



# THE NEWSLETTER

November 2016 // ISSUE 11 // VOLUME 23



## TREAT YOURSELF

Please join us for our general meeting on **Monday, November 28 at 7:00 pm** at Jewish Family Service, 8788 Balboa Avenue, San Diego.

And this is how you will treat yourself: long-time PFLAG member Howard Finney will be our speaker. He is a hoot and a wealth of knowledge. He will share his journey growing up as a closeted gay, which included marrying a woman and having children.

Please join us for our support groups, then our cookie social, followed by Howard's presentation.

## MAMA MIA!

There is still time to support Mama's Kitchen 12th Annual Pie in the Sky Fundraiser. This 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. Each pie sold provides more than six home-delivered meals to these clients. You can buy pies from now until November 22. The pie price is \$25 and \$15 of that is tax-deductible – definitely a win-win. Your choices are: apple, Dutch apple, pecan, and pumpkin.

Purchasing is as simple as pie! You can order directly online: [www.mamaspies.org](http://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 County for your convenience.

## DECEMBER DOINGS



**Thursday, December 1:** World AIDS Day. Please join Mama's Kitchen and Village Hillcrest for the 25th Annual Tree of Life Ceremony, commemorating those affected by AIDS, as well as the ongoing leadership efforts made to end the epidemic. It will take place at 6:00 pm at the Village Hillcrest Retail Center, 3965 Fifth Avenue in Hillcrest. If you would like to purchase personalized ornaments for the Tree of Life (\$15 for one or \$25 for two), contact [www.mamaskitchen.org](http://www.mamaskitchen.org) or call 619-233-6262. All proceeds benefit Mama's Kitchen

**Saturday, December 10:** Come Home for the Holidays. Please join the LGBT Center's annual multicultural holiday party from 5-8:00 pm. This event brings our community together to dance, eat and celebrate our diverse holiday traditions with "family" away from home. More than 20 community organizations (PFLAG SDC is one of them) will come together to put on a holiday celebration for the entire San Diego LGBT community and allies. The event is free, but guests are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to support the Imperial Court de San Diego's annual toy drive.

**Saturday, December 10; Sunday, December 11:** The San Diego Padres presents "Jingle," the San Diego Gay Men's Chorus' popular holiday show. The family-friendly spectacular includes traditional to modern classics. They will also present a hilarious look at how Broadway characters celebrate the holidays (worth the price of the ticket right there!). Shows are at 8:00 pm on Saturday and at 3:00 pm on Sunday at the Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue, in downtown San Diego. For ticket info, contact [www.sdgmc.org](http://www.sdgmc.org).

## NO DECEMBER MEETING FOR PFLAG SAN DIEGO METRO

As has been the tradition for the Metro meeting of PFLAG SDC, there is not a meeting in December due to the proximity of the holidays. All other support groups will meet the usual day in December

## THE MYSTERY OF LOVE & SEX

That is the interesting title of the Diversionary Theatre's upcoming play. Synopsis: "As Charlotte and Jonny tumble into their twenties confronting the mysteries of their own bodies and desires, Charlotte's parents face their own perceptions about love and happiness. Traversing years, shifting relationships and unexpected outcomes, this provocative Southern Gothic romantic comedy peeks behind the curtain of sexuality and race to illuminate secrets of the heart and the fabric of a family."

Dates for the play are **November 25-December 24**. For performance times and ticket info, go to: [www.diversionary.org](http://www.diversionary.org). You can also call: 619-220-0097. When ordering, use the Promo Code PFLAG for a \$5 discount. The theatre is located at 4545 Park Blvd. in San Diego.

And brand new, the Diversionary is offering a Parents' Night Out! On **Friday, December 16**, they will provide day care (night care?) for children 4-12 years old. If you would like to go to the Parkhouse Eatery first (across the street) with a special discount and then see the play, you may drop off your children as early as 6:00 pm. They will not be bored - they'll be entertained with theatre games and activities. The play begins at 8:00 pm and is two hours. Reservations are required by calling 619-220-3830.

## TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIPS

As always, paying your membership dues now means you are a member for all of 2017. As you are aware, part of the mission for PFLAG is to promote the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons and their families and friends. We are only able to offer this support, education, and advocacy through your generosity of being a member. Several ways we accomplish our mission is through our monthly meetings, newsletters, speakers, support groups, an info line, educational brochures, etc.

You can renew (or become members) online, [www.pflag.com](http://www.pflag.com) (we accept PayPal), at the General Meeting, or by the application in this newsletter. Of course, we will gladly accept donations any time for any reason! With the holidays coming up, a membership would make an ideal gift.

## Membership Application

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

Confidentiality is respected. Your donation is tax deductible (Tax ID 33-0512868)

Make checks payable to:

PFLAG San Diego  
PO Box 82762  
San Diego, CA 92138

### Type of Membership

- |                                       |         |                                     |        |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual   | \$30    | <input type="checkbox"/> Household  | \$40   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business     | \$50    | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | \$60   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing | \$125   | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime   | \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other        | \$_____ |                                     |        |
- Accept my donation, please do not list.

Please fill out, clip and mail this form

Name.....

Address.....

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State.....ZIP.....

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or go online [www.pflag.com](http://www.pflag.com) (forms available)

## REMEMBER...

THE NORTH COUNTY COASTAL SUPPORT HAS MOVED TO PILGRIM UCC, 2020 CHESTNUT AVENUE IN CARLSBAD FROM 6:30-8:30 PM.

## CONDOLENCES

We were sad to learn of the death of longtime member, Joe Moore. He and his wife Dottie, joined PFLAG in 1996. Our condolences to his daughter Judy Paulson and her husband Doug, also longtime PFLAG members.

## TRANSFAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

This support group offers a safe environment with guided discussion for transgender and gender-nonconforming children, teens, and young adults to explore a multitude of topics around gender identity and expression. Teen groups are led by young trans adults. For more information, email [info@transfamilysos.com](mailto:info@transfamilysos.com).

## NEWS FROM PFLAG NATIONAL

Some of you may have met PFLAG National's Executive Director, Jody Huckabee. In December, after serving for 12 years, he is stepping down from this position. The Board of Directors has asked Beth Kohm to serve as Interim Executive Director.

On another note, PFLAG National, upon request, will send informative emails (Policy Matters) and also emails on their PFLAG Academy Online. To sign up, go to [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org) and have them add your information to their list.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Nov 22, Dec 13:**

Our Space-Poway  
Kathie: 858-382-9156

**Dec 12:**

East County  
Tiffany: 760-554-7967

**Dec 5:**

North County Coastal  
Annette: 760-518-3345

**Dec 15:**

North County Inland  
Kathie: 858-382-9156

**THANK YOU TO PAUL JOHNSON  
FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP.**

## NEXT ON THE HIT PARADE



**Riley Gibson** is the recipient of the **2016 Brian Wilson Memorial Scholarship**. The scholarship is funded by the Rob Benzon Foundation. After a rather up and down life, Riley is now at Palomar College, hoping to transfer to SDSU to pursue LGBT Studies. He feels the LGBT community is his chosen

family who has empowered him to take a stand and to use his voice and experience as a powerful educational tool. Being transgender, he feels compelled to educate students in high school about trans issues. Riley even appeared before a local school board in support of trans students there.

“2015 was a pretty huge year for me, and I am a completely different person as a result. This was the year I shifted from just sticking my toes into the water to taking a running jump into the ocean that is LGBT activism. I grew up pretty much having everything provided for me despite being forced so far into the closet that I had to deal with really nasty depression for about 10 years of my 22 year lifespan. Granted, I still had a nice cozy upper middle class home, and went to nationally recognized blue ribbon schools. Things got a rocky when the economy crashed and my parents had to deal with foreclosing twice and they really started to lock down and become extremely conservative, but it's not like my life was in any real danger. Really, it wasn't until they kicked me out that my life got turned on its head. After losing everything in my life that I thought I could never live without and going through the painful mourning process, living in extreme poverty, and walking among those who grew up with absolutely nothing has completely changed my world view. I have seen the best of San Diego and I have seen the absolute worst. Despite living in San Diego all my life, there were so many places that I had never seen before. I was homeless and I had nothing,

but things were different-- everything had a new flavor to it. I had started working at San Diego Pride in their Marketing & Communications department as a full time volunteer, and they gave me the gift of a bus pass. With this bus pass, I now had the freedom to do what I wanted, when I wanted. And that's exactly what I did. Next thing I knew, I was doing my best to help organizing and attend every event surrounding Pride and transgender issues in Hillcrest possible. I had nothing better to do and no one wanted to hire me, so why not? It felt like I was actually doing something with my life, unlike working at a dead-end retail job. For the first time in my life I felt happy and fulfilled, even in the absence of everything I once had. Occasionally reality would settle in and my stomach would sink upon realizing that I didn't know where I'd be sleeping the next week, but my overall positive demeanor and drive to continue helping kept me going in spite of that. I found my home in grassroots and community organizing. Now that I'm back in college and trying to balance that with rent, I'm Vice President of the GSA and have led numerous events. My biggest accomplishment last semester was the Transgender Day of Remembrance event we hosted, where I decided to go with a new approach. TDOR traditionally is an event where the community gathers to remember and mourn those we lost, which is important, but I stopped and thought 'How do we make it so that someday we don't have to gather for TDOR?' The answer seemed simple enough: educate the uneducated. Most people don't know or care about trans issues, but maybe they'd care more if they understood the severity of the issue on a local and national level and had some faces to put the issue to. There were multiple portions to the day-long event, and I brought in speakers from all over the local county. The event was a success and the school wants us to keep it as an annual event.”

## STAND TOGETHER; STAND STRONG

The LGBTQ community (one of many) was thrown for a loop, to say the least, with the results of the presidential election. Many in the community feel our future victories will require us to dig deeper and work harder to protect our progress, and to limit the damage that Donald Trump has promised. We cannot slow down; we need to double down. The Human Rights Campaign, among other organizations who strive for LGBTQ equality, will work undeterred and focused to insure every LGBTQ person feels safe, equal, and valued. We cannot be bullied by the next administration. From what he said, Trump will appoint an ultra-conservative Justice (word

used loosely) to reverse the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on marriage equality; he supports banning transgender people from using the bathroom that aligns with their gender identity; he will legitimize gay "conversion therapy," and, with the push from Mike Pence, will encourage businesses to deny services to LGBT Americans. As governor of Indiana, Pence, the homophobe, is more of a terrifying threat to LGBT people than Trump. He has built a career on pushing through anti-LGBT legislation.

Therefore, we must all stand together and stand strong.

**"WE SEE YOU, WE STAND WITH YOU, AND WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO PROTECT YOU GOING FORWARD."** --Loretta Lynch, U.S. Attorney General regarding North Carolina's "bathroom" bill

**GEORGIE KELLY**  
Pronouns: They, Them, Theirs  
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*Luan D. Andrews, M.A.*

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