

YOU CAN BE PART OF THE SOLUTION



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

Our guest speaker is Cherry Robinson, San Diego Chapter Chair of The Climate Reality Project. She will be speaking about the most important issue of our time: climate change and what we can do about it. She is part of an organization started by former Vice

President Al Gore to educate leaders who go out into their communities and share the reality of climate change. Her focus is on creating communities that care, and educating them in ways that will improve the quality of life on our planet.

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

"LOOK TO THE SKY"

America's Finest City Softball League (AFCSL) presents "Look to the Sky," a movie screening fundraiser for TransFamily Support Services. It takes place Wednesday, **September 25** at the Reading Cinemas, Town Square 14 (Clairemont Square—4665 Clairemont Drive) at 7:30 pm. The film is 75 minutes and is followed by a Q & A with Founder and Executive Director of TransFamily Support Services, Kathie Moehlig. Summary: The film weaves together the uplifting true stories of young people who have demonstrated the spirit of Superman. This feature-length documentary explores the power of hope and the importance of positive ideals while encouraging viewers to find the superhero within themselves. By being a Super supporter of the transgender community, you can be inspired to look at what is possible for the world and for our own lives.



There needs to be a minimum of 75 tickets sold in order to have the event happen. You can order tickets online: sdpride.org/event/looktothesky/

ART OF PRIDE

Anyone not in attendance at the Art of Pride: Images of Pride reception held on September 14 missed out. However, it is not too late to see the art work and photos that honored the 2019 San Diego Pride events that reflected Stonewall 50: A Legacy of Liberation. Art of Pride will remain at the San Diego Pride office, 3620 30th Street in North Park **through November 9**, Monday through Friday from 9:00 am-5:00 pm.



The above photo of Bobbi and Dana Harwood, taken by Kathie Moehlig, North County Regional Rep, was chosen to be part of this wonderful display. That is worth the trip alone!

WE NEED YOU!

We hope you will join PFLAG SDC on **Saturday, September 28** for the 30th Annual AIDS Walk San Diego. This event, sponsored by the LGBT Center, 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 Walk begins at 7:45 am at Normal St. and University Ave. Registration is \$40 (\$30 for 17 & under and 60+). We need 10 walkers registered by **September 23** to qualify as Team PFLAG and walk with the prestigious sneaker sign with PFLAG on it.

It's easier to register this year. Go to thecentersd.org. On the top right click on AIDS Walk & Run, then Register, then Join A Team. After you fill in PFLAG San Diego County, click on it and select the registration amount that applies to you.

Even if you can't walk with us, please register so we can meet our 10 person and financial goals (\$1000). You can register as a virtual walker; the registration fee is \$40.

For questions: scohenrichards@pflag.com.

TRANS YOUTH-PALOOZA

The Center is sponsoring this event on **September 21** from 1:00-7:00 pm. It is a free event for transgender, non-binary, and questioning youth between the ages of 10-24 and their families. There will be style and make-up tutorials, discussion groups, workshops, transition resources and info, giveaways, food, DIY, meditation, yoga, art, kids' corner, and community resources. The event takes place at the LGBT Community Center, 3909 Centre Street in Hillcrest. For questions or more info, contact the Hillcrest Youth Center: hyc@thecentersd.org. TransFamily Support Services will have a wealth of information on trans services.

FEATURING



Ramon Aquino is one the recipients of the **Rob Benzon Memorial Scholarships**. Ramon graduated from Chula Vista High School where he majored in visual arts. At school, he had been a representative of the visual arts department on the School of the Creative and Performing Arts

Student Council, president of the Art Club, and secretary of the school's PLUS Club and GSA. Ramon is working to become a successful and renowned animator, hoping to continue his efforts in constructing a society free of prejudice and violence. He is currently attending California State University Fullerton.

"When people ask me, 'How did your passion for art start?', I would always tell the typical story artists give about being enthralled by gorgeous paintings and wanting to duplicate said pieces, or at least that was the most consistent excuse I would give. What many people do not know, possibly only I do, in fact, is that what sparked my interest for art is something I am unable to put into words nor express concretely, at most, due to my intimate relationship with art itself. Art has always been my hobby, my passion, my life and I deeply doubt that will ever change. During my junior year in high school, however, I was offered one of the biggest opportunities I have ever had as an artist. That year my art teacher had the outstanding idea to get permission from the school administration to grant all the advanced art students the ability to paint murals all over campus in order to improve school premises and make the walls around campus far more lively and cheerful overall, compared to merely having bleak walls throughout every single year. To my surprise, she had entrusted me with the responsibility of leading a group of other art students in this task since she confided in me and believed I was the perfect candidate to direct them in the process of painting a mural. In essence, for the rest of my junior year, I became the leader of a group of art students who, along with other groups, painted beautiful murals around the school campus; my group, in particular, was in charge of painting a mural depicting famous Mexican painters Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo in order to celebrate the fascinating Hispanic diversity and culture that has characterized San Diego for decades. This opportunity would then spark many more art opportunities to emerge since I would be subjected to put myself out into my school's community and would, therefore, garner attention for the Visual Arts Department. Due to this, a few weeks into my senior year of high school, a handful of art students and I decided to establish an Art Club in our school, which aside from creating artwork and learning about art itself, is in charge of creating many more murals, as well. I am currently the president of our

Art Club and together we are continuing this legacy of painting murals whenever it is viable with the sole purpose of beautifying the school campus and leaving a mark on the school permanently as artists. Currently, we were proposed the opportunity to paint murals all over the school's garden, which is currently a barren and empty lot without any type of embellishments, and, as of now, we are in the process of planning and coming up with possible designs we could employ in order to unite both gardening and art as a means to create a sacred space where students would be allowed to come in order to spend their leisure time and encourage more individuals to care for our environment.



Aside from mural painting, as an artist, animation has always been something precious to me. I grew up watching animated films and shows basically my entire life and the concept of watching simple drawings and sketches come to life through the power of animation has always fascinated me in unique ways. I had always wondered how people even managed to make arms, legs, and face expressions move

and just that made my heart twinkle with excitement. This, however, also caused an unnamable fear in my heart to emerge as well. Sure, I knew how to draw and do more artsy stuff, but I was always hesitant to attempt doing animation because I doubted that my skill was good enough to even come near those of an animator. Ever since, I have pledged to myself that I would do everything in my grasp to improve and acquire the necessary skills to become an animator.

I have delved deep into the realms of traditional art, digital art, mural painting, video and music production, graphic design, 2-D animation, and even tried my hands on 3-D animation a couple of times in order to expand my range of knowledge in the art media. It is in my utmost ambition to influence people positively with my artwork and by exploring brand new ways to express myself artistically, just like mural painting was something foreign and alluring to me back in my junior year. I believe I can achieve all my artistic goals.

I am unable to say where or who I would be this instance without art. Without it, that spark in my heart would have never blazed into a flame and I am afraid I would have quickly given up on my dream to become an animator and would have never strived for it in life. Sure, I could have decided to become a doctor, a lawyer, or maybe even a scientist if I wanted to, but I chose not to. It is my desire to leave my mark on the world and have an impact on the hearts of millions of people all around the world and inspire young children that just like me who were fascinated by animation and the visual arts, and make them pursue and strive for a career in the arts. That is why I want to be an animator."

BRUHAHA FOR NOTHING

Two drag queens took the stage on September 10 at the Chula Vista Civic Center branch library, as planned, for the first Drag Queen Story Time. The event went off without a hitch despite weeks of opposition and requests for the city to call it off, as has happened in other communities across the country in response to similar story times. Instead, the opposition gave rise to a wave of support as the city and many members of the community stood behind the event. Outside the library, a crowd of about 200 supporters and protesters took over a parking lot. Police set up two "free-speech zones" - separated by barriers - that allowed both groups to voice their opinions, with officers, between the two sides.

"No hate, no fear - everyone is welcome here," they chanted. The group included residents, faith leaders and elected officials, such as Chula Vista Mayor Mary Salas and Chula Vista Councilmember Steve Padilla. He urged the group to remain focused on their message of love.

Chula Vista mom Rachel Danford-Smith said the event was exactly what she wanted her children exposed to in order to teach them tolerance and love. "I am really big on diversity," said Danford-Smith, who teared up explaining why she brought her 3-year-old and 1-year-old. "I want my children to know that we come from all walks of life and that it's OK to be who you are," she said.

Inside the library, parents and children filled an auditorium during two sessions of a lively story time with Raquelita and Barbie Q, the two drag queens who read picture books, danced and sang to the audience.

The crowd laughed and snapped their fingers as the duo on stage read two books: Julián is a Mermaid - a tale about a boy who makes his own mermaid costume at home, inspired by three women he sees on a subway - and It's Okay to Be Different, which delivers a message of acceptance, tolerance and confidence.



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 Mondays at 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

Meets the 3rd Tuesday from 6:00-7:30 pm, El Cajon Library, 201 E. Douglas Avenue, El Cajon.

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

SOUTH BAY

Meets 3rd Monday from 7:00-8:00 pm, South Bay Youth Center, 1180 Third Avenue, Suite C1, Chula Vista.

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

RAMONA

Meets 1st Tuesday from 6:00-8:00 pm, St. Mary's in the Valley, 1010 12th Street, Ramona.

Carlee: 757-448-5640 | 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.

Al: 858-382-2262 | al@transfamilysos.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. **Al: 858-382-2262 | al@transfamilysos.org**

MI FAMILIA (Spanish) NEW LOCATION

Meets 2nd Monday from 6:00-7:30 pm, South Bay Youth Center, 1180 Third Avenue, Suite C1, 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@transfamilysos.org



Please join North County LGBTQ Resource Center for their 12th annual Pride by the Beach on **Saturday, October 12** from 11:00 am-5:00 pm. The theme this year is #wavesofpride. As always, PFLAG will have a booth.

The event is free and offers a full day of fun, with many new events: dance tent, Drag Queens (the headliner is Ada Vox) and other live entertainment, GSA game booths, food galore, extreme youth zone, youth parade, education walk, Cultural Center, exhibitors, and lots more. There will also be panels from the AIDS quilt displayed.

The location is Oceanside Civic Center Plaza, 300 North Coast Highway in Oceanside. It is close to the Coaster and Sprinter.

All proceeds raised go toward the event production and community outreach to increase visibility and community.

GIRLFRIEND, YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

Playing through **October 13** at the Diversionary Theatre is the play, *Girlfriend*. Synopsis: It's 1993 and mixtapes are the language of love. Set in the American heartland during the summer between high school and whatever comes next, college-bound jock Mike and self-assured but aimless Will find themselves drawn to each other. Their rush of first love full of excitement, confusion, and passion, forges an unlikely bond neither were expecting. Told to the power-pop precision of Matthew Sweet's seminal rock album, *Girlfriend* is a vibrant new musical about the terror and thrill of discovering yourself, and the life you want to lead.

For performance times and ticket info, go to: www.diversionary.org. You can also call: 619-220-0097. For \$5 off each ticket, use Promo Code PFLAG. The theatre is located at 4545 Park Blvd. in San Diego.

THANK YOU

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