

# THE NEWSLETTER

February 2020 ISSUE 2 VOLUME 26

# **DRAG QUEEN STORY TIME**



Please join us for our Metro meeting on **Monday**, **February 24** at 7:00 pm at Jewish Family Service (JFS), 8788 Balboa Avenue, San Diego.

Xaime Aceves-Equihua (aka Raquelita) and Francisco Soto (aka Barbie Q), our speakers, were the drag queens from the Chula Vista Library Drag Queen Story Time. Despite weeks of opposition from

the hate group, Mass Resistance, it did not deter them from appearing. Their mission as drag artists is to make the world a better place through telling stories, inspiring/empowering youth and giving representation to the Latinx LGBTQ+ community. Out of drag, both Raquelita and Barbie Q work in non-profits related to education, LGBTQ+ and Latinx communities. You can follow them on Facebook to keep up with their upcoming projects: Raquel\_ita\_x and Curvy\_latina\_barbie\_q\_official

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

# **OUT OF THIS WORLD**

This Leap Day, it's one small step for you, one giant leap for bowling kind! Human Rights Campaign's San Diego's 12th Annual Bowling for Equality is **Saturday**, **February 29**. It is one of their largest and most exciting events of the year. The event is at Kearny Mesa Bowl, 7585 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, San Diego. There are two shifts: 12:30-2:30 pm and 3:00-5:00 pm. Tickets come with an HRC membership, two hours of bowling, shoe rental, food, and snacks. It's a fun afternoon of bowling with friends and colleagues, while supporting HRC's fight for equality.

To purchase tickets, go to: https://act.hrc.org/page/53523/event/1

# **CAN YOU BE A GOOD DEED DOER?**

WANTED: Sponsors for the Launching Leaders Luncheon. Much of the PFLAG Scholarship Awards luncheon's success depends on help from sponsors. Sponsorships are available at these levels: \$500 for a table of eight; \$1000 for an Awardee Sponsor; \$2500 for a Leadership Sponsor. To check out the Sponsorship Package, go to www.pflag.com, click on the Scholarship tab, then Support our Students. Individual ticket purchases are also available (\$65 each). For questions, please email scholarships@pflag.com.

#### MADAME PRESIDENT



"Parting is such sweet sorrow." We know Terrie Vorono isn't really going anywhere, but she stepped down from her role of PFLAG San Diego County President. After eight years, she's officially past president.

Terrie began her long journey with PFLAG SDC as a board member before becoming co-president, then president.

She would never talk about her own accomplishments, but as chapter Vice-President, I am delighted to do. Once upon a time, 15 years ago, Terrie learned that one of her sons, Ben, was gay, (still true to this day!). One of her first reactions was, "If the world needs a parent for a gay child, let it be me." Soon after sharing the information with her parents, they learned of an adult education class that was featuring speakers from PFLAG SDC. Terrie went and was immediately hooked. Soon thereafter, she regularly attended Metro Support Group Meetings. She discovered people who could teach her how to be an advocate for her son and other people's children. It didn't take long to become a member of the board and a support group facilitator.

Terrie attended a GLSEN board meeting to learn how PFLAG could support their mission; she then became a board member of GLSEN. Although she currently isn't a board member now, she is still active in GLSEN.

In 2018, she was selected as San Diego Pride's Friend of Pride. She was honored at The Stonewall Rally and during the Pride Parade – a tremendous honor to a well-deserving activist.

As PFLAG San Diego County President, Terrie was always grateful for the opportunity to meet other LGBTQ supporting organization members who advocate for youth and the LGBTQ community. Terrie has been fearlessly dedicated to our LGBTQ youth as an advocate and activist on the front lines of service. Terrie helped PFLAG lead the charge, alongside Pride, The Center, and GLSEN, to reform San Diego Unified School District's policies and implementation for LGBTQ youth. For years she has served on the Community Leadership Council's Youth Services and Advocacy Committee, and SDUSD's LGBTQ Advisory Committee. Without Terrie's bold passion, visionary dedication, and relentless strength, our region's LGBTQ youth would not have seen the level of progress we all now know and love in San Diego. She is the embodiment of the word ally.

# OFFICERS, COMMITTEES & VOLUNTEERS

#### **President**

Tiffany Gonzalez 760-554-7967 tgonzalez@pflag.com

#### **Past President**

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Nancy Colbert ncolbert@pflag.com

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Lonnie Brunini lbrunini@pflag.com

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Support/Outreach 888-398-0006

PFLAG San Diego PO Box 82762 San Diego, CA 92138

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#### 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

Beverly Lavallee

#### Transgender Coordinator

Kathie Moehlig kathie@transfamilysos.org

#### Refreshments

Ina Price

#### Website

Lisa Smith, Belladia Marketing & Design

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Nancy Colbert
Dan Conger
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Beverly Lavallee
Bill Luna
Vicki Luna
Mike Minnick
Kathie Moehlig
Ina Price
Terrie Vorono

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

Membership Application				
<ul><li>□ New □ Renewal □ Change of Address</li><li>□ Please contact me for volunteer opportunities</li></ul>				
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				
☐ 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 or apply online www.pflag.com				
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#### **PFLAG THANKS YOU**

**General Fund Donations** 

Remo & Annette Ottone Linda & Fred Espinoza Cathy Cozen Jay & Jackie Trischman Bill Patten Arlene Prater

Ian Robson - Creative Juices Signage & Advertising

No, transgender individuals are not 'confused;' but they are exposed to OPD – Other People's Disorder.

Once Other People unconfuse – we call all go on.

- Christine Milrod, PhD, Psychotherapist

# **Current Events**

February 10 | Monday Mi Familia

February 11 | Tuesday PFLAG Support Group North County Inland

February 11 | Tuesday Our Space-Poway/ High School

February 11 | Tuesday Our Space-Poway/ Middle School

February 16 | Sunday Tantrums & Tiaras (see article)

February 18 | Tuesday PFLAG Support Group South Bay

February 18 | Tuesday PFLAG Support Group El Cajon

February 22 | Saturday PFLAG Night at the **Diversionary Theatre** (see article)

February 24 | Monday San Diego General Meeting

February 29 | Saturday HRC Bowling for Equality (see article)

March 2 | Monday **PFLAG Support Group** North County Coastal

March 3 | Tuesday PFLAG Support Group Ramona

**Through March 8 Diversionary Theatre** A Kind of Weather (see article)

March 9 | Monday Mi Familia

March 10 | Tuesday PFLAG Support Group North County Inland

March 10 | Tuesday Our Space-Poway/ High School

March 10 | Tuesday Our Space-Poway/ Middle School

March 14 | Saturday Pride Youth Art Show (see article)

March 17 | Tuesday South Bay Support Group

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

# **IMPORTANT HOTLINE**

The first transgender suicide prevention hotline in the United States is up and running:

> TRANS LIFELINE 877-565-8860

# 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**

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

Bridget: 619-647-6479 | eastcountysdc@pflag.com

#### **SOUTH BAY**

Meets 3rd Tuesday from 7:15-8:15, South Bay Youth Center, 1180 Third Avenue, Suite C1, 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.

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@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. Des: 760-913-7073 | des@transfamilysos.org

#### MI FAMILIA (Spanish)

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

#### 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

#### TWO MORE SCHOLARS



Katelynn Gutierrez-George is one of the recipients of the Qualcomm STEM Scholarships. This scholarship is provided by members of the eQuality LGBTQ Qualcomm Employee Network to attract, support, and train future LGBTQ professionals in STEM fields. Katie graduated from Southwest High School where she was GSA president for her last two years. Katie was instrumental

in coordinating Coming Out Day, the Day of Silence, community outreach programs, and fundraising for the club. She worked closely with the school's ASB to be inclusive of the entire school. As a student representative of GLSEN, she kept the GSA abreast of local events.

Katie currently attends Williamette University.

"On a personal level, I had an impact by revamping my schools Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) Club. Previously, the club was a social clique of students who wanted a platform to boost their own popularity. This defeated the purpose of being all-inclusive and diminish the number of participants. In the vacuum of leadership after the previous president graduated, I saw my opportunity to create the safe space desperately needed at my school. Education and support became a priority for the club. As a club, we were able to have open discussions on such topics as sexual orientation, gender identification, and gender expression. These discussions provided an arena for all members to express their feelings and opinions and know that they would be heard and validated. At the community level, I continued to voice my passion to support the LGBT+ community by joining the San Diego Chapter of the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN). GLSEN works to educate students and instructors to create inclusive schools for LGBT+ youth across Sand Diego county. As a chapter board member, I was at the forefront of decisions that greatly impacted GSA clubs in high schools in the San Diego area. These decisions included the allocation of money to schools, and organizing our yearly GSA Awards. Lastly, I have had a few opportunities to make a greater impact outside my own country. I've had the chance to travel with my church youth group and work with the missionary organization YUGO

Ministries. Our youth group built houses from the ground up for homeless families in Ensenada, Mexico. These projects each started with the process of fundraising \$2,500, used to fund the materials for the home. When we arrived in Ensenada we



first met the family and the local church members. Along with YUGO representatives, our youth group would start on the strenuous week-long build. This culminated into the key ceremony where we each prayed over and handed the keys of the new home to the family receiving the home. The family was always filled with gratitude and happiness. Being a part of something bigger than myself and giving the families a necessity was extremely gratifying. These experiences created lasting memories of being able to give and receive appreciation from those we had the opportunity to serve. During this time I also was able to serve as the primary translator for our group. I know that giving back will always be a part of my life and that these opportunities helped shaped me into the giving person I am today. After graduating high school, I hope to take all the skills and experiences I've gained to serve my future communities and the world."



A Qualcomm STEM Scholarship was also awarded to Will Sandke. Will was not able to attend the ceremony, as they were conducting scientific research in the Sargasso Sea. Will's parents accepted on their behalf. Last spring, Will had finished their junior year at Smith College, where they are majoring

in Biology, with a minor in Marine Science and Policy, with emphasis on molecular ecology studying the effects of climate change on the marine system. While at Smith, Will is serving on the executive board Gold Key with the student admissions team and also on the executive board at Smith's radio station.

Will spent the summer at Smith as a Research Fellow studying parasites and the genome sequencing of various mammalian parasites.

"I firmly believe that music is an integral part of the LGBTQ community and I firmly believe that supporting LGBTQ artists is the responsibility of those who can. I was able to use my position on my college's radio station board as assistant station manager to plan a free concert for students while properly compensating local and out of town artists, many of whom identify as LGBTQ. I worked with the rest of my team to create an event that would be a welcoming and safe space for college students and local community members alike. We were able to create a positive atmosphere with great music that folks could connect with. Concerts are often inaccessible and expensive, especially for college students. So, we created an intentional space for LGBTQ folks and allies to enjoy a night out for free.

Next year I will be station manager and I hope to have an even better concert in the fall. This is just something I thoroughly enjoy doing for my community but that I won't get the chance to do after I graduate. I plan to change the world through science once I graduate. I am a biology major at Smith with a minor in marine science and policy. I think climate change is one of the most pressing issues facing our world today. Some of the direst predictions say we only have 25 years left to turn things around. We continue to let species go extinct and natural disasters to get worse and worse. It is well documented that climate change will affect minorities the most (people of color and LGBTQ folks). I want to find ways through research to affect mass change on the policy level, be it local, national, or international. I plan to be part of the next push for widespread and necessary reform. I also plan to prioritize LGBTQ people and people of color in that push. I know that through teamwork and collaboration we can turn the tides of climate change and save countless species and human lives."



#### A BELATED FAREWELL

A big THANK YOU goes to Raegan Edwards for her efforts to get the East County PFLAG Support Group going! Raegan was instrumental in generating support for the new group. A skilled facilitator, Raegan was great at making everyone feel safe and

welcome. She spearheaded outreach efforts in El Cajon and Santee, and was great at generating financial donations for PFLAG SDC.

After a year of planning, outreach, and support group meetings, Raegan has left East County for her greener pastures. Congratulations on your engagement, Raegan, and thanks again for all you have done. You will be missed!

# **GET IN THE MEMBERSHIP SPIRIT!**

Thank you to those members who have renewed their membership for 2020. We are looking forward to receiving more renewals or first-time dues. These monies are used to provide support, education, and advocacy on behalf of our LGBTQ community and their families. They enable us to provide monthly meetings, an info line, newsletters, educational brochures, etc.

Please send your dues to PFLAG San Diego County, as \$15 of it is sent to PFLAG National. If you renew with them, there is no benefit for 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, P.O. Box 82762, San Diego, CA 92138. All donations and memberships are tax deductible.

#### **EVERYONE IS INVITED**

The PFLAG Southern Pacific Regional Conference will take place on **Saturday**, **February 29**, from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. The conference will be held at the Manhattan Beach Community Church, 303 S Peck Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA.

There is no registration fee to attend the conference and is open to all PFLAG chapter leaders, members, and supporters. While there is no fee, it is necessary to register. If you need a form, please email Terrie at tvorono@pflag. com and she can forward one to you. Let her know if you are interested in carpooling.

#### TANTRUMS & TIARAS

The LGBT Center's fundraising event, Tantrums & Tiaras: Battle of the Bar Queens will take place **Sunday**, **February 16**. 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/.

# HONORING BLACK LGBTQ LEADERS

February is Black History Month and the Human Rights Campaign is shining a spotlight on the long history of Black leadership in the LGBTQ movement and the ways in which Black LGBTQ and allied trailblazers have been, and continue to be, at the center of the fight for equality across movements. Some icons will be familiar to you; others won't be: Jackie Shane, Jermaine Stewart, Billie Holiday, RuPaul, Sylvester, Ma Rainey, Willi Ninja, Gladys Bentley, and Frankie Knuckles.

#### PFLAG AT THE WOMEN'S MARCH

PFLAG SDC proudly tabled and marched at the 4th Annual Women's March on **January 18**. We were in downtown San Diego and North County. Pictured below, getting ready to march, are the downtown group and in the second photo tabling in North County are co-facilitators Annette Ottone and Kurt Dearie.





#### A KIND OF WEATHER

Please join a group of PFLAG members who are attending the 8:00 pm **Saturday**, **February 22** showing of *A Kind of Weather* at the Diversionary Theatre. If we get them in advance and use our PFLAG discount, the tickets are \$35.00 each. The play, which ends **March 8** is about learning to be who you already are. Synopsis: When Kid's grieving father pops up at his Brooklyn doorstep and asks to move in, it kind of puts a cramp in his sex life, not to mention the completion of his memoir about his gender transition. As he struggles to keep his professional and romantic deadlines, revelations about his family history begin to subvert his own narrative. This play is a hilarious, time-jumping, tragi-comedy exploring gender identity and its effect on family.

If you cannot join us for the February 22 performance and would like to see the play, check out: 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.

# "TOGETHER WE RISE"

That is the theme of this year's Pride Youth Art Show which takes place **Saturday, March 14** from 6:00-8:00 pm at the San Diego Pride Office, 3620 30th Street, North Park. San Diego Pride and Art of Pride are partnering to create a platform to showcase young local LGBTQ artists. Art is a positive form of expression, and we welcome the opportunity to help our youth share their stories with family, friends, faculty and the community. If you know any youth who may be interested, the information and application are at sdpride.org/yas.

# **CONGRATS TO NEW OFFICERS**

Our Board of Directors are: Tiffany Gonzalez, President; Sherry Cohen-Richards, Vice President; Nadia Kean-Ayub, Secretary; Nancy Colbert, Treasurer. All members are invited to attend board meetings. We will announce the dates and times in the March newsletter. The board members, Regional Directors, and facilitators will be meeting at our annual retreat on **Sunday, February 23** to plan out the remainder of 2020.

All young people, regardless of sexual orientation or identity, deserve a safe and supportive environment in which to achieve their full potential.

- Harvey Milk

# APPLY NOW FOR LGBTQ SCHOLARSHIPS/ SUPPORT LAUNCHING LEADERS LUNCHEON

PFLAG San Diego County is gearing up for another successful scholarship program – our 23rd year! As we have for the past five years, 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 on **Saturday, May 30.** The application, requirements, and other scholarship-related info are on our web site (www.pflag.com - click on the Scholarship tab). For questions, contact scholarships@pflag.com.

Please spread the word to LGBTQ high school seniors, full-time undergraduate, and graduate students to apply for the scholarships. We will consider half-time applicants with an explanation of the circumstances that prevents them from attending full-time. A minimum of 10 scholarships will be awarded in the amounts of \$2000 or more.

If you cannot sponsor our endeavors, but would like to support the program, you can make a single donation. The page is printed on the next page. Mailing a donation or donating online at pflag.com/support-our-students will help the program continue.

The deadline to apply is Monday, March 23, 2020.



# **WAYS TO HELP PFLAG**

If you have an account with Amazon, you can help raise funds for PFLAG San Diego County by changing your account to smile. Amazon. For every purchase, our chapter will receive .05% of the dollar amount of the order. This may not sound like a lot, but it adds up with the more people we have participating.

Go to smile.Amazon.com and log onto your account. When selecting to support PFLAG, it will be listed as either PFLAG San Diego County or by Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays San Diego County (our original name registered with the IRS).



# **CULTIVATING AND SUSTAINING SAN DIEGO COUNTY LGBTQ SCHOLARS**

# **LAUNCHING LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP FUND 2020**

Sponsored by PFLAG San Diego County

The 23rd Annual PFLAG San Diego County Scholarship Awards will be presented on **Saturday, May 30, 2020** from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm at the LGBT Community Center, 3909 Centre Street, in Hillcrest.

We are accepting donations to support the scholarships and luncheon. Your support of Launching Leaders will increase our capacity to continue supporting future leaders in their academic endeavors. PFLAG supports families, allies, and people who are LGBTQ through education and advocacy. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, tax ID 33-0512868.

We invite you to join us in donating to the Launching Leaders LGBTQ Scholarship Fund. We welcome and appreciate a **donation of ANY amount**. A total of 100% of the funds raised will go directly to the scholarship awards, and your donation is tax deductible as allowed by law. Your name and/or company name will appear in our program booklet.

YES! I WILL SUPPORT SAN DIEGO'S LO	CRTO STUDE	NTS WITH MY DONAT	TION OF \$
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□ Payment is enclosed/attached Please make checks payable to: PFLAG San Diego County Scholarship Fund mail to: PO Box 420313, San Diego, CA 92142-			. 11/-
☐ I will pay online via Paypal  Visit pflag.com/support-our-students to dor	nate		

Inquiries should be directed to scholarships@pflag.com or call (888)398-0006 Launching Leaders is produced by PFLAG San Diego County

#### **CAMP BRAVE TRAILS**

This is a leadership camp for LGBTQ+ youth & allies, ages 12-18 and is located in California. For security reasons, the location is not broadcast.

The 2020 dates are: June 20 – July 3 (two weeks); July 8 – July 14 (one week); July 19 – August 1 (two weeks).

Campers describe Brave Trails as "a home away from home" and their "favorite place on earth." Every day is full of adventure, laughing, new friends, and personal growth, all while being surrounded by LGBTQ identified role models and supportive peers that celebrate each camper for who they are.

The camp is leadership focused where campers spend every day learning about their potential to make change in their communities and grow as an individual. There are activities galore and leadership workshops.

Registration is open. If interested, go to their website: https://www.bravetrails.org/apply-for-camp/.

Volunteer LGBTQ+ adult role models are needed. Information is at https://www.bravetrails.org/volunteer.

## **TICKETS SELLING LIKE HOTCAKES!**

It's not too soon to purchase your tickets to OUT at the Park, sponsored by San Diego Pride. The baseball game between the Padres and Rockies is **Friday, March 27** from 5:30-10:00 pm at Petco Park. For \$25 you can a non-hosted blast at Park in the Park, a much sought-after baseball cap and a \$5 donation to SD Pride. For more info and to purchase tickets, go to sdpride.org/event/oatp/.





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