



ISSUE VOLUME

01 19

JANUARY 2012
www.pflag.com
info@pflag.com

HAPPY
NEW YEAR

STONEWALL PATROL



Please join us for our General Meeting on **Monday, January 23** 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 JANUARY 30.**

ALSO NOTE 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. This change will be in place for the remainder of the year.

Our presentation is on the Stonewall Citizens' Patrol. Speakers are Don Mitchell, Executive Director and Edwin Lohr. This

is a volunteer neighborhood watch patrol group operating in the highly diverse Hillcrest, North Park and University Heights areas of San Diego. Over 30 volunteers receive training from the San Diego Police Department and take turns patrolling the streets.

The volunteers conduct themselves with a "hands-off" approach and do not carry weapons. They provide an awareness of street crime within the area, provide safety and crime prevention education, and serve as extra eyes and ears for the San Diego Police Department.



Wishing You and
Your Family a
Happy & Healthy
New Year

SCHOLARSHIPS ABOUND

We are very pleased to announce available scholarships. We listed them in order of deadlines:

The San Diego Foundation offers a myriad of scholarship. Most of the scholarships you do not have to be LGBT. This program is opened to high school seniors, community college students, four year college students, graduate students, vocational schools, and adult education applicants. The first deadline is February 9, 2012 for registration with The San Diego Foundation. The deadline for submitting the application and required documents is **February 13, 2012**. For

info, go to www.sdfoundation.org/scholarships,

PFLAG National is offering scholarships ranging from \$1000-5000. Last year, 16 scholarships were awarded. Only LGBT high school seniors can apply. More information will be in the February newsletter, as applications are not available online until January 17. If interested, visit www.pflag.org.

PFLAG San Diego is proud to announce that this is our 14th year of offering LGBT students scholarships. We hope to offer seven scholarships

as we did last year. They range from \$1000-2000. To be eligible, you must currently be a senior in high school or in secondary education, including graduate school. The deadline is **March 16, 2012**; the awards ceremony is at our general meeting on April 23. For other eligibility requirements and to download the application, go to www.pflag.com and click on the scholarship link. If you have any questions, email Scholarship Chair Olivia Dorman, oliviaenid@gmail.com.

The great news is that you can apply for all the scholarship above if you meet the criteria.



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Scholarship
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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



DON'T FORGET
2012 MEMBERSHIPS
WERE DUE JANUARY 1!

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Help us to continue to grow and
support the LGBT community.

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Visit our online store & show your support, purchase from PFLAG.
<http://www.cafepress.com/pflagsd>



Current Events

**January 23
Monday**
San Diego PFLAG General Meeting & Support Groups

**January 23
Monday**
Mi Familia Support Group

**January 30
Monday**
Mi Familia Support Group

**February 6
Monday**
PFLAG Support Group North County Coastal

**February 6
Monday**
Mi Familia Support Group

**February 9
Thursday**
PFLAG Support Group North County Inland

**February 13
Monday**
PFLAG Support Group East County

**February 13
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, 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

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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UCSD IS STILL CALLING

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.



San Diego LGBT Pride is heading up an effort to have a street in San Diego named after LGBT civil rights leader Harvey Milk. We hope you will join in the effort by signing an online pledge: www.sdpride.org/harveymilk.htm. San Diego would like to join the State of California and cities around the world in recognizing Harvey Milk for his leadership in the movement for freedom, equality, and inclusion for the LGBT community in the same way we honor other civil rights leaders.

DON'T MESS WITH THE LGBT COMMUNITY

Never underestimate the power of the LGBT community. Several LGBT organizations and bloggers lobbied Amazon.com to pull an antigay calendar by antigay cartoonist, Joe King. Although no one from Amazon.com commented, the calendar is no longer on their web site.

The calendar, *I'm Not Gay, I'm Just a Sissy: 12 Months of Sexual Confusion*, was also pulled from Barnes & Noble. Almost as soon as the calendar was available, more than 800 people gave 1-star reviews to King's calendar, condemning the sale of the item and asking for it to be pulled from Amazon.com.

THERE'S GOT TO BE ONE "OUT" THERE

Although this article could be a big city in the U.S. that have sports teams, Philadelphia sets us "straight" as to the number of pro athletes still in the closet.

According to writer Robert Huber, it's a matter of the law of averages with the number of professional athletes playing on Philadelphia's teams, including the Phillies for baseball, and the Eagles for football, the 76ers for basketball, and so on. There must be at least a few gay players in the City of Brotherly Love. But in his quest to find out whether there are gay male players, he also found that some players know it might be simply uncomfortable to dress alongside another athlete, knowing he's gay.

For the January issue of *Philadelphia* magazine, Huber interviewed 20 members of the Philadelphia Eagles, some of whom said they were uncomfortable by the idea of sharing a locker room with gay teammates. Others said they weren't worried, but that other team mates might find the notion uncomfortable.

According to Huber's report, there are at least three gay athletes playing in the NFL right now, but they are closeted. Brian Sims, a former college football star who came out during his senior year at Bloomsburg University, knows the three football players, but none were willing to talk on record or

The self-proclaimed "Christian Cartoonist's," illustrated calendar shows stereotypical images of LGBT people, specifically gay men and transgender women, according to GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation). The calendar also mocks people living with HIV and AIDS.



After the removal, King took to his Facebook page to sound off. Most of what he said isn't worth repeating, but here is a snippet, "The 'truth' is that AIDS is an 'elective' disease."

anonymously. Additionally, former NBA player John Amaechi, who came out in 2007 after retiring, quipped that there are so many gay baseball, basketball, and football players right now, that "if they got together, it would not be a small meeting."

"There's no doubt that some of our prime Philadelphia sporting heroes—players we've rooted for over the years—are gay," Huber writes. "A lot of them, in fact. Just do the math. A generally accepted rule of thumb suggests that 10 percent of the population is homosexual. There are more than 100 players currently on our four local pro teams. So it's clear that whatever teams we get behind, some of the players we're now applauding or booing are gay. Over the years, of course, thousands of athletes have graced the Philly sporting scene. Scores of them were undoubtedly gay, too."

Outsport's Jim Buzinski said he sees the atmosphere changing in sports, which will allow for a gay male player to eventually come out to his team mates, and the media. We can only hope they do so that they serve as role models to high school athletes who are in the closet, not to mention the non-athletes.

As an FYI, the Phillies contributed a video to the It Gets Better project. Maybe that's a first step for the Philadelphia teams.

LESSONS FROM SHARING THE STORY OF MY (POSSIBLY) GAY 6-YEAR-OLD SON

By "Amelia"

"Amelia" is a pseudonym chosen by the author in order to keep her family's identity anonymous.

On August 16, I learned what viral meant.

I wrote an essay about my oldest son and his love of a popular gay television character, *Glee*'s Blaine, and how this crush led to him telling me he wanted to kiss boys, not girls. I naively posted it to a blog, thinking some fans of the show might think it was cute.

Within 24 hours it had been reposted and "liked" over 30,000 times on the blog's website. It wasn't long before messages started flooding in, other websites began posting it and people were commenting. The response was overwhelming positive. What I thought was a simple story about my kid and our family had clearly struck a chord with a lot of people.

It also made some people uncomfortable. Of the criticisms, the most common is that my son is six years old and doesn't know anything about sex. While I fully acknowledge this may not be the end-all-and-be-all to my son's sexual orientation, I object to the idea that being gay is only about sexual acts. Our emotions and feelings, our attractions and compulsions, all contribute, not just our body parts. If my son had a crush on the star of *iCarly*, I doubt people would be saying he was too young to have those sexual feelings towards a girl. I think they would think it was an innocent schoolboy crush, which is exactly what it is.

Plus, for every comment I've read saying my son is too young, I have received multiple messages from adults saying "I knew when I was little, too."

It got me thinking and after awhile I started to feel like I knew this big secret that shouldn't be a secret at all: Every gay adult used to be a gay kid. It's not as if all children start off as straight until some time later when someone flips the gay switch. We are who we are from the very moment we are born.

The horrible and hate filled words of the Michele Bachmann's of the world take on a whole new level of disgusting when

picturing them being screamed at a group of kindergartners and first graders. They are unnatural. They are sinners. They are going to hell. They are dirty, wrong and sick.

These people would tell my innocent little boy (who currently wants to be a fireman-ninja when he grows up) he is the biggest threat the American family... because he wants to kiss boys and not girls.

The reality is they are pounding these words of ignorance and hate into the ears and minds of gay children every day. And those children are hearing them. I know because many of those kids are now writing to me. Kids as young as 14 have sent me messages. So many are scared children, who sure as hell did not choose this for themselves, living in fear of their family finding out because they know full well what their mom and dad will say. And they tell me they wish I was their mom.

I want to keep all this talk, all these lies, all this hate, away from these kids. Of course, there is an inherent problem with that. We can't pick out the gay kids simply by looking, and behavior isn't a clear indicator (some little straight girls are tomboys, and some little gay boys love their monster trucks). The only way we can truly know someone's orientation is if they tell us, which for some doesn't happen until well into adulthood.

So the solution is obvious to me. Keep it away from all our kids. It's my responsibility as a mother, as a human being, to stand up and say "No more." No, you are not allowed to say those things in front of my children, not unless you want to deal with me. Because I will not allow any of my sons to be viciously attacked without seeing me defend them. They will never have to doubt for a second exactly where their parents stand, and never have to live in fear of who they are.

Because since August 16, I have learned that hate is the virus we all need to be worried about.

A GREAT LESSON TO TEACH

A teacher in New York was teaching her class about bullying. She gave them the following exercise to perform: They were asked to take a piece of paper and crumple it up, stomp on it, and really mess it up - not rip it. Then she had them unfold the paper, smooth it out and look at how scarred and dirty it was. She then asked them to tell it they're sorry. Although they said they were sorry and tried to fix the paper, she pointed out all the scars that they left behind, and that those scars will never go away no matter how hard they tried to fix it. That is what happens when someone bullies a child; they may say they're sorry, but the scars are there forever. The looks on the faces of the children in the classroom told her the message hit home. Pass it on.



WELCOME A "BOARD"

At the November general meeting, we elected the slate of officers to serve on PFLAG San Diego's Board of Directors for 2012-2013.

Co-Presidents:
Patti Boman and
Terrie Vorono

Vice President:
Sherry
Cohen-Richards

Recording Secretary:
Arlene Prater

Corresponding
Secretary:
Betsy Sheets

Treasurer:
Mark Thompson

Members-at-large:
Karen Thompson
Sandi Timberlake
Kim Martinez

We welcome new board members, but are very sad to see Board Members Barbara Bodine, Olivia Dorman, and Phyllis Van Wanseele leave the Board. The good news is, they still a part of PFLAG.

DOWN TO THE WIRE

Although it's taken a while to get here, presented are our last two scholarship winners.

Pamela Highfill received the Mac McWhorter Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is funded by Mac's wife, Louise, and her entire family.



Pam is being presented a letter of commendation from Councilmember Todd Gloria

Pam is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Human Services at Springfield College. Somehow she manages to study between playing with her grandkids and visiting Farmers' Markets for food tasting purposes. Her commitment and passion for the well-being of all life and human rights issues is paramount to her.

"Anytime we have a campaign such as Proposition 8 that opposes gay marriage we can see the issue of endorsed bigotry that confronts the LGTB community. The need to feel safe is a basic human right that should be accorded to everyone. This bigotry trickles down to our children and is exhibited in schools where young people are needlessly picked on. Violence still occurs across America due to false perceptions about sexual orientation.

One of the largest factors in obtaining our goals is people perceptions of LGTB people and how fundamental Christian churches view sexual orientation. LGTB people need everyone close to this issue to reach out to mainstream America about this issue and give them a true representation of how our human rights are being denied and abused.

After researching schools, I selected Springfield College for a degree in Human Services. Their goal is to teach the students how to be change agents within their own community. Part of this education is received by developing projects in our communities while we are in college.

I hope to fully integrate Stepping Stone, the organization I work for, into the community of City Heights, where we are located. It is my plan to get our clients visibly involved with helping this community. This action will show people that we are concerned caring individuals that don't need to draw lines of

division in our communities. It will give us the opportunity to address some of the civil right issues facing the LGTB community face to face and have the potential to lead to a more educated vote during elections.

The funding I would get from this scholarship would go towards helping me to achieve my educational goals of being a change agent within my community. I will use it to help me financially with the development and implementation of my project for my undergraduate degree of a Bachelor's of Science in Human Services."

Our newest scholarship is the Raytheon STEM Scholarship which attracts and trains future professionals in science, technology, engineering or math. We found the perfect recipient: **Anthony Gomez**.



Anthony receiving his scholarship from Raytheon's LGTBTA members.

Having graduating from Eastlake High School, he is a double major in Zoology and Environmental Policy at Pomona College. His greatest achievement is showing others that being gay doesn't stop you from doing what you want. He got into college, won scholarships and interned at the zoo.

Presenting the scholarship were Diane Ellis, CFO, Raytheon; PFLAG board member, Kimberly Martinez, also with Raytheon; Raytheon LGTBTA members.

"The human right deprived of those in the LGBT community is one others enjoy everyday without even acknowledging its existence. I am talking about the most basic human right: the right of acceptance. Homosexuals are denied the right of being accepted in much of society. Granted, we have our much-appreciated allies, but most of society still considers homosexuality as taboo. I will give you the perfect example: every time I hold my boyfriend's hand in public, regardless of where we are, we become the subject of gawking stares. Even in gay-friendly

(Continued on page 7)

SOMETIMES HAVING BIG BROTHER IS A GOOD THING

You thought I didn't really notice. But I did. I wanted to high-five you.

Yesterday I had a pair of brothers in my store. One was maybe between 15 and 17. He was a wrestler at the local high school. Kind of tall, stocky and handsome. He had a younger brother, who was maybe about 10 to 12 years old. The only way to describe him was scrawny, neat, and very clean for a boy his age. They were talking about finding a game for the younger one, and he was absolutely insisting it be one with a female character. I don't know how many of y'all play games, but that isn't exactly easy. Eventually, I helped the brothers pick a game called "Mirror's Edge." The youngest was pretty excited about the game, and then he specifically asked me, "Do you have any girl color controllers?" I directed him to the only colored controllers we have, which include pink and purple ones. He grabbed the purple one, and informed me purple was his FAVORITE.

The boys had been taking awhile, so their father eventually came in. He saw the game, and the controller, and started in on the youngest about how he needs to pick something different. Something more manly.

Something with guns and fighting, and certainly not a purple controller. He tried to convince him to get the new Zombie game "Dead Island" and the little boy just stood there repeating, "Dad, this is what I want, OK?" Eventually it turned into a full-blown argument complete with Dad threatening to whoop his son if he didn't choose different items.

That's when big brother stepped in. He said to his dad, "It's my money, it's my gift to him. If it's what he wants, I'm getting it for him, and if you're going to hit anyone for it, it's going to be me." Dad just gave his oldest son a strong stern stare-down, and then left the store. Little brother was crying quietly. I walked over and ruffled his hair (yes, this happened all in front of me). I said, "I'm a girl, and I like the color blue, and I like shooting games. There's nothing wrong with what you like. Even if it's different than what people think you should." I smiled, he smiled back (my heart melted!). Big brother then leaned down, kissed little brother on the head, and said, "Don't worry, dude." They checked out and left, and all I can think is how awesome big brother is, how sweet little brother is, and how Dad ought to be ashamed for trying to make his son any other way.

published on Kristen Wolfe's blog: www.sweetupndown.tumblr.com

DOWN TO THE WIRE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

communities, such as Hillcrest, are we victims of such stares. In some public areas, I wouldn't dare to hold his hand because I know it would result in us being assaulted or even killed by those around us. Holding my boyfriend's hand, something straight couples do everywhere, should not raise eyebrows. But as a result of being deprived of the right of acceptance, I will always be the subject of disapproving glares every time I decide to take his hand into mine. A major obstacle in obtaining this right is the fact that society isn't open to homosexuality. If somebody is gay, it is often swept under a rug. This shouldn't be the case. Being gay shouldn't be a big deal. There shouldn't even need to be a process of coming out. If society is brought up with the notion that homosexuality is commonplace, no one will question the acceptance of these members of society. Upon graduating, I will

attend college to double major in Zoology and Environmental Policy. Although I plan on becoming a college professor to do research and enact legislation to promote species conservation, doing so will promote gay acceptance. My students will know I am gay. When I am presenting the results of my research to a committee in Congress, they will know I am gay. However, the fact that I am gay will not be a subject of unease because I will be leaving a positive impact. This will help foster acceptance of homosexuals as contributors to society and break down negative stereotypes. This scholarship does just that: it acknowledges the fact that there are gay students who struggle to pay for a college education and by awarding them with this scholarship, PFLAG shows that it accepts homosexuals as humans and not second class citizens."

SPREAD THE WORD

The third annual CES-CaL Conference will be held **February 17-19** at the Double Tree Hotel in San Diego. Why do you need to spread the word? This conference is for school counselors, P. E. Teachers / Coaches, Elementary / Secondary Educators, School Psychologists, School Administrators, School Nurses, School and Community based Mental Health Professionals, Marriage and Family Therapists, Social Workers, and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors. The purpose is to teach and empower educators regarding laws and rights of the LGBTQ-IA students, give them resources, advocacy, and how to create a safe environment. The last two conferences brought people from all across the country. The theme this year is *From Surviving to Thriving*. For more information, go to www.cescall.org.



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Luan D. Andrews, M.A.

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