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JULY 2011
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LGBT HISTORY 101

Please join us for our General Meeting on **Monday**, **July 25** at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 2231 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley. Doors open at 6:45 pm.

Maureen Steiner from Lambda Archives of San Diego will give a presentation on our very own, local LGBT history. Maureen is a lifetime member of PFLAG and was able to marry her partner, Camille Davidson, when marriage was legal in California, 2008.

The mission of the Lambda Archives is to collect, preserve, and teach the history of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the San Diego and Northern Baja California region. Although most of the collections date to post-1970, there are original materials dating back to the 1930s. Lambda Archives (founded as the



Pictured is Maureen Steiner (right) with her partner, Camille Davidson.

Lesbian and Gay Archives of San Diego) has dedicated itself to preserving and interpreting this important historical record.

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

NEW YORK, NEW YORK; RI, RI

On June 24, New York made history by becoming the sixth and largest state to legalize same-sex marriage. The state Senate passed the bill by a 33-29 margin and Governor Andrew Cuomo quickly signed it five minutes before midnight. It was Governor Cuomo who introduced the Marriage Equality Act.

It is noteworthy to mention that four Republicans voted for the marriage bill (and one Democrat didn't). They voted for what was right, rather than what their party wanted them to do. For two of those senators, in particular, it came down to the wire. With his position still undeclared, Senator Mark J. Grisanti, a Republican from Buffalo who had sought office promising to oppose same-sex marriage, told his colleagues he had agonized for months before concluding he had been wrong. Mr. Grisanti said, "I cannot deny a person, a human being, a taxpayer, a worker, the people of my district and across this state, the State of New York, and those people who make this the great state that it is the same rights that I have with my wife." Senator Stephen M. Saland, a Poughkeepsie Republican, became the critical 32nd vote, telling his colleagues in an emotional address that he believed the issue came down to a question of equality. "I know my vote is a vote of conscience," he told a hushed chamber. "I am at peace with my vote. It was a struggle. It was an extraordinary deliberation."

Said Governor Cuomo, "This state, when it's at its finest, is a beacon for social justice. We reached a new level of social justice this evening. I think New York sent a message to the nation and I think it is going to resonate and we are going to see real progress. The legacy of New York when it's at its best - New York is the progressive capital of the nation."

A very nice caveat to the bill is there is no residency requirement for couples; same-sex couples can come from anywhere to get married in New York.

Outside the Senate chamber, Jim Reda of Brooklyn, who was with his

partner of eight years, said, "I feel like a first-class citizen, a first-class New Yorker, for the first time in my life. We will be married by the end of the year. I can't believe I'm actually saying that."

Here's hoping New York, allowing same-sex marriage, will have a ripple effect on the rest of the country (are you listening California?).

Other states to legalize same-sex marriage are Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and the District of Columbia. Civil unions were approved in Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, New Jersey and Rhode Island.

And speaking of Rhode Island, their governor, Lincoln Chafee, signed into law a bill that legalizes civil unions on June 29. The law will provide samesex couples with a host of new state tax breaks, health-care benefits and greater ease of inheritance. Chafee, who is supportive of same-sex marriage, says civil unions are "a step in the right direction."

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SUPPORT

to cope with an adverse society

EDUCATION to enlighten an ill-informed public

ADVOCACY to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights



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Current Events

July 15-17 Friday-Sunday Pride weekend

July 18 **Monday**

Mi Familia Support Group

July 25 **Monday**

San Diego PFLAG General Meeting & Support Groups

July 25 **Monday**

Mi Familia Support Group

July 30 & July 31 Saturday & Sunday San Diego Gay Men's

Chorus concert (see article)

August 1 **Monday**

PFLAG Support Group North County Coastal

August 1 **Monday**

Mi Familia Support Group

August 8 Monday

PFLAG Support Group **East County**

August 8 Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

August 11 **Thursday**

PFLAG Support Group North County Inland

August 14 Sunday

CityFest (see article)

August 15 Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

August 20 **Saturday**

South Bay Pride (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.



Equality is the soul of liberty, there is, in fact, no liberty without it.

Frances Wright

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

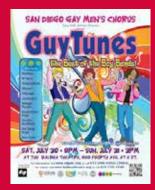
For more information on the Transgender Support Group

Contact Kathe Dunn, ftm_mom@yahoo.com.

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

GUY TUNES

The San Diego Gay Men's Chorus presents "Guy Tunes." The dates are Saturday, **July 30** at 8:00 pm and Sunday, **July 31** at 3:00 pm; performances are at the Balboa Theatre on Fourth Street, downtown.



There will be highenergy song and dance productions featuring the boy bands of the 60's through today (that's five decades!!). All numbers are performed by the 140 member chorus.

can down go memory lane with artists a mile long such as: Franki Valli. The Four Seasons, The Beatles, Doobie Brothers, Gees, Backstreet Boys, Huey Lewis & The News, Eagles, Beach Boys, The Association, Jan & Dean, Everly Brothers. Hall & Oates. Herman's Hermits, The Jackson The Temptations, Chicago, 'N Sync, Boyz Il Men. The list goes on, but you get the picture.

To buy tickets, go to www.sdgmc.org. Tickets are selling fast!

ANOTHER A-LIST NAME

In addition to Meredith Baxter as one of the Grand Marshals of this year's PRIDE parade, she was joined by Tucson hero



and political activist Daniel Hernandez Jr. as celebrity grand marshal. Hernandez, who is known throughout the country for aiding Congresswomen Gabrielle Giffords after a gunman fired on her earlier this year, also served as a keynote speaker on the opening day of Pride weekend.

GET WELL WISHES

Wishing a speedy recovery to co-President Barbara Bodine and North County Inland co-facilitator Sue Fine.



SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATION (CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

June 27 was a happy evening for the recipients of seven scholarships. We were thrilled that Todd Gloria, Councilperson for District 3, not only spoke to us with his down-to-earth humor, but he also gave the winners commendations. Todd is a past PFLAG scholarship recipient.

Although the thank you's appear on the back page, there are two major thank you's that deserve special recognition: **Olivia Dorman** has been the organizer of the Scholarship Program and mistress of ceremonies extraordinaire for the past twelve year. Just as a good wine gets better with time, so does our Olivia. Her own brand of humor makes everyone comfortable and keeps the audience on their toes and laughing. Thank you doesn't seem to be enough for such hard work and dedication, but we do thank you from the bottom of our **\P**'s! A huge thanks to the **Raytheon GLBTA members** who provided refreshments, which was a fabulous array of food, as well as bringing roses, crepe paper to decorate, and balloons. It was all appreciated and a fantastic backdrop.

This year's recipients were **Daniel Tillapaugh**, the Mary Wagner Memorial Scholarship; **Kristen Torres**, the John Bessemer Memorial Scholarship; **Elizabeth Nguyen**, The Rob Benson Memorial Scholarship; **Michael Cueva**, the Stephen G. Bowersox Memorial Scholarship; **Edward San Filippo**, The John McCusker Memorial Foundation Scholarship Fund at the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation; **Pamela Highfill**, the Mac McWhorter Memorial Scholarship; **Anthony Gomez**, the Raytheon STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Scholarship.

Starting with this issue, we will highlight one or two recipients each month, including the essays they submitted with their applications.

Daniel Tillapaugh received the Mary Wagner Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship



was funded by Mary's former partner, Sharon Murphy, and her life-long friends, Marilyn and Art Carpenter, to honor Mary's long commitment to education. Daniel was chosen for this particular award since he is a Ph.D. candidate in the Higher Education Leadership Program at the University of San Diego. He successfully defended his dissertation proposal in May and has completed all the course work for his Ph.D. Currently, he is awaiting approval from the USD Institutional Review Board so he can begin research in the fall.

SOLDIER LEAVES LEGACY MUCH LARGER THAN 'HE WAS GAY'

Although Corporal Andrew Wilfahrt died in combat in Afghanistan in February, 2011, his story is just coming to light. To add to the family pain, he was to come back to Minnesota two days after he was killed by a bomb that was planted under a bridge that he and his fellow soldiers were crossing. Andrew was the only one killed.

At the time he enlisted in 2009, Andrew, then 29 years old, wanted to make sure the Army didn't know he was gay. He changed his gait, bulked up with weights, and spoke with a deep Robocop voice. This was the total opposite of the Andrew in high school. There, he lobbied for gay rights, escaped the fists of football players when female hockey players came to his rescue, who had the courage to wear pink and green even after his car was spray-painted with "Go Home Fag!"

His parents, always supportive of him, were concerned because he went from being openly gay to having to hide who he was, but they had to accept Andrew's decision.

Here are some tidbits about Andrew; to name them all that was interesting and wonderful about him, we would run out of space. When Andrew joined the Army, he had a perfect score in his aptitude test, making him among the smartest in the half-million force. He became especially close to Sergeant Kevin Gill, a senior officer. Kevin and Andrew were like brothers. Before being sent to Afghanistan, when they had time off, Gill would head to the straight bars and Andrew to the gay bars where he thought military investigator were following him. Gill confirmed that none of Andrew's comrades cared that he was gay. Andrew had a great sense of humor that made his comrades laugh. In fact, while in combat, he rode with two other soldiers, one was African-American and the other from Hawaii. They were known as "Team Minority." Andrew talked more about his sexuality with his band of brothers than he ever had with his gay friends. He explained how difficult it was to be gay in America.

After Andrew's death, he was so well-liked that his buddies named an outpost after him: Combat Outpost Wilfahrt. They make it clear that it is not named after a gay soldier, but for one who fought with valor. The platoon leader wrote a letter to Andrew's parents to inform



them of the outpost. He said, "We will never forget him and are honored to have served with such an outstanding person." His friend, Sergeant Gill, said the man he will always remember is a great American hero. "Andrew became that person he always wanted to be."

In his time in Afghanistan, Andrew earned six medals, including the Bronze Star and for sacrificing his life, the Purple Heart..

In the land of Bachmann and Pawlenty, Andrew's name and face have been front and center in Minnesota's debate on same-sex marriage.

Republican Rep. John Kriesel, who lost his legs while serving in Iraq, sent Andrew's photo around the floor during debate in the Minnesota House. A few years ago, he said he would have defined marriage as solely between heterosexuals. But his military service changed that. "This amendment doesn't represent what I went to fight for," he told lawmakers. "I cannot look at this family and look at this picture and say, 'You know what, Corporal, you were good enough to fight for your country and give your life, but you were not good enough to marry the person you love.' I can't do that."

Andrew's parents, Lori and Jeff, put their grief into fighting for gay rights. Their main message is: "Our son was an American hero, not someone to be feared because he was gay. Above all, he was a citizen." In June, they attended the Twin Cities Pride Parade. There was a float where pictures of Andrew were proudly held up for all to see. His parents were in the stands, holding up an American flag that was signed by every member of Andrew's company.

On Andrew's grave, there is a simple epitaph that reads: A remarkable man.

WELCOME, KEVIN



This article is a lighter companion piece to "Soldier Leaves Legacy Much Larger than 'He was Gay."

Last year, Archie comics introduced their first gay character. Now things are really swinging. The new gay teen is Kevin Keller. There's a four-series miniseries, so to speak.

The first issue provides a broad overview of Kevin's life experiences, describing his run-ins with bullies, his comingout story, and his struggle to decide whether or not to pursue his dream of attending the U.S. Military Academy. His hesitation to follow in his father's footsteps prompts discussion with his dad, a retired Army Colonel. When Kevin approaches conversation him. the winds up like this, "On the contrary! I don't want to stop you. It takes a special person to serve their country. Someone with heart and courage!" (Editor's note, I'm really getting into this, aren't I?)

Although "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" isn't mentioned headon, the goal of the struggle was to show that patriotism knows no specific gender, race or sexual orientation. The writer was trying to show it simply that Kevin, like his dad, loves his country. Being gay doesn't affect that in any way."

Don't trip over yourselves when you run out to buy the first issue!

I SEE IT IN YOUR FUTURE

CityFest will be held on Sunday, **August 14**, 2011 from 12 p.m. – 8 p.m. This year marks the 27th year that Hillcrest will host this event of arts and crafts vendors, live music, dancing, face-painting, performances, lanternmaking, merrymaking, games, food, and a beer garden (just to name a few). The event takes place on Fifth Avenue between Brookes and University Avenues in Hillcrest.

CityFest celebrates the spirit of Hillcrest. It attracts 150,000+ attendees and there's always something for everyone.

On Saturday, August 20, South Bay Alliance will be hosting their 4th annual South Bay Pride event at Memorial Park in Chula Vista between noon-7:00 pm. There's great food (natch). super entertainment, a Children's Garden and a Beer Garden (again, something for everyone!). Our San Diego PFLAG chapter will have a booth there. More information will be in our August newsletter.

Although it's not until **September 25**, it's not too early to think about participating in the 22st Annual AIDS Walk. Every year, PFLAG San Diego has a team; we need at least 10 participants in order to walk with the PFLAG tennis shoe sign. It is a badge of honor. Sign-up info will be in our August newsletter.

SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATION (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4 & ON PAGE 7)

Daniel is a member of SD Armada Rugby Football Club, an all-inclusive rugby club whose purpose is to outreach to a traditionally underrepresented population and teach them to play rugby. Daniel has the passion to make a difference in other people's lives.

The candidates were asked particular questions to complete:

Q1. What do you believe are the human rights issues that are confronting the LGBT community in today's society?

"Within today's society, three main human rights issues come to mind that are ofte n troubling and difficulties for the LGBT community: (1) one's personal safety, (2) one's ability to be one's authentic self, and (3) legal rights within the context of systems of oppression. Each of these components plays a significant role within the LGBT community today.

As an educator, one of the most heartwrenching things to hear about is a young LGBT-identified or questioning person who has committed suicide as a means of ending their feelings of alienation, discrimination, and isolation. Whether as a result of bullying, socialized messages that one's sexual orientation or gender identity is deviant, or other issues, no young person should have to negotiate those issues on their own. The safety of LGBT people - young or old - is critical within the larger society. Likewise, homophobia and heterosexism play a significant role in an individual's ability to be his, her or hir's authentic self. While it is important to embrace and celebrate one's sexual orientation and/or gender identity, doing so also can be dangerous for some. That is an issue, especially within our K-16 educational systems. We need to be able to promote discourses from a young age about dimensions of power, privilege, and difference to instill common respect, empathy, and compassion for all. Lastly, legal rights for the LGBT community, such as anti-harassment and non-discrimination

laws, are essential for our community's success, but also for the larger society's civility. With recent victories of the collapse of Don't Ask, Don't Tell and the Justice Department's reversal against defending the Defense of Marriage Act, the LGBT community has gained access to several realms that we have not previously. However, further work must take place on advancing full anti-discrimination policies, including transgender protections, as well as marriage equality. Members of the LGBT community should have full access to equal rights for all rather than just the privileged majority".

Q2. What are the obstacles to obtaining human rights for LGBT community members?

"As I continue my research for my dissertation (which I discuss more explicitly in the next question), it is clear that homophobia and heterosexism play a large role in continuing the covert and overt forms of oppression and discrimination against the LGBT community. Homophobic and heterosexist messages are socialized into each of us from a young age. From a young age, we learn that pink is the color equated to girls and blue is for boys while we also tell young boys that 'crying is for sissies' and girls who choose to play with boys are 'tomboys' or not feminine enough. Certainly those messages get even louder in schools, from kindergarten to college, and heterosexual individuals rarely have to acknowledge their inherent sense of privilege based upon their sexual identity.

From a larger systemic view, heterosexism and homophobia — not to mention hegemonic masculinity and patriarchy — are tools that are used to continue subjugating underrepresented individuals to discrimination and oppression. A shift of power by those with privilege is threatening to them, and often we find that those in positions of power maintain certain privileges based upon their race, socioeconomic class, religion, gender, and sexual orientation. When we look

at the composition of the United States Congress, we have to understand that the representation of underrepresented populations is quite minimal; as a result, issues of importance to the LGBT community often are disregarded for other agenda items that are less contentious and often less politically dangerous. This sort of embedded notion of avoiding LGBT rights continues to reinforce homophobia and heterosexism on a systemic level and symbolizes a sense of invisibility of LGBT individuals within the larger society. As a result, we must continue to build coalitions, empower LGBT and straight ally youth to take an active role within their communities, and to develop new leaders who will move the LGBT rights movement forward."

Q3. How will your education goals, *specifically this scholarship*, and your future career assist in overcoming these obstacles?

"Presently, I am finishing my third year of doctoral work in the Higher Education Leadership program at the University of San Diego. Next year I will begin my dissertation research on how gay men in college make meaning of the intersections of their multiple identities, specifically their masculinity and sexuality. research aims to make a small contribution into the field of higher education by understanding how college students negotiate their multiple identities. Historically, student affairs professionals in higher education have been trained to understanding certain aspects of their identities, such as their race, gender, and sexual orientation; however, this research allows new insights into understanding the holistic development of students and how race, class, gender, sexuality and other identities influence one another, especially within the college environment. As you can imagine the finances of research is often quite costly, and this scholarship would help defray costs of transcriptions, travel, and other aspects that are not covered by USD's tuition and fees.

Professionally, I have been working as an administrator in higher education for the past decade. Building upon that experience along with my doctoral work, I hope to become a professor of a higher education administration program, teaching individuals who want to work with college students outside of the classroom. My own identity as a gay man as well as my research definitely plays a profound role in my professional identity, especially as it relates to working with individuals from underrepresented communities. Colleges and universities need professionals who are multiculturally competent working alongside of them as mentors and guides; my hope is to educate students to understand the important interactions and intersections between social identities, issues of power, privilege, and difference, and how to eradicate or make positive social change within their campuses for all students."

Statement of Financial Need:

"Currently, my graduate assistantship at the University of San Diego provides tuition remission for my studies. However, they do not cover any student fees nor do they provide any financial assistance for the costs of one's research within the dissertation."



NEW YORK'S GAY PRIDE PARADE

There was a lot to celebrate at New York City's 42nd Gay Pride Parade held on June 26, two days after that state passed the Marriage Equality Act.

Governor Cuomo was treated like royalty. NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg also joined in the celebration, walking with the governor.

Since the marriage bill just passed, there was a bigger crown than usual, estimated as tens of thousands. Every time couples marched past wearing tuxedos and wedding gowns, the packed crowd exploded into cheers, hollers and hoots. Some signs at the parade

included, "Equality For All Families," "Promise Kept!," "It Does Get Better NY, " and "Proud and Powerful."

It will be a parade to remember.





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