

## HE SAW THE LIGHT

Please join us for our General Meeting on **Monday, February 28** 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 very proud to present Michael Bussee as our guest speaker. Michael was one of the co-founders of Exodus International (started in 1976), an organization dedicated to converting gay people into straight people through reparative therapy (a holistic, counseling approach that addresses unwanted same-sex attraction). They claim to repair or reorient a gay person to their “natural state” so to speak (*Editor’s note: I am humming the Twilight Zone theme song as I type*).

The wonderful news is that Michael is now one of Exodus International’s most vocal critics. He knows personally the harm done by so-called “ex-gay” (reparative therapy) organizations. Michael will give us insight into the history of the “ex-gay

movement,” his reasons for leaving, and the development of a growing “Ex-gay Survivor” movement.

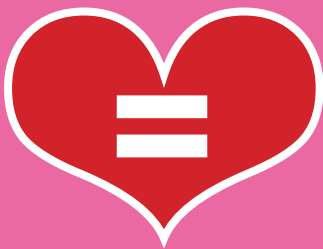
Michael has appeared on the Joan River’s Show and is featured in the award-winning documentary *One Nation Under G-d* -- an exposé of the “ex-gay movement.” His story (on the intersection of spirituality and sexuality) will also be featured in an upcoming Lisa Ling documentary on the Oprah Winfrey Network this spring.

A father and grandfather of three, Michael has a BA in Cultural Anthropology and an MS in Counseling.

Due to the popularity of the speaker, plan to arrive early for easier parking and follow the PFLAG signs to the event. There won’t be support groups at the end of his presentation as is customary, but there will be a question and answer period with Michael.

Refreshments will be served.

FEBRUARY IS  
MARRIAGE  
EQUALITY  
MONTH



Please join us  
in efforts to bring  
equality to all.

## A SURPRISE CELEBRATION

We were thrilled to be able to surprise Louise McWhorter with a 90th birthday bash. We are hoping she celebrated from January 24 all the way to her “real” birthday on February 7. We are so enriched with having known Louise all these years and wishing her many more birthdays to come.



## APOLOGY TO FUMC

Last month, we reported that FUMC was not opened for our December General Meeting, and that we were not aware of it. Apparently, it was in our contract that they were closed, so we apologize for putting the neglect on them.



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## REMEMBER

**2011 MEMBERSHIPS WERE  
DUE JANUARY 1!**

As you may recall, we had to increase our dues slightly. In addition, we have a donation jar at the general meetings. We want you to be aware of why we need your financial support: room rental for our general meetings - telephone info/help line - newsletter publication and mailing - scholarships to LGBT youth - publications (brochures, flyers, stickers) - PRIDE Parade and Festival - educational books and DVDs - fees to participate in events and fairs to provide visibility in the community - refreshments and supplies. Please also keep in mind, 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 help you and the LGBT community. Thank you.

# Current Events

**February 25  
Friday**

Free showing of  
*The Kids are All Right*  
at the LGBT Center,  
7:00 pm

**February 25-27  
Friday-Sunday**

CESCaL Conference  
(See Article)

**February 26  
Saturday**

Bowling for Equality  
fundraiser presented  
by the Human Rights  
Campaign, Kearny  
Mesa Bowl, 1:30-  
4:30 pm. For details,  
hrcbowling@gmail.com

**February 27  
Sunday**

PFLAG Support Group  
North County Coastal

**February 27  
Sunday**

PFLAG Support Group  
South Bay

**February 28  
Monday**

San Diego PFLAG  
General Meeting

**February 28  
Monday**

Mi Familia Support  
Group

**March 7  
Monday**

Mi Familia Support  
Group

**March 8  
Tuesday**

Hillcrest Mardi Gras  
(See Article)

**March 10  
Thursday**

PFLAG Support Group  
North County Inland

**March 14  
Monday**

PFLAG Support Group  
East County

**March 21  
Monday**

Mi Familia Support  
Group

**March 26  
Saturday**

Community Yard Sale  
at the LGBT Center  
(see article)

# SUPPORT GROUPS

**NORTH COUNTY COASTAL**

Meets every fourth Sunday, at 2:00 pm, Pilgrim United  
Church of Christ, Pilgrim Hall, 2020 Chestnut, Carlsbad.

**Contact Larry Gerling, (760) 224-2178.**

**NORTH COUNTY INLAND**

Meets every second 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.**

**SOUTH BAY**

Meets every fourth Sunday, at 1:00 pm, Unitarian Univer-  
salsists of the South Bay, 970 Broadway, Chula Vista

**Contact Martha Cardenas, (619) 947-4612 or mar@  
FirstUUSanDiego.org**

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

## MISSION STATEMENT

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through Support, to cope with an adverse society; Education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and Advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

*Luan D. Andrews, M.A.*

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MFC 19321

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## SOLUTIONS TO A CRISIS

Supporting Students – Saving Lives is the theme of the second annual CESCaL (The Center for Excellence in School Counseling and Leadership) Conference being held **February 25-27**. It is co-sponsored by the Harvey Milk Foundation. The conference addresses LGBTQIA issues in schools. There are over 40 diverse workshops, extraordinary guest speakers and a performance of *Dear Harvey*. For more info and to register, go to [www.cescal.org](http://www.cescal.org).

## THE CENTER'S YARD SALE NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS!



Don't miss the Community Yard Sale at The Center on **Saturday, March 26**, 7 am-2 pm! Time to clean out your closets, cabinets, garage and attic, and donate the reusable items to the San Diego LGBT Community Center. Turn your old

treasures into green \$\$\$\$ for Family Matters @ The Center. Please bring only items that are in good working condition: clothing, small household appliances, toys, games, bikes, bedding, dishes, small household accessories/furnishings, tools and yard equipment. Sorry, but no large appliances or large furniture can be accepted. To schedule a drop off or for more information, contact Jane Schmoll at (619) 692- 2077, ext. 121, or [familiesl@thecentersd.org](mailto:familiesl@thecentersd.org). Then, on March 26th come and support the Yard Sale; you can replace the old treasures you donated with new treasures!

## HILLCREST MARDI GRAS



Hillcrest Mardi Gras will take place **Tuesday, March 8** starting at 6 pm (rain or shine). This yearly Hillcrest outdoor celebration is a fantastic block party, in its 10th year, featuring street performers, musical acts and for the first time, a well known musical headliner.

Come enjoy cold beverages, food and great company. This is the 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](http://mosuniverse.com/blogs/hillcrest-mardi-gras).



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## EXPORTING BIGOTRY

As we reported in a previous issue in mid-October, in Uganda, a front-page newspaper story featured a list of Uganda's 100 "top" homosexuals, with a bright yellow banner across it that read: "Hang Them." Alongside their photos were the men's names and addresses. Although there were earlier repercussions after the article was published, at the end of January, well-known Ugandan gay rights advocate David Kato was bludgeoned to death in his home. His was one of the prominent names listed in the article.

Since at least 2009, radical U.S. Christian missionaries have added anti-gay conferences and workshops in Uganda to their anti-gay efforts in the U.S. – and now they're beginning to ordain ministers and build churches across East Africa focused almost entirely on preaching against homosexuality. Three of the American extremists who are responsible for the spread of such hate are: **Scott Lively** who held an anti-gay conference in Uganda with two other U.S. pastors. A few months later, a bill was introduced in Uganda that would make homosexuality punishable by death; **Lou Engle**, a



preacher whose rallies draw tens of thousands in the U.S., spoke at a rally in Uganda last year that focused on praying for the bill's passage. (Engle claims not to support some parts of the bill, but internal documents show he came to speak about "the threat of homosexuality," and defend the Ugandan government's efforts to "curb the growth of the vice using the law"); **Carl Ellis Jenkins** is presiding over a group that's opening 50 new churches in Uganda to "help clean up bad morals, including homosexuality" according to his staff. These men are being encouraged by the extreme right Family Research Council – now classified as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

We understand that there are other countries where being gay is dangerous, but we keep focusing on Uganda since U.S. clergy and anti-gay groups are behind these terrible turn of events.

## IT'S A SHAME WE NEED MORE BROWNIE POINTS

It seems the gay community is always having to prove itself to the "outside" world. We feel we must report on Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords' hero who saved her life. And that would be 20-year-old congressional college intern, Daniel Hernandez, who was only five days on the job when the shooting occurred.

When Daniel heard shots ring out, he ran toward the

sound of the gunshots. Before supplies arrived, he used his hands to apply pressure and help stop the bleeding on Giffords' head wound, lifting her head and holding it upright so she wouldn't drown in her own blood. He then pressed Safeway workers' aprons against the congresswoman's head wound to staunch further bleeding. He didn't leave her side until she arrived at the hospital.

Daniel Hernandez is gay, a member of Tucson's city commission on gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues. Daniel is a proud gay man and we are proud of him. We were pleased that he was honored at President Obama's State of the Union address.

We have invited Daniel to be our guest speaker at one of our PFLAG meetings; we hope he accepts our invitation.

## A VALENTINE GIFT

Lawmakers in Olympia, Washington, introduced a marriage equality bill in the state senate on Valentine's Day, and a companion bill was introduced in the state house the following day.

Same-sex marriage has been banned in Washington since 1998, when the legislature passed the state's Defense of Marriage Act. Washington's DOMA doesn't prevent the legislature from reversing the ban on marriage equality, and Democrats control both houses of the legislature as well as the governor's mansion. Governor Christine Gregoire signed an expanded domestic-partnership bill into law in 2009 (which was almost repealed by voters in November of that year), though it's not clear what her thoughts are on same-sex marriage.



## TIME TO APPLY FOR PFLAG SCHOLARSHIPS

Please spread the word that our PFLAG chapter will be awarding \$1000-2500 scholarships to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students. We are very proud that this is our 13th year of offering scholarships. Eligible students include high school seniors who will continue their education, full-time undergraduate, or full-time graduate students. 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](http://www.pflag.com) and click on the scholarship link. The

**Scholarships**  
(continued on page 7)

## SOME BUSHES ARE FOR EQUALITY

Barbara Bush, one of ex-President G.W. Bush's daughters, once endorsed the passage of a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. We can ponder why that was so. Now she has spoken out in support of marriage equality.

"I am Barbara Bush, and I am a New Yorker for marriage equality," said 29-year-old Barbara in a short video posted early in February on YouTube by the Human Rights Campaign. "New York is about fairness and equality. And everyone should have the right to marry the person that they love."

She joins her mother, Laura Bush, in pro-marriage equality sentiment. During a May appearance on *Larry King Live* to promote her memoir, *Spoken From the Heart*, the former first lady said, "When couples are committed to each other and love each



other" they should have "the same sort of rights that everyone has."

*The New York Times* reports that Bush's twin sister, Jenna, has not spoken publicly on the issue. A spokesman for President Bush declined to comment. Barbara may have left him speechless.

**"Gay people who want to marry have no desire to redefine marriage in any way. When women got the right to vote, it did not redefine voting." -Cynthia Nixon**

## PRINCESS BOY

Cheryl Kilodavis was stunned when her young son first insisted on wearing a dress. She published a book about him at the end of last year, *My Princess Boy*, in a bid to teach critics to accept his differences. Of course, this didn't happen overnight. It was a long road of acceptance, but in the end, it led to celebration and finally, advocacy with her book.

Her son, five-year-old Dyson Kilodavis, insists on wearing dresses worthy of a Disney princess. His parents, Cheryl and Dean, were concerned that this

could make him an easy target for bullies, and when the tendency first emerged, his mother tried to deter him. But after several un-

successful attempts, she decided that it was not her son, but his critics that needed to change, so she had her picture book published which explains how there is nothing wrong with

the way he chooses to dress. Said Mrs. Kilodavis, "It explained how exclusion hurts and how even a basic level of acceptance can really change lives."

It was the Kilodavis' older son, Dkobe, eight, who

convinced her to let Dyson dress as he wished. His words: "Why can't you just let him be happy, Mom?" That's when Mrs. Kilodavis "realized at that moment that this was my issue, not his, and not Dyson's nor Dean's." She also realized she had to do some self-searching. She had years of preconceived notions from her childhood, spiritually and culturally.

Even though it took some time, Dyson's dad, Dean, is cool with this, too. Generally, fathers seem to be a bit stricter than moms when

**Princess Boy**  
(continued on page 7)



## GIVE UP ALREADY

Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Alpine) still can't grasp that Don't Ask, Don't Tell is no more. He introduced a bill in January that would require the chiefs of all four military branches to sign off on DADT before the policy could end.

Rep. Hunter is a Marine combat veteran of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. He is calling the legislation the Restore Military Readiness Act. Perhaps someone failed to tell him that he was already serving with gay service members the entire time he was in the service. No matter; doubt he would have believed it.

Says Hunter, "The idea behind the Restore Military Readiness Act is not 'necessarily' to prevent the implementation of the DADT



repeal, but rather to ensure that military readiness and combat effectiveness are not adversely impacted." Hunter did not put "necessarily" in quotes; it was put there for emphasis because if he had his way, most likely, DADT would stay in place forever.

Someone also failed to tell him that even if the House of Representatives passed it, the Senate wouldn't and certainly Obama wouldn't sign it. SO, give up already.

## NEW HOSPITAL VISITATION RULES

On January 18, 2011, new federal regulations that prohibit hospitals from discriminating against visitors based on sexual orientation and gender identity took effect.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, "These new regulations require all hospitals participating in Medicaid and Medicare programs – virtually every hospital in the country – to permit patients

to designate visitors of their choosing and prohibit discrimination in visitation based on a number of factors, including sexual orientation and gender identity."

Last year, President Barack Obama announced the regulations in response to the tragic story of Janice Langbehn and Lisa Pond of Florida. The couple was kept apart while Lisa died at a Miami hospital.

### Princess Boy (continued from page 6)

it comes to boys and gender-specific play -- pushing trucks, not tutus. But Dean stands behind his son 100 percent. "It's not contagious; he's just like any other kid. He plays checkers, he plays in the trees. He just likes to do it in a dress -- big deal."

Cheryl Kilodavis has explained that *My Princess Boy* "is designed to start and continue a dialogue about unconditional friendship and teaches children - and adults - how to accept and support children for who they are and how they wish to look. We need a wake-up call. America needs one. The

world needs one. We need to start asking ourselves why we are condemning people and things just because they are different and make us feel uncomfortable. Bullying is taking lives. It is unacceptable. Period. We must stop standing by while others are being harmed for expressing themselves."

Cheryl, Dean and Dyson were on the Today Show on January 3. Dyson wore a frilly pink dress. As he summed up his personal style to host Meredith Vieira, "I'm a princess boy and I love wearing dresses and I love the colors of pink and red."

### Scholarships (Continued from Page 6)

requirements are listed on the scholarship application. All awardees must be able to attend the awards ceremony on **Monday, June 27 (note the date is changed from May 23)**. The deadline for receiving applications is **Friday, March 25, 2011 (also extended)**, by 4:00 pm. *For more info, call Chair Olivia Dorman, 619-743-6879 or email [oliviaenid@gmail.com](mailto:oliviaenid@gmail.com).*

In addition, high school LGBT students can apply for PFLAG National scholarships (eligible students can apply for San Diego and National). The deadline is **March 11**. To apply, go to [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org).

## GO, MARISA

Open lesbian Marisa Demeo has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate to the DC Superior Court bench. The Senate voted to confirm Judge Demeo for a 15-year term by a vote of 66 to 32. The victory for the LGBT community comes after a year-long attempt by anti-LGBT conservatives to block the nomination.



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