

# PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter

## May – June 2024



### 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/pflag-san-jose/>

### 2024-2025 Board Members



Rosemary Malvey  
Yvonne McGuire  
Karen Paese  
Windsor Smith  
Paul Sonkowsky  
Renna Ulvang  
Sara Larson  
Nina O.  
Jessica Gachet  
Peter Fournier

PFLAG Family,

I first want to update you on our **annual meeting on April 10, 2024**. We were fortunate to recruit three new members to the PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Board. At the same time, we announced that Sara Larson is now our chapter president. Sara has been an active member of the board, and we look forward to partnering with her in her new leadership role. On Page 2 there is a more detailed account of the Annual Meeting, officer changes, and volunteer roles. On page 3, please read Sara's president letter to the members !

**We are recruiting for the following roles:**

- Board secretary
- Co-Volunteer Coordinator

If you are interested, please reach out to: [info@pflag-san-jose.org](mailto:info@pflag-san-jose.org) or leave a message at (408) 270-8182.

**Jessica Gachet**, a new board member joins us with an interest and commitment to advocacy. Learn more about her reflection on **LGBTQ+ Advocacy Day in Sacramento** on page 6.

As we approach June, more and more Pride Events are publishing dates and times. Check out page 7 for the latest and greatest list of Pride events and page 8 for a free online nature event. I have annotated which events the chapter will be present; we hope to see many of you there!

For those of you who knew and loved **Marti Wright** as much as we did, you will find a heartfelt tribute to her by her wife, Kitty Trejo on page 9. This chapter was fortunate for many years to have her as a board member, officer, and friend.



In solidarity,  
Karen Paese, Newsletter Editor/  
Spanish Support Group Co-Facilitator

**Sara**



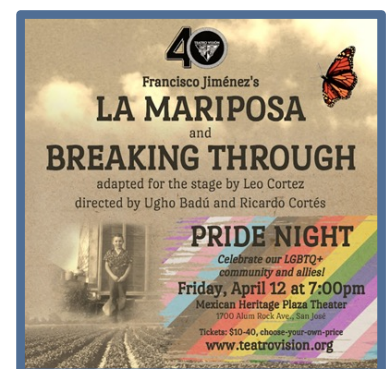
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### Support Meetings



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### Recent Chapter Activities



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### Board Member Elections, Officer Changes, and Recent Volunteer Role Assignments

#### Board Membership:

The board was busy in Q1 preparing for the Annual Meeting held on April 10, 2024. At the Annual meeting, the board reviews and accepts the minutes from the prior year's annual meeting, elects new board members and addresses any new business that is raised. During this year's annual meeting three new members joined the board: **Nina O.**, **Jessica Gachet**, and **Peter Fournier**. All three of our new members are parents of trans youth, which also represents the chapter's greatest area of growth. We could not be happier to welcome them all to the board. Nina is no stranger to many of you as she initiated and has been singlehandedly responsible for the Families of Trans Youth Support Group for many years! Two individuals stepped down from their board member roles, **Marc Fuentes** and **Katherine Adelman** — we are very grateful for the time they served. Marc was a long-standing PFLAG member and an amazing secretary for the board. We wish them well on their next endeavors.

**Officer Changes:** **Rosemary Malvey** and **Karen Paese** stepped down from their roles as president and vice president respectively and will retain their board positions as well as their project assignments. Please welcome **Sara Larson** as the new chapter president. Sara joined the board in 2023 and you can learn more about her in her letter to us all on the next page! The vice president role remains vacant for now. **Windsor Smith** has graciously agreed to stay on as chapter treasurer, and we seek a chapter secretary.

**Volunteer Role Assignments:** **Windsor Smith** will remain as Event Coordinator and will be joined by **Randy Friedman** and **Shelly Folsom**. **Gloria Falcinelli** will be Co-Volunteer Coordinator and we seek a Co-Volunteer to share that job

**We are very grateful for all our board members and members at large who take on these and many other important volunteer roles for our chapter. Without all of you, we could not be out in the community and impactful as we are.**

If you would like to be added to our list of volunteers who staff tables at events like this [or Pride Events and the like], handing out booklets and describing the work of PFLAG and our chapter contact us at [info@pflagsanjose.org](mailto:info@pflagsanjose.org) or leave a message at (408) 270-8182.

**Thank you!**

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### Letter from the new chapter president, Sara Larson



Hi! I'm the new president of the San Jose/Peninsula chapter of PFLAG. I am a stay-at-home mother of a transgender son who lives with me, with my husband and my mother also in the same house. My daughter is in grad school in LA. In a multi-generational household, it can be hard to discuss LGBTQ issues frankly and openly. My son leads the way, talking about whatever is on his mind.

Lately, issues have included, how people's voices on the Discord app affect how they are perceived, how LGBTQ friends back in Florida are faring, and how much effort to put into maintaining relationships with family members we love, who are not LGBTQ affirming.

I came to PFLAG when I lived in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. It was one of two organizations I belonged to, in the early days after my son came out to me as transgender. One great thing about PFLAG meetings, is that they are for everybody.

Don't give up on creating change in your world, just because the world is big, and you are just one person. You are a person, and that means you matter. Know your worth and do what you can to change your world.

Sara

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### Important Links

You may also contact us by:



[info@pflagsanjose.org](mailto:info@pflagsanjose.org)



(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
May 1 <sup>st</sup> and June 5 <sup>th</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 May and potentially in person for June- stay tuned.</b>
May 4 <sup>th</sup> and June 1 <sup>st</sup> May 18 <sup>th</sup> and June 15 <sup>th</sup> 10am- Noon	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 May and June in-person meetings will both be held in the small conference room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.</b>
May 13 <sup>th</sup> and June 10 <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>
May 8 <sup>th</sup> and June 12 <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>
May 21 <sup>st</sup> and June 18 <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 16 <sup>th</sup> and April 20 <sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.	Board Meetings – <u>Third Thursday</u> of the month <b>Zoom only</b>

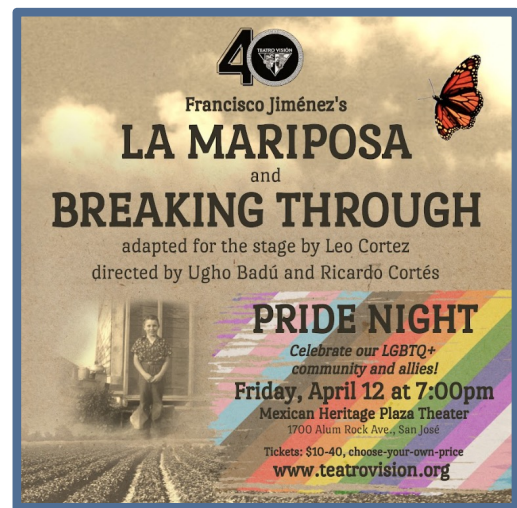
# PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter

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

#### Teatro Visión Pride Night Performance:

On April 12<sup>th</sup> **Windsor Smith** and **Fernando Muñoz** tabled at the performance of Francisco Jiménez's *La Mariposa* and *Breaking Through*, at the Mexican Heritage Plaza Theater. The performance was to honor LGBTQ+ community members and allies. Windsor shared it was very well attended and they had the opportunity to interact with interested visitors to their table.



**Urban Think Tank Series:** This discussion series for chapter board members, started in April, is facilitated by PFLAG National and serves as a place to discuss specific challenges that come with being in a city or region with multiple sources of LGBTQ support. **Paul Sonkowsky, Jessica Gachet, and Nina O.** are representing our chapter in this new bimonthly series.



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#### My Two Different Years at LGBTQ+ Advocacy Day in Sacramento by Jessica Gachet

For two years now I have volunteered to be part of Equality California's LGBTQ+ Advocacy Day in Sacramento. As someone new to advocacy who has never before spoken to a politician, it has been a great way to learn and get involved. This year there were over 120 volunteers who learned about LGBTQ+ positive legislation in progress and broke into small groups to meet personally with the offices of over 90 lawmakers.

Each year that I attended, we focused on twelve pieces of priority state legislation (<https://www.eqca.org/legislation/#>). The volunteers, split in groups, shared our personal stories with lawmakers and asked for their support. After a long day, we got to listen to several legislators from California's Legislative LGBTQ Caucus talk to us about their years of experience and hope for our future, leading progress for all Americans.

Both years my experience was extremely educational and inspiring, but they were quite different. On my first Advocacy Day, I was in a group that happened to be assigned to talk mostly with very LGBTQ+ friendly legislators. Some of the legislators we met with were even part of the LGBTQ Caucus or had written the very bills we were asking them to support. It was very emotional and profound to hear everyone's stories, but compared to some other groups, ours was a cake walk! It was an easy way to get my feet wet.

This year, for my second LGBTQ+ Advocacy Day, I was put in a group that met with some legislators who were more politically conservative or even hostile to LGBTQ+ rights, so it was very different. One senator's staff even moved us out into the hallway and told us about violent threats their staff received warning them not to vote for LGBTQ+ positive legislation. But then there was also an assembly member who seemed cautious but met with us personally and really listened and even asked questions. I realized that we might not agree with everyone on everything, but by being there and sharing, we can help our legislators make better decisions for the people living in their districts.

I will definitely be attending again. If you want to learn more about legislation in California and get involved, I highly recommend it! You get to meet others working for LGBTQ+ rights in all parts of our state. As part of an energetic group, it is a way less scary first experience speaking directly to our representatives - and seeing a bit of how the sausage gets made. I hope you will join me next spring!

Jessica

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### Upcoming Activities

Save the Pride Date(s) for 2024!

- **June 1:** Pacifica Pride
- **June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Filoli's 2024 Pride Weekend
- **June 2<sup>nd</sup>:** San Mateo County Fair Family Pride
- **June 8<sup>th</sup>:** San Mateo County Pride
- **June 9<sup>th</sup>:** Half Moon Bay Pride
- **June 15<sup>th</sup>:** San Jose Earthquakes Pride Night
- **June 15<sup>th</sup>:** Fremont Pride Parade
- **June 29-30:** San Francisco Pride, "Beacon of Love"
- **August 24-25:** Silicon Valley Pride



As of the writing of this newsletter our PFLAG chapter plans to be present at the events in **blue**; **items that are underlined are hyperlinks to more information**

If you would like to be added to our list of volunteers who staff tables at events like this [or Pride Events and the like], handing out booklets and describing the work of PFLAG and our chapter; contact [info@pflagsanjose.org](mailto:info@pflagsanjose.org) or leave a message at (408) 270-8182.

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### Upcoming Activities

Free Online Event – *Queer is Natural*  
Sponsored by Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST)



In the lush garden of nature, queerness blooms like a fabulous flower. It flips the script on traditional narratives of what's natural, rewriting them with extra flair. 🦋

🌈 Did you know scientists have observed queerness in over 1500 species (*and not just in captivity!*)? Join Megan Nguyen (they/she) at POST and Dr. Christine Wilkinson, a renowned conservation scientist, science communicator, and National Geographic Explorer, as we delve into the complexities of queerness in nature. This event celebrates June LGBTQ+ Pride Month and the beauty of diversity in nature. 🌿

Refer to the following link for more information on what you'll learn in this online event: [POST Queer is Natural Online Event](#)



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### Tribute to Long-standing PFLAG Member, Marti Wright, written by her wife Kitty Trejo

Marti was born during the Depression, a fact that set her up to be strong willed from the get-go. She was the first of fraternal twins, and already had an older sister, so the first few years of life were a struggle for her parents. By the age of four, she knew she was different from her sisters, but had no words for it. They liked to play with dolls and other girls, whereas she liked playing with toy guns and boys. At the age of 14 she was such a good softball player that she was asked to join a women's team, which her parents allowed her to do. She discovered she loved being around strong active women!



To contribute financially to her family, she held several jobs during high school, working at Sunshine Biscuits on the conveyor line, then working first at a drive-in movie theater and later at the Fox Theater in downtown Oakland. The manager of the theater fell in love with her, and eventually asked her to marry him. In her family, marriage was considered the only way to exit the home, so she said yes. It was a platonic marriage apparently, during which she worked in San Francisco as a telephone operator and her husband worked in Fresno. They broke up by a mutual friendly agreement when Marti turned 21.

Before earning a bachelor degree in teaching from SF State, Marti did a stint in the US Marines, but was disappointed that she was only offered a role as chaplain or bookkeeper. She was living with a woman who owned horses, and Marti learned to train and ride horses. She also got inspired to go back to school and become a teacher. As a high school PE teacher, she knew she would have to be in the closet at work. Also, she decided to give the military another try, and joined the USN Reserve.

I met Marti towards the end of her careers as a teacher and a Navy reservist. It was 1993, and we moved in together about four months after meeting. I identified as bisexual, had two young adult children and had lived my life as a heterosexual. There was no way I was going into a closet! We joined PFLAG at the suggestion of one of Marti's long-time teaching friends.

Being around so many accepting people in PFLAG helped Marti to feel more comfortable about gradually coming out. We served as PFLAG librarians, joined the speaker's bureau and marched in parades. My children and grandchildren loved her as family, and she volunteered at the local schools as both a photographer and parking lot traffic supervisor. Many former students and faculty were delighted to find her on Facebook.

She was loved by many and is missed by many.  
Kitty

Donations to the Scholarship Fund in Marti's honor may be made here:  
<https://pflagsanjose.org/donate/>  
or mailed to PFLAG San Jose / Peninsula; PO Box 2718; Sunnyvale, CA 94087

# PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter May – June 2024

## 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.

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

Thank you!

