

PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter

July / Aug 2025 Newsletter



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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/pflag-sanjose/>



Special presentations in July. Page 7

• **Know Your Rights:** Legal Realities for Trans Youth and Their Families

PFLAG Family,

As we enjoy summer picnics, beaches and much deserved vacations, we must also remember the recent reversals of laws and legislations that have impacted the hard-won rights of the LGBTQ+ community. See Sara's message on page 2.

On the lighter side, we were busy for the last few months. We participated in many events. June was Pride month and it was every bit fun and wild as promised every year. We also held our 1st PFLAG picnic in May and that was a fun day for all who came. Check out all the details on page 3&4.

We awarded 3 deserving young people with scholarships for their higher education goals. Page 6.

Resilience has been vital to our LGBTQ+ community through decades of struggle and victory. It is crucial that we support each other during current political hostility, legislative attacks, social stigma and affirming our right to live authentically. Our strength will turn adversity into progress, solidarity, and hope for a more inclusive future. However, sometimes all we can do is just hang on and wait it out.

"When you're at the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on." — Franklin D. Roosevelt

In solidarity,
Vinhquan
Newsletter Editor

Love is Love

Intentional Advocacy

"If you stop, you'll lose everything. You've got to keep moving forwards." Greyson Chance. Find out how to get involved in advocacy on [Page 8](#) and keep going forward with Intentional Advocacy on [Page 9](#).

Support Meetings



Page 7 & 8



- San Jose Obon Festival
- "Come back to the 5 Dime" a musical play
- San Jose Earthquake Pride Night and more

Check it all out on [Page 6..](#)

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President's Message

Hi, this is Sara. I'm the chapter president. I lost both of my parents this year, and I have to say, I'm sad, and it is hard to focus on both the world at large, and my own family, at the same time. I try to spend time on each, at different times, so they have their important moments over the course of the day. If you are struggling with personal matters right now, please know that I can sympathize with that.

Here is a note from a board member, summarizing the recent Supreme Court decision:

Scrutinizing U.S. v. SKRMETTI – or How the Court Rationalized Denying Healthcare

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled on a challenge to Tennessee's law prohibiting puberty blockers and gender affirming hormones for transgender minors. The law also prohibits gender affirming surgery for transgender minors. However, the particular plaintiffs were found not to have standing, i.e. they were ineligible, to challenge that portion of the law.

The Plaintiffs argued there was a violation of the Equal Protection Clause in the Constitution.

The Court found that the law applies to people falling under two classifications: minors and those seeking a particular medical use (in this case treatment of gender dysphoria). Distinctions based on age only require the lawmakers to have a plausible "rational basis." Distinctions based on medical use are similarly evaluated based on the rational basis standard of review. Rational basis is described as "any reasonably conceivable state of facts that could provide a rational basis for the classification."

The Court rejected the idea that any stricter standard of review was warranted. Heightened standards of review are used when the class affected is based on race (strict scrutiny), or is based on sex (intermediate scrutiny). The Court found that the law did not discriminate on the basis of sex because the prohibition applies to both boys and girls seeking treatment for the medical condition of gender dysphoria. A law can trigger heightened scrutiny if it is "motivated by invidious discriminatory purpose" but the Court said that the Plaintiffs did not raise that argument. The Court said that the law did not classify people on the basis of transgender status, but rather on the basis of seeking treatment for gender dysphoria. Under Tennessee's law, a minor may receive puberty blocker treatment for precocious (i.e. early) puberty even if they also happen to be transgender. Again, the Court says the Plaintiffs did not show that the law's provisions were a pretext for discrimination against the class of transgender individuals.

Three Justices went on to add that they thought laws that did classify based on transgender status would only require rational basis review.

I am aghast at this Supreme Court ruling, maintaining the ban on gender affirming care for minors in the state of Tennessee. Also angry, scared, and it makes me feel helpless. I have friends in that state, and I know that there are many more people in Tennessee, who are angry about this state law. Read PFLAG National CEO Brian Bond's statement on the ruling here: <https://pflag.org/press/skrmetti-statement>.

From Ben Greene's Good Queer News: "A federal judge has ruled that in the transgender passport case, which originally only applied only to the named plaintiffs, the case now has class status. Meaning access to affirming passports is restored for all transgender US citizens!! (ACLU, 6/17)." I can't translate this into practical advice for your individual passport case, but this is still good news.

I gave a TV interview in June! It was fun. KTVU had a Giving Tuesday segment where I answered questions about our PFLAG chapter. It was a way to tell people that any kind of advocacy that you can do, you should do. If you can make a phone call, do it. If you can send an email, do it. If you can protest in the park, do it. I also told the station about our support meetings, booklets, and the scholarship program. Here is the link: <https://www.ktvu.com/video/1659781>.



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WHERE WERE WE ???

In April and May, we lent our support in Sequoia High School's GSA event and Teatro Vision Pride Night.

Also, we held our very first PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula family picnic in May (5/18) with about thirty attendees and it was wonderful! We enjoyed burgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, and fixings, sides and desserts too. All the delicious food were provided by the chapter. It was great to see diverse groups of people come out and enjoy the day, most chatted in English while some in Spanish. Some of us went for a short hike to see alpacas and others played games in the park. It was a wonderful afternoon of family fun.



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WHERE WERE WE ???

June was a significant month for the LGBTQ+ community. We participated in many Pride events from SF to San Jose. It's crucial for us to show support and solidarity with our community by being present.

We were at:

- 6/5 Pride Event at Applied Materials
- 6/6 San Mateo County Fair Family Pride
- 6/7 Mountain View Together in Pride
- 6/14 San Mateo Pride Parade and Celebration
- 6/14-6/15 Filoli Pride Weekend
- 6/20 PRIDE Resource Fair, Milpitas Teen Center
- 6/21 Fremont Pride Fair
- 6/29 SF Pride!

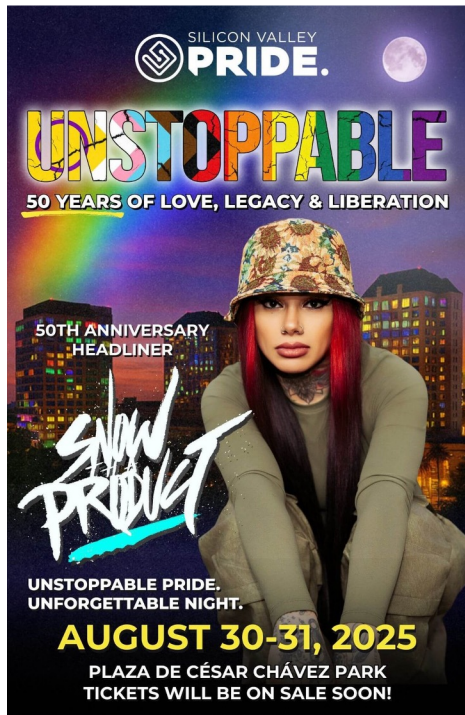


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Upcoming July & Aug Events

While PFLAG may not participate in all events but they are still fun for you and your family to enjoy.

- **July 12-13:** San Jose Obon Festival <https://taiko.org/calendar/2024/7/13/san-jose-obon-jwfw>
- **Now thru 7/13:** "Come Back to the 5 & Dime" musical. A. clarion call for trans resilience
[TheatreWorks Silicon Valley | 5 & Dime Book by ASHLEY ROBINSON, Music by DAN GILLESPIE SELLS, Lyrics by SHAKINA, Directed by GIOVANNA SARDELLI](#)
- **July 16:** San Jose Earthquakes Pride Night
[NEWS: Earthquakes Announce 2025 Theme Nights and Promotions](#)
- **Aug 24-25** Silicon Valley Pride Festival and Parade <https://www.svpride.com/events>



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2025 Scholarship winners

The San Jose/Peninsula PFLAG chapter has awarded over \$850,000 in scholarships since 1993 through our partnership with eQuality Scholarship Collaborative organization. <https://www.equalityscholarship.org> These scholarships are crucial for our young LGBTQ+ community, who frequently encounter additional challenges in pursuing their academic objectives.

"eQuality Scholarship Collaborative brings our community together to lend tangible support we students need to succeed, both in addressing financial barriers in education...and also breaking down the social barriers around just supporting queer and trans students and helping us know that we're loved and people are behind us." 2019 eQualtiy Scholar.

Meet our 2025 scholarship winners! In addition to their good grades, these brilliant young minds have promoted understanding of and equality for the LGBTQ+ community and made their schools safer. The award ceremony was held in Oakland on May 17th, 2025.



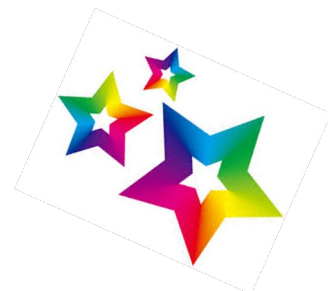
Wycoff Higgins (They)
PFLAG San Jose /
Peninsula Scholar



Kai Yang(She): PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula
Scholar [More information about Kai](#)



Timothy Leung (He):
PFLAG / Stephen Crocker & Donald
Jolly LGBTQ Achievement Scholar
[More information on Timothy](#)



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Upcoming Special Support Events

July 15: Know Your Rights: Legal Realities for Trans Youth & Their Families

Join us for a virtual event featuring Ora Prochovnick, longtime civil rights attorney, educator, and community advocate. Ora will help us unpack some of the most urgent legal issues facing trans youth and their families today.

Time: 6:00pm - 7:30pm

[PFLAG San Francisco Events](#)

Please register via the above link for more information.



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Support Meeting Schedule

To participate in full Zoom video (preferred) or by Zoom 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. 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 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	Meeting Locations
July 2nd, Aug 6th 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Estamos Contigo (PFLAG en Español). This meeting is typically the <u>first Wednesday</u> of the month. Zoom only
July 5, 19, Aug 2, 16 10am - 12 noon	Families of Transgender/Nonbinary family members -Always on <u>1st and 3rd Saturday</u> of the month. First meeting of the month is in person at the Redwood City Main library. Third Saturday of the month meeting is via Zoom.
July 14, Aug 11 7:00 p.m.	General Support, Peninsula This meeting is always on the <u>second Monday</u> of the month, is hybrid and will occur at the San Mateo County Pride Center A Chapter Engagement Coordinator from the National Chapter will host 7/14 meeting on "How to get involved in advocacy"
July 3, Aug 7 7:30 p.m.	General Support, South Bay meets in-person at the Billy DeFrank Center the first Thursday of the month
July 15, Aug 19 7:00 p.m.	Asian/Pacific Islander (API). This meeting is the <u>third Tuesday</u> of the month. Zoom only
July 17, Aug 21 7:00 p.m.	Board Meetings – <u>Third Thursday</u> of the month Zoom only

Contact us:

Email: info@pflagsanjose.org

Phone: 408-270-8182

Mail: PFLAG San Jose
P.O. Box 2718
Sunnyvale, Ca 94087



Memberships and donations..

Please visit [Join/Renew/Donate](#) to join or donate to PFLAG. Credit cards accepted.

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

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Intentional Advocacy

The PFLAG SJP's advocacy group is for people who are interested in taking actions, big or small, to advocate for a just and safe future for our LGBTQ+ loved ones. **If you are interested in receiving emails about advocacy, please email Advocacy@pflagsanjose.org.**

This has already been a busy year with many calls to contact our representatives and even go to Sacramento. Recent efforts include:

Messages of Thanks

Thanked AG Rob Bonta for upholding gender-affirming healthcare access

Supported State Superintendent Thurmond for reaffirming gender and sexual orientation protections in schools

Federal Advocacy

Encouraged our U.S. representatives to defend LGBTQ+ rights

Asked our representatives to oppose S.9 (Senate's "Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act")

Submitted public comments to oppose passport rule changes impacting transgender and nonbinary identification

State-Level Action

Participated in Equality California's largest-ever LGBTQ+ Advocacy Day in Sacramento with 300+ volunteers - 40 of them from California PFLAG chapters!

Called on Governor Newsom to better defend transgender Californians

Contacted our state representatives and had a member personally attended the Assembly hearing on transphobic sports bills AB 89 and AB 844 - and the bills failed, hooray!

PFLAGers from all over California participated in Equality California's LGBTQ+ Advocacy Day in Sacramento



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PFLAG National Resources

Safety

- ["Safety Tips for PFLAG Chapters: Protecting Our Communities from Direct and Indirect Threats of Violence Recording & Training Toolkit"](#)
- [Guidelines for Handling Doxxing & Trolling Online](#)
- [Crisis and Support Hotlines](#)
- [ACLU Passports and Gender Markers Intake](#)
- [The Transgender Law Center and Repro Legal Defense Fund](#)
- [A4TE Trans Survival Guide](#)
- [Delete Me](#)

Community

- [PFLAG Connects: Communities](#)
- [The PFLAG National Online Community](#)

Facts

- [Executive Order Explainers and Resources](#)
- [ACLU Anti-LGBTQ+ Legislation Tracker](#)

Advocacy

- [PFLAG National Advocacy Tools: Join the fight!](#)



Remember: Our LGBTQ+ community is strong. Many of us who are adults lived through dark times that the administration now wants to revisit. We not only survived it, but we have proven ourselves to be resilient, successfully passing laws and policies and finding communities of support to overcome.

We've been here before, and try as they might, we're not going to let them take us back.

In community,

The Team at PFLAG National

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All prospective PFLAG San Jose/Peninsula Chapter Members,

Please see membership rates below:

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

Do you qualify to make tax-free donations, without itemizing deductions?

If you are over 70 ½ and have an IRA the answer may be yes! A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) transfers money from your traditional IRA to a non-profit, without going into your income. It does not matter whether you currently have to take RMDs, as long as you are over age 70 ½ at the time of the donation. But if you do have to take an RMD, your donation counts toward that amount. Check with your institution to see whether they'll send the money directly to the charity for you, or send you a check payable to the charity for you to send on.

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!