



THE NEWSLETTER

July 2018

ISSUE 7

VOLUME 25



RIGHT ON THE T-SPOT

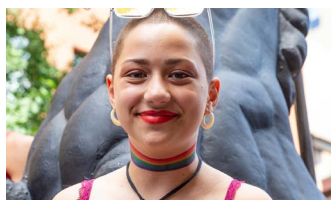
Please join us for our general meeting on **Monday, July 23** at 7:00 pm at Jewish Family Service, 8788 Balboa Avenue, San Diego. **PLEASE NOTE: WE MEET ON THE 4TH MONDAY OF THE MONTH, NOT JULY 30TH.**

Our guest speaker is Ruth Inacay. She is very much involved with T-Spot, which is a traveling booth with the mission to promote and foster healthy and productive lifestyles for the San Diego County transgender community through programs of community outreach, education, and social services. Their outreach is mainly done through tabling at local events like San Diego County Prides, Big Gay BBQ, and community fundraisers.

Ruth (AKA Ruthie or Tiki) was also the recipient of the Richards P. Geysler Memorial Ethics Scholarship, recently awarded at the Launching Leaders Luncheon.

Join us for support groups, followed by the cookie social, then Tiki's presentation.

SPOTLIGHT ON EMMA GONZÁLEZ



In the aftermath of the horrific Valentine's Day shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in South Florida, a new movement has emerged that constitutes the strongest voice for changing laws about automatic assault weapons since the Columbine massacre of 1999.

Emma González, the face of this movement, took a leadership role with a passionate speech in front of the Broward County Courthouse, where she criticized President Trump and other politicians for accepting donations from the National Rifle Association. She is a strong voice against gun violence, and calls B.S. like she sees it.

Many people do not know Emma is bi-sexual. She mentioned it as the lead paragraph of her essay published in *Harper's Bazaar* ("I'm 18 years old, Cuban, and bisexual," she said) and in an interview in the *Washington Post*, but, in general, it is mentioned only by a scattering of LGBT publications. However, she feels her bi-identity is one of the reasons she is such a compelling speaker. She has said that being open about her sexuality has helped propel her activism. She claims if she wasn't so open about who she was, she never would've been able to speak out in such a forceful way.

Emma was active in her GSA for three years and was president this last year. She said her participation in her school's GSA and recent self-outing resounds with her queerness. When people wonder about her buzz cut, she simply explains, "Hair is just another sweater I'm forced to wear." She explained it was a buzz cut, rather than totally shaving her head because she did feel forced to wear some hair.

Not to be punny, but hats off to Emma.

THANK YOU TO BRAD MALLARDI FOR THE DONATION TO THE GENERAL FUND

HAVE THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE!

San Diego Gay Men's Chorus presents a sequined whirlwind of music—*ABBA's Greatest Hits* live at the Balboa Theatre on **Saturday, July 28** at 8:00 pm and **Sunday, July 29** at 3:00 pm. They'll be 200 singers, dancers and musicians under the glittering disco ball for all your favorites like "Take a Chance on Me," "Mamma Mia," "Knowing Me, Knowing You" and the song that defined a generation, "Dancing Queen."

To purchase tickets for this extravaganza, go to sdgmc.org.

OOPS, THEY'VE DONE IT AGAIN

From writer Amanda Kerri, "They say the definition of insanity is making the same mistake over and over again and expecting a different result. If that's true, then the definition of being an insensitive ass is doing the same offensive thing over and over again and expecting the offended party to finally be OK with it."

The powers that be in Hollywood have made plans for another transgender cliché movie with the trans character being played by a cisgender actor. The actor this time is Scarlett Johansson who is being quite snarky about the criticism. The movie, *Rub and Tug*, is about a sex worker, which is another reason many in the entertainment profession are upset with the same 'ol, same 'ol. It always seems to be a sob story about transgender people, throwing a trophy-seeking actor into the role, and then cramming it down folks' throats at awards season to their preferred way of putting trans people's lives on the silver screen. The bottom line is, how do you make a movie about a transgender person without involving anyone who is transgender? Many producers insist that "movies are expensive and no one wants to risk it on an unknown

OOPS... continued on page 4

NEXT IN LINE



The recipient of the **John Bessemer Memorial Scholarship** is **Gemma Samoy**. Unfortunately, Gemma was not able to attend the luncheon to receive her scholarship, as she

was attending a very important event for JROTC (Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps). Gemma expressed her gratitude and read part of her essay via video. Her sister, Geena Samoy, accepted the scholarship on her behalf. Pictured above are presenter, Linda Bessemer, Geena, and friend Adriel Medina.

Gemma excelled at The School of Science, Connections & Technology through Kearny High School, where she was valedictorian. She will be attending UCLA in the fall.

Besides JROTC, some of Gemma's activities/achievements while in high school include being co-president of the GSA and president of Circle of Friends. This club pairs student volunteers with students with special needs. Gemma was instrumental in having the first gender-neutral bathroom, the removal of gender specific robe color for Kearny's graduation, and the planning and implementation of a school garden.

Gemma's essay:

"I have never belonged anywhere more than within my community. There exists an unwavering passion and commitment to others, that is nothing less than remarkable. This has been a constant inspiration to me to give back to my community in any way I can.

I have worked to make a change in my community in high school through my involvement in several groups, starting with the Gender and Sexuality Alliance. I know this world is not fair, but I have realized it is part of my duty as a human being to make it as fair as possible. To do this I have advocated for LGBTQIA+ rights on campus as the Gender and Sexuality Alliance Vice President. Within the last year, I have worked to open the first gender neutral bathroom on campus to provide a safe space for students and faculty who identify anywhere on the gender spectrum. The creation of this space has helped to set aside an area where people can feel comfortable with the way they identify on campus as well as open the conversation about gender in classrooms. This event has motivated peers and teachers to want to understand this part of the community and what they are going through as well as to learn how to better respect them. The effects that this action had on my community has made it one of the many rewarding

experiences I have been fortunate enough to be a part of.

Groups, like Circle of Friends and the Student Equity Ambassadors, provided me with more opportunities to make a difference on my campus. I have worked to serve the disabled community by creating a safe environment for students by facilitating friendships between general education students and disabled students as the President of Circle of Friends. Through this club, I have worked to involve special needs students in weekly activities with general education students to build their social skills. In doing so, we promote inclusion and awareness on our campus. Another group I have been a part of is the Student Equity Ambassadors, where I advocate for student rights within thirty other high schools in my district. I have spoken at Board of Education meetings, district wide coalitions, and panels at conferences on the effects of bullying, the importance of student-teacher relations, and building respect to address issues related to bullying and mental health. Through working with students from each group, I have learned that the circumstances that students face do not define them but instead, make them stronger. This has not only helped me to become more determined to make a difference in the lives of those who cannot for themselves, but it reminds me of the power that an individual holds to change the lives of the people around them.

In the future I want to continue to have a positive impact on the lives of those around me through demonstrating the same selflessness, drive, and compassion that I have seen my own community demonstrate. I will accomplish this through participation in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Program in University. Through this program I will be able to build meaningful connections with peers who are just as passionate as I am about community. The ROTC Program will provide me with the skills and resources to make a larger impact in the lives of others. Alongside my experience in ROTC, I hope to use my education to have an impact on the lives of those around me. Working towards a mathematics degree in university will prepare me for a career in the U.S. Military. From my experiences in leadership positions within school and my community I have learned that it is truly an honor to be of service to others. It is important for me to fight for others to have the same opportunities I have had. I am grateful to live the life that I have in America with these liberties. Joining the military is my way of showing gratitude. There, I want to work with others to make a change in our world.

These milestones will bring me closer to becoming someone that represents the traits that I admire in my community. I hope to be a person that inspires others to work hard and to become the best version of themselves; in the same way that my community has for me my entire life."

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

- Individual \$30 Household \$40
 Business \$50 Supporting \$60
 Contributing \$125 Lifetime \$1000
 Other \$ _____
 Accept my donation, please do not list.

Fill out, clip and mail this form; apply online (www.pflag.com); or pay at any meeting.

Name.....

Address.....

City.....

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

Email.....

Phone..... Date.....

SOUTH BAY PRIDE



South Bay Pride Art & Music Festival will be held on Saturday, **September 8** from 12:00-8:00 pm. The event is free. As always, PFLAG will have a booth. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Patti Boman at pboman@pflag.com. More details will be in the August newsletter. In the meantime, for a \$20 donation to SB Pride, you can enter to win 2 VIP tickets to great concerts. Each pair of tickets

comes with 1 parking pass, 2 free buffets and access to the VIP Lounge (21 and over). Concerts are held at the Mattress Firm Amphitheatre in Chula Vista. To donate go to SouthBayPride.org. Each \$20 donation will receive 1 submission to the opportunity prize drawings. The drawing will be held on July 16, August 5, September 1, and September 8. All proceeds go to the South Bay Pride Art & Music Festival.

SUPPORT GROUPS

SD METRO GENERAL MEETING & SUPPORT GROUP

Meets every 4th Monday at 7:00 pm, at Jewish Family Service, 8788 Balboa Ave, San Diego in Kearny Mesa.

For further information, contact the Info Line:
888-398-0006 or www.pflag.com

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

Meets the 1st Monday @ 6:30 pm
Pilgrim UCC, 2020 Chestnut Avenue, Carlsbad.

Annette: 760-518-3345 | northcountycoastal@pflag.com

NORTH COUNTY INLAND

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm
St. Bart's Church, 16275 Pomerado Road, Poway.

Jill/Dan: 760-855-9424 | RBPowaypflagsdc@pflag.com

EAST COUNTY

Not currently meeting. For questions and information:

Raegan: 858-531-5426 | eastcountysdc@pflag.com

SOUTH BAY

Meets 3rd Monday at 6:00 pm,
Our Safe Place, 746 Ada St, Chula Vista.

Patti: 619-227-6092 | pboman@pflag.com

RAMONA

Meets 2nd Tuesday at 6:00 pm, St. Mary's in the Valley,
1010 12th Street, Ramona. For meeting info, contact:

Kathie: 858-382-9156 | RamonaPFLAGSDC@pflag.com

POWAY LGBTQ YOUTH SUPPORT/HIGH SCHOOL

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm
St. Bart's Church, 16275 Pomerado Road, Poway.

Kathie: 858-382-9156 | info@transfamilyosos.org

OUR SPACE-POWAY--LGBTQIA/MIDDLE SCHOOL

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm, St. Bart's
Church, 16275 Pomerado Road, Poway. Facilitated by

youth. Kathie: 858-382-9156 | info@transfamilyosos.org

MI FAMILIA (Spanish)

Meets 2nd Monday from 6-8 pm, South Chula Vista Library,
389 Orange Avenue, Chula Vista.

Patti: 619-227-6092 | pboman@pflag.com

TRANSFAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Support groups held separately for children, teens, & adults
to explore topics around gender identity and expressions.

Kathie: 858-382-9156 | info@transfamilyosos.org

OOPS... continued from page 1

trans actor." Trans actress and activist Jen Richards said it best, "Until the world stops erasing/oppressing/murdering us, trans women play trans women, trans men play trans men, nonbinary people play NB people. If your project needs a 'star' for financing, then it's simply not good enough."

COMING SOON

The 29th Annual AIDS WALK San Diego is **Saturday, September 29**, 7:35 am, starting at Normal Street and University Avenue. AIDS Walk is San Diego's largest one-day HIV/AIDS fundraiser and the biggest non-governmental financial provider for HIV/AIDS in San Diego County. Dozens of agencies, serving thousands of clients, rely on funds raised at the annual Walk to help provide essential prevention and care programs to thousands of men, women, and children living with HIV/AIDS

The registration fee is \$35 (\$25 for 17 & under and 60+). To register, go to <http://bit.ly/aidswalkpflag>, click on the gray box (Join Team), pick which amount that applies to you, then Next Step and keep following the instructions. More info will be in the August newsletter.

IT REALLY IS A LAUGHING MATTER

GLSEN San Diego's 5th Annual Comedy Fundraiser is **Friday, August 17** at the Diversionary Theatre, 4545 Park Blvd. in San Diego. There is a wine and cheese reception which beginning at 7:00 pm with the show at **8:00 pm**.

This event is one of GLSEN's (formerly known as Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) biggest fundraisers. Tickets are \$25; go to GLSEN San Diego on Facebook and click on Eventbrite.com. Tickets may also be purchased at the door if the event is not sold out.



LOOK LIKE A BIG FISH

Competition is fierce.
It's time to get aggressive.



Call for a Free Consult
858.220.7478
belladiadesign.com



Psychotherapy for

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Children...

Coming out • School safety • Self-Acceptance
Self-Esteem • Parent-Child Communications • Siblings

... and their Parents

Crisis Counseling • Religious Issues • Telling Friends & Family
Safety Concerns • Grief & Loss • Depression n Anxiety

All Services are Completely Confidential

Stephen White, Psy.D.

Clinical Psychologist PSY 20739

16496 Bernardo Center Drive, Suite 307 San Diego CA 92128

(619) 922-1579

swhite@the-rainbow-connection.org

