

PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter

January-February 2023 Newsletter



Important Links

Please visit our website:

[PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula](https://www.pflag.org/san-jose-peninsula)

Please also visit our Facebook page:

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

2022-2023 Board Members



Marc Fuentes
Rosemary Malvey
Yvonne McGuire
Karen Paese
Windsor Smith
Paul Sonkowsky
Catherine Trejo
Renna Ulvang
Gloria Falcinelli
Sara Larson
Nadia Sánchez

PFLAG Family,

What a whirlwind last few months we have experienced as we head into 2023. On November 22, our community reeled from news of the shooting in **Colorado Springs** where 5 individuals in the LGBTQ+ community perished due to their injuries.

Fast forward to December 13th and we found ourselves again hopeful as **President Biden signed the Respect for Marriage Act (RSMA) into law.** While a step in the right direction, there is still work for us to do.

You will find **Rosemary's President's letter on page 2** followed by the **Support Group** dates and times for January and February **on page 3.** All meetings are currently virtual on Zoom however we are hopeful to return to the Pride Center in February for a hybrid experience.

If you have not yet done so, please participate in our Annual Membership Drive. Thank you! (see page 9)

Finally, please provide your feedback on the newsletter survey so we can align our content to your needs.

In solidarity,

Karen Paese
Chapter VP and Newsletter Editor

Support Meetings



Pg.3

PFLAG National



Pg. 8

Recent and Upcoming Activities



Pg.4-5

PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter January-February 2023 Newsletter

Letter from the President

Hello PFLAG Friends ... Happy holidays to all of you as well as your families and friends.

No matter where you are in these lead-up-to-the-big days weeks, may the spirit of the holidays be what drives and motivates you as you participate in this season of giving.

Yes, give what you can or want to give to those you love, but be sure to put yourself at the top of your list. Ask yourself, "What do I need to feel safe and refreshed, from now until mid-January?" And then set out to get those things for yourself. Your family and friends will be happy knowing you are caring for yourself first and foremost. It takes them off the hook in that category.

As we look toward 2023, maybe you can make a pledge to be of service to the LGBTQ+ population in some new (to you) way.

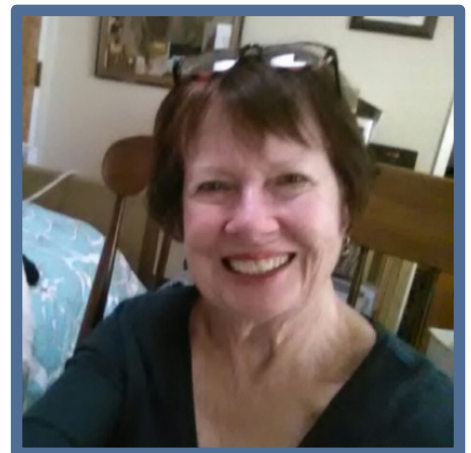
- Would you like to join the chapter board of directors?
- Consider taking over one of the three open service positions: Volunteer Coordinator, Speakers Bureau Manager or 2023 Scholarship Chairperson. I have job descriptions for each position. Call or text me.
- Brainstorm with me or another Board executive (Karen & Windsor) to see where your gifts and skills can benefit our chapter.

Thanks for being PFLAG members. Thanks for financial donations, membership donations as well as time and talent donations.

Please know that you are deeply appreciated for all that you do locally and out there in the wide, wide world of LGBTQ support. We couldn't begin to do what we do all year, without your assistance.

Be well. Be safe. Be LGBTQ+ and allies and be proud.

Rosemary



PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter January-February 2023 Newsletter

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**; 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
January 4th February 1st 7:30 p.m.	Estamos Contigo (PFLAG en Español). This meeting is the <u>first Wednesday</u> of the month. Zoom only.
January 7th February 4th 10:00 a.m.	Parents of Transgender Youth This meeting is always on the <u>first Saturday</u> of the month Zoom only.
January 9th February 13th 7:00 p.m.	General Support, Peninsula This meeting is always on the <u>second Monday</u> of the month Zoom only In January; potentially hybrid in February. Please refer to Windsor's email for final decision re: February as we get closer
January 11th February 8th 7:30 p.m.	General Support, South Bay This meeting is always on the <u>second Wednesday</u> of the month Zoom only.
January 17th February 21st 7:00 p.m.	Asian/Pacific Islander (API). This meeting is the <u>third Tuesday</u> of the month. Zoom only
January 19th February 16th 7:00 p.m.	Board Meetings – <u>Third Thursday</u> of the month Zoom only

PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter January-February 2023 Newsletter

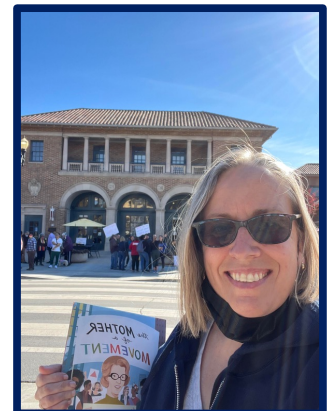
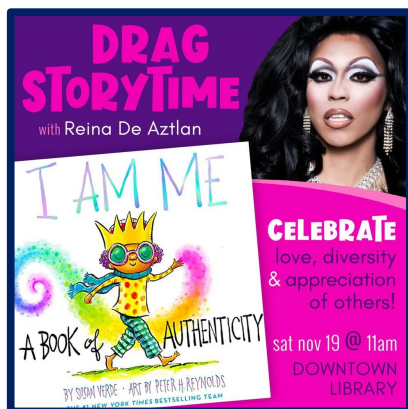
Recent Events

On Saturday, November 12th the Silicon Valley Pride Marketing and Outreach Committee hosted a **Trans Awareness Celebration** at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Downtown San Jose. **Catherine "Kitty" Trejo, Marti Wright, Windsor Smith and Fernando Muñoz** were present at our PFLAG table at the event.



On Saturday Nov. 19 - **Paul Sonkowsky, Marc Fuentes, Karen Paese and Moises Sabio** from our PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula chapter joined other LGBTQQIA community members and allies at the Redwood City Library to protect the library's Drag Storytime from anti-gay interference.

The program was part of Redwood City Public Library's "United Against Hate Week."



PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter January-February 2023 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

eQuality Scholarship Collaborative: PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula awards \$6000 scholarships to honor and encourage California students for their service to the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community as part of the collaborative.

Scholarships may be used for post-secondary education at accredited institutions - colleges, universities, and trade schools. Some of the scholarships are specifically for medical school.



Application Deadline is 1/31/23– Application Link Here: [LINK](#)

New Website Coming Soon !



In early Q1 2023 we are targeting the release of a new and improved version of our PFLAG San Jose/ Peninsula chapter website.

A task force has been working with Belladia Marketing and Design on the new version for months and you can look forward to a cleaner, simpler design with updated information and a more attractive and legible interface.

Stay tuned for further information on the transition.

PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter January-February 2023 Newsletter

Check out this New Interview in our LGBTQ+Elders Podcast Series

In this interview series, we give voice to LGBTQ elders in our midst who have precious stories to share. In living their lives, they have had front row seats to equality advances, declines, triumphs, and tragedies. PFLAG San Jose / Peninsula is providing a microphone and a platform so they can share their lives with us.

In this second installment, Rosemary Malvey, our chapter President, interviews Ann Hollingsworth. Ann is an artist currently living in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Ann H. talks about her struggles as a female contractor working in a man's world, as well as the complicated legal process of becoming a parent.

Link to the Ann H. episode: <https://pflagsanjose.buzzsprout.com/2091494/11781622-november-2022-ann-h>

A third installment is planned for February 2023.

As a reminder here is a link to the overall podcast series
<https://pflagsanjose.buzzsprout.com>



PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter January-February 2023 Newsletter

Biden Signed the Respect for Marriage Act (RFMA) into Law Dec 13, 2022

Over the last several editions of the newsletter we watched the RFMA get approved by the House and head to the Senate. Fast forward to December 13, 2022, and not only had the Senate approved it but President Biden signed it into law.

A primary driver to pass the Respect for Marriage Act was the potential for the Supreme Court to overturn *Obergefell*. While a step in the right direction, the Respect for Marriage Act has limitations.

From NPR:

"If the Court were to overturn *Obergefell*, the legality of same-sex marriages would revert to state law — and the majority of states would prohibit it. The Respect for Marriage Act wouldn't change that, but it requires all states to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states and federally recognizes these marriages."

Here is [a link to an NPR article](#) that was published on 12/13/22. The article does a good job explaining exactly what the act does and does not do for the LGBTQ community.



Photo: Getty Images



Photo by Barbara Simon

PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter January-February 2023 Newsletter

PFLAG National



For those of you who have never tuned into a session of “**Something to Talk About LIVE**,” PFLAG offers a **weekly broadcast series designed by PFLAG National’s Straight for Equality program**.

Every Thursday afternoon for a 30-minutes there is a panel discussion on LGBTQ+ topics. Participants can add questions and comments to help drive the conversation.

For example:

- On December 1st, the topic was [World AIDS Day draws attention to the epidemic](#)
- On December 13th, the topic was [DHS warns of domestic terror threats to LGBTQ, Jewish and migrant communities](#)

The sessions are timely with respect to current events and are a good way to stay connected and hear other people’s perspectives on these important topics to our community.

Previous versions of episodes of the series can be viewed on Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, at the following [PFLAG National Link](#)

PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter January-February 2023 Newsletter

Newsletter Survey- We Want to Hear from You!

As we enter 2023, we want to take the pulse on how you are all feeling about the current newsletter.

Please forward the email you received with this edition of the newsletter to kpaese33@gmail.com and include your responses next to the survey questions in the body of the email.



We look forward to aligning the newsletter with your interests and needs as much as possible.

PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Annual Membership Drive

All current and prospective PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter Members,

December marked the beginning of our annual membership drive. Current members, keep a lookout for a mailing in December for renewal. [The following link](#) can also be used to renew online.

For those of you who have not yet joined, becoming a members helps support activities of our local chapter and a portion goes to support PFLAG National's efforts as well.

- Family Membership \$40
- Individual Membership \$30
- Student Membership \$15

Thank you!

