



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

ISSUE VOLUME

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AUGUST 2011
www.pflag.com
info@pflag.com

PERFECT TIME FOR A PICNIC

Please join us for our General Meeting on Monday, **August 22** at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 2231 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley. Doors open at 6:45 pm. **PLEASE NOTE, THE MEETING IS ON THE FOURTH MONDAY OF THE MONTH, NOT AUGUST 29.**

This meeting is our annual **potluck**, summer picnic. We will not have a speaker this month so that we can share a meal together and enjoy each others' company. It's a great time to get to know

one another. We will have our picnic at 7:00 pm and our support groups at 8:00 pm.

Bring any type of dish you'd like to share, enough for 10 people (main dish, salad, appetizer, side dish, casserole, beverage of the non-alcoholic type or dessert).

Hope to see you there with your appetites!



22ND ANNUAL AIDS WALK



Get geared up to walk with PFLAG on Sunday, **September 25**. *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.

The **5K Walk** (or 10K run) is held in

Balboa Park at Quince and 6th Avenue starting at 8:00 am. The registration fee is \$35 (\$25 for 17 & under and 60+). If we have 10 or more walkers registered by **September 16**, we will qualify as Team PFLAG and be able to walk with the prestigious sneaker sign with our PFLAG name on it. It truly is a badge of honor.

We need your support. Please register. Go 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.

Even if you can't walk with us, please register so we can meet our 10 person and financial goals (\$1000).

You will be asked for your t-shirt size

since all participants receive a t-shirt the morning of the walk.

The nitty gritty details will be in the September newsletter.

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.





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or go online www.pflag.com

Membership forms available at www.pflag.com



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EDUCATION to enlighten an ill-informed public
ADVOCACY to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights

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Current Events

August 15

Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

August 19-21; 26-28

Friday-Sunday

FilmOut San Diego; LGBT Film Festival

For movies and info, go to:

www.filmoutsandiego.com/2011/

August 20

Saturday

South Bay Pride (see article)

August 22

Monday

San Diego PFLAG General Meeting

& Support Groups

August 22

Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

August 29

Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

September 8

Thursday

PFLAG Support Group

North County Inland

September 8

Thursday

Red Ribbon Dance Project (see article)

September 12

Monday

PFLAG Support Group

East County

September 12

Monday

PFLAG Support Group

North County Coastal

September 12

Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

September 19

Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

September 25

Sunday

AIDS WALK (see article)

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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AREN'T WE CUTE?

On July 23, PFLAG had an information table at the second annual Legacy Concert, sponsored by The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Along with other talents, the San Diego Gay Men's Chorus and San Diego Women's Chorus performed. Pictured left to right are Sherry Cohen-Richards, Sister Ida Know, Barbara Bodine, and Patti Boman.

SOUTH BAY PRIDE

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), Children's Garden and a Beer Garden (something for everyone). There's a long list of entertainers, including the San Diego Women's Drum Circle, San Diego Gay Men's Chorus, and comedy with Laugh Out Loud. As we have done since the first South Bay Pride event, our San Diego PFLAG chapter will have a booth there. The event is free; however, if you would like to make a \$5 donation as you enter, it would be appreciated.

Memorial Park is located at 373 Park Way, Chula Vista, CA between 4th Avenue and 3rd Avenue just north of "H" street.



THIRD ANNUAL RED RIBBON DANCE PROJECT



There is another AIDS related fundraiser; this one is for AIDS research. On

September

8 at 6:30 pm, The Red Ribbon Dance Project, which is an annual fundraising event for the UC San Diego AIDS Research Institute, will take place. The event features performances by Butterworth Dance Company and other San Diego and Los Angeles dance companies. There will be gourmet appetizers, fine wine, non-

alcoholic beverages, and an upscale silent auction which will include gift certificates for hotel stays, fine art, dining, and gem quality jewelry. The emcee for this year's event is Bree Walker, legendary television newscaster and a champion for progressive causes.

The event will be held at The Abbey, a beautifully renovated historic building at 2825 Fifth Avenue in Hillcrest. Tickets are \$30. Besides the dance performances, there will be brief talks by prominent HIV/AIDS researchers.

To register and get more information about the event, go to <http://rrdp.ucsd.edu>.

COMING SOON

The California Supreme Court will hear arguments on September 6 on whether proponents of Proposition 8 have legal standing to appeal a court ruling striking down Prop. 8.

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

If that sounds like a soap opera--it is! On July 13, that episode featured a young man who came out to his family. The mom and dad are supportive and they all attend a PFLAG meeting.

"When the sun rises, it rises for everyone."

-Author unknown

MORE ON "IT GETS BETTER CAMPAIGN" (CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)



And the Minnesota Twins make five. They are the 5th pro baseball team to make an "It Gets Better" video to help prevent suicide by teens who are bullied for being gay. Every team that's made

a video (Twins, Red Sox, Cubs, Mariners, and Giants) has done so after a local Change.org member started a petition asking them to. As these victories add up, the cumulative effect is eroding the culture of homophobia in men's pro sports.

Newsflash: Debbie Allen, a Padres fan and native San Diegan, has started a petition

through Change.org. Please sign the petition so the Padres will be on board to do an "It Gets Better" video. This is a mouthful but please sign the petition anyhow: <http://www.change.org/petitions/join-me-in-asking-the-san-diego-padres-to-make-an-it-gets-better-video?>

On a non-sports note, every member of the Massachusetts

HOW BAD IS BULLYING AT YOUR SCHOOL? ASK STUDENTS

The following article was published in *Teaching Tolerance*, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center. It was written by Benton Dorman, son of our very active members, Olivia and Clive Dorman. Benton is a middle school psychologist and project facilitator in California.

"Today I went to an individualized educational plan (IEP) meeting for one of my middle school students. The parent reported that her son 'is constantly being bullied at school.' She said he is being harassed by other students because of his disability. It happens before and after school. Once, students stole his hat and put it in the trash. Another time, they took his water bottle and put sand in it.

Now I consider myself to be an involved administrator, so I'm stunned by this news. I ask the staff if they have witnessed any bullying. No. The teachers have not witnessed anything. They report that the student has friends and participates in social activities at lunch. They say he appears happy at school.

Then how do we explain this discrepancy?

I think back to when I was in junior high school (that's what we called it back then) in the 1980's. I know what it's like to be bullied. I was a thin, effeminate, gay boy back then. There were few staff members who either 'saw' the bullying or stood up for me. I remember what it's like to be picked on constantly. You want

it to be over. You just want to be left alone. Some days, it seems like the end is the only way out.

I hope we're clear as a profession that turning a blind eye to bullying has dire consequences that can be lethal. We've all seen the headlines over the past few years. Education can no longer allow for overt bullying to occur in our schools. We cannot chalk up bullying as 'character building' or say that the victims are somehow to blame. Sadly, I've heard both thoughts from fellow educators.

We've all been working to stop the tired scenario of the bully-taking-the-lunch-money as a profession, but what about the subtle and covert forms of bullying? Waiting for just the right moment—when the teacher's head is turned or the duty officer is around the corner—the bully attacks. At least when I went home from junior high, the harassment ended for a few hours. Today, students have access to cell phones and Internet. Opportunities for harassment and bullying are any time and any place, 24 hours a day.

We cannot assume that just because we don't see bullying it's not happening. I resolve to ask my students from now on directly if they are being harassed on an active basis. I will make it part of my daily conversations with students and their families."

Well done, Benton.

"Boy, we haven't grown at all, have we? We're still children in a schoolyard. Honestly, no offense Dave, but for God sakes, have you ever seen a gay man? Are there gay people in Indiana?"

—Jim Carrey to David Letterman when asked whether he worries about playing a gay role in I Love You Phillip Morris, November 18, 2010

MORE ON "IT GETS BETTER CAMPAIGN" (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

congressional delegation, except for Senator Scott Brown, recently appeared in a new "It Gets Better" video. A spokesperson for Brown, in defense of him not appearing in the video, said "Scott Brown has a strong record at the state and federal level against bullying and believes that all people regardless of sexual orientation should be treated with dignity and respect. His

main focus right now is on creating jobs and getting our economy back on track."

The "HOWEVER" in this is that, unlike some of his fellow Massachusetts Republicans, Brown has spoken out strongly against same-sex marriage, supported a constitutional amendment to ban such unions, has opposed the repeal of the federal Defense

of Marriage Act, and supported keeping "don't ask, don't tell" in place, the policy banning gay men and lesbians from serving openly in the military.

To Brown: you can't have it both ways.

UGANDA'S "KILL THE GAYS" BILL IS BACK

The on-again, off-again plan to kill the gays in Uganda is back once more. And this time proponents are moving more quickly to ensure they don't run out of time to vote.

Uganda expert Warren Throckmorton reports that Otto Odonga, a member of parliament, expects the Anti-Homosexuality Bill could return by the end of August. Odonga is known for once having said he'd kill his son if he were gay.

The Eighth Parliament's session expired earlier this year without a vote on the bill, but the legislation is on a faster track in the Ninth Parliament. Odonga said the bill is "back from the perspective of the new parliament starting from where the last parliament ended."

The bill's language had seemed to change many times before it failed to come up for a vote. But a provision that included the death penalty as punishment for an evolving list of "crimes" seems to still be on the table, Throckmorton reports.

SECOND ON THE HIT PARADE

Kristen Torres is the recipient of the John Bessemer Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is funded through the generosity of PFLAG family and friends of John Bessemer to honor John's commitment to youth and his love for our Past President, Linda Bessemer.

Linda Bessemer and Suzette Southfox, Linda's daughter, were on hand to present the scholarship.

Kristen recently graduated from Mt. Miguel High School and is planning to attend Vance-Granville Community College in Louisburg, NC to attend the Criminal Justice Science program.

The always smiling and good natured Kristen wants to help people in need. Here is her essay:

"Human rights are not equal in the eyes of our nation when it comes to the Lesbian and Gay communities. The nation has discriminated against the communities throughout history, with at times being more violent than those that are targeting for racial crimes. We still face the fear of the unknown as many people don't understand or try to understand us and accept us equally. The fear that has stopped so many from being receptive is the same fear that gave us strength to fight for civil and human rights.

Over time, it has slowly become a part of culture that has been more accepted on certain government levels. Those that fight against the Lesbian and Gay community revert back to religion, yet it was the Lord that said one should love thy neighbor. The beliefs that marriage is perceived only through a man and a woman, as my mothers says 'comes from the repetitive

reproductions of the Bible itself'. Everyone is born with who they are from the time of conception, you are not made to be gay or straight nor are you chose to be made the same as another individual. Lesbian and Gay community members deserve the same opportunities to give to society, be productive, fight for our country and to be treated equally as those who live in a world that is not with certainty completely happy.

I have encountered very few issues with my sexuality throughout my high school education. I can see the changes that have impacted myself and others like me. There have been positive changes to acceptance and there are still many that dislike who we are as people. We will still continue to fight for more human rights as this is what we are to do to strive above and be solid within ourselves.

Educationally I will continue to study Social Sciences Criminal Justice to help teens like me fight against statistics that hold us back from who we are and who we can strive to be. By being available to assist those who generally don't have anyone to talk to will help me in knowing that I have done the right thing in my career path. The scholarship itself will mean a great deal to myself and my family financially, however personally I know that it means that I am on the right fight to continue fighting for those rights that are important to my personal beliefs and to conquer public fears."



THE HOMOPHOBES ARE AT IT AGAIN

Background: 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.

The bill was introduced by state Senator Mark Leno in December, 2010. It was signed by Governor Brown on July 14, 2011. To get to Governor Brown, it was passed by the Senate Education Committee, the Senate Judiciary Committee, the California Senate, the Assembly Committee and the

full Assembly. It was clearly not passed under a cloak of secrecy under the cover of darkness.

Homophobes: Then comes along Stop SB 48. They have filed a referendum to overturn the FAIR Education Act and are 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. As it was for Proposition 8, they will no doubt get financing from outside the state.

Plain and simple, they are attacking the LGBT community, our kids and our families. They want to keep our struggle for equality buried and hidden. They don't want youth to learn about Stonewall, the

Briggs Initiative, Harvey Milk and other important moments in LGBT history. They are scared that if we raise a generation of young people that know about the struggle, they will forever lose the ability to demonize our community. That's what this is really about.

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.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL PRIDE

Once again, PFLAG was one of the highlights of the 2011 Gay Pride Parade. However, we were outdone, and rightly so, by the contingent of past and present service members. There were approximately 250 men and women from all the branches represented: Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force. This is the first time a military contingent has ever marched in a gay pride

parade and we made national headlines. Each member wore a t-shirt with their respective branch of service on it. The crowd went bananas and the applause was deafening. Since DADT wasn't officially in effect, the present service members were quite brave to march.



PRIDEFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A huge thank you to the queen of doing almost everything single-handedly, Bobbi Harwood. Bobbi buys the merchandise for the PFLAG booth for the festival, is responsible for the booth set up/take down, is the treasurer in chief for the weekend, and lines up the volunteers to work the booth (all this while smiling, of course).

The triple duty award goes to Karen and Mark Thompson: they were the in-charge people for the parade and had to attend what seemed like endless meetings, they used their car (and decorated it to the hilt) in the parade, and staffed the booth. In keeping with the Pride Around the World theme, they stayed up late into the night with daughter, Kate, creating Around the World masterpieces for both the cars in the parade.

Appreciation also goes Cheryl and Alan

Goldbarg for gussying up their unique station wagon of yesteryear for the parade and, being they were the tail end of the parade, not running over any straggling PFLAGers.

Last (and you know the saying, not least) a big thank you to our members and friends who volunteered in setting up, taking down and staffing our booth at the Pride Festival: Linda Bessemer, Patti Boman, Lonnie Brunini, Louie Chavez, Sherry Cohen-Richards, Mick Donahue, Olivia Dorman, Gail Folkman, Judy Hyde, Greg Johnson, JoyLynn Murray, Jeannie Ross, Betsy Sheets, Mary Thomas, Karen & Mark Thompson, Sandi Timberlake, Terrie Vorono and Wayne Walker. By staffing the booth, you informed festival goers about PFLAG and increased our visibility in the community.

DADT THEN AND NOW

A congressional bill to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell was enacted in December 2010, specifying that the policy would remain in place until President Obama, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff certified that repeal would not harm military readiness (as if), followed by a 60-day waiting period. Then, hallelujah, on July 6, a ruling from a federal appeals court barred further enforcement of the U.S. military's ban on openly gay service members. The next step happened when President Obama, Secretary of Defense Panetta, and Admiral Mike Mullen, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, sent that certification to Congress on July 22, 2011. The end result will be seen on September 20 when DADT is no more, and we have to hope that the policy is ended forever and never resurfaces again.





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