



MANY THANKS
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JACK (ERIC) OF ALL TRADES

Please join us for our General Meeting on Monday, **May 23** at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 2231 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley. Doors open at 6:45 pm. Please note, our meeting is the fourth Monday of the month and not May 30.

We are pleased that our speaker is Eric D. Brown, CFMC (Chartered Mutual Fund Counselor), from Waddell and Reed Financial Planners. Eric will be speaking about financial issues facing the LGBT community. He works with the LGBT community, women, and progressives to address their financial issues. He has an extensive understanding of how emotions interact with decision making, having worked with hundreds of people who either have had a spouse or domestic partner die. He has worked with clients living with HIV, women surviving breast

cancer, and clients surviving the passing of their spouse. In addition, Eric will be discussing the political future of DOMA and will possibly share current trends in investing.

Hailing from the Portland area, Eric has worked with Oregon's Gay Pride committee and even debated Scott Lively, one of the anti-gay pastors who is responsible for a bill in Uganda that would make homosexuality punishable by death. After the debate, with all the publicity, Eric came out to his conservative Baptist family.

Besides being a part-time pastor, Eric currently serves on the board of the GSDBA (what is often referred to as the gay Chamber of Commerce).

After the presentation, we will have our cookie social and support groups.

THE POWER OF COCA COLA

House Speaker John Boehner and House Republican leaders hired a high-priced law firm, King & Spalding, to defend in court the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA - a discriminatory practice that prohibits gay and lesbian marriages to be recognized under federal law). The HRC (Human Rights Campaign) sprang into action with a campaign to inform and educate the public, K&S clients, and potential recruits about the firm's hypocrisy. K&S finally filed a motion to withdraw from defending DOMA. One of their largest clients, Coca Cola, may have had something to do with it. The rumor goes that

Coca Cola urged King & Spalding to drop DOMA. A spokesperson for the brand pointed to the company's long-standing allegiance with the LGBT community including support for equality and diversity. A spokesperson for K&S said the law firm decided to withdraw from the discriminatory defense team because it did not align with the firm's belief and core values. (Perhaps it took them a while to brush the dollar signs from their eyes to see the light).

HRC and Georgia Equality, the largest gay rights advocate in the state, planned an event to further expose what King & Spalding was

doing. Up until now, they had a squeaky-clean image. When K&S withdrew from defending DOMA, the event was cancelled.

Not too sadly to report, one of the high profile lawyers at K&S, Solicitor General Paul Clement, resigned from his post saying, "It's careless disregard for its responsibilities to the House in this constitutional matter."

Of course, a stuffy, ultra-conservative law firm picked up where K&S left off, but eventually, they'll have to live with their consciences. These are our tax dollars hard at work or is it hardly at work?



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ADVOCACY to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights



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Current Events

**May 16
Monday**
Mi Familia Support Group

**May 20
Friday**
Harvey Milk Diversity
Breakfast

For tix:
harveymilkbreakfast.com

**May 21
Saturday**
San Diego Women's Chorus
Concert (see article)

**May 22
Sunday**
San Diego Women's Chorus
Concert (see article)

**May 22
Sunday**
Long Beach Pride Parade
(if interested, contact
pboman@pflag.com)

**May 23
Monday**
PFLAG General Meeting

**May 23
Monday**
Mi Familia Support Group

**June 6
Monday**
PFLAG Support Group
North County Coastal
(see new locations under
Support Groups)

**June 6
Monday**
Mi Familia Support Group

**June 9
Thursday**
PFLAG Support Group
North County Inland

**June 13
Monday**
PFLAG Support Group
East County

**June 13
Monday**
Mi Familia Support Group

MISSION STATEMENT

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through Support, to cope with an adverse society; Education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and Advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.



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

Frances Wright

SUPPORT GROUPS

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

Meets the first Monday, at 7:00 pm, First Presbyterian Church, 2001 El Camino Real, Oceanside (in the choir room, located on the SE corner of the campus). The church is located 1 mile north of the 78 on the corner of Fire Mountain (Skyline Drive) and El Camino Real, across the street from the Eternal Hills Cemetery.

Contact Larry Gerling, (760) 224-2178.

NORTH COUNTY INLAND

Meets every second Thursday, at 7:00 pm, Temple Adat Shalom, 15905 Pomerado Road, Room #9, Poway (Rancho Bernardo). The entrance to parking is directly across the street from the entrance to Henry's Market Center. Drive to the end of the building and bear right around it, to the first doors on your right (double doors).

**Contact Sue Fine, (858) 673-4560 or
pflag4sdnocnty@san.rr.com.**

EAST COUNTY

Meets every second Monday, at 7:00 pm, Summit Unitarian Universalist Church, 8778 Cottonwood Avenue, Santee.

**Contact Ron Goetz, (619) 588-2342 or
whytestonne@hotmail.com.**

MI FAMILIA (Spanish)

Meetings are every Monday from 6:00pm - 8:00 pm at The Center.

Contact Carolina, (619) 692-2077 Ext. 116.

TRANSGENDER SUPPORT

For more information on the Transgender Support Group

Contact Kathe Dunn, ftm_mom@yahoo.com.

SOUTH BAY

Meets every fourth Sunday, at 1:00 pm, Unitarian Universalists of the South Bay, 970 Broadway, Chula Vista

**Contact Martha Cardenas, (619) 947-4612 or mar@
FirstUUSanDiego.org**

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

GRAND MARSHAL CHOSEN FOR PRIDE PARADE

Actress Meredith Baxter, who came out two years ago after an illustrious career in Hollywood spanning nearly 40 years, will be the grand marshal of this year's San Diego LGBT Pride parade, Saturday, July 16.

These days, Baxter tours the national lecture circuit, raising awareness on issues such as breast cancer, domestic violence, alcoholism and school bullying.

"Meredith is a role model who has captured audiences with her versatile talent, courage and style. She continues to inspire so many to live openly and honestly while calling attention to causes important to her and the LGBT community," said Frank G. Scarpaci, interim executive director for San Diego Pride.



"OUR ROMANCE"

On Saturday, **May 21** at 7:00 pm and Sunday, **May 22** at 3:00 pm, the San Diego Women's Chorus will be performing their 24th annual spring concert, "Our Romance." This uplifting concert is a fun and emotional journey through the world of romance with its joys, sorrows, delights and yearnings. "Our Romance" celebrates the time in the near future when all love is recognized equally

throughout the state, country, and world through LGBT marriage equality. Some songs that are featured were made popular by Sara Bareilles, Michael Buble, Cher, and k.d. lang. And, yes, there will be a medley from "Glee!"

Go to www.sdwc.org for ticket and location information.

EXCELLENT LETTER, JASON

Jason Folkman and husband, Victor Seguritan, have been longstanding PFLAG members. Jason's mother is longtime member Gail Folkman, who is very proud of Jason and the letter he wrote to President Obama:

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for determining that the so-called Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional and deciding to stop defending the law in court. As you have correctly concluded, laws that treat people differently based on sexual orientation are unconstitutional and ought to be repealed.

My spouse and I were married in Massachusetts in 2004. Although we were not residents of Massachusetts, we traveled to Massachusetts to get married since it was the only state in the Union to recognize same-sex marriage at that time. Every year since then, we have had to deal with the bewildering and demeaning requirement of filing our taxes as a married couple at the state level and as single individuals at the federal level. The federal government has been willing to take our tax dollars but has refused to recognize our marriage of over seven years!

This decision is a monumental step toward expanding human rights in this country. Thank you for showing the true mark of a leader: having the courage to take a possibly unpopular stand in the name of justice.

Now I can say the final line of the pledge of allegiance with meaning!

Sincerely,

Jason Folkman

AS IF WE DIDN'T LOVE GLEE ENOUGH

On the April 26 episode of Glee, entitled "Born this Way," Kurt Hummel not only mentions PFLAG, but announces a PFLAG group will be started at the school. While we are more than gleefully appreciative,

it seems PFLAG might have been mentioned a tad earlier – like last season?



CO-PREZ PATTI HITS THE TARGET

Unbeknownst to PFLAG who had participated in past years and the LGBT community at San Diego State, their annual Diversity Conference included Gary Strousse, Target Regional Vice President.

On April 30th, before Mr. Strousse was scheduled to speak, there was somewhat of a delay and Patti was able to speak to him. She introduced herself as PFLAG co-President; however, he did not even know what PFLAG was. Patti not only told him what we were about, but she had an arsenal with her. She gave him some of our brochures, a copy of our *Holding Families Together* DVD , Straight for Equality brochures, and literature from the HRC, The LGBT Center and other LGBT organizations. She explained to him very calmly that she and much of the LGBT community were still boycotting Target because of the donation of \$150,000 they gave last year to Tom Emmer, a Minnesota politician who had ties to a Christian punk band that advocates death to gays. Patti explained, it wasn't a matter of Target "offending us," it was that she saw Target advocating for the death of her son and others. She told him she saw the actual target on her son's back and it was difficult even sitting in the room with all of them full of those targets. I asked if he had children so he would understand how, as a mom, she felt about a company that wanted her son dead for being gay. She mentioned she understood that this diversity conference was probably part of the reparation they are trying to make, but it was not enough! She went on to give him more suggestions (this, in Yiddish, is called chutzpah!).

Strousse told her that he was aware of the huge mistake they made in sending money to support this candidate and they had apologized, but Patti reminded him that even after the apology, they sent \$41,000 more to the same group, and not even a close matching amount to the LGBT community. He told her that now Target has a committee that reviews all candidates that ask for donations and will be very careful where they send the money. He advised her that this year they have donated over \$500,000 to LGBT groups. Patti let Mr. Strousse know that she was getting used to shopping at other stores that have replaced Target for her and her family and that they better hurry up and fix their mess. Patti asked him for his email and contact information so that Benny Cartwright with Pride at State at SDSU, could interview him on what exactly they plan to do to help ease the hurt and verification that \$500,000 was given to LGBT groups. Upon getting satisfactory answers, all boycottees could go back to Target.

Patti requested Strousse to give all the info she gave him to the oversight committee, and told him she would love to have a contact name and email so she could communicate with them. He said he was pretty busy in May, but to have Benny contact him for an email interview.

Go, Patti, go!!

GAY MARRIAGE PROPONENTS NOW IN MAJORITY

A poll from CNN on April 9 and 10, 2011, is the latest to show a majority of Americans in favor of same-sex marriage, with 51 percent saying that marriages between gay and lesbian couples "should be recognized by the law as valid" and 47 percent opposed.

This is the fourth credible poll in the past eight months to show an outright majority of Americans in favor of gay marriage. That represents quite a lot of progress for supporters of same-sex marriage.

A BIT OF ORIGINALITY

Jonathan D. Lovitz, an actor, model, and singer from New York got out of jury duty for being gay. He wrote on his Facebook page, "I raised my hand and said, 'Since I can't get married or adopt a child in the state of New York, I can't possibly be an impartial judge of a citizen when I am considered a second class citizen in the eyes of the justice system.'" No jury duty for Jonathan!



CHESTNUT HELL FOLLOW UP

As reported in the March newsletter, Father James St. George, who says he was fired from his teaching position at Philadelphia's Chestnut Hill College because he is gay, has landed on his feet and secured a job at the University of Pennsylvania.

St. George, who is part of the St. Miriam Church, a sect which allows homosexual priests, will be teaching a class on religion, social justice, and urban development, along with another of Penn's professors.

According to NBC Philadelphia, administrators at St. George's former school, Chestnut Hill College, said they had been "under the impression that St. George was a Roman Catholic-ordained priest, a requirement for teaching at the school, because he wore a traditional Catholic priest's collar." It's their loss and Penn's gain.

SAD, BUT TRUE

The Tennessee Senate Judiciary Committee has approved one lawmaker's revolutionary plan to fight the "homosexual agenda": don't tell students gay people exist until they get to high school.

It was reported in *The Knoxville News Sentinel* that measure SB49, sponsored by Sen. Stacey Campfield, R-Knoxville, who unsuccessfully pushed the same idea - nicknamed the "don't say gay" bill - for six years as a member of the state House before he was elected to the Senate. As introduced, the bill would have put into law a declaration that it is illegal to discuss any sexual behavior other than heterosexuality prior to the ninth grade. Here is "the logic???" - if young students aren't allowed to hear about homosexuality in school, then they won't hear about it anywhere, and then there will be no more gay people.

But the bill is actually worse than absurd -- it's potentially very dangerous, as it would hamper efforts to prevent anti-gay bullying among students. (If you can't say the word "gay," how can you teach young people that bullying gay classmates is wrong? And how can you offer a lifeline

to students who may be suffering at the hands of such bullying?)

What's even more sad is that opposition to the bill in the state Senate focused not on the legislation being damaging, hateful, and downright stupid, but rather on the fact that the bill might be redundant.

When the bill came before the Senate Education Committee, Sen. Jim Tracy, R-Shelbyville, contended current law already prohibits such instruction by deeming it a misdemeanor (at this point, you are knocking your head against the wall) to teach any sex education that is not part of the "family life curriculum" adopted by the state Board of Education.

Tracy proposed an amendment to rewrite Campfield's bill to require the Board of Education to study the issue and determine whether any teaching about homosexuality is occurring and, if so, recommend what should be done about it. Maybe they have in mind to lock those teachers up and throw away the key. It probably never occurred to them that there are actually gay teachers in the state of Tennessee. S-h-h-h...we won't tell them.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE PFLAG MOM

The mother of a Maryland transgender girl is embracing the role of PFLAG mom and working to educate teachers and police officers on what it means to be gender-variant.

Catherine Hyde is the mother of Will Gullucci, a 17-year-old transgender girl who attends high school in Maryland. After a police-sponsored video on drunk driving featured a gratuitous shot of Gullucci dressed in women's clothes — which elicited laughter from students — Hyde complained to the police department. Hyde followed up the complaint with discussions on transgender empathy, which "led to the department's decision to incorporate

transgender issues into training for the entire police force," according to *The Baltimore Sun*.

Hyde, an active member of PFLAG, has worked alongside her daughter to change things at Gullucci's school.

"As part of the Howard school system's professional development day on Friday, Gullucci is working with her mother to give a workshop on 'Protecting Transgender and Gender-Variant Children from Bullying,'" reports the *Sun*. "The session will be offered to school counselors, student services personnel, and health and physical-education teachers."



ONE STRIKE AND YOU'RE OUT

The Atlanta Braves placed pitching coach Roger McDowell on administrative leave while they investigate allegations he made homophobic comments and crude gestures toward fans before a game in San Francisco on April 23.

McDowell also is accused of using a baseball bat to threaten a fan objecting to his actions.

The former major league reliever apologized in a statement, but the team barred him from the bench heading into a three-game series against St. Louis.

Any punishment would be coordinated with Major League Baseball.

"We have a long-standing reputation in this community and in Major League Baseball that we're very proud of," Frank Wren, the General Manager of the Braves, said. "Unfortunately, mistakes have been made, and we'll deal with them at the appropriate time after careful consideration of all the facts.

"Everyone," he added, "is very mindful of the position we have and, going forward, being more diligent in making sure we uphold that reputation we're so proud of."

The altercation at AT&T Park in San

Francisco took place during pre-game batting practice. Justin Quinn was in the stands with his wife and 9-year-old twin daughters when he noticed McDowell hectoring three men and asking them, "Are you guys a homo couple or a threesome?"

After the coach made crude sexual gestures with his hips and a bat, Quinn said he shouted, "Hey there are kids out here." According to Quinn, McDowell said kids don't belong at a baseball park, picked up a bat, walked up to Quinn and asked him, "How much are your teeth worth?"

Some parents who were in the stands with their children began to boo at McDowell and came down to retrieve their kids. Quinn said that eventually McDowell walked away.

"I am deeply sorry that I responded to the heckling fans in San Francisco," McDowell said in a statement, his only public comment on the matter. "I apologize to everyone for my actions."

Editor's note: The above quote from McDowell takes balls and bats. The fans weren't heckling him. Au contraire – he started the ball rolling when he heckled three men who hadn't said anything to him.

Although it's good that Coach McDowell will be punished, it is almost sad that Quinn decided on Gloria Allred as his attorney (who sought who out?).

"I have been contacted by other fans who allege that they witnessed the incidents in question and who state that they corroborate the conduct which we allege," Allred said in an email. "We are providing all relevant evidence to the commissioner [Baseball Commission Bud Selig] for his investigation. We appreciate the fact that the commissioner has indicated to me that the alleged behavior, if verified, would be completely unacceptable and that appropriate action will be taken at the conclusion of the investigation. We look forward to the results."

Selig already called the allegations "very troubling" and said he would await the results of the team's investigation.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation called on the Braves and Major League Baseball to take "real disciplinary action and send the message that anti-gay slurs have no place in sports."

Before the newsletter went to print, we found out the "punishment" was a two week suspension. How dare MLB call this "punishment?"

DOL GETS IT RIGHT

The Transgender Law Center (TLC) is applauding the announcement by the U.S. Department of Labor that it will "explicitly prohibit work place discrimination on the basis of gender identity within the department."

The changes in employment policy also included additional updated policies which now prohibit discrimination based on sex, including

gender identity and pregnancy.

The TLC praised Secretary Hilda Solis, who signed the policies, for taking such an important step to "level the playing field" for current and future transgender employees for the Department of Labor.

"We applaud Secretary Solis for acting with fairness and equity for

its employees," said Masen Davis, executive director of the Transgender Law Center. "We look forward to continuing to work with the administration to respond to the employment-related needs of all Americans - including transgender Americans - and ensure equal access to federal employment programs for everyone."



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A special thank you to Linda Miles for making a donation in PFLAG's name to the St. Paul's Foundation for International Reconciliation (Uganda).

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