



# THE NEWSLETTER

August 2019 / ISSUE 8 / VOLUME 26

**SEPTEMBER MEETING CHANGE:** Please note: the North County Coastal Support Group meeting is changed from September 2 to September 9.

## PICNIC TIME



Please join us for our general meeting on **Monday, August 26** at 7:00 pm at Jewish Family Service (JFS), 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. Last year's picnic, we had more people than food. If you are coming to the meeting, please remember a food item. Hope to see you there.



## CELEBRATING THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

You are invited to attend the 12th Annual South Bay Pride Art & Music Festival which will be held on Saturday, **September 14** from noon-8:00 pm at Bayfront Park. The event is free (suggested donation is \$10). As always, PFLAG San Diego County will have a booth. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Patti Boman at [pboman@pflag.com](mailto:pboman@pflag.com). This year, they will be receiving help from Free Mom Hugs.

The South Bay Support Group will have clothes available for LGBTQ+ persons.

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](http://southbaypride.org)).

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

## DON'T LET TIME RUN OUT

Besides taking the opportunity to see LGBTQ+ San Diego: Stories of Struggles + Triumphs at the San Diego History Center, you will get a double bonus if you go before **September 8**. The add-on exhibit is "Legendary Drag Queens of San Diego!" This is part of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall rebellion—a pivotal moment in LGBTQ+ history. The entrance fee is \$10 – well worth it.

The History Center is located at 1649 El Prado in Balboa Park, catty-corner from The Natural History Museum.

## SIGN UP FOR THE AIDS WALK



Put on your sneakers and get geared up to walk with PFLAG on **Saturday, September 28** for the 30th 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 at Normal Street and University Avenue. The registration fee is \$40 (\$30 for 17 & under and 60+). If we have at least 10 walkers registered by **September 23**, 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.

Good news. It's easier to register this year. Go to [thecentersd.org](http://thecentersd.org). On the top right click on AIDS Walk & Run, then Register, then Join A Team. After you fill in PFLAG San Diego County, click on it and select the registration amount that applies to you.

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 \$40.

Questions? Contact Sherry Cohen-Richards, [scohenrichards@pflag.com](mailto:scohenrichards@pflag.com).

## OFFICERS, COMMITTEES & VOLUNTEERS

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## Membership Application

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

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PO Box 82762, San Diego, CA 92138**

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Equality is the soul of liberty, there is, in fact, no liberty without it.

Frances Wright

### 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](http://www.pflag.org)

## Current Events

**Through September 8**  
"Legendary Drag Queens of San Diego" (see article)

**August 12 | Monday**  
Mi Familia

**August 13 | Tuesday**  
PFLAG Support Group  
North County Inland

**August 13 | Tuesday**  
Our Space-Poway/High School

**August 13 | Tuesday**  
Our Space-Poway/Middle School

**August 19 | Monday**  
PFLAG Support Group  
South Bay

**August 20 | Tuesday**  
PFLAG Support Group  
El Cajon

**August 26 | Monday**  
San Diego General Meeting  
and Support Groups

**August 27 | Tuesday**  
PFLAG Support Group  
North County Inland

**August 27 | Tuesday**  
Our Space-Poway/High School

**August 27 | Tuesday**  
Our Space-Poway/Middle School

**September 3 | Tuesday**  
PFLAG Support Group  
Ramona

**September 9 | Monday**  
PFLAG Support Group  
North County Coastal

**September 10 | Tuesday**  
PFLAG Support Group  
North County Inland

**September 10 | Tuesday**  
Our Space-Poway/High School

**September 10 | Tuesday**  
Our Space-Poway/Middle School

**September 12-October 13**  
Diversions Theatre  
*Girlfriend* (see article)

**September 14 | Saturday**  
South Bay Pride  
(see article)

**September 14 | Saturday**  
Images of Pride Reception  
(see article)

**September 16 | Monday**  
PFLAG Support Group  
South Bay

**September 17 | Tuesday**  
PFLAG Support Group  
El Cajon

## 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](http://www.pflag.com)**

### NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

#### SEPTEMBER ONLY: WILL MEET THE 2ND MONDAY

(SEPT 9), Pilgrim UCC, 2020 Chestnut Avenue, Carlsbad.

**Annette: 760-518-3345 | [northcountycoastal@pflag.com](mailto: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](mailto:RBPowaypflagsdc@pflag.com)**

### EAST COUNTY

Meets the 3rd Tuesday from 6:00-7:30 pm, El Cajon Library, 201 E. Douglas Avenue, El Cajon.

**Raegan: 858-531-5426 | [eastcountysdc@pflag.com](mailto:eastcountysdc@pflag.com)**

### SOUTH BAY

Meets 3rd Monday from 7:00-8:00 pm, South Bay Youth Center, 1180 Third Avenue, Suite C1, Chula Vista.

**Patti: 619-227-6092 | [pboman@pflag.com](mailto:pboman@pflag.com)**

### RAMONA

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

**Carlee: 757-448-5640 | [Ramonapflagsdc@pflag.com](mailto: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@transfamilysos.org](mailto:al@transfamilysos.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@transfamilysos.org](mailto:al@transfamilysos.org)**

### MI FAMILIA (Spanish) NEW LOCATION

Meets 2nd Monday from 6:00-7:30 pm, South Bay Youth Center, 1180 Third Avenue, Suite C1, Chula Vista.

**Patti: 619-227-6092 | [pboman@pflag.com](mailto: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@transfamilysos.org](mailto:info@transfamilysos.org)**

# LOOK LIKE A BIG FISH

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## NEXT UP



**Isai Soto** received the **John McCusker Memorial Scholarship**. Isai graduated from Fallbrook Union High School and will attend Georgetown University in the fall to study government. While at Fallbrook High, Isai was involved in many extracurricular activities. His top three were: Captain for his Varsity

Diving Team, Regional President of the Southern Region Future Farmers of America (FFA), and Founder/President of Fallbrook High School Democrats Club.

In his Letter of Recommendation, it was noted that Isai was a fixture in speech competitions – from being a finalist in a rotary speech competition, to performing exceptionally well in speech and debate competitions for Fallbrook FFA. He was also a national voting delegate for FFA in his junior and senior years.

“Humans are highly susceptible to become slaves of their own routine and habit. We become encapsulated by the bubble of our routine and of our inner world. So much so, we forget about the outside world and the issues that run rampant there. I hope to change the world by legislating for equality and fair representation by never forgetting what is happening outside of my sphere.

On one such occasion that a team and I were able to step outside of our usual routine to address an issue came in the month of December. Our Fallbrook FFA (Future Farmers of America) hosted an Adopt-A-Family community event. Our FFA chapter figuratively ‘adopted’ a low-income family matched to us by the Fallbrook Food Pantry. Upon being matched with the family, we also received a list of items the children asked for. Our chapter was able to buy gifts for the children, and donated money to finance groceries/necessities for the family. In 2018, we adopted a family with three children, and as a Chapter Officer I took part in the planning of our event. This effort and planning took shape in advertising the event and imploring members to donate

gifts and money to the family. Outside of planning time, my friends and I spent a large sum of time in the nearest Target to decide which gifts the kids would enjoy the most. On the last week of school before Winter Break, we were able to organize a ‘wrapping party’ in which we invited members to wrap all the gifts we received. Later in the week, I was able to deliver the gifts to the family’s home and was able to see the absolute delight the mother had upon seeing the massive amount of presents we had for their family. We were able to practically fill their living room with Christmas presents. This experience has taught me to recognize that monetary inequality causes for drastically different life experiences.



It is easy to say that 43 million Americans live below the poverty line. It’s easy to forget this statistic as well. It is not easy to say that;

Michael\*, Age: 14, Likes: Oakland Raiders  
Christian\*, Age: 10, Likes: Los Angeles  
Chargers  
Matthew\*, Age: 6, Likes: LEGOS

fall under this statistic and are affected by this issue.

In fact it is so easy to forget this statistic that in 2018 Americans spent upwards of 720 billion dollars on Christmas gifts, while a family in my community, who has a child that attends the same school as I do has to go through the food pantry to be matched with an organization to receive Christmas gifts. This was a lesson that came to me as a hard truth, while organizing this community event.

As I continue into my career, my career goals are best described as a devotion to public service. Working in public policy I want to represent citizens fairly and work for their best interest. While I’m in college, I hope to learn more about representation and how to implement better policy to benefit citizens. My passion stems from recognizing what happens outside of my bubble. I want to further my education because I have a firm belief that corruption in politics violates our constitutional rights, and more people with the right intentions must serve the American public.”

## IMAGES OF PRIDE RECEPTION

Everyone is invited to the Art of Pride: Images of Pride reception on **September 14** from 6:00- 9:00 pm. The reception is at the San Diego Pride office, 3620 30th Street in North Park and will feature images taken by photographers during the 2019 San Diego Pride events.

Light hor d’oeuvres & refreshments will be served.

If you are you a photographer who wants to submit an entry,

there is no entry fee. The “rule” is that all photos must have been taken during the 2019 San Diego Pride events and should reflect the spirit of the celebration, Stonewall 50: A Legacy of Liberation. The submission deadline for images is **August 15**, and photos selected for the final exhibition will have to be mounted or framed and ready to hang no later than August 30, 2019. Prizes--first place: \$200; second place: \$100; third place: \$50. For more information, contact John Carlos Keasler at [keaslerart@gmail.com](mailto:keaslerart@gmail.com)

## GIRLFRIEND

Don't miss the next Diversionary production entitled *Girlfriend* playing from **September 12-October 13**. It's 1993 and mixtapes are the language of love. Set in the American heartland during the summer between high school and whatever comes next, college-bound jock Mike and self-assured but aimless Will find themselves drawn to each other. Their rush of first love full of excitement, confusion, and passion, forges an unlikely bond neither were expecting. Told to the power-pop precision of Matthew Sweet's seminal rock album, *Girlfriend* is a vibrant new musical about the terror and thrill of discovering yourself, and the life you want to lead.

For performance times and ticket info, go to: [www.diversionary.org](http://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.

## "LOOK TO THE SKY"



America's Finest City Softball League (AFCSL) presents "Look to the Sky," a movie screening fundraiser for TransFamily Support Services. It

takes place **Wednesday, September 25** at the Reading Cinemas, Town Square 14 (Clairemont Square—4665 Clairemont Drive) at 7:30 pm. The film is 75 minutes and is followed by a Q & A with Founder and Executive Director of TransFamily Support Services, Kathie Moehlig. Summary: The film weaves together the uplifting true stories of young people who have demonstrated the spirit of Superman. This feature-length documentary explores the power of hope and the importance of positive ideals while encouraging viewers to find the superhero within themselves. By being a Super supporter of the transgender community, you can be inspired to look at what is possible for the world and for our own lives.

There needs to be a minimum of 75 tickets sold in order to have the event happen. You can order tickets online: [sdpride.org/event/looktothesky/](http://sdpride.org/event/looktothesky/)

## THIS IS WHAT THEY DO IN RUSSIA

Yelena Grigoryeva, 41, died after being stabbed and strangled in St. Petersburg, Russia. Acquaintances said Grigoryeva's name was on a list of LGBT activists published by a recently blocked Russian website that called on people to take vigilante action against them, including torture and murder. It's referred to as "gay-hunting." Russia's internet watchdog banned the website at the end of July; however, that has happened before and after a time, the site reappears. Yelena was a well-known activist who had received threats over her protests for LGBT rights and opposition

## IF THIS DOESN'T MAKE YOU ANGRY, NOTHING WILL

A new campaign wants corporations like AT&T and Amazon to stop giving money to anti-LGBTQ politicians. Until that happens, the organization suggests consumers stop putting dollars in those companies' accounts.

The political arm for CREDO Mobile, a mobile virtual network directing revenue to progressive causes, launched a petition campaign targeting AT&T, T-Mobile, Google, Amazon, Microsoft and Dell. Officials say those companies alone have donated more than \$5 million to homophobic politicians, all while providing corporate sponsorship to Pride events and marketing to LGBTQ consumers.

Campaign Manager Thaís Marques of CREDO Action said, "It is unacceptable for corporations to co-opt the pride flag in order to make a profit off the LGBTQ community while simultaneously giving millions to some of the most hateful, homophobic members of Congress. AT&T, T-Mobile, Amazon, Google and other corporations, need to put their money where they say their values are and stop financing the politicians who are on the frontlines of Trump's war on LGBTQ people."

CREDO Action shared information on political donations for a number of companies promoting a pro-gay image while funding anti-equality policy: AT&T, for example, donated \$2,755,000 to 193 any-gay politicians in the mid-term election cycle, according to the group. That included sending thousands to Ohio Representative Jim Jordan, who in 2011 tried to roll back marriage equality gains in Washington, D.C.

AT&T, Microsoft, Amazon and Dell also donated a collective \$15,000 to Texas Representative Brian Babis, who has pushed to rescind Obama-era protections for trans students seeking to use bathrooms matching their gender identity.

Then there's all the money sent to Texas Senator Ted Cruz.

Zero to Zero, another activist group said, in part, "These companies are giving money to politicians who would undo all the progress they supported. It doesn't make sense."

causes. No surprise that she reported threats of violence to the police, but they took no action.

Recently, activists at an LGBT resource centre in the city of Ekaterinburg, Russia said they had received a threatening letter, signed by "a liquidator of gays," warning that if they did not close down the centre "something very bad and very sad" could happen. On Grigoryeva's Facebook page, a post read, "In Russia there are more than 5 million gay people. Because of backwardness and hatred, they have to live secretly."



## STONEWALL 50: A LEGACY OF LIBERATION

Since a picture is worth a thousand words, here are many thousands of words. A huge thank you to Robert Gleason, who once again, coordinated several groups. We were proudly known as Alliance of Affirming Parents & Families

and included PFLAG San Diego County, TransFamily Support Services, Transforming Family, and TransParents Tucson.







## **PFLAG THANKS YOU**

### **Parade/Festival Coordinators**

Robert Gleason  
Mike Minnick

### **Festival Booth Donation**

Qualcomm, Inc.

### **Providing Car and Driver Service**

Annette Ottone and Cristy Mereles

### **General Fund Donations**

Geico San Diego Regional Office, in honor of Pride Month  
Jan Garbosky  
Kevin Borja

### **Festival Booth Volunteers**

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