



ISSUE VOLUME

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OCTOBER 2011
www.pflag.com
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COMING OUT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Please join us for our General Meeting on **Monday, October 24** 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 OCTOBER 31.**

We are pleased to have as our speakers Heidi Stern-Ellis and Al Killen-Harvey, both Licensed Clinical Social Workers at Rady's Children's Hospital and Health Center, Chadwick Center for Children and Families. As more and more

individuals are coming out as LGBTQ in their adolescence and as young adults, related issues need to be addressed. While the process can be exhilarating, confusing, and at times risky, Heidi and Al will provide us with an understanding of the stages of identity development, as well as presenting an overview of the work that Caitlin Ryan, LCSW, has been doing with the Family Acceptance Project.

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

SAY IT AIN'T SO

We are sad to announce that chapter co-President, Barbara Bodine, will be moving out of the area in November. Before coming to San Diego, Barbara was an active member of the Santa Cruz PFLAG chapter. As soon as she arrived in San Diego, she hit the ground running, becoming our Treasurer. These past two years, Barbara has been co-President. She has had her own personal ups and downs, but through it all, she never stopped working for PFLAG. Right after her surgery, she was running board meetings. In addition, she staffed our South Bay Pride booth, the Legacy Concert, participated in the Regional Conference Calls, attended the Gay Men's Chorus concert and staffed the PFLAG booth at Southwestern College. Her resiliency and dedication is an inspiration to the rest of the board members and to all who meet her. We are happy she has family in San Diego so we know she will visit often. We will miss Barbara and her upbeat attitude. She is amazing!



OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

As part of The Women's Resource Center at The LGBT Center, The Imperial Court de San Diego and The Center established The Toni Atkins Lesbian Health Fund. The purpose is to assist low-income and uninsured lesbian, bisexual and transgender women access necessary health care resources, with a major emphasis on free mammograms.





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Memberships are on a calendar year; however, if you join or renew now, you will automatically be a member for 2012!



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Current Events

October 17
Monday
Mi Familia Support Group

October 24
Monday
San Diego PFLAG
General Meeting &
Support Groups

October 24
Monday
Mi Familia Support Group

November 3
Thursday
GLSEN Benefit (see article)

November 7
Monday
PFLAG Support Group
North County Coastal

November 7
Monday
Mi Familia Support Group

November 10
Thursday
PFLAG Support Group
North County Inland

November 14
Monday
PFLAG Support Group
East County

November 14
Monday
Mi Familia Support Group

November 21
Monday
Mi Familia Support Group

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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without it.

Frances Wright

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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 pflag4sdnocity@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

MOVING RIGHT ALONG

The demise of the military's discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, which was rescinded September 20, has opened up many possibilities for gay service members, including the Pentagon's decision to allow military chaplains to marry couples in the jurisdiction where they are legal.

There are certain regulations which are possible to live with including that ceremonies must not be considered official Defense Department events, wedding ceremonies may not violate local laws, private functions held on military bases do not make it a DoD activity, and similar regulations. There was nothing outrageous.

Of course there was praise from the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender civil rights organization.

12TH ANNUAL ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL

The film festival takes place at the Hazard Center UltraStar Cinemas in Mission Valley from October 20-28. There are over 100 films spanning more than 20 countries.

As PFLAG San Diego does every year, we are co-sponsoring one of the LGBT evenings. The film is *I Am* and takes place on **Saturday, October 22 at 5:10 PM**. Here is the synopsis: Having lost the opportunity to tell her mother that she is a lesbian, a young Indian filmmaker in search of answers, travels across India to meet with parents of other gay and lesbian South Asians. *I Am* is a personal and revealing

film that journeys to a landscape where being gay was until recently a criminal and punishable offense. With courage, determination, and humor, families share untold stories that have thus far remained in the realm of secrecy and silence. It is a unique and groundbreaking film that defies the very genre of documentary filmmaking.

Please email or call Bobbi Harwood if you are interested in getting tickets (there's a limited number): bharwood@pflag.com or 858-453-3249. If you want a list of other films, go to <http://sdaff.org/festival/2011>.

PAT YOURSELVES ON THE BACK

PFLAG San Diego raised our highest amount of donations to date for the AIDS Walk - \$1385. We also broke the record for the number of participants - 18! Although we had a lot of support from friends and family who aren't members of PFLAG, mentioned are the PFLAGers who donated: Patti Boman, Lonnie Brunini, Olivia and Clive Dorman, Louise McWhorter, Lindy Miles, Arlene Prater, Karen, Mark, and Kerry Thompson, Sandi Timberlake, Phyllis and Kevin Van Wanseele, Terrie Vorono, Wayne Walker, and Sherry Cohen-Richards.



CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to Tom Marshall and his family on the passing of his wife, Melissa. They have been longtime PFLAG members and attended the North County Inland Support Group.

WHEN YOU THINK YOU'VE HEARD EVERYTHING

A gay couple from a small town in Tennessee allege that they were beaten as they tried to attend services at Grace Fellowship Church and that the assault was prompted by the father of one of them, who happens to be the church's pastor.

"I went over to take the keys out of the ignition and all the sudden I hear someone say 'sick'em,'" said Jerry Pittman Jr. who

was assaulted with his partner, Dustin Lee.

Pittman said the attack was prompted by the pastor of the church, Jerry Pittman Sr., his father.

"My uncle and two other deacons came over to the car per my dad's request. My uncle smashed me in the door as the other deacon knocked my boyfriend back so he

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MAMA'S (KITCHEN) 7TH ANNUAL PIE IN THE SKY



Mama's *Pie in the Sky* is a bake sale fundraising program that benefits Mama's Kitchen—San Diego's only free, county-wide home-delivered meals program for individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS or cancer. You can buy pies from **now until November 23**. Each pie is \$20 and \$15 of that is

tax-deductible – definitely a win-win. Your choices are: apple, pecan, pumpkin, and sugar-free apple.

Purchasing is as simple as pie! You can order directly online: www.mamaspies.org or call 619-233-6262. On **November 23** (the day before Thanksgiving so you don't have to bake), there are pick up locations all over San Diego for your convenience.

ANOTHER LIFE LOST

It was exactly a year ago that it was reported in the newsletter the deaths of many adolescents and teens who committed suicide due to bullying. Now we add another young soul: Jamey Rodemeyer. Taunted since grade school for hanging out with girls, 14-year-old Jamey told his parents things were finally getting better since high school started. Meanwhile, on a blog his parents didn't know about, he posted increasingly desperate notes ruminating on suicide, bullying, homophobia and pop singer Lady Gaga.

A few days later, he hanged himself outside his home in suburban Buffalo.

Tracy Rodemeyer said her son was hurt deeply by words from the time he was very young. Boys started picking on him in elementary school, she said.

By middle school, the bullying was overwhelming. His friends would report the abuse, and school officials would pull the boy and the alleged bullies into the office. Rodemeyer also regularly saw a school social worker, who would call his mother after meetings.

"People would be like 'faggot, fag,' and they'd taunt me in the hallways and I felt like I could never escape it," he said in a YouTube video posted in May as part of Dan Savage's "It Gets Better" project, which seeks to give voices and hope to bullied gay and lesbian teenagers. The teen's video has now been viewed more than a million times.

Rest in peace.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

couldn't help me, punching him in his face and his chest. The other deacon came and hit me through my car window in my back," said Pittman. He said bystanders did not offer assistance. He said the deacon yelled derogatory homosexual slurs, even after officers arrived. He said the officers never intervened to stop the deacons from yelling the slurs.

Pittman said neither he nor Lee was allowed to press charges while at the church. Shortly thereafter, they did file assault charges against Deacons Billy Sims and Eugene McCoy. Pittman pressed additional charges against his father and Deacon Patrick Flatt. Pastor Pittman's attorney contacted their local news by phone and said she had no comment and demanded news reporters not contact the pastor.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR SDSU

San Diego State University announced the approval of the state's first LGBT Studies major to start in the spring of 2012.

The LGBT Studies major at SDSU will be the first of its kind within California and the California State University system. SDSU has a rich tradition of supporting the LGBT community within its school and state network. The LGBT Studies program will focus on 27 upper division units in the major and classes will be formally announced by the university in the coming months.

The university will also expand current LGBT course offerings to include *Valuing Human Diversity*, *LGBT Literature and Culture*, and *Queer Texts and Contexts*.

Homosexuality is found in over 450 species.

Homophobia is found in only one.

Which one seems unnatural now?

WHAT NEXT?

Some people don't want Ricky Martin to visit Honduras in October as part of his world tour, but it's not entirely clear if it's right-wing religious leaders or government officials objecting.

Martin is scheduled to perform in Tegucigalpa on October 16. The minister of interior of Honduras, Africo Madrid, is telling the media that evangelical and Catholic leaders want Martin's visa denied in order to "protect the moral and ethical principles of our society." Madrid says the Christian officials don't approve of Martin's homosexuality or the fact that he's a proud father to two children. "His nuclear family is not the type of family that Honduran society and laws approve of," Madrid said, according to *Fox News Latino*.

The odd thing is that *El Herald* newspaper reports that sources in the Honduran secretary of state's office claim there have been no written petitions to deny Martin entry into Honduras. Considering this as well as Madrid's statements to the media, it may be Madrid who really doesn't want Martin coming to his country.

NEXT IN LINE

The recipient of the Stephen G. Bowersox Memorial Scholarship is **Michael Cueva**. Provided through the generosity of the family of Stephen Bowersox, who was a 2003 winner of a PFLAG scholarship, we were pleased to have his parents, Jim and Donna, present the award. They have committed to continual funding of the scholarship. This award is strongly predicated on social justice, demonstrated involvement and high academic achievement, as well as broad, far-reaching interests, and activities.

Michael is a recent graduate of Castle Park High School and has entered his freshman year at San Francisco State with a goal of a Bachelor's in Journalism. Michael has open-minded views and attitudes on life. His maturity and trustworthiness are admired by others.

"The lack of consciousness manifested in the beliefs of the American public stands in the way of the LGBT community obtaining human rights. Specifically, the oppression of women plays a vital role in the marginalization of LGBT people due to the widely accepted notion that to act or be in any way female is degrading. Strict boundaries for each gender are deeply infiltrated in the values of American society, which inevitably affects everyone in the way that we act and even in the way that we love. Once a person breaks out of the expected gender norms, he or she is seen as a threat to the established definitions of what to be masculine or feminine is. The assumptions created due to sexism are that those in the LGBT community are deviating from their supposed roles and are therefore

bizarre freaks of nature.

The mainstream media often reinforces the stereotypical gender roles of 'machos' and 'damsels in distress' to the extent that citizens accept such notions as commonplace and natural. Thus, when a woman is labeled as 'butch' or a man appears 'feminine,' their behavior conflicts with the already established codes of conduct set for each gender. Without any questioning, many Americans blindly accept what society and the media preaches as being true or abnormal regarding gender. Widespread approval of sexism ends up leading to the institutionalization of homophobia, which creates beliefs that cannot be easily taken down. The fact that misogynistic values are manifested in the beliefs of the American people signifies that a lack of consciousness is to blame for ignorance and contempt towards the LGBT community.

Aiming to major in journalism, I will benefit from your scholarship in paying for expenses at San Francisco State University. Becoming a successful journalist will motivate me to use the media to further strive for the rights and equality of the LGBT community. Through my writing, I hope to spread awareness about LGBT issues and enroot consciousness into the minds of all Americans.



WAL-MART ADDS TRANS PROTECTIONS FOR EMPLOYEES

Whether you are for or against Wal-Mart for various reasons, they must be applauded for their latest pro-gay move. They have added gender identity to their list of protected categories for employees. Wal-Mart already has protections for LGB employees. The additional transgender protections were praised by the Human Rights Campaign.

"What matters in the workplace is how you do your job, not your gender identity or sexual orientation," HRC President Joe Solmonese said in a press release. "As the nation's largest private employer, Wal-Mart shows that doing the right thing is also good for business. We urge them to continue to move forward by ensuring all of their LGBT employees receive equal benefits."

JUST LIKE OBAMA, WE ARE EVOLVING

As bans on gay marriage and civil unions spread across the majority of America in the past decade, new U.S. Census figures reveal a starkly different trend: The number of same-sex partnerships skyrocketed even in the most prohibitive states.

Some 646,464 gay couples said they lived together in last year's census, an increase of 80 percent from 2000, according to revised figures released recently. Same-sex couples make up just 1 percent of all married and unmarried couples in the U.S., but as a group they, nonetheless, made large gains in every state.

The results include the first estimate of the nation's gay married couples. More than 131,000 same-sex couples identified themselves as husbands or wives, accounting for about 1 in every 5 gay couples who live together.

PROPOSITION 8 SEE-SAW

In last month's newsletter, we reported that screenplay writer Dustin Lance Black (he won the Academy Award for the *Milk* screenplay) wrote a play based on the trial to overturn Proposition 8. The main reason for doing so was to educate anyone interested in learning exactly what happened during the trial. The Prop 8 backers managed to get the U.S. Supreme Court to bar any broadcasting of the trial.

Then there was a victory which may

HELP GLSEN TO SHINE

Every year, GLSEN San Diego County (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) has a benefit dinner to support their chapter. GLSEN's goal is to make our schools into better and safer places for all youth. We need that more than ever.

The Big Kitchen, as the event is known, is **Thursday, November 3** from 6:00-8:00PM at, where else? The Big Kitchen, 3003 Grape Street in South Park (Golden Hill).

The donation of \$16.00 per ticket includes a scrumptious lasagna dinner with salad,

But the new numbers may not represent a real increase in gay couples as much as a change in attitudes. Some demographers say the stigma of homosexuality is easing, emboldening more people to disclose their same-sex partnerships. As evidence, some of the biggest increases in gay couples occurred in unlikely places.

"I think it tells us how same-sex couples view their relationships, as apart from the legal definition. Many of them view themselves as spouses but live in states that don't recognize them in any way," says demographer Gary Gates at the UCLA Law School, which analyzes census data on gay and lesbian couples.

This gives new meaning to the statement, "Out and proud."

be short-lived. The Courage Campaign petitioned U.S. District Judge James Ware (California) to release the Prop 8 trial videotapes. And he did. By allowing the public to view this testimony, it will show that Prop 8 was based on prejudice, that ProtectMarriage.com had no credible defense and that Judge Walker was not at all biased. The fear is that groups like ProtectMarriage.com and NOM (National Organization for Marriage) will be appealing Judge Ware's decision.

garlic bread, brownie, and a choice of tea or lemonade. Unlike other years, this year a hard-copy ticket must be purchased in advance. Checks can be sent to: GLSEN SD County, P.O. Box 632922, San Diego, CA 92163. You can email GLSEN for more info: glsensd@yahoo.com.

If you cannot attend the event but can support it, when you send in your check, please indicate on the check that you cannot attend. That way, a GSA (Gay, Straight Alliance) student will be able to go in your place.

AND BRITAIN

MAKES TWO

Following on the heels of the United States, who in June began issuing gender neutral passport applications and citizenship forms for children of American parents born out of the country, passport forms in the U.K. are being updated to include options for same-sex parents.

Instead of being limited to the traditional "mother" and "father" entries, the new forms are expected to include options for "parent one" and "parent two."

According to the **BBC**, agencies will also issue gender-free passports to allow transgender people to opt out of identifying themselves as specifically male or female.

According to Sam Dick, head of policy at the gay rights group Stonewall, "These changes simply reflect the realities of modern life for families — making it clearer for same-sex parents applying for passports for their children and more straightforward for the officials who process them."



Judy Briggs

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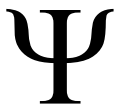


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