

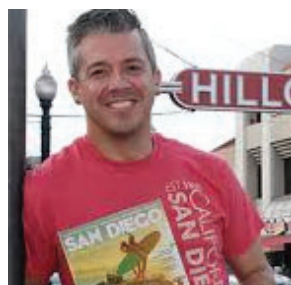


THE NEWSLETTER

January 2019

ISSUE 1

VOLUME 26



DID YOU KNOW?

San Diego has their very own LGBT Visitors Bureau! We are pleased to welcome Eddie Reynoso, founder and Executive Director of the San Diego LGBT Visitors Center. Opened in 2015, it is the world's fourth LGBT visitor information and welcome center. The Visitors Center provides the most trusted and useful information, including tours, tickets, maps, and local recommendations to out of town guests. There is a wealth of information and places to see that many

locals don't know about. Eddie will share how the Visitors Center started and all the perks there are. All this knowledge will be share at our general meeting on **Monday, January 28** at 7:00 pm at Jewish Family Service (JFS), 8788 Balboa Avenue, San Diego.

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

RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL!



Thank you to those members who have renewed their membership for 2019. Dues are used to provide support, education, and advocacy on behalf of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community and their families. They enable us to provide monthly meetings, an info line, newsletters, educational brochures, etc.

Your membership is important to us as it strengthens our presence in the community and gives us many opportunities to have our voices heard. We also help support National

PFLAG by sending \$15 of your dues to them which provides you with membership in the national organization. Please don't renew directly with National, as no part of that benefits our San Diego chapter.

The membership application is in this newsletter and also on our web site (www.pflag.com). We accept PayPal for your convenience. You can also pay at any of the meetings or mail a check made payable to: PFLAG San Diego County, P.O. Box 82762, San Diego, CA 92138. All donations are welcomed. Memberships and donations are both tax deductible.

THE HOUR OF GREAT MERCY

The Diversionary Theatre presents this poetic new play which "follows Ed, a gay Jesuit priest who leaves the Catholic church to reconcile with his estranged brother in an isolated and icy township in Alaska. As Ed confronts his tragic past and tenuous future, he unexpectedly finds love beneath the starry Alaskan sky, and support from an unlikely ally. *The Hour of Great Mercy* is a tender, insightful and compassionate story about our collective relationship to illness, family, and redemption."

The play runs **January 31-March 3**. 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The San Diego History Center is in desperate need of volunteers for the LGBTQ+ Community Exhibition in Balboa Park. Part of the AIDS Memorial Quilt is on display and they need monitors whenever the exhibition is open. There are two shifts: 10:00 am-1:30 pm or 1:30-5:00 pm daily. If you can sign up, please go to: <https://bit.ly/2BWGsGT>. Any questions, you can email Alison Hendrickson: ahendrickson@sandiegohistory.org.

TANTRUMS & TIARAS

Once again, the Center's fundraising event, Tantrums & Tiaras: Battle of the Bar Queens will take place Sunday, **February 17, 2019** at 7:00 pm, at The Observatory North Park, 2891 University Avenue in North Park. This event is like no other. What can you expect to see? A high-quality spoof of beauty pageants, of course, complete with a "talent" showcase. Local companies sponsor contestants, none of whom have any experience, as they compete to be crowned the next community Queen! In collaboration with Mo's Universe, you can expect an evening of wigs, glitter and hilarity, all for a great cause! Join the fun and cheer for your favorites. For tickets and more information, visit www.tantrumstiaras.org/.

IN GRATITUDE

San Diego LGBT Pride granted PFLAG San Diego County \$1500 in December to enable us to expand our presence and visibility in the outlying communities of North County, East County, and South Bay.

There are still many people who need us to offer support, education, and advocacy to their families, schools, and communities. We are up to the challenge with dedicated leaders at our outlying sites.

We can equip our sites with tools with this generous grant. Thank you, San Diego LGBT Pride! See you at the Pride events in July!

NEXT ON THE HIT PARADE



Sydney Schlafman is the recipient of the **Dr. Lloyd Kendall Memorial Scholarship**. Syd attended La Jolla Country Day School where one of her teachers could not praise her enough: “she has distinguished herself as one of the most

mature, thoughtful, hand-working, intelligent, caring, and downright wonderful students” that he has had the pleasure to teach. He uses many of Syd’s assignments as models for his students in his freshman and sophomore courses.

Syd is a freshman at UC Berkeley, majoring in history, where she plans to continue to learn and grow as an activist. Her ultimate goal is to attend law school after receiving her undergraduate degree.

“I am the co-director of my school’s LGBTQ organization, called Spectrum. We work to educate our larger community about LGBTQ topics as well as to provide resources to and provide a safe space for queer students. We focus on issues that are largely absent from the general school curriculum, such as LGBTQ history and inclusive sex education, and one of our primary goals is to promote general visibility on our campus. Over the years, this visibility has tangibly improved the LGBTQ climate at our school. More students are coming out of the closet and the club itself has grown exponentially; when I was a freshman, we had six people that regularly attended meetings and now, in my senior year, there are forty people on our email list. These forty members are all out of the closet and actively engaged in bettering our community. At a high school as small as mine – my senior grade has a total of 120 people – this is a notable percentage of our population.

Last April we held our first Visibility Week, which I strongly believe was a turning point in our work to better our community. Visibility Week is a full week dedicated to LGBTQ visibility; each day of the week is dedicated to a different aspect of visibility, culminating in the national Day of Silence, in which participating LGBTQ students do not speak for the entire day in order to bring attention to the contributions of queer youth to our community as well as to honor the LGBTQ youths that have been lost to suicide or violence. We had LGBTQ Historical Figures Day, in which we created posters and resources for students to learn about queer people from history, ranging from Sally Ride to Marsha P. Johnson to Harvey Milk. We had found that these figures – or at least their sexual or gender identities – were completely absent from our history curriculum, which we found unacceptable. We created the inclusion that was sorely lacking.

Another day of note under the umbrella of Visibility Week is Wear Your Pride Day, in which LGBTQ students were invited to wear rainbow or another combination of colors specific to their identity. It was emotional for me to witness the sheer number of students who were comfortable enough to be so visible on campus. It made my heart so full that our work was having a direct impact on the student body; I personally was not comfortable to come out even to my closest friends until the end of my sophomore year, and that was largely because of a girl two years older to me who had come out earlier that year. Wear Your Pride Day was an opportunity both to show closeted kids that there are so many other people just like them and to demonstrate to non-queer students that LGBTQ people make up a significant portion of our community.



This year, we have been working hard to ensure that Visibility Week becomes a yearly tradition on our campus. It has been so impactful on both our LGBTQ students and our community as a whole, and we want to continue this trend. Our administration has begun working with us to make our history and sex education curriculums more

inclusive, and more students have been coming out and being accepted by their peers. As I prepare to graduate, I can confidently say that being a facilitator of this positive growth within our community has been incredibly enriching. I am proud of the improvements that have been made and I am hopeful for our future. I personally hope to take what I have learned from my experiences as a leader at my high school out into the world as I attend college. I also want to continue to learn from those around me. We are all capable of growth and I believe that being open to widening one’s horizons is the key to enacting positive change. Beyond college, I hope to work in politics, advocating for positive change in both my local community and in the nation as a whole.”

GOOD INFO TO HAVE

At the request of the parents who have teenage children in the South Bay Support Group, staff from the San Ysidro Health Center will give a presentation on PrEP at their **January 21** meeting. The support group meets from 7:00-8:00 pm at Our Safe Place, 746 Ada Street, Chula Vista. All support groups throughout the county are encouraged to attend.

For anyone not familiar with PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis), it refers to an antiretroviral (ARV) drug (Truvada) that can be taken by an HIV negative person before potential HIV exposure to reduce risk of HIV infection. It is meant for uninfected individuals who are at high risk of HIV infection. The theory and history of PrEP is very interesting and worth a trip to South Bay for the presentation.

APPLY NOW FOR PFLAG SCHOLARSHIPS



Once again, PFLAG San Diego County is partnering with the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation for another successful scholarship program. This year, to maximize our profits to enable the amounts of the

scholarships to be increased and to award more scholarships, we are hosting the Launching Leaders Luncheon at the LGBT Center. Date: **May 11, 2019**, Time: 11:30 am-2:00 pm. The application, requirements, and other scholarship-related info are on our web site (www.pflag.com - click on the Scholarship link.). We always welcome more scholarship sponsors. Anyone or group wanting to do so, please email us at scholarships@pflag.com.

Please spread the word to LGBTQ high school seniors, full-time undergraduate, and graduate students to apply for the scholarships. This is our 21st year of offering scholarships; we will be offering 10 scholarships of a minimum of \$2000 each.

The deadline to apply is Monday, March 18, 2019.

Membership Application

Fill out and mail in this form. Confidentiality is respected.

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

**Make checks payable to: PFLAG San Diego,
 PO Box 82762, San Diego, CA 92138**

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

Type of Membership

- Individual \$30 Household \$40
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 Contributing \$125 Lifetime \$1000
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 Accept my donation, please do not list.

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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 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 from 7:00-8:00 pm,

Our Safe Place, 746 Ada St, Chula Vista.

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

RAMONA

Meets 1st Tuesday from 6:00-8:00 pm, St. Mary's in the Valley, 1010 12th Street, Ramona. For meeting info::

Carlee: 757-448-5640 | 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.

Al: 858-382-2262 | al@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.

Al: 858-382-2262 | al@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

GOOD WAY TO START OUT THE NEW YEAR



During newly-elected U.S. Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi's gavel acceptance speech, she reaffirmed her commitment to passing the Equality Act, legislation that would put into place federal non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ citizens.

"We will make America fairer by passing the Equality Act to end discrimination against LGBTQ Americans." Pelosi said.

The Equality Act would extend civil rights and protections now enjoyed by other marginalized populations like racial minorities. As it stands now, most U.S. companies can fire an individual based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. The legislation would likely also include housing protections so LGBTQ people can't be evicted or denied a mortgage because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENERAL FUND DONATIONS:

Sue Randerson • Terrie Vorono • Nancy Gosnell
Robert Gleason & Marc Matys, Maxwell & Chase
Anthony & Lilia Villasenor • Doris Faulkner • Bill Patten
Eva Stjernfeldt & Alec Babiarz • James Zeigler
L & S Rosenberg Family Foundation • Margarita Inserni
Sonia & Leon Rosenberg • Mark French
Bryan Wildenthal & Ashish Agrawal

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