org).

Bayfront Park, 999 Bayside Parkway, is adjacent to the "J" Street Marina in Chula Vista.

As an added bonus, for a \$20 donation to SB Pride, you can enter to win 2 VIP tickets to great concerts. Each pair of tickets comes with 1 parking pass, 2 free buffets and access to the VIP Lounge (21 and over). Concerts are held at the Mattress Firm Amphitheatre in Chula Vista. To donate go to southbaypride.org/win-vip-tickets-great-concerts/. The remainder of the drawings will be held on September 1 and September 8. All proceeds go to the South Bay Pride Art & Music Festival.

I HEREBY DECLARE...

Not only is September 8, South Bay Pride Art & Music Festival, it is also LGBTQ Day in Chula Vista! At the Chula Vista City Council meeting on August 7, the first order of business was a presentation of a proclamation recognizing **September 8, 2018**, as LGBTQ Day in the City of Chula Vista. Several members of PFLAG attended this honor.



TRANS RESOURCES

Our speaker in July, Tiki Inacay, promised to share web sites that would be helpful to those who are interested.

For Gender Non-conforming and Non-binary: themarysue.com/gender-non-conforming-coming-out

For Transgender Basics: [youtube.com/watch?v=UXI9w0PbBXY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXI9w0PbBXY) and T-Spot: thetspot.org

For gender queer: gqsd.weebly.com

The Genderbread Person appeared in the January, 2018 PFLAG newsletter.

However, for a clearer version, go to: itspronouncedmetrosexual.com/2012/03/the-genderbread-person-v2-0

WE SURE DID “PERSIST WITH PRIDE”

For this year’s Pride Parade, we did it up big. PFLAG San Diego County marched with Trans Family Support Service, Transforming Family, and TransParents Tucson. We had other PFLAG groups join us from Bakersfield, CA and Bellingham, WA. It was exciting marching with such a large group, which PFLAG member Robert Gleason arranged

and coordinated, along with Mike Minnick. It was lovingly named Alliance of Affirming Parents & Families. There are more acknowledgements on page eight.

The pictures will speak for themselves.



PFLAG San Diego County is very proud of Friend of Pride, Terrie Vorono, chapter president.





PFLAG THANKS YOU

Parade/Festival Coordinators

Robert Gleason Mike Minnick

Festival Booth Donation

Qualcomm Technologies, Inc.

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Joanie Brzenski	Mike Minnick
Evette Callahan	Bill Patten
Wendell Callahan	Gretchen Porton
Clive Dorman	Terrie Vorono
Olivia Dorman	Sherry Cohen-Richards
Kathe Dunn	

Providing Car and Driver Service

Annette Ottone

Donations to the General Fund

Emily Petersen
Cathy Cozen

TRANSGENDER HEALTH & WELLNESS DAY

This first time event will take place on **Saturday, September 15** from 10:30 am-5:00 pm at the LGBT Center. The event is free; however, register by September 8: thwd2018.eventbrite.com. If childcare or ASL services are needed, you can request these when registering. A complimentary lunch is also included. Benefit from this Health & Resource Fair with breakout sessions in both English and Spanish. The keynote speaker is Bamby Salcedo, nationally recognized Latina Transgender Activist and President of TransLatin@Coalition.



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