

PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter

September-October 2022 Newsletter



Important Links

Please visit our website:

[PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula](https://www.pflag.org/sanjose/)

Please also visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pflagsanjose/>

2022-2023 Board Members



Marc Fuentes
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Yvonne McGuire
Karen Paese
Windsor Smith
Paul Sonkowsky
Catherine Trejo
Renna Ulvang
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PFLAG Family,

We hope you are enjoying the last days of this beautiful summer and are gently rolling into the school year.

This newsletter begins with a letter from our chapter president, Rosemary Malvey, followed by an introduction of our new LGBTQ+ Elders Podcast, and a tribute to Pat Koopman, prior co-president of our chapter.

Support Group dates and times for September and October can be found on page 4. All meetings are currently virtual on Zoom.

Our PFLAG National topics this edition address how we can keep schools safe for all children, how we can connect our youth to a tool that affirms their identity, and highlights what we can all do to support the Respect for Marriage Equality Act.

In solidarity,

Karen Paese
Chapter VP and Newsletter Editor

Support Meetings



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Letter from the President

Hello PFLAGers,

I smile as I begin this note to all of you. I know you are out there doing what you can in service of our LGBTQ+ family members, friends, and fellow humans across the planet. In PFLAG we have a noble mission: to support, educate and advocate on behalf of all LGBTQ+ humans. We take that quite seriously.

I remember as a new PFLAG member 23 years ago becoming outraged when I acknowledged this hard truth: many people do not think that LGBTQ+ people should have the same rights and privileges as other citizens. But wait, those LGBTQ+ people are MY CHILDREN – my dear, smart, kind and funny adult children. Don't you dare tell me that they don't deserve the same rights as everyone else – the same rights as their elder straight brother. That is simply not true!

Luckily, I found PFLAG and now have an all-inclusive environment for support, education, and advocacy. Thanks to PFLAG, I went from being a crying, scared-of-the-future-for-my-child mother to a strong, emboldened, proud mom who uses all the pillars of PFLAG to live in the world. I know I'm making a difference for my kids and everyone's kids. And I'm in such wonderful company.

Rosemary Malvey



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Introducing our New LGBTQ+Elders Podcast

Rosemary Malvey, our chapter President, launched a new podcast series in August with a goal of bringing greater awareness to the lives of LGBTQ+ elders - those who are and have been living participants in the Bay Area's LGBTQ+ history. In this initial podcast, Rosemary interviewed Rodger L. of Daly City.

Please tune in at this [LINK](#) to learn more about Rodger's life and be inspired by life-long experience as a member of the LGBTQ+ community.

Stay tuned for future installments, expected to be posted on our website every other month.



Remembering Patricia Koopman



On July 12, 2022, Patricia Koopman passed away. Patricia was a fierce ally to the LGBTQ+ community and participated in many pride parades and marches as a member of PFLAG.

She and her husband Pete Koopman were co-presidents of our chapter for many years and were vibrant members of our PFLAG family .

In remembrance of Patricia and her commitment and legacy with our chapter, the San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Chapter Board made a donation in Pat's name to Luther Burbank Education Association to support the school where she worked for 25 years teaching 4th and 5th grades

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Important Links

You may also contact us by:



info@pflagsanjose



(408) 270-8182



P.O. Box 2718
Sunnyvale, CA
94087

To join, renew your membership, or donate by credit card, visit one of the two links below:

[Join/Renew](#)
[Donate](#)

Or print, fill out, and mail the attached PDF form with your check.

For you AmazonSmile shoppers out there, please be sure to choose [PFLAG San Jose-Peninsula](#) as your charity.



Remember to take advantage of your employer match when donating to PFLAG as well as your employer volunteer time programs!

Support Meeting Schedule

We are gradually initiating hybrid meetings. In select meetings you may join us online via Zoom or in person. See the table below for details.

To participate in full video (preferred) or by phone, email info@pflagsanjose.org beforehand, or leave a message at [\(408\) 270-8182](tel:4082708182); we'll respond with the information you'll need to join the meeting. If you share your email address, we'll continue sending that information in subsequent months, so you won't have to request it each time as we vary it to protect your security.

Dates and Times	Meetings
September 7 th October 5 th 7:30 p.m.	Estamos Contigo (PFLAG en Español). This meeting is the <u>first Wednesday</u> of the month. Zoom only.
September 3 rd October 1 st 10:00 a.m.	Parents of Transgender Youth This meeting is always on the <u>first Saturday</u> of the month Zoom only.
September 12 th October 10 th 7:00 p.m.	General Support, Peninsula This meeting is always on the <u>second Monday</u> of the month Zoom only.
September 14 th October 12 th 7:30 p.m.	General Support, South Bay This meeting is always on the <u>second Wednesday</u> of the month Zoom only.
September 20 th October 18 th 7:00 p.m.	Asian/Pacific Islander (API). This meeting is the <u>third Tuesday</u> of the month. Zoom only
September 15 th October 20 th 7:00 p.m.	Board Meetings – <u>Third Thursday</u> of the month Zoom only

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2022 PFLAG Scholarship Winner



JoJo Weller (they)

In our last newsletter we highlighted the San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG Chapter awarded seven students with scholarships on May 20, 2022. We want to take a moment to share the name and photo of the recipient of the Max Heckler Memorial Scholarship which was listed as anonymous last month.

Max Heckler
Memorial Scholar

Recent Events



Silicon Valley Pride: On August 28th our chapter marched in the Silicon Valley Pride Parade and then participated in the festival that followed. A special thanks to all our marchers and those who supported the table at the festival. The new banner looked great!



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Upcoming Events

LGBTQ+ Allyship Symposium

Okaeri's 2022 Allyship Symposium, set for September 17th, 2022, is a one-day virtual symposium covering the topic of LGBTQ+ allyship in six areas: family (Japanese speaking), family (English speaking), work, school, faith (Christian), and faith (Buddhist).



Sat, September 17, 2022
10:00 AM – 5:30 PM PDT

Through this symposium, they hope to bring together understandings of allyship across these spaces through the lens of the Japanese American LGBTQ+ community, and give attendees clear takeaways that they can implement in their own lives.

Please refer to the flyer at this [LINK](#) for more program details.

Out to Eat –

**Peninsula's favorite party celebrating
LGBTQIA+ youth!**

Thursday, October 27, 6pm to 9pm
Oshman Family JCC
(Freidenrich Conference Room on the 4th
Floor)
3921 Fabian Way | Palo Alto, CA
(Palo Alto

<https://www.outtoeat.org>



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Helpful Safe Schools Resources from PFLAG National



[*Cultivating Respect: Safe Schools for All*](#) is a publication from PFLAG National that offers ways to make schools safer for all students, including LGBTQ+ students. This guide is available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#), and can be downloaded for free or [purchased from our store](#).

[SafeSchoolsForAll.org](#) provides all of the information and resources you need should you need to file a claim of school-based harassment or discrimination. Created through a partnership with PFLAG National, GLSEN, GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), and National Center for Lesbian Rights, SafeSchoolsForAll.org offers resources for students, parents, teachers, and administrators.

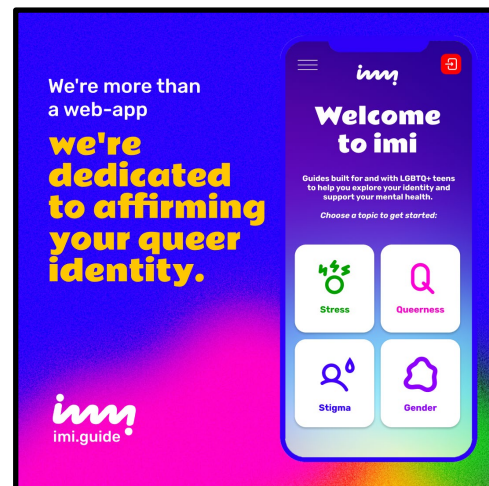


PFLAG National is Raising Awareness about imi

“imi was created through a collaboration of LGBTQ+ organizations, and hundreds of LGBTQ+ young people from across the country – it’s a tool for LGBTQ+ teens, by LGBTQ+ teens and their allies.

“Since launching in early 2020, imi has been designed with input and contributions from hundreds of LGBTQ+ teens (and counting) focusing on representation from BIPOC, trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming youth.”

*From the imi [homepage](#) – check out the site to learn more !



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**Keep Pressure up on BOTH of our Senators
to support the Respect for Marriage Act**

The Respect for Marriage Act, abbreviated as RFMA, is a proposed bill in the United States Congress to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and require the U.S. federal government to recognize the validity of same-sex marriages in the United States.

PFLAG National urges us to call **BOTH** of our Senators **once a week** to impact getting this critical legislation over the finish line, passed in the Senate and signed into law by President Biden.

Passed by the House on 7/19/22 with 267 yeas to 157 nays, the Senate read the Respect for Marriage Act a second time on 7/21/2022 and it has been placed on the Legislative Calendar under General Orders- Calendar Number 449 and is anticipated to be voted on in September.



New Suicide and Crisis Lifeline- 988- effective July 16, 2022

The new 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is a United States-based suicide prevention network of over 160 crisis centers that provides 24/7 service via a toll-free hotline with the number 9-8-8. It is available to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress.

The lifeline is available in English and in Spanish. Individuals can call or text this number.

For more information- here is a link to an [informative article](#) from the Washington Post

