

# PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter

## March-April 2024



### PFLAG Family,

March is upon us, and we are all glad to see the days starting to lengthen again. We are just starting our annual membership drive so keep an eye out for a renewal letter very soon. Details on page 8.

Our scholarship applicant readers were very busy in February and we look forward to the scholarship luncheon in May where we will award our PFLAG scholarships to the recipients. We are very proud of the scholarships we provide. When renewing your membership dues, please consider an additional donation for the scholarship fund to assist us in keeping this wonderful tradition going.

In April we will have our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 7:30pm. At that time, we will elect (up to) four new board members. If you would like to attend, please send an email requesting the link to [info@pflagsanjose.org](mailto:info@pflagsanjose.org). I also want to share Gloria Falcinelli resigned from the board in early January and we want to thank her for her support in 2023 — especially her role in the 2023 scholarship committee.

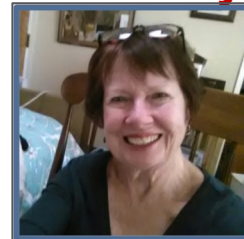
Before you know it, we'll be celebrating Pride Month in June. I have included several "Save the Dates" in the newsletter for you on page 6. In the meantime, you can see where the chapter has been so far in Q1 and a look ahead to March/April activities.

Speaking of summer on page 7, I have included some new information on Brave Trails Camp in case you would like to consider it for your youths' summer programming.



In solidarity,  
Karen Paese, Chapter VP and Newsletter Editor

### Rosemary



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### Important Links

Please visit our website:

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

Please also visit our Facebook page:

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

### 2023-2024 Board Members



Marc Fuentes  
Rosemary Malvey  
Yvonne McGuire  
Karen Paese  
Windsor Smith  
Paul Sonkowsky  
Renna Ulvang  
Sara Larson  
Katherine Adelman

### Support Meetings



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### Recent Chapter Activities



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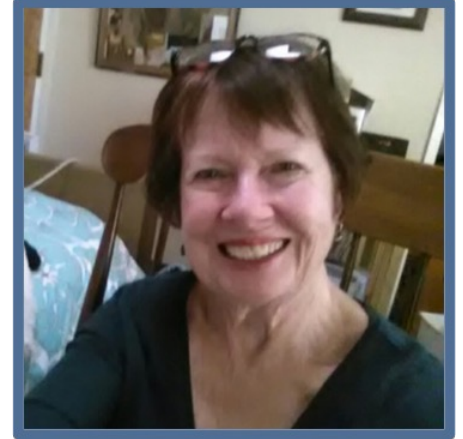
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### Letter from the President

Happy Spring to all of you. The little catkins on our old willow tree are just showing up as I write to you - a welcome sight. And we continue to be grateful for the recent measures of rain. Northern California nature is happy right now.

In 1998, when my youngest son (a college student) came out to me as a gay man, happy to be in his first serious same-sex relationship, I said and did all the 'right' things. I thanked him for telling me. I told him that I was happy to know that he loved and was loved back by Sean. I told him that the news of his being gay would in no way change our relationship. I told him I loved him and was proud of him. I hugged him and we both went on with our day.



The very next day, I found myself trembling with fear. How would the world treat my gay son? Would he be denied job and career opportunities? Would he get physically or emotionally abused? Would he get sick with AIDS? I was full of trepidation on behalf of my child. I called a gay friend and told him my experience. He said, "Call my mother." His mother said, "Go to PFLAG!" I said, "What's PFLAG?" She told me what and when and shortly thereafter I found myself at a large group meeting. My journey had begun.

Over time, with lots of meetings, my fear subsided. I slowly moved into acceptance. Eventually, I became an LGBTQ ally and an advocate. I've never looked back. PFLAG membership gave me everything I needed to move forward with my dear son.

Fifteen years ago, when my then 35-year-old daughter called to tell me that she'd just realized that she was a lesbian and that now all her "puzzle-pieces fit," I said, "Thanks for letting me know. I love you. You go girl!! Be happy."

What about that, I now had two gay kids? Good for me. Good for my family. How far I had come! I hope you are taking advantage of all that PFLAG has to offer. You and your family deserve the education, support and advocacy that we provide. If you haven't already done so, please check out our national and chapter websites: <https://pflag.org/>

and <https://pflagsanjose.org/>. Treat yourself to love and support. Take advantage of all of our many resources. Enjoy yourselves and your families. You all deserve the best.

In loving congeniality,

Rosemary M.



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### Important Links

You may also contact us by:



[info@pflagsanjose](mailto: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](#)

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

### Support Meeting Schedule

To participate in full Zoom video (preferred) or by Zoom phone, email [info@pflagsanjose.org](mailto: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.

You will note below, some support groups are only zoom, some only in person and some are hybrid.

- Also, please remember we have a One-to-One Support offering: Just send an email to [info@pflagsanjose.org](mailto:info@pflagsanjose.org) or leave a message at (408) 270-8182, and ask about "one-to-one support". Let us know if you have a preferred language other than English.

Dates and Times	Meetings
March 6 <sup>th</sup> and April 3 <sup>rd</sup> 7:30 p.m.	Estamos Contigo (PFLAG en Español). This meeting is the <u>first Wednesday</u> of the month. <b>Zoom only for March and April.</b>
March 2 <sup>nd</sup> and April 6 <sup>th</sup> March 16 <sup>th</sup> and April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Families of Trans Youth -This meeting is always on the <u>first and third Saturday</u> of the month. <b>First meeting of the month is in person</b> at the Redwood City Main Library and <b>third Saturday of the month is via Zoom. Please note the March mtg will be in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor community room and the April mtg in the small conference room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.</b>
March 11 <sup>th</sup> and April 8 <sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.	General Support, Peninsula This meeting is always on the <u>second Monday</u> of the month <b>and is now hybrid (in-person and Zoom) ; feel free to join us at the San Mateo Pride Center</b>
March 13 <sup>th</sup> and April 10 <sup>th</sup> 7:30 p.m.	General Support, South Bay This meeting is always on the <u>second Wednesday</u> of the month <b>Zoom only.</b>
March 19 <sup>th</sup> and April 16 <sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.	Asian/Pacific Islander (API). This meeting is the <u>third Tuesday</u> of the month. <b>Zoom only</b>
March 21 <sup>st</sup> and April 18 <sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.	Board Meetings – <u>Third Thursday</u> of the month <b>Zoom only</b>

# PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter

## March-April

### Recent and Upcoming PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Activity in the Community

#### Celina Rodriguez Interview January 11, 2024

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, **Celina Rodriguez** interviewed **Nadia Sanchez**, one of the founding members of PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Support Group, “Estamos Contigo,” Support Group for Spanish Speakers and **Moises Sabio**, current co-facilitator of the Spanish speaker’s support group.

During the interview Nadia and Moises participated in a dialogue on the role of parents in their child’s coming out process as well as the sometimes difficult choices one must make with respect to distancing from family and friends that do not support one’s child’s journey.

They also discussed the many resources that are available to families during the process from support groups like PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula to doctors and clinics that provide both medical and mental health support.



#### Sequoia High School Pride Fair Event February 16, 2024

On Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, **Windsor Smith** and **Randy Freedman** represented our PFLAG chapter at this year’s event.

# PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter

## March-April

### Recent Activities

#### PFLAG Chapter Leaders meet Brian Bond, PFLAG National Chief Executive Officer March 5, 2024

Board members **Karen Paese, Windsor Smith, and Paul Sonkowsky** enjoyed dinner with Brian Bond, Emily Zelaya - Mid-Pacific Regional Leader, and other local chapter leaders in San Francisco. The meeting was a great opportunity to meet other passionate parents and members of the LGBTQ+ community who are part of the greater PFLAG family. They were able to learn what other local chapters are planning for programming in 2024.

Brian shared recent PFLAG National's recent advocacy efforts in terms of lawsuits in key states such as Texas. We are very proud to be part of PFLAG! Brian was incredibly inspiring to us all! Below is more information from PFLAG National for your reference.



#### Court Halts Latest Effort by Texas Attorney General to Persecute Texas Families with Transgender Youth

March 1, 2024

[LINK](#)



#### PFLAG National Asks Court to Block the Texas Attorney General's Latest Targeting of Texan Families with Transgender Youth

February 29, 2024

[LINK](#)

# PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter March-April

## Upcoming Activities

**Trans Day of Visibility 2024**  
**Saturday, March 30th, 1PM - 4PM**



Elevating Trans/nonbinary/  
gender queer artists and small  
business owners.

**Save the Pride Date(s) for 2024!**  
**We will update you as we hear more !**

- **June 1:** Pacifica Pride
- **June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Filoli's 2024 Pride Weekend
- **June 8:** San Mateo County Pride
- **June 9:** Half Moon Bay Pride
- **June 29-30:** San Francisco Pride, "Beacon of Love"
- **August 24-25:** Silicon Valley Pride



# PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter March-April

## Summer Camp Possibility

**Brave Trails - “The Most Inspiring Summer Camp For LGBTQ Youth !”**

[Camp Brave Trails](#) is a fully accredited overnight summer camp specially designed for LGBTQ teens, ages 12-17, emphasizing leadership development. Our goal is to foster a supportive space where LGBTQ youth can connect with like-minded individuals, explore their identities, and pursue their passions. While our campgrounds are located in California and New York, we enthusiastically welcome campers from across the country and around the world!

## SUMMER 2024

### DATES & RATES

SESSION 1	SESSION 2	SESSION 3	SESSION 4	SESSION 5
CALIFORNIA	CALIFORNIA	CALIFORNIA	CALIFORNIA	NEW YORK
JUNE 15 - 23, 2024	JUNE 29 - JULY 7, 2024	JULY 13 - 21, 2024	JULY 27 - AUG 4, 2024	AUG 15 - 23, 2024



\* This information was shared with the PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula board and we are passing it along for your consideration; this is not an endorsement from PFLAG\*

# PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter March-April

## PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula

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

**Please keep an eye out for the mailing of the annual membership renewal drive expected to be distributed shortly.**

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

We would be very grateful if you considered a separate donation to the scholarship fund, perhaps in memory of Marti Wright — long-time chapter member, board member and officer who recently passed in December 2023. We will have a memorial article on Marti in the next newsletter. She was an amazing woman.



Also, if you are making larger donation, please send a check to help avoid the credit card transaction fees, of almost 5%.

Thank you!

