

"Homosexuality and Public Life" is topic of upcoming UCSD conference

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"HOMOSEXUALITY AND PUBLIC LIFE" IS TOPIC OF UPCOMING UCSD CONFERENCE

Several notable local and national speakers will participate in "Homosexuality and Public Life," a free public conference scheduled at the University of California, San Diego from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12 in the Price Center Theater on the La Jolla campus. Parking costs \$6, and permits can be purchased at the information kiosks located on Gilman Drive and Northpoint Drive.

The keynote speaker for the event is Kerry Lobel, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. The day will include panel discussions on the military, politics, family and the community, and a screening of the film "VINTAGE: Families of Value" by Thomas Allen Harris of the UCSD Visual Arts Department.

The conference opens at 8:30 a.m. with remarks by UCSD Chancellor Robert C. Dynes and University Librarian Gerald Lowell, who is also associate vice chancellor for academic information technology.

The first panel discussion will focus on the military. This session begins at 9:00 a.m. and features Keith Meinhold, who fought discharge from the Navy after publicly acknowledging his gay status and retired from military service in 1996 with honors; and Allan Be'rube', author and lecturer whose 1990 book *Coming Out Under Fire* received critical and academic acclaim. The moderator is San Diego attorney Bridget J. Wilson of the firm Rosenstein, Wilson & Dean.

A panel on politics will convene at 10:30 a.m., featuring San Diego City Council Member Christine Kehoe and California Assembly Member Sheila James Kuehl, moderated by Harry N. Hirsch, chair of the UCSD Department of Political Science.

A 90-minute lunch break will begin at noon with food venues available in the Price Center. During the break, there will be a screening of "VINTAGE: Families of Value," a 72-minute film by Thomas Allen Harris, assistant professor of visual arts at UCSD. A Faculty Brown Bag Lunch will be held at 12:30 p.m. featuring Steven Epstein, assistant professor of sociology at UCSD speaking on "Aids Activism, Past, Present and Future."

The program resumes at 1:30 p.m. with a panel on family featuring Melinda Paras, multicultural organizational development consultant and former executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; and Leslea Newman, teacher and author of numerous books including *Heather Has Two Mommies*, moderated by UCSD Thurgood Marshall Dean of Students Rafael Hernandez.

The final panel at 3:00 p.m. will be on community. Panelists will be Elias Farajaje-Jones, Queer Activist, author of *Zion: A Study of the Significance of Afrika for Three Black Religious Movements* and co-editor of *African Creative Expressions of the Divine: African Religions in Diaspora*; and Tony Valenzuela, community activist, who will address youth and HIV/AIDS activist priorities. The panel will be moderated by Karen Marshall, executive director of the San Diego Lesbian and Gay Men's Community Center.

The event will conclude with a keynote presentation by Kerry Lobel, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. She is former lead organizer of the Women's Project in Little Rock, and has served as organizational consultant to 200 groups around the country.

The UCSD conference precedes the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Creating Change Conference taking place in San Diego from Nov. 13-16, with many of the speakers participating in both events.

The UCSD conference is sponsored by the UCSD Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues, and is supported by the UCSD chancellor's office, Thurgood Marshall College Hewlett Diversity and Unity Fund, the UCSD political science department, the UCSD Cross Cultural Center and the UCSD Women's Center.

A complete schedule of events and speakers is available on the Internet at <http://orpheus.ucsd.edu/caclgbi/> or by contacting John White at (619)534-1231.

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