PFLAG IS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION WITH OVER 250,000 MEMBERS AND JUST OVER 250 CHAPTERS IN THE U.S.





# **Don't Forget**

Our meetings are the 4th Monday of the month. Since that is Memorial Day, our meeting is May 21st

# EAGER TO SEE JO

Please join us for our General Meeting on Monday, May 21 (double reminder) at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 2231 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley. Doors open at 6:45 pm.

Our speaker, Jo Eager, is a freelance writer and broadcast journalist. She has written for radio, television, newspaper, and magazines. In March, her story "What I Gained When I Lost My Daughter" was published in Chicken Soup for the Soul: The Magic of Mothers and Daughters. It tells of Jo's experience as her transgender child went from being her daughter to her son, which she will share with us.

In keeping with our new order of events since January, we will have our supports groups first, then our cookie social, followed by our speaker.

Anyone who is not vet registered for the June 5 primary election, we will have voter registration cards at this



meeting. We can do a lot of pushing for equality when everyone votes.

## **AN EVENING TO REMEMBER**

What a wonderful and glorious Scholarship Awards evening we enjoyed at our April 23 meeting. As promised in the April newsletter, Scholarship Chair-Extraordinaire, Olivia Dorman, did an outstanding job entertaining and educating everyone in attendance. We originally announced we were awarding seven scholarships, but thanks to Jim and Donna Bowersox, who established and funded the two "We Believe in You" scholarships, we brought our total to nine. Although our official thank you's are listed on page eight, we give special kudos to Lou Ann Peltier from Raytheon Company for single handedly schlepping and preparing the beautiful buffet for all to enjoy. No one went home hungry, that's for sure.

Now on to the show! We are featuring the recipients of the "We Believe in You" scholarships. Jim and Donna Bowersox felt it was important to recognize these two individuals whose accomplishments and goals, despite adversity, merited attention.



from Jim and Donna Bowersox

attending the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in Los Angeles, where he plans to receive a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Performing Arts. Dairrick is an accomplished playwright; his

be



work was produced by the Old Globe Theatre. Besides plays, Dairrick loves to write music and poetry. His letter of recommendation underlines Dairrick's intellectual and creative abilities, along with a tremendous commitment to improve his quality of life (which goes along with his best asset: determination). The letter also touts Dairrick's drive to succeed and willingness to put in the effort to accomplish his goals. Dairrick's essay is on page 6.

## OFFICERS, COMMITTEES & VOLUNTEERS Current Positions

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PFLAG San Diego PO Box 82762 San Diego, CA 92138 Tax ID #33-0512868

## **Membership Application**

New 
 Renewal 
 Change of Address

 Please contact me for volunteer opportunities

Confidentiality is respected. Your donation is tax deductible (Tax ID 33-05-12868)

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PFLAG San Diego PO Box 82762 San Diego, CA 92138

#### Type of Membership

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□ Business \$50	□ Supporting\$60
□ Contributing \$125	□ Lifetime\$1000
□ Other \$	

□ Accept my donation, please do not list.

### Please fill out, clip and mail this form

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or go online www.pflag.com Membership forms available at www.pflag.com

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# **Current Events**

May 19 Saturday North County LGBTQ Resource Center's Annual Gala (see article)

May 19 Saturday Out in the Park (see article)

May 21 Monday San Diego PFLAG General Meeting & Support Groups

May 21 Monday Mi Familia Support Group

May 22 Tuesday Harvey Milk Street Dedication (see article)

May 25 Fridayl Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast (see article)

May 26 Saturday Santee Street Fair (see article)

### **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.

# LOOK LIKE A BIG FISH

Competition is fierce. It's time to get aggressive.



May 30-June 3 LGBT Film Festival (see article)

**June 4 Monday** PFLAG Support Group North County Coastal

**June 4** Monday Mi Familia Support Group

June 11 Monday PFLAG Support Group East County

**June 11** Monday Mi Familia Support Group

June 14 Thursday PFLAG Support Group North County Inland

June 18 Monday Mi Familia Support Group

# **SUPPORT GROUPS**

#### SD COUNTY GENERAL MEETING & SUPPORT GROUP

Meets every fourth Monday at 7:00 pm, at the First United Methodist Church, 2231 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley.

For further information, contact the Info Line: 888-398-0006 or www.pflag.com

### NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

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Meets the first Monday, at 7:00 pm, North County LGBTQ Resource Center, 510 North Coast Highway, Suite C, Oceanside.

Contact ncpflag@gmail.com or 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 Sprouts' 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.

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

Call for a Free Consult 858.220.7478 belladiadesign.com

## HARVEY MILK STREET A REALITY

The dedication unveiling of Harvey Milk Street will take place on Tuesday, May 22, at 5:00 pm at the LGBT Center, 3909 Centre Street in Hillcrest. May 22 was chosen as this was Milk's birthday. San Diego has the distinction of being the first city in the United States to name a street in honor of Harvey Milk. The street could not have been at a better location; the street (formerly Blaine Avenue) will lead directly to the door steps of the LGBT Center. The special guest will be the Founder of the Harvey Milk Foundation, Stuart Milk, Harvey's nephew.

IARVEY MILKST

THE PLACE TO BE

## SAVE THE DATE

Although Pride weekend is not until **July 20-22**, we wanted you to save the date so you could march with San Diego PFLAG in the parade and join in the festivities. This is San Diego LGBT Pride's 38th Annual Pride Celebration.

Keeping the economy in mind, ticket prices have not been raised: \$15 for a single ticket and \$25 for a two day ticket. If you wish to purchase tickets online: www.sdpride.org. Senior and military discounts are available at the festival.

And speaking of military, in 2011, San Diego LGBT Pride made history and worldwide news by having the first-ever active duty military contingent in a Pride parade. With the theme of *America's Pride*, San Diego Pride



is looking to continue to break exciting new ground and push forward on issues of equality. Those who saw the military contingent of past and current service members, welled up with pride. It was exciting to see 250 men and women from all four branches of the military. What a sight and it shouldn't be missed.

All the details of the parade and festival will be in the June newsletter.

## A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR TRANS YOUTH

If you know parents of transgender or gender-variant youth between the ages of 8-15, please pass the word that there is a weeklong, overnight camp in Southern California (Camp Camparanu'tiq) from **July 1-7**. It is modeled after a traditional summer camp: arts & crafts, drama, canoeing, swimming, creative writing, teamwork-building "chal-

lenge" activities, volleyball, rock climbing, and archery.

## **FILM FESTIVAL**

The week also includes campfires, a talent show, and other special activities. There will be a few professional therapists at camp for campers who may want to talk, but the main focus of the week is on having fun. The ratio is two kids to every one counselor. The deadline to register is June 1. To get more information and location, visit their web site: www.camparanutiq.org.



HARVEY MILK DIVERSITY BREAKFAST

(+)

The 14th Annual LGBT Film Festival, presented by FilmOut San Diego, takes place **May 30-June 3** at the Birch North Park Theatre. The mission of FilmOut San Diego is to enlighten, educate, and entertain the communities of San Diego County and beyond through the exhibition of LGBT-themed films. FilmOut San Diego seeks to recognize, promote, celebrate and support the important diverse artistic contributions LGBT filmmakers make to

our community. For a list of the films and to purchase tickets, visit their web site: www.filmoutsandiego.com.

## **PFLAG EAST COUNTY GROUP TO SHINE**

The 4th Annual Santee Street Fair is on Saturday, **May 26** from 10:00 am – 7:00 pm. Boasting a crowd of more than 40,000, the streets will be hopping with music, live entertainment, rides, food, and vendor booths. This is where the PFLAG East County Satellite Group comes in. They are sponsoring a PFLAG booth where the members will speak to interested persons and disseminate literature. This is their first endeavor at the Santee Street Fair, and it's great that they will have a presence there. The Fair is located on the east side of the Trolley Square Shopping Center at the backside of Barnes and Noble Booksellers (their address is 9938 Mission Gorge Road, Santee).

## IT SURE DOES "GET BETTER"

Scientist Robert Spitzer's recent retraction of his 2001 study suggesting so-called ex-gay therapy can be effective, may be a gateway to striking down Proposition 8 in court.

Spitzer wrote a letter to the editor of the Archives of Sexual Behavior, the journal that published his 2001 study claiming that "highly motivated" gays and lesbians could reverse their sexual orientation. Spitzer's letter also apologizes to LGBT people for "making unproven claims of the efficacy of reparative therapy," he wrote. "I also apologize to any gay person who wasted time and energy undergoing some form of reparative therapy because they believed that I had proven that reparative therapy works with some 'highly motivated' individuals."

Spitzer's realization went public after journalist Gabriel Arana's report in The

American Prospect related to his own experience with "ex-gay" therapy, in which he spoke with Spitzer. The researcher said he requested a retraction in the Archives of Sexual Behavior, but the editor had declined to run it. You think the editor has his own agenda?

The study was a significant part of the argument brought forward by anti-gay forces, especially those defending Proposition 8 in court. They argued that because the study said a person could change their sexual orientation, no one should be allowed to marry people of the same sex. This admission by Spitzer should further help defeat Proposition 8 since this could translate to gay people being included as a protected class under the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

## **IT'S ABOUT TIME**

The Brits have it right. The UK plans to honor Alan Turing with a postage stamp. Turing was a computer scientist and mathematician who helped the Allies decrypt the "unbreakable" Nazi Enigma codes during World War II.

Despite his significant contribution during the war, Turing was prosecuted by the British government in 1952 for being gay and was chemically castrated. Two years later, he committed suicide.

## HOW ROMANTIC

You can tell "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is over. At Camp Pendleton, right here in San Diego County, Cory Huston, himself a Navy veteran dropped to one knee and asked U.S. Marine Avarice Guerrero, who just returned from a long deployment, to marry him. It's believed to be the first proposal of marriage and engagement between two gay men, not to mention two war vets, on a U.S. military base. Avarice said, "YES."

And they lived happily ever after....

Realizing the error of their ways, in 2009, Prime Minister Gordon Brown issued a formal apology. The stamp will be part of the "Britons of Distinction" series.

"Breaking the Code," a play about Turing's life, achievements, and struggles, has been appearing at venues in the U.S. Hopefully, it will work its way to San Diego.

### **RAY-BAN IS OUR NEWEST FRIEND**



## **OUT AT THE PARK**

San Diego LGBT Pride's annual "Out at the Park" is Saturday, May

19, at 7:05 pm at Petco Park. This year's funfilled event will be the largest yet! It will also be the first time the Angels play the Padres at Petco Park in interleague play. And, it is the first time baseball superstar Albert Pujols will appear in San Diego as a member of the Los Angeles Angels. Tickets to the game through San Diego Pride are only \$15. To purchase, go to www. sdpride.org.

### "WE ARE FAMILY"

On Saturday, May 19, please join the North LGBTA County Resource Center as they present "We are Family" - their Annual Fundraiser Gala at the Oceanside Museum of Art, starting at 6:30 pm. There will be delicious food, beer, wine, Silent Auction and entertainment (worth it just to hear the San Diego Gay Men's Chorus). The honored quest speaker is John Duran, Honorable Mayor of West Hollywood. Mr. Duran was identified as one of the 20 Most Influential Members of the gay community by IN LA Magazine. His resume is quite impressive. To purchase tickets: www. ncresourcecenter.org.

## **OUT AND ABOUT**

We were not as busy this month as we were in March. In April, Olivia Dorman attended Raytheon's GLBTA Meeting to speak about scholarships, and PFLAG members Terrie Vorono and Mick Rabin attended the GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance) Awards in early May. PFLAG was a supporting partner. There was also a successful scavenger hunt for students to visit the PFLAG table and learn what we are all about.

## **KEEP ON EVOLVING**

President Obama is throwing his support behind the Student Non-Discrimination Act (SNDA) and the Safe Schools Improvement Act (SSIA).

SNDA would prohibit public elementary and secondary schools from discriminating against any student on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. The SSIA bill would amend Elementary the and Secondary Education Act to require schools and districts receiving federal funds to adopt codes of conduct specifically prohibiting bullying and harassment, including on the basis of sexual orientation

## and gender identity.

AN EVENING TO REMEMBER (continued from page 1)

"You think the only people who are people, are the people who look and think like you. But if you walk the footsteps of a stranger, you'll learn things you never knew, you never knew.' -Stephen Schwartz. When I was 8 years old, a man by the name of Stephen Schwartz used a gorgeous Native American princess as a vessel to teach me one of the most chilling and invaluable lessons I have ever learned in my life. I would come to know this lesson as one of the most difficult obstacles I would ever face and possibly the hugest detriment to people of all kinds. Incidentally, it is what I believe to be the core issue facing LGBT people today: ignorance and intolerance.

It is incredible how easily 6 letters can destroy a person; 'Faggot', 'Fat ass', 'Nigger', in my lifetime I have had the luxury of being all three, sometimes all in the same day. These 6 letters are seemingly tattooed on the tongues of every individual diseased with intolerance. As a symptom of that intolerance, those with the disease are led to consistently make the choice to be ignorant; fostering unjust treatment, stereotype, ridicule, and hatred; coincidentally another 6 letter word which to me is simply ignorance in its ugliest form. I think LGBT people are affected severely by this issue mainly because so much focus is put on the acronym rather than the fact that we are first and foremost people.

There are so many kids like me growing up today in a society that would have them believe that there is no place for them, that somehow their sexuality negates their humanity. The importance is often placed on our differences and in the frivolousness of whom we sleep with rather than the common struggle we all share to be accepted and the unanimous need for love and security that makes us all human one in the same. The solution lies within the realization that this problem does not only exist within issues like sexuality that affect us personally, but in all issues; such as race, gender, disability and countless other human rights struggles that are being fought alongside our own. We are all fighting for the same thing; equality.

I believe that we ourselves are the stakehold-

ers in this issue because in order to affect change we must allow the change we desire to see in the world take effect in us initially. We are all guilty of some form of judgment or intolerance. We are also made aware every day that we are for one reason or another being judged. If we could all somehow find our way to humility and acceptance of ALL people, the issues we face would quickly disappear. Nothing happens in God's world by mistake. We have the option to choose education over

ignorance. Nobody has to be above or beneath anyone, we can all just be. Until that happens, the issues we are fighting today will always be a problem. The sad but simple truth is that as long as intolerance exists within us. it will exist in the world."

Derrek Steele will be graduating from Palomar High School in June. His goal is an occupational certificate in through Derrek Cosmetology San Diego City College. toe that we used a full length Derrek is active in his photo for all to see. GSA and Culinary Club.



was so wellcoordinated from head to

Carly Garrett, his teacher, commented that "he stands out as a young man accepted by all, despite being openly gay and unique in his personal style. He is a focused young man who will be an amazing stylist. He will make PFLAG proud of their investment in his future." Even though Derrek says he's "terrified of public speaking," on a personal level, he is very good at listening and communicating. He feels that he is easy to talk to (that was obvious during our social time) and is kindhearted. Derrek's essay:

"I am fortunate enough that I haven't been assaulted or harmed in any physical way because of my sexual orientation. But I have been, like many LGBT teens, verbally harassed and felt out of place in my surroundings. I believe that an issue that is still confronting the LGBT community is just being accepted. There is a long way to go before

### **GET THE TISSUES READY**

A group of parents and family members of LGBT Mormons (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints) has produced a poignant "It Gets Better" video. Those members who spoke know of unconditional love. Although there may be a better way to view the video, if you Google (already understood that it's not really a verb) "It Gets Better" Video Mormon, it is posted on the *Huffington Post's* web site (and others).

This is especially fitting after reading about Jack Reese committing suicide in Ogden, Utah in Northern Utah. He was bullied for being gay, and it was too much for him. Ironically, at the moment of Jack's death, his boyfriend, Alex Smith, was speaking to the Ogden community about how bullying was affecting Jack.

The Ogden PFLAG chapter organized a gathering to honor the life of Reese and

those who also chose death rather than endure the bullying. "The local chapter of PFLAG, along with a broader caring group of adults, have been working together tirelessly to address issues of the importance of family acceptance to the youth in this community and similar communities all over the state," Liz Owen, director of communications for PFLAG National said in a press release. "Sadly, the death of Jack Reese is a reminder that there is still much work to be done."

On May 1, OUTreach, presented "A Community Stands up--Northern Utah Addresses LGBT Bullying and Suicide." Again, stepping up to the plate, there were speakers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. At the end of the program there was a candlelight vigil in memory of Jack Reese.

## AN EVENING TO REMEMBER (continued from page 6)

we are completely treated as just another kid. People assume that because I am gay I won't stand up for myself when they call me names. People assume that I automatically know every other gay student, or that I secretly want to be a woman. None of these issues is really horrible, but all of them together add up. In our society there is a tolerance of intolerance. Nowadays people don't say anything or don't care as much as they should when something homophobic is said or done. I still hear the word 'faggot' thrown around. The word 'gay' is still used to talk about something that is stupid and uncool, and people don't even think about how it might affect those sitting around them. When people hear this kind of language, and they don't say anything to stop it. Meanwhile, the LGBT student who sits and listens to that kind of language is being degraded a little at a time. The meaning of tolerance and the meaning of acceptance are mixed up. The meaning of tolerating someone is allowing a person or a group of people to be around you, but the meaning of accepting someone is thinking you are equal with that person and not looking down upon them. We should be fighting to be accepted, not tolerated. Receiving this scholarship will really mean a lot to me because I am passionate in everything cosmetology is and I know I will make it far in the industry because I have the motivation and the passion to become successful. I have learned from my past mistakes, have better grades, and am not giving up on myself . If I receive this scholarship I will guarantee that I will become a role model for gay teens that struggle with high school. I will continue to be involved in my school as a mentor, and support campaigns such as 'It gets better.' I also want to volunteer with 'The Center.'"

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO'VE SAID THAT I'M BEING BRAVE FOR BEING OPENLY SUPPORTIVE OF GAY MARRIAGE, GAY ADOPTION...WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, I HUMBLY DISSENT. I AM NOT BEING BRAVE. I'M A DECENT HUMAN BEING...LOVE IS A HUMAN EXPERIENCE, NOT A POLITICAL STATEMENT."

-ANNE HATHAWAY

## TO THE FAA: YOU WON'T WIN

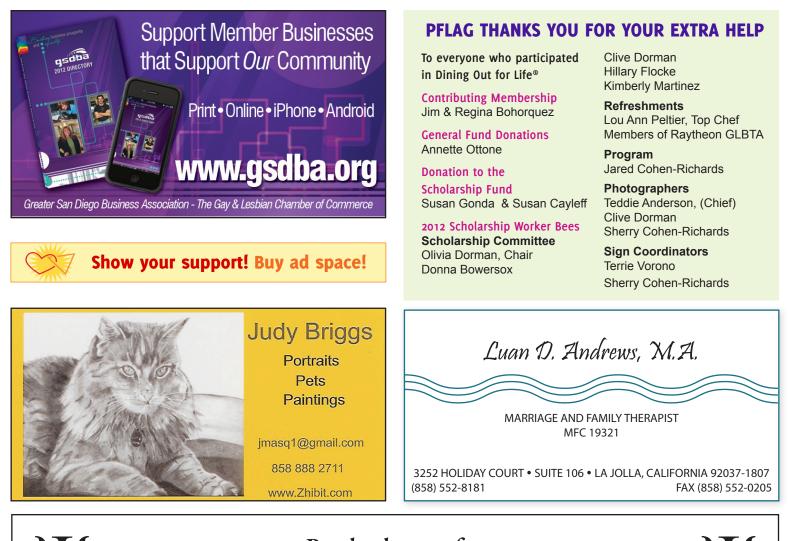
The Florida Family Association (FFA) is planning to protest Walt Disney World's unofficial "Gay Days" event, which started in 1991, to be held on June 2 at the theme park.

A group of LGBT rights activists is firing back. Deeming themselves the "Non-A-Holes," or "average Americans hatred," against the group is hoping to raise enough funds to have a banner flown over the Orlando-based resort which reads. "WARN-ING: Homophobes Loose in Orlando. Hide Your Kids."

It was the FFC that came up with the banner idea, only theirs is a warning to "traditional" families that the "Gay Days" are approaching.

It seems The Walt Disney Company won't lose any sleep over the protesting banners. "Gay Days" draw over 150,000 locals and travelers. Not only does the park prosper, but the hotels and restaurants see dollar signs in their eyes.

The Walt Disney Company has never officially sanctioned the event, and has requested employees to treat it just like any other day (wink, wink).



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