



EQUALITY CALIFORNIA

Please join us for our General Meeting on Monday, **September 26** at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 2231 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley. Doors open at 6:45 pm.

We are pleased to have a speaker from Equality California. Topics to be discussed are bills that have passed or soon to be passed that benefit LGBT Californians. The bills range from domestic partnership and family protections, to safe schools, transgender anti-discrimination and inclusive education. Mentioned on

page 7 of the newsletter is the info on the FAIR Education Act (SB 48) which was sponsored by Equality California. Another notable bill was SB 117, the Equal Benefits Bill which prohibits the state from entering into contracts of more than \$100,000 with companies who discriminate on the basis of the gender or sexual orientation of their employees' spouses or domestic partners.

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

THERE IS STILL TIME TO SIGN-UP FOR THE AIDS WALK



Come one, come all to walk with PFLAG on Sunday, **September 25** at the 22nd annual Aids Walk. *AIDS Walk San Diego* is San Diego's largest one-

day HIV/AIDS fundraiser and the biggest non-governmental financial provider for HIV/AIDS in San Diego County. Dozens of agencies - serving thousands of clients - rely on funds raised at the annual Walk to help provide essential prevention and care programs to thousands of men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS.

You can register by going to www.AIDSwalksd.org and select *Register*

at the top of the page, then *Join an Existing Team*. Either enter *PFLAG San Diego* or *Search for a Team* and find *PFLAG San Diego*. Click on the *Join* button and follow the instructions. The registration fee is \$35 (\$25 for 17 & under and 60+). AIDS Walk would like to beat the amount donated last year - \$189,528.

The walk begins at 8:00 am in Balboa Park at Quince and 6th Avenue. Please get there early enough to receive your AIDS Walk t-shirt. The opening ceremony is at 7:35 if you are so inclined. There are water and light snacks available before the walk.

Miscellaneous information: the Walk takes place rain or shine. Dress in layers since it can be cool in the morning, wear sturdy walking shoes (the Walk takes about 1.5 hours to

complete), sunscreen yourselves, keep hydrated - there are water stations along the way. There are shuttle buses available at the Naval Hospital and Balboa Park lots off President's Way and Park Blvd. Allow extra time if you are using the shuttles.

If you don't have internet, call 619-291-9255, ext. 1 (Ian Johnson) to participate. For questions, please contact Sherry Cohen-Richards, 858-292-7111 or scohenrichards@pflag.com.





OFFICERS, COMMITTEES & VOLUNTEERS

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Patti Boman
619-227-6092
pboman@pflag.com

Barbara Bodine
619-587-9101
bbodine@pflag.com

Past President

Karen Thompson
858-842-7005
kthompson@pflag.com

Vice-President

Sherry Cohen-Richards
858-292-7111
scohenrichards@pflag.com

Recording Secretary

Olivia Dorman
619-469-1924
odorman@pflag.com

Corresponding Secretary

Phyllis Van Wanseele
619-443-6132
pvanwanseele@pflag.com

Treasurer

Mark Thompson
619-339-5843
mthompson@pflag.com

Greeter

Lonnie Brunini
lbrunini@pflag.com

Membership

Bobbi Harwood
858-453-3249
bharwood@pflag.com

Info Line

Support/Outreach
Barbara Bodine
888-398-0006

Newsletter

Sherry Cohen-Richards,
Editor

Linda Bessemer, Laura
Partido & Flowers Group
Printing

Jessy Sauchuk, Belladia
Marketing & Design

Library

Terrie Vorono
tvorono@pflag.com

Programs

Karen Thompson

Scholarship

Olivia Dorman

Spanish Interpreter

Maria Cortinas
760-758-3294

Speakers' Bureau

Terrie Vorono
tvorono@pflag.com
858-483-8310

Transgender Coordinator

Evelyn Lindenmuth
619-300-0396

Refreshments

Phyllis Van Wanseele

Website

Robert Sachristan
admin@pflag.com

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Current Events

**September 19
Monday**
Mi Familia Support Group

**September 25
Sunday**
AIDS WALK (see article)

**September 26
Monday**
San Diego PFLAG
General Meeting &
Support Groups

**September 26
Monday**
Mi Familia Support Group

**October 3
Monday**
PFLAG Support Group
North County Coastal

**October 3
Monday**
Mi Familia Support Group

**October 8
Saturday**
Pride @ the Beach!
Oceanside (see article)

**October 10
Monday**
PFLAG Support Group
East County

**October 10
Monday**
Mi Familia Support Group

**October 13
Monday**
PFLAG Support Group
North County Inland

**October 16
Sunday**
Scouting for All Rally
(if interested, email
scohenrichards@pflag.com)

**October 17
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

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.

**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.

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DON'T YA LOVE IT?



This picture speaks for itself. Our Bobbi Harwood was strolling around the East Village, an eclectic section of New York City, and spotted this ice cream shop.

FREEDOM TO SERVE

On September 20, 2011, after 18 years of government mandated employment discrimination and more than 14,500 discharges, the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy officially expired. Brave and strong gay and lesbian service members who help protect our nation and citizens, will no longer be subject to discharge on the basis of their sexual orientation and no longer forced to serve in silence. ALL RIGHT!

A SURPRISE GUEST

We were fortunate enough to have a surprise visitor at our Pot Luck Dinner last month, Bishop Christopher Senyonjo and his wife, Mary, who were in San Diego for other meetings. He was introduced by our own Lindy Miles and Reverend Albert Ogle from St. Paul's Cathedral.

The Bishop is an outspoken (to the point of endangering his own life) advocate of gay rights in Uganda. To clarify, there aren't actually any gay rights in Uganda. The Anti-Homosexual Bill (or commonly known

as "Kill the Gays" Bill) would broaden the criminalization of same-sex relations by enacting the death penalty. Bishop Senyonjo has spoken worldwide to call attention to this horrendous piece of legislation. As an FYI, three American Evangelical Christians (mentioned in a previous newsletter) further incited Uganda's way of thinking after they organized a conference with the main focus being that homosexuality was a "direct threat" to the cohesion of African families.

A FIRST FOR N. COUNTY COASTAL

Please join our North County Coastal PFLAG Support Group on **October 8** at Pride @ the Beach! from 11 am-6 pm. The event takes place at Betty's Lot in Oceanside, which is an outdoor venue across from the beach. This annual event is sponsored by the North County LGBT Coalition, which is an umbrella group for all associated LGBT groups in North County.

PFLAG North County Coastal will be selling buttons, stickers, rainbow bracelets, etc., as well as hand out literature to attendees requesting information about PFLAG. There will be food vendors and booths galore to round out the day. Money raised funds the Coalition's Annual GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance) Awards. These awards go directly to North County Gay/Straight Alliance clubs in the middle and high schools.

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY

This event is an internationally observed civil awareness day for coming out and discussion about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. It is observed by members of the LGBT communities and their supporters on October 11 every year.

National Coming Out Day was founded in 1988 by Robert Eichberg, a psychologist from New Mexico and Jean O'Leary, an openly-gay political leader from Los Angeles, on behalf of the personal growth workshop The Experience and National Gay Rights Advocates. The date of October 11 was chosen because it was the anniversary of the 1987 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

IN MEMORIAM



On August 24, John Laird passed away after a long illness. He is survived by his husband, Aaron Borovoy. John and Aaron were together 28 years. Our condolences are extended to Aaron.

It should be noted, that, even while ill, John remained an icon

in the LGBT community. Not only did he give much time to the LGBT Center starting in the 1980's, but he became a Board Member in 2002 and remained in that position until his death.

In addition to The Center, John became involved with the
(Continued on page 5)

SETH'S LAW

Seth Walsh was among the many students who committed suicide last year because they were gay or perceived to be gay. Please join the LGBT community in remembering Seth on **September 28** (the first anniversary of his death), from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., at Eden, 1202 University Avenue in Hillcrest. A special message will be given by Seth's mother, Wendy, and his brother Shawn.

Lawmakers in California passed a law that orders schools to stop looking the other way on bullying of students for their sexual orientation. Seth's Law (AB 9) means public

schools are required to create policies for addressing incidents of bullying. They are also required to state explicitly that discrimination based on sexual orientation is not allowed.

Students widely acknowledged that Seth, who was 13 years old at the time, had been bullied for a long time for being gay. His death prompted a federal government investigation of the school for a lack of response. Seth Walsh's death helped prompt a national outcry for greater protections against bullying.

DWTS - AND THE BEAT GOES ON

For those who don't know, DWTS = Dancing with the Stars. ABC is setting a good example for other stations on inclusivity and diversity. Chaz Bono will be the first transgender on the program. If you never watched DWTS before, now would be a good time so you can vote for Chaz – he'll need all the support he can get. Also, in Season 13's lineup is Carson Kressley, who is gay (although not the first gay contestant). GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, issued praise to ABC for including transgender and gay contestants this season.

Herndon Graddick, senior director of programs for GLAAD said, "With both gay and transgender contestants represented on this upcoming season, ABC will send viewers a strong message about the diversity within the LGBT community. At a time when transgender representation in the media is sorely lacking, Chaz Bono joining the cast is a tremendous step forward for the public to recognize that transgender people are another wonderful part of the fabric of American culture. Appearing on such a high-profile show will allow millions of Americans to get to know him in a whole new light."

"If homosexuality is a disease, let's all call in queer to work: 'Hello. Can't work today, still queer.'" -Robin Tyler

(In Memoriam: continued from page 4)

Imperial Court de San Diego in 1982. He served as the court's Grey Wolf Emperor XXI and hosted a number of fundraisers and benefits throughout his tenure on the court. Then there was his commitment to Mama's Kitchen as a volunteer at Mama's Pantry, The Toni Atkins Lesbian Health Project, and the AIDS

Memorial Task Force (and that is just a drop in the bucket of all his volunteer activities).

John, along with Aaron, was very active in his temple, serving on Temple Emanu-El's Social Action and Publicity committees. He also helped out with numerous fundraising projects.

John will certainly be missed.

CHENES OF LOVE

Dick and Lynne Cheney garnered applause on the set of The View after the couple agreed gay marriage and gay rights should be allowed in America. "I think freedom means freedom for everybody, and you ought to have the right to make whatever choice you want to make with respect to your own personal situation. I certainly don't have a problem with it," said Cheney, whose daughter Mary is a lesbian.

Cheney has previously confirmed the notion that every state should decide, even going as far as to say that people should be allowed to form any kind of union they wish.

Cheney's daughter and her partner Heather have two children. "Whatever Mary and Heather decide to do is up to Mary and Heather," said Lynne.

When asked about if the couple is not against gay marriage, Lynne responded, "That right," garnering an audience applause.



A LOGICAL CONCLUSION

Many years ago (1975), the American Psychological Association declassified homosexuality as a mental disorder. Now the APA is calling on state and federal officials to stop anti-gay legal measures and to legalize same-sex marriage.

The scientific and professional organization's guiding body voted unanimously at its annual meeting in early August to declare its support for "full marriage equality for same-sex couples."

The resolution "clarifies the Association's support for same-sex marriage" in light of new research, the group said. A similar resolution in 2004 opposed discrimination against same-sex relationships, but refrained from a more formal policy recommendation.

90 MORE DAYS

The California Supreme Court heard arguments on September 6 on whether proponents of Proposition 8 have legal standing to appeal a court ruling striking down Prop. 8. The court asked tough questions to the opponents (the good guys) and proponents. Now they have 90 days to rule on who "wins" Prop. 8.

NOW FEATURING

Elizabeth Nguyen is the recipient of the Rob Benzon Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is provided through the generosity of the Rob Benzon Foundation to honor their beloved and generous friend, Rob Benzon. The goal of the Foundation Scholarship is to recognize youth who demonstrate a giving spirit and charisma. We were pleased that Dan Ferbal and Steve Hawley were there to present the award.

Presently, Elizabeth is a Critical Gender Studies and Literature major with a Writing minor at the University of California, San Diego. Among her "likes" are computer games and martial arts. Known for her strong work ethic, her family and friends love her eccentricities, one of which is her passionate love for CATS, the musical.

"Homophobic violence is a serious threat to LGBT lives. This oppression pushes queer people onto the margins of society, and LGBT youth and women are at particular risk. Queer youth are often victims of gay-bashing or anti-gay bullying. This violence can also fuel depression and self-hatred, and contributes to the disproportionately high LGBT youth suicide rate. In addition, sexism and homophobia contribute to a rape culture in which women are constructed as sex objects for male heterosexual pleasure. In some countries, there is even a widespread acceptance of using rape to 'cure' lesbians of their sexual orientation.

The right to live without fear of violence is a human right. This right is obstructed because the larger heterosexist culture views queerness as an immorality, inferiority,

INCREASING IN NUMBERS

It is with great pleasure to announce more professional sports teams participating in the *It Gets Better Project*. Welcome, Baltimore Orioles, Philadelphia Phillies, Tampa Bay Rays, and DC United (Major League Soccer). It was reported in last month's newsletter that the Minnesota Twins had joined the ranks, but the video has not been released. Ditto for the Washington Nationals. Fans are petitioning the New York Yankees to join their comrades, but

and a blemish on the way humans show love and affection. By viewing queer people as undesirable members of the population, our lives are perceived as disposable. Often, we are even seen as threats that must be brutally purged. The extremely vicious hate crimes against queer people reflect this attitude; the bodies of murdered queer persons are likely to be stabbed and shot multiple times, strangled, raped, and mutilated.

I want to devote future to community activism; I've begun this work by helping lead queer and feminist orgs and by interning at my university's LGBT Resource Center. However, I'd like to further my activism through literature. I believe that writing is a powerful tool for creating social justice. Through stories, I want to express the suffering, joy, oppression, and liberation of those in our community. I want to be able to speak of my own stories as a queer woman of color, which has been long silenced by hostile cultural attitudes. This scholarship would provide me with the financial means to continue my education in Critical Gender Studies and Writing, and help make activist writing my future career. Ultimately, I hope to help develop communities of awareness and compassion that will act against homophobic violence."



so far, no go. THE LIST: Giants, Red Sox, Cubs, Mariners who were joined by players from other Seattle sports – Seahawks, Storm (Major League Soccer), and Sounder (WMLB), Orioles, Phillies, and Rays. The rest of the teams should get moving!



THE HOMOPHOBES ARE AT IT AGAIN, PART II

Outlined in last month's newsletter, SB 48, The Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act would amend the Education Code in California to include social sciences instruction on the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, persons with disabilities, and members of other culture groups. This bill would also prohibit discriminatory instruction and discriminatory materials from being adopted by the State Board of Education.

After it was signed into law by Governor Brown, a Stop SB 48 campaign emerged. This group filed a referendum to overturn the FAIR Education Act and is feverishly collecting signatures to get it on the 2012 ballot. They have until mid-October to collect 504,000 signatures. If you see signatures being collected, please do your part and reason with the signers. Volunteers and donations are needed to prevent people from signing the Stop SB 48 petitions (education is the key). Go to www.eqca.org and click on the Fair Education Act link and follow the instructions.

Here is how one church conducted their business concerning SB 48. The pastor of a church in LA was holding a meeting

with other religious church "leaders" who were going to pray and talk about repealing SB 48. There were pro-SB 48 people in attendance who were asked to leave. Capturing the scenario on tape was KTLA News. One attendee, Milton Davis, said he was told, "there's not room for debate," to which he replied, "We said we understand that, we don't want to [debate], we just like to listen." They were told they didn't want them on the property at all, period.

Davis said he and others, including a rabbi, were told that people at the church would "remove" them if they didn't leave on their own.

The pastor of the church insisted there's nothing wrong with this picture when he spoke to a KTLA news reporter. "This is not about us hating anyone, or being homophobic or guilty of bigotry," said Xavier Thompson, pastor for Southern Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles, where the rally was held. "We believe you cannot sexualize history."

Apparently, the pastor didn't read the bill. The law does not require homosexual sex be taught, rather that stories about leaders of the gay rights movement be included in lesson plans.

the dozens to see and not the country to see," Black says. "It killed me and I think it killed all of us in the room. We immediately started trying to figure out, 'How do we get this truth out there?'"

For the script, Black used the actual words of the trial transcripts, firsthand observations of the courtroom drama, and interviews with the plaintiffs and their families.

There was a one night only Broadway staged reading on September 19. Following the September 19 debut, AFER (American Foundation for Equal Rights) and Broadway Impact will license *8* to schools and community organizations nationwide in order to spur action, dialogue and understanding.

IN THE NAME OF RELIGION

A western Kentucky Baptist church group voted to kick out a church for its ties to PFLAG Owensboro. The chapter has held monthly meetings at the church for more than a year-- and the church's pastor says the vote won't stop that from continuing. Representatives from the association's 56 churches voted. The removal was approved by a final vote of more than 220 to just 24.

MORMON STORIES

Several years ago, we had a group of people attend our meeting from Affirmation, the LGBT community of the Mormon faith. Recently, we were made aware that the group still meets in the San Diego area as part of the "Mormon Stories" podcast and support community series. Anyone who would like contact with recent happenings in the LDS culture from a progressive point of view, is encouraged to check out mormonstories.org.

Dustin Lance Black, who won an Academy Award for his acclaimed *Milk* screenplay, sat in on the trial to overturn Proposition 8, California's gay marriage ban. He continues to raise awareness for equality with his new play *8*, based on the trial. Black said, "This was the first time I've ever seen our case argued by the most capable lawyers in the world, in a court of law where the other side had to raise their right hand and swear to tell the truth."

Yet due to Prop. 8 backers successfully convincing the U.S. Supreme Court to bar broadcast of the trial, few people were able to watch it. Only a transcript would be available. "It killed me to think that this would only live inside this courtroom for



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who worked at the South
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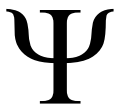
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