



GET WELL WISHES

We are wishing a speedy recovery to co-President Barbara Bodine and North County Inland co-Facilitator Sue Fine. Lots of good thoughts are coming your way and hope you both get well "quick like a bunny."

S.P.E.A.K. SPEAKS

Please join us for our General Meeting on **Monday, March 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.

Our presenters, Kristyn Valentino and Heather Smith, are from the S.P.E.A.K. (Suicide Prevention Education Awareness Knowledge) program which is a part of the San Diego Unified School District's Mental Health Resource Center. Their mission is to provide suicide prevention education to students, staff, and parents throughout the district. They are reaching out to community groups who serve youth at a higher risk for suicide (that would be us). Kristyn and Heather also strive to reduce the stigma that is associated with mental health and depression, increase help seeking behaviors in our youth, and educate adults on responding to suicidal concerns and behaviors in our youth.

Kristyn is a graduate of SDSU's MSW program. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Heather is a graduate of the University of Phoenix's Marriage Family and Child Counseling program. She is a pre-license Marriage and Family Therapist. Since its inception in August, 2010, the S.P.E.A.K. team has provided over 200 presentations to students, staff, and parents on suicide prevention.

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



TIME TO "HOP TO IT"

Time is running out. The deadline for submitting applications for our 2011 scholarships is **Friday, March 25, 2011**. Our PFLAG chapter will be awarding \$1000-2000 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.

NEW! Raytheon Company has a newly created STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

Scholarship. This \$1000 scholarship will only be awarded to a student with a background or interest in the STEM area(s) who plans on pursuing a degree in one of those fields in college (or is already doing so).



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, June 27 (note the date is changed from May 23)**. For more info, call Chair Olivia Dorman, 619-743-6879 or email oliviaenid@gmail.com.



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DON'T FORGET 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

March 18

Friday

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

March 21

Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

March 26

Saturday

Community Yard Sale at the LGBT Center (see article)

March 26

Saturday

S.A.M.E. Rally/March(see article)

March 27

Sunday

PFLAG Support Group South Bay

March 28

Monday

San Diego PFLAG General Meeting

March 28

Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

April 4

Monday

PFLAG Support Group North County Coastal (see new location: Support Groups)

April 4

Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

April 9 & 10

Saturday & Sunday

San Diego Gay Men's Chorus presents their Spring Concert: "Friend Me"

For times and ticket

info: www.SDGMC.org

April 11

Monday

PFLAG Support Group East County

April 14

Thursday

PFLAG Support Group North County Inland

April 15

Friday

National Day of Silence (see article)

April 18

Monday

Mi Familia Support Group

April 20

Wednesday

LA PFLAG meeting Guest speaker Betty DeGeneres (see article)

SUPPORT GROUPS

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.

SOUTH BAY

Meets every fourth Sunday, at 1:00 pm, Unitarian Universalists 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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S.A.M.E EVENT

S.A.M.E. (San Diego Alliance for Marriage Equality) is sponsoring "Our Streets, Our Lives! One is TOO Many!" which is developed to raise awareness about hate-crimes and school bullying. The event is **Saturday, March 26** at 1:00 pm at the North Park Community Park, Howard Avenue and Idaho Street in North Park. Speakers include Kevin Beiser, SD Unitified school board member; Toni Atkins, state assembly member; Rev. Robbie Robinson. It will also involve a short march and a speakout for anyone who wants to tell their story. S.A.M.E. would like to include youth speakers. Anyone interested, please contact Sean Bohac, sbohac@yahoo.com.

GOOD IDEA

Since heaven knows when the repeal of DADT will actually go into effect, there is a new social networking site specifically for gay soldiers. The site, www.outmilitary.com, offers a forum where soldiers can share their stories of being gay in the military.

DINING OUT FOR LIFE



Every year, The LGBT Center has gathered over 100 restaurants to participate in **Dining Out for Life**. The event is **Thursday, April 28**. These establishments give a minimum of 25 percent of their proceeds on food and liquor sales to The LGBT Center for HIV/AIDS services/programs. In order to make this a success again this year again, **volunteers are needed**. The goal is to have a restaurant ambassador or

host in every participating restaurant and bar. This is a countrywide event and we would like San Diego to shine. You can let family and friends know locally and nationwide to save the **April 28** date (the date is the same in every city). If you can volunteer, contact Donnie Luehring at dluehring@thecentersd.org or 619-692-2077, ext. 246. If you can't volunteer, please plan on having a meal at one of the participating restaurants. A complete list of restaurants will be listed in next month's newsletter.

A GOOD SCHLEP

Although it's on a Wednesday (**April 20**) and although it's at 7:30 pm, you will be in for a real treat if you hear Betty DeGeneres (Ellen's mama) speak at Los Angeles PFLAG's chapter meeting. It's at the Westwood United Methodist Church, 10497 Wilshire Blvd. in LA. Betty has written two books, *Love, Ellen—A Mother/Daughter Journey* and *Just a Mom*. She also has the wonderful distinction of being the first straight spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign's National Coming-out Project.

THERE'S STILL TIME TO GET YOUR DONATIONS TO THE CENTER

Spring is literally just around the corner so we hope you will do your spring cleaning early and donate your unwanted items to the Community Yard Sale at The Center before **Saturday, March 26**. That's the day of the sale from 7 am-2 pm. Your donations will help Family Matters @ The Center. Family Matters is a supportive organization of families with one or more parents who are LGBT, most of the time with children who are not LGBT.

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 families@thecentersd.org. Then, on March 26th come and support the Yard Sale; you can replace the old treasures you donated with new treasures!



Robert Sachristan **CreativeWorks**
Graphic Design
619 630 - 0498

BULLYING IS NOT A RITE OF PASSAGE

On March 10, The White House put the spotlight on an epidemic for American schoolchildren: bullying.

President and Mrs. Obama gathered about 150 parents, teachers, bullying victims, researchers, and staff from his education, health and human services, technology, and other departments at the White House to have frank conversations and generate fresh ideas for dealing with the problem—one he said he dealt with as a child.

“With big ears and the name that I have, I wasn’t immune,” he said.

While the remark sparked laughter, the president said the idea that bullying is a rite of passage for American children must change. He unveiled a website, stopbullying.gov, that offers advice and



guidance for kids, parents, teachers, and community members. In addition, his staff said they have new partnerships with MTV and Facebook to counter bullying. The latter was used during the day-long conference as a platform to field questions from all over the country about bullying. The MTV network will lead a new coalition to fight bullying online, the president said, and launch a series of ads to talk about the damage done when kids are bullied for their race, religion, sexual orientation, or for just being themselves.

ATTENTION ALL AMAZING RACE FANS

Even though Mel and Mike White were eliminated from *The Amazing Race* on March 6, both these gentlemen are noteworthy in their own rights (besides being openly gay on the program). Mel (Dr./Reverend Mel White, that is) has a story similar to that of our February Guest Speaker, Michael Bussee. Mel started in the Evangelical Protestant movement in the 1960s and into the beginning of the 80s. He was a speech writer and a ghostwriter of books for televangelists Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Jim Bakker, and Billy Graham (you can pick up your chin from the floor). In the 1980s and two children later, he came out to

his wife. He not only tried to pray the gay away, but he also had psychotherapy, electroconvulsive therapy, and exorcism. When he and his wife divorced (and he is still on good terms with her), he did not want to officially come out until his children were older and finished high school. He finally came out in 1994. That year, he wrote his autobiography, *Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America*.

In 1997, Mel was awarded the American Civil Liberty Union’s National Civil Liberties Award for his efforts to apply the “soul force” principles of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. to the struggle

for justice for sexual minorities. A year later, Mel founded Soulforce, a national social justice organization that works to end the political and religious oppression of LGBT people (through relentless and non-violent resistance). Dr. White’s latest book, *Religion Gone Bad - The Hidden Dangers of Fundamentalism*, was released in September, 2006. He and his partner, Gary Nixon, have continual speaking engagements on behalf of Soulforce.

Mike White is an actor, comedian and screenwriter. Most likely, you have seen him in some movies but didn’t know you were supposed to be looking for him.

THE DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES

March 4, 2011 marked the one year anniversary since same-sex marriages became legal in Mexico City. Of the 700 same-sex marriages performed, 367 were male couples and 333 were female couples. Seventy-three foreigners were among those married; the rest were Mexican citizens. Nine of those married were between the ages of 71 and 90!

IN APPRECIATION

We had a large turnout at our last General Meeting to hear our speaker, Michael Bussee. His talk and power point presentation were fascinating. He had quite a journey from being a founder of Exodus International to becoming one of their biggest critics. Out of the seven co-founders, Michael is the only one who speaks out against them, which takes much courage. Michael was featured in *Pray the Gay Away*, a documentary in a series, *Our America with Lisa Ling*, on the Oprah Winfrey Network.



GLBTQ ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL

GLBTQ Online High School is the world's first online high school specifically for GLBTQ youth. Their mission is to provide a safe and welcoming educational community that provides a high quality, comprehensive college-preparatory online high school experience for LGBT students, or those questioning their sexuality or gender, and others. Please check out their web site: www.glbtqonlinehighschool.com. Even if you personally don't need such a place for your children, there is a wonderful opportunity to support them in a pain-free way. Log onto their web site and shop online. You can purchase directly from over 3000 retailers - from computers to clothes to books - at name brand stores. You get incredibly good deals, cash back, and the school gets your support! It's a win-win for everyone. The online school is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation; your purchasing online will help get the school off the ground and provide scholarships.

GLBT HISTORY MUSEUM DEBUTS IN SAN FRANCISCO

The GLBT History Museum, which opened in mid-January, 2011 in San Francisco's Castro District, has drawn extraordinary media attention from across the United States and around the world, according to a report released by the museum a month after its debut. Tens of thousands of newspapers, magazines, television and radio broadcasters, blogs and other outlets in 75 countries and 36 languages covered the launch of the institution, which is the first museum in the United States devoted to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender history.

"We never could have anticipated the enormous interest created by the historic opening of The GLBT History Museum," said Amy Sueyoshi, a curator of "Our Vast Queer Past: Celebrating San Francisco's GLBT History," the debut exhibition in the museum's main gallery. "The amazing national and international media coverage speaks to how queer lives are increasingly recognized as integral to both American history and world history. It gives me hope that soon our lives will not be as stigmatized as they are now in the U.S. as well as abroad."

WHEN YOU THINK YOU'VE HEARD EVERYTHING

An anti-bullying bill is currently stalled in the Kentucky House. House Bill 370 would prohibit bullying because of a student's sexual orientation, race or religion. Representative Mike Harmon (R-Danville) has filed an amendment to the bill that would essentially protect bullies if they were hassling kids based on their (bullies) religious beliefs.

Harmon, who believes homosexuality is a sin, says students who share his faith-based belief should not be prohibited from saying as much. He believes it's okay to allow students to condemn other students' sexual preferences as long as that expression of a religious belief does not include physical harm or damaging property.

Says Harmon, "If someone, just in conversation, said, 'You know, I think homosexuality is a sin,' well we don't want that child to be called a bully because they have a certain moral or religious belief. And we don't want them, certainly don't want them to be labeled a bully just because they have that particular belief."

This will also creep you out. Harmon's additions don't stop there. He has also filed an amendment to the bill that would allow gun owners with concealed weapons permits to carry firearms on public campuses and keep guns in their vehicles on school property.

When are the next elections in Kentucky? Send in the brigades.

CESCAL A SUCCESS

The second annual CESCAL (The Center for Excellence in School Counseling and Leadership) Conference was held February 25-27. The conference addressed LGBTQIA issues in schools. Thanks to volunteers Ron Goetz, Patti Boman, Kathleen Bradley, Sherry Cohen-Richards and our panelists - the Transgender Panel: Monica, Arturo, and Issac Gomez, Kathe Dunn, Mary Waldron, and Matthew

Castro, and the GSA Advisors' Panel: Nikki Eddy, Rita Macedo, Caryn Hoffman, and Kurt Dearie. PFLAG proudly sponsored these two panels. The workshops and keynote speakers were very informative, from Country Western star Chely Wright to Sirdeaner Walker, whose 11 year-old son, Carl, committed suicide because of bullying; kids perceived him to be gay.

CHESTNUT HELL

Officials at Philadelphia's Chestnut Hill College are defending the school against criticism in the wake of the dismissal of a gay professor. The Roman Catholic college last month fired the Reverend James St. George, a priest in a separate Catholic denomination not tied to the Vatican, from his job as an adjunct professor of world religion. College officials said statements he made about being gay went against Roman Catholic teaching; St. George said the firing reflected antigay bias.

The college issued a statement saying the situation had been

"sensationalized and distorted" in media reports and public comments, causing distress to gay people associated with the school. "We ache for the negative impact this story is having on them," said Sister Carol Jean Vale, the college president. She also said, however, that the college could have better handled the matter and is reviewing its policies.

Student support for St. George is strong, with more than 100 having signed on to a Facebook page backing him. There is a rally planned on his behalf.

"As the debate of same-sex marriage continues in Rhode Island and in Washington, I have taken time to reflect carefully on my own position. Based on my own experiences and my firm belief that all Americans should be treated equally under the law, I am now convinced that affording full marriage equality rights to same-sex couples is the only fair and responsible approach for both Rhode Island and the nation. If our nation expects to provide equal protection to all, then our civic institutions must reflect that noble goal."

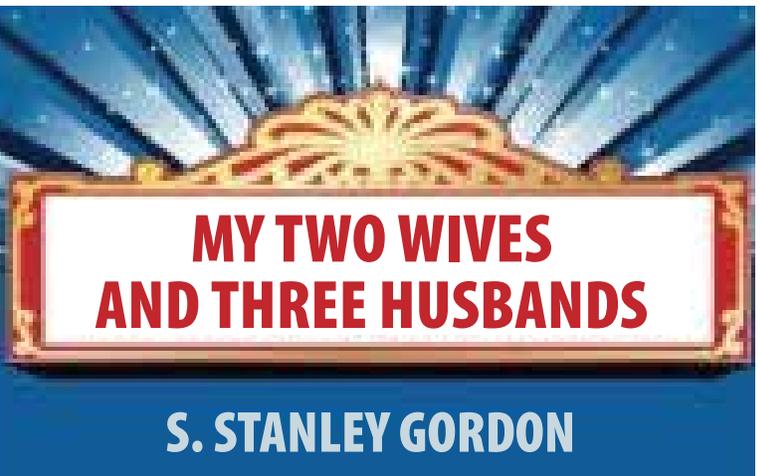
— Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI), announcing his change of heart in a *Providence Journal* essay titled, "Now IS the time to redefine marriage."

DAY OF SILENCE

In case the April newsletter is delayed, we wanted you to be "in the know" that April 15 is the 15th Annual Day of Silence sponsored by GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network).

Hundreds of thousands

of students at thousands of middle schools, high schools and colleges will take some form of a vow of silence to bring attention to anti-LGBT name-calling, bullying and harassment in schools. Nearly 9 out of 10 LGBT students experience harassment in American



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schools each year, 60% of LGBT youth feel unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation, and nearly 1 out of 3 LGBT youth missed school in the past month because of safety concerns.

This vow of silence is an

effort to encourage schools and students to address the problem of anti-LGBT behavior. The event is designed to illustrate the silencing effect of bullying and harassment on LGBT students and those perceived to be LGBT.



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