



ISSUE VOLUME

11 18

NOVEMBER 2011  
www.pflag.com  
info@pflag.com



## HEAR YE, HEAR YE

**THERE WILL NOT BE A GENERAL PFLAG MEETING IN DECEMBER; THE CHURCH IS CLOSED THE ENTIRE WEEK AFTER CHRISTMAS.**



## MILITARY ACCEPTANCE PROJECT

Please join us for our General Meeting on **Monday, November 28** 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 is Kristen Kavanaugh, Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Military Acceptance Project (MAP). This organization is a non-profit that is dedicated to promoting acceptance of all marginalized populations within the military. Kristen served a total of nine years in the military under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy as a closeted lesbian. Others in the organization are former

service members, combat veterans, military family members and active supporters of the military. They also share a passion for community service and helping others. The mission of the Military Acceptance Project is to pave the way to broader acceptance of all former, current and future service members by providing education, support and communications related to the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" or any other form of marginalization.

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

**HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING**



**Wishing You and  
Your Family a  
Happy & Healthy  
Thanksgiving**

## TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

**November 20** is San Diego's 10th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance. Starting at 6:00 pm, there will be a solemn march starting at The Center, 3909 Centre Street in Hillcrest. The march will be followed by a program in The Center's auditorium.

That same day is the 2nd Annual North County Transgender Day of Remembrance at the Oceanside Civic Plaza (by the reflecting pool), 300 North Coast Highway from 6-9 pm. There will be a memorial ceremony, followed by a peaceful, candle-lit procession to the North County LGBTQ Resource Center.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed for being transgender or perceived to be transgender or for being gender variant in any way. The event is held in November to honor Rita Hester, whose murder on November 28, 1998, kicked off the "Remembering Our Dead" web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. Rita Hester's murder, like most anti-transgender murder cases, has yet to be solved.



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## Membership Application

Memberships are for the calendar year.

- ☐ 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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or go online [www.pflag.com](http://www.pflag.com)

## GREAT TIME TO BECOME A MEMBER

Memberships are on a calendar year; however, if you join or renew now, you will automatically be a member for 2012! See article on page 4.



Robert Sachristan **CreativeWorks**  
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619 630 - 0498

# Current Events

**November 20**

**Sunday**

Transgender Day of Remembrance (*see article*)

**November 21**

**Monday**

Mi Familia Support Group

**November 23**

**Wednesday**

Deadline for ordering Mama's Kitchen pies

**November 28**

**Monday**

San Diego PFLAG General Meeting & Support Groups

**November 28**

**Monday**

Mi Familia Support Group

**December 1**

**Thursday**

World AIDS Day/Tree of Life (*see article*)

**December 3 & 4**

**Saturday & Sunday**

San Diego Gay Men's Chorus Concert (*see article*)

**December 4**

**Sunday**

Grand Opening North County LGBTQ Resource Center (*see article*)

**December 5**

**Monday**

PFLAG Support Group North County Coastal

**December 5**

**Monday**

Mi Familia Support Group

**December 8**

**Thursday**

PFLAG Support Group North County Inland

**December 10**

**Saturday**

Home for the Holidays (*see article*)

**December 12**

**Monday**

PFLAG Support Group East County

**December 12**

**Monday**

Mi Familia Support Group

**December 19**

**Monday**

Mi Familia Support Group

**December 26**

**Monday**

**NO GENERAL MEETING**  
**DO NOT SHOW UP**

# 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](http://www.pflag.com)

## NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

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

Contact [ncpflag@gmail.com](mailto: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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ftm_mom@yahoo.com).

National PFLAG, Washington, DC  
(202) 647-8180, [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

## 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

## NORTH COUNTY NEIGHBORS ON THE GO

It is very exciting to announce the grand opening of the North County LGBTQ Resource Center. They have their very own home at 510 North Coast Highway, Suite. C in Oceanside. The grand opening takes place on Sunday, **December 4** with a public reception and Holiday Bazaar from 2:00-4:30 pm.

The Resource Center's 4th Annual Pride@the Beach! was a huge success with over 4,000 attendees. Funds raised went to local Gay-Straight Alliance clubs in North County.



## COMMEMORATE WORLD AIDS DAY



Please join Mama's Kitchen at Village Hillcrest on **Thursday, December 1** for the 20th Annual Tree of Life Ceremony, held each year on World AIDS Day (30th Annual), commemorating those affected by AIDS, as well as the ongoing

leadership efforts made to end the epidemic. It will take place from 6:00-7:30 pm at the Village Hillcrest Retail Center, 3965 Fifth Avenue in Hillcrest. If you would like to purchase ornaments for the Tree of Life (\$15 for one or \$25 for two), contact kim@mamaskitchen.org or call 619-233-6262.

Those attending will have a special treat; the San Diego Gay Men's Chorus will be

performing. Also, as a special offer for friends of Mamas, some neighborhood restaurants will be donating 25% or more of the proceeds from the evening of December 1 to Mama's Kitchen if you present the coupon available on their web site: [www.mamaskitchen.org](http://www.mamaskitchen.org). The restaurants include: Kous Kous, Brazen BBQ, Burger Lounge, Saigon on Fifth, and Local Habit.

In addition, on **December 1**, there is a World AIDS Day and Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt on display at Pilgrim UCC Church, 2020 Chestnut Avenue, Carlsbad. Starting at 6:30 pm, there will be a candlelight vigil, music, speakers and light refreshments.

**"Recently a young mother asked for advice. What, she wanted to know, was she to do with a 7-year-old who was obstreperous, outspoken, and inconveniently willful? 'Keep her,' I replied.... The suffragettes refused to be polite in demanding what they wanted or grateful for getting what they deserved. Works for me." —Anna Quindlen**

## YEP, FOLKS, IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN TO RENEW YOUR SAN DIEGO PFLAG MEMBERSHIP

PFLAG memberships are for the calendar year, and 2012 is almost here. That means memberships are due once again. Thank you for being part of our continuing effort to provide support, education, and advocacy on behalf of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community and their families. Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide monthly meetings, speakers, support groups, an info line, newsletters, educational brochures, etc.

Your membership is important to us--it enables us to strengthen our presence in the community and to have our voices heard. We also help support National PFLAG by sending \$15 of your dues to them which provides you with membership in the national organization.

We need you; we hope you will take the time now to renew your tax deductible

membership or join for the first time. Please complete the application in the newsletter, enclose a check, and mail it to our P.O. Box. You can also bring it to our general meeting and give it to one of our officers. Remember, a PFLAG membership makes a great gift with the holidays, which are around the corner. Additional applications are available at [www.pflag.com](http://www.pflag.com) or contact Bobbi Harwood at: [bharwood@pflag.com](mailto:bharwood@pflag.com)

We especially want to thank those who have joined as Lifetime Members. We encourage others to do the same. Additional donations are always appreciated.

One last thing to remember if you are debating whether to renew your membership: ***When you no longer need PFLAG, PFLAG needs you!!***



## PATRICK HENRY WOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD

Same-sex couple, Rebeca Arellano and Haileigh Adams, were voted homecoming king and queen respectively at Patrick Henry High School the weekend of October 28th. Our community must be proud that the school rallied around the girls and the San Diego Unified School District rallied behind the school.

The following Monday, after the school was inundated with hateful calls and emails, District Superintendent Bill Kowba interrupted a news conference on the district's financial troubles to comment on an issue he called just as significant as the budget.

"What is essentially disappointing is that adults who have contacted the school, many not even San Diego residents, are demonstrating such a lack of tolerance and such a negative role model for children with their hateful comments," Kowba said.

Kowba called the adults behind the threats "bullies." Since the story made national news (actually international), many of the hateful comments came from everywhere and anywhere. Kowba also says if the hate calls and emails came from students, they would have faced disciplinary action.

You wonder how many of these homophobes took the time to learn that the students ran the election and elected the homecoming court. That Principal Pat Crowder and Superintendent Kowba supported the student body as they did, speaks volumes for their integrity and character.

Rebeca and Haileigh have received negative and hurtful comments, as well, mostly from online news sites. However, that didn't keep them from floating on Cloud 9. They said they've received an abundance of support from family, friends and most everyone at the school. When they were being interviewed by a news station outside the school, cars full of people drove by shouting out things like, "You guys are an amazing couple!"

The king and queen have recognized what this has meant to other gay students. Haileigh said, "We've opened doors and

we've broken barriers, which is what we had hoped for. The fact that other people are feeling

more confident about themselves or feeling like they might have a chance at doing this, it's opening doors."

Rebeca added, "It can get tiring to fight for what you stand for, but in the end it's worth it."

Needless to say, they are brimming with excitement for themselves and the entire LGBT community.

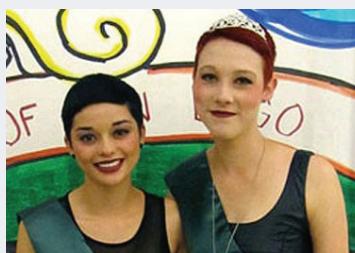
*Editor's note: The Letter to the Editor I wrote was published in the San Diego Union Tribune. The main reason I am including it, is to show that if enough of us write, they are bound to publish one of them!*

Regarding the story on Nov. 1 "Homecoming Couple Generate a Big Buzz": So Patrick Henry High School had a lesbian couple as homecoming king and queen. My first reaction to the homophobes who called the school and sent hate emails, is to say, "What's it to you? How does this affect your life?" Not going to send your child to Patrick Henry because it endorses equal rights, good. Those who keep shielding their children from the real world will see how far they succeed in life.

Speaking of life, critics need to get one if they think the selection of a homecoming couple is of grave importance.

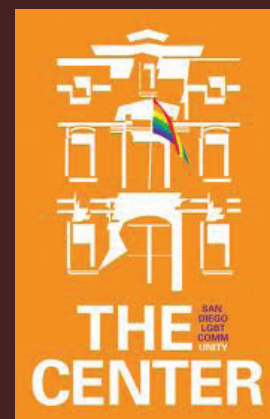
In actuality, the students ran the election and elected the homecoming court, as they do every year. If the school had stepped in, the message would have been that Patrick Henry High School discriminates against its students. Instead, school Principal Pat Crowder and district Superintendent Bill Kowba chose to be on the right side of history.

**Sherry Cohen-Richards, Vice President, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, San Diego County**



## COME HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Everyone is invited to The Center's annual multicultural holiday party on Saturday, **December 10** from 5-8 pm at The Center, 3909 Centre Street in Hillcrest. "Come Home for the Holidays" brings our community together to dance, eat and celebrate our diverse holiday traditions with "family" away from home. More than 20 community organizations (including PFLAG-San Diego) will come together to put on a holiday celebration for the entire San Diego LGBT community and allies. The event is free, but guests are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to support the Imperial Court de San Diego's annual toy drive. For more information, contact Carolina Ramos at [cramos@thecentersd.org](mailto:cramos@thecentersd.org) or 619.692.2077 x116.



## DON'T FORGET MAMA



We hope you will support Mama's Kitchen's Pie in the Sky fundraiser. You can purchase pies until November

23-- either order online, [www.mamaspies.org](http://www.mamaspies.org), or call 619-233-6262. There are various places throughout San Diego where you can pick up the pie(s) the day before Thanksgiving. The choices are: apple, pecan, pumpkin, and sugar-free apple. Remember that out of the \$20 per pie cost, \$15 is tax-deductible.

## TRUTH WINS OUT

Truth Wins Out (TWO) is a non-profit organization that defends the LGBT community against anti-gay misinformation campaigns through media advocacy and also fights anti-gay religious extremism. In particular, TWO is critical of organizations and religious ministries which treat homosexuality as a diseased behavior pattern which can be "cured," i.e., groups like Focus on the Family.

(CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 7)

## WELL DONE, ED

**Edward J. SanFilippo** is the recipient of the John McCusker Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is provided through the family and friends of John, who was a business and community leader, as well as a Vice President of the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation. Tony Freeman, Executive Director of the Foundation, proudly presented the award to Ed.

Ed has started his second year of law school at the University of Pittsburgh and was a Magna Cum Laude graduate of SDSU.

Among his achievements was to have finished his first year of law school with all his hair and overcoming shyness in public. Ed is an avid reader and a good listener.

"As a transgender individual, I find myself at the intersection of conflicting possibilities. On the one hand, my transition has been successful in that strangers passing me in the street assume I am biologically male, which gives me the option of staying stealth and disconnecting from the broader transgender community. On the other hand, my experiences of marginalization and discrimination (including those that are non-trans related) compel me to commit myself towards making a difference in the world. My personal sense of a higher calling makes the decision an easy one and I have spent the last few years immersed in transgender advocacy.

What often surprises people is that this specific advocacy work is not my ultimate career goal. In law school I will focus my studies on International Law and Human Rights

## ELECTION TIME IS HERE

Every two years PFLAG members elect the PFLAG Board of Directors. Besides the officers, there are members-at-large who serve on the board in a million ways (okay, slight exaggeration!)

Here is the slate of officers as they stand now. Anyone wanting to run for a position, please contact Sherry at [scohenrichards@pflag.com](mailto:scohenrichards@pflag.com). Nominations will also be taken from the floor. The election will take place at our general meeting on **November 28**.

coursework, with the intention of someday working with the United Nations for refugee rights. Although I will always be committed to transgender advocacy, and

I will always be a vocal member of my community, the plight of refugees moves me at a deeper level. I am excited to bring my energy and creativity towards developing solutions for these displaced communities.

The financial burden of law school cannot be understated. Because my personal situation makes it impossible for me to contribute financially to my own education, the PFLAG scholarship will help me defray some of these costs, bringing me one step closer to achieving my career goals. In this way the scholarship would enhance my ability to make a broader difference in the world.

As an LGBT student, I deserve this scholarship because I am committed to making the world a better place for all marginalized communities, not just my own. Whether working for refugees or the transgender community or any other group, I will always be open about who I am as I march on the path to social justice. I am not necessarily better than other applicants, but I do know I work harder than most to ensure my short time on this Earth is not wasted."



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## ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF “IT DOES GET BETTER”

When Anthony Alfano ran for student government president of DePaul University (Chicago) last spring, he didn't make special note of being gay. His closest friends knew, and that seemed enough. Over the summer, though, he decided he owed it to other young gay people to be more candid, so he opened up in the student newspaper recently, despite worrying about how his candor might affect his conservative Catholic family. Over the past year and a half, Alfano had told his family one by one, except for his father. He felt he finally had to tell his dad, knowing that the story he chose to tell would be published in the *The DePaulia*. When Anthony told his dad, he just listened and said, “The door's always open.” Phew!

Besides the anxiety about telling his dad, he worried about how DePaul University, the largest Catholic university in the country, would react. Much to his surprise, DePaul put out an official statement: “Anthony is a remarkable young man and student leader, and we hope that his candor helps other young people facing these issues to feel comfortable discussing their orientation with family and friends.”

However, not all was well. The president of Catholic Citizens of Illinois issued a statement noting the church's opposition to homosexuality. “St. Vincent DePaul would be rolling over in his grave,” she

wrote. “DePaul is clearly not operating as a Catholic University.” (And if you didn't know that DePaul University was named after St. Vincent DePaul, join the club).

Anthony's main reason for coming out was that he felt his story needed to be shared. He said, “It's for the gay youth, especially those thinking about taking their lives. I want to let them know I'm in a position of influence at a Catholic university, the largest Catholic university in the country, and I have all this support. I want to tell them, ‘You can come out too.’”

Alfano wasn't always this brave. In high school, he played hockey, dated girls, went to church and tried “to pray the gay away.” He also tried three times to commit suicide. He doesn't know why he didn't carry through. Maybe, he said, because he loved his family, his friends, because deep down he believed the world was changing in a way that would allow him to be who he is.

The world hasn't changed entirely. If it had, Alfano's coming out wouldn't be news. But it has changed enough that most of the response to his news has been encouraging.

Anthony was asked what the worst thing has been about the publicity. “Realizing my family was always there,” he said. “Realizing I could have told them sooner.”

## TRUTH WINS OUT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

TWO applauded the resignation of Daniel Avila from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, where he served as policy advisor for Marriage and Family. Avila resigned after receiving much criticism for a column he wrote for *The Boston Pilot*, America's oldest Catholic newspaper, that suggested Satan might cause people to become gay

The offensive column caused such an uproar that the *Pilot* retracted what Avila wrote. He was forced to offer a weak apology that said, “his column does not represent the position of the United States Conference of

Catholic Bishops and the column was not authorized for publication as is required policy for staff of the USCCB.”

TWO's director of communications and development said, “The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops were correct to accept Avila's resignation. There is no place for such extremism and Avila's poisonous remarks served to further alienate LGBT Americans from the Catholic Church.”

We need to keep an eye out to follow their good works.

## “YULE TUBE”

Once again, it is that time of year to treat yourselves to the San Diego Gay Men's Chorus for their holiday concert, “Yule Tube.” The first performance is Saturday, **December 3** at 8:00 pm and the second one is Sunday, **December 4** at 3:00 pm. For more info and to purchase tickets, go to [www.sdgmc.org](http://www.sdgmc.org).

This is what the SDGMC wants you to know. “Ring in the holiday cheer early with everything that's great about the holidays! You'll hear beautiful, traditional music of the season and new takes on holiday tunes from today's hottest artists. Blend in some gay men's chorus magic and spice, some handsome dancers and a few surprises, and it's another holiday hit from your favorite collection of Santa's helpers!”







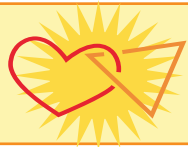
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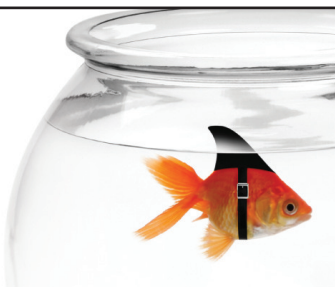
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Wayne Walker  
Sandi Timberlake  
Patti Boman

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*Luan D. Andrews, M.A.*

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