



THE NEWSLETTER

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ATTENTION: Cancellations

NOTICE OF SUPPORT GROUP CANCELLATIONS

In light of ongoing legitimate concerns regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus), we are reminded of the priority of community safety. Your health and well-being and that of our communities are of utmost concern for all of us here at PFLAG San Diego County. With that in mind and based on information we have received from PFLAG National, the CDC, the WHO, the California Department of Public Health, and the County of San Diego, we are temporarily suspending all in-person chapter meetings, events, and support groups. The following upcoming meetings will not be held in person:

- South Bay Support Group - Tuesday March 17, 2020, pboman@pflag.com
- East County Support Group Tuesday March 17, 2020, eastcountysdc@pflag.com
- Metro support group Monday March 23, 2020, metroscd@pflag.com
- North County Inland Support Group Tuesday March 24 and April 14, 2020, RBPowaypflagsdc@pflag.com
- North County Coastal Support Group, Monday April 6, 2020 northcountycoastalsdc@pflag.com
- Ramona Support Group, Tuesday April 7, 2020 northcountyinlandsdc@pflag.com
- Del Sur Support Group, Tuesday April 14, 2020 4sdelsurdc@pflag.com

If you need support, please contact one of the above sites or Tiffany Gonzalez, President, tgonzalez@pflag.com.

WELCOME



Tiffany Gonzalez is the new president of PFLAG San Diego County. She joined the chapter in 2016 and took on roles as regional director and group facilitator for the East County Support Group from 2016-2017. Tiffany was the board secretary from 2017-20. Her goal, as president, is to continue service as an officer to guide our chapter as we further grow and evolve. An Imperial Valley native and retired U.S. Navy veteran who lives in Southeast San Diego with her wife

and son, she joined the PFLAG family in 2016 for information and support after her son's father came out as a transgender woman. Working as a substitute teacher for several local districts, Tiffany demonstrates a genuine passion for helping youth and families through advocacy and education. In addition, she volunteers weekly at a confidential center for youth who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking. She holds several years of prior non-profit board experience and has nearly a decade of service to the San Diego LGBTQ+ community

MAKE ROOM FOR PFLAG

PFLAG San Diego County proudly announces our new support group: Del Sur Support Group. The group meets the second Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 pm at Del Sur Ranch House, 15435 Paseo Del Sur in San Diego. Theresa Burke and Liz Papineau have spearheaded the successful effort to get the group off the ground. For information, contact Theresa at 4sdelsurdc@pflag.com.

TINY BIT OF TIME LEFT

Students who are interested in the PFLAG SDC scholarships have until **March 23, 2020** to apply. Eligible students are LGBTQ high school seniors, undergraduate, and graduate students who meet the requirements. A minimum of 10 scholarships will be awarded with a minimum of \$2000 each. To apply: pflag.com/scholarships; questions: scholarships@pflag.com.

There is **lots of time left** if you would like to support the scholarship program. You can make a donation online at pflag.com/support-our-students.

MONEY ALWAYS WELCOMED

Much of the PFLAG SDC Scholarship Awards luncheon's success depends on help from sponsors. Sponsorships are available at these levels: \$500 for a table of eight; \$1000 for an Awardee Sponsor; \$2500 for a Leadership Sponsor. For info on the Sponsorship Package, go to pflag.com/support-our-students. Individual ticket purchases for the Launching Leaders Luncheon on **May 30, 2020**, are also available at \$65 each. For questions, please email scholarships@pflag.com.

THANK YOU

General Fund Donations

- Maria & Sunny Al-Shamma
- James Blake
- Doris Faulkner
- Zaneta & Michael Encarnacion
- Marj Frye
- Deborah & Robert Kelly
- Catherine & Derby Pattengill
- Sue Swindler & Cheryl Sproles
- MaryLou Strong

NEXT IN LINE



The **Richard P. Geysler Memorial Ethics Scholarship** was awarded to **Jeremy Bloom**. This scholarship was donated by Ray and Jan Aller. Jeremy has an extensive activist background, working in the nonprofit fundraising and political organizing fields for over 10 years. He currently works at the ACLU

of San Diego & Imperial Counties as the Donor Relations Manager and part-time at Mission Hills United Church of Christ as their Senior Youth Leader. While working on his master's degree in Nonprofit Leadership and Management at the University of San Diego, he also sits on the boards of the SD Coalition for Reproductive Justice and USD's LGBTQA+ Graduate Student Association.

"The tension between varying constituencies within the LGBTQIA+ community has existed since the earliest formation of groups that represented sexual minorities. In fact, these tensions have led to the expanding acronym used above. The strain may have reached its most public peak at a number of pride parades in 2017 when a few groups, typically representing queer people of color (QPOC) and trans* people, worked to shutdown parades in San Diego, Minnesota, and Washington, DC, among others. This short essay works to outline the dynamic debate between utilitarian and feminists' ethics on the role white cis-gender gay and lesbians should play in supporting the wider LGBTQIA+ community.

Audre Lorde, the feminist writer and lesbian, knew that we are not just one identity stating in *Sister Outsider* in 1982 that 'there is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single issue lives.' While another black feminist, Kimberlé Crenshaw, wouldn't name this concept – intersectionality – until 1989, the LGBTQ movement has struggled with its identity from the very beginning. From the debates between the conformists and radicals, to the AIDS epidemic when groups like ACT UP often pushed the envelope of 'acceptability' among more affluent gay men.

Today, we are opening a new chapter of debate among the role of the LGBT community and the constituencies they represent. A number of tensions are at play in this continued struggle, as in the past there is generational and racial tensions, but as the LGBT community has made tremendous legal progress (through marriage and adoption equality) and broader media acceptability (see, *Modern Family* & *Will and Grace*) a new and deepening economic tension has formed. At the center of this new tension is white privilege and the influence of affluence.

John Stewart Mills, the 19th century ethicist, argues that

ultimately, decisions should be made for the good of all people or at least the majority within the group. For Mills, he used the value of pleasure to weigh ethical debates and determine the ultimate winner. Utilitarianism, this concept of most good for the most amount of people, has been the guiding force in most political debates ever since.

The 20th century ethicist, Carol Gilligan, challenges previous notions of ethics as too often centering on immature selflessness and institutional power. She believes we can find mature reasoning if we have a strong foundation that relies on communal relationships and argues that we can find a balance between self and others. Feminist ethics, while new as a concept, is rooted in ancient communal notions. This form of ethics finds conclusions by embracing dependency and mutual care.

When faced with an ethical dilemma a diverse set of ethical skills are needed to find a solution. Ethics, at its foundation, is the process of taking care of the basic needs and legitimate expectations of those within our community (Weston, 2018).

For the ethical dilemma described above I would suggest the constituents involved need to practice mindful dialogue and value congruence.



There are a number of rules for fruitful dialogue. While none of these should be earth shattering, in the discussions about privilege, race, and sexual identities, I believe they are key to our community finding common values. First, authentic listening – each side of the debate has genuine lived experiences. From the horrors of the early AIDS epidemic and wanting to find celebration in today's more accepting climate, to every day oppression at the hands of over-policing and the impact of mass incarceration.

This leads to the second rule, connect, while these are complex issues finding common ground among shared experience will bring the two sides together. Lastly, the two groups must take advantage of openings and stay engaged.

Once common ground is found, the two sides must build on these shared experiences to create lasting relationships and community.

These suggestions sound wonderful in theory, but understandably they are challenging to execute in practice. Barriers will arise when pushing for meaningful dialogue. Often, the two sides will give up too soon, bending under the pressure. Keeping the discussion constructive and moving forward is key to success. Each side will also have 'resisters,' those that love the debate and will fight to keep the debate going. Good facilitators would help keep the group grounded in their shared values. The impact of silencers and the silenced can potentially stop

Membership Application

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SLOWLY THE WORLD TURNS

Thanks to our renewing members. Unfortunately, many have not renewed in 2020. Membership dues are used to provide support, education, and advocacy on behalf of our LGBTQ+ community and their families. They enable us to provide monthly meetings, infoline, newsletters, educational brochures, etc. Will you help?

You may apply online (pflag.com), in person at a meeting or using the form above and pay via PayPal or check. All donations and memberships are tax deductible.

NEXT IN LINE (CONTINUED)

meaningful solutions from occurring, especially in discussions over privilege and supremacy. In our dilemma above, silencing is a real problem. Again, the groups must fall back on shared values and authentic listening to guide them through these difficult moments.

While many of these confrontations around privilege, trans* and racial justice will be led by impacted groups and marginalized people, there is a significant role that allies (those coming from the privilege class) will play in finding solutions. As many heterosexuals contributed to gay and lesbian equality, white cisgender gay men and women will help advance the cause of justice for our fellow community members. The time for solidarity and equality is now."

SUPPORT GROUPS

SAN DIEGO METRO

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 metrosdc@pflag.com**

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

Meets the 1st Monday from 6:30-8:30 pm at Pilgrim UCC, 2020 Chestnut Avenue, Carlsbad. **Annette: 760-518-3345 |**

northcountycostalsdc@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.

Bridget: 619-647-6479 | eastcountysdc@pflag.com

SOUTH BAY

Meets 3rd Tuesday from 7:15-8:15, South Bay Youth Center, 1180 Third Avenue, Suite C1, Chula Vista.

Patti: 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

DEL SUR

Meets 2nd Tuesday from 7:00-8:30 pm, Del Sur Ranch House, 15455 Paseo Del Sur, San Diego

Theresa: 4sdelsursdc@pflag.com

POWAY LGBTQ YOUTH SUPPORT/HIGH SCHOOL AND OUR SPACE-POWAY--LGBTQIA/MIDDLE SCHOOL

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm

St. Bart's Church, 16275 Pomerado Road, Poway.

Poway: Al: 858-382-2262 | al@transfamilyosos.org

Our Space:Des: 760-913-7073 | des@transfamilyosos.org

MI FAMILIA (Spanish)

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

Patti: 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

IT TOOK LONG ENOUGH

San Diego is the only major city in North America that does not have an AIDS Memorial, but that will finally change as plans are currently underway for an official groundbreaking ceremony to be held later this year in Olive Street Park in the Bankers Hill neighborhood, just a few blocks from Balboa Park.

The Executive Committee of the San Diego AIDS Memorial Task Force, whose co-chairs are first lady of San Diego Katherine Stuart-Faulconer and City Commissioner Nicole Murray Ramirez met last week at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral to discuss final plans for the AIDS Memorial within Olive Street Park. Nicole, who is the founder of the AIDS Memorial, has continuously lobbied for more than 30 years for the establishment of a memorial in San Diego, Mayor Kevin Faulconer established the AIDS Memorial Task Force to come up with a location and design for the memorial and after nearly five years of meetings, site visits, Parks and Recreation processes, and votes, the Olive Street Park location was selected when it was proposed by then-City Councilman Todd Gloria and approved unanimously by the San Diego City Council.

"The overwhelming feedback from San Diegans affected by the AIDS crisis was that they wanted a quiet, peaceful place to go and remember the over 8,000 men, women and children we have lost to AIDS," stated Susan Jester, founder of San Diego AIDS Walk. Some LGBTQ+ San Diegans felt the memorial should be in Hillcrest by the rainbow flag and crosswalk, while others felt it should be in Balboa Park.

The San Diego AIDS Memorial Task Force announced its goals and three plans more than five years ago at a press conference held at Mama's Kitchen and since then, has received overwhelming support from San Diegans, though there has been minor organized opposition by proponents of the Hillcrest rainbow flag location. "I believe that San Diegans will approve of and embrace the AIDS memorial in the new Olive Street Park," stated Murray Ramirez. He also said, "The San Diego AIDS Memorial is being built with the love and memories we have of the over 8,000 people we have lost. They must never ever be forgotten."



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