



PFLAGSD
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays | San Diego County

ISSUE VOLUME

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JANUARY 2011
www.pflag.com
info@pflag.com



**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**



**Wishing You and
Your Family a
Happy & Healthy
New Year**

Dearest Abby Revisited

Please join us for our General Meeting on **Monday, January 24** 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, WE MEET ON THE FOURTH MONDAY OF THE MONTH; the meeting is not on January 31.

Last April, Abby Schwartz, the Women's Resource Coordinator & Senior Resource Coordinator at The LGBT Center, was our planned speaker. Unfortunately, she was ill that evening. Now we have a "second" chance to hear her speak. Her presentation will concern issues related to aging in the LGBT community. Abby,

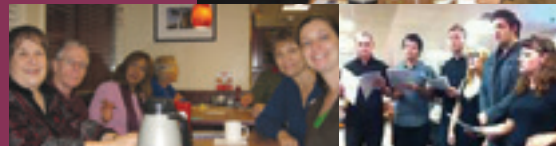
aka MC Flow, has quite an unusual background. She is also a rap and hip-hop artist who has won several music awards. Much of her music content is about women's issues and politics. One of particular note (no pun intended) is the song Abby wrote, *Created Equal*, after gays and lesbians lost the right to become legally married in California.

Last May, Abby coordinated the "Women's Fest" at The Center. Hopefully, we'll get a sneak peek about this year's "Women's Fest."

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

MEETING OF A DIFFERENT SORT

Upon the realization that FUM Church was closed for our December General Meeting (the discovery was made when we arrived), we had our meeting at Denny's (see business ad). They were gracious enough to let us meet there and allowed the chorale group to sing. Other patrons were bound to love the entertainment. While having beverages and goodies, various members shared their stories with us (since we couldn't have support groups), which provided some additional entertainment. Sometimes the "best laid plans of mice and men" turn into something better. The 30 of us squeezed together which made us even "closer!"





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Current Events

January 13
Thursday

PFLAG Support Group
North County Inland

January 23
Sunday

PFLAG Support Group
North County Coastal

January 23
Sunday

PFLAG Support Group
South Bay

January 24
Monday

San Diego PFLAG
General Meeting

January 24
Monday

Mi Familia Support
Group

January 31
Monday

Mi Familia Support
Group

February 7
Monday

Mi Familia Support
Group

February 10
Thursday

PFLAG Support Group
North County Inland

February 14
Monday

PFLAG Support Group
East County

February 14
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.

Luan D. Andrews, M.A.

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SUPPORT GROUPS

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

Meets every fourth Sunday, at 2:00 pm, Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Pilgrim Hall, 2020 Chestnut, Carlsbad.

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
pflag4sdnccnty@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

FAIR EDUCATION

In December, California State Senator Mark Leno introduced the FAIR Education act, a piece of legislation that would require schools to adopt similar principles to those that appear to have worked wonders at London's Stoke Newington School.

According to Equality California, "The Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act would amend the Education Code to include social sciences instruction on the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. This bill would also prohibit discriminatory instruction and discriminatory materials from being adopted by the State Board of Education."

We will keep you posted as we hear more.

CONGRATS TO ELTON AND DAVID

Elton John and David Furnish adopted a son who was born on Christmas Day. His name is quite a mouthful, but he should grow into it: Zachary Jackson Levon Furnish-John. Although most newspapers reported just the facts, the *New York Post* continued with their tradition of homophobia with the headline reading "Elton and wife proud dads." While there were no antigay slurs or language, the headline was inaccurate, antigay, and anti-female. Responses were elicited from bloggers and editorial writers. Some suggested it was an insult to both gay men and women. Besides that, since the United Kingdom allows civil partnerships, technically they aren't

married. Apparently, the author didn't do his homework (and it was a "him").

Since the article was online, as well as in print, the managing editor of the *Post* could have changed the headline when taken to task by GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation), but he wouldn't.

It was necessary for GLAAD to create a watchdog group 25 years ago to keep the *Post* in check. Back then it was their antigay AIDS coverage, but over the years they've been taken to task for calling transgender women "she-males" and for its insulting cartoon depictions of gay men. And this is 2011?

PROUD OF ONE OF OUR OWN

Congratulations to Assemblymember Toni Atkins. She has been named Majority Whip by Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez, a key position in the Democratic Caucus Leadership. "I am deeply honored by Speaker Pérez's appointment," said Atkins. "Serving my community and the state is a responsibility that I take very seriously. As Majority Whip, I look forward to working with every

member of the Assembly to create jobs and help bring the state out of this recession."

Atkins was also appointed vice chair of the Housing and Community Development Committee and a member of the Health, Government Organization, Veterans Affairs and Judiciary Committees.

Toni served as the District Three councilperson for two terms before being



elected to the State Assembly. The LGBT community is proud that Toni went from a rising star in San Diego to one in Sacramento.

CONDOLENCES

We send our condolences to the family of Michael Portantino, former publisher of the *Gay & Lesbian Times*. His untimely death was on December 8; he was 52 years old.

Mr. Portantino's GLT was one of San Diego's longest running LGBT news publications which stopped

in October for financial reasons.

Nicole Murray-Ramirez, a longtime columnist for the newspaper and current City Commissioner, said, "Portantino brought gay journalism into the modern world" with coverage of nightlife, politics and social issues.



FAREWELL TO ADELE STARR

PFLAGs across the country lost one of their “stars.” Adele Starr passed away in December at age 90. When her son, Philip, came out in 1974, homosexuality was seen ‘as a mental illness...and parenting was often blamed.’ Philip directed her to a support group, which was a precursor to PFLAG. In 1976, Starr founded the Los Angeles chapter of PFLAG. In 1979, she spoke on the steps of the U.S. Capitol at a march for gay rights — a seminal event often credited with uniting a then-nascent movement. Forward to 1981 when Adele became PFLAG’s first national president; she served in that capacity until 1986 and remained a forceful advocate for civil rights and, in later years, for the legalization of same-sex marriage. As examples, in 1995, Starr publicly lambasted a slate of conservatives trying to wrest control of an Antelope Valley school board; the group harbored a deep suspicion of multiculturalism and had declared gay relationships invalid.

Three years later, in a letter to *The Times*, the Starrs wrote that Philip was a devoted father and a successful businessman and taxpayer and deserved the “same rights and freedoms as others,” including the



right to “legally marry the one he loves.”

“We cannot understand those arrogant people who have decided that a heterosexual lifestyle must be imposed on everyone and that they have a monopoly on morality,” she wrote. “The American way is respect for diversity with the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

Over time, Adele Starr’s activism eclipsed that of her son; he recalled with a chuckle that she often had to remind him to pay his PFLAG dues.

She appeared at numerous conferences where, among other things, she preached her unyielding belief that sexual orientation was determined at birth.

QUEEN LIZ IS ALRIGHT

A founder of one of the United Kingdom’s first gay football teams (= soccer) is among those being recognized in the queen’s New Year Honours list. Aslie Pitter, 50, who helped found the Stonewall Football Club about 20 years ago, said he was “pinching himself” when he heard he was to be named an MBE — Member of the British Empire, the BBC reported.

Pitter, a London resident, said the club was readily accepted by fellow footballers.

“Being black and being gay, I thought I might come in for a lot of stick,” he told the BBC. “In our first game we were sharing a communal shower with seven other teams and I was pretty nervous. But it has never really been a problem.”



SECRETARY HILLARY CLINTON SPEAKS

This says it all:

“I am pleased by the UN General Assembly’s action today [December 22] to include sexual orientation in a resolution condemning extrajudicial and summary executions. The United States introduced this language to send an unequivocal message in concert with our many international partners: No one should

be killed for who they are.

Sadly, many people around the world continue to be targeted and killed because of their sexual orientation. These heinous crimes must be condemned and investigated wherever they occur. We look forward to continuing our work with others around the world to protect the human rights

of those facing threats or discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.”

In June, Secretary of State Clinton addressed a State Department audience on LGBT issues in the human rights work of the United States, declaring, “Let me say today that human rights are gay rights and gay rights are human rights, once and for all.”

SCHOLARSHIP BOUND

We are very pleased to announce available scholarships. We listed them in order of deadlines:

The San Diego Foundation offers a myriad of scholarships. While the average award is \$2500, the range is \$500-15,000. Most of the scholarships you do not have to be LGBT. This program is opened to high school seniors, community college students, 4 year college students, graduate students, vocational schools, and adult education applicants. Applications for the scholarships must be postmarked by **Friday, January 21, 2011**. For info, go to www.sdfoundation.org/scholarships,

PFLAG National is offering scholarships ranging from \$1000-5000. Last year, 16 scholarships were

(Continued on Page 7)

SECOND ANNUAL CESCAL CONFERENCE

Save the dates: **February 25-27**, as The Center for Excellence in School Counseling and Leadership (CESCaL) and the Harvey Milk Foundation present the 2nd annual international conference addressing LGBTQIA issues in schools. CESCaL empowers school counselors and All educators to support our LGBTQIA youth. The theme this year is titled ***Solutions to a Crisis: Supporting Students ~ Saving Lives***. More than 40 diverse workshops will provide conference goers with the knowledge, attitudes and skills that are necessary to support and advocate for LGBTQIA youth. Attendees will gain the knowledge of the laws and rights of LGBTQIA students and resources available to school counselors, students and families: the importance of personal responsibility to be advocates for our LGBTQIA youth and to promote social justice for all; and ability to access community resources and create safe spaces in schools for LGBTQIA youth.

You can register and get the details at www.cescal.org. There are many attractions this year, including a performance of *Dear*

Harvey. The list of keynote and guest speakers is incredible. To name a few: L. Stuart Milk, Harvey Milk's nephew; Sirdeaner Walker, mother of 11-Year-Old Carl Walker-Hoover who committed suicide after enduring anti-gay bullying at school; Chely Wright, Award Winning Country Music Singer/Songwriter who recently came out as a lesbian and who authored the book, *Like Me*; Eliza Bayard, Executive Director of Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN).

If you wish to be an exhibitor, the deadline is **January 22**.



“The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don’t have any.” –Alice Walker

A GRANDMOTHER LOOKS AT COMING OUT | BY DONNA DOYLE

My grandson is gay. He is 19 years old. This past summer we had a conversation about “coming out.”

He said a lot of his friends didn’t like the idea of “coming out.” The objection being that “straight” people don’t have to make an issue of telling people they are straight, so why should gay people have to make an issue out of telling people they are gay.

I get their point, and I know that someday sexual orientation will not be the issue it is today. But, in the meantime, I think it is helpful for those in the GLBT community to be visible.

I never knew a gay person until I was in my 20s. Obviously, I must have known people who were gay, but I didn’t know they were gay. This was in the 1960s and most gay people

stayed in the closet.

I grew up in a small town in Maine, and I heard all the stories about how disgusting it was to be gay. I believed it because I didn’t know any better.

Then, in the ‘60s, I had the good fortune to work with a wonderful man named Dorman. I loved him; not in a romantic way, but as a dear friend. One day a

(Continued on page 7)



HAPPY TIMES ARE HERE AGAIN

There was plenty of celebrating on December 19 at The LGBT Center after the Senate voted to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" on December 18. The House had earlier voted to repeal the law.

This vote allows gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military without "punishment." It could take up to a year before all the pieces are in place and gay and lesbians can enlist/re-enlist. It's supposed to take 60 days, you say? Let's wait and see.

President Obama, who signed the law on December 22, was finally out of hot water with the LGBT community, fulfilling a campaign promise to have Congress repeal the law, which was enacted in 1993 under President Clinton. During the 17-year period when the law was in effect, more than 13,500 men and women were discharged who had served in the armed forces.

"The Senate has taken an historic step toward ending a policy that undermines our national security while violating the very ideals that our brave men and women in uniform risk their lives to defend,"



President Obama said in a prepared statement." By ending 'don't ask, don't tell,' no longer will our nation be denied the service of thousands of patriotic Americans forced to leave the military, despite years of exemplary performance, because they happen to be gay. And no longer will many thousands more be asked to live a lie in order to serve the country they love."

"It is time to close this chapter in our history," he stated. "It is time to recognize that sacrifice, valor and integrity are no more defined by sexual orientation than they are by race or gender, religion or creed. It is time to allow gay and lesbian Americans to serve their country openly."

Let's hope this is one step forward with no steps backwards.

A Grandmother Looks at Coming Out (continued from page 6)

co-worker said to me, "Did you know Dorman was gay?" I responded very angrily, "Oh, who told you that?" She said, "Dorman."

The odd thing was that I was not shocked. I was surprised, but I was not shocked. And I knew right then that all the bad things I had believed about gay people were wrong.

That is why I think it is important for people in the

GLBT community to be "out there." People need to see that GLBT people are our friends, our neighbors, our co-workers, members of our church, our family members.

So thank you to the courageous members of the GLBT community who are willing to put themselves out there to promote a better community for us all.

Editor's note: The above article reinforces what our

own PFLAG member and greeter, Lonnie Brunini, says - the more visible the gay community is, the more walls of ignorance will be broken down.



(Continued from Page 6)

awarded. Among them was San Diego PFLAG scholarship winner, Paul Tran. Only LGBT high school seniors can apply. The deadline to apply online is **Friday, March 11, 2011**. All supporting documents must be postmarked by **Friday, March 11, 2011**. Go to <http://community.pflag.org/Page.aspx?pid=375> for details and online application.

PFLAG San Diego is proud to announce that this is our 13th year of offering LGBT students scholarships. We hope to offer seven scholarships as we did last year. These ranged from \$1000-2500. To be eligible, you must currently be a senior in high school or in secondary education, including graduate school. The deadline is **Saturday, March 12**. For other eligibility requirements and to download the application, go to www.pflag.com and click on the scholarship link. If you have any questions, email Scholarship Chair Olivia Dorman, oliviaenid@gmail.com.

The great news is that you can apply for all the scholarships above if you meet the criteria.

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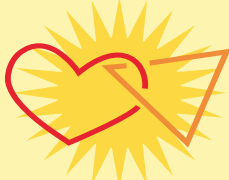
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