



FEBRUARY IS MARRIAGE EQUALITY MONTH



Please join us in efforts to bring equality to all.

CYBER BULLYING

Please join us for our General Meeting on **Monday, February 27** 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 REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE A CHANGE IN THE ORDER OF EVENTS. WE WILL HAVE OUR SUPPORT GROUPS FIRST, THEN OUR COOKIE SOCIAL, FOLLOWED BY THE SPEAKER.

We are pleased to have as our speaker Marcie Denberg-Serra, Assistant Director of the Anti-Defamation League of San Diego. One of the ADL's goals is to secure justice and fair treatment to all citizens alike. Marcie's presentation will be on cyber bullying and how it relates to the LGBT community.



HILLCREST MARDI GRAS

Hillcrest Mardi Gras will take place **Tuesday, February 21** starting at 6 pm (rain or shine). This yearly Hillcrest outdoor celebration is a fantastic block party, in its 11th year, featuring street performers, a huge dance stage, musical acts and more.

Come enjoy cold beverages, food and great company. This is a perfect celebration to get those hard to find beads, beads and more beads!

Proceeds benefit the GSDBA Charitable Foundation (Greater San Diego Business Association – AKA the SD Gay Chamber of Commerce). The Foundation provides scholarships to LGBT students and LGBT community student allies.

General admission is \$15 in advance, \$20 at the gate. VIP Admission is \$50 in advance, \$75 at the gate.



You must be 21 years of age or older to attend. For more info: mosuniverse.com/blogs/hillcrest-mardi-gras.

A LITTLE INFORMATION GOES A LONG WAY

Supporting Students – Saving Lives is the theme of the third annual CESCAL (The Center for Excellence in School Counseling and Leadership) Conference being held **February 17-19**. The conference addresses LGBTQIA issues in schools and is primarily for



school counselors, all educators, school psychologists, school administrators, (basically any profession that deals with youth). The purpose is to teach and empower educators regarding laws and rights of the LGBTQIA students, resources, advocacy, and how to create a safe environment. PFLAG San Diego is one of the sponsors. One of the guest speakers is Jody Huckaby, Executive Director of PFLAG National. For more info visit www.cescal.org.



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San Diego, CA 92138
Tax ID #33-0512868

Membership Application

Memberships are for the calendar year.

- New Renewal Change of Address
- Please contact me for volunteer opportunities

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or go online www.pflag.com



REMEMBER 2012 MEMBERSHIPS WERE DUE JANUARY 1!

We always like to remind our membership of why it is important to pay dues and continue your financial support: room rental for the San Diego General Meeting, the telephone info/help line, newsletter publication and mailing, scholarship for LGBT youth, PRIDE Parade and Festival, educational books and DVDs, fees to participate in events to provide more visibility in the community, supplies, etc. Please keep in mind, also, that \$15 of each membership is sent to PFLAG National to support them.

If you haven't renewed or joined yet, please help us to support the LGBT community.

Current Events

February 17-19

Friday-Sunday

CESCaL Conference
(see article)

February 21

Tuesday

Hillcrest Mardi Gras
(see article)

February 25

Saturday

Bowling for Equality
(see article)

February 27

Monday

San Diego PFLAG
General Meeting &
Support Groups

March 5

Monday

PFLAG Support Group
North County Coastal

March 5

Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

March 8

Thursday

PFLAG Support Group
North County Inland

March 12

Monday

PFLAG Support Group
East County

March 12

Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

March 15

Thursday

Diversionary Theater/
reception & play (see article)

March 16

Friday

Deadline to submit
scholarship applications

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, North County LGBTQ Resource Center, 510 North Coast Highway, Suite C, Oceanside.

Contact 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 Sprouts' 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

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IT DOESN'T HURT TO KEEP ASKING

The HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center (HNRC) at UCSD in Hillcrest is asking for volunteers to do research studies. While most of the research is done with volunteers who are HIV positive, they are currently asking for volunteers who are HIV negative between the ages of 18 to 39 years old and 50 to 80 years old. Anyone interested in volunteering may call the research center at 619-543-5000 between 8am and 4pm Monday through Friday. Eligible volunteers are compensated for their time. The deadline for HIV negative volunteers is the end of March.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MARRIAGE (NOM) TAUGHT A CIVICS LESSON

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie won't discuss marriage equality or make decisions concerning same-sex marriage. He wants to leave everything up to the voters of New Jersey. A recent debate, discussing this very issue were Evan Wolfson, founder and president of Freedom to Marry and Brian Brown, president of the National Organization for Marriage. Even though the debate was only 10 minutes long, it was televised, giving those who are part of the "movable middle," reason to shift in the "right" direction. He set about dismantling the "torrent of talking points" that Brian Brown unloaded during their appearance on *Up Close With Diana Williams*.

When Brown insisted gay rights activists in New Jersey were trying to "redefine marriage" with a bill legalizing same-sex marriage, Wolfson shot back that, "Marriage is not defined by who is denied it."

And when Brown claimed that "democracy doesn't count here" because Wolfson opposes a proposal by Governor Christie to put same-sex marriage up for a statewide debate and vote, it was answered with a civics lesson on American values:

"I disagree with Mr. Brown's explanation of how the United States is supposed to function," Wolfson said. "Here in the United States, we actually believe there are basic rights, basic freedoms, that are protected for everybody under the Constitution. And it's exactly what we don't do is have a big debate about whether you should have freedom of religion, or whether I should have freedom of speech, or whether you should have the freedom to marry. We are all Americans, and we are all entitled to basic rights and protections. And we don't put that up to an up-or-down vote."

BEYOND DOMA

A robust coalition made up of civil rights, labor, progressive, faith, student, health, legal, women's and LGBT organizations today announced support of the Respect for Marriage Act – the bill to repeal the discriminatory so-called Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) that withholds federal protections and respect for legally married gay and lesbian couples. Here's a brief DOMA refresher course: This is a federal law that defines marriage as a legal union between one man and one woman. No U.S. state is required to recognize a same-sex marriage that another state considers legal.

The Respect for Marriage Act (H.R. 1116 and S.598) is supported widely with a majority of Americans and has a record number of Congressional cosponsors with 136 in the House and 32 in the Senate.

"Because of the 'gay exception' created by DOMA, America's legally married gay and lesbian couples – including service members

risking their lives on the front lines for our safety – are treated as strangers under federal law, rather than provided the respect and protections federal law normally assures to married couples and their loved ones," said Evan Wolfson, (Freedom to Marry).

"This broad and diverse coalition has come forward to urge members of Congress to end the unfairness. In America, we don't have second-class citizens, and shouldn't have second-class marriages, either," Wolfson said.

"The federal government should not be in the business of picking which marriages it likes and which it does not, but that is exactly what DOMA does," said Joe Solmonese, outgoing Human Rights Campaign president. "The breadth and depth of this coalition shines a bright light on the heart-wrenching discrimination against loving, committed families caused by DOMA."



IGNORANCE:
Now available in color!

HALLELUJAH! ONE STEP CLOSER

On February 7, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed the Federal District Court's historic ruling that Proposition 8 is unconstitutional. Yes, Judge Vaughn Walker got it right moons ago when he said Proposition 8 was unconstitutional under the Due Process and Equal Protection clauses of the United States Constitution. It's a long-awaited and historic victory: LGBT Americans are again full and equal citizens of California! However, there is a caveat; no same-sex marriages can be performed at the present time. Once again, the decision was stayed while the opponents of equality again appeal to a higher court, again attempting to delay the day when LGBT persons are fully free.

There had been court battles and ballot propositions galore. Here's how the pendulum swung: "No, you are not full

citizens." And then, "Yes, you are full citizens of this state and nation – free to love, commit your lives to each other, and to marry." And then again, "No, we've decided you are again second-class citizens." It finally has swung in the right direction and it must stay there.

Here is one of the best lines of the ruling: the federal court of appeals panel noted, "Proposition 8 served no purpose, and had no effect, other than to lessen the status and human dignity of gays and lesbians in California."

A big thank you to Chad Griffin from the American Foundation for Equal Rights who initiated the suit. And let's not forget the lawyers who defended the suit – David Boies and Ted Olson. They told the truth and made the courts see the light.

ANOTHER STEP CLOSER

On February 1, the state Senate of Washington voted 28-21 to legalize same-sex marriage. Less than a week later, the House passed the marriage equality bill 55-43. Governor Chris Gregoire happily signed it into law on February 13. Governor Gregoire is the one who proposed the marriage equality bill (probably the only governor in the country to do so); she was so passionate about getting it passed that she stood on the floor of the Senate anxiously watching the debate and the votes.

A perk is that this was a bipartisan effort. It's wonderful when politicians vote their hearts, not their party affiliation.

Full celebrations will begin in early June when the bill should take affect. The opponents of equality are already collecting signatures to get the bill repealed on the November ballot. Wet blankets.

THIS ISN'T POPPYCOCK

Poppy Champlin is an internationally known comedian and producer of the hit comedy tour called *The Queer Queens of Qomedy*. Poppy and other lesbian comics will be performing on Saturday, March 24 at the Birch North Park Theatre, 2891 University Avenue in North Park. Ticket prices haven't been announced; they will be in the March newsletter. HRC is sponsoring this year so some proceeds go to the fight for LGBT rights.

From the reviews, this show is side-splitting funny.



CALLING ALL LGBT SCHOLARS

PFLAG San Diego hopes you are busy reminding LGBT seniors, full-time students in secondary education, and full-time graduate students to apply for PFLAG scholarships. This is our 14th year of offering these scholarships. We plan to award seven scholarships; the range is from \$1000-2000.

The purpose of the awards is: to recognize outstanding LGBT youth from the community, especially for their involvement in the gay community and/or society; to encourage post-secondary education of LGBT persons; to promote a positive image of LGBT persons in society.

Please visit our web site, www.pflag.com and click on the scholarship link. The requirements are listed on the scholarship application. All awardees must be able to attend the awards ceremony on **Monday, April 23**. The deadline for submitting applications is **Friday, March 16, 2012**.

For more info, call Chair Olivia Dorman, 619-743-6879 or email oliviaenid@gmail.com.

BOWLING FOR EQUALITY

The Human Rights Campaign's annual Bowling for Equality is Saturday, **February 25** from 1:30-4:30 pm at the Kearny Mesa Bowl, 7585 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego. Anyone who wishes to bowl, the donation is \$35 which includes a one year membership to the Human Rights Campaign. All funds raised are to benefit HRC. For anyone is who unfamiliar with this wonderful organization, their goal is to improve the lives of LGBT individuals by advocating for equal rights, i.e., to ensure LGBT persons and families are treated equally under the law in all aspects of life.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

The Diversionary Theatre is presenting the Tony nominated play *Next Fall* from February 16 through **March 25**. Community members are especially welcome on Thursday, March 15 at group rates. Ordering online, the tickets are \$31, which includes a \$4 service charge. To initiate the discount, use the code PFLAG. The other options are to phone the theatre (619-220-0097) and charge it or buy the tickets in person. Those tickets are \$28.25, which includes a \$1.25 service fee. The theatre is located at 4545 Park Boulevard, San Diego. Whatever way you purchase the

tickets, please mention PFLAG to get the discount.

Before the play, between 7:00-8:00 pm, PFLAG is hosting a reception.

The play covers themes about devotion, sexual orientation, and unconditional love, and the impact it has on our relationships. It is described as being witty and intelligent.

We hope you will attend. Any questions, please call 1-888-398-0006.

WHO KNEW?

CNN commentator Roland Martin made it a not-so-super Super Bowl Sunday with a tweet and a Facebook posting widely perceived to be homophobic, and GLAAD (the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) has called on the network to fire him.

GLAAD reports that after retailer H&M's Super Bowl commercial featuring soccer player David Beckham, Martin tweeted to his nearly 95,000 Twitter followers, "If a dude at your Super Bowl party is hyped about David Beckham's H&M underwear ad, smack the ish out of him! #superbowl."

In response, GLAAD wrote, "@rolandmartin Advocates of gay bashing have no place at @CNN #SuperBowl #LGBT." Martin replied that

GLAAD was "way off base" and suggested that his tweet was a joke about soccer fans, not gays.

Earlier in the day, he had posted on his Facebook fan page, "Who the hell was that New England Patriot they just showed in a head to toe pink suit? Oh, he needs a visit from #teamwhipdatass."

GLAAD reports that Martin has a history of antigay statements, noting that he defended comedian Tracy Morgan's homophobic stand-up performance (for which Morgan has apologized) and boasts on his website that his wife "has counseled many men and women to walk away from the gay lifestyle."

SANTORUM: GAYS DON'T MERIT "PRIVILEGE" OF MARRIAGE

Early in February, at a campaign stop in Missouri, a gay man asked Rick Santorum about marriage rights. Being the anti-gay person that he is, his answer was that marriage is a "privilege" and that gay relationships do not benefit society in the same way as heterosexual ones. To further his remarks, he said, "Two people who may like each other or may love each other who are same-sex, is that a special relationship? Yes, it is, but it is not the same relationship that benefits society like a marriage between a man and a woman." He went on to discuss problems experienced in single-parent homes, not explaining how that is relevant to allowing gay couples to marry. This is what a good

portion of the LGBT community would like to say about the ex-Senator's take on traditional "family-values" marriage.

SO LETS GET THIS STRAIGHT...

CHARLIE SHEEN CAN MAKE A "PORN FAMILY"	BRITNEY SPEARS HAD A 55 HOUR MARRIAGE
KELSEY GRAMMER ENDED HIS 15 YEAR MARRIAGE OVER THE PHONE	JESSE JAMES & TIGER WOODS WHILE MARRIED WERE HAVING SEX WITH EVERYONE
LARRY KING HAS HAD 8 DIVORCES	43-50% OF TRADITIONAL MARRIAGES END
KIM KARDASHIAN'S MARRIAGE COST 10 MILLION DOLLARS & IT LASTED 72 DAYS	BUT SOMEHOW IT IS SAME-SEX MARRIAGE THAT IS GOING TO "DESTROY THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE" REALLY?
NEWT GINGRICH HAD AFFAIRS WHILE HIS 1ST & 2ND WIVES WERE VERY ILL	PLEASE REPOST THIS IF YOU ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT EQUAL RIGHTS

KUDOS TO J.C. PENNEY

In January, J.C. Penney announced Ellen DeGeneres as the department store's new spokesperson. Without missing a beat, a conservative online organization, One Million Moms, launched a campaign to have her fired. AND we all know why.

Well, One Million Moms found out the hard way that they can't compete with Ellen's three million daily viewers.

Here's how this organization, which is an extension of the American Family Association, thought they could change J.C. Penney's mind. They called on their members to urge the company to rethink their decision. Part of the message, "Funny that J.C. Penney thinks hiring an open homosexual spokesperson will help their business when most of their customers are traditional families. The majority of J.C. Penney shoppers will be offended and choose to no longer shop there."

We guess they didn't realize that Ellen's three million viewers each day transcends traditional demographics. Gay, straight, moms, dads, kids, and even television critics (she's won over 32 Emmys), Ellen has surprised the industry's once closeted

Hollywood culture by proving that talent and likability can override bigotry.

There was never even a flinch from J.C. Penney as they confirmed it "stands behind its partnership with Ellen DeGeneres." So do many of the department store's shoppers.

Another homophobic incident last fall with the One Million Moms organization was they campaigned against Macy's for including a wedding cake topper with two men in its catalog. Last year, its parent organization, the American Family Association, launched an attack on Home Depot for participating in gay pride events.

A sampling from J.C. Penney's Facebook page "As an American Mom in a traditional family with no gay or lesbian family members I want to respond with big congratulations to both you and Ellen. Don't let anyone tell you how to run your business. Not everyone in America is homophobic. I will continue to shop at your stores and admire your courage!!!"



A LITTLE TO THE LEFT STRIKES IT BIG

We are proud that our own PFLAG and Board member, Sandi Timberlake, announced that her gay-friendly greeting cards will be the first to be sold as a full collection in a major grocery store. The first wise store is Albertsons in Palm Springs. We are sure there will other Albertsons to follow and then other major grocery stores will get the hint.

Sandi is the owner of A Little To The Left (and designer, too). She launched her business based on her own need to find tasteful and appropriate greeting cards to send to her son and son-in-law for their special occasions. Finding nothing that appealed to her, and realizing that other people like her must have the same need, she decided to create them and thus, was the birth, in September 2008, of A Little To The Left. She refers to her collection as being "gay friendly and

mother approved."

The cards are tastefully designed with elegant motifs that appeal to mainstream buyers. Greeting themes include cards for same-sex weddings, unions, anniversaries, holidays -- including Valentine's Day -- and everyday occasions, openly addressing same-sex relationships, offering sentiments to "son and son-in-law" and "daughter and daughter-in-law."

You don't have to go all the way to Palm Springs to see Sandi's cards. Visit www.alittletothelleft.com to see the entire array of designs. When one (or 2 or 3) strike your fancy, Sandi can bring them to the general PFLAG meeting.



MAYORS UNITE

It almost goes without saying that Mayor Jerry Sanders was one of over 100 mayors from all across the U.S. that joined *Mayors for the Freedom to Marry*. This bipartisan group has pledged to support the freedom of same-sex couples to marry. They are part of Freedom to Marry's national campaign to expand public support for ending marriage discrimination. They believe that all people should be able to share in the love and the commitment of marriage, and the government is no exception. They will be fighting at all levels of government to accomplish this.

It is heartening to learn that this truly was a diverse group of mayors. They represented red states, blue states; large cities, small cities; culturally, racially and geographically diverse cities. The goal that linked them together is a common commitment to fairness.



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Greater San Diego Business Association - The Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

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