

THE **NEWSLETTER**

May 2020

ISSUE 5 / VOLUME 26

ATTENTION: Cancellations

SUPPORT GROUP MEETING WILL CONTINUED TO BE CANCELLED

We are still suspending all in-person chapter meetings, events, and support groups. We encourage you to contact your support group facilitator at any time, as they will remain excellent resources for information.

Contact your local group for information on digital meetings:

Metro Support Group, metrosdc@pflag.com
North County Inland Support Group, RBPowaysdc@pflag.com
North County Coastal Support Group, northcountycoastalsdc@pflag.com
South Bay Support Group, southbaysdc@pflag.com
East County Support Group, eastcountysdc@pflag.com
Ramona Support Group, northcountyinlandsdc@pflag.com
Del Sur support group, 4sdelsursdc@pflag.com

For urgent support, visit pflag.org/hotlines for an up-to-date list of emergency hotline numbers, available nationwide. For a list of local resources, visithttps://211sandiego.org/lgbtq or https://211sandiego.org. You may also contact PFLAG President, Tiffany Gonzalez, tgonzalez@pflag.com or 619-609-7179.

The Support Group information on page three is still listed as it was prior to the meeting suspensions.

PRIDE CANCELLED

Among other events to be cancelled are the San Diego Pride Parade and Festival. The revenue from these events are a large part of their fundraising and will affect all the LGBTQ+ groups who benefit from the grants they award every year.

FOR YOUR NETFLIX ENTERTAINMENT

There are several LGBTQ-related documentaries/films now on Netflix.

Circus of Books: This documents the journey of Karen and Barry Mason who ran a porn shop and epicenter for gay LA starting in 1976. It was well before LGBTQ culture was accepted and the AIDS epidemic happened. The film focuses on the double life they led, trying to maintain the balance of being parents in a taboo culture. Their three children were unaware of the type of book shop it was; they were just told their parents owned a book store. The Masons' many challenges included facing jail time for a federal obscenity prosecution and enabling their store to be a place of refuge before and during the AIDS crisis.

Circus of Books offers a rare glimpse into an untold chapter of queer history, and it is told through the lens of the owners' daughter, Rachel Mason, a filmmaker who directed the documentary. It is showing free on Netflix.

To their surprise, Karen and Barry's son, Joshua, came out about 20 years ago. They had no idea he was gay; one would think in their line of business they would be total accepting; however, Karen struggled a bit with her faith.

One of the beauties of this story is their connection to PFLAG Los

Angeles. Once Josh came out, they became very active in the chapter and still are today.

A Secret Love: This one-hour documentary encompasses the journey of Pat Henschel and Terry Donahue, two women, who, when the documentary was filmed were octogenarians living in a suburb of Chicago. While the past is showcased with vintage videos and black-and-white photographs, the present features their own voices as well as that of Terry's extended family members. A Secret Love documents the issues the lovers confronted during their younger days and how age itself has become a point of concern in their current lives. You feel badly that they had to lie to the world about their relationship, but Terry and Pat sure rose to the occasion when they had to.

Terry and Pat said they were cousins in order to conceal their relationship and why they lived together. And to family members, they were just friends.

It was fun to learn that Terry was one of the pioneers of Canadian women's baseball during World War II, considered a man's sport back in the day. "I broke all the rules all my life and that's why I am happy," says Terry. While Terry was telling this story, Pat interjected to explain how their love story was something straight

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THE LAST TWO SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019



The Kendall Family Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Gabriel Guzmán. This scholarship was donated by Terrie Vorono and Lonnie Brunini. Gabe graduated UC Riverside, and he is currently a doctoral student at Northwestern University. Gabe will earn a PhD in Performance Studies

in order to contribute to the diversification of educators in higher education and positively nurture future scholars of color.

In his Letter of Recommendation, one of his professors stated that Gabe had "an unmatched work ethic, a profound commitment to social justice, and an adaptability to an array of social contexts..."

"I value the importance of academic success, mentorship, and student empowerment specially to increase retention rates of queer people of color. Therefore, I am involved in UC Riverside's Chicano Link Mentor Program, an organization

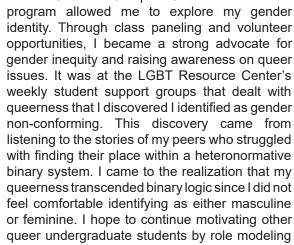
that seeks to strengthen new students' academic, cultural, and social success. I have been affiliated with the mentorship program for over two years and have worked with queer identifying transfer and first year students. In building our relationships, I always try to cultivate a sense of trust by sharing my coming out story. In effect, I can connect and bond with my pupils over our shared experiences. The most meaningful part of establishing these connections is being able to see my mentee's growth as they seek out their own leadership opportunities on-campus. Most notably, I was able to guide two of my mentee's into achieving success in their goals to become affiliated with a competitive on-campus research lab and in becoming a student government senator. In working

together, we were able to understand that our mentormentee relationship is rooted in collaboration all aimed at supporting the betterment of our community. Working with a mentee, I have seen first-hand the power that peer-to-peer support has to build self-esteem, intellectual curiosity, and positive leadership habits. This experience has contributed to my own desire to continue seeking leadership platforms to support the development of future generations of queer scholars of colors.

Currently, I am a second-year Resident Advisor for MUNDO, the Chicano/Latino Residence Hall. Being a student leader for an on-campus cultural community was impactful because it expanded my knowledge on intersectionality. During my first hall meeting, I openly spoke about topics on gender pronouns, sexuality, and latinidad to build common ground with my residents. Coming out to my residents was significant because I wanted to highlight the intersections of

my Latinx and queer identities to ensure that if any of them identified as queer that they knew it was a safe space and that they could come speak to me. Collaborating with the Chicano Student Programs office, I held events aimed at educating residents on contemporary issues, celebrating cultural customs, and identity development. Residential Life has given me translatable skills such as communication, program planning, conflict mediation, and professionalism that have been integral towards nurturing younger LGBTQ+ academics. These are also the traits that influence me as a queer researcher and future educator who embraces community building, diversity, and leadership development.

The day I received my acceptance to UC Riverside, I found myself in tears in front of my parents. Being a queer and Latinx, I dreamt about attending UCR because it is known as the fourth most diverse research institution in the nation. While at UCR, I became involved in several leadership positions. My experience as a member of the LGBT Resource Center's Campus OutReach Educator



the way that my queerness has played a significant role in the development of my research project. One of my larger goals is to start a student support group that mentors queer undergraduate students in the graduate school application process. In the fall, I will be pursuing a PhD in Performance Studies at Northwestern University. As a first generation queer Latinx graduate student, I am committed to upholding and supporting the diversity of my campus.

My decision to pursue a doctoral degree stems from the way I know queerness through personal experience. My coming out to my family was met with immediate disdain; my mother yelled at me, 'I have failed as a parent because my eldest and only son is gay. Eres un maricón!' My mother's response to my coming out was not the first time I heard homophobic language, but it was the first time it was directed at me. Her words ignited resilience within me that illuminated my pursuit of higher education. I began to learn more about my





Membership Application

Membership Application
□ New □ Renewal □ Change of Address□ Please contact me for volunteer opportunities
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.
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Phone......Date







SHERRILL JOSEPH

Bestselling Kids' Mystery Writer www.sherrilljoseph.com

WALK AGAINST HATE

For anyone who had registered for the ADL's Walk Against Hate, the fee will automatically roll over to the 2021 Walk. The date for next year is Sunday, May 2, 2021. The San Diego ADL appreciates your support.

SUPPORT GROUPS

SAN DIEGO METRO

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 metrosdc@pflag.com

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

Meets the 1st Monday from 6:30-8:30 pm at Pilgrim UCC, 2020 Chestnut Avenue, Carlsbad. Annette: 760-518-3345 | northcountycoastalsdc@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 | RBPowaysdc@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: pboman@pflag.com

RAMONA

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

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

DEL SUR

Meets 2nd Tuesday from 7:00-8:30 pm, Del Sur Ranch House, 15455 Paseo Del Sur, San Diego

Theresa: 4sdelsursdc@pflag.com

POWAY LGBTQ YOUTH SUPPORT/HIGH SCHOOL AND OUR SPACE-POWAY--LGBTQIA/MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

Poway: Al: 858-382-2262 | al@transfamilysos.org Our Space: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.

Carolina: cramos@thecentersd.org

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

THE LAST TWO SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

queer identity with my involvement in my high school's Gay-Straight Alliance. As a group, we attended our first Gay Pride Rally where I was moved by a speech given by Laverne Cox where she spoke about the trans activism by Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera that paved the way for the struggle for equal rights. Her speech jolted my commitment to higher education, I made a promise to myself that I would be the first in my family to attend a four-year university. I also found resonance in the shared experiences that bonded my community and me. This experience was pivotal for me because it reminded me of the importance of community, intersectionality, and empathy, and that I am not alone. With this knowledge and sense of purpose, I was able to improve my relationship with my parents. Despite my family's initial reaction, both my queerness and my Latinx background are the most definitive aspects of my identity. I was enthralled by the sense of chosen family, mutual support, and the history of LGBT activism. My lived experiences reaffirm my resilience as both a researcher and scholar who aims to amplify queer voices.

As I pursue doctoral studies in the interdisciplinary humanities, I will continue changing and refining the diversity amongst the ranks of educators that exist within higher educational institutions. The meaningful experiences I have had so far in academia have helped set the stage for what's to come while preparing me to serve as a role model for future generations of queer students. In becoming a professor in the humanities, I want to continue raising awareness on queer issues and writing about them in the scholarship I will ultimately produce."



Jesus Suarez is the recipient of the PFLAG San Diego County Merit Scholarship. While at Cuyamaca College, Jesus served as the Associated Student Government President, as well as President of SPECTRUM, the college's only LGBTQIA+ club. As if that weren't

enough, he worked as lead Engagement Ambassador in the office of Student Affairs, planning cultural and equalityrelated programs. Jesus is currently a junior at UC Berkeley.

One of his professors wrote in her Letter of Recommendation, "Jesus is an intelligent and intellectually curious student who cares deeply about issues of race, gender, sexuality and labor. He has a selfless dedication to helping others, which becomes clear in the amount of work he puts into thinking of, planning and implementing various ways to help underserved students on campus."

"As a proud queer, first-generation, and Latinx individual, I am deeply committed to advocating for the rights and issues

of my fellow LGBTQIA+ community members at the local, state, and national level. In particular, I have charged myself as student body president and president of Spectrum, my college's first and only LGBTQIA+ student organization, to create meaningful change in the life of my queer peers through the creation of resources, programs, and events on my campus.

Moreover, as the student body President, I administered surveys and interviews in order to assess the student needs of my peers. My research provided evidence that there was a deep need for validation and representation felt throughout campus. In particular, this sentiment was felt most in students from communities of color and those from the LGBTQIA+ community. In order to address this deficit in student validation and representation, I founded Magnum Opus: Cuyamaca College's first and only graduate diversity ceremony. Similar to the Latinx or Pride graduations offered at other colleges; Magnum Opus offers a space for students, alongside their family and friends, to be recognized for their academic milestone. Furthermore, in order to develop the ceremony, as a free and inclusive space for my graduating peers; I had to fundraise for the ceremony through lobbying for funds with my college's leadership and through more traditional forms of fundraising such as bake sales and donation drives. Ultimately, I was able to secure the funds in time for the graduating class of 2018 to be able to partake in the ceremony.

I designed the ceremony as a cross-cultural space because I know that we are more than one identity, we are an intersection of many. Particularly, from my experience as a queer individual, I have learned that there are many intersectionalities of myself that play a role in my life such as my Latinx and first-generation identities. In order to cater to this, I developed Magnum Opus to celebrate communities of color, such as the Black community, the Latinx community, and the Pan-Asian community alongside the LGBTQIA+ community and women; all of which at some point or another have faced barriers to their education. Each of these communities had scholars that were honored for the academic excellence and extraordinary leadership through stoles that reflected the community they draw roots from. Alongside the cultural graduation stoles, each attendee was awarded regalia cords to symbolize their inner fire and resolve to achieve their academic goals. In addition, participants received certificates of recognition signed by myself, as their student body President, and by the president of the Cuyamaca College. Ultimately, Magnum Opus has become the monumental stepping stone in my life as it serves as an important reminder to myself that visibility is the cornerstone of social progress, but more importantly, that LGBTQIA+ issues are intersectional issues as we exist in all shades and colors. Continued on page 5

THE LAST TWO SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

However, there is still so much work to be done in terms of closing the equity gap in the lives of my fellow LGBTQIA+ community members and as such, I continue to charge myself to advocate for the issues of my queer peers. Moreover, at present, in order to adequately prepare myself for a life in advocacy work, I am double majoring in

Sociology and Political Science with hopes of transferring to a four-year university this fall and continuing my studies there. After completing my undergraduate work, I aspire to pursue law school in order to come back to my community and start up my own non-profit organization aimed to help those in the LGBTQIA+ community, particularly

those from communities of color. In addition, I'd like to start developing a stronger sense of community in low-income areas for my LGBTQIA+ community members through community outreach to break down misconceptions and connect families with LGBTIQIA+ members to local support resources. Similar to the Safe Zones ally training program I helped bring to Cuyamaca College, I plan on trying to hold open-spaces in which I present accurate information about the LGBTQIA+ community in hopes to develop a network of allies for our queer youth and struggling queer peers.

Aside from promoting information, understanding, and awareness through my non-profit, I aspire to also civically engage the LGBTQIA+ community. I believe that a civically engaged community is paramount in terms of developing a meaningful change in the lives of others in our community and

FOR YOUR NETFLIX ENTERTAINMENT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

out of a musical. "Our first kiss was in the middle of a street during a sandstorm, so nobody could see us."

The documentary, both entertaining and heartwarming, was directed by Terry's great-nephew Chris Bolan.

The Half of It: Alice Wu is the writer and director of the film, giving a queer take on "Cyrano de Bergerac." Ms Wu tells a personal tale inspired by elements of her own young life. Featured are several of the kinds of characters who are so often seen in Young Adult films and novels: hyper-verbal teenagers given to expressing their anxieties and longings through witty, self-aware narration. The Half of It takes place in the sort of small town that may seem quaint to the outside viewer but feels like a prison to the restless kids trapped within it.

it can help to address the clear lack of adequate LGBTQIA+ representation in our congressional and governmental leadership. Whilst adopting practices I learned while being involved with the LGBT center's civic engagement work, I seek to expand these practices to more rural areas that don't have the benefit of being close to the big cities.



Lastly, I want to eventually run for public office in order to advocate for my fellow queer peers and provide representation for the disproportionately impacted communities of our nation. If elected to office, I want to advocate for the establishment of federal protections against discrimination based

on sexuality, gender identity and expression in all fifty states. This is particularly important to me when reflecting upon the discrimination faced by my transgender and gender nonconforming peers in the military, and the acts of violence suffered by LGBTQIA+ peers. I want to address Congress with the disparities faced by my LGBTQIA+ peers in terms of access to comprehensive medical coverage, safety in public life, and equal protection under the law. Furthermore, I also aim to advocate for an increase in funding for the development of LGBTQIA+ centers throughout this great nation in order to ensure that no youth or adult in our community has to go through life feeling alone and afraid.

In closing, I know the road is going to be long and my dreams are ambitious, but I believe my community deserves it. And if I don't do it, who will?"

SOME LIGHT-HEARTEDNESS DURING PANDEMIC

Michigan City, Indiana's Fiddlehead Restaurant is making the best out of a bad situation — and looking absolutely fabulous while doing so.

While the current, ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has many small businesses operating at limited capacity, plenty of restaurants all over the country are still very much open for business, offering takeout and delivery options for customers who want a break from having to cook their own meals. Still, there's something sad about not being able to fully patronize your favorite local diner in the same way you used to so the owners of Fiddlehead decided to take a new approach to brighten up the takeout process: drag queens.

The diner has organized a "Dragside Pickup" service every Saturday while the current stay-at-home orders are in effect during the coronavirus quarantine. Bright, colorful, dolled-up local queens wearing their best drag (as well as face mask and gloves, of course) will be working on Saturdays to help deliver food to patrons who order takeout, waiting outside the restaurant from their cars.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2020 PFLAG SDC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The essays of each recipient will appear on the PFLAG website (www.pflag.com) some time in May. Announcing the recipients:



Mary Wagner Memorial Scholarship: Jonathan Limon

Bio: Jonathan was born and raised in the South Bay area of San Diego where he currently resides. He holds a degree in nursing from San Francisco State University and will be pursuing a Master's in Higher Education Leadership at the University of San Diego this fall. Jonathan is currently serving as a Registered Nurse on the front lines of this pandemic. He has a passion for increasing access to higher education and working with underserved populations.



John Bessemer Memorial Scholarship: Christopher Harrop

Bio: My name is Chris Harrop, and I received my degree in International Business and Spanish at the University of San Diego. Since graduating in 2018, I've spent two years working for a national mortgage company as a Human Resources Data and Systems Analyst. However, I couldn't keep myself away from the higher education system for long. I'm thrilled to be joining Harvard's Graduate School of Education this fall, pursuing my Master's in Higher Education. My ultimate goal is to empower colleges and universities to better leverage their student data to improve outcomes for diverse students, especially those within the LGBTQ+ community.



Rob Benson Memorial Scholarship: G Trupp

Bio: G Trupp (they/them) is a Master's Student studying Library Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. They received their BA in Linguistics and Languages from Swarthmore College. G is passionate about intersectional social justice in library and archival spaces, and is currently the Library Assistant at La Jolla Country Day School, as well as one of the co-advisors for their LGBTQ+ group, Spectrum.



Daniel J. Ferbal Memorial Scholarship: Patrick Loehr

Bio: Patrick is currently studying medicine at the University of California, San Diego. As an undergraduate at Pomona College, he studied Spanish Literature and Art History. After graduating, he moved to Madrid on a Fulbright scholarship to study mudéjar architecture and teach literature at a public high school with a bilingual curriculum. He subsequently moved to Paris to work in cultural heritage protection at UNESCO, and then to New York City, where he worked for three years in film and television production and supplemented his time tutoring, coaching after-school debate, and volunteering at an LGBT community center.



Stephen G. Bowersox Memorial Scholarship: Jelani Lizárraga

Bio: My name is Jelani Lizárraga. Some of my favorite hobbies are cooking, dancing, and creating new memories with my friends and family. I was 13 when I moved schools to Hoover High School. I started from the bottom at Hoover with low grades and no friends. Luckily, with the help of a fantastic program at school, I was able to not only improve my classes but also get out of my comfort zone socially. I developed my social skills, and in my sophomore year, I decided to come out as gay. Now I'm graduating high school at the top of my class. I will be attending UCSD and majoring in NanoEngineering, this fall.



Raytheon STEM Scholarship: Evelyn Anderson

Bio: My name is Evelyn Anderson and I am a senior at El Capitan High School. I love to run and am on my school's varsity cross country and track and field team. Outside of school, I like hiking, camping, reading, and doing calligraphy and hand lettering art. In the fall, I will be attending Harvey Mudd College and plan to major jointly in mathematics and physics.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2020 PFLAG SDC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Kendall Family Memorial Scholarship: Ángel Gonzalez

Bio: Ángel Gonzalez is a second year doctoral candidate at San Diego State University in their Ed.D in Community College Leadership. Their research agenda focuses on 1) conditions, experiences, and outcomes in community colleges for minoritized students with an emphasis on LGBTQ+ and Latinx students; 2) Latinx professionals identity development at the intersections of queerness and latinidad; 3) racial equity policy implementation. His work is guided by his own narrative as a first generation, queer, Latinx student from South East Los Angeles. Ángel has worked across post-secondary education institutions in an array of functional areas supporting students' success. He is proud to be a queer educator who aims to magnify the queer/trans* community voice in research and practice.



Qualcomm Merit/STEM Scholarship: Christina W

Bio: Christina is a graduating senior who is thrilled to head to the University of Pennsylvania in the fall! She is passionate about all things STEM and politics, and especially their intersection in the realm of healthcare policy. She has furthered her interests by participating in neuroscience research at Boston University and by working with hospitalized neurodegenerative patients through Palomar Health's Pathmaker Internship. She plans to explore the multiple facets of health insurance and healthcare delivery through a double-major in Neuroscience and Economics. Christina dreams of becoming a neurosurgeon one day. Above all, Christina is beyond grateful for the opportunities provided by the PFLAG's San Diego County Chapter and is excited to see what the future holds!



Qualcomm Merit/STEM Scholarship: Carissa Young

Bio: Carissa (she/her/hers) is an eighteen year-old high school senior pursuing a career in Neuroscience. She enjoys composing and playing music, learning languages, running, coding, and painting in her free time. She hopes to one day work with Doctors Without Borders in the future, as well we research neurological diseases such as Dementia and Alzhiemer's.



Martha Lynne Austin Memorial Scholarship: Madeline Garrett

Bio: Madeline Garrett (she/her) is eighteen years old and has lived in La Mesa, California for her whole life. There have been times in her life that it was not a sure thing that she would graduate from high school at all, so being recognized in this way is an especially huge acknowledgement. Madeline is graduating from Grossmont Middle College High School with over a year of college credits completed before graduation. After the pandemic passes, Maddie is working to transfer to UC Davis to study botany and mycology in the hopes of working to improve the environment for future generations.



PFLAG San Diego County Merit Scholarship: Kai Catapang

Bio: Hi, My name is Kai! I have been on the Mission Vista High School speech and debate team for four years and I helped create my school's first home economics club. Outside the classroom, I enjoy playing tennis and volleyball with my family and friends. This fall, I hope to major in economics at UCSD and hopefully pursue a career in government.



We Believe in You Award: Athina Reyes

Bio: Athina Reyes (King) has been different since she was three. Realizing at a young age she was gay, and being bullied through elementary and middle school because of it was not easy. As hard as it was, she now feels proud of being who she is. Through her hardships and heart breaks, she has made her way. A quote that Athina lives by is, "If you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain." -Dolly Parton. Athina said, "I've been through a lot and I'm happy. I have that rainbow now. And it's pretty long and strong. I like who I am. If I'm happy, then no one can rain on me."

PFLAG THANKS YOU

Scholarship Donors

Mary Wagner Memorial Scholarship Art & Marilyn Carpenter/Sharon Murphy

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We Believe in You Award PFLAG San Diego County

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