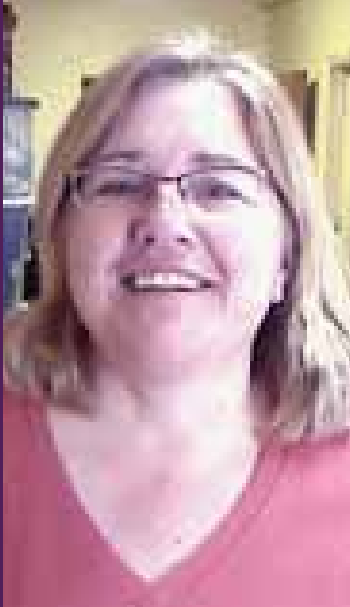




ISSUE VOLUME

10 18

OCTOBER 2010
www.pflag.com
info@pflag.com



Family Matters

LGBT History Month

Learn about a different LGBT icon every day!

Visit

glbthistorymonth.com

Please join us at our General Meeting on **Monday, October 25** at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 2231 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley. Our speaker is Jane Schmoll, Program Coordinator for Family Matters at The LGBT Center in Hillcrest. Family Matters enhances and sustains the health and well-being of families with one or more parents who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. They provide activities, educational workshops, social networking and support. One

of the main objectives is to provide all children growing up in LGBT-headed families a place to see other families like theirs. That recognition, along with the support and affirming environment Family Matters offers families, is vitally important to the development of the children.

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

OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

As part of The Women's Resource Center at The LGBT Center, The Imperial Court de San Diego and The Center established The Toni Atkins Lesbian Health Fund. The purpose is to assist low-income and uninsured lesbian, bisexual and transgender women access necessary health care resources, with a major emphasis on free mammograms.



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



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Current Events

**October 11
Monday**
National Coming Out
Day (See Article)

**October 11
Monday**
Mi Familia Support
Group

**October 12
Tuesday**
Vigil and Rally:
Remembering
Matthew Shepard
(See article)

**October 17
Sunday**
Vigil and rally in mem-
ory of the teens who
recently committed
suicide and a call to
stop the bullying in
schools. (See article)

**October 18
Monday**
Mi Familia Support
Group

**October 22
Friday**
Asian Film Festival
(See Article)

**October 23
Saturday**
The 37th Anniversary
Fundraising Gala
for The LGBT Center.
To purchase

tix or info: www.thecentersd.org

**October 24
Sunday**
PFLAG Support Group
North County Coastal

**October 24
Sunday**
PFLAG Support Group
South Bay

**October 25
Monday**
San Diego PFLAG
General Meeting

**October 25
Monday**
Mi Familia Support
Group

**November 1
Monday**
Mi Familia Support
Group

**November 8
Monday**
PFLAG Support Group
East County

**November 8
Monday**
PFLAG Support Group
North County Inland

**November 8
Monday**
Mi Familia Support
Group

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 Monday, at 7:00 pm, Ciao Bella Hair Salon building, 12160 Alta Carmel Court, Rancho Bernardo. This is a new night, time, and place. If you need directions, go to www.ciaobellainc.com.

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**

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.

MAMA'S (KITCHEN) 6TH ANNUAL PIE IN THE SKY

Mama's Pie in the Sky is a bake sale fundraising program that benefits Mama's Kitchen—San Diego's only free, county-wide home-delivered meals program for individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS or cancer. Pies are sold **October 4–November 22** (\$20.00 each): apple, pecan, pumpkin, and sugar-free apple.

Purchasing is easy as pie!

Order directly online:
www.mamaspies.org

Or call: 619-233-6262

In November's newsletter, there will be a form if you prefer to mail in your order. On **November 24** (the day before Thanksgiving so you don't have to bake), there are pick up locations all over San Diego for your convenience. The bonus is that \$15 is tax-deductible. It's a win-win.

What's Happening!

National Coming Out Day

On **October 11**, in acknowledgment and support of National Coming Out Day, PrideAtState's Safe Zones (with the support of several San Diego State University campus co-sponsors) is organizing and hosting a Movie Night and Panel Discussion. It will take place at SDSU's Hepner Hall, Room 130 from 7:00-9:00 pm. The film is *Transamerica*. If you have any questions concerning the event, contact KB Bowman, Safe Zones Graduate Assistant, kbowman@rohan.sdsu.edu.

Vigil for Matthew Shepard

On October 12, 1998, Matthew Shepard died as the result of one of the most brutal hate crimes in recent history. Twelve years later, especially in light of all the recent teen suicides, we continue to be reminded every day that hate still exists. Join others for San Diego's third remembrance and celebration of Shepard's life. The evening will include a candlelight procession, vigil, and rally. The vigil will take place **October 12** at 7:00 pm at The LGBT Center, 3909 Centre Street in Hillcrest.



11th Annual Asian Film Festival

Although the Asian Film Festival dates are October 21-October 28, every year PFLAG-SD is a co-presenter of the LGBT evening which is **October 22**. The time is 7:10 pm at the UltraStar Theater in Hazard Center. There are eight short subject films (Standing Queer). **There are still a few free tickets left.** If interested, please contact Sherry at scohenrichards@pflag.com or 858-292-7111. If you need additional tickets or would like a listing of all the films, go to www.sdaff.org.

DUES INCREASE

Due to increased operating costs and to expand our presence in the LGBT community, it is necessary to raise our dues slightly beginning in January, 2011. It is important to note that our dues still remain among the lowest compared to other chapters in the country. We hope you understand.

If you renew (or join) from now until the end of December, 2010, you

pay the current membership dues and your membership will be valid through December, 2011.

The new membership dues are as follows:

Individual	\$30
Household	\$40
Business	\$50
Supporting	\$60
Contributing	\$125
Lifetime	\$1000

From each membership, \$15 is sent to PFLAG in Washington, DC

which provides you with membership in National PFLAG (which is why we ask you to join through PFLAG SD and not send dues money to National PFLAG). They advocate for all the PFLAG chapters in the U.S. The remainder of your local dues support: rent to the church for our San Diego meetings, info phone line, newsletter, Pride Parade and festival entry fees. South Bay Pride, scholarships, printing of brochures and other

literature, books and DVD's for our library, support of Hillcrest Youth Center, and training at various sites in Southern California. This year, for the first time, because of lack of funds, we were not able to support The Center Fundraising Gala and RB Alive.

Now is a good time, also, to encourage those who attend meetings/satellite groups and have not become members, to do so.

WHEN WILL IT STOP?

The number of teen LGBT suicides is rising at an alarming rate. In the last eight weeks, there have been six suicides due to bullying, five in the month of September alone. We need to mourn for these children: Asher Brown, 13, Cypress, Texas, Sept. 23, Seth Walsh, 13, Tehachapi, California, Sept 19, Justin Aaberg, 15, Anoka, Minnesota, July 9, Billy Lucas, 15, Greensburg, Indiana, Sept. 9, Tyler Clementi, 18, Ridgewood, New Jersey, Sept 22, Raymond Chase, 19, Monticello, New York, Sept. 29.

We must call attention to the recent bullying/deaths where the bullying starts:

in the schools. There will be a candlelight vigil in memory of these children at the San Diego Unified School District Administration Building on Sunday, **October 17** from 6:00-7:00 pm (4100 Normal Street in Hillcrest). There will be speakers addressing bullying in schools and what needs to be done to put a stop to it. We hope the administrators will come and listen.

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEB SITE FOR UPDATES AND CHANGES as this is the current information available at "press time."

Here are some chilling statistics gathered by the GLSEN 2009 National School Climate Survey. There were 7,261 students, ages 13-21, from all 50 states surveyed.

- **85%** were verbally harassed (called names or threatened) at school because of their sexual orientation
- **72%** heard frequently or often heard remarks like faggot and dyke at school
- **61%** felt unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation. This is the highest percentage of students who felt unsafe at school as compared to students who felt marginalized because of faith, color, and disability or for other reasons.
- **53%** were harassed or threatened by their peers via electronic mediums (cyber bullying)
- **40%** were physically harassed (pushed/shoved) at school because of their sexual orientation
- **19%** were physically assaulted (punched, kicked, injured with a weapon) because of their sexual orientation
- **62%** of students who were harassed or assaulted did not report it, in large part because they believed no one would/could help them

You read the above and then cringe when you learn that on October 3, Boyd K. Packer, the second-highest leader in the Mormon Church, said in a sermon before 20,000 people and broadcast to millions more, that same-sex attraction is "impure and unnatural" and can be overcome, and that same-sex unions are morally wrong. He ranted that homosexuality is "against God's law and nature."

Comments like these are exactly what makes young LGBT kids think there's no way out but suicide – that their parents will reject them, that their communities will shun them, and that living openly will bring pain or violence – that even G-d looks on their very identity as a sin to be "overcome."

VOTE NOV. 2

We hope you will all do your civic duty and vote. We want to stress the importance of our votes to promote candidates and causes which impact our families. Different Strokes Swim Team has compiled good info: www.dsst.org under "Take the Plunge This Election & Vote!" Or you can do your own homework (you can Google or Bing just about anything) so that these candidates will succeed.



Olivia and her new best friends

CONGRATS TO CAROLINA RAMOS

The LGBT Center's Latino Services coordinator, Carolina Ramos,



was honored as a local hero by KPBS as part of Hispanic Heritage Month. Carolina is also the facilitator of Mi Familia, the Spanish speaking PFLAG group. It is such a well-run and cohesive group, that they are now meeting every Monday at The Center from 6:00-8:00 pm.

SISTER JEANNINE VISITED

Most of you remember the wonderful presentation by Sister Jeannine Gramick at our June General Meeting. Sister Jeannine will be leading an LGBT friendly pilgrimage to experience "The Spiritual Treasures of Northern Italy," March 20-27, 2011. For further info visit: www.pilgrimages.com/gramick and www.newwaysministry.org/pilgrimage.html.

You can also phone Sister Jeannine at 301-864-3604 or e-mail her at gramick@juno.com.

NOT CHILLY IN CHILE

Representatives from PFLAG SD were in Santiago, Chile to attend a convention of the International Association of Families for Sexual Diversity. Co-president Patti Boman, along with Monica, Arturo, and Isaac Gomez, spent several days at the conference. Here is Patti's first hand report, "There were 23 nations represented, mostly Spanish speaking except for Brazil and Portugal. We listened for 3 days to different speakers ranging from university professors and



medical doctors to every day people like us. We were lucky enough to be asked to speak on a panel on how to start a support group in their countries. Additionally, Monica, Arturo and Isaac spoke about transgender issues (there was huge interest there on that subject). We all marched in Chile's Gay Pride Parade, not knowing what to expect (and thinking it would be us and a couple of other groups). We rode the subway there and when we exited at the location, we were dumbfounded! We were surrounded by thousands of young kids, music, and floats! We had to fight our way through the crowd (all of us were 5' or shorter trying to get



Francisco from Argentina, Monica Nunez-Cham, Patti Boman, PFLAG-NY Mom, Arturo Gomez

through the throngs of people; we hung on to each other trying to find our group and the mom from PFLAG NY, who is originally from Peru, would yell 'move over - we are parents that support you and looking for our group' and she was able to get us through this sea of young kids to the front of the march. We were the only parent group there and we had so much love, kisses and hugs from all those children that it made it the absolute highlight of the trip!"

SD AIDS WALK A SUCCESS

Although small in numbers who walked, PFLAG San Diego registered 14 people, and we raised \$1215.00. Thank you to everyone who raised

money; however, if there were a **SUPER THANK YOU AWARD**, it would go to Phyllis Van Wanseele. Phyllis raised almost \$500, which she does year after year. Every year she brings family members along who support us also.

Pictured: Darren O'Hare, Kevin Van Wanseele, Clive Dorman Phyllis Van Wanseele, Olivia Dorman, Sandi Timberlake, Sherry Cohen-Richards, Louie Chavez.



EXCITING POSSIBILITY AT THE COUNTY FAIR!

The PFLAG Board is discussing the possibility of having a PFLAG booth at the 2011 San Diego County Fair (the "Del Mar Fair"). Attendance at the fair in 2010 was 1.3 million visitors. If only 800,000 fair-goers pass through the Commercial Area, our message of love and acceptance of our LGBT children will be seen by over 25% of the population of the county.

We now have six PFLAG support groups from Carlsbad to Santee to Chula Vista, and this is an opportunity to increase attendance at all our groups. We also expect an increase in memberships.

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

PFLAG needs enough volunteers to staff our booth for 3 shifts each day, 4 hours each shift, for 22 days. We

are applying for a grant to fund our entry fee.

This is a massive undertaking for us. It will be the most ambitious outreach we've ever considered. But our presence at the San Diego County Fair is an incredible opportunity to bring LGBT issues into the mainstream.

Please volunteer, even if you can only commit to one

four-hour shift. We need to have a rough idea of how many PFLAG members will actively help us fulfill our Mission to Support, Educate, and Advocate on behalf of our LGBT family members and friends. The dates are **June 10-July 4, 2011**. If you can volunteer, please contact Ron Goetz at rgoetz@pflag.com or 619-588-2342.

THE "LAST, BUT NOT LEAST" SCHOLARSHIP

It is our pleasure to highlight scholarship recipient, **Amanda Goodman**. She was awarded the **John McCusker Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund** at the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation. We were pleased that Past President of the Human Dignity Foundation, David Miles, was on hand to present the award.



disorders. I am also UCSD's Grinspoon Israel Advocacy Intern. The purpose of my internship is to highlight Israel's contributions to the LGBT community. During winter quarter, I partnered with UCSD's LGBTQIA and hosted an Israeli LGBT film festival, which will continue during spring quarter.

Upon receiving my undergraduate degree from UCSD, I hope I earn enough scholarships to finance my attendance of law school. As a lawyer, I would like to continue my commitment to the LGBT community by specializing in civil rights for women and LGBTQ individuals. Receiving the San Diego PFLAG Scholarship will help facilitate the accomplishment of my educational goals by providing me with a scholarship that I can use to help fund my future attendance of law school. As a LGBT student, I deserve this scholarship because of my commitment to the LGBT

community in San Diego, as well as the hardships I have endured during my life. I am the child of a single-mother; therefore, it is a significant burden for my mother to pay for my college education. Moreover, she has taken early retirement due to disabilities. I receive some financial aid from UCSD, but it is nonetheless a hardship for my mother to pay for my education. I am attempting to graduate in one more year, and I also am working two jobs to pay for as much of my education as I can by myself. I have the utmost respect for my mother and for her ability to raise me to be the person I am today in the face of such adversity. Nevertheless, our relationship has suffered since I came out to her last spring. She disowned me for several months and I supported myself in San Diego last summer. Since then, I took comfort in the advice that the PFLAG Support Resources on the PFLAG website provided, and I reached out to my mother. I have involved her in my life as much as I can, and I am trying to restore our relationship through openness and honesty about my lifestyle and by sharing my involvement in the LGBT community with her."

THE LA EVENT

On October 1, on their own, Board Members Terrie Vorono, Sandi Timberlake, and Phyllis Van Wanseele, along with her husband, son, and his partner, attended the National PFLAG Event. Jody Huckaby, PFLAG National Executive Director said, "This event will give PFLAG the opportunity to honor entertainment industry leaders who are advancing the same message (advocating on behalf of the LGBT community) through their work." It was star-studded; many in the entertainment industry have helped our cause and we appreciate it.

Enjoying the festivities are Phyllis Van Wanseele, Craig Van Wanseele, and Terri Vorono. Not pictures are Sandi Timberlake, Kevin Van Wanseele, and Darren O'Hare



Luan D. Andrews, M.A.

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THE CHEESE STANDS ALONE

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The donation is \$15.00.



WITH THANKS

Signing Up for the AIDS Walk

Patti Boman, Lonnie Brunini, Louie Chavez, Clive Dorman, Olivia Dorman, Patty Magee, Stephanie Rake, Karen Thompson, Sandi Timberlake, Phyllis Van Wanseele, Terrie Vorono, Cheyanne Yeats, Toddy Yeats, and Sherry Cohen-Richards. Our own Joan Crawford (the living one), who chairs one of the AIDS Walk committees, devotes countless hours helping to make the AIDS Walk a success.

Providing Refreshments for our Meeting

Stephanie Rake
Phyllis Van Wanseele

Chris Cohen-Richards
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